

# Comments and Condolences Concerning Albert Jennings

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## **Albert's brother-in-law, Jim Lamberth, of San Antonio, said:**

Albert Jennings is the greatest man I have ever known. Before I ever met him when he was a young man he "established principles" that he lived by all his life. These principles served him well. When he was a young man he was able to go to work for a family of Jewish merchants in a clothing store. The family was very "close nit" but they accepted Albert in and taught him principles of merchandising which served him well all his life.

He held some very responsible positions in the military. Some of these positions normally expected one to be associated with things that God would not approve of. Because his superior officers knew the principles he lived by he was able to be "exempted" from being involved in those things.

He was able to "walk among" dignitaries and also go to the "church across the tracks" and preach for those people and be admired and respected by both groups. Similar to Paul, he truly was "all things to all people".

Of course, over the years there were those in the church who opposed him. Some even offering to do physical harm to me and him. I know of one who "repented of this sin" before he died. I only hope that all of them would so they could be with him in Heaven.

You probably already know many of the things I relate here. I love to share these things about him with people. He has been such a good influence in my life. I have always been able to "run things by him" for his input. I am really going to miss being able to "see what Albert thinks about that".

## **Brother Bobby Holmes, an aged soldier of the cross, said:**

I thank you for the post concerning the passing of our brother Albert Jennings. In this I am filled with mixed emotions. On one hand sad for we are all selfish in wanting to hold on to those we love and yet on the other hand, filled with the joy of knowing he now is "at rest from his labors". Maybe a little bit "jealous" that he "finished HIS race" before I have. I shall announce this and the arrangements when you sent them and of course, pray fervently for his family.

## **Don Willis, a long-time gospel preacher, and brother-in-law of Forrest Morris, said:**

Sorry to hear about Albert's death, he was a faithful servant in the Lord, and I know of the love that you all shared for him. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. Please give my condolences to the family.

**Brother Rody Gumpad of Tuguegarao City in the Philippines said:**

We are saddened and thank you for letting us know that our Brother Albert Jennings has already passed! Will you please extend our deepest sympathy to sister Jennings! We cannot forget them as they so love the Lord and I still have my shirt that they generously gave when we visited their store! May God help & comfort sister Jennings at this time of sorrow. May God help and guide us all!

We are saddened to know about the death of bro. Albert Jennings! Kindly extend our deepest sympathy to sister Jennings, please! Both of them are so lovely and sweet to us. I still have the nice shirt and the dress that they generously gave me & Tessie when we visited their store in 2005. We pray that God will comfort sister Jennings and with you and your effort to console and encourage her then she can overcome!

**Brother Ron Halbrook, evangelist for the Hebron Lane congregation, in Shepherdsville, KY, said:**

Dear Mark, Thanks for giving this sad news, but we rejoice for him. I appreciate so many things about this good man. One little incident: He related to me that when he was younger he thought he needed to press some personal scruples, but he learned that he could hold these convictions as personal without pressing them on other people... He just had a wholesome spirit about him in so many ways. May God bless you as you comfort the family and brethren who loved him there.

**Brother Ernest Finley, former evangelist of the House Street congregation, said:**

The strength of a congregation rests to a great degree on the quality of its elders and deacons. Approximately 25 years ago the strength of the House Street congregation was tested when its elders, Albert Jennings and Curtis Ferguson, stood courageously and effectively against the adverse influence of an apostate evangelist.

It was at this time that yours truly, Ernest Finley, was invited to serve as the regular evangelist for the congregation. By reason of the stand that the elders and other faithful members manifested, the congregation has grown ever stronger.

Curtis Ferguson passed away a number of years ago. Albert Jennings was also lost a few days ago. We grieve their passing. May the Lord bless the efforts of the elders and deacons of the congregation now referred to as the Adoue Street Church of Christ. In brotherly love, Ernest A. Finley

**Brother Harry Osborne, the evangelist who followed Ernest Finley at House Street, wrote:**

We were to have a meeting with a man that Brother Jennings and Brother Ferguson (the two elders at that time) were not sure as to his stand. Albert asked me what I thought and I said if he taught error, I would answer him. Albert looked at me and said, "You would be third in line."

Albert was a great man who did not know he was great. He taught me so much by his wisdom, knowledge of God's word, and humble life of a true servant of God. He was the epitome of character in every way. His example in this community touched countless people with true Christianity in action.

