

HOMECOMING CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wildwood, Florida 32785-0458

September 9-13, 1981



DAVID EAST
Evangelist



HOMECOMING

HOMECOMING serves a special place in the events of God's people. In Old Testament times, great stress was placed on bringing the people together for worship and social fellowship.

The descendants of some patriarch travel for hundreds of miles to renew family ties and to meet the new members of the family. This makes possible those living in other places to keep the memory and acquaintance of their fellow family members.

The church in Wildwood has this in mind by planning these *HOMECOMING* meetings. We want all who have been connected with the family of God in Wildwood to keep these ties in tact, never losing sight of the days spent with the church in this place.

Thank you for helping to make the church in Wildwood what it is today.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

This phase of evangelism is well organized and is functioning beautifully under the oversight of J. Gordon Mullins, one of our elders.

Much emphasis is placed on this phase of evangelism.

IN LOVING MEMORY

- Mr. Deane Dailey....Nov.7,1977
- ~~Mrs~~ Mollie Crews - July 14, 1978
- Mr. J.D. Snowden Aug. 28, 1978
- Mrs. Eulie Jordan Sept. 9, 1978
- ~~Mr.~~ Henry Tillman Nov.19,1978
- Mrs. Pauline Young Jan. 18,1979
- Mr. Robert Shumard Jan.16, 1979
- Mr. Hester C. Muncie Apr. 26, 1979
- Mr. M.A. Davis Oct. 14:1979
- Mrs. Nettie Castleberry May 27,1979
- Myrtle Kelly Feb.23,1981
- Georgia Ann Slaughter Apr.13, 1981
Infant of Mr & Mrs Sam
Slaughter
- Mrs. Margaret Anne Dann Apr. 13,1981
- Mrs. Dorothy Brosie Apr. 16, 1981
- Mr. Claude Greene Jan 22,1978

Ed. Note: Robt. Shumard and Dorothy
Brosie lived in the winter

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THIS IS OUR BIRTHDAY

It was Sunday morning, September 9, 1941, forty years ago, eighteen precious souls gathered for worship in the Council Chambers of the City Hall of Wildwood. This was the first time, for which we have any record, that Christians assembled in Wildwood as the Church of Christ, meeting around the Lord's Table to remember the sacrificial death of Christ for the sins of the world. Knowing at least seven of those eighteen people, I am confident, they did not realize the far-reaching effects of that worship service.

There stands this day a strong church with a well-balanced program of work, trying to reach the people coming under its influence. The church is served by four elders, six deacons, two ministers in the local area and two abroad; one in Carmen, Mexico, and one in New Guinea. The membership numbers 130.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

DAVID EAST

BIRTH: Birmingham, Alabama, February 8, 1928. Son of Mr. & Mrs. B.J East.

MARRIED: Formerly, Robbie Ezell, Birmingham, Alabama. A teacher at Goodpasture Christian school, Nashville, Tennessee.

EDUCATION: Alabama and Florida public schools; David Lipscomb College; Harding Graduate School (self, wife, son, daughter, daughter-in-law and son-in-law are all graduates of David Lipscomb College.

CHILDREN: (1) James, engineer with Virginia Electric Power Co., in Richmond, Virginia, married to Beth Murphree. They have three daughters.
2). Sarah, a graduate of David Lipscomb and married to Andrew Simms. have one son.
3). Lex, a student.

EXPERIENCE: Has preached in seventeen states and five foreign countries since 1945. Has been the minister at the following churches: Hogansville and Hapeville, Georgia; Pulaski, Chattanooga, Springfield and Nashville, Tennessee. Has been with the Hillsboro Church of Christ, Nashville, Tennessee, since 1979.

RADIO: Extensive radio and television work.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Con't.

BOOKS: Bible Geography, Old Testament (Workbook), 1958
Bible Geography, New Testament (Workbook), 1959

OTHER FACTS: Conducted two campaigns in Brussels, Belgium; one in East Kilbride, Scotland

Three study trips to the Bible Lands.

