

Son's death inspires devotional work

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Books about going to heaven and coming back are popular best-sellers these days, and a chapter of a recent "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book is dedicated to that topic.

A story written by Christy Johnson, of Oklahoma City, is featured in "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Messages from Heaven (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, \$14.95)." Johnson's story is the first story in the book of 101 stories of miraculous signs and amazing connections.

Johnson, a local author and speaker, shares a story about having lost her 2-year-old son in a car accident that left her 5-year-old in the hospital. She said she didn't know how to tell her older son, Garrett, that his little brother, Jake, had died.



Christy Johnson, of Oklahoma City, poses for a picture with her older son, Garrett Ennis. PHOTO PROVIDED

"That's when Garrett said, 'After the accident, I got to go to heaven with Jake. Jake got to go in but God told me it wasn't my time,'" Johnson said. She said when she begged for more details, Garrett refused. "I can't tell you, Mommy," he insisted. "God told me it's a secret."

"Jake's death changed my destiny," Johnson said. "In a way, you could say his legacy lives on in me. I started writing and speaking to women's groups because of the overwhelming joy God gave me in the midst of tragedy. Somehow I knew the only way I

could keep the joy was to give it away and even though I'd never written anything before, I just knew I had to write."

Johnson speaks frequently at women's conferences and writes a devotional column, Tissues for Your Issues, published on her website at christyjohnson.org.

She and her husband, John Johnson, teach classes to singles groups based on the book she is writing about relationships, "The Seven Must Haves for Soul-Healthy Relationships: Change Your Habits and Heal Your Soul." Johnson also has several devotionals published in "God, Girls and Getting Connected: Spiritual Apps for a Teen's Life" (Harvest House Publishers, 2012), a book created by KWTW-9 personalities Robin Marsh and Lauren Nelson.