

SUCCESSFUL DRUG DEALING

I didn't know Mike very well, but I knew he was very successful . . . at drug dealing! Mike had a good friend who had become a follower of Jesus Christ. He was very intrigued by the peace and joy she had since she stopped doing drugs with him. Even though Mike did not know me well, he knew my reputation for being a follower of Jesus Christ who would not shake my finger in his face condemning him to Hell because of his poor lifestyle choices. He was comfortable approaching me to ask about the difference in her life since she became a follower of Jesus. I still remember the excitement and joy of being able to pray with him as he asked Jesus Christ to come in and take control of his life! Mike's life dramatically changed as he stopped taking and dealing drugs.

After a while, his absence at parties became noticeable and some of his friends started to come by his house asking him why he was not around at the usual hangouts anymore. Now Mike had never been to church before and had no Christian or Bible vocabulary to speak of. (For instance, later on instead of saying the Lord was convicting him, he said the Lord was "hound-dogging" him!) Over the next few months, we went through a few discipleship books and spent a lot of time together so he did learn, but initially he had no idea. So when his friends came by to see him and asked what was up with him, all he knew to say was that he had asked Jesus Christ to come into his life and he didn't need the drugs anymore. Then he would call me up and say, "*I've got another one Larry, come on over!*" I had the privilege of leading a number of his friends to the Lord that summer!

Mike is a great example of Acts 22:15. Though this was a personal statement made by Paul, I believe it applies here as well: "*You shall be his witness to all men of the things you have seen and heard.*" Just like a witness in court, he is not a lawyer or salesperson trying to sell someone a product or argue that he is right. He is simply telling what he has seen and heard, which is the life of Jesus Christ. If we wear the name Christian, we have all had some type of experience with Jesus that we can share if we are willing to let God open the doors.