

GLENDAMARIE (WENGLER) REHKOP



Glenda Marie “Tootie” Wengler was born June 20, 1925, in Madison County, Missouri. She was the daughter of John and Nora (Peterman) Wengler. Her sisters were Maria, Thelma, Ruth, Naomi, Betty, and Maxine. Her brothers were Earl, Clyde, Everett, Floyd, and Jim. Glenda was nicknamed Tootie at a very young age, and she was known by that name for the rest of her life.

Tootie grew up in Fredericktown and went to grade school there. On March 9, 1940, Tootie married Clifford Sylvester Rehkop in Madison County, Missouri. Shortly after their marriage, Clifford and Tootie built a small, four room house in the Copper

Mines Community. While living there, they had twelve children: Clara June “Midge”, Carolyn Ann, Clifford Leon “Dag”, John Dale “Storm”, Janet Marie, Linda Kay “Katy”, Leonard Henry “Penn”, Carl Lee “Will”, Nancy Elaine “Nan”, Charlene “Shorty”, Ricky “Dick”, and Terry. All of the children were raised at Copper Mines except Janet Marie, who died at birth.

Tootie joined Copper Mines Church on April 18, 1948. She regularly attended for many years, bringing her children to church with her. Of her kids, Midge, Carolyn, Dag, Katy, Penn, and Terry were members of the church at some point in their lives.

In the early 1970’s, Clifford and Tootie built a new house just behind their original home. The original home was then demolished. Clifford worked many years for the mines and the U. S. Forest Service. Tootie worked for the Tinnin Garment Factory after the children were raised. In their spare time, Clifford liked to hunt and fish, and Tootie enjoyed quilting. In the summer of 1978, Clifford and Penn built the foundation for the Copper Mines Church sign that was located in the front yard of the church. The rock foundation remains today as a flower planter.

Clifford passed away suddenly on March 23, 1981. He was buried in Marcus Memorial Park, Madison County, Missouri. Shortly thereafter, Tootie moved from her home in Copper Mines to a house in Fredericktown. Tootie continued to live by herself for many years after Clifford’s passing. When her health started to decline, she lived for a while with her daughter Carolyn. During the final year of her life, she lived at Stockhoff Memorial Nursing Home. Tootie died on August 25, 2005, in Fredericktown, Missouri, at 80 years of age. At the time of her death, she had been a member of Copper Mines Church for over 57 years. She was buried in Marcus Memorial Park beside Clifford. She left a legacy of 29 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop

LON EDWARD REHKOP



Lon Edward Rehkop, oldest child of Elza Moloye Rehkop and Clarice Marie (Brewington) Rehkop was born October 31, 1955, in Bonne Terre, Missouri. Lon has a younger brother, Marty, and a younger sister, Joyce. Lon first started attending Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church Sunday School during the Fourth of July weekend in 1961. His mother took the three children to Sunday School while they were living at the old Copper Mines School on weekends. Attending Sunday School became a regular occurrence during the period from 1961 to 1966. In 1967, Elza Moloye Rehkop rededicated his life to Christ, and the family started attending church regularly at Copper Mines.

At about the same time, Rev. O. D. Matthews started pastoring at Copper Mines, along with his family. The Matthews boys, Dennis and Rodger, quickly became good friends with Lon and Marty. During that period, and through that friendship, Lon became aware of his unsaved condition. On April 24, 1971, during a revival at Copper Mines, Lon accepted Christ as Savior. He was baptized in Twelve Mile Creek at the Highway 67 bridge south of Fredericktown on May 30, 1971. Lon joined the Copper Mines Church on July 30, 1972, and has remained a member since.

Lon graduated from Fredericktown High School on May 24, 1973. He attended Mineral Area College, Flat River, Missouri, and graduated with an Associate of Science Degree on May 22, 1975. He later attended and graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Missouri, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering on December 21, 1980. Upon graduation, Lon took a position as a mechanical engineer with the Kansas City Power and Light Company, Montrose Station, in Clinton, Missouri. He has remained at that location for 25 years, moving through the positions of Grade I, Grade II, Project, and Senior Engineer. He is a Registered Professional Engineer by the State of Missouri. On June 14, 1996, Lon graduated from the Keller Graduate School of Management, Kansas City, Missouri, with a Master of Business Administration Degree. In Clinton, Lon attends the Bible Baptist Church, an Independent Baptist Denomination.

