



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

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October is Clergy Appreciation Month

In 1994, Clergy Appreciation Month was named and promoted heavily by Focus on the Family. It was recommended that congregations set aside the entire month of October to let pastors know that their service to the local church and their dedication to the cause of Christ was very much appreciated! Since then, it has become a reminder to congregations around the globe that it is biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staff and their families.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are often on public display, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. Their family is expected to be Exhibit A at all times and the perfect example for their church families to follow; they should never be down and they should have all the answers we need to keep our lives moving forward.

Throughout this particular issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes*, we will endeavor to call special attention to those deserving men and women who are so faithful to all of us throughout the year.

They're not perfect (and we shouldn't expect them to be), but they are the ones God has chosen to take care of His flock. In this issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes*, we wish to give them the honor they deserve!

We have asked Dr. Craig Dahler (Conference Missions Representative) to provide ways that we can best honor our pastors and their families during this month. You will enjoy his insights on Page 14.

October is
Pastor Appreciation Month
...thank your pastor!

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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](#)

He . . . Arrived in Time!

We had left a nice church where we felt the Lord had helped us over a nearly six year period. The Lord had met with us many times in prayer and petitioning God for the course we should take. He had shown me the land where we would be living. The gentleman who owned the land drove me to the place, and I excitedly exclaimed, "This is it!" We bought a used mobile home to move onto the little farm. The view of the valley, the cheerful playing of our children, the splashing in the creek, and the coziness of family times at the end of the day all made for wonderful memories.

I was the newly elected Conference President, and my income amounted to about \$32.50 per week. To make ends meet, we conducted revivals, preaching and singing through many open doors. Winter came. Money became a scarce item. We worked hard, and it was a blessing to have a wonderful companion to face the battles together.

The contractor from whom we bought the farm gave me a job on a hotel renovation. However, it was understood that I would be free to go if there was a Church or Conference situation that needed my time and attention. It was a cold February and the job had run its course. Our need became more pressing until it became clear that something must be done. I called a family meeting at our family prayer time one evening. Our children, Allen, Renee, and Deborah, sat very attentively and listened to me explain our need. I told them that I was sharing the need, not to cause them to be fearful, but rather to see the Lord meet our need. We desperately needed about \$256.00 in the next three days. I had prayed at my old prayer log over in the woods. The Lord promised He would answer prayer. We gathered close and began to call on God. Suddenly our mobile home was alive with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. A refreshing confidence flooded our souls that God was saying, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord!" We wept and rejoiced as a family.

There was nothing in the mail box the next day. When Allen and Renee got off the school bus that afternoon, Allen said, "Daddy, did the money come?" I replied that the Lord would answer in His time. The third day I went back to the woods and reminded the Lord that my children had invested in this petition and we expected help.

The next day I stared at an empty mail box. I drove back down that long lane and wondered how and when. Patsy and I were in the kitchen when we heard the rocks pinging off the bottom of the car as it came speeding down our rough drive. The contractor friend hobbled out of the car on crutches. (He had broken his ankle during a fall down the old hotel elevator shaft.) I opened the door and welcomed him in and sat a hot cup of coffee in front of him. He reached into his shirt pocket and handed me a check, saying, "I don't know what this is all about, but here it is." I protested for a second and he said that he had been halfway to a town 30 miles away to pick up his wife. He said, "On the way down, the Lord spoke to me about this money from the corn crop. God said, 'I want you to take it to those kids.' I told the Lord that I would deliver it to them when I got back. But the Lord said, 'I mean NOW!' It hit me so hard that I slammed on my brakes and turned into the next driveway. Here it is!!"

When he left, I opened the check and placed it on the table. Patsy and I both wept and praised the Lord! When the kids got off the bus, without a word they looked into our eyes with an inquisitive look. I smiled and said, "Wait until we get to the house." We gathered around the table and reviewed our request from the Lord. I showed them the check. It amounted to \$300.00. The next day, I told them, "We'll pay our tithes, and our bills. The Lord said that he would withhold no good thing from those that are His. Come on, let's stop at the Dairy Queen!" Praise the Lord. HE arrived just in time!

- James A. Southerland, Sr.



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

Lima, Ohio - (by Pastor Don Nichols)

We are thankful for the Lord's help the last several weeks. Recent converts are doing well. It is a joy to hear their testimonies of how God is helping them.

Our Annual Vacation Bible School was the third week of July. Our church folk, directed by Mrs. Stephanie Burley, did a great job. They used The International Spy Academy from Answers in Genesis for curriculum.

On Friend Day, August 3rd, several visitors were in the services. The pastor preached a message on the "Friend That Sticks Closer Than A Brother". We enjoyed a delicious pitch-in dinner following the service. In the evening service we were blessed with the ministry of a mixed quartet from Union Bible College.

