

THE

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BIBLE METHODIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES

YOU SHALL BE HOLY FOR

**I AM
HOLY**

1 PETER 1:6

From the Editor



Holiness. The Biblical motifs that emphasize holiness are designed by the Lord to show the breadth and depth of His desire to engage in the spiritual transformation of those who respond to the Gospel. If you will, the message of redemption brings much more than simple forgiveness or heaven. Those blessing are included, certainly! But it is the purpose of the Lord God to forgive, cleanse and infill a people among whom He can live and through whom He can minister. Because of that desire, reflecting His holiness is paramount.

Understanding the different ways the Biblical writers highlight the message of holiness and its impact on the lives of each person, brings balance to ones life and thinking. Getting a grasp of the breadth of the message of holiness should bring depth and balance to the church as well. It is very important that the Holiness Church preach and live the balance of the whole message of holiness.

Please take a moment and glance at several of the Bible descriptions of holiness. Think about how the Biblical narrative translates the message and experience of entire sanctification. A few of the motifs the Scriptures emphasize are:

1. Holiness Biblically and experientially means a separation.
2. Holiness Biblically and experientially has included a spiritual cleansing.
3. Holiness Biblically and experientially has been referenced as a spiritual death.
4. Holiness Biblically and experientially has included a spiritual filling.
5. Holiness Biblically and experientially has been emphasized as a baptism.
6. Holiness Biblically and experientially has been seen as an empowering.
7. Holiness Biblically and experientially has been emphasized as perfect love.

When any one of these motifs are emphasized to the exclusion of others there is trouble. The importance of wrapping ones theology and experience around the whole of Scripture is perhaps no more clearly seen than in the emphasis on holiness. The father away from the balance of Biblical instruction a person or organization goes the deeper the misuse of the message. The deeper the misuse of the message the greater the damage emotionally, spiritually and eternally to those who embrace the imbalance.

No doctrine has more beauty and reality though than the message of holiness. That beauty is seen when a person

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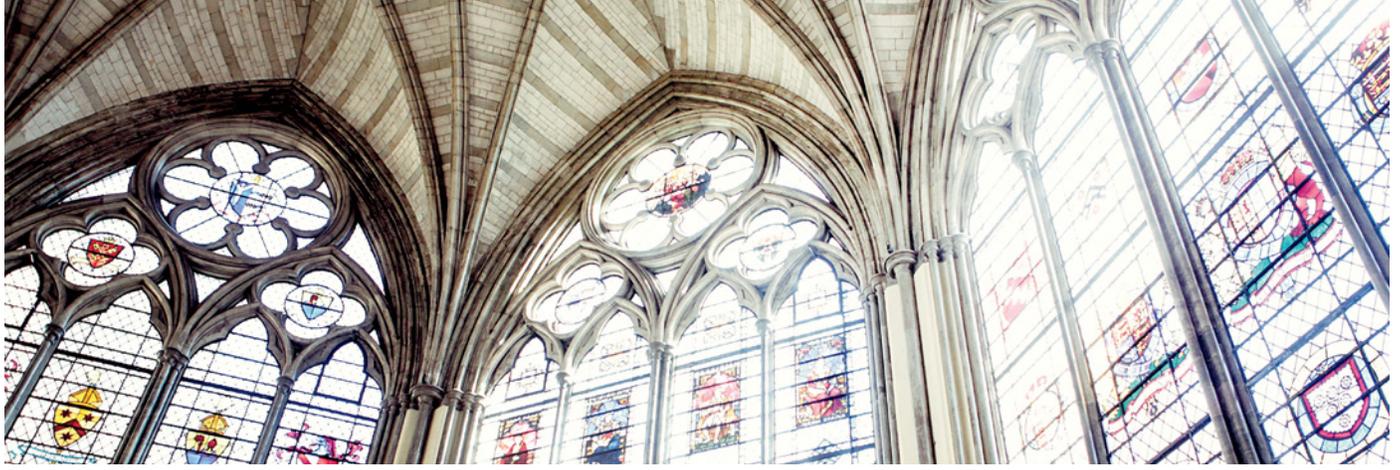
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PENTECOST AND SANCTIFICATION

A PROPER GOSPEL DAY

By Bill Ury

It was in a country church in central Kentucky forty years ago that I remember truly hearing the fullness of the Gospel. What my parents had taught me through word and deed became crystal clear. I began to comprehend the fullness of God's sanctifying grace clearly laid out in all of Scripture. I saw, for the first time, God's intention for His people. In a Sunday evening service I began to understand the importance of the Holiness tradition and its consistent emphasis on the day of Pentecost as a turning point in the history of salvation. I came to truly conceive that our beliefs about the possibility of a pure heart are not strained or odd readings of Scripture. The Wesleyan-Holiness tradition has only ever pointed to the heart of the God who redeems us from all our sin. What an overwhelming beautiful thing the Gospel is. But when does such a marvelous promise actually take place? Is it only an ideal? A hope only for heaven but not this life? Pentecost is our answer.

The grandeur of the Gospel revealed in Scripture is that God has always offered all of Himself to us. As persons created in His image God revealed His intention for us. Though marred by the Fall, that divine desire is made possible by the restorative power of the Atonement. We join all who have believed that the human heart can be transformed by the work of the Triune God. The proof of that re-imagining fullness is revealed in history on the day of Pentecost.

