

I've Got Plenty

By Dennis Payton Knight

DuBose Heyward wrote the timeless lyrics to a George Gershwin melody from *Porgy and Bess*, "I got plenty of nothing, and nothing's plenty for me. Got no car, got no mule, got no misery." But then he laid claim to the true treasures, "Got my gal, got my love, got my song, got heaven the whole day long."

I've got plenty too; the rich memories of mom, dad and grandparents, the legacy and love of children and grandchildren, and plenty of brothers and sisters. Together we have built and embraced a grand family that is now well over a hundred. I've got friends beyond counting. I've got the privilege of being a helpful neighbor, and I've got the satisfaction of becoming a leader in my community. I've got a nest to call my own and, thanks to the likes of Gershwin and Heyward, I've got a song in my heart.

Those are my possessions of true value and with them I am a rich man. Ask me which is the most precious, and I will tell you all of them and each of them.

Sometimes a writer discovers he has already made his point after three paragraphs; this is one of those times. I've said plenty, and plenty's plenty for me.