THE KENTUCKY

VOICE

APRIL - JUNE 2010

Publication of Community Family Church of Independence, Kentucky • Pastor Tommy Bates • www.cfcky.com

Holding on to My Roots

Pastor Bates and his mother, Janice (1965)

Sizemore Family at Garrison Creek

Sizemore Grandchildren

Pastor Bates' Great-great-grandmother, Nancy Sizemore, Clay County, KY

Pap & Mam Sizemore

Aunt Helen, Chester Burch, Aunt Stella, & Sister Seeley at Laurel Pentecostal Church

Connersville, IN, 10th St., Pastor Irvin Steel's Church, 1950

Several years ago, a beautiful yellow poplar tree stood next to the woods on our 22-acre farm. The tree was about 90 feet tall and 28 inches in diameter. Oh how majestic and stately it looked as the beautiful leaves would blow in the wind. One night heavy winds occurred but not strong enough to even leave a slight impression of damage. When I looked out the window the next morning, this incredibly awesome tree had fallen straight down. As I examined the tree to learn why such a permanent fixture to our landscape could possibly have crashed, I surprisingly discovered the tree's roots were damaged—a disease had deteriorated the entire root system. Only a new, very small system of roots had been holding hundreds of pounds of lumber upright.

Wow! What a lesson! As Christians, we must be rooted and grounded in love *(Ephesians 3:17)* and rooted in Jesus Christ the source of our life *(Colossians 2:6-7)*. But what about the church, the body of Christ? Are we in danger of having the philosophies of man destroy our root system?

Years ago when I taught school (B.A./M.A. in Education), a common initiative was consistently proposed: *back to the basics*. We spent many in-service days exploring new methods, styles, and current trends in education. However, after exhausting ourselves with the glamour of facilities, equipment, and new curriculum, we always returned to two simple questions: What are the students' proficiency levels in reading, comprehension, and math? Are we instilling the basics of education?

We must make time for self-examination. From our perspectives, our yellow poplar tree *looked* great, had beautiful leaves, and was absolutely stunning. What we couldn't see was the rotting away of its life and support. Although some have called me a non-progressive, I know without any doubts that I have been moving forward in the ministry for over 38 years. I am determined to protect my *roots*: holding fast to the Lordship of Jesus, the integrity of the Word of God, the mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a sanctified lifestyle reflecting God's Holiness.

The outward appearance of the tree—its grandeur, beauty, and massive structure—all look enticing to the world. Oh, this looks like an impressive place! Look at the building and the crowds. Take time to analyze the tree's root system. Is it healthy? What is holding the place up? Many churches have turned their pulpits into showcase cinemas and entertainment centers. Instead of a house of prayer, today's generation seeks after a social club with a cross on top of it.

Even in times of calamity and drought, healthy root systems result in trees that still bring forth life. Those who paved the way before us paid a tremendous price to bring us to this level of the Kingdom of God. Many tears, prayers, persecutions, perils, sacrifices, and opposition produced a powerful root system that has resulted in life and joy unspeakable to our generation. Now it's our responsibility to ***hold on to our roots***! I challenge you to keep the faith; be steadfast and unmovable. With the Lord's help, I am committed to grow downward so that I may display God's glory outwardly for others to see the genuine love of Jesus.

We love you,
Pastor Tommy Bates

TELEVISION

National Broadcast

Station/Network	Day/Time
TCT (DirecTV 377 & Sky Angel 133)	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST
CTN (DirectTV 376 & Dish 267 & Sky Angel 133)	Thursday, 10 p.m. EST

Alabama

Station/Network	Day/Time
Decatur • WMJN-TV 29	Sunday, 9 p.m. CST & Thurs., 10:30 a.m. CST
Jasper • WACN-TV 16	Sunday, 9:30 p.m. CST
Talladega • WOIL-TV 47	Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CST & Thurs., 11 a.m. CST

Florida

Station/Network	Day/Time
Destin • WGOX-TV 41	Sunday, 9 p.m. CST & Thurs., 10:30 a.m. CST
Ft. Meyers/Naples • WRXY-49/dTV 34	Thursday, 6:30 p.m. CST
Gulf County • WEWA-TV 17	Sunday, 9 p.m. CST & Thurs., 10:30 a.m. CST
Panama City • WGOM-TV 10	Sunday, 9 p.m. CST & Thurs., 10:30 a.m. CST
Pensacola/Mobile(AL) • WHBR-TV/dTV 34	Sunday, 9 a.m. CST
Tampa/St. Pete/Sarasota • WCLF-TV 22/dTV 21	Friday, 11:30 a.m. EST

Georgia/South Carolina

Station/Network	Day/Time
Augusta • WBPI-TV 49	Sunday, 8:30 a.m. EST

Kentucky

Station/Network	Day/Time
Beattyville • WLJC-TV	Sunday, 8 a.m. EST
Corbin • WVTN-TV 48	Tuesday/Thursday, 12 p.m. EST
Harlan • WAGV-TV 44/dTV 51	Thursday, 10 p.m. EST
Louisville • WBNA-TV 21	Sunday, 10 a.m. EST
Paducah/Cape Girardeau (MO) • CTCT-TV 27	Sunday, 9:30 p.m. CST

Louisiana

Station/Network	Day/Time
Northeast (LA)/Southern (AR) • KMCT-TV 39	Tues., 10:30 a.m. CST & Thurs., 5:30 p.m. CST

Indiana

Station/Network	Day/Time
Fort Wayne • WINM-TV 63	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST

Michigan

Station/Network	Day/Time
Bay City/Flint/Saginaw • WAQP-TV 49	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST
Detroit • WDWO-TV 18	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST
Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo/Muskegon • WTLJ-TV 54	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST

New York

Station/Network	Day/Time
Buffalo • WNYB-TV 26	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST

North Carolina

Station/Network	Day/Time
Greensboro • WLXI-TV 61	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST
Raleigh/Durham/Fayetteville • WRAY-TV 42	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST

Ohio

Station/Network	Day/Time
Cleveland/Akron/Canton/Kent • WRLM-TV 47	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST

Tennessee

Station/Network	Day/Time
Dyersburg • WDYR-TV 33	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST

Texas

Station/Network	Day/Time
Dallas • DVTV Cable Systems	Tues., 10:30 a.m. CST & Thurs., 5:30 p.m. CST

Virginia

Station/Network	Day/Time
Grundy • WLFG-TV 49 (dTV)	Thursday, 10 p.m. EST

West Virginia

Station/Network	Day/Time
Bluefield/Beckley • WLFB-TV 40/dTV 14	Thursday, 10 p.m. EST

RADIO PROGRAMMING

Station/Network	Day/Time
Harlan, KY • WFSR 970 AM	Sunday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. EST
Keavy/Corbin, KY • WVCT 91.5 FM	Tuesday/Thursday, 12-12:30 p.m. EST

BRIDGING THE GAP ONLINE

If you can't receive Pastor Bates' TV program on your TV, log on to the following websites and watch online:

