

Chaplain Robby Jernigan

Marshfield, MO

Just before becoming a fire department chaplain, Robby and Betty Jernigan ran Family Financial Services, a tax preparation and financial services business in Marshfield, Missouri. They founded this business in 1996. For exercise during tax season (January thru April 15th), Robby would go across the street and walk the inside perimeter of a local grocery store. He did this several times per day. The store manager, Kerry Bussard, was very nice, welcoming Robby to come and walk any time he wanted. Kerry and Robby became friends and for several years Kerry had us prepare his tax returns.

In 2005, Kerry was going through a divorce. It was having a negative impact in almost every aspect of his life. Under the pressures of life, Kerry made some poor choices. He began drinking one night to drown his sorrow and that evening was stopped for a traffic violation. As a result, Kerry was now facing some very serious charges. Robby did not know many of these details until much later.

The Bible tells us in John 10:10, “The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But (Jesus said) I have come to give you (spiritual) life to the fullest.” The enemy began to accuse and condemn Kerry for all his mistakes and failures. Kerry was pushed over the edge by the Evil One.

On October 12, 2005, Kerry Bussard committed suicide. Robby was devastated! Here he was a Pentecostal preacher, ministering the good news of Christ, along with being a tax preparer. Robby had the answer for Kerry’s problems. He should have protected his friend, Kerry, from the attacks and accusations of the Devil. In the days following Kerry’s death, Robby became more and more overcome. The same accuser that destroyed Kerry was now attacking Robby.

There was one question that Robby could not shake off. “Did you do everything you could to help your friend?” the Devil kept asking. In utter shame, Robby confessed, “No. I should have talked to Kerry more about the love of God and the forgiveness He offers of everyone who asks. I should have offered to pray with him. If he had only called me, I know I could have helped him!”

Several days after Kerry’s death, Robby woke his wife at 2:00 A.M. “I need some help!” he exclaimed. “The same accuser that killed Kerry is now trying to push me over the edge.” “What do you want me to do?” Betty asked. “Get the anointing oil!” he exclaimed. Betty replied, “Robby, we don't have any anointing oil.” Without hesitation Robby replied, “Then get the corn oil; WE ARE GOING TO ANOINT THIS PLACE IN JESUS NAME!” After 45 minutes of fervent prayer, Robby felt the enemy had been driven away. He was able to drift off to sleep. The phrase God gave Robby that night was, “I will NOT be defeated in Jesus Name!” In faith Robby and Betty kept saying it over and over again as they battle the enemy.

In October 2005, Robby became the chaplain for their local fire department. He vowed to help as many hurting people as he could. Never again did he want to have to ask, “Did I do all I could to help a hurting soul?”