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**Ladies Commendation**

*"I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea" Romans 16:1*

I commend unto you the ladies who serve faithfully in the great Kingdom of Christ in doing the office work for **Galilean Baptist Church, The Gospel Preacher Association, Tolbert Moore Ministries, and The Eagle magazine**. There are many duties, and they work faithfully (without complaining) with a great attitude and good spirit as well as a spirit of co-operation among themselves. I appreciate each and every one of them, and I would like for you to know some of the things they do so you will be aware of the vast outreach of these ministries working in co-operation with each other to further the effectiveness and purpose of each one. God bless you as you read this.

Jessica McPherson, the wife of Galilean Baptist Church's pastor, Dr. Rex McPherson, in addition to all her duties in this capacity as well as teaching a Ladies Sunday school class, co-ordinating the semi-annual Women's Enrichment meetings, and speaking in conferences, has done the layout, design, and proofing for *The Eagle* magazine and **The Gospel Preacher Journal** which is published quarterly in *The Eagle* since 1999 and in recent years the **Welsh Edition of The Gospel Preacher**. She also does all the layout work for brochures, banners, and promotions in the church and for other related ministries.

Susan Lee Lutz (who has been my secretary since 1975) is the **office manager** for all the ministries. She helps co-ordinate the work done in the office for the church, missionaries, and ministry projects as she works alongside Martha Sweat. Martha (who began working with us in October of 1994) has the primary responsibility of **taking care** of all the donations for all the ministries and missionaries. Besides doing every task that comes her way, she transcribes sermons and articles for *The Eagle* and does the work for the bookstore.

Providing a headquarters for all the ministries, they provide a place of contact for everyone involved. From church members to people calling from all around the country trying to locate one of our 39 missionaries or directors, having inquiries about one of the ministries, or pastors searching for counsel, they do their best to get them in touch with the right person at the right time.

Sue and Martha handle all the donations, send out monthly support packets and support income to the missionaries, and send yearly contribution records for tax purposes as well as take care of the accounts payable for all the ministries, and take care of logistics and tax matters.

They provide information packets to perspective missionary candidates and get them in touch with the proper person to help them in this endeavor.

They maintain a mailing list of over 6,000 people who receive *The Eagle* magazine. They coordinate the **Annual National GPA Camp Meeting** at Galilean as well as other mission efforts in different areas of the country.

They all say, "What a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord!"

Dr. Tolbert Moore  
Editor

# What Is Your Spiritual DNA?

**T**urn in your Bibles to the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verses 11-12: *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”*

Then let’s read the words of Jesus Himself in John, chapter 3, verse 6, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

Now turn to II Peter 1:4, *“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

My question to you tonight is, **What is your spiritual DNA?** Everybody has a different physical DNA. DNA tells who you are, what your race is, which family you belong to, yet still, you are an individual.

Now, I want to preach a little theology. I will try to keep it simple so I can understand it. You have heard the statement “the universal Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.” That is only partially true. God is the Father of all men, because He *“made us, and not we ourselves.”* He made man in His own image after His own likeness and

*“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* So, God is the Father of all mankind (men and women), **but all men are not the Sons of God.**

He said, *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* They were **not already sons of God.** They were made sons of God by trusting and receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. That is what divides the world of men into those who are sons of God and those who are not sons of God. No man can be a son of God without trusting in Jesus Christ. No man can get to the Father except through Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son.

When you fully trust Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Saviour, that is called a **new birth.** You are born again. You were born of the flesh at your first birth, but you are born of the Spirit at your second birth. Your first birth was incomplete. You need a new birth to complete you. When that takes place, according to Peter, you become a partaker of the divine nature. Christ emptied Himself of the divine nature so that you and I could become partakers.

If a man or woman wants to be a part of the Kingdom of God, they are



by **Dr. Tolbert Moore**

Preached at the 29th Annual Western North Carolina Camp Meeting (Hanging Dog) Murphy, NC, July 2011

going to have to come through Jesus Christ, experience the new birth, and take on a spiritual nature (a DNA, if you please) that makes them a child of God and heir of Jesus Christ.

Now, don’t say, “We are brothers.” I am not a brother of Jesus Christ. I am a son, because He is God. He and the Father are one. When I was born again, I didn’t rise to be a brother of Jesus Christ, but I am a brother of all those who have been redeemed. Jesus is my Lord. I am not equal to Him in any way.

When you are born again, you become a partaker of that divine nature. There is an infusion into your spirit, your soul, that makes you a little bit God like.

Let me give you an illustration. I used to train dogs for rabbit hunting. Two things are needed to make a good rabbit dog. Number one is breeding. The right nature has to be bred into them. Bird dogs don’t have the same nature. Number two is training. The same goes for a Christian. It takes breeding (the birth, being born again), then it takes development. You must grow in grace and knowledge.

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# What Is Your Spiritual DNA?

Continued from page 3 . . .

Brother John Fowler was a sage, old preacher that I grew up under. He said when he started out there was “nothing to him,” but God saved him and then began to train him. He would say, “You can’t train an unborn baby. You can’t train an unborn preacher.”

They asked me to speak again at Crown College in September and to meet with the homiletics class and talk to the young preachers about how to learn to preach. Well, learning how to preach is like learning how to swim. You can’t learn by a chart. You have to get in the water. You can study all the charts and memorize the strokes, but until you get into the water, you are not going to learn to swim. **A preacher learns to preach by preaching.**

Now, I used to preach in the field to an old mule. I was saved when I was twelve and called to preach when I was thirteen. We moved from Lakewood Heights, on the west side of Atlanta, back to the farm, and I learned to plow. We had an old, roan-colored mule, and I preached to that mule just about all day. I would picture great crowds of mules (or were they mule-headed people?) I preached until that mule got saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. That is the way you learn. Some preachers would have been better off if they had preached to themselves or a mule a few times along the way and then checked up on how it sounded.

The point I want to make is if you have the right nature for it, you can learn it. If you have the right nature for it, you can be a witness and win souls.

