



Recollections

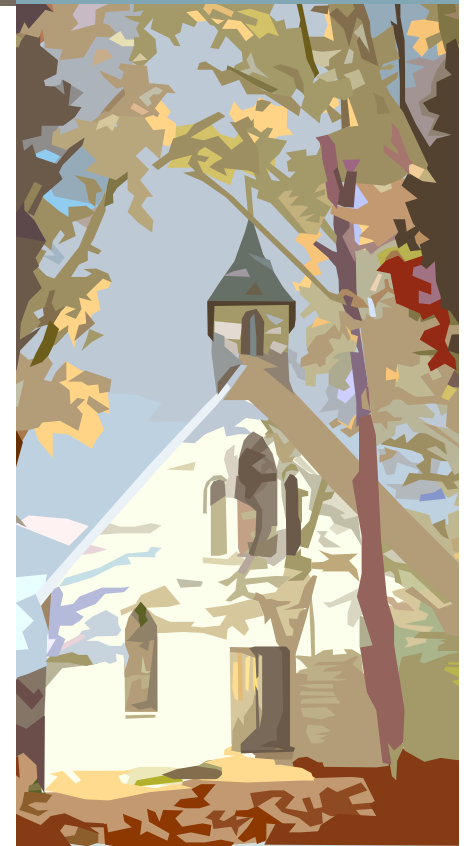
by *Walter H. (Skip) Elliott III*

Chairman, Stewards Foundation

As a young teenager, my earliest recollections of Stewards Foundation came from listening to William G. McCartney (founder) speak about the organization's inception and its mission to assist assemblies in building chapel facilities. Traveling from their home in Waynesboro, Georgia, Mr. McCartney and his wife often stayed in my childhood home in Summerville, South Carolina, to lead a Bible study Saturday evening and then preach at our chapel Sunday morning and evening. They maintained this routine for many years. My spiritual development was greatly impacted by this man of strong faith. I grew to have great admiration for Mr. McCartney's vision for Stewards Foundation and saw that the Lord used it to spread the Gospel and encourage the Lord's people in the United States.

Decades ago, Stewards Foundation offered small financial scholarships to students pursuing careers in the medical field. Mr. McCartney knew of my desire at the time to become a physician and encouraged me to apply for this aid. I was awarded one of these scholarships during college and, although the Lord later lead me to a different career path, it was a great encouragement to me. I still have acknowledgement letters from Stewards Foundation signed by Mr. Neil Glass (former executive director).

In the mid-1970s my home chapel moved from Charleston to Summerville, South Carolina, to be closer to the majority of those in fellowship. After my father's cousin donated two acres of land, the elders applied for a loan with Stewards Foundation for funds to construct what became known as Jamison Road Bible Chapel, which served the saints for many years. Most recently, Summerville Bible Fellowship, our current home chapel, needed to construct a parking lot and renovate the building. Again, this was made possible through a loan provided by Stewards Foundation.



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"...the Lord used it to spread the Gospel.."



I also realized that Stewards Foundation's former ownership of several hospitals in the U.S. was exemplary of their desire to help missionaries returning from the foreign field and full-time workers in the U.S. obtain health care. Mr. Fred Gladstone ("Mr. Happy Rock" as he was affectionately known), another stalwart in the faith used by the Lord to impact my life, would travel to Chicago for his annual physical at one of the Stewards Foundation's hospitals. Mr. Doug Ibbotson, an elder in our meeting during my high school and college years, had been a chaplain at one of the hospitals and relayed many stories of sharing the Gospel with patients.

It is a privilege to serve on Stewards Foundation's board. Former and current board members that I have served with have been a great encouragement to my spiritual life. These men take the foundation's work very seriously, and decisions are made with a desire to magnify the Lord's name. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to use Stewards Foundation to bring honor to *Him* and to help the saints nurture other believers and spread the Gospel.

