

Someone that I do not personally know posted the following on his Facebook status a few weeks ago. This man's post showed up on my newsfeed because I am friends with one of the individuals he named in the status update. In seven concise sentences, the man summarized his testimony of coming to know Jesus. Check it out:

*"Twenty-Six years ago today, March 26, 1995, 7:15pm, fourth row piano side at Southside Baptist Church in Suffolk, VA, I met a man named Jesus Christ that saved me from the guttermost to the uttermost! Faithful woman of God, Robin Connor invited me to church. Faithful man of God, Malcolm Bunch shared Jesus with me. Faithful Pastor Stewart McCarter "showed" me Jesus! God placed me in the middle of some of the most loving people that I have ever met in my life at Southside Baptist! The rest is History. I have stumbled, failed and drifted but through it all Jesus has been 100% faithful!"*

Several thoughts jumped into my brain as I read, and re-read, this guy's story. Here's the first thing that caught my attention: God used a bunch of people to bring this man to salvation. Winning lost people to Jesus is a team sport!

The second thing about this testimony that stuck in my brain was this: the first instrument God used to eventually bring this man to salvation was not the pastor. A faithful woman named Robin invited this man to church. In fact, it wasn't even the pastor who first shared the Gospel of Jesus - it was a faithful man of God named Malcolm. The pastor and the members of the church played the part of the hands and feet of Jesus in this man's life so that he might witness the transforming power of Christ.

The third thing in this man's testimony that sticks with me is his humility. "I have stumbled, failed, and drifted..." is not an easy thing to say and own. A faithful follower of Christ is never perfect this side of eternity. I think lost people see Jesus more clearly in a church of humble people who are transparent about the struggle of learning to live in God's grace.

Are you willing to be an instrument God uses to bring someone to salvation; are you okay with remaining nameless in their story? Grace & peace, love you. PK