

PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

JUNE 1, 2018

52nd Annual Pilgrim Holiness Family Camp

June 15-24, 2018

Located at Frankfort Camp Ministries - 1058 W. Freeman St., Frankfort, IN



Rev. Dan Durkee

Dan Durkee is from the campus of Penn View Bible Institute in Penns Creek, PA where he serves as President.

We look forward to his ministry to us during Pilgrim Camp!



Rev. David Stetler

David Stetler comes to us from North Carolina and has been active in ministry for the past 40 years.

David comes from a long line of great holiness preachers. May God bless his ministry to us this year!



Jonathan & Jalena Glick

Jonathan & Jalena Glick are certainly not strangers to us, having grown up among the Pilgrims.

It is a delight to welcome them as singers for this year's camp!

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It Happened at Area Revivals and Camp Meetings!

By Dan Plemmons

When I was a lad, DP Denton wrote a series of books that he called *The Happening Series*. One of the books in that series was titled *It Happened At Camp Meeting!* The month of June is when families across our Conference make plans to attend Pilgrim Family Camp in Frankfort, Indiana. If you will allow me, I'd like to take you down memory's lane and tell you about some of my favorite memories of going to revivals and camp meetings during the last 50 years.

I grew up in Taylor, Michigan, and my parents loved going to church! In saying that, I am not just referring to our home church, but rather every holiness church in the area! If there was a revival or camp being held within a 30 mile radius, we went every night that we possibly could. That may seem a little extreme, especially in this day when we have so many things to take up our time, but you must remember that this was in a day when no one that we knew could afford to own a computer, the Internet was non-existent, and for family entertainment it wasn't uncommon for our family of seven to grab a cooler, a croquet set, and head off to the *Lower Huron Metropolitan Park* for an evening of fun!

Many people my age have never heard evangelists such as RG Flexon, J Wesley Adcock, Judy Williams, DP Denton, HE Darnell, John White, William Tillis, Archie Atwell, Noel Scott, Wayne States, HE Schmul, Coy McGinnis, Marshall Smart, JM Sullivan, Dale Yocum, Don Wardlaw, the Downings, and many others that I could name, but thanks to my parents, we heard and loved them all!

In that general area, there was a tent meeting in Deerfield, MI that we attended every year. There was also Maybe Camp, Lower Light Camp in Petersburg, MI, Wesleyan Holiness Camp in Remus, MI, Camp Gilead in OH, and the Wesleyan Holiness Camp in West Milton, OH. (As well as 5-7 area holiness churches we attended for revival.)

Many years ago, I said to my wife, "You know, we have traveled 2 hours to go to a Southern Gospel concert, this week we're going to travel 2 hours to hear Rev. Paul Lucas preach in Beech Grove, Indiana!" And we did!

I. The Venues

I have attended camps in large buildings. I've also attended camps that were held in tents where you prayed that you didn't need to use the restroom, as all they had was an out-house! Believe it or not, I can remember attending a camp that was held in a 2-car garage! Just a few months ago, I sang for a camp in Kansas in which the services took place in a barn. As I was singing, you could look out and see cows approximately 100 yards away!

II. The Preachers

I have always had a love of preaching. It matters not to me their style of delivery, or if they are long-winded, or preach 15 minute sermons. To my knowledge, the longest sermon I ever heard was at a camp in Pennsylvania where the evangelist preached for 2 hours!

Judy Williams was a favorite of mine. I liked the fact that she wasn't intimidated by anyone. She didn't preach to please men. If she had a message from God that was heavy on her heart, she was intent on delivering it, and it mattered not if the crowd was large or small, or if the message was popular with the majority.

She was determined to be faithful! She was rare, but she gave her entire life to ministry and the pursuit of souls. Only eternity will reveal just how many people are in Heaven because of her faithfulness.

Marshall Smart was another favorite. I heard him say one time, *"I promised God a long time ago that I was going to be original or nothing, and it wasn't long before I found out that I was both!"* And original he was! If you ever heard Marshall Smart preach, you know that he would say things that the average preacher wouldn't even think of saying from the pulpit, and he could get by with it!