Now, I love camp meeting and revival, but, most of the time, we are working without revival. Could I get an amen

from the preachers? But that is no excuse for not winning souls. The Great Commission is not applicable only when the river is flowing high. The Great Commission isn’t just for when the tide is coming in. It is the same Commission when the tide is going out.

A fellow in Wales said, “You have to admire someone who fishes when the tide is going out.” I will guarantee if he fishes when it is going out, he will catch the big ones when it comes back in.

We have come to the place in the Baptist church, in Fundamentalism, that they *believe* the Bible is the Word of God *whether they live by it or not*. They believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, but they don’t have it. So, they think, if I can practice and do it like so

and so did it, it’ll work for me. There are some powerful, young preachers across this country that thought if they could do it like Lee Roberson, it would work, but they found out after a while that they are not Lee Roberson. He was one of the greats. I loved John R. Rice, one of the greatest writers in the twentieth century. But you cannot be who they were. What you need is to be a better you. You need to work with that divine nature that God gave you. Every once in a while, something will come and stir that nature, and you can hardly stand yourself. In fact, you want to jump out of your skin. You want to get away from the corruption that is in the flesh. Thank God there are times we can.

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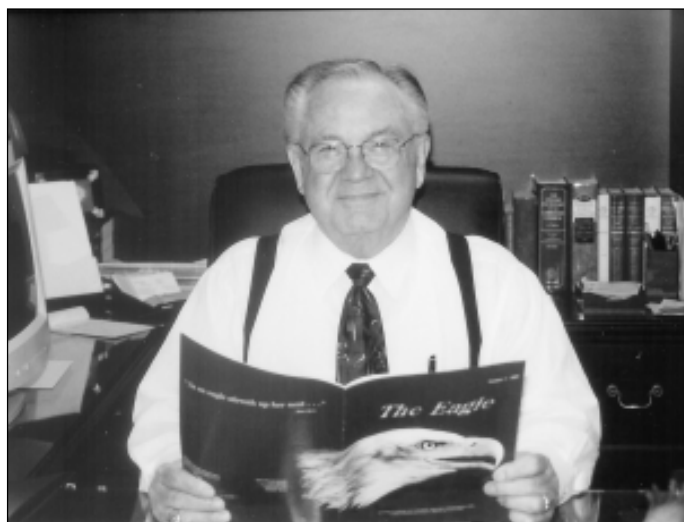


*Dr. James B. Hatcher*, Pastor

# My Life's Convictions

## Part XXIX

### SEPARATE



by Dr. Tolbert Moore

One of the most contentious things going on these days among Independent Baptists is they've picked up on some things that a few folks said some time back concerning separation. The Bible teaches separation.

II Corinthians, chapter 6, beginning in verse 11 reads like this, "*O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged. Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the*

*unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*"

Paul is recording God's Word, and he's saying that we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. We're to be separate. We're to be separate because Belial is separate from Christ. Idols are separate from Christ. He said, "*Come out from among them . . . touch not the unclean thing.*" We have to understand that God wants us separated from unbelievers, from wickedness, from sin, from falseness, and false brethren.

Now, we must understand the Bible talks about religion. Paul, speaking to a group, in Acts 26:5 says, "*. . . that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.*" Matthew 23:1-19 gives four woes to the separatists, the Pharisees; and twice He called them fools. Yes, it's wicked to have a religion that is opposite or parallel to Christ and Christianity, but Christ and Christianity are based upon love and sweet fellowship. Our fellowship is with the Father, and we're inviting those of like faith to fellowship with us. No place

in Scripture teaches us to be separate from believers except in 2 Thessalonians 3: "*withdraw yourself from every brother that walketh disorderly.*" To be disorderly is to be insubordinate, irregular. It means he who will not work should not eat. He's insubordinate, irregular, inconsistent. By working not at all, they are busybodies (busy meddling). That's what he's talking about.

Six things the Lord hates, and seven are an abomination unto Him. I'm going to read that to you from Proverbs 6:16-19, "*These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*" Paul said as he writes to Romans, "*But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother?*" In I Corinthians 3, he said, "*For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*"

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## My Life's Convictions

Continued from page 5 . . .

Carnal means unregenerate, fleshly. You're acting like lost people. You're acting immature; actually, you're acting like children.

Now all of us have faults. We need to admit that. Some people won't work or fellowship with some who have faults; but then they'll work with others who have as many faults, just different ones. If we say, "I am not going to work with somebody who has faults," then you can't work with yourself because you have faults. I don't care who you are, it's a wicked thing to put down a brother. It's a wicked thing to mistreat a brother or to be jealous of a brother. Jealousy is as cruel as the grave. It's a wicked thing to work for yourself and your own ambition other than the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. So we need to think about this. We need to stop thinking in terms only of *me* having *my* crowd, *my* slice of the pie, *my* work and *my* ministry. It's not "my" ministry. It's the "Lord's" ministry, and He has allowed us to be a part of His ministry. If it's your ministry, then it must not belong to the Lord. If it's your ministry, then it must be a personal ministry and religion. Now religion and culture carry more weight these days than truth does; and it's a wicked thing to divide brethren.

Now, who are brethren? Brethren are those who have been born again. Brethren are those who are followers

of Jesus Christ. Our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God are people who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are sound on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. They believe in the virgin birth, the vicarious suffering, the death on the cross for sinners, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ for our justification. In Romans 5:1-2, the Bible says, "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*" Religion has no grace. Religion and culture are manmade.

I remember Brother Fred Potter said when he got saved he was filled with the joy of the Lord, and was happy all the time, praising the Lord and loving everybody. But after a while, down the road, he said, "I got religion, and then I had to hate certain people. I had to be critical of some brothers and sisters in Christ." He said, "After two or three years of that I decided I'm not happy with this, and it's not right. So," he said, "I went back to loving everybody and the joy of the Lord is with me again."

The Christian life and the Kingdom of Christ are based on love. The two great commandments are to "*love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*"

I preached on that love in several churches, and they just stared at me as if, to some of them, they didn't know what I was talking about. That's exactly what's wrong today. Where there is no

love, there won't be any grace; and where there's no grace, there is no faith in Jesus Christ. Your faith is in your religion. That's why there are people who don't like for God to be the Supreme Being in government. They don't even want God or the Bible to be brought into it, because the government is their god. This has also happened among fundamental, independent, simonized, separated Baptists. They are not *all* like that, thank God. Greater numbers are saying to me, "I'm tired of this 'hate everybody and judge everybody' mentality, especially when you find out that crowd has as many faults and immoralities as anybody else." Thank God for His blessed Word that teaches us.

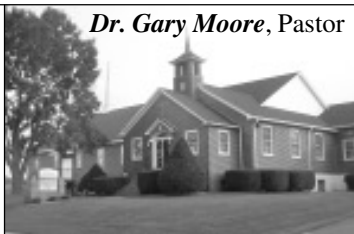
The Apostle Paul records in chapter 12, verse 9, of Romans, "*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*" Paul records in Galatians chapter 2, beginning in verse 11, "*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"*

See, Paul was dealing with that very same thing because he knew that divisions were wrong, carnal, childish, selfish, and full of jealousy; and jealousy is as cruel as the grave.

I hope this will challenge some. If you want to be like Jesus, you love them

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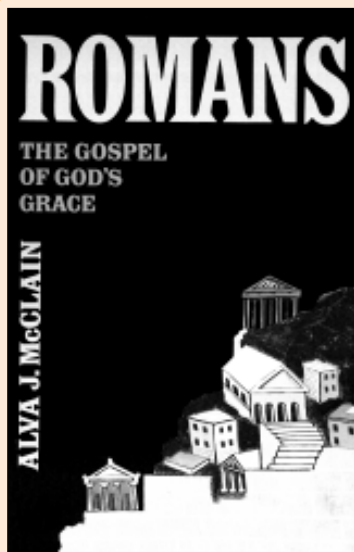
all. You may condemn the Pharisees, who are the most religious people there, because their religion was not in alignment with Jesus' love, and His Gospel and truth. Neither was it in line with the rest of the Bible concerning the love of God, and Christianity, and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. That's why we are to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Do you think some of this that's going on now is like it is in Heaven? I doubt it.

Probably, some people are going to be in Heaven (some may already be there) that you disapprove of their methods, or their associations, or something that they are doing. You may disapprove of how they're building their church, or how they are winning souls.

Well, don't you guess some Methodists are going to be in Heaven? Don't you reckon some Presbyterians will be there? Don't you reckon some Holiness, Brethren, or Lutherans will be there? I don't think it's a sin to be a Baptist, but there are Baptists who sin. Why, every denomination has their sinners and saints. Brother Curtis Hutson used to talk about seeing tongue-tied Buddy Robinson in Heaven. He said, "He'd better be there. I want to see him and meet him. I've heard him on tape." There are others who are the same way. Even the great Spurgeon, from time to time, would say something that I couldn't fully agree with; but I'm hoping to see Spurgeon. I'd like to hear him preach.

Let's have revival! Let's just fall in love with Jesus so much that we'll fall in love with everybody He loves. God bless you. †

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Dr. Dennis Petty



# What Is Your Spiritual DNA?

Continued from page 4 . . .

Christ trained men for over three years. When the people heard them preach, they took notice they had been with Jesus. He is the master Teacher.

You can go into any classroom and some students will be A students, some of them will barely get by, and some of them will flunk—same teachers, same lessons, same books. Some fail because they don't apply themselves and study. Some will work hard and get a B average. Some can sit in class and just listen to the professor or teacher and make all A's (the lazy bunch!). But, if you are not careful, what God gives you as a gift will make you lazy. "Well, I don't have to pray all the time. God anoints me." "I don't have to study much. God will give me something." "I don't have to know it all. If I just get two or three verses together, blah, blah, blah." You know what? Those folks soon run out.

When my brother, Preston, began to preach, I was already pastoring churches. Brother Ern Crowe asked him to preach in Monroe, Georgia. He went down there and preached about three nights, and then he came by my house. He said, "Preacher Crowe said you could preach tonight."

I said, "What?"

He said, "Yeah, Preacher Crowe said for you to come on and preach. He would like to have you."

When I got down there, Preacher Crowe said to me, "Do you know why you are here?"

I said, "No."

He said, "Preston ran out of soap."

Preston learned a lesson, and I don't think he has run out of soap since.

If you don't grow in grace and knowledge, you will run out of both at

a critical time. That has happened to the Christian churches in America. The church survived the domination of rulers and countries who swore they would stamp out Christianity. But in fact, it multiplied, even in recent decades. In Russia for forty years it was illegal to have a church of any kind unless it was licensed. The real church went underground. They thought they had wiped it out. But when the revolution came and the law changed, they started coming out of those basements, etc. When they had the first prayer meeting in a church that would seat 800, only a third of the crowd could get inside. When the church was persecuted, when it struggled, it won. The church grew and became more powerful even underground. Now, affluency

has just about destroyed the spirituality of our church.

I used to go to the ministers' meetings. They'd ask, How many did you have in Sunday school? How much was your offering? How many stayed for church? Did you get out by 12:00 or 12:15? Not very often did they say, Did you really have the Spirit there? That is not important now. Numbers are important. Money is important. But if you are going to feed the divine nature, you'll need more than numbers, money, or a beautiful building. If you are going to feed and satisfy that divine nature, it will have to come from God.

The divine nature can make you strong. We have the silliest, willy-nilly

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# Religion Culture Truth



by *Dr. Tolbert Moore*

**Y**our religion is your mode (or style) of worship and the rules for your life. There are many, many kinds of religion in the world; and the religion we are originally trained in is hard to ever get away from. What we were taught, the rules of life, the style of worship; all of those things come into play in religion. All “Christian Religion” is not necessarily, absolutely true to the Bible nor based altogether on the Bible. I am familiar with some areas where the people, instead of carrying the Bible with them, carry the rules of their church (the rules of order and discipline), and they go by that.

