



JACK ELLIS - L.

BROTHER JIMMY ROSE

RETIRED METHODIST

& JABEL OF AT HIS

90TH BIRTHDAY IN

CYATHIA ICY

MAY 5, 2013

Dear Brother Jack -

I believe I have sent you the necessary information you will need.

Thank you so very much for your contribution to this little book. What you write will be added to the E. Stanley Jones Interview. I will not fail so send you several copies of the book when it is finished.

God Bless you, Janis and all of your family, you are all in our prayers.

I am eternally indebted to you for helping me and I trust I can deliver your copies when we all get together for a meal and Fellowship in Mt. Sterling.

Please call if I can be of any further help to you.

God Bless all of you.

Brother Jimmie & JeAnn

Introducing --- Evangelist JIMMIE ROSE

I helped lead Jimmie to Christ back in 1950 when he was then known as one of Kentucky's most successful young basketball coaches. His experiences as a coach, pastor, and college professor give him a background for an effective ministry.

Dr. Ford Philpot
Lexington, Kentucky.

I consider it an honor and privilege to recommend Rev. Jimmie Rose as an evangelist of rare talents. He has a way of winning people especially the younger group, that is unique from a layman's point of view. You'll be in for some surprises in the quiet, dignified way he goes about winning souls to Christ. You'll want a return engagement.

A. Z. Looney
Church Lay Leader
Epworth Methodist Church
Lexington, Kentucky

The Florida Conference of the Methodist Church is deeply indebted to the Rev. James W. Rose for his brief ministry at Aloma Methodist Church, Winter Park, Florida. Under his ministry this church was organized and during the first year two hundred and fifty members were received, including forty-two on profession of faith.

Bishop James W. Henley
Bishop, Jacksonville Area

Reverend Jimmie Rose has been known to me for a number of years as a dedicated, sincere and able Christian. He will do a very constructive evangelistic work in any church. I commend him whole-heartedly.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones

The Reverend Jimmie Rose was our evangelist for a Crusade at the Morehead Methodist Church in May of 1966. This church for the most part is a University Church and is not noted for its "revivalism." But from the beginning a warm and responsive spirit prevailed. While the church had made good preparation, much credit is due to the gentlemanly way that Brother Jimmie conducted himself both in preaching and in the altar calls. The people were presented the truth but there was no "high pressure." Every night, Sunday through Sunday, people responded: Ph.D's, the head football coach, many university personnel, businessmen, women, young people and children--more than 60 making decisions and commitments. New life and strength came to this church and I feel much of the credit is due to the effectiveness of Jimmie Rose.

Rev. Thomas W. Ditto
Conference Secretary of
Evangelism
Kentucky Conference of the
Methodist Church.

It will be a blessing to any church to hear the preaching of Rev. Jimmie Rose. My last church, First Methodist Church of Auburndale, Florida, and my present one, Reeves Memorial of Orlando Florida, have a deeper commitment due to his ministry among us. Some of our members have accepted offices they had rejected in years past following our services here. His "voice" is one of the most pleasing you will hear and his message one of the clearest. You will leave every service feeling a desire to love Christ more and to serve him better.

Rev. William C. Swygert
Reeves Memorial Methodist
Church
Orlando, Florida

Jimmie Rose, before entering the ministry, was one of Kentucky's leading high-school basketball coaches. He started coaching at the age of 20 and guided Olive Hill High School to the State Tournament, thus becoming the youngest coach in history of a State Tournament team.

When Jimmie gave up coaching in 1950 to enter the ministry, he had compiled the third-best won-and-lost record of any high-school coach--and it took him only seven years to accomplish this amazing feat.

One of the standout players that Jimmie coached was his brother, Gayle Rose, who was a star guard on the undefeated University of Kentucky basketball team in the 1953-54 season.

I am confident that he will give the same effort in evangelism as he did in his coaching days.

Billy Thompson
WLEX TV
Lexington, Ky.

I consider it a great privilege to be able to give a word of recommendation for Brother Jimmie Rose as an evangelist. He conducted one of the best revivals that was held in Epworth Church, Lexington, during my pastorate there. He is an earnest, genuine, sincere minister of the Word. He has a real concern to reach people for Jesus Christ. He knows and understands young people and his background as a basketball coach helps him to speak their language and reach them with his message. I believe he will help any church in which he is engaged as an evangelist.