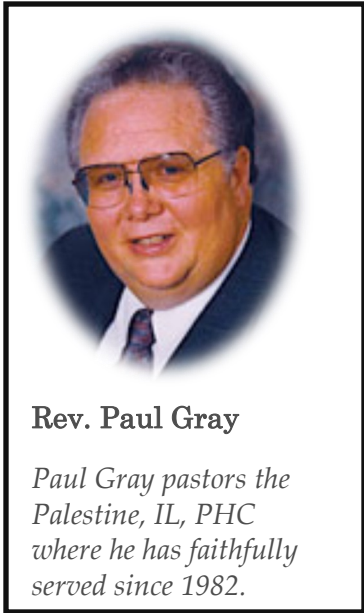
On August 16th, several men from the church poured a 40' X 60' concrete slab for a basketball court for the students of Pilgrim Christian School and our church youth. We are thankful for Rick Barnt, an excavator from our church, who used his equipment and led the construction team. The school had a Fall Mum sale to help with some of the expense, and church youth and sponsors have picked up roadway trash in a nearby township to raise some money.

A going-away party was held in honor of Kerri Pouzar before she left for college at God's Bible School. We have our Fall Church Retreat at Beulah Grove scheduled for October 24-26. It is always a time of rich fellowship. Our fall revival is planned for November 4-9 with the Stephen Cassady family.



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



Rev. Paul Gray

Paul Gray pastors the Palestine, IL, PHC where he has faithfully served since 1982.

Pastor to Pastor

Ministering to those who minister to others . . .

I Will Build My Church

I would like to say how much I appreciate Dan Plemmons being willing to continue to connect our churches and pastors through the means of printed media. He spends many hours just maintaining our website, and now he has taken on an additional responsibility with the publishing of our new "*Pilgrim News & Notes!*" Thank You, Bro. Dan Plemmons!

When we were asked to submit an article for the column of 'Pastor to Pastor', we thought we might share something in the way of a personal illustration that has been of help to us in our ministry here. I'm sure many young pastors have had the experience of going to a new church where perhaps the attendance was small, but thrilled to be in the service of the King. Soon after accepting the charge, however, they have heard the news that from their small congregation, a family was leaving. What a discouragement to a young minister.

When Nancy and I first came to pastor the church here in Palestine, a little over 32 years ago, the church was very small in number. We had been in full-time evangelism for the previous 13 years and had thoroughly enjoyed working in that capacity. But we felt the Lord leading us to Palestine and Bro. Southerland had asked if we would be willing to shepherd the flock for six months. If nothing advanced, it looked like the conference would be forced to close the doors. There weren't any children attending and only 9 or 10 senior adults. However, we were thrilled when a new family started coming who had two teenage children and all four of them had become Christians! What a bright spot and encouragement to our hearts!

However, while we were in a revival meeting out of state, the missionary president, who was not a member of our church, had taken it upon herself to address a certain situation during the missionary service on Wednesday night. This incident greatly offended our new convert family. When we came home we found that they had made the decision to never come back! What a shock and what a discouragement!

I am not one who is given to seeing visions, but the Lord knew I needed something to help me at that very discouraging time! One morning while kneeling at my chair in prayer, it seemed as if God showed me a vision of a brick wall that was being built before me. Both sides were already completed, but there was a gap or opening in the middle. It seemed that the hands of the One laying the bricks were not mine, but they were God's. As I knelt there, I watched as on either side of the Bricklayer was a pile of bricks. He would pick up a brick from the pile on the left, set it in the opening, then shake his head, and put that

brick on the pile on His right side. One after another, I would see Him pick up a brick ~ put it in the opening ~ move it from side to side and shake His head and again, place it in the pile on the other side. Then I watched Him pick up a brick, set it in the opening and nod His head, take the mortar and mortar in that brick and it became a part of the wall. In watching this for some time, I saw Him build and fill in the opening and it seemed that I heard the voice of the Lord as He said, "Son, I will build my church! Just be sure it is My church and not yours! I know what is needed to build My church! Just trust me!"

Suddenly, my heart was flooded with peace as I came to the realization that if I would make certain it was His church then He would build it according to His will! Consequently, through these many years, at various times it would look like a new family might be starting to attend or word would reach us through the grapevine that some might be thinking about leaving, but as long as I knew the church was still His, then I could relax knowing that God is building His church!

