

Preface

In this publication, you will find reflections, views, ideas and stories from writers with multiplied hundreds of years in Christian ministry. They will deal with both the joys and sorrows of their lives. Through the eyes and hearts of the many authors, our life’s compass can be reset to point us to the important things in our mission for Christ. The intent of the combined authors of this book is illustrated through the essence of a story that took place in southern Ohio years ago:

The Gospel Lads Quartet had just finished a tour of engagements on a Sunday night in the Washington D.C. area. We ate dinner about 9:30 pm before starting for our home base in Joplin, Missouri. I crawled into my Pullman style bunk on our bus, shortly after dinner, and awoke violently ill a couple of hours later. One of the quartet members was driving and told me we would soon be in Ohio. After having him stop to let me out beside the road a couple of times, I knew that I was far too sick to travel and needed medical help. As we passed through the outskirts of an Ohio town, we saw a hospital sign and exited. I needed assistance getting into the emergency room. On this particular tour, one of the quartet members had his daughter, Julie, with him. She was about eight years old. She watched me intently as I went through severe pain. We soon discovered that I had food poisoning and was admitted to the hospital. After some discussion, I convinced the other quartet members to leave me in the doctor’s care and to drive on home. They said their good byes at my bedside. To an eight-year-old, this must have seemed a lot like desertion. As they were leaving the room, she stopped, turned in the doorway, and said in a resolute tone, “Murray, remember you’ve got friends!”

Her sentiment meant a great deal to me then and the spirit behind her concern still resonates with me today. Such is the compassion woven into the fabric of this book. You can count on it; “Preacher, You’ve Got Friends!”