



from religion to reality

"Wake up! Mom and dad want us to hurry up and jump in the car so we won't be late for church!" Those were some familiar words to Kurt. As a child, he along with his dear family members, were somewhat religious folk trying to somehow to earn points with "the Man upstairs." They were also hard-working, hard-partying, hard-fighting and hard-playing Californians, but in spite of all their wildness in the world, they hardly ever missed one service at their boring, long-deceased traditional church. There was quite a dichotomy of interests there - for the world and for holiness. According to Kurt regarding his own experience, their church was, with all due respect, twice plucked-up and sub-lifeless and basically it was a typical church for its denomination ...you know, with the hardwood pews, the marble floors, the long monotone, partially-biblical sermons, the dripping candles that cost a dime to light but faithfully stood in proxy intercessory-wise ...so the congregant did have to pray much. And of course there were also those stone cold, wrinkle-faced stares from some of the devoted. But honestly, everyone was doing their best to do a good job for God. If they knew better, many would do better. Some of the parishioners and ministers were pretty sincere and cordial people.

Now Kim was the conscientious dad and he was in charge of family piety for his clan at home. It must have been hard for him to deal with so often. Rather than showing restraint in listening to an ultra-dry-homily so one could increase in moral bearing, his three boys would deservedly get their tails belted almost on a weekly basis upon their arrival home after the services, because they always opted to entertain themselves at the expense of others. It was just plain selfishness! And all that horseplay would come into competition with the minister and his discourse. The boys seemed very determined to do better each week after their father's pep-talks-plus, but the value of kid-entertainment under the pews—instigated by Kurt most of the time—always won out. It always outweighed the risks that were involved with dad. Kurt simply couldn't resist himself, his fleshly nature ...or maybe it was some unseen devils that would tempt him that he couldn't resist. The urge to converge in play and jabs was overwhelming and it also seemed better than what many were doing there—snoring out loud.

On Sundays, Kurt really did enjoy some aspects such as the family togetherness: Kim, Betty, Kevin, Kyle and Kathy - it was fabulous because there was a lot of love and understanding among them. Sometimes Kurt would have to go to work at church, ringing the bells with precise timing and all, in his black gown and white blouse up front. His heart, along with the hearts of the other alter boys there, was growing harder than those cruel kneelers ...as he continued to hear the Scriptures month after month without putting them into action ...or even knowing how to get right with God as a basis for acting right.

It was fun at times though, because the other altar boys were creative with pranks and they all doubled as his buds on the Glendale Bears football team off hours. Together, they could always talk about their past games while in church with hushed tones and "inside-voices." Together, they got in as much trouble behind the altar as Kurt's brothers did in front of it. And listen, you really don't want an Irish priest mad at you! They could thwack you hard on the back of the ear, grab your neck or make you stand long in the corner of the sacristy for hours where all tender-hearted nuns and sympathizing saints could never witness.

These boys all stuck together and like angels they wouldn't even rat on each other that often. And if it wasn't for his buds there with him, Kurt would have bailed on the service of the Lord long ago. Talk about in-it for the wrong motives. They and fear of hell were the only reasons why he faithfully served year after year. And because the whole family also had the fear of the Lord (the tormenting kind at this point, rather than the good kind) they all continued to attend services just like clockwork ...yes, in hopes that their good works would eventually outweigh all their bad deeds as they approached the dreadful judgment bar of the Lord at the end. What was the rest of the family after in this? They wanted to find favor with the Savior somehow.

