

Ministry Site: <http://toonspirit.net>  
Ministry Blog:  
<http://toonspirit.wordpress.com>

Brother Gary Wilson

An Encomium

By Richie Heinlein

Eng. Composition 102

## Outline

1. His Name, pastor of what was and is now
2. When I met him
3. How we became friends
4. Characteristics
5. Expand in more detail
6. What we did together that impressed or influenced me
7. Conclusion

Bro. Gary Wilson is a dear friend of mine. He was the pastor of Irvine First Church of the Nazarene. He walked with the air of humility and humor around him. He always had a warm smile. He always said hello. I had just flunked out of college and was kind of distressed. He helped me out greatly. Here is the story.

Picture this, a person who didn't know what to do with his life and was not going very far. That was me. Bro. Wilson came to the scene. Because of his warm smile, I opened up to him pretty readily. We started talking. I noticed that we had similar interests. We both liked children, billiards, and Monopoly. We both also enjoyed small talk, making friends and eating together.

Eventually, Bro. Wilson came to my mother's house. He sometimes brought his wife Gloria along with him. When Bro. Wilson was alone, meaning without Gloria, the three of us would play Monopoly or just talk. When Gloria was with him, she would bring food and we would all play partnership Monopoly. Bro. Wilson and Gloria would team up against Mom and me. We had lots of fun. For me, this was major. This allowed a working friendship based on trust to bloom. Through these games, a primer for something even more major was applied.

Soon, one year passed. In the second year that I knew Bro. Wilson, the strong influence began. I was impressed with his approachability, so we started holding counseling sessions. We did this so I might find direction in my life. We would go bowling or play pool. Then, we would go out to lunch, or vice versa. Sometimes, we did one or the other and had our counseling sessions. He found out that I liked to sing, so he encouraged me to start singing in church. I took his advice. I started singing in church. I will never forget the very first thing that I sang. It was a duet and Bro. Wilson was my partner. We sang "I Need You More Today". I did not do very well. It was good for my first try. My voice was cracking some because I was nervous. I took this as a major encouragement.

After this encouragement, my counseling sessions with Bro. Wilson got more intimate and personal. I had to ask some questions about life, manhood, and sexuality. He did a great job with all of the questions that I had. This was true whatever question it was. If he didn't have it, he would try his best to get it. After all of the questions were answered, I started serving in that Nazarene church fervently. I continued singing duets and then solos. I became a Bible School teacher.

Brother Gary Wilson had and still has a style all his own. He is very unique in the way he counsels and teaches using his fun loving spirit. The scope of his grasp on youth and other people is vast because of his personality and style. Some people did not like Bro. Wilson's style of preaching and outreach. So, what happened was that he got voted out of Irvine First Church of the Nazarene. I was very sad, for my friend was moving away. God gave Bro. Wilson his talent and his style. Bro. Wilson is a credit to God's kingdom because of the way he uses his power and influence on the youth and other people that he is around. Bro. Wilson stands for everything that is right and true. This means morals, good wholesome goals, and friendship, and anything else that God's kingdom is and needs to have more of.

The influences that Bro. Wilson had on me are obvious: I still sing in choir, I am a Sunday School teacher/Bible School teacher. I am also a daycare volunteer for my church. I am going to school to get a probable Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development. I may not have done all of this if it were not for meeting Bro. Wilson. I may be a very different person right now. His influence and outreach will live on to touch youth and other people everywhere.

Here are a few examples of what I am talking about: Picture another person who doesn't have a clue of what to do with his life. His name is Nathan. Nathan met Bro. Wilson because of our family's contact with him. Nathan and Bro. Wilson did a little talking. Based on Bro. Wilson's input, Nathan wanted to do mission work. Another example of Bro. Wilson's influence came when playing

pool with me. A guy named C.J. came to the scene. He was sort of an angry person and not very sociable. C.J. had issues. After Bro. Wilson and C.J. started talking out those problems, C.J.'s outlook and attitude changed to meek and mellow. He was a lot more positive. Another example would be my grandfather and my uncle. They had no interest in church at all. They took one look at who Bro. Wilson was and is today and wanted to start coming to church. In their opinion, Bro. Wilson was a different type of preacher. Bro. Wilson was very non-judgemental and non-condemning about people who didn't go to church. My uncle and my grandfather wanted to start coming to church because of Bro. Wilson.

I would love to send this to ABC's Person of the Week. It is a segment on Fridays on Peter Jennings' World News Tonight. Bro. Wilson needs to go on Person of the Week because of who he is.

And so, I choose Bro. Gary Wilson as my choice for encomium, because he stepped up to the plate for God's kingdom. Brother Gary Wilson still does today. I am glad to have met Bro. Wilson. I am sure that a lot of people feel the same way.

**The End**

## Acknowledgements:

Judith Gail Wilson Heinlein

This is my mother. She gave me the four examples besides myself for this paper. Thanks Mom.