

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

**May God richly
bless you!**

Tom & Debbie

♣ TWENTY FIVE YEARS!

This first Sunday in February marks twenty five years since we began our Sunday night radio ministry... we were just youngsters then, 40 years old. Looking back, it doesn't seem like such a long time but it really has been. We've both just turned 65 and we're now what we used to think of as 'senior citizens' on Medicare... although these days we are much wiser... we recognize that those who are 65 aren't old at all... in fact, they're just reaching middle age!

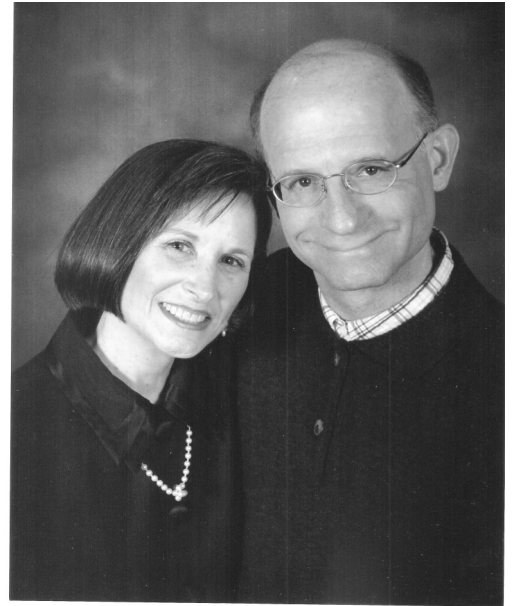
See that picture over there... to the right? She's still just as beautiful and I'm even more handsome than ever! Can you believe it?!

Well... **she really is!**

This year also marks 45 years we've been married. That is only by God's grace because for many years before I was 39, before Hearts of Love Ministries, before the 'great awakening,' during the first part of our marriage, I was not 'walking in a manner worthy of the calling with which I've been called.' Eph 4:1 In fact, I was much more like the prodigal son than one 'walking worthy of the Lord.' Col 1:10 But I was a son, nonetheless... I was God's child and He wouldn't let go of me... He wouldn't leave me... He kept calling and drawing me back to Himself.

Finally He did what only He could do... He woke me up... as if He caused a light to go on within me. Just like the prodigal son... it says that suddenly, 'he came to himself.' He realized that he didn't have to continue living like he had... his life could be different... he could return to his father's house, he could start over... he wasn't too old.

Like Nebuchadnezzar, insane out in the wilderness who said, 'And at the end of the time I, lifted my eyes to heaven, and **my understanding returned to me**; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever ' Dan 4:36



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

God was faithful... He woke me up; He caused me to come to my senses. Suddenly I realized that one day soon... maybe that day or maybe 40 years from then but soon, I would stand before God... I would have to give an account of what I had done inside this body while here on Earth... I knew that one of two things would be true. Either I would stand before Him guilty and ashamed, remembering that He had given me the understanding and opportunity to turn from my folly and I hadn't... Imagine that 'homecoming.' Or... I will have turned from my foolish life and allowed Him to finish His work in me and to stand before Him and hear Him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, you've been faithful in a few small things, I will put you over many great things, enter into the joy of your master.' Matt 25:21

God, in His faithfulness had caused me to understand and believe that it really was true... and it became real to me... suddenly I knew... I am in eternity now... eternity doesn't begin when I die or at the Rapture... eternity is now and everything I do **now** affects eternity... every action and every decision... I can either despise and waste every

moment or I can value and build on every moment... I had to decide because I was now responsible for every moment... I would never again have any excuse of ignorance... I knew the truth!

I am who I will always be forever! When I die or at the Rapture, I won't suddenly become some other, different, suddenly perfect person... I'll still be me. The only difference will be that I will then inhabit a new, perfect, glorified, eternal body like that of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself... and I will finally be completely free of any sin nature... I will have no desire for, or be drawn to, sin in any way. But other than those *few small changes*... I'll still be me... and who I will be then, I am becoming now. The extent to which I learn to know God now... the extent to which I choose and learn to love Him now is the extent to which I will know Him and love Him when I stand before Him the first time... I don't want to *not know Him* then... I don't want to have failed to learn to love Him then... I want to be able to stand before Him, already having come to know Him deeply and intimately, to be one who already

knows Him, loves Him and honors Him in all that I do. Imagine that homecoming and reception!