Network/Website	Day/Time
CTN • **www.ctnonline.com**	Friday, 11:30 a.m. EST
CTN • **www.whbr.org**	Sunday, 9 a.m. CST
CTN • **www.wrxytv.com**	Thursday, 6:30 p.m. EST
CWEBTV • **www.cwebtv.net**	24/7 Archived Programs
Dallas, TX • **www.dctvdallas.org**	Tues., 10:30 a.m. CST & Thurs., 5:30 p.m. CST
GBN • **www.gbn.cc**	Sunday, 9 p.m. CST & Thurs., 10:30 a.m. CST
Living Faith • **www.livingfaithtv.com**	Thursday, 10 p.m. EST
trueGODtv • **www.truegod.tv**	24/7 Archived Programs
TCT • **www.tct.tv**	Sunday, 10:30 p.m. EST
Watchmen • **www.watchmenbroadcasting.org**	Sunday, 8:30 a.m. EST

Pastor Bates' Ministries Dates

PASTOR BATES' MINISTRY DATES • APRIL - JUNE 2010

APRIL

April 6 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Family Worship Church • Blooming Grove, IN • 765-827-3186

April 8 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Pine Hill Holiness Church • Mt. Vernon, KY • 606-453-4801 • *www.pinehillholinesschurch.com*

April 9 at 7:00 p.m. EST
South Georgia COG LifeBuilders Men's Conference • Tifton, GA • 229-386-2967 • *www.sgacog.org*

April 12 & 13 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Harvest Time Assembly of God • Somerset, KY • 606-678-3033

April 15 at 7:00 p.m. EST
T.L. Lowery Camp Meeting • Tifton, GA • 423-473-4562 • *www.tllowery.org* (Watch online)

April 16 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Word of Life Gospel Ministry • Carrollton, GA • 770-832-1945 • *www.wolgm.com*

April 17 at 6:00 p.m. EST
Live Recording • Redemption Road • Danville, KY • 606-365-7682 • *www.redemptionroad.org*

April 19 & 20 at 7:00 p.m. EST
South Cleveland Church of God • Cleveland, TN • 423-476-6382 • *www.southcleveland.org*

April 21 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Covenant Life • Lake City, TN • 865-426-9693 • *www.covenantlifeinternational.org*

April 22 at 9:00 a.m. EST (Registration Required)
Church of God Mountain Jubilee • Gatlinburg, TN • 423-478-7103 • *www.cogevangelism.org*

April 23 at 7:00 p.m. CST
The Sanctuary COG • Sylacauga, AL • 256-207-2464

MAY

May 4-8 at 11:00 p.m. "live" EST
WGGS-TV 16 • Taylors, SC • 864-244-1616 • *www.dovebroadcasting.com* (Watch Online)

May 5 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Praise Cathedral • Greer, SC • 864-879-4878 • *www.praisecathedral.net*

May 6 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Sisters of Worship • London, KY • 606-843-7249 • *www.sistersofworship.com*

May 9 (6 p.m.) and 10/11 (7 p.m.) EST *(Pastor Bates at CFC for both morning services on Sun)*
Christ Temple Church • Huntington, WV • 304-522-7421 • *www.christtemplechurch.net* (Watch on the internet)

May 13 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Light House Gospel Tabernacle • Metamora, IN • 765-692-0711

May 17 & 18 at 6:30 p.m. CST
Central Assembly of God • Bossier City, LA • 318-949-0010 • *www.centralonthehill.com*

May 19 at 7:30 p.m. EST
Agape Family Worship Center • Rahway, NJ • 732-680-9800 • *www.agapecenter.org*

May 23 (9 & 11 a.m./6:30 p.m.) 24-26 (7 p.m.) EST
Community Family Church Spring Revival and Partners and Friends Conference • Independence, KY • *www.tommybates.com* (register online; watch online)

May 27 at 6:30 p.m. CST
City-Wide Crusade hosted by First Assembly of God (W. Monroe, LA) • Monroe, LA • 318-387-1500 • *www.firstassemblywm.org*

JUNE

June 1 at 7:00 p.m. EST
North Georgia COG State Camp Meeting • Macon, GA • 770-448-9300 • *www.ngacog.org*

June 7 at 7:00 p.m. CST
Lighthouse Christian Center • Eufaula, OK • 918-689-7757 • *www.lighthouseok.org*

June 8 at 7:00 p.m. EST
North Georgia COG State Camp Meeting • Lawrenceville, GA • 770-448-9300 • *www.ngacog.org*

June 10 & 11 at 7:00 p.m. CST
Alabama COG State Camp Meeting • Birmingham, AL • 205-942-2090 • *www.alacoghq.org* (Watch Online)

June 14 & 15 at 7:00 p.m. EST
West Virginia COG State Camp Meeting • Princeton, WV • 304-252-0622 • *www.churchofgodwv.org*

June 21 & 22 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Delmarva-DC COG Camp Meeting • Georgetown, DE • 301-531-5351 • *www.cogdelmarva-dc.org*

June 23 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Tennessee COG State Camp Meeting • Cleveland, TN • 423-892-4831 • *www.cogtn.org*

June 24 & 25 at 7:00 p.m. EST
Pennsylvania COG State Camp Meeting • Camp Hill, PA • 717-258-5575 • *www.churchofgodpa.com*

Dates and times may be subject to change or cancellation. Please contact the location of the event to confirm date and time before driving long distance. Pastor Bates' itinerary is updated on a regular basis at www.tommybates.com.

Community Family Church Events

APRIL-JUNE 2010

April 1 - 4
Easter Musical *The Witness*

April 3
Easter Outreach and Egg Hunt

April 10
Awake Service Begins (see p. 18 for more details)

April 11
Volunteer Appreciation Service

April 18
Riverdale Youth Choir at 6:30 pm Service

May 2
Farewell Service & Dinner for Steve & Pam Rust (see p. 19 for more details)

May 6
National Day of Prayer (amphitheater in Independence)
Mother's Day Service

May 15
International Luncheon

May 23
Healing & Deliverance Service

May 30
Memorial Day Service

June 3-6
Men's Retreat

June 10-13
Kids Camp

June 14
Youth Choir Tour

June 20
Father's Day Service

June 24-27
Ladies Gatlinburg Retreat

Join Pastor Tommy Bates and the CFC Family for the

Spring Revival and Partners and Friends Conference

with special guest Betty Jean Robinson

MAY 23-26

FREE EVENT*

Please Register

Register at www.tommybates.com or call 1-866-411-1032
*Nominal Charge for Creation Museum/Cincinnati Zoo and Luncheon
Held on the Campus of Community Family Church

Watch Evening Services Online at ***www.tommybates.com***

Schedule of Events

Sunday (23)
9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. Services

Monday (24)
10 a.m. Special Partners and Friends Service
7 p.m. Service

Tuesday (25)
10 a.m. Creation Museum or the Cincinnati Zoo
(Purchase entry tickets on Sun. & Mon.)
7 p.m. Service

Wednesday (26)
12 p.m. Partners and Friends Luncheon (Purchase lunch tickets on Sun. & Mon.)
7 p.m. Service

Accommodations

Mention Community Family Church for special rate

Best Value Inn (859-283-2030) $44.99
Red Roof Inn (859-647-2700) $55.99
Courtyard by Marriott (859-371-6464) $89
Country Inn and Suites (859-441-3707) $89
Hilton Florence (859-371-4400) $99

Visit www.staynky.com or www.nkycvb.com for additional hotels, restaurants, shopping, attractions, and more.

