

## **Pastor Frederick H. Giles (1896-1969)**

*Nominated by Connie Koopman & Lynda Hansen*

We would like to nominate the late Pastor Frederick H. Giles as one of the 150 people influential in the history of Marshfield. He established the beginning of Calvary Bible Church, which still meets and is active in the community today.

Rev. Frederick H. Giles was born March 1, 1896 in London, England, the son of a Methodist minister. He moved to Canada and joined the Canadian Army in 1916, serving as an engineer unit in France until his discharge in 1919. Shortly after coming to the United States in 1921, he began his ministerial training at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, IL. He was ordained in 1924 in the Congregational Church and transferred to the Northern Baptist Seminary where he received a bachelor of theology degree in 1928.

In 1930, he moved to Stratford to become the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, then organizing the Bible Church (which would later become the Community Bible Church) in Stratford and the Bible Church in Wausau, before moving to Marshfield.

Pastor Giles began holding Bible study classes in 1936 in the Roy Harborn home on Ninth Street. In 1941, a home was purchased at 210 E. Fifth Street and the downstairs was made into an auditorium. The church was called the Bible Institute at that time.

Pastor Giles held street meetings at the corner of Third Street and Central Avenue next to what had been the Cloverland Bank. In 1944, Pastor Giles purchased that building which then became The Bible Center. Four years of extensive remodeling followed-including taking out the bank vault and making it into the church rostrum.

A bookstall, religious bookstore, was also started and operated in the building by Pastor and Mrs. Giles-supplying books, bibles, tracts, and gifts for purchase by the community.

Pastor Giles dedicated 26 years to radio ministry over area stations: WSAU, WFHR, and WDLB.

Rev. Mr. Giles was the charter member of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, the president of the Wisconsin Bible Mission and organizer of the Rural Bible Crusade headquarters. He and his wife founded the Crescent Lake Bible Fellowship near Rhinelander.

In 1958 Pastor Giles became blind, and in 1960 he asked the Church Board to be relieved of the pastorate. In 1961, Rev. and Mrs. Giles left Marshfield and moved to Wheaton, IL to be closer to their daughter, Mrs. Melvin Johnson. Their son, Fred Harvey Jr., was taught at the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

Pastor Frederick H. Giles passed away unexpectedly on August 22, 1969 at the Crescent Lake Bible Camp near Rhinelander.

In 1969, the church purchased the Christ Lutheran Church building at Third and Walnut, which had been built in 1928. The name of the church was changed to Calvary Bible Church at that time and is still located there today.

