

1962

2012

50 YEARS OF MINISTRY



It all began in the spring of 1962 with a Vision....

I was happily “settled in” my fourth year of pastoring the Dunklin Memorial Baptist Church in Indiantown, Florida. We had just completed construction of a new sanctuary and parsonage, and I was comfortable in the thoughts of a long and fruitful pastorate. I can’t articulate the “Vision” except to describe a mental picture that God suddenly burned into my mind of a City of Refuge for alcoholics and an overwhelming sensation that He was calling me to build it. The experience was so powerful that I lay awake all night in awe of what I saw in my mind. At daylight I woke Laura Maye and shared my call with her. I remember, vividly, how the “Vision” burned in my mind night after night, and the struggle that I went through to resign my pastorate and begin my faith journey. I had a lot more fear than faith, and I did my best to convince the Lord that He had made a mistake and had sent the message to the wrong man. I reminded Him of how well things were going in the church, how much my family was enjoying our new parsonage, and that I didn’t have any money to build a camp for alcoholics. I fought hard, wrestling with God for two months before I could surrender to His call. I was preaching at that time a series of messages on Bible characters who “walked by Faith” and my own sermons brought me under conviction. I offered every excuse I could think of to the Lord to no avail....the Vision wouldn’t go away. Resigning from

the church was the hardest thing I ever did...and with fear and trembling I started my Faith Walk.

I shared my Vision with a couple of cowboys and told them that I was looking for some land to build a camp on. They told me about the property on the Martin Grade that their dad had recently sold to a Jewish man from New York. I found out later that he was living in France. When I drove out to the property, I felt a strong witness in my heart that this was the place where the Lord wanted me to build the Camp. I was so excited I could hardly wait to take Laura Maye see her new “home.” That evening I took Laura Maye to the Camp for the first time and she stepped on a big black snake that wrapped around her leg. Needless to say, she was less than enthusiastic about her first visit to D.M.C.

There were many obstacles in the beginning. I didn’t even know if the owner wanted to sell the property and I didn’t have the money to buy it if he did. There were no buildings to live in, not even electricity on the site. The land was seventeen miles from Indiantown (dirt roads all the way). I could easily find fifty excuses why this project wasn’t feasible and I offered them all to the Lord. But the Vision wouldn’t go away...night after night I tossed on my bed trying to go to sleep to escape the Vision, but it persisted. Finally, at two o’clock in the morning, at a youth camp on Lake Denton where I was serving as a counselor, I surrendered to God all my reservations and I told the Lord that I would resign my pastorate and build the Camp if the man who owned the property would agree to sell it. At 7:00 A.M. that morning, a Stuart realtor called to say that he had received a call from France that the land was for sale for \$64,000. This was the first of many confirmations that God sent to us. A week later a friend came late at night with a check already made out for the exact amount for the earnest money. Another friend agreed to buy part of the property so we would have the money for the down payment. Pa and Ma Campbell (Laura Maye’s parents) offered to trade their house and twenty acres in Okeechobee to the man who held the first

mortgage on the property....and in a very short time, the land was purchased.

Uncle John Abney loaned me \$2000 to buy four little tourist cottages and we were opened for business. Al Cross volunteered to help start Dunklin and served faithfully for eighteen years until his death. We had no money to buy building materials so we would go to nearby towns and tear down old buildings for salvage.

I preached eighteen revivals that first year and was in Missouri when Laura Maye called to say that men were coming out to the Camp seeking help for their alcoholism. She and Al started taking them in and I returned home to find the Camp already in operation. I don't know how or where they all came from, but over 30 men were soon living at Dunklin in the four cottages, camp trailers and an old school bus. I bought the old Indiantown bar from a moving contractor and we "converted" it into our first dining hall and sanctuary. Al and I prayed about buying the bar (Al said he had been drunk in it many times) and we both felt a strong confirmation that we should purchase it. Sonny Williamson had donated a church bond that same week that was the exact amount that we needed to close the deal.

