

DON WHITT

EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

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June/July 2010

The month of June has been an eventful month with the mission trip to Costa Rica and the Southern Baptist Convention. I got to preach many times in Costa Rica with many people coming to Christ. I preached literally all day at a pastor's conference with over 50 pastors in attendance. Even there I saw 3 pastors come to say they had never been saved, and they were gloriously saved. Then I had an opportunity to preach at a church in Orlando, Florida, where 8 adults were saved. God has truly blessed thus far this year with over 700 people who have been saved. Praise the Lord for His blessings!!

I am publishing a book with Ron Hale who is the Associate Pastor at West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, TN. The title of the book is "Devotions From My Band Of Brothers", a devotional book for outdoor sportsmen. It will contain a collection of hunting and fishing experiences from a number of my "preacher buddies". Hopefully, it will be ready by the end of the year.

I want to share with you one of the devotionals that will be in the book written by Dr. Sid Nichols, Director of Missions for the Calhoun Baptist Association in Anniston, Alabama.

Title: A Memory Thought of Often

By: Sid Nichols

There are few memories more precious than those made when you are young. Especially those made with your Dad and brother. One of those was born on a cold winter's morning on the bottom land along the Cahaba River in Bibb County Alabama. I was in my preteen years and my brother who was two years my junior had been looking forward to a day of rabbit hunting with our Dad.

Our Dad was a hard working man who worked the second shift at Hayes International in Birmingham, Alabama and farmed every morning until it was time to go home and get ready to make the fifty mile drive to work. He was always working, and he had few pleasures in his life. The one I remember the most was rabbit hunting. He loved to turn the beagles loose and strike a race. The other was to harvest the rabbits, clean them and have Mama fry them up with a big pile of homemade biscuits and gravy for Sunday breakfast. Now that was good living. One ole boy said, "It was so good you had to wear a cap to eat it, because if you didn't, your tongue would beat your brains out it was so good!"

Now I mentioned the bottom land along the Cahaba River in Bibb County Alabama. There was a reason that we would go there to hunt Swamp Rabbits! Some people call them "Cane Cutters". Regardless of what you call them, one of them was equal to a sack full of Cottontails. Any redneck boy can tell you that the backstrap and back leg of a Cane Cutter was on the par with prime rib or T-bone from a beef. It was just plain hard to beat!

The memory that I mentioned began when we joined up with some of our neighbors. They had a pack of beagles and so did we. We had three that were special. Jack was a medium to large black and white beagle that sang base when the choir broke out in full chorus. His mate was a small beagle named Jill who was a cold tracking alto that spent a lot of her time making noise, and then there was Lucy. Lucy was special! She was a registered soprano that had a shrill voice. You would learn if you hunted with Lucy that if she ever broke out in solo voice you might as well knock the safety off your gun because there was a rabbit coming.

Well it was extremely cold, and some of the men had built a fire to warm by. We were all trying to let the fire do it's work when right there near us Jill jumped a Swamper and the race was on. We all grabbed our guns and spread out in the usual pattern because rabbits always circle back. With great anticipation, we waited, but things were different. It was as though the dogs had treed the rabbit, or had him trapped in a hole somewhere. As we made our way to where the dogs were we noticed that they were everyone poised in single file on a log leading out into a slew that was frozen over. There was path broken out across the ice and about fifty yards out the rabbit was making his way to the other side.

In all honesty, we all thought he had escaped to live another day, but my Dad had another idea. To our surprise, he yelled, "Jack, go get him!" We all laughed knowing that Jack had never been trained to do such a thing and besides I really didn't think he would brave those cold waters, but off that log he went, swimming right where Mr. Rabbit had already broken the ice. In a few minutes, he reached the rabbit just before he got out on the other side. We all knew that Jack was laughing at us because not only had he caught the rabbit, he was certainly going to sit down on the other shore and have a feast as we helplessly watched. When to our surprise a second time, Daddy hollered, "Jack, bring him here." You know what, he picked that Swamp Rabbit up and swam all the way back across that slew and dropped him at Daddy's feet.

Now I don't know for sure, but somehow I don't believe anyone could have bought that old beagle from my Dad on that day for any price. I am now fifty-five years old, and I still think about that memory often.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Application:

One day God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit along with all of Heaven are going to be poised on Heaven's log looking out over a slew of lostness where this old world is treading water just to make it another day, when to everyone's surprise God is going to turn and say, "Son, go get her!" Then Jesus is going to come and bring His blood bought, blood washed, redeemed church back and lay her on the marriage altar at the feet of the Father. And this I know! No one will be able to purchase her from our Father for any price, because the price has already been paid! And that's a memory that will be thought of often!

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Jul 4-9	Doctors Fork Baptist Church	Danville, KY
Jul 11	Higher Ground Baptist	Kingsport, TN
Jul 18	First Baptist Church	Milan, TN
Aug 8-11	First Baptist Church	Kenton, TN
Aug 15-18	South Fulton Baptist	South Fulton, TN
Aug 22	Shiloh Baptist	Kingston, TN
Aug 29-Sept 1	Bethel Baptist	McKenzie, TN

NEW MONTHLY SERMONS

I want to encourage you to sign up to receive a monthly CD sermon where I have preached the month before. This will make it possible for you to get a better sense of what is happening in meetings where I have preached. You can receive a monthly CD for \$10 per month. You will be put on a monthly list to receive a monthly CD sermon. You can send payment each month when you receive the CD. I trust this will be a blessing to you.