



*Children's Bible Ministries*

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*





# *To God Be the Glory*

*To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

## *Refrain*

*Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

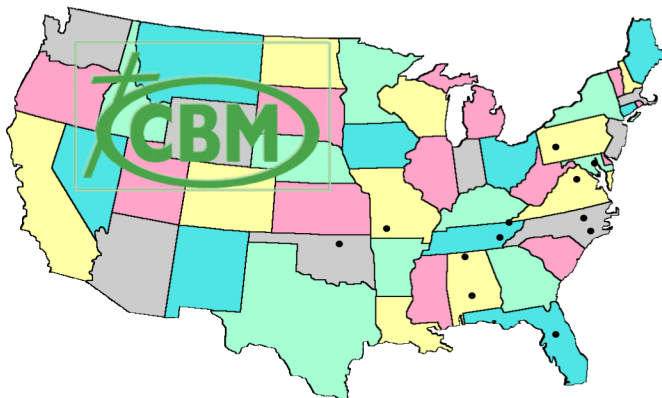
*Of, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood.  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.*

*Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

Frances J. Crosby  
Galatians 1:4-5

Published 1875





## *CBM Local Area Information*

### ***Mission Statement***

"The purpose of CBM is teaching the Bible, evangelizing the unreached, discipling believers, including school students and adults, encouraging and equipping them for active service for Jesus Christ in their community, local church and on to the world."

*CBM of Central AL*  
7834 Deer Creek Rd  
Randolph, AL 36792  
205-926-9008

*South Alabama,  
(Camp Victory)*  
363 Victory Circle  
Samson, AL 36477  
334-898-7948  
[www.campvictoryal.org](http://www.campvictoryal.org)

*North Alabama  
(Ponderosa Bible Camp)*  
1018 County Road 734  
Mentone, AL 35984  
256-634-4397  
[www.ponderosabiblecamp.com](http://www.ponderosabiblecamp.com)

*Florida  
(Camp Gilead)*  
PO Box 98  
Polk City, FL 33868  
863-984-1353  
[www.campgilead.com](http://www.campgilead.com)

*CBM of Maryland*  
6394 Forrest Ave  
Elkridge, MD 21075  
410-796-7990  
[www.cbmmmd.org](http://www.cbmmmd.org)

*Mid-Atlantic  
(Camp Grace)*  
145 Grace Drive  
Fairmont, NC 28340  
910-628-6326  
[www.campgrace.us](http://www.campgrace.us)

*North Carolina  
(New Life Camp)*  
9927 Falls of Neuse Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27614  
919-847-0764  
[www.newlifecamp.com](http://www.newlifecamp.com)

*CBM National Office  
Tuckaleechee Retreat Center*  
PO Box 278  
Townsend, TN 37882  
865-448-1200  
[www.childrensbibleministries.net](http://www.childrensbibleministries.net)  
[www.tuckaleecheeretreatcenter.com](http://www.tuckaleecheeretreatcenter.com)

*CBM of Great SW*  
PO Box 15081  
Oklahoma City, OK 73155  
405-201-6445  
[www.releasedtime.net](http://www.releasedtime.net)

*Southwestern PA  
(Cornerstone Ministries Center)*  
PO Box 378  
Carmichaels, PA 15320  
724-966-9157  
[www.cbmswpa.org](http://www.cbmswpa.org)

*Tennessee  
(Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go)*  
111 CBM Camp Road  
Watauga, TN 37694  
423-543-2201  
[www.cbmcamp.com](http://www.cbmcamp.com)

*Virginia  
(Camp Red Arrow)*  
578 Covered Bridge Dr  
Madison, VA 22727  
540-948-3029  
[www.cbmofvirginia.org](http://www.cbmofvirginia.org)



# *“The Line and the Light”*

*We dedicate this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book to the memory of  
Walter and Marie Jensen, the founders of Children’s Bible Mission,  
and for the fame of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The following is an excerpt called A New Hope, from “Hedged In” by Walter Jensen. “When I graduated from Moody Bible Institute in 1922, I was among several others who would not accept the “security of the believer.” Dr Page called me into his office and repeatedly tried to get me to see the truth, but I was adamant and set myself definitely against his teaching. I recall his last effort, when he said almost in tears, “I’ll be praying for you.”

Later I met Dr. Dodd, pastor of Wheaton College Church, on the street one day and he said, “Well, Brother Jensen, are you saved today?” I replied, “Yes sir, I am saved today.” But, he continued, “You could be lost tomorrow!” I said, “That is something we don’t know.” He took out his New Testament and asked me to read John 5:24. He kept me standing there for more than an hour reading John 5:24 over and over. I have been able to quote it from memory ever since! *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.”*

At last I said, “Dr. Dodd, if I really know that we are eternally safe, I would give my life trying to win boys and girls to Christ. They have a whole lifetime before them to serve the Lord. He said, “Brother Jensen, you can be sure it is the truth.” It was almost like being saved all over again and I walked home praising the Lord for such a wonderful, eternal salvation.

Perhaps our slogan, “Win a Child-Win a Life” was born in the heart of brother Jensen when he received the assurance of his salvation.

“The Line and the Light” was written to give the history (“the Line”) of CBM from 1935-2010, and also to give evidence “light” of God’s intervention down through the years, through His protection, provision, and providence.

We are grateful to each area director, their historian of photography, to Cathy Garber for compiling and layout of the material, to Peggy Steele for editing the material, David W. Johnson for contributing in design, and to our publisher United Graphics of Knoxville, TN.

*It is our prayer that “The Line and the Light” will encourage others to  
believe Him for even greater things for His Glory. Hebrews 11:6*



# *“The Line and the Light”*

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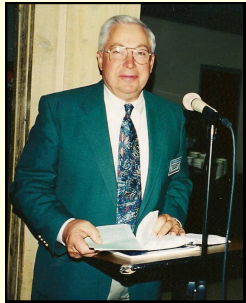
## *The Line and the Light*

*The line of history, His story woven on the time line of CBM from 1935-2010.*

*The light of God's divine protection, provision and providence that all might see His glory.*



## *God's Provision, Protection and Providence*



Wayne Knauss,  
Chairman

**I**n 1970, by divine guidance, my family met CBM workers, Bob and Bea McNeil, and was introduced to the ministry of CBM. Our three children went to camp, Evalena and I became involved at Ta-Pa-Win-Go, and later I served on the camp board. In 1986, I was asked to serve on the National Board. I was elected as chairman of the Board in 1990. I accepted the task with great humility. It was a joy to see the Spirit of God bring insight and unity to our Board time after time. During the 24 years I have served, we have seen many of God's blessings: unknown hundreds saved from the wrath to come, financial needs met, staff provided (some for over 50 years of service), a massive number of volunteers, camps, and land for camps given – God has blessed this work! Down through the years, we have experienced many trials and blessings:



- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1987    | Wa-Floy Retreat Center given   |
| 1987    | ACLU lawsuit against CBM   |
| 1990    | Jerry Traister resigned  |
| 1990-92 | Searched for National Coordinator  |
| 1992    | Bob Entner named as National Coordinator                                 |
| 1998    | Mrs. Bell bought back Wa-Floy Retreat Center                             |
| 1999    | Bob Entner resigned  |
| 2000    | Jerry Traister returned as National Director                             |
| 2000    | Tuckaleechee purchased   |
| 2000-10 | Ministry expanded, camps donated, land given, and Tuckaleechee developed |

Why God chose a simple man like me to be honored by serving Him as chairman of CBM, I don't yet know. We are trusting the good hand of God to provide godly leadership for CBM through you and others 'til His glorious return.

Believe God for great things,

Wayne Knauss, Chairman of National Board

The following stories are three excerpts from Walter and Marie Jensen's book, "Hedged In." Perhaps they will inspire the reader to pray and believe God for great things.

This seventy page book is available for purchase at our National Office for the cost of printing and postage.

### *Mother Surrenders*

The folks had moved back to Nebraska and I received a letter from father asking me to come and take over the farm as he was sick. He wrote, "Your mother has gone crazy over religion and is spending half of her time down in the granary praying." I knew my mother had not lost her mind but rather was happy in her new life, though I had no idea just what it was like.

A neighbor, Mrs. Jennie Kirk, had persuaded mother to go with her to a revival meeting in Bassett. Mother said she heard the Gospel for the first time that night. As they sang the hymn "Down at the Cross Where My Savior Died," mother's strong will was broken and she humbly gave her heart to Christ, the One she now saw had done so much for her.

A tremendous burden now came upon mother for her husband and her six children who had been so neglected spiritually all the past years. She discovered a good secret prayer room in one of the empty grain bins in the granary and there she spend eight hours out of twenty-four daily, praying for her lost family. I was the first one to yield my life to Christ, but not until six years later.

### *Revival in Camp*




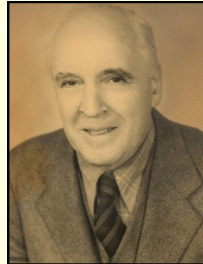


When the Reeds moved to Tallahassee they had camp for their children near Lake City. The highlight of that first camp in the northern part of the state was a message by Billy Graham, who had come up from Tampa where he was attending Bible School. The Reeds had met Billy when they were in Lakeland and also had been in his parents' home in North Carolina.

Billy's subject that night was "The Handwriting on the Wall." There was deep conviction of sin and it was after midnight before we got the children settled down. They ran from room to room, pulling one another out of bed and getting them down on their knees. There was constant singing and praising God and this was one of the most impressive services we ever had. Even in those early days the Spirit of the Lord was present in power in Billy Graham's life.

### *A Providential Meeting*

"During the last week of camp there were two more days to go and no money to buy more food. The children were told about the situation and asked if they would like to pray, so instead of the usual class we had a prayer meeting and asked the Lord for \$50.00. After dinner it was necessary for Mrs. Mackey to make a trip to Lakeland and there on the street she met a friend who inquired about camp and then handed her a check for \$50.00! She hurried back to camp with the check and the children were called together and told of the Lord's provision in answer to prayer. It had a profound effect on them and it was a lesson they would not soon forget."



1932	1935	1935	1935
<p>In the fall of 1932 the Jensens took a trip to the South land. In talking with one little fellow, they asked him if he knew John 3:16. He solemnly replied, "No, I don't know him, where does he live?"</p> <p>The need to reach boys and girls with the Gospel was and continues to be great.</p> <p>1933 Jensens moved to Florida</p>	<p>February 5, 1935 the organization now known as Children's Bible Ministries came into being in St. Petersburg, FL</p> <p>The members of the first council were:</p> <p>Dr. E.R. Barnard W.H. Adamson Rev. J. Lloyd Hunter George A. Field H.A. Laurence John Higgins Dr. E.J. Rosengrant Rev. A.A. Smith J.W. Devitt Charles Gordon Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Jensen</p>	<p>Dr. E. R. Barnard was elected president of Children's Bible Mission, in which capacity he served for 15 years. He graciously offered the use of his church in St. Petersburg for CBM board meetings, and gave generously of his time, wisdom, and experience in the administration of the work. Through his influence many became interested in the mission.</p>	<p>George A Field served as the first Deputation Secretary of CBM for 18 years. Much of the progress of CBM is due to Mr. Field's untiring efforts and complete dedication.</p>
<div> <div>Mr. Walter A. Jensen</div> <div>Mrs. Marie Jensen</div> </div>  		<div>Dr. E.R. Barnard</div> 	<div>"The Voice" of CBM</div> <div>George A. Field</div>  

*"Of such is the Kingdom"*

## In the Mould JOHN 3:16



An early Bible Club held at the home of Walter and Marie Jensen

He was sixteen years old and had never been in Sunday School. There he heard John 3:16 for the first time. Although he did not fully grasp the meaning of the text, it created a hunger in his heart for God. This same verse was to play an important role in the life of Walter A. Jensen.

There was no Bible in that home and, for lack of proper environments, the seed sown remained dormant. But God has promised that His Word shall not return unto Him void. Some years later, as he was leaving for a dance, his mother, who had been saved, quietly said to him, "God says, *'My Spirit shall not always strive with man.'*" He had never forgotten John 3:16, and now the Holy Spirit used another verse of Scripture to bring such strong conviction that he was born again that night.

He entered Moody Bible Institute to prepare for Christian service and went out as a missionary under the American Sunday School Union and later with the Shantymen's Christian Association. Remembering his own childhood he yearned to see the Word of God given to boys and girls. This God-given longing was used of the Lord in giving birth to the Children's Bible Mission. *"For the Word of God is quick and powerful..." (Hebrews 4:12)*

## THE VISION

It was reported by one of the leading churches that there were twelve million children below the Mason-Dixon line who were not receiving any religious training or instruction. This was a real challenge to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jensen. In the fall of 1932 they took a trip to the South land. As they traveled through sparsely settled backwoods country and saw the wistful faces of little children peering out at them from open windows and doorways, their hearts yearned anew to give the Word of Life to boys and girls.

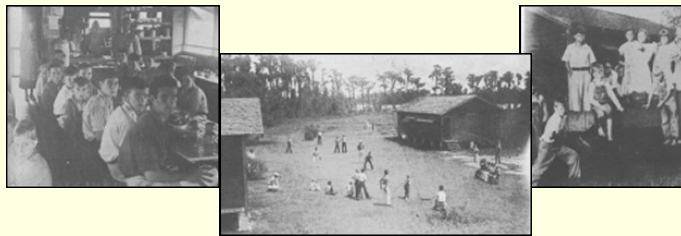
In North Florida they overtook a mother and son trudging down a country road. They stopped the car and invited them to ride. The boy was sixteen--and barefooted. They handed him a Gospel of John, but the mother hastened to explain, "He hasn't any learnin'." However, she eagerly took the little book and said she would try to read it to him. *"The entrance of Thy Words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130* The hopeless dejected look on that boy's face registered indelibly on their hearts and minds.



1935

There were 47 children eligible, with 32 attending this first camp, held in August, 1935. It was a never to be forgotten experience and well worth the heartaches and days of toil. The Lord met every need. Much food was donated, including a crate of oranges, 15 watermelons, five stalks of bananas, and ice cream. A young calf was also given, which supplied meat for the entire week, served as roast, steak, stew, and hash. One teacher came to camp with nine of her pupils. She said, "Oh, how I wish the other teacher in our school could have been here--perhaps she would have gotten what these children and I did." Sixteen of the campers were saved and others consecrated their lives to the Lord. Camp was over, and every need met spiritually and materially!

First CBM camp held in August 1935 on a wooded lake 20 miles north of Tampa



1935-1936

Reeds attended the prayer meetings in St. Petersburg. They were asked to help with the first camp. They bought a small trailer to house themselves and their son, Melvin, and parked it on the outskirts of Lakeland. Over rough roads, along pine trails, through swamps and creeks they went, visiting schools. As other workers were provided, they moved to north Florida. The Lord richly blessed the ministry of the Reeds in the schools and the summer camps of that area.

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Reed and Trailer



1939-1941

It was thought advisable to move the National Office to St. Petersburg in 1939 since the president and treasurer of CBM were located there, as well as other board members. E.R. Kellogg served as treasurer.

1941 The National Office was moved back to Lakeland and Mrs. Beatrice Dash was the secretary/bookkeeper/treasurer from 1939-1957.

Mrs. Beatrice Dash



Willing office helpers who kept the ministry growing



## *"Reaching Tomorrow's Leaders, Today, with the Word of God"*

As the Jensens drove on and talked with other mothers and children, both white and black, they found a great spiritual need in all of these isolated areas, most of them miles from any church. In talking with one little fellow, they asked him if he knew John 3:16. He solemnly replied, "No, I don't know him, where does he live?" But how could these hundreds of boys and girls be reached? Why, of course, in the schools! They must go to school. Would the school authorities permit a Bible program? *"Suffer the little children to come unto Me...for of such is the kingdom of God."* (Mark 10:14)

### **THE PLACE**

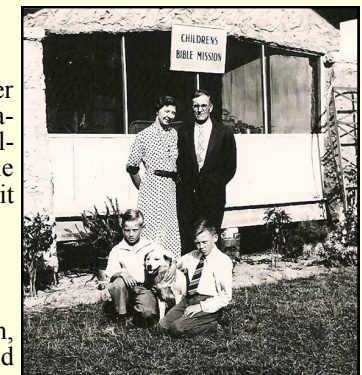
After a more extended survey the following June, Mr. and Mrs. Jensen knew that this was to be their future field of service. In September of the same year the Jensen family moved to Florida. Their destination was Orlando, which they felt would be a good central location. However, taking the wrong fork in the road they found themselves in Tampa. They again headed for Orlando, but car trouble developed and they only got as far as the outskirts of Lakeland. The car stalled right in front of a tourist camp and refused to go farther. While waiting for repairs they felt strongly impressed that the Lord would have them remain in Lakeland. Later developments proved that it WAS the place of His choosing. *"And He led them forth by the right way...(Psalm 107:7)"*

### **THE PATTERN**

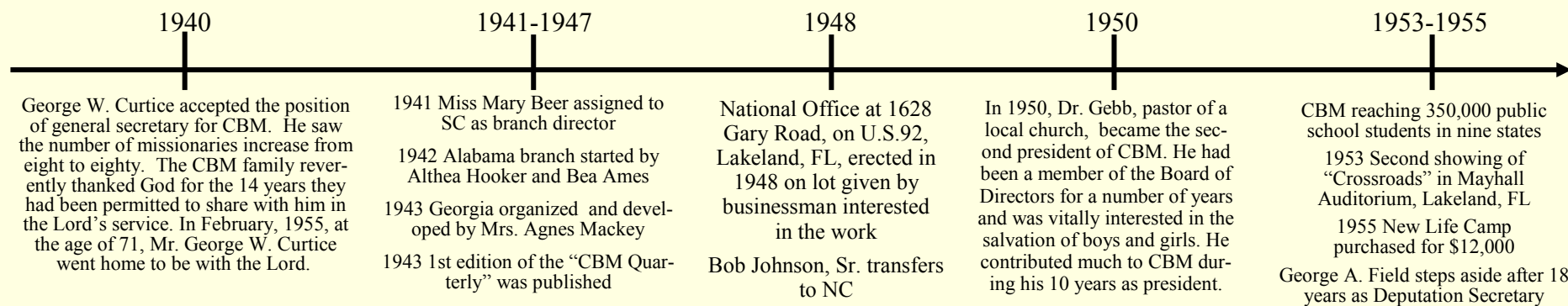
After laboring alone for two years, the Jensens wrote their good friend, J. Lloyd Hunter, founder of the Canadian Sunday School Mission, asking him to come to Florida that they might have the benefit of his experience in forming an organization. This letter was laid aside and completely forgotten. Mr. Jensen telegraphed from Florida by way of heaven, spending the night in prayer. The letter was brought to mind and Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were soon on their way south. Mr. W. H. Adamson, president of Shantyman's Christian Association, was also in Florida at the time. Because of their many years of service as executives in their respective organizations, the counsel and help of these men were invaluable.

A weekly prayer meeting was begun; to seek the Lord's guidance and to pray for open doors into the schools. CBM was born in prayer! A Bible Memory Plan to be carried on in the public schools was presented to a small group of Christian business and professional men, and on February 5, 1935, the organization now known as Children's Bible Mission came into being in St. Petersburg, Florida, with headquarters in Lakeland. It was later incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida.

It was agreed that Children's Bible Mission should be known as a faith work, looking to the Lord alone for the supply of every need. Faith was severely tested and there were times of travail and discouragement, but when the "enemy came in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifted up a standard against him." *"He abideth faithful."* The past twenty-five years have been one continuous miracle of God's wonderful provision in answer to believing prayer.







Mr. and Mrs. George W. Curtice



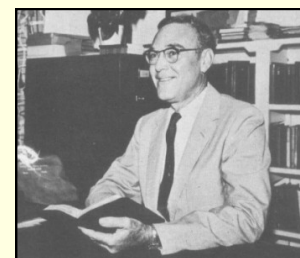
South Carolina Miss Mary Beer



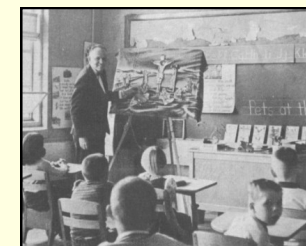
Georgia- Mrs. Agnes Mackey



Dr. L. G. Gebb



Some workers taught as many as 800 students a day



*"Win a Child and You Win a Life"*

## THE PLAN

Encourage children in the public schools to memorize the Word of God by offering scriptural awards:

A list of carefully selected Bible verse was prepared and awards offered to children in the public schools for memorizing these verses and repeating them to the teacher. The schools were to be visited once a month, when the awards would be presented. The school visitors would also be equipped to tell a Bible story, with or without visual aids, and to teach choruses when desired by school authorities. ***"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*** (2 Timothy 3:15)

## ...In the Schools!

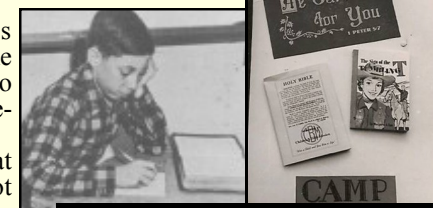
Will the school authorities accept the Bible Memory Program? This was the question uppermost in the minds of the missionaries and the burden of their prayer. In the first forty-eight schools visited, all gladly welcomed the program with one exception. The teacher in that school said there had been no Sunday school or gospel service in the community for years and that it was useless to enroll her children as they were too indifferent to learn Scripture. However, she finally agreed to try and was amazed at the response.

The principal in another school said they would cooperate to the fullest extent. He said that in all that district, which included several schools--a radius of about 30 miles--there was not a church or Sunday school of any kind.

News spread rapidly that the "Bible folks" were coming, and the often repeated greeting would be, "We thought you would never come!" The happy faces of the children and comments of grateful teachers more than repaid all the effort of traveling many miles daily over narrow roads and trails, seeking out schools. The children eagerly swarmed around the missionary if they were out for recess, and shouted with delight when they heard they were going to get Gospels of John for learning a Bible verse--JOHN THREE SIXTEEN!



Children from a country school who received awards for Bible memorization



**AWARDS**  
**John 3:16--Gospel of John**  
**25 more verses--New Testament**  
**25 more verses--A Story Book**  
**50 more verses--A Wall Motto**  
**100 more verses--A Bible**  
**100 more verses--Week of Camp**

1956-1964

Rev. Kenneth Amsler served as general director from 1956-1964 and the work continued to expand in each area  
1958 Jonas Miller was appointed divisional director of AL

1960

By 1960 CBM had ministered to over 60,000 campers.  
Agnes Mackey wrote the four years of correspondence lessons. They are still being used by CBM and several other ministries, nationally.

1960's

CBM Camps as of 1960:  
Gilead—Cost \$1.00  
Ta-Pa-Win-Go—Gift  
New Life—\$12,000  
Victory—Gift  
By 1960 CBM had ministered to over 60,000 campers  
1963 Typhoid epidemic broke out at Rhodes Grove Camp in PA

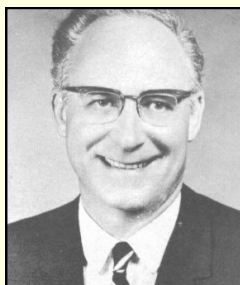
1966-1967

1966 Mike Birkner was appointed as deputation secretary  
1967 Reba Miller started the 1st CBM Released Time Bible Program in Franklin County, PA  
1967 Jerry Traister joined CBM of PA

1965-1972

Rev. Myron Schuit served as national director.  
1970 CBM started the telephone ministry, "Dial a Story". Today over 4300 children use this ministry.  
1971 Divisions were encouraged to start Bible Mailbox Clubs. In 2009 over 22,000 CBM correspondence and Mailbox lessons were completed.

Rev. Kenneth Amsler



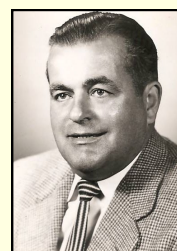
5th grade class earns Bibles



Teacher listening to Bible memory verses



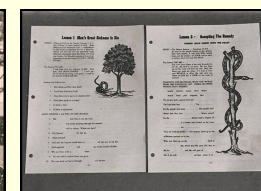
Mike Birkner



Rev. and Mrs. Myron Schuit



Correspondence lessons



## CBM's First Released Time

One of the first public schools to close its doors to CBM was in the early 60's. Reba Miller, then divisional director for CBM of south central PA, and Frank Wingert, chairman of the local CBM Committee, were told by Dr. Powell, Chambersburg area school superintendent, that Reba could no longer make her monthly visits to teach Bible stories in the public classroom. He, at the same time, asked them if they had considered the concept of Released Time. In the spring of 1967, CBM in conjunction with Evangelical Fellowship of the Cumberland Valley launched the first CBM Released Time classes. Seventy-two fifth grade students from two elementary schools participated in the weekly program. Today, over 20,000 boys and girls attend CBM Released Time classes either weekly or monthly in seven states, excluding the Released Time classes conducted by Camp Joy-El. Joy-El left CBM in 1998.