In those days we lived "hand to mouth" (God's hand to our mouths). Each week the Lord miraculously "prepared a table for us in the Wilderness." On Thanksgiving Day I prayed that God would give us a dormitory to house the men and He spoke to my heart that we could start it that week. I stretched a string around four stakes and called all of the men in the camp to join me for prayer. We knelt on the ground and claimed it by faith. The very next night two truck loads of blocks came in from a church in Vero. We were amazed how quickly the Lord proved His faithfulness to the Camp. Walt Jordan, a man in the program, said that he had never seen prayer answered so quickly and he committed his life to Christ that very night.

Camp meetings, youth camps, and retreats were part of the foundation upon which Dunklin was built. In 1972, Reid Harden, founder of Layman's Landing ministries, and I put our dreams of a lay Training Center together and started the Laos Institute. Reid dreamed of training laymen to renew the institutional church. I dreamed of training recovering alcoholics to reach other active alcoholics and to invade Florida prisons with the Gospel. The same message fit both needs so we bought forty acres adjoining the Camp for the Training Center.

I will never forget the prayer meeting that we had to pray about purchasing the property. Thirty men "prayed through" and God gave us a powerful "go ahead" sign as He poured out His Spirit on us that night. David Sparks, one of the men in the program, received a strong witness from the Lord that He would provide the money to buy the land and we held a midnight

"Jericho March" around the property that night. That same week, Garland Eastham, founder of Faith Farms, drove up to the Camp to tell me that God had spoken to him to tell me to start the Training Center and he loaned us the money to buy the land. The land was paid for two months later by Gordon and Lucille Sparks as a memorial to their son, David, who died in a tragic accident.

G.L. Royal donated a house that was on a shopping center that he was building



Pa and Ma Campbell



Dunklin Regeneration Program in the late 1960's

in Okeechobee and we moved it to the camp for our first retreat center. Later the Good Samaritan Inn was built to expand our facilities, and four apartments and a trailer park were added to house students coming to D.M.C. for training.

Slowly, in response to particular needs, other buildings were built to house the growing community. We moved an old school house from Hobe Sound that we bought for fifty dollars, and it still serves as our canteen and recreation hall.

Because hungry men have to be fed, the slaughterhouse, canning plant and bakery came into existence. Our first slaughterhouse was a simple tripod set up in the pasture; now we have a commercial size facility that processes all of our meat that we use at the Camp and most of our own vegetables.

From materials salvaged out of a Pantry Pride grocery store, we built a new welding shop, woodworking shop, paint and body shop to repair automobiles, a new nursery and greenhouse for plants and two cattle sheds. We salvaged the dropped ceiling and lights for our Tabernacle and had enough steel beams left to build an addition onto the Good Samaritan building.

As I walk through the Camp I see each building as a memorial. It reminds me of God's faithfulness in providing for our needs. He not only provides the building materials but also the skilled laborers to construct them. When we needed welders, painters, carpenters, block layers and electricians, they just showed up at Dunklin looking for help. For twenty-five years I have marveled at God's provision. Hundreds of times people have sent us money and materials at the exact time they were needed. A coincidence? I think not! Over fifty buildings stand today as a testimony of a vision...fulfilled by the combination of God's provision and dedicated men and women who became "laborers together in His vineyard...Hallelujah Children." That's what these stones (buildings) mean!

Bro Mickey



The preceding article was written in the fall of 1987, marking the 25th Anniversary of the Camp. It describes the Vision and the hard work that it took to get the camp up and running. There were many people that the Lord sent here to help Brother Mickey and Laura Maye lay the spiritual and physical foundations for the ministry. For us who have been through the program and for the ones who are here now, both staff and men in the program, we thank God for His grace and faithfulness, and Brother Mickey and Laura Maye for their obedience and sacrifice over the past 50 years. We are also grateful to those pioneering saints that God sent here to help clear the land, build the buildings, and lay the spiritual foundation that has made Dunklin what it is today.

