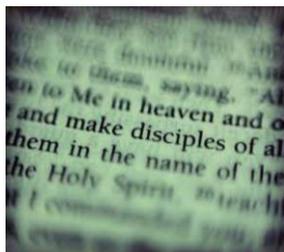


## The Power of One Conversion



During the Civil War in this country, a young woman learned the truth and obeyed the gospel. Her boyfriend, J. H. Halbrook, was in the Confederate army and was captured by the Union forces. He was kept in prison in Michigan until the war was over. At that time he was given a ticket to Nashville, Tennessee and \$2.50. From Nashville, he returned to his home in Centerville, Tennessee to find what was left of his family and home. He found his girlfriend and they were married. She taught him the gospel and he obeyed it.

He began to teach his friends and neighbors as he preached in the area. He realized that if he was going to preach he needed more education so determined to attend Mars Hill Bible School that was operated by T. B. Larimore in north Alabama. When he finished his study, rather than go back to Tennessee, he went farther south into Walker, Marion, Fayette, and Lamar counties in Alabama. He preached and established churches.



One of his converts was C. A. Wheeler. Wheeler began to preach and through his preaching started over 100 congregations and baptized over 6,000 people. Wheeler came into the community of Carbon Hill, Alabama where the Lord's church had not been established. He needed a song leader for the meeting that he was going to hold at the schoolhouse. A young man, who was a member of a Baptist Church was recommended. As that young man listened each night, he took notes and went home to study what he was hearing. Before the week was over he obeyed the gospel. That young man was Gus Nichols.

A couple of years after his conversion Gus began to preach and through the years of his preaching there were over 12,000 people baptized and several congregations started. Among those he converted were his parents and three of his brothers who also became gospel preachers as did three of his nephews or nieces' husbands.

Gus and his wife Matilda had eight children, four boys, and four girls. The four boys became gospel preachers. Three of the daughters' married full-time preachers and the fourth daughter married a man who supported himself in the insurance business, but who preached by appointment. Totally, there were 16 preachers in Gus Nichols' immediate family and only God knows how many people have been led to the Lord through their work. Flavil, one of Gus' sons baptized over 3,000. Hardeman, another of Gus' sons has baptized over 8,000 people.

While Gus was living in Carbon Hill he started the church in Jasper, Alabama. He then moved to Northport, Alabama and preached there two years. He then returned to preach for the church in Jasper. He preached for the church in Jasper for forty-three years. During that time over forty men from that congregation became preachers.

Only God knows how many people were led to the Lord through the preachers which came as a result of a young girl in middle Tennessee obeying the gospel about a hundred and fifty years ago. May each of us seek to bring someone to the Lord. You may never know how God may use that person to reach others.

--Wayne Burger *Used from, "Personal Evangelism Outlines" compiled by Aaron Baker, Foristell church of Christ Summer 2013.* -K.A. Pugh

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ENERGIZED  
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