

Chapter 6

Greatest Soul winning team formed

Now the end of school was only a week away. I had gotten real friendly with Jane and was spending lots of time with her in school and in chapel service. She had invited me to a pastor appreciation dinner at her church where one of the professors at school was pastor, Irving Smith. I didn't want to go alone so I asked a neighbor lady Mrs. Householder to go with me. We met Jane in the basement of the church where they were serving dinner. As Jane saw me with that "other woman" she treated me very cold. I stayed for the musical portion of the service in the main sanctuary. Next week at school I explained to Jane that Mrs. Householder was not my lady friend but my christian neighbor that was married to a friend of mine that didn't go to church. That seemed to give Jane a different attitude towards me.

On the last week of school I started thinking that I would never see Jane again so as we walked to our cars after class I asked Jane if she would like to go to Wallis drive in restaurant for a strawberry short cake and a coke..She agreed. Jane called her mom Daisy whom she lived with and told her that she was going to have a treat with a young man at college. Mom said OK. We'll there that little strawberry short cake turned out to be a strawberry long cake. But I got Jane's phone number out of it. Jane and I talked until 1:30 am. and she got home at 2:00 am. mama Daisy blew a gasket..She called Jane some really mean names that were on the border line of good ole hillbilly cussin. Jane said but mama all we did was talk about the Lord. Oh ya, I bet Daisy thought..

I did call Jane and asked her if she would like to go to the nursing home ministry with me, Ivan Green and his wife. She said yes. We'll it was time to meet Daisy. I went to the back door and knocked, a voice from within said come on in. I opened the door and stood in the landing that had 3 steps up to the kitchen. I heard Jane say from within "I'll be right there". I yelled at the top of my lungs well "PRAISE THE LORD " Jane winked at her mom and said I "told you so mama"..Daisy fell in love with me. She would cook me special pans of french fries, served with beans and corn bread which I had never eaten before. Her dad was a great man of God and he liked me too.

Jane and I started going to nursing homes 2 or 3 times per week together, her sitting way on the other side of the car next to the door..That summer we went to church camp at Hillsdale Michigan for 2 session and she was a counselor for the girls and I was a counselor for the boys. We saw each other every single day for a solid month. We had been together by phone or in person now for 6 months never missing a day. There were no cell phones so I

would stop at phone booths and call. About the 3rd month I held her hand while walking her to her back door to say good by wow I began to sweat. Later she told me that she had told mama what giant hands I have and they are as wide as hers was long. She told her mom that she had fallen love with those big hands..

We occasionally talked about our future and I flatly told her that I was not interested in getting married again. It had only been a year or so since I had been single. She confessed that she was praying for a husband and father to her son Bobby who was 11 years old now. Man I got my track shoes on inside and started running but I hit a brick wall . I really liked this girl. What a pickle I was in. Me a freshly revived Christian after 20 years of hell raising and her a life long child of God that new him on a friendly basis and prayed every day on her knees in the bathroom of her house. It was not fair. I was running but just spinning my wheels in the mud and sinking deeper in love with this girl.

During the last week of camp Jane got a call that a friend, in the church had died and she was wanted back in Flint our home town. She asked me to go with her. While there a lady in the church gave her a piece of paper with a man's name and on it..We had no secrets and she said it was a man in the church that wanted her phone number for a possible date. That ruined my happy 3 hour trip back to camp.. What could I do my love was flying out the window.? On the way back to camp we stopped at the entrance gate at 2:00 am. I realized that this was an instant replay of the last day at Bible College she may slip away into another man's arms. I asked her who the guy was and realized it was one of the deacons in the church . A handsome single guy that owned a construction company and had remodeled her moms house. I was stuttering I said rrr yayayayouou going to go out with Larry? She said on no I have what I want. I didn't know what to do. I didn't want to get married but I didn't want her to get married either. I held her hand and kissed her for the first time and told her that I wanted to be closer friends and just sort of say that we are going steady oh ya like 2 high school kids. I did not know that just a week before that Jane had received a special word from God while playing the piano in her church . She said she felt a whirl wind around her and she knelt behind the piano on the floor and God said to her "this is the one daughter but thou must have lots of patience". On one occasion we were sitting in her dad's back yard on a tree stump and I was telling her that I thought we needed to slow down and I needed time to think about our possible future. She sat me down on top of that old stump and boldly said God already told me 2 months ago that you were the one and you are madly in love with me. Who am I to argue with God? I was praying about marriage for 3 months and had just barley learned to hear the voice and prompting of God. I had told God

that I wanted to win souls for him and wanted to be the best Christian I could possibly be. If this meant being single the rest of my life so be it. I had been reading in Genesis that it was not good for man to be alone. I felt God tell me that when it is time I will put her left hand in your right hand and say to you this is she.