In our first pastorate, we decided to dismiss service on a Sunday night to support the Elwood revival where Rev. Mark Arnett was pastoring. Marshall Smart was in rare form that night, and even accidentally locked himself in the back office (while he was preaching). Bro. Arnett had to let him out during the sermon! When he was finished, there was an altar service and while several were praying around the altar, one of my board members slipped up beside me and said, "Bro. Plemmons, I'm not happy with how he preaches! I don't think a preacher should say the things that he says!" I didn't reply. I just looked at her.

Fast forward to 12 years ago when we had him here in Rochester Hills for a revival. It was on the Sunday morning of that meeting that our son Clayton (7 years old at the time) went forward and gave his life to Christ!

Clayton just finished his freshman year in the Ministerial Department at Union Bible College in Westfield, Indiana, and he even preached for me this past Sunday. I've often wondered, had I listened to that board member and let her taint the character of this good man of God, would I have cut off the man who was key in reaching my very own son?

III. The Singers

Millard and Naomi Downing were among my favorites. Perhaps it's my love for being organized and prepared, but even as a young child, I sat up and noticed the seriousness with which they took their ministry! When it was time for the offertory, you could watch them closely, and just as soon as the amen was said, they would start playing their instruments. Their careful preparation carried over into the songs they sang and into the message of the hour! They taught me by their actions that God wanted our very best!

There are others that I loved . . . Larry & LaDonna Thomas, The Edwards Family, Don & Shirl Gessner, Bill & Naomi Tillis, Ruth Glick & Naomi Downing, the Fullers, the Sheridans, the Howard Dearth Family, and so many more.

IV. The Altar Services

This article could never be complete without mentioning the wonderful altar services at these revivals and camps! There is no way of knowing, but I am guessing that at least 75% of the people that are walking with Christ today, were saved at an altar during a revival or camp meeting.

Have you ever noticed that most of the time when God decides to move mightily in a service, there will be seekers at the altar? I have watched it time and time again at our own Pilgrim Camp. When the Spirit of God comes in mighty waves of glory, most of the time, conviction will settle down and those that have a need will make their way to the mourner's bench to seek God.

We don't go through all of the preparation, spend the money, call the workers, etc., just to get together. The over-riding purpose of everything we do is for the salvation of souls! My prayer is that Pilgrim Youth Camp and Pilgrim Family Camp of 2018 will be gatherings where decisions will be made that will have a lasting impact on OUR Conference!



A History of Camp Meeting

By Dr. Robert England

The Camp Meeting is a unique religious institution which came into existence on the American frontier more than two centuries ago. There is not a unanimous agreement among church historians as to where and when the first encampment took place. But there is a common consensus that the camp meeting movement, as we know it, came into being either in the latter part of the eighteenth century or the early part of the nineteenth century in one of our southern states.

Yet another historian asserts that a Methodist preacher in Tennessee started the first camp meeting in 1799. Although we cannot pinpoint the exact date for the origin of the camp meeting, this much is certain: It was not until after 1799 that the camp meeting became popular throughout the United States and had, by then, developed a standard form.

As far as we know, the first “planned” camp meeting was held in Logan County, KY in 1800. A fiery Presbyterian preacher, James McGready, had labored for some time in North Carolina and was used by God as a human instrument to help bring about a gracious revival. However, McGready’s strong preaching style was offensive to some; so, in 1800 he moved to southwestern Kentucky where thieves and murderers were known to reside. These rough and lawless backwoods people liked McGready’s fervent evangelistic preaching. He gave himself wholeheartedly to pastoring three congregations which were located on three different rivers.

In the third week of June, 1800, McGready scheduled services for Friday – Monday at the Red River Church. The total number of folks attending the meeting was between four and five hundred. God worked mightily in their midst and many were visibly touched by His spirit.

McGready was deeply impressed with the results of the four-day meeting, so he decided to schedule another encampment for the last week of July at the Gasper River Church. Announcements were prepared and distributed throughout the region. As the time drew near for the camp to begin, people came pouring in from as far as one hundred miles away. There were at least thirteen wagons transporting both people and provisions. In commenting upon one of the evening services, McGready wrote these words: No person seemed to wish to go home! Hunger and sleep seemed to affect no one. Eternal things were of the most concern. Here awakening and converting work was to be found in every part of the multitude. Sober professors, who had been communicants for many years, now lying prostrate on the ground, crying out in such language as this: “I have been a sober professor: I have been a communicant. I see that religion is a sensible thing. I feel the pains of Hell in my soul and body! Just a few days ago, I would have despised anyone acting as I am now, but I cannot help it!

