



# PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

Official Publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church

August 1, 2015

## Pilgrim Camp 2015 Report

*There shall be showers of blessing, O that today they would fall....* As I sit here reminiscing over the last two weeks of June, my mind recalls...rain, rain, rain and more rain. I recall mud, mud puddles, wet clothes, muddy clothes, muddy trucks, stuck trucks, muddy trailers, stuck trailers and yes, more rain. If you're not sure what I'm referring to, well, you probably weren't at the Pilgrim Holiness Family Camp this past June. Some have said that it was the wettest camp they can remember and others claim that attendance was down due to all of the rain. And yet, what a blessed time, what wonderful memories, what kindred fellowship, all with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Yes, in all seriousness there was a lot of rain, but more importantly we experienced showers from the mercy seat of Heaven.

Our personal Pilgrim Holiness camp experience began on Monday, June 15th, with Pilgrim Youth Camp. For the next five days we endeavored to be team leaders, running around with a great group of young people, enjoying the activities that had been planned over the past year. There were softball and volleyball games, bible bowl and afterglows, but the best part, were the morning and evening services. It was during those times that we heard some powerful, soul-searching messages. What a blessing to watch the youth move from their seats to the altar, seeking God's forgiveness of their sins and direction for their life. How refreshing it was to listen to their testimonies of victory and to watch them give praise to the Heavenly Father. This is what it's all about, liberation from the guilt of sin and the eradication of the carnal nature! Sure, PYC ended Friday with many youth sliding through the mud puddles instead of watching the softball championship game; but it also led into Pilgrim family camp with many victories already won.

As we entered into family camp having already witnessed the moving of the Holy Spirit, I believed that we were going to experience another mighty move of God despite the soggy weather. I want to pause here and proclaim, God is not a disappointment! Sure enough, the Holy Spirit came in unique and divine ways that week! Oh what bliss to feel and experience the glory of God in our midst. The morning sessions, the pre-services and the evening services were all such a refreshing and renewing time spiritually. To me, there is nothing like camp meeting singing, hundreds lifting their voices in unison, praising the King of Glory! Just to sit here and think of it sends waves of joy over me. Could there have been a better team of evangelists, I think not! Dr. Randall McElwain and Rev. Jeremy Fuller are as opposite as north and south, east and west, but worked together as smooth as peanut butter and jelly! Both of these men took the time to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for their messages.

Oh how I will never forget those Monday and Tuesday evening messages! My brothers and sisters, God certainly had a message for us this year! Never in my life do I recall attending a camp meeting where God gave both evangelists the exact same message. Both from the same book, chapter, verses and extremely closely worded outline. I know my heart was challenged because of it and my prayer was with the Psalmist... "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts." Friends, this is what camp meeting should be like! Oh how my heart was stirred by the Holy Spirit's sweet presence, the overflowing joy of assurance to know that all is right between my soul and the Savior!

**(Continued from previous page)**

What a pleasure to witness Rev. Brian Line so blessed that he could no longer remain in his seat or the Reynolds strolling around the tabernacle praising God. To me there is nothing like hearing the praises of the saints of God, whether they're ninety-five or twenty-five! How encouraging to hear the visitors say; "this is what I remember, this is what I miss." To hear Brandon Petty stand and say; "God is showing me that it's time for my generation to pick up the mantle of praise." To watch the youth take a victory march, hands raised, giving glory to God, affirming that all is well with their soul! To see so many children, young people and adults seeking God and settling the question; nothing thrills a person's heart more than this. This is why we bring our youth and children to camp. This is why we endure the short nights and long days, the mountains of laundry and the many miles. This is what I want my children to remember, yea, experience! I yearn for them to witness and feel the Shekinah Glory!

As a pastor this past camp, I desired for my church to witness the glory and power of God. How important for the young people to experience first-hand what it means to be filled with the Spirit! May those who have tasted and beheld that God is good, never forget that experience. We must never dismiss the heritage that has been passed down to us over the decades. What we have experienced this year was a genuine outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We have many memories to cherish! Let us earnestly, fervently and ceaselessly contend for greater and mightier moves of God.

