

Ron Putnam's Testimony and Call to Ministry

In 1987, I was attending the University of Northern Colorado when I met a Christian who said, "Ron, I think you are a nice person, but I believe that you are not going to heaven." After two-weeks of processing that statement, I made the personal decision to accept Jesus as my Savior when I prayed the sinner's prayer of salvation with the same individual who spoke to me earlier.

My conversion was very inspirational in that it felt like a heavy weight was released from my shoulders and went directly up in the air. I began reading the Bible immediately. Because there was no Christian influence in my life, it unfortunately took me another five years to enter the local church with any regularity.

During 1991, I was convicted by the Holy Spirit to go deeper in my commitment with Jesus. God directed me to Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church. I frequented the church for approximately a year prior to turning my complete life over to Jesus Christ. I was baptized by immersion in 1992. During my eight years at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, I discovered that I had more passion for Christ's kingdom than those around me. I began leading and overseeing the small groups ministry and went on a mission trip to Costa Rica.

After sensing a call to ministry, wanting to give my life to Jesus, and after growing in the basics of Christianity for many years, I entered Denver Seminary as a full-time student and completed a Masters of Divinity with an emphasis in missions in June 1999.

From June 1998 to May 2001, God opened the door for me to minister at Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, primarily as the director of discipleship. During this time I learned about professional ministry and matured in my faith even more. I have since discovered that my passion in life (and confirmed spiritual gift) is preaching and administration. I also have been blessed with the ability to teach, and been given the gift of discernment. For a short period of time, I was a senior pastor at Arvada Community Church. During my time there, God blessed the church by allowing it to grow by 90%.

I discovered that God called me to be a missionary to the former Soviet Union as doors opened for me to confirm this decision. Then in November 2000, God directed me to begin my own mission agency (Slavic Christian Ministries), where I have worked ever since. From 2001-2002, I taught at Donetsk Christian University. And since the fall 2002 until present, I have engaged in preaching, evangelism, discipleship, publishing, and coordinating short-term mission efforts in Eastern Ukraine.

I understand that I have done things opposite of most people. Usually people get ordained and then enter ministry. I did the opposite. I have been in professional ministry over ten years now, and I finally received my ordination in 2008.

I have a wife, named Katya and two daughters named Isabella and Hannah. I clearly see God's faithfulness, loving guidance and grace in my life. I look forward to growing more like Him every day! Jesus truly is a wonderful and glorious Savior!