

GIJAPA



God Is Just A Prayer Away
Radio Broadcast Around the World

GOD Is Just a Prayer Away

50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 AM	700 Dial	Cincinnati, OH
WLW	8:00 AM	700 Dial	Cincinnati, OH
KXEL	10:30 PM	1540 Dial	Waterloo, IA
WRVA	7:04 AM	1140 Dial	Richmond, VA
WRVA	9:30 PM	1140 Dial	Richmond, VA
WIBC	7:30 AM	93.1 Dial	Indianapolis, IN
WHAS	7:30 AM	840 Dial	Louisville, KY
KAAY	9:30 PM	1090 Dial	Little Rock, AR
WDOC	7:45 AM	1310 Dial	Prestonburg, KY
WWVA	9:30 PM	1170 Dial	Wheeling, WV

Short Wave Radio

AFRICA:

Monday 7:00 PM
(1800 UTC) 7190 kHz on Dial

BEACON of HOPE N. AFRICA:

Sunday 8:30 PM
(1930 UTC) 6020 kHz on Dial

BIBLE VOICE EUROPE:

Sunday 8:00 AM
(0700 UTC) 5945 kHz on Dial

SRI LANKA INDIA:

Sunday 8:30 AM
(0800 UTC) 9770 kHz on Dial

BIBLE VOICE RUSSIA:

Sunday 8:00 PM
(2000 UTC) 6010 on kHz Dial

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

July 2011

Address all Mail: Ed Bousman, P.O. Box 511, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142-0511

Issue 7

Memorial Service for William Edward Bousman May 21, 2011

By H. Lee Mason

Thirty-one years ago this coming July, a number of us met in this building for a memorial service for Roberta Bousman who had died at Bethesda North Hospital. It was indeed strange to visit Ed in that same hospital and watch as his condition deteriorated. Now we meet in this place to remember the life of **this** unique saint of God.

Twenty-eight years ago I had the privilege of uniting Ed and Naomi in marriage. I have conducted hundreds of weddings, but never in my experience did a groom listen with such intensity as did Ed. I didn't know if he was listening so closely because he was afraid I might miss something or he was afraid that I might slip something into the service that should not be there. He hung on every word. Of course, the real reason he listened like that is because somewhere he had read: Col 3:17 "And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, (do) all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

I am sure that he applied himself as a husband as much as he applied himself in other areas of life. But because of that history, I must take a moment and say that I believe that we all were blessed to have Ed for these 92 years because of the way in which Naomi cared for him. I saw him up close 30 years ago and know that his condition was not very good at that point. Left to himself he would have been gone a long time ago. If you loved Ed, then you owe a debt of gratitude to Naomi for the love and care that she gave to him and the help she gave in expanding the "God Is Just A Prayer Away" ministry. Thank you, Naomi!

Do you all remember the first time you ever heard of Ed Bousman? Not the first time you heard him preach, but the first time you ever heard OF him?

I don't remember, but I know by the time I got to The Cincinnati Bible Seminary in the fall of 1963, he was already a **legend**. It seemed like every week there was a tri-colored (red,

yellow, and green) poster on the bulletin board with a full length picture of Ed on it advertising that he was holding a revival somewhere near. Often that meant that a group of boys from the school was going to attend and hear Ed. We liked to hear Ed and many of us wanted to hold revivals like Ed and get our picture on a tri-colored poster like Ed.

He was legend. He had been on the radio for a couple of years by then and those who wanted to preach listened to "God Is Just A Prayer Away" radio program. We listened to learn. We listened to get something to preach the next week. And I think we often listened to Ed to see what we could get away with saying in a sermon. Conversations at the coach house and in the dorm rooms often began with, "Did you hear what Ed Bousman said on the radio?" I must say that sometimes repeating him back-fired for the preacher boys.

He was legend in things he would do. I remember well being in college and hearing how Ed dressed up in a red devil costume and drove through the streets of Lynchburg telling people not to go hear Ed Bousman at the First Church of Christ. Many students had great admiration of that and spoke that they might try it, but I never met anyone who dared to do the same thing.