As a father, there's nothing more joyful than praying with my children to become sanctified. For years to come, I look forward to listening to their testimonies of how God sanctified them at the Pilgrim Holiness Camp. I know that camp meeting will always have a special place in their heart and mine because of what God did for them. In those services my children heard the call of God!

Sitting here recalling what God did for us at Frankfort this past year, causes me to reminisce of other great camp meeting services over the years. I will never forget what I experienced at God's Bible School, Hobe Sound, Union Bible College, Mount Gilead, Beulah Grove, Remus Holiness Camp and Camp Freedom to name just a few. What grand and glorious services, such powerful outpourings of the Holy Spirit; witnessing conviction rain down from heaven where people crumbled under the power of the Holy Ghost. Yes, this is our heritage, yes, these are memories I will never forget and for which I am eternally grateful; but I long for, pray for, plead for and beg of God to give us more. May we never lose the passion for lost souls, the zeal for Holiness and the craving for more of His glory!

I thank God for the memories that I received from this past Pilgrim Holiness camp, but I want to say that I'm expecting greater and mightier moves from God in the future! Should the Lord Jesus Christ tarry His coming, I pray that my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will too experience such miraculous moves of God.



Rev. John Forsee pastors the [Pilgrim Holiness Church](#) in Noblesville, Indiana, where he has served since 2013. He is married to Martha, and they have four wonderful children. (Elizabeth, John Mark, Rebekah, and Daniel)

If you would like to connect with Pastor John regarding this article, you may do so by emailing him [HERE](#)

## THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr. originally served as the first Gen. Secretary of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, prior to being elected to the position of President in 1970, and he served in that capacity until 1986. He was re-elected to that position in 2003 and has ably served as President up to this present time. He may be contacted via email [HERE](#)*

### **“Oh, God!”**

Those words came with rushing clarity as his cheek was so close to hers. Did this cry in the night have spiritual implications? Around the middle of June, my wife's sister, Doris, was awakened to the voice of her husband, Larry, making that exclamation. It was close to 3:30 A.M.

What could this mean? Larry had just come thru a major aorta heart valve replacement surgery. He had awakened the next morning. They walked him a short ways and fed him a grilled cheese sandwich. Something went drastically wrong. It was later determined that a “shower” of blood clots had formed and surged through his heart. In reality, at that moment Larry died. His heart had stopped. In a clatter of high tech equipment alarms, rushing feet and near panic voices from ICU professional personnel, his heart was stilled. The paddles were brought and a surge of electrical current sent his heart beating again. Larry was in a coma.

Doris was stirring from sleep in their home a few miles from the hospital. Her phone rang. The hospital was calling urging her to come quickly to her husband's side. She called my wife asking her to pray urgently.

For the next nine days Larry was unconscious. There were days of no brain activity and somber heaviness on our hearts. Then he opened his eyes. The array of tubes in his mouth and nose made it impossible for him to speak. A squeeze of the hand, a brief response brought a surge of new hope.

Larry's testimony now comes with brokenness and a rush of tears. “I came to myself on a path and down the way was brilliant light. There were beautiful flowers along the path. I went forward. I came upon three angels. They were sitting on what appeared to be a platform. As I stood before them, the question of discussion was, ‘Do we let him go on, or should we send him back?’ The angel in the middle produced a book. It was a record of my life. The angel holding the book started going down through the itemized lines of the record. The third angel, who was watching him search the lines, said, ‘what about that one?’ The response came quickly saying, ‘That's all forgiven!’ Then came the question, ‘What do you love the most?’ ‘I love God and I love my wife with all my heart’, I told them. They weighed the matter briefly, then one of them said, ‘We're going to send you back and you are to love her and take care of her. You'll have some time left.’”

We made prayer requests on Larry's behalf many times and in many places. God's people were faithful to pray. We want to thank the Lord and thank you all from the depths of our heart for joining us. I also want to thank God for the profound change that we have seen in Larry's attitude and actions. At the time of this writing he is at home gaining strength and on the mend.

