



Monday Matters July 23, 2012

When We All Get To Heaven

Ten days ago I had the opportunity to attend the annual National Association of Church Business Administrators (NACBA) conference in Houston. It was there that I met Mike, a former mortgage banker. Mike is now a church planter/pastor of a black church and a Church Administrator for a different black Pentecostal church. He commented that when he was in corporate America he learned that to climb the ladder of success, to grab the next rung, you stepped over any person in the way and not be willing to help anyone around you. All the corporate climber is concerned about is getting ahead and beating out any competitor.

Mike was attending his first NACBA conference and already he found this organization to be completely opposite from the corporate scene. He learned, or maybe saw, that it didn't matter what denomination you were, how old you were or the color of your skin. Everyone was on equal level and everyone reached out to each other with help and support. It seemed to be the perfect environment - almost like heaven. On numerous occasions I have seen and experienced



**Alan Jackson sings
"When We All Get To Heaven"**



this type of interaction among the members of this organization. I have seen where people who might only see each other once a year at this conference share their deepest personal and business concerns while others extended their love, concern and help to them. It got me thinking last week about what heaven will be like. Will it really matter who we sit with at the table? Or live next to? Will we care about their color of skin or how fat or skinny someone is?

Several years ago my Mom had passed away. She had been the church's pianist for 75 years. She volunteered to help the choir director with its 100 members in organizing the music and robes each week. At the funeral service the music director was giving the eulogy when his cell phone started ringing. At first it was very soft but became increasingly louder. People attending the service were getting annoyed and were thinking how rude it was for this interruption. He finally pulled his phone out of his pocket and answered it right in the middle of his eulogy.

"Martha, so good to hear from you. (Martha was my mom's name). We were just having a service remembering and celebrating your life here on earth." At this point everyone realized this was part of his eulogy. He continued, "So you're in a service too? And it's a celebration as well?" He continued explaining what he was hearing on the other end of the line. It sounded like people were singing and praising the Lord. It sounded like it was a real large gathering. He continued describing the awesome service she was attending, even asking if she was playing the piano for the service.

Obviously this was the music director's way of recognizing her leaving this earth and now being in heaven. There wasn't a dry eye in our service. Certainly it was a sad day to lose someone you loved but it was an exciting day to know that she was in heaven, celebrating with her Lord. It brought everyone's attention to what it will be like when we all get to heaven. What a day of rejoicing that will be.

Maybe this was a little bit of a stretch comparing a church administrator's conference to celebrating someone's entrance into heaven but being part of a conference that provided a time for worship and devotions made it special. Being part of the bigger church, participating with various denominations that

**Anthony Burger Plays
"When We All Get To Heaven"
in many different styles!**

Quote of the Week

"Thinking about Heaven can inspire and encourage us to be more heavenly-minded and realize that Heaven is a real place where we're really going to live.

----David Brandt Berg



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believed in God, and being with people that truly cared for each other just brought a small glimpse of what it might be like in heaven. It will be a time of celebration when we all get to heaven.