

# mercEmail

A Weekly Devotional from the  
South Green Street Church of Christ

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## Your Influence

by Steve Higginbotham

**T**hrough the years, I have periodically seen an article that continues to be recycled in various church bulletins and religious periodicals. The latest "sighting" was from Mike Benson, in his daily email devotional (<http://www.oakhillcoc.org>). Here is what Mike reported:

I have in my file this article from the bulletin of the New Albany, Mississippi church...

Congratulations to Steve Stroud

Last Wednesday night Steve came to mid-week services. We congratulate him on the circumstances in which he came. Steve plays basketball and they had game on Wednesday night. He told his coach he could not play because of worship service. His coach told him to play or turn in his suit. He came to services. The next day he took his suit in and told his coach he would play but not on Wednesday night. If he did not want him on this basis, here was his suit. The coach kept Steve on the team. Congratulations Steve on your courage and convictions. You preached a great sermon by action.

One of the things I find interesting about this article is that I personally know Steve Stroud. We attended Freed-Hardeman College together and we played a good bit of basketball together. However, no longer is Steve an 18 year old boy, but a 42 year old man. This decision that Steve made was made in 1979, yet 24 years later, people all over the country are still reading about the courageous decision of this "youngster." The decision he made 24 years ago is still an example to people today and may embolden someone else to make the same choice.

I wonder how long this article will continue to circulate? It could be that long after Steve, myself, and all you who are reading this article are all dead and gone, people will still be reading about the decision Steve made, and emboldened to make similar decisions.

You don't think your daily decisions influence others? Tell that to Steve Stroud.