

# *Lower Light Evangelist*

*Spring*

*2019*

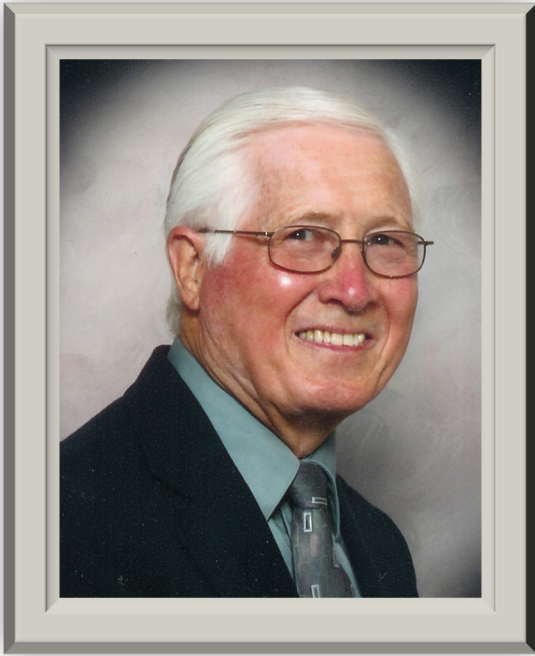


*Deut. 19:14*

*“Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor’s landmark [fence].”*

# Mending Broken Fences

## The Editor's Viewpoint



Solomon said, "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall [fence] thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction". Proverbs 24: 30-32.

Let's join in the walk with the wise Solomon, as he strolls by a rural homestead that seems to be in sad disrepair. Let us stop, lean against a tree, and think with him as he ponders his surroundings. What nugget of truth is there here for us to learn?

Let us review the picture, fixing it in our minds; we see a decaying homestead, perhaps buildings with roofs leaning, or falling, overrun by the creatures living in the wild. Decaying homesteads are sadly prevalent in rural areas; I am distraught when I see houses, barns, and fences, that once were sturdy landmarks, now unsightly heaps of rubble. I am reminded of them as I ponder this broken fence.

When you see an object that appears in need of attention, it usually draws attention to the owner.

What can this fence tell us about the owner? I have never met him, but just in observing the situation, I would concur with Solomon that he might be very slothful. Webster would say he was "disinclined to activity; lazy". Slothfulness brings delays, because procrastination reveals negligence, and can become costly, even fatal. It is the attitude, "never do today what you can put off until tomorrow". A repairman once gave me this piece of advice, "if I can't finish it on a Saturday, I don't start it".

I'm confident that at one time this fence was a very fine wall, well built, and no doubt maintained for several years. Fences are in place either to keep your animals in or others out, or perhaps both. You may use fine white boards, or railings, stones, or whatever. So, fences can be quite practical, but if they fall down, rot away, etc. what then?

This idler neglected its care. He allowed the wall, or fence, to deteriorate, to fall down. There are some important stone fences on our spiritual farm that need our continued inspection and maintenance. Solomon encouraged his readers to "bring up a child in the way he ought to go...". Deut.6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up". Why is it so much harder to win a person to our teaching? Could it be that their doctrine is so ingrained into the very fiber of their souls? Could it be we have majored too long on nonessential issues?

God has placed vital fences about the saints; if these be destroyed the loss may well be fatal, with the hope of heaven but a dream and not a reality. The challenge is not just to expose the broken fence, but to wake the sluggard, sound the alarm, "the fences are broken down!"

Let us be about mending fallen fences, broken vows and relationships within the family of God.

# Preacher/Lay Convention Highlights

Preacher Laymen's Convention, 2019

*Keith Ledford*

One of the highlights of my year is the annual trip that I'm privileged to take to Plainfield, Indiana, to attend the ICHA Preacher/Laymen's Convention. It has been a special joy of mine to get to stay most of the last 18



years with my dad at Ray and Kathy Matthews. I left home at 5:00 a.m. Tuesday morning and stopped in Beckley, WV, to pick up dad. After driving about 500 miles that day it was my privilege to attend the General Board meeting at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Excitement was building as people from various states began arriving for the evening service at 7:30. What a wonderful time as the congregation began to worship in song and rejoice in the Lord. Marc Dodrill, our new chairman, did a great job of leading the services.

Jacob Martin was the main speaker for the convention. He was especially anointed of the Lord as he challenged us in our ministry and outreach. In each service he shared stories from his personal ministry



as to how the Lord led him to win souls and see renewal in the church. The messages had a profound impact, and I believe they will help us as

we try to attempt more for the Lord. The impact was such that, I feel, souls may be in heaven because of this convention. This is a great time of fellowship! Many of us like to make at least one trip to Gray Brothers for a delicious meal. What a joy to sit around the table with fellow ministers and others of like precious faith. After the night service many gather in local restaurants enjoying each other's company.

