

Chapter 5

Winning souls by yourself

I was so thrilled with my new found renewed love of Jesus I wanted to tell the world. I remember one evening in Church and during the offertory brother Tommy Kipfur was playing a saxophone duet and the song was Jesus Jesus there is something about that name. I cried so long and hard that the shoulders of my shirt were wet. I fell deeper in love with Jesus. I wanted to share this love with others. I had very little knowledge of the Bible but something inside was pushing me to tell others. I remembered the old church bus lumbering down the gravel street when I was 11 years old. I remembered that good feeling I got at church camp. I said hey I'll see if they will let me work in the bus ministry..I didn't know that every church is desperate for volunteers and they said sure. I got assigned on a Bus route with Don Edwards who became my big brother and mentor in the Lord..He invited me to a weekly prayer meeting held in Glen Pearson's basement every Thursday evening. After about 2 meetings I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Act 1:8....Look out devil here I come. With in a very short time I got my own bus route. Now I could pick up George and all his buddies at the Zimmerman house that wanted to go. Wow man I was a soul winner. I filled up that old flat nosed rear engine bus quickly. George, would stand on the sidewalk with his buddies and yell here comes that ole pickle faced bus..

Being a baby Christian I had no history of negative teaching that limited God. One time with a full load of riders we were driving down Richfield road on the way to church a dog ran out of the ditch and right in front of the bus. He got ran over and squashed like a bug. He was dead as a mackerel. I pulled the bus to a stop and got out and picked up that dead dog. I carried him back to the bus and held him up for the 50 some riders to see. I told them lets pray that God will heal this dead dog and bring him back to life. We prayed. I laid that rag doll looking dog on the floor of the bus right beside my feet. We went to church and when we got out of church that dog was standing up looking out the door of the bus..We took that dog back to where he had gotten killed and opened the door and that dude ran off like a scalded rat. Now I was convinced God could do any thing..

Don Edwards found about it and told his wife Mary Jo about it who was the leader of the children church. Mary Jo asked me to speak in children' s church and tell the kids the dog story. That was my first preaching job. The theme of my message was that now that the dog was now alive, he could get a wife and produce puppies. I told those kids that dogs have dogs and cats have cats..Guess what Christians have? Yes after we become alive, Christians have other Christians. But first you must be a Christian. How do I do that I asked

them? Jesus Christ when he walked on the earth said that we could believe in him and his teachings and become a Christian. The word Christian means "as Christ"..Jesus said if you believe in me you can come to life just like that dead dog did. Jesus will come and live inside you if you ask him..Many kids raised their hand and were "born again that day".. Wow I'm a soul winner. I not only brought them to church I brought them to Jesus...

I had a bus route of my own around the Buick factory and the East side of Flint Michigan. I met a single mom on the bus route that had a brother in the jail in down town Flint. She gave me his name, Earl Hippensteel and asked me to go visit him in jail. I got an identification pass from my church and asked Ron Fenner a brand new convert that I had met in bible college to go with me. They let us in to the jail and took us to a small office where Earl was brought to us.. There was another inmate that worked in the office and he came to see what was going on. He had a pack of cigarettes rolled up in his tee shirt sleeve and asked what were we doing there. We responded that we were going to visit Earl and tell him about Jesus. This wise guy said "oh ya man we all know about Jesus here we use his name every day." Little short sawed off chunky Ron Fenner boldly said hey smart guy what is your method of escape? The wise guy said escape what ? Fenner said HELL! That punk said what is yours? We showed them our Bibles and said Jesus Christ. They said well tell us your story. Ron and I read them the story in the book of Acts of Paul and Silas in jail. They both listened but did not accept Jesus as Savior. A couple of weeks later the sister asked me to go visit Earl again. When we got to the guard check in booth the sergeant on duty told us that the jail was on lock down because of a recent jail break. He said that visitors were only allowed in by special written requests from the prisoners. The guard said that Earl had not participated in the escape and was allowed one visitor. He said he want to see Chuck Rosa WOW !Earl had asked to see me. I was taken up through a series of security doors and up the elevator to Earls cell. There in that cell Earl accepted Jesus as his savior..

About 6 months later I was attending a weekly Full Gospel Business Mens's breakfast at Wallis East in the upper room. I had been playing my Saxophone at the beginning of the meeting along with a few other men who led a worship service with an accordion, electric steel guitar and Bruce Titus as song leader. After worship Dave Morrell a Holy Spirit filled Presbyterian, the leader, would ask if there were any visitors there. A long tall dark haired guy stood up and began to cry . He said my name is Earl Hippensteel and I go to Faith Tabernacle church and sing in the church choir. I was bending over putting away my horn. Earl pointed his shaking finger at me and I wanted to cut and run. What did I do ? Earl said that guy there came to visit me in jail and I got saved there. Now I am living for God

Wow !..Score another soul for Jesus.

I attended the FGBM fellowship meetings every Saturday for several years bringing men to the meeting quite often. I remember one meeting that Dave Morrell felt inspired by God to have the men pray for the guy next to him. I admit I got quite emotional and asked God to bless the guy next to me so that he could be a real soul winner.. Later on in the meeting it came time to introduce visitors. The guy sitting next to me to my surprise began to cry and get real emotional, He announced that he was the priest from Holy Redeemer Catholic church on Bristol road. I knew that church, I used to take my grandmother to bingo there and we used to get dinner on Friday at the fish fry. He said that he had been reading in the Bible about being filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. He said that he just received the Holy Ghost thru my prayer.