CREATION MUSEUM
Prepare to believe.

CINCINNATI ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN

If you would like to become a Bridge Builder Partner with Pastor Tommy Bates and help spread the gospel around the world, call 1-866-411-1032 (local 859-356-8851) or visit www.tommybates.com. Thank you for your generous financial and prayerful support!

50 YEARS AND COUNTING

by Tara Bates

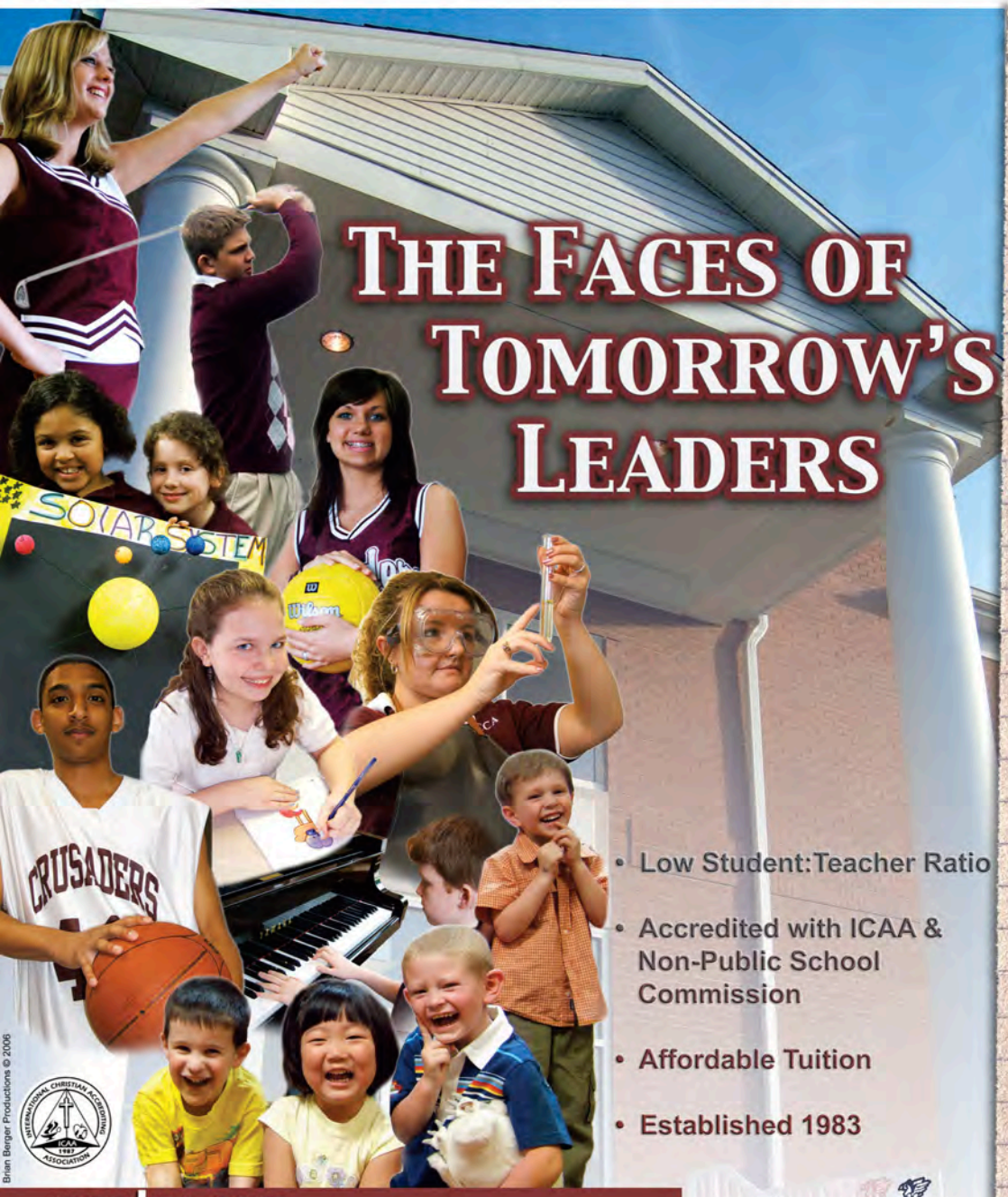
Boarding a big yellow school bus at the age of 6 was the beginning of my whirlwind educational career. You see I have been in school for 44 years: elementary, junior high, high school, and college for my bachelor's, master's, and now my doctorate. And, I am the principal at Community Christian Academy (CCA).

It all began when Eric and Josh were in the first and second grades and CCA needed a first and second grade teacher. I had graduated from Northern Kentucky University and was teaching at my former elementary school when I received a call from CCA about the elementary opening. How could I turn down the opportunity to be with my children 24/7? I was teaching school full time, working on my master's degree from Georgetown College, a pastor's wife, mom to three children, etc. While many days were overwhelming, somehow I made it—with God's help.

My experiences at Community Christian Academy have been so fulfilling. As I reflect on memories of the past twenty-one years, I sometimes laugh out loud. At other times, I wonder what's happened to my babies (past graduates) and how they are doing. You see being at CCA is more than just a job to me. It is my life. Each day is unique; I never know what the day will bring. Don't get me wrong, some days are quite challenging when the kids are a little too hyper; but overall being CCAs principal is the most rewarding position in the world. Having the opportunity to "make a difference in the lives of children" is more than just a cliché for me. As I walk down the elementary school halls, little hands reach out to give me a big hug or a high five. The high school students smile and ask how things are going. You see, we nuture a "family" at CCA.

CCA holds a very special place in my heart. All three of our children graduated from CCA and then went on to earn higher degrees. Ashley graduated with her bachelor's degree, Josh with his master's, and Eric and I are currently in a race to finish our doctorates. The joke in our house is that we should change our name from Bates to Fahrenheit because of so many degrees! What does the future hold for me personally? I can only hope that the next fifty years will be as wonderful as the first fifty years. The question is "When will my professional career as a student end?" Don't forget, I am only fifty years old . . . I just might go on to earn another doctoral degree. After all, I must stay one step ahead of my kids! No, on second thought, I will just sit back and love on my beautiful grandbabies! Will I still stay at CCA? Now . . . seriously . . .why would I go anywhere else? My grandbabies will be starting school soon, and I am sure they will love having their granny as their principal!

Tara is the principal of Community Christian Academy and the First Lady at CFC. She is currently working on her Ed.D. at Northcentral University.



THE FACES OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS

- Low Student:Teacher Ratio
- Accredited with ICAA & Non-Public School Commission
- Affordable Tuition
- Established 1983

Brian Berger Productions © 2006

ccaky.org
ENROLL TODAY

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY CRUSADERS

What are students saying about CCA?

