

December 4, 2014 - Terry Tung-Yep, a representative of [CIC - Christians Into Cars](#) asked the following question of [me](#) on Facebook and I thought that it and my response might provide encouragement to other like-minded enthusiasts.



Terry Tung-Yep - Question: "What were a couple of defining moments that may have convinced you that your purpose of evangelism could be facilitated through the employment of cars?"

[L Barry Chafin](#) - Answer: MIND YOU, I AM NOT JUST OLD, BUT SLOW... AS YOU WILL LEARN AS YOU READ MY RESPONSE.

The seed was first planted in 1984. While spectating at a SCCA Divisional Club Race @ Summit Point West Virginia I bumped into my hometown Sunday school teacher of 16 years prior. As we watched the races together he pointed to one of the competitors on track and declared; he is a Preacher. Cool, I thought. But, while my enthusiasm for sports cars burned brightly, I was being intentionally disobedient to God's teachings and had no interest in living out my faith, much less calling attention to it.

20 years later a Christian Businessman, [Scott McDuff](#), demonstrated his faith by asking if he could pray over our lunch. As we bowed our heads it was one of the few occasions since being a teenager that I had revealed, in public, that I was a Christian. Over time Scott nudged ever so gently, encouraging me to continue my participation in motorsports (I had considered quitting several times) as a means of demonstrating that Christians can be involved in very cool activities, basically reaffirming what my teacher had pointed out in 1984. I continued racing, but still I maintained the profile of a "closet Christian", except at this point I shared my belief with those who I knew had the same faith. What I was yet to realize, I was missing the opportunity for fellowship, worship and service among others who loved both Jesus and cars but they too didn't express it outwardly.



Photo credit: Donny Ton  
FRSport.com

Point of proof: [Dennis Armstrong](#), a racing team mate since 2004, discovered my faith through Scott's sponsorship of our efforts the Fall of 2008... four years after we began racing. I think recognizing the issue; Dennis suggested that I put a couple Team Racers For Christ stickers on the car. It was a tough step for me. I had spent the majority of my life avoiding the subject in public and I wasn't quite sure how I could "represent" Christ, but I knew in my heart that the task was far more important than anything else I could be doing including all the philanthropic promotions and community service work we were doing (see URL at bottom).

Scott's sponsorship and then Dennis' Team RFC decals were immediately followed the testimony of one of the racers in our region, [Arie Villasol](#), which initially showed up in the SCCA National (50,000 members) publication, SportsCar, reprinted in Team RFC by our request in 2009: <http://www.teamrfc.org/Newsletter/2009Issue2.pdf>

With that step it seems that "all Heaven broke loose" and the story continues to get better and better. <http://4d-sport.com/images/2010 Team RFC Witness 1.2.pdf>

Regrets? That I had not demonstrated a love for Jesus in the way I did for cars earlier in my life. Today I am occasionally referred to as "A man of God" which is an honor greater than any. His way is first!!!

<http://4d-sport.com/images/2009 Team RFC Quailfier a - A heart for service helps renew faith.pdf>



2014 Championship car left and the 2000 right, on the Blackhawk Automotive Museum promenade.