

Everlasting Friend

I was going to church and studying the Bible on up until I was 15 years old. Thinking back, those were the happiest times of my life. Walking with God and living at home with good parents.

But in the latter part of 1964, I auditioned to play drums for a local rock band. Well, I got the job, but I drifted slowly away from God's Word. I played drums for that band for about two years. Right out of high school in 1967, I married my wife, Brenda, of 32 years. Not long after we were married I learned to play guitar and played with a couple of local country and rock bands up until the early 80s. During that time we had two sons, Keith, born in 1969, and Kevin, born in 1977. I would play in bars or somewhere every weekend and some during the week at that time, and worked everyday, and tried to be a good dad and husband.

You see, I was building an idol; not one that loved me, but something that I loved, and not from Heaven, but one of this world. Through all the experience of playing music, I learned to run large sound systems, and in the early 80s I quit playing and started setting up sound for other bands. The business grew to where I was doing sound all over the mid- and eastern-United States for nationally-known

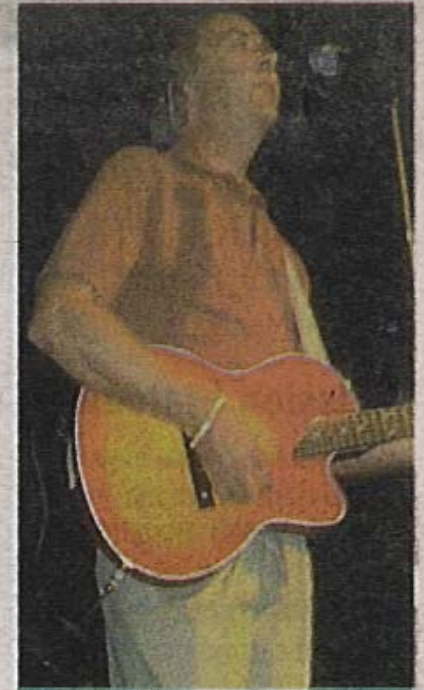
country and rock stars such as Alan Jackson, Travis Tritt, and .38 Special, just to name a few. I was getting really tired, but I thought working all the time was the way life was supposed to be. But I was neglecting the most important thing in a person's life, not only my family. It was my relationship with God.

I put Christ on the back burner of my life, the One that loves me most and made me the happiest for many years; I turned my back on Him! All those years of running down that road where I made a wrong turn I could look back and He was still there waiting for me. I was coming home late one night and for the first time in a long time, I prayed and told God I was tired of this world and all its fast-moving things like pagers and telephones. I wanted Him to forgive me and come back in my life and control it. You know what? By His love and grace, He forgave me for all those years of drinking and idolization of this world. In a few short months He put it in my heart to sell all the sound and light gear I had, which was a tractor and trailer load. I was thinking, "Why should I sell something that has been a part of my entire life?" But I sold it and lost a lot of money. But Jesus said in Matthew 19:29 that anything you give up for His name

sake shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Well, I have started receiving that hundredfold and more. Just a few months after I sold the equipment in 1996, God started sending me songs of praise to sing to Him. I never was a songwriter, but I'm doing something that I have always loved to do and that is to sing. And best yet, I'm singing with my two sons, who gave their lives to Christ, and a good friend and brother in Christ, Ronnie Joyce. We have a gospel group called "The Millers" and all the songs we sing, the Lord sent me. I have never been so happy, not only doing what I love to do, but knowing that I have a friend who keeps His promises and never will forsake me and gave me eternal life.

What a friend we all have in Jesus! In the last two years we have been off very few weekends, playing churches and other Christian organizations and selling our first recording, titled "Watch God's Garden Grow." And my wife, born again Christian and mother of our sons, takes care of the bookings and where we're going to be. I always tell my boys if you are too busy to read your Bible each night and too busy to go to church, when we are not playing in one, then you are too busy!



Ronnie Miller - Dobson, NC

One of the last songs I wrote is called "Who's This Man." I wrote it after being off one weekend. It's an invitational song and tells the whole story of Jesus and how to be saved. I wrote it after being on my knees, asking God if we were doing something wrong, that being the reason we were off that weekend. It came to me in about an hour and after I sang it three or four times that night, there was a peace that came over me like He was saying, "You are doing OK, just tell them more about Me." And that I intend to do.