

# Mountaineer Christian Ashram



United  
CHRISTIAN  
ASHRAMS

November 2017

## "My First Ashram" by Scott Heath

During my mid-teens and early twenties while attending church with my mother I would hear my preacher and his family talk about attending this thing called Ashram at Parchment Valley. Those who attended the Ashram kept saying it was a weekend to spend with God, and offered a quiet and relaxing family type atmosphere.

Finally, I gave the Ashram a chance and decided to attend. The year I first attended would have been around July/August of 2000. Being recently married in February of 2000, my wife (Andrea) was a big reason why I was going. Andrea's parents were very involved in the Ashram (her Dad at that time was a United Methodist Minister and Ashram Director).

I can remember looking at the brochure and thinking about the Daily Schedule and what each day consisted of. I remember going to the "Open Heart" service and just sitting back taking it all in. I also had kept hearing those around me discuss the "Prayer Room" and signing up for a time slot to pray for a 1-hour period. I eventually signed up for a time during the early morning hours, in fact I signed up for a couple of time periods over that weekend.

As I set down and said a short prayer, I read a few short devotional books that was in the Prayer room. I then remembered opening my bible and turning to 1 John 1. I ended up reading the whole book of 1 John that night. Little did I know God was at work with me that night



Scott, Addison, Trenton & Andrea Heath

in the prayer room. The verses that kept sticking out to me were 1 John 1:5-7.

My next time spent in the Prayer Room I immediately went back to 1 John and read the book again. I found something totally amazing about reading 1 John 1:5 that says, "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." That whole book sort of just got my attention and put life in perspective for me.

On Saturday evening that weekend there was an Evangelistic Message, and immediately following the message was an Anointing Service. I had no idea what to expect, and to be honest I had never even heard of an anointing service. In short, the anointing service was basically if an individual felt the need to ask for prayer or wanted anointed with oil then one could do so by one of the individuals that was standing in the front of the service. During this service, I decided to



- > Pray for persons who will attend their first Ashram this year (whether they know it or not).
- > Pray for our Ashram family during this season of Thanksgiving.
- > Pray for the Arizona Ashram, November 10-12 in Prescott, AZ., and the Central Ontario (One-Day) Ashram, November 25, in North York, ON CANADA

**2018 Ashram Dates: August 2-5**

## My First Ashram (continued)

stop running from God, and came to accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior. With friends and my Ashram family that night in Ripley, WV I joined the family of God. My father-in-law who recently passed away this past August 2017 was the minister that night who helped lead me to Christ.

As the years have passed I've grown up (a little), and have attended many more

Ashrams. I have been blessed with two children and a wonderful loving wife. Also, I've had the opportunity to serve as both a Youth Leader and on the Board of Twelve. In closing, while life goes on one thing remains the same with the Ashram: A weekend to spend with God and his church family. If you ever have the chance to attend an Ashram try it.... you never know what God might have in store for you?

## 2018 Evangelist and Bible Teacher Announced

### Evangelist:

Richard Looney was born in the Methodist parsonage at Hillsville, VA. He graduated from Emory and Henry College and Candler School of



Theology, with additional study in the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and Union Theological Seminary.

A member of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, Richard served churches in Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee. He was elected to the episcopacy in 1988 and oversaw the South Georgia Area until his retirement in 2000.

He is the Episcopal Director Emeritus of the Foundation on Evangelism, Lake Junaluska, N.C. He was been an Evangelist or Bible Teacher for numerous ashrams, and is an honorary Board Member for the United Christian Ashrams.

He was married to Carolyn for 51 years until her death in 2009. They had 3 children and 3 grandsons.

### Bible Teacher:

Victor Hamilton is married to Shirley, and they have been married 52 years. They have 4 adult children and 13 grandchildren. He has degrees from Houghton College, Asbury Seminary and Brandeis University.



Vic taught Old Testament in the department of Religion at Asbury College/University in Wilmore, KY for 36 years (from 1971-2007). In addition to teaching, he also wrote several commentaries. For the last 34 years he has preached one Sunday a month (through an interpreter) at a local non-denominational Chinese Church. Vic has also had the privilege over the years to preach and teach at camp meetings, and most recently in Beijing and Moscow.

Vic and Shirley's favorite things to do include attending their grandchildren's events, swimming, doing a lot of walking together, visiting family in Toronto, and walking the beach in South Carolina.

## Special Dates



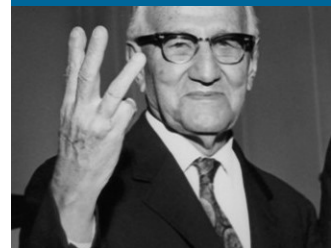
## Birthdays

None this month



## Anniversary

11/16 Staley & Sarah Lough



November's Stanley Snippet:

"Today I shall let people see the definition of a Christian - in me."  
E. Stanley Jones, "The Way."