

Journey Enews

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Our Stories by Bobby Duncan

Everyone has a story. We are all humans, created in the image of God. We get our life stories from our Creator. Our life experiences, with and without God's approval, have many things in common. Some of our stories are glamorous while others mundane. We have tragic stories and outright miraculous moments of divine celebration.



One of the ways that our stories are similar is that every story, male or female, rich or poor, has seasons that produce distraction from purposeful life. As a career minister who leads others, I have regularly produced (with God's help) moments of speaking and writing meant to inspire. I have also labored for countless hours to better understand the suffering and pain in the stories of every neighbor who comes my way.

No two stories are alike — yet, they are all alike. Today, I finished reading a short paperback by author Tim Hansel called, *You Gotta Keep Dancin'*.

Tim founded Summit Adventure in 1973, a Christian outdoor ministry organization. Four years later, while out on a glacier hike with another instructor, Hansel fell nearly 40 feet into an ice crevice. Landing upside down on his head and shoulders, Hansel permanently injured his back. After the fall, Tim remained active with Summit Adventures for twenty years, speaking & writing to inspire others. He wrote about his despair and joy, surviving the accident.

Hansel lived with constant pain for the rest of his life after the accident. Here is an entry from his daily journal. "PAIN. We all know what it tastes like. Whether its source is physical, emotional, or spiritual, its interruption in our lives disrupts and reshapes. It intercepts our hopes and plans; it rearranges our dreams. It always leaves a mark. I realized again each day that all of our lives are terminal. Only time and quality differ. The choice for all of us is not if we will accept pain, but how." (Pg 34-35)

I recommend everyone grab a copy of this book and give it a read. It's a book about all our stories. In one of my favorite lines in the book, Hansel said: "Sharing personal journals is a bit like opening one's underwear drawer in public. You're not quite sure what you will find, and there is a strong chance that you will be embarrassed."

Still, I believe it's worth it to share our stories with each other. Join me at a coffee shop, my treat. We are better together.