

PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

The Official Publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church

April 2019

If you don't worship . . .
You will never experience God
~ Dr. David Jeremiah



In this issue . . .

Page 2 - *The Conversation of Worship* by Julia Cole

Page 4 - *10 Reasons Why I Attend Church* by Thomas Ranier

Page 5 - *My Journey to God* by Kris Scholz

Page 8 - *A Woman's Perspective* by Stephanie Burley

Page 9 - *News from around the Conference*

Page 10 - *Pastor to Pastor* by Rev. Larry Grile

Page 13 - *Think About It* by Dr. Randall McElwain

THE CONVERSATION OF WORSHIP

By Julia Cole

Have you ever tried to have a conversation with someone while they were on their phone? What about with someone who refused to look you in the eye? Have you tried to converse with someone who refused to talk back or even give so much as a head nod or an “uh-huh”? . . . Frustrating, isn’t it?

Why is it that in every area of life in which communication is required, we enter in in some way—a nod, a smile, etc—except in church? Even in meetings, if we agree with something, we nod or affirm the one that is presenting the idea.

I think somehow we’ve come up with the idea that church is this one-sided conversation in which the pastor “feeds us” ideas about God, we decide whether we like them or not, and talk about it around the dinner table afterward.

These musings are what have inspired this article . . . **The Conversation of Worship.**

I believe that this conversation is two-fold.

- 1) Conversation with God.
- 2) Conversation about God.

A worship service without number 1 is a lecture, a testimony service, or a theological discourse. A service without number 2 is a prayer meeting, an evensong, or a service of praise. Focusing on one aspect by itself is great, occasionally, but I humbly present that there’s beauty in the marriage of the two.

I’ve been involved in music ministry for eleven years now. (Love every minute of it) One thing I’ve noticed about all of the groups I’ve traveled with is that there are some churches, conventions, or camp meetings that we always preferred singing at more than others. Our reason? When we sang at our less than favorites, the people looked at us like “a mule looking at a new gate,” as the late George Younce would say.

The crazy thing is, sometimes some of the people who looked the most unmoved were the same ones who, later, would say things like, “I thoroughly enjoyed that!” . . . leaving me scratching my head and thinking, “Why didn’t you give us a little hint that you felt that way while we were singing? We may have been encouraged and done even better!” The churches we enjoyed going to, however, were ones where the congregants participated in the conversation of worship.

Now, please understand—I’ve never been one who enjoys “hilarity” in worship. I love to be in the middle of a genuine outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but personally I prefer to seek that and let God decide what it looks like.

What if we viewed the special song as a conversation between the singer and the congregation about God? Or, if it’s a song that addresses God directly—a conversation with God, in which I, as a member of the congregation am invited to join in?

What if we viewed the sermon as a conversation between the pastor and the congregation about the things

Four Things I Know About Worship - by Mark Cole

God wants you to worship Him

"The hour is coming and is already here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way." - John 4:23

Worship is one of the most important ways of loving God

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

God wants you to worship Him according to His Word

God wants worship done His way, and frankly, His way is always the best way!

The Sunday morning service is just one facet of worship

God wants us to live out our love for Him on a daily basis.

of God? Do you think it would be discouraging to the pastor if he was talking to you personally about something he had put hours into preparing, only to have you blankly stare at him? Or, worse yet, if you were to start playing a game on your phone while he was talking?

Being a music minister has made me a better conversationalist in worship. I know how it feels to be putting your heart and soul into something, only to receive blank stares in return. I now do my absolute best to affirm truth, whether I feel "blessed" by it or not. Feelings are nice, and I love when I feel the Spirit moving in a service—but whether that's happening or not, I still have a responsibility to agree with and encourage the one presenting the truth about God.

So here's what I propose . . .

If everyone would make it their personal responsibility to enter into the conversation of worship, I feel like it would make:

1. More encouraged pastors, singers, and teachers.
2. More warmth in the service as we talk together to God and about God.
3. More of an enriching experience for each worshiper who takes this on as a personal challenge.

Once again, I'm not talking about running around the church with the American flag or other such nonsense. Even a well-placed smile during the sermon or special song, is a start! Maybe sneak a little "amen" in there if something really strikes your fancy! The more you practice, the less awkward and easier it gets! Shock your pastor and purposefully **enter into the conversation of worship!**

Julia is married to Tim Cole Jr. and they have one son, Maxwell (9 months old). They reside in Hobe Sound, Florida.

