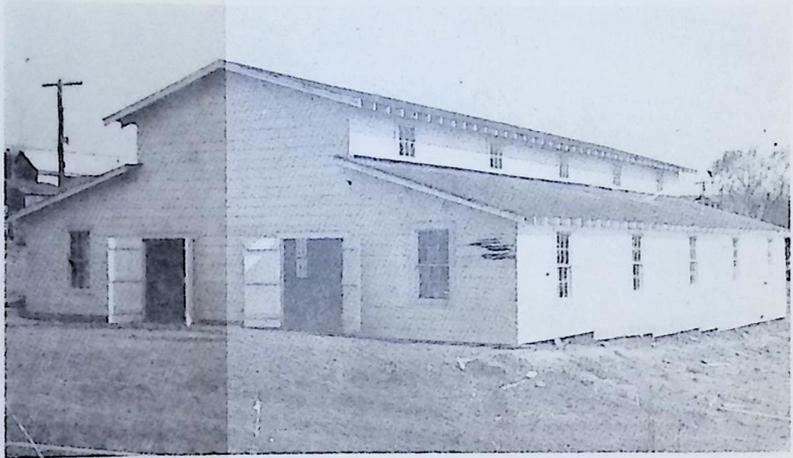


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Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church



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NOW



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WORLD PRINTING CO., INC.
Bristol, Tennessee

The following editorial was published in the Bristol Herald-Courier on Sunday, March 29, Willard Tallman's final Sunday as pastor of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. It is reprinted with permission.

'The Christian Cause' and Willard Tallman

There are those who say the furor stemming from the fascinating saga involving Jim and Tammy Bakker, PTL, and assorted televangelists will "hurt the Christian cause."

They are wrong because they make the mistake of equating TV evangelism with the whole of Christianity, dismissing as of no consequence the multitudes who are not of television's "congregations" but instead, cling faithfully to the more solid rock of traditional churches and their denominational tenets.

They are wrong, also, because they equate television evangelists with the whole of ministry, dismissing as of no consequence the multi-thousands of preachers who give much and ask little as they tend their flocks in service to the "Christian cause."

They are wrong because they seem to forget — if indeed they ever bothered to consider — that long before television, long before Jim Bakker, long before Oral Roberts, long before Jimmy Swaggart, long before any of them, there were men such as Willard Tallman.

Mr. Tallman is pastor of Bristol's Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. He has been the church's pastor for 44 years. Today, with appropriate honors, he will leave that post to begin well deserved retirement.

Before entering the ministry, Mr. Tallman, as he has often recounted, was not a candidate for enlistment in the "Christian cause." He succumbed, perhaps more than most, to the frailties which inflict mankind, tempting some, snaring

others.

But having been through these trials, having faced himself and bested in personal combat the demons of man's lesser nature, he was prepared — again more than most — to pursue the greater purpose of his life which led him, in time, to the pulpit at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

From that pulpit, he not only tended his flock, which has grown mightily over the years, he has also let his voice be heard throughout the city on matters he believed important to the moral well-being of our community. Those who disagreed with his position on particular issues always did so respectfully.

Willard Tallman may be leaving his post as pastor of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, but he remains among us as proof that adversity can be overcome, that virtue can replace vice, and, most of all, that the "Christian cause" cannot be "hurt" by such relatively trivial, albeit sensational, activities such as those unfolding in the world of television evangelism.

The "Christian cause" is not found on a television screen, nor in slickly produced spectacles. It is found in each of our churches, in each of our pulpits, in each of our local congregations, in each of us individually, and in such men as Willard Tallman.

We join the members of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in thanking him for nearly half-a-century of service, and in wishing him well as he rests from his labors.

TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, corner Cypress Street and Tennessee Avenue, was organized in 1942 as outcome of evangelistic services held in a tabernacle erected two years earlier by a group of laymen, whose leaders included George L. Greene, Hugh Carrier and C. R. Leonard. Official organization as a Missionary Baptist Church, with about 20 charter members, took place at a meeting in the tabernacle, with the late Judge W. D. Lyon presiding as moderator.

John Bowery was called as the church's first pastor and James Thomas was second. Rev. Willard Tallman became pastor in July, 1943. Since then Sunday School attendance has increased from average of 35 to approximately 500. Present church membership is 525, with attendance averaging about 450.

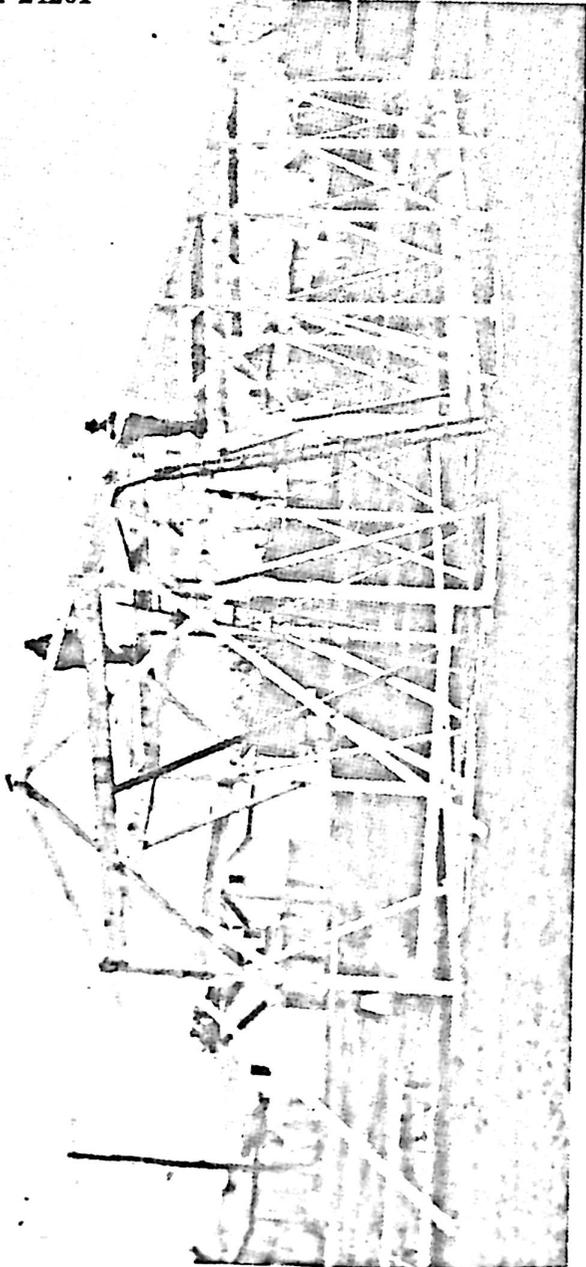
A three-story Sunday School addition, with 75 rooms, was built to the original church structure two years ago. Present plans call for erection in the near future of a new sanctuary, to have seating capacity of about 800.

The church has a complete departmental Sunday School and two young people's departments. A "Youth for Christ" program is broadcast from the auditorium each Saturday night. Two missions are operated, one at Shakesville, the other at Abingdon, and the church supports the missionary program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bobby Whitson is full-time musical director, young people's leader. Church officials include George L. Green, superintendent; Robert Garrett, board of deacons chairman; Ellis Nash, B.T.U. director; Mrs. Henry Wampler, W.M.U. president; R. C. Mumpower, treasurer; and Mrs. John Carty, clerk.

Bristol Herald Courier

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The frame of the Old Tabernacle Building in 1941.
The man working on the right is Mr. C. R. Leonard.

Certificate of Ordination



We, the undersigned, hereby certify that upon the recommendation and request of the Watauga Baptist Church at Hunter, Tenn which had full and sufficient opportunity for judging of his gifts, and after satisfactory examination by us in regard to his Christian experience, call to the ministry, and views of Bible Doctrine.

Willard Sollum

was solemnly and publicly set apart and ordained to the work of The Gospel Ministry by authority and order of the Watauga Baptist Church at Hunter, Tenn on the 6th day of June 1943.

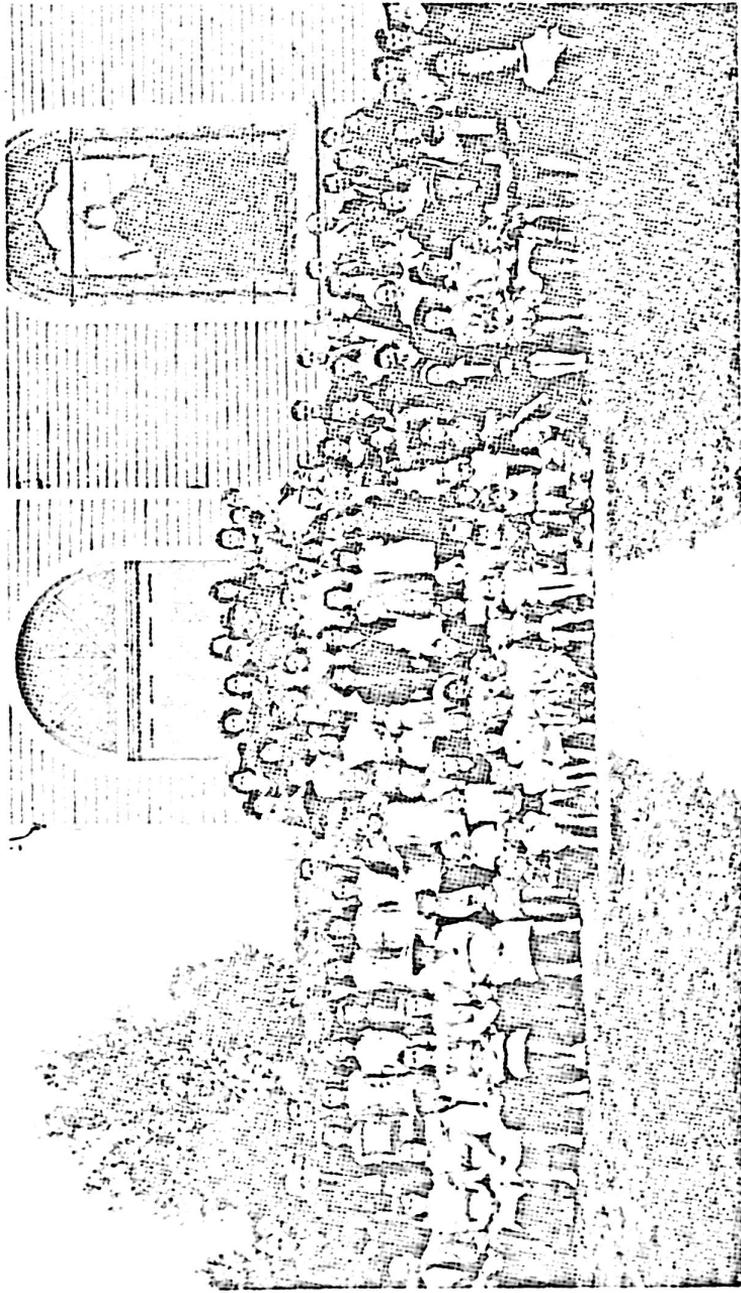
Ordaining Council

Rev. Ed. Burnett Moderator
Fred. Fletcher Clerk
Robert L. Taylor
Ray White
Rev. J. B. Freeman
Rev. J. H. Clayman, Jr.
R. H. Carver
Rev. Dallas R. Howard
Hessie E. Howard
Jo. Hayes
L. J. Hicks
Zerlust Shown
W. J. Hatcher

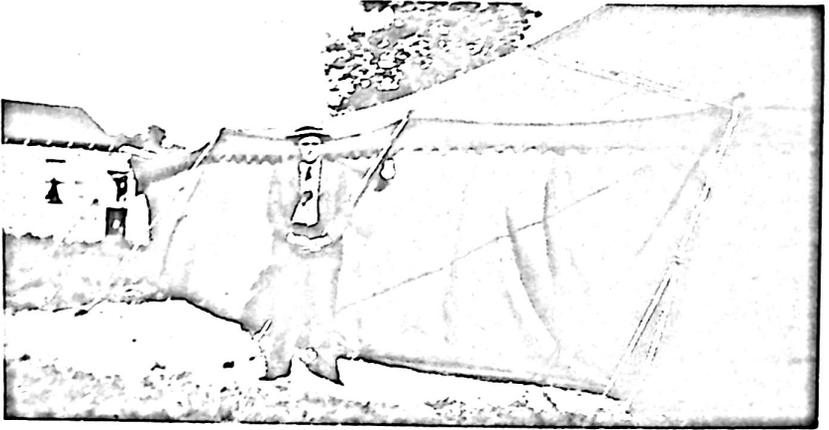
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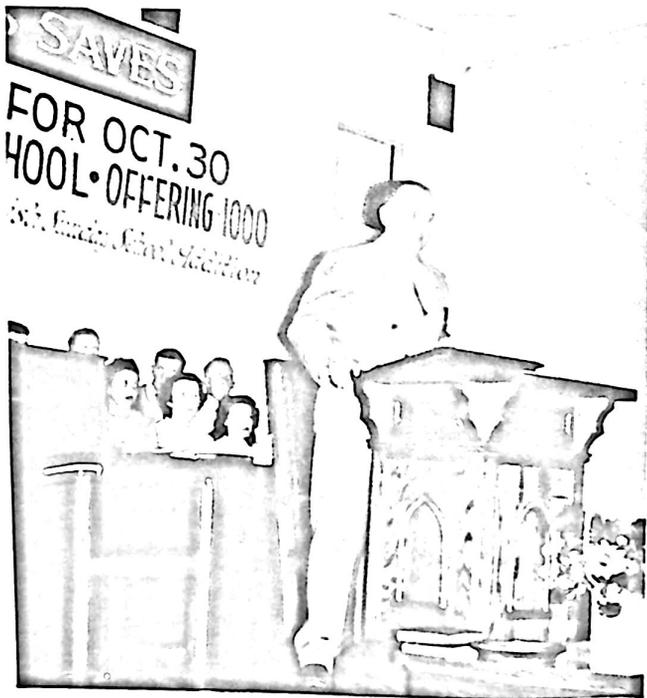
This was Willard's first Sunday School Class in September of 1939.



