



PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation by water and the Word: From Heaven He came and sought her, to be His Holy Bride; with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died. - Samuel J. Stone

Official Publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church

August 1, 2014

Change is in the air . . .

For decades, *The Pilgrim* has served as a valuable resource to help keep us connected to one another throughout the year! However, as with any publication, there comes a time when we must re-evaluate the "impact" and effectiveness of it, and that is what we have done.

It was 10 years ago that our conference built its own website. Due to the speed with which news & information gets to our readers via the website, and with the rise of social media, most of the news that happens around the conference has already been known by many for several weeks.

It is with this in mind that the Conference Council decided that it was time to discontinue *The Pilgrim*.

We trust that our newest endeavor, *Pilgrim News & Notes*, will be enjoyable and encouraging to you, our readers.

- Editor

For 21 years, *The Pilgrim* has been under the able direction of **Fayerene Walden**. We would like to express our thanks to her for a job WELL DONE! She has worked many long hours, year after year, and we thank her for her years of service!

Also, for the past several years, she has been assisted by **Chris Dewhurst**, and we thank him for his service as well!



Photo taken prior to an evening service at Pilgrim Camp 2014

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FROM THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr. originally served as the first General Secretary of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, and then in 1970, he was elected to the position of President, and served in that capacity until 1986. He was re-elected to that position in 2003, and has ably served in that capacity up to the present time. He may be contacted via email [HERE](#)

“Lord Lead Me to Someone With Whom You Are Already Dealing.”

This prayer has been emphasized many times in recent weeks. Hectic schedules and demanding responsibilities have a way of compressing our time and witnessing efforts. As we go about our duties, we can still pray the prayer, and be discerning of an opportunity to witness to a needy person.

The hours of prayer by our Pilgrim people before our recent Conference and Camp, resulted in many visitations of the Lord, from early morning prayer meeting, through the Conference sessions, and victories around the altar. We came to Pilgrim Youth Camp and Pilgrim Family Camp with some great expectations. A lot of energy was consumed inspiring and challenging 167 energetic young people. Our staff's physical and emotional batteries gradually ticked downward with the passing of time. Only eternity will reveal the timeliness of these camp events. Destinies were settled and transformations were begun, as seekers made a personal commitment to a life of following Jesus Christ.

For us personally, preparation for Camp and Conference becomes a demanding thing. We seem to lose contact with the outside world during those days of spiritual action. As the hours slipped toward the closing of camp, we looked around us as the Lord seemed to overshadow us with His Presence and a heart full of precious memories. In the closing hours of camp, we received word of the passing of a dear stalwart saint, Sis. Emma Rundell.

We were honored to have been asked to speak at her funeral service in Hobe Sound, Florida. We broke up camp and headed for home, weary, but focused on things that we must do. The morning after leaving the camp ground, we started for Florida. We drove over 600 miles to the south part of Atlanta, where we spent the night. We traveled on to Hobe Sound and the site of the celebration of the passing of Sis. Rundell. What a contrast it is to witness the funeral of a busy saint, compared to someone who wasn't prepared to meet the Lord! It was truly the celebration of a sanctified life, a Godly mother and grandmother, a spiritual wife, and an excellent partner in a missionary team in Peru, South America, and Honduras.

After the interment service and dinner with the Rundell family and friends, we responded to my brother's invitation to come over for a visit in Naples, Florida. The next morning we left for Indiana. We made it back to the same motel where we had stayed on the way down. The place was crowded. We had parked right in front of the glass doors.

“Lord, lead me to someone with whom you are already dealing!” The ladies at the counter smiled as they remembered us having been there a couple of days before. They announced that there was no room available. The place was full. We were weary from the travel and contemplating what we would do. Suddenly, one of the friendly ladies said, “We have just learned that there has been a cancellation!

(Continued from Page 2)

We unloaded a few items, and I told my wife to take a good seat in the lobby while I parked the car. I walked out through the double glass doors to discover that the car door had unexpectedly locked! I came back to the desk and told them my plight. They were about to call a locksmith, when I suddenly remembered that I had a AAA membership. Their representative said he was nearly two hours away from being able to help us. In the mean time, we settled into a lovely room and waited for his call.

