

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

My research of my mother's roots in the former mill village Calhoun Falls, SC continues to amaze me. I am meeting the neatest people in and from that little corner of the world. I recently discovered that one of the greatest college football players was born in Calhoun Falls in 1924 – Arnold Tucker.

Arnold Tucker and his family moved to Florida where he graduated from high school. He was starting quarterback for the Army Black Knights football team, leading them to an 18-0-1 record and two national championships in 1945-1946! He was fifth on the Heisman Trophy balloting behind backfield teammates Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis in 1946. He won the Sullivan Award for the nation's most outstanding amateur athlete in 1946. He was inducted into the College football Hall of Fame in 2008.

The one tie was against Notre Dame played in Yankee Stadium on November 9, 1946. That game was declared at that time as the "Game of the Century." Arnold played both offense and defense, and intercepted a pass in that game. You can watch a great 5-minute video clip of that game at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJppHbrhdns>



Arnold is 85 years old and lives in Miami. I surprisingly found his phone number and I took a chance to call him. I was in the process of leaving the following voice mail message: "My name is Gregg Gibbons from South Carolina and I am doing research on my mother's roots in Calhoun Falls..." and at that moment he picked up the phone to greet me! He said that he normally does not answer the phone but that "you said the magic word - Calhoun Falls." I had a delightful 40-minute discussion with him!

Older brother Dick was born in Calhoun Falls in 1920. Younger sister Sylvia was born in Florida in 1937. Arnold fondly recalls summers on a farm with relatives in Calhoun Falls, and that bailing hay, etc helped him as an athlete.

Brother Dick died when his plane was shot down in 1942 serving us in WWII. After his mother died, Arnold's father and 9-year old sister Sylvia returned to Calhoun Falls in 1946 and lived in a house across the street from my mother's school house. Mama remembers being in the school yard and seeing from Arnold in his Army dress uniform during his visits home. Arnold enjoyed watching the Calhoun Falls high school football team and the Clippers baseball team on his visits. Sister Sylvia later became Miss Calhoun Falls and graduated from Calhoun Falls High School in 1955. My mother graduated in 1951.

Grace Journal

A pilgrim's testimony of the way of the cross.

January/February/March 2009

*I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:14)*

I used this verse to help lead a chapel service at the Boys Home of the South. The boys read stirring testimonies of how several former pro basketball players came know Christ as their goal, and not the basketball goal. All of these boys are heroes. As I encourage them to press on in this miraculous way, I realize that I am still one of those little boys yearning to press on! ☺

At *Journey in Christ*, we are pressing on according to how God unfolds His ministry. We are meeting more and more people interested in becoming involved in this ministry and in becoming more equipped as disciples.

Journey in Christ was recently accepted as a member ministry of the *Association of Exchanged Life Ministries* (www.aelm.org). We are excited to attend the annual conference in Toccoa, Georgia at the end of April for membership orientation.

I recently took our two grand nephews on a hike in the woods on our property. They are amazing little boys! Below is a photo of them with their hiking sticks. This photo is a precious reminder to me of the amazing journey we all are on!

I hope you are encouraged by this newsletter. Press on! Gregg



Journey in Christ, inc.

926 NE Main Street Suite F-155 Simpsonville, SC 29681

864.228.HOPE (4673) info@JourneyinChrist.org www.JourneyinChrist.org

The journey starts with HOPE...each step unfolding TRUTH...each breath imparting LIFE.

HEARING GOD

My heart in discipling is not to convince others HOW to believe, but WHO to believe. Truths are transforming and healing only when they are revealed personally to someone by God through the Spirit of Christ. Following is a short excerpt from my teaching on Hearing God.

Life is like skiing downhill blind. We cannot see even one second into the future. We cannot see the struggles and tears, nor the victories, to come. However, a blind skier can ski...with a guide skier close by. The blind skier simply listens to the guide. "Go right. Slow down. Remember I am always with you. Etc." There is a beautiful synchronized oneness with these two skiers! Oneness with Jesus is even deeper than this.

Therefore, before you obey, you must listen and hear God personally through the indwelling Christ. Otherwise, you will be deceived into obeying legal commands instead your loving Commander.

Jesus as Man learned obedience by hearing the Father. In John 5:30, Jesus said, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

TESTIMONY

When I disciple a female, I always have another female present. Kellie, a *Journey in Christ* board member, and I recently disciplined a young lady. It is amazing to witness God minister to one of His children. With permission, following is her testimony.

Journey in Christ has made a profound impact on my life. I was feeling so doubtful about my salvation and had become tortured by these doubts. I began going through the phone book looking for Christian counselors. I am so thankful God led me to Gregg and Kellie.

Gregg and Kellie quickly helped me to see that the doubts and bad thoughts were not from my heart. I have learned that I need to direct my thoughts toward the living God I serve...that the devil will play tricks with my mind and cause me to doubt...but that Jesus was using this doubt for His Glory, and that God is conforming me to the image of his Son.

They helped me to see that I don't need to put my faith in my feelings nor my understanding, but in Jesus. I used to believe the lie that I had to muster up enough faith when I prayed the salvation prayer. I depended too much on what I said during my prayer, but they helped me see that it wasn't anything I did. He did it all. Jesus drew me to Himself...and He has planned every detail of my life.

They helped me see that just as Christ won the victory, so have I, because He's alive and He's walking with me and living in me.

GRACE LIFE DISCIPLESHIP TEACHING

I am experiencing one of the highlights of my life preaching/teaching 40 minutes during Sunday evening services (6 to 7 pm) at Holly Ridge Baptist Church in Simpsonville. The 12th and final session will be May 24th. I hope to publish a study booklet to go along with the CD recordings of each service.

1-4 **Hebrews 1:1-3**
**God, who at various times and ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, who...
 ...being the brightness and radiance of God's glory
 the exact representation and image of God's being!!**



6-10 **The Message of the Cross**

Saved from my SINS	Saved from my SELF
Deals with MY BEHAVIOR	Deals with MY IDENTITY
Penalty of sin	Power of sin
<u>My Problem (B.C.)</u> I have sinned	<u>My Problem (B.C.)</u> I am a sinner
<u>God's Solution</u> Christ died for me	<u>God's Solution</u> I died with Christ
<u>My Response</u> I receive Christ's forgiveness	<u>My Response</u> I receive Christ's life

12-6 **Setting Your Gaze**

2 Corinthians 3:18
 We all, with unveiled face,
 beholding as in a mirror...
 ...the glory of the Lord...
 ...are being transformed into the same image
 from glory to glory...
 ...just as by the Spirit of the Lord.