Now, a lot of people are the same way about their culture. There are different cultures just like there are different religions. There’s a country culture, a blue-collar culture, an office type of culture, a factory type of culture, etc. Within these cultures, we become accustomed to a certain lifestyle. So, I want to talk just a few minutes about how **culture and religion carry more weight than truth.**

Truth is easily explained because Jesus said, “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth,*” John 17:17. In God’s Word, the Bible, there is teaching for every phase of our life. Whether it’s a problem, a new development,

a victory, whatever, the Word of God has truth for us. So, people are looking for truth, and they are even looking to the Word of God; but they want it within the framework of their own culture or their own style of religion.

A ninety year old man, who lived near me, had come up under preachers who were loud and would sometimes stammer. Some of them are what we call hackers and some of them are called old-time preachers. He was raised around that type of old-time religion. Well, he went to a funeral, and the man who preached the funeral didn’t preach like that although he told the truth and said a lot of good things. A mutual friend asked my neighbor, “How did you enjoy the preacher at the funeral?”

He replied, “Well, what he said was good; but I would rather have real preaching.”

That’s the attitude of a lot of people. You’re not preaching unless you’re yelling, stomping, shouting, and maybe losing your breath a little bit. That’s the style. They want truth, but they want it in their style. They are comfortable with it that way. And I don’t have any problem with you being comfortable in the setting, or the type of music, or the order of service, etc. There are certain styles and certain ways of

doing things that make me feel comfortable, and there are some other things that I *could* enjoy, but I don’t fully *relate* to the style, if that’s the right word.

Preacher Russell at one time was the Secretary of Evangelism for the Georgia Baptist Convention, and he told a bunch of us preachers, “Now, there’s a difference in the culture in north Georgia and in south Georgia, but,” he said, “if you feed them steak, they’ll eat *your* steak if you’ll put it on *their* platter.”

That says what I’m saying! It has to be a certain style, a certain culture; and if it’s not my style, my religion, or my culture, then I’m not comfortable. I want to find the **truth** in the culture where I’m comfortable.

**We need to LEARN to appreciate truth and accept truth wherever we find it,** in whatever locality, style, or culture. We need to learn, first, that what we’re seeking is the truth. We may find it in a culture that’s not exactly like ours. We may find it in a religion that is not exactly like ours; but if we find the truth, we should absorb it, accept it, and say, “Amen,” to the truth.

Now, as we discuss this, you have to be careful because there are different interpretations of the same passage of Scripture. One man will look at it one way, and another man will look at it another way. Well, naturally, we are going to preach what we believe or understand the Scripture says with whatever interpretation we accept. We have to be careful because you can misapply or misinterpret the Scripture and come up with the wrong answer that’s truly, really, not the Word of God.

I’ll give you a “for instance.” Jesus Christ resided and grew up in Nazareth with His mother and dad. When He started the trip from Galilee to Jerusalem (it was a matter of weeks and months), He said, “. . . *the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.*” He

Continued on page 14

# The Gospel Preacher Association Missionary Journal



*“As an eagle stirreth up her nest...” Deut. 32:11*

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## Just a Cup of Water

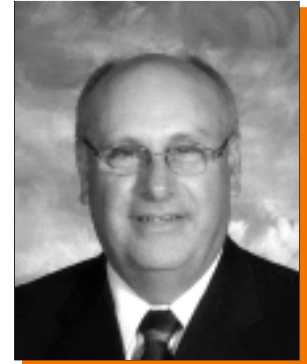
**I**t was a scorching, hot, July day as the GPA Medical and Evangelistic teams got off the bus and walked across the footbridge into the Guaymi Indian Village in Panama. We had to carry most things in with us every day because even though the river was down a bit because of a lack of rain, still a car could not cross over into the village. The heat was terrific, and once in the village we stayed ten hours with no place to escape from it. Still our group worked without complaint, and both the sick in body and in spirit were helped as we reached out to these precious people.

I never really thought about it, but one of the most difficult things was getting water into the village. Water is heavy! We carried it in most of the time in gallon jugs, two in each hand (32 pounds), and, of course, you have to carry other things as well. We were there all day, and all the food and supplies had to

go in with us in the morning. So away we’d go, ready to serve and preach the Gospel, which many would hear for the very first time. Many would see a doctor for the first time as well. We had the most amazing trip with so many saved and so many attending the clinic, yet there were aspects that will haunt us for years to come. I would like to relate just one of those haunting moments with you.

Matthew 10:42 reads, “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” How easy is that! Have you ever even considered that verse? It is so simple. Well, hold on, because the easy things can get hard really fast, and when they do, it can break your heart. What happened on the last night I will not soon forget.

We were loading the van around 9:00 p.m. on our last night there. We had



**by Dr. Gary S. Moore**  
Vice President of the GPA

no rain all week, and we were very glad that the van was high enough to cross the river. All week we had brought more and more stuff into the village and had taken none of it out until the last night. While we were loading, I picked up this leftover gallon jug of water. I’m just standing there holding it while everyone else is crowding around the van to unload arms full of everything from leftover food to VBS and medical supplies. It’s a little chaotic since what little electricity there was in the village had gone out in the middle of the service. We had only a few flashlights and the lights from the van to illuminate the area. Knowing we were leaving, the people of the village had thronged us trying to see us just one more time.

All of a sudden, there was this little girl about seven years old standing right in front of me pointing at my jug of water and saying “Agua, por favor,” (water, please).

At first I didn’t give it any thought at all. The children always wanted

whatever you had in your hand, but she just stood there and kept asking for the water. Then it hit me. This little girl lived in one of the many houses that had no water. Every morning I get up, turn on the tap, and get a glass of water. I turn on the tap and brush my teeth. Get in the shower, turn on the tap, and adjust the water to just the right temperature, and so on and so on. How many times

a day do we turn that tap and get that water? Here she was, this darling little girl, who never once had turned on the tap. She always had to walk to get her water and never was that water really safe to drink.

