

A Launching Pad

More than 40 years ago, a Philadelphia congregation watched as three 9-year-old boys were baptized and joined the church. Not long after, the church sold the building and disbanded.

One of those boys was Dr. Tony Campolo, outstanding preacher, author and Christian sociologist at Eastern University in Pennsylvania. He remembers:

“Years later, when I was doing research in the archives of our denomination, I decided to look up the church report for the year of my baptism. There was my name and Dick White’s – he is now a missionary – and Bert Newman is a professor of theology at an African seminary.”

Then Campolo read the church report for the year he joined the church.

It said, “It has not been a good year for our church. We have lost 27 members. Three joined, and they were only children.”

What can we conclude from this story? Among the lessons are these:

- What may appear to be a failure in man’s eyes may be just the beginnings of victory in God’s plans.
- A wise investment in people, no matter the age, can reap huge benefits.
- The few – and, in this case, children – can extend the reach of their influence around the world with the direction of the Master.
- Lives committed to Him can produce amazing results.



That little church in Philadelphia didn’t know it at the time, but it was about to become a launching pad for God’s purpose of advancing His kingdom.

– Beecher Hunter