So fellow pastor, we have the awesome privilege of working with the Master Builder! May we joyfully follow and accept His blueprint, pattern, and plan, making certain the church we pastor belongs to Him! Jesus said, *"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* **Matt.16:18**

Rev. Paul Gray pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Palestine, Illinois, and has served there for the past 32 years. To connect with Pastor Gray regarding this article, email him directly at: pauldgray@reagan.com

Old Zion

*There's a stout old ship a-sailing, down the squalling sea of time; From the arctic to the tropic, she has weathered every clime.
The spanking wind of heaven is booming in her sails; she's out-lived a thousand vessels; she's out-rode a thousand gales.
They call her name "Old Zion," and she flies a flag of love; And at her bow the spray is breaking, in the figure of a dove.
Her skipper's name is Jesus, and He's got a hearty crew; and her log is the heavy record of the storms He's brought her through.
Thru many a storm He's brought her, by many battered wrecks; with the black wind in her rigging, and gray spume on her deck.
With spouting at her scuttles in the high and howling squall; He's put her thru the narrows, where the combers foam and crawl.
On the course that she's been chartered, she has sighted many boats; but still she tops the record, of everything that floats!
She left Diana's Galley, that was gleaming like the stars; with her ragged sheets a-flapping about her creaking spars!
Once she passed a ship called Islam, with a black flag at her mast; and she left old stately Buddha 'floundering' in the past!
Some mighty modern vessels are standing out at sea; with their heavy guns a-gawkin' and their smoke rolling free.
But Old Zion keeps on sailing, and she holds an even keel; for the Skipper's got His compass, and His hand is on the wheel.
There's a 'booming' in her canvas, there is singing in her crew; and all the pirate crafts of Satan knows Zion's coming through!
Now, she's headed homeward, come calm or windy flood; where she'll wind her sheets forever in the quiet ports of God.*

- Samuel J. Poole



A Woman's Perspective . . .

By Stephanie Burley

Proverbs 31: The Value of Virtue

"What is it worth?" That is the question I frequently ask my husband while on our Saturday morning garage sale excursions. We're new to the game. In fact, it was just this spring that we decided to get out of bed a bit earlier on our days off and join the great American tradition of shopping in the garages of people who are desperate to unload the clutter and make a little summertime cash. One thing we have learned over the last few months is that not all items are priced in the range of their worth. Take, for instance, the brand new Nike tennis shoes I picked up for \$1. Apparently the seller didn't realize that the same shoes (only this year's model instead of last) were pictured in the Kohl's ad for \$80. Of course, the fact that they fit me perfectly meant that I had myself a deal! Although the Nike shoe seller could have priced them several times higher than she did and still had my business, I only had to pay the value she assigned to them. And I was ecstatic.

In a recent conversation with an aunt, she described a shopping trip to an antique store. She and another of my aunts were shopping together, and one of them was interested in a set of fine china dishes that were displayed. After a few minutes spent negotiating the price, the store owner named a ridiculously low amount. She cited the reason: "This generation doesn't buy china." What was once a treasured, esteemed part of the culture of a home no longer has a place because we are a hurried bunch of people who like to use only what can be tossed into a dishwasher or the garbage can. Our emphasis has shifted to accommodate our lifestyle.

If we are not careful, a slower pace and dinner on fine china aren't the only things that will slip away from us. It would be very easy in this day to do as much of the culture is doing, and devalue those things that God has specifically said are most worthy. In Proverbs 31:10, we find these words, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Notice that the writer didn't define this woman as pretty, thin, or rich. She is virtuous – strong, morally excellent, honorable, righteous, good, upright, honest, loyal, hard-working, and trustworthy. When was the last time we saw any of those words on the cover of a popular women's magazine? We haven't, and we won't. The world places emphasis on the superficial. God wants His girls to be genuine. The world is attracted to the seductive. God challenges us to moral purity. The world warns us to watch out for ourselves. God gives us the beautiful responsibility of seeing to the needs of others.

Few things can be more frustrating than putting together a cart of carefully selected items, only to later find that several of your purchases were more expensive than you realized. Although the reasons are varied, the resulting confusion is the same. Just as real is the confusion that results when we measure our value by the world's standards. If you've labeled yourself with one of the world's price tags, dig into the Word to discover the difference. Diamonds are usually advertised as being the jewel of choice, but I recently read that an exceptional Ruby of three carats or more will bring a higher price than an equivalent Diamond. As a woman of virtue, your worth is spectacular! God wants you to accept and embrace the great value that He places on you. Walk confidently today, knowing that you are a daughter of the King!

Stephanie is married to Greg Burley, and they have 4 wonderful children. She is a teacher, and very active in her local church. They make their home in Lima, Ohio. Stephanie is a regular contributor to *Pilgrim News & Notes*.



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.

If you've been to Pilgrim Family Camp in the last few years, you may have noticed that distinguished looking head usher and his lovely wife.

Meet Marvin (wife, Julie) Reynolds!

Marvin was born on April 20, 1951, in Columbus, Indiana. His parents, Rev. Kenneth and Wanda Reynolds, pastored the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Hope, Indiana.