My dear friends, when conviction is that deep and pungent and eternity becomes real in one’s mind, it really doesn’t matter what anyone thinks. We had better seek God with our whole heart at such a time.

McGready continued by saying, “Little children, young men and women, and old, grey headed people, persons of every description were found in every part of the multitude, crying out to God for mercy in seeming

extreme distress.” Oh, for such a revival of conviction in the 21st century! Shouts of victory were often heard as seekers prayed through and found forgiveness. Oh! What joy and peace filled their hearts as they were set free from the chains of sin.

Revival fires were already burning in various parts of our young nation at the turn of the nineteenth century. Then this new evangelistic method, soon to be called Camp Meeting came into existence and added fresh fuel to the fire! Thank God for the birth of the CAMP MEETING!

Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists saw the spiritual benefits which could be derived from camp meetings. Thus it is not surprising that camps began to spring up throughout our nation in the early 1800’s. Hundreds and even thousands of new members were added to church denominations annually as a result of what was taking place in the meetings. By 1820, there were approximately 1,000 camp meeting in the United States.

The early camps were normally held outdoors or as brush arbor services, since the crowds usually exceeded the number which could assemble in churches or other buildings. The layout of the camp tended to follow one of three patterns: (1) An open horseshoe or U-shape; (2) a rectangular; or (3) a circular, which was popular.

Regardless of the pattern adopted, the services were always conducted in the center of the encampment. Often there was a speaker’s stand at each end of the open space with a mourner’s bench before each stand. Just beyond the territory set off for the services was the place where the tents were pitched.

There may have been a couple dozen or a couple hundred, of many different sizes and materials. Some were made out of sheets, others of sackcloth, muslin or old quilts. Behind the tents, the wagons were parked, and beyond the wagons the horses were often tied to pasture.

Between the tents and the place where the services were held is where fires were kindled for both cooking and lighting. It must have been quite a sight to behold!

As the spirit of God moved upon hearts in those early camps, the people often responded with many kinds of physical demonstration, such as jerking, shouting, running, holy dancing, and vibrant singing. People were often drawn to the camp meetings out of sheer curiosity!

Perhaps the most famous of the early camps was one held in 1801 at Cane Ridge, near Paris, Kentucky. Some say there were as many as 25,000 people in attendance. The services continued for six days, night and day, without any intermission! At one point, there were literally 7 preachers preaching at the same time. One man who was converted at the Cane Ridge Camp tried to describe the indescribable in these words, “At one point, I saw at least 500 people swept down in a moment, as if a thousand guns had opened on them!”

Thank God for the great heritage that we have in camp meetings! Thank God, camp meetings still play a vital role in our Conservative Holiness Movement. Where would the church be without camps? They indeed make our harvest times.



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

Harrisburg, OH - (by Pastor Richard Smith)

God has given us so many opportunities in which to serve him! Look for them every day! Spread a message of hope and deliverance! Let the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ shine forth to a lost and dying world.

We have been blessed with new opportunities to benefit and encourage our church with new and old technology. A few years ago, we heard about the *One Call Now* phone service. Other churches in our area were using it with success. We signed up and have been using it as a prayer contact number to get urgent prayer requests out to our people. God has been helping us to use this tool to get these requests to the people in a quick fashion for a call to prayer! God is answering! What a blessing! It has also proved to be a useful tool to get announcements, such as revival notice reminders and snow/ice cancelations, etc., out to everyone at once.

For years, I have noticed the responsive reading section in the back of our hymnals and thought it was kind of odd being in a holiness hymnal . . . Kind of formal and starchy. Last summer the Lord spoke to me about using them as part of our Sunday School preliminaries. After discussing it with Bro. Roger Bell (our song leader), we started using it, and what a blessing to hear God's Word being read out loud by the congregation! How appropriate for the house of God! Using a resource that we had right in the song book rack. Remember how the people responded in Ezra's day when he read the Word of God? Thank God for His Word!

We also have been teaching a class on Sunday nights on "A Catechism on the Christian Religion" by Mel-Thomas & Helen Rothwell from Schmul Publishing. This is a reprint to an old PHC publication. This has also been a real blessing.

Our church is hosting The Central Ohio WOW Retreat July 13-14, 2018.

