

The Power of Godly Witnesses

"You are a hopeless case."

"You will never change."

"You will be as drug addict until the day you die."

These were the messages spoken over my life again and again. In the natural, these dire predictions concerning my life and prospects for the future had a ring of truth to them. However, the Lord was raising up His witnesses around me to bring a message of hope and deliverance.

After wasting all of my teenage years on drugs, alcohol and a party lifestyle, I found myself facing five years in the state penitentiary. Even worse than that, at 20 years of age, I had been shooting narcotics in my veins for 5 years and had absolutely no hope or vision for the future. I was surrounded by teachers, doctors, counselors, pastors and random people who were declaring death and defeat over my life.

Thankfully, the Lord spoke His Word over my life: "If any man be in Christ he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17a). He used His people to do it. God displays His power and produces freedom in hopeless people through the boldness of godly witnesses. The most powerful tool you possess to promote change in the lives of others is your testimony. Specifically, your story of how Jesus Christ has brought victory and hope to your life.

Proverbs 18:1 puts it this way: "The power of life and death is in the tongue." When I was a troubled, addicted and confused young man, I had people around me speaking two distinct messages. Some of those people were declaring death and destruction, while others proclaimed life and deliverance. The Lord used the message of hope to transform my life into a testimony for His glory and kingdom.

You can hear the rest of my story and discover how the Lord will use your story to encourage hope in people around you on this episode of *Conquer Addiction* on the Charisma Podcast Network. You can find more resources at [.{}eo{}a{}](#)

Ken and Sonya Pounders are the hosts of the *Conquer Addiction* podcast on the Charisma Podcast Network. They serve as directors of Outreach Ministries of Alabama Inc., a Christian discipleship training center for young men overcoming addictions. OMA Inc. recently celebrated its 50th anniversary as a ministry. Ken is also a 1983 graduate of Outreach Ministries of Alabama.

Ken and Sonya have devoted themselves to church planting, missionary evangelism and residential discipleship ministry in the USA, Eastern Europe, Asia and Central America for 37 years. They reside in Valhermoso Springs, Alabama, and have five children and three grandchildren.

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.