

## Carolle's testimony -

Before I made my commitment to the Lord, I was angry.

To know me in my place of work was to know a cheerful, enthusiastic woman who loved life. **But when I got home at the end of the day, the real me came out.** I didn't like who I was - angry all the time about everything. I didn't like my life. I worked too hard, my kids drove me nuts, my family finances were a huge burden, my husband and I were at a low point in our marriage, and frankly, **I knew very little about Jesus, nor did I know who to turn to for help.**

In October of 2003, dear friends and neighbors of ours, Ginger and Kurt Loosenort, stopped by with the book, "The Purpose Driven Life". They invited us to join them at a small group... That first night I went without my husband - skeptical, more than a little nervous to meet all these people who knew and loved the Lord - maybe a bit **fearful that they'd see the real me.** But something grew inside me that night, this **overwhelming desire to learn more.** **These people had the same kind of junk in their lives as my husband and I had...** financial stressors, young and demanding children, pressures from all directions, and that three letter word, SIN. Here I was thinking all this time that we were the only ones with crud in our lives. Nobody could ever know how I was feeling about life. But they DID, and **they knew something far greater - they knew Jesus Christ** in a very personal way. And it was easy for me to see that Jesus would save me from my own self-destruction, if I would just believe and receive.

On October 30, 2003, **I personally received the gift of salvation from my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,** with the prayers and encouragement and even tears of Ginger, Kurt, and my husband Aaron. **Immediately God went to work in my life,** and I can honestly say that through prayer and my belief in Him, my anger has lifted, my burdens are lesser, and my marriage is alive again. I have new hope. I have faith. I have the Holy Spirit within me, and I have godly friends to help me when I stumble

Although I was baptized as a baby, I feel it very appropriate that my dear friend Ginger baptize me t, as my way of saying, **"Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross for my sins, and for giving me your gift of eternal life."** Carrolle Spence

## Aaron's testimony -

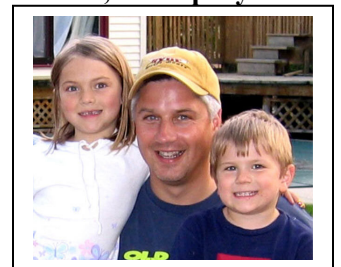
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Mark 8:36 reads, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" My whole adult life I've focused on gaining. And getting nowhere led me to feel unfulfilled in life. I started to wonder if this was all there was....go to work, come home to rowdy kids and an angry wife, go to bed and get up to go to work again.

Then one day our neighbor, Kurt, came to the house with a book for us to read, "The Purpose Driven Life." He suggested this book might help us look at things in a different light. He invited us to a small group meeting, which my wife attended first without me, and we both have attended since. I must say that within the small group, **I felt I could talk to my new friends about my troubles, thoughts and concerns.** They accepted me, even though I was still a seeker and hadn't accepted Christ. My wife had accepted Christ in her life, but **I just wasn't ready. I needed answers, and I prayed to God to help me to understand and to reveal himself to me.**

One night at bath time, my **6 year old daughter, Taylor, said "Daddy, I know that when you die, I'm going to see you again up in Heaven."** My heart stopped, and I answered, **"Yes, honey, you're right."** **But in the back of my mind, I wasn't really sure.** I hadn't asked Christ into my heart yet, and I still had so many questions. I knew it was time to find out more, so I asked questions of my neighbor (Kurt), my small group leaders (Carpenters), and my friend Justin, who told me, "You can only walk the fence for so long."

**I finally realized that if I died that day, I would've been on the wrong side of the fence.**



Taylor, Aaron, Hunter

On February 15, 2004, in the presence of my entire small group, and with the guidance of Kurt, I accepted the gift of salvation. My life has changed 180 degrees, and I finally feel I'm pointed in the right direction. I feel more at peace with myself, my family, and my work. And best of all **I can look my daughter in the eye and say, "Yes, honey, we WILL meet again in Heaven."**

**So, what DOES it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? I will never know, because my soul is saved. Thank you, Jesus!** Aaron Spence