Praise the Lord! Heaven is closer.

**James A. Southerland, Sr.**



# News from around the Conference

News items on this page have been submitted by various Pilgrim Churches. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as necessary to fit space requirements. Email all church news to [pauldplemmons@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldplemmons@yahoo.com)

- Editor

## Lima, OH - (by Pastor Don Nichols)

Zachary Hunsaker was graduated from Pilgrim Christian School on May 22nd. Joining him in the ceremony were Evan Burley and Hannah Hunter, 8th grade and Tyler Hunsaker, Kindergarten. Maria Hunsaker Smith, Zachary's older sister, alumni of PCS and former missionary educator was the commencement speaker.

The Wesley Cressman family, from Hope International Missions, shared their missionary burden in the PM service on May 24th. They'll be going to language school and then plan to help Eric and Hannah Kuhns in their ministry in Central America. Over \$600 was raised for their support.

A good crowd came to see our school students honored for their achievements throughout the school year at the annual Awards Program May 26th. The beautiful 2015 Pilgrimage was presented and everyone enjoyed the fifties-style ice cream sundaes in the School Commons after the program. The last day of school was the 27th and students, staff and some family members enjoyed a day at the park in Wapakoneta, having a pizza lunch together and playing softball.

Bob and Brenda Hunter were invited to speak at the Rochester Hills, MI, PHC. Bob gave his testimony and Brenda shared how the Lord helped her to intercede for him. We are so thankful for what God has done for Bob, and know the Lord is using him as a witness.

The Nichols hosted the Jr/Sr Trip to Branson June 5-12. Zachary Hunsaker, Jared Holten and Michelle Coffey immensely enjoyed the trip. They stayed in a log cabin, and attended many venues in the Branson area. Several of the youth led the Wednesday evening service. Ryan Burley led a medley of choruses and a hymn and Evan Burley, Caleb, Hannah and Isaac Hunter shared segments arranged by Stephanie Burley. A message preached by a young man at the International Student Convention was shared via video archive. It was a powerful message from Hebrews 11 about "The Kind of Man God Uses."

Several of our teenagers attended the Annual Youth Camp at Frankfort. A good number of our church family attended the Family Camp. We are thankful for the spiritual help received both by those who were able to attend, and also those who were able to view the livestream.

Vacation Bible School was held July 13-17, 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. A program was held on the following Sunday evening. Stephanie Burley directed a good number of volunteers, using the curriculum from Answers in Genesis, Mount Kilimanjaro. 50 children attended, with 36 having perfect attendance. Some unchurched parents attended the program. \$100 of the VBS offering was designated for Pilgrim Missions.

Tonya Patterson, daughter-in-law to Roger Patterson, Lynette Spencer's brother, lost her life in a tragic car wreck. She leaves her husband, Jonathan, and four young children.

William Spencer, our assistant pastor, was hurt in a fall with a ladder on Saturday, July 25th. He received a mild concussion and also a compression fracture in his back. We are praying for a swift recovery.

Robert Hunter led the Young Adult service, July 26th, with Evan Burley leading the singing. Ryan and Evan Burley and their grandfather sang the special song. Pastor Nichols preached in Brother Spencer's place.

**Church News (Continued)**

**Noblesville, IN - (by Amber Fish)**

We have much for which to be thankful during these busy months at Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church. Pastor John Forsee said it so well in his recent post, *"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty! Words could never express the joy in my soul today! Oh the Glorious presence of The Holy Ghost this morning!!! As the psalmist, my heart rejoices in the God of my salvation! Friends... God came this morning in our service...people we've been praying for are getting saved, backsliders being reclaimed! Hallelujah!!! All because of God's people praying!"* Truly, we have seen the evidence of the saints of God praying and consequently, souls are being won.