It was there, in that small church, the Scriptural evidence

offer of a holy heart was what God longed for Israel, what Jesus came to offer, and what the Spirit produces in every heart. I realized on that Sunday evening the biblical plan for recreating God's image in us.

Most of us would agree that the disciples were moral, seekers after God, and willing to pay some price to follow Jesus. They were better than most. Certainly, they were not openly sinning. But as every Gospel indicates their hearts were full of self-centeredness. Jesus even compares one of them to Satan!

If you begin reading Mark's gospel at chapter 8 through chapter 16 you will soon see why entire sanctification is a necessity for every believer in Jesus. An honest look at the hearts of the disciples reveals: First, they did not have the same mindset as Jesus. Their perspective was law-abiding but it not formed by the Cross that Jesus kept bringing to their attention. Second, they had no spiritual power to confront the needs of the world. Their ministry began with a semblance of authority but that was gone very soon. Jesus strongly confronted them with their inability to offer wholeness to the needy. Third, they were always bickering, arguing and undercutting each other. When a disciple does not have the mind of Christ they turn towards those nearest them in competitive comparison. Fourth, they did not love anyone outside their circle. It is revealing that one would struggle to find any clear act of selfless outreach in any disciple once Jesus begins to talk about the Cross, if ever. They did their duty but there

is no passionate love for the needy, anywhere. Fifth, they did not love Jesus faithfully or consistently. All of them, except John, left Jesus and ran the other way when the authorities came for Jesus. They had everything God could offer and missed Him and His full, transformative grace.

The immediate context of Pentecost is forgotten by many who proclaim the Gospel. Samuel Brengle pointed out that no one was converted between the Resurrection and Pentecost. He had his finger on the pulse of most Christianity. We think we have the Cross right. We believe in the Resurrection. But we live without the whole plan of the Father and the Son and the Spirit actualized in our lives. Wesley referred to Pentecost as the first “proper Gospel day.” And that is what I saw that evening in a dimly-lit church.

Everything was different on that first Pentecost after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. Something happened on that day that changed the history of the world. That is why the historical evidence of entire sanctification is so clear in Acts 2. The promised bestowal of the Holy Spirit was not just for illumination and power. He came to transform believing disciples who were spiritually impotent until He came in cleansing, purifying, and transforming power.

Every self-curved attitude and action the Gospels reveal about the disciples was countered by re-orienting power of the Spirit. First, they began to think like Jesus. His purposes were no longer unclear to them and with the first proclamation of the undiminished Gospel in one afternoon thousands came to believe in Christ. Note second, that a selfless, yet powerful, ministry ensues. In Jesus’ name, redemptive power flowed to human need. The disciples knew that the Risen Christ could meet every need of the heart. Third, the disciples have a new, committed love for each other. They actually like each other. Fourth, they love those who before had repulsed them. Indiscriminate, inclusive holy love poured out of them. The Spirit enabled them to cross without a whit of condescension. Last, they stayed committed to Jesus no matter what it cost them. They loved Him with a love that was not of their own making. All of this and more was given to them in an on-going, intimate, daily relationship with the Spirit of Jesus. They were set apart for Christ in an initial way. But something had transpired for which only the word ‘entire’ would fully describe. Their lives never return to the emptiness and hopelessness of the Upper Room before Pentecost. The will of God, their sanctification, had taken place.

The concept of sanctification is central to all the Bible and Christian thought. We dare not separate the Cross from Pentecost. The Trinity is not sufficed with a Gospel that merely pardons sin and leaves us with the quandary as to sin’s source. Without the possibility of an Upper Room experience we are left behind locked doors just like we find the fearful disciples at the end of the Gospels. Without the coming, the bestowal, the fullness, the baptism of the Holy Spirit the Church is just like the disciples were before Pentecost. As one evangelist said, “without Pentecost, we are simply ornamenting the dead.”

But, the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity has come. And if anyone yields by faith to His full presence He can come and produce in us the life, power, purity and love of Jesus. Then, there is hope that we also can live each day as a

“Gospel” day. That is what the Gospel means; the Life of God in the soul of every person; the presence of Jesus pervading all of me. That is why the all true Methodists proclaims both Blood and Fire, Golgotha and the Upper Room, pardon and purity. Pentecost was the first Gospel day. The question for us is, are we willing to live in the reality of this Gospel day by day? Experiences are wonderful but it is the daily life of the mind and power and love of Jesus that reveals those who a formed by the Gospel. If you have ever known a Gospel day it will set the course for every day to follow because it is all about the presence of the Risen Lord in your heart filling you with His love and power and purity. Today, this day can be your day of salvation. What a prospect! ■