Anyway what an upbringing, Kurt enjoyed playing football for years and also spending hours each week, growing up at his grandfather's Tom Sawyer Camp. We were riding horses daily, doing sports, climbing oak trees, towers, bridges, reservoirs and then jumping off of them to go swimming. It was so exciting! He and his siblings went camping all over California and Mexico annually for free. His dad, Kim, was a football coach and he also ran that camp as a vocation to help out his dad, Bill. For many years, Kurt relished many of the fantastic privileges that this camp could afford as "one of the boss's sons." Yes, he was somebody there, or at least he felt that way and took pleasure in such privileges until his parents would find out what he'd been up to. And they were loyal to bring reality back into play so every camper was treated equally. Kurt is very grateful - it was all enormous fun and daring adventure.

surfin' usa

There was more fun ahead. As a teenager his family moved to the beach where he and his brothers became dedicated; full-tilt surfers in Dana Point all through the 70's, but Kurt quickly grew bored with much of what that was all about—the whole narcissistic, hedonistic Orange County scene and lifestyle. "It was just so empty and moldy!" So many hippies could talk a good talk of brotherly love and positive social reform, but at closer glance couldn't walk a good walk. Many were merely rebellious, out on the take, in it for themselves, leading reckless, use-em-and-lose-em lives. Kurt had no peace and admits to becoming a full-on rebel too. He didn't like his character qualities and knew he could never, ever make himself into the kind of person he wanted to be and ought to be in life. He'd become a part of the problem in this world as he continued to hanging out with his lowlife, rock-n-roll-concert-going, party monger, surfer buddies. He would often scare himself as he would notice how out of control his life had really become and some of Kurt's friends didn't even make it out of high school alive. Their pointless deaths really began to make Kurt think about eternal matters.

A few "saved" surf buddies tried to tell him the bad news about his sin and the Good News about the reality of a relationship with Christ who forgives, but because they didn't attend church within the same traditional denomination that Kurt's parents raised him in, it all seemed uber-risky and even scary to him. He'd heard about the danger of cults, so for safety's-sake he continued to count the cost as the Holy Spirit kept wooing, and as Christians continued to pray (even his grandmother Beck) and approach Him.

Kurt even respected some of these people, because he could tell that they lived what they talked about. But for a time he still turned them down when they would invite him to "fellowship" (their meetings) in spite of the fact that he was growing more and more curious about this Jesus-freak-factor with each passing day. So what held him back? He basically feared parental and pastoral reprisals... especially from Priest Nite (that's not quite his name). But after multiple failed attempts at cleaning up his own life from some unholy, destructive personal habits, Kurt soon became ready for a righteous change. And what a change it was too - right around the corner! Kurt broke up with his worldly girlfriend and accepted a last minute, Thursday night invitation from his own mom to go visit a home Bible study in the Newport Beach area. Yes, you heard correctly. I did say "his mom." It was even hard for him to believe. Upon arrival, he found that he, at 18 years of age, was the only one there who was male and didn't have any grey hairs. He'd tried to read the Bible before, but somehow without even trying he heard the Message this time like never before. At the end of study, Kurt was rescued by God's powerful grace right there in his cheap, folding chair. His life and destiny were changed forever and he knew it. He wept as he told God about all he'd screwed up and then asked for His forgiveness. It was like night and day as Christ cleansed him of every sin and deeply illumined his understanding until spiritual scales fell off his eyes. It felt like warm waves of electric voltage coursing into his body, but the feelings really didn't matter. The conversion did! Yup, through repentance and faith, Kurt simply received Jesus Christ into his person that night and also requested the fullness of the Spirit as he uttered an honest, but very awkward prayer.

he gets dunked and labeled a Jesus freak

All this happened in the spring of 1977 while he was attending Dana Hills High School. He thought, "How cool that no works had to be added in with his vertical confession and heartfelt turning! No penance, no beads, no religious jerking or liver-quiver like on TV - it was a free gift! How fundamentally EXCELLENT, HOW BEAUTIFUL to be able to fellowship with God and sense His peace!" It was so incredible to be able to see colors. His black and white world turned to HD and wasn't that long afterwards, that he was ocean-water-baptized in the Dana Point harbor.