## It was the Culture

In the early years of CBM we had summer camp for the black children at some other place other than at our own CBM camps. Then in the early 60's, we held a week of camp at our sites just for blacks. Later we gave the black campers a choice to either attend an all-black camp with CBM white staff or just attend a regular week of camp. Today when it comes to the color of skin there is no distinction. "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight."

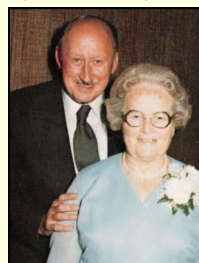
It was the culture; in spite of it, God worked. In lower Alabama, Bea Ames, now 99 years of age, ministered in a great number of all-black schools. To eleven year old Charles Lewis, she wasn't out of place. Most of our CBM staff visited all black schools for many years in several states. Charles memorized his 200 verses and earned a free week of Bible camp at Camp Victory. On Tuesday night he gave his heart to Christ. Charles said, "I was ready for more spiritual instruction. My pastor was a godly man but did not meet my needs for Biblical understanding. I checked out other black churches, but my spiritual needs still were not being met. I began to inquire about attending white churches. My white friends said they would ask if I could attend. Nobody invited me. I never felt comfortable, so I never went." The Lord led Charles to the Navigators for staff training at Tuskegee University, and then to Dallas Theological Seminary. He knew for many years he was to return home to Dothan, Alabama, to start a church. In 1987 Bea Ames became one of his charter members at the church in Dothan that God used Charles to birth. God works in spite of culture.



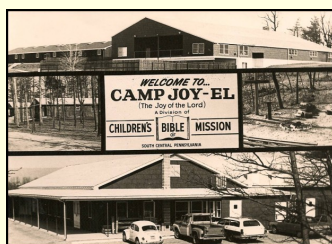


1972	1973-1974	1976	1979	1980	1982
<p>1972 Myron Schuit stepped aside as general director to develop the concept of the Bible Mailbox Clubs with Bible Club Movement, Intl</p> <p>1972-83 Clyde Robison served as the national director; then national representative until 1989</p>	<p>1973 Land in Greencastle, PA, was given by three local farmers</p> <p>1974 Camp Joy-El opened</p> <p>Built from March 17-July 10th through the help of volunteers</p>	<p>Camp Ponderosa, an 80 acre site in north Alabama was purchased from the University of Alabama for \$80,000. Later it was named Ponderosa Bible Camp.</p> <p>Bess Robertson served as the first camp director.</p>	<p>Released Time enrollment in PA was 2,359; reaching 58% of the eligible elementary students</p>	<p>Gary and Nancy Hull assigned to work at National Office to assist National Director Clyde Robison; served until 1987</p>	<p>First CBM national candidate school ran at Camp Gilead. Duane Matthews served as dean. It ran for three weeks with no recess.</p> <p>Today classes are held for one week at the National Headquarters.</p>

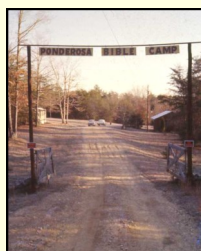
S. Clyde and Betty Robison



Camp Joy-El main building



Ponderosa Bible Camp



Gary and Nancy Hull



First Candidate School



## Unrest hovers over CBM

In the 1960's CBM was reaching 350,000 school children through monthly visits to the public classroom. However, during that same time dark clouds of opposition were forming. The Bible was no longer seen by some as the final authority. CBM had earned the respect of many locals, but opposition continued to surface in several areas.



On February 1, 1971, Judge Dalton of Harrisonburg, VA, ruled on a law suit that CBM was in violation for teaching Bible to public school students in Page County, VA. In a few short months CBM lost the opportunity to minister to almost 10,000 students in Virginia. Myron Schuit, National Director, recommended that we phase out our public school ministry as of that school year. Each divisional director was to take steps to prevent additional lawsuits.

Unrest hovered over many CBM missionaries. Workers were encouraged to consider Released Time, after school clubs, the Mailbox Club Ministry, and the telephone ministry. Some workers chose to leave CBM in order to stay in the public schools. Encouraged by local authorities, several CBM divisions continued to do Bible classes in the public schools.

## Rolling Chapels


During the 60's and 70's CBM was a mission in flux and staffed by many nervous missionaries. Some areas ended their public school ministry and as a result a few missionaries resigned from CBM in order to continue teaching in the public classroom. Other areas continued on in the public classroom with the blessing of the local authorities.

In Florida and Virginia CBM purchased mobile classrooms, "Rolling Chapels". In northern Florida, in 1968, Anne Bell and Reba Thompson acquired the first Rolling Chapel, the shell of a new Winnebago. It was then equipped for a classroom. They had left the public classroom and ministered to boys and girls through private schools and after school Bible clubs. Students were encouraged to do Mailbox Club lessons and memorize Scripture to earn a reduced fee for summer camp.

In Culpeper, Virginia, under the guidance of the chairman of the local CBM committee, Mason Hutcheson purchased their first chapel in 1972 and used it for Released Time. Jean Gale made the transition from teaching 2,000 students in schools to Released Time. The mobile chapel could seat approximately 30 students and is still used in Virginia after 28 years of use.



Anne Bell and Reba Thompson, Keystone Heights, Florida

1983-1984	1985	1986-1987	1988	1989-1990
<p>1983 Mike Birkner resigned as national deputation secretary after serving 17 years.</p> <p>January 1984 Jerry Traister became the general director of CBM.</p> <p>All local CBM divisions were to establish local committees.</p>	<p>A program, under the leadership of Reba Miller in south-western Pennsylvania placed under the umbrella of CBM</p> <p>CBM celebrates its 50th Anniversary at Camp Gilead</p> 	<p>1986 Mrs. Bell signed a portion of Wa-Floy over to CBM</p> <p>1986 CBM's name was changed from Children's Bible Mission to CBM Ministries</p> <p>1986 Sam and Carrie Brooks joined CBM</p> <p>1986 Wayne Knauss joined the National Board</p> <p>1987 Lawsuits filed in TN</p> <p>1987 Wendy Bain joined national office staff</p> <p>1987 Montana Wilderness School of Bible reopened at C Bar N Camp in Augusta, Montana</p>	<p>Mrs. Bell signed the quit claim deed at the dedication service of Chapel in the Woods</p> <p>Ed and Irene Burkart joined the national staff; served five years</p> <p>Cathy Garber joined the national staff; served three years, then moved to Florida</p>	<p>1989 First service awards were given</p> <p>CBM Bible programs in public schools were banned by National Board</p> <p>1990 Traisters resigned after serving 23 years</p>

Mike Birkner "Uncle Mike"



Joy-el aerial shot



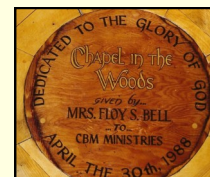
Lakeland office moved to Wa-Floy 1987



The "Chapel in the Woods"



Dedicated on April 30, 1988



National Office was moved from Florida to Gatlinburg in 1987 under the leadership of Jerry Traister



## *The Moving of the Traisters and the National Office*

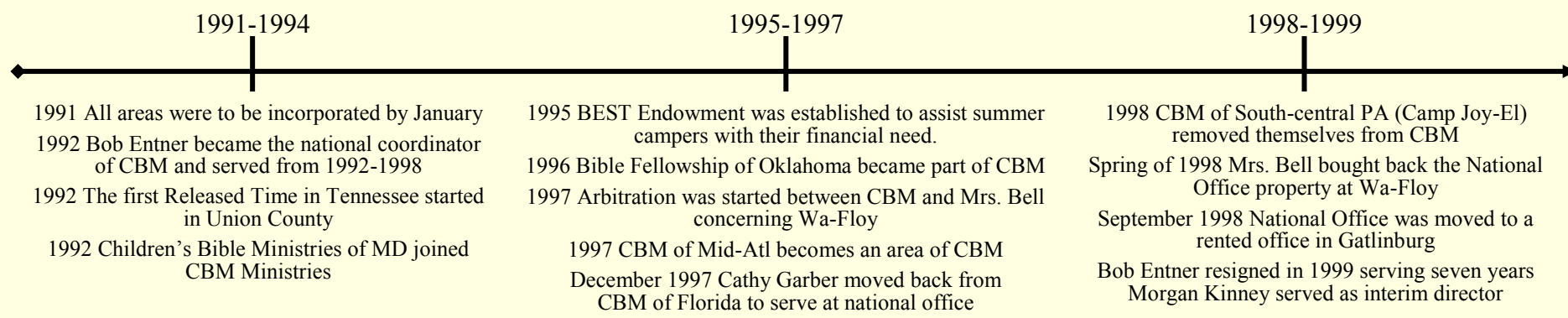
Leaving Camp Joy-El was no small emotional task! As national director the Board gave me permission for us to locate wherever we felt we could best serve CBM. We first set up a satellite office in Greencastle, Pennsylvania at Foremost Industries for a few months until our tasks were finalized and our daughters were finished with their school year. As early as 1982 there was talk of moving the National Office to Tennessee or North Carolina, to help equalize the distance from CBM divisions to the National Office. Tennessee, at that time, needed an area director, and the National Office was covered in Florida very efficiently by Gary and Nancy Hall. Therefore we bought a house in Elizabethton, Tennessee and opened a satellite office in our home for National. During our time in Elizabethton, Marie was hospitalized with Lupus symptoms which took a year to get her on the road to recovery.

In looking for a place to have our annual national conference we found a possible permanent place to house the National Office. I wanted a place where we could have candidate school, directors conference, and expose CBM to the Christian public. We met Mrs. Floy Bell, the owner of a 70-acre mountain retreat called Wa-Floy Mountain Village near Gatlinburg. It contained 25 buildings, a swimming pool, tennis courts and a beautiful lake. She was looking for someone to carry on her ministry of hospitality when she was no longer able.

After many meetings and discussions with Mrs. Bell and the National Board, we felt it best for us to move onto the property in the spring of '86, for one year, to see if the relationship would work. We packed our belongings and moved into the office apartment with our two elementary daughters, Jelena and Janell, and once again set up a satellite office for National. Marie served as Mrs. Bell's assistant, which included, but was not limited to: receiving guests, overseeing the housekeepers, keeping up the retreat laundry, plus office work for Mrs. Bell. This required working 8 a.m. to whenever all guests were in for seven days a week during the summer. I spent most of my time at Ta-Pa-Win-Go or visiting the other areas.

The decision was then made that the National Office would be moved from Florida to Wa-Floy. The Lord provided a total of \$50,000 and 50 volunteers, from as far away as the state of Washington through, MAPPERS and SOWERS, to help us complete a large chapel and remodel a 24 X 68' modular-type building to house the National Office. Both of these properties were signed over to CBM by Mrs. Bell. The office space was completed first and in the summer of 1987 the office was officially moved. Then on April 30, 1988 the chapel and prayer garden were dedicated. Mrs. Bell signed a quit claim deed giving CBM an additional 10 acres at her death or before. It was our desire to remain at Wa-Floy and develop it even further for God's glory.





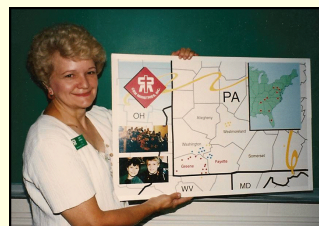
Bob Entner



1993 Chapel in the Woods bought back by Wa-Floy



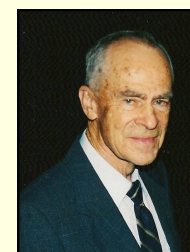
Judy Virgili introduced a new One on One program for new candidates to raise their support



Cathy Garber



Kinney serves as Interim Director



Good-bye to Wa-Floy, Gatlinburg, TN



## *I Want It Back*

“**I** don’t think she is pleased with what she is doing”, I stated to Marie right after Mrs. Bell signed the quit claim deed at the dedication service of the Chapel in the Woods in the spring of 1988. To me her body language spoke volumes. She put her feeling into print when she sent her first letter to the National Board in 1991 asking for her gifts to CBM to be returned. After many visits and letters she then offered to buy back the Chapel in the Woods; and in 1993 the Board agreed to sell it back.

Then she continued to want to be released from all of her agreements. Finally both partners agreed to what was in the original agreement and that was to submit to Christian arbitration if there was a conflict.

After hearing both sides the three Christian arbitrators told Mrs. Bell, “If you want it back you will have to buy it back, for CBM has done all that was asked of them”.

In 1998 a check was given to CBM and Mrs. Bell was out from under her agreement. CBM rented office space in Gatlinburg from 1998 to June, 2000. The money from the Chapel and the Wa-Floy land was invested and designated to be used to develop a future national headquarters.

## *The Twists and Turns of Ministry*

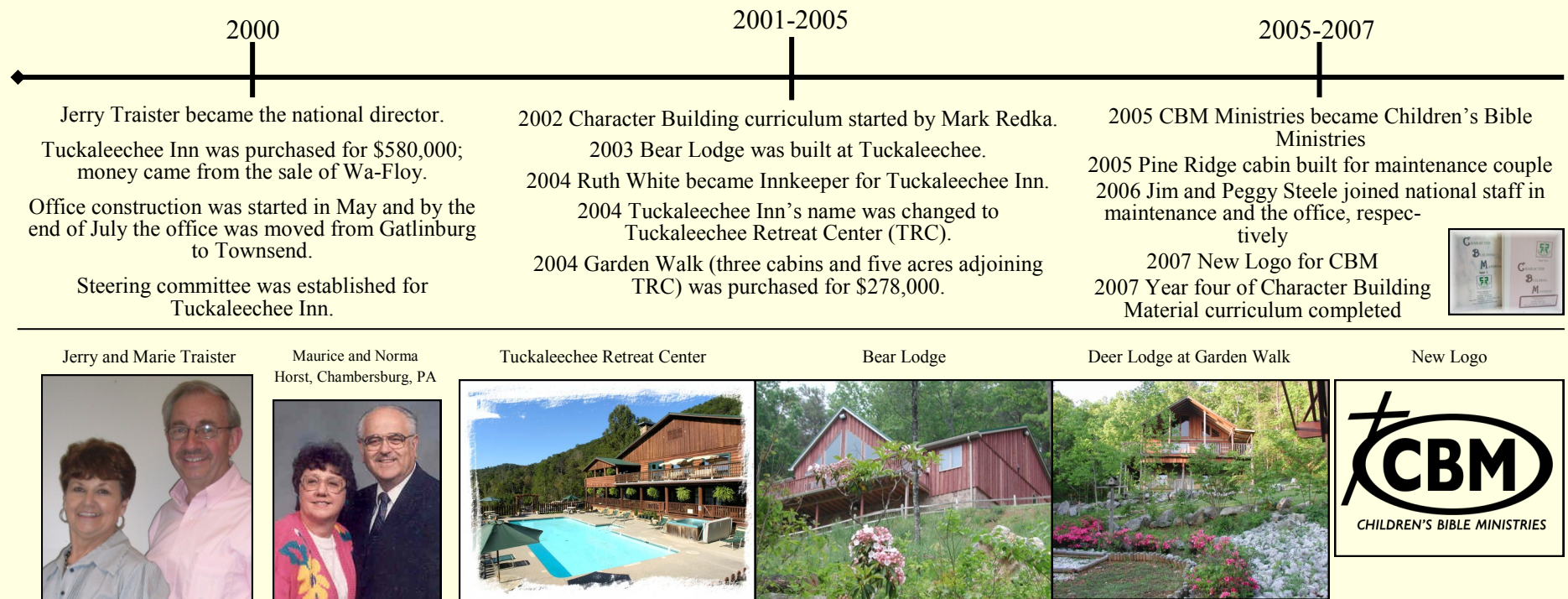
**I**n 1992, Children’s Bible Ministry of Maryland became a part of CBM. The name sounds like it is kin to us. A closer look reveals that it is not only the name that is kin, but the purpose and many of the programs are the same. Dot Warehime founded the work, with the assistance of May Hoover Petzold.

Thirteen years later, in 2005, CBM Ministries changed its name to Children’s Bible Ministries. The twists and turns of ministry are many.

George and Donna Warrington visited the public schools and presented Bible lessons, for 35 years, under Bible Fellowship. They, too, were forced out of the schools through a lawsuit. George learned of Released Time and visited a number of programs. Then he, and his board, sought to come under the umbrella of CBM and were accepted in 1997.

CBM had a work in Oklahoma during its early history. Now that work continues under a different name, and CBM has returned. More twists and turns of ministry, all to bring glory to Him.

The work of CBM of Mid-Atlantic was part of CBM at New Life Camp in Raleigh, North Carolina. Then due to distance, lack of camp space, and different winter programs, a new corporation was formed. Shortly after the new area was formed, 220 acres of land were given, to develop what is now Camp Grace. It was named in memory of Miss Grace, our first CBM Bible lady in that county. More twists and turns of God’s hand, in the work of reaching children with the Gospel.



## *Bible in the Schools and Lawsuits*

"Would you consider Released Time, for your elementary students here in Carter County, in place of the monthly in-school Bible program?" This was my question to the Carter County school superintendent shortly after I began serving as Tennessee's interim divisional director. His reply, "This is the Bible belt; our people love CBM." A few months later Carter County received a lawsuit, and that same year Claiborne County in Tennessee also received a lawsuit both from the A.C.L.U. By 1988 both were settled. Marillyn Adams was put on the stand and pleaded guilty for teaching the Bible to public school children. As national director it was my job to raise the undisclosed settlement, we were not permitted to make known the amount of funds needed for the settlement. The LORD provided!

Our first lawsuit was in 1971. It was not until 1990 that the CBM Board ruled that all Bible teaching in public schools must end. You may ask, "Why did it take 19 years to move out of the schools?" The local authorities in many of the public schools wanted us to stay, and we wanted to give the Word of God to the boys and girls. Today, CBM is conducting Released Time Bible programs in Claiborne, Union, Hancock, and Johnson Counties, but Carter County remains closed.

## *By Faith*

Marie, as the Innkeeper, asked if she could schedule the use of a building one year in advance for the Lee family reunion. The problem was the building did not exist! We had land and some money and had planned to build a five bedroom cabin in the near future. We had even built the road so I told her to go ahead and schedule it. That was July 4, 2002. After telling individuals and church groups that Marie scheduled a building to be used that did not exist, a dear friend from Pennsylvania called and said he would panelize the building and provide the windows and outside doors as a gift. It would be our job to get it to Tennessee.

I was so excited to see God provide and we started to build in early spring of 2003. Volunteers came for nine different weeks and on July 4th one year later the Lee family that had scheduled it arrived at 3:00 in the afternoon for occupancy.

### *God delights to prove Himself.*

We are so grateful to the 520 volunteers that have done so much for the past 10 years her at Tuckaleechee Retreat Center. Many have been here year after year to help. Maurice Horst served as lead man on the office, Pine Ridge, Deer Lodge, the apartments, and of course, Bear Lodge. His gentle, quiet and willing spirit is typical of the scores of volunteers that have helped us accomplish much to display God's provision. Some have prayed, some have financially given and some have given their time and talents. May our Lord bless all who have been obedient to His leading.

*Yes, God delights to prove Himself and we are delighted that He chooses to use us!*



2008-2010

2008 Central Alabama becomes part of CBM

2008 Cathy Garber, administrative assistant at National, set up a satellite office in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania so she might also assist her mother.

2009 "CBM Women on the Move" a quarterly newsletter and retreat were developed

2010 After 18 years, assessment fees for each area were eliminated.

2010 Luke Miliam, director of Time on the Mountain, joined CBM to help set up an outdoor ministry for CBM camps.

## Time on the Mountain

Time On The Mountain began in 2001. We exist to challenge individuals spiritually, physically, emotionally, and academically by giving them an opportunity to experience nature on a personal level. Our goal is to use God's creation as a platform to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, using unfamiliar outdoor settings as a way for participants to experience how God is in control of all things including their lives. We present the Gospel by starting with the book of Genesis while walking them through nature on a backpacking trip, rappelling, camping, speaking, or a field trip. Giving them a connection between God the Creator and the cross of Christ is our ultimate and final goal.

We provide each student the opportunity to discover God's love and learn to enjoy the earth's ecosystems and resources God has given us so they can in turn share the love of Christ with others.

We base our ministry out of Pinson, Alabama. Joining CBM in 2010 was an answer to prayer. Our goal is to assist the different ministries of CBM in developing and maintaining an outdoor ministry of their own. We will still be doing outdoor ministry throughout the state of Alabama.



Top row left to right:  
Luke, Naomi, and Justus Miliam  
Bottom row left to right:  
Ethan, Noel, and Adeline Miliam

# CBM National Headquarters



Townsend, Tennessee

PO Box 278

160 Bear Lodge Drive

Townsend, TN 37882

865-448-1200

[www.childrensbibleministries.net](http://www.childrensbibleministries.net)

[www.tuckaleecheeretreatcenter.com](http://www.tuckaleecheeretreatcenter.com)

## Current National Office Staff



Top row left to right:  
Sue Duchow  
Cathy Garber  
Ruth White

Bottom row left to right:  
Jerry & Marie  
Traister  
Jim & Peggy  
Steele

## Radio Ministry



## Extension Work

Mr. and Mrs. R. Dale Simpson were CBM Radio representatives for many years. Children's programs, prepared by them, were broadcast weekly over several stations in Florida, one in Pennsylvania, and over WIVV Vieques, Puerto Rico. A children's Bible correspondence course in the Gospel of John was offered over the air. These lessons were graded and returned. Many received Christ through the CBM radio ministry.

A youth radio Bible quiz, directed by Robert A. Johnson, divisional director of North Carolina, was a popular broadcast in their area for many years.

A regular broadcast had gone out over the air from Elizabethton, Tennessee.

After 11 years of service in Alabama, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Birky moved to Indiana to carry on the CBM extension work in 1958.

They began to devote themselves full-time to extension work in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and nearby states. In a few years a total of 812 boys and girls attended CBM camps through this ministry.



Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Birky, and children



Dale and Ann Simpson



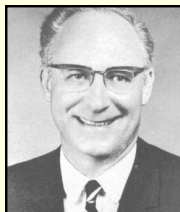
Bob and Marge Johnson, Sr.  
New Life Camp, Raleigh, NC

Requests came regularly to the National Office from workers, teachers, churches, Sunday schools, and other groups, asking permission to use the CBM plan and materials. A tentative extension plan was tested in several states. In areas where CBM did not have a full-time worker, or where schools were closed to the program, extension work was carried on through an approved local committee. This committee was to assume full financial responsibility for supplies and awards, including camp.

The CBM Memory Program was also being carried on in other states by approved workers through Bible Clubs, youth groups, and other channels. Today several foreign countries and stateside ministries are using the original correspondence lessons that were written by Mrs. Agnes Mackey.

## Foreign Ministry

Rev. Kenneth Amsler



Former CBM missionaries and CBM campers now serving the Lord on foreign fields, and other missionaries and leaders in various countries have received permission to use CBM methods and materials. The Bible Memory Program proved to be a blessing in Zululand, South Africa. CBM Bible correspondence lessons have been translated into various languages. The

General Director, Kenneth A. Amsler, had been approached by many missionaries at conferences, asking for materials to use on foreign fields. CBM began to have an increasing service to foreign missionaries.

Bruce and Fran Weber CBM missionaries to Jamaica



## Montana Wilderness School of the Bible

1987 Duane Matthews served as dean of Montana Wilderness School of the Bible at C Bar N Camp in Augusta, Montana.

1988 John and Terry Erickson from C Bar N attended CBM candidate school at Wa-Floy and returned to work with Duane Matthews.

(CBM worked with C Bar N and the Montana Wilderness School of the Bible, but they chose not to come under the umbrella of CBM. Currently John Erickson serves as the director.)

Current enrollment at MWSB is 60 students per year. Total number of summer campers runs about 400 per year.



1941-1960

1942-1946

Late 50's-Early 1960's

After five years in Florida, Miss Mary Beer was moved to South Carolina as branch director



1942 Mrs. L.H. Tannery (associate) joined Mary Beer  
1946 Ed and Ruby Youmans (right) transferred from Florida to the South Carolina branch



The Lord provided other workers as the work grew, so there were five full-time missionaries and four associate workers as of 1960.

