Links of our lives

Evangelizing the world
one event at a time
Planting and watering

- Evangelism is most often a process
- "I planted the seed. Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." – 1 Corinthians 3:6
- That’s an understatement.
  - “With many people today, you have to clear away some rocks and other debris, and you have to plow and plant and water and fertilize and pull weeds; and often you plant a second or third time and replicate the fertilizing before God gives the increase.” – George Hunter
A team game

- Evangelization is usually a "team game."
  - Most converts report that several people served as their bridges and helped them find The Way; seldom do they name only one person.
  - The process from a person's initial exposure to the gospel, to the point that he or she adopts it, takes time -- weeks, months, or years.
• Evangelism strategist George Hunter:
  
  - Christian conversion typically results from a ‘chain’ of experiences.
  
  - Each link in the chain matters. Our purpose in ministry at any given time is to provide one link in that chain.
Evangelism strategist George Hunter:

- Number of significant experiences in that chain is typically about 30 links
- This varies from person to person, depending partly on how "far back" the process had to begin and the number and depth of the "issues" a person brings to the gospel encounter.
Four sources of links

• God's own sovereign action
  - *God orchestrates the whole chain so that people can come to faith.*

• Specific gospel truths / Scripture verses
  - *Converts often report not being able to get one or more texts or truths out of their minds.*

• The compassion, ministry, witness, and character of believers

• The convert may be a very active agent in his or her own conversion.
What were the links in your life?
Isn’t “presence evangelism” enough?