Lon has many memories of his years at Copper Mines. He's thankful for the Sunday School teachers that took the time and put forth the efforts to teach him. He has fond memories of the Sunday School picnics at the Harmon and Norma Hovis farm; the church trips to Six Flags and the Cardinals games; the Bible Schools; and the softball teams of the 70's and 80's. Participating in the various building additions and remodels of the church was a learning experience, as well as rewarding. Supporting missions has long been a tradition at Copper Mines. The trip to install a hardwood floor in the Columbia, Missouri, Free Will Baptist Mission Church in 1974 brings back fond memories. The 2003 trip to the Indian Bible College in Flagstaff, Arizona, was a

blessing that will be remembered for life. Lon and his sister, Joyce, are owners of the Copper Mines School, which they purchased from Clifford and Elza Rehkop in 1984. This is the location of the original Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church, first organized on September 22, 1906. For several years now, Copper Mines Church has held a Fall Festival at the Copper Mines School, and Lon considers it a special blessing to host the event.

Lon considers his greatest calling to be a supporter of missions. He has supported several missionaries over the past 23 years and desires to continue those efforts. Over the years during family vacations, he has had the opportunity to visit Free Will Baptist Home Mission Churches in New Castle, Delaware; Vineland, New Jersey; and Flagstaff, Arizona. He would like to continue visiting mission works in the future.

If the Lord tarries and his health continues, Lon plans to retire in 2011, after 30 years of service with Kansas City Power & Light. At that time, Lon plans to move back to Madison County for retirement, relaxation, and for everything else the Good Lord has in store. While Lon has never married, he is still looking for a special Christian woman to share his life with. In his spare time, Lon enjoys hunting, fishing, politics, arrowhead hunting, hiking, reading, studying history, genealogical research, coin collecting, visiting with friends, and traveling.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop

NANCY LUETTA (UNDERWOOD) REHKOP



Nancy LuEtta Underwood was born December 24, 1895 near Catherine Place, Madison County, Missouri. She was the second child of John Thomas Underwood and Lora Rebecca (Trousdale) Underwood. Her brothers and sisters were Floyd, Medford, Charles, Vester, Rex, Trecia, Retta, John, Nellie, Mamie, Hilda, and Eula Christine. She was raised at Catherine Place, and went to grade school there. On April 5, 1913, she married Henry Rehkop at Catherine Place. They were childhood sweethearts. To this union, eleven children were born. They were John Henry, Clifford Sylvester, Leon Denver, Elma Eileen, Elza Moloye, Norma Ruth, Leonard Elden, Glenn Allen, Euvana Marie, Gale Leeman (Bud), and Dale Ray (Jack).

During the early part of their marriage, the Henry Rehkop family lived in Flat River and Mine La Motte, Missouri. While living in Mine La Motte, Nancy LuEtta was a member of the Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church. In the 1930's, Henry and Nancy LuEtta purchased a 165 acre farm in the Copper Mines community. In 1940, the family moved from their home in Mine La Motte to a small, four-room house on the farm. Only Elma, Elza, Norma Ruth, Leonard, Glenn, Euvana, Bud, and Jack were still living at home.

The house was located several hundred yards north, and down the hill from the Copper Mines School. At that time, the school was also the meeting place of the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church congregation. Nancy had several Underwood kinfolks that were members at Copper Mines. She and some of the younger children began attending church there, and continued for about five years. On November 11, 1945, she was granted dismissal from Mine La Motte Church and transferred her membership to Copper Mines. This was the beginning of the Rehkop family's association with the church.