I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED

Gospel Chapel of Detroit

by *Pastor Arkles C. Brookes, Jr*

First and foremost we, at Gospel Chapel of Detroit, thank the Lord for 79 years of fellowship. The assembly of several families meeting in a private home was founded in 1938. The first pastor was Elder Regan Wright. In 1943, the assembly moved into what had been a bank building. Pastor Wright passed in 1968, and Pastor Arkles Brooks Sr. was called to minister to the saints. Between 1970 and 1972, the assembly experienced significant growth, increasing from 30 to over 100, with a fourth of those being new born-again believers. Part of this growth was the result of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs started in 1971.

In 1978, we outgrew the bank building and purchased a larger worship facility from a CME congregation that had chosen to leave the inner city. During this time, several men left to establish other assemblies. One brother went to serve in Chicago, Illinois while two others moved to different areas in Detroit. Brother John Chambers, who moved to the west side, has since gone to be with the Lord. Brother Joseph Haynes, an ex-boxer, established a work northeast of our location in Detroit. These brothers rose out of our assembly, which had grown to nearly 200 members.

"In spite of challenges, we see the hand of God working."

By now, the assembly had three choirs – senior, young adults, and children's. The fellowship consisted of one-third senior adults, one-third young adults, and one-third children under age 13. We established a winter retreat for teens in 1976, which grew from 20 attendees to over 100. We had the joy of experiencing dozens of youth confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Many of these young people are now in ministry, some obtaining secular degrees and theological-based education. Another blessing was seeing the Circle Y Bible Camp established, giving inner-city children an opportunity to experience "fun in the Son." Many Christian marriages, Christian workers, and missionaries came out of this ministry.

We moved into our current building in 1982. The city took our property by eminent domain as the result of the General Motors Company expanding their manufacturing facility. A more just compensation was obtained from the City of Detroit when a Jewish businessman had his attorney represent us in court at no cost to our little assembly. The attorney donated his fees to establish a fund for minority scholarships. He gave us permission to use the funds for law school students, but made an exception so I could use funds to attend William Tyndale Bible College (1982-84).



My father, Pastor Arkles Brooks Sr., was stricken with Alzheimer's disease in 1989. He passed in 1994, from complications which had rendered him unable to minister since 1991. In 1991, the Saints asked me to be interim pastor along with Brother Ron Horton. In 1992, I was selected to serve as Pastor/Elder. Later, Brother Horton was called to pastor at Bethany-Pembroke Bible Chapel.

The following years saw continued growth in the assembly. Several more young men entered the ministry, were ordained and moved to serve in other assemblies. The Lord has given us the joy of seeing dozens of young men and women serving Him. Among those is Brother Brian Johnson, who returned to a missionary effort in Africa during a dangerous time in that country.

At the beginning of the 2000 millennium, we experienced and met, by the grace of God, many challenges and attacks by the adversary. The city was ravaged by corruption and atheistic heretical doctrines. With the population of Detroit shrinking and families being destroyed by moral decline and economic deprivation, we suffered in the same manner as the city and our country. However, the Lord sustained us through it all, and He is still doing so. We have new members, with young and old being saved, but our membership is one-half of what it was 20 years ago.

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

In spite of the challenges, we see the hand of God working. Over the past two years, visitors have come from various parts of Detroit as a result of our radio broadcast. From 1991 through 1994, our TV broadcast on the first African-American owned religious broadcast led to moderate growth for six inner-city assemblies. We were able to continue this work until the passing of Pastors Owen Fraser and Pellam Love.

As a result of Stewards Foundation’s recent loan and gift, we were able to install a new roof, handicap ramps, and perform other necessary repairs to the chapel.

We give all praise, honor, and glory to God, and look expectantly to seeing Him do great things in the future as we strive to serve Him at Gospel Chapel of Detroit.