Upon receiving his call, I went down to the car to meet him. Within five minutes the car was unlocked. He was a young man in his mid thirties. With the job done, he looked at me for a moment and said, "What do you do?" I told him that I was a minister. He laid down his tools, placed his hands on the trunk of my car, and said softly, "I need you!" As people were coming and going through those glass doors, he poured out his heart as he told me about an addictive former wife, a 16-year-old promiscuous daughter with HIV, and his own need for help from God. When he was through, I pointed him to Jesus Christ and His ability to help him. The Holy Spirit drew near us as we prayed for the Lord to touch him in his family needs, and to help him to turn to Jesus with all of his heart. With tearful eyes and a humble spirit he declared, "There is no distance between Him and me." With a handshake and a smile, he said, "My name is Vance, will you please continue to remember me in your prayers?"

Lord, please lead me to people with whom you are already dealing.

President, James A. Southerland, Sr.

Name the Pilgrim . . .

(Each question is a SEPARATE individual)

(Answers found on PAGE 9)

1. To my knowledge, I have only missed ONE Pilgrim Family Camp since its inception.
2. I rode around the Tabernacle in a RED WAGON during service!
3. I'm known to some, as Parson .05!
4. Between us, and our children . . . We've been in active ministry for 228 years!
5. When I got married, I didn't even have a HS diploma, but now I have:
 - Associates degree in Management
 - Bachelors in Business
 - Masters degree in Biblical Studies
 - Masters degree in Church History
 - Masters degree in Theology
 - Masters degree in Religion

Report on Pilgrim Holiness Family Camp 2014

It is 10:45 PM on June 29th, 2014, and PHC Camp 2014 is now in the record books. All I can say is, "Wow! What a camp!" From the first service on Friday, June 20th, God's presence was felt throughout the camp! Our Conference President, Rev. James Southerland, did an outstanding job leading the camp, ably assisted by Vice President, Don Nichols, who also did a wonderful job with the Inspiration services.

This year, we were privileged to have the following workers for Pilgrim Camp 2014:

Rev. Rollin Mitchell, from Carthage, Indiana, was no stranger to Pilgrim Camp, and his unique ministry was received well by the Pilgrim family.

Rev. John Case Sr., from New Castle, Indiana was new to Pilgrim Camp, but his ministry was anointed of the Lord, and received well by the people.

Singers this year (and 1st timers to Pilgrim Camp) were **Keith & Sharon Waggoner**, from right here in Frankfort, Indiana. They sang with an enthusiasm & anointing that made them instant favorites!!

Conference began on Monday, June 23rd, and lasted four days, but the spirit of the Lord was made manifest in our midst, and a wonderful spirit of unity was strongly sensed throughout the entire conference. Praise the Lord! (*Conference Report on page 4*)

Rev. John Zeigler worked with our youth in the 10:00 AM youth service each week day, and his passion for our young people is very evident. He has served as Conference Youth Director for many years, and we are fortunate to have him serving in this capacity.

Lorna Rundell once again ministered to the "Little Pilgrims" and did a magnificent job! Thanks for all of your hard work among the greatest children on earth!

Amy Bryant once again served as Camp Cook, and if you ate in the dining hall, you were WELL FED! She has served as "Camp Cook" for several years, and always does a magnificent job in that capacity! We are thankful to have her!

Scott Pyle, and his wife, Sandra, made it possible for all of our services to be streamed LIVE over the internet, and there were a LOT of people "tuning in" to the services that were not able to be there in person. We thank Scott & Sandra Pyle for this valuable service to the Pilgrims!

Many more could be named in this list, but space does not permit. **Paul Gray**, who does so much for the conference; **Janis Leach**, who works the entire year in preparation for Pilgrim Camp and gets in very few of the actual services because of her duties. THANK YOU does not seem good enough!

Pilgrim Family Camp 2014 will go down in the record books as one where the spirit of God was made manifest in a powerful way. **To God be the glory! Great things HE has done!** - By Dan Plemmons

Conference 2014 Report

By Stephanie Burley

As I reflect upon the 48th Conference of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, my heart is full of praise to our Heavenly Father for the blessings of unity and purpose that were evident in that gathering. Ministers and delegates assembled on Monday afternoon for the first of four conference sessions, and listened as reports were given from our elected conference leaders. President James Southerland, Vice-President Don Nichols, and Youth Leader John Zeigler each shared their respective contributions for the PHC, and the conference body expressed appreciation for their outstanding service.

