

PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

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In this issue . . .

From the Editor — Page 2

Celebrating A Life Well-Lived — Page 3

Church News — Page 7

A Woman's Perspective — Page 9

Pastor to Pastor — Page 10

Think About It — Page 11

Where Are They Now? — Page 12



From the Editor

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19

Christians have a bad habit . . . we tend to live in the past. There is nothing wrong with looking back and enjoying the wonderful memories of days gone by, but we need to realize (for the sake of the youth that have no idea what we're talking about) that the present can be just as glorious as our past!

The young people that are in your church and mine, don't really care that God came in a miraculous way in the 1950's, and that the Revival went on for ten weeks . . . they want to know that the God of the PAST is still the God of TODAY!

All throughout the Bible, we are given examples of God doing miraculous things, and as we read these accounts, it's easy to somehow feel that the "Glory Days" are in the past, but here's a NEWS FLASH: The God of Elijah is OUR God, and what He did in the Bible times, He can still do today!!

Ecclesiastes 7:10 says, *Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.*

Have you ever noticed that in the American Christian movement, the group of people that God seems to move the most freely upon is the young people? Those words aren't easy to say or digest, but it is the truth! You can go to many of our youth camps and youth conventions, and it doesn't take very long for God to settle in and before you know it, the altars are completely lined with young people wanting to go with God! Could it be that we older ones have allowed ourselves to settle into a rut, and are resting on the memories of former days?

A successful pastor was once asked, "How can we best win the youth of today?" His reply was simply, "Get God on the scene, and start winning people to Christ, and you will never have trouble attracting your young people, OR keeping their interest, because they want to be where things are happening!!"

As a pastor, I want my congregation to experience the fullness of God's blessing, and I want them to know that on the authority of God's Word, our BEST days can be right now!

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert - Isaiah 43:19

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions - Joel 2:28

In this issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes*, we want to encourage our readers to once again believe that what God did back in the days of old, He can still do today! The God that worked mightily in the 1950's, 1960's, and the 1970's, wants to do "a new thing" TODAY! He truly is the same, "Yesterday, Today, and Forever!"

Celebrating A Life Well Lived

By Jeff Stratton



The year was 1948, America was recovering from the recent world war. Harry S. Truman was President of the United States and that same year, the state of Israel was established. But on September 20, the big news in Jonestown, Pennsylvania was the birth of a baby in the home of Robert and Mary Miller. It was a little red-haired girl named Rosemary.

Rosemary was the third of four children, and her parents insisted on calling each of them by their full names. It was Thomas, not Tom, Judith, not Judy, and Timothy, not Tim. But somehow, Mom often went by Rosie instead of Rosemary. Maybe it was her outgoing, mischievous personality and her red curls that earned her the nickname of Rosie. Those red curls got her in trouble one day. People were always admiring and touching her curls, and she got tired of it, and decided to do something about it. So she found a pair of scissors and cut them off. As you can imagine, her mother wasn't too pleased.

She and her sister Judy were constant playmates. They loved to dress up the cat in doll clothes and push it around in a baby buggy. They enjoyed playing church and school, teaching and preaching to their dolls and stuffed animals. But they didn't always see eye to eye, and they had their share of disagreements. One year, the children each received a chocolate Easter bunny. One day, Aunt Judy discovered that her chocolate bunny's ears were gone. Mom had eaten them!

Another time, she managed to get the seat by the door in the car, much to her sister Judy's dismay. But she didn't get the door shut properly, and as they pulled out of the church parking lot, the door swung open and Mom fell out, right into a pile of horse manure.

She was outgoing, and didn't mind meeting new people. She loved accompanying her father, knocking on doors in nearby towns and selling fresh sugar peas, potatoes, and other produce door to door. In fact, she liked talking so much that her report card sometimes read "Talks too much."