Rochester Hills, MI - (by Pastor Dan Plemmons)

On Mother's Day, May 13th, we were happy to have several visitors from Indiana; Cheryl and Iris Sneed, Seth and Amber Fish & children, and Clayton Plemmons. Leah Plemmons was in charge of the service and it was very nicely done. Clayton sang a special song titled "You Raise Me Up" which was also the theme of the service.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 20th, our church joined 3 other churches in a very special service of singing held at New Beginnings Fellowship in downtown Detroit. It was touching to see the wonderful cooperation that took place between the area churches.

It was nice to have Clayton Plemmons home from Union Bible College for a few days prior to him heading back to the college. He has finished his freshman year and is looking forward to singing this summer with Sounds of Praise, the college's male quartet.

It has been a real joy to see how God has been helping him both academically and spiritually. He has felt God leading him into ministry, and we are delighted to see him following after God. He preached here on Sunday, May 27th, and his message was especially blessed by the Lord.

Noblesville, IN - (By Amber Fish)



Greetings from the Noblesville PHC! Great things have been happening here in Central Indiana! On May 20th, we had what we called, "Someday Sunday."

What's that, you ask? Well, it's for those individuals who consistently say that they are going to come to church . . . "Someday!"

We were blessed with a grand total of 185 people, and a wonderful dinner was provided in our new Family Life Center after the morning service.

On May 19th, we also had an outreach picnic at a local community playground where some of our people have been working to bring children into church. There was a good turn-out with lots of fun and food.

Just like you, we celebrated Mother's Day on May 13th. We are privileged to have so many wonderful, generous mothers who do so much for our church, and also for us individually. God has truly blessed us!

Pilgrim Youth Camp and Pilgrim Family Camp are just around the corner. Let's come together expecting God to do great things!



Christianity and Secular Education

By Chad Ackerman

That time of year has come again. The familiar tones of “Pomp and Circumstance” fill the air, tassels are turned, and parties are held to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the past 13 years.

These years have been filled with countless assignments and tests, moments of jubilation, and at other times, frustration. It was also during these years where the ability to read was mastered, multiplication tables were memorized, and childhood friendships were forged.

But scholastic achievements are not the only items to be remembered during this time of well deserved celebration. The values that have been instilled and the moral foundation that has been laid over the past decade play a vital role in defining who these graduates really are. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us that the lessons learned during childhood don’t expire. Instead, the training that occurs during these formative years is carried into and throughout adulthood.

But as the tassel moves from the right to the left, life transitions for the graduate as well. New freedoms are met with anticipation, but monumental decisions are waiting to be made too. And these are not decisions to be taken lightly. In many cases, these choices will be life-changing and will set the path for years to come. You see, high school is over now and the question of the hour is, “What’s next?”

Up until now, school was always around. There wasn’t any choice but to go to school. But that has all changed. And maybe for the first time, the graduate is faced with choices. Do they enter the workforce, go to bible college, attend a secular university, or is there something else they are being called to do?

To make this decision even more difficult, the answer is not the same for every person. God created us to be unique individuals and equipped us with differing capabilities to fill different roles.

It cannot be stressed enough though, that finding God’s will is most important. So while one person may be led to attend bible college, another may enroll at the local university and both can be following God’s plan for their lives.

Wherever God leads, be sure to follow. Don’t be a Jonah and try to go your own way! That will only make a mess of things!

Regardless, there seems to be a long-standing stigma within the conservative holiness movement concerning secular education. The common perception is, maintaining a Christian life and attending a secular college are mutually exclusive. You can be a Christian when you start, but by the time graduation rolls around, it is an almost certainty that the Christian life will be extinct. The thought is, you can attend a secular university or be a Christian, but not both.

Don’t give up all hope though, because attending a secular university directly after high school does not have to be an automatic spiritual death sentence. I know this is true, because I’ve experienced it firsthand.

I recognize that most of you more than likely have never met me and don’t know my story, so let me provide some background.

I was raised in a Christian home and have two wonderful parents that instilled within me the Christian principles and laid the moral foundation that I mentioned earlier.

I am also a product of public education. I attended public school and then continued my education by

studying aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan, located in Ann Arbor, MI.

This decision of what to do following high school was not one I took lightly. I didn't make a choice and then hope God would agree with me later. Instead, I sought what God's will was for my life and followed Him. I knew then and I still know today that God's plan for me was to attend the University of Michigan. As many have said in times past, there is no greater place to be than where God wants you to be.