Shortly after Brother Mickey wrote the article, the first of three massive drug tsunamis poured over Florida and our entire country. This was the crack cocaine epidemic that started in the late eighties and stretched into the mid nineties. Crack was plentiful, potent and cheap. It found its way into every city, town and country crossroads that existed. It was, and still is, the most addictive street drug in our land today.

The second wave of destruction was that of crystal meth. It appeared on the scene in the mid nineties and it was a drug that could be made from ingredients bought in a Wal-mart or local grocery store. Meth labs, where the drugs are mixed and cooked, sprang up all over and soon the supply of meth was just as plentiful and cheap as crack cocaine. The third wave that came upon us was prescription pain pills. This started around 2002 and is still very rampant today. Oxycontin is the opiate of choice, and pill mills disguised as medical pain clinics dispense them at cut rate prices.

It was these three plagues that moved the Dunklin program, by the Lord's guidance and provision, from a small territorial ministry to one that would have national and international influence.

In the late eighties, prior to the crack cocaine avalanche, we had 26 men in the program and we received on the average two or three phone calls a day from men interested in the program. When crack made its presence known on the streets, the phone calls soared to 20 to 25 per day. We faced a very serious dilemma; all our beds were filled and we were being flooded with cries for help from men who were serious about changing their lives. We sought the Lord in prayer about what we should do and the Lord spoke to us and said "Enlarge the place of your tent." As a staff we were willing but we had no money for building and for us to increase the number of men in the program we had to have more staff to minister to them. Again seeking the Lord, He said "Enlarge the place of your tent. I will make the provisions. As far as the staff that you will need, you already have them, they are in the dormitory. You train them and equip them." So we began the Servant Leadership Training Program to equip the men to become mentors and teachers. God was placing His call into these men's hearts to stay at Dunklin for further training for the Regeneration Program. Soon after, Florida Power & Light, Inc. donated two office trailers that we put together and built into a dormitory that would accommodate an additional 18 men.

Our regeneration program was growing and so was the SLT program. One of our biggest needs now was to put together a Christ-centered curriculum for our programs, and God sent Lou and Lillian Carey to the camp for that very purpose. They sat in all of our classes and recorded Brother Mickey's teachings and put everything into workbook form. The curriculum that they wrote from the Dunklin program has been translated into several different languages and is currently being used in many countries around the world today.

Even with the increase in the number of men that we were to house in the program, which was now about 44, the calls for help became almost unbearable for us. Men serious about wanting to change their lives asked for assistance, but we had no beds available as they were all full. The toughest part of this was hearing a desperate man's voice on the phone pleading and begging for help and having no room for him.

But God's plan and His faithfulness was shown again as a local company was getting rid of office modules that they no longer had need for, and they wanted to know if Dunklin might be interested in them. With those office modules we built a new motel and Sunday School building. That allowed us to convert the building that had been used for Sunday School classes and retreats to become another dormitory which would house 24 more men. We also built a house with these office modules for single men who were in our SLT program. After completing the motel, Sunday School building and SLT house, we also put in eight modular homes for staff families and for families who were in our training program. The Lord provided all the finances necessary, and every building and house was paid for as they were constructed.

As we approached the new millennium, almost 12 years after God had told us to "enlarge the place of our tent," we were working with 68 men in our Regeneration program and eight to ten men in training. Our staff members had grown from six to sixteen. The Lord had been faithful to His Word and had made all the provisions that He had promised. He made financial and material provisions for expansion, and He raised up an army of men and women who were willing to commit their lives to helping other addicts just as the Lord had helped them.

But, unfortunately, as we entered 2001, we found ourselves in an old familiar situation again; all our beds were full and we needed to grow the ministry more. Our problem with zoning regulations and septic tank/drain fields issues with the Health Department seemed to be insurmountable. Once again, God intervened and we found favor with the county and were able to construct five new modular homes and renovate an existing house on a piece of land that bordered our property and that was purchased without going into debt.

