

CEDAR FALLS
BIBLE CONFERENCE



CFBC Memories from 2021 (100th) Conference

The following are reflections or memories of past CFBCs, written by attendees during the 100th CFBC in 2021. All but three photos included were taken during the 100th.

CFBC has had a strong influence in my spiritual life since my preteen years when my parents first began attending and bringing me with them! As they became friends with some of the returning musicians, I began to babysit some of their young children! The best part, though, has been the opportunity to hear strong biblical teaching from preachers/teachers, many who would go on to become more well known, like John MacArthur, for instance!

Thank you for your faithfulness to God's work, CFBC!

P.S. Karl Steele was always a highlight for a teenager! His artistic talents were simply incredible and so memorable even all these years later!

Kelly (Huss) Bachman

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 50 years



For us, Bible Conference started way back in the mid seventies with my husband in charge of parking cars when Brad Fenner was director of CFBC. Then, in 2011/2012, Wiley's Christian Bookstore was invited to be the conference bookstore, which we owned at the time. This also involved our two grown children and their families. What a joy to see each of the families embrace CFBC completely, both in attendance and

volunteering. We make every effort to set aside CFBC week each year to listen to the great speakers we have and make/renew friendships. Alex, age 10, my grandson, asked me the other day how he could be on a committee and get his own lanyard with his name on it.

What memories have been made on CFBC grounds are beautiful and more are in the making as we continue to come each year! Praise the Lord!

Wanda Bailey

Cedar Falls, Iowa

It's so amazing to see God working through the speakers and people He brings into our path who give comfort and peace and encouragement. So grateful for His faithfulness!

Joyce Barbatti
Cedar Falls, Iowa

We started coming with some dear friends who used to do the taping of the conference, Dick and Joy Wagner, who have gone on to be with the Lord.

We try to attend every year and are deeply blessed. We also used to own a cabin here on the grounds. We pray that the week of conference will continue on for another 100 years. May many people come to meet the Lord.



Ron and Betty Bowers
Waterloo, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 35-40 years

We were introduced to the conference through our cousin, DeBeer, when an evening service was held at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls. Later, our sister and her husband came with us, and there were 12 grandchildren. We camped with two fold-down campers. People said they did not know our names, but we were the grandmothers with 12 well behaved grandchildren. The husbands did most of the cooking. One lady board member was camped beside us. She brought a couple friends to watch our routine. Reverend Jansen brought my husband and me rolls 3 times over the years.

One grandson became a Christian. Have enjoyed all the meetings. Met Matt Reisetter and learned he was married to someone in our family tree book.

We appreciate all board members and volunteers.

Marvin and Betty Bruxvoort
Pella, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 30 years

I first attended CFBC when I was 10 years old. For several years following, my family stayed on the grounds during the conference. I feel blessed to have experienced the fellowship, music (especially Art Perri and singing in the choir), the chalk drawings of Karl Steele accompanied by Doris Rhum, and of course, all of the great teaching/preaching.

Living back in the area in the early 2000s, I was thrilled to again have the opportunity to attend. There was no question in my mind that a week's vacation would be well spent attending the 100th conference. It has been a blessing! The Cedar Falls Bible Conference has a special place in my heart.

Vicky Halipnik Clinkscapes

Urbandale, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since 1970

The CFBC is THE vacation spot for our growing family of five daughters throughout the 20 years we've been married. Because we're Iowa farmers, the steady date has always allowed us to fit the conference into our lives between second and third crop haying.

Our girls look forward to seeing friends they see once a year, and playing nine square, and riding bikes.

We appreciate the Christian fellowship for them and the great spiritual intake. We look forward to many years to come.

Les and Jenny Colsch

New Albin, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 20 years

Our first experience of the Bible Conference was in 1982, when we stopped and attended a Sunday morning service on our way home from Des Moines. I worked road construction on Hwy 20 near Independence and came back to all the evening sessions that year. When I went home that weekend, I told my wife that we were going to the conference next year. Working road construction, you do not get a paid vacation or any vacation in the summer.

We have been coming the past 40 years and God has always provided and blessed us abundantly. We have grown in our faith and have made lifelong friends here over these many years. God is Good.

Lloyd and Sheila Colsch

New Albin, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 40 years

I have been attending the Bible Conference since the early 60s. One of my favorite memories was Karl Steele, the chalk artist, who would end the evening services (with music) with an amazing chalk picture. It was always breathtaking!

Becky (VanSyoc) Corbin

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 60 years

First attended CFBC in the 1980s.

Owned a cabin at Riverview from 2002 to 2019.

Enjoyed cabin owner activities and work projects as well as service on the board.

Made many special friends.

Neil and Merna Donald

I remember the heat and humidity coming through the screens in the old tabernacle, as well as the wooden benches.

The music and speakers were uplifting. It was, and still is, a highlight of my year.

Rita Druvenga

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 50+ years

My memories of Bible Conference:

- Mr. Steele's chalk art; there was always a surprise at the end when he put the black light on the scene
- Singing in the choir for many years
- How much my parents enjoyed coming, bringing my oldest great nieces and nephew when they were younger
- All the great speakers and singers
- Learning new things about God

Delores Eiklenborg

Reinbeck, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 60 years

Reflections on the Cedar Falls Bible Conference's 100th Anniversary



Age has some advantages! It's why I'm getting to share with you my thoughts about all the years I have been a participant at the Cedar Falls Bible Conference. The committee needed someone who had been there most of those years. Somehow my name was suggested. It must be since I've been around quite a long time, 98 years to be exact! I am grateful God has given me this opportunity to reflect on the bountiful blessing of being part of these conferences for many, many years. The Lord willing, I hope to be present with you to celebrate this "special" 100 year anniversary.