Mom was raised in a godly home... her parents were members of Dohner's Mennonite church, and her father was a pastor there. But Mom didn't inherit a clean heart, she had to seek forgiveness from God herself. Under her parents' godly influence, Mom did that as a child. After giving her heart to Jesus, she was baptized and joined the Mennonite church. She loved serving the Lord, and as a teenager began teaching a Sunday School class in the area to the children of coal miners.

For high school, she went to a Mennonite boarding school, but upon graduation, she was interested in furthering her education. She felt the Lord directing her to Hobe Sound Bible College in south Florida. So in the fall of 1969, she enrolled there, pursuing a teaching degree.

Dad loves to tell people of how he met his future wife in jail. They were both ministering in a jail service in

Florida, but she really got his attention when she shared her testimony and sang a song. Shortly after that, he wrote a letter to his mother back in New York State. He told her, “I never really liked red hair that much, but Rosemary’s is different.”

Their relationship blossomed, and on July 7, 1973, they faced each other on the lawn of Rosemary’s parents’ farm and vowed to love and care for each other . . .

-for better or for worse...

-for richer or for poorer...

-in sickness, or in health...

-till death do us part!

Those vows held true to the very end. Dad, we want to thank you for showing us what nearly 45 years of dedication to your wife, our Mom, looks like.

That very first Christmas, Dad tells of how they went to Kmart to pick something out for each other. They each had one dollar with which to buy something. Although they didn’t have much, they had each other, and that was enough. Really, throughout all our growing up years, that was the way Mom and Dad taught us. We might not have much, but we had each other, and that was enough.

In December of 1976, their home in south Florida was blessed with a little girl, Stephanie. Two years later, God sent them a son, Stephen. Not too long after that, they left the church in Florida to pastor in Dixon, Missouri, where Jonathan was born. In the fall of 1981, they moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to pastor a small Pilgrim Holiness church there. Colorado was to be home for the Stratton family for nearly 24 years. Two more sons were born there, Jeffrey and Joseph.

Most of our growing-up memories are of the house at 1223 West Costilla Street. Mom homeschooled us there, prayed for us there, taught us life lessons there, and lived out before us what it meant to serve Jesus.

Mom was very structured in everything she did. She constantly reminded us children that there was a “place for everything”, and believed that everything should be in its place. She taught us that there was a “right way” to do everything; sort laundry, boil potatoes, wash dishes, iron clothes, and most everything else.

And she taught us all those things. It didn’t matter that we were boys, she believed that all her boys should know how to set a table, do laundry, iron clothes, scrub toilets, cook food, and many other life skills.

Mom was good at finding teachable moments, and even making teachable moments. She intentionally took individual time with each of us children, talking to us about where we were in life, encouraging us to live for Jesus, and constantly showering us with words of wisdom. Things like:

“Remember, I may not see you, but God does.”

“Hard work never hurt anyone.”

“Delayed obedience is disobedience.”

“I’m sorry means you’re sorry enough to not do it again.”

“Life is not always fair.”

“We may be poor, but we can be neat.”

“If you don’t do it cheerfully, you’ll miss the blessing.”

“If you don’t learn to obey me, you’ll never learn to obey God.”

Mom lived these things out before us. And she prayed for us every day. More than once, I remember coming down the stairs early in the morning and looking into the living room. I would see Mom kneeling at the couch, her Bible open before her, her face wet with tears as she prayed for us children.

Mom was very practical. She knew how to make a delicious meal out of whatever was in the cupboard. We loved her “concoctions”, as she called them, and begged for them often. But it was rarely the same twice.

She let us kids have all kinds of animals; fish, salamanders, turtles, lizards, hamsters, and even white mice. But she drew the line at snakes. No snakes were allowed in the house! And ferrets, she said they looked like “snakes with hair”! Probably all of us remember the time that one of our lizards got loose in the house. Mom was rather terrified at where it might turn up. As fate would have it, she discovered it a few days later in her laundry basket!