Dr. Russell R. Patton
First Methodist Church
Lexington, Kentucky

Church - Centered and Warm - Hearted

**MAKE
PLANS
TO
ATTEND
THE
REVIVAL
CRUSADE**

MEET OUR EVANGELIST

Jimmie Rose is an approved Evangelist of the Methodist Church and a member of the Kentucky Conference. He is a graduate of Morehead State College where he earned both the A. B. and Masters Degrees. In addition, Rev. Rose attended Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, and Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia. Jimmie was, for many years, one of Kentucky's most successful young basketball coaches, before entering the ministry in 1950. Since entering the ministry he has coached at Asbury College and was head basketball coach at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, North Carolina.

He has had experience as a pastor in both the Kentucky and Florida Conferences of the Methodist Church. In 1960, Brother Jimmie started the new Aloma Methodist Church in Winter Park, Florida. In ten months this church took in 253 members including 42 on profession of faith.

His revivals are church-centered and every effort made to help the local church in all of its activities. Jimmie has been especially effective with young people. During the past six years he has held successful and fruitful evangelistic crusades in many of the churches of Methodism.


Jimmie was born in Olive Hill, Kentucky, and is the son of the late Dr. J. M. Rose, a prominent Eastern Kentucky physician. He now makes his home, along with his wife, Jo Ann, and two children, David and Debbie, at 520 N. Lexington Avenue, Wilmore, Kentucky.

SEARCHING SUBJECTS

God Is Real--The Greatest Hour--The Christian Athlete--Five Greatest Men Of This Century--Jesus Is Lord--Invisible Power--Our Heritage--The Man That Could Have Been--A Christian Challenge For Youth--The Word Became Flesh.

**ATTEND
REVIVAL**

CRUSADE



LED BY

EVANGELIST

JIMMIE ROSE

METHODIST CHURCH

DATE

SERVICES EACH EVENING

Church - Centered and Warm - Hearted

My Evangelistic ministry came to end in the early 70's. The conditions for which I found it necessary to retire was not so much physical as I was later given a diagnosis by my doctors, Psychologists and Psychiatrists that I had a chronic condition called "AGORAPHOBIA", it is not easily defined but the Webster Dictionary defines it more appropriately than I am here to do. Webster defines it this way, AGORAPHOBIA - People with problems feel dread of panic when they face certain objects, situations or activities - People with AGORAPHOBIA. The defining feature of AGORAPHOBIA is ANXIETY ABOUT BEING IN PLACES IN WHICH ESCAPE MAY BE EMBARRASSING, DIFFICULT AND WHERE HELP MAY BE UNAVAILABLE. Those suffering with AGORAPHOBIA seek to avoid ANXIETY AND PROVOKING SITUATIONS AND MAY BECOME TOTALLY HOUSEBOUND.

This condition became so acute that it so handicapped me that I was confined to my home for many months and there were times I could not leave my room or even talk on a telephone. I have seen a multitude of people in the medical field and have many types of medication but even to this day I have to battle it. For many years was unable to attend church. However this last Easter (2012) I was determined to return to my home church First United Methodist Church of Cynthia. Our Pastor Rev. Milte Coppensmith and his wife Sharon have opened up their hearts to me, even calling me to have the Pastoral Prayer and the good people of this church have shown to Jo Ann and I such kindness, fellowship and concern by putting a car for us, helping us in and out of the church sending us food, garden vegetables etc. That we feel that we are getting a new lease on life as we approach my 90th birthday - God bless these wonderful Christians in the Cynthia United Methodist Church. With our Lord's help we are trying to spend our declining years back in church and Jo Ann and I appreciate so very much those who have given such kind and loving encouragement.

The Webster Dictionary definition of AGORAPHOBIA
"And abnormal feeling of being in space and crowds. A feeling of dread or panic attack when in situations of activities. Where the AGORAPHOBIC may feel out of control; Fear of appearing in public and at times Fear of meeting with people, even many find themselves Housebound for long periods of time."

Introduction

This interview with Dr. E. Stanley Jones is a second edition. This small book became a reality when in 1970 I was visiting the Aloma United Methodist Church in Winter Park Florida. This beautiful church was founded in 1960 when I asked the Florida Conference to appoint me to an era of great growth and that I may be given the opportunity to build a new United Methodist Church.