Nancy was an excellent cook. Her specialties were chicken and dumplings, pies, and cakes. Her favorite song was "Lily of the Valley". Nancy was a devoted, hard working mother with great concern for her family and others. She passed away suddenly on Wednesday, February 6, 1946, at her home in Copper Mines. Her obituary indicates "Mrs. Rehkop was a real Christian woman and always faithful to her church". Pastor Woodrow Matthews was the minister in charge of her service which was held at Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church. She is buried in the new Masonic Cemetery (Marcus Memorial Park) south of Fredericktown, Madison County, Missouri. Of her children, Elza, Ruth, Glenn, Euvana, and Jack eventually became members of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop

DARRYL, PATT AND JOSIE REYNOLDS



Darryl, son of Verd and Norma Reynolds, moved to Farmington from St. Louis in the seventies. Patt, daughter of Edwin and Ruth Maurer came from Doe Run – Farmington area. Darryl and Patt met in high school at Farmington in their freshman year. Both graduated together in 1980.

They were married February 24, 1979, and worked for Darryl's parents at their appliance store in Park Hills for 18 years. Wayne was born September 3, 1979, in Farmington, and he also later came to

work at the store.

Patt was baptized on a Good Friday, April 9, 1993, by Pastor Burnie Crum at the Church of Christ in Park Hills, Missouri. A year later Josie was born October 16, 1994, at Farmington. Darryl's parents retired and they started their business in December 1997. They moved their family to Fredericktown in February 1998. Josie was baptized in the Castor River, September 8, 2002, by Pastor Raymond Michael. Patt and Josie became members of Copper Mines Church in 2002, and we they have felt so welcomed here since the very first day.

VERNON AND THELMA (GRAHAM) SIKES



Vernon, son of Ira and Katie (Thomas) Sikes, was born January 1, 1934, and Thelma Lee (Graham) Sikes, daughter of Earl and Marie (Hovis) Graham, was born January 9, 1936. They met at the Copper Mines Church, where they were introduced by family. They were married March 17, 1956. They have lived in the Copper Mines community and raised their family of four.

Thelma is a retired beauty operator, having her own shop at the farm home. Vernon worked at Revelle's Lumber Company for many years. When he retired he stayed busy working on different churches and homes. The couple made a trip to Nantes, France, to assist the missionary family on the remodeling of a building for a much needed church. They have also worked on a resident home on the Nashville Bible College Campus. Along with eleven other volunteers they made a trip to Flagstaff, Arizona, to help with repairs on the Indian Bible College.

Vernon has served as teacher for Juniors, Teens, Young Adult and Men's classes. He has also been on the Trustee Board, as well as Sunday School superintendent. In 1983 he was ordained as deacon, a position he now holds.

Thelma has taught Sunday School classes for the Juniors, Teens and Ladies Adult. She helped organize and teach Vacation Bible School. Lately she and Vernon have been helping with the crafts. She has been the church clerk since 1992. Thelma took over for her mother when she gave it up because of her health, a position she had for 29 years. When a visiting preacher needed a place to stay, the Sikes' usually had a bedroom and a place to eat. They look forward to the deacon/trustee Christmas supper each year, held in their home.

Vernon and Thelma raised a family of four children. Their oldest son, Richard Vernon, married Tammy Berry. Richard and Tammy met at the Bethel United Baptist Bible Camp when they were young teenagers. They have two children. Tracy is an accountant living in Farmington, and Jason is following in the line of fourth generation as a carpenter. Richard is a minister and also works in wood working at a local cabinet shop. Tammy is busy with church work, homemaking, and her outside job at the Department of Mental Health.

Their next son, Ivan Keith, married Angie Henson they are co-owners of Sikes Construction, while raising two sons. Corey is a student at Fredericktown High School, and Taylor is eight years old. Angie is the bookkeeper/secretary and homemaker for the family. The family is active in sports and school activities, along with keeping up with the family business. The construction business is one that has followed the family.

Vernon and Thelma's only daughter, Rebecca Lee "Becky", is married to Larry Hunt. She has a son, Daniel Stamp, who is following his father's profession as a meat cutter. Daniel has his own home in southern Madison County. Their family also includes Lucas and Lance Hunt. Lucas and Cheryl Hunt live in Farmington. Luke is a high school history teacher. Lance Hunt and his wife are stationed with the US Air Force in Japan. Becky is Administrator at Madison County Health Department, and Larry has retired from the Missouri State Health Department.