Mom loved teaching and spent most of her adult life doing just that. She taught Pre-K at Jupiter Prep, helped to pioneer the special education class at Hobe Sound Christian Academy, homeschooled her own children for several years, then taught and served as principal in Pilgrim Christian Academy in Colorado Springs, and finally at Pilgrim Bible Academy in Ottawa, KS. In her years of experience, she taught all elementary grades, but her favorite by far was Kindergarten, because it gave her the opportunity to build a solid foundation. She had a strong philosophy of education, and was determined that each of her students excel. As a teacher, she was a life-long learner, always eager to learn something new.

But that didn’t particularly include learning new technology, which was something Mom really struggled with. We all remember how hard it was for her to learn to use our first computer, especially the mouse! She just couldn’t get the hang of it. When Dad got her a cell phone, she left it at home more often than not.

As a pastor’s wife, Mom was very involved in the church. Many times she led singing, taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, led monthly missions services, sang special songs, led Ladies’ Prayer Meetings, and even occasionally filled in for Dad with a devotional on a Wednesday night. She loved entertaining evangelists and other guests at the church, and made it clear to anyone traveling through that they were welcome to stay for a meal, for the night, or even for a week or two. Mom always dreamed of running a bed and breakfast. There is no question she would have done an outstanding job of it. She was an exceptional hostess.

As different ones of us got married and left home, Mom never tried to hold us back from ministry or to encourage us to live nearby. No, from early on, she taught us to follow God wherever He would lead us. She would say, “I would rather know my children are where God wants them than living close to me.” As a result, our family has scattered across the US and around the world, all involved in full-time Christian ministry, and

Mom wouldn't have had it any other way!

As much as Mom loved us kids, she also did her best to have a close relationship with her son-in-law and each of her daughters-in-law. She wanted them to know that she considered them the same as her own. She did her best to send them cards and express her love to them.

In the summer of 2015, we were all shocked with the news that Mom had cancer. But as terrible as it was, we knew that Mom would stand strong as an example for all of us. Steve put it best when he said, "While I did not want Mom to go through this, there was no one I would consider it a greater privilege to watch face this than Mom, because I already knew exactly how she would handle it. She has not disappointed, and neither has God! God is good even in the darkest times, and Mom has helped me to realize that!"

As we watched Mom going through treatments, having some good days and some very difficult days, we never heard her complain. She would say "God has never failed me yet, why should I stop trusting Him now?" She continued to encourage others, lifting them up, and helping in any way she could.

It was difficult for us to see her health failing, but her sweet spirit and love and concern for others never diminished. This past Christmas we all gathered in Kansas, and made many wonderful memories, in spite of the knowledge that it would likely be our last Christmas with Mom. But none of us expected to hear so suddenly that the cancer had spread into Mom's lungs, and was no longer responding to treatment.

As we began gathering in from across the country, to the very end, her greatest concern was for souls. She was so weak she could hardly whisper, but on her last afternoon, she rallied herself enough to tell her grand-kids and several others, "More than anything else, I want you to live for Jesus. You will never be sorry."

It was early Sunday morning, March 18th, when Mom breathed her last. We were gathered around, singing and sharing Scripture when Mom peacefully slipped away at 2:05 AM, finally safe in Jesus' arms.

So many times on Sunday mornings, as we headed to church, Mom would greet us with the words, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord." And I can't help but wonder, as she left her tired body, and stepped through the gates of pearl, with tears of joy streaming down her face, as we've seen so many times when God's presence was near, if she repeated those words, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord!" It was more of a reality to her than it had ever been before.

Mom's life touched many of you in some way. If she were able to speak again right now, I believe she would repeat to us again and again, just as she did on that last afternoon, "More than anything else, I want you to live for Jesus. You will never be sorry." And she would have no greater joy than to know that people came to know Jesus as their Savior through her life, and even through her death.

Please send cards of condolence to:

Rev. Dale Stratton

315 E 13th St.

Ottawa, KS 66067



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 PHC! God has been doing great things here, and for that, we give Him thanks! His presence has been felt in a special way in our services and He has met a variety of needs in our congregation. Our faithful pastor, John Forsee, has been speaking on a series titled: "The Power of the Tongue." We have been cautioned on the power of our tongue to encourage, discourage, tear down and build up! It has spoken to me and I know it has spoken to others as well.

