

## On The Shoulders of Giants

TOM AND ESTHER HENDERSON



Matthew 22:37 gives us the greatest commandment of all: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." This commandment I have found fulfilled in so many of our people. It also says

in verse 39: "And

the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." just follows along naturally with our people. This childlike faith and compassion for others, even when you are at the bottom, is very prevalent in our people, and Tom and Esther Henderson are no exception. Their love and faith in God shines through not only in their words but also their actions.

Carolyn nicknamed him "Crabby" after a Little Rascals episode, because they both love this old show so much. Some call him "Candy Man" because he always has a pocket full of candy to give out in church. This gesture meant so much to me, always having cinnamon candy.

Tom was raised in the Clayton Street church. His mother was a member of the "Ladies Willing Workers" and Tom can remember going to church with her while she worked and he said, "If you were sitting around doing nothing they would put you to work."

His father was known as "Sarge" and he was the head usher.

Some of Tom's fondest memories are of church; he said, "I always enjoyed going." His Sunday School teachers are the ones he remembers most. "They taught us how to be human." Sunday School is where Tom accepted the Lord at the age of 12 when Teddy Bowman came in and prayed for his

class. He also remembers Vacation Bible School where he says, "We all would fight over who got to be the flag bearer, and I was no different."

Doc Hawkins, a Sunday School teacher, formed a softball league; Tom tried out for it and made the team. He played third base and shortstop in many games ending "With the proudest moment of my life," when they won the State Championship under the coaching of Ralph Murphy. He especially

remembers Ralph and Elsie when they

came in. He says, "They were the most wonderful people I knew." "We called Elsie 'mom' because she wanted us to; she was a second mom to me." "When Ralph took over the softball team he taught us how to be human and to be good sportsmen."

Tom worked at Sears in Dayton for a while and that is where he and Esther met. Tom loved her little walk as she would pass through the stockroom and that is what started the romance ending with them getting married at the United Church of Christ in Dayton.

Esther started going with her family at the age of 10 to the United Church of Christ. She says, "We went there because it was convenient, being just across the street."

When Tom and Esther started going together Tom took her to Clayton Street for the first time.

They were sitting up in the balcony when Carl McGlothen started running in the spirit coming up the stairs and scaring Esther half to death. It took Tom weeks before he could get her to come back, but come back she did!

Tom has many fond memories of Clayton Street such as delivering Easter dinners to people at the Mills and factories and teaching 5 and 6 year olds boys in Sunday School.

Coming to Stratford Heights where he has been an usher for many years and starting the "Candy



Man" ministry. This ministry is all Tom because every halloween he would sit out on his porch giving out candy to the kids all evening long. Esther has sings in the choir, helps with the Easter eggs and helps Carolyn with VBS, and assists Kim Johnson with her Wednesday night class.

This is a couple who really illustrates Matthew 22:37-39 by loving God, the church and during 40 years of marriage, taking care of each other.

Tom says, "Once you get saved, once you feel His power, don't ever let go. Because there is no

greater feeling, no greater fact of knowing that you've got Him with you."

Esther says, "Everybody should praise Him everyday and give Him all the glory. Just trust Him, have faith in Him and love Him."

Right now Tom and Esther are going through a rough time with his cancer, but their love and faith in God has not wavered one bit.

When you see Esther, give her a word of encouragement and prayer. Pray for Tom and visit him if you can. They really miss everybody and miss coming to church.

### Find Your Place In The Body

**So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.**

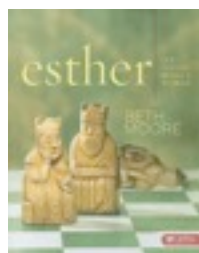
**Romans 12:4.**



It has been Pastor Ray's burden for a long time to help people find their place in the body of our church. He wondered if people thought they needed to be invited or if they just did not know where help is needed. This manual is his answer, it lists all our ministries and the people to contact if you want to get involved. "The church is gaining a lot of momentum with new people asking how they can get involved. This is to help keep the momentum and growth going, to get more people involved." Pastor Ray says. Have a look at the manual Pastor Ray has made. You don't have to be invited, you just have to want to minister, even if you don't feel qualified come, ask the person heading that ministry, we will share our vision with you and train you.

All ministries need help in one way or another. There is work for everyone and the blessings that will come are immeasurable!

### Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman A Beth-Moore Curriculum



Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. The Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today's woman. Esther's destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner. Join Beth in an in-depth and very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance. She peels back the layers of history and shows how very contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to our lives. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seemed overpowering, this is the study for you. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. This portion of God's Word contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried, and pressured lives.

We will be offering this course starting Wednesday, May 6th. It is an 18 week course with Linda Ingham as the Leader/Facilitator. We will be kicking off this course on Friday, April 24th with a fellowship night and the movie

"One Night With The King" which is based on the book of Esther. Please see Linda or Missy Coffey if you have any questions.