Mrs. Sam Lollis, Mrs. H.C. Looper, and Mrs. J.E. Wilcoxson were associates  
Mr. and Mrs. Swartz became full-time

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Swartz



## South Carolina Branch of CBM



The work of CBM expanded rapidly, bringing with it added burdens and duties. The missionaries groaned under the load, and prayers ascended daily for deliverance. Finally the answer came in the person of Miss Mary Beer, a school teacher from Illinois.

**"God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform."** When the doctor recommended Florida for her health, a friend gave Miss Beer the address of the Jensens. She had planned to teach in the Florida public schools, but found that a year's residence was necessary before her application could be considered. She took another job during the waiting period

and at the first opportunity visited the Jensen home. However, it was not until six months later that she felt strongly impressed to offer her services if they were needed. They were!

Miss Beer was wonderfully used in the schools, Bible clubs, and camps. The year of waiting to teach in the Florida schools had extended to 24 years with CBM.

A group of Christians in Greenville had been praying, for two years, concerning the spiritual needs of boys and girls in South Carolina. They wrote to Miss Mary Beer in Lakeland, Florida, to ask if she would come to Greenville, and take the Bible Memory Program to the schools in that area. Miss Beer felt it was the Lord's will, and it also met with the approval of the Board of Directors, so another CBM branch was established in 1941.

The following year Mrs. L.H. Tannery, a former school teacher, offered to help in the schools. Four years later, Ed and Ruby Youmans were transferred from Florida to South Carolina.

Class with earned awards



Oakway School-three students who said 300 verses, and their teacher with a list of classmates who said verses



Campers at Rocky Bottoms



Evening devotions at Rocky Bottoms camp (1967)



A camp in the mountains was rented each summer for those who had qualified for a week of camp. The Negro children enjoyed a camp south of Greenville, and Bible Clubs were held weekly in several communities. Each month about 11,800 boys and girls heard the "Wonderful Story of Love", either in a classroom or in chapel programs. For a few years, children attended Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go. Due to a lack of full-time workers, though, the ministry ended.

1943-1971

1953-1959

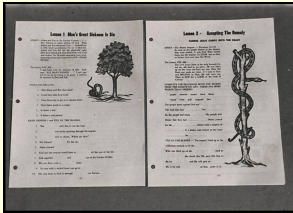


Mrs. A. C. Mackey joined in 1937 as a Florida worker, then was sent to Georgia to organize and develop the work

Mrs. Mackey is also the author of the book, *Nevertheless Afterwards*, revealing God's dealings with her as a CBM missionary in the early days. She and Marie Jensen co-authored the book, *Of such is the Kingdom*, the first 25 years of CBM's history.

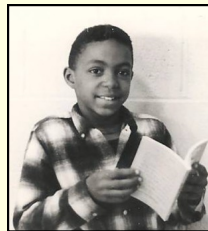


Later Miss Reba Miller was moved from Tennessee to assist in this expansion followed by Miss Lorraine Burkhalter



Agnes Mackey wrote the four years of Bible Correspondence lessons, that are still being used by CBM and several other ministries

Reciting Bible verses



Early Georgia Bible Club



Georgia camp in the early years



## Georgia Branch of CBM

The CBM workers realized that music was an important part of children's work and they sought the Lord to fill this need. He answered prayer through Mr. Field, who brought Mrs. Agnes C. Mackey to meet the workers and observe the work. Mrs. Mackey's husband had suddenly gone to be with the Lord and she had come to Florida with her two young daughters to recover from the shock.

Mrs. Mackey had written to the Sunday School Times asking about children's work and they sent a list with the Children's Bible Mission at the top. However, she had not heard of the organization and was not particularly interested in any of the others, so the letter was laid aside. Some weeks later Mr. Field showed pictures of CBM ministry in the church she attended and she suddenly realized it was the same organization referred to in the letter.

A few days after her visit to the CBM office, Mrs. Mackey was established in Lakeland. Soon she was busy directing music, and singing, and playing the piano. Besides her work in the schools, Bible clubs, and directing camps in several states, she compiled and mimeographed the lessons for four correspondence courses.

Although Georgia was the first state to enter the Bible Memory Program after Florida, it was not organized as a branch until 1943. The CBM work in Athens, GA was originally started under the leadership of Mr. Charles Rowland. Brother Rowland was still giving his service in ministering the Word through CBM. In order to expand this work, the National Office arranged, after much prayer, to send Mrs. Agnes Mackey to Athens.

In 1943, after serving for seven years with CBM in Florida, Mrs. Mackey left for Georgia to organize a committee to administer the branch.

Georgia CBM was reaching as high as 30,000 children monthly in the public

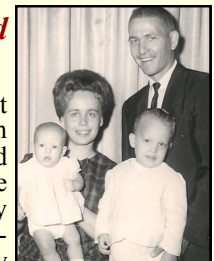
schools. The workers also conducted Bible clubs and classes. To many boys and girls, in the public schools of Georgia, Mrs. Mackey was affectionately known as "The Bible Lady", or "The John 3:16 Lady."

Camps were held in the summer for both white and black children at places such as the YWCA camp in Athens, Rutledge, and Crawfordville, GA. "Good morning boys and girls," was the greeting from Mrs. Mackey every morning at camp and "Good morning, Mrs. Mackey," the campers replied. Mrs. Mackey said "Good night" here on earth on March 12, 1991. Then she said "Good morning" in Heaven. What a glorious "homecoming" it was for her.

## CBM's ministry in Cordele, Georgia was carried on by Samson and Ruth Whisnant from 1964-93.

In October 1964, Samson and Ruth Whisnant found out about the need for workers in Cordele, GA. They agreed on the way home that they would go to Cordele if God would provide. They told no one else. The following Sunday the national director called and asked Samson and Ruth to pray about going to Cordele. They told the director they had already settled the issue. So, with less than \$200 missionary support they moved to Cordele in December 1966.

In January 1967, Samson started visiting the public schools in the area. He visited 24 schools and did 44 assemblies per month. Ruth was a homemaker and helped with the office work, and Samson worked from daylight till dark for \$10 a day to keep the work going.





1958-1964

1964-1993

1965-2006

1970

1958 Richard Wood was involved in Cordele, GA  
 1959 Margaret Meyer came from Florida to Greene County  
 1961 Juanita Durham replaced Wood in Cordele, GA  
 1964 Virginia Tarbox came to Cordele, GA from Florida

1964 Whisnants began working in Cordele, GA  
 1971 campers were taken to Camp Victory, Samson, AL  
 January 1993 Whisnants moved to Alabama which ended the work in Cordele, GA

Camp Good News began by George Eager, founder of Mailbox Club Int'l. He and his wife resigned from their work with the camp in 1984.  
 1985 Samson and Ruth Whisnant began working with Camp Good News  
 1993-2004 Ken Kalback directed the camp  
 2004-06 Cecil and Dorothy Burkett directed Camp Good News; dissolved in 2006

Because of a lawsuit, CBM voted to pull out of teaching in the public schools in 1970. Other avenues of ministry such as The Mailbox Club Int'l, Bible clubs, and retreats were started.

NGM originally was known as Now Generation Ministries until the name was changed to Neighborhood Gospel Missions, Inc. Mrs. Mackey and Rev. Bill Carpenter founded NGM in 1971. NGM camp has been held different years at Camp Stephens, Crawfordville, GA, Camp Indian Springs, Indian Springs, GA and is presently held at Lizella, GA.



From Left to Right

Richard Wood  
 Margaret Meyer  
 Juanita Durham  
 Virginia Tarbox



Left: Samson Whisnant listening to student reciting verses  
 Right: Samson helping with luggage at camp



Samson & Ruth Whisnant and family



Ruth Whisnant teaching a Bible class at Camp Stephens



Sarah Patterson at



## Georgia Branch of CBM continued

During the time of segregation Samson visited mostly black schools. He thoroughly enjoyed the children because they were very open with him. There were approximately 10,000 per month in chapels. Gospels of Johns, New Testaments, story books, Bibles and a free week at Bible camp were awards for learning their Bible verses.

This area began a pilot program with switching from memorizing Bible verses to doing Mailbox Club Bible lessons. Many boys and girls have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and many of these are pastors and church leaders today.

### Testimony from former camper and CBM staff member, Sarah Patterson

It was 1952 and I was 12 years old and in the seventh grade when a classmate told me about the CBM camp.

A few Sundays later, our Sunday School teacher announced a contest based on regular attendance, Bible verses, etc. and the winner would receive a FREE WEEK AT BIBLE CAMP! We worked hard and I and three others in my class earned a week of camp! It was the greatest week of my life!

I continued to attend our GA CBM camp through high school and college, serving as a junior and then a senior counselor. Rev. Kenneth Amsler, CBM General Director, told me at our Tennessee Temple University (TTU) Missions Conference that CBM had camps in other states. I became a college counselor at Camp Gilead, in Polk City, FL the following summer, the end of my freshman year.

By the time I graduated from TTU I knew the Lord was leading me to serve Him with CBM, which I did for almost 10 years. I returned to my alma mater,

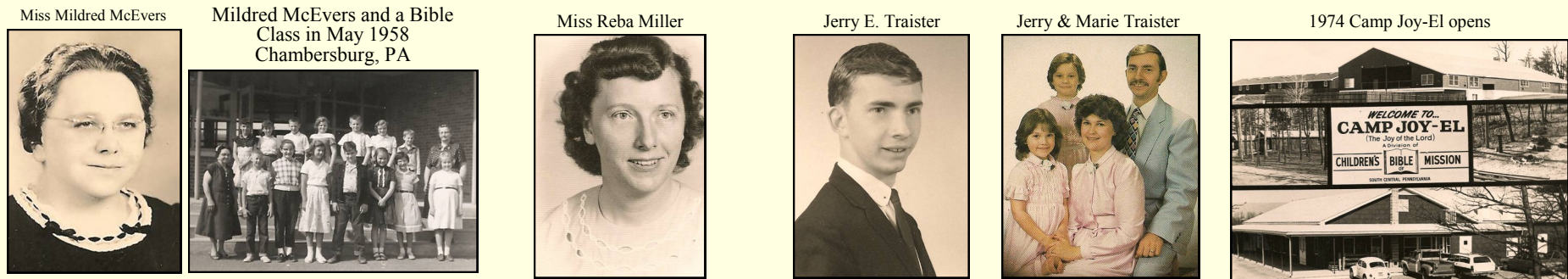
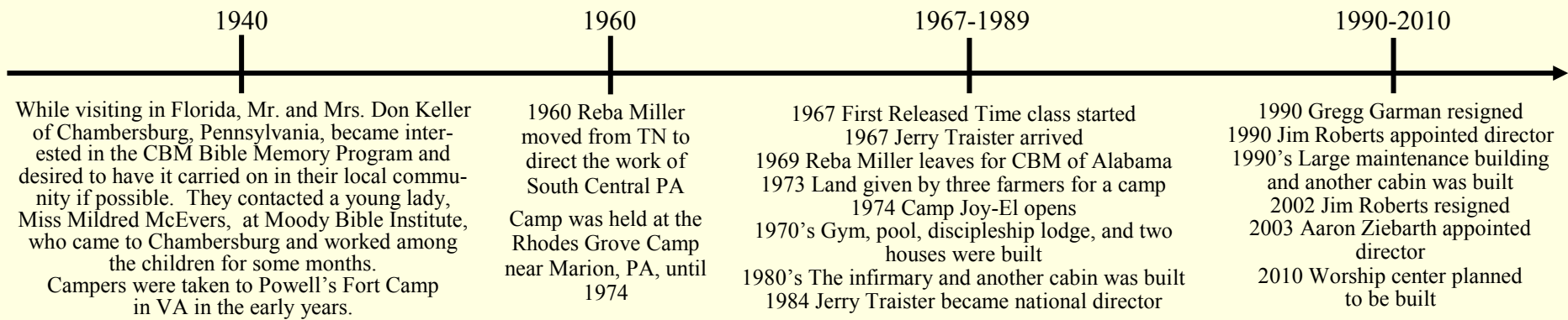
Tennessee Temple University, in 1971, to serve as the librarian, then later at two other Christian colleges. However, through those years in Christian education, I continued a close relationship with CBM, serving on the CBM National Board, and the state boards for Ponderosa Bible Camp in Mentone, North Alabama and Camp Gilead in Polk City, FL. I often spoke at Ponderosa and Gilead as well as the NGM Camp. While I was working in the library at Temple I began *Sarah's Ministry* and used the name in my children's ministry at Temple and at the Highland Park Baptist Church's chapels and area Christian schools. Later, I continued to minister under the name while I was librarian at Toccoa Falls College and for the past 14 years in Neighborhood Gospel Missions.

Because of health problems I had to end my library career in 1995 and thought perhaps my ministry was over. In 1966 Dr. Bill Carpenter, co-founder and president, invited me to work at my own pace with NGM and live in Crawfordville at Mrs. Mackey's former home.

NGM has continued to flourish through the years. We now have our own NGM Camp Bethesda in progress on 40 acres near Lexington, GA and look forward to soon having our first camp there. The local ministry has grown to include missions and mission trips to various countries. I am now retired but remain a part of NGM. I am living at Lanier Gardens Retirement Community, in Athens, GA. I continue with NGM/*Sarah's Ministry* through *Moose Mountain* on the web and as opportunities are given to speak and witness here at Lanier Gardens. Great is His faithfulness during these 52 years of ministry.



Miss Sarah Patterson



## *South Central Pennsylvania Branch of CBM*

A new CBM branch was established and Miss Mildred McEvers was appointed the director. Schools were enrolled in the Bible Memory Program and many of the children completed the 300 verses for camp. Now 5000 children are hearing the Word of God monthly in approximately 30 schools in two counties. Miss McEvers went to be with the Lord, after serving for 17 years with CBM. *"To depart and be with Christ is far better."* The work that she had done will never be fully known in this world, nor the souls she influenced to follow the Lord, but her work will continue to bear fruit for God's glory.

The local committee carried on the work and prayed for another worker to step into the gap.

## *My Time in Franklin County*

**G**arrived in the spring of 1967 after graduating from PBTS, now Davis College. Reba had invited me to serve at Rhodes Grove Camp as counselor for two weeks, and then stay on and help with Released Time. At that point, Kings Street and U. L. Gordy were the only schools that had been opened.

Reba left in the spring of 1969. I had the joy of helping to open six school districts to Released Time. Jim Motter, principal of St. Thomas would go with me to the school board meetings to request permission. What a blessing he was! Pastor Doug Poffenburger was the key player in opening Southern Fulton.

Camp Joy-El was named by Pastor John Springer. The camp opened on July 10, 1974. We broke ground on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and 115 days later, five cabins, a water and sewage plant, plus the main building were finished and ready to be used. Praise the Lord. The building committee was made up of Frank Wingert, Glen Garman, Ralph Michael, Wilbur Fritz, and myself. We met at Sunny Way Diner in Greencastle at 6:30 a.m. on an as-needed basis to keep the project moving.

It was my joy to visit many of the elementary Released Time classes, have devotions with the staff, and then give awards for memory work. I loved to motivate the kids to say Bible verses. To do this, I asked Jim Booher to help me to build a rocket, skyscraper, and a bus, all to encourage the kids to memorize.

John Bayer started the Grapevine Club. What a blessing he was to so many teens and parents. Nancy Fritz was a godsend. No task was too great, from typing to teaching. She ran our closing Released Time programs. Gregg Garman started the Living Miracles Choir, which served teens and parents well. Cathy Garber was a key player in starting and running the Koinonia Club and Autumn Actions. When Marie and I left in 1984, 2500 students were enrolled in weekly Released Time classes. Thirty-two donated buses were used weekly, and 550 volunteers helped every week.

Today, the ministry continues to grow under Aaron Ziebarth. They have three components: Released Time, leadership training, and camping. They are currently running Released Time in 11 counties with an enrollment of 3,254, and a volunteer staff of 1,240. May God continue to provide for them.





*Some of the 2010 Winter Volunteers and Camp Gilead*



# Camp Gilead





1932-1934

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Jensen came to Florida with a great burden to reach lost children with the Gospel of Christ. For two years, they worked alone reaching children through school assemblies, Bible clubs and as they found opened doors.

1935

The first camp took place in a wooded area on a lake 20 miles north of Tampa in August of 1935

1938

The mission purchased the former Polk City Golf Course on Lake Helene for \$1.00, where Camp Gilead now stands. Missionaries and volunteers worked hard to put up ten buildings in four months to accommodate 100 campers!

1943-1945

1943-44 Mr. and Mrs. R.F. Brandkamp were caretakers of the property in the early years  
1944 Miss Nina Briggs joined CBM  
1944 Florida automatically became a division, headquarters at Camp Gilead in Polk City  
1945-48 Mr. Ed Jensen, was the first divisional director

Walter and Marie Jensen and their children



Edith Hulslander teaching



Transportation to CBM camp in the early days



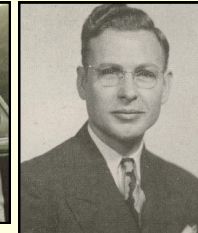
Missionaries and volunteers building a cabin



Mr. and Mrs. R.F. Brandkamp



Ed and Mildred Jensen



## *The History of Camp Gilead, Polk City, Florida*

Children's Bible Mission, of which Camp Gilead was the charter member, had its beginning in the early 1930's. In the fall of 1932, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Jensen came to Florida with a great burden to reach lost children with the Gospel of Christ. For two years, they worked alone reaching children through school assemblies and as they found opened doors. God was clearly opening these doors in response to a weekly prayer meeting for that purpose.

A plan was then presented to some Christian business and professional men: the public school classes would feature a Bible memory program, with a set of awards to be given for verses memorized, the top prize being a free week of camp. Thus, on February 5, 1935, Children's Bible Mission was born in St. Petersburg, and in 1948 built their headquarters at 1628 Gary Road, Lakeland, Florida.

The first camp took place in a wooded area on a lake twenty miles north of Tampa in August, 1935. Dishes and cooking utensils were borrowed from a YMCA, and all supplies had to be brought out from Tampa. Food was also donated,



Early days at Camp Gilead

including fruit and ice cream, and a young calf, which provided meat for the camp. Out of the 47 children who had earned a week of camp, 32 actually attended; and of these, 16 were saved and other important life-decisions were made.

Soon it was clear that bigger and better camp facilities were needed, and a search was begun. At the same time, people were praying specifically for this need and, in answer to prayer in 1938, the mission purchased the former Polk City Golf Course on Lake Helene for \$1.00, where Camp Gilead now stands. Other wonderful provisions included materials and help in constructing the original buildings on the property. Missionaries and volunteers worked hard to put up ten buildings in four months, to accommodate 100 campers! In 1947, Hazel Yeater began working at Camp Gilead, and in 1948 she invited her friend, Edith Hulslander, to come and help with summer camp. When Mr. & Mrs. Ed Jensen moved from the area, "Miss Hazel" and "Miss Edith" became the directors and served there for nearly 50 years.

Over the course of time, there have naturally been many changes. Old buildings had to be replaced by new ones; more buildings had to be built including the chapel, gym, lodge and lakeside pavilion. These buildings, in turn, had to be renovated over time, with air-conditioning installed, etc. Probably the biggest change was that Bible teachers are no longer permitted to go to public school assemblies with the Gospel as they had once been allowed to do.





1947-1949

1947 Little chapel built with lumber given by Walter Jensen  
 1947 Hazel Yeater joined CBM  
 March 1948 Ed Jensen resigned as director  
 1948 Edith Hulslander joined CBM  
 1949 Cabin # 7 was built by staff and volunteers  
 March of 1949 "Strawberry schools" were on summer session  
 and camp was conducted for these children.  
 1949-50 Raymond and Ruth Yeater joined CBM expanding  
 the work to Lake and Pasco Counties

1950-1952

1950 Construction of boys cabin #3 and girls  
 cabin #8, and sand traps and brush cleared  
 1950 Margaret Cameron took over the work in  
 Lake and Pasco Counties  
 1951 Anne Bell and Elsie Scott joined CBM  
 and helped spread the work to Orange and  
 Seminole Counties  
 1952 Reba Thompson joined CBM; she and Anne  
 Bell moved to North Florida area.  
 1952 Lettye Baker joined CBM; worked with  
 Elsie Scott in Hillsborough County

1953-1955

1954 New dining hall built  
 1954 New office built  
 1954 Mr. & Mrs. Buckman, on leave from Brazil for three years,  
 started working with the Bible clubs that began in Lakeland, FL.  
 1954 Camps for every age group began at Gilead to help  
 supplement the winter club work.  
 1954 Evelyn Alder and Louise Wilcoxon joined CBM and worked  
 in north Pinellas, west Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties  
 1955 Mrs. Erva Hyde joined CBM and worked in Polk County

Edith and Hazel



Old and new cabins



Raymond and Ruth Yeater



Anne Bell



Reba Thompson



Elsie Scott



Lettye Baker



Flag raising at dining hall



First Camp Gilead office in 1954

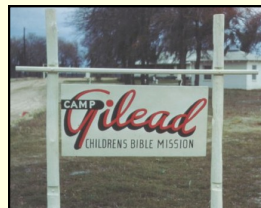


## Camp Gilead 1961-1980

Throughout the 60's and 70's Camp Gilead experienced continual change and growth. The problems affecting work in the public schools compelled the diversification and a reaching out to other areas with additional programs of getting the Word of God and His message to young people.

Additional weeks of camp were added to reach more teenagers and also to include those not able to earn camp through CBM programs. The camp follow-up program was increased to add to the continuing correspondence programs; a work-camper program for ninth and tenth graders, a junior counselor training program for eleventh and twelfth graders, and a senior training program for the college counselors. Florida Bible Memory and Mailbox Club programs were carried on in private schools, churches, after school clubs, and through a telephone ministry. Other clubs were held for teenagers as well as a teen rally held at camp each month. Personnel included nine CBM workers, four full time volunteers at camp, plus many other part time volunteers.

In the winter of 1969, a large group of "retirees" from Berne, Indiana came to help us with various winter projects, and that started a valuable ministry which continues to this day. This group has grown to include volunteers from Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, New York and other states as well as Indiana. We are truly blessed to have these willing servants here each winter. They have made possible the accelerated building program.



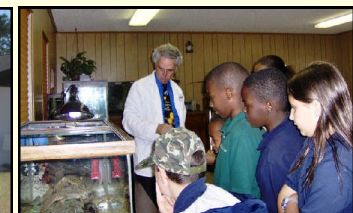
The 60's and 70's brought not only changes to our programming, but also to our facilities. Some of the projects completed during that time included: an air-conditioned chapel seating 300, enlarged dining hall to seat 200, gym, craft building, offices, several new cabins, and other buildings.

## 1981-Present

So much has happened at Camp Gilead since 1981. Our lodge was completed down by the lake. A new ministry called, "Creation Critters" has been developed by Ron Yeater and is growing. As in all years that the camp has been in existence, God has used the ministries of Camp Gilead to reach into the hearts of kids and change their lives. *"Changing lives — one heart at a time"* is our motto, and this is what Camp Gilead is all about. Faces and families have come and gone over the past 75 years, but each staff member has played a vital part in the lives of all the kids who have been changed here.



Lake lodge—10 bedrooms and conference room



Ron Yeater with "Creation Critters"

1956-1957

1956 New girls cabin was built and cabin #3, which was destroyed by fire, was replaced  
1957 Another boys cabin built

1958-1967

1958 New chapel was built  
1958 Nine full weeks of summer camp  
1960 Nina Briggs, our longest time Florida worker, celebrates 15 years with CBM. She covered a large territory around Lake Ochochobee and across the coast of Florida.  
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Krug, Mr. and Mrs. Art Yohner and Mrs. John S. Smith joined CBM as associates.  
1967 Gym was built.

1968-1979

1968 Anne Bell and Reba Thompson acquired the first "Rolling Chapel"  
1969 Winter volunteer program began  
1973 Offices were built onto the chapel  
1979 Chapel was expanded and pews were purchased

1980-1989

1981 Lake lodge and shop built  
1984-85 Dale McCauley served as camp director  
1986 Camp director's house built  
1986 Ron and Sherry Yeater joined CBM; Ron appointed camp director

New double cabins



Nina Briggs



New chapel 1958



Chapel expanded 1979



Lake Lodge five bedrooms and conference room



Ron and Sherry Yeater



## *"Changing Lives—One Heart at a Time" Reaches Russia!*



Leon Fisher

I grew up in a non-Christian home in Springfield, Missouri. At the age of 11, my father passed away. It was at that time that I began having questions about spiritual things. The problem was that I didn't know where to go for answers. When I was 14, my family moved to a small city in Florida called Polk City. Just up the road from our home was a Christian camp (Camp Gilead). Without my knowing it, my mother looked into the camp and actually enrolled me in that summer's first week of camp, teen camp. When she told me I was going, I informed her that I was NOT! After a long argument, I agreed to go for one week if she NEVER made me go again. She

agreed.