Are We Playing Church?

by Donald M. Taylor

Letters of Interest, January 1965

Many years ago a book of fiction appeared titled, *The Apostles of the Southeast*. It was the story of a little company of uneducated Christians in southeast London who took their religious activities very seriously, but whose antics appeared ludicrous to outsiders. The wife of one of the leaders, herself not of the company, occasionally reproached her husband for “playing church.”

Could that charge be leveled against some of us in assemblies in America today? Are we calling the tune, and wondering why fellow believers don’t dance to it? Are we concerned about taking our turn on the platform, and hurt if we are not called on? Do we eagerly accept every invitation to preach that comes our way, convincing ourselves that each such bid is a call from God; and doing so to the neglect of our families and simple unglamorous duties in our home assemblies? Do we yearn for commendation to the work of the Lord, while overlooking opportunities to carry the Gospel to our next-door neighbors and fellow employees or schoolmates?

When we come together as a company of Christians, does everyone have a modern counterpart of “a psalm, a doctrine, a tongue, a revelation, an interpretation?” Or do we do all things to the edifying of the assembly?

Do we study our Bibles primarily for messages, or for our own instruction, development, cleansing, correction, comfort? Do we attend prayer meetings *religiously*, or expectantly? When we rise to pray, do we pray to our Father in heaven, or to those sitting around us? Are our public prayers longer than our private ones?

Games can become very serious. The generation that reproached John the Baptist for not *dancing*, and our Lord Jesus Christ for not *lamenting*, did both one and the other to death. The church that accepted the patronage of Constantine, with her bishops who began toying with the trappings of office, developed into the Roman See that murdered thousands for adhering to the pure Gospel.

“Does our life center around worship of God and service to Him...”

Does our life center around worship of God and service to Him and His people, or around church activity? If the later, we are playing church just like the Corinthians, to whom Paul wrote that, though they were enriched by Him in all utterance and knowledge, and come behind in no gift, they were yet carnal. He could not speak to them as spiritual, well-developed Christians, but as to babies. Babies who don’t mature naturally grow into nuisances or menaces.

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News You Can Use

Upcoming Annual Members Meeting

The 2017 Annual Members Meeting is scheduled for September 23rd at Grace Bible Chapel in Fullerton, CA. Each year this meeting is held in different parts of the country to give the greatest opportunity for as many as possible to attend and be informed about Stewards Foundation.

One purpose for the annual meeting is the election of Trustees to the Board of Stewards Foundation. These men bear the responsibility of ensuring that there is no drifting away from the mission established by the founding Trustees. They direct Stewards Foundation through policies established to stay the course. Consequently, this meeting should be of interest to every member assembly considering the impact of its outcome.

Our bylaws require that each member assembly designate a Delegate to act on its behalf at this annual meeting, either in person or by proxy. Unfortunately, many Delegates do not take advantage of

Psalms 126:3, “The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad”

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the opportunity to represent their assembly. Some feel that they cannot participate due to a lack of knowledge about the Trustees, particularly those up for election. Every Trustee’s biography is on our website, www.stewardsfoundation.org.

We encourage you to take advantage of all of the information on our website, and to inform yourself about the men that lead Stewards Foundation. In particular, we urge Delegates to take the time to read these biographies, and then participate by attending the meeting in person, or returning their assembly’s proxy. This will be a great encouragement to the Trustees, and a show of support for the work of Stewards Foundation.

This meeting of the corporation is open to anyone interested in

attending. In addition to the election of Trustees, our bylaws state that the meeting is, “to allow the Board to present their Annual Report to the Nonprofit Foundation Members and to transact such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting.”

Following the corporate meeting there will be a presentation by Stewards Foundation, Believers Stewardship Services and Assembly Care Ministries. Representatives of these three assembly service organizations will talk about their history and the services they offer to assemblies of the Lord’s people and their commended workers.

Everyone in attendance is invited to join us for lunch following the presentations.



1420 W. Mockingbird Ln.
Suite 410
Dallas, Texas 75247-4932
Phone: 972-726-6550

www.stewardsfoundation.org

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