

# MY TESTIMONY

## From Grocery Store Shelves to Spiritual Nourishment

### How 37 Years in the Grocery Industry Connects to Surefooted Ministries

Have you ever considered how working in a grocery store could prepare you for something much greater?

For approximately **37 years, I worked in the grocery industry**, gaining valuable experience in customer service, stocking shelves, building displays, managing departments, and helping customers find what they needed. Throughout those years, I worked for several grocery companies, including Big Bear Markets, Lucky's, Albertsons, Hagen's, and Vons.

Looking back, I can see how these experiences taught me practical lessons that I now apply to the development and purpose of **Surefooted Ministries**.

What may have appeared to be ordinary work was also an opportunity to learn principles that would prove valuable in serving others.

**Let me explain!**

## MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE GROCERY INDUSTRY

Throughout my career, I served in a variety of positions. Each one taught me something important about serving people, maintaining high standards, and helping an organization operate effectively.

### 1. Courtesy Clerk — Learning to Serve

My journey began as a courtesy clerk, where I learned the importance of helping customers and making their shopping experience pleasant. I discovered that serving people begins with recognizing their needs and being willing to help.

### 2. Cashier — Accuracy and Personal Interaction

Working as a cashier taught me the importance of accuracy, efficiency, and friendly communication. Every interaction mattered, and each customer deserved attention and respect.

### **3. Night Stocker — Sixteen Years of Organization and Preparation**

For sixteen years, I stocked groceries during the night. This responsibility taught me the importance of preparation, organization, consistency, and attention to detail.

The shelves needed to be ready for customers when the store opened. Products had to be placed where people could find them, and the store needed to be orderly and prepared for business.

### **4. Display Builder — The Importance of Presentation**

Building displays taught me that presentation matters. Products needed to be arranged in ways that attracted attention, communicated value, and helped customers recognize what was available.

### **5. Deli, Dairy Cooler, Frozen Foods, and Backroom — Understanding the Bigger Picture**

Working in these different areas gave me a broader understanding of grocery store operations. Every department had a responsibility, yet all the departments contributed to the success of the entire store.

### **6. Truck Unloading and Stock Ordering — Preparation and Coordination**

Receiving deliveries, unloading trucks, and ordering merchandise taught me the importance of coordination, timing, and maintaining an adequate supply of products.

Having the right products available at the right time required planning and consistent attention.

### **7. Management — Leadership and Responsibility**

For approximately ten years, I managed different departments. These responsibilities helped me develop leadership skills, guide employees, address challenges, and work toward common goals.

I learned that effective management involves more than giving instructions. It requires understanding responsibilities, maintaining standards, and helping people work together.

### **8. Produce Department — Freshness and Quality**

My career eventually brought me to the produce department, where freshness, quality, appearance, and customer satisfaction were especially important.

Customers expected fresh products presented in a way that made them easy to identify and select.

Every position contributed something valuable to my overall understanding of how a grocery store operates.

But over time, I began to recognize a connection between these experiences and something far beyond the grocery industry.

## **THE CONNECTION: A GROCERY STORE AND A MINISTRY WEBSITE**

As I reflect on my years in the grocery business, I recognize several principles that apply directly to the purpose of Surefooted Ministries.

**A grocery store provides physical nourishment. Surefooted Ministries seeks to provide spiritual nourishment through the Word of God.**

Of course, the two are not the same. However, the practical principles involved in helping people find what they need, organizing resources, maintaining quality, and serving others have a meaningful connection.

Consider the following comparisons.

### **1. CUSTOMER SERVICE — HELPING PEOPLE FIND WHAT THEY NEED**

In a grocery store, customers come looking for specific products. A good shopping experience helps them locate those products without unnecessary difficulty.

Similarly, visitors come to Surefooted Ministries seeking biblical teaching, spiritual understanding, encouragement, and practical instruction for Christian living.

My desire is for visitors to find helpful resources and navigate the website with greater ease.

**The goal is not simply to have a website. The goal is to make its resources useful to the people who visit.**

## **2. ORGANIZATION — PUTTING THE RIGHT RESOURCES WITHIN REACH**

A grocery store would be frustrating if products were scattered everywhere without any logical arrangement.

Likewise, biblical resources should be organized so visitors can locate the teachings and materials they need.

Just as a well-organized store helps customers find physical nourishment, an organized ministry website can help people find spiritual instruction.

The easier resources are to locate, the easier it becomes for visitors to focus on learning and applying God's Word.

## **3. PRESENTATION — MAKING RESOURCES CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE**

In the grocery industry, presentation helps customers recognize products and understand their choices.

On a ministry website, clear headings, readable text, useful links, and attractive graphics can help visitors identify and access available teachings.

However, presentation is not the substance of the message.

**The purpose of an attractive presentation is to help communicate the truth of God's Word clearly, not to replace the importance of that truth.**

## **4. TEAMWORK — EVERY PART HAS A PURPOSE**

A grocery store depends on many people performing different responsibilities. Stockers, cashiers, department managers, and delivery personnel all contribute to its operation.

The body of Christ also has different members with different gifts, responsibilities, and assignments.

First Corinthians 12 teaches us that the body has many members, and each member has a purpose.

This reminds us that effective ministry involves recognizing the value of each person's contribution and working together to accomplish what God has entrusted to us.

## **5. PREPARATION — BEING READY TO SERVE**

During my sixteen years as a night stocker, I understood that the work performed before the store opened affected the experience customers would have when they arrived.

