

# Breakthrough MOMENTS

DR. DAVID H. MCKINLEY

## More Than Success

"An unexamined life is not worth living." —SOCRATES

Zacchaeus—"The Lord Recalled"

"I have received a second life!" —WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"The greatest case of mistaken identity in modern society relates to the four marks of public success: money, power, fame, and status. Success should never be confused with wealth or power. Rather, success should be linked to excellence and fulfillment. I have no problem with money, power, fame, or status—as long as they're treated as resources, rather than as goals in themselves. But that's precisely the problem for most people—and why? It's so hard for people to answer the question 'How much is enough?' If acquiring money or fame is your goal, how do you know when you have enough? Everyone I know who has a little wants more. But everyone I know who has a lot also wants more." —TOM MORRIS

"Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

—THOMAS CARLYLE

### Breakthrough Moment Interview

#### MIKE FECHNER & VELMA MITCHELL

Mike Fechner seemed to have it all. At 25 years of age, he had accumulated wealth and possessions that set him apart as being successful by his peers. He owned his own business and drove expensive cars, but something was missing.

"The further I climbed and the more I attained the less significance and less peace I had in my life," Mike said.

Just as Zacchaeus climbed the tree looking for Jesus as

described in Luke 19, Mike was also looking.

"I knew Jesus as Savior, but I didn't know Him as my first love," Mike said. "I didn't know how to hear Him and walk with Him daily and intimately."

As Mike looked from the top of his "tree" at all his accomplishments and possessions, he knew "things" and a self-directed life weren't enough to fulfill his longings for significance.

Mike's life began to change as he began to apply the Word of God to his life and look beyond himself to others. He reached out to the inner-city and forged a friendship with a single parent who lived there. Although she had none of the material possessions Mike considered so important, she had something he didn't have.

For Velma Mitchell God was everything. For Mike, God was just one part of his life. But both of their lives were changed when Velma's son was killed in a drive-by shooting. Velma lost her only son. Mike lost a young friend. Both hearts were broken.

After that, when Mike drove through the inner-city, he saw people there differently.

"I couldn't see them any other way than my family because they are God's creation," Mike said. "Out of brokenness came the desire to live life to give, and challenge other people to do the same."

Mike began the ministry H.I.S. (Hope In Salvation) BridgeBuilders to make a positive impact in the city of Dallas and bring revival through the transforming message of the gospel.

BridgeBuilders offers GED courses, Bible studies for children and adults and an eye clinic. Velma runs a million-dollar gymnasium in Turner Courts, one of the housing authorities that work in association with BridgeBuilders.

Recently, the city of Dallas has asked BridgeBuilders to take 400 acres of the most impoverished area in Dallas and completely redevelop it.

Since its beginning 10 years ago, BridgeBuilders has been a fountain of blessing to hundreds and hundreds of people, and it all began when Velma taught Mike that living to get is empty and living to give is everything.

For additional information and to learn about volunteer opportunities, see [www.hisbridgebuilders.org](http://www.hisbridgebuilders.org). To become a BridgeBuilder volunteer, contact Mary Anderwald at Prestonwood Baptist Church, 972-820-5301 or [manderwald@prestonwood.org](mailto:manderwald@prestonwood.org). ■

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