Following financial and statistical reports given by Conference Treasurer Bryan Line, Camp Treasurer Paul Gray, Missions Treasurer Wayne Zwicky, Conference Statistician Chris Dewhurst, and Attendance Statistician Dan Plemmons, the conference then moved into the important business of electing officers for the next term. President Southerland accepted a two-year recall vote, and informed the conference that this would be his final term as President. He shared from his heart what he hopes to accomplish in the next two years leading up to the 50th Anniversary of the PHC.

Tuesday and Wednesday's conference sessions were largely consumed with discussion and decision-making regarding Discipline updates and revisions. Polity Committee Member Dr. Stephen Gibson is to be commended for his tireless efforts for this project, including presentation to the conference body. The spirit and manner of the body during these sessions was a testimony to the goodness of God. Ministers and delegates had spent time in prayerful consideration both before and during the conference, and God honored the humility displayed by His people. It was the desire of the body to handle the Articles with utmost care, as we understood the intent of those who were responsible for creating them. On a personal note, I'm indebted to those who initially crafted our church Discipline. One of those men was my grandfather, Rev. John L. Yount. Although he went to Heaven many years ago, I know the Biblical principles he and our other founders deemed imperative for holy living are still relevant and applicable today. I'm reminded of the words in Proverbs 11:15 (KJV), "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." As I observed and participated in the healthy discussion during these sessions, I truly felt a sense of safety. From the time-tested admonition of our senior warriors, to the passion-filled observations of the younger participants, a careful, cautious, unified spirit was evident. We are thankful for God's special guidance during this portion of the conference.

The final session of conference was held on Thursday afternoon, and included a special time of memoriam for those Pilgrims who reached their Heavenly destination during the conference year. Special thanks to Mrs. Nancy Grissom for compiling the information and presenting it to the body. We certainly miss those who have gone on from us to their eternal reward, but we celebrate their final achievement and look forward to the day we will all be reunited in Heaven.

The Pilgrim Holiness Church is rich in history and heritage, and the 2014 Conference was a testament to our great God, who not only directed our past, but is leading us onward to the great work that yet remains.

Pilgrim Youth Camp Report

From Youth Director - Rev. John S. Zeigler

PYC '14 is history. PYC '14 has surely altered eternal destinies. PYC '14 cost a lot of money, time, effort, and tears. The worth of PYC '14 is calculated in heaven where there is much joy when one sinner repents.

Rev. David Spivey from Mesa, AZ, was our evangelist. He's a tremendous preacher with a special connection to youth and God anointed his ministry.

Our theme was "X-Factor: What's Missing?" God used Bro Spivey to show us what might be missing in our lives. He was used of God for eternal gains. Anthony and Crystal Harris took care of our music; from leading the singing to providing the special songs. Their music ministry was also blessed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Our workers were sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and due to that, PYC '14 will be remembered for many years by those who attended.

There were altar scenes in the last 3 evening services with 3 in the Wednesday evening service alone. That service was opened with prayer by Pres. Adam Buckler of UBC followed by Anthony Harris leading us into an atmosphere of worship and praise that resulted in the altar filling with young people seeking God. It was a great time praying with our precious young people and equally thrilling listening to them testify. The Harrises sang a special then I turned the service over to Bro. Spivey and he exhorted for several minutes. As he began talking, I asked Anthony if he was prepared with a chorus when Bro. Spivey concluded. He indicated that nothing was coming to mind. I sat back and quickly felt that we should sing "Come, Holy Spirit We Need Thee". As I looked back in Anthony's direction he mouthed that same title to me. At the conclusion of Bro. Spivey's exhortation, Anthony led us in "Come Holy Spirit" and "Spirit of the Living God". The altar lined again with many adults coming for prayer as well. We enjoyed the wonderful Presence of Jehovah for quite some time. It was a service to remember, but for several it was far from over. There was a young man seated near the back of the youth section visibly under conviction; after much prayer and pleading for his soul, he made his way to the altar where God did a work within him that changed even his countenance! Yes, PYC '14 altered eternal destinies. I believe the purpose of PYC is to see young people saved, established, and called; we cannot be satisfied with less.