As a young child, I always heard my parents talking about the Cedar Falls Bible Conference. And as I grew older, I was actually privileged to attend with them.

The years unfolded rapidly; high school, college, teaching school and marriage to John Frey. He followed God's call on his life by going to seminary to become a pastor, and thus began our life together of full time ministry. After our marriage, John and I decided to make the Bible Conference a priority. We both made the effort to keep one week open in late July to attend the Conference. It was always a blessed week of growing on Christ. Many speakers encouraged us to read our Bible, pray every day and be a light for Jesus. The speakers' names are too many to mention, let alone remember. The music, morning prayer meetings, youth and children's programs and all the day's activities were used to lead us to grow in our faith.

My reflections also go immediately to the Spirit-filled messages that impacted my life in Christ so much. And 'lest we forget', I must mention the wonderful 'Brats and Sweet Corn Night', the 'Pie and Ice Cream Night', and the great fellowship 'Every Night'.

There are two momentous memories that will always stand out for me. The first is when my husband, John, went to his heavenly home. My family and I were overwhelmed with prayer support that was showered upon us by our Bible Conference friends. An assembly of fellow Christians from the Bible Conference gathered together to lift us up! The power of prayer was demonstrated.

Then in 2006, I received a call from my granddaughter in Missouri, that her mother, my daughter, had suddenly died in her sleep. It was the second weekend of the 85th Bible Conference and again, the prayer that went out to my family was incredible! We felt God holding us in the palm of His hands, even though we were scattered all over, even to Austria. I recall feeling a deep desire for those present to make a commitment to Christ. One night following all

this, the speaker gave a Spirit-filled message and closed with an altar call. The call was for a first-time commitment to Christ or a recommitment of one's life. It was silent in the auditorium except for the beautiful organ-piano duet softly playing the familiar hymn, "I have decided to follow Jesus". While standing in front, someone placed a hand on my shoulder...*"I felt the Holy Spirit through that hand give me a feeling of caring and blessing!"*

Another memory points to the thread I'm sure you're seeing in what the Bible Conference brings to lives—namely supportive prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth. When we were planning to retire, we needed to make a decision...where? Through praying for many months, we had no answer. One morning, the speaker had a powerful message about prayer. He ended his message with this challenge... "Have you been praying about something and nothing has happened? Put feet to your prayers." He asked us to stand and pray sincerely for direction. As soon as John and I got in our car, he asked me, *"What did you think of the speaker?"* I quickly answered, *"I think he was talking to us!"* John agreed. We stopped at a gas station, looked for a telephone book, and called a realtor. We were shown 5 homes and by Saturday night, we had put in an offer on the home that I am still living in here in Cedar Falls. God does answer prayer!

Each Conference meant the renewal of friendships and making new ones. One afternoon was always dedicated to we pastors and spouses meeting to share what was happening in our churches and encourage each other with the speakers' messages. Every year we would say, *"What a wonderful week it has been!"* We were rejuvenated to go back to our own congregations with enthusiasm for our ministries.

I could go on and on, as you see, I already have! But I particularly want to give words of appreciation to all those who have been a part of the Bible Conference through the years. We, on the receiving end, are so grateful for the enthusiasm you bring and how you minister so faithfully again year after year! The Bible Conference legacy of meeting for 100 years is surely a Godly blessing!

I would like to close with this verse from Psalm 100:5
THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER AND HIS FAITHFULNESS
CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.

Yours in making Christ known,

Ida Frey

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since my youth

The year 1980 was my first year to attend CFBC. I came with my boyfriend, Mark George, who was a longtime attendee. It was extremely hot and the auditorium was full; we sat outside. There was a chalk artist who drew awesome pictures.

Mark and I married in 1983. Mark joined the USAF and we were unable to attend for some years. When we moved back to the States, we were still pretty far away, but we attended when able. When we were unable to attend, my in-laws, Fred and Beth George, took our kids with them to camp for the week. This is where our eldest, Matthew, met Amber Spoelstra, who was camping with her grandparents, Elmer and Cornie Spoelstra. They were just 10 years old, but developed a relationship. They were married in 2005 and now bring their children to CFBC. Our other children, Marcus and Michael, also bring their kids when they can.

Over the years we have been blessed with many years of fellowship and awesome messages from the speakers.

We now live near St. Louis and make it here as much as possible.

**Kristine George
O'Fallon, Illinois**

Attended Bible Conference since 1980

First memory of the Bible Conference is from when I was very young, probably around 8 or 9 years old, which would be around 1970 or '71. My folks, Fred and Beth, brought us kids to camp up here to attend the conference. So much fun riding bikes around the grounds and attending VBS.

I joke now on how everyone made comments about how hot it was. Now you hear comments on how cold it is. We are so blessed.

Another memory was the chalk artist who drew out scenes at the end of services and then used black light to enhance his work.

I joined the Air Force in 1983 and have attended the conference on and off for many years. It is so wonderful to come here and fellowship with others and be fed the Word of God.