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## *My Convention perspective*

*Lois Kennedy*

It was our privilege to attend the Preacher/Lay Convention. It was a great subject, "The Open Door," a subject that affects all of our churches, whether we are large or small. We enjoyed all the sessions, we were in. The speakers were anointed and very helpful in their subjects. The fellowship with others in attendance was precious, too.

Our grandson, Noah, was with us, and wanted to know what a "layman" is. He felt like he belongs there, since he helps take the offerings, helps



count the nickel marches, and holds the door for others. It was a wonderful convention..

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## *On line viewers' remarks*

"I was with you online for most of the convention. My heart was so blessed and enriched in the Lord! May God continue to bless all of you!"

"I enjoyed watching some of the services on line, great truths ." "Wonderful services!!"

"I so enjoyed seeing the services on live streaming."

# *The Importance of Being Connected*

*Rev. Buddy Perry, ICHA General Chairman Emeritus*

John 15: 1-8 gives us the story of the vine, and the necessity of being connected. The focus of this article is the question, are you connected? If we are attached to the true vine, we have the potential for fruitful living. Jesus is that Source, so we can do "all things through Christ." Think of the potential wrapped up in that statement. A little mouse riding on an elephant's back as they crossed the bridge, said, "Boy, we really shook that bridge, didn't we?" With God, all things are possible. We can be equipped fully to do whatever God calls us to do. As our Owner, God takes care of us and prepares us to be productive and fruitful. If that requires pruning, allow it willingly, that you may bear more fruit. Productive people are continually being pruned, not in a way we would humanly desire, but to remove the hindrances to being the most productive for His Kingdom.

Jesus wants to partner with us in our living. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

This partnership gives us confidence that together we can accomplish His will. We have His promise that if we abide, He will abide. If we abide in Him, we will delight to do His will, and He will give us the desires of our hearts because we are asking only in His will.

Our purpose in life should be to glorify Him, and bear much fruit, and so prove that we are His disciples. It all stems from obedience. He is there waiting. He has the power, He has the strength, He has the wisdom, He has the resources needed, and He is ready to deliver. If we abide, or remain,



In Him we will receive what we need and reproduce. Let's be fruitful by remaining in prayer, daily receiving from God by reading Scripture or listening to positive tapes, then reproduce by going out and telling someone what we have learned. It will help strengthen us in our own life. This would be a wonderful time to allow God to be honored through our living. *Are you connected?*

(Article reprinted from Dec., 2009 Holiness Evangelist).

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## **NOTICE:**

It is our desire to keep you posted on the events pertaining to the Lower Light Mission Association; therefore, the 2019 camp announcement is now available on the web site at:

**[www.lowerlight.homestead.com](http://www.lowerlight.homestead.com)**

This site is generously provided and maintained by Dan Plemmons, a PHC pastor, and a good friend to the Lower Light family.

# *A letter of practical advice and encouragement for small churches and small church pastors.*

*By Rachael Plank*

Dear Small Church,

You may not have the nicest church facility in your denomination, but you can steward what God has given you by regularly cleaning, painting, mowing the grass, and pulling the weeds.

You, small church pastor, may not have as much pastoral training as you would like, but you can offer your best to God by arriving an hour before service to have the church doors unlocked, lights on, and recorded music playing, letting the community know that the church is open for spiritual business.

You may not have an outgoing personality, but you can be at the door to shake hands and sincerely welcome every person to the service.

You may have a small congregation, but you can be prepared as if there were a hundred people ready to pour into the sanctuary, since every soul matters to the Savior.

You may be discouraged by one of those lower-than-usual-attendance Sundays, but instead of pointing out the obvious you can say something to encourage the congregation and feed the sheep God has entrusted to you.

You may not be the most talented speaker, but you can devote time to pray, study God's Word, and illustrate your message so that you are not long or boring.

You may only have one or two young people who attend your church, but you can build a relationship with them and ensure they get to youth camps, special services, and conventions.

You may feel like your services are humdrum and boring, but you can seek God until His presence is manifest and do something special to celebrate Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparent's Day, Children's Day, and other

Important holidays.

You may not have a nursery for mothers with babies, but you can have a changing table installed — and perhaps a rocking chair — in a Sunday School room.

You may be the only one in the pre-Sunday night prayer meeting, but at least there was one that prayed, and you can be faithful to announce about the men's and ladies' prayer rooms every week.

Your congregation may feel they cannot afford to give to missions or be able to pay evangelists for revival meetings, but you can designate each Wednesday night offering for these special categories.