For me, that place was Michigan.

Now for those who are unaware, Ann Arbor is arguably the most liberal community in the entire state of Michigan. On top of that, the university celebrates diversity. So, there are multitudes of different religions and beliefs represented on campus.

Based on common perception, the probability of graduating and still being a Christian should be zero. But that wasn't the case.

God didn't send me someplace only to abandon me.

Unfortunately, sometimes I think we limit God and put Him in a box. We recognize God's power to keep us when we are attending church, and we acknowledge that God can keep us in the workplace. But when it comes to education, and specifically secular education, I wonder if we start doubting how much God can really do.

Can He keep us even in that kind of an environment?

Thankfully, God is not limited by our boxes and the constraints we unintentionally place on Him. But He is more than able to keep us wherever He leads us.

And while it is possible I could have walked away from my Christian experience, this is no different than any other area or time of life. Instead, God preserved me and the lessons I'd learned during childhood illuminated the way. I had a foundation to stand upon when the times of uncertainty would come.

So, if God is leading you or someone you know down the path of secular education, don't give up hope. It is possible to come out on the other side and still be a Christian. I know, because it happened to me.

And the beautiful thing is, I'm not alone. My experience is not unique and there are several others that can testify to something similar.

Remember, where God leads, He provides. This is true even at a secular university located in a liberal environment like the University of Michigan.



Chad Ackerman attends the Rochester Hills PHC on Sunday mornings, and serves as the SS Superintendent. He is an excellent singer, and plays the trumpet skillfully. The church feels blessed to have him as part of the local congregation.

Chad graduated from the University of Michigan and works as an engineer at Formsprag Clutch in Warren, MI.

Chad is a wonderful young man who loves the Lord with his whole being, and we thank him for this timely article.



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*

The Only Light

In the summer of 2017, a new family was reached through our church's vacation Bible school ministry. My husband and I have done our best to build a relationship with the young boy and girl who come from that home, as well as their grandmother who lives with them.

Although we know their grandma trusts us and is grateful for our relationship with them, she seems to be a lady of few words, and it has been difficult for me to connect with her on a level that would open the door for a conversation about Jesus.

A few weeks back, I sent Grandma Tony a text to see if the kids would need transportation for a particular service, and her response has both challenged and convicted me almost daily since that moment. She said, "Yes. And thank you so much for taking them to church. It is the only light they have."

The only light.

Those words rang over and over in my mind. Immediately, I began to assess my responsibility. If I'm the only light, then the seemingly insignificant role I am playing is more important than it appears.

My living room is a long, narrow space, and I have five flameless candles placed throughout. They are timed to begin flickering during the evening, and they go out some time after we are in bed for the night.

Once in awhile, one of those candles will need a new battery. Because of the quantity of candles in the room, the room is still lit if one is out. Even if two or three are off, we can still navigate the area with little difficulty. But if I only had one candle in the living room and it were to go out, we would find ourselves disoriented, without clarity, and at risk of injury. Being the only light is a really big job.

Concerned - If I'm the only light, I must keep going even on days that I don't think it matters. Concern will breed dependability. Someone is counting on me, and I can't let them down. It is important that I am wise in planning so that I schedule time for those who need my love and care. Is there such a thing as an unconcerned Christian? My priorities define me.

Consistent - If I'm the only light, it is important for me to be on an even keel. People need to see a steady, stable radiant "glow" coming from my life rather than a harsh brightness or a dim, shadowy flicker. Light is a distraction when it is either blinding or faint. Spending quality time with Jesus will help balance my human emotions and energize me so that I can give of myself without jolting back and forth between extremes.

Connected - If I'm the only light, my connection to the Source has to be unhindered. As long as I am in Christ, I will never experience an outage or a power failure! He will focus my light toward the intended target, and He will equip me to shine at the perfect wattage. The purpose of light is to penetrate darkness, and all beneficial light has a source. In my own strength, I cannot do anything of any spiritual value.

As we move into the summer season, let's seize the opportunities to be lights in our communities and in our own church circles. Even our own camp meeting is a time that our influence can permeate hurting hearts.

Remember, you may very well be **the only light** for someone today.





PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

We Have 18 Years!

Mark 10:13

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

I preached on this subject for a double baby dedication a few Sundays ago, and just could not get away from the thought of our God-given responsibility in the raising of our children.

