



# Opportunity Outreach

...from the Church Expansion Department of the Alabama Bible Methodist Conference

[biblemethodist.org/alabama/church-expansion-dept.htm](http://biblemethodist.org/alabama/church-expansion-dept.htm)

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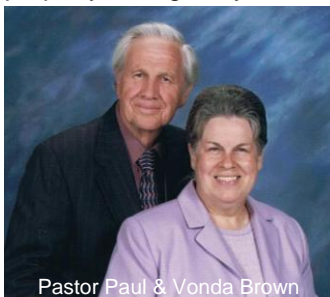
*From Chairman Unger:* Greetings from the Church Expansion Department. Have we got news for you!

As you may recall from the previous newsletter and a recent article in "The Bible Methodist," after a prolonged and unsuccessful search for a pastor for the Faith Bible Methodist Church in Columbus, GA, the Church Expansion board and the Conference Executive board together considered various options before deciding to close the church and sell the property. Subsequently, the property was listed with a local realtor, and prayers were made that a buyer would materialize. In the hearts of each board member, however, something still hoped to see the Lord provide a pastor and congregation to revive the church.

Although for a time we did not see God working, He certainly was. No less than three groups were interested in purchasing the property, but the sale could not be made because the bank wouldn't lend the money. Also, God was challenging two men to invest their time and efforts to this church. Now we believe that God has indeed intervened and led us to reopen Faith Bible Methodist Church!

The department appreciates and thanks Rev. & Mrs. Curtis Going for the three years they invested into Faith Church. The Goings moved out of the parsonage the first week in June to relocate to and pastor Grace Holiness Church on Harkers Island, NC. Brother Curtis will maintain his credentials with the AL conference.

We also appreciate Tommy Boggs for tending to and keeping an eye on the property during the year the church was inactive. Thank you, Tommy!



Pastor Paul & Vonda Brown

While nothing appeared to be happening to revive Faith Church, God was at work. Paul Brown and his first wife lived in Stanton, AL. After she passed away, he married Vonda Elam, a member of the Ada Chapel Bible Methodist Church. Vonda gained a husband, and the church gained an Adult Sunday school teacher!

Recently, Paul, now retired and in his 70's, was praying to determine how he could especially serve the Lord and make a difference in people's lives.

The plight of the Faith Bible Methodist Church weighed heavily on his heart since his daughter, Sheila, and his grandchildren, as well as several friends, live in the Columbus area. He wanted them to have a holiness church to attend. As he prayed, he surrendered to God to offer to fill in as pastor of the church for a year,



Larry Unger, Chairman

during which time a pastor might be located. Paul had a plan: he could sell his house in Stanton, maintain their house in Ada Chapel, and live in Columbus! The next step was to contact Conference President Hedstrom.

Because the church property was still under contract with the realtor, Brother Brown's offer couldn't immediately be accepted. They agreed to pray about the situation and see how God should lead.

Rev. Hedstrom was also in contact with Dr. Michael Williams, superintendent of the Central Yearly Meeting of Friends headquartered in Muncie, IN, a long-time pastor, and Dean of Academic Affairs at Union Bible College. Dr. Williams plans, upon retirement, to move to the Columbus, GA, area to be near his family, other relatives, and many friends. In his early years of pastoring, Dr. Williams pastored the Sanctified Church in Columbus. Would he be willing to pastor Faith Church? Yes, but he would not be able to come until June 2012.



Rev. Hedstrom contacted Paul Brown to see if his offer still stood. It did! Finally all the pieces fit together! With the banks denying loans to the interested buyers, time ending on the contract with the realtor, Paul Brown filling in for one year, and Dr. Williams retiring and moving a year later, reopening the church was possible!

The action has already begun. Paul & Vonda Brown moved into the Columbus parsonage on June 7, where they will stay through May 31, 2012. Each Sunday, two services will be held, one at 10:30 AM and another at 2:00 PM, with a fellowship meal in between. This arrangement will minimize travel for Brother Brown's daughter and grandchildren as well as accommodate people who attend other churches but are interested in supporting Faith Church.

The church reopened on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, with 10 people attending. Following service, some people passing by on the highway noticed cars in the parking lot and stopped to ask if the church was re-opening. They said they would come back and visit the next Sunday!

Please pray for the Browns as they shoulder their new responsibilities and adjust to new surroundings. They plan to pursue several outreach opportunities—more about that later. We also ask that you pray for Vonda's health. She's on dialysis, a 9-hour ordeal several nights per week, and has her name on a waiting list for a kidney transplant. The Browns do not have internet access at home, but you may encourage them with a phone call.

**Paul Brown (cell): 334-419-2326; Vonda Brown (cell): 334-419-8090**

The Church Expansion department is so grateful for the Browns to stand in the gap to keep the church operating until Dr. & Mrs. Williams can arrive. God willing, the Williamses will move to Columbus the second week of June, 2012. They plan to purchase land in the area on which to build a house.

With Fort Benning (U.S. Army base) nearby, outreach opportunities abound, and Dr. Williams already has some experience under his belt. When he pastored in the area earlier, he conversed with various soldiers he met and invited them to a home-cooked Sunday dinner, something most soldiers can't refuse! The only requirement was for the soldiers to attend the morning church service. In this way,

Pastor Williams was able to minister to many soldiers and their families.

Outreach opportunities will only increase with the influx of 30,000 additional soldiers scheduled during 2011-2012! Formerly enlisted soldiers are sharing ideas with Bro. Hedstrom about how to connect with incoming soldiers and their families.

Rejoice and be glad with us. God has done great things! Pray for us. He wants to do even greater things for us!

Be sure to stop by the Church Expansion display table at camp meeting to pick up a promotional card for Faith Church and a prayer card for Paul & Vonda Brown.

Also, visit the new website, [faithbmc.com](http://faithbmc.com), and share it with anyone you know in the Columbus area and any Army personnel/families wherever they are!

### *Opportunities for YOU to be involved in church planting:*

- Encouragement
  - Thinking of / Praying for You Cards
    - Any / ALL of Church Expansion Pastors
  - Birthday & Anniversary Cards (Sneak in a dollar!):
    - Tyrel Hurst - August 14
    - Robert & Kathleen Lands - September 17
    - Robert Lands - September 18





## Salina Bible Methodist Church

1506 Beverly Street, Salina, KS 67401  
[salinabmc.org](http://salinabmc.org)

Pastor Todd & Marla Hurst  
610 West State Street, Salina, KS 67401  
785-452-9453 ~ [TameHurst@juno.com](mailto:TameHurst@juno.com)

*From the Hursts:* The KS State Holiness Youth Camp was a wonderful success! Initially, before camp, many of the young people replied that they would not be able to attend. Some of those did actually show up, but also a number of new young people came! Camp leadership was pleased that 117 people were on campus with 70 of them being young people—9 from the Salina church!



The theme was "The Lord's Army of One." The theme song, written by missionary martyr Nancy Davis, was "Here Am I," which fittingly includes the lines, "Here am I, Oh, Captain, strong and true; in Thy strength I'll go and fight for you..." Studies and messages focused on various "one's" of the Bible who made a difference, e.g., Joseph, Esther, Jesus. To correspond with that, "Soldiers of the Faith" from more modern times were featured, such

as impersonators of George Mueller and his wife and Amy Carmichael. One real-life Soldier of the Faith was featured—Brother Sam Davis. He attended the camp Monday and Tuesday and spoke on Tuesday evening.

Rev. Jacob Martin was the main speaker and presented pertinent truth to the young people. The Lord really blessed the camp. At least three altar calls were held and seekers from both the junior and senior groups of young people responded. Four Bible colleges were represented GBS, HSBC, PVBI, and UBC. Everyone was thankful they encountered no tornadoes this year!



## Bland Bible Methodist Church

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blandbmc.com

Jack Blankenship ~ 276-688-4534 ~  
donnabship@embarqmail.com  
Harold Gillespie ~ 276-688-3475 ~ hcgil@va.net

*From Bland, VA:* We enjoyed having Bro. Paul Pierpoint with us again the first Sunday in May. We honored our mothers on Mother's Day and our fathers on Father's Day by giving them each a Bible Methodist mug filled with goodies. We had the deck on the back of the parsonage redone because it was not very sturdy and was in need of some support. Our next project is to see about having our pews recovered. We are in the process of getting information about this. We are planning to host a church picnic in July to give everyone a time for fellowship. We are also looking forward to seeing everyone at family camp in Pell City!



## Dayton Bible Methodist Church

Pastor Robert & Kathleen Lands  
199 Ashley Lane, Dayton, TN 37321  
423-775-0829 ~ BobLands@juno.com

*From Pastor Lands:* Pastor Bob Lands needs your prayers, as does his wife, his caregiver. The church is holding only Sunday evening services. The Lands are prayerfully considering options for the church's future.



## Church Expansion Department - AL Conference

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