I was appointed in June, 1960 to the eastern part of Winter Park. During the first few weeks my wife JO ANN at my side we started knocking on doors in this area and recording the people who would be interested in establishing a new United Methodist Church in East Winter Park - JO ANN and I made over 1000 calls and recorded along with their telephone number and street address about 250 people who indicated that they would be interested - we made it a point to call these people regularly to let them know of the progress we were making.

On the second Sunday in ~~July~~^{July}, 1960, we had our first service in the Lakemont Elementary School in Eastern Winter Park which had been made available to us through the kindness and efforts of the Superintendent of the Orange County School System. We were able to meet there until property was bought on Aloma Avenue where the church now stands - on that first Sunday morning approximately 150 people attended and ten months later we had received into membership 253 people. The church at Aloma was near the top of all the churches in the Florida Conference in receiving new members in 1960. I am told that the church reached a membership of over 2000 at one time and now has a membership of about 1500.

This was a wonderful experience for me and JO ANN but unfortunately I had a nervous breakdown and for health reasons returned the following year to the Kentucky Conference where my dear friend Dr. Russell Patton made it possible for me to serve as Associate Minister in the Great Epworth United Methodist Church in Lexington. However I was not well and after a few months and it necessary to take a medical leave of absence. Following a course of rest and rehabilitation I requested and was given an appointment as an Approved Evangelist of the United Methodist Church and remained in this appointment to my retirement.

For many years during our Evangelistic ministry we were fortunate enough many Christian Friends and Pastors and we would all get together twice each year, usually in the late Fall and again in early Spring. I wanted to have such a group of concerned Christians to help me in financing my ministry, the expenses of travel, Housing, Literature, Correspondence etc; but also for their Prayer Support. We numbered when they were all present about 90 of many of the leading Lay People and Pastors in our Kentucky Conference - we had Great music, Rev. Ben Cain, ~~Minnie~~ Minnie Doyle and others. It was a Great Night of Fellowship, sharing Food and Spiritual testimonies that became so special that we met 59 times. We met at united Methodist Churches like Lexington Epworth - Artis, Cyathonia, Williamstown, Nicholasville and others for these times of spiritual refreshing. Jim Azbill of Epworth was our President during our last few years. He is still hopeful that we can have one more to make it 60 - if not we hope to have it in Heaven -

We have had many other Christian Friends in other States that have helped us in our ministry. Since my Evangelistic ministry began in 1961 our income has been totally made possible by love offerings from the churches where we held meetings and from some very special Christian friends who have supported us over these many years. Jo Ann and I are grateful for every person who has helped us but with limited space let me mention 2 families from out of State - Ken and Lois Miller of Shreve, Ohio - we stayed in their home during our revival in their home church. They were two great Christians and they took into their hearts. They owned a very successful business in oil, natural gas and equipment and they honored the Lord in their giving. Thanks to Ken and Lois our word shoes grew, and over many years with generous monetary gifts, with trips to the West Coast where for a brief time lived in beautiful motels, ate at the finest Restaurants, visited glamorous places - Hollywood where we got to see in person, Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller in a great play and musical called Sugar Bops. We were taken to see the Los Angeles Ladies play the Philadelphia 76'ers. We got to see Magic Johnson, Abdul Jaffar, Moses Malone and my all time N.B.A. player Dr. J or Julius Erving. The home we are living in now was partially paid for by Ken and Lois now in Heaven. They had a

has shown us great kindness and we are especially indebted to their daughter Jane and her husband Ken Grossman for continuing support and concern for us over the two-light years. Their daughter Mary and her husband Danny Allen have also expressed the same concern for us and they continue to remember with generous gifts and concern, but even more important that the Grossmans remember us with their prayers. May God Bless these gracious friends. Ken and Jane are now in Heaven and they had planned to take us to the Holy Land but the Lord took them home to be with Him before Ken and Jane could arrange the trip. May I mention here a miracle. Two years ago our air conditioning system died completely. We were concerned how we could finance a new system. The next day a check came from Jane and Ken, Mary and Danny that more than covered a new system. I called to thank them and enquired how they got the news so fast. They said they did not know air conditioning had died they just felt at that time they needed to send us a monetary gift. My friend Hal Kime and his wife Nancy, missionaries for many years to Ecuador, told us over the phone the Grossmans and Allen did not know of our need but the Lord did and these good people were a part of a miracle.