### Men's Night Out



On Friday, March 13th, we had another Men's Night Out. Almost 40 people were there for our Wings cooking contest. John McKinney won the Wings contest with his delicious recipe and homemade bleu cheese dipping sauce. Twice baked potatoes were also brought in for everyone to enjoy.

We had a Wii golf tournament with Christian Mays winning the trophy. Another Wii was setup with a few men challenging each other in a bowling tournament. At the end of the meeting with his trophy firmly in hand he challenged Jack Baker and Jake Mann to a game. He and Jack tied with Jack taking the win in a sudden death playoff at the 10th hole. The movie, "Facing The Giants," was played as well.

Great fun and fellowship was had by all with no one walking away hungry. We just missed YOU again and wished you were there with us. So come and join us!



Garry's earliest experience in music was at the age of five. His Grandfather, Carlos Muncy, pastored a church in Hollywood, Florida, moving to Jacksonville and eventually to Gainesville. Garry spent a lot of time there and his grandfather would have him sing solos. Garry's greatest hits were; "The Devil is a Sly Old

Fox" and "A Christian Cowboy." He can still remember that sometimes he would be too embarrassed to sing and other times he would just belt it out. When his grandfather's church bought a new microphone, his grandfather gave Garry the old one. He still has it to this day.

Garry was raised at Central Parkway Church of God where Paul Bock, David Sampson and Chet Barnett had a big influence on him in Children's Church where they had a choir. In this choir Garry would get the solos, also singing on a radio program on WLW. Through this experience, Garry got to sing a solo at the Cincinnati Music Hall.

Later getting involved with the Regents, Charles Novell became his mentor, teaching him how to play the standup bass, giving him piano and voice lessons and traveling with them.

Garry also got involved with the Crownsmen Quartet, singing in various places including 2 or 3 appearances at the Grand Ol Opry. One of these appearances at the new opera house resulted in what Garry called, "His most embarrassing moment." "I was the lead singer and as soon as the curtain opened up I was not expecting the bright spotlight that hit me right in the face, causing me to jump in fright!"

One day Garry came to Clayton Street Church to sing with a new group that Charles was forming. When the Clayton Street choir got up to sing Barbara Novell pointed out a tall girl in the choir and suggested Garry ask her out.

Garry said, "With my luck we would probably fall in love and have giants for kids."

Well he eventually did get around to asking her out, taking her to Frisch's where she spilled her drink all over him. After taking her out, though, he couldn't remember her name and had to ask a church member what it was. Her name was Cathi Mann eventually to become Cathi Turner.

Cathi, at the time, was singing in a trio called the "Starlights" with Sherree Adams (pastor's daughter) and Irma Barnes. She told him that the only reason she started dating him was because of the Regents.

Garry was raised in the church and was saved at 10 years old, but struggled a little as he grew older. He

remembers that Cathi really helped him get through those tough times and still remembers a letter she sent him that included the scripture Philippians 4:13; "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." This became his scripture and his calling.

He then formed a new trio with Cathi and Jim Compton called "The Joyful Noise." They did a lot of traveling, mainly from Thursday through Sunday evenings recording and selling their music with some songs making the charts.

Jimmy Skinner Music wanted to sign a contract with them to go full-time on the road changing their names to "Victory," but the Lord intervened telling Garry that he wanted him to "minister to the family."

That stopped Garry and he left the group. While working a regular job full time, the Lord told him He wanted him in the ministry full-time.

He went to Central Baptist Bible College in Cincinnati taking various courses including one on Choral Directing which he discovered he really enjoyed.

After this, Fairfield Church called offering him a job as a part-time Music Minister. This is where Garry really learned about Praise and Worship. At Fairfield the Lord told Garry that in one year he



## EXALTATION MUSIC MINISTRY

would be in full-time ministry. This ended up with a ministry at Hamilton Church with a large pay cut from his regular job. Garry says, "The Lord always provided. We didn't know how or where, but we never wanted or needed."

Garry then returned to Fairfield Church where at the request of our State Overseer Bennie Triplett and his pastor he came to Harlan Park. Since then his ministry has grown under God's direction.

In order to help himself to be a better minister Garry attended many different seminars. Now he is teaching those seminars.

He has taken his choir on many different tours to minister to mission churches to teach them how best to grow in music ministry, traveling to places like New York, Chicago, even Australia.

His biggest burden is to help other people grow their music department and learn to better minister through music.

He wants to reach out to the Now Generation with more modern music, teaching himself new styles. He really wants his choir and orchestra to grow bringing in new people for the orchestra and new singers for the choir. Garry wants to encourage new people to come in and learn. "If you know how to play any instrument, don't feel like you are not good enough, because you are, and we will help you

and teach you to be even better." He says, "If you are a singer or just want to be, come on in, and we will teach you. Come and worship with us."