When registration concluded we had a total of 167 teens for the week. We, again, had a wonderful staff to work with and I am very thankful for them working together at PYC '14.

Leanne Zeigler is also a big help to me in picking up many odds and ends; especially the responsibility of registration and room assignments of campers and staff. I must thank Leanne for all her support and encouragement.

I must express my appreciation to the men who make up the Youth Camp Committee! I can't express how much I appreciate their help and their friendship. They are a great group of men, along with their wives, dedicated to and passionate about PYC. A thank-you to the multitude of others who were not at Youth Camp but provided prayer and financial support!! Thank you for praying for me, the staff and for the camp in general! We cannot succeed without God's Divine intervention!



News from around the conference

All news on this page has been submitted by various Pilgrim churches. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as necessary. - Editor

MUNCIE, IN - (by Pastor Anthony Harris)

God is at work! In March, the MPHC began the first project in phase I of the New Beginnings Project by having a new roof put on the church building. The original roof had deteriorated to the point that it demanded attention. On April 21st, several people gathered on the church campus to begin removing pews, décor, and other items to prepare for a major remodel of the sanctuary, bathrooms, hallways, and foyer of the church. After a lot of hard work from contractors and parishioners, we held a rededication service on May 18th. **To God be the glory!**



The WORK has begun!



Phase I "FINISHED"



Bro. Southerland was the speaker for the dedication.

PEEBLES, OH - (by Pastor Wayne Kennedy)

Over the last several months, many exciting things have been happening in Peebles!

In November, we were able to finally move into the new parsonage after many delays. We then began the process of selling the old parsonage, and God took care of that for us. If all goes well, we will sign the papers for that on July 11th.

God has been blessing in our services, even though we have had several of our regulars out for months with serious physical ailments.

On Father's Day, we were privileged to host the Rev. & Mrs. MarJoe Wooten for deputation work. He is still recovering, but gave a very passionate plea for the work in Fort Myers, FL.

UBC quartet (Exaltation) shared with us on July 2nd, and it was a very moving service.

Pray with us that God would help us to reach our community as we endeavor to have VBS again during the first week of August.

(Church News Cont'd)

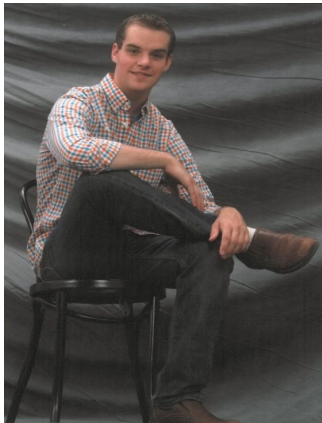
ALBANY, OH - (By Lydia Raines)

In late May - early June, we enjoyed the ministry of Rev & Mrs. Rollin Mitchell. God used their ministry to move us closer to Him.

On June 21, Pastor Raines helped unite his son, Cortney, to Katrina Joy Behm in holy matrimony at God's Missionary Church in Lebanon, PA. The newlyweds will be residing in Muncie, IN, where they will be working with Anthony and Crystal Harris at the Muncie PHC.

Every Tuesday evening in July, Sis. Raines (and helpers) will be holding Kids' Club for kids 4 yr. - 13 yr. If the response is good, we plan to continue Kids' Club through August.

Several in our congregation have physical needs and would appreciate your prayers. We are thankful for the Lord's help!



FRANKLIN, IN - (By Kathy Ison)

Greetings from the Franklin Pilgrim Holiness Church. During the month of June, we celebrated with our graduates. Luke Forsee graduated from High school. His parents gave a special ceremony with family and friends at our church. Luke is an outstanding young man, whose piano skill is beyond remarkable! We are proud of his accomplishments, and will greatly miss him when he leaves to attend Union Bible College this fall.

This month was also a time of youth camp and family camp. Several of the young people who attend our church were able to attend PYC. Thanks to Pastor Tim and Kim Forsee for organizing this. The young people seem to always enjoy camp! Many of the kids do not come from Christian homes, so this is a great outreach to them. Several people from our church were able to attend some camp services. These are always a blessing!

