



An Important Invitation

John 1:35-47; John 4:28-30

March 21, 2010
Pastor David Whitten

In order to build bridges that connect people to a passionate life in Christ...

- I. Then each person in our church must be **CONCERNED** enough to **INVEST** into the lives of others. (v.35-41a)

5 Friends: _____

- II. Then each person in our church must be willing to have a **CONVERSATION** that **INVITES** people to "come" and experience the love of God for themselves. (v.41b-47; John 4:28-30)

WINTER HAVEN (FBW)—Mildred B. Knight of Winter Haven prayed for her husband's salvation more than 63 years before he made a profession of faith at 86. She "kept on seeking and kept on knocking" until J.A. Knight became a Christian in January, she said.

A long-time member of Haven Baptist Church in Winter Haven, Knight enlisted the prayers of fellow church members, friends and family on her husband's behalf. When missionaries and evangelists visited her church, she invited them to her home, where they witnessed to her husband. No matter how she tried, she said, she could not make J.A. Knight understand that he, "as a good man in the community," needed salvation.

After the Knights married in 1945, their marriage was "wonderful, and we loved each other very much," she wrote in a letter to *Florida Baptist Witness*. She compared the effect of sin in their marriage to the serpent entering the Garden of Eden. J.A. Knight, she wrote, "went out into the world and lived for the pleasures in life." Even after the couple separated in 1976, Mildred Knight remained confident in God's promises. "All these years I have not walked alone. [God] has held my hand, dried my tears, listened to me and supplied my needs," she wrote.

While J.A. Knight lived in Gainesville and Mildred Knight remained in Winter Haven, she continued her earnest intercession for her husband. "There came a time when my prayers changed," she wrote. "I began to claim by faith the salvation of J.A. Knight. I believed and thanked God for saving him, and I dreamed he was saved."

Meanwhile John and Donna Williams from High Springs began visiting J.A. Knight in the nursing home where he lives since breaking several bones in an accident. They witnessed to him using Scripture, especially John 14. He professed Christ January 25. "He was gloriously saved," Knight said. "I thank God and praise Him. There is nothing too hard for the Lord."

The news of J.A. Knight's salvation eventually reached all those whom his wife had enlisted to pray for him. They, too, were praising God, she said, "It just goes to show that if you don't give up on your mate, they will get saved," she said. She now travels the 140 miles between Winter Haven and Gainesville weekly to visit her husband, where they read the Bible and pray together.

My Next Steps:

1. This week I will pray daily for the 5 friends on my list and invite those in our area to attend church with me on Easter Sunday.
2. This week I will pray daily for our Easter services and for all those who will be in attendance.
3. This week I will pass out 2 "Got L.I.F.E." cards to those who might need to hear the gospel message.
4. I will continue to read a chapter from Proverbs a day (Proverbs 22 on Monday, March 22, etc.)
5. Other: _____