

Show Me Your Glory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

June 2018

Building Relationships that Last

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. Hebrews 10:36



Richard and Shirley Mason are teachers at heart. Both have served as educators in their professional lives and as Sunday School teachers all of their adult lives. They have an interest in encouraging young people, and that is evident when you spend time with them.

Richard grew up on a farm south of Mt. Erie and loved sports as a child. He played baseball in high school and at Eastern Illinois University. His love of sports led him to a degree in Physical Education. After graduating from college he returned to the Cisne area to begin a career in education. He taught at the Cisne elementary school and coached sports there as well. He had come to know Christ as a teenager attending church at the West Methodist Church in Mt. Erie. He was taught under Ralph Smith who loved the Lord and taught those around him the truth of scriptures. After coming to faith in Christ as his Savior, Richard was baptized in the Little

Wabash River later that same year.

Shirley grew up in Cisne in a Christian home knowing about Jesus in her mind for a long time before she professed her belief publically. Her mother knew Shirley was under conviction, and when a revival came around she told the evangelist not to scare her the other way. Shirley didn't know that, and when the evangelist made his way through the crowd she thought he was coming for her, so she went the other way straight to the altar. She confessed her sins and was baptized later in a creek that runs near Enterprise.

How they came to be the Masons started after Richard was teaching school in Cisne. The pretty cheerleader caught his eye and he started visiting the high school coach more often just to see her. He pursued her, but she was reluctant to date. When he finally got her to agree to a date, they double dated with his brother and his date to a movie in Olney. After that date, Shirley told him she just wanted to be friends, but Richard persevered, pursued her, and the rest is history.

The Masons will be celebrating 56 years of marriage on June 23, 2018. Their marriage has taken them from Cisne to Stillman Valley to Charleston to Olney and finally to Fairfield where they have made their home for the last 40 plus years. They joined First Baptist Church after a visit from Chester Phillips and David Dean walking across the muddy yard to invite them. They enjoy spending time with their children, Lisa and Leslie, and visiting the farm where Richard was raised.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Richard Mason was mentored in his Christian walk by Ralph Smith. Ralph was the Sunday School teacher that taught him the truth of the Gospel and left a lasting impression on him. Richard was blessed a few years ago to minister to Ralph's wife through the Brookstone service and she was encouraged to see the Christian man Richard had become. That same spirit of encouragement and mentoring is very present in Richard in how he lives his life today. There is a long list of people who have been encouraged by both Richard and Shirley.

Richard has served as a teacher, coach, Sunday School teacher, and friend to many people over the years, and those relationships last. Keith Hooper helped his dad build the Mason's house, and when Richard would witness to him, Keith always said he would believe someday. That day came and Keith is now serving as a Deacon alongside Richard. On the trip to Israel the Masons took over 20 years ago they discovered a Baptist church and visited with the pastor; they still exchange Christmas cards all these years later. Shirley shared that Richard always enjoyed traveling to Southwest Seminary when he served on the foundation board because he got to meet students and learn where they were from and encourage them. Richard formed a friendship with a young man at the Rotary Christmas a couple of years ago and that young man sometimes comes to church and sits with Richard. He has encouraged many students in their pursuit of education and career. His lasting legacy at Frontier will stand as the founding President. He was able to combine his love of sports and education when he was the one throwing out the first pitch when the Bobcats baseball began.

Shirley has served faithfully beside him for 56 years. When they married after she graduated high school, they started a family fairly quickly and she will tell you her job was to be a wife and mother. While Richard pursued his education Shirley faithfully followed and took care of the home and the children. It wasn't until the kids were older that she pursued college and a career. Shirley also has the gift of encouragement, having spent many years with a writing ministry to prisoners. She doesn't brag about that ministry, but she has been faithful to encourage those who need it the most. She was concerned when she moved from teaching youth to teaching senior ladies that she could be effective, but she is still encouraging all ages. Shirley feels that her grandmother served as the Christian mentor she needed, always taking time to share a kind word and serve those around her.

Today you will still find them encouraging young people. Richard is a sought after guest for children's presentations with his collections of bugs, butterflies, and moths. Some of the bugs in his collection are over 30 years old, but the kids never get tired of seeing them, and Richard doesn't get tired of sharing them. He has served as a coach for different sports over the years, and you can still find him cheering on local athletes at high school games, the newly formed Frontier Bobcats, and always the St. Louis Cardinals.

Richard and Shirley were served by faithful mentors and they learned well under them. There are many people today that will identify that the Masons are that same kind of faithful mentor. We are blessed to see their faithfulness in action and pray that God will continue to bless them with good health and strength for service. They are very active, still traveling, gardening, walking, teaching, and loving Christ. Praise God for their example to us.

Vacation Bible School 2018

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.
2 Peter 1:3





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Sermon Broadcast on WFIW 1390 at 10:45 each Sunday

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus
Robert Lowry 1876

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Naught of good that I have done:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

When this hymn was first published in 1876, Hebrews 9:22 was quoted underneath the title: “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.” This song elaborates on that idea, repeatedly stating that “nothing but the blood of Jesus” purifies us. The third stanza acknowledges that “naught of good that I have done” can save. As the hymn is sung, contemplate the significance of sin in separating us from God, and the great value of Jesus's work on the cross.

[https://hymnary.org/text/
what_can_wash_away_my_sin](https://hymnary.org/text/what_can_wash_away_my_sin)