July 21st began our Vacation Bible School led by Becky Fish. We have so many dedicated workers who helped make everything run smoothly. As a parent, I can't thank them enough for their dedicated service! Our theme this year was, **"To the Edge: Encounter the God of the Universe."** There were approximately 40 kids in attendance each evening and a host of parents were able to make it to the program on Sunday morning. Saturday evening was a night to remember as the kids had been told all week that if the girls won the offering, Pastor Forsee would get a pie in the face. But if the boys won the offering, Becky Fish would get a pie in the face. "Somehow" they ended up with a tie and both Pastor Forsee and Becky Fish had the honor of getting pies in the face. Needless to say, the kids greatly enjoyed this! Lots of fun was had each night of VBS. But, more importantly, the children had the opportunity to learn about God and accept Jesus as their Saviour. That's what it's all about!



# IT'S A GIRL!!

**Rev. Don & Ruth Nichols** are happy to announce the arrival of Adley Elizabeth Profitt, their 10th Grandchild!

Adley Elizabeth was born at 3:19 PM on July 27th. Adley weighed in at 8 lbs., 12 ounces, and she was 20" long.

Her parents are Adam & Valerie Profitt from the Cincinnati, Ohio area, and they attend the Bible Methodist Church in Franklin, Ohio.

Ruth Nichols states, *"Mother and baby (and daddy and sisters) are fine!"*



**Levi & Monna Ward** are the proud parents of Mavis Elaine Ward, born on July 22, and weighing in at a little over 8 Lbs. and 19 3/4 inches long.

Mavis joins siblings, Levi Jr. and Leon.

The Wards attend the Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Monna states, *"I cried and thanked God when I turned my head and saw all her dark hair that I prayed for!! I am so thankful everything went well! I am blessed and so in love with my pretty girl!"*

The Pilgrim Holiness Conference extends its hearty congratulations to the Profitts, as well as to the Wards!!

Indeed our greatest desire is that these two beautiful infants will grow into women of God, and will develop their gifts and abilities so that they can be used in His service!

# PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

## The Greatest Dangers Facing the Church!

Jesus warned His disciples, in what is known as the Olivet Discourse, that the last days would be a time of suffering and deception for the people of God. He predicted that many would profess to know the truth that really didn't, thus multitudes would be swept away with their false teaching. He further warned that it would be a time when people who knew the truth would be gripped by apathy. He promised that they would have to fight paralysis because of fear of those things they saw happening in the world and they would have to make sure their love for God and lost souls would not "wax cold" because of abounding evil.

I see all of these dangers present in our day. Many are being deceived. After serving God for many years some are veering off the narrow way and following the crowded, broad way. They seem to think they are still on the narrow way and use much of the same language, but their interests and investments are elsewhere. They are more attracted to worldly interests than spiritual ones. Issues that once were sinful to them are no longer issues. With others, I'm afraid that recent cultural shifts in the U.S.A. have made some Christians fearful and others hateful toward the wicked.

Douglas Groothuis, professor of philosophy at Denver Seminary, feels that more than anything else, "The church is imperiled by its own failure to teach, to believe, and to live out the great truths of the Christian faith in a way that pleases God." He states that when the church succumbs to the larger culture's trivializing of life's greatest questions, then the gospel and all the truths of the Bible go unheeded. People lose their way and call good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20). (*Enrichment Journal* 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802)

Trying to be respected in the community, to be accepted as "belonging" in a fallen culture is not going to happen when the church preaches the truth. It is counter-cultural. Jesus warned it wouldn't go over well. We must stand for the truth in love. We cannot afford to adapt to a fallen world's methods to transform the culture. The truth confronts sin. It does not appease Satan. It will divide. That is not to say we go out of our way to be nasty to people. We will be kind, generous and loving. But we will be taken advantage of and in some cases mocked by truth rejecters. Nonetheless we must continue to battle the forces of night in Jesus Name, with an eye toward the sky, knowing that He is coming for a church that has made its garments white in the blood of the Lamb. And with an eye on the harvest, trusting God to help us to save as many souls as we possibly can with a clear, clean witness to the power of the Gospel. With God's promised help we can confront and overcome the dangers that the church is facing in the 21st century.



**Rev. Don Nichols** pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Lima, Ohio, where he has ministered for nearly 40 years. He also serves as Administrator of Pilgrim Christian School in Lima, and since 2003 has served as our Conference Vice President.

If you would like to connect with Pastor Nichols, click [HERE](#)

# Scenes from Pilgrim Youth Camp 2015 . . .



**Rev. Darrell Stetler Ministering**



**Night after night, the tabernacle was filled with people worshipping God**



**Many young people received needed help from the Lord!**



**Pilgrim Youth Director, Rev. John Zeigler**



**The Stetlers sing with their daughter, Sherilyn Stroud**



**Rev. John Forsee having a Devotional time**



# Scenes from Pilgrim Family Camp 2015 . . .



**Rev. Jeremy Fuller**  
Evangelist



**Derek & Alanna McIntire**  
Song Evangelists



**Dr. Randall McElwain**  
Evangelist



**Lorna Rundell with**  
**Karissa McLaughlin**



**There was no shortage of mud puddles this year**



**Caleb Gibson and Kaitlynn Burley present**  
**Bro. Southerland with a special offering!**



**Togetherness . . . :-)**



**Four generations attending Pilgrim Camp!**



**Our awesome cook - Amy Rauschengerger**  
**(L) and her helper, Lisa Price (R)**



**Mother/ Daughter**  
**helping in the kitchen**



**Jeremy Fish - Our official Snack Bar Cook!!**  
**We appreciate ALL of our willing volunteers!**



**The Snack Bar now has ICE CREAM!!**

# Scenes from the 2015 Ordination Service . . .

The Ordination service was very special, in that **THREE** young men (all **BROTHERS**) were ordained! What a testimony to Jonathan, Joe, and Steve Stratton, who worked diligently to achieve this accomplishment **AND** to their wonderful, Godly parents for helping them reach this milestone!



The candidates with Bro. Southerland



The Steve Stratton family posing with their pastor and wife, Rev. Paul & Nancy Gray



The Stratton Family . . .



Dr. McElwain delivers the sermon



The candidates awaiting ordination



Jonathan & Joana Stratton with her parents, Rev. & Mrs. Lewis Ryder



# A Woman's Perspective

*By Stephanie Burley*

## Pilgrim Holiness Camp 2015 - God Was There!

Once again, time has rushed by and the highlight of our conference year is history.

In my last PNN article, I encouraged readers to come to camp meeting with realistic expectations. I may have even mentioned mud puddles. Had I known the extent of our impending circumstances, I would have suggested bringing muck boots, waterproof hair styling products, and an extra case (or two) of laundry detergent. Renting an amphibious camper wouldn't have been too dramatic a decision. Ok, maybe that's a bit over the top!

However, a few days into the fifteen that I was on the campground, I began to ask God why. Why the torrential rains? Why the flooding? Why would He allow additional burdens to be placed on so many who were trying their best to support this worthy cause? After I spent a little time complaining to the Lord, it was as if He said to me, "You say you came to camp meeting to meet Me. I am here. Nothing else matters." At that moment I knew my petty frustrations paled in comparison to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was so evident across all aspects of Pilgrim Youth Camp and the 49th Annual Conference and Camp meeting of the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

As I reflect upon our days together at Frankfort this year, three words that keep coming back to me are these: God was there. Three simple words, yet so much weight. **God was there** to convict and convert young people who came to youth camp carrying a conscience laden with guilt. He was there to give strength to the numerous staff members who were investing so much of their energy for His service. God was there to provide safety for the combined thousands of miles traveled by all who attended. He was there to give direction to the conference body as they elected officers who would help guide us through the coming year. God was there to minister healing to those who are struggling with physical/emotional issues. Although we do not know how He will choose to fulfill His purpose in these situations, we know He was there. He heard the honest, urgent cries of His people, and He will act on their behalf. God was there to renew weary pastors, pastors' wives, missionaries, children's ministry personnel, and Christian educators. God was there to bless His people and enable them to give. He was there to meet the financial needs of the camp meeting, the Missions department, and the camp property fund. **God was there.**

I recently read a newspaper article that saddened me. It spoke of a Holiness campground that is in dire need of repairs and is at risk of closing its doors permanently. This location has a 117-year history. It began with sawdust floors which were eventually replaced with straw, and then finally permanent flooring. People would drive and park their buggies in a lower pasture, then walk up the hill to the historical tabernacle that had been

elaborately constructed. The article stated, "...the tabernacle was often filled to overflowing. Services were lively, with attendees frequently offering up 'amen' and the occasional 'hallelujah.'" It went on to speak of spiritual experiences such as salvations and healings. The article closed by saying that only time would tell whether or not this would be the last of 117 camp meetings held in this place. As I think about the potential wrapped up in that campground and many others across our nation, I can't help but wonder – is God still there? When God is present, He is an unmistakable force that attracts and draws people toward Him. And when God and His people are unified, things happen. Miracles occur. Financial needs are met. Sick ones are healed. Sinners are converted. Lives are transformed. Oh, how we must have His presence!

Camp meeting 2015 is history. We are all back in our home churches and ministries, back to our houses and families, back to our employment, back to the daily grind of life. What now? As I ponder my home and my home church, I realize afresh: **God is here.** I didn't have to leave Him when I packed up the camper and pulled out of Frankfort, Indiana. He wasn't tucked away with the rest of the camp meeting 'tools' awaiting next year's gathering. **He is here!** And let me remind you that as you serve Him in sincerity and in truth, He is also with you. He is the silent guest as you get your little family out of bed and ready for Sunday services. He walks with you into your Sunday School ministry. He slides onto the piano bench next to you as you play melodies that create a worshipful atmosphere. He steps with you into the pulpit as you courageously and fearlessly preach the truth of the Gospel to the flock that He has given you to carefully shepherd. Wherever you are, however you serve, **God is there!**

Donate

## Important Notice!!



We are thrilled to announce that you are now able to donate to any facet of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Conference (via credit card) by using our secure website!

Simply go to [www.midwestphc.org](http://www.midwestphc.org) and you will see the credit card link in the top left hand corner of the page.

**IMPORTANT:** It is vital that you specify where you want your donation to go . . .  
(i.e., Missions, Camp Meeting, Campground Fund, General Fund, etc.)

We trust that you will take advantage of this recently added method of online giving to the ongoing expenses of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Conference!

# A Testimony of God's Saving and Sanctifying Grace

By Donna Dingle

In late 2014, I was driving down the road, feeling as though I had absolutely no purpose in life. I began to pray for a church. I wanted one where I could feel comfortable, and be surrounded by God-fearing Christians.

About a week later, I was in a grocery store (Aldi) and I saw a friend, Thelma Hilbert Neal, a friend I've known since I was in the 6th grade. She invited me to church, so I told her the following Sunday I would be there. Sunday rolled around and I drove over to the church. I was one of the first ones there. While I was sitting in the parking lot something kept saying to me, "What are you doing here?" And, "You don't have anything in common with these people." Moments later the pastor (Don Raines) approached my van and introduced himself. At that point I felt like God had intervened and I was to stay.

I went to Sunday School and then to church. As Pastor Raines was delivering the message I felt as though he was talking to me. I asked Thelma if he was talking about me. I thought maybe she might have told him I was going to be there and said something about my situation, but that wasn't the case. I was simply hearing a message he had prepared for that Sunday. He knew nothing about me.

When the altar call was given, I went forward and gave my heart to Jesus. I have met a wonderful church family who are true, God-fearing Christians. They minister to one another with encouragement and heartfelt concern, and openly welcome anyone searching for the truth. I thank God for this family and my salvation.

My Second Challenge . . . after being saved this past November 2014, the pastor (Don Raines) asked me to take a challenge - a challenge of faith. He told me to pray and ask God if there was anything in my life that was displeasing to Him.

Later that evening when it was quiet, I prayed and asked God if there was anything I was doing or even thinking of which He was not pleased. Pastor Don Raines had told me earlier that after I prayed, I should just be still and listen. So as I began to listen, it was as though God began to reveal things to me like selfishness, a tendency to see things "my way" instead of opening my heart to God, and not having a good attitude, or negative thoughts. It was as though He had a Divine shovel and was getting rid of all the bad traits I was so used to carrying around. It was uncomfortable and I began to get upset and cry. He took away ALL the things that were hindering me from moving forward in faith. He replaced it with the Holy Spirit so I could walk in His light. God has a plan, but we need to open our hearts completely to Him.

Donna Dingle attends the Pilgrim Holiness Church in New Castle, IN. We thank Donna for her very moving testimony!

# Highlighting the Laity



**Every church needs someone like Anna Rosalee Rigney!** Some may know her as, “Rosie.” A few may call her, “Anna.” Her children call her, “Mom.” Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren just call her, “Grandma.” However, most of us in our church know her simply as, “Sis. Rigney.”

**Every church needs someone with Vision!** In 1981, Sis. Rigney envisioned having a conservative holiness church in Elwood, Indiana. In the same year, this vision was shared in a prayer meeting held in Bro. and Sis. Rigney’s home. Conference President, Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr., was present at the meeting. Although the dream was hindered by many things, God brought the desire to fruition. Ground was broken in October of 1981, and construction of the Elwood Pilgrim Holiness Church began. Rev. Michael Bell, son-in-law to Sis. Rigney, answered the call of God to become the first pastor of the church.

**Every church needs someone exemplifying Victory!** Sis. Rigney certainly qualifies, as one exhibiting victory! Since the time I have known Sis. Rigney, I have never had any reason to question her spiritual experience. It is always refreshing to see her stand and testify continually to heart holiness. Victory in Jesus, of-course, involves many things. Quite often, Rosie Rigney requests prayer for revival! Prevailing and intercessory prayer are prime ingredients of revival. Our sister in the Lord displays this burden of prayer regularly.

**Every church needs someone with Vitality!** As pastor, if I fail to make it over to the church early enough to unlock the doors for service, Sis. Rigney will accomplish this task. She is normally the first parishioner to arrive. For years she has picked up passengers and brought them to God’s house. Every pastor is thrilled to have someone providing this service! She is currently serving as Church Secretary. She is a board member, church trustee, church greeter, and formerly held the position of Activity Director. “God give us some more people with as much vitality as this widowed, seventy-eight year old saint!”

**Every church needs someone with a Voice!** Rosalee feels free to express her opinions, but more particularly in voicing her thanks to God! She loves her Lord ardently, and from time to time, you will hear a shout of praise or amen sounding throughout the sanctuary. Sis. Rigney loves her pastor, and usually commends him for a sermon he has preached at the close of the service. How many times her compliments have been a source of encouragement to me when I felt like I had failed miserably!

**Every church needs someone of Value!** I believe we all are of value to God. He has made something beautiful out of our lives! Sis. Rigney is no exception! She is of great value to God’s kingdom! As much as I am convinced of the value Rosie is to God, I am also persuaded of the value she is to our local church! She is a woman of Vision, Victory, Vitality, Voice, and especially, Value! We value her presence in our midst and her contribution to our services! We treasure her testimonies that extinguish the darkness of the adversary! We appreciate her consistent Christian walk and years of labor in our behalf! We thank God for her prayers, faithful support, sacrificial giving, love for the place of worship, and love for her brothers and sisters in Christ! I do not know what we would do without her! **Every church needs someone like Sis. Rigney!**



# 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:

Dan Plemmons

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## *Conference Info:*

**Conference President**, Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr.

**Conference Vice President**, Rev. Don Nichols

**Conference Secretary**, Rev. Mark Arnett

**Conference Treasurer**, Rev. Bryan Line

**Conference Mission's Representative**, Dr. Craig Dahler

**Conference Youth Director**, Rev. John Zeigler

*"Trying to do the Lord's work in your very own strength is the most exhausting and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Spirit, the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you."* - Corrie ten Boom

*"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength - carrying two days at once! It is moving into tomorrow **ahead of time!** Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."* - Corrie ten Boom