**Bart Masiero, a deacon and member of the church in Alvin, said:**

One of the things I remember about Albert Jennings, whenever Albert spoke to us, he gave us all of his attention. When he moved into his new store several years ago, in walking us through, he spent well over an hour with us. He let our kids get up on these high-stool type chairs and then he opened a door behind a counter, which had all kinds of gadgets. They were thrilled.

I remember when we visited him at his old store and I randomly pointed out a shirt in his display rack. He took that shirt and proceeded to give me a speech which lasted somewhere between 5 and 10 minutes, telling me how that particular shirt was manufactured, even going into detail on some very miniscule items on that particular shirt. And I could see one of the reasons Albert was so successful in business.

But we appreciate him most for his Spiritual leadership. And we rejoice with him because what greater thing can a man ask for than to be able to stand before God and be justified. And that is what Albert Jennings lived for.

# Additional Comments and Condolences:

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**Brother Joe Price, evangelist in Washington State, said:**

Dear Mark, I'm sorry to hear of the passing brother Jennings, but rejoice with the saints and his family for his faith and the sure hope that is now his reality in Christ. Please extend my sympathy to all.

**Brother Jerry Fite, preacher for the Parkview congregation, said:**

Thanks for your hospitality and kindness being shown to your brethren and the family who are bereaved of being separated from such a great man.

**Brother Gerald Ganela, evangelist in the Philippines, said:**

I am sorry to hear of the death of one of the good elders of your congregation (Brother Albert Jennings) but I know their family are comforted because of the shared love of our brethren there at the Adoue St. congregation. From our family we deeply share our condolences to the Jennings family. They say "death is the saddest goodbye but the happiest hello". We believe that brother Jennings is already in our Heavenly Fathers' side and the big concern now laid on us. We pray we would be able to remain faithful too and join him again someday in the better place.

**Harrold Starr, an elder of the church in Conroe, said:**

Thanks for the information, the Jennings family is dear to us. It is not likely that we will not be able to be at the funeral. And, I know that if we are able to get away, we would not be able to gather with the family before or after the funeral. We are not able to leave Margaret's mother for that long of a time.

**Brother Eddie Laggi, evangelist in the Philippines, said:**

I am very sorry to hear and feel sorrow with the death of our dearest brother Albert Jennings. I can feel also that bitterness when both of my biological parents died. I can still remember when I was still young at the age of 5 when God first took the life of my father and from now I can't imagine how I felt during that time. I can't control the tears in my eyes every time I hear of someone pass away. I pray that when time comes that our God will take ours also hope to see everyone in the place prepared which in HEAVEN. Again my heartily and sincere condolences to the family circle of brother Jennings.

**Skeet Franklin, a member of the church in AZ, and occasional visitor at Alvin, said:**

Hello Mark, It is sad and not so sad to hear of the passing of Bro. Jennings. It goes without saying that he was a fine Christian and therefore a wonderful man. We did not get to know him as well as others but our lives were enriched by a brief but terrific experience of knowing him. Please pass our warmest sympathy to Sister Jennings and the entire family of the Adoue Street Church

of Christ. We are all challenged with the knowledge that we must pick up and carry on after the passing of such leaders.

**Sister Aleta Samford, wife of evangelist Gene Samford, said:**

We're so sorry to hear about the passing of Brother Jennings. We extend our sympathies to the family and all in the church there. I'm sure he'll be missed in so many, many ways.

**Sister Anne Stevens, wife of evangelist Jimmy Stevens, said:**

I am so sorry about Albert's passing, for his family and for the work there. He was a rare one.

**Gale Towles, gospel preacher in Illinois and brother-in-law of Mark Mayberry, said:**

Mark, I was sorry to hear for the passing of your good friend brother Jennings. Deb said that she had communicated with you and that the two of you were very close. My heart goes out to you. I lost a brother (Billy Joe Raymer) who was like a second father to me in 94. I went to see his grave last week while in Russellville, Kentucky in a Gospel Meeting. I am so thankful to have the good memories and to be blessed by his single purposed example. It took me some time to work through his loss as he was closer than a brother. I say all of these things thinking that you can relate to them in your closeness to brother Albert. My heart and prayers go out to you (and those who loved him so). May our Lord bless and keep you my friend and brother, Gale