

Col.1:13 He rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Son He loves.

"I WOULDN'T BE ALIVE TODAY, IF YOUR DAD HADN'T LIFTED THE CAR,"

Ron Balk said to me and Dad recently at the Men's Discipleship Conference. When we were 6 years old, our neighbor's car ran over both of us in his driveway. The big Packard dragged us a ways before trapping us underneath. Bolts from the gas tank bracket were sticking into Ron's back. His leg was bent backwards, broken and trapped between the tire and wheel well. The jack kept slipping. They couldn't get us out. My Dad heard us screaming and ran downstairs to help. In desperation my Dad wedged himself under the car and thrust his shoulders upward. This allowed them to pull me and Ron out from under the car. People are still amazed at the strength it took.



Ron, Dad Curt, Kurt, rescued 1957

After a while I got over the terror of being dragged and trapped, and the pain of having skin scraped off and cleansed. But for Ron, the **rescue was just the beginning**. He needed a lot of repair, therapy and help to walk again.

Ron sees his experience as very much like discipleship, the theme of the conference. We all need someone to care enough to risk "getting under" to help us. When they do help, it is clearly God at work. **After the rescue, much work needs to be done**; cleansing, restoring, equipping... no place for trial and error. We need people who are equipped and tested, using the best equipment. Ideally someone who has experienced similar troubles. **All clearly God at work...**

Ron has grown spiritually over the years, **passing that legacy on to his son**, who is now sharing Christ in dangerous places in the Middle East. As Ron reminded us, his son wouldn't be there if Dad hadn't lifted the car off two boys in 1957.

MEN'S CONFERENCE: 250 men were challenged to leave a legacy by mentoring others...

Many expressed gratitude for messages which shared insights, personal examples, conviction, and practical steps.

SURVIVAL/ADVENTURE TOOL; Knowing and doing *essential things* which mean *life or death*...

WHO? People looking for a real God, Who impacts real life.

- Seekers**, a safe place to ask life's most important questions;
- Learners**, understanding and applying essential truths;
- Leaders**, being equipped to share these concepts with others;
- Most have **experienced major turmoil** in some area: health, marriage, children, bankruptcy, addictions, crime, prison...



Survival/Adventure Group, recently "tested"

WHAT? All are learning **essentials** for **surviving spiritually**, and **experiencing the fullness**, the adventure, God has for them.

They **were recently tested** for being able to explain the **faith principle**,

("Living according to God's word, regardless of circumstances, emotions or cultural trends") and explaining **seven of life's most important questions**. (Why is it dangerous to assume?, Is God really there?, Who is Jesus really?, Is the Bible trustworthy?, What does lost and saved mean?, How do I begin a relationship with God?, How do I grow?) They get a "certificate" for being able to **explain** main points for each question, one personal example, illustration, key scripture and faith step, how they **connect with a teammate** for continued coaching and how it is **changing their lives**,

WHY? **God has been changing me, and how I equip people**. If they are not able to do these things... then I flunk.

God's word clearly shows the value of "**foundations first**", and the **need to ask**, not assume, about the essentials. Our **research with leaders** shows a great need for clarity about these things. Most say, "I have not been asked or equipped. ... and I have not asked or equipped my people about these things." "People have not had a safe place to ask, or a place to get solid answers..." How can a person obey God's commands about morals, marriage or mission if he is not sure God really exists, or if His word is true, or if Jesus is in his life? Jesus gave His disciples an **environment geared for real life**. They needed **active teamwork/coaching**, and a taste of **adventure**, not just an academic exercise or emotional experience. We are "re tooling" this equipping to be even more effective and transferable this fall. It is proving to be a **crucial step in beginning the discipleship process**. After this they begin "Destined for Security." (see attached/website for more information about "Survival/Adventure" and the Destined process)

THANK YOU FOR "LIFTING THE WEIGHT OFF OUR BACKS", BY PRAYING AND GIVING.

God is clearly working; rescuing, restoring, equipping.

Kurt and Ginger

PRAISE, PRAYER REQUESTS:

- +God worked through **Kelly's and Ginger's speaking**. more next month
- +Many more people are **launching the mentoring process** this month
- +**Kurt and Carrie** are making good **progress on their home**
- +**Kelly**; **healing** from gall bladder issues, enjoying **kids**, massage therapy **work**
- + **Ginger**; some **progress** with hormone therapy despite other health setbacks
- +**Kurt**; seeing continued **progress** with Lyme disease, yet needs much more healing, and **wisdom** about pace, scope and building healthy habits
- + **6/1, Kurt and Ginger's 35th anniversary** and **35th year w/ CCC**
- + **7/3, Kurt's 58th Birthday**
- + **CCC Nat'l Staff Training, 7/20-30**. Crucial equipping and encouragement
Carrie, Kurt C. Rosa, Kelly, David



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