Vernon and Thelma's youngest son, Thomas Paul "Tom", married Heather Tune, and they have two daughters. Katelyn is a second grade student at Fredericktown Elementary and played on the girl's softball league this past summer. Makenzie is an active four year old that likes to be outside with Dad. Tom is the Field Mechanic for Madison County MODOT shop, while Heather works in the Human Resource Department for Mental Health. They are active members of the Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church and live in the Copper Mines community.

ALBERT THOMAS FAMILY



Katie Leah (Thomas) Sikes, was born March 4, 1912, to Albert Thomas and Elva (Welch) Thomas. As a young girl Katie remembers attending church along with her parents at Copper Mines School House when it was two rooms. Mr. Thomas was a member of Copper Mines, but Mrs. Thomas did not join, as she was of the Methodist faith. But she was active in Sunday School as a teacher. The brothers and sisters of Katie were part of the Sunday School. They were Doris, Claude, Lester, Gifford, and Woodrow.

Katie married Ira Sikes and raised their family of five in the Piney Community. Their children were Alma, Vernon, Pearl, Everett, and Lindell. She now resides in a senior citizens apartment in Fredericktown.

CECIL RAY THOMAS



Cecil Ray Thomas was born August 1, 1904, to Moses and Adelia (Gibbs) Thomas. He was raised in the Copper Mines community and attended the grade school at Copper Mines.

He and Mattie Yative Killian, born May 18, 1912, to George and Eva (Lowery) Killian, were married. Their early married years were spent in Michigan where he was employed in construction. They were the parents of eight sons and two daughters. Who are listed below along with their spouses and children.

Clyde Ray married Barbara Lewis, and their daughters were Gail, Connie and Cindy. He was a truck driver by trade.

Marvin Edward married Betty McCarver, and their family included twins, Betty Sue and Mary Lou, who passed away at 6 weeks, Melody, Lisa, Joe and Jimmy. Marvin worked at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis.

Carl Eugene married Carol while he was in service, and they raised their family in another area. Carl worked in construction.

Earl Moses married Loretta Young, and their family included Patsy, Martin, Beth and Dristie. Earl retired from Bowling – McDonnell after 33 years.

Adelia Lee “Dee” married Howard Hovis and had two children, Wally and Lawanna. Dee retired from the State Parole Office. Howard and Dee had lived in Virginia and also drove a long distance truck. She passed away May 14, 2006. Dee was saved and joined Copper Mines Church in 1948. Dee is remembered for her songs, as she always blessed everyone when she sang.

Mary Fillenberg has lived in Lakewood, Colorado, most of her adult life. She and her husband are retired from Public Works. She has one son, Jeff Kreitzer, and one granddaughter.

Donald George and his wife, Donna Sue White, live in Imperial, Missouri, where they raised their family of five sons and one daughter. Debbie, David, Tim, Terry, Randy, and Ricky. Don has retired from the grocery business, having been a produce manager for 30 plus years.

Vernon Dale married Sue Leonard, and they live in Aberdeen, North Carolina, where he retired from the Army as a helicopter pilot. Their children are Dale, Christy, and Shawn.

William Harry married Gracie Moyers. Bill retired from Chrysler, and Gracie is the Madison County Assessor. They have one son and one grandson.

Gary Dean and Kay Sitzes were married and the parents of two daughters. Gary retired from General Motors.

Ray was the carpenter when the church was constructed, along with help from the members. He had worked for Miners Lumber Company for several years. Ray and Mattie united with Copper Mines in September 1937. In December 1937 he was ordained as deacon. He faithfully served the church also as the Sunday School secretary for many years. The sons were helpers for their dad as the work progressed on the church building. No one will ever forget the days and handiwork of Ray Thomas, because it is all around us as we worship.

LEEMAN UNDERWOOD



Leeman Underwood, son of Vester and Edith Souden Underwood, started attending Copper Mines as a young boy of nine years. The family moved from Flat River, Missouri to the Catherine Place community, (nicknamed Slab Town) probably around 1932. Along with their mom, Edith, and sister Lillian, they would walk to Copper Mines. Bro J.L. Yancey was the pastor at that time. He came once or twice a month to preach. They had Sunday School every Sunday. That was the great depression, a few had cars but most walked.