**Mark George
St. Louis, Missouri/O Fallon, Illinois**

Attended Bible Conference the first time in 1968



When I was a young boy, my parents would come to the conference with me and my brothers to visit with our grandparents, Fred and Beth George. We started out in tents and eventually into a fold down camper.

Youth services were fun and informative. I specifically remember a great youth speaker who used puppets. The following year I believe she had a fire and lost her home, as well as getting burned herself. We prayed that she would get through it and she eventually returned.

I remember during the hot summers we would go down to the pool. I know you have your reasons, but I wish it was still around to use. I remember playing carpet ball.

Over the years the conference was an opportunity for our family to get together as well as seeing familiar faces every year. Best of all, my brothers met their future wives here, and through them we have expanded our families because of the bonds we formed here. Thank you and I hope that the conference continues to have success.

Michael George

Waverly, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for over 20 years

We are drawn to the Bible Conference because it truly is a place and time set apart, a week-long “divine interruption” to routine, which we look forward to and prioritize every year.

The impact can be described as a reset for the soul! There is uncommon preaching of the Word of God, where truth and grace equally and profoundly proclaimed without compromise. True worship and a strong sense of unity in the body of Christ pervade the atmosphere.

Could this be a small taste of what heaven could be like? The Cedar Falls Bible Conference provides encouragement along with a renewed sense of urgency for all Christians to seek and disciple the lost in accordance with our Lord’s Great Commission.



To God be the glory!!

Norm and Cheryl Gerdes (Norm’s not in the photo because he took the photo!)

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended for 25 years

So grateful for our years of music ministry at CFBC!

Rob and Myrna Gowing

Fulshear, Texas

We began attending the Cedar Falls Bible Conference in the mid sixties! We have enjoyed so many wonderful speakers! Since I am in Iowa all summer, instead of just weekends, I am glad to attend the daily sessions as well. (Chuck is still in DC.)

Chuck and Barbara Grassley

Rural Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since the mid sixties

The song that always reminded me of the Bible Conference (which we sang here) was "His Name is Wonderful". That tells the emphasis of the conference.

We were able to stay in cabins for a few years when our girls were young. Even living in town, coming on the grounds was like going on a retreat. We were part owners of Logos Bookstore, so we were involved in providing for that. I remember Dale making a few trips to Iowa Falls to restock speakers' books. After our children were in bed, Dale and I walked around the grounds, enjoying the peace and talking about the wonderful messages we were hearing.

We sang in the choir and so enjoyed getting to know the musicians. One year the choir made a record, which I still have, with pictures on it of all our young selves!

The first year I came and Dale would use his lunch hour to attend the 11:00 AM service. After that he took a week's vacation and this week was a priority.

Marty Halupnik

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since 1970

I have lived in Cedar Falls 40 years, but had never attended the Bible Conference until I retired 8 years ago and friends invited me to come with them.

What an absolute blessing this ministry is!! Wonderful time of worship and amazing, gifted preachers of the Word. It reminds me of the revivals of my youth, but ten times better!!

Jill Hanus

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 8 years

Wow! What a 100 year Bible Conference celebration! The worship team ministers God's holiness in wonder, joy and personal ways.

Janice



I recall eating in the old dining room which was in the original Retreat House, after attending a Sunday morning service with my family. As a youth, I sat outside with my friends. As a married woman, I was grateful to join my husband and father in the choir while our children sat with my mother.

Choir members had “front row seats” to watch Karl Steele draw his wonderful pictures while Doris Rhum sang!

In recent years I have taken notes from the marvelous Bible teachers! Hearing the truths from God’s Word is the primary reason I have kept attending CF Bible Conference!

Alice (Bunnell) Janssen

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 80 years (1942)

I first came to the Bible Conference in 1961 or 1962. I was a sixth grade girl and I stayed in the Sunshine Cabin. Later, when I was a junior or senior in high school, I was a counselor in a cabin of little girls.

Around 1990, I wanted to come back to the Cedar Falls Bible Conference and the minute I arrived back on the grounds, I felt like, “I am home.”

And I’ve come nearly every year since.

Kathy Johnson

Attended Bible Conference for the first time in 1961 or 1962

The speakers throughout the years have been all of the best. One of our favorites has been Stanley Toussaint. We always feel so well fed the entire week. One of our greatest memories is when Paul Harvey was the speaker (don't remember the year). It was one of the largest crowds up to that time.

Hope and pray another 100 years can be celebrated. How blessed we feel being a part of this first 100. God bless, and keep up with all you are doing.



Lester and Martha Johnson
Arlington, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since 1953



Bob and Dort Kampman
Kesley, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since the 50s as kids

Both of us were blessed to be raised in Christian homes and our parents brought their families to the CFBC when we were children. So it was only natural when we started dating, got married and had our own family, that we continued to attend the conference in the evenings. Now that we are retired, we are blessed to rent a cabin and attend all the sessions!

We have seen some changes over the years, but the one thing that remains constant is the solid Biblical teaching based on the inerrant Word of God. To Him be the glory, now and forever more!

We are so thankful for the CFBC. Not only does it allow us to have uninterrupted time to learn together as a couple, it allows our 5 kids to be poured into in big ways. The foundations that the CFBC has laid for our family are priceless!

Matt and Bailey King

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 3 years

From June, 1999 to June, 2009, we served in China, in an English training center and International School. We bought a cabin on the conference grounds, where we lived every summer when home. Bible Conference was always the last week before returning to China - a wonderful way to fill up spiritually before the school year. Very blessed!