On March 24th, we had an Emoji Junior Church Party in our Family Life Center (appropriately dubbed the "FLC"). There was much laughter, fun, and many friends. Thanks to our JC workers for all their hard work to make a difference in the children in our community.

Speaking of our FLC, God has been helping there, also! We have many dedicated, hard workers in our church that are helping to continue the construction process. They have been working on finishing the floor. We were able to have a Palm Sunday Potluck in the FLC and it was a wonderful time! May God's presence precede you as we approach Easter Sunday. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!





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Lima, OH - (by Don Nichols)

On January 14th, Dr. Stephen Gibson shared a report of his work in missions in the evening service.

On January 24th, several from the church attended Patsy Southerland's viewing in Indianapolis.

On February 18th, Lima PHC was featured as Church of the Week on Radio Station WTGN with our morning worship service aired. Pastor Nichols then hosted "Prayer Time" at the station Monday through Friday, sharing a devotional thought and praying on air for requests that were called in to the station.

On February 25th, in the evening service, the pastor preached from the title: "If I Make My Bed In Hell." A good altar service followed as several teenagers prayed.

February 27th – March 4th was the date set aside for our revival with Rev. Harry Plank preaching, Greg and Stephanie Burley singing (Tuesday evening through Thursday evening), and Joe and Janelle Carey singing for the weekend.

On March 3rd, the Conference President held our Annual Business Meeting. The present church officers were re-elected to new terms beginning May 1st. We are thankful for the Godly men and women who faithfully serve our church. Our Local Board is made up of William Spencer (Sunday School Superintendent), Paul Snyder (Secretary), Dennis Estes (Treasurer), Jerry Barnt and Greg Burley (Advisory Members). Cheryl Barnt is our Missionary President.

On March 6th, Pastor and Mrs. Nichols attended the Lima Camp Gideon's Banquet at the Old Barn Out Back. A delicious meal was shared and a report from the camp was given about how the Word of God had been distributed in the past year. The following Sunday morning, a Gideon spoke at our church and an offering of over \$1,500 was raised to purchase Bibles.

On March 18th, a men's quartet from Penn View Bible Institute ministered in the evening service. A good crowd attended and we were blessed with their ministry.

Currently Phil Brugger Construction is remodeling the back of our sanctuary. We are having the sound booth enlarged a bit and fully enclosed, and a small nursery and storage rooms built.

Rochester Hills, MI - (by Dan Plemmons)

We enjoyed the music ministry of Rev. Bill & Crystal Kellogg on Sunday morning, January 28th. Their sweet spirit, coupled with their musical gifts made them a real blessing to our people.

On March 30th, our church was privileged to host a Good Friday service with three other churches. (Pollina Avenue Holiness Church in Port Huron, Lower Light Church in Melvindale, and New Beginnings Fellowship in Detroit) The service was blessed with a great crowd, wonderful singing, a sermon by Bro. Kellogg, and it concluded with Pastor Dan Plemmons serving Communion.

We are anticipating great days ahead with God's help. We have a great group of people here.



A Woman's Perspective

By Stephanie Burley

Stephanie is married to Greg, and they have four wonderful children. She teaches at Pilgrim Christian School in Lima, Ohio, and is very active in her local church. They live in Lima, Ohio. Stephanie is a regular contributor to *Pilgrim Ness & Notes*

A New Thing

Several weeks ago, late in the winter, I pulled into my driveway and was again surprised to see a hearty row of daffodils staring at me from along the side of my grandmother's house.

For the last six years, I have experienced the same surprise. Snow is falling, temperatures are cool, trees are bare, and all of the sudden, out of nowhere, beautiful, strong green shoots are proudly standing tall. It's almost as if they are saying, "Hey! We conquered, and we're back!"