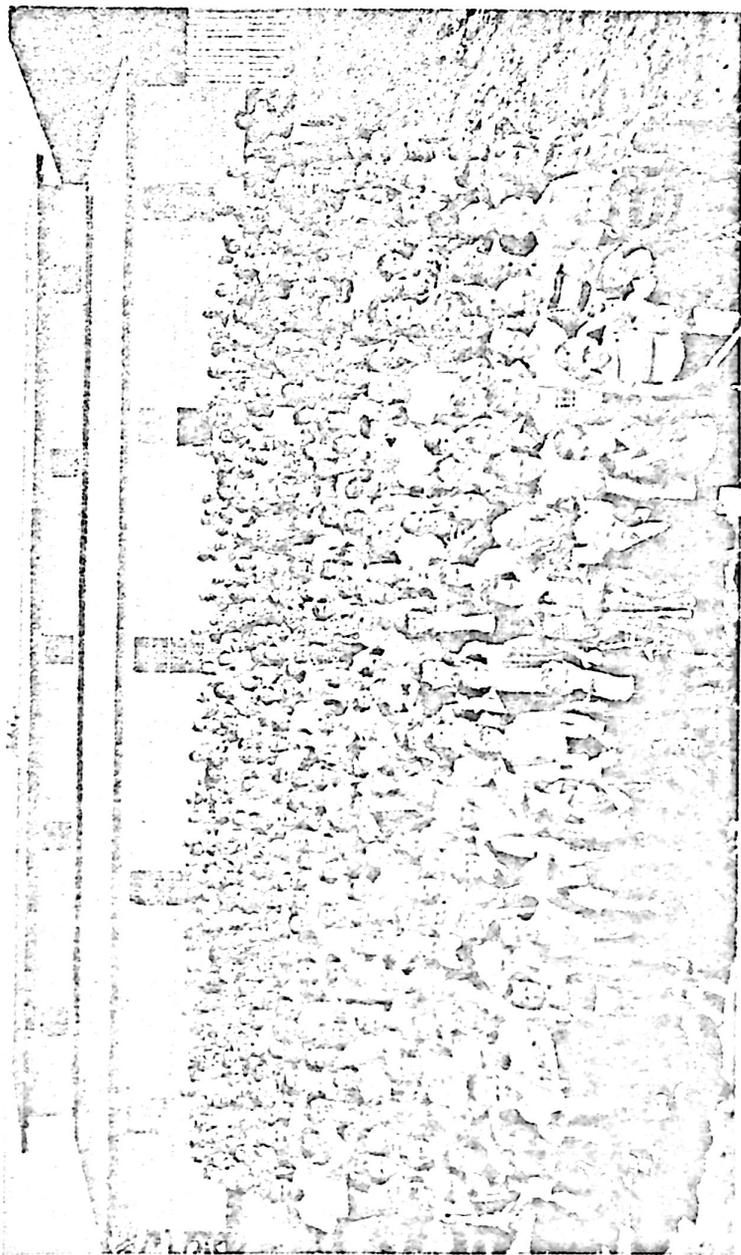
Willard's first church as supply pastor for the King Memorial Church, here in Bristol.



Willard and his tent which was used for those
"old time camp meetings".



Willard preaching
in the Tabernacle



This is the kind of crowd that attended Tabernacle every Sunday

CONGREGATION WORK AND PRAYERS BUILD 94-ROOM CHURCH IN BRISTOL

By Jim Dalton
V-T City Editor

The long-cherished dreams of a scrapping Bristol Baptist minister will be culminated Sunday, February 27, at 1:45 p.m. The Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, erected through the work and prayers of its officers and congregation, and at a cost of \$100,000, will be opened officially at that time.

The cost of the structure is figured, according to contracting estimates, at about \$300,000. However, the determined members did much of the work themselves, keeping the cost down to the \$100,000 figure.

Willard Tallman is pastor of the church, which has grown from the hopes and plans of a handful of people to one of the largest churches in the city.

Started in 1942

Located on the corner of Cypress and Tennessee Avenue, the church was organized in 1942 as the outcome of evangelistic services held in a tabernacle. The tabernacle had been erected two years earlier by a group of laymen, whose leaders included George L. Greene, Hugh Carrier and C. R. Leonard.

Official organization as a Missionary Baptist Church, with about 20 charter members, took place at a meeting in the tabernacle, with the late Judge W.D. Lyon presiding as moderator.

John Bowery was called as the church's first pastor and James Thomas the second. Willard Tallman was called in July, 1943. It is the first and only pastorate ever held by the Bristol minister, who has been preaching for 14 years.

However, the work that has been completed since he took the pastorate is well worth the consideration of any city in the world.

Since 1943, when Tallman was called to the church, the Sunday School attendance has climbed steadily from 40 to

600. The present church membership has climbed from the few charter members to 750. An average church attendance is 600 members each Sunday.

75 Sunday School Rooms

The three-story Sunday School addition, with 75 rooms, (that isn't a typographical error - the entire church has 94 rooms) was built to the original church structure three years ago. This supplied the fast-growing church with sufficient room for a complete departmental Sunday School, and also a large room which is used as a children's church.

Children between the ages of four and eight attend their own church services in the children's church, following Sunday School each Sunday.

The aim, which is hailed as a success, is to provide the parents more rest during the worship hour, while the children worship together with the best of trained leaders.

The present new structure was started in May, 1954. It has been erected on the same spot as the original tabernacle. The huge auditorium, with seating capacity for 1,100, is finished inside in a restful shade of green, with walnut-finished woodwork.

The church pews are white with sections of the pew trimmed in walnut finish, to correspond with the woodwork. The pulpit, and circle-choir platform, are arranged in the most modern manner. The seating capacity of the church choir is 104. Seating is so arranged each person sitting in the choir, as well as each one sitting in the congregation, views the speaker and baptismal services clearly.

With completion of the new sanctuary, the entire church building has a floor space of about 28,000 square feet.

The church supports the missionary program of the Southern Baptist Convention. It has also been praised for its two well-known radio programs, "Youth for Christ," which is conducted from the auditorium each Saturday night, and "The Hour of Grace," conducted from the church each Sunday afternoon 1 p.m.

Mrs. Myrtle Talbert is the full-time church missionary.

Other Officials

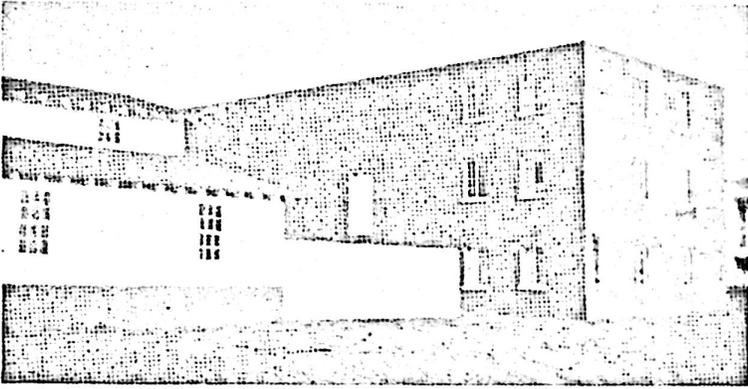
Other church officials include George L. Greene, Sunday School superintendent; Robert Garrett, chairman of the board of deacons; Elmer Beavers, BTU director; Mrs. Henry Wampler, WMU president; R.C. Mumpower, treasurer; Mrs. John Carty, clerk; Beulah Mae Garrett, organist; Sue Boyd and Mrs. Helen Anders, pianists; and George Calhoun, custodian.

The Rev. Raymond Smith, pastor of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, will deliver the dedicatory address next Sunday at 1:45 p.m. "Open House" will be observed at the new church the same day from 3 to 5 p.m.

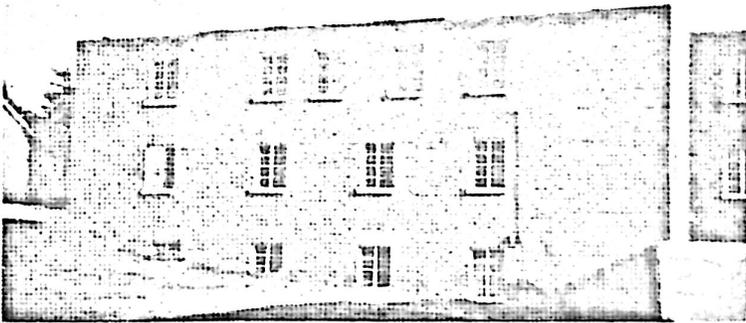
Mr. Tallman is married to a Bristol girl, the former Stella Stewart.



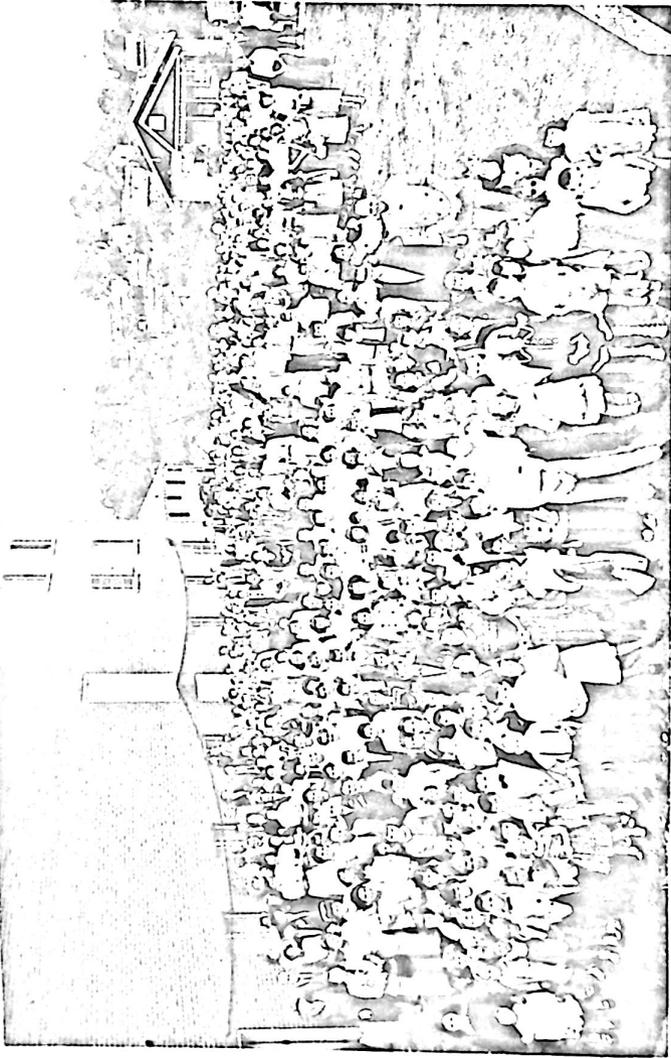
(L to R) Tip Casteel,
George Greene,
Lorraine Nash Grubbs,
and Willard Tallman



**This Sunday School space next to Tennessee Avenue
was added to the existing building in 1946.**



**This Sunday School space next to Pennsylvania Avenue
was added in 1951.**



The Congregation on May 23, 1954. The Tabernacle is gone, but better things are coming

OUR CHURCH

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church was organized in 1942. It was the outcome of evangelistic services held in a tabernacle erected two years earlier by a group of laymen whose leaders included George L. Greene, Hugh Carrier and C. R. Leonard. Official organization as a Missionary Baptist Church, with about 20 charter members, took place at a meeting in the tabernacle with the late Judge W. D. Lyon presiding as moderator.

Since its beginning the church has had three pastors, John Bowery, James Thomas, and the present minister, Willard Tallman, who has been in service since July 1943. Sunday School attendance has increased from an average of 40 to approximately 600. The present church membership is 750 with an average attendance of 600.

In 1952, a three-story, 75 room, addition was built to provide our fast-growing church with sufficient room for a complete departmental Sunday School. There is also a room for the Children's Church, held during the regular worship hour each Sunday, for children between the ages of 4 and 8, where they worship together with the best of trained leaders. This provides the parents with more rest during the morning worship and enables them to give their undivided attention to the message of the pastor.