Leeman and Laura Bayless were married in April 1946 and were saved, baptized and united with the church in 1946. Leeman was ordained as deacon in 1949. Three of their four children were saved there. The family moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for employment. The family joined the Oak Ridge Free Will Baptist Church, and Leeman and Laura are faithful members, as their health permits.

The day they were baptized in the Village Creek was a very cold day. This is different from our indoor baptismal. Their children are Gail, Greg, Sue and Pam, along with several grandchildren.

MEDFORD AND BESSIE EDITH (HOVIS) UNDERWOOD



Bessie Edith Hovis was born June 3, 1905, in St. Francois County, Missouri. She was the daughter of Ferdinand and Anne Elizabeth (Bayless) Hovis. Her brothers were Roy and Bedford Hovis. She was raised in Copper Mines and went to grade school at Knob Lick and Copper Mines.



Medford Underwood was born November 26, 1897, the son of John

Thomas and Lora Rebecca (Trousdale) Underwood. His brothers and sisters were Floyd T., Nancy LuEtta, Charles A., Vester, Rex, Trecia Lodena, Retta, John R., Nellie, Mamie Aline, Hilda, and Eula Christina. Many of the Underwood kids had nicknames, and Medford was commonly known as “Dude”.

On June 23, 1923, Bessie and Dude were married. Eight children were born to this union. They were Helen Ruth, Medford Jr., Harold Eugene, Dorothy Almeida, Shirley Ann, Evelyn Mae, Lora Louise, and Carol James.

During their lifetime, the family lived at many locations. Early on, they lived in Flat River, St. Francois County, Missouri. In about 1940, they moved to Mine La Motte, Madison County, Missouri. Later, they lived at four different locations around Copper Mines, Madison County, Missouri.

Bessie joined Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on August 18, 1919. She served as church clerk from 1919 to October 1922. She also served as song leader for a while. Seven of her children were members at Copper Mines at different times in their lives. Bessie was a faithful member of Copper Mines Church. Bessie has the distinction of being a member of Copper Mines Church for the longest period of time, for over 74 years. She remained a member of Copper Mines until her death. Bessie liked to cook and sew. She made clothes and quilts for many family members. She worked for the Brown Shoe Company for about 29 years. Her fondest moments were being with her kids.

Dude was a miner and worked for St. Joseph Lead Company. Dude was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved getting together with the Rehkop family to hunt deer. He also loved to discuss politics with his friend, Dave Francis. Dude was saved on March 19, 1955, and joined Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on April 17, 1955. He remained a member until his sudden death on April 13, 1958. He was buried in Parkview Cemetery, Farmington, St. Francois County, Missouri.

After Dude's death, Bessie lived many years at Catherine Place, Madison County, Missouri. In her later years, she lived in the Village Creek Community near her daughters. She died June 5, 1994, in Fredericktown, Missouri. Bessie was buried beside her husband Dude in the Parkview Cemetery.

The Medford Underwood family had a profound impact on the history and growth of Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. Through the continuing efforts of their descendents, the gospel is presently being spread throughout Missouri, various other parts of the United States, and the rest of the world.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop with input from Evelyn Francis

MEDFORD UNDERWOOD, JR.



Medford Underwood, Jr. (Junior) was born April 6, 1925 in St. Francois County, Missouri. He was the son of Medford and Bessie Edith (Hovis) Underwood. His brothers and sisters were Helen Ruth, Harold Eugene, Dorothy Almeida, Shirley Ann, Evelyn Mae, Lora Louise, and Carol James. He lived his early years in St. Francois County, but spent his childhood years in the Copper Mines Community.

He went to grade school at Copper Mines and attended high school at Mine La Motte. Junior joined Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on September 11, 1938.

Minnie (Micky) Alene (Lewis) was born December 20, 1935, in Minimum, Iron County, Missouri. She was the daughter of Lee (Dude) and Virginia (Wray) Lewis. Her brothers and sisters were Rene, Lovey, Vernata, Nancy, Jack, Ed, Lee Gene, George Jim, Marvin, Robert "Bob", and Harold. She grew up in the Captain's Creek Community and went to grade school there. She was of the General Baptist faith.

