

PHILANTHROPIST

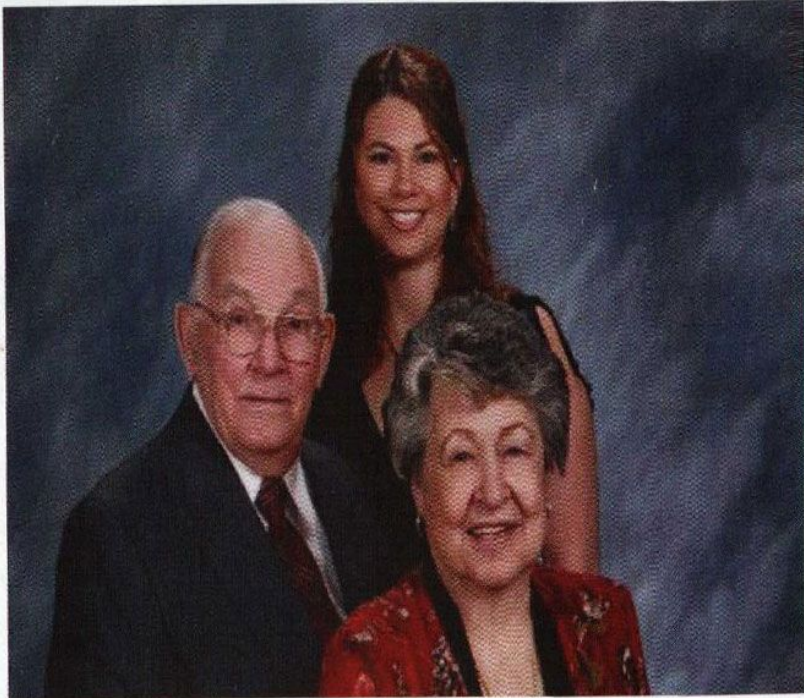
Telpher Campbell

By Kelley Huffman

Everyone knows Telpher Campbell. Mention his name and you are likely to hear story after story about how he has helped someone. His name is synonymous with generosity and servanthood, both in the church and the community. "You can mention his name just about anywhere," said Shannon Prince, his granddaughter. "He's so loved." People come up to her "all the time," Shannon said, and tell about her grandpa. "He was a good man. People ask how he is. They tell stories of how he helped."

Telpher started working for the needy at least as far back as the 1970s, or as long as Shannon can remember. If the church couldn't help them, he would. People even came to his business, Campbell's Pest Control - now Hyde's Pest Control - for food or money, and he always gave. He spearheaded both Compassion Outreach and the Joy Bus Ministry, both out of 7th and Mueller Church of Christ. He knocked on doors and asked if the children could ride the bus, Shannon said. He took an active part in both ministries until he entered a nursing home a year ago, which Shannon said was "very hard on him."

Larry McFadden, minister at 7th and Mueller Church of Christ, said Telpher has a heart for others. "Telpher has always been a caring,



Telpher with his wife Alidean and granddaughter, Bobbie

concerned person about those down and out, especially children," he said, adding he believes Telpher's upbringing made him aware of the needs of others. Telpher dressed like those he helped - a work uniform, no nice clothes, certainly nothing fancy. "People felt comfortable with him because he wasn't pretentious," Shannon said. "He had a policy at Compassion Outreach. If you can help one out of one hundred, that's what Jesus would do." His generosity didn't end at church. It even extended to how he treated his employees. If an employee was sick but had run out of sick days, Telpher would still pay them their full wages. He "helped everyone," said Shannon, which is "very rare."

Telpher's wife, Alidean, is "just like him," Shannon said. "She is someone who accepted everyone and loved you no matter what." Telpher also volunteered at the hospital and fostered a teen from the Children's Home, showing he truly did practice what he preached.

From childhood, Shannon remembers people lined up to see her grandfather for help to pay bills and other matters. He would leave family dinners to get people food. Shannon also remembers him babysitting her and her sister, Bobbie, and waiting on them at their house as they got off the bus. Having him as a grandfather was "awesome.

I've seen him almost every day of my life," Shannon said.

Even though Telpher is no longer serving at 7th and Mueller, he is trying to get a Bible study going in his nursing home. He carries around a notebook so he can write down names. Shannon said he doesn't always know who his granddaughters are when they come to visit and is confused about some details, but when they push him down the hallway he makes them stop at every bedridden patient who is in the hallway and touches and talks to each one. "It's in him," Shannon said. "His true spirit is to love other people."

Shannon's sister, Bobbie Hyde, agrees. "There are not many people on this earth who would do as much for other people,"

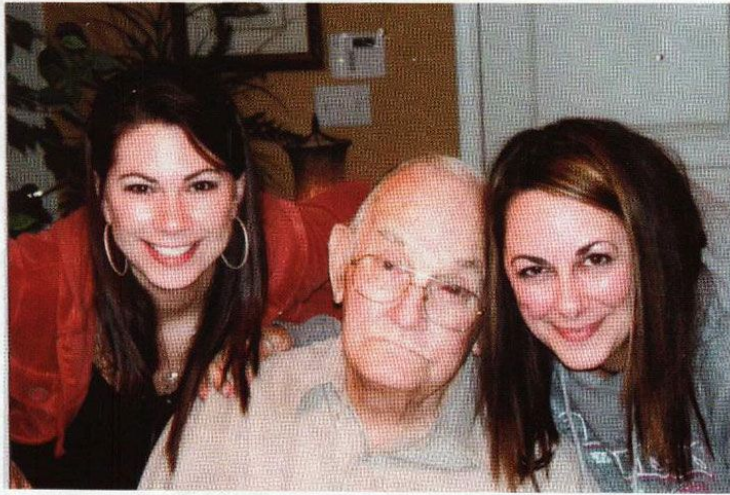
she said. "Words can't describe what he's done and what he's done for me. He's a great example and someone I look up to." Bobbie

him to "keep sending money. He's always done that," Bobbie said. As a child she

remembers her grandfather visiting every day, and as she got older and started to work at the family business, he still visited her at work and asked how her day went.

"Being young, I never really knew how much he did for the church," Bobbie said. "I felt honored to be his granddaughter."

She recalls that before Compassion Outreach was started and the church didn't have a place for clothes to give away, the clothes were kept at his own garage. "My grandparents cherished family and faith the most," she said. ♦



Bobbie, Telpher and Shannon

remembers finding an envelope once in his truck with a return address from Africa. It was a letter from a man thanking Telpher for helping in building their church and asking