"CCA is absolutely a blessing to me. It is a gift to have teachers that are here for you to encourage and pray for you." – Taylor, age 17

"At CCA, I feel as if I am at home, that I can feel safe and sheltered from the things of this world. I love CCA!" – Connor, age 13

"CCA is awesome, and the teachers are so kind. You get one-on-one attention." – Emily, age 14

"I LOVE my teacher and she teaches very good!" – Torrie, age 5

"CCA means more than anything to me. I have been here since kindergarten, and whenever I was down, there was always a Christian there to help me out. The Bible says to seek Godly council, and that's what we have here." – Anthony, age 17

"CCA connects me to Christ more than the average school. It's fun!" – Kevin, age 13

"CCA is the best school ever!" – Sammi, age 8

"CCA means so much to me. It was such a blessing to be able to come this year. The support and encouragement that we have are amazing!" – Heather, age 17

"CCA is a wonderful school and it has improved my life." – Jozephine, age 13

"CCA is like one big family that loves each other." – Michael, age 12

"I love being around Christians and the people are so nice. I love everything about CCA!" – Grace, age 9

Visit **www.ccaky.org** or call **859-356-7990** to register your child for success!

HOBOS, TRAMPS, AND BUMS

BY BRAD WELLS

". . . Occupy till I come" *Luke 19:13*

When I was growing up in a holiness home as a preacher's kid, I would hear my dad speak of people who would travel from church to church, revival to revival, as "shooting stars" or "hobos." At the time I didn't realize what he meant but unfortunately I now know.

Merriam Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*, Eleventh Edition, includes the following definitions for the words I used as the title of this article:

- ***Hobo*** - A migratory worker; a homeless and usually penniless vagabond (*Vagabond* means wandering about from place to place.)
- ***Tramp*** - A foot traveler; having no fixed abode, connection or destination
- ***Bum*** - One who sponges off others and avoids work

So what does a *hobo*, a *tramp*, or a *bum* have to do with CFC or the church in general?

A *church hobo* is a "Christian" who travels from church to church looking for something. Often these folks will stay for a short time working in a church but never quite calling it "home." Church hobos get enough to keep their Christian walk going, but they never grow to their full potential in the Lord or fully commit to a pastor or a church family to work or help grow the Kingdom of God. They will inevitably move on to another Christian "work" someday.

A *church tramp* is a "Christian" who travels about looking for something but really not willing to work in return. Their intention is to stay long enough to plan for the next move. Church tramps have no past or present commitment or connection to any work of the Lord. They also have no intention to permanently settle. They just love going somewhere they can be blessed, served, and spiritually cared for, without having to join in and work. As soon as the word *commitment* comes up, they move on to the next Christian "work" without regret.

A *church bum* is a "Christian" who comes to get all he or she can from everyone possible. Church bums consistently have their hands out to receive but their hearts are never reaching out to give. They have no intention of working or committing to anything.

There is little or no helpful work, contributions, or financial support from church hobos, tramps, and bums. They have never stayed anywhere long enough to learn the Biblical principals of sowing and reaping. All too often, they have little or no concern for the work of the Lord that is reaching out to them and attempting to make a difference in their lives. This may seem so harsh and judgmental. In the Kingdom of God, the reality is that every work of the Lord encounters church hobos, tramps, and bums.

The Word tells us to make a dedicated commitment to serve God and our local church. Jesus said in *Luke 2:49*, when Mary (His mother) and Joseph came looking for Him, ". . . I must be about my Father's business. . ."

In *Luke 19:11-27*, Jesus spoke a parable about a nobleman with ten servants to whom he was going to leave the care of his business while he was away. As the nobleman distributed ten pounds to his servants, he expected them to help grow his business, to work and not be lazy, uncommitted, and uncaring.

In the Kingdom of God, everyone is needed and wanted. There is so much to do and so little time to do it. *Matthew 9:37-39* says "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Jesus left His work in our hands, to spread the gospel and win the lost. Don't "hop on the gospel train" for a "blessing ride" as a church hobo, tramp, or bum while someone is waiting for you to tell them about Jesus and His love. Instead, I challenge you to make a difference in the Kingdom of God. It's time to make a dedicated commitment to serving God, your local church, and your pastor as we are called to do and watch the Lord touch and change lives.

Brad Wells serves as a minister, deacon, and teacher at Community. Brad, his wife Nina, and their daughter Kassie attend CFC.

Joy Comes in the Morning

by Betty Jean Robinson

Psalm 30:5 says, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Have you suffered the loss of one so dear to you? I guess I took for granted that my two precious daughters, my only children, would outlive me. To my sorrow, they were called away.

To every one of you who sorrow today, I can tell you who know Him, that He will send the blessed Comforter like a blanket of peace. He will cover your broken heart. When memories catch you unaware, remember what Isaiah said, "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" *(Isaiah 53:4)*. Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" *(John 14: 18)*. Precious one, let us cast all of our cares upon Him because He cares for you and for me. And, remember *Psalm 147:3* that says, "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

If you have tasted the bitter waters of affliction, Job of old said, "God maketh my heart soft" *(Job 23: 16)*. Don't let your loss make you bitter, but let it draw you nearer to the Lord than you ever have been. Hearts that have suffered can help others who are in trouble. Teach us, Lord, to learn from our sorrows. Thank you, dear Jesus.

Someone penned these words:

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives thro
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for labor, and light for the way,
Grace for the trials and help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

And, I penned these words in a song: "Ride out your storm, God is right there with you. You may not feel Him, but you're not alone. You're hurting now, but your morning is coming. Hold onto Jesus and ride out your storm."

Let us pray for one another.

Until next time, His handmaiden,
Sister Betty Jean Robinson

Betty Jean Robinson is a frequent guest at Community and a close friend of Pastor Tommy Bates. Her songs of inspiration have touched thousands around the world. To learn more abut Betty Jean Robinson Ministries, visit www.bettyjeanrobinson.org.

TBM Prayer Partners

tbm
tommy bates ministries

PRAYER PARTNERS MINISTRY

TBM is one of the few larger ministries that uses people from its own congregation (volunteers at CFC) to answer phone calls that come in during the *Bridging the Gap* TV broadcast. Since summer 2006, TBM prayer partners have taken thousands of prayer requests. Each volunteer has a personal testimony of how the phone calls have changed his/her own life. From salvations to healings, God is doing a wonderful work through Pastor's TV program. As TBM adds more stations throughout the US, we will need additional help. If you would like to volunteer for this vital ministry, please email Brittany Richardson at brittany.richardson@cfcky.com or call 859-356-8851, ext. 124. For a list of programming times, visit www.tommybates.com and click on the Media Guide. Thank you, Prayer Partners!

WHITE FIELDS MISSIONS

by Jennifer Fowee

Community Family Church supports missionaries around the world with prayer and financial support. For many years, CFC has supported Allen and Vicky Skelton. For the past four years, Allen and Vicky have been living full-time in Honduras where their ministry is based, but they have continued to do missions work in several other parts of the world.

