

One Woman's Witness

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from the town of Sychar believed in Jesus. **They believed because of the woman's witness.** She said, "He told me everything I've ever done."⁴⁰ Then the Samaritans came to him and tried to get him to stay with them. So he stayed two days.⁴¹ Because of his words, many more people became believers.⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said. We have now heard for ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world."
John 4:39-42 (NIRV)

At the 2012 Asian conference and Asian American Baptist Caucus Convocation, we had the opportunity to honor a wonderful woman in ministry and a wonderful witness of a woman, the Rev. Dr. Veronica Lanier. At 94 years of age and many years of ministry, there was no lack of stories! As story after story was recounted, the room filled with the mirth of ministry.

One young man recounted how as he was driving home from church one snowy Sunday, he suddenly got caught in a New England Nor'easter. Uncertain whether he could continue, unable to see in the blinding blizzard, he had slowed to a snail's pace—frozen snail!-- when suddenly from out of nowhere came a car that raced right past him with the ease of Santa's sleigh. When he looked up after the snow had settled, he recognized Ronny's car(!), which he then proceeded to follow through seething snow and slippery roads, arriving eventually—and quite safely!-- home.

Later this young man pulled me aside and said "there's more to the story...
It is because of Ronny that I am a Christian, because of Ronny that I am in ministry.

It is because of her that I believe.

It was her words about the Lord that awakened me to Jesus.

It was her witness that widened my eyes.

It was her love of Jesus that led me to love the Lord and called me to live out that love to others.

Now I can say that I have seen and I have heard and I have experienced Jesus for myself.

But if it hadn't been for Ronny, I wouldn't have believed at all."

Two Thousand years before Rev. Lanier, it was said of the Samaritan woman that **because of her many people believed.**

Ultimately it was because of Jesus' words but first it was because of the **witness of a woman**, a woman on the way, a woman at the well.

Is there a witness in your life? Is there someone who has awakened your soul, widened your eyes, warmed your heart, led you to the Lord of love, wellspring of abundant life?

Is there someone who has in the midst of blinding blizzards guided you home to Jesus?

If so, give thanks, or as Rev. Ronny would say "Be of Good Cheer!"

Gracious God,

Thanks for the witness of the one who brought me to Jesus. Help me to be a witness to others.