

TESTIMONY

This is a testimony of lives in our family who have chosen to follow Christ. I am taking this opportunity to recount what I know regarding family members of previous generations.

Because various family members are not mentioned in this document, it does not mean that they did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Again this is only a testimony of what I do know.

Scripture says that we should look to the rock from which we were hewn. Those of us who have followed Christ have been hewn from the rock of Abraham who was a man of faith. More importantly we are hewn from the rock of Jesus Christ who is our true Rock of Ages, our true cornerstone and the capstone of our faith and the Creator of the Universe.

Let me begin by saying that both Janene and I have accepted Christ as our Savior. If we have fallen short and we have, keep in mind that Jesus did not come to save those who were healthy but those of us who are sick and who fall short of perfection.

In this Testimony I may mention things like church attendance and the like. That however is not what saves you. Some of these things, however, may be only be indicators or fruits that buttress the claim of salvation. These indicators are only needed by men and women but are not needed by God who sees the heart.

Further I do not comment upon our generation or the the ones who come after us. It is up to them to give their own testimony or fail to give it as the case may be.

If a reader of this says that they have no relatives who are Christian, then think how wonderful it can be to be the first of your line to begin a movement of your family toward Christ. Like Abraham you can be a father or mother of the faith and begin to lead those in your line toward Christ. The decision, of course, is up to each individual as to the direction that they want to move. Becoming a Christian is one of the few opportunities in life when you can CHOOSE to be part of a heritage that is royal and full of kings and priests. It is my hope that you will choose Christ.

And now for what I do know.

Zenas Stanford Loftis

On Janene's line was Zenas Sanford Loftis, M.D. Zenas had his medical degree from Vanderbilt University. He surrendered his life to be a missionary to Tibet. He went to Tibet and died there seeking to expand the gospel of Christ in that region. At one point Janene's mother had his medical degree diploma and we had his notes as he was learning the Tibetan language.

Robert Berneice Loftis

This is Janene's mother. She knew Christ and Janene and I discussed her Christian faith on numerous occasions. Life was not easy for her and she lived having seen her beloved son Troy die in his early thirties and then her husband die from a stroke. She supported her family for many years. Berneice knew her Bible very well and was a Sunday School teacher for over 40 years.

Mary Ella Gladden Jett

This was my mother. She loved her family and was faithful throughout her life attending numerous Baptist churches. My mother discussed spiritual matters with me on many occasions and I know that she is in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Willis Warren Jett and Laura Jett

These are my grandparents. Both loved God greatly. Willis was a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Liberty, Texas. This man loved God and often brought home the poor to stay at his house and to be fed. My grandmother also loved Christ and was faithful to the church. Her favorite Scripture was the love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13. Family prayers were said before all of the meals.

Ernest C. Jett Sr.

This is my father. He was a godly man. He attended many Baptist churches often serving as a deacon. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church of Winnsboro, Second Baptist Church of Houston, Lakeview Baptist Church in New Orleans, Oak Park Baptist Church in Houston, and numerous other Baptist churches. Dad was skilled in helping churches free of charge in their building programs. He was directed to lead building programs in four to five different churches helping them to build buildings by selling bonds. He also served on finance committees and in other ways of service. He often led music from time to time and while a member of the First Baptist Church of Tyler was a member of a singing group called "The Good Ole Boys." There were many indicators that Dad was a committed Christian and as one close to his life, I can so testify. Dad was also closely involved with those who encountered death especially in the Christmas season. One story I know personally. Dad had committed to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. When Mary Jett his beloved wife died early in the day, he kept his commitment to ring that bell that evening even though my mother and his wife had died earlier that day. This is evidence of the integrity and example that my father set. I can think of no other boy so fortunate to have this type of man as his father.

Willie Jett

Willie was the son of my father's brother, Warren Jett. Willie worked for Dow and lived in Baton Rouge while I was in graduate school in that city. Willie had an experience with God that was so profound that it led him to give up his secular job and to become a pastor. Willie later served in a number of church capacities and later died of a heart attack. It was always clear what Willie believed regarding Christ.

Clem and Ethel Hardy

Clem and Ethel were relatives of Dad. Clem was a Baylor graduate and became a missionary. He and Ethel went to Brazil back when he was the second missionary on the Amazon area. Clem and Ethel were in a number of cities in Brazil including Recife and Manaus. He remained there for over twenty until he had a disastrous heart attack that almost killed him. Ethel was a nurse and both ministered faithfully in Brazil. They returned home for brief sabbaticals every five years or so. In response to one of my questions, Clem said that he still thought in Portuguese.

I knew Clem and Ethel well as a child and even better when I was a student in Baylor. I worked for Clem in a number of capacities often painting houses for him. Clem had invested in a number of houses that he rented and sold so that he could send money back to Brazil. At that point he was unable to return to Brazil as a missionary due to his bad heart problems.

Clem often served as a pastor for small Baptist churches and I often went with him to them. I was not there at the time; however Clem passed away while ministering at a church. He evidently was praying for a person and as he prayed he died on the spot of a major heart attack.

Ethel was also a missionary speaker as was Clem. Ethel was also president of the Texas WMU (Woman's Missionary Union.)

Clem and Ethel were heroes of the faith often going where others would not and doing pioneer Christian work. Clem and Ethel wrote a couple of books. One of the books written by Clem was Woman with a Heart which was the story of Ethel's life. He also wrote a book on the Amazon and his time there.

Jane Jett

Jane Jett was a pioneer woman and was a grandmother of Willis Warren Jett. Jane was known as being a faithful church member and was one of the founding members the first Baptist church west of the Mississippi River.

Rilla Gladden Sturgeon and Judge Sturgeon

Rilla was the adoptive mother of my mother, Mary. Rilla loved God. She and "Judge" attended First Baptist Church of Monroe, La. for many years. I knew both and spent some time discussing the matters of Christ with both of them and know that they both loved and followed Christ. After my grandmother's death I often attended the Disciples of Christ with my grandfather Judge who attended there regularly. Both are now deceased however I am confident that I will see them both again in heaven.

This is the testimony of what I personally know. I am passing this on so that those of the family that become believers and join the family of Christ will know that there are others in the family that have made the same decision.

Ernest C. Jett Jr.