

In Loving Memory of Dwight and Phyllis Zimmerman

Dwight and Phyllis Zimmerman were such a huge part of Cedine. It's very hard to put into words how much they have contributed to this ministry over the years and how greatly they will be missed. Both gave their lives to the Lord at an early age and committed to serve him always.

In 1966, the same year Dwight was appointed Cedine's General Director, his first wife, Betty Starling, passed away leaving him to parent four very young children. At that time neither Dwight nor Phyllis knew that one day the Lord would bring them together to form a union of love and service that would span almost six decades.

Paul "Dwight" Zimmerman was involved at Cedine since 1946 when his parents, Paul and Ruth Zimmerman, began this work. Dwight served as a camp counselor, waterfront director and helped with maintenance. He also served as the camp's caretaker in the winter and Camp Director in the summer. In 1957 he was ordained at Christian Fellowship Church in Grandview, TN, where he served as pastor from 1958-1966. Dwight co-founded the Bible Institute and was appointed Cedine's General Director in 1966.



Phyllis Joanne Zehr heard the Lord's call to missions while in high school. Following high school she attended and graduated from Moody Bible Institute. Afterwards she continued her studies at Wheaton College. Phyllis taught in Illinois public schools prior to leaving for Brazil to teach in a school for missionary children, but had to return to the states due to an injury that she suffered. She later served with Bible Witness Camp in rural Illinois for 4 ½ years. Phyllis also taught first grade in the public school system.

Dwight and Phyllis met in the summer of 1967 and were married in May 1968. In Phyllis, God not only provided a faithful helpmeet for Dwight but a loving and supportive mother for his four children. God would also bless them with another daughter. Together they devoted themselves to living life as servant leaders while raising their family at Cedine.

Dwight served as Cedine's General Director from 1966 until 2000. Both served as Bible Institute instructors as well as serving during summer camps, retreat seasons and outreach ministries. Many staff kids remember Phyllis as the fun and loving leader of Kids Klub. She also loved working with summer counselors, serving as Managing Editor of the *Cedine Report* and serving in food service. Even after stepping back from leadership Dwight was just as likely to be found in the dish room, tending to the animals, mowing the grass, running mission errands-he always found a way to help.

Phyllis entered the presence of her heavenly Father December 3, 2025. Dwight was welcomed into the arms of the Lord January 20, 2026. Now reunited in the presence of the Savior they both loved and served, Dwight and Phyllis leave behind a legacy that continues in the lives of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the many souls touched by their ministry.

To their children – Stephen, Philip, Timothy, Susan, Keren and their families we extend our deepest sympathy. May the memories you share and the God you trust bring you comfort and peace in the days, months and years ahead



From The Director's Desk

As we enter this year of celebrating 80 years of the Lord's faithfulness we are looking forward to what the Lord is going to do. Two of the Lord's faithful servants who have served with Cedine in so many ways for the vast majority of their lives are now with the Lord. Bro. Dwight left a significant imprint on the ministry of Cedine both in his leadership and his example. A couple sayings of his that I will always remember and sometimes I will quote are, "You get what you inspect, not what you expect" and when he was involved in what some would call a "menial" task he would remind us - "The pay is the same." He didn't shy away from those menial tasks and in his later years was on the mower throughout the growing session. He faithfully carried the bank deposits to town as well as many mailings. Mrs. Phyllis continued working as editor of the report until just a couple years ago and was still helping in the kitchen months before the Lord took her home. The Zimmerman's presence will be greatly missed. They would regularly remind me that they were praying for me and I am so thankful for their service.

We are preparing for the spring ministry with two ladies' retreats, a men's retreat and a couple's retreat. I am recertified "one more time" as a lifeguard instructor. Riley Peak is certified as well. Pray we will have the lifeguard candidates to train this summer. We are working on getting the registration software running effectively for the summer and hopefully soon for the retreats as well. Pray for wisdom as we work through this. We are also praying through how to move into some needed renovations. We are hoping to be able to report a number of projects completed this spring as the workgroups come to help us. Maybe you could coordinate a group to come this fall or next spring to help us. Also, continue to pray with the board about my replacement.

- *Vernon Tannahill*

Cedine - 80 Years of Ministry

The number 80 in the Bible often symbolizes a new beginning, specialized service or a milestone of strength and maturity. Here are just a few examples. In Exodus 7:7 we learn that Moses was 80 years old when God sent him to confront Pharaoh. Israel's victory over Moab led to 80 years of rest in the land. Psalm 90:10a reads "The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty..." 80 years is definitely a special blessing from the Lord and we thank God for allowing Cedine to reach such a tremendous ministry milestone.

Save The Date

HOMECOMING DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 8, 2026 at Cedine

10:30 AM Morning Service

Speaker, Dr. Robert Smith

1:00 PM Fellowship Meal

(Followed by Afternoon Tours and Activities)

We definitely want to see you there. It will be a time of reunion, fellowship, encouragement and fun. Download our Homecoming flyer at cedine.org and keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information to come.



