

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 - Phone 801-355-6310

“TELL EVERYONE I LOVE THEM AND TO CELEBRATE! I’M GOING HOME”



Bill Collins was born March, 13th 1952 in Montebello, California to Raymond Williams Collins and Virginia Grace Collins. He loved softball, pool, anything to do with the beach and music. Drums to be exact. Bill started to seriously practice the drums at five



years old after his father took him to see Buddy Rich live in concert. Bill described this encounter as life-changing and it would prove to set the path of his life. Throughout elementary and junior-high school Bill took every band and music class he could find. It seems he could never get enough of the drums.

As he grew older, his younger sister Diane said his drum sets got bigger and louder every year. “It was God’s way of teaching them all patience,” Diane said.



Bill continued to practice ambitiously, studying everything from basic rudiments to advanced forms and styles. He joined a few rock groups and later became a

professional studio musician. When the Vietnam War came calling, Bill joined the Air Force and served in the Air Force Marching band. Even at war Bill was keeping time for our soldiers



Although music brought much enjoyment into Bill’s life and became a decent source of income it also introduced him to illegal drugs riotous drinking, all-night parties and wild living.

Bill did marry a lovely lady named Kathi and they loved each other for years but Bill’s drinking problem became worse and it soon took its toll on their relationship.

Ultimately, Bill burned every bridge he had but one. His life-long drinking buddy in Pennsylvania. After a few days of attempting alcoholic suicide, Bill hit his rock bottom with nowhere to look but up.

He boarded a westbound bus with the little money he had left and headed back to California in hopes a miracle might happen. The next thing Bill remembered was waking up in the Salt Lake City VA hospital where he was in a coma for over a month after suffering severe alcoholic detoxification.

The Following is part of Pastor Bill Collin’s Testimony 1998



Bill said, “For the first time in decades he didn’t have any alcohol in his blood system. It took a comatose, near-death experience, to bring this about”.

Bill went on to say, “It’s sad. I didn’t start to drink alcohol until I was 18 years old. Music was my whole life. But the more involved I got in the fast paced environment of the music business the more I drank. Finally I resorted to abusing drugs to try to find some sort of peace or strength or power or control or something. I was completely lost.”

Reflecting back, Bill said he joined the Air Force at 23 years old, focusing on music, while continuing to drink. After the Air Force, Bill formed more bands as his alcoholism grew more and more out of control. Bill said, “Gradually music was replaced by the bottle as the center of my life and I didn’t even know why I kept drinking. I just I couldn’t stop!”



“My wife, Kathi, told me about Jesus and How He could set me free, but I was hooked on alcohol and not willing to give it up. Kathi loved me so much and was willing to doing just about anything to help me but I seemed to love alcohol more than her, more than music,



even more than life. It took me dying to learn what life is really all about.

After four years of my lying and neglecting God's love in and through others, God answered Kathi's, and so many

other peoples prayers by allowing me to taste the sting of death and it was hell.

I was in the Salt Lake City VA Hospital for a month, whom I thank God for their merciful care. After a month, I was put on a city bus and told, "Now you are homeless in a cold place. Those words scared me to no end.

I was homeless for one day. It was enough for me start thinking about getting serious about my life and the Giver of all good things. Kathi's words about Jesus came to mind. Others who had prayed for me also came to mind.

Across the street from the Travelers Aid Shelter was the Salt Lake City Mission. I saw that the Mission had coffee and pastries so I went over to get some. I was greeted very warmly and sat down to experience a bible study in progress.



After the Bible Study, I was invited into the Missions' office and the instructor asked me if I would you like to join a program to learn about Jesus Christ and let Him redirect your life?" Right then, I felt a million pounds of fear fall off of me! I made a choice, right there, to give God my life completely and discover Him through His Word, the Holy Bible.

Slowly things started to make sense and God began to deliver me from sin right there. One day at a time I try my best and see where the Lord would take me. To make a long story short, it has been more than nine years since I have been convinced that the Word of God is true and Jesus took me from being a screaming drunk to a Pastor.

The calling God has for me, now, is to train up men just like me to learn the Word of God. **If you had told me, I'd be a Pastor in the Salt Lake City Mission, 10 years ago, I would have called you a liar or thought you were drunk.**



Since the first day in the Mission the Holy Spirit has filled a hole in my heart that was only for Jesus. The Joy of the Lord is now my strength and I am very thankful that He was mindful

of me. My job is not always easy, but there is nothing else I'd rather do with my life, than to serve the homeless and teach men, right off The streets, the life changing Word of God.

“If it wasn't for Jesus Christ, I'm sure I would be dead --- Praise our Lord Jesus”

“The Word of God works and changes any willing person forever!”

HALLELUJAH CELEBRATE

Pastor Bill Collins went home to be with his Lord, Savior and Friend Jesus Christ, February 28, 2011. He was, and continues to be, a very gentle man who cares very deeply for everyone because the love of God lives through him.

Pastor Bill gave his life completely to Jesus and grew into the Mission Chaplain, band leader and drummer, housing overseer, and Assistant to the Mission Director and much more. He touched 1,000's of lives and will be greatly missed.

**Pastor Bill encourages everyone to:
“CELEBRATE JESUS CHRIST AND THE
ABUNDANT LIFE FOUND ONLY IN HIM!”**