Garry's vision is to have real exuberance in the music because he says, "We serve such an awesome God I want the music to show people that so they will be drawn to Him." "If I can get you to understand the way the Lord is in my heart through my music, then you will be drawn to God."

Garry feels that "Believe you can do." "Remember Philippians 4:13! You can play that instrument for God and you can sing and give God glory. Don't let the 'Spirit of Inferiority' hold you back. Come and join us!"

Garry is really looking forward to the choir tour to Washington State to minister in their Camp Meeting. He feels it is an opportunity to minister in a mission state and help others toward a "Ministry of Excellence."

He has done multiple conferences for other churches and received many invitations to bring his choir back to teach seminars in Florida, Georgia and even to come back to Australia.

This is a vital and growing ministry in our church. Come and get involved for it is a great place to worship.



# *By the Way of the Cross*

## *An Easter Musical*

Presented by the Exaltation Choir, Orchestra and Drama Team.

Three Performances:

Friday, April 10th at 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 11th at 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 12th at 6:00 PM

# MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

## FOCUS ON MARRIAGE

On Saturday, February 28th, we had the Focus on the Family, Marriage Enrichment Seminar. Almost 300 people from churches all over the area attended. Lunch was served by some of our hard working ladies.

Liz Amburgy who put so much work into it along with many others, related that Pastor Ray had a burden for our married couples, knowing that they needed encouragement and strength. After receiving a mailer from "Focus on the Family" about this seminar he realized that this is what was needed, so with Liz Amburgy's experience and burden for our families, he asked her to organize it.

Some of the testimonies I received from people:

"In times of so many failing marriages, classes like these seem so necessary. Judging from talking to people from different denominations covering a wide area, Stratford Heights is serving as that beacon of light. It certainly has made a difference in our lives and still is. By helping us grow in our relationship with God, our relationship with each other is growing daily."

"We really enjoyed the Focus on Marriage simulcast. It showed us that loving our spouse is a form of worshipping God, a way to reverence Him. We learned that we become more like Jesus when we begin to understand HIS expectations for our marriage instead of the world's expectations. Our love grows when we allow God's love to flow through us. We also learned that our marriage will not be perfect, nor does it have to be. There will be fights, but a good fight is one FOR the marriage."

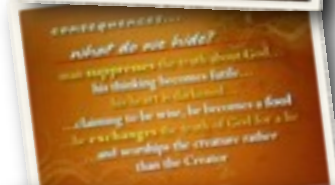
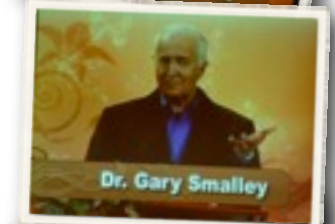
"The marriage seminar was a great experience, and I really

enjoyed seeing so many couples come that did not attend our church. What I remember the most was that I need to treat my wife as God's daughter and I am His son-in-law."

A letter received by Pastor Ray; "My wife and I had the pleasure of attending the Focus on Marriage conference held at your church last Saturday. Being very familiar with Focus on the Family events we were not surprised that the conference was well done. As a couple who has been happily married for 38 years we took away many points to ponder and had an interesting discussion on our trip home to Troy, Ohio.

But the real reason for this note is not to share our thoughts on the conference, but to thank you and your congregation. You made the event so enjoyable for us! It was obvious that loving others and being servants is truly part of your church life. We appreciated the wonderful lunch that the ladies put together and the fact that you would provide it for no charge was a blessing. Being able to stay on-site for lunch allowed us to share with people we did not know, and added to the experience of the day. We realize that such an event takes untold hours of dedicated service by numerous volunteer and paid staff, and we thank you."

This seminar originated as a burden from our Pastor who cares very much for us and our marriages and was brought to fruition by many caring people who have the same burden. Be sure to thank them for their hard work and service and don't miss the next one because it is brought to you by people who really care and want to help.





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Pastor Ray Phillips

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

### MISSION STATEMENT

We will passionately embrace God, connect with one another, pursue discipleship into all the world through Jesus Christ!

The Church of God of Middletown, Ohio  
Stratford Heights Church of God  
4419 Nelson Road  
Middletown, Ohio 45042

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

#### SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship-8:30am  
Sunday School-9:30am  
Morning Worship-10:45am  
Evening Worship-6:00pm

#### TUESDAY

Oasis-6:30pm

#### WEDNESDAY

Missionettes & Royal Rangers-7:00pm  
Family Life Night-7:30pm

Noah's Ministry for children 0-3 years old  
offered for all services except 8:30am.

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