In February of 1968 (at the young age of 16), Marvin started a Western Wear & Saddlery business called, MD Reynolds Saddlery and Western Wear, thus garnering him the moniker, MD. Even today, it is not all that unusual for someone to holler out, "Hey MD!" During his many years in this business, MD made many trips to Nevada, Mexico, and Texas picking up supplies for the business. He also raised registered Quarter Horses. He broke and trained many horses, and he also trained riders. He spent many a night building custom saddles.

During this time, he also started another successful business, so he decided to sell the western store and most of his horses in 1979.

In 1973, Marvin started Lincoln Hills Taxidermy, which grew into a very large business. Animals from many countries were sent to his shop to be mounted for some outstanding hunters. Perhaps the most rare animal he mounted, was a full-size, 10-foot Polar Bear! Everything from "Mouse to Moose" were "stuffed" for his clients during his 33 years in that business. Marvin sold the business in 2007.

Marvin began hunting in 1973, and was soon traveling to Tennessee chasing Wild, Russian Boar! One of the biggest thrills for him is hunting wild boar with hounds. According to his records, he has harvested over 700 of them, even killing one with a spear!

His hunts have taken him to many western states, Canada (5 Provinces), Alaska, and even 3 African Safari hunts. (Taking over 150 North American animals, and 52 African animals . . . most of these are mounted in his trophy room, including the "African Big 5" - Elephant, Lion, Cape Buffalo, Leopard, Rhinoceros, and a 9' 2" Kodiak Grizzly Bear)

For most of his life, Marvin has walked with the Lord with a conscientious desire to please Him. Unfortunately, there were a few years when he departed from the Lord, but God was merciful and patiently waited for him to return to the fold.

Marvin has always loved the atmosphere of Camp Meeting! The Fern Creek Wesleyan Methodist Camp in Louisville, Kentucky, was always a highlight of his life in those early years! In 1967, he became involved in music and was the Asst. Song Director at the Corydon Church of the Nazarene. During the year of 1969-1970, he also sang tenor for the New Revelations Quartet, traveling 1-2 Sundays per month.

In 1971, he became the Minister of Music at the Corydon Church of the Nazarene and served in that capacity until 1988. In 1991, he became the Song Leader at the Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness Church in Corydon, Indiana,

where he & his wife, Julie, still attend. (Incidentally, the Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness Church was built by Marvin's grandparents and uncle back in the 1940s.)

For a number of years, Marvin served the Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness Church under Rev. Melvin Beecher and for the past 12 years under Rev. Mark Ranke. He fills the positions of Song Director, Board Member, Asst. Adult SS Teacher and Trustee. He also does some substitute teaching at the Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness School. (Among his many lists of accomplishments in life, he is also a retired public school teacher.)

Here is "Marvin's Testimony" in his own words . . .

Jesus Christ is my Savior, Redeemer, Sanctifier, and Healer! Without HIM, my life would be pointless and incomplete! Outside of a few years, when I strayed away from Him, He has kept my life happy and full of joy!

God's guidance, provisions, blessings (and chastisements) have helped me to keep my ethics, morals, and values above reproach. In my businesses and life experiences, there have been many opportunities for greed, vice, and corruption, but God has been there to lead me in the right way! Without Him, my entire life would be in shambles!

In the last 6 years, Julie & I have been tried, tested, and have experienced some tremendous storms, both physically as well as emotionally! Always at the lowest moments of these valleys, God's grace has prevailed!

The Midwest Pilgrims are our people! I am not a minister, evangelist, or a singer, yet Julie & I have been loved, prayed for, and taken in as if we had always been a member of this great conference. God has blessed us beyond measure!

I believe that if we (the Pilgrims) stay with the WORD as our guide, pray fervently, and stoke the fires of commitment, the Holy Spirit will help us to win new souls to Him and cause our churches to grow!

May we work until Jesus comes back for His Bride!

- Marvin "MD" Reynolds

A word from some of his friends . . .

One thing that I appreciate about Marvin has been the commitment which he has displayed to Julie during her ongoing battle with cancer. He has been right beside her the entire time, helping her, praying for her, and showing Jesus to her.

- **Richard & Mary Raines**

*Marvin Reynolds is such a wonderful Christian man. His life is completely committed to the Lord. He has seen great spiritual heights as well as some deep, dark valleys. Yet his love for Jesus continues to shine. He is a genuine blessing to be around. His sense of humor is uplifting and his concern and burden for the lost is real. Marvin has stood tall for God and God has stood tall for Marvin. - **Pastor Mark Ranke***

*I'd watched Marvin for a few years at Pilgrim Camp, yet never really got to know him until this year. I was impressed not only by his heart for God, but also with how personable he is. It's been a long time since I have met someone with whom I communicated so easily. (And I like his Crocodile boots!) - **Dan Plemmons***

*I met Marvin about four years ago at camp. We became good friends. We went different places together and always had a good time. My wife and I went down to their home and saw all his trophy mounts. They are a tribute to his skill and patience. He is a man that puts God first in his life. It is a joy to call him a friend! - **Alan Motter***



October is the month in which we call special attention to those pastors whom God has selected to lead His flock. Here are a few thoughts from their members who are being directly affected by their ministry.

Space does not permit us to include statements from every one of our churches, but we hope the ones we have included will encourage you to let your pastor know that he has been a blessing to you!

Pastor Harold Jackman (St. Marie, IL)

In August of 1963, Ste. Marie Pilgrim Holiness Church welcomed Rev. Harold Jackman to be its pastor.

He has long been an intercessor in prayer, committing years ago to spending at least 2 hours a day speaking with his Lord. He often mentions waking up in the night with a burden on his heart for someone.

Perhaps his greatest ministry has been his personal, one-on-one touch. People have always felt free to call him on the phone or drop by his home, and he's always been available to stop his own work to take the time to visit and pray with them. People around the community who work with him in business, or who are just neighbors, speak of his integrity, and his example as a true man of God on every level.

From being a shy school-boy to kicking off his shoes and whooping around the church, Bro. Jackman has been God's man for our church. He is our spiritual hero. May God bless him! - **Kezia Jackman**

Faces (Written by Rodney Griffin)

VERSE I

*I dreamed my life was done and I stood before God's Son, it was time to see what my reward would be,
With love He reviewed my life, to count what was done for Christ, for that was what would last eternally.*

*See, I'd done my best to share that Jesus really cares, and He would save if they would just believe,
Oh, but seldom did harvest come, so few did I see won, until the Lord said, "Turn around and see."*

CHORUS

*Then He showed me all the faces of the ones who'd come because of me, so many faces that my life had led to Calvary,
All those years I thought nobody saw, as I labored in lowly places, that's when Jesus smiled and showed me all the faces.*

Pastor Don Nichols (Lima, OH)

The confidence that we have in our pastor and wife runs very deep in our hearts and minds. They live before us as a testimony of Christ-like living, praying and giving. We are very THANKFUL and BLESSED beyond words. We LOVE you, Rev. and Mrs. Nichols! - **Verla Skeen**

Pastor John Forsee (Noblesville, IN)

I appreciate my pastor's wonderful messages and his love for my children. He takes such an interest in the children and young people of our church! I love it because they are our future! - **Becky Glick**

I really appreciate Pastor Forsee because he is genuine. His sermons reflect his passionate concern for our congregation's eternal destiny. He is not afraid to take a stand for what is right. As a young father trying to raise a Godly family, I don't take for granted the example he portrays in his everyday life. - **Seth Fish**

(Continued on Page 10)

Pastor Don Raines (New Castle, IN)

Rev. Don Raines has been my pastor for almost 3 years now. During this time, it has been evident that his prayer life is one of his greatest qualities.

Every Sunday morning, my husband meets Pastor Raines to pray for the services. Some Sundays, by the time he gets there, he knows Pastor Raines has already been praying, since the top of every pew has a spot of anointing oil on it.

Our church has also been blessed with an incredible sense of God's presence in each service. Most often in a service at New Castle Pilgrim Holiness Church, it is typical for many testimonies, tears of joy, altar calls, and a time of prayer. God has given our church new converts, and has met many spiritual needs within the church.

I would be mistaken to grant all glory to our Pastor, since I know that nothing is possible without our Lord; however, God has clearly used His servant, Don Raines, in such a tremendous way to further His kingdom. I firmly believe that our pastor's prayers have had a priceless impact on our church. This is just one of the various characteristics I appreciate about my pastor! - **Jalena Glick**

Pastor Richard Spaulding (Bicknell, IN)

I appreciate our pastor for several reasons. After serving for many years as Assistant Pastor, he graciously accepted the Board's invitation to serve as our new pastor in February. This was a great comfort to the church after the Rolls resigned to accept the call to Antigua. He performs his pastoral duties in addition to his other full-time position with a company that serves individuals with special needs. He has a generous, giving heart and is always there to help encourage the flock. He leads by Godly example! - **Wendy McCullough**

Pastor Paul Gray (Palestine, IL)

I appreciate Pastor Gray's encouraging words each and every week. I really admire the wisdom he demonstrates in every kind of situation. He cares deeply for every person in our congregation; making each one feel comfortable and welcome. We are so blessed to call him our pastor! - **Jennifer Gray**

Pastor Jack Hart (Batavia, OH)

What defines a successful pastor? Is it an expensive suit? Is it a sanctuary overflowing with people? Maybe it's a large church building with a fancy steeple and a new Cadillac in the reserved parking spot marked "preacher".

All of those things could be classified as a person of success in the world's eyes, but what is success in God's eyes? What about a pastor that has listened to the voice of God for many years; following His every command no matter where that call would take him, no matter what it costs; sacrificing long hours of unnoticed, unappreciated work for his church and the people; in the trenches, elbow-deep in the work of our precious Lord and Savior. These are just some characteristics of my Pastor . . . "My Dad."

I have the pleasure of having my Dad (Rev. Jack Hart) as my pastor. He is one of a kind, not that I'm prejudiced or anything! He was born and raised on a farm. His parents were not church people but they always sent their children to Sunday school. When he was 14 years old, his Dad passed away. His mother continued taking care of the farm with the help of her 3 sons.

When he was 23, he gave his life to Christ and felt a call to preach. He made his way to Hobe Sound Bible College and that's where he met my amazing mother (Ruth Hart). 50% of a good pastor is his wife, (maybe 75%).

There have been times in their ministry when they didn't have much to live on and they wondered where food was going to come from, but The Lord has always provided for them. Also, dad has such compassion for people. He doesn't like to turn people away. If people need things done, he is more than willing to be right there helping them. He goes out of his way to make people happy. He is such a godly example to me of how a Christian should live. He has never changed in his beliefs. He has always been unwavering and steadfast; I'm so thankful for my pastor! - **Annette Forsee**

Memories from Pilgrim Family Camp



Meet Clara Stoker - A wonderful lady who accepted Jesus Christ into her heart during the Pilgrim Camp!

Clara attends the New Castle Pilgrim Holiness Church. During camp, she would arrive at the tabernacle 1 1/2 - 2 hours BEFORE it was time for the service to begin!

She gave me the following account:

"I just got saved 2 or 3 days ago. Tonight, I wasn't sure if I was going to come to the service, as I wasn't feeling well. I heard a voice whisper in my left ear and say, 'Clara, I'm glad you have become a Christian! I want you to go to church every chance you get!' Then she pointed to a picture of Jesus on the wall in the tabernacle and said, 'See that man there, that's Him! He's the one who spoke to me!'"

Welcome to the family of God, Clara! We're so glad you chose to follow Jesus!



This young man's name is Caleb, and I met him through his Grandmother who also attends the New Castle Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Caleb and his brother, Christopher, are twins, and they live with their parents, Mike & Melody Elliott, in Corinth, KY.

Caleb is 13 years of age, and he is autistic. He has a physical need for which much prayer is definitely needed.

His grandmother relates the following story:

"Camp had just ended, and they had returned home. Not too long after returning home to Corinth, his mother awoke to some noises coming from Caleb's room. She went in to see what was going on, and Caleb was sitting in an upright position (sound asleep) saying,

'Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!' Melody told me, **'You have no idea what that did to my heart!'"**

You know, sometimes we come to camp meeting, and in the busy-ness of all the activities, we fail to fully realize the depth of what is taking place. There are spiritual battles being fought and victories to be won!

Every PRAYER PRAYED - Every DOLLAR GIVEN - Every TEAR SHED, is worth it all, to know that lives are being changed!

We would love for you to send Caleb (or his parents) a card of encouragement:

Mike & Melody Elliott (Caleb and Christopher)
230 Woods Ln.
Corinth, KY 41010



An Interview with Pastor Richard Smith

Richard and Debbie Smith have pastored the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Harrisburg, Ohio, since 1979, and we wanted our readers to get a closer look at this outstanding couple!

DP - Please give us a little background of where you were raised and how you came to know Christ.

RS - I had a very happy childhood. My mother and father were excellent parents. My father was a factory worker at Westinghouse and he also worked a second job as a security guard. Mom was a stay-at-home mom. I have one older sister. I grew up in Grove City, Ohio, and enjoyed life as most boys do.

My parents were not Christians for most of my young life. This did not change until I was about eleven. My sister came home from school and asked my parents if she could go to revival. She went and came home with the announcement that she had been saved. Mom and dad did not know what to think about it.

My mom's family was Old Regular Baptist and dad's mom was Jehovah Witness. My sister was saved in an Apostolic church. They were concerned about the tongues business. Dad worked with two preachers, one was Enterprise Baptist and the other was Holiness. They both were helping Dad to see the error in the tongues movement. Dad promised my sister that we would start going to church as a family. He also told her that we would go to the church that he felt was right. We went to the Enterprise Baptist Church some and to the Holiness Church some. Dad was saved in the Holiness Church. Mom was saved in the Enterprise Baptist Church. It wasn't long until our family started attending a Christian Baptist Church in Grove City, Ohio. This was all new to me and I just went along for the ride.

I was first saved at the age of 13 at the Christian Baptist youth camp in Wheelersburg, Ohio. I was getting deeper and deeper in sin. I was a thief, a liar, and had a filthy mouth. After I was saved my life changed. About three months later as I lay in bed asleep, I was awakened and a voice said, "Will you preach for me?" I will never forget my reaction. I turned my face to the wall and said nothing. I had no intentions of preaching.

From there my life went downhill. I finally admitted I had backslidden. When a friend asked me during a revival altar call if I had ever been saved, I said, "No." The door closed and I went deeper into sin.

A year later and farther from God than ever before, I went to camp determined not to get saved. The camp meeting was almost over when one night God came on the service and old time conviction hit my soul. I hit the altar. God reclaimed my soul! I laughed and cried for an hour. I was free! This time I meant business with God. I walked in the light. He was faithful to my soul. I went on in the Christian Baptist Church where I soon married the pastor's daughter. About a year later we left the Christian Baptist Church and started attending a Wesleyan Holiness Church. Soon after, God placed the burden to preach again on my heart.

DP - How did you meet your wife, Debbie, and please tell us about the rest of your family.

RS - We first met at church youth camp in 1970. We became best friends. We did not start dating until 1973 and were married in 1975. Debbie and I have 4 children. 1 boy and three girls. All married.

DP - How long have you served as Pastor of the Harrisburg PHC?

RS - I have been the Pastor for 35 years.

DP - Who have been your biggest positive influences in ministry?

RS - Rev. F. C. Porter, Rev. Bill Rogers, Rev. Eugene Gray, Rev. James Southerland, and my dad.

DP - What is the biggest lesson you have learned since entering the ministry?

RS - To keep my eyes on Jesus and to maintain a strong relationship with Him. As someone said, "It's not about religion, it's about a relationship."

DP - What has been the biggest surprise about pastoral life?

RS - How quickly people change.

DP - What do you wish most church members understood about pastors?

RS - How great the burden is, and that it must be shared.

DP - Share with us a time in your ministry when God really worked a miracle!

RS - There are many. When we were trying to find financing to purchase the church, church loans at that time were very hard to find. After we signed the contract, the pressure was on to find financing. I went through the Columbus, Ohio, phone book and called every bank and was turned down time after time. Needless to say, I became very discouraged with the process.

When I called the last bank on the list, with the phone book still on my lap, I prayed, "Lord, if you want us to have this church in Harrisburg, we need Your help!" When I finished praying, I was staring at the phone book and a phone number seemed to jump out of the page. The Lord said to call that number. I said, "Lord, I have already been turned down by this bank at a branch office." I was still impressed to call the number. I will never forget that phone conversation. A lady answered the phone and asked how she could help me. I told her that we needed a commercial loan. She then told me that they were doing some of those types of loans, but very few. Then she asked for what the loan was going to be used. I said, "A church!" She said that she could not help us, but would give me a number of someone that possibly could. She gave me the number and I called. A man answered and I went through the story of what we needed. Then he said, "Oh, a church!", and was very interested in our project. He even wanted to come down and see the church. After all was said and done, we received the needed loan for the church!

I asked the bank manager to whom we were assigned about who this man was, and he said, "Pastor Smith, I am not sure how you got this man's phone number, but he is the VP of the Ohio State Bank and is on the review board that will approve this loan!" God does answer prayer!

DP - Your overall thoughts on life as a pastor?

RS - Pastoring is one of the hardest jobs that I have ever done. The responsibility and burden, if your heart is in it, is sometimes unbearable. But on the other side, it is the most rewarding job that I have ever done!!

Pastor Smith's Raves & Faves . . .

- **Favorite Restaurant - Cracker Barrel**
- **Favorite Food - Fried Chicken and Chocolate Pie**
- **Favorite Hymn - All The Way My Savior Leads Me**
- **Favorite Vacation Destination - Berlin, Ohio (Amish Country)**
- **Favorite Author - Andrew Murray**



October is designated as Clergy Appreciation Month. It was established in 1992 with a purpose to uplift and encourage pastors, missionaries, and religious workers. **October 12, 2014, is Clergy Appreciation Day.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics there are 44,000 clergy in the US. But you only have one!

Below are a few suggestions of ways you can give "honour to whom honour" is due. (Rom 13:7)

- Card and Letter Shower - distribute stamped cards and envelopes addressed to the pastor. Personalize the comments and mail during the month.
- Personal Gifts - present a gift item of special significance with the pastor's name engraved on it. (Ex. a coffee mug, or pen set)
- Large Card - this can be signed by the different departments, such as the Children's Church, youth group, etc.
- **Church Photo** - have the congregation's picture taken in front of the church. Have it framed and present it to him.
- **Books** - most pastors love books. Gift wrap a set of commentaries, present books of special interests or simply give a gift card to the local bookstore.
- **Media Presentation** - Prepare a power point presentation of the pastor and church activities throughout the year. Show it in place of a service this month.
- **Community Acknowledgment** - take out a full-page ad in the local newspaper. Feature your pastor with a public declaration of your church's love for your leader.
- **Office/Home Makeover** - redecorate the pastor's study with fresh paint, updated decor, new furniture, or a personal computer upgrade.
- **Fill The Calendar** - use an October calendar and schedule a month-long variety of special treats for the pastor and family. Have the congregation sign up for days to remember the pastor. Ideas could include a balloon delivery, bring a favorite dessert, gift cards, a car wash, a day away at your expense, take them out for a meal, etc.
- **Guest Speaker** - give the pastor a break by scheduling special speakers throughout the month.
- **Get Away** - pay for a 3-day, all expenses paid, get away for the pastoral family. Make reservations for a place they would enjoy.
- **Weeks Salary** - statistically, most pastors make less than most in their congregations. An extra paycheck will go a long way in showing how much you care.
- **Money Tree** - provide a bare branch and have the congregation paperclip money to it, then present it to the pastor with a card from the church.
- **Prayer Commitment** - he prays for you, now you promise to pray for him. Schedule times to have special prayer for the pastor, his family, health, finances, stability, courage in ministry, marriage, freedom to dream, success in ministry, permission to lead, etc.
- **"Rainy Day Jar"** - have the congregants fill a decorated jar with notes of inspiration and encouragement which the pastor can then read whenever a boost is needed.
- **Professional Development** - underwrite the expenses to a pastor's retreat, conference or pay for some continuing education classes.

These are a few suggestions to get your creative juices flowing. Honor God by honoring His servants. After a month of special surprises, shouldn't your pastor feel appreciated? Make it happen!

Submitted by
Dr. Craig A. Dahler

ATTENTION Ministers & Wives:

Our 28th Annual Minister's & Wives' Retreat is around the corner!!

As usual, it will be held near Oblong, Illinois, at the Crest Haven Family Center. It is sure to be an event you will NOT want to miss!!

The dates for this event are: October 16, 17, & 18, 2014.

For info. - <http://www.midwestphc.org/Announcements.html>

ALSO - on Wednesday (just one day prior to the Retreat) there will be an IHC Rally at the Palestine Pilgrim Holiness Church that you may want to attend!

IHC's Opening Rally begins at 7 PM (Central Time)



**FOR EVERY
GENERATION**

Illinois State Traveling

INTERCHURCH HOLINESS CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Opening Rally - 7:00 PM
Palestine Pilgrim Holiness Church
110751 N. State Highway 1
Robinson, IL 62454
Host Pastor: Rev. Paul Gray 618-586-2260

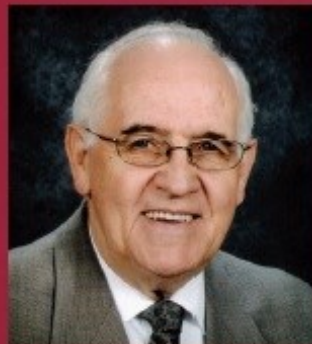
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Evening Service - 7:00 PM
Bloomington Pilgrim Holiness Church
1409 S. East Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
Host Pastor: Rev. Martin Laramie 309-828-1051

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Closing Rally - 7:00 PM
Crusaders Church
3245 N. MacArthur
Decatur, IL 62526
Host Pastor: Steve Durst 217-521-5522
Convention Coordinator: Andrew Durst 217-390-8392

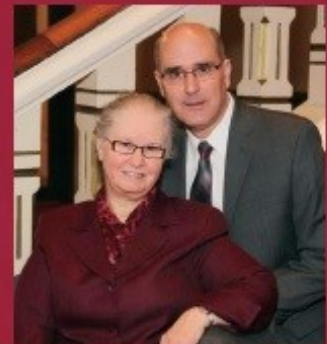
October 15-17, 2014
Travel with us to each location!



Leonard Sankey
Guest Speaker



Marc Dodrill
Guest Speaker



Keith & Sharon Waggoner
Special Music

Give to the Campground Fund! EVERY DOLLAR WILL BE MATCHED!

DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS! DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS! DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS!



Thanks to the wonderful generosity of an anonymous donor, EVERY DOLLAR that you give (**up to \$55,000.00 until December 31st, 2014**) will be matched! This is a wonderful opportunity to help make it happen!!

Here are a few ways that you can get involved in the “DOLLAR for DOLLAR” program:

- **Get the YOUTH involved!** It's THEIR Camp! We're doing it for THEM. Make sure they know that.
- **Involve the Sunday School!** You might be surprised at how competition motivates kids!
- **Have a Fund Raiser!** Get creative and find a unique way to generate interest in giving!
- **Special Offerings!** It might be a good idea to lift a special offering per month, and promote it heavily!
- **SET A GOAL!** Set a goal of how much your church would like to give and work toward it!

The photo below was sent in by the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Lima, Ohio