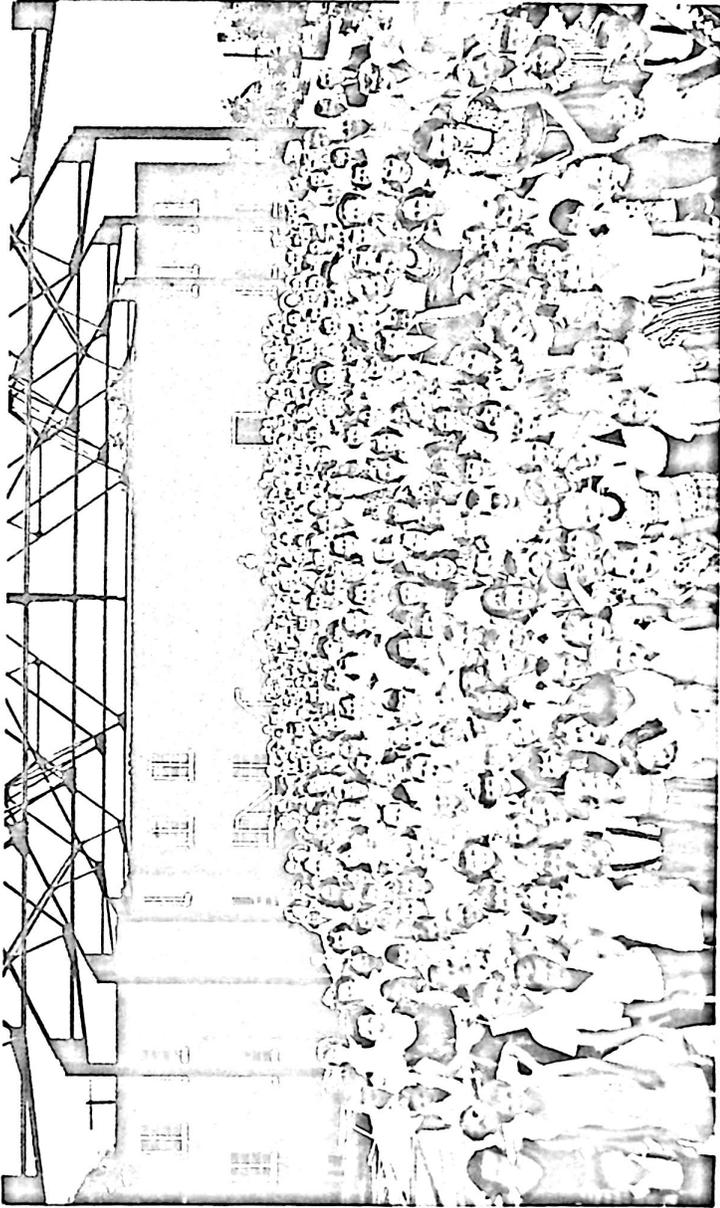
On May 3, 1954 the church began the structure of a new sanctuary, which is erected upon the spot where the original tabernacle was built. The auditorium, with a seating capacity of about 1100, is finished in a most beautiful and restful shade of green, with walnut woodwork. The pews are white with walnut trim. The pulpit and circle-choir platform has a most beautiful arrangement, and is one of the most modern designed church platforms in the surrounding states. The seating capacity for the

choir is 104, and is so arranged that each person seated there, as well as those in the congregation, may see the speaker and the baptismal services very clearly. Since completion of the new sanctuary the church building has a floor space of approximately 28,000 sq. ft.

February 27, 1955 will mark the day on which the first services will be held in the new sanctuary.

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, which supports the Missionary Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, has supported and operated two missions and has won many people to Christ by means of the well known radio program *YOUTH FOR CHRIST*, heard over WFHG, from the church auditorium each Saturday night at 6:30, and the *HOUR OF GRACE*, heard over WFHG, from the church auditorium each Sunday afternoon at 1:00.

Bristol Herald Courier, February 1955



Within three weeks time the Tabernacle was torn down, the grading done, the footing poured and the steel standing



This
Certificate of Appreciation

is hereby awarded to

The Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Tennessee Avenue and Cypress Street, Bristol, Tennessee

in grateful recognition of valuable service contributed to the Nation and the Selective Service System in the administration of the Universal Military Training and Service Act.

Awarded at Washington, District of Columbia

this 28th *day of* February *, 19* 55



Lewis B. Hester
DIRECTOR



25th Anniversary - July 1968 - 1229 in Sunday School attendance



Governor Lester Maddox from the State of Georgia brought a stirring message for this special day...



...and the crowd found it difficult to leave the parking lot.

THE STATE OF GEORGIA



By His Excellency
Lester Maddox
Governor of said State

Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy and the Militia thereof

To The Honorable Willard B. Tallman Greeting:

Whereas, reposing especial trust in your patriotism, valor and fidelity, I do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you

Lieutenant Colonel, Aide De Camp, Governor's Staff formed for the defense of the State, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof, to take rank as such from the date of this Commission and to hold such office during the term and under the conditions prescribed by Law.

You are, Therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of said office by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging; and I do strictly charge and require all officers and privates under your command to be obedient to your orders as such officer.

And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from the Governor and Commander in Chief of this State, or any other of your superior officers, in pursuance of the trusts reposed in you.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Executive Department, at the Capitol, in the City of Atlanta, the 11th day of January in the year of our Lord, One thousand Nine hundred and Sixty-eight

By the Governor:



Henry J. Stone

Lester Maddox

GOVERNOR



30th ANNIVERSARY OF WILLARD TALLMAN

PASTOR, TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

SPECIAL GUESTS

HEAR THESE MEN
AT THE 10 A.M. SERVICE
PLUS OTHER GUESTS



Senator Harry S.
Byrd, Jr.
United States Senate,
Virginia

SPECIAL
SURPRISES

AUGUST 5,
1973



Congressman James H.
"Jimmy" Quillen
1st District, Tennessee



BOB FLEMING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

SPECIAL SURPRISE PROGRAM SUNDAY
EVENING AT 7 P.M. DON'T MISS IT!

FREE

Church History
Book

Photo of Willard and
Mrs. Tallman

YOUTH FOR CHRIST BROADCAST WFHG RADIO 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1973

Dear Mr. Tallman:

Your thirtieth anniversary in religious life reflects long years and enduring accomplishments in service to both God and your fellowman.

May it bring you as much satisfaction as you have brought to others, and may it especially warm your heart to know that your leadership and direction have so substantially fortified the moral fiber of America and strengthened the future of our society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Reverend Willard B. Tallman
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is hereby awarded to

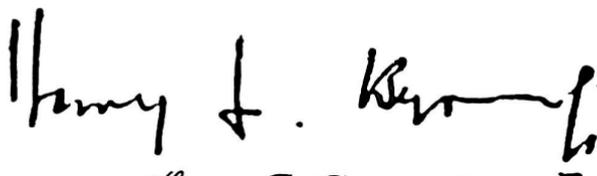
Willard Beverly Tallman

*in appreciation of his faithful service at the
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol, Tenn.
on the occasion of his Thirtieth Anniversary
on the fifth day of August,
Nineteen hundred and seventy-three.*

*There is no question that only eternity will reveal the souls
that have been saved, the hearts that have been warmed,
the homes that have been mended and the lives that have
been changed because of your ministry.*

*It is with a great deal of pride that I give this certificate
to you, a "God-sent" man, to whom Romans, Chapter one
and verse sixteen certainly holds true. "For I am not
ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God
unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first,
and also to the Greek."*

You are certainly a "Blue Ribbon Pastor."



*Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
United States Senator
Commonwealth of Virginia*

August 5, 1973

LAW OFFICES
STACY J. GRAYSON
BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

A few years ago a church group from central Florida was seeking to employ Rev. Willard Tallman as their pastor and inquired of me as to what I thought he would require in the way of church facilities; my reply was that, if they would furnish him with a vacant field and the name of a brick yard, Willard would do the rest, and in short order.

God bless you on the occasion of your 30th anniversary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stacy J. Grayson", followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Stacy J. Grayson

MUNICIPAL OFFICES OF
CITY OF BRISTOL TENNESSEE

BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

JERE C. KING

Mayor

EDWARD F. MUSICK

Commissioner of Finance and Accounts

MAURICE CONN

Commissioner of Streets and Public Property

The Reverend Willard Tallman,
His Congregation, and Friends of
The Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Congratulations on your Thirtieth Anniversary!

What a tremendous sense of pride your church must enjoy as you review the accomplishments of those thirty years.

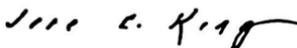
The good people of Bristol are well aware of the position of importance held by the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in religious and civic affairs of our city.

On many occasions your strong influence for the best interests of our community was very definitely felt.

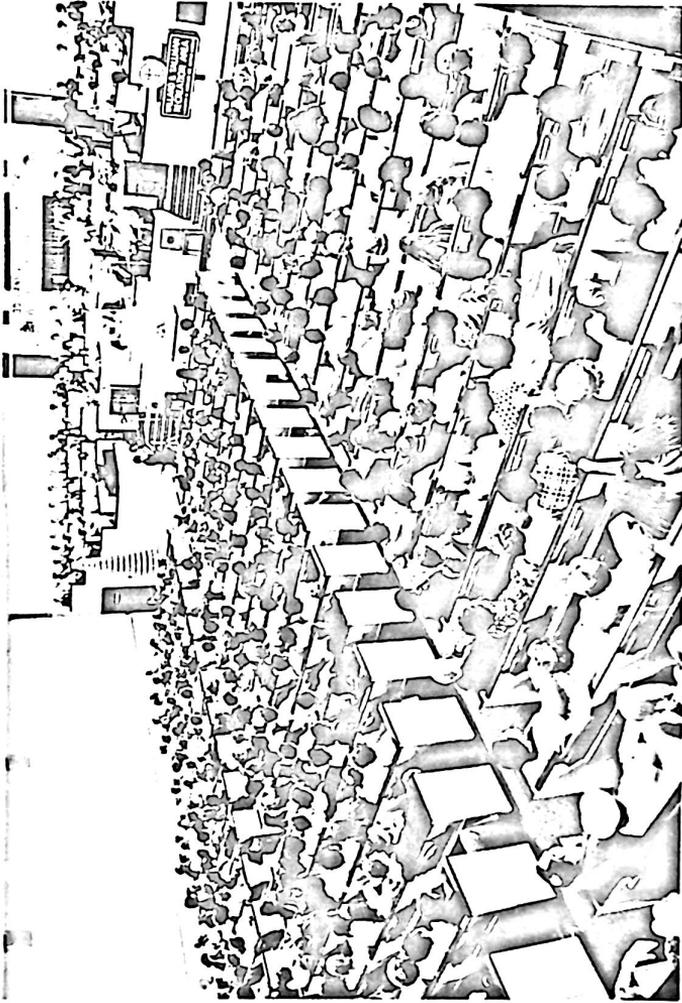
Because of the leadership of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, through its pastor and congregation, Bristol will always be "A Good Place to Live".

May the good Lord sustain us all.

Sincerely,



Jere C. King, Mayor
City of Bristol, Tennessee



"Everyone smiled on Willard's 30th Anniversary, August 5, 1973"

Nixon Sends Letter

1800 PAY TRIBUTE TO WILLARD TALLMAN

by Rich Lorenz

More than 1,800 persons, including President Nixon, participated in the special services Sunday honoring Pastor Willard B. Tallman for 30 years of work at the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Some of the guests at the two-hour services included Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. of Virginia, Rep. James H. Quillen of Tennessee's First District, Bristol Tennessee Mayor Earl MacCormac, Bristol Virginia Commissioner of Revenue Walter Conley and former Bristol Tennessee mayor Stacy Grayson.

"Your 30th anniversary in religious life reflects long years and enduring accomplishments in service to both God and your fellowmen," Quillen said, reading from a letter sent to him from the President for the occasion. "May it bring you as much satisfaction as you have brought to others, and may it especially warm your heart to know that your leadership and direction have so substantially fortified the moral fiber of America and strengthened the future of our society."

But a Presidential letter was only one of the many gifts Tallman received.

Sen. Byrd presented Tallman with a certificate of appreciation. An Accutron watch, an eight-foot high, 15-tier anniversary cake along with an eight-foot knife and giant sign proclaiming the church's new recreation area as the "Willard B. Tallman Recreation Area" were presented to Tallman. His wife, Stella, was given a silver-dollar size engraved anniversary medal made of gold and inlaid with pearls.

Possibly the most significant gift presented at the service was a deed which will allow Tallman and his wife to live without expense in the church parsonage at 1037 Oakland Drive so long as he or she lives or desires.

Bristol Herald Courier

Monday, August 6, 1973



Willard and Ted
30th Anniversary at Tennessee Avenue

A REMARKABLE MAN

There is obviously no end to the methods of judging the inspiring success over the years of the ministry of Mr. Willard B. Tallman at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Surely, Pastor Tallman is one of the best known and respected ministers in the Mountain Empire area, both through the activities of his church and his popular radio programs.

And the fact alone that his intense, personal, inspirational testament of religious faith reaches and influences so many who have never been in his church is perhaps all that needs be said about the remarkable man and his work.

Or, perhaps, Mr. Tallman's success rests in the progressive and innovative leadership he has brought to the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. For, indeed, the church membership would be the envy of any minister and the good works done in the community over the years by Tallman and his church members has made the church an important part of the community.

Then again, perhaps, the most telling tribute to the success of Mr. Tallman is the fact that 1,800 Bristolians and national leaders on Sunday paused to observe the 30th anniversary of his leadership at the familiar church off Pennsylvania Avenue.

Well, what is obvious is that Mr. Tallman is such a devoted, inspirational, and substantial leader in the community that no single achievement can be pegged as the cornerstone of his success. His life has been one, for 30 years, of giving to others and caring for others; of bringing religious guidance to thousands; of aiding those in need; of using his life and his faith in trying to help all find a better and more soul satisfying way in this life.

President Nixon, who sent a letter Sunday to Pastor Tallman said it best: "Your 30th anniversary in religious life reflects long years and enduring accomplishments in service to both God and your fellowman. May it bring you as much satisfaction as you have brought to others and may it especially warm your heart to know that your leadership and direction have so substantially fortified the moral fiber of America and strengthened the future of our society."

On hand Sunday to add a voice in tribute were U.S. Sen. Harry Byrd Jr. and First District Congressman James H. Quillen. They were joined by thousands of others, members and non-members of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, who came to share in a memorable event in a remarkable man's life.