Terry and Karen Koeneke

Waterloo, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference whenever we were in the States, since 1975



I have greatly enjoyed so many great speakers over the years, like Peter Marshall, Jr., the man who did "An Evening with C. S. Lewis," and many, many others.

But what I loved most of all was the wonderful singing, with the huge crowd all joining in with joy and enthusiasm, in singing the hymns and older worship choruses from the heart - songs that were being eliminated from the churches we attended. This was my worship refuge. I would tell our friends,

"Come! They sing the songs we love!" How many times I stood with hands raised and tears in my eyes, carried away to the Throne in worship! I enjoyed the choir, too.

Please don't give up this great tradition! Please continue to invite Rob and Myrna Gowing, and Phil Pfaltzgraf, and the centennial vocalists.

Patricia (Patty) Klossowsky

Waverly, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since late 70s or early 80s

We joined Nazareth Lutheran Church when we moved to Cedar Falls in 1968. The first time we heard about CFBC was from Pastor Homer Larsen. We went to the CFBC and yes, it was HOT with no A/C at that time. We came and enjoyed the excellent music (love that new organ) and speakers. It filled our hearts for service to the Lord in our occupations to use the gifts God has given us.

Sharon was our family's consummate inspiration with her training at Lutheran Bible Institute (this continued with her 33 years of service at Nazareth) as we used the tools that God gave us.



I, as a mechanic, repaired things like chairs and office equipment and also the bus and vans that the church had, to keep them roadworthy and safe. I also volunteered 40 years in the A/V Department at our church and also ushered for awhile.

Living in the Lord has given our marriage of 59+ years and still counting. The CFBC is part of our living for Christ. My (Ron) confirmation verse was Revelations 2:10, "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the Crown of Life." We pray for this conference to continue until our LORD comes again.

Ron and Sharon Lance

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 50+ years

The Cedar Falls Bible Conference was very important to my dad. His passion, and what he regarded as his most important task as a pastor, was preaching. For 100 years, the Bible Conference has attracted well known and accomplished preachers. Dad knew that offering a Bible Conference of this caliber was a marvelous privilege for Cedar Falls, Waterloo and surrounding communities. It warmed his heart that people from different denominational backgrounds had the opportunity to gather together as the body of believers to grow in their faith. In addition to solid, scholarly presentations, he especially appreciated the evangelical emphasis of many of the speakers.



Every year, Dad promoted the Bible Conference to his own congregation, urging the members to attend, knowing the power of God's Word to strengthen us in our faith in Christ and to inspire us to be ambassadors for Him.

Dad enjoyed his association with the many devoted people with whom he served on the Board of Directors. He spoke of the commitment of Brad Fenner and Bruce Nelson, both of whom served the Bible Conference so well prior to Dad's death in 2015. Dad knew Matt Reisetter since the day he was born, and Dad would be thrilled with the leadership Matt is now providing,



Dad wanted the Bible Conference to continue for decades into the future. He would be pleased that the Conference has continued with the same focus-the proclamation of the never-changing truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Like many of you, my family and I are thankful for the Cedar Falls Bible Conference. We are confident that God will continue to use the Bible Conference to further His Kingdom.

John Larsen
Cedar Falls, Iowa

The Cedar Falls Bible Conference has such a rich history in the story of our family. We are part of 5 generations, starting with my grandparents, Ed and Roth Thedens of Jesup, then my parents, Jim and Gretchen Kullmer of LaPorte City. We shared many years in attendance together and we would sometimes go out for lunch, which I always enjoyed.

My first memories of attending would have started in the early 1960s and we sat outside many times on one of the benches. We lived south of La Porte City, so that was quite a distance, and our attendance always had to fit in and around the demands of farm life. As a child, I really remember Dr. Karl Steele, who did the chalk drawings after each service and I always wanted to stay and watch him do that...the drawings were so beautiful and then the black light was turned on and everyone would gasp because there was always a hidden picture that was revealed!

After Jeff and I were married, we started to attend too, and brought our four little girls with us. They were in the nursery and also attended Bible School in the mornings. For them, going to our church camp and attending VBS at the Bible Conference were the absolute favorite things they did every summer. They so looked forward to going every year! And those times contributed to their spiritual growth and training, I have no doubt. We took our family vacation many times during that week and shared that time with another family from our church, Dick and Jan Jensen. We had so many great times of fellowship with them, talking about the sermons that we had all just heard together. Such sweet fellowship!!!

Probably our favorite speaker, back many years ago, was John MacArthur. We loved his style of preaching and his systematic study of God's Word. We spent many an evening with sweat rolling down our backs, packed onto those hard, wooden benches, just to have the opportunity to hear him and many others, too - all prior to A/C! What a blessing when the A/C was installed!!! We always enjoyed Ronna at the piano, and Art Perri and Diane Susek during those years, too!

What a joy and privilege to watch some of our grandkids take part in VBS during their younger years. We thank the Lord for the opportunity our family has had in being able to share in this ministry for over 50 years. God is so good!

Jeff and Sheri Lesh

La Porte City, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since approximately 1962



The year was 1958. The camp was Youth Camp. It was a time when “yes” was “yes” and “no” was “no.” A person’s word was good and you could almost buy a car on the phone, because people knew your honesty. At that time, people were honest and straight as an arrow. It was a privilege to get to go to camp because money was scarce.

