

The Bible Methodist

A person wearing a dark blue or grey hoodie is shown from the chest up. They have their hands pressed against their face, covering their eyes and nose. Their hair is light brown and visible at the top of the hood. The background is dark and out of focus.

when
the past
is not
the past

**UNDERSTANDING WHY
PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELING IS CRUCIAL
IN THE TREATMENT
OF TRAUMA**



FROM THE EDITOR

G. Clair Sams

I trust you will be captivated by the pictures of camp meeting you see in this issue of the paper. Each Conference hosts a family camp and a youth camp. You may visually visit these annual events and catch a sense of what the Lord is doing through the ministry at Rock Lake, Beulah Grove and Camp Eden. The evangelistic teams for each event are highlighted, you will also have a little sense of the momentum of the events. For instance Alabama and Heartland celebrated milestones this year, so you will see a gathering of delegates for Heartland's 50th Anniversary.

Youth camp is always a special time in each Conference. The intentional ministry among young people has always been a highlight. You will see the excitement on young faces as they compete and the depth of desire as they worship the Lord.

On the missions pages you will read Paul Troyer's report of what the Lord is doing in Asia. I think it will excite you and encourage you to prayer as you read of the inroads into an area of the world that is quite tightly closed to the message of the Gospel.

This issue also focuses on the importance of seeking and finding counseling help for those with deep needs. Among our community of churches there is an attempt to provide some help, particularly for pastors and their families in areas that encourage mental and spiritual health. Our world seems determined to destroy the moorings of righteousness and intent on undermining proper spiritual authority. Often ministry families are on the leading edge of these attacks and seem increasingly inundated with the pain these attacks bring.

Dr. Tim Barber and Rebecca Miller remind us of the importance of spiritual and mental health. Read their material and know that though reaching Divine perfection is not possible, and should not even be our desire, yet spiritually sound, emotionally stable lives are a possibility.

I have a little saying that escapes at times and that is, "When we fell we all fell on our heads and it broke our hearts." In other words, every family is deeply affected by man's entrance into sin. Grace and redemption certainly and dramatically changes both our outlook and our destiny, but the marks of sin leave deep lines in our lives. The joy for the Believer is, that through grace, discipleship and at times Christian counseling the impact of sin can be minimized.

People whose lives are whole and healthy can minister more effectively than those who are controlled by the pain of a sinful past. You can through Christ, rise above your history and be identified by the power of grace. ■

The Bible Methodist

Rev. G. Clair Sams, *Editor*
gcsams@biblemethodist.org

Rev. Deron Fourman, *Subscription Manager*
pastorderon@frontier.com
990 S. Wonnell Rd.
Port Clinton OH 43452

Subscription price—\$10 per year

Jon Plank, *Graphic Design*
jplank@media-spring.com

Country Pines, Inc., *Printing & Circulation*
www.countrypinesprinting.com

The Bible Methodist is published four times a year. It is the official publication of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches.

COVER IMAGE: © MIKE LIU/PHOTOXPRESS

BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION of CHURCHES

Connectional Chairman
Dr. Michael Avery
1810 Young St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
mavery@gbs.edu

Missions Director
Rev. Timothy Keep
4473 Forest Trail
Cincinnati, OH 45224
www.biblemethodist.org

Alabama Conference President
Rev. Walter Hedstrom
PO Box 523
Pell City, AL 35125
www.biblemethodist.org

Great Lakes Conference President
Rev. Blake Jones
Box 5, Cedar Lake, MI 48812
www.biblemethodist.org

Heartland Conference President
Rev. G. Clair Sams
171 Gibraltar Dr.
Germantown, OH 45327
www.biblemethodist.org



Life Giving Relationships



TIM BARBER

Everything you are is a result of interactions with others. It began with the physical interaction of your parents at conception. It continued with the loving care of parents, grandparents and supportive caregivers. The influence of interactions with others is life-long. The aroma of fresh baked bread and oatmeal raisin cookies stirs something deep within me that calls me to memories of my home that are far deeper than a satisfying meal. Those interactions with my mother (and father) shaped me powerfully.

