

Reflecting on Ninety: A History of the CARBC

As we enter the 90th year of the CARBC, we plan to share articles from our historical archives. The following article is condensed from the Hall of Faith of the CARBC, written by David Hollingsworth.

Mildred Seitz Miller was born on Sept. 30, 1919, in Cleveland, Ohio, raised Roman Catholic and educated in parochial schools. Mildred's father was a baker who had an alcohol addiction. Mildred became a "rum-runner" during Prohibition.

When she was 15, Mildred was introduced to Thomas Miller by a cousin. At 18, she and Thomas wanted to marry, but her stepfather forbade them. Various compromises were reached to allow them to marry, but each time permission was withdrawn. So on Oct. 30, 1938, the two ran away to West Virginia to be married.

Tom Miller took Mildred to early morning Mass at a Roman Catholic church and then to services at a Methodist church. After a few Sundays, the Methodist church asked her to teach a children's Sunday School class. She had never learned Bible verses before and was now to teach the children the Twenty-third Psalm. This experience began to open her eyes to the truth. During an evening evangelistic service at the Methodist church, the plan of salvation was made clear, and Mildred received the Lord that evening.

As young Christians, the Millers made one of the most important decisions of their lives when they decided to become part of Brookside Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Mildred went to Child Evangelism classes, where she accumulated all of her teaching materials and learned to paint flannelboard backgrounds.

In October 1949, she and Tom moved to Wenatchee, Wash. Tom continued in the hardware business. Mildred continued her Child Evangelism ministry and played her guitar when Tom preached at jail services.

In 1953, Tom became the founding pastor of First Baptist Church of East Wenatchee. From 1960 to 1968, Tom pastored Trinity Baptist Church in El Cerrito, Calif., and later pastored First Baptist Church of Sebastopol (1968–1972). During their years at Sebastopol, Mildred helped Tom with the publication of the *CARBC Messenger* and continued as temporary editor after his death (1972–1974).

Mildred Miller died Oct. 15, 1986, in Citrus Heights, Calif. She had two children, David F. Miller (former CARBC pastor and professor and president of Corban University) and Leela L. Einer (wife of former CARBC pastor David Einer). Mildred touched many lives for the glory of God and will be remembered for her loving servant's heart.

New Pastor in Brawley

"It started with a passion for the Word." That is how Pastor Ekkie Tepsupornchai characterizes the beginning of God's work in his heart for pastoral ministry. Saved as an adult, Ekkie immediately immersed himself in Bible and theology classes at his church, Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif. "It was like being in a dark room," he describes, "and suddenly, almost immediately, there were a series of lights turning on in that dark room. There were things in the Bible that I could understand that I couldn't understand before."

Ekkie had earned a BS in Computer Science and Engineering from UCLA and was working full-time as a business and IT consultant. But as he discovered, "My work was getting in the way of my desire to do ministry." Ekkie's call and gifts became increasingly evident as he pursued his studies at The Master's Seminary and continued teaching at his church. Since his graduation from seminary in 2016, he has taught internationally in Ukraine and Thailand. His heritage is Thai, though he was born and raised in Southern California.

On July 7, 2019, Ekkie was installed as pastor at Western Avenue Baptist Church in Brawley. CARBC Representative Bruce McLain and his wife, Margie, attended and were delighted to meet Pastor Tepsupornchai and his wife, Alice. We welcome them to the CARBC family and praise God for His work in their lives in bringing them to faith, to vocational ministry, and to Brawley.



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Westwood Working at Victory Ranch

By Chips Ross

Little is much with God. I know this truth, but I find that I have to keep learning it.

When I sprung the idea of taking a missions trip to help Victory Ranch on our church ministry leaders, I wasn't expecting much enthusiasm. Rather, I expected questions about details and logistics and things I hadn't yet thought about. While they did ask questions, they were also enthusiastic. The small idea had a start!

But would their initial enthusiasm translate into a commitment to go? I prayed about having just a few go—we had ten. Double figures exceeded my expectations.

The staff at Victory Ranch were ideal to partner with. They asked good questions, gave me a project list to share with my church, adjusted to our team's abilities, and patiently assured me that anyone could help, including youth.

It wasn't a perfect trip. We didn't always get along as a team. We didn't always know what we were doing.

But little is much with God. We accomplished our main project—removing the old wood from a hay wagon. We installed some of the new wood for the wagon, prepared sports equipment, removed olive suckers from trees, helped start a massive brush-clearing project, and more.

It wasn't just the doing that made the trip so blessed: doors opened for good heart-to-heart talks; prayer and devotional times were valuable.

The trip is the start of how God is at work in our church. It's also the continuation of how God is changing us to be more like Christ.

Little is not only much with God, but also much in a conversation with a teenager. "That was cool, Pastor. Thanks!"

