

## Part of a Bible teaching on 3-15-06 at Living Stones Bible church

### Maren's Testimony

A few days ago (on Sunday 3-12-06) Maren powerfully shared before the congregation some of the steps God led her to take that beautifully resulted in the salvation of another human soul two days earlier (Friday 3-10-06). Here are some of those steps, which were very instructive, and in some instances the teaching of Charles Finney, that we recently sat under, related to those steps has been included.

1. Maren had a deep awareness of God's love for this person and began to boldly act in ways consistent with winning them to Christ: Finney: If you have any burden or compassion for a particular individual, take an opportunity to talk with them while this love for them continues. If your heart is truly benevolent towards them, you may believe that the Spirit of God is moving you to desire the salvation of their soul, and that God is ready to bless your efforts for their conversion.

2. Maren was inspired to pray a believing prayer for this person's conversion to Christ. Finney: In such a case, make it the subject of special and importunate prayer, and seek an early opportunity to pour out all your heart to them, and bring them to Christ.

3. Maren arranged a meeting, a time and a place when the person would be alone, undistracted and she made it clear the sole purpose of the meeting was to talk about Jesus Christ, there would be no deception.

4. Maren in her heart sought and received from The Father which scripture verses God wanted her to use in winning this particular soul. Key verses that she was given were:

1 Cor15:1-4 ...**I declare to you the gospel ...by which also you are saved, ...that Christ died for our sins (your sins and my sins) according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

Pro 23:26 **My son, give me your heart....**

5. At the meeting Maren opened her Bible to these scriptures and let the person read them directly from her Bible. This is something that great soul winner and Bible teacher R. A. Torrey consistently practiced when leading people to Christ and strongly advocated.

6. Maren encouraged the person to believe the gospel and do what God asked of him – and she encountered an obstacle – the person claimed to already believe the gospel. Maren, by the Holy Spirit, knew that this was not true, the person had only

mentally assented to the gospel and therefore didn't know Jesus in his heart. She refused to be deterred by this obstacle but proceeded to explain the difference between a head and a heart knowledge of the truth. The person conceded that he did not know God.

Finney: Sinners should be told to believe the gospel. Here, also, they need to have it explained to them what is not faith, and what is. Nothing is more common, than for a sinner, when told to believe the gospel, to say, "I do believe it." The fact is, he has been brought up to admit the fact, that the gospel is true, but he does not believe it. It is strange that they do not see that they are deceived in thinking that they believe, for they must see that they have never acted upon these truths, as they do upon those things that they do believe. Faith does not consist in an intellectual conviction that Christ died for you in particular, nor in a belief that you are a Christian, or that your sins are forgiven. But faith is that trust, or confidence, in the scriptures, that leads the individual to act as though they are true.

7. Maren was constantly aware that she was, by the gospel, appealing to the person's conscience and not to his intellect. Finney: Be aware that you are speaking to, and with the intent of awakening, a person's conscience (that is, the voice of a person's heart). You are not aiming your remarks at their natural mind in an effort to persuade them. Only an awakened conscience can get a hold of a person's natural mind and bring it in the right direction.

2 Cor 4:2 **But we ...by manifestation of the truth commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.**

8. Maren knew that her mission from God would not be finished until she had brought this person through to conversion and that she had prayed with him. She completed her mission and the person, with tears, professed Jesus Christ as his savior.. Finney: If possible, get them to repent and give themselves to Christ at the time. Avoid making an impression that you do not expect them to repent NOW. If possible, when you talk with sinners, be sure to pray with them. If you converse with them, and leave them without praying, you leave your work undone.

God's grace towards this person was poured out through Maren's lips. God used her tongue to write the gospel on the heart of another unsaved person. Her tongue was truly the pen of God who is always ready to write the gospel on someone's' heart – if He can find a tongue that is available for His use. How about your tongue?

Ps 45:2 **...Grace is poured upon Your lips...**

Ps 45:1 **...My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.**

Mat 11:16 (Jesus) **But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like (God's) children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,**