

Homer & Edith Dalton
Family Portrait
August 22, 2010 – 175th Anniversary Sunday

Today we glorify Christ by honoring two of his faithful servants!

He was born June 9, 1921 in Wakeman, Ohio to farming parents. By the time he was 2 ½ his family had already lost their house in a fire and their mother to death. With the passing of his mom, his dad was left to raise 9 children alone. A neighborhood woman had taken a special interest in helping the family until she was reprimanded by a fellow employee telling her to leave them alone saying, 'it's not your responsibility'. She then spoke to his father and asked if he'd like to be receiving her help on a more permanent basis. They were married shortly after, and the family moved into her home where our honoree grew up and graduated from Wakeman High School. Growing up on a dairy farm he was responsible to care for the calves. As a matter of fact 82 years ago he showed his first calf at the Norwalk Fair. He was also responsible to deliver milk to various households as well as the local restaurant in Wakeman named The Oasis. It was there he was often found sitting on a bench admiring and working up the courage to speak to our second honoree.

She was born May 20, 1928 in Manchester, Tennessee. Her family moved to the Wakeman area when she was 7 years old. She too grew up on a dairy farm until her Dad began working in a bakery. She remembers her parents being strong believers in the Lord. It was during her later teen years she began working at the Oasis. There she noticed a young man often found just sitting on a bench, and remembers thinking he needed to get a job. Until one day she realized he was there to see her, and she didn't mind.

When he was 25 and she was 18 they were married. The day was December 1, 1946 and the weather was awful. The snow was so bad that a number of incidents occurred just getting everyone to the bride's home in Berlin Heights where they were wed. They honeymooned for 2 weeks traveling through Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Elyria. Eventually they made their way back to his childhood home on State Rte. 60 where together they raised 5 children. He began carrying on the tradition of dairy farming, but eventually got a job as a toll collector on the Ohio Turnpike as well as driving a school bus for Western Reserve.

It wasn't until they were married for some time that they came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. She began attending Camden Baptist Church, got saved and invited him to come to a revival meeting. There he too received the Lord. A short time later, both they and one of their daughters, Bertha were baptized by Pastor Earl Harriman at First Baptist Church of Lagrange since there was no baptistery at Camden. Together they were involved in various ministries. They used to have groups of the youth (including Jerry Caywood at the time) out to the farm for hayrides and bonfires. He served as a trustee for several years, while she served as treasurer and taught Sunday School for 1st - 3rd grade. She also served as cook at Camp Patmos for about 7 years.

After 63 years of marriage, 5 children, 21 grandchildren and more than 30 great grandchildren they offer this marital advice: "If you're honest with each other and trust in the Lord, there's nothing you can't work through."

Together they offer this philosophy of life: "Pray about it. Be faithful. Trust in the Lord."

October 18th they will once again make their way South to winter at Maranatha Village in Sebring, FL. There they enjoy the fellowship of many believers and he volunteers as the local handyman for all who need his help.

Today we glorify Christ by giving Him all the honor and praise for His faithful servants, Homer & Edith Dalton!