When we arrived, we were assigned a cabin to stay in with a counselor. A friend from church went with me. Our cabin was up near the cross, where we

had bonfires and sang, and had testimonies. The little chapel was across the lawn to the east. The train was awesome to hear at many times. The Tabernacle was a huge building with wooden window covers that could be put down when it rained. The birds were free to fly in and out. As I recall, there were pigeons among them. I remember the chairs being wooden folding chairs and wooden benches. The benches were without backs. The dining hall was a long building with long, wooden tables and benches. The food was wonderful. I remember the oven fried chicken and whipped potatoes; the smell of the food was a delight. It was served family style and no paper plates or glasses or silverware. What great cooks, the food was wonderful, and they were so faithful to the hard work. We ate what we took and we didn’t throw anything away. I don’t know where the ladies prepared the food. There were screens on the sides of the building to keep the flies out. We returned our dishes to the end of the building in an orderly fashion. Everyone was so kind.

Now I remember having met a young man from another church at the youth rally. He was the president of the Dubuque District. I remember having a crush on that young man. But he was about 45 miles from where I lived. However, he showed up at camp. He was a handsome hunk, oh ya!!!! I remember holding hands and walking with him when I got word that my sweet grandma passed away. I can tell you the very spot we were when I got the sad news. Grandma had a relationship with Jesus.

Another time, some guys and a counselor knew a girl in our cabin and decided to throw a bucket of water through the window...in her bedroom window. Scream, she did. Her screams were heard loud and clear. That cabin is no longer there. What fun we had. And time marches on.

A few years later, I married that handsome hunk, and we were camping in a tent with 2 children. We were camping near the shower and bathhouse. One of the children was still in diapers - not Pampers either. They were cloth. How times have changed. The ground was our changing table in the tent. I don’t remember how many days we stayed. We tried to go every year. Many years

we could only attend in the evenings. Sometimes we stayed in the family cabin by then. Now, that was quite the setup. Kitchen, bathroom, shower. No young couple today with kids would even think of it for a week with in-laws and all. But we made fond memories and had a blessed time.

God was blessing our time set apart from the hectic world out there. We could definitely feel the presence of God at all times on the grounds. The grounds seemed like they were Holy grounds, then and now today. It is a special time to get away from the wild world out there, and just spend time with Jesus and His people.

As time rolled on, our kids married. Our oldest divorced and we were troubled about it. We drove to Cedar Falls and went to the grounds just to spend time in prayer and leave our burden there. We tried so hard to leave it there, but we would always seem to put in our basket and drag it along with us wherever we were. We learned we can't live our kids' lives for them. We have all made mistakes.

My mother-law passed away due to a car accident. And due to cancer and emphysema, my father too, went to be with Jesus. Then my mother and my father-in-law married. We had missionaries come back from the Ivory Coast. They lived in the cabin for a summer until they found something different. They too, found it so peaceful and serene as they were getting reacquainted with America.

Later, the cabin was given to a sister-in-law. My husband and a brick layer had the cabin lifted and they put brick under it. They changed the entire floor plan, new kitchen, bathroom, and bedrooms. They put lots of work into it and enjoyed the blessed area on the Cedar Falls Bible Conference grounds.

Both my mom and my mother-in-law would open their hearts to anyone who would stop by for cookies and coffee, and just share Jesus after the service. I remember a chalk artist one year. The speakers were always wonderful. We all have found lifelong friends there. All because of our Lord Jesus, and the salvation we have because He paid for our redemption. Paid in full.

We now have a camper and park for the entire week. We have taken grandkids in years past. That was a real blessing to watch them love and grow in Christ. Then came jobs and no time to attend. However, we have very dear friends who also have a camper and they attend with us. We like the full RV hookups. They and their children love to get in on the week of feeding on the Word of God, with fantastic Bible teachers, music and fellowship. The entire grounds radiate with the Holy Spirit. There is just the Spirit of God that is felt by all, and words can't explain that. It is the presence of God. Camp is a time to just feel at home in the presence of Jesus.

Pauline Leyh
Sumner, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since my youth

Harry and I were first introduced to CFBC when friends at our church invited us to come with them. We've come every year since then, (about 20 years).

Harry and Linda Moeller
Buckingham, Iowa
Attended CFBC about 20 years





Fifty-two years ago, shortly after Bev and I were married, we were visiting her parents south of Hudson. She told me of this great conference she had attended while growing up and suggested that we go to a session. That was my first introduction to the Cedar Falls Bible Conference. I had never been to anything like it before, so we decided to attend more often the following year and to sing in the choir. Bev had previously accompanied Art Perri at another conference, so when he spotted her in the audience, she was recruited to fill in on the organ for the rest of the week. Brad Fenner then invited her to be the conference organist for the next three years until we went overseas to teach. We were “hooked” on the Cedar Falls Bible Conference.

In 1989, I was asked to be an associate director, which led to becoming director in the early 1990s. It was a life changing experience. We have had the privilege to

meet and get to know many of the finest speakers, musicians, and youth leaders in evangelical Christianity. We have also gotten to know the many people who attend CFBC on a regular basis and to call them friends. The conference was a regular part of our kids’ lives as well, which has been a real blessing. I have been blessed with great board members who provided great leadership and support in the planning of the annual conference, leading me to great speakers that I would not have found on my own. As I look back, I am humbled that God had a plan and He chose to use me in a way that has blessed me beyond my wildest dreams. He has blessed the conference for 100 years, and it appears evident that it will continue for years to come.