Many of my thoughts are in hindsight because I have four grown children whom I love dearly. The scripture text that we have chosen is one that we all know well. These young mothers and fathers were trying to bring their children to Jesus just to be touched by Him. His hands had created the universe, but now they were being sought after to touch and bless their greatest asset . . . their children.

We as parents, have 18 years to help our children to be available to be touched and blessed by God's hands. That equates to **157,784.76 hours** or **6,574.36 days** or **216 months** to make a difference. However you want to look at it, those 18 years are a vapor that soon passes away. There are three different areas of opportunity that we generally have when raising our children: 1. Their health. 2. Their education. 3. Their spirituality.

Health

Good health is something we all want and desire in our children. We always say, "as long as they're healthy." Certainly, it is a great blessing to be in good health from birth to grave. It is highly sought after, especially in the secular world where people, if they can afford it, spend millions seeking after health, pleasure and self-gratification.

I know of one family that spent thousands of dollars and many hours preparing organic baby food for their child. This was to make sure their baby received only the right types of food and nourishment. They fed their child baby food until the age of three or four, only to see their child grow up to become a chain smoker, with no morals, and living a godless life.

Thank God for children that are born healthy. Some parents are not always fortunate to have a healthy child. May God bless them! Many times I have looked back at when one of our own children was sick, we prayed earnestly for Jesus to touch them, and He answered prayer.

Education

Parents want their children to excel in education, and rightly so. We should seek to expand the minds of our children through education. But let us not forget that we are to do our best to give them a guarded Christian education, to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 KJV

I believe one the greatest failures of modern Christianity is to systemically guard the educational process of our children as a movement. If I could go back 35 years there would be a lot I would change in this area. When I came into the holiness movement the growth of Christian day schools was at its peak. There was so much

passion that it was contagious. We did not have a Christian school at our church because we had so many in our area from which we could choose. There were several holiness schools and there were other Christian schools available. We did everything we could to keep our children out of public school. After holiness schools in our area started closing, for whatever reason, we moved our children to several different Christian schools. We also did some homeschooling.

We sacrificed, we saved, worked three jobs at times, and my wife worked at the schools to help pay for tuition. It was hard on us and on our children. We did keep them out of the public school . . . that was the goal, right? Or was education the goal? Sometimes in trying to do the right thing, we get our priorities mixed up. God bless those Christian schools that have survived all these years and are still going strong.

Thank God children are resilient, they have a few scars, probably some bad memories, and I hope plenty of forgiveness, but they did survive by His grace. Sometimes I think the Christian day school movement was about 40 years too early. What I faced 35 years ago in the public school system is a drop in a bucket compared to what this generation is facing. If there is ever a day when we need to pray for parental guidance, it is the day in which we live. Oh, that our children would have the true touch of Jesus in their education!

Spirituality

The most important responsibility of a parent is to instruct their child in the knowledge of Jesus. By being truly touched by Jesus in our soul, it will certainly affect our body and mind.

Do you remember when Jesus touched you? You may not remember the exact day or even the exact place, but you no doubt remember the moment that Jesus touched you and you knew that His touch was real. That touch is what we want to see replicated in our children.

Several years ago, a young father had a great passion for golf. He raised his son, Eldrick Tont, in a world filled with this passion. Before he was three years old, he was on national television demonstrating the knowledge of the game and we now know him as Tiger Woods.

Deuteronomy 6 says: *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”* That’s what I call passion... a passion for a true relationship with Christ that possesses the atmosphere around us, a passion for the way of holiness. This is not about a religion, it’s about a relationship with Christ!

Let us pray that Jesus will touch our children spiritually, that they will be affected in such a way that they never forget that touch. May we create an atmosphere of God in our lives, in our homes, and in our church! God help us all and especially the parents with young children today.

Pastors, we have much work ahead of us. We need His touch. Our children need His touch. Our churches need His touch. His touch brings life! His touch brings hope!



Rev. Richard Smith has been married to Deborah for 43 years, and he has served as Pastor of the Harrisburg, Ohio Pilgrim Holiness Church for the past 39 years.

In an age when it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find individuals who will stick by the stuff, Bro. & Sis. Smith have been a shining example of a holiness couple that truly love God, love each other, and love the church that God has called them to shepherd.



Are Camp Meetings Worth The Cost?