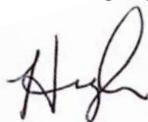
God again supplied all the finances needed for the modular homes and the renovation of the old Fox Brown house. These homes were for staff families and SLT students. After completing those houses we knew that any further building expansion at Dunklin would not be possible because of regulations that had been implemented county wide.

But God's plan for Dunklin's future, and His kingdom, could not be contained by regulations or restrictions. The Lord spoke to us at our annual staff retreat in the woods on Sonny Williamson's ranch. The word He gave us was "Expand the Vision." In other words, begin to birth and plant new programs outside the Dunklin property. This was a new concept for us, it was scary and exciting, but the Lord told us that He would guide us and provide for these new ministries. Not long after that night in the woods, God began to impart an apostolic anointing and vision to some of the elders and staff. It was a calling placed upon them to go and birth new Cities of Refuge. It was the very same vision and calling that God had planted in Brother Mickey's heart some 40 years ago. The pioneering mantle, vision and anointing had been passed to the next generation.

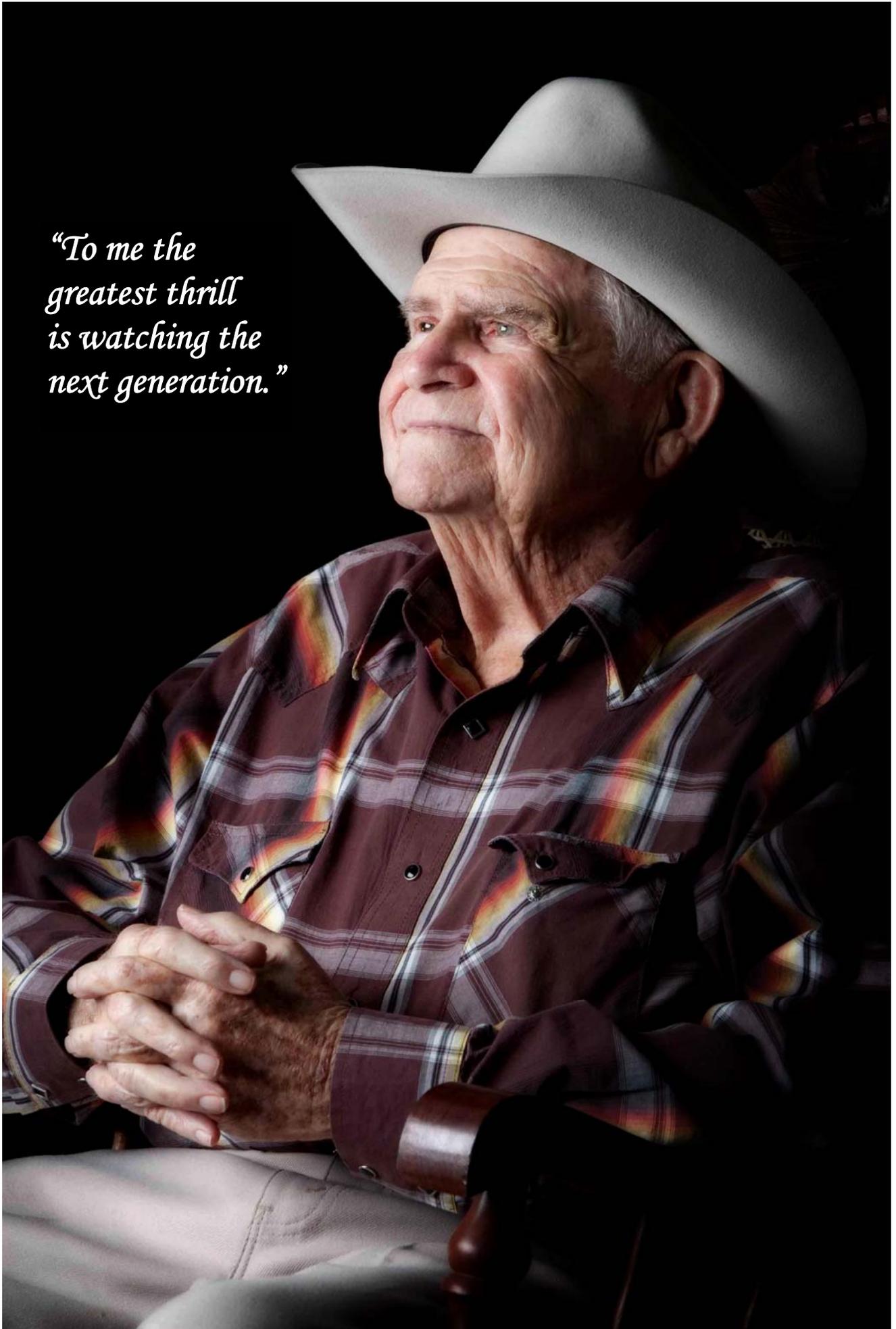
That night in the woods took place over 10 years ago, and today, as I write this article, there are 19 Cities of Refuge in the U.S. and three in foreign countries that have been birthed from Dunklin Memorial Camp. These 22 programs are currently working with over 250 men and women and have their own training programs to equip new leaders. Meanwhile, we have 68 men in our Regeneration Program, eleven single men and seven families in our training programs and two families in our Family Development Program.