Dr. Don Joy referred to the family as “God’s First Curriculum.” It is within our physical family that we learn the most crucial elements of the faith. We learn to feel loved, to know in our bones what trust and safety feels like, to experience the hopefulness and steadfastness that are found in promises fulfilled. The combined experiences in our families of origin have profound physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and social effects on our development...or the lack of that development.

In a supportive environment a child learns to feel her or his own worth and value in a healthy, humble way. The child learns he or she is worthy of love because they are deeply and dearly loved, not only by the God who knit them together in their mother's womb (Ps. 139:13), but also because they experienced that love from others. Without that experiential knowledge of what love and acceptance feels like, the love of God, more often than not, remains a longed for hope, an abstract idea that we can accept mentally but only have fleeting glimpses of emotionally. There is a vast difference between the smell of fresh baked oatmeal raisin cookies, and knowing those cookies were baked for me.

But what happens when patterns of interaction have a destructive element? Too many times as a professional counselor I listen to the stories of adults who still feel the sting of the harsh words of their parents. In the mind of a small

child no one else has the authority of a parent. What that mother or father says and does has the thunderous authority of God speaking to Moses on Mt. Sinai. But when those words convey messages of disappointment with one's performance, disapproval of one's appearance, one's actions, thoughts and emotions, the child's sense of self is crushed. In the mind of a child it is a short step from hearing the words from the most important person in his or her life that their actions are wrong, to the belief that "I am wrong."

Part of the joy of professional counseling is helping individuals discover the experience of health and wholeness. This is especially true when the pain of interactions, past or present, overshadows the joy of connection. For those whom relationships have been marked by dread and sorrow, restoration can be a slow, tedious and challenging journey. Pastors and faith communities often work

wonders with those who struggle. But for some, the challenges of healing are deep and well entrenched. It is at those times that a professional Christian counselor can be of help.

What are the signs that it is time to seek professional help? Here are some indicators.

First, and most important, when individuals struggle with thoughts of suicide, professional help is essential. When hope is lost, and problems persist, it is unfortunately not that uncommon for people to have thoughts of ending their lives. There is an epidemic of suicide in the United States. Few are immune. From adolescents to senior adults, people are taking their own lives at an unprecedented rate. Military veterans are especially vulnerable. If you have any concerns that a friend or loved one is considering suicide talk with them. It is a myth that asking about thoughts of suicide will intro-



“Unraveling the dynamics of hurtful relationships and learning, perhaps for the first time, to discover it is safe to trust, safe to have hope, and safe to actually believe that one is worthy of genuine love is the work many Christian counselors do on a daily basis.”

“The heart of the matter is that our interactions with others either give life or diminish the life God created us to live.”

duce the thought into another’s person’s mind. It is far better to ask than to act as if nothing is wrong. Medical, personal and professional counselors are trained to ask the right questions to assess risk. Counselors can also facilitate the longer, challenging conversations about how to manage the difficult emotions that lead to thoughts of self-harm.

Second, counselors understand the dynamics involved in complicated relationships. Not every home and family is safe and nurturing. Harsh words, unrealistic expectations, and boundary violations involving physical and sexual touch occur too often. Those events work together to create an environment in which children learn the wrong lessons about themselves, relationships and even about their relationship with God.

Look into a person’s eyes and ask this question. “Who looked into your eyes when you were a child with a gleam and said, I love you and I am so glad you are part of my life?” If the person does not have an answer in two to three seconds, there probably was no one to look at them in that loving supportive way. That question calls for an implicit response, a

response from the heart. Just as the smell of fresh baked oatmeal raisin cookies elicits an immediate response in my memory, the heartfelt sense of love, acceptance, and safety elicits a similar response to the question of the one who looked at that person with love and joy. Unraveling the dynamics of hurtful relationships and learning, perhaps for the first time, to discover it is safe to trust, safe to have hope, and safe to actually believe that one is worthy of genuine love is the work many Christian counselors do on a daily basis.

Third, counselors have the ability to support the work of pastors in unique ways. The calling, training, and experience of pastors equip them to address the spiritual concerns of those they encounter in powerful ways. Bringing God’s grace, the wisdom of Scripture, and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to bear on the needs of those they encounter is not to be underestimated. However, when the needs of those they encounter include emotional issues such as depression, anxiety, emotions that swing widely, addiction, and interpersonal problems

that threaten family relationships, counselors can support the work of pastors in powerful ways.

Thankfully the stigma associated with seeking counseling has lessened and many have discovered Christian counselors have a ministry that is Spirit-directed and Christ-centered. In particular, they have discovered counselors are often well suited to healing the hurts of relationships. ■

Tim Barber LPCC-S, NCC, CSAT-S is co-owner of Counseling Alliance PLLC in Cincinnati, OH. He served 22 years in pastoral ministry, and 13 years as Associate Professor in the Master of Arts in Counseling program at Cincinnati Christian University. Tim is a Certified Sex Addiction Therapist and also has advanced training in working with couples and trauma survivors. He works from a faith-based perspective to restore health, hope, and wholeness in lives and relationships.



when the past is not the past



Understanding Why Professional Counseling
is Crucial in the Treatment of Trauma



REBECCA MILLER

People talk about trauma as an event that happened a long time ago. But what trauma is, is the imprint that event has left on your mind and in your sensations...the discomfort you feel and the helplessness you feel right now."

—Bessel van der Kolk, Trauma researcher

As a licensed professional, clinical counselor specializing in the treatment of complex trauma, I am often asked "Why do I still feel like "this" when "it" happened so long ago?" "Why can't I just get over "it" and move on?" And often in desperation, "Is there any hope I can heal?"

My answer to the last question is "Yes, healing is possible ... with proper treat-

ment." However, the answers to the "why" questions are more complex. A fundamental understanding of the "whys" is important to understanding the process of recovery. And, hopefully this understanding will in turn awaken the "empathic witness" in us all. Dr. Peter Levine, master trauma therapist, says "trauma is not what happens to us," but what we hold inside in the absence of an empathic witness."

Trauma has been described as a distressing experience that overwhelms one's ability to cope and integrate emotions and results in feelings of helplessness, isolation, and loss of power and control. When these symptoms are not directly dealt with and

reprocessed, they can become entrenched i.e., "stuck" in the memory network in their original form and be triggered as if reliving the experience in realtime.

Trauma comes in many forms. In the mental health field, trauma is differentiated into two types, big "T" trauma and little "t" trauma. Big "T" trauma, also known as "shock" (overt) trauma, may be single or multiple events such as natural disasters, manmade disasters, serious illnesses, sexual abuse and domestic violence. Big "T" traumas are thought of as life threatening and affect one's sense of safety and security. Little "t" traumas are more subtle (covert) and may not always be perceived as

traumatic. These experiences are known as developmental trauma and are usually pervasive over time during childhood and have a devastating effect on the sense of self, negatively affecting the development of self-confidence, self-identity, and competence. Little “t” traumas include frequent criticism, bullying, shaming, and physical or emotional neglect. The unmet needs of developmental traumas result in the “I am’s....” “I am worthless.” “I am not good enough.” “I am powerless.”

Imagine with me a childhood experience that resulted in developmental trauma. Little Sally (imaginary character) was so excited to fix breakfast for her Mommy. Mommy was sad today and Sally wanted her to be happy. Sally got Mommy’s favorite cup and started to pour milk into the cup when she dropped the pitcher and milk spilled all over the floor. Mommy came into the kitchen and in a loud, stern voice said to Sally, “Shame on you! I’m not feeling good and now I have to clean this mess up.” Sally’s developing sense of self and competency was shamed and she began to sense “I am bad. I can’t do anything right.” She started to become responsible for her mother’s emotions. “It’s my fault Mommy is sad.” And she began to think Jesus didn’t love her either since she is a “bad” girl. Sally made a mistake, yet she felt like she is a mistake because of the shame her mother put onto her. This is what clinicians call “carried” shame; the shame is not the child’s shame she is just a child who made an innocent mistake but she is now feeling shame, her mother’s shame. And tragically, this was not Sally’s first nor her last shaming experience.

The brain is a profoundly complex structure, and its’ response to trauma, whether real or perceived, is profoundly complex. For the sake of time and space, a very simplistic way to think about the brain’s response to trauma is to consider three primary structures of the brain, the brainstem, the limbic system, and the prefrontal cortex. The brainstem is our “autopilot” and regulates heart rate, breathing and

consciousness. The limbic system is the seat of our emotions, and houses the hypothalamus which activates the “fight or flight, freeze or faint” responses. The prefrontal cortex is responsible for executive functions such as reasoning, problem solving and planning. When the brainstem and/or the limbic system is dysregulated from unresolved, “stuck” trauma, the prefrontal cortex goes “offline” and the ability to reason and problem solve is greatly diminished if not entirely shut down.

Let’s revisit Sally’s childhood experience. A resolution of this distressing experience

**Everyone has
a story.**

**For some,
their story is
unresolved
trauma that
has not
been heard.**

might have looked like Mommy saying to Sally, “Sally, you are so sweet, thinking about mommy” (building into her sense of self). “It’s okay that the milk spilled. I remember when I spilled milk when I was a little girl” (normalizing everybody made mistakes and it’s ok). “After we get this cleaned up, you can pour mommy another cup of milk. I will help you if you need it” (building Sally’s confidence and competence in a supportive manner). “I love you, Sweetie, and Jesus does too!” (reassurance that everything is okay). Sadly, this is not what happened with Sally. Shame was reinforced once again, and the effects

of this experience became “stuck” in her memory network. Fast forward. Sally is now a young adult, working her way through college by waiting tables. In some areas of her life she is doing quite well, however for some reason, she becomes uncharacteristically nervous when she has to perform, i.e., pour coffee. Her hands shake uncontrollably and she feels panicked and wants to run back into the kitchen and cry. She tells herself “there is something wrong with me. I am not good enough. Shame on me.” Sally does not feel loved by God, as she was never taught God’s love is unconditional. She is having difficulty trusting in relationships, for how could someone really love her when she “is not good enough?” Sally’s limbic system is highly activated by the “stuck” traumatic response to the shaming experience during childhood which in turn is greatly diminishing her ability to think with reason and manage her emotions.

The treatment of trauma must be comprehensive in nature, with the primary focus on unlocking and reprocessing the “stuck” memory networks throughout the body. Recommended treatments for trauma focus on a holistic approach and include EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) Therapy, Somatic Experiencing, Post Induction Therapy (PIT), and Neurofeedback. Other therapies that address faulty thinking, maladaptive behaviors, and emotional dysregulation can also be helpful in conjunction with experiential therapies that include art, mindfulness and equine. Everyone has a story. And for some, their story is unresolved trauma that has not been heard. You may know a Sally. You may be Sally. If so, your story deserves to be heard. I trust the “empathic witness” in us has been awakened so we can hear. “And the God of all comfort, comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:4 ■

Rebecca Miller, MA, LPCC, CSAT is in practice at Counseling Alliance in Cincinnati. She is a Certified Sexual Addiction Therapist and has specialized training in EMDR Therapy and Post Induction Therapy. Rebecca believes being an “empathic witness” to her clients’ stories is a sacred honor.

World Missions

NEWS & UPDATES

Timothy Keep
Missions Secretary
4473 Forest Trail, Cincinnati, OH 45224
Send Missions Contributions to
Bible Methodist Missions
PO Box E
Port Clinton, OH 43452



PATIENCE: THE SECRET OF MISSIONS SUCCESS

PAUL T.

One of my language teachers taught us some lessons about superstition and religious belief. At the outset, she declared to us that she was a devout, communist atheist (one must avow atheism to be a communist party member). As she proceeded, she mocked our Christian beliefs in a gentle way.



Menita and Isaiah playing at a reservoir in the Asia Highlands

All four of us in the class are Christians, so she may have got more than she reckoned for. We all used different apologetic arguments for the existence of God. At one point, I told her if there were no God, humans would be of no more value than any other material object. If we are only matter, what is wrong with killing another person we dislike? At one point, she said she wasn't sure what she believed. Later, she said that we (her students) believed everything the Bible said, and she believed everything Mao said. God is alive, and Mao is dead!

At the end of these sessions, she assured us that she would not report our beliefs to the authorities. That was kind!

At the end of one class, my friend was lamenting how stubborn she was in rejecting truth. I expressed that she was still young and will likely one day become disillusioned with the party. At that time, she may remember what was told her. Please remember to pray for Phoenix.

During the summer, I taught a student English in exchange for tutoring classes for Esther. My student was a dancer named Joy. For the second class, I brought some Bible-based materials. I was a little nervous unsure as to whether she was a communist. However, when I arrived, I noticed she had a bilingual Bible story book on her table. I took this as a sign that it was Ok to proceed!



Some of Paul and Esther's students

At the end of our summer classes, I gave her Dr. Connie Palm's book: *Is God Really My Father*. Please pray for Joy.

During one of our classes, I presented the fruits of the Spirit. I asked what she wished she had more of, and her response was patience. When I led the sharing with our expatriate Christian friends, the answer was the same!

When I was trying to think of a picture that could represent patience, Esther thought of a lion patiently hunting its prey. If he is impatient, he may starve to death. That is serious, but patience is no less important to us. We risk giving up the race given to each one of us, or starving spiritually if we lack endurance.

We need perseverance as we keep our eyes on the goal of one day being able to share the gospel effectively in two new languages.

We need patience to raise our children and not neglect devotions and teachable moments.

We need patience as we spoon feed Isaiah with the hope that one day he will feed himself.



Menita, riding in a Tibetan area of China

Is the trial we bear really a picture of God's dealing with us? Does He patiently spoon feed us with the hope that one day we will chew meat building His kingdom? *"For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

—Hebrews 6:7, 10

ANCIENT STORIES AS A CREATIVE TOOL TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

www.ancientstoriesforesl.com is a webpage created by Paul for teaching English in the Asia Highlands and sowing seeds of the gospel at the same time. It uses stories from the Bible and other ancient texts, so as not to be overtly Christian. Paul says, "During the school year I often get 100 new visitors per week and 400 page views. I was able to use the Noah's ark story with one of my own on one student recently. She enjoyed it even though she is not a believer yet. I have also had other non-believers like my Bible lessons online. It is exciting to introduce the Bible to people who would not otherwise read it. In some ways, there is less outright rejection of these stories in the Asian context."

A BRAND NEW MISSIONARY



Brennan, Ivon, Becky, Tim and little Brennan



We were delighted to pay a visit to meet our newest missionary, Brennan Alexander Muir.

He is keeping his mom and dad busy these days and resting up in preparation for his first big excursion to Mexico in a few weeks. We praise God for the safe delivery of this sweet bless-

ing and pray for His continued care for Brennan, Ivon, and baby Brennan. —Becky

SUMMER MISSIONS SERVICES

I want to give praise to the Lord for His special presence in our Bible Methodist Camp meeting mission's services this year. And I want to offer a special word of thanks to each Conference Missionary President—Sis. Melba Sams, Sis. Judy Eads and Rev. Adrian Rosa—for their kind and generous hospitality and excellent leadership! —TK

Walter Hedstrom
Conference President
PO Box 523, Pell City, AL 35125



FAMILY CAMP



YOUTH CAMP



1



2



3



4



5

1 Group pic of all campers

2 Girl Camper 2016—Kaitlyn Fox,
Boy Camper 2016—Taylor Messner

3 The entire Oklahoma youth group of 13 went to the altar

4 Football Frenzy

5 Youth president, Jon Earls after playing "Dizzy Bat." He couldn't stand up and I'm pretty sure he wouldn't pass a breath analyzer test. The video of him on the Alabama Youth camp Face Book page is priceless.

6 Last service



6

Blake Jones
Conference President
PO Box 5, Cedar Lake, MI 48812



FAMILY CAMP



1 Camp Workers L-R, Rev. and Mrs. Gene Davis, Rev. Mark Cravens, Rev. Steve Stetler, Larry and Trisha Jewett, and Rev. and Mrs. Jones (Camp President)

2 Rev. Philip Mills was ordained in the Friday evening conference service. He was privileged to have his wife and his parents stand with him and his father lead in the prayer of consecration

3 The young people served the campers for one meal and made it a meal on the grounds.

4 The young people participated in camp meeting services.

5 Pastor Joe Krohn and Mark Langstaff spend some time looking into God's Word.

6 Children singing under the direction of Gene and Angie Davis

7 Rev. Gene and Angie Davis leading children's service.

8 Rev. Joe Krohn (L) and treasurer Dewey Murray (R) counting children's offering.

9 Youth honored area service people and shared pizza with them.

10 Veterans and area service people were honored in a camp meeting afterglow.

11 Candidates for baptism.

12 Baptism

13 Youth eating together

14 Dining hall crowd

15 The men met for prayer each weekday afternoon as leaders of their families and leaders of the spiritual tone of camp meeting.

16 Honoring Rev. and Mrs. James Durr for their hours of labor on the camp grounds.

17 Mrs. Amber Jones shared an afterglow presentation for awareness of families in crisis. She offered hope and a resource table for any who experience or minister to those in domestic violence, pornography, media addiction, self harm, suicidal tendencies. To celebrate the light of hope in a caring conference and a powerful Christ, families shared in a "glow stick walk" through the woods. This picture shows some children waiting for their glow sticks.

CAMP MEETING ECHOES 2016

"Remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit can use common ordinary people for extraordinary things" –Rev. Tim Keep, 07/10/16

"Walking with Christ, destroys you for anything else... nothing else will satisfy" –Rev. Steve Stetler, 07/10/16

"Revival begins by returning home to where the problem began... where you got off track... restitutions are a must... you can't go forward over problems of the past." –Rev. Steve Stetler, 07/11/16

"Desiring a spiritual productive life is not enough" –Rev. Mark Cravens, 07/11/16

"C.S. Lewis said: Relying on God has to begin all over again every day, as if nothing had ever been done" –Rev. Mark Cravens, 7/12/16

"Jesus invites us to walk with Him in the storms" –Rev. Mark Cravens 7/13/16

"Primary purpose of a Christian is to know Christ" –Rev. Steve Stetler, 07/14/16

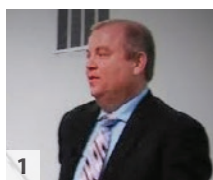
"Loving your neighbor as yourself requires insight, involvement and investment" –Rev. Mark Cravens, 07/16/16

"Grace is the factor that changes everything" –Rev. Steve Stetler, 07/16/16

"We will have nothing to hold forth, if we don't hold fast" –Rev. Blake Jones, 07/17/16

"In the centre of our symbol is a cross; you take the cross out of it, and we just become another cult... everything is centered on the cross" –Rev. Mark Cravens, 07/17/16

YOUTH CAMP "NOT A BLIND FAITH!"



- 1 Rev. Marc Sankey spoke with anointing and clarity.
- 2 The Holy Spirit moved on the young people's hearts and, without pressure, they responded to the call of God.
- 3 Group Picture of Campers
- 4 Colton Large and Janessa Beardslee were chosen as the campers of the year
- 5 Bible Bowl champions quizzed against each other in a final competition. Miss Melanie Hilling was the Grand Winner of the Bible Bowl. The quiz questions were from Dr. S. I. Emery's "Catechism for Young People" and Dr. Mark Bird's additional material on apologetics. The Camp theme was "NOT A BLIND FAITH."
- 6 Afterglows are always filled with excitement and activity.
- 7 On skit night each team prepares and presents a skit from an assigned theme. Theme's surrounded current issues that need a biblical answer. They included God's healing for dysfunctional families, abortion issues, transgender choices, etc. Points were awarded on the strength of the scriptural response, the graciousness of the response and the quality of the presentation.



FAMILY CAMP

This year the Heartland Conference celebrated her 50th Anniversary. Throughout the Annual Conference and Family Camp, we remembered our beginnings and blessings.

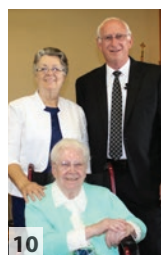
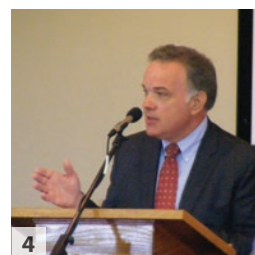
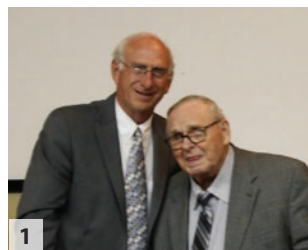
Special recognition was given to elders who have served the conference for 25 years or more. A special video greeting was presented from our General Chairman, Dr. Michael Avery. A 50th anniversary video was also presented featuring greetings and memories from all the living former conference presidents. Special tribute was given to the memory of Dr. J.D Young and Dr. William Gale. Some of Dr. Young's family was able to attend and Mrs. Alice Gale was able to be with us for this special time. A new history book was distributed written by our first conference president, Rev. E. R. Trouten. A pictorial history booklet and 50th anniversary commemorative items were also available. Aside from the times of celebration, God blessed us during the week. The business of the conference went smoothly. Our camp workers were used of God to challenge and minister to our adults, teens and children. Our Conference President, Rev. G. Clair Sams, challenged the Sunday morning camp attendees to look ahead to what God has for us in the future. We are also excited as we move closer to the next phase of camp expansion – a RV park with 40 new hook-ups for campers. Thank God for his blessings of the past 50 years and thank God for the bright future of the Heartland Conference.

Conference pictures:

- 1 Joe Dalton was honored during Conference for being the only living lay delegate at the first Conference.
- 2 Dr. Daniel Stetler was one of several who received a plaque commemorating 25 or more years in the Heartland Conference.
- 3 Most of the delegates to the 50th Anniversary Conference

Family Camp pictures:

- 4 Rev. Don Davison preaching in an evening service.
- 5 Many seeking and finding God at an altar of prayer.
- 6 2016 Camp Evangelists: Rev. and Mrs. Mark Fultz, song evangelist, Rev. and Mrs. G. Clair Sams, Conference President, Rev. and Mrs. Don Davison, camp evangelist, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Strong, children's worker. (not pictured Rev. and Mrs. Nathan Becker, youth evangelist)
- 7 crowd gathers as the service begins.
- 8 Youth choir sings on Sunday afternoon
- 9 Children presenting what they learned from Eric and Elizabeth Strong
- 10 Mrs. Alice Gale received the commemorative honor given to Dr. William Gale for his years of service to Heartland Conference.
- 11 Conference President Sams prays the Ordination prayer for Pastor Joseph Stephani
- 12 Conference President & Mrs. Sams with newly ordained Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Stephani



YOUTH CAMP



1



2



3



4



5

The third full week of July marks one of the greatest weeks on our conference calendar - Youth Camp! This year 264 campers marched on to Beulah Grove Campgrounds for an action packed week. Our evangelist, Rev. Mark Potter, was used mightily by the Lord with anointed preaching and God's Word spoke clearly to the hearts of the campers. Several young people responded as God dealt with their heart and many spiritual victories were won around the altar. It was a delight to witness several campers accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life!!!

The winning team was "The Prophets," coached by Kent Stetler and Anthony Webb. Kyle Johnstone is the 2016 Bible Quizzing Champion, winning a \$200 scholarship for Bible College. Awards were given to Kirsten Stroup and Jobe Butzer for our girl and boy camper of the year, while Rob Fultz received the president's award.

Thanks to all who participated in youth camp this year. We have a terrific staff who make youth camp a special week. A big thank-you to all who prayed for camp. Your prayers were powerfully felt as the enemy attacked and was defeated. Thanks be to God for His help, and for impacting our youth for eternity.

—Mike Mater

1 The Prophets were the winning team for Youth Camp 2016!

2 Winning Bible Quizzer from each team

3 Morning devotions around the flag pole

4 President Mater leads our youth with excellence

5 Rev. Mark Potter delivered powerful and effective messages to the youth

6 Team Captain Nathan Becker cheering his team on!

7 Anthony Webb and Kent Stetler lead the winning Team

8 Making the pizzas for the "All You Can Eat" pizza party as the last meal at youth camp. Thanks Mike Pennellatore and Steve Miller.



6



7



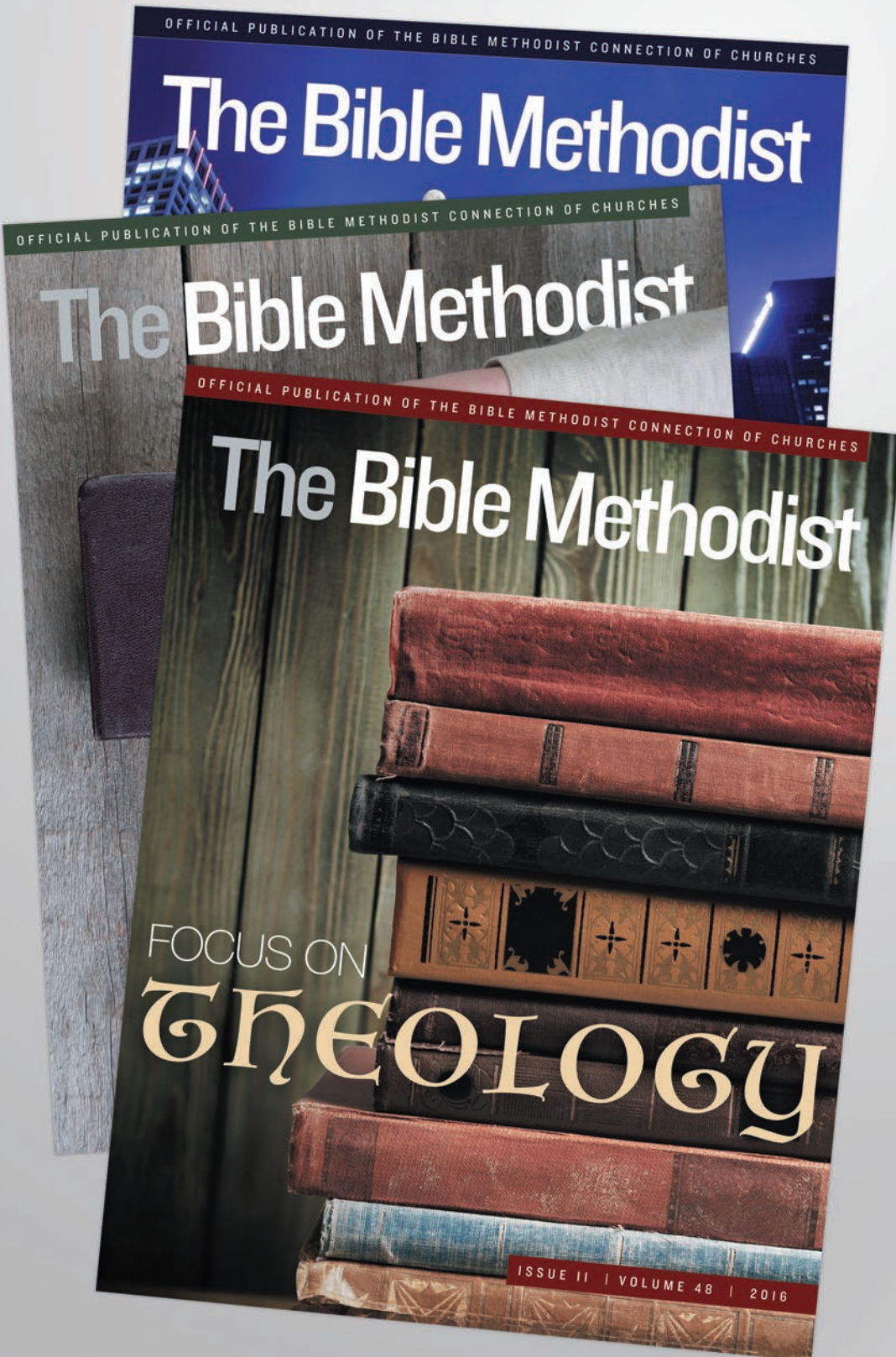
8

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Shoals, Ind.
Permit No. 18

The Bible Methodist

Deron Fourman, Subscription Manager
990 S. Wonnell Rd.
Port Clinton OH 43452



Your Bible
Methodist
connection
to news and
inspiring
articles.

\$10 / YEAR