

The Life Story! Part 1

This is a Story... About people from the past... those who are here now... and the ones who are coming! About people who have come together with one heart to be part of something bigger than themselves... who came here to be healed from broken bodies, and broken hearts... who came and made friends here, some who met and married here... To work/walk out their faith together... And spread it “two-gen” down!

We will not hide your words from our children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He has done. That the generation to come might know them, even the children which will be born; who should arise and declare them to their children. That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments... and not be a stubborn and rebellious generation. Ps78.4-8

This is a Story... For people who have come from broken church relationships... pains... Want something real, someone touchable, something transforming... Of people who came together wanting more of God, more of His word, willing to do the diligence to get them... Our extended corporate worship and classroom model of gatherings... Doesn't work for everyone... But give us the resources and we'll take our practice onto the field!

This is a Story... Of a rolling snowball... a growing stream... a building influence... Of a place called Life Church...
With a *profession* of saving faith that the gates of hell cannot prevail against...
With a *mission* for people's soul's whose fire cannot be quenched...
With a *passion* for people to know and have the fullness of life given by God!

It's a story for newcomers who need to know what they're getting into... or what they're walking away from...
Can two walk together unless they are agreed? Amos 3.3

This is a Story... **Birtherd Prayerfully/Prophetically** 1984: a small group of Angleton ladies were meeting for prayer in a house... Their main request, “Lord, please send life to our town!”
About twenty miles away, a young couple had just been fired... “You're not alone...” “You're not done...”
Phone rang...

(Young Couple...) Ann was born and raised in Longmont, Colorado... Little 5 year old girl found salvation at a VBS! Not knowing her biological father, and raised by two alcoholic stepdads... Endured the heartbreak of losing a beloved sister at 11... **Fell in love with the Lord of rescue...** Found her home in the Longmont Assembly of God Church, Bethel Temple! Jim Miller, taught the Word of God and believed for miracles! Bethel Temple turned Word of Faith in the 70's... **Word of Faith had a school in Tulsa led by Kenneth Hagin, Sr...** Ann joined many of her friends from church there in 1980... Training for the Ministry of Helps! 1Cor 12.28

Cere was born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Los Angeles, CA... Failed altar boy... Became surfer/builder... druggie/punk... Cultivated by fearless and patient Christian, Shirley Boone, came to Jesus... **Fell in love with the God of mercy!** Pastored by Hayford... Introduced to Kenneth Hagin, in 1976 who had a school in Tulsa, OK Where he went 1980 training for evangelism! Eph 4.11

Cere and Ann met in a car wash – in Tulsa while at school... Married 6 months later... Came to Clute after graduation... Got fired once... Moved to Friendswood... Got fired twice... On the way back to Tulsa, to go back into business/done with ministry!

When the phone rang, Angleton calling...

Would you come and start a church down here? “Absolutely NO!” Would you come and start a Bible study for us? “No! Maybe. I guess so.” So... Came to town to start a home Bible study...

First Sunday, 11 adults, one little girl... [pictures] Next week, 20-30. [pictures] Six weeks, needed a space... [pictures] Had a name, Life Church [pictures] ... Had a motto: "We're in this together!" Had a vision statement... [pictures]

Lived out Practically... "Solve a Problem..." The Word of God as source! *WORSHIP! Everything must bow to Him!* **"Fill a need..."** Outreach! Our giving/networking as source! *STEWARDSHIP! Use resources/people!* **"Heal a hurt..."** Restoration! Our love/experience as source! *FELLOWSHIP! Healthy relationships release life!*

This is a Story... Attended Miraculously... Two resurrections, first year! Margery Carl, died after playing in service... Stepped back and prayed and she came back to life... "What are y'all staring at? I'm hungry!" Much more to it than that Marge! Young girl visiting one and only time! Brazosport Memorial Hospital

And then there was property... 1986: Frances B. donated 20 acres [pictures] ... Guaranteed the first building loan [pictures] ... Broke ground in February 1987 [pictures] ... First Door Post Party [pictures] ... June 1987 had our first service in the new building [pictures]! Couldn't imagine ever using all the space [pictures]!

The Flood... The Farm... Benevolence has always been a big deal to us... How big? [pictures] The Food Banks/Freemarkets... [pictures] We couldn't grow food effectively... So we bought it and gave it away! Food banks/fb missionaries! [pictures] Freemarkets [pictures] 20/20 – 25/25 outreaches. Talent, pound and seed company...

By 1995 had broken a lot of ground, built a solid core (175), we were running on auto-pilot and I was about to leave...

1995 – 1999 1st epiphany of a long transformation... "I woke up one day and realized I was the biggest Pharisee in our church..." Time of transition or transformation. Staffing: Sonny/Mandi/Elton. Life Academy... Church on the Move... Alvin Butler... Ken Houts... The Peach Pit Inn... Alpha... 2000+ The "L" La Vida. STR8UP! Block Parties! ATF! Mega VBS! Fall Fest!

The Big Three... The heart of the Pastor... From inception, I knew I was supposed to build a group in an unconventional way... But I didn't know what He meant or what it looked like! Began to remove the separators! Titles/clothing/language/availability/ churchiness (atmosphere)/technology. Had to follow the example of service!

The heart of the people... "Will you look where I am looking?" **J4** "Is it a small thing that you eat your fill then step on what's left... that you drink clean water then foul the rest with your feet? I will judge you because you thrust with your side, shoulder and horns for what's best – and the weak and needy are deprived and scattered... *but I will save them!*" **Ezek 34.18-22**

The pens to safeguard the lambs! Competing with the world when it comes to child-care! Parents not choosing local garage daycare for children... Unsafe playgrounds... Least equipped schools... Took a long hard look at everything we had... **In 2000... began focusing and building for two generations down... and we have been building ever since!**

Building... Strong and secure adults who are looking and reaching outward! Building kids who have come to salvation and are now taking it back to their families/friends! Building structures to house more and more people! 2000 DR, 2003 LR/Uturn, 2006-7 LK, 2009 STR8UP, 2011 LKdr, 2013 LKdr2... Building leaders, kingdom warriors, young and old, who are doing all they know to be spent for the kingdom of God!

This is a story for everyone here regardless of how you came here – it's an invitation to listen and if you like what you hear, to find your place!