

# Messenger



*Rev. Leslie Buckner*  
*April 4, 1927 - January 9, 2021*  
*He Will Be Missed!*

## What's Happening This Year?

### **June 2021 Camp Meeting**

**Three Days**

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
June 10th, 11th and 12th**

**6 Services Total**

- **Reaching Forth Unto Those Things Which Are Before**
- **Challenge Responses**
- **2021 And Beyond**

### **Youth Camp Rallies**

*Planning Stages!*

- **Reorganized**  
Committee based
- **Far Reaching**  
Several Different Areas
- **Rally Events**  
Churches & Individuals  
Working Together For  
Future Youth Camps



## *Rev. Leslie Buckner*

*Founder & President of  
Bible Way Association*

Leslie Buckner, 93, of Doniphan, MO, departed this life Saturday, January 9, 2021 at Sharon Lane Health and Rehab in Shawnee, KS. He was born April 4, 1927 to the late Charles and Iva (Leslie) Buckner in Oregon County, near the Irish Wilderness on Hurricane Creek.

Reverend Buckner was the Founder and President of Bible Way Association in Doniphan and ministered for over 60 years. He loved the ministry and preaching "The Word". He especially loved preaching and singing at revivals, camp meetings, and youth camps where many souls were saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Throughout his ministry, he traveled many miles preaching and traveling to all 50 states. Leslie also was a veteran, having served in the United States Navy Seabees during World War II.

On September 14, 1946 Leslie married Verna Pauline Martin Buckner. Out of this union were six children. Pauline preceded him in death.

On January 8, 2005 Leslie married Margaret Mercer. She survives.

Also, surviving are his children, Brenda Scott of Azle, TX, Paul and wife, Bennie Buckner of High Springs, FL, and Debbie Washington of Poplar Bluff, MO; daughter-in-law, Debbie Buckner (wife of David) of Doniphan; 16 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

Reverend Buckner was preceded in death by his sons, Leslie "Sonny" Buckner and David Buckner, and his daughter, Carol Githens.

Visitation was Friday, January 15, 2021 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the funeral service was Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

All services were held at Bible Way Association Tabernacle in Doniphan, Missouri.

Rev. Eugene Abrams, Rev. Tommy Williams, and Rev. Ed Luebering officiated the services. Burial was in the Doniphan City Cemetery with full military honors.

# In Memory Of

## Rev. Leslie Buckner

### The Founder Of Bible Way Association

*(A Brief History of The Ministry)*

Many times new churches are started as the result of disagreements and splits in existing churches. One side will stay and the other side will move off and start another church. Bible Way Association did not start as a split from any other church or organization. Leslie Buckner had only been saved for a few months when he knew God had called him to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In July of 1958, Rev. Leslie and Pauline Buckner organized a prayer meeting in their home in which several people gave their hearts to the Lord. By October of 1958, they became established as a church under the name of Community Fellowship Pentecost Church. From that point on Rev. Leslie and Pauline Buckner were recognized and established as the Founders and leaders of what would become Bible Way Association.

It soon became very evident that the hand of God was upon this little group as it began to grow until it became too big for a living room, and so, they located a store front building where a church had been on 18<sup>th</sup> and Geyer in St. Louis. This building would seat close to 100 people and the church outgrew it within six months.

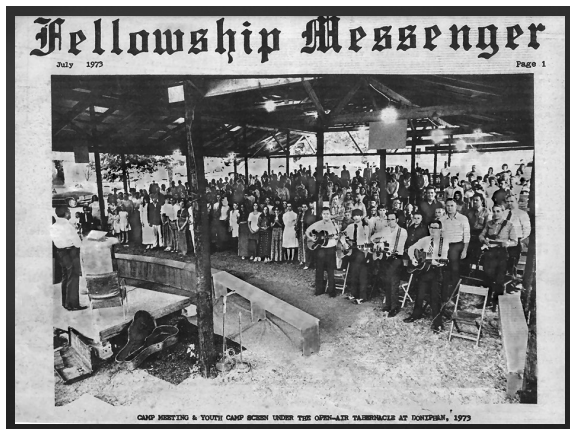
From that point, many people were being saved and rededicating their lives to Jesus. They then searched for a larger building and found an empty drug store that was located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Sydney. Before long, it became necessary to move again to find another building that could accommodate the growing crowd. They located and rented an old Presbyterian Church at 1614 Menard that would seat over 400 people. The previous church had just built a new church building and moved to their new location. During that two year period of growth, God had added 633 people who were saved or renewed in their walk with God. This was a glorious time of revival!