The next time I was taking her home from nursing home ministry we sat in her driveway. She put her hand in mine and I asked her to marry me. I still was not sure so the last 30 days before the wedding date I went on a total fast. I didn't feel any sign or hear a word to stop so on December seventh 1975 we decided to get married at Jane's church, Bethany Tabernacle Church on Lippincott Boulevard in Flint Michigan.

When Jane agreed to take me as her husband she took my 3 children from my failed marriage. Here was the family we started out with In the picture from Top to bottom is Chuck IV who accepted Christ that year at church but on the way home he asked me how he could change his mind and I told him the same way he asked Jesus in his heart he could tell him to leave. Chuck lived a life without Christ and after 36 years of living without Jesus he called me on April 1st 2011 and asked me how he could take Jesus back. On the phone that day Chuck took Jesus back into his life. He has lived a great Christian life to this day. He lives in Michigan and is in a very successful business man in the automobile business..

Next is Bobby who is Jane's only son whose father was killed while on active duty as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. He is the same age as Chuck. I took Bobby as my own son as he never knew his real father. He lives in Safford Arizona with his wife and 4 children.



**The Rosa kids at the time of my marriage to Jane in 1975
Chuck IV, Bobby Harvey
Janes son, Angie, Andy**

Bobby and all his kids are saved and on fire for Jesus..

Angie the 3rd one down had been gloriously saved and filled with the Holy ghost at church camp that summer in 1975 before Jane and I were married. She is a wonderful married Christian woman and serves Jesus in her local Catholic church in Michigan. Her daughter Alex, is a beautiful college student that I won to Jesus over the telephone about 5 years ago.

Andy has openly confessed Jesus as his savior to me last year, 2010 in his basement in Michigan. He is in the business of pinball machines and other electronic games. He is #2. in the world

in pinball and is the current pinball champion of Texas, a title he just won this year, 2011.

The greatest soul winning team on earth



Pastor Irving Smith that married us and his wife Betty with unknown baby.

On December 7th 1975 the greatest soul winning team in the world in my humble opinion was formed. It was the joining of Jane and I before God in Holy matrimony. That Sunday morning of the wedding we had our children's church service that we had been doing together now for several months. After church we went to our separate homes and got on our wedding garments and went back to have the wedding. We asked

the pastor Irving Smith if he could give an altar call at the wedding ceremony. He had never had that request in all his years of preaching but he agreed to do it. There were many non Christians there including my parents and many of my sinner friends. Pastor Smith explained to the packed church building that God had joined the first man and woman together in the beginning. In the beginning this first man and woman sinned by disobeying God. They had to ask forgiveness and repent of their sins before they could get in right standing with God and make heaven their final home. In this same manner every one since was born in a sinful state and has to ask personally to be forgiven and repent of their sins. He went on to say that this couple wanted God to join this marriage together too. He said that this couple had committed their life's completely to each other but to God first.. They plan to live a full Christian life and plan to make heaven their final resting place..They had done this by asking Jesus Christ to be their savior and Lord and openly confessed him as such with their mouths. Pastor Smith said that this couple had asked him to offer this same opportunity to them. Smith had the preaching and altar call at the beginning of the service as Jane and I prayed earnestly in the back of the church that some one would accept Jesus as their savior as he gave the altar call. We could not see if any one responded to the altar call but if no one accepted Jesus they can't say that they were not give the opportunity.

That evening we went to church and after church we went home and had foot washing service with just us 2. We had Holy communion and after all that we consummated our marriage. That was nearly 36 years ago. It has been a life filled with soul winning in all forms. We are together committed that the winning of souls is our only goal in life. That is all we live for.

The wedding picture below show the goals for our Childrens' church. Notice the soul winning goal?



