

CHRISTCHURCH WELCOMES DR. JOHN M. MOORE

In exactly one week from today, Dr. John Moore will be with us. You don't want to miss this opportunity to be blessed by the ministry of this great man of God. Do someone else a favor and bring them to our services. He will be speaking our closing message during the Sunday School hour at 9:30: "Elevate, Taking Your Marriage to the Next Level," our in-house marriage retreat in the chapel. Then he shall speak our Sunday morning message at 10:30. Sunday night at 6:00 we are in for a real treat, as he will touch our hearts with a time of concert and testimony. May I introduce to you:

1. John Moore, the Man

John MacFarlane Moore was born and educated in the town of Kirkintilloch, Scotland. As a young teenager he received by faith Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. After qualifying as Electrical Engineer, he responded to the call of God to the Christian ministry, studied in The Evangelical Baptist Fellowship Bible College, Glasgow. Thereafter he became Assistant Superintendent in the Seamen's Chapel in Glasgow, one of the area's outstanding evangelistic centers. Then for almost ten years he pastored the great Tent Hall in Glasgow, founded by D. L. Moody, and for five years he pastored Carrubbers Close Mission, Edinburgh. For eight years he pastored Inverness Baptist Church in the Scottish Highlands. Here he was married to Esther Marr, from nearby Beaulieu. He was married to the great love of his life for 49 years until her graduation into glory. He travelled across the Atlantic on several occasions to tour America and Canada, preaching in churches of many denominations and participating in various Bible Conferences. Then called to Canada, he pastored Central Baptist Church, Victoria, British Columbia, then Willowdale Baptist Church, Toronto, where his gifts in evangelism and Bible Teaching were in great demand. He has two children David and Jane, and four grandchildren Ryan, Emma, Cameron, and Caelan. This past September 1, Dr. Moore turned 88 years old. His life epitomizes Psalm 71:18, "Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come." What a privilege we have to have this man of God share God's strength to this generation.

2. John Moore, the Message and the Music

Dr. Moore is first and foremost a man of the Word. He has committed his life to preaching and teaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To the glory of God, many have been saved and surrendered to full time service through his pastorates and evangelism. One of Dr. Moore's strongest influences throughout Christendom in the 20th Century was in the field of music. Dr. Moore has composed over 160 hymns and

choruses! His first book of sacred songs was published by Singspiration Inc. His new book "My Songs and their Stories," introduces the background to some of his songs. Two of his most famous songs, "Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary" and "Why?" have been translated into many languages around the world. When my wife, Barbara was learning to play hymns, one of the first songs she learned was "Why" which became a favorite in her youth.

Allow me to share with you from Dr. Moore's own words, a perfect example of how his message merged beautifully with his music:

"I wrote 'Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary' after a most interesting experience. The company secretary of a large shipping firm telephoned the Seaman's Chapel and requested that I visit a young merchant seaman, who was lying critically ill in a Glasgow Hospital. After getting permission from the nursing sister, I went in to visit the young sailor. I found him glad to have a visitor and eager to hear what I had to say. I talked about general things for a few moments and then put my hand in my case for a tract, not knowing which one I would pull out. It happened to be a tract based on 'Pilgrim's Progress,' with a color reproduction of Pilgrim coming to the cross with a great burden on his back. I showed the young seaman this picture and told him the story in brief, adding that Pilgrim's experience had been my experience too. The more I told him, the more anxious he became. I explained that when I came to the cross of Christ, my burdens rolled away, and my sense of sin and guilt before God was removed. By this time, the tears were running down his cheeks, and he nodded his head when I asked him, 'Do you feel this burden on your heart today?' We prayed together, and never shall I forget the smile of peace and assurance that lit up his face as he said that his burden was lifted! Later that night, sitting by the fireside with paper and pen, I could not get the thought out of my mind -- his burden is lifted! I started writing, and the words flowed on to the paper. The tune was written at the same sitting, but never for a moment did I imagine that this little hymn would become a favorite throughout the world. Since that time, I hear people from all over the world who are being blessed and saved, through the singing of this hymn."

3. John Moore, the Mentor

At this point, Dr. Moore becomes a very special person to me personally. When I was twenty-four years old in February, 1975 one of the featured speakers at the famous Moody's Founder's Week was Dr. John Moore. Little did I realize the impact that one message from one man was going to be. I was in evangelism, I had not yet taught college and I was five years from becoming pastor of Christchurch Baptist Fellowship, the only church I have ever pastored. I was lingering on the very cusp of ministry, not for sure what God wanted for the rest of my life. Barbara and I were newlyweds, without children and totally surrendered to God's will for our lives. We were living in the Chicagoland suburb of Hessville, Indiana. Our life consisted in Barbara going with me or taking me to and from the airport to preach revival meetings. She was a secretary at First Baptist of Hammond. I was in-between meetings when I heard Dr. Moore at

Founder's Week. His text was Psalm 90:17: "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." Dr. Moore talked of the absolute need of any ministry that is above all: "God!" He talked of the great Hebrides Revival on the Isle of Lewis off Scotland's coast. Dr. Moore had interviewed the two ladies who were, humanly speaking, responsible for praying the price for revival. He told how Peggy insisted that God receive the glory in ministry. I remember these words he quoted from her: "If we do not give God the glory, He may never come back our island again." It seemed every word that Dr. Moore gave that day hit me like a velvet-covered sledgehammer. In other words, there was a kindness to his message, but it hit me with an overwhelming force. I believe with all my heart, it was from God. I was young and ambitious, but had to understand that if God does not establish His work in His way for His glory all is vain and ultimately lost. It matters not what man may think, if God is in it, we must follow Him apart from the fear of man. As Dr. Moore closed his message he gave these words from antiquity:

"One day a wanderer found a lump of clay,
So redolent of sweet perfume,
Its odor scented all the room.
"From whence art thou?" was his quick demand;
"Art thou some gem from Samarkand?
Or spikenard in a rude disguise?
Or other costly merchandise?"
"Nay, I am but a lump of clay!"
"Then whence this Wondrous sweetness, say?"
"Friend, it the secret I disclose,
I have been dwelling with the Rose."

What a reminder that all good comes from the Lord Jesus' influence in us, not from ourselves! Many of the thoughts that Dr. Moore shared with us that afternoon were thoughts I had been thinking, but I never quite heard articulated in such a powerful way. I was determined that Jesus was my focus, His glory was my goal. And Dr. Moore was God's messenger telling me, stay focused on Christ, give Him the glory and His work through you shall be established and you shall see the glory of God.

So next Sunday you will be hearing from a man of God that mentored your pastor during a very special time in his life. What an honor to introduce him to you on Sunday, October 20, 2013.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.