

Original Text

With Deanne's strong faith, she continued to pray for Rick he one day decided to attend. Together, they stayer there for 10 years while they grew and developed a deeper relationship with God. During those years, Deanne was trained to teach Sunday school for all ages. She later became a Sunday school superintendent and led New Believers bible studies and other courses. Some years later, Rick became an adult Sunday School teacher and helped out other ministries in the church. Then, one day, their Pastor asked him to preach the message. That day was the beginning of a journey that only God could orchestrate. Once he finished preaching, he felt confident in what he had done. However, a couple of days later, God began dealing with his heart. Rick explained, "I sensed God saying to me, How dare you preach my words and cast them behind you?" He felt convicted that he was a preacher of the word, but not yet a doer of the word. He repented of his ways, asking the Lord to change his heart. Soon after, God allowed Rick to see his heart in a vision, and it was as black as cole. Immediately he surrendered his heart on February 11th 1994 and truly became dedicated follower of Christ, both in word and deed. Soon after, he received his calling to preach. Rick and Deanne needed some more training. So, Rick took some seminary extension classes and Deanne took on more classes. They both became associate ministers at a church in Springfield. This is where they were both licensed as Ministers. Over a 7 year period they served under a very compassionate Pastor, a Messianic Pastor, A Pentecostal Black Pastor and even an Indian Pastor. Rick and Deanne learned a great deal from each, and the various experiences helped them to be diverse in their own pastoral path. In 2000 they were both ordained and were called to start their own church. The primary calling on their lives is to preach, teach and help others to apply the bible in a practical way. Coming from unsaved families, they have realized the importance of using the bible in their everyday living. The word of

God has truly come to life for them. They were faithful to the call of building the church for 10 years.

Edited Text

Deanne's continuous prayers for Rick were answered, and he eventually agreed to attend. The couple spent the next ten years nurturing deeper relationship with God in that church community. During those years, Deanne trained as a Sunday school teacher for all ages. She later became a Sunday school superintendent, disciplined new believers, and led various courses. Some years later Rick became a Sunday school teacher for adults and contributed to other church ministries.

It was not until their pastor asked Rick to preach, however, that the couple reached a defining spiritual turning point. After delivering the message, Rick felt confident in his performance, but soon realized it had been only that: a performance. Rick explained, "I sensed God saying to me, 'How dare you preach my words and cast them behind you?'" He felt convicted that he was a preacher of the word, but not yet a doer of the word. God granted Rick a vision of his heart, and it was as black as coal. Rick immediately surrendered his life to the Lord on February 11th, 1994, and truly became a dedicated follower of Christ both in word and deed.

Rick and Deanne went on to train as licensed ministers and stepped into associate positions at a church in Springfield. Over a seven-year period they served under a range of leadership including Messianic, black Pentecostal, and even Indian pastors. The Mulkins learned a great deal from each and continue prioritizing diversity and inclusivity in their pastoral care.

In 2000, the Mulkins were ordained and led to plant a new church. Coming from unsaved families, they realized the importance of scripture in everyday living. Rick and Deanne carried this conviction into building and serving the church for ten years.