

PASTOR NELSON'S TESTIMONY

Hi, I'm Robert Nelson, pastor of Christian Life Church. I began this quest of "Connecting Souls to Christ" while pastoring a church in Louisiana. I pastored this wonderful church for over 9 years, when in 1999, God called me back to Texas. Although it was difficult to leave this church, God has blessed me and allowed me to pastor an awesome church here in Waco, TX.



Although I am now a true follower of Christ, I did not begin my life as one. I was born August 2, 1957 in Nacogdoches County, East Texas. I grew up working in my dad's feed store from the time I was old enough to hold my own. When I was 17, I lost my mom to cancer, and my life started to fall apart. I began experimenting with drugs and for the next several years, I was caught up in the haze of the 70's.

My senior year of high school I was offered a full scholarship to play basketball at Texas A& M. However, halfway through the year, I lost this scholarship to a knee injury. This only added to the disappointment I was experiencing with my life. Therefore, by the time I was 19 years old, I was heavy into the drug culture. Basically, I spent every moment of every day high from marijuana, cocaine, crystal meth, acid, various pills, and even angel dust. I am not proud of this life, but I need you to understand how my life was spiraling out of control. I was disappointed and unhappy with what I had become, but I had no idea where to turn. Yet, little did I know, help was on the way.



When I was 24, I found out that one of my old party buddies had given his life to God, and had started pastoring a small church in the area. So one Sunday a group of us "hellions" decided we would go show our respect to him. Little did I know that I was going to find the solution to my lost and confused life. That solution was Jesus!

I had been attending weekly meetings at the church where my friend pastored, when I finally realized that I did not need the drugs anymore. So on a Thursday afternoon, I collected all the drugs and paraphernalia I could find and burned them in a pit behind my house. I thought I would feel reservations or regret, but all I felt was freedom!

Later, on a Saturday night, I attended a Christian concert in Lufkin, Texas. During the concert, I felt overwhelmed with sorrow for the life I had led and for the pain I had caused those around me. I began to weep uncontrollably, and felt the mercy of God sweep over me. I truly

repented and was baptized at my friend's church the following Sunday.

Not long after this, God led me to a different church. It was at this church that God filled me with the Holy Spirit and I met my future wife, Cindy. Cindy and I married in 1984. It was kind of like beauty and the beast. She was and still is, such a blessing to my life. Thirteen months later, my son Chris was born. God has truly blessed my life and I have never looked back. I am a true testament to the mercy of an awesome God.