So what makes this so hard? I couldn't give her this water. There were hundreds of people around us, and most of them had no water in their

homes. No matter how much my heart ached for her, it would have caused a near riot if I gave her that jug of water. I will never forget that feeling. Now, I know that we saw more than a hundred people receive the water of life in salvation, but still I could not do the simplest thing that Christ asked me to do. On that night I could not even give a cup of water in His name. †

*Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4*

by **Nancy Hewlett**

As a child I went to church every Sunday. When in junior high civics class, we had to write a paper on what we wanted to be. My paper was on being a missionary nurse. I did not know the Lord as my Savior at that time. In 1969 I graduated from high school and was married to Carl. I entered Marshall University's Nursing Program and graduated in 1971. After nursing school, I worked in a small hospital where I gained some experience in OB (delivered one baby myself!)

Carl and I went to church, but neither one of us was saved. Carl was first to receive the Lord, then on one particular Sunday, we decided to try a new church, Souls for Christ Baptist (Huntington, WV). The preacher, Evangelist Dolphus Price, was preaching "at me." I thought Carl had told him all about me. After the preaching, I went forward and got saved. That was in March of 1974.

Later on, Carl went to Temple Baptist Seminary in Chattanooga, and I worked in a local hospital for five years on the Medical-Surgical floor, Intensive Care, and Emergency Room. I also took Bible courses at TTU.

The Lord called Carl to go to Costa Rica to train preachers and help them

start churches. In 1980, Carl and I, along with our daughters Mareda (7) and Melanie (4), went to Costa Rica. I investigated as to what I would have to do to work as a nurse there. I found out I would have to take their equivalent of the State Board examinations in Spanish. I did not feel led to do this, but I was able to help and give advice to the other missionaries and national church people.

During our years in Costa Rica, I was blessed to have two more daughters, Monica in 1981 who only lived 33 hours and is now with the Lord, and Marcia, born in 1983.

I worked with a group of church people who went to the Costa Rican Social Hospital to witness to the patients.



We were able to pass out tracts and comfort and pray with the patients. The hospital's Catholic priest did not like what we did and told the people not to listen to us. Eventually, the priest was able to stop us from getting permission to visit.

After 10 ½ years in Costa Rica, Carl is now Spanish Director for the GPA, and my job is to be a helpmeet for him. Due to my special burden and love for the Spanish-speaking people, while in Tampa, I worked in a migrant clinic. We have been to Honduras, Panama, and in and out of Costa Rica on numerous mission trips.

I was looking forward to visiting the Guaymi Indians again in Panama. This trip was with the medical and evangelistic teams of the GPA in July of 2011. I realized a dream I had as a child was finally coming true - to be a missionary nurse. I cried the first day there, seeing how God had blessed us by letting us use a clinic built by the government of Panama that had never been used. My heart was thrilled to be using my nursing and my Spanish to help the Indian people, while doing it in the name of the Lord. This trip was a blessing in allowing me to work alongside fellow doctors, nurses, EMT personnel, and the workers of the Vacation Bible School.

A special thanks to Pastor Gary Moore for letting me be a part of this team. The Lord truly blessed me and gave me the desires of my heart. Praise His Name! †



## Meet Alex Melendez

### GPA Missionary

written by **Carl Hewlett**  
GPA Director of Spanish Missions

**B**ro. Alex Melendez was a former student of mine and also a personal disciple back in the mid-1980's when we were serving on the field of Costa Rica. Since I first came to know him, I sensed in him a unique zeal to learn God's Word, which would later result in a life totally given over to God's service. In September of this year 2011, he will have completed 25 years in the ministry.

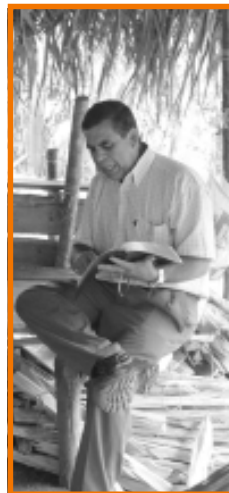
Alex's family consists of his wife, Mariela, and their four sons: Josue, Moises, Isaac, and Abraham, with Josue being the oldest at 23. Mariela, who is native Panamanian, is a very congenial servant of God alongside her husband and is highly energetic, selfless, hard-working, and well educated. She has a degree from the University of Costa Rica in Business Administration, while Alex himself graduated from the same institution with an Accounting degree. They met in college, and through Mariela's witness and invitation to church Alex later came to know Christ. Alex is a fundamental, soul-winning, church-planting, and preacher-training missionary. He has works in San Rafael Abajo (San Jose area of Costa Rica), a new mission work in the province of Guanacaste (western Pacific side of Costa Rica), and two solid mission churches across the border into Panama, one with the Guaymi Indians and another with the Panamanian people.

Alex's main work in San Rafael Abajo is the Resurrection Baptist Church

of Desamparados. The average attendance is 150, including the children. They have a Bible Institute with graduates working currently in Panama, others serving as teachers in the Bible Institute, and others who help out in the various trips and ministries to the mission churches in the outer areas. There are several trained, experienced young preachers in the main church who are very capable at this point to head up missionary works and to fill the pulpit whenever needed.

The mission church in Guanacaste is located in a town called Nandayure and has an average attendance of 30-40 people in the services. There is currently no permanent missionary there, which is why they make weekly trips to the work. The new believers in this place are in an ongoing discipleship program. The mission is a four-hour drive from the main church.

The two works in Panama are now being overseen by one of the graduates of the Bible Institute, Bro. Kenneth Puerto. The work at the Guaymi Indian village of Barranco Adentro has an average attendance of 120-150, including the children. A marked characteristic of this place is the dire poverty and primitive



conditions. For example, Bro. Alex says that in one church service, the offering will amount to a half-dollar or maybe as much as a dollar. Yet, the most precious thing of all is that many of these people are saved and have eternal life in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord!