He was legend in how he could come up with tricks to help people remember his sermons. He often took the simple things that everyone knew about to the extreme and the ridiculous to help make his point. Around 1965 there was a commercial that showed an attractive blonde model who teasingly urged men to "Take it off, take it all off" and then they would show the Noxzema Medicated Instant Shave Cream (1966-73) that was being advertised. David Rose's rousing pop hit melody "The Stripper," was playing in the background, and the commercial showed shaving sequences of a man scraping off Noxzema shaving cream in neat, clean rows as the Noxzema Girl would continue to say, "Take it off. Take it all off!" One Sunday night on the radio Ed said, "What would you think of a society that showed a big luscious watermelon sitting on the hood of a car saying, 'Take it off, take it all off.'" He spoke of society's infatuation with sex and took it to the extreme with that watermelon.

He was legend. About 26 years ago I asked Ed to be the chapel speaker at a week of high school camp. He said, "I don't

speak to high schoolers anymore.” I persuaded him to come. This last week, I called my daughter and said, “What do you remember when you hear the name Ed Bousman?” She said, “I remember his sermon on the keys at camp when I was in high school. Many of you remember because he preached it many times and places through the years. He would quote Matthew 16 and when he got to Jesus telling Peter that He would give to him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, he would reach in his pocket, pull out his keys, look at them, use them to make the gesture of locking and unlocking, and then would throw his keys to the other side of the platform. He would continue quoting the rest of his scripture and walk over by the keys, pause, pick them up, look at them, and then say, “The keys: don’t let me forget about the keys.” Then he would throw them to the other side of the platform. This went on through the entire sermon, every time he would get close to the keys he would pick them up and say, “The keys, the keys, don’t let me forget about the keys.” And throw them again. Toward the close of the sermon he picked up the keys and said, “And now the keys!” And preached about the keys of the kingdom, and presented the plan of salvation. Twenty-six years later she remembered Ed and the keys. **How many of us wish people could remember the sermon long enough to get home?**

He was legend. About 21 years ago was the last time that Ed spoke at his Alma Mater. What a shame that it was so long ago. He was to speak for the diminished and dying Conference on Evangelism. There was an argument as to whether to have him preach. They were afraid that he might say the wrong thing and “tear the place up.” But finally he did preach and what a sermon it was. In that sermon he told the causes that led him into the ministry, using some reasons that Alexander Campbell had given. In that sermon he was trying to recruit more preachers. One part that particularly hit the students was when he told of being in high school getting ready to go run in a track meet. He said, “I don’t know why I did it, but I remember kneeling beside the kitchen table that morning and praying, **‘God, if you will bring me home safely from this track meet, I will dedicate myself to being a preacher.’**” He went on to say that he didn’t know why he prayed that prayer, but remembered it later that day as the car he was in was rolling over and over and tossing him around. Then he held up that right hand with that missing part of his finger and said, “And whenever I look at my hand, I am reminded of why I am in the ministry today!”

At the conclusion of that Conference on Evangelism, the professor of homiletics, who had been against having Ed speak, confessed that Ed’s message was the best sermon at the conference that year. I feel sorry for the generations who have matriculated at that school in the intervening years and did not get to hear Ed.

He was legend. In Gospels class we heard about Ed Bousman and how he always had the scripture of the day memorized. That was a terrible thing for him to do to those of us who came behind him. He set the standard high.

He was legend. It was always fun to see those who did not know him hear him preach for the first time and watch their faces as Ed would quote a chapter or two of scripture before getting into his sermon.

I think that if Thomas Campbell could be called, “The Man of the Book,” back in his generation, then Ed Bousman should be called “The Man of the Book” for our generation.

I have always said if you want a good funeral sermon, then make sure you leave plenty of good material for the minister. Ed has done that. Why should I tell you what Ed believed and

said? I’ll let Ed speak for himself.