Our Mission

Cedine Ministries exists to honor God and His Word by partnering with the church in evangelism and discipleship training through quality camp, conference and outreach ministries with an emphasis on the underserved community.

The CEDINE REPORT is published quarterly by CEDINE BIBLE MISSION, INC. 333 Cedine Camp Road, Spring City, TN 37381

Vernon Tannahill - Executive Editor
Linda Minter - Managing Editor
Subscription - II Thessalonians 3:1

Cedine Bible Mission is a nondenominational, nonprofit mission agency.

Cedine Bible Mission is a member of the Association of North America Missions.

Cedine Bible Camp/Conference Center is a member of Christian Camp and Conference Association.

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Email: Cedine@Cedine.org
Website: www.Cedine.org

Position Announcement

Cedine Ministries is looking for an experienced General Director to lead the ministry into a new future by overseeing the ongoing operations in Spring City, TN. Cedine has been a place where people have encountered God for 80 years. It is a full-time salaried position that includes housing (if desired).

Please email your letter of introduction, resume and/or questions to:
Ray.schnickels@gmail.com

Around Cedine

Cedine once again hosted the Institute for Cultural Communicators January 14-19. There were around 100 guests. They have been coming every January for 15 years.

Foster Chapel Baptist Church was the site that the third Bible quiz was held on February 7. The final Bible quiz of the year will be held at Cedine on March 28. Pray for the young people to be diligent in their study and that the Word would penetrate hearts.

Annika Breeze was born on February 13 to Riley & Kimberly Peak. She is much loved by her parents and three siblings, Jinora, Cassia and Corban.

The semi-annual Board Meeting was held February 26 & 27. Pray for wisdom and direction for the Board.

To begin the year of Cedine's 80th anniversary we held a Prayer Meeting February 27 & 28. We prayed for the needs of board, staff, summer camps, retreats, facilities and outreach ministries. Our Prayer Guide is still available for download. We invite you to continue praying for Cedine all year long.

Cedine Ministries Praise & Prayer

Spring 2026

1) "...For I know whom I believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I committed unto Him against that day."
2 Timothy 1:12

2) Bible Correspondence Courses-Pray for campers taking courses.

3) Bible Quizzing-Pray for final Quiz at Cedine March 28th.

4) Follow-up Ministries-Pray for effectiveness in our follow up ministries.

5) Staff children-Pray that God will protect and work in the hearts of our staff children and give parents wisdom.

6) Our Government-Pray for our nation's leaders. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

7) Ministry Partners-Praise for faithful prayer and financial partners.

8) Food Service-Pray for direction in menu planning. Pray for stamina for a busy spring season.

9) Camp Cedine-Continue to pray for staff and planning for 2026 summer camp.

(10) Bill Lamarr-Pray for LIT program. Pray for physical and spiritual strength.

(11) Work Groups-Pray God will grant safety and ministry opportunities with our work groups and volunteers.

(12) Cedine Retreats and Conferences-Pray for surrendered hearts and lives as the Word of God is shared this spring.

(13) General Director Search-Pray the Board will have clear direction in their search for General Director.

14) Linda Minter-Thankful for faithful supporters. Praise for 80th Prayer Meeting. Pray for wisdom in upcoming decisions. Pray for my family.

(15) Retired staff-Burch & Mary Walker, Kim Yarger, Ken & Debbie Ore, Leonard & Wanda Herman - Pray for open doors of ministry, pray for wisdom and direction.

(16) Retired staff-Gloria Ward, Jane White, Doris Bowman, Joan Zimmerman-Praise for God's care and provisions. Pray for health and strength.

17) Joyful Service-Pray that we will always find joy in serving Jesus. Psalm 100:2.

Honor & Memorial Gifts

Given by	In Memory of
Grace Bible Chapel	Tom & Shermine Florence
Junotte Odom	Ruby E. Gray
Sue Walker	Raymond Walker
Grace Bible Chapel	Tom & Shermine Florence
Adele L. Clinton	Keith & Evelyn Clinton
Mary Kerr	Francis & Hazel Neddo
Tammera Maloney	Robert Danec
Aaron Gordon	Francis & Hazel Neddo
Anonymous	Bobbie Zimmermann
Anonymous	Francis Neddo
Linda Spencer	Marsha Evans
Bruce & Kay Dixon	Francis Neddo

The following have given gifts in memory of Phyllis Zimmerman

Laura Cather	David Haas
Daniel Sutton	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Freed
Mr. & Mrs. James Bayles	Nancy Cecil

The following have given gifts in memory of Dwight Zimmerman

Nancy Cecil	Calvary Baptist Church
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The following have given gifts in memory of Dwight and Phyllis Zimmerman

Carolyn Armes
Davie Jamison
Grace Bible Church

My Honor/Memorial Gift

Given by Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Given in Memory/Honor (circle one) of _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Cedine Bible Mission, 333 Cedine Camp Road, Spring City, TN 37381-6132

Cedine Ministries Praise & Prayer

continued

(18) Vernon and Martha Tannahill-Praise for a faithful support team. Pray for wisdom in transition and that we would be faithful in service to the Lord.