Was baptized by William Bryson, May 1943, in Wildwood, Florida.

NOSTALGIA

On that Sunday morning, September 9, 1941, when those eighteen souls met for worship, the achievements cannot be determined. Only eternity can number the souls whose names are registered in heaven because of the influence radiated from the church in Wildwood. Think of the countless numbers, faithful to the cause of Christ, living in various parts of the country...teaching.... by precept and example, Christ and his church, all as a result of those few disciples meeting for worship, marking the beginning of the church in Wildwood

In order that we may keep alive the memory of those saints, I quote from a note written by Mr. C.L. "Zip" Starnes in 1962, and was signed by his wife, Kay Starnes in 1974, and made available to us by Brother and Sister Edwin Hamlett:

"Among those who grouped to organize a local church were: Sisters "Fanny" Futch; "Mammy" Riddle, Lillie Riddle, Margaret Caruthers, Maggie Caruthers, Brother Jake Collier and Blanche Collier.

'...Joining in the first worship service were Brother and Sister Will F. Wallace, and daughters, Rudy and Nellie Brother and Sister Edwin C. Hamlett and their daughter, Edith; Grandma Louana Slaughter, Marie and Irene Slaughter and Brother Abe Motes.

Nostalgia, Con't.

The church in Wildwood stands today as a testimony of those who met for the first time to worship God in the name of Christ.

Some of that first assembly are now sleeping in earth's trunnel bed ...waiting...for ~~their~~ comrads...and one day, we hope to become part of the "snow white angel band"..... but until that time, we will continue to hold high that banner lifted up by those eighteen souls on that Sunday morning, September 9, 1941.

CORRECTION... Nostalgia

In the fourth paragraph, Marie Slaughter and Irene Slaughter are listed as being in the first worship service. After discussing the matter with them, they report:

Marie (Mrs. Gilbert Slaughter) was living in Sanford, Florida, at the time and was not part of that assembly.

Irene (Mrs. S.F. Slaughter) was attending the church in Oxford at the time, and was not part of the auditory.

The information was taken from a newspaper account written in 1962.

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Ed. Note: Since beginning the research on the church in Wildwood some very interesting information has been found concerning GRANDMA LOUANA SLAUGHTER. She lived at a community called RIVERLAND located South and West of Webster. She was a member of the church and is believed to have been responsible for the church being established in RIVERLAND and the church met in a school house. Promise: will do more research on the matter. Understand that Grandma Louana's family were members of the church.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gamble Street
Wildwood, Florida 32785

ELDERS:

Martin, Lynn A.
Mullins, J. Gordon
Sandh, Robt. F.
Spivy, Joe T.

DEACONS:

Glenn, J. A.
Lemasters, Lester
Mertz, H. J.
Slaughter, E. R.
Strickland, C.G.

MINISTERS: (Local)

Patton, J. Leo
Spivy, Joe T.

(Abroad)

Florindo Alfaro..Mexico
Curtis Harrison..New Guinea

Ed. Note:

Brother Curtis Harrison is supported in part by the church in Wildwood. He has other sponsors

Brother Florindo Alfaro is supported in full by the church in Wildwood.

DIRECT MAILING:

One of the most effective tools being used by the church is a Resident mailing of materials

We are allowed to use our Mailing Permit for Resident--Householder or "bulk mailing" from our local Post Office. We mail and average of three hundred copies of GOSPEL MINUTES each week. In this publication we often insert various kinds of material related to the church; such as, BIBLE CALL brochures and other material as we judge to be of benefit.

EVANGELISM

Our program of evangelism
is rather varied, having
many parts, branching out
in different directions
that we might reach
people in every
walk of life.

*Some of the programs are listed in the
following pages:*

20th CENTURY CHRISTIAN

This publication is delivered personally to the business places in our town where there are Waiting Rooms and people have time to reach such material. This is one of the smallest projects we have in our program, since our town is small and there are very few places in which we can leave such material. This program is in its fourth year and is being well received.