Within the first year, and after much prayer, the decision was made to start an organization. During April of 1959, the Community Fellowship Pentecost Church became an unincorporated association of ministers and churches, having adopted the organizational name of Community Fellowship Pentecost Ministers and Churches Association.

On July 7, 1960, Judge Waldo C. Mayfield issued the decree making Community Fellowship Pentecost Ministers and Churches Association a body politic and body Corporate under Chapter 352 of the Missouri Statutes.

God began to lead Rev. Buckner to reach out beyond the church with revival services, and it soon became evident that this was the direction God wanted him to pursue. In 1962, they began to minister revival services in the south central part of Missouri and moved to Winona by early 1963. During the next several years, revival sprang forth across the State of Missouri with hundreds of souls being saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. God moved mightily and blessed the ministry.



In 1965, Rev. Buckner held a revival at the church in Doniphan, where the Camp Grounds are currently located. After much prayer and confirmation from the Lord, the decision was made to acquire the property.

In the year of 1965, a meeting was held in Poplar Bluff, Missouri by the Board of Directors and the Founders of the Community Fellowship Pentecost Ministers and Churches Association. It was resolved at this meeting to move the central location of this organization from St. Louis, Missouri to Ripley County, Missouri. The petition was made, and the decree was issued and recorded on April 29, 1966 by the presiding Judge, Howard R. Maness in the Ripley County Courthouse in Doniphan, Missouri. This placed the Headquarters

and central office of the Association in Doniphan, Missouri.



Over the years, at the leading of the Lord, the Association was able to acquire the properties that it currently owns where the Headquarters and Camp Grounds are located.

In the early part of 1974, the decision was made by the Board of Directors to change the name of the organization from Community Fellowship Pentecost Ministers and Churches Association to the name which it currently bears, Bible Way Association. This decree was issued on May 7, 1974 by Judge Rex Hinson, and filed and recorded June 18, 1974 at the Ripley County Courthouse in Doniphan, Missouri.

On June 23, 1992, a petition was filed to amend the corporation of Bible Way Association to make important changes as an organization while maintaining its original validity. On July 7, 1992, the decree was issued, filed, and recorded on August 3, 1992.

On November 4, 2002, the final decree was issued establishing the corporation with its current values and as having the same effect and validity as original incorporated by law.

## **“Reaching Forth Unto Those Things Which Are Before”**

### **Philippians 3:12-14**

- 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: **but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.**
- 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I *do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and **reaching forth unto those things which are before,**
- 14 **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the memory of Rev. Leslie Buckner will always be held dear to our hearts. The recognition of how the Lord has honored and used this Man of God to perform His will during this generation is a true treasure.



It is our heart-felt belief that God has laid a foundation through Brother Buckner. His obedience to the will of God that was strong and enduring. Brother Buckner always returned to the visions God had given him in the beginning of his ministry, as well as those received throughout the 60 years of his ministry keeping everything in alignment with those vision and will of God.

His ministry can never be replaced, and there can never be another Rev. Leslie Buckner to fill God's purpose in his stead.

Brother Buckner's legacy did not end with his journey to heaven, it just launched another phase of the ministry while continuing to fulfil God's original purpose for Bible Way Association. Working together now and into the future, we have the opportunity to reach the ministers, the churches, and the saints to see God manifest His will in our generation.

The greatest thing we can do is **reach forward** for the same guidance and counsel of the same Holy Ghost while continuing to work at increasing the effectiveness of the various ministries of Bible Way Association.

**This Association of churches and ministers was established by the will of God and for God's divine purpose.** The true reach and extent of God's vision and purpose for establishing this ministry has not yet been fully realized. To strive for anything less would be forsaking God's purpose for beginning this work.

While we cannot predict everything God has in store for each of us, we do feel very strongly that God has much more work to do. A united effort is needed to perform His divine purpose and will for ministry to the saints in these last days.

**1 Corinthians 3:9** For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

**2 Corinthians 6:1** We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

The Association now has new leadership to continue this journey in the manner Brother Buckner prepared in advance for the future. They are as follows:

Rev. Eugene Abrams .....President	Rev. Tom Williams ..Vice-President
Rev. Debbie Roberson ....Secretary	Rev. Ed Luebbering ..Board Member
Rev. Mike Bonham .Board Member	Rev. John Happs .....Board Member
Rev. Guy Gilbert ....Board Member	

While it is necessary to set the Association in order structurally and under new leadership, our purpose and vision has not changed.