Happy days ahead

The next morning Monday December 8th 1975 we headed south for our honeymoon in an old worn out 69 Chevy wagon. Up in the high snow covered mountains we picked up a hitchhiker that said he was heading to Virginia. The left rear tire started thumping as it started to come apart. Jane and I began to sing that old Hymn "Sheltered safe in the arms of God. "He walks with me and naught of earth shall harm me for I'm sheltered safe within the arms of God"". The more that tire bumped the louder we sang. After we came down off that mountain top we pulled into a old garage and got a used tire for \$10. That hitch hiker saw that the tire had been flipping off chunks and was down to the wire core. To top it all off the chunks of flying rubber and wire had been beating up against the gas tank. We told him that

don't worry that Jesus would protect us. He said "thanks and this is where I get off".

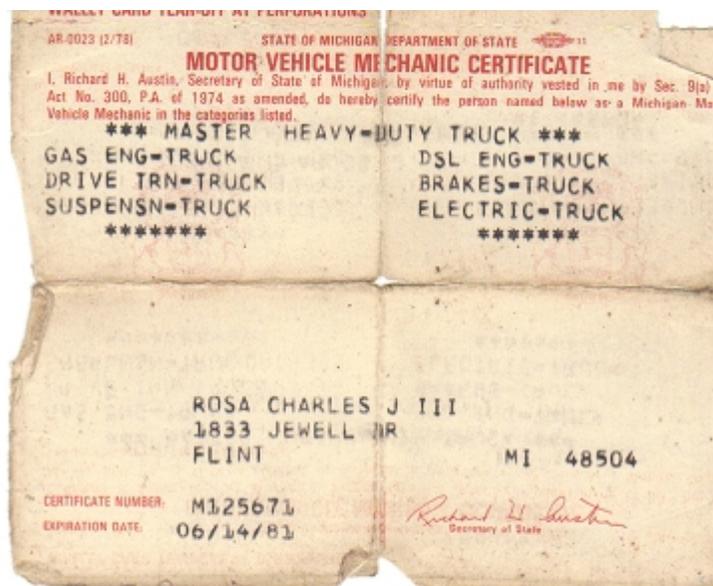
We went to Virginia Beach Virginia on our honeymoon and were on the 700 club with Pat Robertson and Ben Kinchelow who had just become the host of the show. It was great to watch Ben give those electrifying invitations for people to accept Christ as savior. During the daytime we went around town and stopped at every Christmas tree lot and businesses where we saw those dreadful signs where they used x instead of Christ. We asked them if they know what Christmas meant? They said oh yah that is when Jesus was born in a manger. I would answer oh ya then it is his birthday right ? They would agree. I would then ask if it was your birthday would you want someone to say happy birthday Mr. X? Most of them that could changed their signs..Wow !.

Upon returning to Flint we took up where we left off with the bus ministry and children's church. We were winning souls by the dozens. Our married life began off on as financial disaster. The divorce and loss of my business left us destitute for material things. After 11 years of a very successful financial life I was left with a pile of bills, a small commercial building on Coldwater road, a Case back hoe with trailer, 67 Chevy Stake rack truck, hand tools for excavating work and a junky rusted out 69 Chevy station wagon with holes in the floor boards. The forward gears went out in the transmission and I backed it into a junk yard owned by my Jewish friend Sammy Boren. Previously I had 2 acres with a new home on Carpenter road, a 40 by 60 foot commercial building, several pieces of construction equipment and a brand new 72 Cadillac that I paid cash for..

Jane and I lived in a rented 2 bedroom house on Cecil drive. At one time our finances got so low that all we had to eat was a bag of apples and a family size bag of Fritos. God multiplied them and we ate them for week. We had Jane's 11 year old son Bobby that I took as my own. He never knew his father because his dad had gotten killed while on active duty in the Air Force. We were too proud and stupid to accept any kind of food stamps or welfare help from the Government. At Thanksgiving a family from church, Jerry and Beth Albrechth brought over a huge Turkey for us to cook for dinner. They told us that they tried to saw the Turkey in half but could not get through the middle so they guessed that God had wanted us to have it all. They put the Turkey in the kitchen sink to thaw out. As it hit the warm water in the sink it fell apart in 2 pieces. Jane said hey now you can take bake half of of it. They said no the Lord wants you to have It all. After they left we took the half Turkey and headed to one of our Bus kids family. We stopped and bought them a bag of potatoes and some other goodies and took it to their apartment in the projects. They were sitting around on a bare floored front room all 7 of them on crates . We gave them the Turkey and

trimmings and left with a glow in our hearts. On the way home the Lord began to speak to my conscience. He said what are they going to drink with their dinner.? "Oh no you don't Lord" I said "I am not going to give them my 2 liter bottle of Coke I told Jane. I turned around and headed back to the projects. I knocked on the door and was greeted by 7 puzzled looking black faces. I said here is something to drink with your dinner..They thanked us with tears streaming down their shiny black faces. .That was one of our best Thanksgivings ever.