### **Preparation mattered.**

The same principle applies to ministry. Teaching materials require study, organization, careful preparation, and attention to detail before they are ready to serve others.

Second Timothy 2:15 emphasizes the importance of rightly handling the Word of truth.

We should not approach God's Word carelessly. We should study it diligently, communicate it accurately, and seek to apply it faithfully.

## **6. QUALITY CONTROL — GIVING ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS**

In the grocery business, products must be checked, shelves maintained, and problems addressed.

Similarly, ministry resources should be reviewed for clarity, accuracy, and usefulness. Scripture references should be checked, teaching points should be understandable, and website links should lead visitors to the intended resources.

The details matter because they affect how effectively people can use what has been provided.

## **7. LEADERSHIP — KEEPING THE PURPOSE IN VIEW**

Managing a grocery department required more than completing individual tasks. It required understanding the overall objective and helping people work toward it.

Likewise, developing and maintaining Surefooted Ministries requires keeping its purpose in view.

Our desire is to help people grow in their understanding of God's Word, develop as disciples of Jesus Christ, and become more effective in living out their faith.

Colossians 1:28 expresses this purpose beautifully: proclaiming Christ, teaching and admonishing people with wisdom, and seeking to present everyone mature in Christ.

This Scripture provides a meaningful foundation for the ministry's commitment to biblical teaching and spiritual growth.

# WELCOME TO YOUR SPIRITUAL GROCERY STORE!

Now, here is where the connection becomes especially meaningful!

Imagine entering a grocery store with a shopping list. You know what you need, and you want to find it.

You might be looking for bread, milk, fresh fruit, vegetables, or other nourishing foods.

But what about your spiritual needs?

Are you looking for a clearer understanding of God's Word? Do you need encouragement to stand firm in your faith? Are you seeking biblical instruction to help you navigate life's challenges? Do you desire to grow in spiritual maturity and become more effective in serving the Lord?

**This is where I invite you to explore Surefooted Ministries!**

Think of the website as a spiritual grocery store filled with opportunities to study, learn, grow, and apply the truth of God's Word.

As you explore, consider the following:

- **Browse the shelves:** Explore the available biblical teachings and ministry resources.
- **Fill your spiritual shopping cart:** Identify teachings that address areas in which you want to grow.
- **Read the labels carefully:** Examine the Scriptures and understand what God's Word teaches.
- **Take your nourishment home:** Put what you learn into practice in your daily life.
- **Return for more:** Continue studying God's Word and developing as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Of course, spiritual growth involves more than gathering information. We must receive God's Word, believe it, and put it into practice.

James 1:22 reminds us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only.

The objective is not merely to collect teachings. It is to allow biblical truth to shape our understanding, influence our decisions, and guide our actions.

**Don't just browse the shelves. Take the Word of God to heart and put it to work in your life!**

# MY HEART BEHIND SUREFOOTED MINISTRIES

My 37 years in the grocery industry taught me that serving people requires preparation, organization, consistency, and a willingness to help them find what they need.

Those experiences now provide a practical illustration of how I approach the work of ministry.

Just as a grocery store seeks to make nourishing food available to its customers, my desire is to make biblical teaching accessible to those who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

I want visitors to find resources that encourage them to study Scripture carefully, understand biblical principles, and apply God's Word to everyday life.

The ultimate objective is not simply to provide more information. It is to encourage lasting spiritual growth and greater effectiveness in living for the Lord.

## YOUR INVITATION

Thank you for visiting Surefooted Ministries!

I invite you to explore the website, discover its resources, and take advantage of the biblical teachings available to you.

Come with a desire to learn. Come prepared to study. Come ready to examine God's Word and apply what you discover.

You may have entered this website looking for one particular teaching, but you might discover additional resources that encourage you to continue growing.

Remember, physical food nourishes the body, but God's Word provides essential spiritual instruction for the life of faith.

As Jesus declared in Matthew 4:4, humanity does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

**So, let's go spiritual shopping!**

Explore the shelves. Discover the resources. Feed on the Word of God. Apply what you learn. And continue growing toward spiritual maturity in Christ.

May your time at Surefooted Ministries be both enjoyable and fruitful as you pursue a deeper understanding of God's Word.

**Welcome to Surefooted Ministries — where the goal is not merely to fill your shopping cart with teachings, but to help you grow through the faithful study and application of God's Word!**

May God bless you as you continue your journey with Him!

[Click here.](#) Main resource.

**My Testimony**  
How My Grocery Industry Experience Relates to Surefooted Ministries

For approximately **37 years**, I worked in the grocery industry in many roles—from courtesy clerk, cashier, and night stocker to display builder, department manager, and produce. Those experiences taught me valuable principles that now help guide and shape **Surefooted Ministries**.

**My 37 Years in the Grocery Industry**

- ✓ Customer Service
- ✓ Organization
- ✓ Presentation
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Adaptability
- ✓ Leadership

**The Connection**

A grocery store provides physical nourishment. **Surefooted Ministries** seeks to provide spiritual nourishment through the Word of God.

**Matthew 4:4**  
"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

**Spiritual Shopping**

- ✓ Browse the Shelves
- ✓ Fill Your Cart
- ✓ Read the Labels (Scripture)
- ✓ Take It Home (Put It into Practice)
- ✓ Return for More (Keep Growing)

**Welcome to Surefooted Ministries —**  
where you can go spiritual shopping and find the biblical resources you need to grow, be equipped, and become more effective for the Lord!