

# **A Tribute to a Hero of Faith**



On February 6<sup>th</sup> after Bro. Jeff Holloway and his son, Johnathan, had preached back to back at Gospel Truth Ministry in Lenoir, North Carolina they traveled to Hickory for lunch. Just minutes after leaving the vehicle, Jeff had a massive stroke that left his right side paralyzed. After ten days in a critical care unit and then in a separate room, they started rehab at the hospital, but 18 days later after his daughter Jennifer had just finished singing “Rejoice in the Lord” the Lord called him to His side, about 10:00 am, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Our Bro. Holloway was a unique preacher of the Word of God and a man of faith. The following incidents demonstrate to us the life of faith he so ably exemplified.**

**After the Soviet Union opened up to evangelism and a church planting in the early 1990's, Bro. Jeff was led to join a team going to Russia to preach, evangelize, and disciple new converts. Though the Lord graciously supplied the money for his round-trip plan fare, he boarded the plane with empty pockets, still without the money needed for food, lodging, and travel expenses, fully believing that the Lord would provide! Sure enough, halfway through the flight a preacher approached him saying that the Lord had laid it on his heart to give Jeff a certain amount of money. Needless to say, it was the exact amount our brother was to need for his expenses in Russia.**

**On another occasion, Jeff was planning a trip to Ghana. Those of you who knew him know what a big heart he had to minister to people's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. In fact, he saw the first as a way to reach them with the second. This time he came by our mission office to pick up some shoes that had been donated. When I asked him if all the money had come in for the trip, he admitted it had not though he was to leave in a few short days. He answered, “Well, actually, not yet. In fact, I asked Anna how much money was in the bank account. When she told me we had \$200, I told her to write out a check for that amount and send it to a missionary friend. SO, at that moment, I am back to nothing, but the Lord is sending me and He will provide.”**

When I spoke with Anna early the next week, she said they were rejoicing. Yes, the Lord had provided for the trip and in a most unusual way. He had come by our church in Asheville on the Sunday morning and was asked to preach and was given a love gift plus \$200 by one of the members. Soon after arriving home, a pastor brother came by with an envelope explaining, "For weeks I meant to bring this love gift by for you but kept getting delayed. Meanwhile, I had added a personal gift to spend on any particular needs you have in Ghana. I hope it will be a help." You can believe it helped, but still it was not quite enough. The very day before Jeff was to leave a man called about a vehicle Jeff had for sale. "I need that car right away and I will pay you cash." You can guess! It was just the remaining amount needed to pay for the trip!

Brother Jeff had planned a trip, leaving the U.S. February 14<sup>th</sup> for Nicaragua, landing in Managua, and then he was going to make an arduous 50-mile journey taking over 3 hours to a group of Indians in the mountains. He had received permission from the Nicaraguan government to visit this area. He was burdened to know if they had a gospel church, and if not, to see one established. His plans were to return to the U.S. in about 8 days and then the same day to fly to needy Haiti and teach pastors in the mountains. Not only was he burdened for spiritually equipping in preaching, but also the physical needs of clothing. He was either going to take clothes or take money to purchase (if possible) there. The Lord closed the door for Jeff, but I ask the Lord's question, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8b) Perhaps a reader of this account will say in surrender, "Here am I; send me." Men of vision are needed to carry the gospel to Nicaragua, Haiti, Russia, Ghana, Wales, and the "uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8) What about you?

**(Read more of this account on our Missionary page under Global Baptist's publication the Trumpet)**