

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

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I contacted Hallie through a phone number on his website www.halliebryant.com. He is a most gracious man. I have since had several phone calls and email exchanges with Hallie. And he has called my mother. He sent both of us his book *Hallie's Comet* which is both an autobiography and a testimony of his living principles. In our phone calls and emails, I have communicated to him biblical principles that come to my mind as I read the living principles outlined in his book. His last email to me is as follows:

"Thank you for this very inspiring email. I appreciate your comments about some of the content in my book. I feel that you and I do have a lot in common. I am sure we will meet in person in the near future. Let's stay in touch, Hallie"

Hallie's early years were in the deep South during the time of segregation. Yet he fondly remembers Calhoun Falls. He told me that there were many places in that rural setting where he learned how to "hide and think." I look forward to meeting him in Calhoun Falls to talk more to him and to have him describe his years there.



HALLIE BRYANT

Named Mr. Basketball in Indiana as a high school senior in 1953.

Two years after Hallie's graduation, his high school was the first black high school to win a State Championship in the U.S. and included Oscar Robertson who Hallie mentored.

Played basketball for Indiana University...1957 Big 10 championship team captain.

Harlem Globetrotters player for 14 years and then public relations director for 11 years.
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July/August/September 2008

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...for it is God who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:8, 9 and 4:1, 6).*

Don't lose heart! The light of Christ through you IS your ministry, not your own efforts to minister to others. Don't place your faith in how people respond to you ministering to them; place your faith in Christ alone and the light of His face through you! Christ touches people's hearts so deeply that we may not see it at first. So, don't lose heart! Christ is alive and well...in and through you!

We have been given the ministry of offering the gift of Christ's righteousness to others, and not a ministry of helping others do right. I am overjoyed at the recent opportunities to minister Christ to others through *Journey in Christ*:

- 12 people attended our Grace Life Conference August 22-23 led by Michael Chalmers. I will be teaching a Conference October 24-25.
- Foothills Community Church in Seneca has requested we train their discipleship counseling leaders. Michael will teach a Grace Life Conference at that church October 3-4, and then we will follow up with more training through mentoring sessions and workshops.
- Michael and I are counseling 12 and 4 people each week, respectively. We still use our one-room office, plus two churches are loaning us space.
- We have received multiple requests to start an advanced discipleship training program that includes co-counseling training.
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- Over 25 boys continue to attend the Boys Home of the South Chapel every Tuesday evening. Feel free to visit chapel...the boys love visitors!

We will have a ministry OPEN HOUSE celebration in early 2009 to share more. I hope this newsletter encourages you. Gregg Gibbons

Journey in Christ, inc.

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

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

GOD'S GREATEST PURPOSE FOR HIS CHILDREN

A most favorite movie scene of mine is from *Chariots of Fire*. Eric Liddell was on the verge of winning a gold medal at the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Although Eric had plans to go to the mission field in China after the Olympics, his sister wanted him to forego the Olympics to enter the mission field with her sooner.

Eric took his sister Jenny on a walk to share his heart with her. He knew she meant well. Yet, he stayed true to his heart...the heart that Christ gave him.

Eric told Jenny, "Oh Jenny, you don't understand. God has made me fast. And when I run, I feel God's pleasure."

I shall never forget that quote! With my former legalistic eyes, I would have interpreted that quote as, "I will do my best and God will be pleased with me." However, with my ever-opening eyes of grace, I now see that quote as so much more. Eric was testifying of his intimate union with God in Christ. He was testifying of actually experiencing the very pleasure of Christ through him!

God wired Eric with gifts for one purpose: *for Christ to be uniquely manifested through Eric*. Eric's foundational purpose was not to win a gold medal so he could be a good Christian witness, nor was it to go to the mission field. His foundational purpose was simply (and profoundly) to manifest Christ in all that he did. And so it is for each of us. We are free to be who God wired us to be, to follow our hearts, and to trust Christ to live through us. There is no greater purpose. All other "purposes" are realized only when this one foundational purpose is fulfilled.

God's pleasure is not necessarily fun. Sometimes I feel greatly overwhelmed as I work my engineering job and also coordinate counseling and teaching sessions. Yet, in both, I believe I feel God's pleasure. I am gifted in those ways for Him. And I recall feeling God's pleasure as I took care of Joy after her back surgeries.

And His pleasure can be fun. I feel His pleasure as I research my mother's roots in Calhoun Falls, SC. I feel His pleasure when I talk to the boys at the Boys Home. And I feel His pleasure as I write this newsletter with Him. It's who I am...who God made me to be in Christ and for Christ.



Eric Liddell in 1924



Gregg Gibbons in 1972 ©

GRACE LIFE CONFERENCE TESTIMONIES

Below are some testimonies from the August 22-23 Conference.

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Simpsonville, SC

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