That priest went on to start having Charismatic masses at his church. He helped organize city wide non denominational meetings at the Big IMA auditorium down town Flint and outside at the football field at Holy Redeemer.. All this and I had only been a rookie soul winner for six months.

My first face to face soul won

I saw on the Church bulletin board that they had Thursday visitation. I said hey what is this all about? I found out that church folks would go out and visit people in the hospital, nursing homes and others. I said wow I would like to do this. I started going out on Thursday visitation with different folks that I had met in my first 3 months as a reborn guy. We started visiting a lady in a wheel chair named Mrs Orem. Her son J.R.. was a buddy of mine and guy I used to race cars with. J.R. Had a son about 12 and he started watching us pray for his grandmother. He then wanted to go to church with me. One Sunday an the way home from church he asked about getting saved. I said you could get saved right here in this car and he said OK. We pulled off to the side of the road on Stanley road by a mail box. I told him that he needed to ask Jesus to come and live inside him and be his savior. He did just that and was born again right there by the side of the road. That was the first of what would turn out to be a number I could not count of folks that I have won to Jesus over the last 36 years.

I then started going to nursing homes and soon joined Ivan Green's group that was having church service every week at different nursing homes..I had been playing my harmonica on the bus to the kids so I started playing it in the nursing homes. I got in trouble right off the bat at the nursing home. We would go the rooms and wheel and walk the people to the services. I started laying hands on the folks and asking God to heal them. Some of the older Christians got in my face and said don't you know that the Bible say "lay hands

suddenly on no man". I thought this does not sound right but I'm just a baby Christian and what do I know?

Again while looking at the church bulletin board I saw a notice that the spring term of Bible college was starting at Glen Haven School of the Bible. I said to my self wow you need to go to Bible college and learn more about God so you can be a better soul winner..My self said you are right and so I enrolled. Look out devil again . I enrolled in 2 classes, New Testament survey, taught by Jerry Pruit and soul winning being taught by Dennis Cagel. I had no idea what was ahead. This adventure would change my life for ever..

At the first day of school everyone introduced them self's. I, now being a single man introduced my self as such..A cute girl named Willie Harvey introduced herself as a widow of 13 years with one son. Her husband had been killed while on active duty in the U.S. Air Force serving as a chaplain..She had been a Christian since child hood. Me, an adult Christian for less than a year. One day in class I forgot my book (wink wink) so Willie shared her book with me..We started sitting together in Chapel service at school. A couple of other women had their eye on me and on one occasion they had saved a seat for me. As I entered the chapel one lady named Vera Kuhl said "here Chuck sit here" patting the pew next to her. I walked right past her and sat next to Willie..That set off some sparks..I asked Willie do you by chance have another name beside Willie ? You don't look like a Willie to me. She said yes my middle name is Jane.. Her Hillbilly parents and relatives still called her willie. I just cringe every time the phone rings and they ask "is Willie theerree.. (Thair).. ? But she is Jane to me and every one we have met together.

During Easter break at College I volunteered to come to school and help sort out and put away a big donation of books to the school library. Jane showed up to. She told me a tearful story of how she had been teaching a Sunday school class at Bethany Tabernacle church. Her pastor had taught church members that they were to leave the personal soul winning to the preacher which should to be done at church. Jane says that she had this desire inside to tell people about Jesus, After her husband was unexpectedly killed she had only one real reason to live she said. She wanted to be soul winner . Well this little 8 year old girl was in her class that was scheduled to have her tonsils pulled out the next day. She told the little girl about Jesus and led her to Jesus Christ in prayer. The next day the little girl went in for surgery and it went as planned. After the anesthetic wore off the little girl raised up and said hi mommy and laid back down an died. Jane found out later and said thank God she had won that little girl to Jesus..

I was so impressed by this testimony that I was just stuttering. Wow that is what I

wanted to do. I wanted to win souls too. I told one of the guys there named Tim Graham that if I was ever to get married it would be to a woman like Jane. Well Tim went back and told his wife and the word got back to Jane who had been a widow now for 13 years..She was taking a class on the "Christian Woman" She was learning what the Bible pattern for a Christian woman was. After being married at the age of 16 and a widow of 13 years she was praying for a husband. She told of how she wanted a man that would put God first, her second and the children 3rd. She also did not want a man with a mustache. Well I did not qualify in any of the three areas. I was taking New testament survey being taught Jerry by Priuitt and a soul winning course being taught by Dennis Cagel.

I was not putting God first because I didn't know how. I did not have a wife to put 2nd and 3 kids by my first marriage that didn't have a clue about living for God. And I had a mustache. Our backgrounds were as different as day and night, she was raised in church saved and filled with the Holy Ghost as a little child. I was saved at the age of 11 at church camp but that salvation experience wore off like the passing warm summer days in Michigan..I was a divorced real live devil that had just came back to Jesus the year before. One thing we had in common was our blazing desire to tell people about Jesus to get them to not have to go to hell..