

From Where I Sit . . .

TALKS FROM THE BIBLE RADIO -- FINALE

It was a very sad day in Scottsboro last Friday when the final episode of "Talks From The Bible" radio broadcast were aired. Brother Charles Cobb began that program back in the mid to late 60's and it has run 5 days a week ever since with the same speaker other than occasional substitutes. Not only did Bro. Cobb complete nearly 36 years with this program, but had done 4 or 5 years of broadcasting in Nashville before moving back to Scottsboro to preach for the Broad Street congregation, and later the Larkinsville congregation who then took over sponsorship.

I had the distinct privilege of speaking those last few weeks when Bro. Cobb's health got to the point he could not go on with the program. It was an enjoyable experience, and I certainly could tell in visiting around town that these folks had been accustomed to tuning in "Bro. Cobb" every morning for years. I made sure that they understand that no one could take his place and fill his shoes. I was just honored to sit in his seat.

Our elders had agreed and we had made repeated efforts to have the contract changed into our name and continue the morning broadcast without interruption, but station management would not allow this for their own business reasons. We were assured there was no prejudice against us as the church, but that a decision had long before been reached by them to do away with any talk format at that hour of the morning when Brother Cobb finally decided to retire. They offered us an alternative time at 5:50 A.M. each morning, but we declined believing that this would be an uphill battle in building the kind of listening audience Bro. Cobb had carefully developed.

And so a door is closed, but we all believe that other doors will open. One can't shut God's work down merely by stopping a program. We will regroup, re-evaluate, and continue to evangelize this wonderful little town and all the regions around us.

By way of personal tribute to Bro. Cobb, call it Roses while he's living, he is one of the very few of our brethren who have attained such a long term history of continuous daily broadcasting. Ironically, over in Florence, Bro. Jack Wilhelm, also from Scottsboro, has been part of a similar success story in television with "Televisit With The Bible" of which I participated for two years. Jack has not been the continuous speaker, but he has by far been the primary force behind the program for over 40 years.

Charles came to Scottsboro during World War II as minister for the church when it was located down town in the old building, a tour of about two and one half years. Later he served this church for 20 years beginning in the 60's, followed by 13 years out at Larkinsville. Truly his impact on this community has been significant for the cause of Christ and for making a community more "God conscious." He has preached the Gospel for approximately 67 years, beginning at the young age of 16 at the Stony Point church in Florence. Not only has he been a voice to our community, but his printed page has been powerful besides. He not only was editor for the "Tennessee Valley Christian," a news and teaching paper mailed to people all over the United States and in many foreign countries. He also has authored numerous books, tracts, and commentaries.

We are fortunate to still have Brother Cobb in our area, and we pray God will extend his influence clear beyond his days here long into the future of our fair city. You ask: "How tall is a giant?" Obviously this man of such short stature would set a new standard to the meaning of this question.

..... Terry Broome

Printed in the *Broad Street Banner*, Volume XVIII, Number 7, February 19, 2003.