



DAVE KISTLER

Fifty-Nine Years of Faithful Service

(Bethel Colony of Mercy celebrates its anniversary)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." (Isaiah 61:1)

In a nutshell, the above stated verse IS the ministry. I know of no place that does a better job accomplishing this powerful "mission statement", than Bethel Colony of Mercy, in Lenoir, NC.

Today (Oct. 7) began a week of meetings (two services a day) at Bethel Colony, my fifth time to have the privilege of ministering at this anointed place. Bethel Colony advertises itself, not as a "rehab" center, but rather a "life-transformation" facility. For fifty-nine years, they have been accomplishing that mission with vision and power. Brother Paul Ritchie has been Executive Director, along with Don Loss (Assistant Director) for over 21 years. From the first time that I met Brother Paul, I felt a kinship with him in ministry. He, and his dear wife, Eldora, are two of God's choicest servants.....



Today's Anniversary Celebration Service was one that I'll never forget. The singing by the "Bethel Men" was outstanding, as usual, and filled with energy and power. You cannot be in a service where the men of Bethel sing and not be moved.

After our family presented a musical package, focusing on the theme "God's Been Good", I was privileged to speak to over 350 attendees. God met with us in unusual power during the service. At the invitation, at least 10 responded for salvation (both residents of Bethel and family members of residents).



As the invitation drew to a close, those who were saved, and others, requested to testify, with no prompting from anyone other than the Lord. The testimonies were filled with tears and shouts of joy. Though we began at 1:45, we did not leave the auditorium till almost 4:15. Even then, no one seemed eager to depart.

Bethel now has an additional ministry in New Orleans, LA, called Bethel Colony South. The new location already has 55 residents, two staff members and construction under way on new facilities. I urge you to pray for this much needed ministry to the hurting and enslaved men of America.

Bethel Colony conducts ministry as Jesus, Himself, would do it. I pray that the church in America will cease being a place of formalism, and begin being a place where God is able to freely move. Pray for the meetings this week, that "He Who hath begun a good work" will perfect and preserve it till the day of Jesus Christ.

Dave Kistler

President,

H.O.P.E Ministries International

www.hopeministriesonline.com

Email comments to:

davekistler@hopeministriesonline.com

We appreciate your input, but please understand that due to the volume of email that we receive, we are unable to personally respond to each email.