Daily, just soaking it all in, Kurt grew in grace hearing great verse by verse Bible teaching at Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa through the rest of the decade. The peace (see Rom. 5:1), love and joy continued, and he had a new purpose for living (see Jer. 29:11). He had a new assurance inside that he was going to heaven and enjoying the Kingdom of God each day! He wanted all his friends, family, and enemies to have this. He had been a jerk to others, so he knew his enemies could become his friends if the Holy Spirit took up residence inside them. It would be so crazy for any of them to miss it! Jesus was so real to him, every single day.

And from day-one in God's Kingdom, God gave Kurt a passion for the lost and he immediately started telling, and winning some of his surfer-volleyball buddies to Christ. Does it get any more exciting than that? No!

Upon finishing High School, Kurt enjoyed selling real estate for a couple years, but he would often find himself addressing the spiritual needs of his clientele or would simply just lead them to the Lord at their homes. They would often tell Kurt about their personal problems and Kurt knew the Solution! And the Solution was the Word of God.

*He enjoyed talking about how Jesus Christ helped him through some of the same challenges. He always did his best to use the Scriptures to explain how wonderful Christ is with His matchless mercy, His glorious grace, His magnificent majesty and caring, selfless character. Kurt was eventually called to Gospel ministry in 1980. At that time, Kurt happened to be reading a missions book called *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew while he was fasting and praying, and that's when the Lord spoke to him as clear as could be, that he was to preach the Gospel in far away lands. He felt like how could anyone not sense God's call after reading such a book? One week later, after abandoning his expensive quiver of beautiful surfboards, he was on the road east to Bible School driving his VW van toward Dallas, Texas to attend a Bible school with a missions emphasis. Practical application of the basics was a must to him! It turned out to be great fun fellowshiping with the Lord and 1500 other young people zealous for the same kind of good works!*

the Jesus dude gets married

It was during Kurt's first years of ministry preparation that he met his beautiful wife, Liney. It was while they were both witnessing at a pornography protest at the Dallas City Hall. Of course, Kurt always emphasizes the word "protest" when people ask him about this demonstration. Liney Pelzer (that was her maiden name), was raised in Colorado and born again spiritually at the ripe old age of four. Both Kurt and Liney together sensed a deep, heart-felt concern — a real burden for people lost in the maze of dead religion and for troubled young people disorientated by the religious. And this was expressed even during their engagement period, as they would separately venture out on short-term missions trips. Ever since the day they wed in August of '82, they've experienced great joy together, witnessing to all kinds of people, both at home and abroad.

Kurt and his wife Liney both received their Associate of Practical Theology degrees studying at Christ for the Nations Institute and then Kurt went on to earn a couple more degrees at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, and at Jacksonville Theological Seminary. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-18). Kurt and Liney want to obey this verse moment by moment. They seek to make all their daily decisions in light of this passage.

Pastor Kurt and Liney served together for a decade during the eighties overseeing a region of home groups with the 11,000 member Church on the Rock just outside Dallas in Rockwall, under their dear friend, David Shibley. In 1990 the von Schleichers were sent out from this

church to serve in Bavaria, Southern Germany. Stephan John, Nathan Michael, Christian Andreas, along with their parents, Kurt and Liney, had a great adventure there as well as in many other European countries. Kurt and Liney ministered heartedly as independent missionaries along with their friends the Dorroughs and a great team of Germans. They played a role in helping to establish four indigenous churches there basing from the one in Augsburg, (churches with more than 95% German nationals among their constituents).

As cross-cultural missionaries, Kurt and Liney kept in touch with Europe-based Calvary Chapel pastor friends and taught the Bible in German for four years in, Harvest Bible School. They oversaw a thriving youth ministry and traveled extensively, doing itinerant evangelism throughout eastern and western Europe.

In 1995, after a capable, home-grown-national (Eddie Riepl) was set in as the senior pastor in the Augsburg church, Kurt was invited to return to the States and serve fulltime along side of Dr. David Shibley once again, who was the Founder and President of a missions organization called, Global Advance. He mainly served as the Prayer Coordinator and personal aid for this best-selling author. But Kurt also traveled representing Global Advance domestically and overseas, enjoying pulpit ministry to many disadvantaged foreign church leaders. Yes, Kurt had a part in this, but now hundreds of these precious men that he helped to train face to face have planted new, culturally relevant, soul-winning churches for the glory and honor of God!

