



PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

AUGUST 2016



Rev. Don Nichols is the Conference President of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church. He was elected to the position during Conference in June of 2016. He pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Lima, Ohio, where he has served since 1977. He may be contacted via email [HERE](#)

Picking Up The Mantle . . .

In Second Kings, chapter 2, the story is told about the Prophet Elijah's final days. God had told Elijah to anoint a young man to replace him and Elisha had kept close to him, interested in all he could learn from the aging man of God. As they were making the rounds, checking on the schools of the prophets, Elijah asked Elisha to stay behind as he went on in his journey. Elisha, sensing that something might happen and not wanting to miss it, insisted on going with Elijah. As they came to the Jordan river with fifty sons of the prophets watching from afar, Elijah took his mantle and wrapped it together and hit the water of the Jordan, miraculously dividing it so that he and Elisha could walk across on dry ground. After reaching the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee." And Elisha said, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Elijah replied, "Thou has asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee, but if not, it shall not be so." As they walked on and conversed, a chariot of fire appeared and horses of fire came between the two of them, lifting Elijah in a whirlwind into the sky. Seeing it, Elisha cried, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." And Elijah disappeared in the heavens. Now Elisha tore his clothes, picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the Jordan River. Taking the mantle, as he had moments before seen the great prophet Elijah do, Elisha struck the water and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" Again, the water parted, and Elisha walked back across the Jordan River as he had previously done with Elijah. The sons of the prophets which were at Jericho saw him, and they said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha."

Transition is inevitable. It isn't always anticipated or pleasant, but it has to take place. Most of us would like to just keep things the way they are. We get comfortable with the familiar and sometimes fear change. Transition takes place for a number of reasons. In this case, God was ready to take His servant Elijah home to Heaven. He had prepared Elisha to serve in Elijah's place, continuing the prophetic ministry to God's people Israel. It was a smooth transition. God's people realized that He had chosen Elisha to fill the place vacated so dramatically by Elijah, and God continued to lead His people with Elisha's prophetic voice. God was faithful to His people in this important transition and we can be encouraged by the thought that God is always

faithful to His people.

Notice a few things about Elijah: First, Elijah was a Champion of God's Cause. He confronted the sins of the day with all the daring and courage God gave him. He courageously faced King Ahab with the message that God was going to punish him by bringing a famine on his nation because of his sinful example. No rain would come for the foreseeable future, except at Elijah's word. During that time God used a poor widow woman to miraculously feed the prophet at Zarephath. The story of the meal in the barrel that could not be used up is a fascinating example of the faithfulness of God. On Mount Carmel in the northwestern part of the kingdom, not far from the original home of Baal worship, he met four-hundred-fifty prophets of Baal and decisively defeated them as God sent fire upon his sacrifice. But though He was a champion for the Lord, **Elijah was Human.**

I'm glad that the Holy Spirit placed this revelation in the Word of God. Some of our heroes don't choose to reveal their points of weakness. Following the great defeat of the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, King Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah threatening to take his life within twenty-four hours. At this news Elijah fled for his life and found himself lonely, despondent and afraid, wishing he could die and thinking he was the only one who was really standing for truth and right. But God miraculously sustained him and nurtured him through his depression and fear. His penetrating question was, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

It seems the emotions all surfaced as Elijah blurted out, "I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away." Then God told him to go stand upon the mountain and the Lord passed by and a great and strong wind, an earthquake and then a fire, and finally a still small voice; but the Lord was in none of it but the still small voice.

It was then that God had his attention once again, and gave him instructions to anoint Hazael to be king of Syria, Jehu, over Israel, and Elisha, as prophet in his place. God then informed Elijah that He had seven thousand in Israel who had not bowed to Baal. Thus Elijah finished his course with joy. He took Elisha and encouraged the local prophetic schools one last time. As he was taken into glory he was radiating the presence of God and wielding a tremendous influence. He dropped his mantle upon Elisha thus completing a prophetic transition which would please God, reassure Israel and cause her enemies to tremble.

Our conference of churches is likewise in a time of transition. We thank God for the wonderful years of leadership Rev. and Mrs. James Southerland, Sr. have given to the conference. It was a joy to show them honor the last Friday evening of our recent camp meeting at Frankfort, IN. We are trusting God to be with them as they shoulder different responsibilities and face new challenges. We know God will be faithful to them.

