

May 2026
To: Cedine Ministries
From: Davie C. Jamison
RE: Celebrating Cedine's 80th Anniversary

Enduring Memories - *I thank my God upon all remembrance of you. Philippians 1:3*

Happy Anniversary and thank you to Cedine Staff.

I praise God that Cedine Ministries is celebrating its 80th Anniversary. I am grateful to be a part of the legacy. The ministry has been a tremendous blessing to me, my family and others.

My first visit to Cedine was in 1982 when I attended a Ladies Retreat with my friend Joyce Townsend. Joyce had been introduced to Cedine by Bettye Williams who was a mutual friend who had attended Cedine as a child. After my first visit, I was enthralled with the camp and continued to go back and take others.

Since 1982, my husband Bill and I have been to many marriage retreats. My husband went to Men's Retreats and our children, Morris and Fran, went to summer camp every year during their elementary and teenage years. When Morris arrived at elementary camp for the first time and before even unpacking he wanted to know if he could stay two weeks instead of one week. Over the years, we brought family members and friends - children and adults – to camp. These are some of my endearing memories of Cedine.

- Bible quizzing - Our son Morris participated in Bible quizzing elementary through high school. Bro. John Williams coached his team and was committed to the long, frequent hours of practice. The final tournaments were held at Cedine. Bro. Neddo would make long, fervent appeals for Bible study and Bible Quizzing. I still have a folder containing Scripture cards that he gave out to use for witnessing.
- Ladies Retreats - I remember Aunt Hattie's warm embrace. Mrs. Moss spoke on submission in marriage and I was convicted and changed. Mrs. Doris Bowman taught about Rizpah during a workshop and I was affirmed and inspired with my maternal role. I loved the fellowship and the camaraderie of being with other Christian women.
- Family Conference on the 4th of July Weekend - Our son had just graduated high school in May 1991 and he didn't want to go the conference. My husband and I insisted. I unintentionally left my luggage at home. Mrs. Wanda Herman assigned us a room in the dorm across from the washer and dryer and she loaned me tennis shoes. I purchased a toothbrush in the bookstore. My family and I made foil dinners and watched fireworks by the lake. The enemy really tried to ruin our visit but it ended up being a wonderful Spirit-filled experience.

- Volunteer Camp Experiences - I served as hostess for the meals during a week of summer camp when my husband was as a counselor for junior boys. I stayed in Hance House and went to work to diligently to fulfill my assignments. Burchon Walker was camp director and early in the mornings he rang a loud bell on the camp ground and led hype songs. During the summer of 2000, Bro. Dwight Zimmerman made an appeal for volunteers for camp counselors for girls. I felt the Lord prompting me to volunteer. I was reluctant because I am not inclined to be an outdoors person. I remembered seeing Mrs. Shermine Florence, who was an aged woman, serve diligently as a camp counselor. I thought if she could do it so could I. During that summer I was camp counselor for seven girls in Middlers Camp. They were ages 11-14. Mrs. Phyllis Zimmerman was my prayer partner and she prayed with me and encouraged me every day during that week. I stayed in a cabin with the campers. We had a community bath, hung towels outside the cabin, and encountered bugs and spiders. The weather was very hot. I had daily devotions with the girls and accompanied them to their activities. I enjoyed canoeing with the campers although I am a non-swimmer. I have special memories of the campfire, making foil dinners on a muddy day and the camper-counselor day when the girls chose to go horseback riding. I couldn't let them know that I was afraid of the horses. It ended up being a thrilling experience for me. I rejoiced because the one girl in the group accepted Christ as Savior. I still have the evaluation comments that the girls wrote on their last day at camp. I felt affirmed that I had made the right decision to serve as a camp counselor.

- Cedine's 65th Anniversary - My husband and I attended the event with our daughter, grandchildren and some friends. It was a weekend of celebration and remembrances. I can never forget the service in Nottage Chapel where Booker Scruggs played hymns on his saxophone and his elderly mother testified about sending him to camp as a child.

- Marriage Retreats - It is very likely that I would not have remained married if it had not been for Cedine Retreats. There were many dynamic speakers who taught God's Word. The speakers, counseling, workshops, testimonies, fellowship and the literature all helped me to grow and learn about God's will for me in marriage. We renewed our vows during some of the services. We met incredible people who are devoted to God and we made lasting friendships. Bill and I had fun and exciting times. I especially remember the time we were canoeing with several couples and the canoe turned over. I looked forward to the picnics by the lake and eating my annual hamburger with all the fixins. We enjoyed the platoon boat rides navigated by Bro. Kim Yeager. The ride was relaxing and the views on Watts Bar Lake were magnificent. The Saturday night banquets were festive. "Bone of My Bone and Flesh of My Flesh" became one of our favorite songs and we first heard it at a retreat. My husband I served for three years on the Marriage Retreat Committee that planned the sessions. We conducted several workshops entitled, "Working out with Your Spouse." During my husband's illness and death, I was grateful for the support and prayers of staff Cedine.

- The Cedine Experience - I know that there is no perfect place on earth. For me, Cedine comes close. I appreciate the missionaries and volunteers who serve there. Their dedication is a reflection of God's love. The grounds are picturesque and serene. I especially like the rustic atmosphere in Nottage Chapel where for me the Spirit of God

lingers. The view of the lake from Jubilee Center is breathtaking. Rocking in the chairs on the porch is ultimate relaxation. I look forward to more visits to Cedine.

- Cedine Staff that I especially remember - Doris Bowman, Aunt Hattie, Shermine Florence, Leonard and Wanda Herman, Bill Lamar, David Lewis, Steve and Linda Minter, Francis and Hazel Neddo, Greg and Jackie Samuels, Howard and Corrine Tannahill, Vernon and Martha Tannahill, J.C. and Janice Upton, James (Butch) and Mary Ann Upton, Burchon and Mary Walker, Gloria Ward, Kim and Carol Yeager

My daughter, Fran Blackman, shared the following scripture in a testimony at Cedine. *“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10 NIV*