Kurt and Liney have opted to work as a tentmaker ministers at times, but they have not lost their missionary vision or fervor. Kurt still travels and speaks in churches as they invite him and they both hope to conduct many short-term missionary outreaches in the future. God gifted Kurt with an ability to apply biblical principles to current, real-life situations and events in a way that is relevant and easily understood by people of all ages and backgrounds. He is devotional and spiritually dynamic in the pulpit, but approachable when out. He is a learner that confidently leads from a conservative perspective, but is not a dictator. He loves the Spirit, but doesn't compromise the Word. He's a sound evangelical with a biblical pneumatology—not one of inordinate charismania. Kurt has served as a pastor in more than one American mega Church but he loves to help small churches grow. He is passionate about reaching unbelievers and feeding God's sheep a balanced diet from the whole counsel of God ...for a decision, and for their spiritual maturity. The von Schleichers have had a lot of fun establishing New Beginning Fellowships for discipleship and conducting church-wide Won-By-One World Changing personal evangelism seminars. They believe in every-member-evangelism and have enjoyed inviting everyone in huge churches out on the streets with them to verbally witness. This in turn, has really helped them to grow. Pray about inviting Kurt to come minister to your group. He is able to cast vision, nurture and teach heart to heart, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:12-13). More importantly, [pray for Jesus Christ to forgive you and come live inside](#) of you as your Lord and Savior today! He will. What God has done for Kurt and his family, He will do for you!

it's been said...

“With such diverse missions and soul-winning exposure, Kurt von Schleicher is acutely aware of the spiritual challenges facing the Church internationally. And God has shown him what works in resolving them in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. There's only one correct interpretation, but many applications. Methods change, church growth principles that are biblical never do—they work in any culture as God works through His people. Now is the time that God has called Kurt to lovingly build His church in this culture.” –Dale Witt, Executive Director of Global Advance

“Kurt exemplifies the character qualities for a pastor as stated in the Pastoral Epistles and most specifically those in 1 Timothy 3:1 and following: ‘This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless...’ I was impressed with his strong desire to make his youth group at Calvary Chapel Dallas the best fed, most loved sheep in the world. His positive attitude, humility, and faith in God is infecting!” –Pastor Jeff Christianson, Calvary Chapel Bible College Murrieta Hot Springs

“Until Kurt and I became acquainted, I had never met anyone with such a passion for the Lord, evangelism, prayer, people and life. I know that Kurt has maintained and nurtured those passions over the years. I know Kurt as a caring, transparent, dependable, patient and hard working brother in Christ. He is a trustworthy man of integrity, a faithful co-laborer in the Gospel and a beloved friend.” – Pastor Mike McKinney, Calvary Assembly of God

“It’s been rare to meet someone with a greater visible zeal and passion for the Lord. In the area of youth ministry, Kurt has a heart for shepherding teenagers into a mature relationship with Christ. When he speaks in the pulpit, Kurt preaches with energy and conviction. My personal interaction with Kurt has been a joy.” –Pastor Tim Burns, Calvary Chapel Tyler

“I have been a witness to a man that has a very godly character, full of love for his fellow man and always the humble servant. I consider his primary assets to be a willing and positive attitude, excellent writing skills and a strong artistic skill set.. You can not define such a great person with only one sentence! He is very kind, trustworthy, sincere and always encouraging. He is a true walking witness for the Lord!” – Calvary Board Member, Dave Firth, Cadence Design System” –Calvary Board Member, Dave Firth, Cadence Design System

“He is not only spiritually gifted in teaching God’s Word to adults to challenge them, but Kurt is adept in connecting with the young people and with the children. He really holds their attention well as he boldly holds forth God’s Message. More importantly, Kurt’s life exemplifies what he teaches. He genuinely models what it means to be a humble servant.” –Pastor Dave Martin, Calvary Chapel