Then come the flowers. Large, beautiful, yellow blooms. Right in the middle of the old and dead, probably while I'm griping about the weather, something new is happening. And I'm more than impressed. I'm even a little convicted.

It may sound silly. After all, the daffodil is just doing what she's supposed to do, right? Of course! And I think she has some lessons for us. Let's talk about it for a minute.

- **Versatile** - The daffodil has preferences, but she isn't going to let her preferences dictate her ability to thrive. She prefers well-drained soil, but she will grow just about anywhere. She's happy to grow in sun, shade, or a combination of both. She tends to be found in yards or gardens; however, if she lands in a patio container, she'll make that patio shine.
- **Colorful** - Show-stopping color is a favorite trait of the daffodil. She has a knack for making ugly places beautiful. In fact, everything around her can be drab and muddy, but she is not intimidated. She seems to understand that she can change the atmosphere just by her presence. She knows her purpose.
- **Reliable** - Fortunately, the daffodil doesn't have to wait on me to help her rise above her circumstances each spring. She just shows up right when she's supposed to and does exactly what she's supposed to do. Every single year. Not only that, she shows up earlier than most perennials, and is often the first bright spot in an otherwise dreary environment. She leads with confidence.
- **Self-sustaining** - The daffodil's bulb uses the foliage to store her food for the following year. She is dependent upon her Creator alone to provide her nourishment. This allows her to be a giver rather than a taker and ensures that she will be able to produce even more blooms next time around.
- **Resistant** - Animals and rodents could destroy the daffodil, but they don't even bother. They sense something within her that demands their respect.
- **Perpetual** - Each year, the same bulb produces many blooms. By the time a bulb's life is finished, it has already created more bulbs which continue the process of producing even more blooms. Plant experts say the daffodil will likely outlive her spectators. Her influence lives on and on.

Are you and I ready for the new thing that God wants to do for and through us? Maybe it's time for us to do old things with new purpose or even new methods.

Different isn't wrong, and change doesn't equal compromise. Maybe He's given us a new challenge that threatens to throw us out of our comfort zone and causes us to trust Him more than we ever thought possible. Let's not be overtaken by fear or silenced by insecurity. The same God who gave us purpose will assist us in navigating every new path He sets before us.



PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

Do Sinners Feel Welcome?

The Lord spoke through Isaiah of the great Redemption that was coming. First, about the return of Israel from Babylon, but secondly, the new thing that He would do through His Son. The new thing would be brought to Earth in a brand new way. A virgin would conceive and bear a Son, the Way, the Truth and the Life; creating a way in the wilderness and a river in the desert. He has come! It is the greatest news of all time, the message our world needs.

For whom is this message? We would all agree that this message is for the whole world, but for some time I struggled about who is ok to accept? Some people think differently than I do, some people look differently than I do. Should I accept them? It is easy to try to figure out who to receive, or who to reject. How will I know the difference? Then came a liberating thought... **I don't need to agree with people to accept them.**

God would like to do a new thing in US! He wants us to accept everyone and allow Him to conform them to image of His Son. Jesus accepted the worst of sinners. He ate with them! In fact, His reason for coming to the Earth was to seek and to save these people. The questions I believe we should ask are, "If these people would find their way to our church, would they be accepted? Would they feel His love? Would they know they were welcome? If not, we must ask ourselves, 'why not'? Are we being like Jesus? We must do a better job in seeking these people and bringing them to the one who can save them. Are we able to accept those with whom we do not agree? Do we love them as Jesus does? Will we allow God time to conform them to the image of His Son? Are we as patient with them as we would want God to be with us?

Growing up on the mission field, I didn't know how to play basketball. I had no opportunity to learn. When I went to college, I wanted to play, so I would stand against the wall and wait to be picked. But no one wanted the flailing, unskilled player that could hardly hit the backboard. The result was that I would be the last one picked or not picked at all. That was hard to accept, and my burning desire kept me against the wall. . . But Steve seemed different than the others. Many times he'd say, "Ok, Raines, you can be on my team." He even took me aside and taught me the basics; how to hold the ball, how to dribble, how to pass, and how to shoot. It was this acceptance that made the difference between continuing to try, or giving up. A few kind words, being willing to take risks, and helping the unaccepted become accepted made the difference in the world for me.