In a sermon for the Kiamichi Clinic Ed spoke of **Making My Life Count More Effectively for Christ.** I think he would want us to hear these things today. His first point was marked **“Familiarize”** in which he spoke of getting familiar with the Word of God. He said that before he went to Bible college he wanted to become familiar with the Word of God so he could face the onslaught of his professors. So in a 10-month period he read the New Testament 15 times before he got to college. But then he said, “But, I must say as quickly as I can that fifteen times is not enough. Today it is my practice to read the New Testament through each year somewhere around 40 times. My goal is 52 times or once each week but being lazy by nature I seldom get around to it.”

His second point was to **Memorize** the Word. He said, “There is only one way I know to memorize scripture. Get yourself a copy of the 1901 American Standard Version, not the New American Standard Version, get the old one. This is the one the scholars among us told me was the best back in the forties. I am going to hold them to it unto the Judgment Day. Don’t bother with the new versions. Whenever I hear someone read from Phillips or Jillips or Killips or whatever, it sounds to me like they are speaking in tongues. When I hear the Bible read I want it to sound like Bible. I like to hear a few “straightways,” “verilies,” “thee’s” and “thou’s” and a “wot not” or two. So get yourself a 1901 version of the American Standard and start in the first chapter of Matthew.”

He then said, “Someone might inquire, ‘But how can a person retain what you memorize?’ That is a good question and here is the answer. All you have to do to retain what you memorize is simply go over it about 10,000 times and that’s all there is to it.”

His third point was **“Sermonize.”** I don’t have time to share as much of this as I would like, but in this part he jumped into the world of the TV commercial to make his point as he said, “A Hamburger theology has developed. Most of the fundamental denominations stand before the human race and say, ‘The Bible is the Word of God, Jesus was born of a virgin, Jesus died on the cross, Jesus arose from the dead, Jesus is coming again,’ and then after making these blockbusting declarations they tell a lost and dying world, as far as accepting Christ is concerned, **DO IT YOUR WAY. HOLD THE PICKLES, ONIONS, LETTUCE - SPECIAL ORDERS DON’T UPSET US.** Some say, ‘My way is to put the repentance on first, then faith, then the remission of sins, then the baptismal sauce.’ Others say, ‘This is not the way, my way is to have the child’s portion first, just sprinkle on the baptismal sauce, then the remission of sins and the rest can come later.’”

His final point was **“Educationalize”** (I think he made up that word, which he could and would do) in which he spoke of how Paul, even though he had been caught up to the third heaven and had seen the Lord and was close to death, asked Timothy in his last writings to “bring me my books.” Ed believed that Paul was asking for copies of the Scripture.

In Ed’s last days the family would read the Bible to him and it seemed to bring him great comfort.

Toward the end of that message he quoted David Branholm who said, “If you want to be a doctor, nurse, engineer, teacher, farmer, go somewhere else, but if you want to preach, come to Bluefield College of Evangelism.” And then Ed said, and I quote: “Before you knock that philosophy too much remember that was the philosophy of those men who started the Cincinnati Bible Seminary back in 1924. It was that philosophy that saved the Restoration Movement and turned the tide of

liberalism. It was that philosophy that took the ship of the Restoration Movement and turned it around and put it on the right course again, and every Bible college professor today, every Bible college dean, every Bible college president who got part or all of his training in Cincinnati owes his career to that philosophy of 1924 and don't you forget it."

Since, according to our faith, we believe that Ed Bousman is absent from the body and present with the Lord today, I think he might want us to know a little about the place where he is. We know that heaven is not like it is here. Things are different in heaven. In fact, in heaven Ed and Dean Mills may be together and actually having a conversation with both of them talking non-stop.

