



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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My Desire After The Stroke

After noticing a slight slurring of my speech last week, I was hospitalized for two days. The MRI showed that I had suffered a **stroke—a small vein closed in the area of the brain that controls speech**. I felt well, but before discharge from the hospital, the neurologist emphasized the seriousness of this stroke. He said that if the same event had happened in another part of the brain, I would be in a nursing home. I thank the Lord for His mercy and help because I am still able to speak fluently with little noticeable effect from the stroke. I am trying to follow the doctor's orders by lowering my blood pressure, blood sugar, and stress levels.

Romans 8:28 declares "***all things work together for good to them that love God.***" Through this it was my joy to speak to dozens of hospital workers—technicians, transporters, consultants, nurses, and two roommates about the Lord and refer them to this column ministry. I desire that God will use this to bring someone to Himself for His glory.

I am now 67 years old and have pastored this church for almost 43 years. When asked if I plan to retire, my answer is "***I'm going to re-fire!***" Truly, I do want to do ***whatever I can in whatever time I have to win souls to the Lord***. That is the purpose of this column—to help bring people to know Christ. It is my goal as a pastor and with the Apostle Paul I say, "***I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus***" (Phippians 3:14). I just want to be a vessel that God can use for His glory. In our church we often sing a chorus by Rodger Strader expressing how I feel: "***Let Your love flow through me, Let Your love flow through me, Make me a blessing, Lord, wherever I may be. Keep me pure, keep me clean so that You can be seen. Let Your love, let Your love flow through me.***" This is my prayer and desire for the rest of my life. I trust it is yours as well!