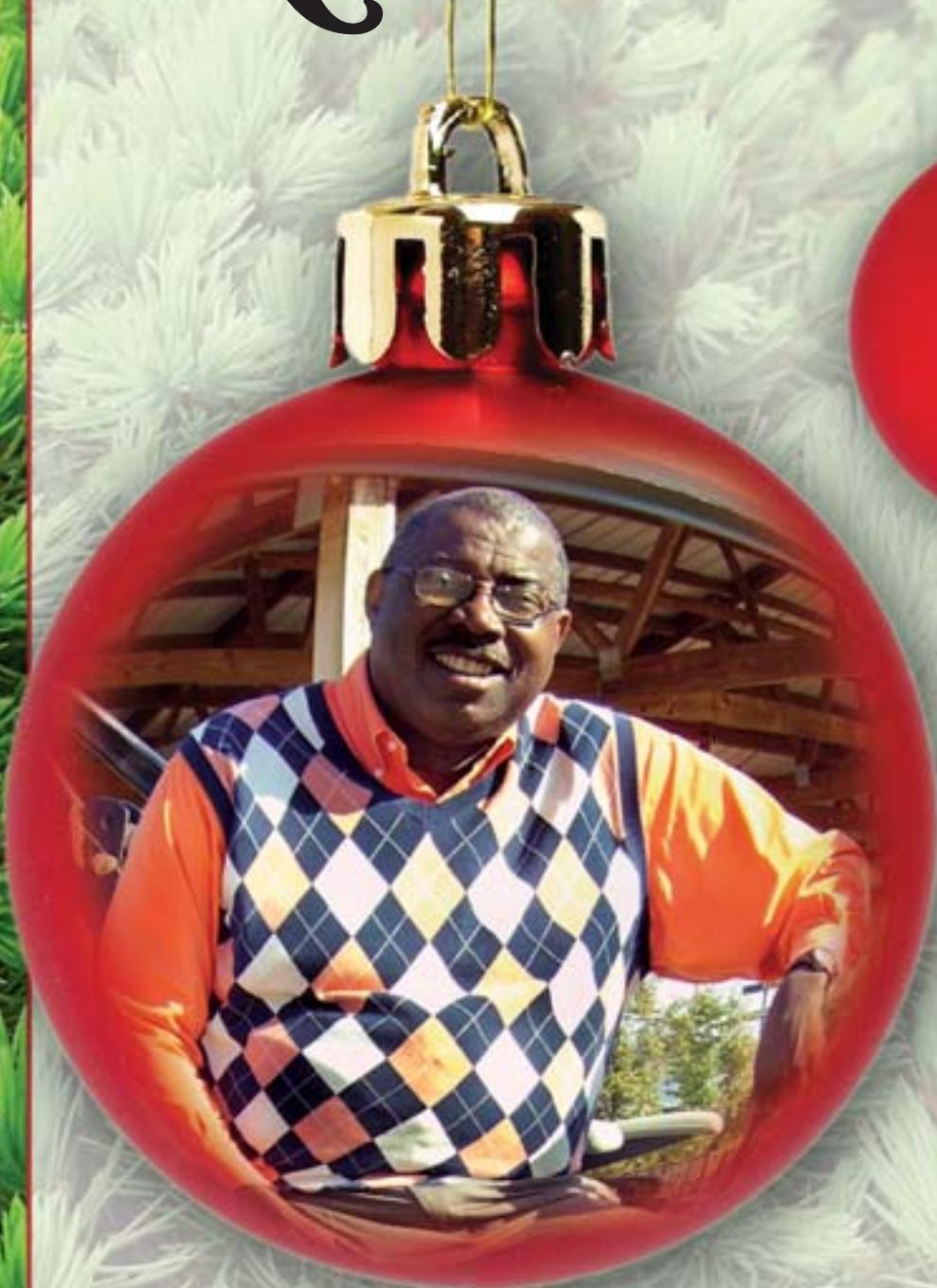


FREE

# REACH OUT COLUMBIA!

december 2007  
volume 3 issue 10



**Dr. Louis Lynn—  
Community and  
Heavenly Minded**

**“Sold!”**

**“We Shall Win!”**

**Who Do You Trust?**

**A Grinch’s Heart  
for Missions**

 Behold My Hands and My Feet 



*"...I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, here am I! Send me."—Isaiah 6:8*