Allen and Vicky Skelton began working in the mission field at very young ages. Allen grew up in the mission fields of Mexico and Cuba. At age twenty, he surrendered his life to the ministry of missions. Vicky, on the other hand, realized her calling to be a missionary when she took a missions trip to Mexico at age fifteen. Once her heart was opened to the world and the work that needed to be done, she went back to Mexico at age seventeen. Not long after her second trip to Mexico, she married Allen and they had three children. During this time in their lives, Allen pastored Trinity Chapel in Rex, Georgia for fifteen years while they raised their three children and Vicky fulfilled the duties of a pastor's wife.

After leaving the Trinity Chapel pastorate, Allen and Vicky founded White Fields Inc., a missionary organization dedicated to leadership training, medical team ministry, church construction, and mission ministry development. The name of the organization comes from *John 4:35*: "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest." Allen and Vicky hold conferences and seminars to train other pastors and leaders and host internship programs so that people can learn more about ministry in missions. Since their ministry has begun, they have trained over 13,000 pastors and leaders.

Though Allen has served in over 26 fields of labor and helped build 16 churches (9 in Panama, 3 in El Salvador, 3 in Honduras, and 1 in Argentina), White Fields Inc. is based in La Ceiba, Honduras. In Honduras, Allen and Vicky have started several different ministries, including teaching English and computer skills in the local schools and neighborhoods, sporting and game events as well as a weekly Bible club for the neighborhood children, a weekly ministry at a nursing home, and building cement block houses

to replace houses made of plastic sheeting and wood scraps. They have also hosted missions' trips in Honduras so that church groups around the world can have the opportunity to minister to and help people who have never heard the Word.

Another major aspect of Allen and Vicky's ministry is the Medical Team Ministry. White Fields works with Omega Medical Missions to provide medical care and share the love of Christ to people around the world. Allen has co-directed over 43 medical team trips to 15 different countries. Overall, their ministry has treated over 84,000 people, distributed $4 million in donated medicines, and witnessed over 10,000 souls saved as a result of the one-on-one presentation of the message of Salvation. In fact, nine of the churches they helped build were a result of people being saved in medical clinics. Today, Allen and Vicky continue to lead several medical team trips each year and they are always looking for people to serve.

Because of the tremendous support from churches around the world, Allen and Vicky Skelton have been able to take their calling to the mission field and transform it into a great work for the Kingdom. They just completed construction on a mission complex in Honduras where they host mission teams that help them with their work. They are also in the process of completing the construction on a leadership training center so that they can continue to develop that aspect of their ministry. With continued prayer and financial support, White Fields Inc. will not only be able to impact the lives of many people by providing them with goods but they will also be able to forever change the lives of those people by sharing the love of Christ.

Jennifer is currently a nursing student at Northern Kentucky University and a part-time nail technician at a local salon. She loves to sing in the CFC youth choir. She loves to drink Starbucks as much as possible.

BABY BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

by Charles Neal

One Sunday afternoon while Barbara and I were stationed in Nairobi, we drove by a newborn baby lying abandoned by the side of the road. Soon there was a great commotion as people gathered around the helpless infant. Several nuns hurriedly took the baby to their convent, and the on-lookers quickly moved away. I was just about to make an accusing statement about the mother's terrible decision when the Holy Spirit quickened my spirit. He showed me that at times Christians abandon new converts in a similar way. How often have we prayed with a person to receive salvation and

then walked away, content with ourselves, because we led the individual to Christ? After we have led a person to Christ, our responsibility has just begun. To abandon that person at spiritual birth is equivalent to the mother giving birth and leaving her baby by the road. Without love and care, both the infant and the new believer will perish.

When our daughter and her husband were expecting their first child, they rearranged their house. Jeff's TV room was converted into a nursery. White walls stenciled with pink roses replaced his favorite tan. His stereo equipment was moved into another room. Did Jeff complain? No, because they were rearranging their lives, as well as their living space for the new baby! Shouldn't the church prepare for spiritual babes with the same eagerness and excitement as natural parents do? New converts require support from the church family (not just the pastor) in order to mature. Little did we know how quickly God was going to establish this principle in our hearts.

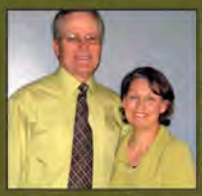
In western Tanzania our evangelistic team set up a platform with a sound system powered by a gasoline generator in an empty field on the edge of Kahama. The praise music began and the singing team proclaimed God's glory through Swahili songs. The crowds quickly swelled to thousands in spite of the late afternoon heat. Mothers with babies tied on their backs carrying water jugs on their heads, men riding bicycles, and children walking home from school stopped to hear the music and stayed to hear the message about a God who loved them and sent His Son to die for their sins.

We literally witnessed the seed of the Gospel planted and harvested in the same hour. As thousands of people, including many Muslims, came running forward to receive Christ, I could only weep as the words of Christ in *John 4:35* resounded over and over like a broken record in my heart, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest." After the initial excitement, we realized that the local churches were not equipped to handle the instant increase. The first Sunday after the crusade, the sponsoring church was literally

overflowing with people, squeezing in through windows and doors and crowding around the outside.

After finishing my message, the pastor asked the members to make a line on his left and the converts to form a line on his right. As the music played, church members paired up with new believers, marching hand-in-hand out the church. A mama took the hand of a newly-converted mama, a young Christian man walked out with a young male convert. On and on it went until the members were paired with new converts. Then the pastor instructed them to walk home with the new believers. The church members would be responsible to escort the new converts to services, read the Bible together, and agree with them in prayer. There were no abandoned new believers, and the percentage of converts established in that church was incredible!

While in Tanzania, we were challenged by the primitive conditions. One night we slept in a room where two large lizards were lodged in the vents. We ate breakfast at a deacon's house where cockroaches covered the table like picnic ants — we ate boiled eggs and bananas, food that had to be peeled! Those inconveniences are overshadowed by the testimonies of God's saving and delivering power. We cannot imagine what it was like for Jesus to leave the splendor of heaven with the crystal sea, the angelic choir, and the four and twenty elders crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy" to live among sinful men and hang on the cross. But it was imperative that He *leave* heaven and *go* to earth where the people needed salvation. His pattern continues as He calls some to *leave* their comfortable homes and *go* to the people who have not yet heard the Good News!



Charles Neal and his wife, Barbara, are missionary teachers. They have been married for thirty-eight years and have two daughters and four grandchildren. They are members of CFC and are presently on sabbatical from the field.

I AM NOT ASHAMED

ROMANS 1:16

by Ken Ham, President, Creation Museum and Answers in Genesis

CREATIONWISE

During one of the interviews I had with a reporter from a secular news outlet during the opening of the Creation Museum in 2007, I was asked, "What are you *really* trying to do here? What's your *real* motivation?"

I answered: "To stand on the authority of the Word of God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ—to see people saved so that they can be in Heaven with us!"

The reporter replied: "So you *admit* it then?"

"Admit what?" I responded. He said: "Well, that you're deliberately trying to get people converted to Christianity."

"Yes. Absolutely," was my reply.

The reporter then looked at me and said: "Well, *that's* refreshing!"

I was somewhat surprised. "Why do you say that?" I inquired.