But let's have one insight from Ed about heaven: "Sometimes people ask me this question: when we get to heaven will we recognize each other? That seems like a natural conclusion since we know each other down here, why wouldn't we know each other in Heaven? Here it says, that we'll sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It follows that we'll recognize all the others, too. I believe that when I get to Heaven and I'm walking down the golden sidewalks I will recognize the Apostle Peter. No one will have to give me an introduction. I'll walk right up to Peter and shake his hand and tell him that I sure did enjoy that sermon you preached on the Day of Pentecost. I'll tell him thanks for making it so clear when he told us what to do to be saved. I remember very well that you told them on the Day of Pentecost to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter, I want to thank you for preaching that marvelous sermon."

Lastly, we must mention the radio program.

Last Sunday the family turned on WLW so Ed could listen to his favorite radio program: the God is Just a Prayer Away program. Right away Ed noticed and commented that they were broadcasting the wrong sermon. They were broadcasting the same program that they had played the week before. Still he listened and at the conclusion of the program he said, "Amen."

Just before they took Ed to the operating room for what I think was his 4th or 5th operation, he looked at those of us who were there and he said, "Will I preach again?"

Preaching was important to him. That's why he went on the radio. He wanted to reach more people through the preaching of the Word.

About going on the radio Ed said: "During my ministry at First Church of Christ in Lynchburg, OH, I said, we don't have to ask God for anything that we can do for ourselves. We here need God's help in the areas beyond our reach. We need help to do impossible things. Let's all go home today and ask God for the impossible. I don't know whether anyone took me seriously or not, but I took myself seriously and went home and prayed that God would give me this radio ministry - God is Just a Prayer Away. The money involved would be astronomical, but Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

"Shortly after that, my prayers began to be answered when I went and talked to WCKY about available radio time. On October 26, 1962, I received a letter that I almost threw away. It was from WCKY, a 50,000 watt radio station in Cincinnati telling me that the time we had asked about was available. I almost threw the letter away because the price they were asking for the half hour time segment was out of my reach. It was impossible. They wanted \$182.00 a week. I was thinking that \$40.00 a week was impossible. We took it (meaning: that time slot) and a year later switched to WLW which now charges \$1,100 for the 6:30 AM slot and \$1,300 for the 8 AM segment."

He said that he wanted to be on the big 50,000 watt stations rather than the smaller stations because he could cover a bigger area. His words were: "The existence of this ministry is ample proof that the Lord honored His word and gave us what we asked, sought, and knocked for. We asked and He gave."

Ed said, "I have learned by experience in many years of this radio ministry that the Lord is the God of supply. As a graduate of high school, my preacher gave me a pocket New Testament with this verse written on the inside, 'My God shall supply your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.' That was said at the start of my journey. At the end of my journey someone could write under that verse another verse, 'Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him (be) the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen' (Eph 3:20-21ASV)."

Ed liked to use poetry in his sermons. Here is one he used that seems appropriate for this occasion.

I'm going home to glory

Saved by Grace

I'm going home to Glory

Just to see my Saviour's face

I've made the good confession

I'll live for Him each day

I'm going Home to Glory

The Jesus way.

Now, as I come to the end of this tribute to Ed Bousman, I'm going to ask you to do something very unusual for a memorial service, but I think it will fit because Ed was a most unusual man. I can think of only one appropriate way of honoring him and his lifelong ministry. Will you stand and quote with me the words we heard him repeat so many many times:

"And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38 ASV)

Prayer: Father God, thank you for allowing us to have your servant Ed Bousman in our lives.

We thank you for his example.

We thank you for his faithfulness.

We thank you for his preaching.

We thank you for his uniqueness.

We thank you for sharing him with us as he shared You with us.

We thank you for what You did through him.

Help us to stand for YOU wherever we find ourselves, as your servant Ed Bousman has done.

Thank you Father that this is not the end.

We thank you and praise you in Jesus name. Amen!

On Holy Ground

Read by Melanie at Ed's Memorial Service

Some of you here today are familiar with our "Casey Letters." These are letters my husband Joe and I started writing 22 years ago with the birth of our daughter Casandra, with spina bifida. These letters are an attempt to document her journey through life and the difficult choices we have made.