We join in praising Pastor Tallman for his 30 years of work at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church and wish for him 30 more years of devoted service which we are sure has been as rewarding for him as it has been for the Twin City.

This article appeared in the Bristol Herald Courier, Tuesday, August 7, 1973



It Truly Was A Great Day

LOOKING AT SPORTS

with Gene Thompson

Willard Tallman has come a long way. And over that long stretch he has helped a lot of people in a lot of different ways.

A week from today, and put a ring around August 5 on your calendar, Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, where he is pastor, will celebrate its 30th anniversary under his ministry.

Mr. Tallman became Tennessee Avenue's pastor in July of 1943. On that Sunday there were some 83 in church. Today Tennessee Avenue Baptist has 2100 members and touches the lives of hundreds of others through its half - dozen missions.

I first knew Willard Tallman through baseball. He was the center fielder on High Rock Knitting Mills classy team that won the Bristol Industrial League Championship in 1931. W.C. Ault managed the team, which was one of the best balanced in the history of the city and industrial leagues.

At the time I was coaching basketball and directing the youth program under Frank Marney at the Bristol YMCA. With no recreation program in the city, the YMCA organized and sponsored baseball and softball leagues, along with many other activities. It was summer fun and frolic, and the baseball leagues of that era produced exciting action.

Willard Tallman was a good outfielder. He had good range, he could throw, and he was an excellent hitter.

Kelly Barker, who started working around a grocery store when he was a boy and now owns his own supermarket, was second baseman and leadoff hitter on that High Rock team. He remembers Tallman as one of the key players in the championship drive.

"Willard played hard, and was a real hustler," Barker recalls. "He was a good hitter, and he could cover a lot of ground in the outfield. He had a winning spirit."

Another outfielder who had played with Tallman recalls that he was helpful and patient with young players. He taught them how to play the hitters.

Going in the outfield with Tallman on the 1931 champions were the slugging R. L. Beeler, who was killed during World War II, and Hobbs. I think his name was Eddie, but I'm not sure. I've lost track of him.

Lawrence (Snake) Maiden was the sure-fielding shortstop, and teamed with Barker to form a solid keystone combination. Maiden was a tough - in - the - clutch hitter, while Barker was a hard - to - pitch-to leadoff batter, who led the league in getting on base.

Rounding out the infield were big, gangling Pearlie Richards at first base and Bob LeSueur at third.

Gil Bradley, a long - ball hitter, was the No. 1 catcher, backed by Bobby Roberts, who couldn't throw, but whose mind was a "book" on opposing hitters.

Duke Coffey, a smart, skillful lefthander, was the ace of the pitching staff. Westmoreland (I think his name was Bob) was a big righthander, who came from Elizabethton to work at High Rock and play baseball.

Utility men, and they were valuable back then for sometimes people couldn't get off to play baseball, were Joe Grant, who could play anywhere, and Paul Ault.

"We had to beat the Power Company for the pennant," Kelly Barker remembers. "We beat Lefty Jones, a little southpaw from Mountain City. He was little but he had that big curveball."

Who was pitching for High Rock?

"I'm not sure, but I think it was Duke Coffey. He pitched the tough ones."

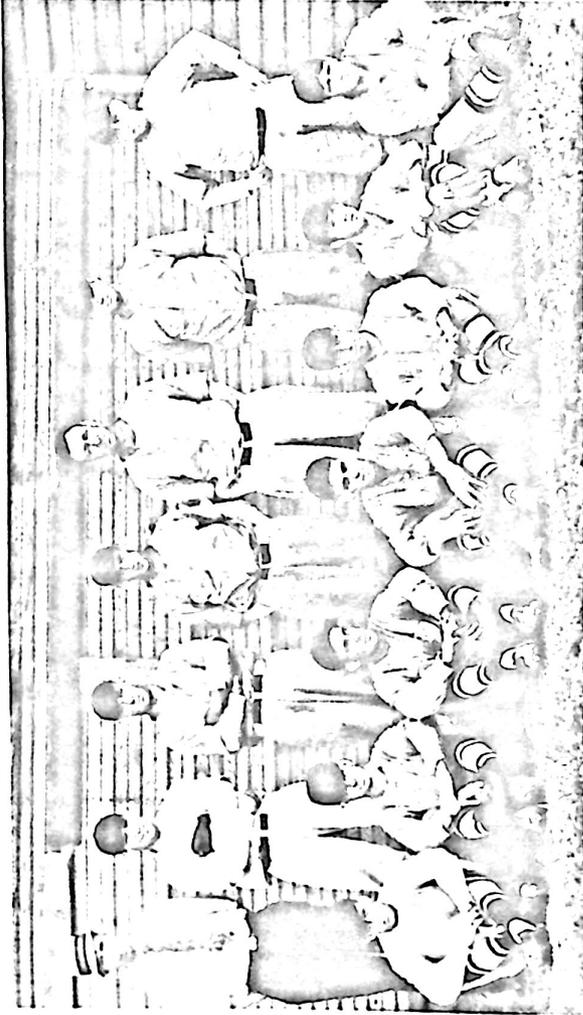
What was the score?

"It was by one run, either 5-4 or 6-5", Barker said. "Willard Tallman drove in the winning run. He hit a line - drive right over second base that broke it up.

"I remember that one well," Barker said with a smile. "He drove me in, I scored the winning run. I got on base by waiting out a walk."

Barker also recalls that Inter-Mountain Telephone and Norfolk & Western were two other hard - to - beat ball clubs that season - and any season, for that matter.

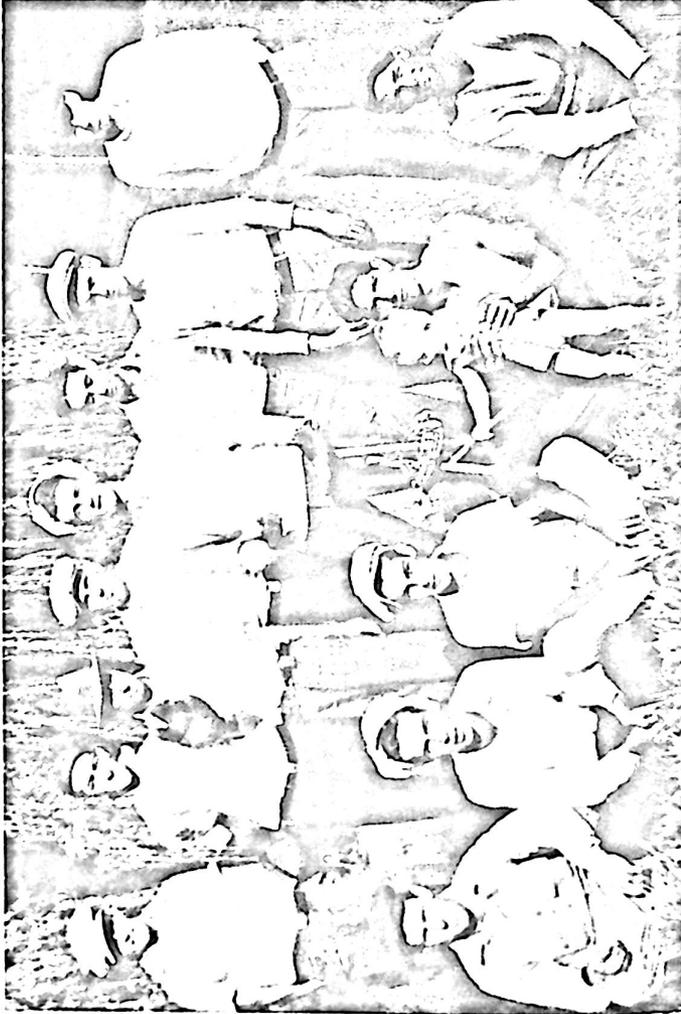
That was 30 years ago. But Willard Tallman is still getting the game - winning hits. But now they are for his Lord.



HIGH ROCK BASEBALL TEAM 1931

**Back Row (L to R) Mr. Ault, Mgr., Kelly Barker, R.L. Beeler, Guy LeSueur, Purlee Richards,
Gil Bradley, Bobby Roberts**

**Front Row (L to R) Paul Ault, Joe Grant, Duke Coffey, Willard Tallman, Mr. Hobbs,
Mr. Westmoreland, "Snake" Maiden**



THE OLD BARYTES TEAM 1933

Front Row (L to R) "Meek" Martin, Orville Hayden, Roy Hayden, Jim Melvin, Irby Sharrett
Back Row (L to R) Mr. Roberts, Wyndom Odum, Rawl Smith-Mgr., Kyle Helton, Ed Tallman,
Ess Dunn, Willard Tallman, Kyle Hudson

Our Fundamentalist Willard Tallman

In his early 20's in age Willard B. Tallman was a day laborer at the former Dixie Tannery in Bristol...a semi-professional baseball player of some skill...he hit the bottle and says he also hit the insides of local jails for imbibing too much.

But at age 24 there was a religious conversion, and the young Tallman began preaching on the streets in and around Bristol and under tents and in some small churches.

On Sunday, August 5, Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the pastorate of Willard B. Tallman.

The church called him as its preacher in July 1943...there were 83 in Sunday School that day...the collection was \$26.00.

Today Tennessee Avenue Baptist has 2,200 members...one of the most commodious church and Sunday School facilities in the Bristol area.

The church and Pastor Willard Tallman have come a long way in 30 years...

United States Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia will be guest speaker at an anniversary service Sunday, August 5, and Tennessee Congressman James Quillen will be a special guest.

Pastor Willard Tallman has become the best-known fundamentalist preacher of the Bristol region...he preaches hard-core religion. There are not many doctors or lawyers in the congregation...but solid working people who apparently like what he says and does. The ratio of church attendance to membership is unusually high as he assails sin, liquor, and temptation.

He has conducted church revivals in 17 states.

Willard Tallman has only an elementary school education, but experience has broadened his abilities.

Instead of the wooden tabernacle which was the first home of the church, there is an auditorium seating 1100, a children's church building, a three-story Sunday School building, a three-acre recreational area for children, a home for visiting preachers.

In thirty years six missions have been launched and one is now operated.

Church finances are prudently managed. Labor by church members has reduced building costs.

Mr. and Mrs. Tallman are the parents of three sons and two daughters...

He will be 65 in October of this year. There are no signs that he will lessen in his fundamentalism or his willingness to be controversial.

TALK OF THE TOWN

by Howard Taylor

Two Bristol ministers have been afforded an opportunity that, to my knowledge, has not been granted to any other preachers in the immediate area.

Willard Tallman, minister of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, and Charles Baker, minister of the Central Baptist Church, have both been invited to take part in the President's Prayer Breakfast in Washington on February 2.

The two Bristolians will leave Bristol on Wednesday afternoon, February 1, fly to Washington by commercial jet, spend the night in the capitol, attend the breakfast gathering on Thursday morning, and return to the Twin City that afternoon.

"Naturally, we're excited about it," Baker told me. "It's an honor to be selected and we are looking forward to going."

By virtue of receiving their official invitations to the breakfast, all expenses will be paid for the trip, including airfare, hotel accommodations and meals. The breakfast itself is \$33 per plate, Baker says.

Several hundred persons, including senators, representatives and other government officials, will be on hand for the annual breakfast along with the President and his family.

The breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. in the international ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel.

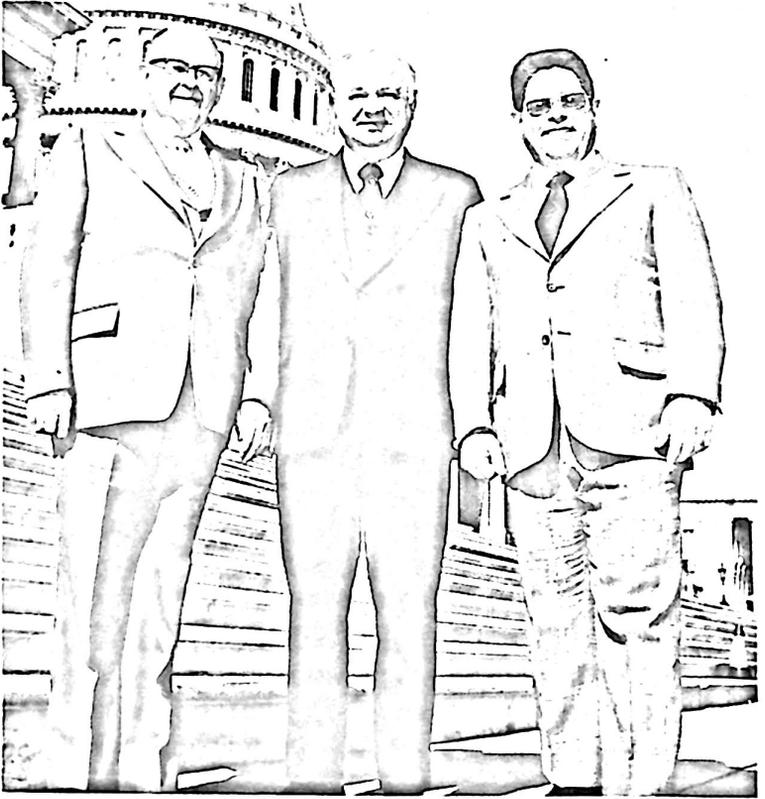
The engraved invitations received by Tallman and Baker read in part: "Members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives request the pleasure of your company at the 26th annual National Prayer Breakfast with the President of the United States and Mrs. Carter and other national leaders in the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of our government."

"As far as we know," Tallman said, "no other ministers in the Bristol area have attended a national prayer breakfast, but there could be some that we don't know about."