We have the greatest news in the whole world - transforming news! We must ask ourselves, Are we truly willing to welcome everyone? Are we willing to welcome the prostitutes and immodestly dressed people? The drug addicts, alcoholics, and people that look nothing like us? Will we search for them and welcome them?

He desires to do a new thing in their lives. He desires to do a new thing through us. Will we allow Him to use us to bring these to Him? **Will we first accept them, so that they can accept Him?** May our prayer be, "Lord, help us to accept those for whom you died! May we never be a stumbling block in their way to you."



Rev. Don Raines is the son of missionary parents, Rev. Richard & Mary Raines. He spent a major part of his youth in Dominica where they served. Graduating from God's Bible School and college in 1985, he served churches in Michigan and Ohio, prior to returning to Dominica to serve for the next 10 years with his family.

He has served as Senior Pastor of the Pilgrim Holiness Church in New Castle, IN for 10 years. He has been married to Sharon for 32 years, and they have 3 children, Kristan, Lestan, & Kayla.



Think About It . . .

By Dr. Randall McElwain

Several years ago, I visited a beautiful 19th century Methodist church building in England. I was shocked to see a large plaster cow in the lobby. I asked the receptionist, “Why do you have a cow in your church?” She laughed, “This isn’t a church! The church sold the building to our company; the cow is our mascot.” It was a church building, but it was not a church.

The church is not a building. The church building is important. It provides a place for worship, fellowship, and proclamation of the Word. But the church is much more than a building. The church is not the pastor. The pastor is important. He is called to equip church members for the work of ministry (Eph 4:11). But the church is much more than the pastor.

Who is the church? **You are the church.** Those “called to be saints” are the church (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:2). The “faithful in Christ Jesus” are the church (Eph 1:1). “The church” refers to the universal church: all who have been ‘called out’ by God and are being shaped in His image. “The church” also refers to the local body of believers: God’s vehicle for accomplishing His mission in your community. Healthy local churches are essential for accomplishing God’s mission in our world. In Eph 4:11-16, Paul points to a few characteristics of a healthy church.

A healthy church is a maturing church (“for the edifying – building up - of the body of Christ”) Paul complained to Christians in Corinth, “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it...” (1 Cor 3:2). What was wrong? They were not maturing in the faith. They were divided; they tolerated open sin; they were not growing in the image of Jesus Christ. They were babies. A 1-year-old baby is cute, but a 10-year-old baby is not cute - and a 30-year-old baby is obnoxious! A church composed of people who have remained spiritual babies for thirty years is not cute. A healthy church is a maturing church.

A healthy church is a united church (“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God”) Six times, Acts says that the early church was “in one accord.” This doesn’t mean that they agreed on every issue. They had disagreements – personal conflict between Paul and Barnabas and theological conflict over the relationship between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

“One accord” means that because they were united on one mission, they tolerated disagreement on other issues. There were many tensions in the early church, but these tensions were overridden by their mission, the gospel of Christ. What “one mission” unites your local church?

A healthy church is a Bible-believing church (“not tossed about with every wind of doctrine”)

Acts 2:42 tells us that the early Christians “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.” In a world in which everyone’s “truth” is seen as equally valid, the church must ground our doctrine on the Word of God. A healthy church will never compromise biblical truth.

A healthy church is a loving church (“speaking the truth in love”) We must be committed to truth, but we must learn to speak it in love. A healthy church can disagree without dividing.

Loving the “universal church” is easy; loving members of our “local church” can be difficult. An anonymous poet wrote: *To live above with saints we love, Oh - that will be glory!*
To live below with saints we know, Well – that’s a different story.

A healthy church has learned to love one another.