The reporter stated something similar to the following: "I've interviewed many Christian leaders who are involved in issues such as creationism, prayer in schools, abortion, and so on." He then went on: "When I ask them what their ultimate purpose is in tackling the issues of the day, most would not admit that their involvement had anything to do with Christianity. These leaders usually say it's because of 'traditional family values' or 'what the founding fathers believed'—or something similar."

The reporter added: "Why don't they just come right out, as you did, and admit they're involved because their real motivation is to see Christian thinking permeate the culture?"

The account above highlights what I consider to be a major problem in Christendom in America—and it has even greatly contributed (unwittingly) to the secularization of society and led to an increasing ineffectiveness of the church to impact the culture.

Many Christians have been duped into accepting a false idea: that there is a "neutral" position they can take with regard to social issues. Some Christians even accept the myth that the U.S. Constitution declares that there should be a separation of church and state, and thus they don't want their Christian beliefs to influence politics.

God's Word, however, makes it clear that there is no neutral position. *Matthew 12:30* states: "He who is not with Me is against Me." Thus, people walk either in "light" or "darkness."

When creation, prayer, and Bible readings were eliminated from the public schools, many people (including some Christians) thought that the system is now "neutral" or "religion free." But is it? All you have to do is read the main biology textbooks used in public schools to see that students are taught how the entire universe and all life can be explained by natural processes! These textbooks promote the religion of "naturalism" (atheism).

A small minority of people has forced its anti-God religious views on the whole culture, and they have even succeeded in capturing the hearts and minds of children from church homes. About 90% of today's youth in our churches attend public schools, so we should not be surprised that they often don't think biblically!

Most Christians simply don't know how to defend their faith against even "softball" attacks on the Bible. They freeze and avoid talking about the Bible; they don't want to risk being confronted with tough questions and be forced to attempt a defense of their faith. And sadly, most of them have already accepted evolutionary ideas, and this has undermined the authority of the Bible in their own lives. They lack the ability to take on even the most blatantly unbiblical social issues.

Continued on p. 14

I AM NOT ASHAMED
ROMANS 1:16

Continued from p. 13

God's people need to unashamedly and uncompromisingly stand on the Bible. Like the apostle Paul, we need to boldly state: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" *(Romans 1:16)*. We need to unashamedly proclaim a Christian worldview and the gospel, all the while giving "answers" for the hope we have *(1 Peter 3:15)*.

The following admonition Paul gave Timothy is just as relevant for each one of us 2,000 years later: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" *(2 Timothy 2:15)*.

To this end, our ministry theme for this year is "I am not ashamed." To emphasize that it is God's Word that we unashamedly stand on, and it is His Word that convicts and saves, we will—through TV ads and other media (e.g., billboards) throughout northern Kentucky and Cincinnati (and elsewhere)—promote this "I am not ashamed" theme.

As we do so, we will quote passages of Scripture that relate to cultural/moral issues of our day.

- Regarding the "gay marriage" debate, our wording will be: "I am not ashamed… 'He which made them at the beginning made them male and female'" *(Matthew 19:4)*.
- On the abortion controversy: "I am not ashamed … 'You knit me together in my mother's womb'" *(Psalm 139:13)*.

There are many other social issues we can deal with like this.

As we are mocked by our enemies, Answers in Genesis and our Creation Museum here in northern Kentucky will not be ashamed of what God's Word teaches concerning biblical truths, including the accuracy of the book of Genesis and the doctrines that are found there (e.g., marriage between man and woman, the sanctity of life, origin of sin, creation, etc.).

My prayer is that readers of *The Kentucky Voice* will likewise be challenged to "not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" *(2 Timothy 1:8)*.

Ken Ham directs the Creation Museum in northern Kentucky (west of the Greater Cincinnati Airport).

Spring is Upon Us!

by Dave Harris

Spring is upon us! It's time to get out those fishing poles and tackle boxes and head to your favorite water hole. Take a child with you and start creating memories that will last a lifetime. April 24 would be a good opportunity since CFC Outdoors holds its 2nd Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo (location and time to be announced). For more information, contact cfcoutdoors@gmail.com.

I remember like it was yesterday those Saturday mornings when my dad would wake my brother and me at the crack of dawn to take us fishing. As much as we hated getting up so early, we loved going fishing and spending time with Dad. At the lake, he patiently taught us the skill of tying on a hook, baiting the hook, casting, and most importantly, where to cast. You see, he knew where those fish were because he had been fishing at the lake many times before, watching the fish and learning their patterns. Every now and then, we tried to do our own thing, thinking we knew better or that a bigger fish could be caught over there. Yeah, we caught a fish every now and then, but usually we just wound up empty-handed. It was at those times all we had to do is look over, and our dad would say "cast over there." Wouldn't you know it, fish on!

This reminds me of *Luke 5:4-6* when Jesus was preaching throughout Galilee. Jesus climbed into Simon's boat and instructed him to move away from the shore while He continued teaching from the boat. When He was finished teaching, He told Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon replied, "But we fished all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will." As you know, they caught so many fish they had to call for help.

Isn't that like us sometimes to doubt God and try to do our own thing because we think we know better? We've been there before or have already tried that and came up empty-handed. We can make things so complicated trying to figure things out on our own. I encourage you to quit trying your way. Get the simple attitude of, "Because you say so Lord, I will" and listen to Him telling you where to cast your nets. When we do this, that's when we will catch those fish for Him.

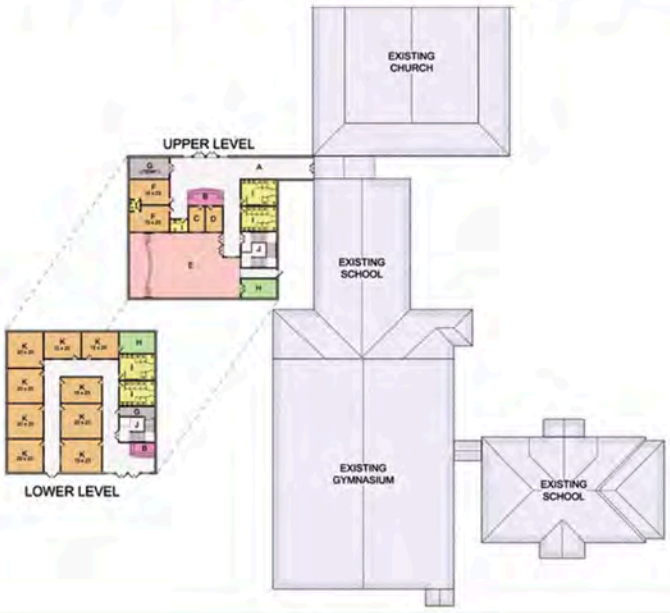
Future Plans of Community Family Church

God has blessed Community with a campus of 113 acres of prime real-estate just minutes away from downtown Cincinnati, the Creation Museum, and the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky airport. Independence is one of the fastest growing cities in the state of Kentucky, and CFC needs to be equipped to reap a mighty harvest for the glory of God. CFC's next building project is the new Children's Center or Phase 1 of our future building plans. This state-of-the-art, multi-story structure will feature multiple spacious classrooms, a large children's auditorium, check-in and tracking systems, and much more. As a partner or member of Community, think about how these facilities will change your life and the lives of your children, your grandchildren, and generations to come.