All those attending the breakfast will likely get to shake hands with the President, but it's doubtful there will be much of a chance for conversation.

"A lot of people will be there and the time is limited," Baker said, "so we'll just have to wait and see."

The two Bristol ministers have been working through the office of Congressman James H. Quillen in making all the arrangements to attend the breakfast.



Willard, Congressman James H. Quillen and Charlie Baker standing on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY
September 30, 1979

WILLARD



This was the release of
Willard's Biography.

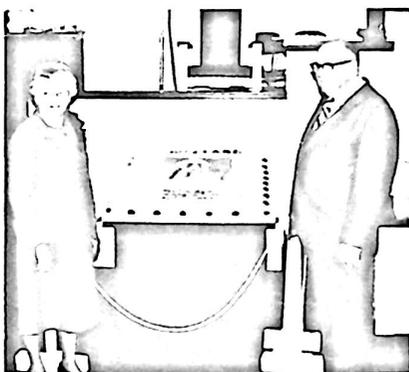
"Willard Tallman;
Plus Minus Nothing"

*"Plus Minus
Nothing"*

***The life story of
Willard Tallman***

by E. E. CARRIER

Willard and Ted
In front of the cake
decorated like the book

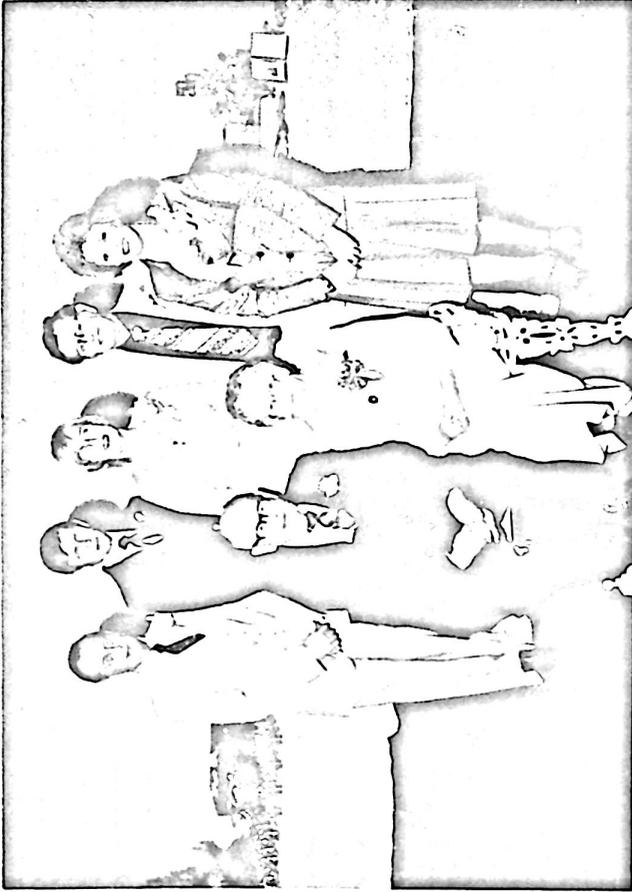


Fiftieth
Wedding Anniversary

1931

1981

In honour of the
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Callman
their children and members of
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
request the pleasure of your company
at a reception
on Sunday, the twenty-fifth of
January, nineteen hundred and eighty-one
from two until five o'clock in the afternoon
in the
Children's Church
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee



Willard and Ted Tallman and Children
Guy Tallman, Sonny Tallman, Louise Wingate,
Alvin Tallman, and LauraLee Owens

*You're Invited To
Celebrate Our Pastor's*

40th

ANNIVERSARY

Willard Tallman

September 25, 1983



Sunday, 10:00 A.M. — Sunday School
10:30 A.M. & 7:20 P.M. — Special Services
To Honor Willard and Mrs. Tallman

Special Guest Speaker
Moody Adams

1943 - 1983

LOOKING UNTO JESUS



WILLARD TALLMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1983

Dear Mr. Tallman:

Nancy and I are delighted to send you our heartfelt congratulations and warmest good wishes as you commemorate this milestone in a life of service to God and to His people.

From our earliest days as a few scattered coastal settlements, America has been fortified and nurtured by those who responded to a special call. They have helped to forge our spiritual strength as a nation by devoting themselves unstintingly to God's work -- through prayer, guidance, instruction, and a myriad of other ministries.

Because our spiritual shepherds dedicate so much of their lives to the well-being of others, it is easy to forget the sacrifices they themselves endure to bring God's message of love and consolation to the world. Throughout the brightest and darkest hours, you have helped to strengthen faith, to kindle hope, and to manifest the charity of God toward His children. Today we join with others to pay a debt of gratitude for all the good you have done and to wish you many more years of fruitful ministry.

May God bless you and keep you always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Reverend Willard B. Tallman
Pastor
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Bristol, Tennessee

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 25, 1983

My heartiest congratulations to Reverend Willard B. Tallman who has reached another milestone in his outstanding service as pastor of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. The past four decades have been a period of noteworthy growth and progress for the church and its congregation, and I did not want to let this landmark occasion of his 40th anniversary at Tennessee Avenue pass without extending my best wishes.

I have had the privilege of enjoying the friendship of Willard for many years. He has been a guiding force in my life and has always offered inspiration during difficult times which all of us experience. His good deeds are innumerable. He has been a stabilizing pillar not only in the Church but in the Community as well. The results of his hard work and dedication could be likened to the pebble tossed into the ocean as the ripples form they grow wider and wider until they are felt on every shore.

Again, to my good friend, my confidant, and my brother in Christ, Reverend Willard B. Tallman, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. Your life's work of ministering to your fellowman is one of the greatest missions one can be called upon to do. It is the ultimate in fulfilling God's commandment to go into the world and preach the Gospel. This you have done well.


James H. Quillen

"Why Bristol Does Not Need Liquor-By-The-Drink"

**THIS MESSAGE WILL BE BROADCAST
LIVE OVER RADIO STATION WFHG**

SUNDAY, APRIL 15. . .11:00 A.M.



**WILLARD TALLMAN—PASTOR
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE OPPOSING
LIQUOR-BY-THE-DRINK — MAY 1st**

*** They say Tylenol has caused seven deaths, it was removed from the market. Statistics prove that Liquor kills in excess of 100 persons per day and we seek to increase its victims.**

*** Statistics show that for every \$1.00 collected in liquor taxes, the state pays out between \$3.50 and \$37.00 in direct alcohol expenses.**

“Why Bristol Does Not Need Liquor-By-The-Drink”

- One out of every two Americans will be a victim, passenger or driver in a crash involving a drunk driver.
- Of every 330 children born today, one will die and four will be seriously injured in a drunk-driving crash by the time they reach their 24th birthday.
- Every year, 26,000 Americans are killed in drunk-driving tragedies. That means that nearly 70 citizens die each day because someone got behind the wheel of a car after having too many drinks.
- Over the past decade, one-quarter of a million Americans more than the population of Des Moines, Iowa —lost their lives in drunk-driving crashes.
- More than one million Americans a year are crippled or suffer serious injuries in drunk-driving crashes.
- Every 23 minutes, one American life is lost in an alcohol-related crash.
- On an average weekend night, one out of every 10 drivers is drunk. But of every 2,000 drunk drivers on the road, only one is arrested.
- The average drunk driver will drive drunk 80 times a year for nearly four years without being arrested
- A Gallup poll revealed that 36 percent of Americans admit to driving after drinking and 18 percent admit to driving after drinking too much.
- Drunk drivers cause more deaths, injuries and destruction than murderers, muggers, robbers, rapists and thieves. It is the most often committed violent crime in the U.S. today.

These Statistics are taken from The Knoxville Star 12/1/82.

According to a Detroit Free Press Article, 4 out of every 10 hospital admissions are alcohol related.

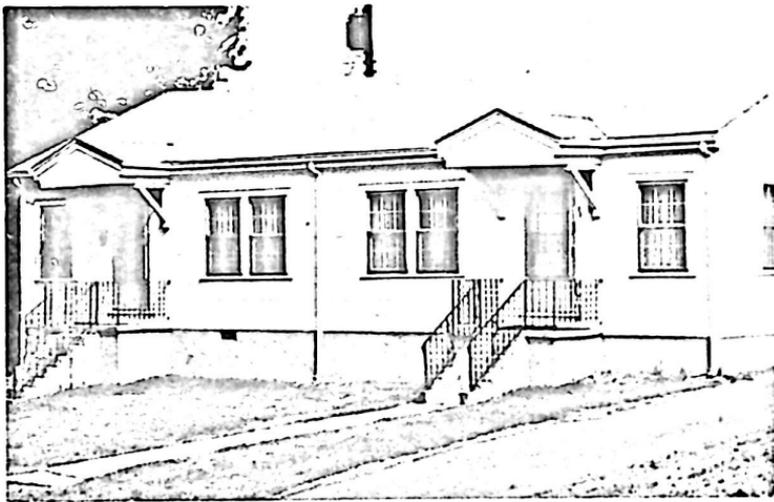
**PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE OPPOSING
LIQUOR-BY-THE-DRINK — MAY 1st
TENNESSEE AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH
TENN. AVE. & CYPRESS ST., BRISTOL, TN.**



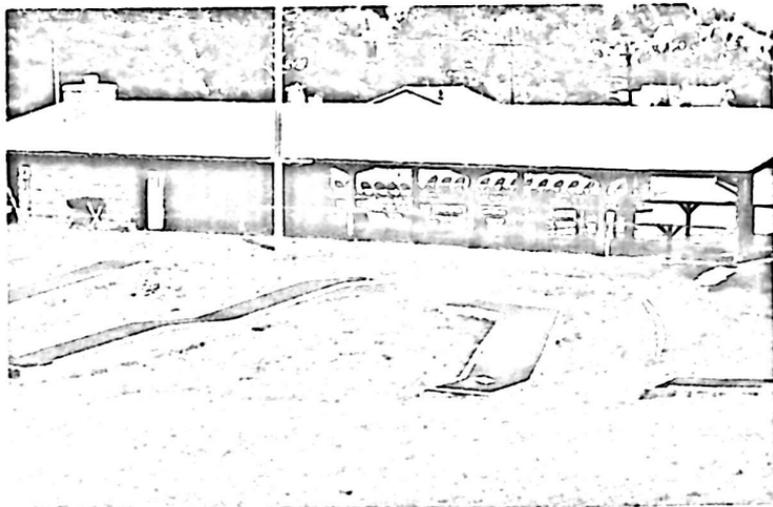
In 1956, a house on Tennessee Avenue was purchased. It is called the Church Cottage.



The children's church building was erected in 1959. All the boys and girls ages 4-8, have their services in this building every Sunday morning.



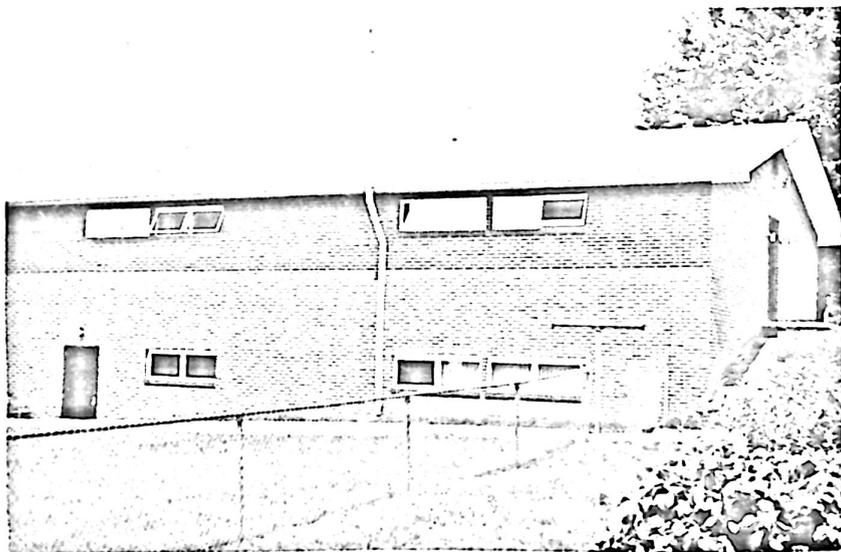
In 1972 a duplex was purchased on Pine Street. It is used to house preachers, missionaries and evangelists when they come to preach for us. It is called the "Prophets House".



Also in 1972, the recreation center was developed. The picnic area has a 30'x80' pavilion with fireplace, kitchen and rest rooms. There is a ball park, 18-hole miniature golf and swings.



**The Church Parsonage
Located at 1037 Oakland Drive**



**The Church Offices/Fellowship Hall was built in 1980
Upper Level has eight office spaces.
Lower Level is Fellowship Hall**

I have had the privilege of enjoying the friendship of Willard Tallman for many years. He has been a guiding force in my life and has always offered inspiration during difficult times which all of us experience. His good deeds are innumerable. He has been a stabilizing pillar not only at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church but in the Community as well. The results of his hard work and dedication could be likened to the pebble tossed into the ocean as the ripples form they grow wider and wider until they are felt on every shore.

His forty-three years as pastor of your church speaks more than I can put into words. He is loyal and abundantly talented, completely dedicated to the growth of his church, and a better way of life for his congregation.

I have known Willard some thirty years or more and each time I am with him he inspires me to greater heights. My visits to your church are extremely happy moments for me, most rewarding experiences.