The other work is in an area called Finca 51, about 15 miles from Barranco, and has an attendance of 60 to 80, including the children. A children's club has also been started in another area called Finca 62 which is averaging around 30 on Saturday.

Although Alex has many needs and pending projects for his mother church and three mission works, his top priority and prayer to God (besides monthly support) is for a **good work van**.

Alex and Mariela Melendez have a special place in our hearts as exemplary missionaries whose sole priorities are to glorify God and to live for others. The ministry of Bro. Alex is an ongoing, growing ministry with a great deal of potential. When I preach in Bro. Alex's main church, I truly feel like I am among my own family. In fact, Alex and Mariela consider me to be their spiritual father, and I get that same sense from the entire church body. In the past year, Bro. Alex lost his mother, while Mariela lost both her father and mother in their homegoing. So, in a sense, I can be a bit of fatherly solace to them as I stand by them and offer encouragement in their ministry. They have gone through the fire of many trials, but they've never let up and have kept their hands to the plow. We have never felt so privileged in being able to work with this excellent missionary couple! †



## Jesus

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” (*Matthew 1:21*)

by *Dr. Dennis Petty*, GPA Director of Missions & Evangelism



JESUS—The name has never been strange to me. I grew up in a Christian home where the name of Jesus was a familiar, honored word, spoken with reverence. Learning about Jesus from my parents left deep impressions on my mind. In Baptist churches I was verbally confronted with this kind Man, the understanding Lover of my soul. I encountered Him in a personal decision on Aug. 9, 1965, when I threw myself on the mercy of God Whom I detected in and behind this name.

I admit that since I have become a preacher, I have been guilty of proclaiming the name Jesus, *“for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* Jesus, *“friend of sinners.”* Jesus, the most charming consoling, comforting name by which our beloved Savior is known. How grandly this name Jesus befits the One Who can save to the uttermost.

Enshrined in this wonderful name are the sweetest theme in song, the grandest truth in Scripture, and the richest treasure in salvation. *“Yea, He is altogether lovely.”* “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear.” *“A name that is above every name.”*

### I. JESUS, THE MAN

THE MAN - What a unique Person. He was without flaw. Throughout His earthly life, He maintained every virtue undefiled. He is described as **“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.”** **“Holy”** implies His character. **“Harmless”** implies His compassion. **“Undefiled”** implies His condition, that is, He is free from all moral impurity and defilement.

There is not one statement in Scripture which can be made to imply less than sinlessness for our Lord. The New Testament writers are crystal clear in their testimony: *“In him is no sin” (I John 3:5).* *“Who did no sin” (I Peter 2:22).* *“He knew no sin” (2 Cor. 5:21).* *“Tempted . . . yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).*

One faultless man arises from the ranks of humanity and takes by moral right the supreme station of honor in the realm of infinite holiness. His character is unblemished. His conduct is untarnished.

### II. JESUS, THE MASTER

He claims to be Teacher. To the disciples, He said, *“One is your Master, even Christ” (Matt. 23:8).* The word rendered **“Master”** means Teacher. He allowed Himself to be called Teacher. Nicodemus said to Him: *“Rabbi, we know that Thou art a teacher come from God” (John 3:2).* Mary Magdalene called Him “Rabboni” which means “My Great Teacher.”

He was the infallible Teacher, Whose words are authoritative and final. In this capacity, as in all vocations of value and virtue, Christ excels all other qualified teachers. He taught the truth of God plainly yet profoundly. He Himself personifying the Truth He taught.

### III. JESUS, THE MESSAGE

*“Then Philip . . . preached Christ unto them” (Acts 8:5).* The SUM and SUBSTANCE of his preaching was Christ. To the Ethiopian eunuch *“Philip opened his mouth. . . and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35).* Saul’s immediate response after conversion was *“he preached Christ” (Acts 9:20).* Our message centers in Jesus Christ. Without Him Christianity is but another religion. The only proper end of preaching is to bring people to receive and acknowledge Jesus as the supreme Lord and Savior.

When we come to Christ, our defilement will be cleansed by His blood; our disabilities made strong by His grace; our doubts removed by His truth; our disturbance calmed by His peace; our darkness illuminated by His light; our distress relieved by His joy; our deficiency filled by His fullness. The whole circumference of our need will be forever met and perfectly satisfied in the treasure of the Gospel of the living, present, divine, glorious Christ.

Preaching Jesus, profound privilege, indeed, preaching Jesus is for me.

The invitation is *“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.”* JESUS SAVES. Anyone or anything else condemns. †

## Billy Sampson, Missionary Evangelist with The Gospel Preacher Association



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They said, “No.”

Then He said, “Now you can take all of that with you because you’ve learned that I will provide for you in your service for Me.”

Some misapply Paul’s words when he said, “I’ve worked daily with my own occupation that I might not be chargeable to you.” Some say he meant you shouldn’t be paid for preaching. He was really reprimanding them for not supporting him because he was giving them the Word of God, which is the most valuable message in all the world. So, we have to be careful in our search for the truth.

Someone asked Spurgeon, “What is your creed?”

He thought a moment and answered, “If I were to have a creed, it would be Jesus Christ.” (To some extent I adopted that creed long before I read what Spurgeon said, but he really put it in the right perspective.) That’s what our religion ought to be. Our religion ought to be the Word of God. All of our religion ought to be based on the Word of God.

Now I’m not going to deal with the many different religions that have practices which are not scriptural, and I don’t deal with names, as a rule. I deal with issues. The only time I deal with a personality, or a person, or a name, is when the name is the issue.

But I trust that this will challenge you and help you as you go on your journey. The Lord is always there to enlighten you, not only concerning your own life, but He will enlighten you on the Word of God. We need to take the position in our doctrine, in our stand, that the Word of God is the foundation for our faith. “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ,” I Corinthians 3:11. †

Dr. Moore can be reached by e-mail at [RevTolbert\\_Moore@bellsouth.net](mailto:RevTolbert_Moore@bellsouth.net)

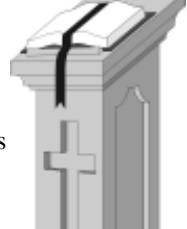


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## Religion Culture Truth



Continued from page 9 . . .

was not saying He never had a home, a residence, here. What He said concerned that trip. He was saying, “There are those who go before me and provide day by day where I’m staying, but at this point I have no place already chosen or identified for Me to stay.”

