

"The Lay Churchman of the Year Award." The presentation was made by the Religious Heritage of America at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C.

J. C. Penney felt an impulse at the age of twelve during a revival to make a confession and profession, but he hesitated. He was beyond middle age, world-famous, the father of five children, and visiting again the home community of Hamilton, Missouri, before he decided to do what he felt he should have done when he was a boy.

More bitterness than he ever thought possible lurked in the recesses of his life at the memory of the excommunication of his parents from the church because his father believed in a trained ministry, a paid ministry, and a religious education program for the children. He had watched it happen. It left a scar.

It was easy to substitute The Golden Rule and ideals of brotherhood for a personal relationship with God. "For a long time," he says, "there was no thought of attending church. We accepted Sundays as a particularly busy time in the store."

He applied Christ's message, wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath," to his own financial welfare. He confesses, "I am afraid the fact is, that while I did set high standards for dealing with the public, my mind in those days was solely on doing business, Sundays as well as all the other days."

He took refuge in high principles. "I never hired anyone who did not have a positive belief in a Supreme Being.... I would never have an atheist in a store of mine."

"I was frankly taking it for granted that it was enough for a man to lead a moral and upright life. Practicing the golden rule in my business benefited everyone who came in contact with me. Surely that was being a practical Christian!

"I had to pass through many years, many clashes with life before recognizing that what seemed to me sufficient was much less than what Christ taught."

That was in the early thirties. Mr. Penney still bears this testimony in 1965. Let the record speak for itself! How thoroughly Mr. Penney was healed, and how completely he recovered financially are facts that are self-evident.

To read Colonel James' full testimony and find more businessmen stories, please visit <http://FGBT.org>

OUR VISION FROM GOD was given to our founder Demos Shakarian, a dairyman. In the vision he saw men who looked spiritually dead standing shoulder to shoulder across the globe; they heard and received the message of hope, and were spiritually resurrected from the dead, filled with God's Holy Spirit, with radiant faces and hands lifted toward heaven praising God.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR FELLOWSHIP

- To reach men everywhere for Jesus Christ with the same social, cultural or business interests.
 - To call men to God: to help men become born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, operate in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - To mentor young men who have never had positive male role model by being a spiritual father to them.
 - To provide a basis of fellowship among all men everywhere, regardless of church affiliation.
 - To bring about a greater measure of unity and harmony in the Body of Christ.
 - To train and equip men to succeed in the business world.
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