Willard is my confident and my brother in Christ. His life work of ministry to his fellowman is one of the greatest missions one can be called upon to do. It is the ultimate in fulfilling God's commandment to go into the world and preach the Gospel, getting people to accept Christ as their Savior. This he has done and does well.

I salute him for his common touch and for what he has meant to your church, the entire region, and to so many in all walks of life. As a result of his pastorship, literally thousands and thousands of people will join me in saying - he is truly a man of God.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", with a stylized, cursive script.

*James H. Quillen
Congressman
Frist District, Tennessee*

I have known Willard Tallman for many years, both on a professional basis, as well as, on a personal basis. I have admired and respected him for his personal integrity to "take a stand" on certain issues and keeping the faith to see them through. He is truly a "principle" man, practices what he preaches, and doesn't hesitate to tell it like it is. He has the insight of seeing the true nature of man and goes to the defense of those who are less fortunate.

I value Willards' friendship and my life has been enriched by knowing him.

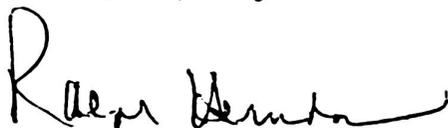


C. E. Collins, D.C.
Bristol, Tennessee

I am writing this letter concerning your statement Sunday that you were going to step down as our pastor at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

I have been a member of your congregation for 28 years. I personally want to thank you for all the years of service and what you have meant to me, my family, Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, and to the city of both Bristols.

You will be a great loss to our church. I want to wish you good health and many more years in the evangelism field. May God bless you and your family.



Ralph W. Herndon
World Printing Company, Inc.
Bristol, Tennessee

The Blevins Funeral Home has been serving the families of Bristol since 1928, and we constantly strive to offer to those we serve the best possible service.

There is, however an area where we can do only so much, and this is where the members of the Clergy come in.

We have known Mr. Willard Tallman for many years, and we feel that when he is called upon to function at a memorial funeral service, he has the ability to comfort and uplift a family when it is needed the most. He always uses the appropriate Scriptures, and has the ability to speak words that console those who have lost a loved one.

We consider it a privilege to know and work with Willard, because we feel that truly "He Is About His Fathers' Business".

All of us wish for he and his family continued good health and happiness. And may God's richest blessings be upon him.

*Charles H. Openhere
R. E. Smith, Jr.*

*Blevins Funeral Home
Bristol, Virginia*

*"A good name is better than precious ointment."
Willard Tallman, controversial to some, loved by many,
respected by all, still preaches against sin today just as
he did when he began his ministry almost fifty years ago.
"Customs change," he says, "but sin, never." In his
service to God and man, he stands head and shoulders
above his contemporaries. None are his equal. Never
realizing his own greatness, he is always quick to help or
assist another preacher, young or old, who seeks his
assistance.*

*It has been my privilege and a joy to know Brother
Willard Tallman for many years. I can honestly say that
I have never known a more stalwart, honest, dedicated,
trustworthy man of God. I count him one of my closest
and dearest friends. Brother Willard has stood the test of
time. Truly one can say, "There was a man sent from
God. . ."*

*Carl McGrady
Owner-Manager, Sunshine Cleaners
Bristol, Tennessee*

I think anyone who has really known Willard Tallman could write a very meaningful book about the experience. Since this is not practical (and has already been done), I will highlight my years of association with this fine Gentleman:

I have known Willard for over 25 years, having first become acquainted with him when I was just a kid working around the old Paul Cook Funeral Home on Pennsylvania Avenue (Bristol, Tennessee). I was brought up in the Methodist Church, and I don't think I had ever had anyone ask me right out if I was was going to heaven when I died. If you don't know the right answer to this question, and I didn't, you get a little nervous, and you don't forget the person who asked. I never have!

Such thought provoking questions and advice from Willard over the years have probably added more to my own religious convictions and understanding of the Bible than any other source. But in addition to this, Willard has been a friend! I have sought his counsel on several occasions, knowing that I may not like what I hear, but certain that his advice would be genuine - and very helpful.

I consider Willard to be an insight for people of my generation into the character of people of this region in the past. He is opinionated because he cares, and he knows of what he speaks. He lives the life he preaches, and he will tell you to your face what he shares from the pulpit. And he will tell a crowd what he thinks of you, even if it's good! He has probably touched more lives in Bristol than perhaps any other Bristolian in the history of the town. Maybe he has not been able to make everyone happy, but he has left a thought, planted a seed, made his mark!

Those of us who have known Willard and heard him speak more than once are apt to recall three bits of the Bible when thinking of him: "As a tree falls, so shall it lie." What better describes Willard's own attitude about life and death?! "God is no respecter of person." Nor is Willard. He treats everyone the same. "God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever." AND SO IS WILLARD!

We have all enjoyed hearing Willard speak, because "That's good preachin'". While we may not agree with everything he says, and we may pretend he's not talking to us, the man believes what the Bible says more than he believes he's Willard Tallman. And when a man firmly believes he is right, you can't fight him, so why try?

I could go on and on and really add very little to the above facts. He's a complex man, and to really describe him takes far greater talent and understanding than mine. In a few simple words, Willard is Special, because WILLARD is WILLARD - PLUS MINUS NOTHING!!!

Sid Oakley

*Sid Oakley
Oakley-Cook Funeral Home
Bristol, Tennessee*

Willard Tallman. . .

When I say that name, I think of a man that never stumbles from his original values. Willard has been a dedicated, concerned and inspiring leader of our community. Having the pleasure of knowing Willard has given me encouragement for daily living. Willard has been a regular participant in the YMCA Health Service Center, believing wholly in body, mind and spirit.

*Tommy Creamer
Executive Director
Bristol Family YMCA*

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church is a unique church. Its uniqueness is due primarily to the man that has pastored the church for more than 43 years, Willard Tallman.

My family and I first visited Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in early 1969. It was to be a trial visit. However, after hearing Willard preach, we were happy with the church and never bothered to visit another church.

I served as Supt. of the Sunday School for about eight years. Willard and I met, talked, and prayed together practically every Sunday morning. During those meetings, I learned a great deal from him. It was evident to me that God had given to Willard wisdom that is found in few men. He gave him the ability to take complicated matters and simplify them.

In all of our meetings, we did not have a distasteful disagreement. We discussed many subjects. Willard was always reasonable and displayed a desire to see all sides before making a decision.

Over the years I have admired and appreciated Willard because:

He has never waived from preaching the truth. He presents God's plan of salvation to every congregation he preaches to.

He is just as concerned about the down and outer's soul as he is the rich. Much of his ministry has been directed at the "alley cat".

He has always been willing to give a young preacher an opportunity to preach. No doubt many young preachers got much needed encouragement from him.

He has directed much of his attention to the children over the years. I believe many children have come to know the Lord as Saviour because Willard took the time to give them attention.

He has never pretended to be a great preacher. Even though I feel there are few men that can equal him as a pastor or preacher, he has never taken himself that

serious. His ministry he has taken seriously, however.

His concern for the lost is evident in every sermon. He preaches to everyone alike, without fear or favor from anyone.

He has put his church first in his life. He has devoted his life unselfishly to his church.

I have met a few men that I consider great in my lifetime. Willard is one of those. I consider it a great privilege to have known him. I consider him to be both a pastor and a friend.

Odell Owens

*Odell Owens
District Manager
Social Security Admin.
Bristol, Virginia*

My wife and I have valued the wonderful Christian fellowship with you through the many years of your ministry. You are one of the most wonderful Christian ministers that Bristol has ever had and you have done so much for this great city of Bristol in making it a better place in which to live. We compare you to that great apostle Paul in preaching Gods word. As you know this world is moving so fast that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by some one doing it, and you are the one who has helped this city so much through all these years. Well we only live once but if we live right once is enough. All our love is with you and your good wife and family. We wish you many, many more years of health and happiness.

*Herbert J. Woods, Sr.
Former Manager
Hecht's Bakery
Bristol, Tennessee*

Since health and fitness has been my life's work, I naturally had an instant admiration for Willard Tallman when he joined the Health Service Center of the YMCA, of which I am the director.

Having been a baseball player, Willard was well aware of the importance of staying physically fit. He not only participated, but soon became a walking testimonial, encouraging those he came in contact with to get involved in some type of physical activity.

Having heard Willard's radio ministry, I expected to find him very direct and hard boiled, but I was mistaken. Instead, I found him a kind and sensitive man, ready to listen to others and their problems and just as willing to help.

It became obvious that God had not only called Willard into the ministry, He had also blessed him with other valuable traits. Besides making him a pillar of strength in the community, He gave him the ability to stand for right and decency and still retain the respect and admiration of those in opposition.

When I take an overall look at Willard Tallman he reminds me more of Will Rogers than any other man I know, and I wonder who can fill his shoes.

*Bill Corns
Health Service Center Director
Bristol Family YMCA*

It is with honor, devotion, congratulations and love that we would like to honor and congratulate, Reverend Willard Tallman, Pastor of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church for his fifty years of Service and Pastoral Leadership with Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

He is loved by his Congregation, both Cities of Bristol, Tenn. and Virginia, State Government and National Government Officials.

Having known Reverend Tallman for over forty years, being an official of both Cities of Bristol, Tennessee and Virginia, I have had the pleasure of knowing the fine deeds he has performed in helping many people in difficult times. I know personally of times, when citizens of our community were having family problems, personal problems, unable to pay food bills, taxes, water and sewer bills, that he was there to be of service to them. When there was a death in the family he was there to be of personal service to the family.

Reverend Tallman is to be congratulated on building one of the finest and most beloved churches within the two states of Virginia and Tennessee from the ground up. He is regarded as one of the finest Pastors and loved Leaders within our two Cities, two States and National Government.

It has been one of my finest pleasures to have known Reverend Tallman, to have worked with him and to have served with him as City Official. I have had the pleasure of attending many of his Church Functions, Dedications and Service Celebrations in my 40 years and I wish to thank him for letting me know him, serve him and work with him in my life.

Reverend Tallman, I wish to thank you for those many years of pleasure. I wish you and your family many years of happiness in years to come in your retirement and that God will be as good to you in the future as he has been in the past and that you will be able to serve your people and God as you have in the past fifty years.

Kindest regards to you and your family and good health to all. Thanks for letting me be a part of your life for forty years, and your friend. If we can ever be of future service to you please call on us.



Edward F. Musick
City Auditor
Bristol, Virginia

It has been my extreme pleasure and gratification to have known well my friend, the Reverend Willard Tallman for the past 30 years. Having been born and raised as a Southern Baptist, I knew of him and his reputation from the first day I can remember anything. Willard has been a great inspiration not only to my family, friends and me, but to Bristol and the area in general.

He accepted the Pastorate in 1943 of what I remember as being a reasonably run down, wooden-frame building, which had been erected by a group led by Johnny Bowery and again, according to my memory, this Tabernacle had been intended as a temporary structure, as Tabernacle's were wont to do in that day and time. However, it became the decision of the church leaders that the Tabernacle should continue as a permanent thing and become a regular Baptist Church. There was an interim pastor and Willard was called in 1943, when the membership and Sunday School were almost non-existent and that with his leadership and guidance both now run into the hundreds and over a thousand. It was during this period of time that I came to know Willard better and really respect his faith, leadership and guidance not only of the Church, but also his position in the town.

As I got to know Willard better, he became more influential in my life and was a great source of comfort to me in my many trials and tribulations and on some occasions, according to Willard, there were times that I was a comfort to him. There are several things that I learned from Willard that have become a part of my everyday life, one of which is "don't worry son, the Lord will never put a burden on you any bigger than you can carry". Another which he did not say directly, but which I have observed in Willard is that when a controversial issue arises he will consider the issue and that regardless of who he will make mad or glad, he will do what he thinks is right. There is nothing wishy-washy about Willard Tallman.

It saddens my heart to know that Willard will soon be leaving Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church and that with

proper diligence the Church leaders will find another devoted pastor, but they will never find another Willard Tallman.

The Church, the town, his friends and relatives, and especially me, are indeed the luckiest people on earth to have had Willard in this position for the last 43 years and may God grant that his health will remain firm and he can continue to serve the Lord in his Church.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Widener". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

*Robert C. Widener
Attorney-at-Law
Bristol, Tennessee*

As you go through life you will meet a few people that will make a lasting impression on you, only a few, probably you can count them on one hand. Willard Tallman is definitely one of those people. The way he made an impression on me is the amount of wisdom he possesses. I have stated many times that Willard had more wisdom than any man I ever knew, not necessarily intelligence, he and I share the same shortcomings there, not much formal education, but he has the stuff it takes to be a great motivator, and a great administrator, which are things to be greatly desired in this world.

People with a high degree of wisdom have always caught my eye, their program seems to always move forward regardless of circumstances, and this has to be called success in today's terminology. Willard's program has always moved forward, even as little as inches at times, but never stopping, and of course his program has always been the Lord's work, which makes it so much more important. Since the day he took over the little building on Tennessee Avenue, it has moved forward. Not many people can say this about their work.

As you study the Bible, you will learn that this is possible, if we ask for it, James plainly says "If ye lack wisdom, ask for it" and of course Solomons' life bears this fact out. So, I guess that what I am really saying is that Willard took the Lord at his word, because he has it, he has used it daily down thru the years. He still is using it and with his background he did not have the opportunity to have anything handed to him, it had to come from above. I guess this would be the greatest lesson we could learn from studying his success story, ask the Lord, and trust him to supply, or trust him to make good his promises.