Junior Underwood married Micky Lewis on July 2, 1954, in Madison County, Missouri. They raised seven children: Douglas Wayne, Charles Keith, Donald Alvin, Sherry Lynn, Mark Allen, Debra Jo, and Michael John. They lived at numerous places in Madison County while the children were growing up, including Goose Creek Road, rural Mill Creek, rural Catherine Place, and on West Main, East College, and North Mine La Motte Streets in Fredericktown.

Junior worked for many years at Brown Shoe Company and retired from there. Micky held many positions including ward clerk and physical therapist at the hospital, cook at the A&W and A&M Restaurants, and the Pogue Café. For a while, Junior and Micky owned and operated their own café and bakery.

For many years, Junior and Micky regularly brought their children to church at Copper Mines. Junior continued his membership with Copper Mines until his death on April 13, 1998. At the time of his death, he had been a member for almost sixty years. Junior was buried in Walker Cemetery, Madison County, Missouri. Micky continues to live in Fredericktown, Missouri, as a resident of Ozark Manor. The children live around Fredericktown, and in other areas of Missouri.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop

LILLIE EDITH (SOUDEN) UNDERWOOD



Lillie Edith Souden Underwood was born January 16, 1906. She was more commonly known by her middle name, Edith. She was the child of William and Bertha Wilson Souden. Her brothers and sisters were Claude, Alma Henson, Earl, Irene, Gussie, William, Opal, Leo, and Una Aubuchan. She grew up in the Copper Mines Community. In 1922 or 1923, she married Sylvester “Bear” Underwood in Flat River, St. Francois County, Missouri. To this union, two children were born. They were Leeman Underwood and Laura Underwood Hovis.

Edith and “Bear” lived many years at Catherine Place, Madison County, Missouri. Edith joined Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on September 11, 1938. She served as Sunday School teacher, and occasionally sang special songs with her sister Alma. Both of her children were members at Copper Mines before moving from the area. She remained a faithful member of Copper Mines Church for 44 years until her death. She died November 11, 1982, in Fredericktown, Missouri. Edith was buried in the Christian Cemetery, Fredericktown, Missouri.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop

REX AND MAMIE (MILLER) UNDERWOOD

Rex Caruthers Underwood was born in 1903. He was the fifth child of John Thomas and Lora Rebecca Trousdale Underwood. His brothers and sisters were Floyd T., Nancy LuEtta, Medford, Charles A., Vester, Trecia Loden, Retta, John, Nellie, Mamie Aline, Hilda, and Eula Christine.

Mamie Jewell Miller was born March 2, 1911, in Coffman, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri. She was the daughter of Henry and Cora Alice Henderson Miller. Her brothers and sisters were Sterling, Theodore, Harrison, Russell, Roland, Geneva Sally Wilfong, and Myrtle Adams.

Rex Underwood married Mamie Miller on March 25, 1927. They had six children: Jack, Douglas, Fred, Thomas John, Wylis, and Ellese Head.

Mamie joined Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church on December 26, 1937. Rex joined the church on September 11, 1938. They were both active members of the church until Rex died in 1942. He was buried in the Christian Cemetery, Fredericktown, Missouri. It is unknown when Mamie left the church. She died on July 12, 1988, in Fredericktown, Missouri, and was buried in the Christian Cemetery beside Rex.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop

THE JOHN MARK VANDIVORT FAMILY
COPPER MINES FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH MISSIONARIES



Lora Louise Underwood was born on October 23, 1932, in Mine La Motte, Missouri, the daughter of Medford “Dude” Underwood and Bessie Edith (Hovis) Underwood. She was commonly known by her middle name, Louise. Her brothers and sisters were Helen Ruth, Medford Jr., Harold Eugene, Dorothy Almedia, Shirley Ann, Evelyn Mae, and Carol James.

Louise went to grade school at Copper Mines and Mine La Motte, and graduated from Mine La Motte High School in 1949. Louise was saved at Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church. She joined Copper Mines Church on November 11, 1945.