I began to be responsible and faithful. I stumbled along the way but I kept getting up and moving forward. I had a goal and an eternal purpose.

In the beginning, after God drew me back to Himself, I misunderstood my goal and purpose. I thought the time had finally come... I would be recognized and lifted up... finally my songs would be sought after... I would be an '*in demand*' speaker... churches would want me on staff... after all, I had such a powerful and dynamic testimony. The future was set! God would finally be able to use me... I would fulfill my destiny!

But God had other plans He hadn't told me about.

God's goal and purpose for me was never about what I could do for Him... it has never been about my gifts and abilities... how great I may or may not be at some thing or another. My destiny has never been about '*ministry*,' at least not what I had ever thought of as ministry.

God's goal for me... His purpose for me... his planned destiny for me has always been about just one thing... me... my heart... my relationship with Him... how I would bring glory to Him by wanting Him... wanting to know Him... learning to love Him. He chose me and saved me for Himself... to be His special prized possession... His love gift to His Son. He didn't need me for anything... I had nothing to offer Him.

When I could understand that... when I could accept just being myself, His child... wanting Him alone... then, and only then, could there be any kind of effective ministry outward... first, to Debbie in loving and honoring her, to my parents and parents-in-law in honoring them, to my children and grandchildren in being an accurate picture of the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives and then to others in the World.

We are so thankful for our radio sponsors so please do pray for them, and use their service. THANK YOU!!

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After God woke me up,' after He restored our marriage and family, we set up Hearts of Love Ministries and simply asked everyone we knew to pray for us... for God's wisdom and direction.

Shortly thereafter, while driving down Macadam Avenue I heard a guy on the radio inviting me to come and see him about radio ministry so I thought, 'Sure, why not?' I turned around, drove to the station and met him right then. I told him our story and he thought Debbie and I would make a good team for a live, call-in radio ministry. I thought he was right! Debbie thought I was nuts! Well, that part is true, but I wasn't nuts about this... I was sure God was in it and after Debbie talked with the guy she also began to sense God leading us into it.

We signed a six month contract for a less expensive timeslot on Sunday nights, not knowing where the money would come from but we figured even if we had to pay for it, the bill wouldn't be 'undoably' high on that small station and if we had to, we could quit after the six months. He had given us a deal whereby we would pay only 1/4 of the price the first month, 1/2 the second month, 3/4 the next and then full price after that.

At first, we thought ourselves very blessed to get even 1 or 2 calls during the hour; we had to come ready to talk and teach for the whole time; the listening audience was pretty small on that AM station but even from the very beginning, God provided enough income from listeners and sponsors to pay the bill each month.

At the end of six months, a Sunday night timeslot opened up on KPDQ... the largest Christian station around, and the program really 'took off' from the very beginning. We expanded to 90 minutes, then 2 hours and finally to 3 hours. Now, instead of having to come prepared to talk to ourselves for an hour, we had to come ready to have answers to a million different problems and questions with answers that could only come through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, relying on His wisdom and understanding, not our own... and to be able to effectively pray with 15 to 25 people with real needs.

Debbie and I both have one goal... to know the Lord Jesus Christ more and more each day and be poured out completely in serving Him alone.

Hearts of Love Ministries has two goals. We seek to go into all the World and preach the Gospel... to

lead as many as possible to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. We try to accomplish that through the radio and through taking as many Bibles into China as possible while there still remains an open door. We also seek to warn any who will listen of the soon return of Jesus Christ in the clouds to receive the true Church to Himself, at the Rapture, before the fast approaching Tribulation and reign of the Antichrist.

The true Church is ready and anxious to receive her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; the World is ready and anxious to receive their long awaited 'savior,' the Antichrist.

Which one are you waiting for? Which one are your neighbors and coworkers waiting for? Which one are your loved ones waiting for?

Each of us will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ very soon to give an answer as to what we did in these bodies. How will that go for you?

Are you looking forward to His return or are you secretly dreading it? Are your eyes set on the things above or on the things of the Earth?

Only you know your heart but God knows it even better.

Time is so very short. Seek Him.

You can touch the World for Jesus Christ... Please partner with us in these last days.
The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

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