That first week of camp was quite an eye-opener. I finally got the answers I was looking for! That very first night of camp, outside Cabin 4 South with my counselor Mark Stewart, I received Christ as my Personal Savior. My mother was quite shocked when I came home Saturday and said I was going back to camp on Monday to work in the kitchen the rest of the summer. Ms. Hazel had offered me a job in the kitchen. When I returned to camp on Monday, Ms. Edith took me in her office and explained that she would like me to be in a different Bible class each of the remaining 7 weeks of camp. It was the best discipleship program I could have had!

The next summer I returned to camp and worked in the kitchen. That summer I met the youth pastor of a local church in Lakeland, Florida (we had moved to Lakeland by that time). I began attending the youth group and church; and the next year was baptized.

I continued working at camp during the summers; first as a kitchen worker, then as a junior counselor and finally as a senior counselor during college (that "one week" turned into eight summers!). It was at camp that I met so many missionaries. I was greatly impressed by their ministries and calling. In January of my senior year of high school, I publicly surrendered my life to serve the Lord on the mission field.

After graduating from Bible College and Seminary, I served the Lord in Russia for 12 years. I started a youth group in an established Russian church. One of the main instruments the Lord used to bring teens to Himself was....can you guess?... CAMP! I organized and led 10 summers of camp in Russia; and basically reproduced Camp Gilead! We did everything the way we did it at Camp Gilead, only in Russian! We saw many young people come to Christ at camp and then disciplined in the youth group during the school year. I trained some of those young people and eventually began handing my responsibilities and ministries over to them.

In 2006 the government forced me to leave Russia. I was crushed. They would not let me return for 2 years and even now I am only able to get a visa for 30 days at a time. They were under the assumption that if I were not there, the youth ministry would die (anything outside of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia is considered a "cult"). The joke, however, was on them! I had already turned my responsibilities and ministry over to the young people (some of whom were 13 and 14 when they were saved at camp, but now were in their early 20's). They took the reins and ran with them!

Today, the ministry in Russia is thriving! Those young people have taken the ministry farther than I ever could have. The first young man who came to Christ at our very first camp at the age of 15, is now a pastor and one of his best friends (who trusted Christ at our second camp) is now the youth pastor at the church.

On June 15, 2005, it was 29 years since I received Christ at Camp Gilead on the bench outside of Cabin 4 south. Praise the Lord for the ministry of Camp Gilead USA and Camp Gilead RUSSIA!



1990-1994

1990 Scott and Joy Hirdes joined CBM  
1991-97 Cathy Garber moved to Camp Gilead from the National Office  
1993 Gazebo built  
1994 Chuck and Bobby Kinser join CBM;  
Chuck appointed executive director  
1994 Miss Edith Hulslander and Miss Hazel Yeater officially retired

1995-2002

1995 Picnic pavilion addition was built  
1995 David and Kerry Campbell joined CBM. David worked in maintenance department  
1997 Mini golf course was built  
1998 Rowe Plaza between chapel and classrooms built  
2000 Gym game pavilion built

2003-2004

2003 Construction of apartment triplex began but was interrupted by hurricanes, and complete in 2005  
2003 Miss Hazel Yeater went to be with the Lord  
2004 Dining Hall was remodeled in memory of Miss Hazel  
2004 Four hurricanes swept over Camp Gilead. Nearly every roof needed repaired, lodge rooms repaired, remodeled and new furniture purchased



Picnic pavilion addition



Gazebo



Mini Golf



Gym and game pavilion



Remodeled dining hall in memory of Miss Hazel Yeater



### *"Changing Lives—One Heart at a Time" changed a family:*



The Board family

**K**aren Edscorn Board first attended Camp Gilead in the summer of 1969. Although her parents were not Christians at the time, Karen's third grade teacher was a believer and encouraged her students to memorize Bible verses. Once a month, two ladies from CBM would come to the school and would give prizes to students who memorized verses. The grand prize for memorizing 200 verses was a free week of Camp Gilead, which Karen earned that year.

Karen's counselor that week was Diane Wilson, and she can remember the joy in her life and in the other counselor. They were always cheerful and singing songs, and Karen wanted the joy they had. Each evening at camp, the speaker used Gospel magic and an amazing flannel graph program to make the Gospel message clear. Missions were also clearly promoted at camp. On Wednesday night, the campers were challenged – would they walk to the front of the chapel and answer the call, "Lord, send me"? Karen went forward that night and prayed to receive Christ as her Savior and to serve Him wherever in the world He wanted her.

When Karen returned home at the end of the week, her mother noticed a change. Not long after, Karen's mother received Christ while listening to Billy Graham on the radio. In the following summers, Karen's brothers and sister attended camp and one-by-one became Christians as well. For Karen, most of her early discipleship was through CBM's Bible Correspondence Program and

by attending camp each summer.

Camp Gilead had a significant impact on Karen's life as a teenager. By that time, she was working at Camp Gilead as a kitchen worker and then as a junior counselor. She was going to public high school and the temptation to "fit in" with the crowd was high. However, the spiritual lessons that Karen learned at camp helped to keep her moral compass in the right direction. Karen remembers one specific week at camp and having devotions with Leah Everett. Leah's quiet and Godly spirit, along with the Word of God that she shared, pierced Karen's heart and convicted her of her rebellious spirit. That was a turning point in Karen's life, and from that point on she was determined to serve God with her whole heart. She also renewed her commitment to serve on the mission field.

Karen attended Camp Gilead as a camper for six years, as a kitchen worker and junior counselor for four years, and then served for two summers as a senior counselor and head counselor during her college years. At Camp Gilead, she not only was discipled and grounded in the Word of God, but she also learned how to share her faith. She will forever be grateful to Miss Edith, Miss Hazel and to all of the counselors and workers who sacrificially gave of themselves at Camp Gilead.

For the past 10 years, Karen and her husband have served in China—the commitment she made 40 years ago came to fruition. Her two older children, Daniel and Melody, have also served at camp in recent years as kitchen workers and counselors.

2005-2006

2005 Gary and Connie Simpson join CBM; Gary appointed executive director  
 2006 Apartments 10 and 11 remodeled by winter volunteers  
 2006 Local mobile home park donated two large homes and equipment  
 2006 Scott and Debi Simpson join CBM  
 2006 Cabins updated; new windows, tile floor, and painted

2007-2009

2008 Counselor's lounge and canteen remodeled and transformed into Café Oasis  
 2008 Scott Simpson appointed as camp director  
 2008 Chapel chairs purchased making the chapel multi purpose  
 2008 Offices remodeled with donated cubicles  
 2008 Matt and Heidi Monroe join CBM  
 2008 Ben and Sandy Johnson join CBM

2010

2010 Process began to ceramic tile the cabin floors  
 2010 Miss Edith Hulslander went to be with the Lord



Gary and Connie Simpson



Apartments 10 and 11



Scott and Debi Simpson



Café Oasis (old canteen)



Cabins were given a face-lift with ceramic tile



After hearing all of the fun stories from her older sister Karen, **Heidi Edscorn Monroe** couldn't wait to be old enough to attend Camp Gilead. She got her chance when she was nine years old, and it was during that very first week when Heidi realized that Jesus died for her. She was saved Tuesday night after chapel services with her junior counselor Elizabeth McBride. That was just the beginning of the tremendous part that Camp Gilead would play in her life.

Heidi attended Camp Gilead as a summer camper for the next five years. She also attended Bible studies in Lakeland over the years with camp workers Emily Dewey and Holly Anderson, and completed the entire set of Bible lessons. When Heidi was in junior high, she worked in the kitchen under Miss Hazel. At the age of 14, Heidi was baptized in Lake Helene by her pastor. That year she dedicated her life to do whatever the Lord would want of her. Heidi served as a junior and senior counselor through high school and two years of college.

After graduating from nursing school, Heidi substituted as camp nurse for a few weeks each summer as needed. In 1992, she spent the entire summer as camp nurse. What a neat experience to give back to the camp that had played such a role in her spiritual growth as a young person. Over the next 12 years, Heidi volunteered as camp nurse each summer. Her family grew up spending each summer out at Camp Gilead.

Matt, Heidi, Rachel, and Andrew have spent time working with summer camps and retreats, performing house-keeping duties, writing policies, kitchen worker, counseling, maintenance, and helping wherever they were needed. The Monroe family praises the Lord for the opportunity to serve God at Camp Gilead.

## Camp Gilead 2010 Staff



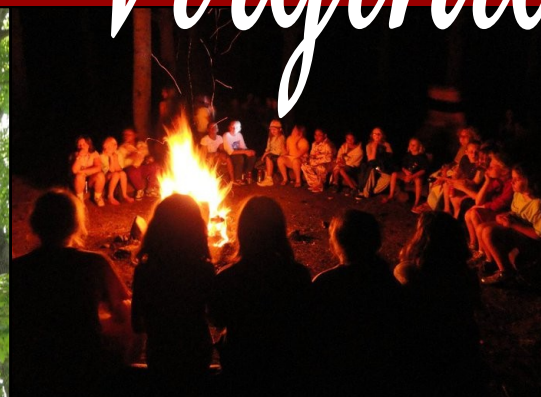
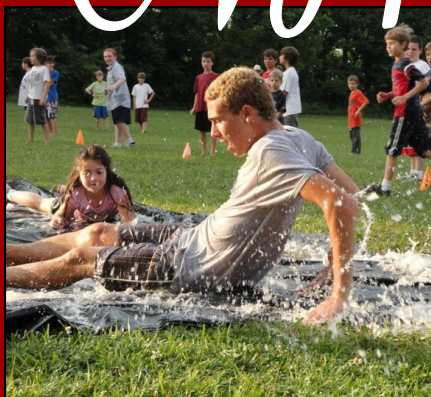
Back: Ron Yeater, Ben Johnson, Matt Monroe, Joe Greer, Scott Simpson, Gary Simpson

Front: Sherry Yeater, Sandy Johnson, Heidi Monroe, Jill Johnson, Debi Simpson, Connie Simpson



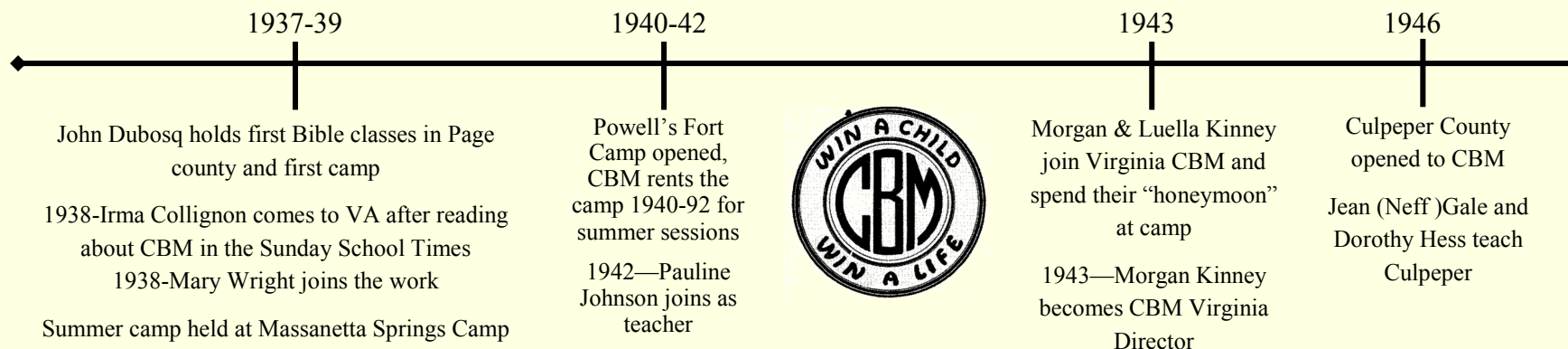


# CBM of Virginia





## *Faithful Foundations—First 35 Years*



In 1937, shadowed by the Blue Ridge Mountains, an enterprising pastor gathered four girls and one boy for a week of camp. The six children had learned 300 Bible verses to earn camp. One boy refused to come because he could not chew tobacco at camp.

Rev. John Dubosq had been teaching Bible lessons at 19 schools. His need of help led Miss Irma Collignon and Miss Mary Wright to join the work after reading about it in the Sunday School Times. Soon, a team of teachers were bringing the gospel to over 8000 students in six counties.



*Virginia CBM Workers, 1957*  
(L-R) Pauline Johnson, Jean Gale, Mary Wright, Luella Kinney, Irma Collignon, Morgan Kinney, Helen Johnson



*Jean (Neff) Gale on her first day of teaching, 1946*



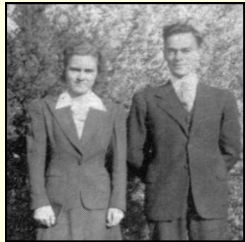
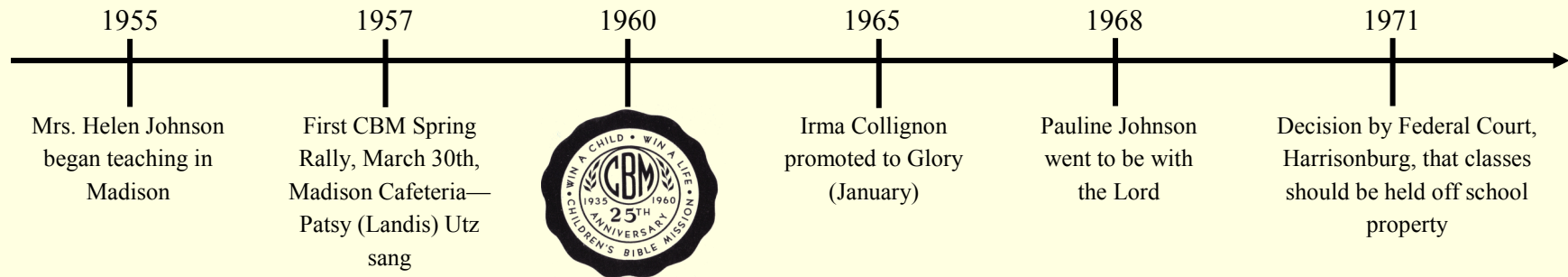
*CBM offered Vacation Bible Schools at the rural schools*

### *A Testimony*

*The Lord used CBM to bring this child's heart to Him. How I enjoyed the Bible teaching of Mrs. Gale! I was highly motivated to memorize my verse and participate in the correspondence course. Then in 1971 at CBM camp, I made my profession of faith in Christ. Thanks to all of you who continue the ministry. You are planting seeds that have eternal rewards! M. Tolson (Shared at [www.cbmofvirginia.com](http://www.cbmofvirginia.com))*



## Faithful Foundations—First 35 Years



*The Kinneys, 1943*

### *The Kinney's*

Morgan and Luella Kinney met at the Providence Bible Institute in Rhode Island. A letter came to the Institute asking for help with the CBM work in Virginia.

Morgan visited at Easter time of his senior year, taught a Bible lesson in a school, and preached in the Church of Solsburg, which was the outgrowth of Miss Collignon and Miss Wright's CBM work. A call to serve was accepted. Morgan and Luella were married on June 15, 1943 and moved to Virginia in time for Summer Camp.



*Irma Collignon*



*Mary Wright*



*Drawing from Virginia CBM Newsletter, 1941*

### *Camp at Powell's Fort*



*Camp meetings were fun and challenging.*

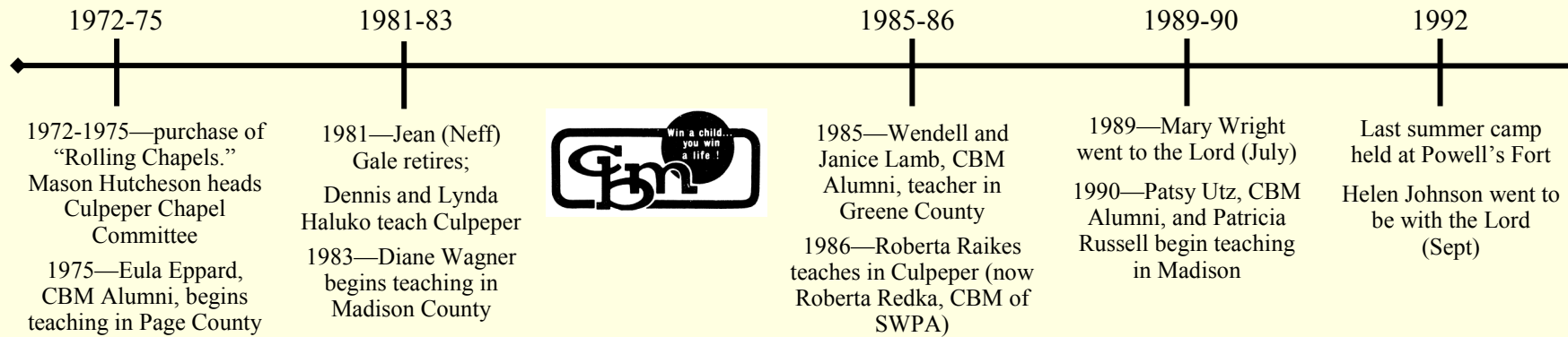


*Campers in prayer, 1960*



*Until 1967, Virginia schools were segregated.*

## Remaining Faithful in Times of Change—1972-2006



In 1940, CBM campers were the first to use the U.S. Forest Service’s “Powell’s Fort Camp.” Campers sang Bible songs to government officials at its dedication. The memories of bats, gnats, snakes, and spiders cannot dampen the enthusiasm of generations of CBM Campers when they speak of Powell’s Fort. Fond recollections are many: chapel, devotions, Bible study, and missionary time. Chief Atwood and Crafts, Mrs. Carpenter’s homemade rolls, long hikes to the fire tower and to see “The Springs” softball and volleyball games, and swimming in the pool.



*The Atwood’s were well-loved speakers.*

shared their testimony of a life changed for eternity by a week of camp.

Most importantly, all tell of evenings spent in fireside glow, where they



*Fireside service, 1961*



*Who can forget the night buckets?*

### A Fun Reward

“Uncle Dick” and “Aunt Sue” Stoeck brought their tent to Powell’s Fort each year they were camp speakers.

The campers who memorized the most verses were rewarded by nights spent sleeping in it.



*Volleyball games were popular.*



*The Tee Pee*



## Remaining Faithful in Times of Change—1972-2006



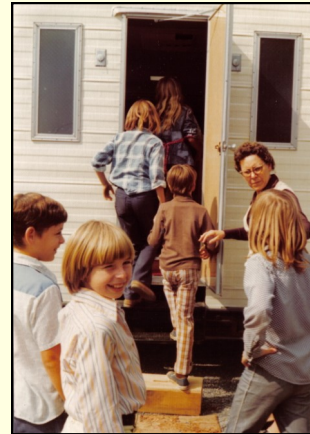
Cullen Rast and wife Janet,

### Testimony of J. Cullen Rast

(Missionary to Brazil 40+ years)

*When I was in the 4th grade my family moved from South Carolina to Virginia. I am eternally thankful to the Lord for this because it was in Virginia that the Bible Teachers from Children's Bible Mission came to our school. Not only were they excellent teachers, but they encouraged us to memorize scripture so we could go to camp FOR FREE.*

*With the help of my mother I learned 300 verses that year and earned my week of camp at Powell's Fort, near Woodstock, VA. I think that might have been the best week of my life up until that time. It was the first time I had met a real-life missionary. Camp was so good that I returned every year for all my grade school, then high school where I was a Jr. counselor and then when in college as a counselor. It was there that I met Janet, my wife, it was there that I felt the call to go to Bible College and where I heard the call to the mission field.*



Students enter the Rolling Chapel



Eula Eppard taught for 33 years in Page

In 1971, a Federal District Court ruled that Bible classes must be held off school property. This brought a time of labor and faith equal to the founding of the ministry. The Lord proved faithful as He supplied funds to purchase and outfit portable classrooms. He gave favor with property owners, school officials, and parents. By 1975, Released Time Bible classes were offered in Madison, Culpeper, Page, Rappahannock and Greene Counties.

As original workers retired or passed on, a new generation, some who had attended CBM classes themselves, answered the Lord's call to faithfully reach Virginia's Children.



Wendell & Janice Lamb built a chapel in Greene County

## Remaining Faithful in Times of Change



### A New Generation of Workers:



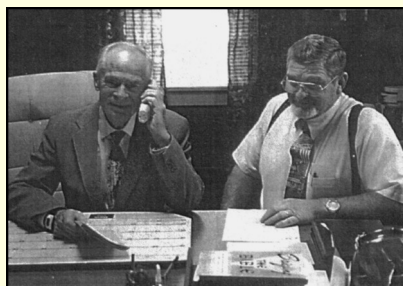
Diane Wagner replaced Helen Johnson



Patricia Russell became CBM Treasurer



Patsy Utz at a Rally (1990's)



Morgan Kinney, with Board Member Roger Baker, recording a story for the new Storytime Ministry



Chaz Campbell in Culpeper's "Bible Bus."



Mason Hutcheson with campers

### Mason Hutcheson

In 1960, Mason first served CBM as a Camp Counselor. In 1972, when Bible classes could no longer be held in the school building, Jean Gale asked Mason if he would head a committee to raise funds to purchase a mobile classroom, affectionately dubbed "The Rolling Chapel." That first Culpeper Chapel was dedicated in 1972. Mason became Virginia's CBM Director from 1995-2005.



## A Future of Faithfulness

2009

First CBM picnic held at  
Camp Red Arrow  
Troy & Annie Thacker begin  
teaching in Orange County

2010

Septic and wastewater permit  
granted for Camp Red Arrow



“...Telling to the generation to come the  
praises of the LORD...”



### New Camp Opportunities



Donors tour a cabin. In Photo: Board Member,  
Mason Hutcheson (cap)

In June 2007, CBM of Virginia received a gift of a 48-acre property in Culpeper County known as Camp Red Arrow. It is being developed for use as our own camp home.

The camp includes a large swimming pool and several existing buildings, including a dining hall and three cabins. When renovated, having our own camp will provide Virginia CBM wider ministry opportunities for the children, youth and families.

The first official event, a picnic for supporters, was held in August, 2009. By the Lord's faithful provision, Camp Red Arrow will be open for Summer Camp 2011.

### New Released Time Opportunities



Reaching today's generation for Christ

After 35 years without CBM classes, concerns about parking, electrical hookups, and scheduling are finally being overcome in Orange County. In 2007, the school board voted to allow CBM to offer Bible classes at one school. Now, CBM of Virginia is offering classes at three schools. We hope to open even more classes, in both Orange county and in surrounding counties.

The population of central Virginia has changed dramatically in the last 73 years. Children no longer lead the isolated, rural lives they once did. Classes are more ethnically diverse, with many Hispanic and Asian immigrants. Yet, boys and girls today are just as eager and excited to attend Bible classes, earn awards for scripture memory, and spend a week at summer camp to hear and respond to the Good News of Christ. Children's Bible Ministries of Virginia remains committed to faithfully reaching these children.



# *A Future of Faithfulness-Camp Red Arrow*

## *Faithful Laborers*



*Dining Hall is 65% complete*



*Entrance and road into the camp*



## *Current Virginia Workers*

(L-R) Patsy Utz, Perry Utz (Director), Patricia Russell, Troy Thacker, Annie Thacker, Diane Wagner, Wendell Lamb, Joyce Turner, Laura Burt, Kenny Burt, & Chris Hansen.  
Missing are Janice Lamb & Dottie Hansen



*3 Cabins 90% Complete*



*Pool 60% Complete*



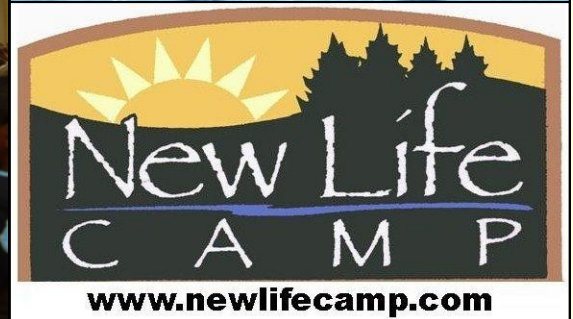
*Shower House 85% Complete*



Psalm 78:4

*“...Telling to the generation to come  
the praises of the LORD...”*







1937-48

The Charlotte, North Carolina, branch of CBM was under the direction of Miss Lucy Peet and Miss Strauss. They, too, learned of the work through the article in the *Sunday School Times*.

Mrs. W. B. Sample joined CBM.