Soli Del Gloria: To God Alone Be the Glory!!

Bruce and Bev Nelson
Waterloo, Iowa

I first heard about the CFBC Bible Conference in 1971 when we moved to Iowa, where my husband worked for KNWS. During those years of the 70s, I recall that KNWS recorded all of the sessions. The recording area was in the left front of the tabernacle. It was often hot with windows open and fans.

I sang in the choir when I could through the years. Enjoyed J. Sidlow Baxter's teaching and Karl Steele's chalk drawings. When my boys were young, they were in the little white chapel. We often ate supper in the dining hall before service.

Marlys Nelson

Waterloo, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for the first time in 1971



I first heard about CFBC in 1971, when a friend told me about it, and Miss America, Phyllis George, was speaking one evening. I went to see (and hear) Miss America, but was so inspired by the fantastic worship/music and powerful messages that I've been attending every year since. Two favorites were Art Perri and the chalk artist, Karl Steele!!

Mary Nelson

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 50 years

My first exposure to the CFBC grounds was in 1954. As a teenage country girl and Luther League delegate, I came to a conference and stayed in one of the cabins with a group. It left an impact on my life with daytime evangelism sessions and evening campfire.

Later in married life, we made our home in Cedar Falls and frequently attended the summer conference. In the 1980s, I was involved in setting up and serving the morning coffee and cookies during session break.

We appreciate the peaceful environment and friendly atmosphere along with wonderful teaching and preaching through the years.

Marian Noack and husband, Larry
Formerly Cedar Falls, now Sanger, Texas
Attended Bible Conference since 1954

Just a short note to the Cedar Falls Bible Conference for 100 years of God's Word. After my salvation, it was where I spent my vacation in my working years. I was like a sponge and I wanted to soak up all the messages about God's Word and then go out and spread it to others.

Now I have the privilege of bringing my grandchildren to hear the Word and to make new relationships. It's like a fun family reunion when you return each year.

Chris Oberheu
Janesville. Iowa
Attended Bible Conference since 1985





“A legacy received. A legacy passed on. To God Be the Glory.”

Those words are on one of the benches that I sponsored at Riverview several years ago. It’s what I’ve experienced, as well as what I have seen in other families.

In 1972, I was only 4 years old when my mother brought my sister and me to CFBC for the first time. We were blessed to be able to attend for 11 years, until 1982 - experiencing amazing teaching, music, VBS, chalkboard artist, and staying in a

cabin. Wonderful memories. Unfortunately, conflicting schedules and my mother’s health prevented us from continuing to come.

Fast forward 22 years, to 2004. I’m grown up, married, living in Ames, and have a young, two-year-old daughter; however, my mother has since passed away (2002). I felt a longing to return to my childhood roots at CFBC with my daughter so she too could have the opportunity to begin to experience this wonderful and unique place and create her own memories.

We have now had the privilege of attending every year since 2004 and we look forward to future years; a legacy I received from my dear mother that the Lord has allowed me the privilege of passing onto my dear daughter, and hopefully to future generations. To God be the Glory!

Lynne Randall

Ames, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for the first time in 1972

Again, great blessings in Christ through the Spirit’s direction - just like the other fifty-one times I’ve been here. Thanks for special growth in Christ!

Norman Ratering

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Attended Bible Conference for 52 years





I remember my grandmother telling me about she and my great aunt baking pies at the Bible Conference. I remember seeing an old picture in our family album of an outdoor kitchen next to the event center where they made pies, and I guess, served meals. Not sure when this was...maybe some time in the late 40s or early 50s.

Larry Ravn

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 47 years

Besides the fellowship of seeing friends, old and new, one of my favorite memories is seeing our boys dressed up like little sheep for the Bible School evening program, singing "We like sheep, cause sheep is what we are."

Those of us old enough will always remember the chalk artist, Karl Steele. He made "magic" happen out of an easel, chalk and special lights. His biblical drawings were amazing!



Of course, going to the Bible Conference gave us the chance to stay with our sister and brother, Janis and Tom Reisetter. Such special times together! Keep up the good work!

Jean Reisetter

Lewiston, Minnesota

Attended Bible Conference off and on for 40 years

Pastor Homer Larsen was a big promoter of the CFBC, and I first attended sessions when I was in his confirmation class. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, we would drive down from MN and spend most of the week attending the conference. "We are what we eat," and CFBC nourished our faith each year! John MacArthur, Bishop Baughen, Haddon Robinson, Sam Coker, and the likes were incomparable!

Congratulations on 100 years of faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Christ!

Mark Reisetter

Lewiston, Minnesota

Attended Bible Conference since 1960-ish

In the mid sixties, Tom Reisetter, whom I had been dating for a few years, asked me if I wanted to attend the Bible Conference with him. I was interested in finding out more about it, so we went to an evening session together. Loved the conference and loved sharing the experience with Tom. I married that guy and I've spent that week during most summers attending the conference with him. However, I had never been to the morning sessions until...