We also want to tell all of our friends about George and Margaret Keller where we preached in their church about 30 years ago. George and Margaret have a successful business in Recreational equipment, Boats, supplies etc. The business is now run by their son Michael and their daughter Lori - here again these gracious Christians have been so benevolent to so many Christian causes. They not only support the church and missions they have helped many young get a college education, including one young lady who lived in their home and was sent to college by them and is now graduated and doing well because of the benediction of these great Christians.

They have honored us with gifts over these many years and continue to do so - God has sent these families into our lives and we will be eternally grateful to so many others including family members and concerned Christian friends for our welfare. God bless you

Jimmy Rose Evangelist

In the Fall of 1961 I found it necessary after taking test from Competent Physicians at the Seerington Clinic who literally ordered me to take ~~at~~ time off from my ministry or run the risk of serious complications, I decided to follow their advice and since it was still early in the Conference year to remain at home which was an Seattle Drive in Seerington and try to recover my physical and emotional help. I found out later that part of my problem was a malady called AGORAPHOBIA which I will discuss later.

Unfortunately my Income and Housing Allowance came to an end and I would be facing very serious financial concerns without any for Seattle Income. In early January after many weeks of rest I made a trip to Louisville to see Bishop Gumm. He received me with kindness and concern for my welfare. An appointment to a Church as Pastor would not be feasible until June and since Evangelism was always at the core of my feeling called into the ministry from my former location as a Basketball Coach I ~~was~~ ask Bishop Gumm to appoint me as an approved Conference Evangelist. He was reluctant to grant this request as our Conference had more Evangelists profusely than any Conference in Methodism. He also was concerned that this being the case and also my present health that this may not be advisable. However in his final decision and he granted my request and I was appointed as an Elder to the our Approved Conference Evangelist. In this position if remained successful and received adequate requests for my ministry I would be appointed each year in the same way the Pastors are appointed. I have always been grateful to Bishop Gumm for his fatherly concern for my personal welfare and for this very important appointment.

In April 2013 I will be 90 years of age. I am aware that my tenure in this world will soon come to end. My attorney, Edrell Rowledge in Lexington, Ky has for some time urged me to write some of my experiences as a Pastor, Evangelist and more that a Basketball Coach on paper for friends and family who may be of interest. Edrell wanted me to mention that when I was nine years old and a Boy in the Senate in Frankfort where my father served as a Senator representing Carter, Elliot, Lewis and Greenup Counties that I had the privilege of seeing Jack Dempsey fight on exhibition foot in Louisville and to have him visit the Senate where I was as a Boy and having Happy Chandler then Lt Governor introduce him to the Senate. He wanted to speak of the day I got to be Bat Boy for the New York Yankees at old Arns Field in Ashland, Ky. I just happened to be at the right place at the right time and I got to meet and help that day people I had read about, Red Kuffing, Red Rulfe, Joe Jordan, Charley Keller, Bill Dickey, the manager and all the great Yankee players. Joe DiMaggio was especially kind to me after I returned the medical kit for him and brought it to his room.

When I was Basketball Coach at Paris in the late 40's we were privileged to have great voices in football like White Hoyt as our guests along with one of my all time heroes - "Ston the man" Murrill we were privileged to spend an entire day with this great fatter and fine gentleman. We were able to see him on other occasions along with Max Slaughter Jerry Moore, Joe Luard, and other exhibition. (The names of the other exhibition players are not mentioned in the original text)

I had what some would call a successful tenure as Coach at Olive Hill School and later at B. J. Effer College in North Carolina and Buford College in Wilmore, Ky. In 1944 my team at Olive Hill finished 4th in the State Tournament of that year. In the ~~Finals~~^{Quarter} Finals we defeated an undefeated team from Brooksville and they were the overwhelming favorites to win the state Championship. We upset them 23-20 and met Hadron in the Semi-Finals losing to them by only 3 points although at the end of the first Quarter they led us 12 to 3 - I was at the time only 20 years of age and the youngest Coach I am told ever taken to the state tournament. In the Alumni Gym that day in March 1944 were many great Coaches scouting the players who they want to give scholarships to; among those Coaches were two of my idols, Adolph Ruff of University of Kentucky and Uncle Ed Widdle of Western Kentucky. They smiled and looked on at this young 20 year old Coach trying to lead his team with very little experience. Happy Chandler was also there and sent I had seen a page in the Senate when he was. St. Louis was watched with great interest since we had seen friends since I was 9 years old.