On one occasion somebody approached Him and said, “Rabbi, (which

is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day.” So Jesus had a regular place to stay.

Then, there’s another Scripture that, much of the time, is misinterpreted. He said to them on a trip, “Don’t take anything with you. Don’t take extra clothing, or money, or provision. Just trust in God for your provisions day by day.” At the end, He said to them, “Did you lack anything?”

For Women of Distinction . . .

# What's Your Fragrance?



by Amelia Petty

I feel it safe to say, most ladies reading this immediately thought of *their* favorite fragrance, whether it is Chanel, Ralph Lauren, Estee Lauder, or Bath & Body's Sweet Pea. I also could go further and suggest that they most likely thought of another lady's fragrance, their mom's, grandmother's, best friend's, or maybe even a special teacher. Why would I assume that? Because I never fail to think of my mother when I walk by the Estee Lauder counter or come in close proximity to someone wearing Estee Lauder from the blue bottle! And may I add, it is always a *pleasing* moment because of the *one* I am remembering.

When I was an executive with Macy's, I was in charge of several departments, jewelry and cosmetics being my two favorites— imagine that! As I walked around the cosmetic area, many fragrances filled the air. Some I liked and had a desire to *sample*. Others, I disliked and kept my distance from them. Some fragrances have stood the test of time. We recognize them even if we have never worn them.

No doubt, our delight in *scents* goes back a long way, even to when we were children. Those scents are many, varying from laundry hung out on a clothesline to dry in the sun, fresh mowed grass, new books on the first day of school, to turkey and dressing baking in the oven on holidays.

May I ask this question, "What is *YOUR fragrance* as *HIS daughter*?" What 'aroma' permeates the air as you go about your daily life? Is the *fragrance* one that is pleasing, one that reminds others of HIM, "The Rose of Sharon"? II Corinthians 2:14-16 was translated by one writer in these words, "Wherever I go, He diffuses the perfume of His knowledge by me. I live for God as the *fragrance* of Christ." My dear friend, *THAT* is the *fragrant life*, fragrant with His compassion, His peace, His forbearance and loving-kindness.

To our *FAMILY* . . . is the *fragrance* of our life touching our children or grandchildren as a sweet aroma they will never forget? Is it one that fills their minds with precious memories when they think of us?

To *OTHERS* . . . are we allowing the *fragrance* of our life to waft out over the wall, out of the alabaster box, touching and penetrating the lives of others, drawing them to the One Who the Bible says in John 3:16 "SO loved the world that He gave His *ONLY begotten Son*, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Or are we living only for self, failing to emit the lovely essence which attracts others to Him, or worse yet, emitting a *rank* odor, with a spirit of bitterness, grumbling, which drives even seekers away? Do we convey the *fragrance* of His love?

To our *CHURCH FAMILY*, the place you worship . . . does your *fragrance* enhance its members (whether young or old), your pastor, and the missionaries your church supports? There are so many needs, so many ways your *fragrance* can touch lives. Often the greatest is in the seemingly unimportant things in life, which result in our diffusing His sweet savour upon lives in ways we will never realize. How many opportunities are we missing?

What *fragrance* will you leave behind for those who know you? You may be thinking, "No one understands just how bruised, crushed, and broken I am from the hurts of life. How can you expect *ME* to have a sweet, fragrant life?" Dear one, it may be through these hurts that God extracts from you a fragrant spirit, just as in the process of extracting nectar, oils, and fragrances from flowers, seeds, leaves, and fruits which must be crushed, heated, pressed, bruised, and broken for us to have the delightful perfumes we so enjoy wearing.

I leave you with a portion of the parable, *The Clay and the Rose* . . . "So grant, I pray Thee Lord, that by Thy grace, the *fragrance* of Thy life may dwell in me, that as I move about from place to place, men's thoughts may turn to Thee."

Let Him rule your nature, and the *fragrance* of His presence will be inseparable from your life. ✝

# What Is Your Spiritual DNA?

Continued from page 8 . . .

little crowds in our churches now. They can't stand anything. You can rebuke them like the Bible says, and they'll say, "I'll not be back." You can preach tithing to them once a year, and they will say, "All he preaches about is money." You can preach that you ought to be at prayer meeting on Wednesday night, and they will say, "He's a fanatic." You can say, "You ought to go out on Saturday morning for visitation," and they say, "Why, he thinks he has control of us just because he is the preacher." They are the silliest, weakest, willy-nilly, little bunch you ever saw. But those who have developed their spiritual nature, they are there! They will back the pastor when he is being accused or attacked. They will stand by the church when many are running away. They will be faithful to the prayer meeting. Some people are strong, and they will just keep on going.

O. E. Barrett is 95 and still goes to work every day. O. E. was right beside me in two different battles that we had. His own brother left the church, and he said to O. E., "Don't you even come to my house."

O. E. said, "I made a commitment to Tolbert Moore, to this church, and to God, and I am staying with it."

Some time passed, and one morning, some of those who had left began to come back to the church. He said, "I knew if we stayed true long enough they would come. We will have a better crowd this time, better people. Those sissies are gone."

We need to be strong in our faith and in our stand. We need to be dedicated. It is called sanctification. This building that we are in, I am sure, was sanctified. It was dedicated for the

service of Christ. You don't have dances or worldly meetings in here. When you are dedicated, sanctified, you are set apart for God. That is your nature. What kind of nature do you have? What is your spiritual DNA?

Can you stand things that are uncomfortable? I was visiting a lady recently and she said, "I like to be comfortable when I go to church."


I said, "Before or after the preaching?" Amen.

The right kind of preaching will make you uncomfortable once in a while.


Preaching that does not ever make anybody uncomfortable is not doing anybody any good.