(19) Jerry and Janet Branscum-Pray for planning for work groups, safety in maintenance, God's direction in ministry and wrangler for summer.

(20) Garry and Chabeli Griffin-Kendri just turned 10 years old! Kru is growing and doing well. We thank you for your prayers for our family.

(21) Facilities-Pray for resources to do much needed upgrades around Cedine.

(22) 80th Anniversary-Pray for the development of fundraising events that are being planned.

(23) Staff needs-Continue to pray for staffing needs (see below).

(24) Housekeeping-Pray for strength and extra help as we begin our retreat season.

(25) Jake & Jen Warix-Praise for good progress with camp operating system. Pray for new baby due in October; for baby's safety and relief for Jen from morning sickness.

(26) Scott Thompson-Praise God for Cedine's 80th year of ministry, new salvations at my church, Knoxville quiz and the February Prayer Meeting.

(27) Riley and Kimberly Peak-Thankful for holiday time with family and for God's provision and leading for new baby. Pray for family strength, healing and healthy postpartum.

(28) Office-Praise for added office help.

(29) Homecoming-Pray that celebration plans will glorify God and encourage all.

(30) The Board of Trustees-Pray for wisdom and direction.

(31) Cedine Bible Mission-Pray that our staff will continue to stand firm in the strength and power of the Lord.

PERMANENT STAFF NEEDS

General Director

Conference Director

Business Office Manager

Camp/Conference Registrar

Maintenance Personnel

Stories from Cedine's History

Paul Zimmerman's childhood hopes were dashed when he learned that a heart condition would prohibit him from serving in foreign missions. Years later, in 1942, he would meet evangelist B.M. Nottage, who shared his heartfelt plea to spread the Gospel to all people, in particular his people, "colored people" in the US and abroad. In 1946, Paul Zimmerman began visiting the black schools in parts of southeastern Tennessee, offering a free week of camp for memorizing 200 Bible verses. The first camp was held in 1947. 42 children memorized the verses. 36 of those children went to camp and 31 professed faith in Jesus Christ. From this point on Cedine would continue to grow while impacting thousands in the US and around the world. For former camper Janice (Sanderfur) Upton that impact was very real. Janice shared these words during a special tribute to some of the missionaries that served at Cedine during those early years.



"When I think of Camp Cedine missionaries my heart is warmed with many fond memories. It all starts at Lincoln Park (the only segregated park in Chattanooga) as I excitedly wait for the big yellow bus to come take us to camp. I can see Bro Paul opening the door for us to get on the bus headed up the highway to Cedine Bible Camp and turning off 27 onto dusty Rocky Springs Road. We didn't care if we were covered with dust from miles of travel on the dusty road. We were at Camp Cedine and we were happy. This was our heaven on earth...Bro. Paul and Mom Z...loved having us around...I can see Bro. Paul busily working in the kitchen opening big tin cans of unpasteurized milk from the farm...Mom Z was working faithfully by his side in the craft room preparing plaques of plaster of paris with Bible verses on them...."

Janice's tribute also included

B.M. Nottage, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Nash and Curtis Hodge all who have buildings on Cedine's grounds named after them.

Tom and Shermine Florence: She recalled Bro Tom's cooking, piano playing, singing, preaching and as teacher and Dean of Cedine Bible Institute. She remembers Ms Shermine who told Bible stories with so much gusto that you felt you were part of the story. Janice tells how the Florences were a shining light in their Spring City community.

Aunt Hattie and Tom Florence: Working together in the kitchen, preparing meals for campers with a love. Aunt Hattie was remembered for her "melt-in-your-mouth" rolls.

Francis and Hazel Neddo: Janice fondly recalls Brother Neddo's vibrant energy, passion for soul-winning, and love for Bible quizzing; how Ms. Hazel faithfully served by his side and started Cedine's Ladies' retreats.

JC Upton: Janice met and married her husband, JC, at Cedine, where he was profoundly impacted as a camper and missionary as well.

Janice goes on to say – *"There are so many fingerprints on my life from these wonderful servant leaders of God who poured unselfishly into the life of a little, shy and wounded black girl who was desperate for their loving touches in my life. I am who I am because of them and I will never forget them."*



Space doesn't permit us to share Janice's entire tribute, but you can download a copy in its entirety from Cedine's 80th Homecoming page. Perhaps you have a Cedine story or tribute to share. Feel free to share on our Facebook page or email to linda@cedine.org (More history to follow in the next Cedine Report)