God has blessed Julia with an incredible musical gift which she uses for His glory. She also teaches music at Hobe Sound Christian Academy.



Ten Reasons Why I Attend Church

By Thomas Ranier

In a culture that minimizes commitment and maximizes self-indulgence, I have learned the precious gift of church attendance or, more specifically, the church gathered. I do not see church attendance as a burden or legalistic commitment. I view it as joy—a place where I can give and serve, a place where I can focus more on others rather than myself.

I could name many, but here are ten reasons I attend church . . .

1. I attend church to serve others. There is so much greater joy in serving than seeking to be served. I have many opportunities to serve when the church is gathered. Those opportunities are my gifts from God.

2. I attend church to encourage others. We live in a world of incredible digital communication. But there is still something irreplaceable about gathering together. When I encounter someone in person at church, I have an opportunity to encourage him or her in person as well.

3. I attend church to encourage my pastor. I doubt many of us know how much our pastors serve us and love us seven days a week. The least I can do for my pastor is to be there in person when we gather as a church.

4. I attend church to state my priorities. If I am able to go to work, to go to school, to go on vacation, I can attend church. I desire to have a “no excuse” clause in my life for attending church.

5. I attend church to participate in worship. There is something special and Spirit-filled about worshipping together with other Christians. It is both an opportunity and gift I do not take lightly.

6. I attend church even if it doesn't meet all my needs. If my church does some things a bit differently than my preferences, I realize I am there, not as a consumer, but as a giver and one who has been called to put others' needs before my own. No church is perfect. No pastor is perfect. And neither am I.

7. I attend church with frequency, not on occasion. It is my prayer to be in my church every Sunday. I pray I will never say, “I need a break from church.” I certainly don't want God to take a break from me.

8. I attend church to set an example for my family. Couples have healthier marriages when they attend church. Children grow up with countless benefits because their parents took them to church. I need to show the importance and priority of church attendance to those I love.

9. I attend church because the Bible tells me to do so. Two-thirds of the New Testament is about churches, specifically gathered churches.

10. I attend church because I love my church. I love my church. I love my pastor. I love the members of my church. I love the community my church serves. I truly love my church.

I love to attend church. I attend church for these reasons and many more. I thank God for my church.

My Journey To God

By Kris Scholz

There once was a family that was so offended by something that happened in the church they attended, that they quit going and the parents had no desire to find a new one.

As their children grew up, they were told numerous times by the parents that if they wanted any type of spiritual life, they would have to find it on their own. Leaving God out of their own lives as well as giving no spiritual direction to the lives of their children caused so much heartache, stress, and disillusion with God.

It caused apathy and confusion, a total disconnect in many ways within the family. It was like sending the children out to sea in a boat with no rudder, at the mercy of whatever lay ahead.

That family was my family.

I was three years old when this happened, and I have nothing but the most vague memories of attending that church. It was never disclosed to us children what had taken place, and to his dying day my father never discussed it. I will never know. But what a downward spiral took place in our home from that moment on.

My mother's old Sunday School Bible sat tucked away on a shelf but was never taken out or opened. We never prayed or said grace before eating. In my tender heart it created such a huge void that nothing seemed able to fill it. I knew I needed and wanted more than the emptiness I felt all the time.

I attended Sunday School a few times with various friends but I felt nothing there so I gave that up early on. I wanted something with power in it. I don't understand why those Sunday School classes left me cold. I do know it killed any interest I could have had for religion and I became an atheist.

At the age of 13, I was given a Ouija board for a Christmas present. As I began experimenting with that, I began to feel great power within it.

I've always had a very curious mind, so I began studying any and all kinds of occult books and articles I could find. One of my friends' mothers was very much into paranormal things and I had an almost endless supply of books I could borrow from her. I was so hungry, and these things were so powerful they sucked me in.

When I was 15, a young married couple who knew of all the problems I had at home, at school, and everywhere else in life took me under their wing. It was very subtle at first, but they were immersed in satanism and the occult and they were very devious in pulling me in to it as well. I began spending weekends with them.

We became so deeply involved in it we were able to communicate with demons and the devil himself. I had no fear, not even when a demon almost possessed me. I was totally fascinated by it. And I felt power in it like none I'd ever experienced.