Assuming leadership of the conference is a tremendous challenge. We are trusting God to bless our newly-elected Conference Council and enable us to stand on the shoulders of those who have labored before us, taking the Conference to greater heights spiritually and greater influence across our culture, making a difference for the Kingdom in these last days.

Your prayers as we attempt to lead are deeply appreciated.

The Blessing of Contentment

By Kim Forsee

Hebrews 13:5: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have."

How does one become content when they want something badly and can't have it--when something they have dreamed of their whole life doesn't come to fruition?

The answer lies in the surrendered life. When we consecrate ourselves fully to the Lord, our wishes, plans and ambitions become centered on His will. God

sanctifies our hearts and literally brings all of our selfish desires into submission to Him! How wonderful it is to come to the place where we accept that He knows what is best for our lives, and by the grace of God, are content with His plan! Even when our situation is not what we would have chosen, the peace that we receive makes it worth it all!

As a girl I dreamed, as most girls do, of one day having a family. The desire of my heart, at that time, was to have a husband, with two boys and two girls; the perfect combination in my young mind. Little did I realize at the time how dreams can be rewritten. The first part of that dream became a reality when the Lord gave me the man of my dreams. What fun we had together as a couple those first few years! It was so exciting to join two separate lives into one and dream of the day we would become parents.

In God's timing, we did start our family and began the wonderful adventure of parenting. How thrilled we were when God began to fill our nest with beautiful baby boys. We loved our sons so much and thanked God for all eight of them. We wouldn't have traded one of them for the most beautiful little girl in the world. Yet, to be honest, there was still a feeling of incompleteness in our lives. It had always been a dream of ours to one day have a little girl; a little pink to offset all the testosterone in our home. As the years passed and no little girl appeared questions began to arise in our minds: Were we really to be denied of something so important to us? Would God really withhold a dream so precious?

After some soul searching we were compelled to come back to God in a fresh surrender to His will. As much as we both wanted a baby girl, it was more important to know that God was having His way in the matter. I am so thankful to say that God made us not only content but also joyful with the family he had given us! We found a completeness that only Christ can give.

Then much to our astonishment, God sent us another bundle of joy! At a time when most people are finished having children, the Lord returned to us our surrendered desire of a baby girl! If you could have only been there the day we opened the ultrasound pictures... Our family could not have been more dumbfounded to see the words "It's a GIRL!" We sat in silent shock before erupting into happy chaos! Who would have thought such a miracle could happen in the Forsee family!

Oh, the joy this little child has brought us already! We named her Abigail Grace for the name Abigail means "my Father is joy" and the meaning of Grace is "Gods unmerited favor"; for truly our heavenly Father, with His unmerited favor, knows how to bring joy to those who love Him.

We thank God for this precious gift of Abigail Grace, but even more, we thank Him for the blessing of contentment!

News from around the Conference

News articles on this page have been submitted by various Pilgrim Churches. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as necessary to fit space requirements. E-mail all news to: pauldplemmons@yahoo.com



Noblesville, IN - by Amber Fish

Greetings from Noblesville! How is it possible that July is coming to an end and August is upon us? One of the highlights for the month of June was, of course, Youth Camp and Family Camp. Pastor Forsee and his wife were able to attend and be team leaders at Youth Camp and had a wonderful time. So many of our attendees were also able to be at Family Camp and God's presence was so real! Thanks to all who had hands in making both camps run smoothly.

This week our church is hosting Vacation Bible School. Mrs. Becky Fish is leading our children and doing a great job with the help of many others. The theme for this year has been "Ocean Commotion." They have been learning about Noah's Ark. Last night the Gospel Message was given and they had the opportunity to ask Jesus into their hearts and lives. We never know the seeds that may be sown from these services!



Happy 40th Anniversary to Dale & Annette Darr!



PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

Interruptions or Opportunities?

I don't know about you but every time I get ready to relax it seems like something happens. I have often wondered if there was some kind of "secret device" that immediately informs people, "Hey, he's relaxing, now is the time!" Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not complaining, that's life, and as a pastor you have a tremendous calling and live in a very busy world. Before our family entered the ministry our lives were extremely busy, having our own business never left us with much "personal" down time. If it wasn't the clients, then it was the case workers and when they were all taken care of, it was one of the children. That's just life, there is always a need or something happening. But I'd like to remind us that we are not alone, Christ's ministry was a ministry of "interruptions".

