

In the late 1940's, when you saw me, you normally saw Virgil Bonner and Cecil Bonner with me. In summer, the three of us pretty much stayed together.... Coalfire Baptist Church was having a revival during our early teen years. It was hot and of course we had no air conditioning system, so the three of us sat in the back window and about the time the invitation was given, the three of us would jump out the window. Our Big Momma was the only one to notice us leaving and called us down about it. She said, "You boys are running from the Holy Spirit. He is working in your hearts, asking you to serve Him, and ya'll are jumping out the window, running from Him. Tonight is the last night of the revival, so I want the three of you to be here early, get a seat near the front of the church, and stay through the invitation." Now, Big Momma, granddaddy Bonner's third wife, had no children of her own, but she kind of looked after us all and being such a big lady, when she spoke, we listened. She would spank your butt about as quickly as she would hug you. So, that night, we were there early and we sat near the front and when the invitation was given, Cecil and I went forward and asked Jesus to come into our hearts. Virgil did not come forward with us, so I went back and told him, "Virgil I don't want to go to heaven if your not going with us." I don't know if I truly meant it that way or not, but Virgil got my point and then he went forward also.....Today, Virgil has passed on, Cecil has passed on and before much longer, Pete will pass also. Thanks in part to Big Momma, I know our destination...."Heavenly Father, thank you for caring people...Those who are concerned about children and help to point them to you. I am thankful for the childhood that Virgil, Cecil, Larry, Harold, Doug and I had together, along with all the other cousins that got to enjoy life in Coalfire, Alabama....And I am thankful Lord for our Big Momma who influenced our lives, and who cared enough to push us to set through the last night of that revival....Thank you for Virgil, Cecil and Larry, who are now with you and we look forward to joining them in Glory... We love you, Lord Jesus. Amen".....\|

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