By Dr. Randall McElwain

Camp meeting season is just around the corner. Older saints are anticipating times of spiritual refreshing, children want to see their friends again . . . Camp meeting is an exciting time!

But amidst the excitement, I often hear voices of concern: “Are camp meetings still worth the cost?” If you total the costs of providing a campground, calling workers, and feeding the attendees, add the indirect costs of travel for hundreds of people, camp meetings are expensive! Would we be better off using that money for something else? What if we put that money into missions? Is it still worth it? Let me suggest two answers:

Camp meeting is a place for Spiritual Growth

Many of us can point to a camp meeting where we gave our hearts to God. Many of us remember our call to ministry at a camp meeting altar. Many have gone to camp emotionally exhausted, and spiritually drained, but left refreshed for another season of ministry. From the early morning prayer meeting, to the late-night altar services, camp meeting is an opportunity to draw near to God in a fresh way.

We all need times of spiritual growth. We need preaching that convicts us, and warns us of carelessness. Our young people need to see what we mean when they hear us talk about “The Glory.” They need to experience God’s presence in a real and personal way. Camp meeting is a time for spiritual growth.

Camp meeting is a place for Christian fellowship. I’ve heard some preachers criticize those who “come to camp meeting for the food and friends.” I understand the concern. But I think fellowship should be part of camp meeting. We need the friendship of our fellow believers. Our youth need to see that there are more young people following God than they see in their local church. From visits around the cafeteria table to ice cream in the snack shop, camp meeting provides an opportunity for fellowship with God’s people.

However, attending a camp meeting does not guarantee spiritual growth or Christian fellowship. So let me continue with a warning . . . **No, camp meeting is not worth the cost if:**

Camp meeting is the only place we seek spiritual growth. If you run the aisles at camp meeting, but the pastor of your home church can’t squeeze an amen out of you, something is wrong! If you are on the front row every night of camp meeting, but you can’t attend revival meeting at your home church, something is wrong. Camp meeting is a time for continuing spiritual growth; it is not a replacement for daily spiritual discipline.

We criticize and tear down our fellow Christians. If on the way home from camp meeting, your children hear you dissecting the evangelists, laughing at the foibles of fellow Pilgrims, and saying that “Bro. So-and-So is just a hypocrite,” camp meeting is a waste. Our young people need to see Christians who love each other.

So, is camp meeting worth the cost? Absolutely! But only if we are intentional about camp meeting.

May I suggest that we begin now by preparing our hearts, “God, what do You want to do in my life during camp meeting? I want to end camp meeting with a new passion for You and a new love for fellow Christians.” If you will pray that and purpose to see it happen, camp meeting is worth every penny! **Think about it . . .**



We Honor The 2018 Graduates!

We always count it a privilege to honor those within our Conference who have persevered and received their respective Diplomas/Degrees. We want to congratulate the following:

Kindergarten

Joseph Ball II - Kyalah Foster - Rebecca Sturgis - Javan Brown - Gracie Rauschenberger - Natalie Thompson

Eighth Grade

Kaitlynn Burley and Emilee Hunsaker

High School

Ryan Burley - Xavier Gross - Brooklyn Line - Daniel Forsee - Austin Caine Cook - Elliott Huff - Brad Petty
Kyle Price - Emily McLean

College

Austin Line (Union Bible College)

Sarah Lyons (Union Bible College)

John Mark Forsee (Union Bible College)

Brandon Hart (Andersonville Theological Seminary)

Jordan Jackman (University of Evansville)

Leeza Jackman (Indiana University)

Elizabeth Forsee (Indiana University)

Trent Welbaum (Indiana University)

Brittany Stamper (Union Bible College)

Graduate Work

Jon Stratton (Masters from Knox Theological Seminary)



Pilgrim Foundation Fund

Invest in the present and future of the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Establish a Charitable Gift that will Help Underwrite:

- Student Scholarships for Ministry Training
- Securing the Future of Camp-Meeting Expansion
- World Missions Expansion
- New Home-Missions Churches

**Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity and receive a monthly check from
The Pilgrim Holiness Church for life.**

There will be a financial planning Seminar during Camp on Friday, June 22, at 12:30 PM, presented by Alvin Weimers. There will also be time for meeting privately with him.



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

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Conference President, Rev. Don Nichols

Conference Vice President, Rev. Mark Arnett

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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 July 25th. THANKS!

Email your report to: pauldplemmons@yahoo.com