Our life in poverty did not prevent us from being extremely happy. We just kept putting God first and expected him to meet our needs. A year later we had our first child Abraham Peter Rosa born at home on Cecil drive. We believed God could do any thing including deliver a baby so we had all our children at home and also a couple of grand kids too. We had a friend of ours that was a lamaze teacher coach us on our first home birth. While one person was being born in the bedroom our son Bobby was getting another soul born in the front room. The teacher had brought her son with her and Bobby won him to Jesus that evening on December 1st 1976.



When Jane was asked what experience I had to deliver a baby she said "my husband has a master mechanics license here it is" . Isn't that enough? "

and said that he was having a pastor's appreciation dinner for brother Smith. He told us to shut down the service. Being saved less than 2 years now I wanted to give Larry a right hook..Jane and I took the kids out in the bus and finished up the service and took the kids

Abe was followed by by a brother Wesley born 2 years later at our home on Jewell drive around the corner. We were very happy.

I learned a very good spiritual lesson involving meekness on our bus. It was a very cold winter morning around 10 degrees. We were holding children's church in the basement. Half way through the service women started bringing in food and beverages in to the rear of the room while we were holding church. One of the Deacons Larry Kool came to me

home..I was boiling mad. I called up Larry to give him a word and it was not going to be pretty. After I got him on the phone I said "Larry I'm sorry for interfering with your dinner, I did not know".Larry said OK but next time don't do that again. That evening at the start of the service Pastor Smith told the congregation that he had found out that the children's church had to be held in a bus because someone ran them off. He said if I ever find out who did it they will be kicked out of the church. I wanted to jump up and say Larry Kool did it. But I sat there and was a good little boy. Larry became a good friend of mine..

The church grew and the congregation bought out the John R. Rice baptist church building. We expanded the bus ministry ministry and soon had 5 buses bringing in several hundred souls. The congregation was very excited too. The were winning souls in Sunday school class and church. God was blessing the church and Brother Smith was having altar calls and had a radio broadcast. My bus route was in a subdivision that was in an integrated neighborhood and we were bringing many black kids to church. Those jive time kids would get in the back of the bus and start tapping out rhythm and praises to God. One former gang member, named George got saved and started a Christian band that was going all over town winning souls though music. We saw actual shootings and other terrible things happen in one housing project that we ran a bus in. One morning in the spring of the year the Flint river was flooding from snow melting. At the end of street the river was a couple of hundred feet from the houses..As we turned the corner to make our last stop an elderly black grandmother was standing in the street yelling revend revend she's going to drown help her. A young black woman had waded out in to the river and was up to her shoulders in the cold, dirty, murky flooded water. She was about 25' from the edge of the main river that was flowing real fast..Jane watched the kids on the bus and I waded out in the water to about knee deep in my suit. I yelled "stop in the name of Jesus" she turned around and stopped. I said "God is calling you to stop and turn around and take my hand". She was crying profusely and saying "No I want to die". I said "I am going to stretch out my hand like Moses stretched out his hand over the Red Sea and you take my hand". She turned around slowly and started walking towards me crying loudly. She collapsed on the edge of the water. I told her that God had saved he life and it was not time for her to die. I asked her if she would like to have a new life and start living for God. She said yes and I prayed with her right there on the edge of that muddy cold bank of the Flint river. She asked Jesus Christ to save her and come into her heart. Her son about, 4 years old had been riding the bus and used to sit up on the heater beside me and call me grandpa although I was just 34 years old. That mama started going to New Jerusalem baptist Church and we gladly lost one of our bus kids.



**Jane stayed with the bus kids and
I went to the river to rescue the lady.**

Soul winning in the projects

Jesus said that one of the reasons he came to earth was to make sure that the gospel was preached to the poor.