This involvement with the occult lasted until my husband entered into my life at the age of 20. He was taking lots of drugs and definitely wasn't a Christian himself, but he had family that was and he told me he knew what real Christians were like. The Lord began putting deep conviction on him and he began cleaning up his

life. I went my own way until I became pregnant with our first child.

I was so afraid the drugs Don had taken would affect the baby, that I began praying, not really acknowledging God but telling Him, "If you give me a healthy baby, I'll raise it in a Christian home."

The first time I prayed that I thought in shock, "Where did that come from?!", but I kept praying it. Our daughter was born and she was healthy and beautiful. As I gazed down at her in my arms I very smugly told God or "whoever" I'd been praying to, "Well, I got what I wanted!" and figured that was the end of that. No way was I going to go to church.

In hindsight we can look back so many times in life and see how God orchestrates our paths in every aspect. He certainly had His hand on us at that point in life.

I began to feel deep conviction myself, though I had no idea what to call it. I just thought I was going crazy. Our daughter was 2 months old when we finally surrendered and went to church and the Lord wonderfully, completely saved us and transformed our hearts and our lives.

There at the altar is where I gave my heart to Him unconditionally, for time and eternity. No looking back. I had found the power I had been searching for all my life. That was 42 years ago, and God has blessed me more abundantly than I have ever deserved.

He is my all in all. My Savior. My Redeemer. My Lord.

And to think one day I will see Him and be able to tell Him face-to-face how much He means to me...how much I love Him. I so look forward to that day! I am awaiting it with great joy and anticipation. He is my everything!

Editor's Note:

A few months ago, I came to know Don & Kris Scholz when I started working at a facility in Livonia, Michigan. Don was the very first person I was introduced to and instantly I knew he was a Christian. Shortly thereafter, they began faithfully attending Rochester Hills PHC and have been a blessing to our congregation.

They spent the majority of their lives in Portland, Oregon, moving to Michigan back in 2011. Don and Kris are two of the most Christ-like individuals that you will ever meet! They both have a love for Jesus that you can't help but notice and admire!

Don plans to attend the first few days of Pilgrim Family Camp and I hope you will get to know him.



Don and Kris Scholz have been married for 45 years and they make their home in Livonia, Michigan.

They moved to Livonia from Portland, Oregon where Don worked for a burial vault company for 32 years.

We want to thank Kris for being willing to share her journey to God with the readers of *Pilgrim News & Notes*.



**INTERCHURCH
HOLINESS
CONVENTION**

VICTORY

[THANKS BE TO GOD WHICH GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST]



BUCKLER



DURST



MOWERY



AVERY



GRAY



SANKEY



HOOKE



WARDLAW



WARDLAW



STETLER



HAMILTON



SMITH



LOPER



PLANK



CRATER

DAYTON CONVENTION CENTER DAYTON, OHIO

APRIL 23-25, 2019

LEARN MORE ONLINE AT **IHCONVENTION.COM**



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*

Security, Stability, and Serenity of the Home

We are quickly approaching one of my favorite months of the year – the month of May. It is a busy time, but its events are exciting. Graduations, recitals, end of school year parties, awards ceremonies, and Mother's Day are a few of the highlights that dot the calendar at our house. As a wife, mom, and teacher, it can add up to a whole lot of crazy for me, but those are the days when memories are made, and I must choose to live in the moment if I want to carry the memory.

Just recently, our family experienced some pretty drastic changes which involved bringing three young children into our care. Their situation was dire, and we felt that Christ wanted us to share His love by extending ourselves and our home to them. As I continue to work through the physical, emotional and psychological implications of their circumstances, and integrate them into our family, I am drawn back to the very basic elements of motherhood and the ideals that are so essential to effective parenting. It's easy to be distracted by all the methods and styles of mothering, while missing the most important gifts we can give our children:

Security – I came across some information regarding the securing of systems, and I was intrigued by the terminology. The article referenced three types of security controls: *preventative, detective, and responsive*. Although child rearing was not the topic, it has application.

When a child is young, it is easy to protect them from “big” dangers. We teach them to cross the road only with an adult. We show them that the stove can be hot. We warn them to stay away from the swimming pool except when under supervision. We don't allow them to participate in things or mingle with people who we feel may compromise their safety. These are preventative measures and are so important. The second and third controls are less obvious and require intentionality.