Coach Adolph was not only my friend over the years. he invited me into his home, into his office and to the Gym to watch his teams practice. I watched the "Fabulous Five" practice and a good friend to Ralph Beard and also George Waptrak Jones had help beat my Olive Hill team when he played for Hadron High School and was also a friend. Coach Ruff sent me once to scout Temple University in Philadelphia. I brought him back with what I thought was a good team. Rod...

The Coach Continued

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I remember us going over my report in his office as he took notes. Unfortunately my Scouting Report was not much help as they lost Temple in Philadelphia that next week. I was devastated and ashamed as I felt I had let Coach Ruff down with an inadequate Scouting Report. However when he returned from Philadelphia one of the first things he did was call me to tell me they lost not because of my Scouting Report but they just played their worst game of the year. He told me they would play in that season in Louisville and we would go with them and sit on the bench with him. I was greatly relieved by this call and to go to Louisville with them and sit with Coach Ruff on the bench. They beat Temple by a large margin and with the kind look he gave me the next day it was not your scouting report. Coach Ruff was a close friend and I learned a lot of football watching his teams practice and also from Coach Ed Diddle.

Coach Ed Diddle, called affectionally uncle Ed was a very successful coach and a great name in College Basketball when I was coaching. I wrote Mr. Diddle a letter once asking for some help on Defense. He was a great Defensive Coach. About two or three days later I received a long distance call from Coach Diddle inviting to come down for a few days and he would show me with his own players how to improve our defense.

I was very happy to accept this kind invitation by Coach Diddle and made the proper arrangements with duties at Paris High and my team to spend a few days on the quest of improvement.

The Coach continued-

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Gayle had a great career at Ky Played on their unbeaten team, was named his senior year to the mid-East all NEAA team. After Graduation received honors Galore, Fans and Family Gave him a new car, he married a beautiful young lady, Beverly Prall of Georgetown, Ky and decided he would not play professional basketball and became a student and graduate of the U. S. School of Pharmacy. As write these my brother Gayle is not in good health, he and his wife, Beverly who was a victim of Polio early in the marriage and his daughter Staci, live in Lexington, I am so proud of Gayle and so proud as all my family, my sister Marjorie, my sister Catelyn Sue, my brother Gilbert a dentist in Dallas Texas and served in that capacity in service. He is now deceased - we trust that one day we can have a family reunion in Heaven

Brother Jimmie Rose: Teacher, Coach, Minister, Evangelist

By Dr. Jack D. Ellis, Retired Minister and University Professor

It is a great honor, and privilege to be asked to write a conclusion to Brother Jimmie Rose's new book. I have known Brother Jimmy since 1943 when I was a member of the Morehead High School Viking Basketball team. He was coaching the Olive Hill Comets and his team beat us three times that year. That team went on to win third place in the Kentucky State High School Basketball tournament that year. He still holds the record of the youngest coach to take a team to the state tournament. He was the darling of the coaching world, and still holds the record for the most wins in one year for a high school team: 53.

Jimmie's future was bright in Kentucky and he was the "Boy Wonder" of the coaching world after he took Paris to the state tournament. He knew and was known by many of the coaching legends in Kentucky: Adolph Rupp, the legendary Kentucky Basketball Coach had him sitting on the bench with him during the days of the "Fabulous Five", (1949), at the University of Kentucky. "Uncle Ed" Diddle the great coach of Western Kentucky conducted several practice sessions to teach Jimmie the "tricks" of basketball defense. Jimmy also had an opportunity to meet many of the legendary greats of the baseball world: Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Stan Museal, and many others in the sports world: Jack Dempsey, Waite Hoyt and others.

The young coach's potential in the coaching world was bright, but God had other plans for Jimmie Rose. He uses people to accomplish his work, because he soon met a young basketball referee by the name of Ford Philpot. There are no coincidences in God's world because Ford Philpot was studying to become a minister and he asked Jimmie if he had ever considered becoming a minister, "AND THE REST IS HISTORY".

Jimmy recalled, "He had never even thought of such a thing. He thought the ministry – that's not for me, I'm a coach. But God began to work in Jimmie's life. He attended the great revival at Asbury College in 1950 and was saved. Next, he entered Asbury to study to become a minister. He pastored several small churches while studying at Asbury and upon graduation, continued to pastor Methodist Churches in Kentucky.

