

IV World Ultreya Dale Platter - English

My name is Dale Platteter. I lived my Cursillo in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and I worship at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, Indiana.

I am, what some folks call, an “everyday Cursillista” in the parish. I am married with four children. And I have been grouping for 28 of the 30 years since my Cursillo. Before I begin, I would like to tell you that my group reunion prays each week, that God will use each of us to show His love to one person **next week**. So when I was asked to give this witness tonight, my wife was the first to say to me, “Tell them about something that happened **last week**.” So I will.

I have a telephone ministry. You may ask, what’s a telephone ministry? Well, I repair phones for anyone who calls me and I do it for free. This all started several years ago when my wife received a call from a friend. It was an older lady in our neighborhood with a broken phone, and she needed someone to repair it. The lady knew that I was an electrical engineer and figured that I could do it. Well, I put off the task for several days saying, “*Honey, I may be an engineer, but I know absolutely nothing about telephones!*” Well, wives can be pretty persuasive. God made them that way!

I eventually went to this lady’s house, knowing in my heart that I could not fix her phone, but at least I could find out what was wrong - and get this task off my list. I rang the bell, and after a long delay, the lady greeted me with a smile, invited me inside, and showed me to her broken phone. She kept her telephone on a small table, similar to a plant stand. And this phone had one of those long 20 ft. cords. The cord was wrapped and wrapped around the plant stand until it had progressed to the point that the entire phone was now on the floor, under the plant stand, with only about three inches of cord remaining. She was crawling on the floor to make phone calls. That was her broken phone. It did not take an electrical engineer to fix it. I simply unwrapped the tangled cord and her problem was solved. As I finished untangling the cord, I looked up on her wall. There was a picture of Jesus staring at me, not the one we use on the Cursillo, but a picture of Jesus.

That “close moment” was the answer to my prayer. God used me that day. Needless to say, this event convicted me. And we prayed about it at group reunion. God did not need a telephone man or an electrical engineer that day, he just needed someone who was willing to say “yes”.

I have grown a lot since then. And every week my group reunion prays that God will use each of us to share His love with one person that week. And over the course of those weeks, now years, I have been called to repair 100’s of telephones. “*Word of mouth*” is my advertisement. And the word gets out when you do things for free!

I have found out, when I pray about it, God will use me. A week never goes by without someone calling. Last week, an 85 year old lady called. She is 90% blind. She is on oxygen. I had installed a new telephone jack for her about a month ago. This time, she was trying to replace a burned out light bulb in her table lamp, but the bulb had shattered while she was unscrewing it, leaving the metal base (and jagged glass) in the socket. Again, it did not take an engineer to do this, just some with a needle-nosed pliers and good set of eyes. As God works, her hospice nurse

was there, watching this event take place. After I finished, we sat down in the living room to talk. The blind lady reminded me of the last time that I visited, and how much she enjoys her new phone. And as it always happens, God gave me that “opening” to witness. The hospice nurse, not knowing me (or what I do) asked, “*Why do you do this for free?*” And that was my opening to tell them - this is my little ministry; this is how it started; it is the result of prayer from my group of men; and God loves us.

Here is the message that I would like to leave tonight, “Our Lord does not need *experts* to show the world His love, He just needs us.”

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