

2012 - THE YEAR OF THE PLATFORM

Denver and actually all of Colorado is in the national news almost daily because of a young man named Tim Tebow. The terms Tebow Magic or Tebow Miracle are discussed all across our country. I happen to be a Bronco fan and am very excited about what has happened with our team since Tim Tebow became the starting quarterback, but I am more excited about the message Tim is able to proclaim concerning his love for Jesus. Even outspoken skeptics, critics and unbelievers are listening.

You may have heard his story. His parents were missionaries to the Philippines. During the very early stages of pregnancy, Tim's mother had a medical condition treated with a medication that could cause great problems for her and the fetus she found out she was carrying. The doctors advised her to seek an abortion. Tim's parents, who had four children, prayed and trusted God. They asked that this child would be a preacher. His birth was a miracle as the placenta was barely attached. He accepted Jesus as his savior at an early age, was home schooled and went on summer missionary trips where he learned how to share his faith. He excelled in sports, was an avid trainer and became a Heisman trophy winner as quarterback at the University of Florida. In 2010 he signed on as a Bronco rookie and the "rest is history." I have read his book called "Through My Eyes" about his upbringing, his discipline, his faith and his purpose. His parents' prayers for a preacher were answered. However, he does not have a pulpit -- he has a platform.

2012 - the number 12 in Scripture has to do with Divine government and apostolic fullness. There were 12 tribes of Israel and 12 apostles. In fact, the first order of business in the Upper Room after Jesus' ascension was the election of the apostle, Mathias, to take the place of Judas to keep the number at 12. (Acts 1:15-26.) The Kingdom of God that believers are to establish involves all of us being ambassadors and messengers. There are ministry offices with "pulpits," but all believers are to have a platform -- a gifting to share Jesus's love and message wherever we go.

D. L. Moody, an early 20th century evangelist, told the story of a man who was crossing the Atlantic by ship. He was terribly seasick and confined to his cabin. One night he heard the cry, "Man overboard!" He felt that there was nothing he could do to help. Then he said to himself, "I can at least put my lantern in the porthole." He struggled to his feet and hung the light so it would shine out into the darkness. The next day he learned that the person who was rescued said, "I was going down in the dark night for the last time when someone put a light in a porthole. As it shone on my hand, a sailor in a lifeboat grabbed it and pulled me in."

John 1:9 "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." We can all be a light in our dark world. We are not all a Tim Tebow, or a Billy Graham, but we can all be an encourager, a prayer warrior, or a friend who shares the love of Jesus by word or deed. Think about the person who pointed Billy Graham to Jesus. Think about those that influenced Tim's parents to believe and have faith.

This can be called "The Butterfly Effect: How Your Life Matters" which is the title of a wonderful book by Andy Andrews. He shares a compelling and powerful story about a decision one man made over a hundred years ago, and the ripple effect it has had on us individually and nationwide today. The decisions we make and the way we treat others have more impact than we may ever realize. When my grandson, Nicholas, celebrated his 13th birthday, we had pizza and cake. But more importantly, I held a "Son of the Blessing" ceremony for him with all the family present.

It is a "Christian" Bar Mitzvah - a "Son of the Commandments" observance held for Jewish boys at the age of 13. I gave him the "Butterfly" book and shared briefly the story of how his life would affect others -- for good or for bad. I also shared about his mother's (my daughter's) adoption and how on her birthday I pray for and give thanks for her birth-mother who chose to give her life. That life produced Nicholas. My other grandson and his adopted father (my son) were also present and included. Then we all prayed a prayer of blessing over him and pledged to help him form "his platform."

Genesis 12:2 says we are blessed in order to be a blessing. Another area where we Christians must be involved is the 2012 election beginning with primaries and caucuses. According to the book, "Personal Faith Public Policy" by Tony Perkins and Harry R. Jackson, Jr., there are seven crucial issues we must address to fulfill our role in society. These issues are: 1. Protect life 2. Reform Immigration Policy, 3. Slash Poverty 4. Defeat Terrorism 5. Cultivate racial harmony 6. Defend marriage and family 7. Steward God's creation. These issues should be being addressed in our churches, our homes and wherever we have a voice or a "platform".

What is your platform? A smile, an offer to pray, an encouraging word, a helping hand -- all in the Name of Jesus. Let us, like Tim Tebow, give glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whenever we have an opportunity.