In Mark 1:21-26 we see Jesus entering the synagogue teaching with such authority that it brought astonishment, but it is immediately followed by the attack of the enemy via the man with the unclean spirit. Yet, that "interruption" led to Mark 1:33... And all the city was gathered together at the door...followed by the very next verse of healing and many being delivered. If we move on to Mark 2:1-5 where Christ comes to Capernaum and when it is told that He was there, we see many gathering to hear Him preach. As He is preaching, He is "interrupted" by the roof being removed, a man being lowered down to Him for healing. Christ seeing their faith forgives his sins and heals his body. This act brought amazement to all and glory to God. I also think of the account of Jairus pleading for Jesus to come and heal his daughter and the "interruption" of the woman with the issue of blood along the way (Mark 5). So many "interruptions" and yet handled with such grace and compassion!

What can we learn from these events in Christ's life? How can we be effective in our ministry and yet maintain our own needed physical, emotional and spiritual health?

1. Show Compassion...Remember that people are hurting and longing for love, kindness and attention. Looking to Christ as our perfect example will instruct us as to the purpose of our mission and remind us that interruptions are more often than not, opportunities.

- **Mark 6:34** And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

- **Mark 6:37** He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat.

They need to know that someone cares, so return the compassion that was shown to us by Christ.

2. Be Impartial...Christ didn't show respect of persons. The majority who interrupted him were not prominent individuals. James is very straight forward about showing partiality...

James 2:1-4

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

James 2:8-9 *If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:*

But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

If Christ treated all people as important, shouldn't we?

3. **Remain Focused**...Christ never forgot His ultimate mission for coming nor did he get sidetracked when things happened. Earlier we referred to Jairus and his daughter, how Jesus was going with him and yet stops to help the woman with her issue of blood; however, Christ didn't forget about Jairus or his daughter. Even after news comes that she has died, Jesus's immediate response is... **Be not afraid, only believe.**

The lesson for us is, commit to God the questions you may have in life and keep our eye on the objective and finish the task that has been laid before us.

4. **Keep Renewed**...There will be times when it is necessary for us to get away from it all if we are going to maintain our needed physical, emotional and spiritual health. Before Jesus began His ministry, Mark relates to us that after Christ's baptism, *immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness (Mark 1:12)*. Before we begin, before we face the enemy, before we dive into the commission, we must be bathed in the Holy Ghost, we must have that time of spiritual renewal. All throughout the Bible we have examples of God's ministers needing that physical, emotional and spiritual renewing. Elijah for one, needed God's touch even after that glorious victory on Mt. Carmel. Jesus on multiple occasions sent the multitudes/disciples away so that he could get alone and pray (*Mark 6:46*). Friend, if Jesus needed that alone time how much more do we? We need to minister but we need to be refreshed too.

The title of this article is "**Interruptions Or Opportunities**", my meager attempt is to remind us that often what we may see as an "interruption" may actually be an opportunity to minister to someone in need. As I sit here writing, there is one phrase that keeps coming to me, *John 4:4* *And he must needs go through Samaria*. Brethren, there will be times when we **must needs go**...it may seem like an inconvenience or interruption but God is always in charge of weaving the tapestry. The Bible Knowledge Commentary has this to say about *John 4:4*; "*In Jesus' day the Jews, because of their hatred for the Samaritans, normally took the eastern route in order to avoid Samaria. But Jesus chose the route through Samaria in order to reach the despised people of that region.*" Do we realize that interruptions and inconveniences could actually be opportunities and appointments designed by God to minister to some desperate soul in need?

My prayer, Lord, help me to remember that "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.*" That in the midst of what I may call an interruption, remind me, O, God, "*that all things work together for good to them that love*" you, "*to them who are the called according to Your purpose.*" Father, help me to trust You with each day, each moment and to know that you not only have a plan for my life, but you are working through me in the lives of others.

My last and final thought, look at "interruptions" as an opportunity the next time they come, use them for the advancement of His Kingdom and to bring glory to His name!



Rev. John Forsee has served as pastor of the Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church since July of 2013. He is married to Martha and they have 4 wonderful children.

Pastor Forsee also serves our Conference as Missionary Treasurer. If you would like to connect with him, please click [HERE](#)



A Woman's Perspective

By Stephanie Burley

The Power Of Your Story

Do you ever find yourself wondering about your purpose? Do you sometimes feel insignificant and even unnecessary? As wives and mothers, we often underestimate the value of the power in our story. We fail to realize that, although our name may not be long remembered, the wisdom and courage we display can leave a mark that will last for many generations.