[Luke 4:18 KJVA](#) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;”

Our son Bobby was now a teen ager and he was visiting part of the bus route down in the projects, a haven for the poor. Shootings, robberies and other crimes were common. He saw one young man shot and killed in a fight over one of the girls that rode on Bobby's bus. The guy was shot as he was sitting on the floor of the door way of a car talking to the girl.

A black retarded young man named Richard became a regular rider on the bus. His Grand mother Mrs. Hamilton was a short shriveled up sweet old lady. Richard used to imitate Elvis Presley as he sang with his one string guitar at the back of the bus. We used to have special days on our bus and offer special treats. On one such day we had Rainbow Ice cream day. We invited Mrs. Hamilton to come. She agreed and one of our riders, Billy Hicks and Bobby carried 85 year old Mrs. Hamilton on to the bus. Mrs. Hamilton became a regular rider. I was holding adult church upstairs of the old office building down town Flint. Bobby was holding Junior church downstairs for the kids. I gave an invitation at every service. During one service invitation Mrs. Hamilton asked “what does Jesus want with an old bacca chewing niggah woman like me”? I said He loves you just like any one else and wants to be your savior..She said “OK if he will take me I'll take him”. Sister Hamilton rode our bus for a few years faithfully. One Sunday she did not answer the door for the bus worker. After church we were contacted by Mrs. Hamilton's son. He reported that she was in the hospital and wanted to see us. Jane and I walked into her room and she was sitting up in bed looking out the window. She turned and said “I wons ta go to hebum when I dies”. Yes ma'am that is where you are going. Jane asked her if she would like us to pray for God to heal her? She said “oh no pray that God will let me go to hebum wif him”. With tears in our eyes and a broken heart we prayed her goodbye. Sister Hamilton went to be with Jesus right after we left

the room. Praise the Lord for allowing us to be a soul winner.

Soul winning bumps in the road

God blessed the bus routes. Remember George Chreneko that had been going to church with me? Well now George had been joined by about 40 other mentally challenged adults that we were picking up from several different private homes. One of the bus routes was around our neighborhood on the area of Carpenter road and Dort highway. Another one was in the projects next to the Flint river off Carpenter rd. Many of our bus kids were black.

Now this was back in the 70s and there was still lots of racial problems in Flint Michigan and it was in the church too. A few years earlier they had the riots of Detroit only 60 miles away. The devil did not like seeing all these folks getting saved and rescued from the jaws of hell.. White church folks began to complain about all the black kids. These un-churched kids both black and white were writings on the walls tearing up the church and causing a general uproar. The deacons went to the pastor and made a big protest. Pastor Smith finally stood up on Sunday night and resigned the church and moved to Bakersfield California. I was the bus director responsible for all these problem kids coming to church. The new preacher called me into his office and had a black board set up. He said we have decided to limit the number of blacks to the ratio of population of the city. I said we are bringing in about 25% blacks now and the population of the area is about 45% blacks. Wow that blew him away..He stuttered well you will to cut down the number of black kids somehow. I said OK tomorrow when we run the bus through the projects you stand in the door of the bus and tell which kids can not ride the bus and will just have to go to hell without Jesus..That was the wrong thing to say and I was kicked out of the church and told to leave and take my bus kids with me. We had no place to go so we took our five buses and we had mystery Sunday. We printed up our fliers to be passed out on Saturday visitation. The theme was mystery Sunday. Where was the church ? who was the preacher? We took the kids to the county park and had a mystery walk in the woods and had church on each bus..

That next Saturday at the Full Gospel business men's' meeting Don Edwards heard about our situation (remember him from my first bus route?) He was in the real estate business and had a 3 story vacant office building down town Flint. He handed me the keys and said it's yours for as long as you want it. Guess what ? It was on CHURCH street how cool. I filed corporation papers with the state and named it Rainbow Temple.

At our snowmobile shop we met a guy named Tom Bills. We got acquainted with him and asked him and his wife Debbie to go to church with us. That Sunday morning we went

to pick them up and Debbie showed us a note that her and Tom had signed. They had planned to shoot their children and then shoot them selves. They had the bullets ail counted out. When we pulled up in the bus there was a half a foot of snow and we were not going to run the buses that day. I stayed in the Bus and Jane knocked on the door. The whole family came on the bus and got saved that morning. That couple went on to be great Christians. Debbie used to bake cookies and cupcakes for all the bus kids..