Please help us pray, as we continue to reach out to lead young people and families into our church. We want to see it grow, but most of all, we want people to find the plan of salvation.

Rochester Hills, MI - (By Dan Plemmons)

We bring you greetings from Rochester Hills, MI. In May, Clayton Plemmons was privileged to be able to participate in the regional ACE Student Convention held in Adrian, MI. Our thanks to the Pilgrim Christian School in Lima, OH for letting him participate with them.

It was our privilege to welcome Bro. & Sis. Southerland in our service, on June 15 (Father's Day) and Bro. Southerland preached a wonderful Father's Day message. We enjoyed their fellowship!

The month of June was also a time of enjoying Camp Meeting. The ministry team was mightily used of the Lord, and some of our congregation that could not attend in person, was able to view the services via live streaming! We thank the Lord that this option is available! It is a blessing to many!

We are anticipating great things that God wants to do for us, as we are obedient to Him.

If you have church news that you would like to submit for publication in this section, please send it to pauldplemmons@yahoo.com

NOTE: All submissions are subject to being edited as necessary to fit space and formatting needs. - Editor

CAMPGROUND UPDATE

As you are aware, the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Conference has been in the process of developing our very own campground right next to property that we formerly owned on Ridgeview Dr, in Anderson, IN.

It is our desire for you to be informed as to where we are in the building process and for you to know what progress has been made.

From Conference President, Rev. James A. Southerland:

How much PROPERTY do we own on the Anderson grounds?

We initially purchased 20 acres directly north of the old Anderson Camp Ground, which we outgrew.

Along with this property, we purchased 14 more acres that connected to the 20 acres in the back. This 14 acres came with a house, a garage, a barn, and a sizable shop. The city gave us a wooded acreage that further enlarged the property in the back corner of the 14 acres. All of this 34 acres is located in the city limits.

We have constructed our first building. It is a multi-purpose building containing bath rooms, showers, kitchen, office, conference auditorium, and gym. The insurance company appraisers placed the replacement value of the building at \$1.6 million.

How much INDEBTEDNESS do we have on the property?

We recently owed lenders some \$430, 000. We were blessed when an interested entity stepped forward and gave us a consolidation 15-year loan at 4%. We have another \$50,000 special development loan from a support individual.

What is the NEXT STEP in the process?

At the moment, we have completed the required engineering for a 22 space RV section. We are exploring the steps necessary to implement a capital campaign. A leading capital campaign developer has approached us with the idea of helping at no cost for his services. Our Conference Council and the Strategic Development Committee had an initial meeting with these professionals during Camp.

How can the Pilgrim Family help?

There are different ways to help immediately. One way is to send a gift of \$25/50/75/100/500 or \$1,000 to our Conference Treasurer marked "Camp Ground Fund."

A second mode of support is the 25/24 gift. It is a pledge of support of \$25 a month for 24 months.

A third mode of support is the *Mortgage Underwriter's Fund*. It is a gift of \$100/month which is used to pay our mortgage. This has been a real blessing. We have never been late with a payment. I am urging our people to make a will. Give a portion of your estate as a testimony of support for a ministry in which you believe.

How much has been given so far to the Matching Fund project, and what is the deadline?

We were challenged during our recent Camp by an anonymous donor, that he would give a MATCHING DOLLAR GIFT up to \$55,000 for money given through December 31, 2014. This has just begun. Will you join us in this **today**? Over \$25,000 was pledged during camp as an annual sum.

Send all donations to: Rev. Bryan Line - PO Box 56, Hemlock, IN 46937

ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUESTIONS FOUND ON PAGE 3

1. Patsy Southerland. 2 Eugene Gray. 3. Don Nichols. 4. The Raines Family. 5. Martin Laramie



Rev. Don Nichols

Don Nichols pastors the Lima, Ohio, PHC where he has faithfully served since 1977.

Pastor to Pastor

Ministering to those who minister to others . . .

