



## Don's Testimony and Background

I was born and raised in the small town of Verona in northern NJ. My family consisted of both parents, and my 4 brothers and 1 sister. Growing up, we were raised as Catholics and much of my time was spent enjoying and participating in the Boy Scouts. I thoroughly love the outdoors, camping, and outdoor adventures. After attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, I headed off to college with the intent of having a career in law enforcement. After my freshman year, my girlfriend and I decided to marry. We attended pre-marital counseling at her mother's church (the North Caldwell Christian and Missionary Alliance Church), and I was confronted with the truths of the gospel. That night, Cathy and I made individual decisions to repent and trust Jesus Christ with our eternal salvation. We then followed our Lord in believer's baptism and were married in June of 1973. One year after being married, I wanted to get involved in scouting leadership, but I was introduced to Christian Service Brigade. This appeared to be the best of both worlds...Christian Boy Scouts! So I served as a Battalion Captain for 30 years planning and executing exciting events and activities for teens to enjoy. My heart for evangelism grew greatly and I had the privilege of leading many young men to Christ.

I eventually did get into law enforcement and I served as a police officer in northern New Jersey for about 4 years. I was also privileged to attend SWAT training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA and served on the department SWAT team for the duration of my employment. The Lord eventually led me out of police work and into the computer and software industry where I held various sales and management positions for 24 years with companies like Apple and AT&T. All during this time I continued to work with teen guys to lead them to Christ and disciple them.

In the fall of 2004, God called my wife and I into full time ministry at Family Life Ministries in Bath, NY. She worked in the front office and I was the Youth Action Director. I was tasked with creating exciting, unique events that would draw teens so we could share the good news of Jesus Christ with them. Some of the events that we created and implemented were:

- Gladiator Game – indoors in the winter
- Backyard Challenge – Outdoors in the summer
- Camping and rock climbing trips
- Adirondack Adventure trips
- Rafting trips
- Ultimate Adventure trips to Utah – 6 days of non-stop, different adventures each day
- Creation Museum trip
- Xtreme Motorcycle Mania – a show featuring street bike stunt riders, freestyle motocross, and observed trials riding. Over 4,000 people showed up to see the show and hear the gospel.

- School assemblies featuring the Power Team, Rachel's Challenge and Super Bowl Champion Christian speakers
- 6 v 6 outreach soccer tournament
- Volleyball and Basketball Outreach Tournaments
- Semi Annual "Almost All-nighter" trips to Splash Lagoon – an indoor water park in Erie PA
- Summer camps for Kids, Jr. High, and High Schoolers

We were privileged to touch tens of thousands of lives and see thousands come to faith in Jesus Christ through these events.

In fall of 2004, Ron Hutchcraft was in the area to speak at Family Life's Pastor's conference. I was his escort during his stay in NY, and we got to know each other. Ron suggested that I build an evangelism training course based on his book, "*A Life That Matters*" and teach it around the listening area. So I began presenting the material in early 2005. Since that time the presentation has evolved and changed. Thus far, it has impacted thousands of people's lives in numerous states and Canada. In this event, people are confronted with the need to repent in order to be saved. We have been blessed to see hundreds of people repent for the first time and trust Christ at the training! Others are equipped to leave the building and immediately become rescuers of the eternally lost. The training has gotten so large and taken up so much of my time, that it became apparent that God wanted to use this in an even bigger way. So we left Family Life and are embarking on doing the training full time all over the country.

Cathy and I have two grown children (Jaimie and John) and 3 grandchildren. Both our son and daughter are married. My hobbies include motorcycle and ATV riding and touring, hunting, soccer officiating, and woodworking.