The other thing that has always caught my eye in Willard, is his ability to have time for anyone who ask him. I really have never been able to figure this out, I have 65 or 70 employees, and I have to "fit them in" usually giving attention to the one making the most noise. I take pride in saying that I get around to all of the people I am responsible for but not in the order that Willard does. I have never seen anyone call him that he

didn't have time right then to talk to them and he is responsible for about 2,000 members. This has always been a mystery to me. If a member misses on Sunday, they get a call from Willard on Monday, "where were you at yesterday you sucker you?" You have to be an extraordinary person to be able to do this, and that is exactly what I am saying, he is an "extraordinary person".

One more thing that bears out that he is extraordinary. He has always been very conservative in his theological and social fields and still does not alienate himself from anyone in society. He fought, successfully in keeping alcohol from being sold in Bristol for many years, yet the very people that he was against never spoke of him except in love. I know many people down thru the years that were supporters strongly for alcohol, and they never spoke negative one time about him, yet he never compromised his position, and this itself says that this is extraordinary.

Willard is an extraordinary person, you will meet a few of them thru life, only a few.

KENNETH A. MORRELL

Kenneth A. Morrell
President
Holston Bus. Co., Inc.

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to state a few paragraphs about my friend, Doc Tallman.

I have known Doc since 1955, when I was in high school and working with Paul Cook Funeral Home. I have been present at about two hundred or more funerals that Willard has conducted and in each and every service he certainly let everyone present know the plan of salvation that God has given to all people.

I have traveled in this area and out of town with Doc, sometimes serving as his chauffeur. When I traveled with Doc to various places, which included, restaurants,

businesses, stores (Mom & Pop's or Old Country) and other places; I have yet to see Doc meet a stranger or fail to ask someone, "If the Lord would come today, would you go to Heaven or Hell?" If these individuals were not sure or did not know, then Doc would show them the plan of salvation.

I would like to relate with you all an experience about my mother, Alta Campbell and Doc Tallman. My mother was the kitchen manager and one of the cooks at the First Baptist Church in Bristol, Virginia. A meal was always served on Wednesday night before prayer meeting and Willard always told my mom that his church did not have to feed people to get a crowd and he asked my mom if people came to eat or came for the Lord? Willard's comments would make my mom mad, but she respected Willard and said nothing to him about it. One night she came home from work and I could see her smiling as she came through the door, because she could not wait to let the family know that Willard was a guest speaker at a meeting at church. Consequently, my mom had prepared the meal for the meeting and Willard had plenty to eat. My mom thought that she had definitely gotten even with Willard. (Incidentally, when Willard built the new Fellowship Hall at the church he built a complete kitchen).

I can truthfully state that Willard is a man sent by God, who is truly a friend in need and in deed. I know in dealing with Willard and observing him over the years that one could get up early and stay out late and still lose Doc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. R. Campbell". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

*W. R. Campbell
President
Yellow Coach Lines, Inc.*

Before I ever heard Brother Willard Tallman preach, I heard many comments, both favorable and unfavorable, about him. The favorable comments came freely and often. The unfavorable ones came from those who were jealous of what God had done through him and some who were offended and disgruntled when told by him that what they needed was the Lord Jesus Christ.

After meeting Brother Tallman and hearing him preach on various occasions, I am amazed at what God does in the life of a person who has surrendered (or offered) his life to God and says, "Because Jesus paid it all for me, I'll live for Him". God can use the individual who is so committed, and God has used this man, Willard Tallman.

Through the years in which I have known Preacher Tallman, I have been convinced of God's presence and guidance in his life. I am made to rejoice because the theme of his life since accepting Jesus as Saviour has been, "Looking Unto Jesus".

Knowing each of us must give an account to God for what we have done as Christians, Brother Tallman has been relentless in his proclamation, "What takes me to heaven will take you to heaven". It is the same message Jesus gave Nicodemus, "You must be born again".

One of the things I like about this man is that he does not mince words. One knows in a very few minutes where he stands on any issue. He doesn't stab a person in the back, but he tells a person face to face.

On one occasion while visiting in the hospital, I met Brother Tallman. As we met, he said with a grin, "Say Bud, one of the funniest things happened to me the other day. A man offered to buy me a new Cadillac and I told that "Old Bird" that I wouldn't have the nerve to drive a Cadillac up to one of those "alley rats" and say, 'Buddy, all you need is the Lord.' That's my friend and the Lord's servant, Willard Tallman and the good thing in knowing him is to know the message he has been faithfully delivering for over 45 years.

*R. H. "Bob" Leonard
Retired Revenue Officer
Internal Revenue Service*

I would like to begin by saying to you folks at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, how much I appreciate the opportunity of being a part of this book honoring your beloved pastor, Willard Tallman.

It is impossible for me to explain, in a simple letter, what Willard Tallman really means to me and what an inspiration he has been to me in the 23 years I have known him. As you are aware we work very close together in our professions and must depend on each other very much. I can not recall a time or situation, when called on, he has not agreed to help anyway possible, regardless of his own health or obligations.

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 9, verse 26, The Apostle Paul has an excellent description of my friend Willard, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air." I now he has served his church and community well, his time and actions while serving our Lord have been affective and when he speaks, I listen.

I thank our Sovereign God for the ministry of Willard Tallman.

Randy

*William R. Bowers
President
Weaver Funeral Home*

In every community there averages one or more individuals who, through their personalities and abilities, provide leadership and positive guidance for significant numbers of that community. During the fifteen years that I have lived in Bristol, I have considered Reverend Willard Tallman to be one of those individuals. He has effected an influence on large numbers of his congregation at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church through unnumbered sermons, marriage ceremonies, and funeral services. His counsel has delivered positive spiritual guidance during times of joy, uncertainty, and personal grief. The impact of this effort will endure for generations of families in our area.

My contact with Reverend Tallman has been as a citizen of Bristol observing the effect of his influence; as a physician seeing his time and energy in his hospital rounds, almost daily, giving support to those suffering illness and surgery; as his doctor when he himself confronted physical difficulties. In every role he has remained energetic, cheerful, and capable of placing the problems of others above his own.

The commentaries in this review of Reverend Tallman's work will be from many disciplines and viewpoints. It is a deserved tribute to one who has labored selflessly and successfully to truly leave his mark on Bristol.

Jack E. Butterworth, Jr., M. D.

It was my pleasure in 1943 to get acquainted with a Preacher named Willard Tallman, who woke up people in the neighborhood working on Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church near Pennsylvania Avenue, Cypress St., and Tennessee Avenue and hearing him hammer and saw at six o'clock in the morning in the nearby streets.

He has had varied careers in his life. Starting out as a youngster playing baseball in Bristol, and then being picked up by a baseball team from Rome, Georgia. He was an expert batter and outfielder. For some reason he got homesick to come back to Bristol.

He went to work for Charles A. Schieren Company and Dixie Tannery in leather finishing and leather tanning. He quit this job as the Lord had called him to be a Minister and started preaching at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. He built the church largely with his own hands and efforts.

As a preacher he has preached in Washington, D.C., where he was invited by the President of the United States. He has done evangelistic work in Atlanta, Georgia, Cleveland, Ohio and various cities in the southeastern parts of the United States.

For some reason or other after all the offers he has had from larger churches, where the salary would have been three or four times higher than the church he built, he stayed with the church he built, as money did not change him from his home church.

He has preached more funerals than any three other preachers in this area. Has married hundreds of couples. Also visited thousands of sick people in hospitals and homes.

I understand he is retiring and wish him many years of good health and success.

Young preachers should follow in the footsteps of Willard Tallman. A preacher must be well liked, and visit and get acquainted with people in the area regardless of the denomination they belong too. I hope the new preacher will try to follow in the footsteps of Willard Tallman.



Arthur P. Slaughter

First, I want to say I am very thankful that I know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and that I am saved by God's grace and kept by His power.

Second, I am very thankful to have been, and still be, a member of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church for the past forty-one years.

I have seen the church grow from less than one hundred to approximately eighteen hundred members, and property worth about two million dollars.

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church is a miracle of God's grace. God's hand of blessing has been upon the church down through the years.

Third, I am very grateful to have had Brother Willard Tallman as my pastor and friend for the past forty-one years. He is another miracle of God's grace. Jesus said "that a prophet hath no honour in his own country" (John 4:44), so his ministry at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church has to be a miracle. Many souls that would not have been there are and will be in heaven because of his ministry in Bristol.

I am honored to be the Chairman of the deacon board for approximately thirty-eight years. I have found Brother Willard to be honest, truthful, upright, unselfish, and always on the job. He always works everything to the benefit of the church and the cause of Christ and not to himself. His motive has always been to get the lost saved and get the saved into the place of blessing.

I want to say I appreciate the clear cut message of God's grace and also the message of judgment upon sin, always separating relationship and fellowship.

Words cannot express what he has meant, and does mean, to me and my family. I have learned many things from him.

He and his wife have given their lives for the on going and building up of the church.

May God's richest blessings be upon them.



Robert Garrett

Owner, Garrett's Battery & Ignition Co.

Spring 1964. The Mosier family was transferred to Bristol, Tennessee. As we began the search for a new church, my mother mentioned she had listened to Pastor Tallman's radio broadcast and appreciated his dedication to the Word of God.

Based on my mother's recommendation, we dressed our three children--one, three, and four years of age--and started out to find "the corner of Tennessee Avenue and Cypress Street."

The children's church, the young married department, plus the opportunity to worship with a warm fellowship of people provided a tremendous influence, blessing and support for our family during our six years in Bristol.

The dedication of the workers in the children's church played a dramatic part in the early life of our children. Although our children are grown today, they speak warmly of their teachers and the principles taught in the children's church.

While recognizing the influence of Pastor Tallman's teaching in the life of our family during the span of six years, we are also thankful for the contribution made to thousands of lives and the city of Bristol during Pastor Tallman's many years of dedicated and unselfish service to the Lord.

Perhaps in this period someone will speak of retirement. The Mosier family does not believe Reverend Willard Tallman will retire as long as people need to hear the Word of God.

A grateful family wishes Reverend Willard Tallman the best of health as he continues to serve God on a daily basis.

*Guy Mosier
Shelby Mosier
Jeff Mosier
Jeanna Mosier Hills
Johnny Mosier
Atlanta, Georgia*

Some people are fortunate enough in a lifetime to come in contact with another person which they can trust and admire. If you come in contact with a person you can not only trust and admire but also respect for the example they set and the stand they take, you are extremely fortunate.

I have been extremely fortunate, in the fact, that 25 years of my life has been spent in contact with Willard Tallman, as my pastor. I've always taken pride in the fact that this man was my pastor. It was not until I had the opportunity to work for him on a daily basis that I realized what great dedication this man has for our church and its people.

Willard Tallman has influenced my life greatly. He will go on influencing lives for generations to come through the many people who have seen his dedication and have become dedicated because of this great man of God.

JERRY W. OPENGARI

*Jerry W. Opengari
Former Caretaker, T.A.B.C.*

The ministry of Willard Tallman cannot be separated from the life he lives. The truth which he preaches is written on his heart and revealed in his life.

If any preacher emphasized the grace of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it has been Willard Tallman. His messages are directed to the conscience. The effect of his preaching on young men "is to turn our souls inside out!" for few preachers can expose sin and perform spiritual surgery like Willard. He never fails to point sinners to the Lamb of God "who taketh away the sin of the world."

He shuns and even flees from becoming "a popular preacher" and he has little confidence in men who use the pulpit to promote themselves. If there was one thing Willard hates with a holy zeal, it is a religion of words without reality, words that describe an experience but fails to effect it in the lives of people. It is easy to have words without power and a program without substance but that is not the case with this servant of God.

A familiar statement of Willard's that is often quoted from the pulpit and spoken of guest preachers is this "you noticed that he announced his subject and stayed with it" shows that Willard abhors preaching that tries to cover three or four subjects at once. He insists that each sermon have a definite purpose expressed in a concrete statement.

The ultimate aim of his preaching is the salvation of the sinner, and this was accomplished hundreds and hundreds of times (only to be revealed in Heaven) because he prepares his messages well and knows what to aim for. He does not preach to stir the emotions of men but to persuade them of their need of Jesus Christ, always using simple and concrete language.

The thing that impresses me about Willard's messages is their freshness of spiritual expression. He does not preach on the topics of the day, but carefully explains some first principle of the Christian life, and some doctrine of the Christian faith, and applies it to the practical life of the congregation. He shuns oratory and seeks to make the message of the Word the most important thing, the messenger (himself) the least important. He does not debate the doctrine of the Word of

God, but rather strengthens and extends the Gospel of the grace of God by avoiding the issues of religion and standing firm for the fundamental truths of the Gospel of grace that give rise to him becoming one of the world's greatest soul winners.

God called Willard to preach salvation by grace thru faith, which was and still is the greatest need of the hour. This message of grace will continue for many years to come (as God sees fit to prolong His return). Because of his untiring willingness to train young men for the ministry, there will always remain a permanent strengthening of the church through men who learned under Willard's ministry. Men who will dig the old paths of truth that will move men to cry, "men and brethren, what shall we do to be saved?" Willard's preaching does that.

One final observation: when I think of my association with Willard, I find myself examining not only my heart, but also my preaching. I find myself asking, am I a faithful physician of the soul as is Willard? Am I preaching to the conscience? Am I faithful to declare truth, not simply my ideas about truth? Do I offer Christ as the only Redeemer? Do I get beneath the surface and help my people where they need it most?

Thank you Willard for allowing me the privilege of ministering to the people at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, I will never forget the lessons you taught me.

Wilton Wood

*Wilton Wood
Pastor, Vance Bible Church
Bristol, Tennessee
Former Assistant To the Pastor/
Bus Director, T.A.B.C.*

... "To know him is to love him"... an expression used by most people who have ever known Willard. To have worked with him is to know him and love and respect him even more.