Will you join us in prayer about your part in helping make this vision come to pass? Pastor Bates has established *The Nehemiah Wall* project which will help facilitate the construction of the new Children's Center and sanctuary. Community will build a wall identifying the names of everyone who participated in *The Nehemiah Wall* project. Here's how it works:

Number of Family Names	Amount of Seed Offering from Each Family	Total
1 Family Name	$5,000	$5,000
2 Family Names	$2,500	$5,000
5 Family Names	$1,000	$5,000
10 Family Names	$500	$5,000
25 Family Names	$200	$5,000
50 Family Names	$100	$5,000

To make a donation to *The Nehemiah Wall* project, mail your contribution (marked NW or Wall) to Community Family Church/CFC, 11875 Taylor Mill Road, Independence, KY 41051. To make a credit card donation, you can visit www.tommybates.com or call the church office at 859-356-8851. Your donation of any size will make a difference in the Kingdom of God.



Conversations with Your Kids...

They Are Listening

by Whitney Fletcher

Sitting in philosophy class at Northern Kentucky University, I switch from taking notes to participating in discussions and analyzing the comments of my fellow classmates. Typical class, same in and out for the past 12 weeks. As I mark on my planner the days till summer break, I am pulled out of my daydreaming by a direct question from Dr. Washington. "So Whitney, you say you are a Christian. If you are a Christian, and your Jesus was to walk through that door, how would you know it's Him?" At that very moment, I was being called on to give an account of my faith with supportive scriptures in front of 30 students. My mind was flooded with memories of times I had heard that young adults fail to acknowledge their faith in college. I had a choice to make.

We often hear about apostasy—how young adults who where raised in church later abandon their faith and have no religious affiliation. Apostasy is often attributed to peer pressure, temptations and the simple stress and excitement of a new life away from parental supervision. Although these are factors, rarely do we look at the family structure, the developmental years and communication patterns that give each family its own personality.

Have you noticed how families tend to develop their unique ways to communicate and relate to each other? Families develop shared qualities and create a personality that could influence whether the young adult stays committed to their faith once they move out.

If you have ever attended a funeral, you may have seen these different personalities. Telling one family in the church, "We are here for you and will be bringing dinner over later," may bring comfort but to another family saying, "We are praying for you and know he is out of pain and is in a better place now" may mean more. Why is that? It all stems from the family's motivation for participating in their faith and being involved in the church. Some families focus on forming a stronger, personal relationship with Jesus, and some families look for socializing and finding a place to be accepted.

The church is designed to meet both of these needs; but when children are primarily taught to go to church to socialize, they will find other ways to do this once in college. On the other hand, if children go to church to develop a stronger relationship with Christ, they are more likely to stay committed to their faith once they move out on their own.

The way a family communicates can directly influence how a child views their faith in God and the church. Communication patterns can be evaluated by two factors:

- The amount of conversation encouraged by parents. Do children feel comfortable in discussing different ideas, positions and feelings? Is open dialogue used to educate and socialize?
- The extent parents urge their children to conform to create connections within the family and develop shared attitudes, values and beliefs.

According to research, families that strongly encourage conversation as well as conformity have children that grow up approaching religion because they desire a personal relationship with Jesus. This family type believes parents should make the decisions for that family but those decisions are made only after listening to the children and explaining their decisions. This encourages children to analyze issues and discuss opinions with their parents in order to understand why they attend church, why they read the Bible, why they pray, and so on. Such family behaviors will help children stay committed to their faith long into their adult years.

Now, sitting in philosophy class, I had been asked why I believed what I believed. All the camps, conferences, and Sunday school came back to me. "Well, Dr. Washington, I would know it was Jesus the same way I would know it's my best friend. I know His voice because He talks to me. I know His personality because I spend time with Him. I know it's Him because I sense His presence and have felt it before." Dr. Washington smiled, "Well said, you serve your Jesus well."

Whitney graduated from Northern Kentucky University with her B.A. in public relations, B.A. in journalism, and M.A. in communications with an emphasis on family and religious communication. She is passionate about volunteering at CFC and is working with her husband Shawn on developing the college and career ministry.

COME FORTH!

by Kellie Bowles

I have often wondered what it was like that day at Lazarus's tomb. Everyone knew that Lazarus and his sisters were special to Jesus. Yet, when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where He was for two more days. I wonder what thoughts were racing through Mary and Martha's minds as they waited for Jesus to come. And Lazarus? Was he expecting to see Jesus as he drew his last breath? Great crowds had gathered at the home of Lazarus. He was obviously well-respected since so many people had gathered to care for and comfort his sisters who were left behind. Did they too wonder why Jesus had delayed his coming?

As Jesus arrived in Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had been dead for four days. We know that Jesus didn't need the town gossip to tell him this bit of news. I believe that Jesus knew Lazarus would be dead before he even began his trip to Bethany. It was all part of his plan.

Your calling, ministry or gift is just as precious to Jesus as Lazarus was to Jesus. *Romans 11:29* says "for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." God will not take back what He has promised you! Regardless of the time that has passed since God gave you your vision, placed the seed of ministry in your spirit or revealed your gift to you, He will bring it forth in you. How many times have you said to the Lord, "Oh, Jesus, if you had only been here earlier?"

Both Martha and Mary said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." How grieved Jesus was to hear these words from friends who were closest to Him! Did they not believe that He was the Son of God? Had they not seen Him perform miracle after miracle? In *John 11:33*, the Bible says "Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the Spirit and was troubled." I don't believe that Jesus was troubled because Lazarus was dead. I believe that Jesus was troubled because *faith* was not present. They didn't believe in who He was. When Jesus had heard that Lazarus was sick, he said, in verse 4 of Chapter 11, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." This is what I believe God says about us, about our callings, ministries and gifts. Our faith is sick and He declares that *our* promises are "not unto death," but will be brought to life for the glory of God!

As one who was grieving over the promises of God, I watched as He stood at the entrance of my tomb, grieving that my faith was wavering in spite of witnessing the power of God in my life. Just as He did that day at the tomb of Lazarus, He prayed and spoke life to my calling—"Kellie, come forth!" Can you hear Jesus calling your name and speaking life into what you thought was dead? Have faith! Believe and know that when the time comes, God will bring forth what was promised—so that He will receive glory! Our calling, ministries and gifts are not about us. They are about the One who gave them to us. Resurrection day will come for you. Stand and believe the promises of God and watch Him bring forth life!

Kellie has attended CFC since 1994. She enjoys writing and reading. Her aspirations include being like her writing mentor, Beth Moore—touching and changing people's lives through God's Word.

Time to

by Jason Bowman

awake

Romans 13:11

One rule of life applies to and touches everything we do on a daily basis. We are taught this rule as a child in our English and music classes and find it inescapable when speaking in front of people. We mature and grow into different facets in life, education, and social arenas. I am talking about *transitions* — a structured way to successfully move from one place to the next. An article without proper transitions is choppy and difficult to read, but a life without proper transitions can be devastating and provoke bad choices.

