



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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THE RITZ-CARLTON®
AMELIA ISLAND

The Huron family spent a vacation at the Ritz-Carlton on Amelia Island in Florida. As you can imagine, it was a nice vacation — until the family returned and it was discovered that the youngest son’s beloved stuffed giraffe named Joshie was missing. Chris Huron naturally panicked because he knew his son would be distraught at the thought of sleeping without his favorite pal. So he decided to tell his son that Joshie had stayed behind to take an extra-long vacation. Surprisingly, his son was satisfied and was able to fall asleep without his little friend.

That night, the Hurons received a call from the Ritz-Carlton. The hotel’s staff had found Joshie. He had been mixed in with the laundry and was turned over to the hotel’s Loss Prevention Team. Chris confessed the fabricated story he told his son. The people at the Ritz understood.

A few days later, the Hurons received a package which contained Joshie and some Ritz-Carlton-branded goodies. And most importantly, there was a binder that meticulously documented Joshie’s extended stay at the Ritz. It showed Joshie wearing shades by the pool, getting a massage at the spa, and even driving a golf cart on the beach! Amazing, isn’t it.

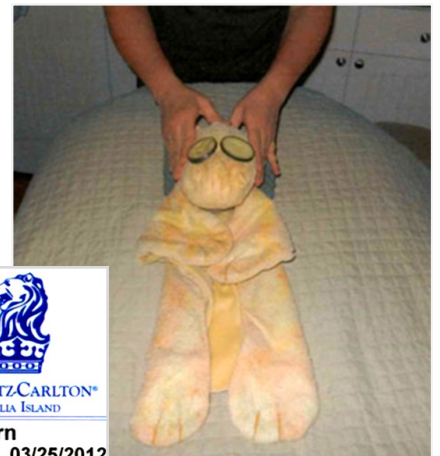
What’s more amazing is this actually happened and will forever be a story that the Huron family will remember and tell! Why? Because the people at the Ritz had made a difference in their lives.

What stories do unbelievers tell about us? What do

they remember most about their encounters with us? On the Emmaus road after the resurrection of our Lord, two of Jesus’ followers were walking home, saddened by the crucifixion of Christ. They had been left with only the wonderful memories of being with Him. Luke 24:14 says, “And they talked together of all these things which had happened.” The focus of their discussion was Jesus. Amidst their feelings of melancholy over the loss of their beloved Lord, they were reminded of how He had touched their lives. No doubt, they remembered the blind who were made to see, the lame who were made to walk, and the healing of those who had all kinds of physical ailments. They were memories that would soon be told to others in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth (Acts 1:7). Jesus had left them with an experience that changed their lives.

Every Christian has such an opportunity to impact the lives of friends, neighbors, and even relatives in the name of Jesus Christ. The Ritz experience that we share with them is the richness of our experience with Christ. As those who come in contact with us are impacted by Christ in our lives, they will share memories of the encounter for the rest of their lives and throughout eternity!

In Christ,
Dr. L.W. Edwards



THE RITZ-CARLTON®
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Joshie Huron
Loss Prevention 03/25/2012



“It is fashionable now to talk about reconciliation. I think we have to demonstrate reconciliation.” Mississippi State Representative Benjie Thompson’s words are very true, especially in light of recent

events which have sparked protests and ignited a passionate discussion on the quality of race relations in the US. Everyone agrees something must be done, but the greatest challenge lies in determining exactly what can be done.

We know government is not the answer. Our lawmakers may pass anti-discrimination laws, but legislation is only a bandage. No law can curb the heart attitudes which fuel prejudiced behavior.

The Church claims to have a remedy for the race problem, but we haven’t been living up to our calling to be salt and light in this area. Even a casual observer would find the ugly stain of prejudice smeared on the walls of our sacred buildings. We tend to identify ourselves by the racial makeup of our congregations rather than by their common spiritual makeup (The Church is a diverse body of believers — brothers and sisters in Christ.) We have failed to maintain the cross-cultural dynamic of our demographically changing communities. We have continued with business as usual, ministering to the community within our four walls instead of actively reaching our new neighbors. We have chosen for our friends others who look, talk, and worship just like us. We have lagged light-years behind the secular world in promoting cross-cultural relationships, maintaining our chocolate-or-vanilla perspective on outreach and relationships.

Where can we turn if the most influential public institutions in our world are flawed and limited? We can turn to a God who is not. God is at work — in and through His people. He transformed the Apostle Peter from a devout-but-racist Jew into one of the chief instruments involved in integrating the Church. He is still changing lives today. Are you ready to follow Him down the path to racial healing? This article will outline a few steps we can take toward building and maintaining solid cross-cultural relationships.

1. *Meet minorities where they are.* Initiate relation-

ships by learning about others’ culture, history (Are you aware of prominent dates and people in other cultures’ histories?), favorite foods, dress, and interests. We should study these things with the intensity and intentionality of a missionary preparing to reach a foreign country. (And isn’t that what all of us are — missionaries to the world next door?) When others feel we are making a sincere effort to connect with them, we will foster understanding and build relationships. . . . [>Keep Reading<](#)

Dr. Edwards is available to speak at churches and special events. Contact him if you would like to have him as your special guest.

PO Box 3862
Barrington, IL 60011
847-909-8543

biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net

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