# DR. LOUIS LYNN—

## Community and Heavenly Minded

By Qianah Simmons

If you have ever passed a beautifully landscaped facility or perfectly manicured lawn in downtown Columbia or Northeast Richland County and wondered who performed such handiwork, chances are it was Dr. Louis B. Lynn. His love for nature's beauty surpasses the pleasure one may have in tending a garden. In his youth, Dr. Lynn participated in 4-H projects and sold produce. Today, he holds a Ph.D. in horticulture and literally has agriculture and landscaping down to a science. He is the president and founder of ENVIRO AgScience, Inc., a 22-year-old commercial landscaping contracting company that designs, installs, and maintains properties in Columbia and around the state. His dedicated crews have greatly enhanced curb appeal at many institutions, including the University of South Carolina, Benedict College, S.C. State University, Clemson University, Fort Jackson, BMM Manufacturing, and most recently, the Columbia Convention Center. Dr. Lynn's work fills several downtown streetscapes (Main St. and Harden St., for example) and can also be seen at many commercial properties and housing areas throughout the Midlands.

Born and raised in Lamar, SC, this Darlington county native comes from a line of entrepreneurs. Dr. Lynn refers to his business savvy as a "merchant gene." He acknowledges God as the source



*Benedict College  
Administration building*

of his strength and attributes his work ethic to the older men in his family. His grandfather was a shop owner and his father ran a butcher plant. Several uncles ran farms, garages, and stores. One of the greatest influences was his father, Lawton, who was once named S.C. Father of the Year. Their influence has given him a sense of pride in never being ashamed to work.



The Lynn family at daughter Krystal's wedding

Along with his family's mantra of integrity, Dr. Lynn also makes it his business to practice what he calls "social responsibility," or paying his "civic rent." Even as he has served on Clemson's board of trustees for twenty years, has served as past director on both the Columbia Chamber and State Chamber boards, and the national board of BB&T, Dr. Lynn focuses on how he can also give something back to his community and state. "Giving something back" is not just a cliché to him. He values his profession because every day he gets to "rise and shine" and give God the glory through his work.

### Unexpected wages

Several years ago if you had asked Dr. Lynn if he was a Christian, he would have answered, "yes." For years he firmly believed in using the Ten Commandments as his moral compass, which contributed to his "saved by works" mentality. He admits that in the past, he was ashamed to talk about Jesus Christ because he felt it did not fit into the business culture. Dr. Lynn used to

define blessings and measure success by how things were in his family and business. But during that time his mother held on to a promise found in Proverbs 22:6; "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." She diligently prayed for him and often reminded him that his blessings came from God. Even after her heartfelt talks, Dr. Lynn remained unaware that although he was a "good guy," he was still a sinner and was not heaven-bound.

Dr. Lynn has always had an easy rapport with his nearly 40 employees. One day one of them felt comfortable enough to ask him, "Do you know the wages of sin is death?" Shaking his head as he processed the question, Dr. Lynn said, "No." This is a day he will never forget because he began to question his way of life, which in his mind, was not exactly a life of sin. But suddenly he began to see the difference between his good works and God's perfect, holy standard. Like many, he did not see himself as someone who would miss out on eternal life. Like a planted seed, this question took root within his spirit and was later watered when he heard a young pastor refer to Romans 8:28, which says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." This message pierced his heart, along with other scriptures about God's free gift of eternal life offered through His Son. He began to recall the strong faith his ancestors and others had, too. Soon after, he trusted Christ as his Savior.

Today this easygoing, yet serious business owner openly shares his faith. Dr. Lynn also makes it clear that his company is Christian-based, with Proverbs 16:3 as its mission statement; "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established." Like any other businessman, he is profit driven. However, he understands that God is the Source who provides the resources for the company to profit. He readily shares his gifts, talents, and resources for public good and for the Lord's work.

### Growing season and co-laborers

With a new outlook on life, Dr. Lynn is truly experiencing how Christ permeates and influences the details of his life. He and his wife Audrey have three adult children and are taking advantage of their empty nest stage. Dr. Lynn is grateful for this time, because since he has come to Christ, his marriage has been strengthened and his relationship with his wife has flourished



Newlyweds Audrey and Louis



Louis and grandson Tyler

*"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*



Laurie Lawson, Louis Lynn, James Baker

during their times of prayer and deep conversations. Audrey is often a sounding board and encourager in his personal devotions and class studies. He also finds joy and meaning in praying with his mom and at family gatherings. No longer sitting on the sidelines with his faith, Dr. Lynn often acts as chaplain at board meetings. Even during the early stages of his growth, many looked to him for advice.