*Bill Ury was raised in Taiwan, the son of United Methodist missionaries. He received a B.A. in History from Asbury College in 1978. For the first year of his M. Div. degree, he studied at the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem. After completing an M.Div. at Asbury Theological Seminary, he received his doctorate in 1991 from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Bill taught Systematic and Historical Theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary for nearly twenty-four years. Since 1997 Bill has served as the preacher on a nationwide program under the auspices of American Family Radio, entitled “The Hour of Holiness.” These messages are available on podcast. Bill has taught Sunday School weekly, preached, and led seminars for over forty years. For five years the Urys pastored Elizabeth City Evangelical Methodist Church. In 2017 Bill and Diane began a ministry within the Salvation Army as National Ambassadors for Holiness. Bill has written **Trinitarian Personhood and The Bearer: Forgiveness from the Heart**. Along with five workbooks on discipleship, he co-authored **In His Image**, a study on holiness.*

Continued from page 2

begins to capture the richness of the whole message of entire sanctification. Embracing the Holiness of the Lord and allowing His righteousness to indwell and enable life is at the heart of Christianity. In the fullness of the Spirit’s presence is a deepening sense of Divine righteousness. The whole and balanced message of entire sanctification leads to a rewarding relationship with the Lord Jesus, and sweet infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The resultant relationship with others is also deepened by holiness. When ones life embraces the Biblical message of God’s infilling it deeply influences interaction with others. Where the Holy Spirit, in His fullness, resides grace, mercy and righteousness will be evident.

It is my desire that you experience, live, teach and preach this great message of Scriptural Holiness. ■

G. Clair Sams
Editor

TRUE HOLINESS, THAT WON ME

By Tom Watkins

My mind calls up images of my Middle Tennessee Holiness Church of the 1950's. I'll start with the building. It was a makeshift church, that turned an old beer joint into a place of worship. It was a poor building, with several separate smaller buildings, used for Sunday school rooms. There was nothing appealing or stately about the design. It was not what it looked like that mattered. It was what was happening inside that made it beautiful.

The Church was made up of "holiness people" who loved God with all their hearts. People who felt a deep need to stay spiritual. They longed for the glory of God to return in all His majesty. I was a young boy, whose introduction to Christianity was the environment of this less than grand holiness church. My older sister introduced me to church, we were bus children. The vehicle that transported us to church was a paneled van of the 1940's vintage.

The saints gathered and there seemed to be an electric atmosphere from the early part of the day. I remember the ladies all wore hats, and when God's presence filled the place, those hats caught my attention as they bobbed around. No crowd could sing number 185 in the Songs of Inspiration book, "*When We All Get to Heaven*" as they did! Heaven was their goal and Jesus, their heavenly bridegroom. They lived for the Lord's return.

Holiness unto the Lord was indeed their watch word and song! My home church folk were not really a lot different from other church people around them. In those days, outward standard meant modesty, and many dressed the same way, but there was a difference because of an experience they called "sanctification." It was entire sanctification that drove their belief, preaching, singing and that was lived out through their lives. They knew God was able to deliver them from the carnal war within. Others who believed, you just had to live with the old man, were proved wrong by the sweet Holy Ghost filled saints who walked among them.

That little makeshift church, soon was replaced with a beautiful building. God was moving and in the new sanctuary, the saints brought sweet fellowship, blessed singing and anointed preaching. I remember meals together, invitations to the community and the presence of God among us. There were revival meetings with men of God preaching fearlessly from God's Word. We enjoyed missionary rally, Sunday school rallies and preacher meetings. What a thrill it was to see our brothers and sisters gather from miles around to worship.

Some big life issues were settled at a wooden altar. I felt hands on my shoulders as I struggled in prayer. There were words of encouragement, songs led by the pastor to motivate

faith and victories won at the altar.

I am spoiled to the "old fashion holiness way." I know that times and techniques change, but here are some things connected with the experience of Holiness that do not change. You might be wondering what those things might be? I am glad you ask. "The holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" is a holiness that works.

1. I remember the price paid and the sacrifice made. Those who went before were willing to make the sacrifice and pay the price. I had a church to attend because people possessed the Spirit and He gave them victory over self.

2. They came to church when they could have done something else. They came when they expected company. They came when one parent, had to stay home with a sick child. They came when they had a good day or bad.

3. Church was important because as sold out children of God; people who were filled with the Spirit, they sensed the impact of church. They realized Christ died for the Church. They were filled with a love for Christ and His people. They wanted to stand by the church even when it seemed the gates of hell were pressing in.

4. There was a real love manifested toward all men. But, especially there was love for their brothers and sisters in the faith. Gossip was not tolerated, uncharitable criticism was addressed. They were called to build one another up, not to tear down. All felt love even when the truth came close and searching.

5. They allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them. Oh, if advice was needed, they would listen and encourage each other, but they advised the individual to be obedient to the Spirit. They stood by, suffered long, and showed kindness toward those who struggled.

6. They were compassionate. Often leading a helping hand to those in need. Many times, a generous offering was offered when no one knew.

With all the modern innovations today, there are still some things that cannot be improved upon. The work of the Holy Spirit, in the heart of believers, enables one to live with a good conscience. The Spirit is still working in lives.

If you want to grow a congregation, it is more than buildings. It is more than dollars. It is more than our ministries gearing up to meet this changing society. It is really simple; get back to old-fashioned holiness. Holiness seeks the lost and loves without expecting returns. Holiness lives consistently at home and in the world.