A good dose of “mother's intuition” is helpful, as well. Are we paying close enough attention to be able to detect a security breach? An engaged mother can detect unusual or abnormal behaviors. It may be something as simple as a facial expression that holds the key to something churning in the heart of a child. Buried deep in an electronic device, one may find information that uncovers improper relationships or dangerous deviance, all of which may or may not be evidenced by any outward signs but can be detected by a mother who is concerned and available. And then there is the response. Just as important as prevention and detection, our response must be measured, consistent, and fair. When a child knows his boundaries, realizes that a caring mother will know when the boundary has been breached, and feels the response (pleasant or unpleasant), they will experience the security for which every child longs.

Stability – One of the most pathetic statements I've ever heard regarding divorce is this, “The children are resilient and will be fine.” Any of us who have worked long term with children from divorced homes know this is not ultimately true. Some situations are more stable than others, but the pain of the breakdown of the family is damaging. However, broken homes are not the only unstable homes. Sometimes children from intact, Christian families suffer because their parents make decisions which cause harmful change or imbalance in the family dynamic. Decisions that make us less available to our children, diminish our positive influence on our children or change the environment around our children should be made with much prayer and consideration. Children need stability in the home, church, school, and other activities.

Serenity – This is a little used term in our day, but I love the meaning. As mommas, we often find ourselves in stressful situations. Sometimes a hundred a day. In our humanity, we may be tempted to lose our composure, become frazzled and harsh, or maybe we internalize and quietly ice the atmosphere with a glaze of contempt. The other, and much better option is to breathe deeply of the spirit of love and grace and do our best to make our homes a haven of peace. Not only is the relational aspect of peace important, but the physical aspect of order can go far in creating an environment of tranquility that children crave. It seems contradictory, since children are often the chaos creators, but they thrive best in an orderly environment.

In the remaining weeks leading up to Mother's Day, it wouldn't hurt for us to take some time to prayerfully assess the security, stability, and serenity of our home. Are there weak areas that need attention? God has promised wisdom to those who ask. Let's take Him up on it.



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: midwestphc@gmail.com

Corydon, IN — (by Hannah Fowler)

Greetings from the New Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness Church. We have seen some progress since our last article. Work is continuing on the multipurpose building. The men of the church meet on Saturdays to continue its construction.

The month of December was filled with activities, such as caroling, church dinners, and Christmas programs. On December 1st, the church held a Christmas dinner. Attendants included the people of the church as well as friends and family. There was a buffet meal, games, prizes, and the use of the gymnasium. Everyone had a good time of fellowship.

After the evening service on December 9th, the congregation went caroling to the shut-ins and elderly of the church. The young people went in the church bus and the adults followed in their vehicles. Afterward, everyone met at the parsonage for snacks, refreshments, and fellowship.

December 30th was the fifth Sunday of the month and, therefore, a youth service Sunday. The youth held the evening service, including preaching, song leading, and special songs. It is encouraging to see the youth of the church take part in the services.

A mission service was held by Sis. Nancy Leamer on January 23rd. She spoke to the congregation about showing love for those around us. Love plays a major role in the mission field. Sis. Leamer has also encouraged the church to take part in helping others by distributing the names of those in need that are known by our church and asking that we take a name and specifically show our love toward them. She has also undertaken another project that involves the entire church, including the children. The children decorated money banks that were given to church members, who were to then fill them with money for missions.

On January 27th, the church received a new member, a young man by the name of Mitch Garrett. The membership agreement was read by our pastor, Rev. Mark Arnett, who was the first to welcome Mitch into our church family. The third annual Corydon Youth Convention was held at the Calvary Wesleyan Holiness Church in Corydon, Indiana March 7th through the 9th. The ministers included Rev. Danny Gilley on Thursday, Rev. Andrew Durst on Friday, and Rev. John Forsee on Saturday. The Shiloh youth sang the special song on Thursday night. After the service on Friday, the youth went to a rented gym for a time of fellowship, food, and games.

Editors note:

We would love to be able to publish news from different churches across the Conference!

If you have news from your church that you would like published in the next PNN, please email it to: midwestphc@gmail.com



PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

Pointers for Preachers

By Rev. Larry Grile

It has been my privilege to pastor several churches, totaling around 25 years. This has often been done along with my teaching. I have been blessed to be able to spend most of my life doing what I enjoy best, and that is expounding the Word; I have been able to preach the Word on Sundays and teach the Word during the week.

