

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner

## My Answer:

The sign of a true Christian is a changed life

By Billy Graham

Q: My sister supposedly gave her life to Jesus when she was 8, but you'd never know it now. Will she go to heaven anyway, in spite of the way she's turned her back on everything Christian? - Mrs. W.H.

A: Only God knows your sister's heart, and whether or not she honestly gave her life to Christ when she was young, and a remnant of faith still remains in her. No Christian is perfect, of course - but some day her true relationship with Christ will be revealed. The Bible warns, "Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13).

Nevertheless, you're right to be concerned about her behavior, because one of the signs of a true Christian is a changed life. In fact, if there is no indication that a person wants to follow Christ, it's a sign that they may not be saved. The Bible compares a person like this to a corpse - physically present, but lifeless. It says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:26).

What can you do? First, pray for her. Pray that God will convict her of her godless ways, and will convince her of her need for Christ's forgiveness and new life. Then ask God to give you an opportunity to confront her about the way she's living - not harshly or judgmentally, but with love and compassion. Let her know you care for her, and don't want her to miss being with Christ (and with you) in heaven.

Most of all, ask God to make you a witness by the way you live. She may argue with what you say, but she can't argue with the reality of a life that reflects Christ's joy and peace.

(Send your queries to "My Answer," c/o Billy Graham, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, N.C., 28201; call 1-(877) 2-GRAHAM, or visit the Web site for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association [www.billygraham.org](http://www.billygraham.org).)

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## Cousin Oliver

Many will recognize Robbie Rist in his role as Cousin Oliver on the later episodes of television sitcom, The Brady Bunch. This is only a small fraction of what



he has accomplished within the Hollywood industry. Robbie has been involved in entertainment for his entire life.

"I was one of those kids who would put on plays for my dog. I was a born show off," said Robbie. "At some point, I became enamored with the 1930s Universal horror films like Frankenstein, The Mummy and Wolfman. I liked all of those kinds of films. For some reason, I felt I could identify with the Wolfman (laughs) which is kind of crazy for a little kid to get into."

"I finally told my parents that I wanted to be in a horror movie and then it became that I wanted to be in any movie. My parents

didn't think I was serious but I kept bugging them and they finally agreed to take me on an audition. They figured I would become bored with the whole thing but to their surprise I liked it and started getting hired!"

Before landing the role as Cousin Oliver on The Brady Bunch, Robbie had already racked up an impressive resume with acting roles. "I already had done a lot of work by the time I got on the show," he said. "I had worked with Jonathan Winters, John Denver and Mickey Rooney at that point. Before I got the role as Cousin Oliver, I already had something like 100 commercials under my belt. I have worked with some great television icons like Lorne Greene, Dick Van Patten and David White. (David White played Larry Tate on Bewitched.) I've worked with Paul Lynde who was a comedy genius. To me, he owned TV during the 60s and 70s. Back then, that's when people "looked real" on television. By today's standards, everyone is obsessed with looks and now we just sit around and look at "cute people" on TV. I think our culture has really taken a nose dive."

In addition to acting, Robbie has done a slew of voice over work. His voice can be heard saying, "Cowabunga Dude!" for Michelangelo of The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. "Yeah that's me," said Robbie. "Apparently, I'm everyone's favorite turtle." Robbie is thankful that many of the roles he has played have left a lasting impression. "I've been very fortunate to have been involved with many things in movies and television that kind of crawled into people's bloodstreams and stayed there," said Robbie. "I still get recognized to this day by people on the street. They always remember me as Cousin Oliver on The Brady Bunch. Good God, I am almost fifty years old! I didn't think I looked the same but to many people, I guess I still do."

These days, Robbie is involved with many projects and one of them is that of being a musician. "I have a pretty heavy duty Cleveland connection," he said. "I played with Paul Pope for several years. Some of the best summers of my life, I have spent in Cleveland. I remember spending a lot of time in The Flats. Paul and I were doing



stuff like Green Day five years before bands like those were even heard of. Two thumbs up for Cleveland, a lot of great times and great memories."

"I play a lot of instruments and play them well. Right now, I'm going through a romance with bass guitar. My music influences are all over the place. I have always liked the 70s, AM radio and "new wave". I like Elvis Costello and Queen. When I was 14, I saw The Knack about six months before they were signed. I had never seen a band play live before and thought they were so cool. I've always been a "poppy" kind of guy," said Robbie.

"I'm in a ton of bands right now. They don't all play or tour at the same time, so I can play with different ones. I play everything from country to punk. I produce bands, too. Good songs have to affect you in some way. I think songwriters work within themes. Usually, I have to be kind of irritated to start writing a song."

Robbie is involved with a cartoon for children that will be coming out on the Disney Junior channel in February of 2012. "I'm really excited about this," said Robbie. "It's called, Doc McStuffins. It's about a little girl who is a doctor for toys and the maladies that the toys have are also things a child could have. It tries to show kids not to be afraid of going to the doctor. It gives kids something to identify with. I'm the voice of a stuffed dragon, called Stuffie. It's really cute and funny."

Robbie has been in many different facets of the industry for his entire life and has learned many great lessons along the way. He shares some advice for anyone who wants to pursue a creative career in the arts. "Don't do it because you want to get rich. Being an artist of any kind is like being an astronaut, you'll be free falling sometimes and as long as you understand and accept that, you'll be OK...and don't work for free."

Robbie Rist is on Facebook.

*Helen Marketti loves everything about The Beatles, enjoys attending concerts and interviewing people who like to share their musical and life journey. For more rockin' news, please visit: [www.helenrosemarketti.com](http://www.helenrosemarketti.com)*



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