You remember Noah, right? He's the 500-year-old man commissioned by God to build an ark. The world was exceedingly wicked, but God found a man who was just. Noah was that man. God gave Noah specific instructions on building the boat, as well as about who and what should go with him on the ark once it was ready. Most of us have heard extra-Biblical details about this event, but one of the few things we know from Scripture is that Noah was instructed to take on board his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. They went, and they were saved.

Although we know almost nothing of Mrs. Noah, I can't stop thinking about her. I find myself living in an exceedingly wicked generation. Judgement is coming, and we know it has to be soon. What is my role in all of this? What is your role? I think you'll agree with me that our consuming passion must be the salvation of our children. I don't know about you, but the thought of one of my children spending eternity separated from the presence of God shakes me to my very core. Just as Noah built an ark to save his family, we must also create an environment built upon Biblical principles and values to keep our families safe from the perverse culture that is all about us. If I could have a heart to heart with Mrs. Noah today, there are a few things I believe she would say to me:

- **Obey God, regardless of how ridiculous it makes you look.** If you read the narrative, the story of Noah's Ark is almost unbelievable. I mean, did God really expect Noah to do all of that? Couldn't he have achieved this goal another way? Did Noah and his family have to look so foolish in their own community? Was it really that important? Dear friend, do these questions sound familiar? Have you been struggling with God's instruction? Do His ways sometimes seem impractical? Let's be real here. As Christian women, we are not meant to fit in. Period. We will only find peace as we submit to God and His will for every area of our life, and as we accept ourselves (made in His image) as enough. Yes, in our culture you and I will be different. We won't simply be a classier version of the world. Genuine modesty, true femininity, meekness of spirit, and gentleness of speech (among many other traits) are distinctions for the woman of God. It is imperative that we recognize how the enemy of our soul is trying to blur the lines of right and wrong, even within the church. God has a standard. It is for our protection and salvation. I don't think that Mr. and Mrs. Noah once regretted doing everything according to God's plan, and you and I won't regret it, either.
- **Remember, it's not just about you.** If you're a mom, you know that there are sets of eyes watching your every move. Ever think you're going to sneak a piece of chocolate? I remember when the kids were real young, and they would be in their little seats in the back of the minivan. I would think that if I was quiet enough, I could open a candy bar and enjoy it. All by myself. Inevitably, within three seconds of peeling away a portion of the wrapper, one of the little munchkins would yell, "I smell chocolate!" Momma was caught, and on occasion, she shared the treat. That is a trivial example, but it shows how the senses of our

children are tuned into their surroundings, and they are internalizing everything they see, hear, and even smell. How important it is that we display to them an attitude of complete surrender to Christ! In the story of Noah, we find that his sons were married and so the sons and their wives boarded the Ark with Noah and his wife. Does this remind us that our example is not only important to little people, but also to young adults and even those who are older? Never underestimate the power of your influence in every circle in which you move, but especially in your own home.

- **Work with, not against, a faithful husband.** I can only wonder about Noah's first thoughts as he was given these instructions. Can you imagine going home and sharing news of this nature with a spouse? Oh, I would love to read a transcript of his conversation with Mrs. Noah! Because of the fact that she and her sons and their wives were on board, I'm going to assume that at some point, whether early or later, she was supportive of his commitment to God's plan. What this says to me is that being on the same page with our spouse is of unparalleled importance. When our children look to us, they must see a unit that is one in spirit and purpose. Division is unsettling and will often scatter followers. Can I encourage you to pray for the spiritual leader in your home? Give and receive cautions in a spirit of love. Freely offer forgiveness and mercy. As your Noah works with you to build your ark, thank your Father in Heaven for opportunity to serve by his side. Support one another in love. Understand that you have a common goal, and work together to build a spiritual environment that makes it easy for everyone in it to do right and equally hard for them to do wrong. What blessing you will find as you create this haven together!

As the world increasingly clamors for our attention and our time, let's remember our purpose. It is easy to be consumed, even with legitimate concerns, to the detriment of our most important obligation. The only lasting treasure we can store is our investment in the lives of those who are depending on us for spiritual support. If you don't have children, find some who are lonely, afraid, and without an ark of their own. Each of us has a purpose that extends far beyond ourselves, and our faithfulness to that purpose will be the legacy we leave to the next generation.