1.Our primary focus is to keep the Association doctrinally sound and allow the ministry to operate within those teachings and doctrines. Everything must be centered on the Word of God and the leadership of the Holy Ghost.

2. While being consistent with the overall structural vision it may become necessary to adjust minor things operationally to allow for growth and stability, but also to maintain focus for the integrity of the vision.
3. As we look forward, we must understand that every detail cannot remain the same in terms of functionality as it was under Rev. Buckner, because **“we are not Brother Buckner”**.

We all have different personalities and characteristics that are unique to our individual relationship with the Lord. Different personnel, but the same Doctrine and the same Spirit. We are facing many different challenges today than we have before.

While we will always honor Brother Buckner, it will be impossible to operate the same and still accomplish what is necessary to overcome new challenges. We cannot walk in his shoes or duplicate his works, but, we can dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of his God-given visions as we seek to be led by the Spirit.

## **Response To The Challenges Of The Hour**

Covid 19 virus is still a real obstacle although possibly not exactly what it has been portrayed to be. No doubt it has affected the lives of people and their understanding. Fear has gripped the hearts of far too many, thereby limiting possible outreaches. However, God is greater than all obstacles.

I honestly don't know many people in the ministry, who have not faced significant and powerful attacks recently.

We are all involved in a spiritual warfare like never before, because the days are short and the enemy knows that. Troubles are on every side, not only in our personal and spiritual lives, but also throughout the world. Nation against nation with fragility in the governance of all peoples. Our own blessed nation, being founded on “one nation under God” is willingly and deliberately slipping into the depths of immorality. Society is in turmoil, and the news everyday is filled with discontentment and divisions. Fighting in the streets, murders, lootings and burnings. Neighbor against neighbor and family members against each other. It is hard to see how the hand of God is not reaching for judgment in this world.

### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

- 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

- 2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**

However, God is still in control and we must join together to overcome the constant onslaught of attacks from the spirit of darkness that is blinding the minds of those who believe not.

However, we are not of that crowd. Our faith is in Jesus Christ. We have no confidence in the flesh or the world, but our faith is in God's purpose, will and plan under the unction of the Holy Ghost as He leads us through.

We know the future is bright through the life of Jesus Christ. God's mind will be accomplished regardless of the blindness of the world.

Look up. for your redemption draweth nigh!

#### **Psalms 34:15-19**

- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
- 19 **Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.**

#### **Romans 12:1-2**

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

I can almost hear Brother Buckner as he is exhorting us to look up and look forward, to not give up or turn to the right hand or the left, to draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh unto you. God is leading in a straight and narrow way, a good way that leads forward unto eternity and a bright future where only God, and not man will be glorified.

Isn't that really what everything is all about, "glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ"?





# 2021 And Beyond

From where we are now, we must take what is set before us and press into the future for more good things from the Lord. We must be about our Fathers' business regardless of the mandates and dictates of this carnal society.

## **Romans 14:17-19**

- 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men.
- 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things where-with one may edify another.

The Association is already established on a sure foundation with the Kingdom of God, which is not relating to the physical things we see, feel and possess, but rather involves righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

This is our purpose, this is our goal as an Association of Ministers and Churches, to share the responsibility of spreading the Gospel by working together.

The last year and a half have been full of challenges for everyone, some very severe and grievous. However we are assured that we are more than conquer through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having lost so much over these past years, we must continue to reach forward with renewed purpose. It is difficult to maintain the confidence of people, but we are pressing forward with enthusiasm and desire for God's purpose and the manifestation of His glory and His will.

I have been meditating for nearly 2 years about something that God showed me early in 2019, not knowing at that time what we were about to be face.

God began to reveal good things concerning true worship, true fellowship and true revival, where God is the center of everything, nothing for the glory of any man. A communion with the Spirit of God that is intimate and flows from God into each person and from each person towards God. While the body of Christ does love God with all of their hearts, I am convinced that here seems to be a disconnect from this intimate hunger and thirst for the presence of God in our lives. **WE CANNOT BE CONTENT WITH WHERE WE FIND OURSELVES CURRENTLY! SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A SPIRIT OF COMPLACENCY COULD DESTROY US ALL IN THESE LAST DAYS.**

We must individually press into the presence of God in true love and through the Spirit of Truth in our hearts, not just in corporate worship in church services, but in every part of our lives.

