

The Phil Jones Story

This is based on a true story that happened in northern California in the 1980's. Interestingly enough, my brother Ben, while working with NYSUM (New York School of Urban Ministry) in New York City, met some friends of Larry Johnson and Phil Jones who had come to serve from the West Coast.

A few years ago, in northern California, there were two friends that lived as roommates in an apartment. One was named Larry Johnson, and the other was named Phil Jones.

Phil Jones led a woman to Christ that had been the girlfriend of a notorious biker gang in the area, and she chose to leave the biker gangs. Her boyfriend was furious at Phil Jones, because she wouldn't sleep with him anymore. So the biker found out where Phil Jones lived, and went after him.

When the biker arrived at Phil Jones' apartment, Phil was inside the house napping while his roommate Larry read a book in the warm sun on the porch.

The biker, with his loud engine blaring, pulled into the driveway, got off his motorcycle, and screamed at Larry, "Where's Phil Jones?"

Larry knew this situation was not good. He put his book down and walked to the front of the porch, silently asking God for wisdom.

"Where's Phil Jones?" the biker yelled again, approaching the stairs to the porch.

Larry stood at the top of the stairs as the biker reached the top step and towered over him. Larry could see the hatred and rage in his eyes as the biker fumed one last time, "Where's Phil Jones?"

In a moment of time, what was in Larry's heart came out. Looking up into the eyes of the biker, he said, "I'm Phil Jones."

The biker attacked quickly, beating him and kicking him until Larry lay bleeding on the ground.

And the Bible says, "God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Do you know what Jesus did on the cross? In effect, He said, "I'm Phil Jones." And you can insert every one of your names in there, because Jesus did that for you.