You, small church parishioner, may feel you cannot afford to give your pastor a raise in pay, but you should not let a year go by without reviewing the possibility of at least adding a benefit, such as a beef for the freezer, additional vacation days, or an all-expense paid trip to Dayton IHC.

You may feel like you have little influence, but God will say "well done" if you remain faithful to His cause, preserve your holy character, and give your best for the Kingdom.

**Rachel Plank** is the wife of Rev. Harry Plank who pastored for twenty-seven years, a Conference President for nineteen years, and now travels as an evangelist. The Planks have three married sons and seven grandchildren.



# *Mending Fences*

*Marc Dodrill*

I had the glorious privilege to grow up on a farm. Part of our responsibility on the farm was to keep the fences in good repair. We needed them to keep our livestock from getting out and destroying our garden or getting in the farmer's garden across the road from us.

Fences are important in our spiritual life as well. We are not talking about literal fences, but some areas in our life that we need fences to separate ourselves from this old world, as well as the attitudes of the world. Fences mark boundaries and are there for our protection. The phrase that we have often heard in the past is, "good fences make good neighbors".

Spiritually, when we talk about mending fences, we usually are referring to repairing or restoring relationships with others who have been offended, or out of sorts with us or with one another. It needs to be done in a timely fashion, and not leaving any room or time for bitterness to begin to grow.

My dad used to say something like this, concerning a breach in relationships or a sharp division; "Son take the blame, because truth will vindicate itself". My father was a great example in following this saying. I can remember time after time that he took the blame when he did not have any blame whatsoever in the situation, but as a young man I witnessed the results of this giant of a Christian man taking the low road and keeping the fences mended and God began to work on others and rifts were made right!

My dad drove a Sunday School bus for 27 years in the old Pilgrim Holiness Church. He had several stops where the children were always feuding over some trivial matter that had become a continued family fight. He usually had a



man from our church to ride on the bus to help keep the peace. We call them "bus Captains" now, but he called him "the bouncer". On one particular stop there was a farm fence with two strands of barbed wire that separated their houses. Now these houses were not in the rural area, but down town in a residential housing area. There were children that went to our Sunday School from both houses that were divided by this conspicuous farm fence with two strands of barbed wire across the top of it, and they carried on their fighting on the church bus. One day they were in a fist fight when the "bouncer" got between those that were fighting and he asked, "what's between you all any way?" and one of them piped up and said, "a fence." Perhaps there was a boundary dispute or a fuss that had started some time ago and the children grew up fighting over a FENCE!

I believe God would be honored and glorified if you and I would initiate mending the fences. Perhaps churches would have more families and revival fires would burn more frequently because we are promoting, "fence mending". Remember Jesus is coming soon and we dare not allow anything to

come between ourselves and others. Let's live so that if there is a breach in the fence that we will be known to make a prayerful effort to mend it.

Just like a farmer, we as Christians have a life-long responsibility to "mend fences"! Keep the atmosphere clear and allow the Lord to move in our midst unhindered by keeping the fences mended!

Marc Dodrill is general chairman of International Conservative Holiness Association (ICHA).

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*Special Announcement*  
*ICHA Family Camp, Greenfield, IN*  
*June 4-9, 2019*

*James Plank & Dan Stetler, Evangelists*

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*A Message from one of our Retired Saints*

Elmer says to his family and friends, "Well, hello



everybody! I'm doing alright, I guess. Wow...Wow. We love you all. Hope to see you soon to have a time of visitation again. Everything's going OK, as far as I know." He

then whistled a tune and started singing, "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine; you make me happy when skies are grey...." "Sometime, we will all get to heaven and have a wonderful time of fellowship."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Elmer Johnson, former pastor of two L.L. churches, now resides in a nursing home in Colorado Springs, CO. Though he suffers from Alzheimer's, he takes his Bible, and visits his fellow residents, reading scripture, praying, and even preaching a little to them. It is evident that at nearly 91 years old, he still loves his Savior, and remains faithful to his calling, "Preach the Word"

**Petersburg Revival April 9-14**

**Rally Day, April 13**

**Rev. David Fulton, Evangelist**

**Rev. David Voss, pastor**



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Lower Light Mission Association  
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Pictures will be returned upon request.

Please notify us of any change in your mailing address.

**Cover Photo:** Provided by Tim Wiford

# Lower Light Camp Petersburg, Michigan

August 2-11, 2019



Matt Smart, Evangelist



Tim Wiford, Evangelist



Billy Watts, First  
Sunday am/pm



Dennis & Brenda Barrick, Singers

## Directions:

From US-23, get off at exit 13. Go west 4 miles. Turn left on Elm Street, go two blocks. Campground is at junction of Elm and Elizabeth.

## Missions Services

August 8, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



## Camp Address :

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