

## **Scott Ashman**

**By Ethan Tom**

Scott Ashman was born on October 26, 1962, in Marple Newton Square, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of three children to William Ashman and Lois Ashman. He also had an older sister and brother.

They were a typical family. He naturally felt closer to his brother because of their closer age and being of the same gender. Like brothers, they had their quarrels and fights; then, their mother would have to forcefully pull them apart. They also had their fun times too: they had a tradition of trying to bike on every street in their hometown of Marple. His sister was six years older—thus their distant relationship; however, they did quiet things like cards or book reading together. His father was an electrical engineer, and his mother was a homemaker. And they all lived in Marple Newton Square during his childhood.

His entire family was somewhat small. He had two uncles and two aunts. His Uncle Frank and Aunt Joanne lived in Connecticut with their four children. Then his Uncle Gil (Gilbert) and Aunt Jane with their three children lived in San Francisco. Two of his grandparents who lived in Johnstown were William Ashman and Mary Ashman. William was a steel-mill worker. His other grandparents were Gilbert Beir and Mary Beir, who lived in Lancaster. These grandparents owned a jewelry store. Scott Ashman loved going to visit his grandparent. He especially liked going to Lancaster to see his grandparent's jewelry store. He was fascinated by the shining gold and silver pieces. He often dreamed of possessing such riches. Once, he even asked his grandparents for a silver ring that had multiple diamonds crafted onto the ring.

His family had many family gatherings. For Thanksgiving, his mom would cook a scrumptious meal with a traditional turkey. Usually one set of his grandparents would come, and they would all eat and watch the football game on TV. For Christmas, his grandparents again would come to celebrate with them. They strictly opened their presents on Christmas morning. Imagine the waiting.

He participated in many family vacations. In 1970, they traveled around Florida and went to Disneyland. In 1972, his dad was unemployed. So that year they went with him to San Francisco, California and stayed with family. While his father was looking for a job, his family also took a nice family vacation.

In the fall and winter, he went to Culbertson Elementary, which was right behind his backyard fence. So every day he walked to school. Since he was so close to home, at lunch time he would sneak back home to eat lunch with his mom. At school, he often played with Rob Gauntlet and Curt Seagle, who were his best friends. They would play football in the schoolyard and other fun games. One such game was "Kick the Can." It was basically "Hide and Seek" but you would

come out of your hiding place and kick a tin can over before the guy who was “IT” tagged you.

Scott liked sports especially football, although he never played competitively. In elementary, he played baseball for a Little League team as a pitcher. He also played a variety of other sports that required ingenuity.

When Scott Ashman was in middle school, he really started to be the average teenage guy, which means getting into trouble and living the “grown up” life. When he was in eighth grade, he got into a fist fight with a boy in gym class. In the process, he broke his right thumb. In eighth grade, he constantly was sent to detention, mainly because he goofed off in science class. He even set the trash can on fire. His best subject was mathematics and he was an ace at it. But he hated English grammar. One of the reasons why he disliked grammar was because he did not like to read. He read what he was required to read for school, but he often preferred to play with his friends than pleasure read. Although, one series of books he did like were the “Hardy Boys.”

In middle school, he started new hobbies. He began to play the saxophone for the school band. He listened to different kinds of music: rock, classical, and pop. He had a crush on an eighth grader named Anne. He boldly asked her to the Eighth Grade Dance. She turned him down. He thought she was playing hard to get, so he continued asking her. But in the end, he did not succeed.

He was like every kid who loves when the school day is over. Every day after school he had to rehearse with the band, but after that is when he would look forward to Math Club and Debate Club. If time permitted, he would try to watch some of his favorite TV shows, such as *Star Trek the Original Series* and *Happy Days*.

When school term ended, his fun began. He was a boy scout, so each year he went to camp in the Poconos for two weeks. He played baseball during the spring and late summer. It was also the time he went on family vacations.

He went to Marple Newton High School. He continued to excel in math, but continued his dislike for grammar. He also had struggles in chemistry. But overall, he had got outstanding SAT scores. In this period of Scott’s life, he started to do cross-country for his school team. He played in the school band and made a bunch of new friends such as: Howard Forman, Dave De Sale, and Jim Styne. The most important thing that he found was who he is, and he realized that he did not need to be the coolest kid around.

Eventually he went to Penn State to study electrical engineering like his father. He lived in a dorm on campus for all four years. He found all his classes hard as one must suspect, but he surprisingly enjoyed them. But one strange course they required of him was to do gym, which included bowling, ballroom dancing, and

fencing. In his freshman year of college, he became a Christian. Then one day during church's college youth group, he met girl named Jean McNeil.

Although he enjoyed the classes, they were difficult causing him to stress out on certain things. One such incident was when he had his final exams coming up. He looked in the newspaper to find the location of his final exam. When he went into the building, he could not find his final exam. Then he started to panic. Frantically, he searched all over the building. When he sadly went back into his dorm, he burst into tears. He thought that he would flunk and have to start all over again if he had the money. Then his dorm mate came in and asked why he was blubbering. Scott told him everything. The dorm mate opened the newspaper. Then the dorm mate told him his exams are supposed to be taken tomorrow!

After college, he moved to Paoli, Pennsylvania for four years. He worked in King of Prussia for General Electric as an engineer to design parts for satellites. He lived on a salary of \$27,800.

One year after he graduated, he married Jean McNeil. They lived together and had three daughters Bethany, Katie, Christi. He wasn't always the most patient father, but he was a loving one. The daughter he had the most trouble was his oldest daughter, Bethany. The thing that really annoyed him was when his daughter show disrespect to Jean. That is when he really lost his temper. But like a loving father, he always saw his sin and asked for forgiveness from his daughter and God.

He also taught them God's Word. They had "family night" on Sundays when he would sit with his family and talk to them about God. But he tried to incorporate God in everything they did as a family.

In 1988, when Bethany was a few years old, he and Jean moved from Paoli to Philadelphia. Then they started to look for a church that had a program for children. That is when he came to New Life Church in Philadelphia.

They enjoyed going to New Life so they decided to stay there. As soon as Bethany went into sixth grade, she joined the youth group. Consequentially, Scott became a youth leader. He had lots of fun with the children and enjoyed teaching them about God. After all of his children reached the age limit of the youth group, he continued to serve New Life as a youth leader and is still one to this day.

When all his daughters had left the nest, he started to study his Bible more intently. So then in 2003, he became an elder of New Life and is still one to this day. Occasionally, he now goes around Philadelphia and speaks many a good speech at different churches.

On November 23, 2016, God opened to Scott a whole new world. On the very night before Thanksgiving, his eldest daughter Bethany gave birth to healthy boy.

God has now opened the door to a new world for Scot Ashman. Now he is not only a youth leader and father, but also a grandfather.