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A FAMILY SPIRITUAL LEGACY

I need to make a spelling correction from Saturday's article on the origins of Halloween. The demon from hell that the Celts called up on October 31 was named Sumhain. I misspelled it with an "r" instead of the "h." I would suggest you google "origins of Halloween" and "origins of trick or treat." Both have great information.

Today is "All Saints Day" on the calendar of the Catholic churches and a few protestant churches. It is a day to pause and reflect on all who have gone to heaven and who we hope to see again in eternity.

The churches I have been in do not celebrate this day. However, I feel that it would be a good thing to reflect upon the spiritual heritage each one of us may have been blessed with in our own family blood lines, a great legacy.

My wife Helen had a great-grandfather who was a lay Methodist preacher. Some of his descendants are still in the Methodist church and are conservative evangelicals. That "preach" legacy passed also to Helen.

I also have a rich spiritual legacy on the Sanders side. My great-great-grandfather George Sanders was a Pentecostal pastor and the founder (pioneer) of the Plant City, Florida Church of God.

My grandfather Paul Sanders lived a life more closely to the "beatitudes" in Matthew 5:3-9 than anyone I have ever known. His brother Claude, a spirit-filled Baptist, testified of Jesus to nearly everyone he met. Another brother (my great uncle) was Willie Sanders, a Pentecostal Church of God pastor who pioneered seven churches around the Tampa Bay area, a true church planter. They were two generations down from Pastor George Sanders.

Skip down another two generations. My first cousin Sammy Sanders (grandson of Willie Sanders) is also a pastor. Then there is me.

My legacy as a Pentecostal minister goes five generations back. Helen's goes four generations (that we know of) back.

Spiritual giftings often follow the bloodline. It gives us a rich legacy to follow. It would be good to reflect on it and, in prayer, give God the praise and glory for what he has done for us. We thank him for the saints in our family lines.