In closing, I want to talk about the joy that comes from being a partaker of that divine nature. Would you agree with me that there is no joy like the joy of the Lord? Would you agree with me that there is no peace in the world like the peace of God? Would you agree with me that it does not take an act of Congress for you to have liberty? Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. I can

Continued on page 18




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**How's  
Your  
Hearing?**




*(I asked one of the men of our church to write this story of a soul-winning experience. I think you will like it.)*


**by Dr. John Reynolds**


Pastor of Volusia County Baptist Church, Orange City, FL

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**Clemon L. Chappell, Jr., Pastor**

As we get older we get to meet a lot of doctors. Much of the time, and understandably so, they are too pressed to talk with you. After putting off for some time the need for a hearing aid, I made an appointment with Dr. Jay. He seemed interested in my wife and me and told us some about his family.

Then we moved right along in the testing. He gave several choices as to the best way to take care of my need, and we settled on what to do.

Now, it was my turn. I said, "Doc, I want some of your time. We would like to ask you who God is to you, and what is your understanding of how to be in touch with Him."

His reply was, "I do believe in a supreme being."

I asked, "Where do you go to church?"

He said they did not go and went on to say, "There are so many religions and wars fought in the name of religion, how can anyone really know which one is right?"

I asked him to remember that religion is usually a self-centered conclusion of what man thinks God has to say. It is mainly about the good works of man as an exercise to please God, but in reality leaves God out of it altogether.

In closing our discussion we spoke about hearing. I told Dr. Jay that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the

Word of God. At this point, my wife was praying in faith that God would give us time to finish. (It is fun to watch the Holy Spirit take charge!) The light lit up on his phone, and he pushed a button that perhaps said, "Not now." This outward motion of his seemed to say "Sic 'em" to me. Our conversation went on about hearing God say you are a sinner, and about Him giving faith for you to believe.

I told him, "God is great enough to make sure the Bible is perfectly correct even if He had men write it. When God says we are sinners, yours is but to agree with Him. God says Jesus paid for all my sins at the cross. I say so, too. I agree with God that sin carries a penalty and must be paid for. Either we go to Hell forever, or we can receive Jesus as the One Who died to satisfy God's demands, was buried, and three days later rose from the grave."

I urged, "Jay, agree with God right now that, because He loves you, He wrote, 'Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' With your heart look into the eye of God and confess, 'I will be that whosoever.'"

As I reached out my hand, he took it, and prayed the sinner's prayer. Isn't it great that the doctor that deals with physical hearing can have spiritual hearing as well? ✝

## What Is Your Spiritual DNA?

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have joy, shout, and praise God, in the face of the devil, because God is not only my Father, but I am His son. He has given me a nature like His nature. He lets me love people who are unlovable.

Rex McPherson, my pastor now (I was his pastor for a long time), was telling the church about a man that my wife and I let live in our motor home on our property for three years. He was rough (which is all I will say about that), but Nellie would love him and give him food. He would do anything for her. When she died, he called me crying and said, "She was the best friend I have had since my mother died."

Rex said, "Preacher Moore will help people who really don't deserve it."

I have got news for you. I don't deserve to be saved. I don't deserve to be anointed preacher. I don't deserve all the friends I have. I have been in 68 countries and have friends in every one of them, if they have not all died.

I'm old enough to be like the fellow who stood up one Sunday morning when the preacher asked if there was anybody there who didn't have any enemies. The old fellow stood up with his walking cane.

The preacher said, "Did you understand what I said?"

He said, "Yes. You wanted to know if there was anybody here who did not have any enemies."

He said, "Sir, how old are you?"

The old man said, "I am 96."

The preacher asked, "Well, how did you live so long and yet you don't have any enemies?"

The man said, "I outlived them all."

That is about the only way I know to get rid of them. The Lord said in



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Matthew 5:44: *"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."*

My brother Preston was complaining one day to Mother about somebody that had become his enemy in the church. Mother said, "Preston, you are supposed to pray for your enemies."

Preston said, "Mama, I do. I pray every day he'll break his leg." (I don't think the Bible says that is how you pray.)

Thank God for the joy of the Lord. One of the greatest joys I have had is winning people to Jesus Christ. I had not been saved a month until God gave me the opportunity to win a soul for Him. Raymond Dobson and his family invited me to go home with them for lunch. After lunch, Raymond and I were walking around in the garden talking. After a while, he began to ask me questions. I looked at Raymond, and he looked like I felt the morning just before I was saved. I said, "Raymond, if you want to be

saved, the Lord will save you if you will just ask Him."

He said, "You mean here."

I said, "Yeah."

He said, "Will you pray with me?"

We knelt down and started praying, and in a minute he said, "I'm saved."

We jumped up and hugged each other. His mother came out on the back porch and saw us hugging, and she thought we were wrestling. She said, "What are you all doing?"

He turned me loose, ran up on the porch, and said, "Mama, Tolbert and I just prayed, and I got saved." Then she and Raymond had a wrestling match!

Raymond went in the military. Forty years later, I saw his sister and she said, "Raymond said when I saw you to tell you that he is still saved."

That is the greatest joy!

I interviewed Lee Roberson once for an article. I asked him, "Dr. Roberson, the Lord has blessed you to accomplish a lot, building this great church, building this great college, sending out a large

number of missionaries (at that time they were giving 50 percent of their income at Highland Park to missions). What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?"

Without even a little hesitation he said, "Winning souls to Jesus Christ."

We don't have a whole lot of that now. A cashier at my grocery store said to me, "You are the only person that ever comes in here and talks about the Lord." I know there are five churches within walking distance of that grocery store, and most of the members from those churches buy groceries from that store. Am I the only one out of all those people who ever talks about the Lord? Shame, shame, shame. If you have that divine nature and are feeding it right, you are going to talk about the Lord.

What is your spiritual DNA? Are you a partaker of the divine nature because you have been born again? If so, you've been bred right. Now what about your training? Are you growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord? If so, others will know. †



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