Each one must find this path and submit to God's presence for ourselves, as it has always been. But, we must awaken to His righteousness. It must become His righteousness in us all as the center of our lives.

Beginning this year, we are determined to take the ministry of the Gospel into different areas, but with the same purpose and vision Brother Buckner has taught and labored in.

Brother Buckner had spoken of, and had begun to reach into a realm where fellowship could lead into revival at times. We feel God has revealed this very real possibility for this season under the circumstances and challenges we face.

Concerning Camp Meetings, we will have a limited 3 day Camp Meeting in June, but looking forward to possibly bringing Camp Meeting services and fellowship services to more localized area where permitted to do so. We are uncertain at this time just what that will look like, but we want the ministry and the people to get involved in the fellowship.

I am reminded of the principles of Brother Buckner's book, "The Bee Theory" which included bringing something in and taking something out. This concept seems very much in tune with this current time and the problems we all face.

We need revival, but it begins in the heart of each of us as members of the body of Christ as we press in to hunger and thirst after God.

Now is the time, if there is truly a desire in our hearts to seek after God, to put our hand to the plow and put our shoulder into the effort to seek the kingdom and God and his righteousness, now is the time to draw nigh to God as he draws nigh to us!

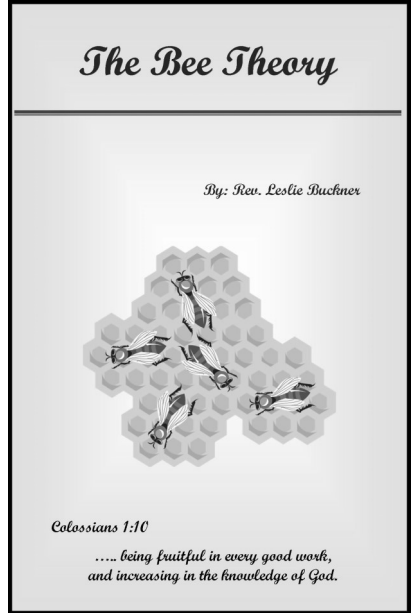


None of us truly know what the future timing of events will be, but we are all assured that the return of the Lord is closer than ever before. The time is short and the days are few to labor for the Lord. Let us humble ourselves and walk in sobriety, fully focused on the things of God, and allow the Spirit of Truth to minister into our lives.

We have a deep concern for the needs of our churches and the ministers that are a part of this Association. Please let us know if we can be of help in any way to further your ministry efforts. Again, we are laborers together with the Lord striving for a spirit of unity.

*Rev. Eugene Abrams*

President  
Bible Way Association





*From:*  
*Margaret Buckner*  
*Co-Founder*  
*Voice of Truth Ministries*

I would like to take a moment to show my deep gratitude and appreciation to everyone who supported Brother Buckner and myself through the last year and a half during his illness and our stay in the Sharon Lane Health and Rehabilitation facility in Kansas City, Kansas.

I do feel that God must have intervened for Brother Buckner's sake by making a way for us to stay there for 14 months. I was able to stay by his side throughout his stay and would gladly do it all over again.

While this has been a difficult and trying time, faith in God has been everything to me. Brother Buckner will be greatly missed, but we know that his faith in God has carried him home.

I want to thank Harry and Connie Baum for their love and assistance by not only allowing us to stay together during that time but also for the abundance of care by providing anything we had need of. The staff of the Sharon Lane facility were always kind, supportive and helpful, attentive to any need we ever had. God will certainly bless them, I am assured.

Also I want to thank my sister, Connie Baum, my niece Angie and her husband Mike, and for my nephew, Brian Brake for being there during that time, he came by at times and sang to Brother Buckner. He always loved those times.

The staff of Bible Way Association and the staff of the Voice of Truth were supportive during that time and helping in every way possible, taking care of everything back at home and also helping with the needs we were facing.

To everyone who sent cards, letters of support, and offerings, I am very thankful for your caring response. Brother Buckner certainly enjoyed the communications and words of encouragement that you gave. We always loved hearing from each of you. God knows each of you, and I believe He will abundantly bless you.

We are looking forward from this time to continue working with the Voice of Truth Division of Bible Way Association to provide Brother Buckner's messages, both in print and on CD's.

His books will still be available and we will continue to work to provide new literature and books based on his preaching and teaching services.

Although Brother Buckner has gone home to the Lord, the work continues and we will labor to do our part in the service of the Lord.

God bless each one in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Sister Buckner*

4-21M

Bible Way Association  
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