

THE LATE-NIGHT PHONE CALL

Is God involved in the daily lives of His children? You bet He is! That would be the testimony of most any Christian.

The Rev. Billy D. Strayhorn, author and retired United Methodist clergyman, shared a story concerning a store-front church called Almighty God Tabernacle.

One Saturday evening, the pastor of the church was working late and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10 p.m., but his wife did not answer the phone. The pastor let it ring about two dozen times, but she did not answer. He thought it was a little odd, but decided to finish up a few things and try a few minutes later.

When he tried again, she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that the phone had not rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone he had used the previous Saturday night. The man he spoke with wanted to know why he had called his home on Saturday night. The pastor couldn't figure out what the guy was talking about. Then the caller said, "It rang and rang and rang, but I didn't answer."

The pastor then remembered the mishap, and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he had tried to call his wife. The man said, "That's OK. Let me tell you my story.

"You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God, if you're there, and You don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.' At that point, my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, *Almighty God*. I was afraid to answer!"

God is still God, and He reaches out through the unexpected and transforms lives.

Sometimes we're knowingly part of that great ministry. Sometimes we have no clue. But with us or without our awareness, God still transforms lives.

In the history of Life Care – and in my own personal life – I have seen how God shows up at just the right time to protect and underscore His plans for us.



But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may exult in You (Psalm 5:11 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter