

# PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

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## Patsy Southerland . . . Breathing Celestial Air



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*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:13*

*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope . . . For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. I Thessalonians 4: 13, 14*

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# From The Editor . . .

I'll never forget the first time I met her . . . we were at Sea Breeze Camp in Hobe Sound, Florida, and I was 15 years of age. I didn't know her, but as I saw her carrying a bunch of items, it looked like she needed assistance, so I walked up to her and asked her if I could help her out . . . not knowing that she would never forget that little incident and would remind me of it on countless occasions over the next 35 years.

Of the many things that could be said about Patsy Southerland, here are three that come to my mind:

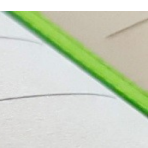
1. **REAL** - She was as genuine as they come. She had no interest in being someone other than the person God made her to be. She was also brutally honest and I loved that about her! When I took over as Editor of *Pilgrim News & Notes*, the Conference Council made the decision to transition to a "digital only" version, which meant that instead of a paper edition, it would now be online. She didn't like it and one day after a funeral she told me so! She said, "Bro. Dan, I would like to tell you that I just don't like this new setup!" She said, "What about those of us who aren't computer adept, how are WE gonna keep up with what is going on around the Conference?" I didn't take offense in the least, but thanked her for her opinion and shared her concern with a couple of Council members. I liked the fact that there was no pretense with her. She spoke her mind (in a kind manner) and wasn't afraid to do so!
2. **PLEASANT** - Not long ago, her husband of 55 years posted a photo of her (smiling) on Facebook. He said, "In 55 years of marriage I can never remember her waking up with anything but a smile on her face!" And if you knew her well, you know that you rarely ever saw her unless she was smiling.
3. **ACCEPTING** - I liked the fact that even though she was a life-long Pilgrim, she wasn't churchy. There is no shortage of people who are so glued to their particular denomination that they don't have the capacity to be accepting of others who aren't part of their church group, but not Sis. Southerland. Whether you were Pilgrim Holiness, Bible Missionary, God's Missionary, Bible Methodist, ICHA, Wesleyan, Nazarene, Methodist, etc., you could always count on the fact that she would welcome you with her arms wide open!

In this Memorial issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes* we want to take the time to pay tribute to a person who was a friend to ALL of us. No matter who you were, what position you held, or how much wealth you had, she was your friend and made you feel important!

As you peruse this issue, I trust you will re-live with fondness the memories of a lady who gave everything she had to the work of the Lord! In a day when many in the church tend to want to be dedicated, as long as it doesn't come at great cost, Bro. & Sis. Southerland gave their very best to God and His work!

Her passing has left a void in our Conference that will never be filled.

Our hearts are aching from this very big loss, but as people of the Resurrection, we know that Christians don't die! They simply move to their new Home, in the City where they need no sun and the Lamb is the light!





# In Honor of Patsy Southerland

By Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr.

Her spiritual odyssey began as a little girl with dark, almond shaped eyes and raven black hair. Having been raised in a combination home and restaurant in Maysville, Kentucky, she looked forward to visiting with her cousin Brenda during the summer. They were more like sisters. During one of these summer visits when Patsy was six years old, her Aunt Wilma (along with Brenda), made their way to a camp meeting service at the old Ruggles Methodist Camp Meeting. As the atmosphere of the camp came alive with the presence of God, she was moved with conviction. The altar began to line with repentant souls. She looked up into Aunt Wilma's face and said, "Can I go up there and pray?" With a positive answer, they went to the altar. It was here that she made Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior. She made a vow to the Lord that she would never go to sleep at night with any sin or guilt on her heart. She kept that vow from then until her home going.

## **Patsy Was A Committed Christian.**

She attended the Maysville Pilgrim Holiness Church that was about two blocks from her house. At an early age she was given responsibility with Sunday School kids and became the church pianist. She grew into a beautiful, modest young lady. She was involved in many activities in her public high school and was voted most popular student by her peers. They understood her stepping aside from activities which were questionable to her conscience.

## **Patsy Was Committed To Having A Holy Heart**

The first time I saw her was when I was talking with two guys near the tabernacle on the Pilgrim Holiness Camp ground near Maysville. She came out of the girls' dorm and hesitated briefly, adjusting her eyes to the bright sunlight. I'll never forget her long, raven black hair and beautiful blue dress. It was in August of 1959. She was 17 and I was a 16 year old unsettled, rebellious teenager. After that camp in a winter revival, I settled up with God and was profoundly changed. The Lord saved and sanctified me in that meeting. The next time I saw her, I was with a car load of teenagers attending a revival at her church in Maysville. She was playing the piano for the service. After the service she came immediately to me with a big smile and I was teased about her all the way home.

The winds of change and compromise were blowing throughout our movement. Local churches were being affected. Choices between liberal positions and conservative holiness values were being made. My local church in Paris, Kentucky, was a fiery conservative church that held modest holiness standards. I was Heaven born into that Holy Spirit visited atmosphere. Patsy's church was not so much that way. She chose to go to Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, and I felt God leading me to Frankfort Pilgrim College in Frankfort, Indiana.

During the winter of 1961, I was left with a broken heart after breaking my relationship with my girlfriend. At my buddy Charlie King's suggestion, I wrote a letter to Patsy who received it at the Asbury College Post Office

on February 14th. She was so impressed, I received her letter of response . . . post marked May 11th! We finally started dating that summer and my heart was smitten. We became serious about our future together. She was being pulled in a liberal direction, while I was committed to old fashioned holiness. She held the view that she would not have a conviction or standard just because I said so. I would take her back to school and we would pray and weep together. I would pray, "Lord, show her the straight and narrow way!" I heard her crying prayerfully, "Show me the positions I should take on these issues!"

In the pressure of the times and wanting to please Patsy, I questioned in my heart about some strong positions I had taken in preaching and debate. It didn't take long for me to find out that I had grieved God. The Lord shut the door for me in my praying and preaching opportunities. I told Patsy that I had settled the questions concerning the different issues and I cried as I told her that the debates were over. If she was not going to take this way with me, I would be forced to break off our relationship. We sobbed together as the Lord seemed to flood in upon us. She cried, "I'm so sorry, I'm going to go with you and stand by your side and I will not be a hinderance to your ministry." Within ten minutes, the pastor came to me and said, "Jim, I believe the Lord wants you to preach here in the night service."

She was very sensitive and developed an appetite for principles from God's Word. I remember the first IHC we attended at God's Bible School. Rev. Glenn Griffith preached a message on "Withered Hands." The Holy Spirit filled the sanctuary and with tears streaming, she responded to the altar call, praying for a holy heart. She felt like the Lord sanctified her that night.

Over the years she was involved in intercessory prayer. A few hours before Pulmonary Fibrosis took her life, she was sitting in her chair with tears in her eyes, her note book in her lap, and her Bible in her hand as she communed with God. In her note book was a list of people that she prayed for every day.

### **Patsy Was A Committed Godly Wife, Mother, and Pastor's Wife**

We were recently reminiscing about the early days of our marriage. After a 24 hour honeymoon in Kentucky, we bade farewell to our parents and drove to Frankfort Pilgrim College. Our mobile home was parked in the campus mobile home park. She told me that she would look out of the front window and watch me walking to my morning classes. She said, "I thought my heart would burst with happiness and love at those moments." She was a joyful homemaker. Little wonder that I gained 20 pounds the first four weeks we were married. In 55 years of marriage, I never remember waking up to anything but a loving, dimpled smile.

Patsy began to awaken with an uneasiness in her stomach. It was soon confirmed that she was expecting our son Allen. In the years to come, we were blessed with three daughters, Renee, Deborah, and Yvonne. Just hours from crossing into eternal bliss, she was able to look in via cell phone on our latest great grandson who was a few seconds from birth. She was our queen presiding over a grieving husband, four children, nineteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She was filled with the Spirit. The love of Christ showed thru her words and actions. She set an example that ever pointed to Jesus Christ and His love. She is missed every moment by those who were closest to her.

# Tributes to Patsy Southerland from Pilgrim Ladies . . .

## **By Debbie Smith - Harrisburg, Ohio**

One thing I remember about Sis. Southerland is her friendliness. She always made it a point to come and speak to me at the different Conference meetings. She was so kind and friendly. I always enjoyed the ladies' meetings she directed as well. She was an encouragement when she would come to visit our church. Her smile will be greatly missed. It didn't take being around Sis. Southerland very long before you knew she had a true relationship with God.

## **By Nancy Grissom - Lerna, Illinois**

Sis. Southerland's smile was a true reflection of an inner beauty only possible from abiding in the presence of the Most High. Her gracious and ever radiant spirit was undeniable to those who were near her. From a young mother to a mature saint, I saw her live a life unashamed of Christ and worthy of His reward.

## **By Ellen Beal - Waldron, Michigan**

Sis. Patsy Southerland had a rare and sparkling personality. She made everyone feel like they were her best friend. That precious smile, and those sparkling eyes will never be forgotten. What a blessing it was for me to have a long conversation with her the afternoon before she went to the hospital. Even knowing what was facing her, she was still committed to the Lord's will as she had been all these years. Her passing feels like the sun has gone behind the clouds. But, clouds pass on and the sun always shines again. May the Lord bless our memories of one of the Church's crown jewels.

## **By Ruth Hart - Batavia, Ohio**

Sis. Southerland was a lovely, gracious, Godly lady. From the moment we joined the Pilgrims, she made us feel comfortable and included. You could feel her concern and love. She drew you in with her beautiful smile. She radiated God's love and was a true saint. She will be missed, but I know she is breathing the pure air of her new heavenly home.

## **By Sharon Farney - Frankfort, Indiana**

Sis. Southerland was easy to love with her friendly smile and her caring personality. She was a sweet Christian lady that will be greatly missed.

## **By Fayerene Walden - Franklin, Indiana**

Patsy Southerland was a friend to many and she was my friend. We've known each other since 1967 when our husbands were ordained together in the Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York. It was always a joy to be with her and to talk to her, and see her beautiful smile. My heart is breaking that she has gone from our midst. Patsy, I will always love and remember you, and will be with you again someday.

## **By Barb Brock - New Castle, Indiana**

Our hearts are hurting, and we miss her kind, gentle spirit, and her tender heart that was filled with compassion. Her warm hugs and spontaneous smile were a unique signature of this precious woman of God. Serving in ministry with her husband of 55 years, her life touched many at home and abroad. Her footprints will remain on our hearts forever.

## **By Kim Forsee - Franklin, Indiana**

She has been a great inspiration to me. As a newcomer to the conference, she made us feel welcome. Her beautiful, consisted life of holiness was an example to all. She will be greatly missed! I look forward to meeting her again on eternity's side!



# Tributes to Patsy Southerland from Pilgrim Youth . . .

## **By Christin Dahler - Sheridan, Indiana**

One of the things that I remember from a very young age is watching Sis. Southerland get blessed in service as she would get up and walk around the tabernacle, praising and singing! Anytime she saw me I knew I would get a long hug and a "we love you guys". She was always so supportive and encouraging!

## **By Kyle Cupp - Greenwood, Indiana**

Every time I saw her, no matter if it was at PYC, Family Camp, Church, the Annual Pilgrim Youth Lock-in, or UBC, she was happy to see me. I enjoyed hearing her testify. She's now safe with Jesus!

## **By Janella Thompson - Fishers, Indiana**

When I think of Sis. Southerland I immediately think of her beautiful smile, merry eyes and a spirit that reflected Jesus. As a young girl she always had time for a kind word, and as I grew that never stopped. As a young mother it always spoke volumes to me that she cared enough to ask about my girls and always encouraged me to keep raising them for Jesus. I'm going to miss her and I pray that Jesus will help me to follow her example and fill the gap.

## **By Sarah Jackman - Evansville, Indiana**

Sis. Southerland has been one of my spiritual heroes since I was a little girl at Clinton Camp. She was one of the first people to welcome me into the Pilgrim family. I loved to hear her testify, as her love for Christ always shone through. Her spirit reflected Christ in all that she said and did. She had a unique ability to tell you hard truths in such a way that made you love and respect her even more. It was an honor to know such a Godly lady as Sis. Southerland.

## **By Brittany Line - Kokomo, Indiana**

Sis. Southerland was one of the most genuine people I have ever met. She never crossed someone's path without making an impact on them in some way. Her whole life was fully dedicated to God and doing His work. She was looked up to and admired by so many and will be dearly missed.

## **By Hannah Sproles - New Castle, Indiana**

Tonight I went to an IHC service. There was no preaching. No singing. Only a single testimony was being played. People were lined up at the front, not to hit the altar, but to pay their respects to Patsy Southerland. Oh to be like Jesus. and oh to be like Patsy . . . Genuine. Real. Encouraging. Sweet. Faithful. Kind. To go out rejoicing, and into the sheltering arms of God. I ache for the world who lost an incredible saint.

## **By Jalena Glick - New Castle, Indiana**

*The world has enough women who know how to do their hair. It needs women who know how to do hard and holy things."*

- Ann Voskamp

When I saw this quote I immediately thought of Sis. Southerland. Although she always looked nice, she didn't concern herself too much with her hair or her clothes. I find it hard to define inner beauty, but when I find a woman who IS true beauty, I don't even need to come up with the words. She got what it was to be Holy. Not just the outward Holiness in which we are all accustomed. But the Holiness that is hard to live. The daily compassionate spirit and sweet attitude kind. There are so many things I could say about her, but I think one of the things that stood out to me most was her real care and love for people. Sis. Southerland always acted like you were her best friend, in spite of all the people about whom she had to remember! It was NOT an act. She really was your friend, and a compassionate one at that!



# In Loving Memory of Patsy Southerland

By Ruth Nichols

*"A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30b*

Our hearts were saddened, and we were stunned when we received the news of the sudden passing of Patsy Mae Southerland. She left us so quickly. At her viewing, so many told me that they only wished that they had another opportunity to visit her, but she was gone so soon. If you were not her friend, it was not her fault. She wanted more than anything to be your friend, and to share in your joys and sorrows. Age, social status, it didn't matter, Sis. Southerland was everyone's friend!

To the minister's wives of the Pilgrim Holiness Conference, she was a mentor. I have seen many posts on social media where ladies have commented that they wanted to emulate specific character traits that she displayed. There were times in our private conversations that she would share what she felt like were her inadequacies. My response to her would always be that God had gifted her with the ability to love people, and to be able to show that love. That truly is a God given gift. While some struggle with initiating conversation, she did not! She was a people person, and she cared about each one individually. Many times when she was leading our Minister's Wives Meetings at camp, someone would walk through the door a bit late. She would be so overjoyed to see them that she would stop in the middle of her thought to graciously welcome them! If they were a stranger, she would introduce them, and give some background information. She wanted everyone to be everyone's friend and to feel included! I heard so many comment that in her death, they lost their "best" friend. She made everyone feel that they were special, and that they were her best friend! That was truly evident as hundreds passed through the receiving line at her viewing and funeral! Sis. Southerland served as a role model in being a devoted wife, mother and Christian!

Only Bro. Southerland could give a description of her devotion to him, but watching from the outside, we could see that she loved her husband. She willingly and joyfully stood by his side, laying aside her aspirations to support him in ministry. She had an open door to the parsonage, and always made you feel welcome! As she was able, she traveled with him, prayed for him, loved him, and was his faithful companion for 55 years! You could tell that he was her favorite preacher! She laughed with him through life's joys, cried with him through sorrows and helped carry his burdens. In the parsonage, she always had an open door and made you feel welcome! We minister's wives can reflect on her life and see that she was a true role model for us, showing us how to be a loving and supportive wife to our husband in ministry.

As a dedicated mother, her children (and grandchildren) would tell you that they knew their mother (grandmother) had a fervent love for them. As one granddaughter stated, she remembered their accomplishments! She loved to share what was happening in each one's life and was thrilled to spend time with them. She showed them by example how to live, prayed with and for them and was their dearest friend. They all knew that they could call on her at any time and she would take time to listen to them and pray for them. Being a mom requires faithfulness. If she felt one needed admonition, she was faithful in confronting them,

pointing them to Jesus, then loving them and praying with and for them!

Sis. Southerland was truly a Christ follower, a delightful saint! Her smile was contagious, and she radiated the love of Christ. She was kind, compassionate and always was ready with an encouraging word. Her desire was to be like Jesus, and she was. Many times I would see her stand in church or camp services and give honor to the Lord. She served Jesus joyfully. God's grace was exhibited throughout her life, but was especially evident in the hours leading up to her death. She had lived for that moment, so was ready for it when it came.

While heaven gained an angel, we are left to mourn her passing. Our grief is tempered with the assurance that this separation is only temporary if we will follow Christ. She will be missed, but we do not grieve as those who do not have hope. She left us an example to follow, and is cheering us on! Her desire would be for us to be faithful and meet her again in heaven!

In Loving Memory,  
Ruth Nichols







# A Woman's Perspective

By Stephanie Burley

## A Legacy of Love

February 14th is just around the corner. Maybe this season finds you scouring Pinterest for an impressive Valentine's box idea, baking mouth-watering holiday treats, shopping for a gift that expresses just the right sentiment, or planning the perfect date night with that special someone. Whether or not Hallmark has coerced us into participating in the frenzy, many of us enjoy showering our family and friends with an extra dose of affection this time of year. Silly little notes and conversation heart candies are fun and festive, and in their own way they say, "I love you." But those three little words, just eight letters in all, are deeply meaningful if accompanied by selfless, consistent living that is expressed more than just one day or one month of the year.

The pages of this periodical shine with tributes to my friend, Patsy Mae Southerland. As we reflect upon her life, we can find some simple, yet truly impressive ways in which she left a legacy of love for those of us privileged to know her.

- **Her countenance radiated joy.** Many of us admired Sis. Southerland's ready smile. There was nothing forced or fake about it. Of course, she was just as human as the rest of us. She carried burdens, she managed stress, and she fought battles. But she allowed the joy of the Lord to flow through her in a way that was truly spectacular.
- **Her perspective reflected trust.** She left no doubt as to her relationship with the Lord, always expressing that she was surrendered to His will for her life. As a young woman, she joined her husband in a ministry endeavor that would undoubtedly test every ounce of surrender. Her ability to sacrifice and to trust the One who promised to provide her needs is an extraordinary example for us to emulate.
- **Her testimony represented victory.** Over and over, I was privileged to watch and listen as she would stand to her feet and praise the Lord. Sis. Southerland would laugh and cry as the presence of God would fill the room and overwhelm her spirit. Her life and her testimony were congruent. She was a woman of prayer, and her close relationship with her Heavenly Father was uniquely evident.
- **Her heart revealed authenticity.** Sis. Southerland valued people, and she had the ability to make them understand that they were important. Often she would approach them with her arms wide open and a smile just as wide as her embrace. And everything about it was genuine. There was no pretense. No façade. She always made time to lend a listening ear and share a heartfelt word of encouragement. Her ability to validate others was remarkable.

Patsy Southerland left each of us a beautiful gift, and we can draw lessons from her legacy as we aspire to love deeply.

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## Should You Go First, And I Remain

By A.K. Rowswell

*Should you go first and I remain, to walk the road alone, I'll live in memories garden, dear with happy days we've known  
In Spring, I'll watch for roses red when fades the lilac blue, in early Fall, when brown leaves fall, I'll catch a glimpse of you*

*Should you go first and I remain, for battles to be fought, each thing you've touched along the way will be a hallowed spot  
I'll see your face, I'll hear your voice, though blindly I may grope, the memory of your helping hand will buoy me on with hope*

*Should you go first and I remain, to finish with the scroll, no lengthening shadows shall creep in to make this life seem droll  
We've known so much of happiness, we've had our cup of joy, but memory is one gift from God that death cannot destroy*

*Should you go first and I remain, one thing I'd have you do, walk slowly down that long, lone path, for soon I'll follow you.  
And I'll want to know each step you take, that I may walk the same,*

*For some day down that long, long path . . . You'll hear me call your name.*



# PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

## Worship

King David is overcome with the emotional tide of bringing the sacred Ark of the Covenant into the city of Jerusalem. The ark was a symbol of the Divine Shekinah presence of God and dwelt between the cherubim's. It was cherished and honored by the nation generally (The Pulpit Commentary). Since it had been removed for such a long time from its rightful place, David then set it in the midst of the tent that he had pitched in the Holy City. He was so ecstatic with joy that he could not restrain himself from dancing with all of his might before the Lord! His wife Michal, daughter of Saul, did not share his exuberance. In fact, when she witnessed his dramatic demonstration, she despised him in her heart! The Apostle Paul captivates a description of Michal's attitude in his second letter to the Corinthians. He says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him" (I Cor. 2:14). The King of Israel, however, had a supernatural connection with the King of Glory! In this 16th Chapter of First Chronicles, he expresses his praise and thankfulness to God openly before the people, and admonishes them to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

The expression "in the beauty of holiness" is rendered in the Septuagint Version, "in his sanctuary;" and by the Syriac Version, "with reverence and thanksgiving?" A similar expression is found in II Chronicles 20:21, "That should praise the beauty of holiness;" this is translated by Bertheau, "in holy attire;" and by Malvenda, "Praise the Lord with the same costume, and dignity, and magnificence, as in the temple." The term "beauty of holiness" may be regarded as including inward devotion, and also with outward reverence. We may disagree on the interpretation of the phrase "the beauty of holiness", but those of us who have been redeemed from sin and liberated from the principle of sin will agree that our Great God is worthy of our worship! We have every reason to feel our indebtedness to Him!

Worship is the reverent love and allegiance accorded a deity, idol, or sacred object. (The American Heritage Dictionary Second College Edition) The Hindus worship multitudes of gods and goddesses. The Buddhists worship spiritual enlightenment, not Buddha, who never claimed to be divine, because they believe that no god or gods exist. Those of the New Age Movement worship themselves, because they believe that they are God. Muslims worship Allah. The weeping heathen mother tosses her firstborn baby into the Nile River as a sacrifice to the crocodile god, whom she worships. Still others worship a car, a home, money, drugs, sex, a boy, or a girl! I simply choose to worship the God of the Bible. In Exodus 20:3, we read God's spoken word which says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." This Old Testament command to the children of Israel and to the children of God, became a Divine law of promise described in the Book of Hebrews. "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days," saith the Lord, "I will put My laws into their hearts." (Heb. 10:16) The Apostle John described it this way, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:3)

Worship is about Him, the Triune God. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! And yet, worship also involves each one of us! It involves us because He created us to fellowship with Him. We read in the Book of Genesis 1:26, "And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness'." The songwriter expressed it in the chorus of the song, **Born to Serve the Lord** (William and Gloria Gaither). I was

made in his likeness created in his image, for I was born to serve the Lord. And I can't deny Him. I'll always walk beside Him. For I was born to serve the Lord.

Since each individual is different, we are not all going to worship God in the same manner. Your emotional type may not mimic the actions of a King David. Some may shout, some may pout, some may doubt, and some may even jump about! But if you love God, regardless of your specific personality, you are going to enter wholeheartedly into the worship of the Great Creator.

Using an acrostic, I want to describe to you what I believe should be involved from each one of us in worship!

- W – Our Will Is Involved! (Psalm 5:7)
- O – Our Obedience Is Involved! (I Sam. 15:22)
- R – Our Reverence Is Involved! (Rev. 1:17)
- S – Our Spirit Is Involved! (John 4:23)
- H – Our Humility Is Involved! (Neh. 8:6)
- I – Our Individuality Is Involved! (Job 1:20)
- P – Our Praise Is Involved! (Rev. 5:9-14)

There is something mystical, wonderful, precious, strengthening, and beautiful that happens to all of us when we truly enter into the heart of worship! I am sure that the songwriter was right on track when she penned the words to the song we sing from time to time:

**Thou Art Worthy (Pauline M. Mills)**

*Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, Oh Lord!  
To receive glory, glory and honor, glory and honor and praise!  
For thou hast created, hast all things created. Thou hast created all things.  
And for Thy pleasure they are created. For Thou art worthy, Oh Lord!*

He is worthy! Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

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*For all of our talk about missions, we've ignored the greatest mission field in the world - the Sunday morning church pew! Sunday morning in America is the greatest hour of idolatry in the whole week. Why? Because most people are worshipping a God they don't know. They're worshipping a god that is a figment of their own imagination. They created a god in their own likeness and they worship the god they've made.*

- Paul Washer



Conference Vice President Rev. Mark Arnett served as pastor of the Elwood Pilgrim Holiness Church for 31 years prior to moving to Corydon, IN to pastor New Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness Church nearly 2 years ago.

He has been married to Juanita for 46 years. They have 4 married children.



# Think About It . . .

By Dr. Randall McElwain

Do you remember living the struggle of Romans 7 –trying and repeatedly failing to conquer sin in your own power? One reason we fail to conquer sin is that we do not understand that sin goes much deeper than our actions; our sinful actions are rooted in who we are as fallen people.

I recall repeated (losing) battles with a particular temptation. A well-meaning friend tried to encourage me, “You are not a bad person; you are a good person who has done a bad thing.” This was encouraging for a short while; perhaps I was not as bad as my conscience said I was. But I soon realized that my friend’s well-intentioned encouragement was wrong.

Scripture teaches that we do bad things because we are bad people. “An evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil” (Luke 6:45). God saw that the wickedness of man was great because “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen 6:5). Man’s actions are evil because his heart is evil. We are not good people who do bad things; we are bad people who do bad things.

