

A Too-Short Tribute to Herbert D. Olver  
From Dwight T. Gregory, San Jose, California

What a remarkable man of God was Herbert Olver. What a profound influence he has had on my life and ministry over forty years! Before ever I met him I was drawn to him, noting the deep respect his son Howard showed for his life and ministry.

His invitation to me to visit the New York Conference in the midst of the 1970 “Asbury Revival” was a key component in my calling to urban ministry. His invitation to me to spend Thanksgiving at the Walton parsonage during a dark valley time in my life played a big part in my healing. When I saw him last in Indianapolis three years ago, at the consultation on “The Search for the Free Methodist Soul,” I felt a renewed call to be more like the example he has set: clear-thinking, passionate, , willing to serve, whether in high position or low, . . . and so much more.

Part of the picture that comes to my mind is the dignified white hair and the huge smile. But in looking for the right words, I realized that the entire Twelfth Chapter of Romans was the most effective description possible of this mentor and friend. I would challenge myself and others to read it all, in a number of translations, with memories and pictures of Brother Olver at hand, and try to grow up to the standard.