Several years later, my friend, Marlene, asked me to go with her to a morning session. I was reluctant because I was refinishing some woodwork at home and wanted to get the project completed before school started. After all, I was going to the evening sessions. Wasn't that enough? Having given her one excuse after another during the conference week, I received an ultimatum. She finally said, "I'm stopping by your house tomorrow morning to pick you up, and you'd better be ready!" So she did, and I was, and I'm still attending both the morning and evening sessions, and have been so richly blessed through the messages, the music, and the fellowship. Praise and thanks be to God!



The Bible Conference is a unique treasure, and I'm so grateful for Tom and Marlene's roles in my discovering that. Let's all continue to pray for the Lord to bless, guide and provide for the Conference.

P.S. Four years ago, after the Sunday evening session, I said to Matt Reisetter, the new director, "This isn't the first time you've been on that stage, you know." He gave me a puzzled look, and asked, "What do you mean?" I replied that many years ago, as I sat on the stage as part of the conference choir, he was busy kicking me from inside, as I was 7 months pregnant! He obviously loved the conference, too!

Janis Reisetter
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended the Bible Conference since 1967

I have so many fond memories of the Cedar Falls Bible Conference, going way back to when I was very young. Here are a few...

- Preschool ministry in the musty basement of the old chapel, where the nursery used to be upstairs in the room behind the chapel...they had a gate in front of the steps to keep us little tikes from going up there.
- Peanut butter or chocolate or vanilla sandwich cookies for snacks, with HI-C juice out of a big can that had triangle holes poked in them by a can opener for pouring.
- The slide, teeter-totter, and merry-go-round on the playground up on the hill.
- The “We Like Sheep” musical we did one year in Missionary Hall (now Fellowship Hall) when I was in junior high.
- The swimming pool, which I rarely swam in because it was so cold!
- Friends I made only through CFBC each summer, some of whom I’m still in contact with.



And the list could go on... But if I had to name one thing that has had the biggest impact on me, I think it would have to be the preaching. As a high school student, I preferred to be in the Tabernacle during the main sessions listening to the preaching. Biblically solid, bold preaching from world class preachers. Dr. Robinson was my all time favorite, and I’d listen to tapes of his sermons over and over. In fact, when I spent a year attending a not-very-solid seminary back in the late 90s, Dr. Robinson’s sermon tapes were one of the antidotes I would deploy to counter

the unbiblical things I was being taught! (I’ll always remember sitting with Pastor Homer Larsen during Haddon Robinson’s “Bronze Serpent” sermon...Homer and I had been discussing/debating several of the themes Haddon preached about that night.)

I was immensely humbled and honored (and surprised!) when former CFBC Director, Bruce Nelson, tapped me to succeed him as the Bible Conference’s next director. In that role (since 2018) we’ve been blessed with a tremendous team of volunteers, generous financial support from donors, and increasing numbers of attendees (including lots of kids!). It is our aim to make sure the preaching stays as solid as I remember when I was in my formative years, and to continue to present a conference where people are “inspired, shaped, and challenged by God’s Word” well beyond our 100th year. (*CFBC Trivia*: Nancy Graen, great-granddaughter of J.S. Latta, who helped finance the very first Cedar Falls Bible Conference, is the one who came up with that slogan!)



By the way, many thanks to my parents – Tom and Jan Reisetter – who faithfully brought me to the Bible Conference every year, so that the Lord could cause it to take root in me and shape me so significantly! We who are parents today need to follow their example!

Matt Reisetter

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since birth

I was born around the week of Bible Conference and have attended ever since. As a child growing up, I mostly remembered the chalk drawings in the evenings when they would light them up. And I really enjoyed listening to Art Perri sing, especially his version of “How Great Thou Art”. My mother started attending in the early 1940s.

I am thankful for the conference, not only for the teachings, but because my in-laws met there, and without that, I would not have been blessed with my beautiful wife.

Matt Rekers

Cedar Falls

Attended Bible Conference for 55 years

Janice first attended the Cedar Falls Bible Conference in the 50s. She stayed in a cabin with a friend and her family. That was back when they had to open up the sides to let air into the conference building.

Richard and Janice attended after being married. Richard enjoyed singing in the choir for many years. He met so many Christian friends while on the board. We still enjoy renewing our friendships each year and being spiritually uplifted.

Richard and Janice Schafer

Attended Bible Conference in the 1950s (Janice)

As a high schooler, I remember coming to the Tabernacle to hear Paul Harvey speak. It was hot as “bletzen” - the “wooden windows” were “high and lifted up”!!

I’ve been coming since the 60s. My grandma and parents were very instrumental in my “spiritual health”. Now I’m “alive and well” because of their leadership and example, and that of the inspirational speakers at the CFBC!

Janet (Wyatt) Schildroth

Reinbeck, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 50 years

I have so many fabulous memories of Bible Conferences. I came as a kid with my parents every year, sitting on hard benches and trying to stay cool by waving those paint stick funeral home fans. :)

I know the solid theology I have was reinforced by the sound doctrine of the many preachers, as well as by the beautiful hymns I grew to love.

One highlight for me was the chalk artist at the end of each special night. WOW! Those heart-stirring hymns would play during his creation of each mural, and then, the lights would go down and something amazing would appear in the drawings. It made me love art, but even more importantly, it made me love and pursue Jesus.

Thank you for a century of faithfulness. I am so very grateful.

Deb (Truman) Schult

Just this year, through the speakers, I am inspired to give my neighbor a Gospel of John booklet. I was supposed to do this 5-6 months ago. I need to obey. This has been a place to revel in Jesus and the Gospel.



