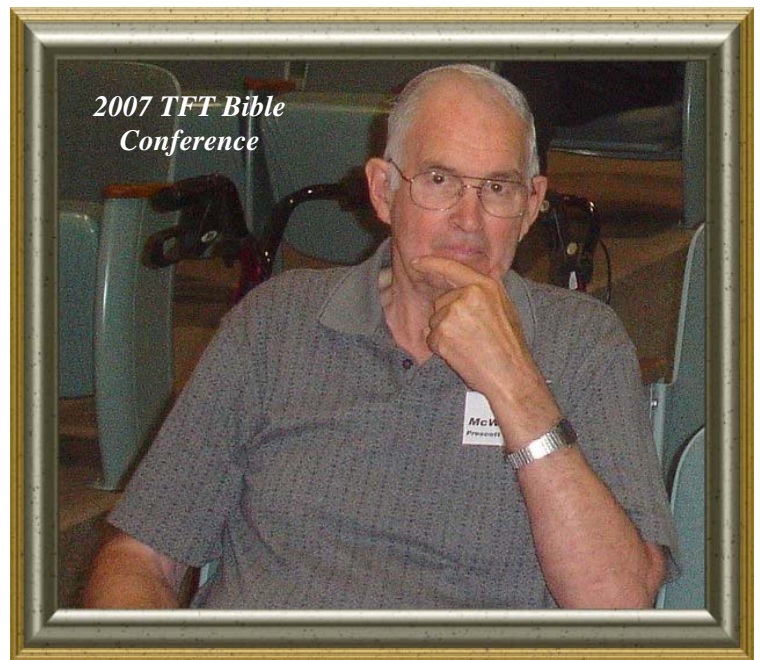


Jim McWilliams



In this life on earth, man's greatest enemy- death, never sleeps. Only days after learning of the passing of Marie Mourning, we as members of Christ's Body were again saddened by the news of the loss of brother Jim McWilliams. I was blessed to meet Jim and Jan back in the

early '90's at one of the TFT bible conferences held in Lafayette, Indiana. I don't recall the exact date (maybe 1993), but I do recall the friendliness and laughter we shared over breakfast as Jim gladly took the time to talk scripture with this "babe" in Christ from South Carolina. I knew from that day forward that we would be lifelong friends and that Jimmy was a man after God's own heart, who knew and loved the scriptures. At that

point in his life Jimmy had been studying and teaching the word "rightly divided" longer than I had been alive, he and Jan having been avid students of Oscar Baker, Charles Welch, and E.W. Bullinger for many years. Jim was a frequent speaker at many of the early conferences we attended, and as I watched him unfold the word with skillful insight and accuracy, I knew God had added another great teacher to the growing list of mentors I was blessed to have around me. Down through the years, I would come to greatly understand that the very lives of these people revolved around God's word rightly divided, their family, bible conferences, and the fellow-saints in Christ that held to the truth of the scriptures. On several visits we were guests in their home and, like many others, were always made to feel more like family than friends. These folks didn't just "talk the talk" they "walked the walk" in sincerity and love that only comes from Christ.

Jimmy realized and understood that *"faith without works is dead"*, spending countless hours of his time on projects that would preserve and spread the word of truth rightly divided to others. Among these efforts was one project that lasted for many years- the conversion of several hundred of Oscar Baker's home and radio studies from cassette

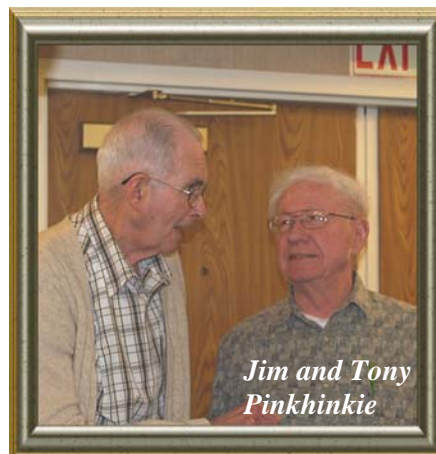
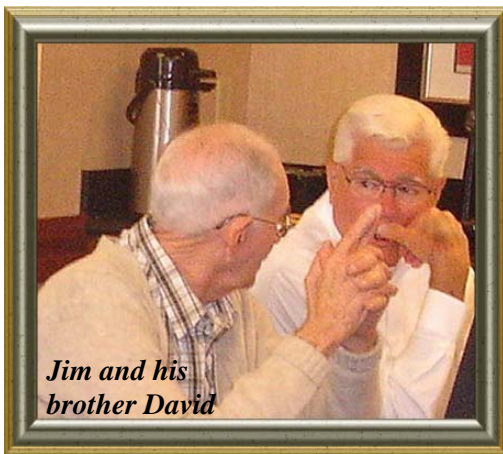


tape format to digital MP3 format. Jimmy saw the importance of completing this project due to the wide-ranging potential exposure of the internet. In time this project was completed with the help of some friends, and the digital recordings are available online today because of this labor of love. It was also a blessing to receive the paper he and Jan wrote and published called "The Good News Letter", which was published for many years until recently when Jim's failing health made keeping the paper going impossible.

“Jimmy Mac” was a very soft-spoken man who had little to say, but when he did chose to talk, I always found



I loved listening to him and his perspective on life. He had a keen sense of humor and a hilarious wit that always seemed to catch me off guard and keep me laughing. In addition to a love for the scriptures, we also shared a common profession- engineering. It was on our last visit with Jim and Jan this past October that I was able to spend a couple of hours with Jimmy and “just let him talk”. I listened as he showed me old photos, documents and drawings of projects he had designed and worked on during his career. When he was finished, he gave me a dial caliper that he had used on the job and kept for years. As he handed it to me, he grinned and said “I figure you can get more use out of these than I can”



with that big grin of his. I’ll keep this as long as I live as a reminder of my buddy each time I use them.

I can’t help but wonder what Jimmy would say if he were able to read this little memorial if I had to guess, he would probably say something like “Are you sure you have the right guy” or “I sure wish I could have met this guy you are saying all these nice things about” and I would laugh again as usual. I think he knew how much we all

loved and respected him. Our lives and understanding of God’s word are all the better for knowing him, and for his sake, this last time, we will again end in Ephesians. Sleep well my brother, and we WILL see you in the morning of the Day of Christ.

Ephesians 1: 6-12:

⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

⁸Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

⁹Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

¹⁰That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

¹¹In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

¹²That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

