A heart attack and the death of my mother cause reflections

Dr. Donald E. Wildmon
President

Since I last wrote this column, two major events have occurred in my life. On Tuesday, June 9, at about 4:30 in the morning, I suffered a heart attack. I was spending the night with Donna and Neal (my daughter and son-in-law) in Jackson, Mississippi, preparing to attend the meeting of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. I awoke with a pain in my back. I asked Donna for some aspirin, but the pain grew worse. Much, much worse. I lay on my back on the floor. The pain grew so intense that I began to go in and out of consciousness. Within a few minutes I realized what was happening.

Donna and Neal called for an ambulance. Fortunately, the hospital was only about ten minutes away. I remember being placed in the ambulance, but from that point on I remember very little.

The doctor later told me that I had had a severe, but not massive, heart attack. On a scale of 1 to 10, the doctor rated it at about a 7. I spent nine days in the hospital. The following Monday the doctor performed angioplasty, running a tube with a small balloon into my heart to open a clogged artery which was 95% closed.

While I was in the hospital, my mother fell and broke her hip and arm. Later, while she was in the hospital, she developed complications and on June 29, twenty days after my heart attack, Mama died. She had turned 87 only five days earlier. My mother was a major influence in my life. Her death hurts deeply.

These two events have definitely left their impact on me.

While in the hospital, the thousands of cards, letters, calls, and other expressions of love meant so much to me. They helped me understand that we are one really big family, that there are literally thousands of you whom I have never met who are a genuine part of the AFA family. There is absolutely no way I can respond to each of you, so please accept this as my expression of thanks.

While lying on the floor suffering, waiting for the ambulance, I remember thinking that in about five minutes I would be dead and standing face to face with God. "Don, what are you going to say to God when you stand before Him?" I asked myself. I remember that I decided that when I stood before God I would simply say, "Please forgive me."

I realize that many will question that supplication to God, but it seemed to me to be appropriate. I simply don't have the space here to explain that thought.

As I reflect on what happened, I have a new appreciation for the future. While still in my mid-twenties, I concluded that the worst possible thing that could happen in my life would be that I would come to the point of death, look back and realize that nothing I ever did in life made any difference. I decided that I would not let that happen.

If I had died because of that heart attack, I would not have felt short-changed. I have invested my life in that which I feel God called me to do. And I have done it to the best of my ability. I have had a meaningful life. I have had a purpose for living and have tried my best to be faithful to that to which God has called me.

These two events have caused me to do some revaluating of how my life

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A good and faithful servant

By Tim Wildmon
Vice President

I hope you will forgive me if I get a bit personal this month. But from time to time I have mentioned my four grandparents in this column. Three are still living, but recently I lost one of my grandmothers—Mama Wildmon, we affectionately called her—to physical death. She was 87.

Mama and Papa Wildmon were married 70 years and knew each other even longer. She was the mother of five children whom she and papa raised in a small town in the hills of north Mississippi. She was also the grandmother of 11 and great grandmother of 13. She was a teacher at both the school and in the church for many years and dearly loved the children she taught.

But more than all of this, my grandmother loved God. She loved the Lord and left a great legacy of Christian service for her family to follow.

Many of us have seen the movie **It's a Wonderful Life** starring Jimmy Stewart. In that classic film Stewart's character—who contemplates suicide and thinks the world would be better off if he had never been born—goes through an experience in which he views his world as if, in fact, he had not been born.

He soon sees the lives that were touched for good because of his life. He begins to appreciate the life God had given him. In a very real way if not for the Christian influence that Mama Wildmon had on my father, the American Family Association quite probably would not exist today.

"No man is an island," John Donne wrote. How true. Our lives affect each other often in more profound ways than

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ECFA MEMBER — The symbol of trust

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Christians & Society TODAY

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A supplement for local bulletins and newsletters

PepsiCo says they will continue to support violent porn on MTV

PepsiCo says that they don't disagree with **everything** shown on MTV and, therefore, will continue to support the filth shown on the cable network. PepsiCo's decision was the opposite of that of Ralston Purina. Ralston Purina said they will no longer support MTV with advertising.