After graduation, Louise attended Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau. In 1956, she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and English. Prior to graduation, she taught at Captain’s Creek, Oak Grove, and German, one-room schools in Madison County for a total of five years. She taught fifth grade in the Farmington School District for 3 ½ years at which time she resigned to take one semester at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

John Mark Vandivort was the son of Rev. Herbert S. and Bessie J. (Scott) Vandivort of Rural Route, Cabool, Missouri. More commonly known as Mark, he was born July 3, 1935, in Mountain Grove, Missouri. His brothers are Daniel and Benjamin. Mark went to grade school at Union, and graduated from Houston High School, Houston, Missouri, in 1954. Mark was saved in June 1945 and was a member of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Texas County, Missouri. After high school, Mark attended Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. He also attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1959. Mark also attended Free Will Baptist Bible College from 1959-1960. During the summer of 1959, Mark completed a missionary internship in the country of Cuba. It was then that Mark received his calling for missionary service.

Also during the summer of 1959, Mark Vandivort met Louise Underwood at the Free Will Baptist National Convention in Ashville, North Carolina. Louise had attended the convention with Pastor Woodrow Matthews and his family from Copper Mines Church. Mark and Louise’s relationship grew steadily from that point. An entry in the church records from August 1959 indicates the following: “John Vandivort, a young minister of Cabool, Missouri, brought the morning message the second Sunday of August 1959. We hope to have him back again in the near future. He has gotten out of college where he acquired an agriculture degree.” Records indicate that he did come back in September

and December of 1959. On December 26, 1959, Mark and Louise were married at First Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Missouri. Mark's uncle, Ben Scott, was pastor.

After they married, Mark and Louise began preparing for missionary ministry in Cuba. They attended Free Will Baptist Bible College together in Nashville, Tennessee, in the spring of 1960. During that period, the doors closed for U.S. citizens to enter Cuba as missionaries. As such, Mark and Louise took an assignment in the summer of 1960 to help Free Will Baptist Home Missionaries Mack and Jackie Owens conduct Vacation Bible Schools in Littleton, New Hampshire, and other surrounding communities. While there, Mark and Louise felt led to reopen the closed Community Baptist Church in Twin Mountain, New Hampshire. They served at Twin Mountain, New Hampshire, for three years until 1963. That was the beginning of 40 years of association with Free Will Baptist Home Missions.

In 1963, they were called back to Nashville, Tennessee, where Mark served as Field Secretary and Assistant to Director, National Home Missions Department. While in Nashville, they were members of Donelson Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church. They served in this capacity for five years until 1968.

In 1968, God called the Vandivorts back to Missouri to serve as missionaries at the Columbia Free Will Baptist Church. This was a joint project between the National Home Missions Board and the Missouri State Mission Board. Mark indicated, "The Copper Mines Church was significantly involved in our Columbia, Missouri, ministry. A large delegation from Copper Mines laid the hardwood floor and other carpenter details." This happened on October 20, 1973. The group from Copper Mines was accompanied by women from the church that helped with preparation of meals. The Vandivorts' ministry in Columbia lasted eight years until 1976. When they left, the Columbia Free Will Baptist Church had paid more back to the Free Will Baptist denomination than was spent establishing the church.

In 1976, the Vandivorts were called to be home missionaries at the Sunset Free Will Baptist Church in Flagstaff, Arizona. Although they did not know it at the time, this would be their longest tenured service, and would be their last calling as missionaries. They relate, "Early on during our Flagstaff, Arizona, ministry, we received a gift from Copper Mines. It was the exact amount needed to put a down payment on a piece of property on U.S. Hwy. 89. Later the Sunset FWB Church sold that property and purchased 2-1/2 acres at another location on U.S. Hwy. 89. When we retired as home missionaries, the debt-free property was deeded to the National Home Missions Department along with \$40,000 in cash."

The Vandivorts retired from missionary service in 1998. Although retired, for two years they continued attending the North Peaks Free Will Baptist Church (same church – name change), serving as Sunday School teachers, under the direction of Home Missionary Steve Robinson. Currently, the Flagstaff ministry continues under the leadership of Home Missionary Paul Hammons and the Peaks Community Free Will Baptist Church.