Dr. Lynn has looked to others as well, especially as he began to mature in his walk with the Lord. Mike Brenan, president of BB&T of S.C. has disciplesd him these past few years. Columbia International University graduate and pastor Det Bower has provided theological and doctrinal guidance. His close friend Rev. Sam Glover, who is on the Governor's Cabinet, is his accountability partner. J.T. McLawhorn, CEO of the Columbia Urban League, provides spiritual encouragement and leadership counseling. Dr. Lynn's pastor, Rev. Blakely Scott of First Nazareth Baptist Church, has also been a great source of inspiration and guidance. Louis Lynn readily forms alliances with godly men in social, civic, and business groups. With support like this from family, friends, and associates, Dr. Lynn feels he has transitioned from walking to running, because he is on fire for the Lord!

### Preparing the soil, awaiting the harvest

Having found Christ so late in life is truly humbling for Dr. Lynn. He feels it is imperative to not only be trained effectively in sharing the gospel, but also to be well-versed in doctrine and in other areas such as the Old and New Testament theology. In his desire to be fully equipped, for the past few years, he has been pursuing a Biblical Ministry Certificate through seminary courses offered at Columbia International University. Some of

**Life verse:** "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

**Interests:** Reading the Bible and Christian books, his alma mater (Clemson). He enjoys football games for the fellowship.

**Identifies with:** Esther. "...Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

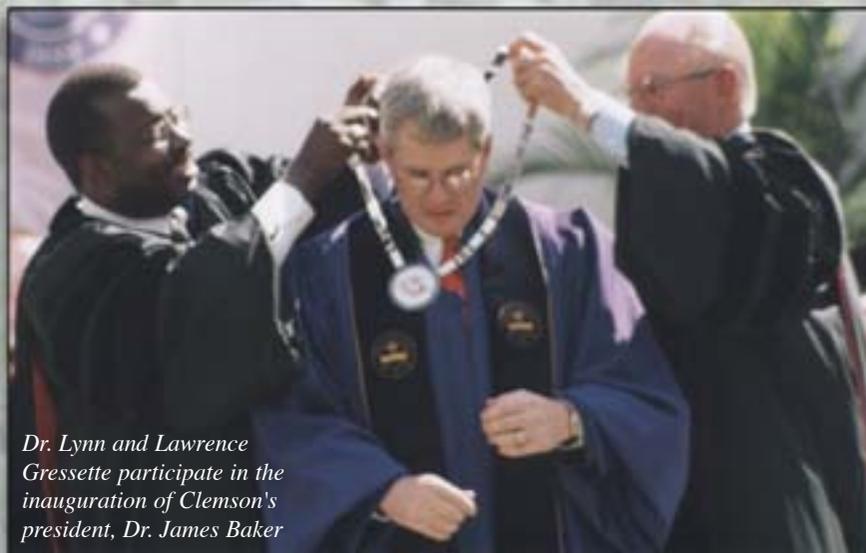
**Future desire:** To use my vocation as a means to speak with young people and dispel myths of what today's culture has to offer, while encouraging them to seek and follow God.

**Favorite plant(s):** The rose, for its beauty and thorns, and the apple, for its dietary and visual appeal. He likes that we are the "apple of God's eye."

#### Least favorite insects in SC:

Mosquitoes and flies.

**Most fascinating plant:** The grapevine, for how it helps explain Christian principles.



*Dr. Lynn and Lawrence Gressette participate in the inauguration of Clemson's president, Dr. James Baker*

his favorite instructors are Dr. John Harvey, Dr. Terry Hulbert, and Dr. Larry Dixon, who teach these classes in downtown Columbia. To him, these gentlemen clearly believe in the "equipping of the saints." Although his schedule involves a great amount of work and civic service, Dr. Lynn is thankful for the "supernatural time" and energy the Lord provides in order to get the work done. As a scientist, he seeks to learn the intricate details in every area of study as he yields to the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Lynn has a special burden for men and women in the marketplace and sees it as his mission field to communicate Christ's love and forgiveness. Whether in the boardroom, at home, or at work, he strives to be both servant and leader. He surrenders each day to the Holy Spirit and surrounds himself with mature Christians who serve as checks and balances in his life.

Louis Lynn says he is willing to go wherever the Lord leads and offers an analogy to explain how he views himself in God's plans. Like the football player who is on the bench, he wants to be put into the game. He has studied the plays and has been to team practices. When the coach calls, Louis Lynn is more than ready to play in any position.

*Quinah Simmons (better known as Kiki) is a third year seminary student working on her General Master of Arts degree at Columbia International University. She enjoys watching classic TV shows, of which her favorite is "Bonanza."*