

Our Family History

LESSONS FROM OUR FOREFATHERS

Chapter Four — by Hosea David to his seven children

When I was a little boy my Mommy and Daddy taught me to sing for Jesus on the street corners and in the churches. If I had just been doing it because my Mommy and Daddy made me, then when I got older, I would have refused to do it anymore — and when I began being away from my Mommy and Daddy and not having them to watch me every minute, I would stop doing those things.

But because Dad and Mom gave us a good example of themselves serving Jesus, not just telling us to do it, but they studied the Bible and memorised Scriptures and were faithful witnesses for Jesus themselves, as we got older we learned to follow their example, and we did it because we wanted to do it ourselves.

When I was ten years old I went on a trip with some Christians and I was out witnessing everyday, and they were watching me and it encouraged them to witness! Even without my Mommy and Daddy and the rest of my family around I was still witnessing for Jesus. And haven't you done the same thing?



And you had a good time at it and you enjoyed it, right? — It was inspiring because you did it because you wanted to do it. You really had it in your heart, right?



So since I was a little boy I have experienced for myself the joy and the happiness that I have received when I have witnessed for Jesus and told other people about Jesus and led souls to the Lord and given out tracts and sang. I learned to enjoy that when I was a little boy like you are now, and when I got older I learned to enjoy it more and more, and that joy never ended, that happiness of doing those things is still the same now, and we're still doing the same things.

It's like the way we try to teach you the right things to eat that are good for you, but System children learn to eat candy and sugar and sweet things so they develop a bad appetite for that kind of thing, and they want it all the time. They want it and then they don't like good food, their meat and vegetables, they just want to eat their dessert. If their parents let them get away with that and spoil them, they develop very bad habits of eating candy instead of the right kind of food.

But because we teach you that that kind of thing is not good for you and not good for your body and your teeth, and because we don't let you eat that kind of thing, now if somebody gives you candy or sweet soda pop, you can tell how sickeningly sweet it is. If it's too sweet you don't even like it. You'd rather have something that's not so sweet like a peanut butter sandwich or

fruit juice or fruit or something like that, rather than sickeningly sweet candy bar. Some of you kids are tempted by sweet things now and then, but you know what's best for you.

We try to teach you in the right way so that as you get older you'll want the right things, you'll want to do the right things, and you'll teach your children to do the right things, the same as we're endeavouring to teach and train you to serve Jesus, and the same as Grandpa and Grandma taught us to serve Jesus. — And the same way that my Grandmother and your Great-Grandmother, and your Great-Great-Grandfather served Jesus!



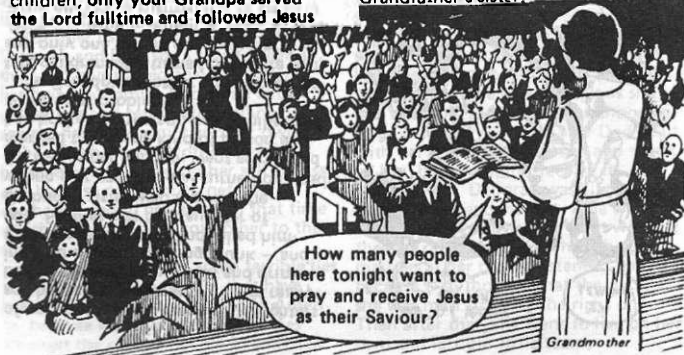
For these many generations we have been serving the Lord and witnessing for Jesus, not just because it's a tradition in our family, but because each of us experienced it and we've seen the example of our parents that did it and gave their lives for it, and that it worked and made them happy. We have done the same thing and it's made us happy and so we're continuing to do the same thing and continuing to teach you to do it.

But some of the children in our family's history have not followed their parents' good example — like your Great-Great-Uncle Mark, who was Grandmother's brother, who didn't serve Jesus like Grandmother. He was really a black sheep in the family and he became an alcoholic and drank all the time. He lost all his money gambling and he died a poor, sad man, even though in the end he found Jesus, but he had wasted his life. Uncle Mark died alone and sad in a nursing home.

Whereas Grandmother lived her whole life serving Jesus and helping others and she was a happy person and she had a happy life and she died happy with a fulfilled life serving the Lord. And then, of Grandmother's three children, only your Grandpa served the Lord fulltime and followed Jesus



and helped her in her ministry evangelising. But his brother went to live with his system relatives for five years when Grandmother was an invalid from the accident, when she couldn't move and was sick in bed for years. During that time he went to live with his Aunt, my Grandfather's sister.



How many people here tonight want to pray and receive Jesus as their Saviour?



When my Uncle Hjalmer was born, Grandmother didn't believe in Jesus and she didn't want to serve the Lord, and he wasn't born into a family of faith. They sent him to live with their relatives while Grandmother was an invalid. They were systemites and had businesses in Oakland and they were quite wealthy, so he was raised like that when he was a little boy. They really liked him because he became like them, so they paid his way through school and then through college and university and he became a systemite. But your Grandpa went with his mother and travelled with her and served Jesus.

Grandpa had a sister too, my Aunt Virginia, and this sister was very rebellious. She was older than your Grandpa; he was the youngest child. She was very rebellious and really resented the life that she had because her parents were serving Jesus and travelling around a lot serving the Lord. Do you remember the story that Grandpa told about "Please Stay Mommy"? Well, Grandpa learned to receive that lesson that it was from the Lord, but his sister didn't. She was very rebellious and she also spent time with some other relatives and became very worldly and started hanging out with the wrong people. She got involved with a boy when she was fourteen and he turned

out to be a very unfaithful boy and was chasing all kinds of girls and he turned out to be a very poor father and a poor husband.

But she had gotten involved with him against her mother's advice and against her family's advice. And even though he treated her bad and kept leaving her all the time, she would always get back involved with him again. Every time he'd leave her she'd come back to her mother and her mother would take care of her, and then she'd go and be with him again and get pregnant and she had one child after another.

But because she was not serving the Lord and was rebellious against the Lord, her children turned out bad too. Her children turned out just like her and they ran away from home and married people that weren't serving the Lord. I remember when I was in California when I was about your age, that I had a little cousin who also was the same age. She was the little daughter

