

The "Magic Bug" bit me when a magician came to my elementary school. One of the tricks I remember was the Die Box. I played around with magic during my early teens by ordering small tricks from Johnson Smith mail order catalog. I did not dream at the time that one day I would be president of an organization such as The Fellowship of Christian Magicians, treasurer for over five years, 1st vice president for four years and presently serving as 2nd vice president (1993). I have been on the Board of Directors for over 15 years. To my knowledge, this is the longest period that anyone has ever served the Fellowship. To God be the Glory!

Born of a share cropper, I left home at the age of sixteen, started drinking and leading a sinful life. I joined the Navy and spent the next four years on a battleship. After discharge (honorable) I lost several good jobs because of my drinking. Finally one fellow worker cared enough to lead me to Christ. I felt God was calling me into christian work. To prepare myself I entered Florida Baptist Theological College. Upon graduation I moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee and earned my Graduate of Theology Degree from Tennessee Temple University and married my bride, Betty, the same day. I have served in several churches as Associate Pastor and Minister of Music. Also, during those years I worked in managerial positions with RCA and Zenith distributors.

While serving in churches I needed ways to illustrate the Gospel and God led me to F.C.M. member Pastor M.H. Ortwein and later David Wellard (both now with the Lord). Since I was converted these men encouraged me to get my secular magic converted to Gospel magic. That was no easy task as the old self kept getting in the way -- get my drift? Anyway, I joined F.C.M. in 1968. Tony Birch had mailed me an application and some old Christian Conjurers.

I met Ralph Mills in 1976-77. He encouraged me to get involved with F.C.M. and I attended my first conference in 1977 at Winona Lake, Indiana. I was hooked immediately and have not missed a conference since. During the next few years under the leadership of Ralph Mills, Len Camp and Jerry Burgess F.C.M. experienced tremendous growth. We had about 1200 registered at my first conference as president. Boy, I was on cloud whatever. Two weeks later Winona Lake Christian Assembly rained on my parade. I was informed that after 15+ years they were closing Winona to conventions. What a blow. As president it was the

responsibility of the Board of Directors and myself to find a new location. Then, just one year later a second move. God gave us the grace to survive even though it was hard to give up our beloved Winona Lake and its many precious memories for hundreds of us.

Over the years in my service to F.C.M. God has kept me on the Board to encourage and promote a high standard of presentation of the Gospel and the winning of lost souls. Members of The Fellowship you will have a bright future if you will remember to Always Keep The SON In Your Eyes, Because Of Who He Is.