“Pastor Kurt and Liney von Schleicher have served fulltime with us here at the 11,000 member Covenant Church in Dallas for five years. They have done a great job—yes, they have done and fulfilled all we required of them according to their assignment and then some. They follow instructions well, and they anticipate many of the needs of our constituents before others do. The new converts, first time visitors and new members have been well taken care of under their capable oversight. We’ve been pleased with the results. Kurt has not only raised up and overseen our follow-team, street witnessing team and new member counseling, he has written much of the curriculum we use. He faithfully taught our people the foundations, discipleship disciplines, personal evangelism principles, and expositionally through books of the Bible on a church-wide basis. They both are exceptional communicators and have really motivated God’s people towards positive action.” –Pastor Gerald Parsons, Covenant Church

“Since he was a teenager, Kurt has always demonstrated faithfulness to the Lord and His Scriptures. He has endured as a faithful steward through many times of testing and personal hardships. We have seen much fruitfulness with His ministry and gift mix. Kurt is a gifted preacher-teacher. He is born of the cross of Jesus and has learned temperance and patience. He is a friend and fellow pastor. He is an evangelist and hard-worker, an administrator and leader. He takes God’s Word for what it is, and does not compromise by declaring a watered down Gospel. Kurt has fulfilled Paul’s requirements to Timothy for a life that is above reproach as an Elder.” –Pastor Brian Burnette, Calvary Chapel of San Clemente

“Kurt is confident in who he is in Christ. He is humble about his position, knowledge, ability, and future. I’ve observed how he interacts with students, youth, staff, and parents. He is personable, relatable, and approachable—characteristics that I have observed to be prevalent in the best of teachers and pastors. Truly, Kurt has a rare blend of godly characteristics. There are not very many young men in the ministry who are confident and bold, yet humble and teachable; but, that’s Kurt.” – Pastor Craig Rose PHD, Calvary Chapel Texarkana

“I have known Kurt von Schleicher for four years. We served as Calvary Chapel Board Members, and I have interacted with him on a personal as well as a professional level. I have grown to respect Kurt very much. He has exemplified a strong passion to serve the Lord, is very level headed and thoughtful. He strives to achieve fairness in all matters and he is not afraid to confront issues as he applies God’s Word in his life.” –Board Member Matt Ahle, Calvary Chapel Dallas

“I have known Kurt and Liney for over fifteen years, and can attest to their total passion for the Lord and His Kingdom. He has a love for souls and an evangelistic fervor. Kurt has had a consistent prayer and devotional life that impresses me. His consistency and passion for the lost has remained to this day, so that any church he leads will be well led, well fed, and challenged by his personal example to be a light to their community.” –Missionary Pastor John Dorrough, New Day Christian Fellowship

“Kurt is a great friend; very faithful—a person you can count on. And he’s great fun to be with, always thinking the best of you and inspiring you to be the best person you can be and are meant to be.” — European Conference Translator, Elke Sabine Mölle

“Kurt is great fun to be around, but also great to talk 'Bible' with. He always has some new insight, or a new book, or something to share!” —School Teacher in the Dallas Area, Andrea Clark

“Kurt von Schleicher lives according to the Word of God and is an effective, on-fire Bible teacher. He loves the Lord, loves people and is a good example of the leadership qualities seen in First Timothy. We have had him speak multiple times and our people are better off because of it. We’d definitely have him back again!” –Pastor Mack Roller, First Baptist Fairfield Texas

“Thank you for expressing interest in the ministry of Kurt and Liney von Schleicher. Kurt has handled many details for our Frontline Shepherd Conferences and kept our prayer partners informed. We sent him to train pastors and key leaders in Honduras and Nicaragua. He and his family served as missionaries in Germany for four years and did a great job. They are exceptionally well qualified as ministers.” –David Shibley, Founder/President of Global Advance