

Stories of Healing

How God has worked in our Church Family

Week 7

Christ Changed My Life and My Family for Generations to Come

Jim Grushon Senior's Story

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100.5

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 1.4

Jim Grushon Sr. has made an obvious impact to anyone who spends any amount of time at the Cornerstone Church of Christ. His fingerprints are all over the church. Multiple generations sit in our pews every morning - in large part because of his spiritual leadership as a patriarch in his family. A former elder and known to all as a man of character, Jim Sr. shines as an example of steadfast faith to each and every member of our church.

Before he was a believer though, Jim Sr. was an apprentice electrician who was seeking the truth about God. His on-the-job mentor was not only mentoring him in electrical work, he was also discipling Jim to know Jesus. After the two men shared one spiritual conversation, the floodgates opened, and a series of bible studies ensued, as Jim, his wife and his mentor Paul sought the will of God together.

Eventually, the couple ended up coming to church, at a church of Christ in Dayton, where they began to connect with more people who were following Jesus. They didn't understand all of the practices at first, but continued to search the scriptures for an answer to each question as they arose. Jim Grushon Sr. and his wife Vera confessed Jesus as the Christ and were baptized into Christ in 1952 at the age of 26.

Jim speaks lovingly of his wife. He speaks highly of her faith in Jesus, her faith as a wife, as a mother, and as a friend. She has gone on to see her reward, and Jim expresses that he is at this time earnestly looking forward to the same reward. He is filled with Godly pride in the fact that all four of his children eventually gave their lives over to Jesus, as well.

“I just think it’s the most wonderful thing... to see that I not only have a good physical family, but a large percentage of them are part of my spiritual family, and that gives me comfort.” Jim also expressed that he takes great comfort in the confidence that comes in Jesus that he will see Vera again, and go on to the place that has been prepared for him.

The example of his story is powerful. In Jim’s story, we see an earnest seeker who wanted to know what the will of the Lord was for his life. We also see someone who wasn’t too prideful to allow someone else like his on-the-job mentor to lead him through the scriptures. Finally, we see someone who has led a life of obedience and faith that ripples out down into multiple generations of his own family, and continually encourages many others outside his family. Even to this day, after service at Cornerstone, a person can hear the footsteps and the laughs of his great-grandchildren as they share in friendship and fellowship.

Applications and Takeaways

- **Discipleship can happen anywhere... even at work.** Jim Sr. was discipled by his mentor at work. His mentor took a special interest in him and not only took him under his wing on the job, but also spiritually. We have no idea how our intentional investment in spiritual relationships could have an impact on one person—and through them, many others. *And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled’* (Luke 14.23).
- **It’s always a good idea to diligently study the scripture.** In Jim’s story, a key factor leading to his eventual conversion was a simple bible study with honest hearts and open scriptures. There were definitely things about Christ, the church and how to be saved that Jim and Vera had questions about, but they didn’t stop until they had answers from the Word. We would do well to have the same attitude, and stay hungry for the Word. *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so* (Acts 17.11).
- **Next steps lead to next steps... eventually lead to Jesus.** For Jim, the first step was having a spiritual conversation with his mentor at work. After that, it was inviting him into his home for a bible study. After investing in that relationship, he started attending church and eventually came to Christ. There were plenty of next steps after that which led him to many years of faithful service in the Lord. Everyone is at a different place, and might have different next steps, but it’s important for us to get good at asking—where does God want me to go next? *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths* (Proverbs 3.5-6).
- **Our conduct can make an impact.** One of the things that made a strong impact on Jim was the character and attitude of the believers that he came into contact when he came to church. He could tell that they were different than many people in the world, and it

piqued his interest. We can rest assured that our examples often have even more impact than our words. *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct* (1 Peter 1.15).

- **A humble heart can be contagious.** Humility is necessary for seeking God. Jim Sr. was a diligent seeker, he still is. That sort of heart is contagious. Many people, within and outside his own family came to Christ because of Jim's example of humility toward God's will. *He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way* (Psalm 25.9).

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What sort of heart for the Lord did Jim have that made him continue to seek answers?
3. How many people can come to Christ because of one person who purposes in their heart to diligently seek the will of God?
4. How do you think God could have been working behind the scenes as Jim Sr. was seeking him?