Coming in the NEXT ISSUE . . .

Beginning with the next issue, we will be including a page designed especially for the youth who will read *Pilgrim News & Notes*.

It will be unique, in that each article will be written BY TEENS, FOR TEENS, and will hopefully be beneficial to our precious young people.

Please let the youth of your church know that this feature is coming! We want to be relevant to ALL age groups in our Conference, and we trust this new feature will be helpful to our most valuable assets . . . our young people!

Changing of the Guard



How many people do you know who have worked at the same job location for 15 years? How about 25 years? How about 35 years? How about 45 years? How about 50 years?

Rev. Harold Jackman has been the pastor of the St. Marie, IL, Pilgrim Holiness Church for 53 years, which is most definitely a record in our Conference of churches.

Not long ago, a gentleman said to me, “You know, one thing I will have to say about the ministers in the Midwest PHC is that they are known for lengthy pastorates!” And that is a GOOD thing!

The late Rev. James Sneed told me one day, “When I went to the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Petersburg, Indiana, to pastor, I didn’t see very much accomplished for the first 7 years... after that, I seemed to be able to win the confidence of the people, and I began to be effective as the pastor.” Bro. Sneed certainly had a fruitful pastorate of 25 years there.

Rev. Harold Jackman came to the St. Marie, IL, Pilgrim Holiness Church to pastor 53 years ago, and remained faithful as the shepherd of this body of people until recent failing health made it necessary for him to retire from active ministry.

The St. Marie PHC has been in existence for over 80 years, and has a faithful group of attendees that love and serve God with their whole heart. The Jackmans have given a majority of their lives to the people of this local congregation.

Bro. & Sis. Jackman were married for 64 years, and she went home to be with the Lord on January 31st, of 2011 after having been ill for some time. Bro. Jackman misses her, but looks forward to the day when they will be reunited!

When Rev. Harold Jackman knew he would have to retire from active pastoral ministry, it didn’t take God by surprise at all. He already had a plan in mind, and he laid it on the heart of Rev. Bob Evans, a widower from Lexington, NC to be the next faithful pastor of this group of people. You know, we never have to worry about God’s ability to sustain His work, because He knows exactly what he is doing, and His plan is always the BEST plan!

At Pilgrim Family Camp this year, I was talking with one of the St. Marie parishioners, and they said, “God has sent in a very wonderful and humble man to be out pastor. Not long ago, he wanted Bro. Jackman and the people to gather around him and have prayer for him, so that he can be the man of God that he needs to be as pastor.”

Our prayer is that God’s blessing will be on Pastor Evans as he picks up the torch that has been given to him, and that the pastor and people will be blessed for many years to come as they labor together for the cause of Holiness!

Thank You- From The Southerlands . . .

Patsy and I are still in awe at the wonderful way you honored us for 29 years of service as your Conference President. We have received so many calls from family and friends stating how perfectly and complete you planned and executed the program. Our former Bible college classmates, our immediate family of children and grand children as well as our ministers, spouses and families all have expressed how they appreciated the program.

Patsy and I both know that we are unworthy of the praise and kind thoughts from all of you, but it was such a “class act” in putting together the picture presentation of our life journey with you. We thank you for the wonderful, generous gifts of money and covering the expenses of a trip to Grand Cayman in the near future. We will always treasure the outflow of love and kindnesses from all of you. We are so proud of our dear people and the transition of leadership in our Conference. We stand ready to support our Pilgrim Family in anyway that we can.

Rev. and Mrs. James A. Southerland, Sr.



About Pilgrim News & Notes

Pilgrim News & Notes is the official publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, and is published bi-monthly.

The main goal of *Pilgrim News & Notes* is to be an encouragement to our readers, as well as a source of information to those with connections or interests in our Conference.

All submissions are welcome, however, we reserve the right to edit as necessary, to fit design and space needs. Not all submissions will be published.

Please email all submissions to the editor via the contact info below:

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ATTENTION PILGRIM CHURCH NEWS REPORTERS . . .

We would love to be able to report on the happenings in and around your church, but we need to here from YOU!

If you would like your church news to be included in the next PNN, please have your report to the editor no later than September 15th. THANKS!

Email your report to: pauldplemmons@yahoo.com