God called me to preach when I was young, giving me an increasing conviction that this was what I was to do. However, I had no idea then that I would be a teacher. I remember someone telling me in those days that I would work with young people, a comment that I didn't take seriously. However, the inclination to teach began as an increasing desire.

I remember walking into my very first college class and sensing that this was where I belonged; I felt at home. True to the prediction, I have been working with young people most of my ministry. I suppose that when I'm preaching, I'm a teaching preacher, and when I'm in the classroom teaching the Word, I'm a preaching teacher. In any case, teaching the Word to students in the classroom has been the primary part of my ministry.

I have often thought as I have been teaching the Word that there are many things that I would like to share with preachers. In reality, I have been sharing with up-and-coming preachers for about 45 years. I certainly do not speak as an authority; and while I speak as a preacher, I also speak from years as a Bible teacher.

Keep Your Preaching Scriptural.

Have a high view of the Scriptures. Be a student of the Word. Know your Bible. Spend much time in the Word for your personal benefit and for the benefit of your hearers. Read good commentaries; these will help you to rightly interpret the Word. Most commentaries are written by Calvinist authors, so be aware of this when you read them. Add to your list of commentaries good works by Wesleyan/Arminian authors.

In your preaching, avoid novel ideas and unprovable speculations. If you'll get into the Word, the Word will get into you and become a part of you, so that you will become scriptural and solid in your thinking. The Bible is part of your authority and it will enable you to speak with a strong "Thus saith the Lord."

Paul admonishes us to "rightly divide the Word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Part of being scriptural in our preaching is to recognize the divisions of Scripture. For example, there is a difference between the Old and New Testaments. There is a difference between pre-Calvary times and post-Calvary times. There is a difference between law and grace. There is a difference between Israel and the Church. Understanding these divisions will greatly help you to be scriptural in your thinking and preaching.

Paul admonishes us to "preach the Word" (II Tim. 4:2). But to preach the Word does not necessarily mean to preach expository sermons. If this style of preaching fits you, so be it. But if it does not, don't try to squeeze yourself into a mold that doesn't fit you. Be who you are, and do what you do. To preach topically is to find

Scripture passages that support your topic.

To preach textually is to take a text and parse it into divisions. Others, like myself, may often do a running commentary on the Word, which would be, I suppose, a type of expository sermon. If you receive inspiration from the Lord regarding any biblical truth, whatever your method may be to communicate it, you are preaching the Word.

The Word deals with every aspect of truth necessary for doctrine, spiritual life, and for godly living. Therefore, when you preach the Word you will naturally deal with a variety of biblical truths. One advantage of a running exposition of the Scriptures is that it will enable you to deal with many issues of importance without specifically targeting people in your congregation. Keeping your preaching scriptural will help to keep your preaching relevant to the needs of your people.

Keep Your Preaching Spiritual

The Bible is a spiritual book, for it is God's Word. To understand it you will need to be spiritual and have a spiritual understanding. For your preaching to be spiritual, you must be spiritual yourself. In order to have an effective ministry, you must go on to holiness and be filled with the Spirit. Our hallmark message is holiness as a second work of grace, and we cannot preach this message effectively unless we are living in the fullness of the witness to holiness.

Your messages must be born out of the fires of the Spirit in your own heart as you spend time in reading the Word, in reading good books, and in prayer before God. Besides this, the special anointing of the Spirit needs to be sought for each time we enter the pulpit to declare God's Word. It is this authority of the Spirit that adds to the authority of the Word as we preach.

Keep Your Preaching Sensible

Dr. T. M. Anderson once said that he heard a man testify that he had served the Lord for several years before he came to realize that "God has good sense." Perhaps another way of saying it would be, keep your preaching practical, livable, down-to-earth, and realistic.

If you're going to preach something, make sure you're living it or definitely planning to. Practice what you preach, but don't preach everything you practice. The average person can't spend three hours a day in prayer. Not everybody can fast a whole day. Fortunately, God is a great deal more understanding than some individuals are.

One preacher said that people shouldn't eat food because it tastes good. This may sound super spiritual, but it's really quite senseless. As preachers, we need to remember that God has good sense, and therefore tailor our message to fit the understanding and needs of our people.

Besides this, our salvation is reasonable. One of the great benefits that Methodism brought to Church History was its emphasis on a reasonable salvation. Holiness is reasonable. Godly living is reasonable. Holy standards of conduct, dress, speech, etc., are reasonable.