MTV is the most violent and sex-oriented network on television. The music on the network encourages drug use, sex and violence. Entertainer Eddie Rabbit said: "MTV promotes the most violent of acts in front of our children. If parents saw someone peddling hardcore pornography to their children, they'd have them arrested. That's what MTV does."

Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) condemned MTV from the Senate floor. "The central message of most of these music-videos is clear: human happiness and fulfillment are experienced by becoming a sociopath and rejecting all responsibility. If we continue to sow the images of murder, violence, drug abuse, sadism, arrogance, irreverence, blasphemy, perversion, pornography and aberration before the eyes of millions of children, we should not be surprised if the foundations of our society rot away as if from leprosy," Byrd said.

To express appreciation to Ralston Purina for not supporting MTV with advertising in the future, write: Chrm. William P. Stiritz, Ralston Purina Company, Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164, phone 314-982-1000, fax 314-982-1211, toll free 1-800-345-5678. Products include Chex cereal, Ralston Purina pet foods, Energizer and Eveready batteries.

To let PepsiCo know what you think of their decision to support the filth on MTV with their advertising dollars, write: Chrm. D. Wayne Calloway, PepsiCo, Anderson Hill, Purchase, NY 10577, phone 914-253-2000, fax 914-253-2070. Products include Pepsi, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Fritos snacks, Taco Bell fast food.

Hillary Clinton likens marriage to slavery

Writing in a 1982 issue of the *Harvard Educational Review*, Hillary Clinton likened the American family to "marriage, slavery, and the Indian reservation." The Clinton quote was turned up by Daniel Wattenberg of the Washington Times.

Wattenberg also discovered that Hillary Clinton filed her 1991 tax returns under her own name of Hillary Rodham which she used until her husband entered the presidential race.

Hillary Rodham Clinton also reported a capital gain from De Beer's, the South African diamond company, at the height of apartheid.

Human Events 7/11/92

PBS again uses tax dollars to push lesbian lifestyle

On June 24, the Great Performances Series on PBS aired THE LOST LANGUAGE OF CRANES. PBS used the program to make a major push for homosexuality, showing men passionately kissing each other and enjoying each other's company in bed.

On July 19, PBS made another major push for homosexuality, this time promoting the lesbian lifestyle in the three-part miniseries PORTRAIT OF A MARRIAGE.

PBS, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, like the National Endowment for the Arts, seems intent on using tax money to promote the homosexual lifestyle. At a time when AIDS is increasing and homosexuals are the group suffering the most, it seems a totally irresponsible action on the part of PBS to promote this destructive lifestyle.

On June 3 the Senate voted to increase funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to $1.1 billion. An effort was made to hold funding for CPB at the current level. Instead, the Senate voted to give CPB $310 million in 1994, $375 million in 1995, and $425 million in 1996. Current appropriations are $251 million in 1992 and $253 in 1993.

Twenty-two senators voted for the amendment to hold funding at the current level: Bond, Brown, Coats, Cohen, Danforth, Dole, Garn, Gramm, Hatch, Kassebaum, Lott, Mach, McCain, McConnell, Nickles, Pressler, Roth, Simpson, Smith, Symms and Wallop. All other Senators voted to increase CPB funding.

PBS, which is partly funded by CPB, regularly promotes the homosexual lifestyle in their programming.

Addresses: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

'One Life to Live' pushes homosexuality

ABC's ONE LIFE TO LIVE is launching a major story line about homosexuals and homophobia.

"The gay community in our country is large and the fears that attend it are rarely explored," says Linda Gottlieb, executive producer of the ABC soap opera.

The story line, which began in late June and continues through summer, focuses on a homosexual teenager and the town's heartthrob minister.

Clarion- Ledger, 6/18/92

Violence killing more young people

Violence among the nation's youth has made homicide the second leading killer of people ages 15-24, health officials said. Accidents are the top cause; suicide is third. But violence, especially involving guns and among black youth, has joined disease as a major health worry.

"To see violence and injuries destroy our youth in their prime is painful to note and impossible to ignore," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said. The department's study showed homicides of black males ages 15 to 24 rose 74% in the 1980s, and is the leading cause of death of black males ages 15 to 35. Guns are involved in 64% of all cases of violence, the HHS said.

The escalation of violent acts among youth closely parallels the increase of violence in entertainment media.

USA Today, 6/26/92