



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

"I am proud to say that because of my Father's greatness, I am what I am."

Happy Birthday Father

Last January, my father Lester Stambaugh celebrated his 90th birthday. We had just a small gathering of family. My bother-in-law had the family tree on the walls all the way back to Adam and Eve. My wife made a top hat birthday cake with feathers on the top. We had borrowed his dress naval uniform and metals. As a gift, we put them in a large shadow box. He loved it.

My father proudly shared his past with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. My brother, sister and I talked over our childhood experiences. The cousins and second cousins, who have not seen each other in years, shared with each other.

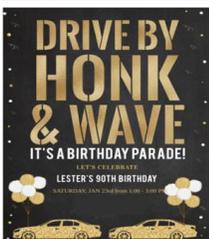
My sister had friends drive by his apartment. Every time someone would beep, my sister would throw anyone's coat on my father and rush him out to see them. He would come back in, take a bite out of his cake and was then rushed out to see another car of well-wishers. He was like a deer in headlights being rushed in and out and not knowing which way to turn.

My father showed me a number of birthday cards praising him for being a great person. One from his brother Dick, brought tears to my eyes. He basically wrote thanking my father for being a great Christian example. It was because my father that Dick accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. I believe that my father's influence had a part in his parents becoming born-again in their retirement years and the spiritual growth of his other brothers and sisters.

I never saw my father smoke or drink. He rarely got mad and rarely spoke bad about anyone. He would take us kids to a good fundamentalist church at least twice a week. He was a scout leader, a youth leader, did a lot for ministries, volunteered to run sound for churches since the invention of the microphone. As an electrician, he was always helping someone. Even though he was so busy, he always had time for family. At the Brethren Home, where he currently lives, he was on several committees and everyone knows his name. He is still in good health and only recently stopped driving. He even has a girlfriend since my mother died.

When I was involved with church audio/video ministries, I attended a training seminar. They had sessions on new equipment, proper methods, installations and organization. I attended a session on Effective Ministry Organization. The instructor was the owner of an audio/video sales and service company. When he started speaking, things sounded very familiar. He was talking about how my father ran things at our church. He even said his name a few times.

What kind of father, mother, brother, sister, friend, coworker, layperson and neighbor will people say that you are? Are you influencing others for good or for evil? Would they want to be a Christian by watching your life? Will Jesus say to you: "Well done my good and faithful servant?"



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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt 5:16



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