In applying this expression to my personal feelings toward this beloved friend, time and space would not permit me to state all the reasons why my admiration and respect for him is far beyond words; for, I know him well!

As a young man, growing up in the City of Bristol, I can recall hearing countless numbers of people, both saved and unsaved, refer to Willard as a man whose life is like an open book, and one which portrays an example of what every Christian ought to be. Later, after college training for the ministry and ordination, I had the opportunity and privilege to work side by side with him as Minister of Music and Education for twelve wonderful and exciting years. During these years we shared the privilege of seeing a small, wood-frame building with a hand full of dedicated Saints of God, grow into one of the greatest churches in America and winning hundreds of souls to Jesus Christ.

It was during these years that Willard helped me to grow, not only in my music ministry, but spiritually as well. During this time, I learned that Willard was the ideal church leader with the ability to build a great church based upon the principles of sound doctrine and leadership qualities given to him by God himself, and not from any man-made plans. I learned to know him as the "model" pastor that most preachers would like to be. As we worked side by side for many years, he was a pastor whom I looked to with a great amount of respect. He was understanding of any problems, showed compassion when needed and was always ready to listen objectively to any suggestions concerning the Music and Educational Program. I've known Willard to be tough and aggressive, and still keep a tender, loving spirit. I've seen Willard filled with laughter that was contagious, but soon the laughter could turn to weeping over the conditions of a lost soul. It is the burden for a lost and dying world that became the driving force behind

Willard's reputation as one of the most dedicated soul winners of our time. Willard believed in working hard and expected the same from his staff, but he was never unfair in any way, and never expected more from anyone than he was willing to do himself. I will always be grateful to Willard for allowing me total freedom to conduct the music ministry of the church in the way I felt God was leading me. Willard is one of the very few pastors I have ever known who allows this freedom, for he recognizes that a co-worker, called of God to do a certain work, must follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit in order to do that work effectively and pleasing to the Lord. It is because of this freedom that I was able to carry out God's will for my ministry at Tennessee Avenue Church.

Willard Tallman. . . "to know him is to love him", and I knew him as a great pastor, evangelist, teacher, comforter, counselor, advisor, winner of souls, my favorite preacher and most of all, my friend.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob E. Whiston". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

*Bob E. Whiston, Evangelist
Whitson Ministries
Houston, Texas
Former Minister of Music, T.A.B.C.*

As I write this letter, I realize there are not enough words to express my heart and soul for your bountiful friendship.

I am most sure though, that God through his Sovereign plan for my life and ministry, placed me with you at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. Those years of work with you were a time not only of learning; but also a time of spiritual growth and maturity brought about by the wisdom God has instilled in you.

I shall never forget being on the staff at Tennessee Avenue. Every one had their work and did that work well. Starting on time each day and moving like clock-work, no wasted time, such is the trademark of you, Willard. Thank you for instilling traits like this and many, many more in my life and ministry.

Willard, only eternity will reveal through the souls of men, women, and children the great Bible truths of God's redemptive work that you through Christ Jesus opened to me. There are very few men that God has revealed His grace to as you. Thank you for blessing my heart as you shared with me your abounding knowledge of God's Grace.

It would take hours of writing to even try to express the feelings of myself and my family for you. You have been more than the Pastor of a church that called me to assist you.

You have been and still are my Pastor, a teacher as Paul was to young Timothy, a father image in teaching principles of honor and integrity in daily life, a helping hand for my family; but most of all a friend, truthful and loyal -- but that is a friend.

I thank the Lord Jesus for giving me the privilege of knowing you.

*Mike Stout
Pastor, West View Missionary Baptist Church
Kingsport, Tennessee
Former Assistant To the Pastor/
Bus Director, T.A.B.C.*

It is indeed a privilege to write this letter to you, expressing my gratitude for what you have meant to me and my family through the years.

May I begin by saying that I know before God that I would never have made it as a preacher of the gospel if you hadn't been there to get me started on the right foot.

I remember as a teenager the days when I began attending Tennessee Avenue and realizing there was something very special about the man behind the pulpit. I'm sure you can remember that Debbie and I met as a result of the ministry of the Church and that we were married in that beautiful sanctuary. In 1978, April in fact, we were able to place our baby in the hands of "Ted" in the nursery while we attended the services.

I thank God that on Friday, April 6, 1979 I became a child of God, and almost immediately He called me to preach. I'll never forget that fateful Monday morning when I came into your office to tell you I had surrendered to preach. If you will remember, I was sporting an Afro hairdo and a full beard. You just sort of laughed under your breath and said something like, "Now Bud, if you're gonna preach, you'll have to get a hair cut and shave off that beard." Of course I followed that sage advice and about a month later you gave me my first chance on a Tuesday evening.

Well, from that time on you helped me in ways no one could ever understand! You taught me how to visit, how to win a soul to Christ, and how to do things "decently and in order".

"Doc", I'd never had made it this far without you, my father in the ministry. Thank you for being my mentor, instructor, and pastor.

God Bless You and Ted always in my prayer!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry W. Sykes". The signature is fluid and includes a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Larry W. Sykes

Pastor, Northwest Baptist Church

Former Assistant To the Pastor/Bus Director, T.A.B.C.

I shall never forget my first encounter with Willard Tallman, it was on a Sunday morning after being invited to the service by Ralph and Helen Hagy who were members of Tennessee Avenue, that I heard the words: sucker, you birds, white washed, galvanized, conscious seared church members, and plus minus nothing, that started our long lasting relationship together. I saw a man that was not afraid to stand on the word of God with full authority, and I liked it. My wife and I joined the church two weeks later, and became active members. I had the privilege to set under Willard's ministry for approximately five years. During that time I worked in the Bus Ministry, Sunday School, Visitation, and served as an Associate Pastor for one year before being called to my first full time pastorate.

I served churches in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee prior to coming to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. During my stay at Southern I was exposed to many controversial and liberal issues. Had it not been for the foundation at Tennessee Avenue Church under the ministry of Willard Tallman, I could not have been able to deal with these issues correctly. Thank God for the fundamentals of the faith, which Willard hammered into my head during our years together. I was able to come out of seminary not as a liberal or as some one that does not know where to stand, but rather as someone able to believe that God's Word is true, infallible, and inerrant.

I can honestly say with all my heart that this was made possible because of the teachings that my family and I received under this mighty man of God, Willard Beverly Tallman.

*Danny H. Creech, Sr.
Louisville, Kentucky
Former Assistant to the Pastor/
Bus Director, T.A.B.C.*

I thank God for the privilege to have served on the staff of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. The position I served from June 1984 to June 1985, as Assistant-to-the Pastor-Bus Director, gave me the opportunity to learn many great truths about being a Christian. Willard, your guidance and wisdom you shared with me has been a great asset to my ministry. Never have I known a man of God who so desired to see souls saved for the Glory of Christ. To have been associated with you and the people of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church is one of the greatest blessings I have received from God. Willard, thank you for being my pastor and my friend.

Stephen Tim Hale

*Stephen Tim Hale
Pastor, Vernon Heights Baptist Church
Kingsport, Tennessee
Former Assistant-to-the Pastor/Bus Director
T.A.B.C.*

I have had the pleasure of being caretaker at TABC on two different occasions under the leadership of Willard Tallman. He has been a friend and an inspiration in my life.

I believe he is truly a man of God because God has done great works through him. Thousands of souls have been saved because of this man.

May his remaining days be full of happiness and good health.

Charles D. Luttrell

*Charles D. Luttrell
Caretaker, TABC*

*To Willard Beverly Tallman,
the pastor of a great church. . .
that has seen countless thousands walk down the
aisles to accept Christ as their own personal Savior;
that has stood for the fundamentals of the faith;
that has provided a foundation to grow on for its
adults, its young people and its children.*

*To Willard Beverly Tallman,
God's man. . .
who has unselfishly served Jesus Christ;
who has been true to the Word and has faithfully
preached Christ;
who has truly been "sent from God".*

*To Willard Beverly Tallman,
My friend. . .
one who provided experience, wisdom and insight for
the ministry.*

BOB FLEMING

*Bob Fleming
Greater Orlando Baptist Association
Camp Joy Manager
Apopka, Florida
Former Minister of Music , T.A.B.C.*

I have known Willard for over 40 years. Worked for him for over 7 years and for a person who didn't finish grammar school, he is one of the smartest persons anyone would want to meet. He has the wisdom of Einstein and the heart of a lion and trusts everyone. He knows more of the Bible and knowledge of Christ than just about anyone else on God's earth. He never starts a job that he doesn't finish. That's what's wrong now, a lot of people think his job is finished but under God's eyes it isn't. He fought against liquor for years and won but they finally got it here and look at the drinking and driving you see. He is one of the finest persons I have ever met and the privilege to work with.

Red Davidson

Red Davidson
Former Caretaker, T.A.B.C.

I look back on the two years I served with Willard at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church as two of the most treasured years of my life.

Brother Willard and I never had a cross word that I remember and I learned much from him about the Lord and about people.

Mrs. Tallman was also a real friend and it was always a joy to be in the home. We shared a love for gardening.

And I have never seen a more genuinely loving congregation of people. We were treated as royalty and revere the lasting friendships from those years that extend to this day.

As the coming of the Lord draws near my heart's desire for Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church is that her light may continue to burn bright for the Lord and win many lost to our Savior and an eternal home.

Daniel D. Carr

Daniel D. Carr
Former Minister of Music T.A.B.C

"You birds! You suckers! You're lower down than a snake and a snake crawls on its belly on the ground!" Words of scorn and ridicule? I think not! Rather they are words of love from the heart of a man who will use about any method to get your attention and then tell you that without simple child-like faith in Jesus Christ and Him only you cannot enter heaven.

I was privileged to work with Willard and the church staff of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church for many years. From July 1976 through May 1986 I was a full time staff member. I have seen my pastor laugh heartily and in a moments time shed a tear over the lost condition of his congregation and the city of Bristol. He has preached hard without fear of favor of any man.

Words could never express my appreciation to Willard for his guidance during my ten years of ministry. Many times I could not understand his reasoning in certain situations but in time I came to realize that each move he made was for the advancement of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church. Truly Willard has followed the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The record speaks for itself. His words are simple and forward while the message is strong and clear.

Willard has always treated each staff member with courtesy and respect as though we were his own children. He was never looking over any ones shoulder to see if they were working. There is a phrase which I hope to never forget. "Bud, if you're doing your job the people will know and if you are cutting corners it will eventually catch up with you."

My heartfelt thanks go to Willard and Mrs. Tallman (Ted) for their many years of unselfish labor at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don A. Greene". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Don A. Greene

Former Minister of Music T.A.B.C.

It has been my privilege to have been Willard Tallman's Secretary for the past twenty-four and a half years. He has really been an inspiration to me and my family. He has treated me with the same respect that he would have treated his own daughters. He is the same Willard Tallman during the week that he is on Sunday....he lives his life daily trying to win lost souls to Christ. . .He witnesses to everyone that comes in the church during the week no matter who it is. . .His first question is, "If you would die today would you go to heaven? Do you know whether you are saved or not?...Do not live in the past, look to the future!

He has been good to all the staff that has ever worked here and I am sure they will tell you the same as me. He never pushed us or put us under pressure. . . .He would ask if we had time to do something he wanted done. He knew we knew what had to be done and he trusted us to do it. He has truly been a friend to all of us that have worked on the church staff.

Bristol has truly been a better place to live because of Willard B. Tallman and the stand he has taken against sin. He has never dipped his colors for what he believes and stands for. . . .

Thank you Willard for all you have done for me. You have given me a real education by being by your side and working with you. It has been a real honor!

*Mary Jane Mumpower
Church Secretary T.A.B.C.*

BAPTISMS 1950 - 1985
TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

YEAR	BAPTISMS	OTHER
1950	84	NA
1951	56	36
1952	48	NA
1953	130	38
1954	94	17
1955	93	26
1956	91	28
1957	90	28
1958	98	27
1959	95	64
1960	71	57
1961	74	29
1962	72	35
1963	40	20
1964	61	44
1965	125	43
1966	126	48
1967	108	47
1968	75	34
1969	71	51
1970	83	36
1971	107	33
1972	144	110
1973	110	58
1974	154	43
1975	137	84
1976	113	49
1977	146	63
1978	126	60
1979	138	39
1980	104	16
1981	101	17
1982	81	17
1983	71	28
1984	71	31
1985	69	31
TOTALS	3,457	1,387

AVERAGE NUMBER OF BAPTISMS FOR 36 YEARS = 96
AVERAGE NUMBER OF OTHER ADDITIONS FOR 34
YEARS = 40

**AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
1958 - 1985**

1958 - 570	1976 - 828
1959 - 639	1977 - 837
1960 - 571	1978 - 717
1961 - 567	1979 - 754
1962 - 598	1980 - 507
1963 - 503	1981 - 475
1964 - 537	1982 - 501
1965 - 587	1983 - 471
1966 - 625	1984 - 451
1967 - 628	1985 - 389
1968 - 665	
1969 - 527	
1970 - 530	
1971 - 846	
1972 - 829	
1973 - 813	
1974 - 800	
1975 - 833	

**28 CONSECUTIVE YEARS WITH A YEARLY AVERAGE
OF 628.**

***statistics taken from the minutes of the Holston Association
and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.**

**In the past fifty years of his ministry, Willard has
officiated at hundreds of weddings and has had a part
in over 2800 funerals.**

FOR REFERENCE

Do Not Take From This Room