1948 Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Johnson were transferred to North Carolina and Mr. Johnson was appointed divisional director.

1949-54

1950 CBM used the camp, which was later bought and named New Life Camp, for their summer ministry.

Miss Margaret Turner joined CBM and located in Statesville, North Carolina, where Miss Joy Stiver was located since 1950.

1955

A beautiful 68 acre wooded camp site near Raleigh, complete with recreation area, large tabernacle, dining room, cabins, swimming pond and other camp facilities was purchased in 1955.

1955-1959

1955 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Webber moved from the Tennessee branch to help with growing ministry in North Carolina

1955 Miss Grace Garthwaite joined CBM to work in Robeson county with the Lumbee Indians

1955 Mr. and Mrs. George E. Hunt joined CBM

Miss Joy Stiver



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, Sr (Marge)



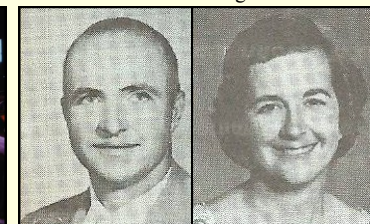
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Weber (Fran)



Miss Grace Garthwaite with Lumbee campers



Mr. and Mrs. George E. Hunt



## CBM of North Carolina—New Life Camp

Almost simultaneously with the establishment of the Virginia branch, another one was coming into being in Charlotte, North Carolina, under the direction of Miss Lucy Peet and Miss Strauss. They, too, learned of the work through the article in the *Sunday School Times*. Miss Peet and Miss Strauss were experienced children's workers and had been laboring among the mountain children. A local committee was formed and a most effective ministry was carried on in the schools and summer camps in that area for many years. Mrs. W. B. Sample was one of the early school visitors and later Miss Margaret Turner came into the work. She was stationed at Statesville, where Miss Joy Stiver was located.

In 1948, after serving three and a half years in Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Johnson were transferred to North Carolina and Mr. Johnson was appointed divisional director. In addition to this and other related responsibilities, he had completed his eighth year of broadcasting a weekly children's program over a Raleigh radio station.

More help was needed. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Weber answered God's call and came to North Carolina in 1955 from the Tennessee division. Under the blessing of God more counties were opened to CBM ministry.

A beautiful 68 acre wooded camp site near Raleigh, complete with recreation area, large tabernacle, dining room, cabins, swimming pond and other camp facilities, was purchased in 1955. The original cost of this camp was \$35,000, but it was offered to CBM for \$12,000.

Faithful prayer helpers, vitally interested in the salvation of boys and girls had, through prayer and gifts, made many improvements possible. Much of the labor itself was done by Mr. Johnson and his workers. In the summer of 1959 over 800 children attended New Life Camp. More than 1400 were eligible to attend in 1960.

Another phase of CBM ministry in North Carolina was the work among the Lumbee Indians. An Indian believer, Mrs. Thomas Blue, burdened for the lost boys and girls of her race, communicated with the general director. After much prayer and contacts with proper authorities, this whole area was opened to CBM work. By 1960 Miss Grace Garthwaite was reaching over 12,000 Indians each month in 17 consolidated schools with the Word of Life.



Miss Grace Garthwaite teaching the Lumbee Indians

Six missionaries were contacting over 40,000 children in the public schools in 16 counties of North Carolina.

Prayer was answered for additional workers. Mr. and Mrs. George E. Hunt, experienced workers, were approved by the board of directors and located in the Charlotte area.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blue and daughter and Mrs. Venus Brooks of Robeson Co., NC



1960	1961-1962	1974-1976	1977-1979
<p>Public school chapels began. Camp weeks were filled.</p> <p>Mr. Bob Sr. worked tirelessly at the camp with his wife, Miss Marge, who was the camp cook and was known for her excellent meals.</p>	<p>1961 Bob Jr. and his wife, Debbie, became full-time workers and Bob began visiting schools with Bruce Weber.</p> <p>1962 A week of camp cost \$20.00.</p> <p>1962 The first week for teenagers was started. Rev. David Virkler from New Jersey was the speaker. Dave continued to speak for 26 more fruitful years.</p>	<p>1974 Ministry at the North Carolina state fair began.</p> <p>1975 Winterization of the dining hall was a huge project completed this year.</p> <p>1976 Telephone ministry for Robeson county, among the Lumbee Indians, began under Miss Grace Garthwaite.</p>	<p>1978 After a lingering illness Bob Johnson, Sr. was called home to be with the Lord.</p> <p>1979 The tabernacle at camp was completely remodeled and winterized.</p>

Bob and Marge Johnson



Bob Johnson, Jr. in schools



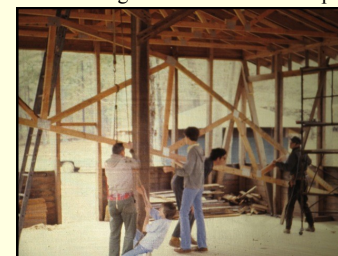
Bob Johnson, Ivan Dickens and Dave Virkler



North Carolina State Fair Ministry



Remodeling the Tabernacle at camp



## Growth and Change at New Life Camp

### Testimony from a Pastor:

*"I never thought New Life Camp could influence me so. When I was nine years old, I attended camp and continued for the next nine years. I shall never forget when we were challenged to give our lives to full-time service to the Lord. It was the last night of camp and I was one of those who stood holding a candle signifying my willingness to give Christ my life in full-time service. Now it is hard to believe that the Lord would call me to pastor within a mile of this same camp."*

### Testimony from a missionary to South Africa:

*"New Life Camp has always been a special place to me, attending after second grade through the end of college, missing only two weeks. It was through the influence of NLC that I came to know the Lord. There God developed a heart for missions in me. God confirmed in my husband Steve, and my heart, that He wanted us in missions which has now been for over 20 years. I am eternally grateful for New Life Camp."*

Jan Trostle



Steve and Jan Trostle,  
Capetown, So. Africa

### The Impact of New Life Camp

New Life Camp serves as a "city on a hill" in the greater Raleigh area. As we grow and more and more people hear about us, God is using New Life Camp to draw these people to Himself. We have seen countless children come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ since New Life Camp's inception: countless because some we will not know until we see them in heaven. We have seen kids of all ages catch a fire for God during their time here. As a result we have seen wandering kids come in, and future preachers, missionaries, and full-time ministers leave.

I cannot count the number of times I have had a conversation with a cashier, a mechanic, or just an everyday encounter when that person has told me that they were a NLC camper, and it changed their lives. Finally, when you share the love of Jesus Christ with children, you're going to draw the attention of those children's parents. We have seen parents and family members accept Christ at camp, as well as kids going home and winning their families for Christ. God has used CBM to change Raleigh, and will continue to do so in the future.



By Aaron Miller, Staff

1980-1983

1981 Dave and Kathy Johnson joined CBM  
1983 Construction work on a log cabin began for the purpose of housing additional staff  
1983 The day camp program under the leadership of Amy Crutchfield (later know as Amy Martin) began. The first year the small group met in the unfinished log cabin.

1986

Bobby Johnson met Page Olive at camp and were married in 1986. Page became our RN that year, and later they became full-time with CBM. Bobby became a third generation CBM missionary.

1990

Miss Joy Stiver was honored for 40 years of service for the Lord in Raleigh, Iredell county, and Lumberton. Miss Joy has been a faithful servant of the Lord.

1996

The camp went on the internet with a web page named [www.newlifecamp.com](http://www.newlifecamp.com)  
Hurricane Fran left her mark on the camp; over 2000 trees fell

1997-1999

1997 Two additions were added to camp program: giant water slide, and a ten element low ropes course  
1997 Ground breaking for new gymnasium  
1999 A week of camp was added for home schooled children

Dave and Kathy Johnson



First week of Day Camp



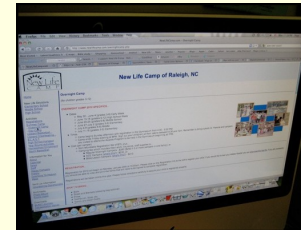
Bobby and Page Johnson



Miss Joy Stiver



[www.newlifecamp.com](http://www.newlifecamp.com)



Water slide



Low ropes



## Growth and Change at New Life Camp

Additional staff was needed as the ministry of New Life Camp continued to grow. Dave and Kathy Johnson joined the full-time staff in 1981. Since Dave grew up at New Life, the son of Mr. Bob Sr., he was a big help. He, along with his wife, Kathy, helped with the programs and Miss Joy Stiver was the efficient office lady. Dave now serves as the camp director for Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go, in Watauga, Tennessee; the camp his father and mother began their ministry with Children's Bible Mission in 1944.

During the early years of 1980 the Lord was also preparing two more young workers for the ministry. Bobby Johnson, the son of Bob, Jr. also grew up at New Life. He met Page Olive, a camper, and they were married in 1986. Bobby serves as maintenance and help in the kitchen and Page serves as the resident RN since 1986. Bobby is the first 3rd generation CBM Missionary.



Bobby Johnson working on a filter

Hurricane Fran paid a visit to Raleigh and left her mark on New Life Camp in 1996. Many of the camp buildings were damaged, power was off for nine days and about 2,000 trees fell on the property the night of the storm. Our insurance did not cover any of the losses, but God was gracious and provided for our needs.

### Testimony from a former Robeson County camper:

*"Although I was already saved when I came to NLC, I saw and experienced for the first time what the lifestyle of a believer ought to be like. I fully surrendered the control of my life to God at NLC."* David Hunt

### Testimony from a mother:

*"The summer of 1960 was my first year to spend a week at camp. All I had ever heard about going to heaven was based on your being good enough to go. It was at a campfire that I heard the truth and asked Christ into my heart that night. It was at camp that I learned that being a Christian is a daily walk. What I received from camp has gone with me through life."* Pam Miller



Aaron, Andrew, Pam, and Nathaniel Miller—all grew up at New Life Camp (God was preparing yet more young workers for New Life Camp!)



2000-2001

2000 Dedication of new gym and the 50th anniversary of New Life Camp held on May 19th  
2001 Mrs. Marge Johnson, a faithful servant, went to be with the Lord  
2001 Aaron Miller joined CBM

2002-2004

2002 First Upward Basketball/Cheerleading program began with 130 participating  
2003 Nathaniel Miller joined CBM  
2004 A necessary conference center and guest lodge were built  
2004 BLAST (Becoming light and salt together), Bible study for middle school age kids began

2005

Trisha Price joined CBM.  
Daily devotions, written by full-time and summer staff, began on the camp website. Many people from around the world have checked out this site.  
Camp attendance reached 1462.



50th anniversary of New Life



Aaron Miller with teens



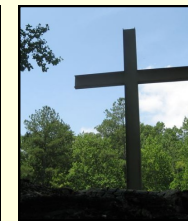
First Upward Basketball program



BLAST Bible study



Camp fire sight



Campers having Bible study and chapel time



## *Time Changes Things — Programs and Staff*

### *A bitter-sweet disappointment!*

With our need for more workable space for soccer fields and other activities, we became aware of land across the road that was for sale. We alerted our mailing list of this opportunity and asked the Lord for His will. We set a figure of contributions to be given by a certain date which would show us God's leading. When that time came, we had not quite received the set amount. We knew that God had shut the door. Later we found out that the land would not have been suitable for our use. God knows what is best for our needs even before we ask Him.

### *Salvation at Upward Basketball*

Recently during my 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Upward practice, I gave a devotion from God's Word. As soon as the devotion was finished, one of my players came up and said that he had never asked Jesus to come into his heart and wanted to do it. He bowed his head and, in his own words, asked Jesus to save him from his sins. I prayed for him as well. This was not a sudden thing that happened with him. He had attended a week of Day Camp this past summer and had heard the Word of God every week at Upward practice. He was soaking it all in to the point that when he grasped it, it was clear that the Holy Spirit was drawing him to salvation. It is amazing to see how God uses the programs at NLC to ultimately reach lost children.

### *New Life Camp in Kenya?*

God has been leading towards a children's camp on the Kenyan island of Mfangano. Bobby and Page Johnson have been going on mission trips to this area since 2001, preaching the Gospel and helping them start new churches. In 2008, they took their children, Caleb and Tamara, who taught Bible stories to the students at five schools. Kenyan Pastor Joshua Nyicula said, "I think I am seeing a 'New Life Camp' in Kenya [for the future]. I see with Caleb and Tamara how God can work in the life of young people". They have been prayerfully seeking God's guidance as well as the guidance of New Life Camp, Raleigh, as help is given to achieve that vision. It looks like it will start with a school chapel program. Please pray for guidance in this great future opportunity.



Bobby Johnson in Kenya 2005

2006-2008

2006 Storm, a girls' varsity basketball team, began playing other varsity teams. After much prayer, a gym/pool fund was established to build a second gym and outdoor pool.

2008 Shelly Levin joined CBM.

2008 Sarah Benton, secretary, began working with CBM

2009-2010

2009 Two new interns; BeckyLee Briggs and Sean Hefner

2009 Construction on the second gym and the outdoor pool began

2010 Completion of second gym and outdoor pool

STORM—Girls' varsity basketball team



Second gym and outdoor pool



Completed gym and outdoor pool



*Proverbs 3: 5,6*

*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not, unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."*

## *New Life Camp Staff 2010*



**Back row left to right**

Nathaniel Miller, Aaron Miller, Shelley Levin, Debbie Johnson, Bob Johnson, Sean Hefner, BeckyLee Briggs, Page Johnson, and Bobby Johnson

**Front row left to right**

Caleb Johnson, Sarah Benton, Trisha Price, and Tamara Johnson

Desires for the future of New Life Camp: The greatest purchase that God ever led Mr. Bob Sr. to make was with the \$12,000 which was used for the 68 acres of prime land in North Raleigh. With a hospital across the street and a shopping center diagonally across the street, the camp is now a shelter in the time of storm. Offers to buy this land from CBM have reached \$10,000,000.



Director Bob Johnson and wife, Debbie

We could not replace what we have at New Life in facilities or, more importantly, in the lives of thousands of children right on our doorstep.

Our greatest desire, as God leads, is to reach the greatest number of children and adults as we can before it is too late.



# CampVictory





1942

Bea Ames and Althea Hooker made the journey from NY to AL and began teaching Bible in the Dothan area schools, ultimately working in 20 schools!

1944

Eugene and Eleanor Hedger trained in Polk City, FL then moved to DeFuniak Springs to visit 15 schools in the Panhandle

1952

Jonas Miller and family moved from Lancaster County, PA, to the Samson, AL, area; began visiting about 10 schools

1959-1960

Jonas purchased farm land and gave it to CBM for the purpose of starting a camp. CBM accepted the land and gave Jonas the job of developing it.

Mrs. Althea Hooker and Miss Bea Ames



Eugene Hedger



Eugene and Eleanor Hedger



Jonas and Ruth Miller



Jonas Miller and family (1956)



Ariel view 21 acres at Camp Victory



## *The Beginning-CBM of South Alabama*

**I**t was the middle of the war, in 1942, when Bea Ames, a young single woman, and Althea Hooker, a recent widow, heard the call of God and set out from Buffalo, New York, to make the more than one thousand mile journey to Dothan, Alabama.



Hope Wells and Bea Ames

And so it began...the work of Children's Bible Mission in south Alabama.

Upon arrival, Miss Ames and Mrs. Hooker immediately began visiting schools to tell the stories of the Bible. Harvey was the director of the Alabama CBM. A mere two years later, Eugene and Eleanor Hedger from New York, first going to Polk City, Florida, for training, then to DeFuniak Springs, Florida to visit schools and tell Bible stories in the panhandle. Across the state line in GA, Agnes Mackey

*"And so it began...the work of Children's Bible Mission in south Alabama."*



The Bible ladies!

in his model A Ford to tell stories in the panhandle.



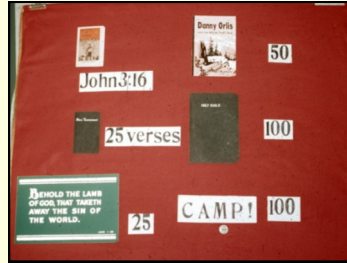
began working with CBM in the Cordele area in the 1950s. In 1966 Samson and Ruth Whisnant took over the CBM school programs there. The Florida panhandle and Georgia programs were under the Alabama division.

With each visit to a school classroom, the Alabama, Florida, and Georgia missionaries would tell the children a Bible story, bringing the characters to life with depictions on flannel graph. They would encourage the children to memorize Bible verses, storing the Word of God in their hearts. Rewards were offered and, in between visits by the missionaries, the teachers would listen to the children recite their verses.



One...ten...twenty-five...fifty...100...200...300...and the ultimate reward: A week of summer camp!





Can you see the lake in here?



Early teachers



Samson Whisnant and family



1960's staff and counselor



Cabin devotions by the lake



## Summer Camp-the Beginning

For many of the early years, these faithful missionaries promised camp to the school children who learned their 300 verses, but had no place to take them. So, they rented facilities each summer—which meant packing all materials, purchasing food and other supplies, and arranging workers and transportation. Camps rented were sometimes as much as 100 miles away, including Blue Lake Methodist Assembly in Alabama, a campground in Panama City, Florida, and a Boy Scout camp near Valdosta, Georgia! Usually, they would host only one or two weeks of camp each summer. How the children loved the activities and learned more about the Word of God! Many children were saved at CBM camps. It was a hassle to rent, however, and the missionaries knew how wonderful it would be if God provided a place for their own camp ground...



Class with earned awards

## "Lord use me."

Since 1961...that simple prayer from Jonas Miller allowed God to use him to start a work that has lasted more than fifty years. In 1952, Jonas felt God's call to ministry—somewhere. Taking a step of faith, he moved his family from Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, to south Alabama and was introduced to Harvey Birky and Eugene Hedger. After visiting Florida schools with Mr. Hedger, Jonas began visiting schools in Alabama counties near his home. He heard of a farm up for auction and went to see it. The vision of a camp materialized immediately. He looked at the swamp and saw a lake. He looked at the land and saw a road with cabins around it and a dining hall in the center. He looked at the pasture and saw a ball field.

Jonas went to the auction with only a minimum amount he could pay. The Lord provided, and Jonas purchased the farm of 200 acres for a little less than \$80 an acre. He offered as much of the land as it would take to CBM for the purpose of building a camp and was named the developer



Jonas Miller teaching

1990



1991-1993



Released Time started in schools of Headland, Samson, Geneva County, Slocomb, and Geneva City

Miss Bea teaching at Headland Elementary, Alabama



1991 Local incorporation

1993 The GA staff moves to Camp Victory



and director. Volunteers came to help the building process; a lake was dug out of the swamp area. Now the AL, FL, and GA missionaries had somewhere to bring the children!

In June 1961 with four buildings and some tents, Camp Victory held the first week of summer camp! The girls stayed in cabins and the boys in tents with kerosene lanterns. That first week of camp was held June 26-July 1, 1961. Campers enjoyed the activities and learned more about Christ.



Camp Victory now has sixteen cabins, chapel, dining hall, gymnasium, and several other buildings. Activities include horses, boating, swimming, archery and rifle ranges, climbing wall, challenge course, and many others. The latest improvements are new bathroom additions to the cabins. It is truly a place where memories are made and lives are changed.

Since that summer in 1961, thousands of children have experienced a week of camp at Camp Victory. Each summer children from south Alabama, the panhandle of Florida, Georgia, and a few other places come to enjoy the activities, make new friends, and learn about the love of God. In a place away from the distractions of home, school, and family, the blinders are removed and the Gospel of Christ is clear. Children make decisions of salvation, hear callings into ministry, and are loved with the love of God.



Seeds are planted and watered and some are harvested. On Friday nights, camp ends with a camp fire setting, a time for campers to tell what they've learned and how God is speaking to them. Quoted are some testimonies from campers.



**"I really liked when we had missions and had to go to chapel."**

**"Camp Victory has been really life changing and I enjoyed it a lot and I had fun learning about God's amazing grace."**

**"My Bible teacher and my counselor helped me grow closer to God."**

**"Being here encourages me to read the Bible more and to talk to God more."**

**"This week I found out that God is calling me to be a missionary overseas."**  
**"I've just been reminded of how much God loves me and wants to have a relationship with me."**

**"I've learned a lot about Jesus and I've asked Him into my heart."**

**"I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home, but my time at Camp Victory was a wonderful reaffirmation of my faith, which strengthened me for adulthood, and it was a glorious time of Christian fellowship helmed by Godly men and women." ~ written by a former camper**



1997

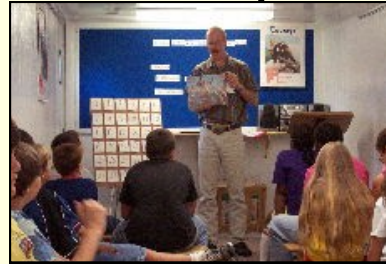
2000

2001

2002-2004



Injunction  
against  
Released  
Time



Released  
Time is  
reinstated

Camp Victory  
internship program  
begins

2002 Trailer ac-  
quired and set up  
as classroom for  
use in Released  
Time

2004 A second  
trailer acquired  
for  
Released Time



## Classes: Teaching the Bible in Alabama



**T**rain up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 Verses like this and the admonitions in Deuteronomy chapters four and eleven, to teach children of the love, provision, justness, mercy, and salvation of God are the backbone of the work of CBM. In 1942, it was relatively easy to enter classrooms with the

objective of teaching the Bible. Teachers and principals gladly worked with missionaries in allowing school time for Bible instruction as well as helping children learn memory verses so they would be able to attend summer camp. Jonas Miller tells about when he began visiting schools in Covington county, Alabama in the 1950s, "...and some of the teachers were really cooperative, they had the kids learn the verses and tell them to them and thought it was good for them."

The missionaries visited approximately eighty schools, so in between their visits, the teachers would listen to the students recite their verses and keep track of them. The missionaries were welcomed and gained the nicknames like "The Bible Ladies."

As time progressed, however, the doors began closing. In the 1960s, federal court cases involving prayer and Bible reading, such as *Murray vs. Curlett* and *Abington School District vs. Schempp*, began to encroach on Bible instruction in the classrooms. Finally, in 1988 the missionaries backed out of the Alabama, northwest Florida, and Georgia classrooms at the recommendation of the CBM National Board. Lawsuits in other states and changing laws threatened any possibility of continuing to visit the school children. However, God was still working. A mere two years later, in 1990, a window of opportunity opened up.

*"...a window of  
opportunity  
opened up..."*



Top: Jonathan Compton  
sharing the Gospel with a  
camper

Left: Bill Richoux teaching  
a Released Time in rolling  
chapel



Laura Smith teaching Released Time

Called Released Time, a federal provision was found that allowed for students to be "released" from class, with parental permission, for "off-campus religious instruction." So, the missionaries in south Alabama took an old school bus and parked it next to the school, sent permission forms home with the students, and began teaching the Bible stories once again. At that time, they went into five schools each month.



There was one hiccup in 1997 when an injunction was filed against Released Time by the Alabama State Department of Education, but the actual program did not fall under the laws being carried out with the injunction. In 2000, after much prayer and negotiations, the injunction was lifted and missionaries were allowed to do Released Time again. In 2002, the staff acquired a trailer set up as a classroom—with benches for the children to sit on, posters, light, and heat/air conditioning run by generator—to park next to the schools. A second trailer was acquired in 2004. Currently, in 2010, the south Alabama missionaries reach approximately 3,000 public school students at eight elementary schools in four

2005-2007

2010



First Friends of Camp Victory dinner held in Dothan, Alabama

Air conditioning was added to cabins and dining hall



Latest renovations was to begin adding new bathrooms to upgrade all the cabins



### *Classes: Teaching the Bible in Alabama Public Schools continued*

counties each month.

Just ninety miles away in another Alabama county, a product of CBM, Mrs. Cindy Johnson, has answered God's call and began teaching Released Time as well. Cindy teaches in four schools in Escambia County, Alabama. She writes of her CBM influence, "... I was surely a camper only once, a three hundred Bible verser! Then, a seven year Mailbox Club participant with Miss Dorothy. God has been training, testing, trying, teaching, and turning my heart toward the children, their salvation in this last fourteen year journey with Camp Victory that brought the possibility of our children here [Escambia County] to come to know and love Him. How grateful I am for...all the folks at camp."



Miss Bea with Charles Lewis (back), his wife, and his associate pastors

Win a child...win a life! Another Alabama school ministry story is that of Mr. Charles Lewis. Charles went to school in the Dothan area when Bea Ames was the "Bible Lady." He listened to her tell Bible stories and learned 300 verses to earn a week at camp. During that week at camp, he was saved. Later on, Charles went to seminary and returned to Dothan to pastor a church. Miss Bea, his beloved Bible teacher, then became his church member!