It makes good sense to be a Christian and to live a righteous life. All Jesus ever did in any of his healings was, not to give super health, but to restore people to normalcy. God wants us preachers to preach a message that is reasonable and makes good sense, a message that God's sanctified people can live 24 hours a day.

Keep Your Preaching Simple

There is no excuse for preaching over people's heads. If a young boy or girl praises your message, the chances are that everyone else understood it too.

There is really nothing better that you can hear after a message than the words, "Preacher, that message today fed my soul, and I learned something." After all, you are preaching to people's heads as well as to their hearts.

If they don't understand what you're saying, they will not be able to embrace it in their hearts.

Keep Your Preaching Short (perhaps I should say that this one came from one of my students)

In any case, mind the Lord. But sometimes good truth is diminished by droning on and on, or by virtually apologizing for what has been said; we should never apologize for the truth. Even so, pews can get hard and distractions can keep people from concentrating on the message.

I once had a parishioner who accosted me after a service and strongly rebuffed my "long preaching." My preaching was probably about 50 minutes. I listened until he finished and then I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. Just for you, I will shorten my sermons to 30 minutes from now on." His demeanor changed completely. I did, in fact, shorten them to 30 minutes the remainder of the time I pastored there. I know one thing, I made a friend, and I made him happy. In fact, I probably made a number of people happy!

Keep Your Preaching Sensitive.

First, be sensitive to the Spirit, and second, be sensitive to people. We preach to all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds, who are at all levels of spirituality. This calls for great sensitivity and wisdom to know how to relate to people.

I realize that preachers have all kinds of personalities, methods, styles, manners, etc. But there is no place for publicly embarrassing people, or singling them out as preaching material.

There are times when a preacher has to mind the Lord and say things that he knows are offensive to some; but he should do it in a way that no one can rightly condemn.

My father used to say that some preachers preach against sin until it becomes a sin to them. God will bless faithfulness to preach truth, but He will not bless unkindness and a sour spirit.

I hope that these few remarks will be a blessing and a help to your ministry. Thank you for taking time to read them.



Rev. Larry Grile was born in 1942 and was saved in 1957. He began preaching at the age of 15 and attended Kirkland Bible Institute, Hobe Sound Bible College, and Aldersgate School of Religion.

He married Beverly in 1965. He has pastored for around 25 years. He has taught primarily at Hobe Sound Bible College in Hobe Sound, Florida, and at Union Bible College in Westfield, Indiana, for approximately 45 years.

He is currently teaching at Union Bible College and is supply pastoring at Union Friends Church, both in Westfield, IN.

We thank Bro. Grile for this excellent article!

Christ-likeness: Is It Possible?

By Dr. Randall McElwain

In January, I suggested that our #1 goal for 2019 should be growing in Christ-likeness. After a recent sermon on what it means to live like Jesus, someone said, “Pastor, that sounds nice. But is it really possible?”

Good question... Is true Christ-likeness merely a dream we strive for, but cannot really obtain? Is it actually possible to mirror the attitudes and words of Jesus?

Scripture teaches that Christ-likeness is possible. However formation into the image of Christ does not happen by accident. We will not become like Christ without pursuing a life of deliberate and sustained discipleship.

How do we grow in Christ-likeness? Let me suggest a few things that are necessary.

A) To live like Jesus, we must be filled with the Spirit of Jesus

Jack Nicklaus lives a few miles from Hobe Sound. Imagine that I decided that I wanted to play golf like Jack Nicklaus. Impossible! I am not Jack Nicklaus. I cannot do what he does!

But imagine that I was given the gifts that Jack Nicklaus possesses. Through the spirit of Jack Nicklaus, it would become possible for me to play golf like Jack Nicklaus.

This is how it works in the life of a Christian. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus for a victorious life and fruitful ministry. If we are filled with the same Spirit who empowered Jesus’s life (Rom 8:9), we can think, act, and live like Him.

Can you consistently live like Jesus in your own strength? No. But can God do it in you? Absolutely! “The law of the Spirit of life has set you free” (Rom 8:2). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do and be what God requires! Being Christlike requires that I be filled with the Spirit of Christ.

But the life of the disciple doesn’t end here. After we are filled with the Spirit, we must continue to grow as disciples. How?

B) To live like Jesus, we must know what Jesus would do; we follow Jesus with our head.

