

## ***One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!***

### **# 78 “*Four Generations: A Journey Through Life*”**

As I approached age 70, I decided it was time prepare a family genealogy. It soon became apparent I was acting as a reporter to discover and pass on third-hand information—and my children and grandchildren did not really know me! So I shifted to an eyewitness account of my own 70-year span of our family history.

I struggled to find a Biblical pattern to follow. Since the Bible often speaks of generations, particularly to the “*third and fourth generation*”, we entitled it “*To the Fourth Generation*” and gave copies to our children at my 70<sup>th</sup> celebration.

The Bible makes it clear God maintains His love to “*thousands*”, but it also reminds us “*the sin of the father*” flows to the “*third and fourth generation*”. It is easy to talk about our successes but Charles Swindoll’s talk, “*Changing Grand-Dad’s Bent*”, drove home to me the importance of identifying and stopping our bad family ‘bents’, so I included this challenge in our discussion.

During the next 20 years I added chapters for the 75<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, and 85<sup>th</sup> birthdays. With the encouragement and help of several loyal friends, I finally prepared bound volumes entitled, ***Four Generations: A Journey Through Life***, which we gave to all the children and grandchildren at my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. By then we had several great grandchildren—our fourth generation!

I asked my children to take their grandchildren for an hour while I spoke to my grandchildren. It was a once in a lifetime experience!

The tears and comments told me all I needed to know.

*From Grandpa With Love*

#### **A Note From the Writer**

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin