

## *A Back-Seat Revelation*

In an inspiring book titled *Second Calling*, author Dale Bourke writes that years ago, she attended a publishing conference. A friend named Bruce offered her a ride to the airport.

As they were about to leave, the doorman from the hotel stopped them and said that the hotel bus had broken down. Would they mind taking another passenger to the airport?

They agreed, and the man who would be riding with them gratefully jumped into the back seat. Bruce asked the man where he worked. The man mentioned a Christian publishing house affiliated with a campus organization.

Bruce perked up at this. He said, "I have really fond memories of that group because I attended a weekend retreat one time (sponsored by that organization), and that's where I became a Christian. It was in 1972 in New Hampshire."

Bruce went on to explain that not only had he become a Christian that weekend, but a year later, when he gave his testimony, his entire family came to Christ. His sister eventually became a Wycliffe missionary and translated Scripture for a group in Africa. His parents turned their publishing interests to Christian books and published some of the biggest Christian books of the next few decades.

Additionally, Bruce had become the owner of a major Christian publishing house himself and brought many significant Christian books to the public. It was obvious that the impact of that retreat had reverberated throughout the world.

Their passenger, the man in the back seat who was with the organization sponsoring that retreat, grew strangely silent.

Then he said quietly, "I led that retreat. It was my first time as a conference leader, and I felt like a total failure. Until this moment, I have always believed it was one of the biggest failures of my life."

By the time they reached the airport, Dale Bourke said, "we all had tears in our eyes."

What conclusions can we draw from this story? At least a couple ...

1. You never know what a small seed you may sow into someone's heart – and you reap a harvest that is multiplied through the people you touch. It may be an encouraging word, an act of kindness, or even a listening ear. Opportunities are before us every day.
2. God knows how to remind us of our self-worth when we find ourselves in some valley of disappointment or a feeling of failure. What are the odds that these two men would connect in an unlikely place after years of going their separate ways? In human terms, gigantic. But not in God's will and timing!

*For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised (Hebrews 10:36 ESV).*