Links of our lives

Evangelizing the world
one interaction t 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?
This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm