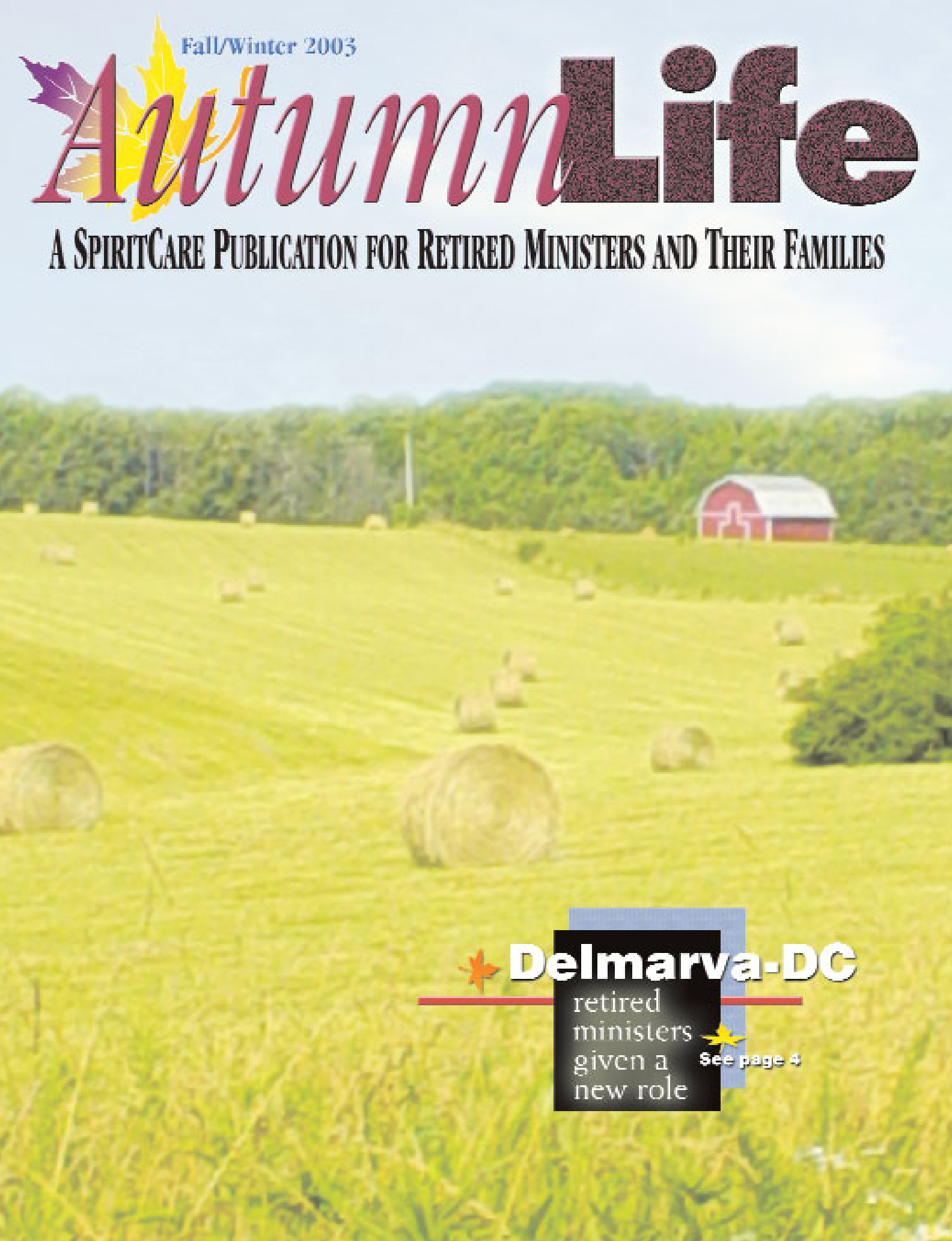


Fall/Winter 2003

# Autumn Life

A SPIRITCARE PUBLICATION FOR RETIRED MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



## Delmarva-DC

retired  
ministers  
given a  
new role



See page 4



# AUTUMN LIFE

Fall/Winter 2003 • Vol. 7, No. 3

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&

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### ON THE COVER

Fall scenes in America are beautiful. The metal barn in this cover photo belongs to my neighbor. I get to enjoy it at least twice each day.

—Paul Henson

Photo by Paul C. Henson

# Autumn Life

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*Thank you,*

**CHURCH OF GOD Delmarva-DC,**  
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**AUTUMN LIFE.**



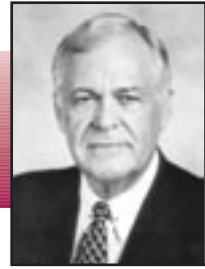
*J. Martin and Pam Taylor*  
Administrative Bishop

**T**he Taylors are special people who love retired ministers and widows and are actively striving to help all ministers within the region they oversee through the Cluster Elder Program – see page 4.



# SpiritCare Perspective

Paul F. Henson  
Director  
SpiritCare Ministries



## I AM NOT OUT OF THE GAME—JUST SIDELINED

When the quarterback is injured while playing football, he is sidelined. He is not out of the game. His heart and mind are still in the game. He even calls plays for the second-string quarterback. His knowledge, strategies and determination help to win the game from the sideline. That is similar to what I am going through right now.

My injury came in the form of a stroke on Sunday morning, September 28. Geri and I were leaving the church parking lot when, without any warning, my world began spinning. I quickly pushed the gear shift lever up into park and held tight to the steering wheel. Geri noticed that though no traffic was coming, we were not moving. "Why are we just sitting here?" she asked.

I replied, "I am dizzy. Everything is spinning."

"I had better drive" she said and proceeded to go to the driver's side of the car.

In the few seconds it took her to walk around the car, I could not get out of the car and could not walk. One of the church brothers helped me to get into the backseat. Geri immediately drove me to the emergency room. In 20 minutes, perspiration had soaked my suit, shirt and tie. When Geri took off my tie, water could be squeezed out of it. The doctors determined that I had suffered a stroke, probably caused by a blood clot. They were not sure exactly where it came from.

The results: As it has been explained to me, the stroke was in the area of the brain stem and affected mostly the right side of my body. I am unable to walk because of a lack of balance. I have double vision, and one of my vocal cords is paralyzed. I cannot talk above a strained whisper. The therapists are electrically trying to stimulate my vocal cord into responsiveness. For about 36 hours, I could not swallow, no matter how hard I

tried. Brother T.L. Lowery and his wife, Mildred, visited me. They had already prayed, but when they were preparing to leave, I asked Brother Lowery to please lay his hands on my throat and pray that I could swallow. He did and prayed a simple healing prayer. One hour later, I was eating supper, which consisted of roast beef and baked potato. I swallowed without a problem and haven't had a problem swallowing since.

Presently, I am in Siskin Physical Rehabilitation Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, learning to walk again. I expect to be able to see and speak correctly again soon. I am determined that our SpiritCare work will not suffer. I have a great team of state representatives and a wonderful personal assistant in the office. If you need my attention to any matter, just call Amy. She is in touch with me every day. I am on the sidelines right now, but I am not out of the game and am still calling the plays.

Dr. John D. Nichols  
Executive Director  
Division of Care Ministries



## Reflections

Have you noticed that God sometimes leads in an altogether different direction from what you intended, and finally you understand that all the time He was leading? For example, one evening I had plans to go to certain places and do certain things. God had other plans. I wound up at a revival meeting, and God gloriously saved me. Thank God for detours!

### LIFE'S DETOURS

Another example of His using a detour was when God led in my finding a wife. I met Norene when I had planned to be at another place. But God had His plans for my life, and He knew that she would be a very important part of my ministry. God's way is always best, even if it is a detour.

Haven't we all had experiences when everything was going fine, and the road was smooth and straight, but then our comfort zone

was abruptly disturbed? The sign read, "Detour Ahead." We ask, "Why now? I don't need this. I had my eyes set on a goal, I had other plans, and now I am detoured." Finally God shows us that He was in the detour all the time. His will was served by the change, and it was a much better way to go.

I want to share some guidelines for when you're facing a detour:

- Don't panic; God is in control.
- Don't retreat; stand still and see the plan of God, and listen for His voice.
- Don't search for substitutes; you may wind up in the desert like Ishmael or Moses.
- Do walk by faith; God is in control.

Just remember, the detour may not be smooth or straight, but it is always best.



# Delmarva-DC's Cluster Elder Program

By Julie Elder

Bishop Taylor presents Brother McDaniel with a Cluster Elder Stole.



Regional council member Jerry Price leads in a prayer of dedication and consecration.



Bishop Taylor Presents Delmarva's Cluster Elders (L-R) Reverend Lloyd Womack, Reverend W.E. Tull, Dr. Lamar McDaniel, Reverend Robert Fletcher, Dr. Raymond Crowley



In January 2003, under the visionary leadership of Administrative Bishop J. Martin Taylor, Delmarva-DC took a bold step. After reviewing the current District Overseer Program and finding it to be ineffective, the Council voted to drop the District Overseer Program and enact a Cluster Elder Program. The Cluster Elder Program draws upon the vast experience and wisdom of the retired pastors of Delmarva-DC. Six retired pastors, with a combined 299 years of ministry experience, were commissioned to serve as elders to a cluster of pastors.

This new approach has been eagerly embraced by both current and retired pastors. Pastor Harold Bowman, regional SpiritCare chairman, sees this as "one of the wisest moves we've made." The Cluster Elder Program provides an opportunity for retired pastors to be utilized where they have experience. The elders are not serving as the eyes and ears of the administrative bishop, but rather as encouragers and supporters of the pastors in their cluster. Because of their years of ministry experience, these seasoned men are able to spot things that

younger men serving in a district overseer capacity may miss. Former general overseer Dr. Raymond Crowley is happy to serve as a cluster elder on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Dr. Crowley feels that the Cluster Elder Program is a good idea for any overseer to implement. It is especially good in distant areas and will save travel and time for the overseer.

The program is working effectively across Delmarva-DC. The elders have already been active in visiting the churches in their clusters to offer support and encouragement. "The Bible teaches that when you walk with the wise, you become wise," said Pastor Chris Reuwer of Eldersburg, Maryland. Pastor Reuwer went on to say, "It is reassuring to have an elder available to draw on as a pastor in a first assignment." An additional benefit of the Cluster Elder Program is that it has freed district pastors to do ministry in the local church where they are called. The elders have also been of

assistance to Bishop Taylor in times of pastoral transition.

At the February 2003 Delmarva-DC Ministers Conference, the first cluster elders were installed in a special commissioning service. Dr. Raymond Crowley, Reverend Robert Fletcher, Reverend Robert Groves Sr., Dr. Lamar McDaniel, Reverend W.E. Tull and Reverend Lloyd Womack were challenged by Bishop Taylor to accept the call to the office of cluster elder, to serve as encouragers, advisers and faithful supporters of the pastors assigned to their care. Bishop Taylor and the regional council led the minis-

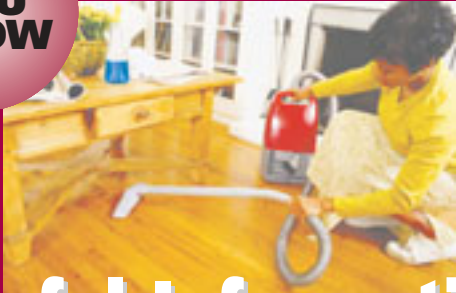
ters of the region in a prayer of dedication and consecration over the newly installed elders.

The cluster elders are showing themselves to be an invaluable resource to the overseer and the region. They are making a profound impact on the ministers in Delmarva-DC. While these men have retired from pastoring, they are far from finished with ministry. Serving as elders has given them another avenue of ministry, and they are boldly answering the call.

The Cluster Elder Program draws upon the vast experience and wisdom of the retired pastors of Delmarva-DC.



**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**



## Helpful Information for Senior Adults

### What's in the Air Can Make Asthma Worse

*Tips to help clear indoor air of allergens*

If you have asthma, you should know something about your house. The air you breathe indoors might cause you problems.

Indoor air can have small particles in it. These are called allergens, and they can make your asthma worse.

Allergens can include, or come from, things like pollen, mold, pets, dust mites and cockroaches.

#### BREATHE EASIER

You can take steps to help you breathe easier indoors. Try as many of these as you can:

- Remove wall-to-wall carpets.
- Use a dehumidifier to lower the humidity in your home.
- Put mattresses, box springs and pillows in airtight plastic before putting on sheets and pillowcases.
- Wash bedding weekly in hot water, and dry in a hot dryer.
- Vacuum weekly.
- Do not keep a furry or feathered pet such as a cat, dog or bird.
- Try to get rid of cockroaches in your home. Seal any cracks in your walls, windows and floors. Keep your kitchen clean.
- Clean up any mildew and mold. Use a cleaning solution that has bleach in it to make sure you get rid of both.

#### WORK WITH YOUR DOCTOR

These are just a few tips.

- You should talk to your doctor about more ways that you can keep your indoor air clean.
- Your doctor can also give you medicine that can help control your asthma.

Source: American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

*"In all my years of serving God, I can testify to the truth that God's grace has always been sufficient for my every need."*

# IT'S A MIRACLE



#### MY TESTIMONY

I want to give praise to the Lord for His saving and healing power. I was saved, sanctified and baptized in the Holy Ghost in March of 1947. In May of the same year, I joined the Church of God. In all my years of serving God, I can testify to the truth that God's grace has always been sufficient for my every need.

About five years ago, I had a blood clot in my leg. It broke apart and a portion of it traveled to my lungs. I was seriously ill and was placed in the intensive care unit of the hospital. God healed me, and I have not had another clot since. After this experience, my doctor told me I could never have major surgery because of the danger of another clot forming and going to my lungs.

In April of 2003, I began to have some health complications. I underwent several diagnostic tests. The final suggestion from my doctor was minor surgery. The surgery would help determine what was wrong. The doctors thought I had tumors and other problems. But when the test results came back, I did not have any of these. I give God all the praise for healing me. I had called for the elders of the church to pray for me. I know that God came on the scene and healed me. God has never failed me, and I give Him all the praise and glory for all He has done. I also thank God for His call and anointing upon my life to carry His gospel since 1952.

—Reverend Lenora Mangum, Wake Forest, NC

#### PRAYER WORKS!

One of the church members gave birth to a fine-looking baby boy. I visited and congratulated the parents on his birth.

The following day, the doctor told them that the baby was a "blue baby." Most of the baby's blood was bypassing the lungs. The parents and I prayed. By the next morning, the baby's blood was normal!

As time passed, I was able to see this same baby all grown up. He is now 36 years old. When I met him, he showed off his new baby to me. God is so good!

—Reverend Paul Blake, Lakeland, FL

# Oldest Living Church of God Missionary Celebrates 90 Years

It was a time when spreading the gospel was not so easy . . . air travel was still in its developmental stage, and television had just arrived on the scene.

Modern conveniences and fast food were not the order of the day. And, of course, the Internet was not even envisioned yet.

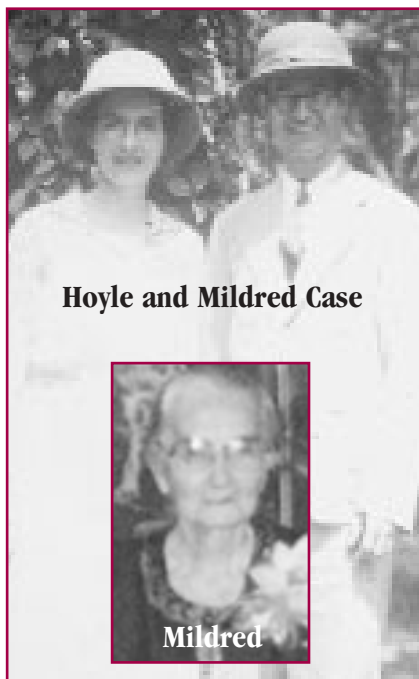
Such was the climate of evangelization into which Hoyle and Mildred Case embarked. Initially, the Cases went to India and spent four years continuing the work begun there by Robert F. and Bertha Cook, who had returned to the United States on furlough. However, while serving in India, the Lord spoke to each

of them about Cuba without the other one knowing it. In 1942 at the General Assembly, Hoyle and Mildred were appointed as the first Church of God missionaries to Cuba. At the time of their arrival, there was only a minimal percentage of Cubans

who were either Catholic or Protestant, with the remainder devoted to primitive African animism or no religion at all.

The Cases held services in their home, and when a few souls were won to the Lord, the Catholics began to use intimidation to hinder their efforts. It is reported that children of families who attended the church services were often whipped in the Catholic schools as an example to those who associated with the

Protestants. However, it did not stop the salvation of souls, and a church with an attendance of over 100 was established in 1943,



Hoyle and Mildred Case

Mildred

along with three missions. At the end of 1944, the Cases returned to the United States, where Mildred taught a foreign missions class at Lee University, then known as Bible Training School.

The Cases returned to Cuba in 1955 and established a Bible school for the training of national workers. But in 1962, they were forced to leave Cuba because of the escalation of spiritual persecution. Born January

18, 1913, in St. Louis, Missouri, Mildred Blackwell Case recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Mildred, the first of seven children, and her father and mother all accepted the

***“When there is unity in the Spirit, there is a productive and lasting ministry.”***

Lord at a tent meeting conducted by D.P. Barnett. Mildred’s father, P.E. Blackwell, became an ordained minister and pastored the church that was established in Bonne Terre, Missouri. Because of the adverse reaction in those days to Pentecost, Brother Blackwell held their initial services in their home because no one would let them use or rent a building.

Both Hoyle and Mildred received their call to the mission field during a mission service at Bible Training School. Mildred was a member of the faculty at the time.

At a convention in India in 1939 while Hoyle was illustrating a sermon about the resurrection of dry bones, a rushing wind suddenly surrounded the platform and there was a great manifestation of Pentecostal power and tongues. Mildred was at home with their firstborn child. She was praying, interceding and helping to prepare the convention for the holy presence of God. The meeting lasted past midnight, and many people were healed and filled with the Holy Spirit.

On many occasions the Lord protected the Cases after Castro began taking over the country of Cuba. One time, a bomb was set off close to their house. Because Castro’s troops would come to houses at night, the Cases moved into their church for safety. One night, the troops searched the church and it was not until the next morning that the Cases realized what had happened. The Lord allowed them to sleep peacefully through the ordeal. During the latter years of their ministry in Cuba, the Cases lived in Miramar, Florida, and Brother Case would travel back and forth to minister. Once when he returned, he found the government seal on the house they were renting in Cuba. Upon getting the police, they stood over Brother Case while he took some personal items out in a suitcase. The Cases lost everything in the house. Later, the head of Castro’s air force occupied the house.

It is evident that Mildred’s burden for the lost enhanced that of her husband. When there is unity in the Spirit, there is a productive and lasting ministry. The Church of God in Cuba now has 125 churches. God has granted that Mildred live long enough to see the harvest come to pass in that oppressed country. Upon asking Sister Case what advice she would give to present-day missionaries, she responded, “Obey the Lord, keep the calling safe on your heart, and fulfill it to the best of your ability, regardless of the difficulties.”

Source: Church of God Communications, Faith News Network



# Bible Quiz

Select the definition or description that best matches these words.

## 1. Amen

- A Greek word meaning "Let him preach!"
- The spoken command that formally ended Temple worship
- A word intended to confirm the words, wishes or predictions of another
- A word tacked onto prayers to signify they are over

## 2. Wave Offering

- A halfhearted sacrifice that was criticized by the prophet Malachi
- A sacrifice in which offerings were moved back and forth in a horizontal fashion, usually to express thanks to God
- An annual worship ceremony held on boats in the Sea of Galilee
- The act of lifting one's hands in praise

## 3. Brimstone

- A flammable resin from the gopher tree
- The kind of stone used to build Nehemiah's wall
- A weight used to measure the size of a fisherman's catch
- A rare mineral used to construct the walls of Solomon's temple

## 4. Agape

- The Greek word that refers to pure, unconditional love (usually God's)
- A simple meal celebrated in the early church as part of the Lord's Supper
- A member of the Corinthian church who was disciplined for his immoral living
- Both A and B

1. c 2. b (Exodus 29:24; Leviticus 7:30)  
3. a 4. d

Answers to Bible Quiz

## Chaplain Assistant Honored After More Than a 50-Year Delay



Dr. Crick presents honor certificate to Brother Leonard.



(L-R) Dr. Robert Crick, Reverend James Leonard, Dr. Bill Leonard

Colonel James B. Leonard was drafted into the service of his country during World War II. He served in the 33rd Infantry Division and with the Amphibious Engineers. He saw combat service in the Philippines. He served in Bangui City, fighting in hand-to-hand combat. His unit was awarded a Battle Star, and he was awarded the Infantryman Badge along with other decorations. He was a bazooka carrier. While serving in Japan, he was given the position of chaplain assistant. He is the only Church of God person to hold that position during World War II. More than 50 years later, on June 19, 2003, Dr. Robert Crick, director of the Church of God Chaplains Commission, honored the Reverend James B. Leonard by commissioning him a military chaplain assistant emeritus status, with the rank of colonel. Dr. Crick saluted Colonel Leonard and stated, "We salute you for your faithfulness under most adverse circumstances, giving all that was required for country, and never losing your love and passion for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Reverend Leonard has served faithfully for more than 50 years in pastoral

ministry in the Church of God. He was married to Nellie "Ruth" Blackstock for 55 years before her death on April 12, 2002. During her lifetime, she was a faithful companion and ministry partner. She was a celebrated homemaker and had a reputa-

tion for making from scratch the best biscuits and gravy to be found in any Church of God parsonage. Her turkey and dressing, with giblet gravy, was judged to be the best ever made. The "Board of Judges" rendering this decision consisted of the Reverend and four hungry kids, namely, Ann, Jeannie, Tim and James Billy. In praising the faithfulness of his wife in ministry, Brother Leonard said, "We mostly pastored small churches. She had a gift for taking a small amount and making it go a long way. She sewed the kids clothes, fixed their school lunches, and served as the church pianist, church soloist, Christmas play director and homecoming chief." Until she drew her last breath, she was a living example of faithfulness.

Brother Leonard presently lives in Greenville, South Carolina, in retirement. He and Sister Leonard are the parents of Dr. Bill Leonard, the Ministerial Care director at the Church of God International Offices.

# Moments to Remember

Flewis Burroughs calling, "Mr. Chairman."



1968 General Assembly Executive Council, (Sitting, L-R) Ray H. Hughes, R. Leonard Garrull, Charles W. Coon, Dr. R. H. Prinsloo, Wade H. Horton, C.R. Spain (Standing, L-R) Vessie D. Hargrave, Ralph E. Williams, John D. Smith, Cecil B. Knight, F.W. Goff, James A. Cross, O.W. Polen, Houston R. Morehead, D.A. Biggs, W.C. Byrd, David L. Lemons

Two "old soldiers" (L-R) Zeno C. Tharp, former General Overseer and R.R. Walker, former General Secretary



Bill checks out the 1968 General Assembly



YOUTH TO WIN CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT



Youth Banquet at the 1966 General Assembly (L-R) Reverend and Mrs. Paul Henson, Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Hudson, Reverend and Mrs. Dave Wilkerson, Reverend and Mrs. Don Aulman



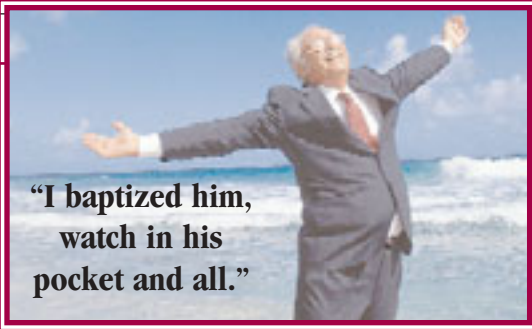
Head table at the LWVB banquet at the 1966 General Assembly (L R) Mrs. L.H. Aulman, Mrs. A.M. Phillips, Mrs. James A. Cross, Mrs. Houston R. Morehead, Mrs. Wade H. Horton, Mrs. C.R. Spain (Foreground) Mrs. R.R. Walker



Donald S. Aulman (L) and Raymond Culpepper (R) are appointed leaders in Northern California.



Doyle Dykes at the 1970 General Assembly Teen Talent Competition



**"I baptized him,  
watch in his  
pocket and all."**

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

**"A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE"  
(PROVERBS 17:22).**

**W**e were having a baptismal service one Sunday night. After baptizing 12 who had come for the service, one man stood and asked if I would baptize him although he was not a member of the church. I told him yes. He stood at the top of the baptistery with his watch on. I did not know if it

was waterproof or not, so I said to him, "You might want to pull your watch off." He pulled it off his arm, stuffed it into his pocket, and came into the water. I baptized him, watch in his pocket and all.

—*Reverend Harold T. Anderson, Goldsboro, NC*



**Do You Know  
These Folks?**

Answers: see page 14



**If you are retired and not checking the appropriate box on the ministers monthly report, you may be missing out on some advantages.**

## Helping Hands Alert

*If you are a Church of God retired minister/spouse or widow,*

and your annual gross income is \$12,120 for two persons or \$8,980 for one, you are eligible to receive help on prescription drug cost.

Contact Paul F. Henson at 1-800-762-5656 or write to SpiritCare, P O Box 2430, Cleveland, Tennessee 37320.

## National Retired Ministers and Widows Conference



May 13-15, 2004  
North Cleveland Church of God  
Cleveland, Tennessee



Mark your calendar. Registration, rooms and meals are free!



## 55th Wedding Anniversary

Reverend and Mrs. John Wesley Hughes Jr. were married on August 24, 1948. Mrs. Hughes is the former Jean Ann Larson of Magnolia, Ohio. The couple have seven children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

During their ministry, they pastored in Ohio, West Virginia and Florida. They evangelized in Ohio, West Virginia, Florida, Washington, Idaho, Colorado and Germany. Having served as pastors and evangelists for over 42 years, they now live in Florida. God has helped them throughout the years and is still leading and guiding them in His work. Their mailing address is 9025 Peony Street, New Port Richey, FL 34654.

# HAPPENINGS



## The Lavenders Celebrate 70 Years Together

Reverend and Mrs. Jesse Lavender celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with an open house at their home on Sunday, May 18, 2003, hosted by their family.

Reverend Lavender began his ministry in the Church of God in 1932 at the age of 19. Jesse and Pearl were married in 1933 and took their first pastorate in Switzer, West Virginia. Brother Lavender was ordained in 1937. Their pastorates were in Switzer and Crown, West Virginia; Lancaster, Findlay and Akron, Ohio; and Quincy, Dunedin, Hollywood and Haines City, Florida. Reverend Lavender retired from pastoring at age 62. Following his retirement, he evangelized for 12 more years.

Brother Lavender served the Church of God as evangelist, pastor, district overseer and state council member. Jesse and Pearl had four children, three of whom preceded them in death. They presently live at 444 Reese Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130 and would love to hear from old friends.



## Special Honor

The Reverend L.E. Smith and his wife, Reba, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, were selected as the "Ministerial Couple of the Year" at the National Senior Adult Convention in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Congratulations to two wonderful and deserving people. They serve as senior adult pastor at the Lawrenceville Church.

## 64 Years of Marriage

May 12, 2003, Reverend Franklin D. and Louise A. Black celebrated 64 years of marriage. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. During their 57 years of ministry, they pastored 10 churches. Brother Black also served as associate pastor for 13 years under the leadership of three pastors during the "senior years" of his life. Congratulations Brother and Sister Black for your commitment to God and one another. Their mailing address is Carriage House Estates, Apt. 207, 8200 Westwold Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93311.





Brother and Sister Aldama with their 7 children:  
L-R Enrique Jr., Angel, Nilda, Raquel, Angelina,  
Juan, Othoniel

## The Aldamas Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

In 1948, Enrique and Gicela Aldama came to know Jesus as their Savior. One year later, they both headed out for the *Instituto Preparatorio Internacional* (IPI) in San Antonio, Texas.

On the special day of March 8, 1953, they were joined in holy matrimony. This year, they celebrated 50 years of marriage together.

Prior to 1960, the Aldamas served in

different pastoral positions. But in 1960, they were sent out as missionaries to Honduras and Central America. They also ministered in Peru from 1970-1974.

In 1975, they arrived back in the States, where they have served as pastors ever since. Currently they are the associate pastors at New Life Ministries in Tucson, Arizona, alongside senior pastor Samuel Santana.



## The Pitts Celebrate 67 Years of Marriage

Reverend Buell Pitts has been a faithful member of the Church of God for over 50 years. He accepted Christ as his Savior in 1951. In 1966, at age 51, he was called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Immediately upon ordination, Brother Pitts put his hands to the plow and never looked back.

Reverend Pitts began his work in the church serving as Sunday school superintendent, a position he filled for 15 years. He has also served as interim pastor and associate pastor and was an Alabama state evangelist from 1975-1986. God has blessed Brother Buell's ministry with amazing results. Many young people who found Christ under his ministry later became ministers and evangelists themselves. Buell and Paula have experienced great joy during their years of working for the Lord.

On June 10, 2003, Buell and Paula celebrated 67 years of marriage. They have three children, 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. They are now retired and living at Praise Village, 109 Cathedral View, Greer, SC 29650.



## Longtime Pastor Retires

“Mr. Southern Ohio” has retired after nearly 40 years of church planting, soulwinning, and discipling hundreds, including adults, young people and children. He has been called the “Prince of Preachers” and the “Pastors’ Pastor.”

I am speaking of the Reverend and Mrs. Leonard O. Prosser, the most recent pastor of the Evangel Church of God in Dayton, Ohio. Space and words will not permit a list of all of their worthy accomplishments, but they are many. Just before their retirement, they led their congregation in the completion of a beautiful new sanctuary with a seating capacity of over 400. Amazingly, it was completed, debt free.

*Congratulations, Brother and Sister Prosser.*

—Reverend Paul F. Henson



## 60th Wedding Anniversary

The Reverend Dewey O. and Beulah Davis, 1515 Park Street, Sydney, Ohio, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 22. The former Beulah May Ridings and Dewey O. Davis, both of Fondy, Kentucky, were married on June 22, 1943, in Middlesboro, Kentucky.

The couple have two children, Dewey Davis Jr. of Detroit, Michigan, and Sandy Osborn of Findlay, Ohio. They also have two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Following service in the U.S. Army during World War II, Dewey became a full-time minister for the Church of God. Before retirement in 1982 because of his health, the couple pastored churches in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. Beulah was always active in the church, helping her husband in many ways.

The couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a dinner and reception hosted by their children.

*If a special milestone has been reached in your life or ministry,  
please send a write-up and photo to the  
SpiritCare Office at P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37320.*





# A LEGAL VIEW

By Dennis W. Watkins, Director of Legal Services



## Living Wills

In recent articles I have attempted to point out what I consider to be necessary parts of a business plan for you. These parts include a properly drawn will and also a general and durable power of attorney with health care provisions. There is yet one more part of your plan that I think is necessary, and that is known in most states as a “living will.”

Wills and powers of attorney are rather easy subjects to discuss, because they involve business and property matters. However, discussing living wills is a more serious and sensitive matter, because it involves the question of granting legal and valid consent to health care providers to cease from performing any and all possible medical means of keeping a person alive.

It is much easier to think about living wills when you are thinking of *someone else*, and I think that is the best way to approach this subject. Think about your love and concern for someone else, such as a close friend or relative, when you know that individual is in a serious medical condition. Then you can become a little more objective about this subject.

### Living wills

A living will is a document, created by statute, which grants consent to some medical provider to cease from using any and all possible means of maintaining a person's life, over a period of time. We all are familiar with some of the more well-known cases in this area of law where legal fights have ensued over keeping a person on a ventilator, oxygen or some other medical means for extended periods of time, even for decades. In some medical situations, it certainly is feasible. Perhaps you noted the

recent press coverage of a man who awoke from a coma after being in that condition for over 19 years following an automobile accident.

A much more common occurrence, however, is the situation involving someone who is very near death, or perhaps is already considered legally dead, using certain medical criteria. This is the context in which most living wills come into play.

The actual form for living wills usually is very simple and varies from state to state. In some states, there is a preprinted form which is made available by some governmental agency, usually the Department of Vital Records, secretary of state or a similar agency. Simply filling out the form and returning it to the governmental department is all that is required. In many states, the process is made even simpler because you do not have to return any forms to the government. Instead, you simply need to give the living will to medical providers. My experience has been that medical providers are very careful to ask a patient or family members about such forms early in the stages of medical treatment or on admission to a hospital.

In many states, simple preparation of the form and keeping it with your business documents is all that is required.

### Conclusion

While filling out the form may be somewhat simple, it is not a simple matter to consider these very serious issues about yourself or a beloved family member. In



**While filling out the form may be somewhat simple, it is not a simple matter to consider these very serious issues about yourself or a beloved family member.**

most cases, even if you eventually do not need to use this form, having it, offers you and your family the flexibility of making some very serious decisions about health care without the complication of being in the throes of an emotional situation. In many cases, failure to have such a document will cause medical providers and hospitals to take medical steps which they deem necessary, regardless of your intent or your family's intent.

Having a living will, in my opinion, gives you and your family yet another necessary part of your legal plan, and it is advisable for you to look into this subject.

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*The writer is not engaged in rendering legal or other professional services herein. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.*



# The Garden Is Her Pulpit

*Good morning, and thanks for tuning in to "The Garden Show" this Sunday morning.*



By Rachel Quinley

**I**n a cotton dress and flat shoes, with her long gray hair pulled back in a netted tuft, suntanned 82-year-old Yvonne Morrison could be mistaken for a simple farmwife—a few of her customers even call her “Mama Morrison.” But Mrs. Morrison is a successful businesswoman. She is one of the few “certified nurserymen” in Alabama.

As owner and manager of Mobile’s largest retail nursery and garden center, Yvonne supervises the eight-acre, 20-employee Morrison’s Nursery and Garden Center. The astute, powerful woman oversees every job from the simple chore of raking pine straw to negotiating a thousands-of-dollars job. She knows her business inside and out. “I love plants, and I love people,” she explains as the reason for her long, hard work.

Yvonne Morrison always has time to spend with the people browsing in her nursery—either helping them find a plant or discussing a personal problem. “I’m not in this just to work with flowers; I try to help people too,” she once told a newspaper

reporter. “One of the rules of business is that you’re not supposed to get too emotionally involved with your customers, but I always do.”

Recently, a well-dressed customer walked into the sales building, laid down a bottle of fish emulsion and a bag of bone meal. With laughter and tears, she said, “You’re not going to believe this! The Lord has heard our prayers. My cancer is gone. . . . It’s gone. Mrs. Morrison prayed for me . . . standing right here at this counter.”

Whether it’s praying with them at the sales counter or in her courtesy golf cart as they spin around the gardens, Mrs. Morrison takes to heart the problems of her customers. Often she points out to them her “Prayer House,” a one-room, white wood building located in the middle of the nursery. “I always take time to ask God to bless every little flower and every one of my customers,” she says.

The Prayer House is where Yvonne goes every morning before starting her day’s work. Tears usually accompany her words. She has never been one to pray a quiet,

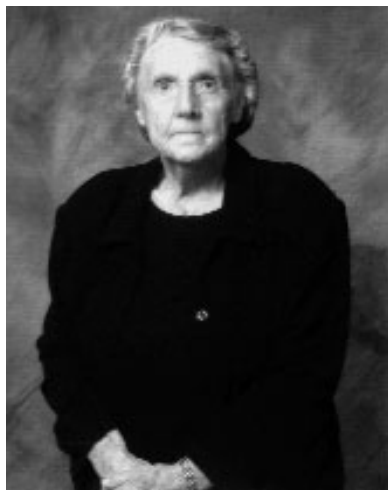
monotone prayer. She takes literally the scripture in James 5:16: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man [or woman] availeth much.” Her prayers are intense with feeling, full of emotion.

Mrs. Morrison is a bundle of energy. She works from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week. “We’re open Monday through Saturday,” she tells inquiring customers, and is quick to add, “Sunday is the Lord’s Day. There’s not enough money in the First National Bank to get me to sell on Sunday.”

She recalled an occasion when a customer from Mississippi came to the nursery on a Sunday afternoon wanting to buy plants. We were closed, so the man came to our house. My husband told him, “No, we don’t sell anything on Sunday.” The man begged him, saying he had driven a long distance. Finally, Bob told the customer, “Load up the plants in your truck. I won’t sell them to you, but I’ll give them to you.”

Yvonne Morrison does extra work on Saturdays. Every Saturday morning, she climbs a flight of stairs at Clear Channel

*Continued next page*



Broadcasting to host WNTM's radio program *The Garden Show*. Her one-hour call-in talk show on gardening has aired

for more than 25 years. When she hears the radio announcer's words, "And now, here's Mrs. Morrison," Yvonne adjusts her headset with one hand and pulls the microphone forward with the other. "Good morning, and thanks for tuning in to *The Garden Show* this Saturday morning. I'm Yvonne Morrison, owner and manager of Morrison's Nursery and Garden Center, Mobile's oldest and largest retail nursery."

She always talks with ease and care, but never hesitates to voice her opinion. One

man called in with a tip for ridding gardens of snails and slugs by pouring beer in a saucer. Quickly he was

reprimanded by the host: "Oh, no! Don't say that. I don't drink, and I wouldn't dare have that stuff anywhere around my place."

When closing out her radio show, Mrs. Morrison, in her raspy voice, always tells the listeners, "Well, I've been with you now almost an hour. The time has gone so quickly. But I want you to know that I love you and pray for you every day. No, I don't know all your names, but I ask God to bless all my customers and all the people who tune in to this show."

Near holidays, she often adds, "Drive carefully this weekend. I don't want anything bad to happen to any of my listeners. I'm praying for you. Remember, I want to meet you in heaven." At other times she has said, "Don't worry too much about whatever is happening in your life. The world conditions may look dark. Things may not be going right for you, but remember this:

*"Don't worry too much about whatever is happening in your life. The world conditions may look dark. Things may not be going right for you, but remember this: Somebody's working on your account—the good Lord above."*

Somebody's working on your account—the good Lord above." Or, "Tomorrow is Sunday. Go to the church of your choice, but be sure to go to church. The Lord has been so good to all of us. The least we can do for Him is go to church."

As the music comes on for the 30-second reminder, Mrs. Morrison always concludes with "Now, load up in your car and come out to see me today. If you can't walk over the eight acres, I'll shuttle you around on my golf cart. And if you can't buy one thing, I still want you to come see me. I want to talk to you. I'm in the people business. I love plants, and I love people. So, until next Saturday morning, may the good

Lord bless you. And may He give you and your plants abundant life."

"The radio show is the highlight of my week,"

Mrs. Morrison told a friend one day. "I love it because nobody sees me. I'm as plain as my old shoes," she said, pointing to her scuffed work loafers. "I never did like having to dress up for TV," she said, referring to the weekly hourlong gardening program that had run for 15 years on the local television cable channel. "I liked the show when I was doing it, but I'm glad I gave it up. I got tired of dressing up and going down there every Thursday night for the 8 o'clock show. That's too late for me. I'm ready for bed when night comes."

Failing eyesight complicated television programming even more. Macular degeneration kept her from seeing the television camera man's cues, but nothing could ever cloud the vision of faith in her heart and soul.

"I may not be able to see too good, but I know where everything is in this nursery,"

she says with pride. For almost 50 years, Yvonne Morrison has lived and breathed the nursery business. She and her husband, Bob (now deceased), started the business in their backyard with one rooted cutting. It turned into an eight-acre spread, demanding more of her time. "That's when I had to leave my government office job to go full-time here. The plant business just got into my blood, and I've been doing it ever since."

In addition to her work in the nursery, Yvonne has raised four children, dotes over six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is looking forward to rocking a great, great-grandchild in a few months. She still helps cook breakfast for a household of family members who stop by to eat with her daily, Monday through Friday. "My family is my life. I love the nursery work, but if someone in my family is bad sick, I've been known to shut the place down. Nothing is as important to me as my family."

When Yvonne Morrison was a young woman, she often ministered in churches. Her pulpit then was made of wood. Today, she ministers to hundreds and hundreds of people—not inside the church, but outside. Her pulpit is her garden.

Asked if she will ever retire, she answers, "Only the good Lord knows, but I don't think I'll ever retire. If I did, I probably would just expire."

### **Do You Know These Folks? Answers:**

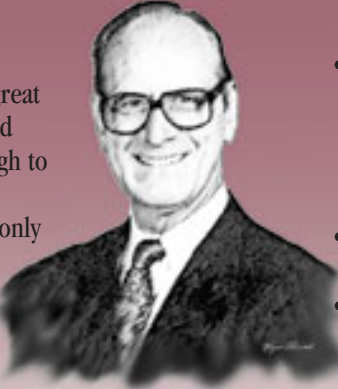
**First Row L-R:** Herman Wilson, Phillip Moorhead, Carl Richardson, Steve Sturgill, Donnie Sumner, Johnny Horton

**Second Row L-R:** David Horton, Keith Ledford, Herman Ramsey, Vep Ellis Jr., Tom Morse, John Miller, Joe Morehead, R. McIntyre

**Director:** Delton Alford

From the book *The Pointed Pen*, by Charles W. Conn

## DR. CHARLES CONN SAID:



- God and eternity require each other; only God is great enough to fill eternity, and only eternity is vast enough to contain God.
- Walk circumspectly, not only in order to see the dangers about you, but also to see the beauty along your pathway.
- A detour in your road does not mean the end of your journey.
- We live more by faith than by understanding. Every man believes a great deal more than he understands.
- Out of the depths of sorrow come some of life's greatest joys.
- God does not require man to understand all His ways, but only to believe them.
- Be slow to speak unless your speaking can improve on the silence.
- Anyone may take the wrong road sometimes, but only a fool will persist in following it.
- When a man is led by the Lord, he need not fret about his destination.
- Children are like olive plants about the table (Psalm 128:3), whose lives are watered by the tears of praying parents.
- Time reveals a man, and trial proves him.
- It is not our possessions that make us rich, but how we use what we possess.
- The headlights of an automobile do not illuminate the entire journey at the beginning. Their light shines only a short way ahead, and as you move forward, it shines still farther on. And so, with the light always shining before you, you make your way through the night. When you reach your destination, you know that the light shone all the way—not all at once, but always, as you needed it. Faith is like that. You need not see the entire way all at once. But go step by step in faith, and the light will cover all your journey, as you need it.

## An Expression of Thankfulness

*We would like to express sincere appreciation from the bottom of our hearts for all the calls, visits, and cards that we have received during Paul's time of illness. Although we are not able to contact everyone, we are grateful for the many thoughts and prayers.*

—Paul and Geri Henson & Family



This picture of Reverend Paul F. Henson was taken at the Widow's Center Dedication, one day before he had a major stroke. He is doing well and making daily improvements. Please remember him and Sister Geri in prayer. Correspondence may be sent to the SpiritCare Office, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37320.

## W H E R E   A R E   T H E Y   N O W ?



## Emerson and Kathryn Abbott

**E**merson and Kathryn Abbott have a rich heritage in the Church of God. His parents were pioneers in the church in the Northeastern area. Emerson and Kathryn have pastored for many years. They have been a state youth and Christian education director and also a state overseer in several states, including Tennessee. They have two lovely daughters, Sharon and Michelle, and one beautiful granddaughter, Aprille. They presently live in Roanoke, Virginia, in retirement. They would love to hear from friends. Their address is 6505 Brookhaven Court, Roanoke, VA 24018.

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