In 1960 Brother Jimmy felt God leading him to Florida. In June of that year he was appointed to the fast growing area of Florida at winter park. He had a goal of establishing a new church. He and his dear wife, Joan, began calling people and visiting in homes to see if there was interest in starting a new Methodist church, and they found that the people were very interested. Brother Jimmy conducted his first service on July 10, 1960 at Lakemont Elementary School with 150 people in attendance. The church eventually grew to 2,000 members. But later that year, Brother Jimmie developed serious medical problems. He and Joan had to move back to Kentucky where he was under doctor's orders to "slow down".

The young minister returned to Kentucky in the middle of the 1961 Methodist Conference year, and had no source of income. He appealed to the Bishop for a Church appointment, but in the middle of the year, there were no churches available. It was during that time Jimmie felt a God's call to evangelism, and the bishop appointed him as an Approved Conference Evangelist.

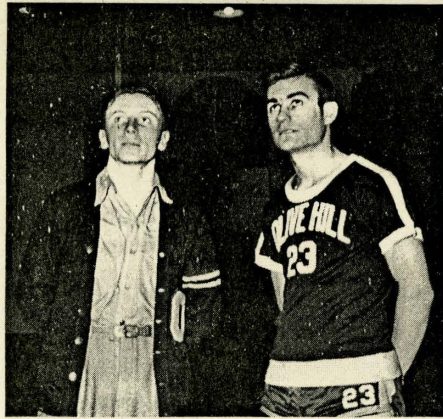
During his years as Conference Evangelist, Jimmie Rose received calls to conduct revivals from Florida to California as well as throughout Kentucky. God used him to bring hundreds of people to the Lord. He traveled a half a million miles in his career, and I had Brother Jimmie to conduct revival in churches I pastored. He was always warmly welcomed by the congregation. At the beginning of each service Brother Jimmie asked the people to stand up

and state their name. Then at the close of the service he shook hands with the people and called them by name. This really impressed the congregation and they dearly loved him.

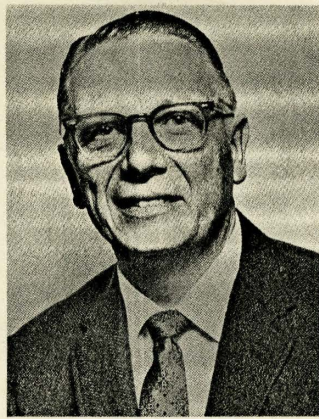
One of the highlights of Brother Jimmie's long ministry was his relationship with the world renown missionary Dr. E. Stanley Jones. This humble man of God, who was once nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, insisted that everyone call him Brother Stanley. Brother Jimmie in an in-depth recorded interview of Brother Stanley, among other things probed the great missionary's thoughts about life, death, and life after death.

It was interesting to this writer, that Brother Stanley believed Heaven had already begun on earth. That the joy he now experienced will be continued in Heaven. Brother Stanley says, among many other things, that the first 24 hours he is in heaven, he wants to rest. The next 24 hours he wants to walk the streets of gold and meet the many dear friends that are waiting for him to arrive. The next 24 hours he wants to spend with our Lord and Savior, and he wants to ask him if there are any other worlds in God's universe where he might go to continue his work for God.

In the twilight of Brother Jimmie's life he is now approaching his 90th year, and has been fighting agoraphobia (fear of crowds and space) for many years. It has limited his relationship with people, and Brother Jimmy has always been a "people person". He loves people and wants to be near people. But at the same time this psychological disorder has radically reduced his service to God and man. Only recently has Brother Jimmie begun going back to church and associating with people. He has been called upon in church to pray, and has even preached again. Maybe Brother Stanley is right in his interview. Maybe God has other worlds out there, and maybe Brother Jimmy is being prepared now for one of them.



Jimmie Rose, Jack Holley, 1946



Jimmie Rose Today

CHAMPIONSHIP COACH — TURNED EVANGELIST RETIRES

When the Paris Greyhounds' championship basketball team lost the Kentucky High School Invitation Tournament to the Inez Indians in March, 1949, their coach, Jimmie Rose, had no idea that the referee, Ford Philpot, was not only calling the game, he was being used of God to call Jimmie Rose into the ministry. With two and a half minutes left to play and a ten point lead for the Greyhounds, Coach Rose had nothing on his mind but winning that game. But Inez had a good pressing defense and took the ball away from Paris once too often and won the game in the final seconds.