A healthy church is a growing church (“makes the body grow”) Before he ascended, Jesus told his disciples, “ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). A group of 120 disciples left the Upper Room empowered by the Holy Spirit – and by the end of the 1st century, the gospel had reached every corner of the Roman Empire.

Is your church healthy? **Think about it....**

where are they now

Catching Up With Pilgrims of Days Gone By . . .



Coming from very similar backgrounds, it seems natural that God would bring the two of them together to be able to continue to spread the Gospel message, and be a blessing to the Conservative Holiness Movement and beyond! Our feature for this issue of "Where are they now" is **LuRhe (Walden) Edwards**.

Jonathan is the son of Wilfred and Rachel Edwards, long-time song evangelists who spent many years traveling all over the United States singing in Revivals, Camps, and Conventions. He was brought up as a part of *Central Yearly Meeting of Friends*, while LuRhe was also raised traveling throughout the United States in full-time evangelism with her parents, long-time Pilgrims, Don & Fayerene Walden.

LuRhe says: Memories flood my mind when I hear the words, **Pilgrim Camp**. The BIG bridge at Illiana Camp, the Friends Campground in Muncie where I gave my heart to Jesus at the age of ten, clanging bells calling us to worship, and food!

The wonderful services where I sensed the Presence of the Lord in our midst. The ministers of the Word and music such as Dale Yocum, GR French, Millard Downing, JD Young, Paul Pierpoint, Larry and LaDonna Thomas, and of course, The Edwards Family (smile), just to name a few.

Probably the most impactful memories were those when the Presence of the Lord drew near. One time in particular was when we were at Mocking Bird Hill Camp. God's Presence came in such a powerful way, you could actually "see" the people responding in waves from the back of the tabernacle to the front and back again.

I married a preacher/farmer, **Jonathan Edwards**, in September of 1987, and we have 4 wonderful children.

Jacinda, a teacher in our local public school.

Jesse (married to Arii, and our brand new grandchild, Matteo Jase) They currently live in our community. Jesse is also a farmer and they work with the Youth Ministry of our church.

Jamin is currently a Junior at Union Bible College, majoring in music.

Joel is currently a Senior at Winchester Community High School.

We are thankful that our children have chosen to love and serve our Savior. They have been such a blessing to us, helping us to minister to this community.

We traveled in Evangelistic Ministry for 5 years, and had the honor of teaming up with Jonathan's parents, Wilfred and Rachel, many times during those five years.

We began pastoring Randolph Friends Church, Ridgeville, IN in 1992. We just celebrated 25 years with this church! God has been so faithful! Through God's faithfulness, we have been privileged to see many people come to the Lord!

In 2012, the Lord enabled us to build a new church facility to accommodate the growing congregation. We are so thankful for how God led us to be missionaries to this community and for the love He has given us for them.

Even the "Pre-Christians" are like family to us, and God has opened up some amazing opportunities to love people to Him!

One of the biggest highlights has been *the Steps* Youth Ministry, which was born out of a children's ministry that began in this community nearly 70 years ago by a little lady that loved the children of Ridgeville.

She taught them a Bible class twice weekly in the local public school. God rewarded her faithfulness and through a series of miracles, provided us with a beautiful facility downtown Ridgeville (pop. approx. 800).

The Steps is a place where children gather twice weekly to hear the stories of Jesus and receive love from us. We currently minister to approx. 100 different children on a monthly basis! Since we cannot teach in the public school, they bring them straight to us after school! There are so many connections to families through this ministry which has overflowed into our church ministry. We praise Him for His marvelous works!



The Jonathan Edwards Family - 2017



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:

pauldplemmons@yahoo.com

Conference Info:

Conference President, Rev. Don Nichols

Conference Vice President, Rev. Mark Arnett

Conference Secretary, Rev. Tim Forsee

Conference Treasurer, Rev. Bryan Line

Conference Missionary Representative, Dr. Craig Dahler

Conference Youth Director, Rev. John Zeigler

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 May 25th. THANKS!

Email your report to: pauldplemmons@yahoo.com