

MILESTONES

We all have times in our lives when we look back at the milestones. This month around the 13th of June there are many milestones I reflect upon. It is neat to be ordained on the 13th because of all the meaning that it has for me. On June 9th I will be 60 years old (hard to believe). On the 24th of May Rachel and I were married for 30 years. In June I will have been in the ministry for 20 years. This summer is my tenth year of directing summer camp. It seems that every ten years there is a significant thing that happens in my life.

When I think of the ordination it has been a long journey with serving four churches during that time and many special moments have happened at each of the churches. I have had the privilege to baptize over 200 people in the last twenty years. Many of them are still in churches and serving God in a variety of ways. Nothing could be more rewarding than that.

Some may wonder why it took so long to be ordained. At the age of twenty one I left the Air Force and after a week at home my mother passed away and my father married the woman he had been seeing two weeks later. I had a choice to make. I could go back to the service or go to college through the GI bill. Life had another plan and that was to take care of my oldest brother the last three years of high school. Dad did not want to take care of him any longer and gave me 25 dollars a month to take care of him. I had to find a job quick as it takes money to raise children.

After a year of marriage my dad was having problems with my youngest brother and said either I would take him or he would send him to a military school. So life gave me another detour of taking care of a family instead of pursuing a college degree. I worked for Pittsburg Steel Corporation and made pretty good money. After the boys were out of school I moved to Paola, Kansas where Rachel and I met and were married.

We began going to the First Baptist Church at Paola and I was the youth leader for several years. I taught Sunday school, and sang in the choir and began discipleship classes with our pastor and friend Richard Crooks. After several years more and more of time was spent doing God's work. I went forward at 39 years old and answered God's calling to go into the ministry. We picked up our family and left for seminary. Because of my age I was able to get a Diploma degree.

Ordination for many years in the denomination for Diploma students meant that at each church you were called to you would have to be ordained all over again making it a lot of work. Not too long ago the denomination changed the policy to where once you are ordained then that ordination is recognized by all churches of the ABC.

So after 20 years of ministry on the 13th of June I will be ordained. Richard Crooks will be here to help us celebrate this day as well as many friends from the past. I hope that you will be here to help in that celebration. We have a GREAT church here with fantastic people with special gifts. Come and help us celebrate the goodness and the grace of God.

Pastor Steve