

## BIOGRAPHY

1. Born in Buffalo, NY
2. Became a Christian at age 14
3. Met his wife Carol in High School and they were married in 1979. They have four children: Melody, Gretchen, Nicholas and Grace.
4. Went to Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA from 1975-1978. He graduated with a BA in religious studies from S.U.N.Y at Buffalo in 1979, and with a Masters of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA in 1984.
5. From 1982-1984 served as a youth director in Souderton, Pennsylvania. In 1984 Carol and Bob moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia where Bob served as a youth pastor until 1992 at New Life in Christ Church. In the same church, he became both a College Minister and Missions Pastor from 1992-1993.
6. In May 1994, he started New City Fellowship of Fredericksburg. New City Fellowship was started around the vision to bring people of different ethnicities, cultures and economic classes into one fellowship through the cross of Jesus Christ.

## TESTIMONY

Pastor Becker

I am amazed God loved and loves a sinful wretch like me.

I grew up in a violent household. My father was an alcoholic and sometimes when drunk would beat my mother. Like many homes under such circumstances with 6 children there was also fighting between brothers, and brothers and sister. Yes, my one and only sister was in on it too, except she had to defend herself against all five brothers! At least for me, there was no peace.

Though raised in a religious home, my view of God was so messed up. I saw God as a wrathful God ready to wipe me out if good deeds did not out number my bad deeds. I tried to be moral and not get into trouble, but failed miserably. I felt so cut off from God. One day in a church I heard a verse from the Bible that changed my life forever; 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn. 3:16 ESV). God loves me? I was shocked. He sent His Son to die on a cross so all those who believed in Him and His work will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life? I just needed to admit I was one of those sinner Jesus died for and needed to receive Him into my life as my Lord and Savior? God was not out to get me, but out to save me? I will then seek to obey His commandments in the Bible out of gratitude for what He did for me? No way?

I found after saying "Yes" to Jesus, God meant what He said. What a difference He has made in my life! Though I still sin, God still loves me and forgives me, because I am one of his children. We have an eternal relationship! God's love brought me peace. Jesus said; 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Jn. 14:27 ESV). The Lord has brought great blessings into my life. A stable life with a wife and four children, and a great family of fellow followers of Jesus Christ. Yet one thing has not changed even as a pastor; I still sin. When I do, I repent asking God for His strength to stop sinning. I know by trusting Jesus and His work those sins are forgiven me, even though I do not deserve such forgiveness.

Remember, we can do nothing to save ourselves. We can never be good enough, because with God only perfection counts. Jesus being fully God lived a perfect life and therefore offered to His Father a perfect sacrifice, a substitute for us being also fully man, paying the penalty of death for our sins. God sees us as not guilty because we have been given Christ's perfect righteousness by grace through faith. We just need to believe in Jesus' person and work. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Eph. 2:8-9 ESV). I pray you will come to know the joy I have known just by saying "Yes" to Jesus. The Lord bless you!