Mary Severseike

Garden City, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 5 years



My name is Ken Smejkal, here with my wife, Donna. We are from Hiawatha, IA. Two years after I found salvation in Christ in 1974, a friend who owned a cabin on the grounds was scheduled for triple bypass surgery. He came to me and gave me the keys to his cabin, and I stayed the week. My wife and I have been coming since, and also before we were married in 1988.

We attend Cornerstone Church in Marion, Iowa. Praise God for this conference's 100 year anniversary.

Ken and Donna Smejkal

Hiawatha, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since the 1980s

I was invited to attend by my wife and mother-in-law. I love the variety of speakers and music. All of God's Word going into my heart has developed me into the Christian I am today. CFBC has transformed my heart so that now I teach Kids Church.

J. Mark Speckerman

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 39 years

I've attended since I was young, but CFBC really started to impact my life in the early 70s when I was in high school. I sang in the choir, enjoyed Karl Steele's pictures and Doris Rhum singing for him. J. Sidlow Baxter, Stuart Briscoe, and John McArthur were some of my favorites and impacted me the most. I also enjoyed serving on the CFBC Board as President and Treasurer.

Wendy Grassley Speckerman

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 55 years

As a child in the 1950s, I went to the Bible Conference with my parents and grandparents. Although it was hot, there were fans and many windows to open to keep everyone cool. I don't remember a bad smell; it smelled like the Bible Conference Tabernacle, which was okay with me. Better than the hogs and cattle that I was used to, right?

Doug Stewart

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since the early 1950s

In 2015, I was in the volunteer choir, and while we were practicing, I noticed that quite a group of volunteers were carrying a whole lot of extra chairs into the building. By the time the speaker was presented, the whole building was packed with chairs and people. I had never heard of Voddie Baucham before that night, but I very much enjoy following him on YouTube to this day.

Butch Stohr

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference since 1978

My grandmother brought me as a child and, sorry, but I don't remember the preaching. I remember the floor, a black tar floor. But I came back when I returned to CF.

Catherine R. Thompson

We first started coming to the CFBC after hearing Matt Reisetter speak about it in our church. I had heard about the conference 35 years prior from a godly woman, Irene Eller, who mentored me in my faith when my children were small. So we attended for 3 days in 2019.

My husband and I now attend for the full week, and have been blessed by the godly teaching, great speakers, amazing worship and are always blessed by the Christian fellowship! It's like experiencing a slice of heaven during the CFBC week! We absolutely love it!

Lavern and Carolyn Tysdahl

Hubbard, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for 3 years



I would have to say my favorite memory at the Cedar Falls Bible Conference has been this year. We gathered the Burns-Wheeler Family for family pictures here on the Bible Conference grounds. Four generations, all here to be a part of the 100th year.

Growing up, my parents brought me here for the first time when I was eight days old. This year we brought 4 of our children and are carrying on the family cherished legacy attending the Cedar Falls Bible Conference.

This year my daughter was excitedly allowed to take some money out of her own bank account (her first withdrawal) to buy the Word of God. She has spent time in her Bible every day since!

Michelle Wheeler (Burns)

Waverly, Iowa

Has attended Bible Conference for 35 years; a few missed while in a different state.

My first memories of attending CFBC were as a child in the mid 1970s. The old tabernacle was pretty dilapidated and the fans in the ceiling were quite loud. The kids' program always got done a little early so we could see chalk artist, Karl Steele. I loved watching him with broad strokes and chalk flying everywhere. When he did his black light with a picture behind the picture, it was so cool. As a young person, I was shown there are many ways to serve God.

In high school, I enjoyed listening to Sam Coker, Stuart Briscoe, and David Hocking preach. They brought the Bible to life, even the obscure parts of it. I also liked when Diane Susek sang "Finally Home."

Fast forward to around 2000 when we moved back to the area. I remember bringing my young daughters and dropping them off in the nursery in the basement of the chapel. It was in bad shape and I admired that the staff did the best they could with what they had. A few years later, my children enjoyed Dean Bohl with his ventriloquist dummy, Chester.

I also remember Ron Nash speaking about these times. He was a philosopher and I listened intently as he talked about world views and how they affect us all greatly. Just this year I am reading Nash's book I bought 20 years ago, as it sheds light on the upheaval going on now in the United States.

I also greatly enjoyed when Josh and Sean McDowell spoke at CFBC. Josh's "More Than a Carpenter" book was very influential to me as a college person.

Aaron Wikner

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Attended Bible Conference for first time in 1975

For many years, a dear couple who mentored/disciples us (Don and Elenor Noble) have been coming to the CFBC. They invited us to come, but we were never able to come. This year Don is with the Lord and we are finally able to come. It has been tremendous, giving us renewed commitment to the Great Commission. We were especially moved by Crawford and Bryan Loritts.

And we were guests of Jon and Kelly Bachman.

Marv and Anne Willis

Kirkville, Missouri

Attended Bible Conference for the first time this year

Having attended Bible Conference for several years, my heart's desire was to own a cabin here. It did happen! I was able to purchase, remodel, and enjoy a cabin for 15 years. Summers were filled with giggles and memories at granny's cabin, as many years passed grandchildren were here for elementary and youth meetings.

Bible Conference music, speakers, and fellowship have been filled with wonderful blessings!!

Donna Young
Waverly, Iowa