Life experience confirms the truth of Scripture. In *Man's Search for Meaning*, Victor Frankl describes the days after he was liberated from the German concentration camps. He watched fellow prisoners commit gratuitous acts of violence against innocent people. Why? One man said, “I want others to suffer the way I have suffered.” These were not good men doing bad things; they were bad men doing bad things. Frankl recognized that, in different circumstances, some of the victims would have been SS guards. Victims and oppressors shared a sinful nature.

My friend said, “Don’t feel bad. You are not a bad person; you are a good person who did a bad thing.” But, I watched as my friend later acted in ways that hurt those closest to him in order to satisfy his own desires. Why? He was a selfish person who acted selfishly. In our unregenerate state, both my friend and I were bad people who did bad things.

So, is this the end of the story? Are we condemned to live permanently in Romans 7? No! Paul continues: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:1). We can be free of our past.

Paul gives this encouragement, “if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (2 Cor 5:17). There is only one solution to the problem of our bad actions. We must be made new creatures. When we are made into new people “in Christ,” we become who He is. We are no longer bad people doing bad things. Through Christ, we now have the power to be what God created us to be.

Why is this doctrine important in “real life”? Many professed Christians have never come to a place of true repentance because they have never recognized the reality of their sin. We never truly repent until we recognize the “exceeding sinfulness of sin.” Young people, who grow up in holiness churches and avoid the “big sins” must realize, “My sin is real. I am a sinner.” Nice people who go to church, pay tithe, and keep most of the commandments – but who have never truly repented of sin – must realize, “My sins – even the ‘little sins’ – are real. I am a sinner.”

If you are controlled by sin, don't deceive yourself into thinking, “I am a good person who does bad things.” No! Allow God to reveal your true nature. Confess the truth: “if I am controlled by sin, it is because I am a sinful person. I am a bad person who does bad things.” And then take hold of Paul’s promise that you can be made a new creature. In Christ, you can be empowered to live free from bondage to sin.

Good people doing bad things? Or bad people doing bad things? **Think about it....**



# where are they now

## Catching Up With Pilgrims of Days Gone By . . .



If you have been a part of our Conference for an extended period of time, you will undoubtedly remember the names **Jim and Beth Terry**.

Jim and Beth met in 1977 when he came to Petersburg to meet Beth's sister, Lana! :-)  
He was saved in February of 1979 and while they continued to be used in their local church in Petersburg, Indiana, it wouldn't be long before they would make the move to Palestine, Illinois, to become Rev. Paul Gray's very first Assistant Pastor.

### A note from Rev. Paul Gray:

*What a joy to recall sweet memories of our first Assistant Pastor and wife, Jim and Beth Terry. They began their ministry at our church here in Palestine in the Fall of 1983.*

*Being in a revival with Mac and Pansy McCrary in Pennsylvania, we asked for a recommendation. Mac gave us the name of his niece and her husband. Their children, Aaron and Missy, were the first and only children in our congregation of only twelve. Our theme on the bulletin board that Spring was, "March out of the Teens in March." They began our new junior church program.*

*They went with us through the experiences of the old church fire and God working in a new building project! During those happy beginning years, Jim's parents (Jim & Eva Terry) moved here from Wisconsin and became faithful attendees at our church. Beth's mother, Joyce Decker, also began attending.*

*It's wonderful how God's will of an 8 1/2 year stay of serving together yielded faithfulness, fellowship and a lasting friendship. We gratefully express our appreciation to God, as well as to Jim and Beth and still love them dearly!*

Jim & Beth left the Pilgrims in 1992 to pastor the Vevay, Indiana, Bible Covenant Church where they remained for the next 7 years. From 1999-2013 they pastored North Vernon Wesleyan Church and from 2013 to the present Jim has served North Vernon Nazarene as Associate Pastor.

While Jim stays busy with church work, Beth is a successful Real Estate Agent with Coldwell Banker.

Their son, Aaron, is married to Lark, they have 4 children, and they live in Texas, where Aaron teaches music, preaches on occasion, and they own a business.

Their daughter, Missy, is a military wife. She leads Bible studies on base and she and her husband have 2 children.





# 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 hear 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 March 25th. THANKS!

Email your report to: [pauldplemmons@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldplemmons@yahoo.com)