## *From Verses to Lessons*

In the beginning, summer camp was an incentive to memorize Bible verses-300 of them! As time progressed and economies changed, the CBM missionaries found another way to offer incentives for camp and more importantly, ensure that the school children were continually learning about God's word.



Awards for memory work were given



The Mailbox Club is one of the "three C's" of CBM —

Correspondence. The club consists of lesson courses designed for each grade in which students and campers receive lesson booklets in the mail, read and learn about God's word, complete the answer sheet and return it for the missionaries to grade. At the completion of a course, the students receive discounts toward summer camp. The biggest reward, however, is the knowledge of God and His Word hidden in the hearts of the students.

Memorizing the three hundred verses continued through the 1970s when the emphasis started to switch to the Mailbox Club. At first each area staff graded and sent their own lessons, paying for postage themselves through the 1980s. In the late 80s, memorization phased out and credit was given solely for lessons. In 1984, the lessons were centralized at Camp Victory for consistency and the postage and expense were then covered by the camp.



Barb Shearer grading Mailbox lessons

Approximately 200 new students enroll each year before coming to camp and then continue to do lessons each year afterward. Many of the Released Time students also enroll in the club and receive a small prize during Released Time classes in addition to the certificate and coupon when completed. Overall each year about 9600 lessons are sent out to the approximately 800 students who complete them and earn credit for camp!



## Win a Child... Win a Life!

"I first became acquainted with Children's Bible Mission when two 'Bible ladies' came every month to my fourth grade class in the **public school** in Headland, Alabama. I earned my first week at camp by memorizing three hundred Bible verses. During the ensuing years I continued completing the Bible lessons and attending camp each summer. **I trusted Christ as my savior when I was nine, as a result of what I was learning through CBM.**

"When I was twelve, my parents died, leaving behind four children. **Praise the Lord; I ministry of CBM.** took me (as well as 'wing' and kept a spiritual needs for called, encouraged, well as made sure we sons!

"CBM camp was my **teen years. My core** committed my life to lessons and attending being a camper to kitchen help to junior counselor and on to counselor and bible class teacher. 'Auntie Bea and Auntie Hope' as we affectionately called them, introduced me to Bible college and took me to youth conferences until I graduated from high school. **As a result of the loving care of these dear CBM missionaries,** I went to Southeastern Bible College. It was there that I met a wonderful Christian man to whom I have been married for forty-one years, **most of which have been spent in full time ministry.** It has been my blessing to have been involved in Christian Education for many years and **is a direct result of the mentoring by these wonderful CBM missionaries.** I cannot imagine what would have happened to me had it not been for their spiritual care for me. How thankful I am for the way God has used the ministry of CBM in my life! I can honestly say that I am a product of the Children's Bible Mission and Bea Ames and Hope Wells. May God continue to bless the ministry of CBM as faithful missionaries continue to give out the gospel and mentor in God's Word those young people He brings to Himself." ~ Ilona Dyson, Kendallville, Indiana

"CBM camp was my summer home for fourteen years. My core values were established and I committed my life to the Lord while doing Bible lessons and attending camp."

was already plugged into the Bea Ames and Hope Wells my siblings) under their very close watch on our the next few years. They prayed for and visited us as did our monthly Bible lessons.

my summer home for four-values were established and I the Lord while doing Bible ing camp. I graduated from



### Current Camp Victory Staff 2010

First row left to right:

Becky Whisnant, Bea Ames, Fran Edwards, Amy Warr, Barb Shearer

Second row left to right:

Samson Whisnant, Mary Miller, Tonya Cowen, Jan Richoux, Margie Guillie, Barbara Shertzer, Kim Perkins and Laura Smith

Third row left to right:

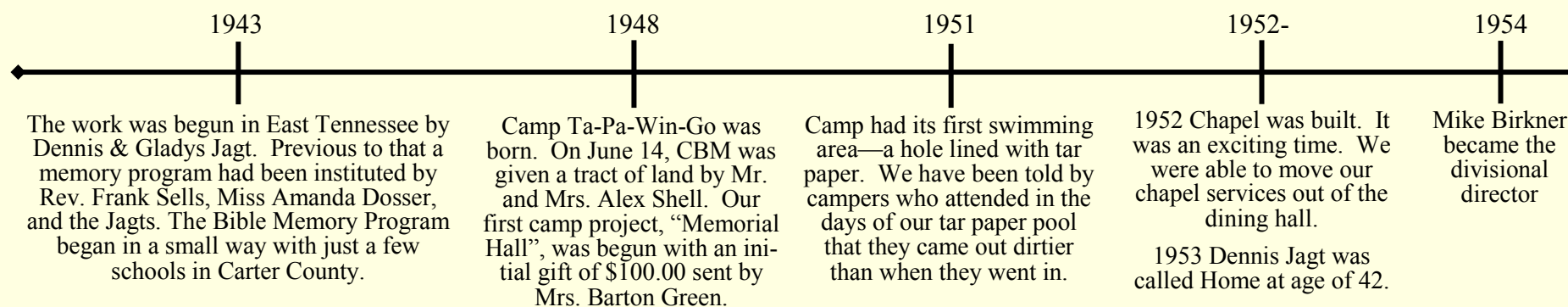
Jim Miller, Chad Cowen, Bill Richoux Marvin Gillie, Steve Shertzer, Paul Perkins and Nate Smith











Dennis and Gladys Jagt



Original awards given for Bible verses



The original camp sign.



Our first swimming pool



Chapel under construction



Mike & Wilma Birkner



Memorial Hall

## *The History of Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go, Watauga, TN*

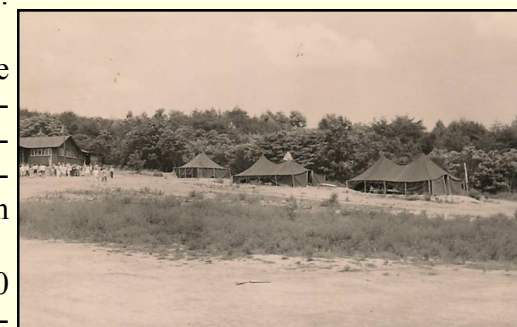
**Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go**, the name comes from an Indian background and means "Place of Joy on a Hill!"

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Jagt became associated with Children's Bible Mission in 1943. The work continued to spread into many counties as Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Birkner came into the Tennessee division and more schools were enrolled.

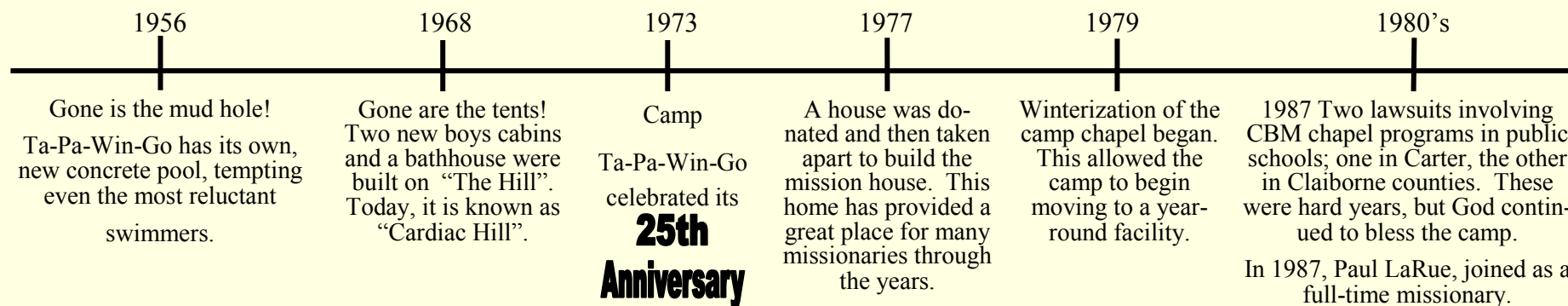
Memorial Hall, now known as the dining hall, was completed in time for our first summer at camp. Housing for campers were tents with wood shavings on the floor.

After Mr. Jagt's home going Ernest Fredericks, Marie Liechty, and Mike and Wilma Birkner were left to carry on the work. In 1953 Mike Birkner was appointed divisional director and under his leadership CBM of Tennessee had spread to eight counties. The camp had grown to 12 acres and additional buildings had been added so the camp now had a capacity of 200. A swimming pool was constructed on the property to take the place of "the ole swimming hole." A total of 16 buildings had been constructed with a value of more than \$75,000.00.

Through the first 25 years there were up to 20 missionaries in Tennessee, reaching around 52,000 school children a month in 14 counties. During this time over 12,000 campers have enjoyed the blessings of beautiful Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go.



Tent cabins from the early years



Camp's first swimming pool.



First boy's cabin



"The Mission House"



Camp Chapel



Article about the lawsuit.



It was a difficult time for the camp in 1987. There were two lawsuits involving CBM chapel programs in the public schools, one in Carter County and one in Claiborne County.

Miss Marillyn Adams tells of how she had to plead guilty of teaching children God's Word. If I had to go to court I can't think of anything else I would want to be accused of.

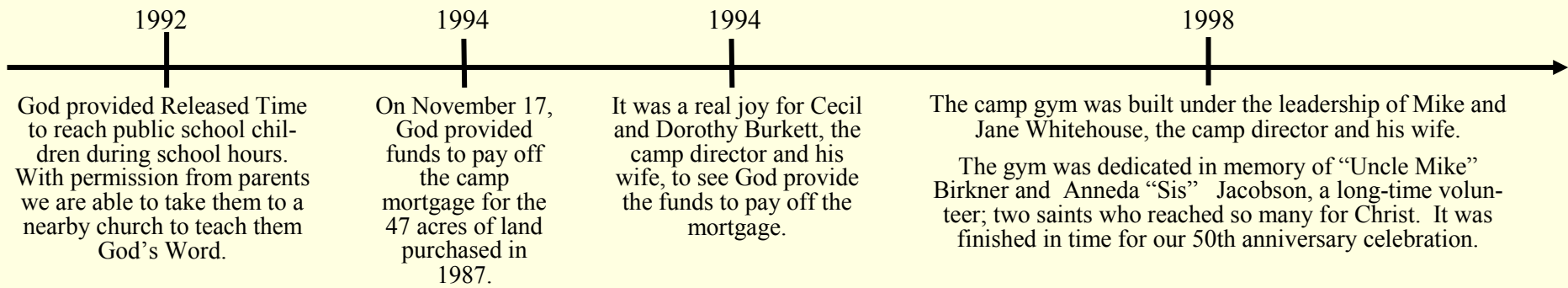
Because of the lawsuit, the camp was in serious financial debt. There was talk of having to close the camp. Those involved in the meetings concerning the closing of the camp began to pray for wisdom as to what do. It was decided that a letter would be sent to those who had an interest in the camp, sharing the need. It was an exciting time to see God's people come together and help get the camp bills paid. We are thankful to those who wanted a place for children to come to hear what the Lord has done for them. Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go continues to grow each year.

Being able to teach in the schools, we now use a method known as Released Time Classes. Children, with parental consent, are released during school hours to attend a one hour Bible program using a church near the school. In Tennessee and Southwest VA, over 4000 children participate. Most children in our public schools do not attend church. But many, if given the chance, are eager to learn about the Bible. At some schools, over 95% of the students are enrolled. Our vision is to expand to new counties, as God provides, to reach even more children for Him.

Pictured here is opening day at Cedar Bluff Elementary School in Tazewell County, VA. We thank the Lord for a growing outreach to so many school children.



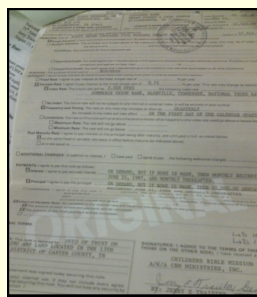




Released Time in Union County



Deed for the camp property



Cecil & Dorothy Burkett



Mike & Jane Whitehouse



The camp gym



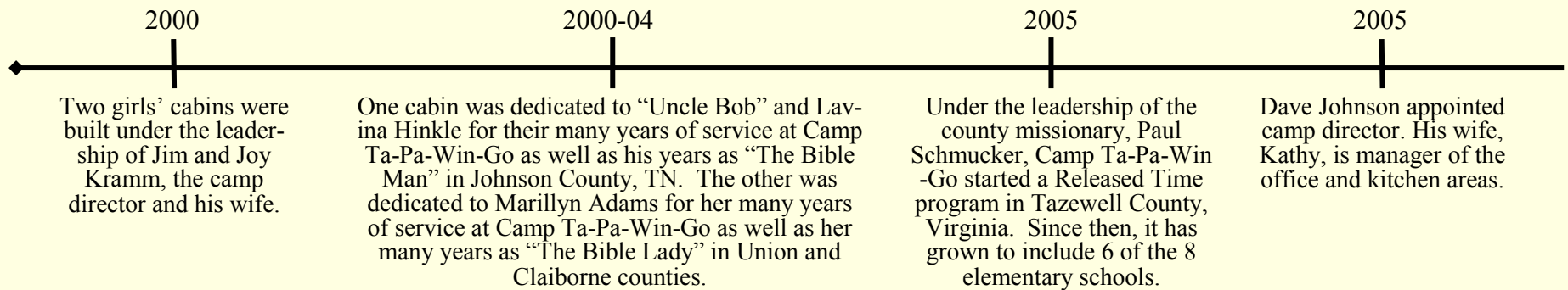
The Lindauers from left to right: Diane, Ruth, Jeremy, Doug, Kynan, Ruth Ann, Evan, Liane, Douglas, & Brian.

We learned about the camp when our church had a picnic there. Our children started attending and always hated for camp to end. Their best friends were at camp, they wanted to be at every function. Our children were all saved before they started attending camp, and we had taught them how to work, but we saw them grow spiritually through the years. Our children have worked at the camp in many ways: five have been lifeguards, seven counselors, and two junior staff coordinators, and one, being only in sixth grade, still has years to attend.

Two of our children met their spouses at camp; one even got married in the outdoor chapel. Two of our children are now missionaries, one as a missionary to Kenya with CMF and one a missionary at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go.

We have seen the directors change through the years. We have counted Cecil and Dorothy Burkett, Mike and Jane Whitehouse, and Dave and Kathy Johnson as good friends. We have seen the camp grow, both in number of campers and facilities. However, it wasn't the facilities that impressed me. I went to a camp as a girl that had wonderful facilities and a wonderful location. The thing that has always impressed me about Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go is the people. They genuinely love and serve the Lord. Along with the directors, I can think of Wilma Birkner, Miss Marillyn, Uncle Paul and so many more. The other wonderful thing about the camp that has always impressed us is that people are never turned away for lack of money. What a wonderful way to truly impact the community.

Ruth Ann Lindauer—Mother of 8



Jim and Joy Kramm



Hinkles

New 2-story girls' cabin



Marillyn Adams

Released Time in Tazewell County, VA



Dave & Kathy Johnson



Nathan, Rachel, Rebekah, & Daniel Waldock

I began attending Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go as a 5-year-old day camper in Johnson County. However, it was the time I spent at camp as a teenager (both as a camper and on junior staff) that impacted my life the most. I heard lessons from God's Word that challenged me to follow Him completely and whole-heartedly with no reservations. I was 15-years-old when the Lord called me to missions, and the things I learned at camp helped solidify my commitment to serving Him. It was also at camp that I learned more fully how to apply Biblical principles to everyday life.

At camp, I had peers who were from very different backgrounds than I was from. I was not only exposed to many different denominations and theological views, I was exposed to other kids who have very different home lives - some who had very difficult situations to deal with. Being friends with, and counselor to these children not only broadened my worldview and my understanding of other people, but it made me walk with the Lord more closely, seeking His wisdom to try to help these people.

After every summer, I would go home a changed person - hopefully a bit older and wiser for the things experienced, the challenges faced, and the lessons learned. I know that the Lord called me to be an overseas missionary, but if I wasn't so sure of that, I would be working in a camp ministry because I know how huge of an impact it can have in the lives of children and teenagers. I know that I still have much to learn and many ways in which to grow, but I also know that I would not be the person that I am today if not for the ministry of Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go and the missionaries who have faithfully served there for so many years. Praise God for camp!

Rachel Rife Waldock—Missionary



2008

The new pool was finished under the direction of Dave and Kathy Johnson, the current director and his wife. It was dedicated to Lester Rominger, a beloved board member who saw a tremendous need for a new pool. However, God called him home before he could see that need fulfilled. The climbing and rappelling tower was also completed in time for summer camp.

The Lord even provided a new missionary, Liane Lindauer, to help run the tower.

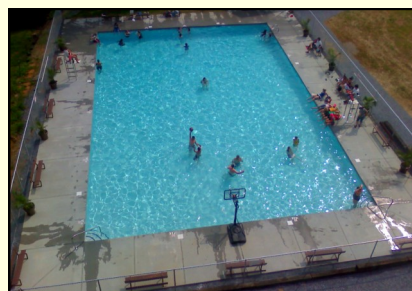
2009

Just in time! We added three exciting new activities to our summer camp program: a pool log, a zip-line, and paintball. We also renovated 5 buildings. Boy, were we glad for summer to start so we could slow down!

2010

This year many improvements were made to the camp facilities including: renovating two girls' bathrooms, finishing renovations on our chapel, and beginning construction of our new boys' cabins, dedicated in memory of Mike & Wilma Birkner, and Vera Green Bouw, and in honor of Marillyn Adams.

Camp's new pool



Climbing & rappelling tower

Camp's new pool log.



### A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

God has called us to an awesome ministry here in East Tennessee. I desire to see the ministry continue to grow. It has been my privilege as Camp Director to see many young people come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. It is my prayer that God would continue to use this ministry to draw many more to Himself.

In keeping with this, it is my goal to:

- Open two new counties to Released Time over the next five years
- Add two new full-time missionaries
- Have our summer camp attendance surpass 1000 by 2015.

Serving Him,

*Dave Johnson*



John & Danet Trivette

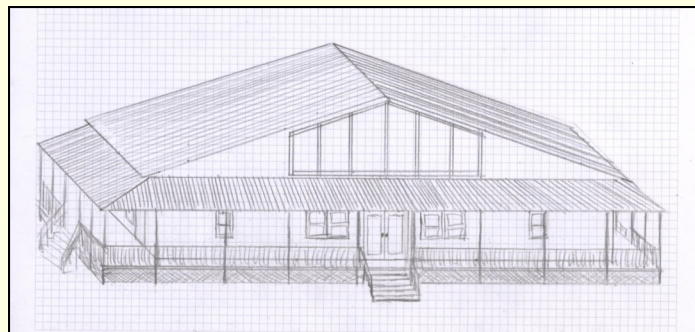
I started going to camp in the early '60s and was a camper and counselor for many years. One thing that always comes back to mind is the love and care the staff has for children.

I often reflect on where I am today and it all begins with my experiences at CBM. A highlight each month in elementary school was when the "Bible teachers" came to deliver us a story from the Bible. By memorizing Bible verses we had the opportunity to earn gifts, such as a John 3:16 plaque, New Testament, or Bible, but our ultimate goal was a week at camp in the summer!!! Many of us, during that era, had limited resources at home. The camp provided an unmatched experience—a wonderful place to make new friends, enjoy the meals and activities, and especially hear more of the Bible stories and receive the gift of salvation.

There are so many things that have happened in my life that go back to the decision I made to accept Christ as my Savior, one summer night at camp. With the encouragement and financial support from CBM staff and friends of the CBM work, I attended and graduated from Bryan College. Many times I've thought and prayed about what my next career step would be, but God has always opened doors in his own time, including providing teaching opportunities and an Air Force career. He's also given me a loving wife, Danet, and a wonderful family. He has led us to a wonderful Bible teaching church and given both of us opportunities to use our talents in the church. My wife and I now are prayer and financial supporters of the Tennessee work, with a hope that other kids have the same experiences I had.

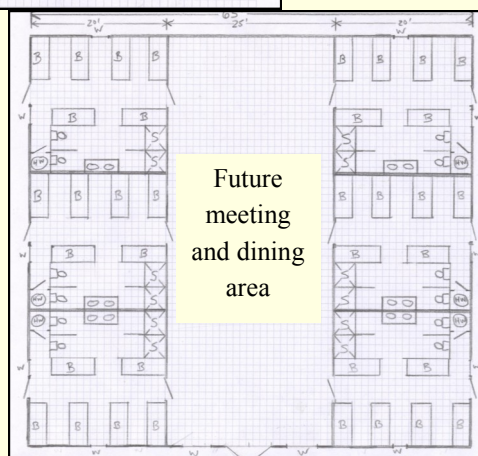
John Trivette—U.S. Air Force Colonel - Retired

## 2010 Future plans



Plans for the new boys cabin at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go. Plans will allow for 72 additional beds for boys.

Top picture: Outside view  
Right: Inside layout



**S**ummer was approaching and we had a problem at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go; a problem that we haven't seen in many years. What was it? More boys wanted to attend than we had cabin space.

We'd seen it coming for some time. Our attendance at camp has been growing steadily. More campers have meant more opportunities to impact lives for Christ, and we really didn't want to turn anyone away this summer.

So what did we do? In anticipation, just before camp, a storage building was emptied, cleaned and six bunks were moved in...just in case extra beds were needed. They were.

With space in our boys' area getting tighter and tighter, we believe the Lord is now leading us to trust Him for a new cabin.

## Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go

### *"Place of Joy on a Hill"*



## Current Staff

From left to right

1st Row:

Angie, Justin & Jaden Schmucker, and Paul LaRue

2nd Row:

Kathy Johnson, Jara, Paul, & Joel Schmucker, and Marillyn Adams

3rd Row:

Dave Johnson, Liane Lindauer, Sarah & Jeffrey Zywicka

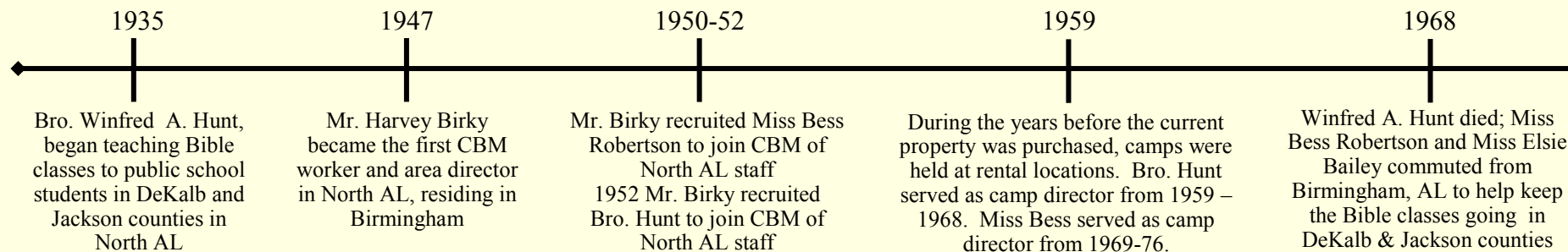
4th Row:

Mike Whitehouse, and Bob & Peggy Zywicka

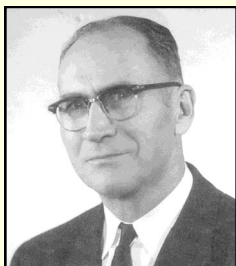








Bro. Winfred A. Hunt



Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Birky



Miss Bess Robertson



Bro. Hunt with campers in 1960



Miss Elsie Bailey



## *The History of Children's Bible Ministries of North*

CBM's work was started in North Alabama in 1947, with Mr. Harvey Birky serving as director through 1958. In 1950 Mr. Birky asked Miss Bess to join CBM of North AL. In 1952, Mr. Birky asked Bro. Winfred A. Hunt, who had been teaching Bible to public school children in DeKalb & Jackson counties since 1935, to join CBM. Bro. Hunt became affectionately known as "The Bible Man" to hundreds of school-age children and young people of DeKalb and Jackson counties. Bro. Hunt visited the children in schools until his death in 1968. Brother Hunt served as camp director from 1959 - 1968.

Miss Bess quickly became known as "The Bible Story Lady" as she told the story of Jesus and His love to children in the Birmingham area. Miss Bess was a 1945 graduate of Moody Bible Institute and a 1956 graduate of Southeastern Bible College. Before the current property was purchased students were transported to rental camps in other areas. Miss Bess Robertson served as camp director at these rental locations from 1969 - 1976. In the years following Brother Hunt's death, Miss Bess Robertson and Miss Elsie Bailey, also a Moody Bible Institute graduate, commuted from Birmingham to help carry on the work of Released Time in this area. Miss Bess served with CBM for 50 years.