While serving as missionaries, the Vandivorts raised five children. They are:



Andrew M. Vandivort, Tucson, Arizona;
Philip J. Vandivort, Tucson, Arizona;
Stephen S. Vandivort, Brier (Seattle),
Washington;
Bethany L. (Vandivort) Lewis, Norman,
Oklahoma; and
Deborah J. (Vandivort) Hayes, Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma.

Altogether, they have fourteen
grandchildren. In 2000, Mark and Louise
moved to Oklahoma to be closer to their

daughters. They are members of the Cross Pointe Free Will Baptist Church, Norman,
Oklahoma.

During their missionary career, the Vandivorts were frequent visitors at Copper Mines Church. Naturally, Louise liked to visit as often as possible to see her mother and siblings. From 1959 to 1993, church records indicate they were in Copper Mines services on at least sixteen occasions. Copper Mines was always thankful when they visited. They were the first missionaries from the church. They were “our” missionaries, and it was a pleasure to support them prayerfully and financially. When contributing information for this story, Louise wrote, “I owe a great debt of gratitude to the pastors and people of Copper Mines Church, going back to my earliest memories as a little girl. I always felt love and encouragement there. Mark and I began our home mission ministry in 1960. Copper Mines was always behind us, supporting us with their love, prayers, and finances. Their investments in ministry have eternal value. Many lives have truly been changed.”

Copper Mines Church is thankful for the Vandivorts, for the sacrifices they have made, and their willingness to heed God’s calling for so many years. In many ways, when the Vandivorts were called to serve, Copper Mines Church was called to support.

Written by: Lon Edward Rehkop, Mark Vandivort, and Louise Vandivort

JEFF AND CINDY (CALHOUN) YOUNG



Jeff was born November 25, 1963, at Rockford, Illinois. He is the son of Gerold and Carolyn Young. His sisters and brother are Renee Wyatt, Tiffany Johnson and Rick Young. Jeff graduated from Doniphan High School in May 1981, and from the Arkansas Police Academy in 1988. He is employed at Farmington Correctional Center. Jeff was saved at Pilgrim's Rest Church, Fairdealing, Missouri in 1979. He was baptized in the church baptistery.

Cindy was born May 30, 1964, at Joliet, Illinois. She is the daughter of Junior and Bonnie Calhoun. She has one brother, Jeff Calhoun. Cindy graduated from Doniphan High School in May 1982 and Mineral Area College in 2003. She is employed at Eastern Reception Diagnostic Correctional Center at Bonne Terre. Cindy was saved on June 16, 1976, at Bible Camp and was baptized that same

year in Black River.

Jeff and Cindy were high school sweethearts and were married on June 26, 1982 at Pilgrims Rest Church, Fairdealing, Missouri. Jeff joined the Army that same year. He was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne for four years. On October 3, 1985, Stephanie Nicole Young was born at Fayetteville, North Carolina. Jeff left the service and worked for the Jonesboro Police Department in Arkansas. He returned to a career with the Army in 1989. He was attached to the Special Forces Group in Germany. They lived in Bad Toelz and Boeblingen, Germany, for over three years. Stephanie went to military schools while living there. During this assignment they were able to travel to many countries in Europe. Jeff broke his back on a parachute jump and was medically discharged from the Army.

Jeff, Cindy, and Stephanie returned to their hometown of Doniphan, Missouri, to be close to their parents and grandparents. Stephanie went to a Christian School third to fifth grade in Fairdealing, Missouri. She was saved while she was at school in 1995 and baptized that same year. Jeff was hired at Farmington Correctional Center in November 1996. They decided to choose the town of Fredericktown as their home in February 1997, because they liked the small town atmosphere. Cindy was working for the State of Missouri in Poplar Bluff and transferred to Farmington Correctional Center in May of 1997. Stephanie graduated from Fredericktown High School in May 2003. She went to SEMO Barber Academy and received her license in January 2004.

Cindy became a member at Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church in 2005. She enjoys being part of the ladies group "Hearts For Him". She is an assistant teacher for the Juniors Sunday School Class and assists with Vacation Bible School.