Accountability

Ah, Conference, that wonderful time of the year when pastors meet with delegates and denominational leaders for fellowship, challenge and reporting. The fellowship is always warm and there is so much to catch up with. It is wonderful to feel the camaraderie with fellow pastors. The Presence of God seems so real while we are in camp meeting. It would all be great except for the reporting! Why is it that the church wants those reports anyway? It is a pain to have to keep track of all of that information. What is the purpose?

In every position of responsibility there are aspects of the job that are mundane. The CEO reports to a board and perhaps stockholders. The accountant reports to tax authorities. The manager reports to a regional supervisor. The laborer reports to the foreman; the foreman reports to the owner, etc. In every walk of life, busy people face times of accountability. As pastors in the Pilgrim Holiness Church we are amenable to our Local Board and membership. As a church we are accountable to the denomination of which we are a part. As a pastor we are required to report periodically to our church board, sometimes to the local church, the State and annually to the Conference.

Some pastors seem to take it all in stride and have their local church treasurer report church finances monthly to the local board and annually to the Conference. They have the secretary or other responsible person send the monthly and annual reports to the Conference Statistician. They send the annual pastor’s report to the Statistician in time for his report to be made. Other pastors don’t seem to see the purpose in being accountable. They never seem to report anything to the Conference and like to make that decision all on their own. Actually, they apparently don’t realize that when they accepted the pastorate in the Pilgrim Holiness Church, that it is part of their responsibility. Under Pastoral Duties – Administrative, in our Discipline, a pastor “shall ensure that statistical reports, such as monthly Sunday school reports and annual conference statistical reports are submitted accurately and on time by the proper local officials.” When placed by the Conference President, Local Church Board, and a 2/3 vote of the local membership into the pastorate, the pastor becomes accountable to God first, the Conference whose credentials he holds, and the local church. It is not his decision to make, to pick and choose which rules he should abide by. Before receiving Conference credentials, they must promise to uphold the Discipline. This they do before the Educational and Examining Committee.

I don’t think many pastors realize just how serious and important this matter of accountability really is. Reporting statistics may be a boring and laborious duty, but it gives us pause to objectively look at our ministry. Have we faithfully and diligently led our congregations? Have we called on our parishioners

and demonstrated a love for each one? Have we had a balance in ministry? Have we called on favorites and let the undesirable calls go undone? Have we spent balanced amounts of time in prayer, ministerial study, calling, training, discipleship, mentoring, teaching, preaching and practicing what we preach? Have we paid our bills, given proper time to spouse and family needs? Reporting can indicate areas where we have excelled, but it also can indicate areas of need.

Have you, as pastor, led the church financially in giving? Does the church budget demonstrate balance? Is your church all local in its giving or is there an emphasis in missions? Budgets show imbalances that will naturally occur unless an overview similar to the Conference Report is seen. I recall, as Conference Statistician as a young pastor, seeing reports of missions giving for the year when the amount was so low that even a pastor who was a consistent giver would have given more than the church reported for the whole year. Some pastors may be embarrassed by low numbers, but that is a part of transparency. When the local church body views the numbers they may be motivated to try to do more to advance the Kingdom. Accountable reporting testifies to the integrity of the church. No report seems to indicate the church or pastor is trying to hide something, financial or otherwise.

Conference reporting may seem like an unnecessary burden upon busy, and in many cases bi-vocational pastors, but you will find that reporting helps shape and balance your ministry. Let's bring this year's reporting up to date and show ourselves to be responsible pastors. *Agreed? Let me know what you think.*

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

II Timothy 4: 2-5

Rev. Don Nichols currently pastors the [Pilgrim Holiness Church in Lima, Ohio](#), where he has served for the past 37 years. He also serves as the Vice-President of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Feel free to connect with Pastor Nichols regarding your thoughts on this article. You may email him at: donaldnichols@aol.com



A Woman's Perspective . . .