The original "Camp Ponderosa" in Mentone, Alabama, was built of rustic western cedar lumber in 1963, by the University of Alabama, and was used as "a specialized summer community" for children ages 7-14, who were emotionally disturbed or who had learning disabilities.

Bro. Hunt with students who earned a Bible





1976	1986	1991	1993	1996
In early 1976, Glenn & Linda Miller discovered the "Camp Ponderosa" property for sale. Shortly after, Children's Bible Ministries of North AL purchased the 80-acre camp, complete with 6 cabins, a dining hall/kitchen, 2 small guest cabins, and a craft building. Miss Bess continued in her role as camp director that first summer. Glenn and Linda Miller worked with her and took over the leadership at the end of that summer. Miss Bess continued to help with summer camp every year until 1999.	Construction of swimming pool and gymnasium with dorms and locker rooms  Gymnasium named "W.A. Hunt Memorial Gymnasium"	Construction of 2-story maintenance building/shop completed	Construction completed of 2-story staff house for assistant director Mike & Kathy Young	Lawsuit is filed in DeKalb County in 1988 that put a halt to all religious activity at public schools, including Released Time. Released Time not allowed again until February 1993

PBC Entrance 1976



Glenn & Linda Miller



Glenn & Linda Miller & family



Swimming Pool built in 1986



Maintenance Shop 1991



Lawsuit filed



Mike Young teaching RT



Miss Bess Robertson



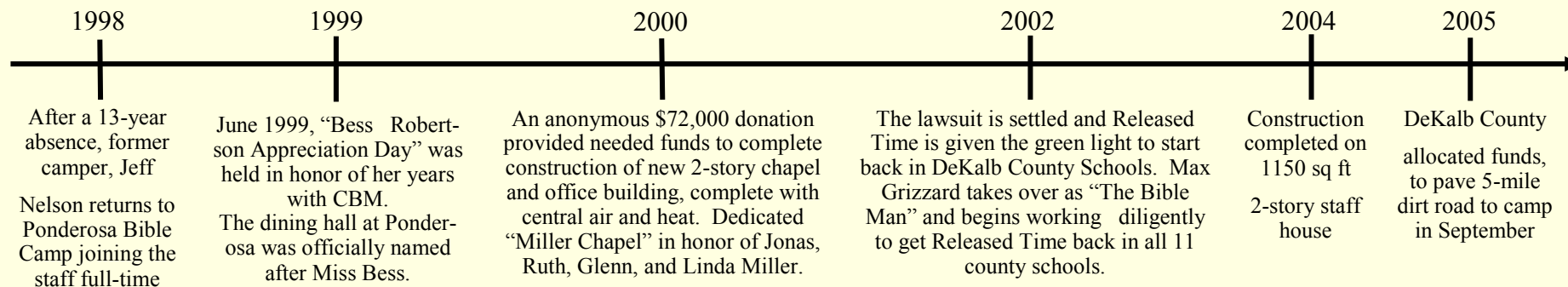
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Mr. Glenn Miller served as Camp Director from 1976 to 1999. Having grown up at the south Alabama camp, Camp Victory, Mr. Miller was associated with CBM from childhood. In 1961, he was 10 years old and attended Camp Victory its first summer. Glenn and his wife Linda and their 4 children served at Ponderosa Bible Camp for 24 years. Glenn and Linda are graduates of Southeastern Bible College.

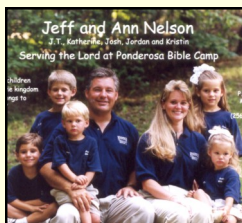
In 1986, we added a 30' X 70' swimming pool and a multi-purpose gymnasium. Dormitories and locker rooms within the gym were completed over the next 2½ years. In 1991, a large maintenance building was constructed.

CBM was "kicked out" of the public schools in 1988. There was a five year absence until the first Released Time class was held in February of 1993.

In 1996, we were saddened by a law suit that was filed in DeKalb County, by the principal of Valley Head. It put a halt to all religious activity at public schools, which included Released Time. Released Time was not allowed again until 2002. We were thankful that we could still reach the children with Mailbox Club lessons, summer camp, and spring and fall weekend retreats.



Jeff Nelson & family 1998



"Miss Bess Dining Hall"



"Miller Chapel"



Max Grizzard



RT students at Sylvania School



New Paved Road



In the summer of 1976, Jeff Nelson was one of the first campers at Ponderosa Bible Camp. From 1976 to 1985, Jeff attended Ponderosa every summer, graduating from camper - to lifeguard/counselor - to program director. While in college, Jeff married Ann Mattox, started a family, and began his career. However, in 1998, Jeff answered the call into full-time ministry and the Lord placed him back at the place he loved so much as a child. Jeff has been serving as the director since 2000.

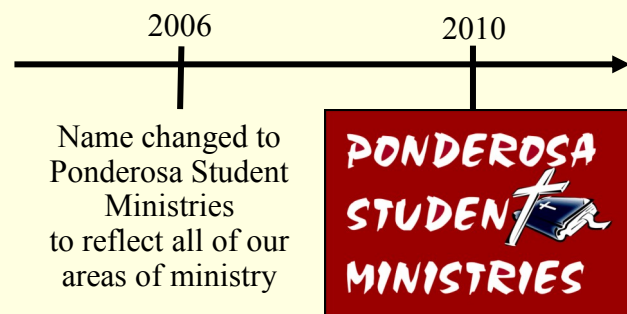
In 2000, thanks to an anonymous donation of \$72,000, construction of a new 2-story chapel was finished, complete with central heat and air. This building was dedicated as "Miller Chapel" in honor of Jonas & Ruth and Glenn & Linda Miller for their years of service with CBM. The bottom floor of this building is now the Ponderosa Student Ministries office.



Max Grizzard joined the staff in October of 2000, and began preparing for Released Time to be reinstated in DeKalb County. In 2002, prayers were answered and Released Time began again on November 12, 2002, at Sylvania School. By March of 2008, we had successfully reached our goal of teaching Released Time again in all 11 DeKalb County Schools.







In 2006, we changed our name from Ponderosa Bible Camp to Ponderosa Student Ministries to reflect all the areas of ministry in which we are involved: Ponderosa Bible Camp, Released Time, The Mailbox Club, and hospitality/group rentals.

In 2010, "Ponderosa Student Ministries exists to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students by giving them opportunities to experience God's power, presence and peace; through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We seek to accomplish this by providing camp facilities, Bible classes, and correspondence lessons that promote the spiritual, moral, social, and educational growth of students."

## Recognition of former staff missionaries with Children's Bible Ministries of North AL.

Arant, Paul ~ 1987  
 Bailey, Miss Elsie ~ 1958-1983  
 Baxter, Amelia ~ (part time) 1998-present  
 Birky, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey ~ 1947-1958  
 Burnett, Thomas & Samantha ~ 2004-present  
 Chavers, Daryl & Diane ~ 2009-present  
 Daffron, Steve & Tristi ~ 2000-2002  
 Drake, Charlie & Linda ~ (summers) 1985-2000  
 Evans, Jim & Kathy ~ 1980-1989  
 Fleisch, Mrs. K.W. ~ 1950's & 60's  
 Frazier, Charlie & Debbie ~ (8 summers) & 1989-1991  
 Grizzard, Max & Sherrie ~ 2000-present  
 Gruendler, Louis ~ 2003-2004  
 Hinkle, Dawn ~ (summers) 2003-present  
 Henderson, Jimmy & Rebekah ~ 2003-2007  
 Hunt, Mr. & Mrs. Winfred A. ~ 1952-1968  
 Miller, Glenn & Linda ~ 1976-2000  
 Miller, Jonas & Ruth ~ (summers) 1976-1999  
 Nelson, Jeff & Ann ~ 1998-present  
 Robertson, Miss Baybe Bess ~ 1950-2000  
 Young, Mike & Kathy ~ 1992-1997

## Our Future Ministry Goals

“My life was profoundly impacted and my road to ministry defined by my years with CBM of North Alabama. Under the leadership of Miss Bess Robertson, I filled a wide variety of roles from camper to counselor, kitchen help and lifeguard, to assistant camp director. This is where I preached my first message, and where my sense of God’s call into ministry was sharpened. I thank God for CBM’s ongoing impact today.”

Don Hawkins, President  
Southeastern Bible College



- To expand Released Time to Jackson, Cherokee, and Marshall Counties
- More full-time staff and staff housing
- Dining Hall expansion
- To reach more students and increase number of campers
- The ability to start a horse-therapy ministry to reach “at-risk” children and teens
- Ball field(s) construction for sports camps
- Gymnasium repairs and improvements

## *Children’s Bible Ministries of North Alabama* *“Ponderosa Student Ministries” - 2010 Full-Time Missionaries*



### Director

Jeff Nelson, with wife Ann and their 11 children,

JT, Katherine, Josh, Jordan, Kristin, Faith, Jon David, Kelly, Allison, Jake, and Jess.



### Released Time Director

Max Grizzard, with wife, Sherrie and their 7 children, Evelyn, Susanna, Jonathan, Wesley, Maggie, Phillip, and Jenna.



### Program Director

Thomas Burnett, with wife Samantha and 2 children, Ella and Harley.



### Staff

Daryl Chavers, with wife, Diane and daughter Kim.





First week of teen camp  
Cornerstone Ministry Center  
July 26-30, 2010



1944-1969

In 1944, Reba Miller graduated from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill. While there she approached several mission organizations with a desire to do overseas mission work. Instead, God led her to Children's Bible Mission as a home missionary.

She spent ten years in Tennessee and another eight years serving in Georgia.

1970

Released Time enrollment peaked at 600 students and volunteers in Greene County elementary schools



Miss Reba Miller

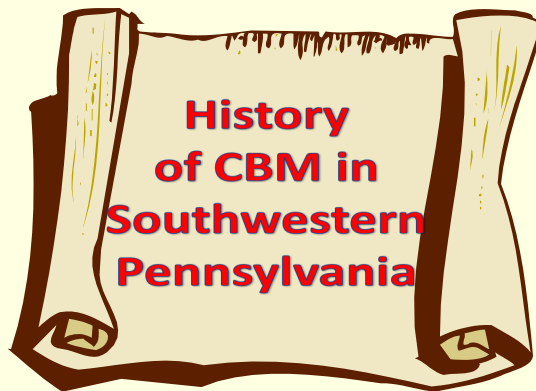
In 1967 organized and started the first Released Time Bible Program in CBM



Rev. Szabo



An early Released Time class



In 1960 the national office of CBM sent Reba to Central Pennsylvania to replace Mildred McEvers, the "Bible lady" who had passed away. Reba was there until Jerry Traister came and developed the ministry of Camp Joy-El.

For a time Miss Miller left CBM and served with Bible Club Movement (BCM). She worked briefly in New York State, but in time she felt the call back to minister in her home area of SWPA. She didn't know it, but this was a direct answer to the prayers of three ladies in Greene County. Emma Morris, Sarah George, and Elizabeth White were all praying that God would send a missionary to work with the many kids they saw in their area who did not know Jesus.

Upon arrival Reba found a great ally in Reverend Szabo from Clarksville. This influential man in the community went with Reba to the Jefferson school board to begin the Released Time Bible Program.

The work grew to include most of the elementary schools in Greene County. Miss Miller also assisted Carolyn Shoup in starting Released Time in neighboring Washington County.

Bible reading and prayer in the public school had been stopped by the Supreme Court in 1963. As Reba visited churches, looking for volunteers to help with Released Time, she found that people were eager to reach boys and girls with the Gospel. They signed up to teach, listen to verses, play the piano, ride or drive buses, or walk the children to and from Released Time classes. Several of these recruits continued to serve the program for more than 35 years.



Judy Virgili



Mabel Pletcher



1980's

Enrollment in Released Time dropped below 200  
Reba Miller asked Bible Club Movement to send a replacement to SWPA  
CBM was contacted concerning a replacement  
1987 Mark Redka moved to Greene County, SWPA and began working with Released Time

1985

A ministry under the leadership of Reba Miller, in SWPA, was placed under the umbrella of CBM.

1988

Gloria Cox began to volunteer as a teacher for Released Time and later became an Associate Missionary with CBM



Mark Redka with a New Freeport Class in 1990



Reba Miller and Mark Redka



The children, too, were eager to memorize Bible verses to earn a free week of summer camp. So in 1971 Camp Sunrise Mountain in Markleysburg, PA, was rented for a week. The local work used this camp until the year 2001. Enrollment at that time had dropped to about 150 students, but in just a few years it bounced back to more than 400. Mark also took over the camping program each summer. Reba moved back to central PA in 1991 and continued in ministry there as a volunteer.

In 1993 Judy Virgili, a diligent church bus worker and Released Time teacher, was asked to be the local director. Under her leadership, Released Time classes expanded into Fayette County and also to all of the secondary schools of Greene County. Enrollment climbed to over 850 students each week with nearly 100 volunteers. CBM missionaries also helped get Released Time started in Butler County in 2006.

Carlyn Grimes



Paul & Audrey Sheller



1993-Present

1993 Judy Virgili was appointed director of SWPA



### ***Growth began to take place!***

We are currently reaching over 850 boys and girls weekly with Released Time.

There are over 100 volunteers involved in Released Time today.

1971-2001

Camp Sunrise Mountain was used to hold our CBM camps each summer



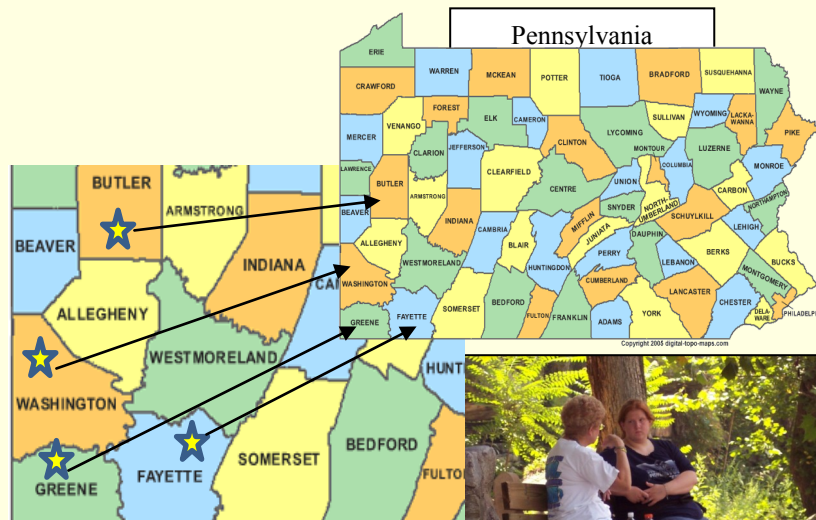
Judy Virgili teaching

Released Time is now in every elementary and secondary school in Greene County along with all of Albert Gallatin School district in Fayette County.

Gloria Cox, Released Time teacher and camp cook



Summer camp 1988



More than 50 percent of our students **DO NOT** attend church!



**A camp of our own is needed!**

Prayers began to go up, asking God to supply property for a camp.

Bob & Anna Atwood speakers for many years





2007

Judy Virgili, director, received a phone call from Consol Energy asking if they wanted the property.

Prayers were answered!

2008



The agreement between Consol Energy and CBM was signed in August of 2008

2010



Cornerstone Ministry Center  
21 acre property near Jefferson, PA

First visit—February 2007



First work team—August 2008



Adult volunteer workers

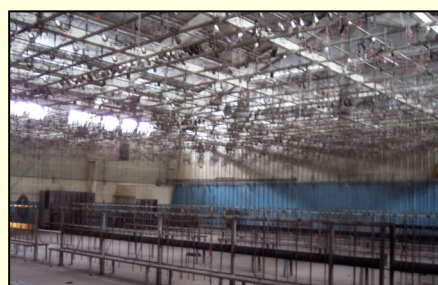
First work team—August 2008



Before: Gym area with miner's baskets



After: Gym area



Since 1971 our local work has rented a camping facility for one week of use each summer. Thousands of boys and girls have come through the program with many making professions of faith while there.

Camp Sunrise Mountain was used for 30 years, but a sharp increase in their fee forced us to look elsewhere. Several camps were used from 2002-2008, but in 2007 Consol Energy donated a 27 acre property with 2 large buildings to the local CBM to develop into a camp. It is near Jefferson and is centrally located for our work.

This property will be used for year-round ministry to all ages and it is our desire to see it used to reach many more people for Christ. It was given the name Cornerstone Ministry Center in light of Matthew 21:42.

*"The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."*

Through God's miraculous help and the valiant efforts and donations of God's people, camp was first held here in 2010.

***Additional full time staff is needed as we continue to grow!***

## Current Staff



Judy Virgili,  
Director



L to R front row: Nathaniel,  
Mark, Roberta, Kathryn  
Standing:  
Donnie and Daniel



Gloria Cox

## Future Plans

With the acquisition of camp property our ministry is taking a major addition in focus. Not only do we need to continue to grow and improve Released Time, we need to develop the many outreaches at Cornerstone. Ministries will include:

- Camp & Day camp
- Sports outreaches (Upward Basketball & Soccer)
- Youth rallies and retreats
- After school clubs
- Senior citizen outreaches
- Dramas and movie nights
- Nature study
- Home school activities
- Lock-ins
- Sportsmen's dinners
- Pastor & spouse seminars
- Concerts and hymn sings



It is our desire to eventually build a 20 unit family retreat center with a dining hall, chapel, and conference rooms.

## Testimonies



Tonia Phillips, center, attended RT in Graysville. She grew up, started a family and is actively involved in world missions, making trips overseas each year.



My wife and I have been involved with CBM for more than 26 years, as teachers, board members, and helpers at camp. Over the years we've had the privilege of seeing countless boys and girls come to Christ and grow in their walk with Him. We are excited

to finally have a camp of our own where we can reach many more children for Christ.

"Uncle" Paul and Audrey Sheller

Sarah Walko asked Jesus to save her on the bus ride home from school. Her Released Time teacher had given a salvation lesson that day. She served as Junior Staff at our camp and is now in college studying international ministries.



Sarah Walko



# Children's Bible Ministries of Maryland



Maryland has 23 counties, plus Baltimore City.

## Maryland

From the Atlantic Ocean to Backbone Mountain, to the plains in between, Maryland is truly "America in Miniature." Maryland is also the world in miniature. One church's congregation consists of people from 25 nations. The peoples of the world are coming to Maryland and bringing their children with them.



After-school Bible clubs, called Character Building Clubs meet in public schools and in homes.



Camp is rented but that doesn't stop children from coming for a week of Bible and fun.

### WINDOW ON MARYLAND'S CHILDREN



The Children's Chapel goes to county fairs, where many unsaved children and parents hear the Gospel story.



Every summer teens, college students, and some adults serve God in our Summer Missionary Intern Program.

1984

## Look Closely!

Maryland's flag boasts two crosses, although it is one of the most liberal states in the nation.

1984 Burdened for the children, Dot Warehime and May Petzold formed Children's Bible Ministry of Maryland.



1992

Under the leadership of Dot Warehime, CBM of Maryland became an area of CBM Ministries, Inc. in 1992.

Dot Warehime directed CBM of MD from 1984-2000, when she retired.

1998-2000

Carolyn King joined CBM in 1998 as the Howard County Missionary

She became the state director in 2000



Dorothy Warehime and May Hoover, Petzold

## Early History

1. Glad News Clubs met weekly
2. After school clubs met in homes and schools
3. Evangelism in fairs and carnivals
  - A Children's Chapel was purchased in 1985
    - Filmstrips were shown
    - The Gospel was shared
4. Nursing Home Ministry was started
  - Bible Studies for senior citizens began
  - Several trusted Christ

## OUR VISION

- ◆ Released time for Maryland's school children
- ◆ A CBM camp for Maryland
- ◆ A missionary for every area in Maryland



Carolyn King

1992

- Advisors recommended going under an established mission organization
- Came under CBM umbrella

Camp was held at Mt. View Bible Camp

- Camp was rented for two weeks
- Boy's and girl's weeks were separate

May Hoover Petzold

- Longtime friend and mentor of Dot's
- Served on the state board and taught Bible at camp

Hundreds of children trusted Christ

- Dot continues even as health declines
- Begins asking God to send a replacement

5. Summer ministry expanded
  - Summer Bible clubs
  - Paid summer interns recruited, trained, and supervised
6. Initiated Worker Training
  - Teachers training for volunteer teachers
  - Training retreat for summer missionary interns
7. Recruited camp staff
 

Trained by Dot, Carolyn learned the responsibilities of directing a camp, and the state director's duties



2001-2004

Two new workers trained; later they began separate ministries  
 Nancy Shields began Toolkit Ministries  
 Sarah Poe began Chinese Children's Ministry  
 Camp and children's chapel programs were enhanced  
 225 volunteers served in some capacity

2005

Lois Jones hired as office manager  
 2005 Nora Crushong became Carroll County Missionary  
 (Nora is now with the Lord.)

2006

2006 Denise Morgan joined our staff as Baltimore City's missionary and began deputation

- Denise recruited and trained volunteers for committee and teaching
- Started Character Building Clubs in Baltimore City
- Contacts made to begin Released Time in Baltimore area

Noah, a summer missionary intern, is one of a family of six children. All six have served in our Summer Missionary Intern Program. This program provides 12 days of intense training in teaching children Bible lessons, street witnessing, teaching Scripture memory, teaching spiritual truths through music, classroom discipline, and story telling techniques.



Noah Conrad and Tyrone



Nora Crushong



Children's Chapel at the Fair



Denise Morgan



Maryland Blue Crab

## Maryland is For Crabs

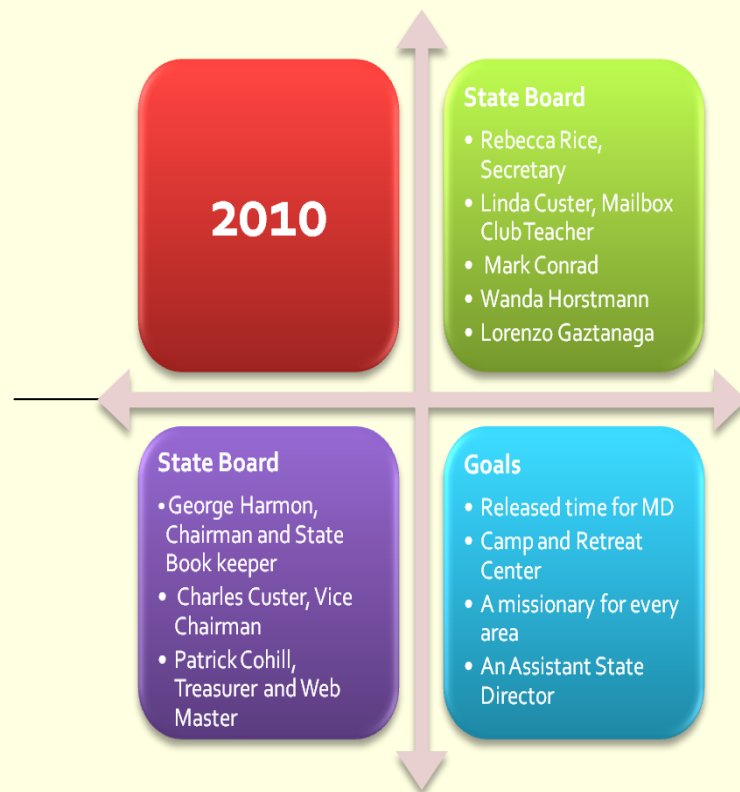
"Maryland is for crabs" is often heard as a joke on ourselves. However, it is no joke that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). A summer missionary intern is leading this young boy to Christ in a summer Bible Club. These clubs are held in homes, outdoors, in apartment complexes, in day cares, and in churches too small to hold their own VBS classes.



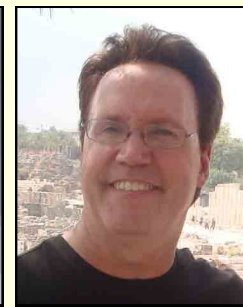
Morning Chapel at Camp



Summer Missionary Interns



George Harmon



Patrick Cohill



Lorenzo Gaztanaga



Mark Conrad



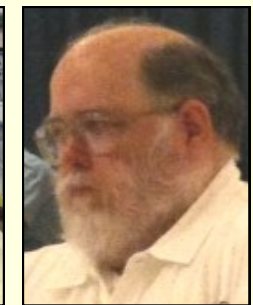
Rebecca (Becky) Rice



Wanda Horstmann



Linda Custer



Charles (Chuck) Custer

The CBM board shares wisdom, makes decisions, prays, gives, and helps with other aspects of the ministry.