The vision of a City of Refuge for alcoholics and drug addicts that God gave Brother Mickey 50 years ago is still the core purpose of Dunklin Memorial Church today. However, it is no longer just an exclusive vision for Dunklin, but also for the ministries that have been birthed from here. We pray that God will continue to burn this vision in the minds and hearts of the generations to come.

We thank all who have been a part of making this vision become reality over the past 50 years. Some of you labored with your hands, some labored in prayer, and some gave of their resources sacrificially. We are grateful to you all. Brother Mickey and Laura Maye, thank you for your faithfulness, the many sacrifices that you made, and most importantly, for loving every man unconditionally that came to Dunklin. We invite each of you to join us on November 9th, 10th and 11th as we celebrate the 50th anniversary, thanking the Lord for establishing a place like Dunklin and honoring what He has done in so many of our lives over all these years. God Bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hugh', is located at the bottom center of the page.

*“To me the
greatest thrill
is watching the
next generation.”*



The Next Generation



Dunklin Regeneration Program October 2012

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:1-2

We invite you to come and celebrate *50 years under God's covering* with us this November 9th—11th. We have limited rooms available so we have secured special rates with a few local hotels. Make your reservations now! Call 772-597-2841 and ask for Todd.

50th Homecoming Celebration Schedule

Friday

5:30 pm Supper in the Main Dining Hall
6:30 pm til Singing & fellowship around the campfire

Saturday

6 am Cowboy Breakfast around the bar-b-que
8 am City Folk Breakfast in the Dining Hall. Event Registration
9am-12 pm Walking Tours of the Camp, Family Games
10-11 am 50 Years of Dunklin video shown in Tabernacle
Noon Buffet lunch on the grounds
1-4 pm Carnival for the whole family, cotton candy, games, photo booth
3-4 pm 50 Years of Dunklin video shown in Tabernacle
4-5 pm Parade
5-5:45 pm Catered bar-b-que on the grounds
6-8:30 pm Service in the Tabernacle

Sunday

8-9 am Breakfast in Main Dining Hall
9:30 am-12:30 Nursery Available
9:30 am-12 pm Service in the Tabernacle
10:30 am-12 pm Kids Church
12:30 pm Catered lunch on the grounds

Hotels

Holiday Inn - Okeechobee (863) 357-3529
Hampton Inn - Okeechobee (863) 824-0003
Holiday Inn - Stuart (SR 76) (772) 287-2522

Dunkin Memorial Church, Inc.
www.dunklin.org