

Short Bio

As a young boy, I grew up in a single parent family in Glendale, Arizona, living with my mother until the age of 9. My mom worked a full time job, so I would spend most of my time with my grandparents, during the day. My grandparents were very Godly people, and as they raised me, I learned that there was a God Who loved me and Who paid the price for my sins. There was no reason for me not to pray to such a wonderful God and accept His forgiveness.

During the summer before the 3rd grade, my mom married my father (I say 'father' because I have never known the man that impregnated my mother. My father has been responsible for raising me from the 3rd grade on, and I believe is the appropriate definition of a father), and we moved to Tempe. During the next few years, I learned what it was like outside of the sheltered world away from my grandparents. 'God' was not such a normal experience in my life anymore. Though I still went to Church with my family and would say that I believed everything that a Christian should believe, God wasn't at the forefront of my life any longer.

In Jr. High School, I found that I really had drifted away from the goals that were instilled in me as a young child. I did a lot of thinking about God and came to the realization that if God was truly Who He claimed to be and loved me and a lost world so much to do what He claimed He did, then I needed to make a decision to live this life in service during this precious short time that eternal destinies might still be determined. I dedicated my life and was baptized by my grandfather at this time.

During High School, I hung out with all the 'stoners'. It was really cool. All this stuff about peer pressure really isn't that true when people know you for who you are-- at least in the crowd I hung around. Sure people would ask if I would like a drink or a, well, 'hit' off of some illicit substance, but it was mostly out of politeness, not peer pressure. When I would say, "Nah, I don't do drugs", the response would usually be something like, "man, I wish I didn't."

I would often succeed in bringing these young derelicts to Church with me, and found that the neo-conservative Church that I attended didn't have much of a heart for 'these kind' of lost. I decided it was time to leave and find a Church where I could do what I knew the Lord had a heart for me to do. A full trace of my Church adventures can be found later in this document.

I grew up in the 80's where Christian Rock was a big thing, and was a big part of my evangelism strategy. I played guitar a little in

highschool and answered an ad in the paper looking for a guitarist to fill a position in a local Christian band. After realizing that I pretty much stunk at guitar, the band member that interviewed me invited me to 'Rock 'n Roll Bible Study'. I thought, "cool", and conceded to meet with them.

This was an interesting time for me, as I was challenged by different views of God from an eclectic group of Christian musicians. The first significant new subject to me was the teaching of supernatural Spiritual gifts. This was an excellent learning time, as I was forced to dig into Scripture to find answers to things that were never even mentioned in the Church where I grew up. I believe the hardest part to studying the Word on your own is the point where you have to make the first decision that you believe Scripture states something other than what your Church or family or other upbringing has instilled in you. Although I was considering leaving my current Church at the time for reasons mentioned above, I hadn't considered that it was time to try a new 'type' of Church. I met with leaders in my Church about many of these issues. I think what most astonished me was all but the head pastor had a hard stand on the issues, but had no clue *why* they believed such a thing. As I developed my own opinions of what Scripture spoke on these subjects, I found myself standing up to people who had much of the same conclusions, but who had no grounds for their beliefs.

This was also the time that I decided I needed to read the Bible from cover to cover for the first time. I naturally started one of those 'Read the Bible in a Year' programs, to find that I had no discipline to do such a thing. Although I would read most every day, some days would be one chapter, and others would be 5, if I had time and got caught up with the task. Eventually-- three years later-- I finished.

By that time reading the Scripture had become an integrated part of my life. I still played guitar-- and had actually gotten a little better-- and loved to write programs on the computer. I felt both of these were gifts from God, and I wanted to be faithful and put Him first before the gifts He had given me. I had a 'soft' rule that said before I used any of these talents on a new day, I would first spend time reading His Word. This is still a 'soft' rule that I have with myself even today.

Now to take a quick step back. As a younger man, in Jr. High School, my friends and I were addicted to 'that evil game' of Dungeons and Dragons. But they would always cheat! My Jr. High and High School were in a district with an experimental advanced computer learning program, and offered a programming class to us in 8th grade. My dad worked a little with computers and had an adventure type of game on our text dialup terminal to his work, and I used to play that game often. So, I thought, here was my chance; I'd take this programming class and write a program

for Dungeons and Dragons with which we could all play and my friends wouldn't be able to cheat anymore! Well, I never actually wrote the game, but learned that I loved writing programs. I proceeded to take 4 additional semesters of programming in High School, and continued to enjoy it. I started writing a dialup bulletin board system on my Commodore 64 that I ran from my room and my own telephone line, which hosted Christian message boards and even a text based Christian adventure game. I also started writing a Bible reading program. I only succeeded in typing in a few chapters from the Book of John, but the program worked ok, in principle.

Over the next 16 years which consisted of working software engineering jobs and going to school part time, I continued to develop Biblical research software, and founded an organization that hosts and sponsors free, open source, Christian software projects. Originally known as CrossWire Software, it now is CrossWire Bible Society, and is the gathering place of over 300 volunteer engineers that contribute their time to projects aimed at furthering the Kingdom of our God. We've partnered with many other Bible Societies and organizations, including, The American Bible Society, The United Bible Societies, Wycliffe/SIL, and The Society for Biblical Literature, and offer software and programming services for these and other ministries who can't afford, or don't feel it's their place to keep a full time programming staff, in house.

Church History

My Church trail over the years has consisted of a path that God has used to both challenge me, and develop in me a heart to see people know what they believe and why. After trying a number of other Churches in the same denomination of which I grew up, I then began dating a girl that attended Sun Valley Church, where Dr. Daniel King (now of North Ridge Community Church) was the head pastor. I ended up settling down there for a number of years. Throughout my time at Sun Valley, I led worship at their traditional services, and lead their High School program for 3 years. I still have relationships with a number of kids from that High School group and loved serving them then and still today.

After Dan left Sun Valley, and the Church went through 2 pastors after him and finally closed, I set out to find a good Church again. I spent a number of years at Scottsdale Baptist, where I served and lead worship. Although I agreed with much of what was taught at Scottsdale Baptist Church, I didn't feel the teaching content was Biblically based, and didn't want to introduce new Christians to a place where they couldn't learn to study the Word for themselves.

I then spent about 18 months at East Valley Bible Church, and although I enjoyed the Biblically based teaching, I didn't agree with much of the pastoral staff's derived conclusions of Scripture. Since then I have attended Scottsdale Bible Church for the past 2 years and have enjoyed a mixture of both solid Biblical teaching, along with a heart that I believe is inline with the God of the Bible-- and what He says therein.