By Stephanie Burley

Proverbs 31: Mission Possible

Of all of the Books contained in the Bible, you'd be hard pressed to find one that is more practical than the Book of Proverbs. Its pages are filled with wisdom and warning for people of every age, gender, and status. Its grammatical structure makes it easy to memorize, and its plain language can be readily understood by the person who is genuinely interested in making sound moral and ethical decisions. We love to teach Proverbs, and sometimes we even preach Proverbs. But very often there is one part of this Book that is left untouched. Except for the occasional Mother's Day message (which typically focuses on verse 28), Proverbs 31 seems to be a place not too many care to venture. In fact, when the topic is mentioned in a group of women, the oxygen level in the room seems to significantly decrease. It's as though a monster is in the corner just waiting to reveal those who aren't measuring up to this seemingly incredible, unattainable model of feminine perfection.

What makes Proverbs 31 so intimidating? Unfair expectations? Unrealistic demands? Maybe. Given the condition of our culture, this passage stands in stark contrast to most of what we see, hear and read. But for the woman who is striving to live a characterized life, I believe that frustrations with Proverbs 31 stem from misunderstanding of the culture and context in which it was written, the audience for whom it is intended, *and the ability of a Spirit-filled woman to create a life that is far more vibrant and fulfilling than what she imagined possible.*

As a foundation, here are a few conclusions regarding Proverbs 31 –

- Proverbs 31 is a valid, vital part of Scripture and summarizes many of the principles presented in previous chapters.
- 'Proverbs 31' shouldn't be a phrase that makes us either laugh sarcastically or hang our face in shame. It is a very positive ideal and requires a positive response.
- Proverbs 31 offers freedom and opportunity for women who desire to be virtuous and successful, it provides men with direction for choosing trustworthy women, and it brings definition to character training for those who are mentoring young ones.

Let's face it. Our society places enormous pressure on women. Within the last couple of decades, the internet and social networking have added new tension. Elisabeth Elliot has said, "The fact that I'm a woman doesn't make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I'm a Christian does make me a different kind of woman."

Our world desperately needs women (regardless of marital or parental status) who will choose to embrace virtuous living. Biblical womanhood is more than just a catchy phrase. It is a lifestyle that will revolutionize our wardrobe, our schedule, our daily duties, our private and social interactions, and our perspective. Is Proverbs 31 a realistic model? Absolutely. Once we are saved from sin and set apart for God's purposes, this becomes our mission. And it is possible.

Next issue: *Proverbs 31 - The Value of Virtue*

Highlighting the Laity

By Dan Plemmons

In this feature, we desire to bring special attention to individuals that, even though you might never see them on the platform of Pilgrim Camp, or their names on a marquee, they are equally valuable to the ongoing work of the local church. Such is the case of Dean & Hope Welbaum.

I first met Dean & Hope Welbaum when I came to Union Bible Academy in the Fall of 1983. I was not a Christian, but came to Christ within a matter of days. They have impacted countless lives, and the Conservative Holiness Movement is indebted to them.

Dean Welbaum has been the Principal at Sheridan Elementary School for the past 8 years, and he was the Assistant Principal for 8 years before that. He also served Union Bible Academy as Principal for 4 years, and Bird Lake Bible School (Osseo, MI) as the Principal for 12 years.

They have 4 children - Daughter: Olivia, married to Andrew Harper with 3 daughters: Adelyn, Brooklyn and Carigan. Sons: Cameron & Janae; Seth & Jerusha; and Trent is still at home.

Here is what their son, Seth, had to say about them:

"As their son, I can tell you that they live consistent Christian lives 24/7! They count the burdens of others as their own, and they give, even when they may not have the resources available.

They have been involved in the calling and bus ministry programs of the Noblesville PHC for the past nine years, and there have been many times when Dad has received a phone call late into the night, and he would go to the hospital, or maybe to the person's home to pray with them for comfort or salvation. There have been many vacations when they felt the need to return home to go calling and drive the bus, rather than stay for the weekend."

From Pastor John Forsee:

I have never met anyone who is more committed and passionate about building God's kingdom than this couple. They are dedicated and consistent in calling and in attending church. **Oh, what God could do for our churches if we had more people like Dean and Hope Welbaum!**

Annual Minister's & Wives' Retreat

The Crest Haven Family Center (Oblong, IL) will once again be the location for our annual Minister's and Wives' Retreat. Mark your calendars for **October 16-18, 2014**, and plan to be there!! (No children please)

For further information, please contact: Janis Leach at 812-265-4158 or rleach1962@gmail.com

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(Not everything submitted will necessarily be published)