Dear Casey,

Today we are here to celebrate the life of the man we affectionately called "Papa Ed." I recall on his 85th birthday we pre-

sented him with a compass. Now a compass is a marvelous instrument that when properly used can show you the right direction. On the road to becoming an Eagle Scout your father learned to use a map and compass. I was never given the opportunity to learn how to use a compass so I depend upon my GPS to guide the way which sometimes can be an adventure. The secret to how a compass works is that it always points north. So, if you know the destination you wish to reach, a compass can keep you oriented on the right path. You see people can be like a compass too, especially our parents, and their parents, and all of the lineage that goes into whom we are. There is very little doubt in my mind that as much as anyone I have ever known, your Papa Ed's life has been one in which truly emulates the compass. Through his years of ministry and preaching God's word, he has been a constant source of the truth of God's direction.

And while in his lifetime within our brotherhood he has become legendary as an evangelist for Christ, to our family he has been so much more. I don't like using the word "step" father because this just implies a relation by virtue of marriage. It does not indicate whether this relationship was good or bad. I prefer the term adoptive Father because this means to enter into a relationship by voluntary choice. So it has been with your Papa Ed. Even without knowing he would one day be married to your Grandma Omie, Papa Ed served as a surrogate father to me and your Uncle Eric. He watched with pride when Uncle Eric finished as 1st runner up in the 1975 Preacher boy contest at the Kiamichi Men's Clinic. He administered with concern the vows of marriage for Uncle Eric and Aunt Tina as well as your father and I and just last July 10th you and Jessie were his last wedding that he would perform. Grandma Omie, your Uncle Eric, and I helped take care of Papa Ed's first wife Roberta in her fight with cancer and together shared in his pain when she lost that battle July 4, 1980. And if he wasn't an important part of our family already, after a few years he did what Roberta had advised him to do and married your Grandma Omie.

They say blood is thicker than water which implies that one cannot love an adopted family as much as blood offspring. But I can bear witness to you that I have seen Papa Ed's suffering when we have struggled and his joy with our triumphs. I think just maybe, when one chooses to love a child and not because it is an expected obligation, that this love of free will is even

stronger. That is certainly what Papa Ed has given to Grandma Omie's children and grandchildren. This is a fact, even though Papa Ed never had any biological children, he has nieces, great nieces and nephews, great, great nieces and nephews, and "adoptive" children that loved and respected him very much. Within his family, he was the last of his generation and a link to our past.

We witnessed many selfless acts from Papa Ed. One such act was when you and your cousin Emily wanted to turn the Little Red Barn into a play house, but you could not get your wheelchair up over the asphalt barrier. So, Papa Ed, over the course of at least five days started chiseling away at the asphalt until you could access the barn.

One thing that is true of both a compass and your lineage is that you have to choose to follow them. A compass will always show you the direction north. Your Papa Ed had a vast amount of experience and knowledge, especially in things Spiritual that he desired to leave with us. It has been very healing to reminisce with everyone during the visitation how animated your Papa Ed was when preaching. For example, the sermon he preached about standing on Holy Ground in which he would proceed to take off his shoes and throw them into what we hoped was just the center aisle and not whap someone on the side of the head. Or, when he would climb up on top of the pulpit striving to reach a high plane spiritually, explaining we can never get high enough. To do the Lord's work was the highest of callings for him and he felt such a genuine burden for all the lost souls and while we may never be able to follow exactly in Papa Ed's footsteps, we can always be testimonies of faith in whatever we do or with whomever we meet.

Casey, I think that if your Papa Ed were to give you his formula for successful living, it would be to keep your eyes focused on Jesus, remember that God is just a prayer away, and follow the compass that God has given us, starting with Acts 2:38. Never forget Casey, the love of those that came before you, and the legacy that Papa Ed has left for you to follow.

When Papa Ed breathed his last breath here on earth and ended Chapter one of his life I believe he experienced according to his sermon about heaven, the choir of angels singing. I imagine when he got to heaven he ran to meet Jesus and fell down on his knees and said, "My Lord and my God."

- by Joe & Melanie Rightmyer



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