

STORIES OF GRACE

**Feature: Our missionaries that we support share some Stories of Grace
Cathy Garber with Children's Bible Ministry (CBM)**

Cathy was born March 16 in Hollidaysburg, PA. She was saved at the age of 16 and began teaching a Sunday School class of boys and girls in grades 1-3 at her home church, Vicksburg Grace Brethren. After high school graduation in 1970, she was invited to move to Florida to live with her older brother and family in St. Petersburg. Cathy became very active in the Pinellas Park GBC under the leadership of Pastor Bill Tweedale. During her second year of ministry at the church, she was challenged to consider attending a Bible College. Trinity Bible College was within driving distance from the church and her apartment so one day she ventured out and found herself signing up for Bible College!



During one of her Christian Education Classes, the teacher, Dr. Collins, challenged his students to give a summer to the Lord to serve at a Christian camp. A field trip was planned to visit the Children's Bible Ministry camp in Polk City, FL, Camp Gilead. After the tour and tasty lunch, they were challenged again to consider spending the summer at camp. Cathy took an application with her to consider the opportunity. After completing the application, she drove back to the camp to complete the commitment. It was that same day at Camp Gilead that she knelt with the camp director and dedicated her life to serve the Lord full-time. Her life verse, Philippians 3:13-14 became very real to her that summer, "Brethren I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

On April 1, 1976, Cathy was accepted as a full-time missionary with CBM. She moved to Camp Joy El in May and began her now 41 year stretch of ministering to boys and girls in Franklin County and Dillsburg, PA, Gatlinburg, TN, Polk City, FL, back to Townsend, TN, and now she serves with CBM of Southwestern PA. While serving at Camp Joy El (1976-1988) she became involved in our church. Ed Cordell served on the Joy El Board and he was introduced to Cathy. He invited her to Waynesboro Grace. Cathy writes, "I spent almost every Sunday with Ed and Boots Cordell for several years and oh what a treat that was! I had the transportation and they supplied the meal! After church we would go out for lunch and then go for a drive over the country side. I learned all the back roads of Waynesboro and Chambersburg on our Sunday drives! But more importantly than that, I learned how to love and serve our Savior more through the godly examples of this special couple and many others whom I grew to know and love at Waynesboro Grace." We do not know what one simple invitation will bring about. For most of the 13 years that Cathy spent working at Camp Joy El she also taught boys and girls in the Wednesday night Good News Club at Waynesboro Grace.

In the fall of 1988, Cathy moved to Gatlinburg, TN to work with the Traisters at the CBM National Office. In the fall of 1990, she returned to Camp Gilead, FL, and served seven years on staff then moved back to TN, to again serve in the National Office as the Administrative Assistant. In December 2008, her mom could no longer live at home by herself so Cathy moved back to Hollidaysburg to care for her. She continued her ministry with CBM by working over the Internet and traveling back and forth to TN to help when needed. After her Mom's home going in September 2011, she still worked with CBM via the Internet and traveling to TN but also became involved in the CBM of Southwestern PA for four years. In September 2015, she was challenged by several friends and the National Director to pray about taking the Area Directorship of the Cornerstone Ministry Center, CBM's camp in Southwestern PA. She began her current Executive Director position in January of 2016. Pray for Cathy as she adjusts to her new position, works with staff and campers this summer, teaches RT this fall, and directs the overall ministry of CBM of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Cathy continues to raise her own support and thanks us so much for prayers and continued financial support. She says: "I couldn't be here without them. You are such a blessing to me."