Jimmie felt the referees had allowed the Inez team to handle them too tightly at the end of the game, so he welcomed the opportunity to say a few words when Ford approached him the following morning in the lobby of the Phoenix Hotel. Rose could not resist commenting on the close calls. Ford was not defensive, but assured Rose that if he had made any bad calls against his team, it was unintentional.

Ford's friendly attitude and honest humility appealed to the coach. "I immediately respected him and believed in his integrity," says Rose. However, what happened next surprised Jimmie more than losing the basketball game the night before. Philpot began to witness to him about Jesus Christ. He shared the fact that he was an alcoholic and that the Lord had worked a real miracle in his life. He said that he was studying at Asbury College to enter the ministry. Then he asked Jimmie if he had ever considered leaving coaching to become a minister.

Such an idea was totally out of the question as far as Rose was concerned. He was twenty-seven years old and the youngest basketball coach in the state of Kentucky to take a team to the state tournament. He held a record for most games won in the state. (53 wins) At the time of his retirement as a coach, he held the third best win/lose record of all high school coaches in Kentucky.

Several times over the next few months, Ford went to visit Jimmie. Each time they talked about basketball, but Ford always turned the conversation toward the Lord and Jimmie's relationship with Him. He spoke to him often about Asbury College, so when the Great Revival broke out on Asbury's campus in February, 1950, Rose was intrigued by the newspaper accounts of the event. He called the Methodist minister, Reverend Earl Curry, one Saturday morning and asked if he was interested in driving to Wilmore to see for themselves what was going on at Asbury.

Reverend Curry agreed to go, and in a short time, they arrived on Asbury's campus. Rose says, "When I opened the doors of Hughes Auditorium and walked inside, I felt something I had never felt before in this world. Even before I heard the music or heard a single testimony, I was aware of a peace I had never known. It was beautiful, it was wonderful. I felt as if I had walked out of the world into a place where there was nothing but love and peace and happiness. I couldn't identify it then, but I know now that it was the presence of the Holy Spirit".

For a few moments Rose forgot the pressures of being a basketball coach in a state where basketball is nearly a religion. He listened to the music and the testimonies. In the balcony he watched a group of Salvation Army boys silently weeping. Something told him that they already had what he needed. Very soon he was approached by a ministerial student, a friend of Ford's from Brooklyn, N. Y. He said to Jimmie, "You don't know me, but I know you. And, although I know who you are, I don't know if you are a Christian. If you're not, you'll never find a better opportunity than this."

"I had to agree," says Rose. "In just a few minutes, accompanied by my minister, I made my way to the altar. We prayed, and I told the Lord that if He would give me the peace that I felt in that auditorium, and the dedication I saw in those Salvation Army boys, I would do anything He wanted me to do, including the ministry."

The Lord knows when our prayers are sincere. Jimmie Rose was completely sincere that day, and God answered his prayer. He gave him the peace he was looking for, and He led him out of coaching and into the ministry. Rose resigned his position at Paris High School and entered Asbury Seminary in the fall of 1950.

During the next ten years, he served several pastorates in the state of Kentucky. In 1960, he and his wife, Jo Ann, moved to Winter Park, Florida where they started a new church called Aloma Methodist Church. Within ten months, this church led the Florida Conference in increased membership. They took in 253 members in less than a year. Today it is one of the leading churches in the Florida Conference and has a membership of more than 2000.

From the beginning, Jimmie Rose had felt that God would eventually lead him into evangelistic work. After establishing the new church, he returned to Kentucky and asked to be approved as an evangelist of the Kentucky Conference. In 1961, he began his evangelistic work and has continued to serve in this capacity for twenty-seven years.

He has traveled a half million miles and held more than 600 meetings around the country. Countless people have been touched by this man's ministry. Even though he retired at the 1988 Conference of the United Methodist Church, he still plans to continue preaching the Word of God.

He and his wife are currently living in Dry Ridge, Kentucky, and coaching is still a part of Jimmie Rose. He works privately with young athletes in and around Dry Ridge. The pace of living may be slower now for Jimmie, so he hopes to share more time with his wife, his son David, his daughter Debbie, and his young granddaughter, Kristin. But the Lord is still first in his life. Jimmie Rose learned many years ago that the only real prize in life is to be used by the Lord to influence others for Him.

Paul wrote, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ." (Phil. 3:14) The tournament of life is where the trophies will ultimately count. Jimmie Rose continues to be a champion for the cause of Christ.

Please give this copy to Jack Holley.