A 2007 survey by Lifeway Research ***(www.lifeway.com)*** says that 97 percent of adults between ages 18-30 leave the church because of "one or more specific life-changing issues." These issues overwhelmingly include transitions into college or the workforce as the reason for young adults leaving the church. A lack of preparation for imminent transitions in life leads to indecision for young adults when faced with the next phase of life. If these young adults have not cultivated a close relationship with God already, the wisdom that comes from the word of God will not be an influence on significant life decisions. *Psalm 112* states that a man that fears the Lord is blessed in his finances, his family, his decisions and he is compassionate when dealing with others. The secular media, professors, and colleagues bombard us with the impression that the Bible is an outdated book of stories; and those who trust in its words are disconnected with contemporary society. This lie from the enemy is just another tactic for us to leave the power of the living Word.

Many feel that they must concentrate on their education or career before they commit to a relationship with Christ; but as *Romans 13:11* states "now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we *first* believed" (NKJV). Now is the time to allow Christ to guide the lives of our young adults. Moreover, the importance of the Word of God cannot be overstated. More than ever, college-age adults need the wisdom of the Lord to guide their choices along with an atmosphere in which to meet other young adults facing the same choices. On April 10 at 6 p.m. Community Family Church will host *Awake*, a place for young adults to generate positive relationships with an emphasis of how God is relevant and essential in the next phase of life.

Jason is a college-age minister at Community Family Church and a science teacher in the public school system. During his 10 years in ministry, he has also served as a youth pastor, shut-in minister, Sunday school teacher, and jail minister. Jason and his wife Brittany are proud parents of an adorable baby boy.

Godspeed, Our Friends

by Steve & Pam Rust

I love the people of Community Family Church. I have been so honored to serve you in CFC's visitation ministry (hospitals, nursing homes, and the home-bound). I am extremely grateful to Pastor Tommy Bates for giving me this opportunity. Pam and I will always treasure the relationships we formed here. We sincerely believe that God is now leading us into the next part of our lives–retirement in Somerset, Kentucky. With heavy hearts but also with excitement and anticipation about the future, we are preparing for our new adventure in Christ. We will visit our friends and family in Northern Kentucky often, and we expect many of you to visit us in Somerset.

Many years ago when I first entered into ministry, quite frankly I didn't have a clue about much of anything. The greatest revelation I have ever had about serving God came when I entered into CFC's visitation ministry. I have been with so many of you during times of great calamity, often on the worst day of your lives; these experiences have had a profoundly transforming effect upon me.

This transformation actually began a few years ago when I was called to the infant intensive care ward at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. There I met a young couple who was distraught about their new baby girl, born by cesarean section at 25 weeks, weighing 1 pound 7 ounces and laying in an incubator with tubes inserted into her very tiny body. Three months later, I walked across the grass at Independence Cemetery, holding the elbow of the young father, trying to steady him as he alone carried the small padded casket which held their daughter.

Since then, almost on a daily basis, in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, and in your homes, God has made it abundantly clear to me that the most important thing in serving a loving God is to care for His people, to care for one another. I have been blessed to serve an anointed pastor who has allowed me to spend the majority of my time doing exactly that. The work is great, and the needs are monumental. If you want to discover the greatest joy in life, serve those around you. You are indeed your brother's keeper.

In visitation, in the Matthew 25 Ministry, and in all areas in which we have served at CFC, the guiding principles of our lives and hearts have been those which God commands in *Isaiah 58*. If you would ask me, "What would you desire to leave as a legacy?" I would ask you in return. . .

> 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to
> provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see
> the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your
> own flesh and blood? 8 Then your light will break forth
> like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then
> your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the
> LORD will be your rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and
> the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will
> say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppres-
> sion, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 and if
> you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy
> the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the
> darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.
> 11 The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your
> needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your
> frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring
> whose waters never fail.

Let your lives be guided by these words, and, as verse 8 says, "Then your light will break forth like the dawn." The Lord bless you. We will always love you dearly. Godspeed, our friends.

Steve and Pam Rust

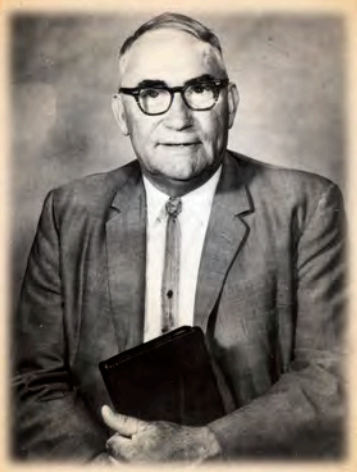
A Legacy of Faith

by Pastor Tommy Bates

God has richly blessed me with an incredible legacy of faith. I want you to meet some of the great men and women of God from the Appalachian Mountains who influenced me as a young boy and teenager.

Rev. Jack & Sarah Runion

As a little boy, I sat by Sister Sarah Runion when Mom visited the old Maryland Avenue Church. Sis. Runion gave me peppermint Life Savers while Mom was playing her guitar and singing. Bro. Jack Runion always shouted and danced in the Spirit on Monday night during revival. He said it was on a Monday when God got hold of his life!



Rev. Vince Wilson

I heard Vince Wilson preach during my teenage years. One of his mountain sayings was, "Why God can take the wind from a little bluebird's wing and blow the devil away."

Agnes Moore

Agnes Moore, a mighty woman of great faith, stayed at our house when she preached at our little church. During one of her visits at our home, Mom slipped as she carried a skillet of hot grease, spilling the hot grease onto her hand. The hot grease should have fried Mom's hand and arm to the bone. However, Sister Agnes jumped up, placed her hand over Mom's hand and said, "in Jesus' name"—the heat left Mom's hand and she was instantly healed!

At thirteen years old, I had the privilege to sit on the front row at the Barbourville Camp Meeting and listen to this most remarkable man. Finis Dake could quote the entire Bible, "word for word." On my 18th Christmas, Mom and Dad gave me a *Dake's Reference Bible*. To this day, I cherish that gift and keep it in my personal study.

Rev. Finis Dake

Rev. Gene & Ethel Huff

As a young teenage preacher, three distinct messages helped form my entire ministry. The first message was at a camp meeting at the old Maryland Avenue Church. Gene Huff preached a message entitled "If I Had a Church." He shared that you don't have a church; you either are a pastor or you support a pastor. I learned submission from his enlightening message. If you can serve, God will use you.

The second message that helped form my ministry was at a camp meeting in Richlands, Virginia. For over two hours, Ralph Cox preached an incredible message on self-control entitled "He That Hath No Rule Over His Own Spirit is Like a City That is Broken Down and Without Walls."

Rev. Ralph Cox

Rev. Havis Crawford

The third message that helped form my ministry was at an Eastern Indiana camp meeting. Havis Crawford preached a message entitled "Clear." When he closed his message, I ran to the altar and wept with intense prayer. His message dealt with our personal, intimate relationship with Jesus. To the best of my ability, I have kept my connection to heaven "clear."

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