

# Lyons admits ego got better of him

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all that it wanted to do. I had a staff of 16 full-time workers, which the convention hadn't had up to that point. I could devote more of my time to fundraising, and fundraising in the corporate community.

"And as I think about it, as I reflect on it, and as I pray on it, I firmly believe at some point along the way, greed actually set in. I believe greed; I believe the ego got the best of me. I believe that I somehow lost sight on my whole purpose, and started focusing too much on raising money; on acquiring money and building programs, until I honestly think that greed set in so strong, and I'm not being fully cognizant or fully aware of what was happening to me. I was 'out there' and didn't really know it, didn't really realize it.

"At the beginning my intentions were ever so noble, ever so good. But along the way success got in the way. Greed got in the way. A good life for which I'd been accustomed to almost all my life - that got in the way. I firmly believe my stay in prison was the will of God.

"That's why when I stood in this pulpit in New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Riviera Beach, [the other night], the first thing I said before I even said, 'Good evening' to the audience were these words: 'I have suffered God's rod of correction and I've repented of every sin, and I've asked God to forgive me of my sins. And he has forgiven me. I ask these people in this church to forgive me as well.'

Discussing his prison experience, Lyons was quick to state first and foremost that he believed that it was God's way of "really saving me from myself, for himself."

"The first thing that I really came to grips with behind the fence; the razor wire, behind prison walls - I found out that it's really all about God. It's not about me. It's not about the National Baptist Convention. It's not about the Florida General Convention. It's not about my family. It is about God. And I was off His track. Having moved out from his protective care, I was vulnerable, and didn't know it, and Satan was able to do what he did.

"But he didn't do it by himself. He had God's permission. That's why it's God's will. That's why as I sit here today, I'm thankful I was able to experience it. Prison sucks! I wouldn't wish prison on anybody. But since I had to undergo it and paid the kind of price I paid, I thank God it's behind me.

Admonishing others to refrain from walking in his path, Lyons said, "The one thing I want said, and I want understood, is that if you don't remember anything else, 'Prison sucks!' It's nowhere to be. You don't ever want to go to prison. I wouldn't wish prison on my worst enemy. I would not do that.

"First of all, to go to prison at age 57, after never having been in trouble in my life. Never been arrested in my life. Never been near a police station other than to go in there to pray for someone. To go in and be remanded to prison after 57 years; to go to a life of lock down and locked up, and to a life where every day is humiliating and degrading; where every day is a humbling experience. And then to not know anything as to where I was going and what I was going to be doing there - I just had no idea, no clue.

"It was so traumatic; it was so negative. It was such a horrible experience."

# What makes a true woman of God?

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yard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable and her lamp does not go out at night."

The picture Proverbs paints of a good wife is opposite to the Prince Charming stories so many women believe in.

Most of the women I know that have been happily married for a number of years

actually live those verses. However the women I know whose husbands have left them did the opposite.

These women expected their husbands to go to work everyday, financially provide for the family and even run the household with little assistance from them.

Then once the husbands have had enough and leave the women begin to have a

crisis of belief as if God has left them.

Although the passage is dedicated to married women there are a number of things that single women can apply to their lives as well.

Proverbs 31: 24 reads, "She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes." That is proof that women can be successful entrepreneurs.

More than anything, the part that sticks out to me is in verse 27, which reads, "She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness."

According to Proverbs, a good woman or woman of God requires a female to be a woman of purpose. And in return, society honors women who have lived a life of purpose.

# Spiritual Lears celebrate 45th anniversary

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Liberty Baptist Church at 3000 Sam Wilson Road will hold its revival meeting. Both services will be held at 7 p.m.

**March 24**  
The Blessed Businesses Ministry of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 1401 North Allen Street will hold its Networking Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. This month's topic will cover "How to Locate Your Current or Future Business for Maximum Success."

**March 25-27**  
Miracle Crusade 2004 will be held at 15th Street

Church of God at 615 East 15th Street at 7:30 p.m.

**March 26-27**  
Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church at 319 Whitehaven Avenue will hold a BBQ at 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**March 27**  
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte will hold an evening of music by women composers at 7 p.m.

**March 28**  
Greater Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church at 747 West Trade Street will hold an evening of Praise and Worship at 5 p.m.  
• Waddell Chapel AME


Zion Church at the corner of Buffalo and Dekalb Streets in Shelby will hold its Family and Friends Day at 3 p.m.

**April 9**  
The Spiritual Lears Gospel

Singers will celebrate its 45th anniversary at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at New Bethlehem FBH Church at 421 East 18th Street.

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Church School.....9:45am  
Spirit Flows Celebration.....11:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study and Lunch.....12 Noon  
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Saturday Intercessory Prayer.....8:00am  
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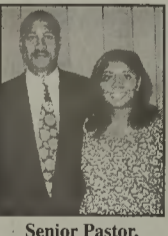
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