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Sunday, March 4, 2018  
Did You Know?

## Ted

Last week Billy Graham died and the outpouring of gratitude streamed in. People all over the world mentioned the impact he had on them. I appreciated Billy Graham. I remember listening to some old cassette tapes a friend lent me of Billy preaching when he was much younger. Wow! He was a fiery, hold-no-punches preacher. I also read parts of his autobiography that left some strong impressions. Yet, as famous and influential as he was, he didn't really make much of an impact on my life.

For me it was a guy named Ted, just Ted, because I can't remember his last name. Back when I was a young boy, probably around 10-12 years old, he was my Sunday school teacher. Ted was a student at Moody Bible Institute and he volunteered to serve at our small Korean immigrant church in Chicago. He was a normal guy, was bald or balding, with a thick moustache. He wore the same brown tweed sport coat every week and cowboy boots, which was odd for Chicago. He was a hick from some small town in America. He might well have been the first non-Korean Christian I ever met, but he made an impact.

We connected because at that time I was become immersed in classic rock bands like Led Zeppelin, The Who, The Doors, and the like. Ted also loved that music. I think he even shared that he went to a lot of their concerts. So, I felt like we hit it off, but then, during one of our Bible studies he shared that when he became a Christian he got rid of all his non-Christian music, as a step of obedience and surrender to Christ. For some reason, that stuck with me.

When I became a Christian in 1988 during my freshman year in college, God was doing some serious refining in my life. One of my idols at that time was my music. My taste in music had evolved from classic rock to heavy metal. I had gone to see my favourite metal bands in concert like Metallica, the Scorpions, Judas Priest, and many smaller venue bands. I was in love with my music. They ministered to me. They were my primary outlet for all my teenage angst.

I'll share one story with you. My dad had this awesome stereo set with massive speakers. One day after I came home from high school, I cranked up Judas Priest to ear-splitting decibels, and was head-banging and air-guitaring with all my might, but I had no idea that my dad had come home and was screaming at me, trying to get my attention over the loud music. Then there was that embarrassing moment when I noticed my dad standing there, wondering how long he had been watching. But, I digress.

Shortly after I became a Christian, I sensed the Lord asking me to give up my love for this kind of music, with its angry message. What could I do? I reluctantly, but gladly gave it up. I went down to the second-hand record store and sold all my CDs and bought a very nice genuine leather NIV study Bible, which I still have to this day.

I remember that when I was going through that, I had thought of Ted and what he had shared with me. I thank God for Ted's example. As we begin a new season of Life Groups, don't be afraid to share your story of God's work in your life. You have no idea the impact it might have on another person.

Soli Deo Gloria.  
*Pastor Peter*