

MEET LEROY DEDMON



Leroy Dedmon was born on June 27, 1939 in Ringgold, GA to his parents Gordon Lee and Ruby (Dickson) Dedmon. He is the oldest of five children (Carolyn, Ruth, Tom and Bill). He grew up in the Baptist Church and was converted and baptized by James Watkins in 1957 at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ in Flintstone, GA. Leroy baptized his sister Ruth, who is an active member of the church in Gurley, AL, and his brother, Bill, who is also a gospel preacher.

Leroy attended elementary school at Graysville, GA and Osburn Elementary (near Chickamauga, GA) and graduated from High School in Rossville, GA in 1957. He holds a BA and Ma from Amridge University in Montgomery, AL.

On April 5, 1959, Leroy married his high school sweetheart, Jane Glasscock. Her father, Berlin Glasscock, served as an elder for Chattanooga Valley. Following his death in 1961, her mother, Cynthia, served as a dorm supervisor at Freed Hardeman. Leroy and Jane have two children, three grand children and six great grandchildren.

Leroy preached his first sermon at Chattanooga Valley in 1958. In June of 1959, he moved to Huntsville, AL to work as a draftsman on the NASA Saturn project at Redstone Arsenal. As the church at Paint Rock, AL only had preaching on Sunday morning, he began "making talks" there on Sunday evening. He also filled appointments in the surrounding area. He was invited to "fill in" at the nearby congregation in Gurley, AL around the first of February in 1960 until they found a preacher. In June of 1963 he held a Tent Meeting on nearby Keel Mountain which resulted in the establishment of a congregation. He decided he had rather help men to go to heaven rather than the moon and began preaching "full time" at both congregations. He preached four sermons each Sunday at taught classes on Tuesday and Wednesday night until he moved to Cullman, AL in January 1964. He and Jane became house parents at Childhaven Children's Home and Leroy was to be the preacher at the Childhaven Road congregation. A change in the administration at Childhaven resulted in their request for him to no longer preach at Childhaven Road, but travel on Sundays to speak on behalf of Childhaven to raise funds, this he did until August 1964. His desire to preach caused him to leave Childhaven and move to the New Union congregation where he preached until September 1968 when he moved to Morrison, TN. While at Morrison, he and Jane also served as house parents for the Sunny Acres Home for Children. In January 1972, he moved to Springfield, TN where he preached at the Main Street congregation for almost 14 years. In September 1895 he moved to his native state of Georgia where he preached for the church at Bremen and in 1993 he moved to Woodstock, GA, where he retired in 2004 when he turned 65 years of age, thus completing almost 45 years of "full time" preaching.

Life after retirement was a new chapter in his "book of life". He moved back to the old home place in Ringgold, GA to care for his widowed mother. His father had passed away in September 2003 and his mother, in her 90s was living alone. She passed away in July 2008 at the age of 96. Also, during this time he became associated with Preaching The Gospel Television Program with James Watkins, held gospel meetings and workshops while preaching "fill in" appointments in the North Georgia and Middle Tennessee area. In 2005, The Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN) was launched and soon after, Leroy became the operations manager and served in that position until 2010. During this time he also shared the pulpit responsibilities at the Highland Congregation in Dalton, GA and also at Ooltewah, TN, In 2010 he resigned his position at GBN and assumed the "full time" preaching position at Ooltewah. He served in that capacity until his health began to wane and moved to Buchanan, GA to be near his daughter in July 2013 and presently lives there.

Leroy is a member of the church at Buchanan, where he teaches the Sunday morning bible class and preaches in the absence of the regular preacher. He also serves as an outreach minister on a volunteer basis. He continues to hold meetings and speaks on lectureships and many of the Wednesday night Summer Series in the area. He is also a featured speaker with his Leaving a Legacy segment on the Good News Today television program hosted by Jim Dearman.

During his tenure as a located preacher he preached in over 300 gospel meetings in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Indiana and Illinois. He conducted daily radio programs in Manchester, Mcminville and Springfield and was involved with Christian Youth camps usually directing at least one week each year. He served on the board of directors at Camp Child in Altamont, TN and Camp Inagehi in Douglasville, GA. Other camps where he served in some capacity include: Camp Lywood near Clarksville, TN, Short Mt. at Woodbury, TN and Fall Creek Falls near Dunlap, TN. He served as Cub Master and Boy Scout leader and Little League baseball coach..

He has always been active in community activities, serving as president of the local PTA, president of the Kiwanis Club, Volunteer Chaplin of the Robertson County Jail and Job Opportunity Committee in Springfield, TN. He also served on the Cherokee County Senior Softball Association in Woodstock, GA, where he actively played until he turned 70 years old. Leroy is also an entertainer for special meetings and after dinner speeches with his humor. His creation of "Preecher Alfalha Hayseed" has become a popular hit at many functions within church, school community and Civic clubs.