If I were implanted with the essence and ability of Jack Nicklaus, I would still have to develop those gifts just as he did. I would need to study the things that make a great golfer.

After meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul spent three years praying and studying in the Arabian Desert, learning new patterns of thinking and living. Following Jesus requires learning to think like Jesus thought.

This is what Paul meant when he wrote, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:5).

(Continued from previous page)

By studying and meditating on God's Word, we begin to learn Jesus' way of thinking about the issues of our world and the challenges of life. On any issue, we begin to ask, "What would Jesus have to say about this issue?"

C) To live like Jesus, we must build Christian habits; we follow Jesus with our hands.

If I wanted to play golf like Jack Nicklaus, I would spend hours at the driving range. I would develop the habits of Jack Nicklaus.

Likewise, if I want to live like Jesus, I must do what Jesus did during his earthly life. Being a disciple involves building Christ-like habits. I build those habits through the spiritual disciplines of corporate worship, Scripture memory, prayer, fasting, giving, etc.

I build those habits by doing them faithfully even at those times when I don't feel like doing them! This is how godly living becomes our habit. At crucial moments, we act based on the habits we have developed in daily life. If we do not develop the habits of godly living in daily life, we will fall in the moments of crisis.

D) To live like Jesus, we must love Jesus; we follow Jesus with our heart.

If I say, "I want to play golf like Jack Nicklaus, but it's just so hard," nothing will change. To truly change, playing like Jack Nicklaus must become my deepest desire.

In the same way, if I want to be like Jesus, Christ-likeness must become my deepest desire. We are motivated not primarily by what we know, but by what we love. We are motivated by our root desires. If I will be like Jesus, I must love Him so deeply that Christ-likeness is my greatest desire.

How do we develop that desire? We grow in our love for Jesus as we see His beauty in the Word, as we glory in His presence in worship, and as we commune with Him in prayer. As our love for Him deepens, the path of discipleship becomes not a legalistic burden but a joyful journey of growth.

Is Christ-likeness possible? Yes.

Is it worth what it will cost? You must decide. **Think about it!**



Dr. Randall McElwain is married to Sue and they live in Hobe Sound, Florida, where he serves on the staff at Hobe Sound Bible Church as Discipleship Pastor as well as Teaching Pastor at the Palm Beach Chinese Christian Chapel.

They have two grown children.

Dr. Randall McElwain is one of our very own. He is a very busy person and is in high demand. We appreciate his willingness to share his thoughts with us in each issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes*.



2019 Ministerial Convention

of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church

(Held at the Noblesville, IN Pilgrim Holiness Church)

DATE: MAY 7-9, 2019

SPEAKER



Dr. David Bubb (Gratz, PA)

SINGERS



Larry & Trisha Jewett (Indianapolis, IN)

Tuesday 5/7

Evening Service (7:00 PM)

Wednesday 5/8

Devotional (9:30 AM)

Morning Service (10:30 AM)

Afternoon Service (2:00 PM)

Singing by Union Bible College (6:30 PM)

Evening Service (7:00 PM)

Thursday 5/9

Devotional (9:30 AM)

Morning Service (10:30 AM)

Noon Fasting & Prayer

Closing Service (2:00 PM)

Lodging info

Baymont Inn & Suites (317) 770-6772

Cambria Hotel & Suites (317) 773-4970

Fairfield Inn & Suites (317) 776-9900

Holiday Inn Express Carmel (317) 575-0000

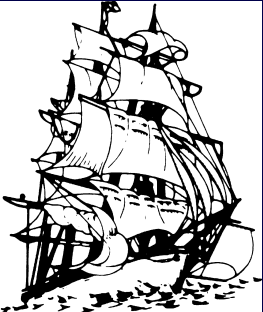
Quality Inn (317) 776-7088

FOR FURTHER INFO

President Donald Nichols

Cell Phone (419) 234-6335

Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church | 1413 Westfield Rd, Noblesville, Indiana, 46062



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 valuable 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/space needs. Not all submissions will be published.

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

midwestphc@gmail.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

MEDIA MINISTRY

Check us out on the web!

The Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church strives to not only be relevant, but we want to be accessible to those who want to learn more about our Conference, as well as to those who are interested in possibly becoming a part of us!

Our Conference website has been in existence since 2004 and is updated frequently. We also have an active presence on Facebook. Check us out via the links below!

www.midwestphc.org



Conference Page



Missions Page



Youth Page