

In 1969, in my senior year at Hamline University, at the age of 22, I dropped out of college in search of answers to life's very perplexing questions. I was a very confused and frustrated person-not knowing what to do with my life. Not knowing the Lord, I searched out answers to what life was about and why I was alive in about every possible corner, but in Christ. I got very deeply involved in the drug culture and then heavily into eastern religious thought. I believed there was a God but I did not know Him or His Name or how to find Him. I practiced a life of earnest asceticism in order to reach Him, found some apparent peace, but not the Lord. In the summer of 1971 in route to India, intending to give my life to the pursuit of God in the religion and culture of that society, I stopped in a quiet place in the California mountains to meditate and fast - reading and studying the various religious books of the different world religions. By His grace one of the books contained quotations from the New Testament-sayings of Jesus. God began to speak to me through these and showed me the way to Him was open, free, a gift, - not one of religious striving and achievement. He revealed Himself, Jesus Christ as the answer to my entire life and freely gave Himself to me. He took my guilt and sin away and replaced it with peace and joy. I committed my life to Him and to telling others about Him from then on.

Upon returning to Minneapolis, after searching for a Church, I joined a Christian body that was also committed to sending out missionaries. They had a full time business operation committed to supporting missions and starting Christian operations in other countries. I joined the business and shortly became a business manager and director in the operation. During this time three major things happened in my life. 1. God graciously gave me my wife and started our family of three children. 2. Upon dropping out of school in 1969 I had been an objector to the Vietnam conflict and evaded the draft. When I became a Christian our Lord led me to turn myself in to the FBI and bear whatever penalty God allowed. In 1973 I was sent to prison for draft evasion. The sentence was 6 months confinement and 2 years probation. God so graciously turned this very painful experience into one of drawing very close to Him in a place where otherwise I would have been very scared and alone. 3. During this time in prison I spent all my time studying the Bible and meeting with other Christians. Our Lord brought me to a place with Him in prayer one evening on my prison bunk where He showed me that Christ was all I needed before God, that His atonement was sufficient for my complete standing with our Father-this brought me great Peace. He also asked me if I would be willing to go anywhere for Him and if I would be anything He wanted me to be and I joyously said Yes, Lord. Upon returning home from prison I went back into the Church and Christian business I had been in before. I also returned to Hamline University and finished my B. A.

In 1976 Our Lord led us to move to a rural area in Minnesota. I had been teaching classes in Bible, prayer and victorious Christian living for several years and I felt God wanted us to go out and practice what we were preaching. God provided employment for us and we started a local Bible study. After several years we started our own business and I became more and more engrossed with being successful. We started a second business, which employed people in the local community and began to consume most of my time. I began rationalizing that a Christian business, employing others, being successful and providing money for missions was what God wanted me to spend my life doing. Slowly my spiritual life was drying up.

In Oct of 1982 God graciously brought me to the end of myself. The mental and emotional pressures of a business that had grown beyond my finances and the weak spiritual state of a Christian taking grace and trying to accomplish the Christian life by the power of self effort and the exercise of the will brought me to my knees before my Lord in a place of absolute utter nothingness. In an early morning of prayer our Gracious Lord visited me. I told Him I could no longer live this Christian life and that I wanted to die (literally). He is so Wonderful. He revealed to me that this was what He had been waiting for on my part. That He never intended me to live the Christian life but that it was His life to live. He simply wanted to share it with me. He was to live it thru me, I was but to rest in Him and believe that He was from now on my very Life. He showed me His wonderful cross and how it was for me the way to life - a joyful acceptance of my own death with My Lord. I was forever onward to be fully assured that "I am dead with Christ and my life is hid with Christ in God". He took away completely my struggling self-efforts to please God and totally replaced it with my Lord's life as my own, always pleasing God every moment. From that moment He has kept me always in complete peace, at rest, in total love to Him and others. He has kept me from sinning against Him or displeasing Him, removing all rebellion from my heart. I am so utterly grateful for the Life of my Lord given with such great love as such a free gift, a full Savior, a complete Life, a Holy Loving God.

In exchange for a life and business that failed He has given me a Lord and Life that will never fail. In exchange for a life of struggling and strife He has given me a Life of Peace and Rest. In exchange for a life in darkness and stumbling He has given me a Life kept always in the Light.

There is only one thing that I can put my life and time to and that is sharing this wonderful Savior and inviting others into all that God has for each and every one of us. Bless His Holy Name!