

Greetings Brethren,

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fellowship Conference was held at beautiful Desoto Falls Park, Alabama State Park July 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday night attendees conducted a worship service in the meeting room. We sang a little bit and then fellowshiped till bedtime.

On Thursday, the meetings started promptly at 8:30. Bro. Bill Prince gave a talk concerning "Getting Excited about being a Christian." He brought it to our attention that we demonstrate our faith, and should work on self-motivation to be stronger and keeping our level of faith high. This theme was carried throughout the remaining seven sessions. After Bro. Bill, we had a demonstration and lesson by Bro. Ronnie Scott. He had several candles lit and two not lit. He ran through a lesson based upon not hiding our faith under a bushel. He described different ways we are either extremely ashamed of our faith, to being a very happy and exuberant individual, displaying the real Christian way.

Bro. Allan Daniel talked about the subject of "Working with young people and new converts to help them stay excited." The responsibility of mature church members can be heavy in helping new converts to grow deep roots. Young people of all ages (chronologically young and old) need the same encouragement and fellowship.

We ended Thursday morning with a time to reflect and discuss current world and local problems and civic responsibilities such as jury duty, armed services, and voting. Scriptures were read and the consensus was that voting seems scriptural, but jury duty and armed service (Army, etc.) maybe were not good for a faithful Christian. These topics become very personal, and sometimes can cause problems within the Church. With an ongoing war(s) we must be patriotic and do our share, but should find ways that do not cause us to break New Testament commandments. Lunch was good, and several ate together in the restaurant. After lunch session #5 was entitled "Walking through life with a smile and a brisk pace." Bro. Dwight Thomas motivated us to use smiles more, to be more excited about things that are Christian and positive toward our neighbors and friends. He also talked about how the pace of our Christian life is being conducted.

After the sessions ended at about 2:30 P.M., we all broke off to do a little rest-time and enjoy our cabins and rooms. At about 6:00, we all convened at Bro. Mike and Sis. Melba Daniel's cabin to eat supper. The Daniels, including Andy, did the brunt of preparation of a cookout with hamburgers and hot dogs. Sides were also provided, and we had a birthday celebration for Sis. Jean Derrick from Douglasville, Ga. Mike and Melba, of course, made their annual ice cream (vanilla and peach) to eat with the chocolate birthday cake. We got to visit with each other a lot. This is a great fellowship event.

Friday, at 8:30, sharp, we convened again to receive our last messages of the '06 Conference. Bro. Mike Daniel talked on the subject of "The importance of a congregation being unified and all helping out. He described Antioch Church of Christ, Douglasville, Georgia, and their efforts in restoring the church building. He talked of

how much work was done together to do a large number of projects, including constructing a quality outside shelter pavilion. Working together is a form of fellowship, and is good for young and older members. Men and women have jobs they can do, and all feels like they had a hand in it. Bro. Howard Taylor (me) talked on how sometimes we can be "Too young or too old" to do God's work. Such concepts as the oldest people in the Bible, the youngest to start doing God's work, retirement from Church work (Not a good idea), and generally the maturation process from milk to meat within the Christian life. With my talk we then announced the next year's leaders and we will return to Desoto Falls, Alabama, late June. Exact dates and finalization of the location will be announced a little later in the Harvester.

It was a really nice meeting and the lessons were a wonderful series of uplifting comments just like I planned.

From: Bro. Howard Taylor, organizer for 2006, Antioch Church of Christ, at rural Greenup, Illinois.