BIBLE CALL

This Tape Library made available by telephone to every resident in the "local call" area of Sumter County is now proving to be a very useful method of reaching the people of our County because of the privacy of the method.

Our program is connected with the Bible Call program promoted by the different congregation in our neighboring County. We maintain a Wats Line to the office in the church building in Mount Mora. The Code-A-Phone is located in our own building in Wildwood and used for all "call back" inquiries for the program. It is our policy to contact each person asking for other information and other materials on the subject called.

Members of the church in Wildwood operate the cassettes for three of the twelve months out of the year. Our periods of work are assigned by the directors of Bible Call. This year we have operated the board during February July and are assigned the month of December. Never has one person complained about the amount of work involved during these times.

BOOTH AT THE SUMTER COUNTRY FAIR

This booth is made as attractive as we can, and someone is there from the time building opens, wherein the booths are located, until the building closes for the night. At no time is it left unattended. We try to speak to every person passing and give them a tract, Bible Call brochures listing the tapes. A telephone is on the table and many times we have people we are able to demonstrate how BIBLE CALL works. The telephone is a "no hands" operation, which allows us to discuss the operation while it is playing.

Much of the time good gospel music is playing in the background at a level that it is not offensive to any one, not even those in the adjoining booth.

We talk to many teenagers about going to college and give brochures.. Alabama Christian College, this is the college supplying the material.

We gave away some 800 ballpoint pens, stamped with the name of the church, address and telephone number.

Last year in this project alone, we made some 2,000 personal contact with people concerning the church.

This was our second year to operate such a project and it was more successful than the year before.

MEETINGS

It has been the custom of the church in Wildwood to conduct two series of meeting each year. These have been well supported by the members of the church. We believe much is accomplished by these efforts.

Brother Arlin Chapman... was the evangelist for the meeting done this last spring. Interest and attendance were excellent

This special event..HOME-COMING..scheduled for the date of the beginning of the church in Wildwood is the second for this year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This is a special effort among the youth of our community and is being well received. Children of the community respond to our contact with them

This school is well organized and is functioning beautifully.

We prefer to schedule it as soon as possible after our public schools are out for the summer and before vacations get under way.

THANK YOU.....

For honoring the church with your presence during this special occasion-HOMECOMING. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the fellowship of the church in Wildwood, that old friendships have been renewed, and that new ones have been made.

Your presence has been an inspiration to all of us, and we hope, you have received a spiritual blessing from worshipping with us.

We may never meet again this side of death, and, if we do not, let us so live as to have a grand REUNION in that land of eternal bliss.

INFLUENCE FROM THE PAST

How wonderful it would be had records been kept when the church met at Riverland! During the life-time of the church in that community located some few miles from Wildwood, Grandma Louana Slaughter heard the gospel and obeyed it becoming a simple Christian. In time, she moved to Wildwood, bringing her family with her. She was numbered among those who met for the first time in this town and the because of that meeting, the church was established in our town. Here is simply no possible way to tell of the far-reaching effects from the church that met in that rural community. RIVERLAND. Through the church in Wildwood, Grandma Slaughter lives on...and there is now a church in Carmen, Mexico and much work is being done in New Guinea. because the church met and worshipped in Riverland.

It is very unfortunate indeed that record of the work of the church in all locations is not kept. Perhaps, this note will inspire more to follow the idea.

May God have all the praise and glory for what ever may come from the work in that remote community, and passing on to us through the church in Wildwood.

OUR PROMISE:

We will continue to protect, guarding with our very lives, the banner of our Lord, raised to full staff, on that Sunday morning, September 9, 1941 and, the heritage we have from those eighteen souls, we will preserve and pass on to others who will carry-on.

We will continue to entreat the souls of men to be good soldiers in the army of King Jesus.

We want every person in Sumter County to have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ, and to that end we will continue to work and pray.

OUR PRAYER..

May God fill you with his spirit of love for one another; give us wisdom to do his will to the best of our ability; protect us from the evil one and fill our days with service to the cause of our Christ, and when our course is ended that the crown of life may be ours..and it will be enough...