



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Earthly successes may fill your pockets but it will not do much for your empty soul.”

Do You Really Know Colonel Sanders?

For several years, we would stop to eat at Kentucky Fried Chicken after church. They had a picture of Colonel Sanders with children and another with him and a poor college student that he helped with a full scholarship But I never knew the story of Colonel Sanders until I stumbled on it while surfing on the web.

“Harland David Sanders was born on September 9, 1890, in a four-room house east of Henryville, Indiana. He was the oldest of three children The family attended the [Advent Christian Church](#). Sanders' mother was a devout Christian and strict parent. Sanders' father died in 1895. His Mother was away for days at a time for work and the young Harland was left to look after and cook for his siblings. By the age of seven, he was reportedly skilled with bread and vegetables, and improving with meat.”

Sanders dropped out of seventh grade and at age 13 he left home to work in various farms. When he was 16, Sanders falsified his date of birth and enlisted in the United States but was honorably discharged six months later. After that he had many jobs working for various railroads, practiced law, was a secretary, established a ferry boat company, made acetylene lamps, sold tires, sold insurance, managed a cafeteria, and ran a service station and a motel. “Some jobs he lost, but most Sanders simply tired of. He was searching for something . . . he just didn't know what.”²

At age 18, Sanders married Josephine King. The couple had three children. Sanders' lack of direction took its toll on the marriage. At one point, Josephine took the kids and moved back in with her parents in Jasper. Presumably, she was tired of the Sanders' career hopping. In 1947, his marriage with Josephine came to an end. Two years later, he married his mistress Claudia Ledington-Price.

In 1930, the Shell Oil Company offered Sanders a service station to open a café, in North Corbin, Kentucky. He paid the company a percentage of sales for rent. He lived in the back of the station. At first, he would just share his meals with whoever showed up. By 1939, Duncan Hines included him in publication “Adventures in Good Eating”.³

Sanders was first commissioned as a [Kentucky Colonel](#) in 1935 by Kentucky governor Ruby Laffoon. Sanders was "re-commissioned" as a Kentucky colonel in 1950 by his friend, Governor Lawrence Wetherby. “Kentucky Colonel is the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Commissions for Kentucky colonels are given by the governor and the secretary of state to individuals in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments, contributions to Kentucky society, remarkable deeds, and outstanding service to a community, state, or the nation.”⁴

At age 65, the Colonel sold his restaurant and dedicated his attention to developing the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise. Often sleeping in the back of his car, Sanders visited restaurants, offered to cook his pressure frying chicken, and if workers liked it negotiated franchise rights which paid Sanders \$0.04 per chicken sold. Eight years later, Colonel Sanders sold the 600 franchises KFC corporation for \$2 million dollars (\$16.5 million today), (There are now 24,000 franchises in 145 countries. Their 64 year trademark: [It's Finger Lickin' Good](#) was just suspended due to Coronavirus.)

“Now that Colonel Sanders was a successful business man, you'd think he'd be satisfied. But something inside him still yearned for more. The Colonel, now 75 (invited by a stranger on the street ⁵) started attending Evangel Tabernacle. and befriended a pastor by the name of Waymon Rodgers. At one service, Waymon knelt down next to the Colonel, asking if he'd like to be born again. And in that moment, Colonel Sanders accepted Jesus into his heart. He'd finally found the fulfillment he'd been seeking his whole life. From that point forward, the Colonel allowed God to change him in many ways. He was baptized at age 77 in the River Jordan, and even experienced a divine healing. He spent all of his life working to make his fortune. But after Colonel Sanders accepted Jesus, he spent his latter years giving it all away. And it just goes to show that no matter what, it's never too late to turn your life over to God!”⁶ It is also never too late to invite a stranger to go to church with you. It could be another Colonel.



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“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” Matt 16:26


“There's no reason to be the richest man in the cemetery. You can't do any business from there”. Colonel Sanders

[Watch his interview on PTL](#)



¹³ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonel_Sanders ⁴ wikipedia.org/wiki/Kentucky_Colonel ⁵ ifphc.wordpress.com/tag/waymon-rodgers/

²⁶ godupdates.com/colonel-sanders-accepted-jesus-testimony/?utm_source=blueconic&utm_medium=contentrec

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