## BLACK-EYED SUSANS

Marylanders can't help but smile when black-eyed Susans bloom in summer. Our volunteers not only make us smile but partner with us in the Gospel. Some teach Character Building Clubs, some host summer Bible Clubs, some drive summer missionary interns to their clubs, some serve at camp, some help at the Children's Chapel, some serve on the state board and local committees, some help with mailings, some pray, some give financially, but all make the burdens lighter and the joys brighter.

Today over 200 volunteers serve in various capacities.

*For your service to the Lord,  
we are truly thankful.*



# CBM of Great Southwest

RELEASED TIME PROGRAMS 2009-2010 School Year	Grades	Number Students Enrolled
School District		
Tulsa, OK (Berryhill)	1-6	330
Henryetta, OK (Wilson)	PK-12	248
Hodgen, OK	1-6	165
Smithville, OK	1-8	156
Nowata, OK	K-5	143
LaFlore, OK	K-12	113
Ponca City, OK	1-5	87
Fanshawe, OK	K-8	
Chelsea, OK (weekly classes)	4-5	74
Watson, OK	1-8	48
Depew, OK	3-5	49
Willow Springs, MO (weekly classes)	K-8	44
Howe, OK	10-12	20
Lexington, OK	4-5	19
Springfield, MO	5	16
Humansville, MO	3-5	9
TOTAL: 16 Communities, 21 Schools		1,598

*Win a Child... Win a Life!*



1946-1962

1946 the Heck family completed their college training and was led to go west to establish a work in Oklahoma

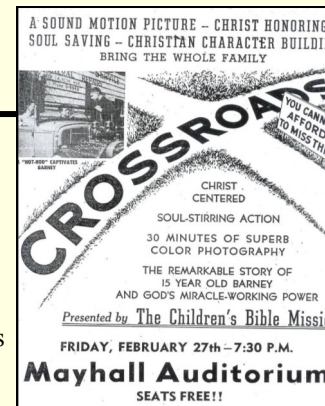
Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Stites assisted the Hecks

1952-53

Willard Heck was largely responsible for the production of the CBM colored film, "Crossroads"

Premier showing of the CBM motion picture "Crossroads" was at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go on August 22, 1952

The film was used in many areas to promote the Gospel. In Florida this 1/4 page advertisement was run in the Lakeland Ledger



1958

1958, Mr. Heck and Tulsa businessman Tom Hull founded New Life Ranch at what was then Kellem's Ranch in Colcord, OK, near Siloam Springs, AR.

New Life Ranch was founded as a separate entity from CBM

Mr. and Mrs. E.N. Stites



## Oklahoma Branch of CBM

### Early History

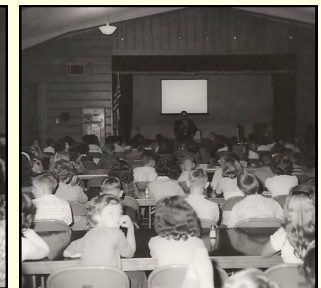
*Started under the umbrella of CBM in 1946*



Mr. and Mrs. Willard Heck



Oklahoma school ministry (1962)



After being associated with the Elkton, Virginia, branch for two years, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Heck left the work so that Mr. Heck could pursue further training in college for the Lord's service. Prior to this Mr. Heck pastored a church in Rushford, New York, where he was ordained to the ministry. After completing his studies in 1946, through a suggestion from the national office, he was led to go west and establish a work in Oklahoma. Prior to that time the ministry of Children's Bible Mission had been largely confined to the southeastern states.

Mr. and Mrs. Heck and their two young sons settled in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where their third son was born. A school ministry was begun in which Mr. Heck taught Bible lessons during assembly periods in all grade levels, eventually reaching 6,500 students monthly. Teachers listened to the children recite their memory verses and presented awards. Camp was provided for students in grades 4-12, who qualified.

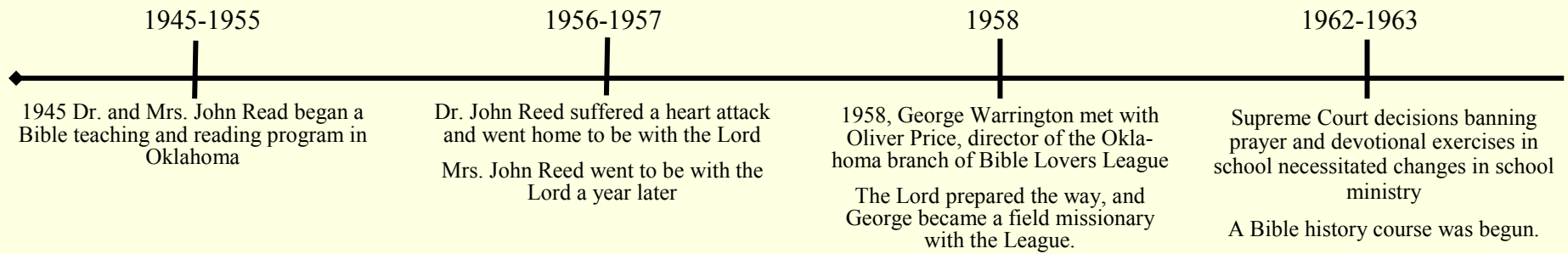
Mr. Heck was vitally interested in the high school age group and had an effective ministry. He was also largely responsible for the production of the CBM color film, *Crossroads*.

1958, Mr. Heck and Tulsa businessman Tom Hull founded New Life Ranch, at what was Kellem's Ranch in Colcord, Oklahoma,

near Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Kneeling in prayer at the entrance to the property, they declared that thousand acres "a valley set apart for the glory of God." Rev. E.N. Stites, a retired preacher from Kansas, served as foreman of New Life Ranch at its inception. New Life was founded as a separate entity from CBM, serving not only as a permanent site for CBM camps, but other Christian camping programs as well.

Mr. Heck continued his school ministry into the early 1960s, at which time in-school religious programs were deemed unconstitutional. He then left CBM to begin full-time ministry with New Life Ranch, which is still in operation today, providing not only summer camp opportunities, but leadership development for high school and college students, outdoor education, family camps, retreats, and community ministries. Mr. Heck went to be with the Lord in 2001.





## *CBM Ministries of the Great Southwest, Inc.*

*“Reaching the next generation for Christ . . . one child at a time”*

**Released Time Bible class ministry in Oklahoma and Missouri**

### *New Beginnings (1945 – 1961)*

Following many years of fruitful ministry in the pastorate, Indian mission work, and with university students, Dr. and Mrs. John Read began a Bible teaching and reading program in 1945. Many would have considered retiring from active service, but the Reads, like Caleb, boldly “claimed a mountain for God.” With a letter of introduction from the county superintendent, they soon made appointments in eight rural schools where they taught Bible lessons and distributed Scriptures through the Bible Lovers League of Dallas, Texas.

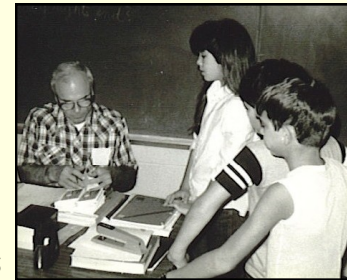
Within a few years, the Reads were reaching thousands of children in 40 rural and consolidated schools in Oklahoma, eventually extending their ministry to over 100 schools in six counties in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Classes were held in classrooms or auditoriums and consisted of prayer, singing, Scripture memorization, and a Bible lesson. Under the “Read the Bible for a Bible” plan, students earned a New Testament when they read the four Gospels, and a Bible when they completed the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs.

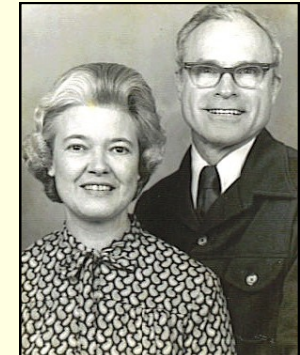
The Reads ministered for 13 years before Dr. Read suffered a heart attack in 1956, and went to be with the Lord. His wife died a year later.

In late 1958, George Warrington met with Oliver Price, director of the Oklahoma branch of Bible Lovers League to discuss the

Far right: George and Donna Warrington  
Below George checks students’ memory verses



1985



possibility of continuing the work begun by the Reads. The Lord prepared the way, and George became a field missionary with the League.

### *Challenges (1962 – 1991)*

The 1962-63 Supreme Court decisions banning prayer and devotional exercises in school necessitated changes in school ministry. Audible prayer, singing, and Scripture memorization drills were discontinued, and a Bible history course was begun.

Bible lessons were taught objectively as part of a secular program of education. Attendance was voluntary and children were not permitted to read a Bible, to earn one, without parental approval. Classes were limited to schools in which the administration was receptive.

The total number of schools declined due to consolidation or caution on the part of school officials, resulting from the Supreme Court rulings.

1992

Bible Fellowships, Inc. (formerly The Bible Lovers League), New Lima Independent School District, and George Warrington, were sued by the A.C.L.U.

1993

Bible Fellowships sponsored the first Released Time program in Wanette, Oklahoma  
Released Time program started shortly thereafter in Byars, OK  
Other classes in central Oklahoma followed

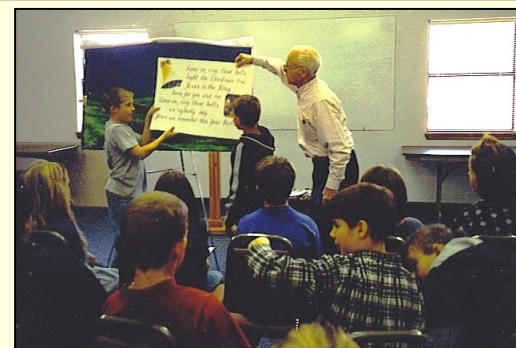
1994

The case went to trial by jury in Oklahoma City federal court. Plaintiffs were awarded the following damages: \$1.00 each to the grandfather and two students, and \$250.00 to the grandmother.  
Oliver Price contacted CBM Ministries about how to start Released Time

1996-1997

1996 Harold Ball of Ponca City, was encouraged to begin a Released Time program  
1996 OK branch of Bible Fellowships was incorporated as CBM Ministries of the Great Southwest, Inc.  
1997 Andreina Rains helped spread the word about Released Time by radio

George Warrington with Released Time students (1985)



George Warrington teaches Byars, OK, Released Time students (1999)

## *Transition (1992 – 1999)*

In January, 1992, Bible Fellowships, Inc. (formerly The Bible Lovers League), New Lima Independent School District, and George Warrington, were sued by the A.C.L.U. following a complaint from grandparents of two New Lima students.

Attorneys with The Rutherford Institute defended George and Bible Fellowships, and in January, 1994, the case went to trial by jury in Oklahoma City federal court. Plaintiffs were awarded the following damages: \$1.00 each to the grandfather and two students, and \$250.00 to the grandmother.

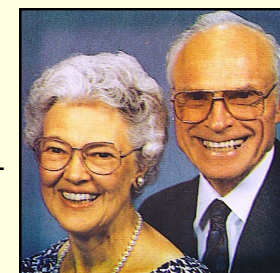
As a result of this suit, George was urged by the board of Bible Fellowships and the local Oklahoma board to develop a Released Time Bible Class program. Oliver Price contacted CBM Ministries which, at the time, had 15,000 Released Time students in seven states.

In November, 1993, Bible Fellowships sponsored the first Released Time program in Oklahoma in the community of Wanette, with a class in nearby Byars starting shortly thereafter. Other classes in central Oklahoma followed, but several schools were hesitant to grant approval due to the pending legal issues.

In late 1996, George contacted a friend in Ponca City, Harold Ball, and encouraged him to consider starting Released Time there. Doors began to open, and the first class was held in April, 1997, at Kildare School.

With the help of Andreina Rains, word about Released Time spread, and programs were begun in Chelsea, Tulsa, Nowata, and Crooked Oak.

During this time (1996), plans were proceeding for the Oklahoma group to affiliate with CBM Ministries. In July, the Oklahoma branch of Bible Fellowships, Inc. was incorporated as CBM.





2000-Present

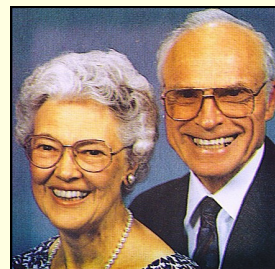
2000 Scott Brinson becomes Executive Director of CBM of GSW



2004

***"The Bible Man"***  
***George Warrington***

Served as area coordinator and Released Time teacher for central OK until 2004 (40 years)



2010

CBM of GSW has grown from eight schools and less than a hundred students to 25 schools and nearly 1,600 students today

Goal: to have at least one Released Time program in all 77 counties of Oklahoma by 2020



Ponca City, OK, coordinator Harold Ball and Released Time students from Kildare Middle School (2008)



Pastor Gary Wilburn teaches Ponca City, OK, Released Time students (2007)

## *Growth (2000 – Present)*

In September, 2000, Scott Brinson was asked to serve as executive director of the ministry. Affectionately known by his students as "The Bible Man," George Warrington continued to serve as area coordinator and Released Time teacher for central OK until 2004, having faithfully ministered the Word to thousands of boys and girls for over 40 years.

New RT programs were begun in Henryetta (2000), Lexington (2001), Branson, MO, and Springfield, MO (2001), Cameron (2002), Howe (2003), Depew (2003), Fanshawe (2003), Willow Springs, MO (2004), Smithville (2004), Ellisville, MO (2004), Hodgen (2005), Humansville, MO (2005), Watson (2006) and LeFlore (2006). Over 1,500 boys and girls have publicly professed faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior since 1996, through Released Time Bible classes.

Ann Gardner shares the Gospel with Ponca City, OK, Released Time students (2008)



George Warrington teaches Washington, OK, Released Time students (2002)



"Call unto Me, and I will answer you, and show you  
great and mighty things, which you do not know."  
~ Jeremiah 33:3

# Camp Grace







## *The History of Children's Bible Ministries of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.*

CBM came to Robeson County, North Carolina, because a believer among the Lumbee Indians, Mrs. Thomas Blue, had a burden for the lost boys and girls of her race. Mrs. Blue communicated with the CBM General Director and after much prayer, CBM of Raleigh, North Carolina sent Miss Grace Garthwaite to begin teaching Released Time Bible classes in the area. "Miss Grace" was well-known and loved and had an effective ministry in Robeson County for 26 years, teaching over 12,000 children per month in the public schools.

David and Kathy Johnson came from CBM in Raleigh, North Carolina, and continued the ministry until 1991. Since it was no longer legal to teach inside the public schools, they diligently worked with local officials to make it possible to teach the Bible classes under the Released Time law using the "Rolling Chapel," a fifth-wheel trailer that was converted into a mobile classroom. The Johnsons were followed by Barry and Susan Belles who served until 2001. In 1997, 240 acres of land was received as a gift to be developed into a new CBM camp; the work in this area became incorporated; and 3 weeks of summer day camp were held using local church facilities. The full time staff continued to teach Released Time classes.

Since 2001 Bobby and Karen Williams have been giving leadership to the ministry. The construction of Camp Grace began in 2001, summer day camps continued, and the first weeks of overnight camp were in 2003. **Today, the full time staff and local volunteers work together to teach Released Time classes at 36 schools teaching over 3,500 students each month.**

This is an exciting place of ministry and there is much evidence that it is God's work! The board and staff desire that CBM of the Mid-Atlantic, its staff and programs, will be used to teach the necessity of a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, and the responsibility and joy that is ours to love Him and serve Him until He returns.

1997

Bobby & Karen Williams came to oversee the development of a camp ministry for this area and 3 weeks of day camp were held at local churches. 240 acres of land was received as a gift to be developed into a new CBM camp. The work incorporated as *CBM Ministries of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.* Barry Belles became the first executive director.

2001

Ground breaking for the construction of Camp Grace was held in February. A 5-6 acre area was cleared to form the "heart" of the camp. Bobby Williams became the executive director after interim director George Elliott.

2002

A bath house & an unscreened picnic pavilion were built and water lines were brought into the camp.

2003

2 duplex cabins were built in the spring. The pavilion was screened and a small kitchen added. A remodeled tobacco barn became the Snack Shack. The permit to operate overnight camp was received just days before the first scheduled week. There were 3 weeks of overnight camp and 3 weeks of day camp.

## 2010 Staff Families



Bobby, Karen, Hayley, Dustin & Lacey Williams (1997-present)

Brent, Beth, Alex, Aidan, Abby & Andrew Woodard  
(2003-present)

Hector, Danyelle & Rosa Miray (2003-2010)

John, Chita, Mark & Timothy Martens (2006-present)

Keith & Sandra Eggert (2006-present)

Roger & Marilyn Ruest (2010-present)

The **full-time staff** is made up of four missionary families: Bobby & Karen Williams, Brent & Beth Woodard, Hector & Danyelle Miray, and John & Chita Martens. The staff is assisted by countless volunteers including ministry associates: Rev. Keith & Sandra Eggert and Roger & Marilyn Ruest.

The **current board members** are Keith Kelsey, Donald Paschall, Jared Wick, John Moore, LeVonda Rowe, Katherine Stout, Mike and Billie Gray, and Danford Groves.

The **facilities** include a screened pavilion, 4 duplex cabins, 5 staff homes, a temporary office building, a bath house, the Snack Shack, playground, 18-hole miniature golf course, swimming area, nature trails and learning centers, maintenance buildings, Lake Blue (a fishing/boating lake), and the newly completed dining hall that also serves as a chapel.

**Future plans** include having more staff, helping surrounding counties establish a released time ministry, developing an outdoor education program, building several more cabins, an RV area for volunteers, a permanent office building, a chapel, and guest housing.



2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
The swimming hole was dug and fed by a well and natural springs. Guest groups began renting the facility when available.	Digging began for a fishing/boating lake (Lake Blue). The 3rd cabin was built.	The office was moved from a cabin to a single-wide trailer. The pavilion kitchen was remodeled.	Shelters were added to the swim area.	Work continued on Lake Blue while plans were being made for a new dining hall.	The 4th cabin was built. Lake Blue was completed & stocked. Construction on the dining hall began. There were waiting lists for most of the weeks of camp.	The dining hall was completed! Released Time continued in 36 schools with the help of over 40 volunteers.

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*



*In Loving Memory of  
Logan Charles Williams  
2/8/2001– 7/15/2003*

*The inscription on the tombstone in the memorial garden is “God knew just what we needed— that’s why He sent you, Little Logan!” Logan was taken home to be with the Lord during one of the highlights of our ministry, the first summer of overnight camp. Although it is hard to imagine that taking him through a tragic accident at camp, the special place God has chosen for us to serve, would be part of God’s plan. . . we believe that it was! We can clearly see that He was in control of details that day and we continue to experience His loving care for us. God has taught us much by allowing us to experience both extreme joy and extreme pain. Logan had a genuine enthusiasm for life and he loved people. Losing him is a constant reminder of the value of family, friends, and each day that God gives us. Most of all we have learned the importance of strengthening our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*We believe that God used Logan’s death to bring about a turning point in the ministry. The people in the community who had been watching us now know that our commitment to minister here is sincere. The number of local volunteers has increased tremendously and the generosity of businesses and skilled laborers has allowed us to accomplish much in a short amount of time. We continue to pray that Logan’s short life and our response to God’s plan for us will be a testimony of the reality of a living God and the benefits of knowing Him personally. Resting in His care, ~ Bobby & Karen Williams*



*“Call unto me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)*





1974

God planted the seed for "Camp Hope" when Jeri Gregg was 19 and attended Camp Victory, in Alabama.

2002

In 2002 Jeri Gregg moved to Bibb County, Alabama. By then her children were grown; she and her husband found themselves raising their grandson, Hunter as theirs.

2007

For the first time in thirty years, in June of 2007, Jeri Gregg went back to Camp Victory with Hunter and five other children from Bibb County! For her, that week at camp was almost like going back in time! It brought back so many good memories.



Webber and Corinne Walker and campers at Camp Victory-First Southern Methodist Church 1975



I-r:  
Jamie,  
Dalton,  
Olivia,  
Hunter,  
Dustin &  
Randi

Camp  
Victory  
2007



## CBM of Central Alabama-The God of Second Chances



Jeri Madison Gregg  
Camp Victory counselor 1974

The beginning of a God-given vision for a Bible camp began many years ago in the mind of a young girl who loved the Lord, but had no idea a simple, but sincere prayer could change her life over thirty years later!

That young lady is me - Jeri Madison Gregg. In the summer of 1974, at the age of 19, I had

an opportunity to attend a CBM camp in South Alabama called Camp Victory. I was a member of Coker Baptist Church, which is located in Tuscaloosa County. Mrs. Gail Jackson, a lady of our church, and her father, Irvin Walker, loaded up a group of young kids to go to Bible camp - a new experience for most of us. We drove south to Centre-ville, Alabama in Bibb County to meet Rev. Webber Walker and his wife Corinne. I had never met anyone like Bro. Walker! I don't think



Rev. Webber Walker  
church camp director—1974



Campers from my cabin (1975)

I've ever known a happier person and one who smiled so much. I also attended camp the following summer in 1975.

After that, four summers came and went before I could visit Camp Victory again in 1979. By then, I was married and the mother of a two-year old daughter, Kristina, an eight-year old stepson, David, and I was pregnant with a son, Steven. It would be thirty years before I would see Camp Victory again.

One day, in 2007, as I was talking to my pastor, Jack Allen, I told him of my intent to take Hunter, the grandson Billy and I were raising, to a Bible camp. I expressed my desire to take other children too. So, for the first time in thirty years, in June 2007, I went back to Camp Victory with Hunter and five other children! For me, that week at camp was almost like going back in time! It was such a blessing, and brought back so many good memories.

2008

2009-2010

Many children in Bibb County never attend church, and due to their lack of Biblical upbringing, they had no spiritual hope for their future. Jeri Gregg continued to have a great burden for our children because so many of them didn't know Jesus. Released Time was a way to show these children that Jesus was the only Hope for their lives!

In 2008 the first week of day camp in Bibb County was held with twenty-two children attending and twenty volunteer staff serving.

Fall 2009: CBM National Board meeting-  
CBM of Central Alabama became an official part of CBM.

Starting a new ministry takes: prayer, talking to anyone who will listen, visiting churches, approaching people to become local board members, and constantly introducing the concept of Released Time to individuals and area schools.

In 2010 eight campers, along with Jeri Gregg, attended a week at Camp Victory.

2008 CBM day campers (Possible future Camp Hope counselors!)



Bibb County Campers Camp Victory 2009



Bibb County Campers Camp Victory 2010



## *God gives a Vision*

January 3, 2008 - a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of starting a CBM Bible camp ministry in Bibb County. Jerry Traister, CBM National Director, several local citizens, and some business people attended the meeting. By the spring of 2008, CBM of Central Alabama had come into existence. First Board members: Rev. Jack Allen, Edwina Greathouse, Judy Herron, Matthew Kornman, Linda Renn Pierce, (two members, Rev. Joel Kavanaugh and Don Wadsworth are no longer on the board), and myself. In April we held our first day camp at Cahaba Historical Park in Centreville. Twenty-two children signed up for camp and there were twenty volunteers and staff. Children enjoyed Bible lessons, music, crafts, games, team sports, wagon and horseback rides, water games, golfing, and of course, they learned about Jesus! On Friday evening, the children performed for their parents by presenting plays of the Bible stories. Everyone agreed our first camp was a great success!

## *God goes before us*

In April of 2009 I felt God was directing me to become a full-time missionary with CBM. I attended candidate school in April 2009 but had to miss the three-days of day camp that was scheduled for Bibb County. Thanks to volunteers who took my place, the children had a great time at camp each day.

On August 19, 2009, CBM National Director, Jerry Traister, joined our local committee to visit the Bibb County Superintendent of Education. We spoke with him about starting a Released Time program in our area schools. We left the meeting aglow with success! The superintendent had given us his blessing to approach school principals and board members regarding Released Time. We knew God had gone before us and paved the way. I believed our efforts would begin to show immediate results.

Unfortunately, sometimes life takes a dark turn. Two days after the meeting, August 21, my son Steven, age 29, died in his sleep. Even though I still struggle with acceptance and understanding of Steven's death, and grief keeps me from enjoying life as I once did, I still see and feel the vision I received from God to have a camp of our own. This year we hope to start the CBM telephone ministry for boys and girls. We also plan to begin the Mailbox Club program at Cahawba Christian Academy. Both of these programs will help children to attend CBM camp at reduced rates.

As part of my efforts to serve God, not only do I plan to continue working towards starting a Released Time program in Bibb County schools, but I will also continue taking children to Camp Victory each summer, and work towards the goal of starting our own Bible camp, Camp Hope.



Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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