The new man created in righteousness and holiness is reaching to others. That is what Jesus called us to. Holiness is enabling grace, that will keep you. ■



JIM AND BETTY JEWETT

In this issue we are interviewing Jim and Betty Jewett, members of the Franklin, OH, Bible Methodist Church. Jim served on the Conference Executive and Heartland Camp Committee for many years.

The Bible Methodist: Tell us a little about your lives.

Jim: I was born in Dayton, Ohio, on August 7, 1944.

Betty: I was born in Frenchburg, Kentucky, on Christmas Day, 1941. My family moved to Miamisburg, Ohio, when I was 2 years old. My parents were saved in the Miamisburg Church of the Nazarene. Jim's parents were saved in the Dayton Church of the Nazarene.

How did you meet?

Rev. Glenn Griffith came to Dayton and rented the St. Paul's theater for a revival meeting. Both our families attended. In the electric atmosphere of revival, a country girl met a city slicker, and soon they were dating and ultimately married and have two great children.

Tell us about your conversions.

Jim: I was saved as a young child.

Betty: Under the influence of Ray Haines, my mom and her brother were saved. I was saved as a young teenager.

When were you married?

Jim: We were married on December 27, 1963. After graduation from high school, I went to work for General Motors and was there until my retirement 34 year later.

Betty: I worked for National Cash Register until Kim was born. After Kim was married I worked in a bank.

How did you get connected to the Bible Methodist Church?

Betty: My brother, Paul Hatfield, began attending the Franklin Bible Methodist Church in 1986. The church we were

attending in north Dayton had some trouble so we began attending Franklin as well and soon became deeply involved in the church.

Tell us about your involvement at Beulah Grove (Heartland's campgrounds).

Jim: We had been involved in camp where we had attended church so going to Beulah Grove was natural. Our first camp was in 1987, which was the year Dr. William Gale raised the money to pay off the camp ground's mortgage. We would drive up to camp for weekends for several years.

In 1999 we began driving up to camp for the work weeks and have only missed one week of working since. During the involvement with Beulah Grove, I served as camp treasurer for about 7 years and served as camp coordinator about 3 years.

Please list your involvement with the church and conference.

Jim: We have served as delegates to 7 General Conferences. We have also served as delegates to Annual Conference since the early 90s. I served on the Connectional Committee as a lay representative from Heartland, served on the Heartland Executive Committee and again on Beulah Grove Camp Committee. I now serve as treasurer of the Franklin church.

Betty: I served as Beulah Grove registrar and have served the Franklin church as secretary for many years. We have enjoyed our involvement with the Church and Conference and can't think of anything we would have done differently.

What would you like to say to the Bible Methodist Community?

Hold to the old paths. Please, don't change just because everyone else is changing. The Lord is doing right and He makes all victories from the battles worth it. ■



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WORLD MISSIONS

NEWS UPDATE

TIMOTHY KEEP | MISSIONS DIRECTOR



Shepherd Seminars in the Philippines

One out of every four Christians say that they have been in distress at least once in the last year. Those who reach out for help in times of distress are most likely to reach out to their pastor for wisdom and direction. Pastors should be equipped with the information and skills to provide competent and compassionate pastoral care to those who reach out to them. Having the opportunity to share some strategies with the pastors and pastoras who were able to attend the Shepherd's Seminars in the Philippines in January of 2019 was an honor and a joy. I was able to share with them the importance of viewing everyone in their churches and communities as image-bearers, noting that there's no situation beyond God's power to redeem and restore for His glory and the edification of His Church.

Missions director Tim Keep was a wonderful leader and guide. The seminar directors (Pastor Yuccadi and Pastor

Magadengdeng) were gifted and godly administrators. The translators (father/daughter team of Ronaldo and Ericka Comilang) were gifted at conveying the truths and passions we shared. The Bible Methodist missionaries (RG and Sarah Hutchison as well as Maricka Herrer) were models of culturally-competent leadership and teaching. Heartland Conference President Chris Cravens and I had a "ton of fun" together as we towered over everyone. The sessions provided by the others on the team were practical, focusing on both outreach and personal spiritual formation.

I went to the Philippines to minister and I found myself the beneficiary of the ministry of those on the team and the pastors and pastoras of the Bible Methodist churches in the Philippines. God is truly at work in and through His people there. – Dr. Andrew Graham





ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Heartland Conference President, Chris Cravens and Rolando Comilang speaking; L-R: Dr. R. G. Hutchison, Chris Cravens, Dr. Andrew Graham; Chris Cravens and Rolando Comilang; Pastors and their wives from Jabez, Joshua, and Nehemiah Conferences, attending the Shepherd's Seminar at the Philippine Bible Methodist National Office, Alibagu Isabella Providence. They have just received copies of the discipleship book, *Following Christ* prepared by The Bible Methodist Discipleship Director, Nathan Brown; Pastors and their wives attending the Shepherd's Seminar at Gospel Light Conference Center in Burgos, Cabarugis, Quirino; Heartland Conference President Chris Cravens with Jefferson and Claire Lucena. Jefferson is the Shepherd's College Administrator.

We recently concluded two Shepherd Seminars here in the Philippines, and were privileged to minister to at least 100 pastors, spouses, students, and leaders. Thank you to our General Mission Director, Tim Keep and to our guest lecturers, Rev. Chris D. Cravens and Dr. Andrew Graham for the prayers, time, energy and resources you have invested in the Philippine church. Your ministry has greatly blessed and helped us. Thank you, also, to our missionary colleague, Maricka Herrer, for her clear and anointed teaching ministry, and for the many practical ways in which she helped the rest of us as well. Thank you also to Rev. Ronaldo Comilang, his daughter, Ericka Comilang, and Rev. Brendel Macadangdang, for serving so capably as interpreters. Thank you also to our Philippine Bible Methodist leaders, most especially BMGL Overseer, Pastor David Yucaddi, and PBMC National Overseer Rev. Brendel Macadangdang, for their warm welcome, support, and assistance which made these Shepherd seminars possible. Most of all, thank you Father, Son and Holy Spirit for redeeming us, setting us apart, and allowing us to share with one another the gifts you have first given to us.
 – RG Hutchison

Over 16,000 miles! Over 100 hours of traveling! Involved in 21 sessions or services! What an incredible 12 days of ministry in the Philippines – I will never be the same! Director Tim Keep, Richard and Sarah Hutchison were great guides and hosts. It was also a great blessing to travel with Andrew Graham and Maricka Herrer. I am amazed at how God is at work in the Philippines. I come home with a greater appreciation for our American missionaries, the national leaders, along with the pastors in the Philippines. Be assured; our prayers and support make a significant difference. Our financial generosity is worth it. Our brothers and sisters in the Philippines are spiritually genuine and eagerly growing in the Lord. My life has been changed! I have been blessed!
 – Rev. Chris Cravens

FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dr. Andrew Graham, Chair of Counseling Department at Hobe Sound Bible College and Rolando Comilang; Rolando Comilang and Dr. Andrew Graham; Dr Andrew Graham and Rev. Chris Cravens; Maricka Herrer speaking in the seminar; L-R: Dr. RG. Hutchison, Dr. Andrew Graham, Chris Cravens, Tim Keep singing. Seated is Pastor Francis Guibong; Bible Methodist Missions Director, Tim Keep and Rolando Comilang

ALABAMA REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

JOHN PARKER | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Covington, Georgia

Mt. Tabor Bible Church in Covington, GA welcomed Pastor Dwight and Lorna Crosley on Sunday, January 13th! Pastor Dwight and Lorna join Pastor Phil and Joy Budensiek in leading this thriving church near Atlanta, GA. We are very excited to have Dwight and Lorna ministering in this community! If you have contacts in the Atlanta area, please be sure to connect them with this church!



Columbus, Georgia

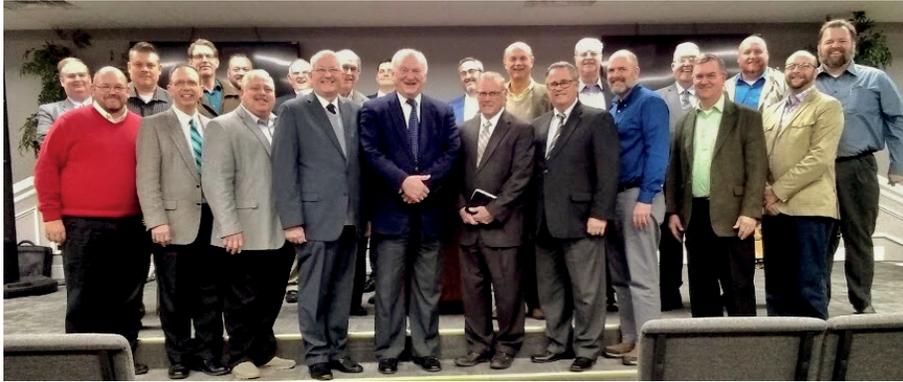
Rev. Walter and Linda Hedstrom with Dr. Michael and Ruth Williams hosted a Ministry Fellowship Meal at the Columbus, GA parsonage on December 8th. Pastor Rob Cravens spoke to us. A lovely meal was provided by the Faith Bible Methodist Church of Columbus. The Parsonage was extravagantly decorated by Sheila McCrady!



Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Tuscaloosa Bible Methodist Church has recently acquired a new church property and relocated. God has been working miracles for them, enabling them to purchase a large (almost 14,000 sq. ft) building and over 3 acres. This property had been previously converted to a church property but has been vacant for some time. There is great potential for growth and expansion here! It will require a lot of work over the next few years! If you'd like to volunteer to help, contact Pastor Mark Potter. They were able to sell their old church property and have already begun to have services in a room in the new property. Please pray with us for this exciting development! The new Church Property is located at 14461 Hwy. 11 North, Coaling, AL 35453.





Ministerial

The Conference Ministerial (Jan 10-12) was a rich time of challenge and fellowship this year. Dr. Nelson Perdue, Pastor Bob Blankenship and Prof. William Snider spoke. Dr. Perdue powerfully challenged us to preach the beautiful, transformative message of Holiness, interweaving his own amazing story into his messages. He brought a dear friend to minister in music to us, Dr. Gary Bond. We were greatly blessed by their ministry! The ladies shared a wonderful time together in the new Conference Office. Teresa Armstrong spoke to them and shared craft and entertainment insights with them. We enjoyed wonderful fellowship in the new Office Facility.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Front Row left to right: Doug Eads, Bob Blankenship, Bryan Shields, Walt Hedstrom, Dr. Gary Bond, Dr. Nelson Perdue, John Parker, Don Shirk, Rick Hutchison, Paul Eckert, Back Row left to right: Mike Pepple, Byron Haynie, Randall Crotts, Jon Earls, Carson Scarbrough, William Snider, Ron Cook, Mark Potter, Steve Vernon, Dr. Mike Williams, Tom Davis, Marshall Melton, Leonard Collins; Fellowship following a Ministerial service; Ladies fellowshiping during Ministerial.



Honoring Miss Betty Kendall

Betty was born on August 12, 1932 in Jeffersonville, IN, to Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Kendall. Betty held degrees

from Bryant Stratton Business College, the University of Louisville and the University of West Alabama. She devoted her life to teaching. Her primary teaching focus was business education. She taught in several different places but gave 22 years to Wallace Community College, in Selma, Alabama, where she taught Secretarial Science and Business courses – retiring from Wallace in 1988. Betty was an excellent teacher noted for her no-nonsense approach to learning. She was highly knowledgeable of her field and even wrote her own text book for teaching short-hand. She knew and experienced every office machine from the Royal manual typewriter and the mimeograph to computers and laser printers. She trained numerous professional secretaries and Administrative Assistants that now work in places all over South Alabama.

After retirement Betty spent 16 years in volunteer service for three different organizations (the American Cancer Society and two local hospitals in Selma). She also served for many years as a member of the Board of Trustees of God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati, OH. She attended the Selma Bible Methodist Church for over 35 years, where she functioned in almost every capacity possible to assist the pastors and the church.

Betty was a deeply committed Christian whose life was marked by true Christ-centeredness, remarkable generosity, strong clear personal convictions and a caring heart for people everywhere.

Betty passed away on December the 7th, 2018, and she left this life just like she lived it – everything in order!

– Dr. Michael Avery

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

BLAKE JONES | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Nativity Walk – Rock Lake, Michigan

The Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church again hosted the community’s annual Nativity Walk. Eight churches provided stations along the twenty-five minute walk. Guided groups visited antagonistic soldiers, Bethlehem’s market and inn, the Simeon’s prophecy station, shepherds and the proclaiming angel, Mary and Joseph at the stable, a leper group, a family traveling to pay their taxes, the wise men’s camp and a brief Gospel presentation. About 680 braved the cold to make the night time walk, pay their taxes and fellowship in the camp dining hall.



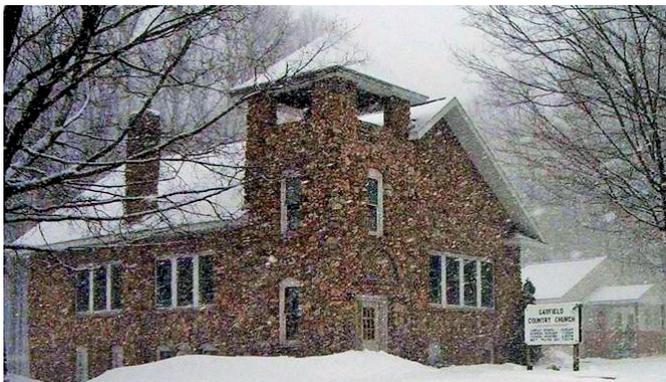
Northern Lights Youth Retreat

When the winter temperature drops and ice thickens on the Northern Michigan lakes, it is time for the Northern Lights Youth Retreat. This year, another wonderful group of young people gathered for a weekend of winter fun and spiritual growth. Bro. David Hartkopf spoke with God's anointing during the four service times as the Holy Spirit ministered to our hearts. This coupled with ice skating, bonfires and games made for a full, but wonderful weekend UP North. – *Doug Derscheid*



Garfield Country Church – Fife Lake, Michigan

We have been blessed by God to reach several in our community. We have visitors almost every Sunday. God is answering our prayers for evangelism. The growing hunger in their hearts and the needs that are obvious in their lives brings us greater responsibility to introduce them to Christ and the good news that His grace can transform them. It is truly a great door of opportunity. Pray that God will give us the resources of grace so desperately needed. It is only by Him and through Him!
– *Pastor Kimberland Hough*



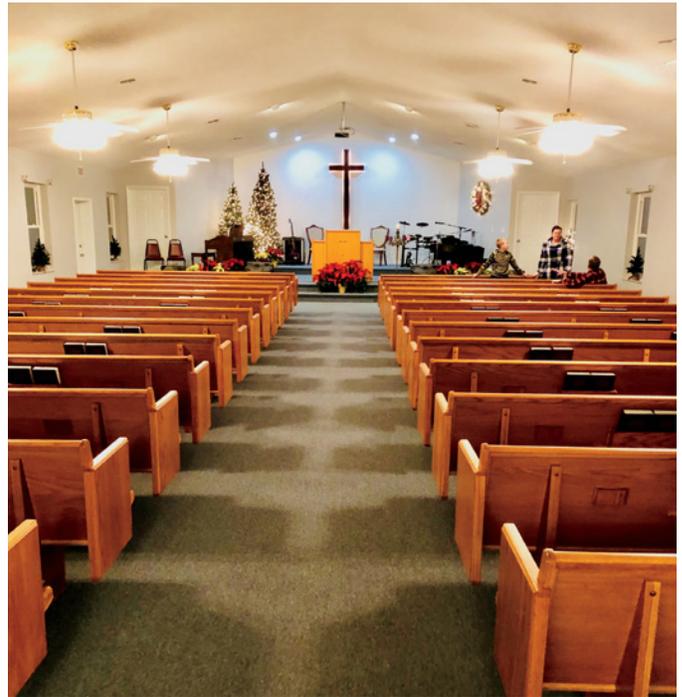
HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

CHRIS CRAVENS | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Rededication of Remodeled Sanctuary – Zanesville, Ohio

Pastor Bill Blair, President Cravens, and the Zanesville congregation rededicated a beautiful remodeled sanctuary.



Water Project at Beulah Grove

Work is progressing on installing a new water system at Beulah Grove campgrounds.



Christmas Around the Conference



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Findlay, OH – Christmas youth choir; Binghamton, NY – the church decorated for Christmas; Fort Wayne, IN; The Executive Committee enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner at their December meeting. Front Row (L-R): Chris Cravens, Julie Cravens, Jane Hooker, Jack Hooker, Middle Row: Rebecca Miller, Kim Fourman, Viola Durr, Regina Thomas, Back Row: Steve Miller, Deron Fourman, John Manley, Bennie Durr, Duane Thomas; Beach City, OH – the church broke their attendance record with 181 in the service.



Conference President Cravens in the Philippines

President Cravens spoke at Shepherd's Conference in the Philippines.



MID-AMERICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

DARRELL STETLER II | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Youth Challenge West

Mid-America Bible Methodist Regional Conference is well-represented on the Youth Challenge West committee. In the picture below, the YCWest Committee holds a video conference call to plan the first ever YCWest! You may get details about the event at www.youthchallenge.net.

Committee Members from Mid-America Bible Methodist Regional Conference:

Darrell Stetler II
Eric Going
Eric Hughes
Kinneth Hurst

Committee Member from The Bible Holiness Church:

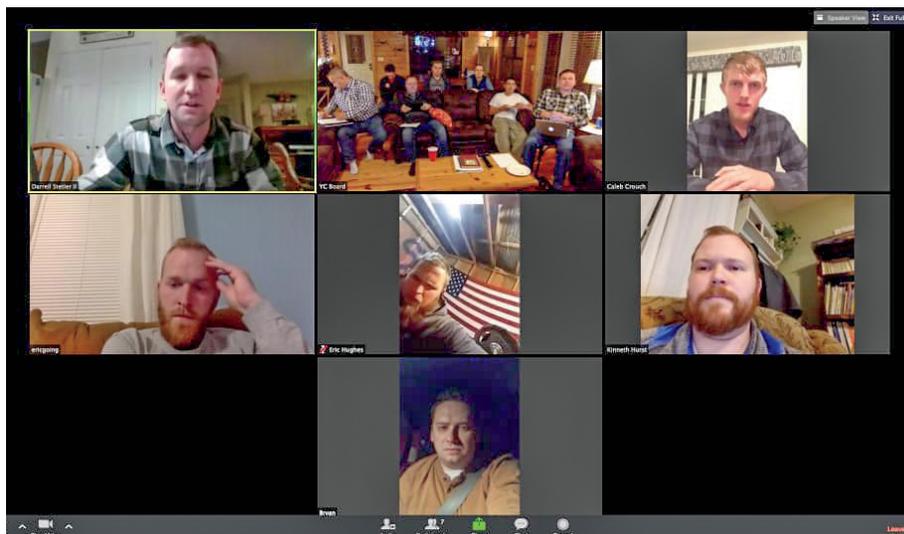
Alex Dodsworth

Committee Member from Church of God (Holiness):

Bryan Jones

Committee Member from the Pilgrim Nazarene Church:

Caleb Crouch



Top Row, L-R: Darrell Stetler II, Youth Challenge Committee, Caleb Crouch; Middle Row, L-R: Eric Going, Eric Hughes, Kinneth Hurst; Bottom Row: Bryan Jones

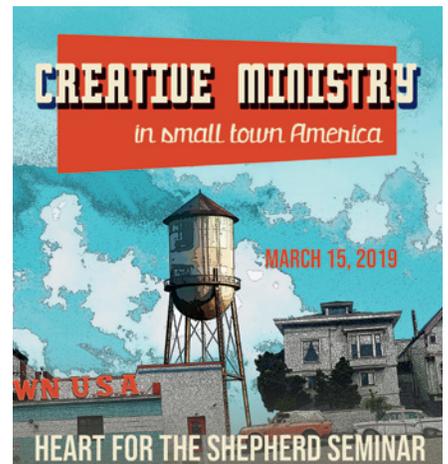
Oklahoma City Bible Methodist Church

OKC Bible Methodist served over 22,000 people at their Bread of Life Food Pantry Ministry in 2018.



Heart for the Shepherd

Every March, Mid-America & Ponca City BMC sponsor Heart for the Shepherd Seminar in Ponca City, OK. This year features a panel of leaders from the Bible Holiness Church in Scammon, KS. Group pictures are from a few years ago.



Salina, Kansas

Living Hope, Salina BMC's Youth Group and Kids Klub, combined to present "Babies of the Bible." Many of the parents were attendance.



Connectional Committee Meeting

On a cold and snowy January morning the members of the Connectional Committee met. It was the 15th that most of the members of the Committee gathered at God's Bible College. The meeting was held in the stately Oswald Chamber's Room. Chairman Avery opened with a devotional and then gave an overview of his activities, an accounting of the Connectional Treasurer was submitted. Missions the Conference President and the Editor had prepared written reports highlighting their areas of responsibility. Among other items on the agenda was discussion about the future of the Connection as well as planning for Combined Ministerial and General Conference. The Lord graciously met with and blessed the time together.



ABOVE: Front Row, L-R: Jack Hooker, Vice Chairman, Michael Avery, Connectional Chairman, Tim Keep, Missions Director, Duane Quesenberry, Secretary; Second Row L-R: John Parker, Blake Jones, Darrell Stetler II, Chris Cravens; Third Row, L-R: Deron Fourman, David Armstrong, Steve Oliver; Fourth Row L-R: Chris Hilling, Richard Miles, Clair Sams; Fifth Row L-R: Dewey Murray, Duane Thomas, Wayne Fleming, Doug Derscheid
LEFT: L-R: Darrell Stetler II, Mid America Conference President; Chris Cravens, Heartland Conference President; John Parker, Alabama Conference President; Blake Jones, Great Lakes Conference President



Honoring Rev. Glenn E. Wickard

Rev. Glenn E. Wickard, 91, of Wapakoneta, passed away Feb. 11, 2019, at Cridersville, OH. His wife, Barbara R. Stephenson Wickard survives. Other survivors include, 6 children, 18 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. Rev. Wickard was preceded in death by 12 brothers and sisters. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. He was an esteemed Elder with the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, Heartland Conference. Rev. Wickard pastored churches in Ohio and Michigan, worked often at Beulah Grove and after retirement served as pulpit supply for several churches. Rev. Wickard was a member of the Findlay Bible Methodist Church. He was an accomplished woodworker, avid reader, generous supporter of the church, and life-long student of the Bible. Funeral services were held February 13, 2019, and his burial was in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta, OH. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Bible Methodist Camp.

Help with Church Signage

If your church would like to incorporate the new Bible Methodist logo into your signage, contact me and I'll be happy to help you set up your print files. With the recent rebranding of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, it is important that the Bible Methodist logo and colors are used properly. If you need help knowing what file type to use or whether or not your colors match our branding, email me at smuir@gbs.edu. – Shane Muir

Sea Breeze Camp – Hobe Sound Florida

The Bible Methodist Connection of Churches was represented well at Sea Breeze Campmeeting by its two preaching evangelist being Mark Cravens and Daniel Stetler. Wednesday evening Chris Cravens represented the General Connection by hosting a reception for all Bible Methodist to come together and about 50 gathered for snacks, fellowship and information. Thursday night John Parker and Chris Cravens represented the General Connection at Hobe Sound Bible College's student population at an annual ministerial forum. It was a great time of connecting with friends and making new contacts for the Connection.



Legacy Gifts



There are several ways to partner with one of the Ministries of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches that can make a long term financial difference in that Ministry. You can make a **Memorial Gift** in someone's honor. You can leave a **Charitable Bequest** for a fixed

dollar amount or a percentage of your total estate or percentage of the residual of your estate. You can make a **Planned Gift** through a revocable trust, a will, a gift of real estate or from tax-deferred retirement assets.

Your gift to a local church, a Conference, a Camp or to a

Missions project can make a huge difference!

If you are interested in talking to someone about this please contact:

Michael Avery

General Connectional Chairman

(513) 218-8502



Core Values of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches

The Bible Methodist Connection of Churches is a God-exalting, Christ-centered, Spirit-led Church, which endeavors to live out the following values in a gracious, nurturing community.

1: Biblical Authority

We acknowledge the Word of God as our final authority for doctrine and practice.

2: Authentic Worship

We seek to glorify God by whole-heartedly exalting His supreme worth in corporate and personal worship.

3: Fervent Prayer

We rely on corporate and private prayer for communion with God and a source of spiritual power in life and ministry.

4: Biblical Preaching

We believe that clear preaching and teaching of God's Word is His plan for the saving of souls and maturing of believers.

5: Scriptural Holiness

We believe that God calls every believer to holiness that rises out of His character. We understand it to begin in the new birth, include a second work of grace that empowers, purifies and fills each person with the Holy Spirit, and continue in a lifelong pursuit.

6: Holy Living

We believe that God calls all believers to a life of holiness, and that His Spirit enables us in this pursuit through union with Christ.

7: Missional Outreach

We are a sent people who embrace the call of Christ to impact the world through evangelism, church planting, missions and meeting social needs in each community.

8: Intentional Discipleship

We purpose that through biblical instruction and mentoring relationships we will make disciples who obey Christ and disciple others.

9: Loving Community

We commit to live out the "one another" commands of Scripture in a unified, redemptive community.

10: Family Focused

We partner with the family to model and perpetuate the Christian faith from generation to generation.