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A Visit With Preacher Crance Hardee

By LOU FLOY MILLIGAN

Over the years, I have heard Preacher Crance Hardee preach at a lot of funerals. I taught some of his children when I taught at Loris High School. His son Kenny caught a ride to school with me many mornings as I drove to Loris on the old Whiteville-Conwayboro Rd.

in Angiers, NC, has one child, and works for CP&L.

Kenny married Mary E. Black, lives at Hickory, has two children, and travels to far away places with his job with a tobacco company. Denice married (1) Rusty Todd, and (2) Johnny Carter, and works with Home-Health.

Mr. Crance's siblings are:



Crance Hardee

Almost everytime that I see television, I think about Mr. Hardee and what he said to me many years ago. He said, "Television could be used for great things, but it will mainly be a tool for the devil!" How right he was!

Thousands have known, heard, and respected this man for years. He never watered down or sugar-coated what came from his mind, heart, and spirit.

Preacher Crance's parents were Henry Monroe and Hettie

Vivian, who married Walter Singletary and lives in Wilmington. Lorena who married Alfred Fowler, son of Leon Fowler. Arthur married Alma Harrelson, daughter of Bert Harrelson. Woodrow married Evelyn Williams and lived at the Sidney Crossroads. Huger was in the Navy, then worked with the civil service and lives in Charleston.

Preacher Crance's eyes are bad now, and he hasn't been able to read his Bible in seven years. With his memory; he

something had stung him on the hip. He could hardly make it to the house for all the pain and swelling. Someone carried him to the Loris Clinic and Dr. Rogers x-rayed it. Dr. Rogers asked him how he could have gotten hurt like this. Two other doctors, one from Charlotte, and one from Florence looked at the x-rays. This hip bone was crushed, there was a four-inch split in the bone, and all the muscles were pulled away from the bone. He would not tell them his thoughts; he only prayed, hollowed and cried, "I wanta go home!" When he got home, his wife was looking at the twins and told him that they had pneumonia. What a burden! Mr. Crance felt strongly that if he did not obey God, and go preach His word, that he and the twins would die. There was another revival at Glendale, and he told the congregation that God had called him to preach. Eric Gaskin was the pastor, and Lorenza Todd was the guest speaker. What a revival that was..praying! shouting! many people getting saved! The next night he was asked to come up and say something, and his Bible fell open to Mark 11:22-23. He preached on faith.

Preacher Crance asked God for gifts, and God told him, "YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS, OF HEALING, GO AND USE THAT!"

Mr. Hardee fixed up a prayer room in a tenant house. Now he has a prayer room in his packhouse. He loves to spend time there in solitude and prayer. He also likes to listen to gospel music and preaching on WSTS in Fairmont from 9-12. Preacher Hardee himself can be heard on Radio Station WLSC in Loris on Sunday at 2 p.m.

What an interesting man to talk with!

granddaddy Hardee was called praying William Hardee. Preacher Crance's mother Hettie Jenrette was the daughter of Eliza Helen Cox, who married (1) Fletcher Pink Jenrette and (2) John W. Blount. I have thought that perhaps I might connect with Preacher Crance on some of our ancestors in Pitt County before 1800, because I fully believe that our Hardees, Wrights, Coxes, Boyds, and Porters came into these swamps about the same time from Pitt County. Finding out that Preacher Crance's mother was granddaughter to Isaac Cox, makes Preacher Crance third cousin to my Dad, and third cousin, once-removed to my Mom.

Mr. Crance Hubert Hardee married Kathleen Mishoe, daughter of Wiley and Grace Stephens Mishoe in 1936. They have just recently celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. They are the parents of five girls and two boys. Mr. Crance told me about a long ride recently all the way to Iowa to visit daughter Gloria and family. His wife had flown out a few times but he did not want to get on an airplane.

Their children are: Gloria Lynnn who married Ray Humburg.

They have three girls and one son, who is a preacher. Son Terry, who was in the Navy for 22 years, married Judy Spencer, is father of two, and a merchant at the beach. Georgia married Rudie Floyd and lives at Olanta, SC and has two children. Portia and Paula were twins. Portia has two children, is separated from husband Nicky Cornwell, lives at Loris and is a nurse at the beach. Paula married Don Fish, lives

What a memory he has! He not only remembers events, but the dates and names involved.

Preacher Crance said that he got under conviction in 1947, was saved in 1948 at the altar at Glendale Baptist Church, called to preach in 1948, licened in 1950, and ordained 1951.

When he was under conviction, he decided to attend Glendale Baptist Church Revival, and could not eat or sleep. He had to return the next night. This night he fell on his knees at the altar and asked God to forgive him for his sins and to save him. God said, "I GIVE YOU SALVATION, I GIVE YOU A NEW HEART. I remove your sins as far away as the east is from the west. I will not even remember where your sins went."

The heavy burden was lifted. He was overjoyed and happy... so filled with love and freedom that the trees had a golden glow, as if they have golden icicles.

Some time later, he was in the field plowing when the mule refused to go. Mr. Crance could not get the mule to move, and sat down on the plow. God spoke to him, "GO PREACH MY WORD!" Mr. Crance tried to reason with God, "God, I'm just a poor farm boy with a mother, a wife, and two children to care for. I don't have any education. I don't even have any nice clothes."

Later he was walking across the same field in front of his house, when it felt as if