

History of CBM Ministries

CBM Ministries also known as Children's Bible Ministries:

In 1935, Mr. Walter Jenson, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, founded Children's Bible Mission (CBM Ministries) in response to his burden to reach boys and girls with the Gospel. His method was to go into the public schools and teach God's Word, motivating the children to learn and memorize Scripture by offering, as an incentive, the opportunity to attend a summer Bible Camp. That first year, 47 children earned the privilege to attend Bible Camp, and 16 accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. The work of CBM Ministries, as it became known later, quickly spread from Florida to Pennsylvania, reaching thousands of public school boys and girls.



CBM's work was started in North Alabama by W.A. Hunt of Sylvania, AL. Mr. Hunt was affectionately known as "The Bible Man" to hundreds of school-age children and young people of DeKalb and Jackson counties, which he visited in school on a regular basis beginning in 1935 and continued until his death in 1968. During those years, campers were transported to rental camps in other areas. Miss Bess Robertson served as Camp Director at these rental locations from 1970 - 1976. For several years after Brother Hunt's passing, Miss Bess Robertson and Miss Elsie Bailey came up from Birmingham to carry on the work of Released Time in this area. Miss Bess and Miss Elsie were also graduates of Moody Bible Institute.

The same objective that founded the ministry, has remained through the years, as CBM continues to reach boys and girls in public schools through our Released Time program. We have continued Mr. Jenson's incentive program to attend a week of Ponderosa Bible Camp, through The Mailbox Club correspondence Bible lessons. Completion of 1 course of Mailbox Club Lessons earns a camper \$25 off the price of a week of summer camp. In addition, completing the required Scripture memory verses earns a camper an additional \$25 off the price of coming to camp.

This ministry has expanded to meet the needs of such groups as college and career adults, senior citizens, and homeschoolers.

CBM Motto "Win A Child . . . Win A Life!

It is better to mold boys and girls than to mend men and women. We want to win them while they are young so they will be spared the tragedies of sin and be free to serve God with their entire lives.

CBM Ministries' National Office is located in Townsend, TN.

Currently there are 9 CBM Ministry locations across the eastern US from Florida to New York.

History of Ponderosa Bible Camp

The original "Camp Ponderosa" was built of rustic western cedar lumber in the mid 1960's by two psychology professors from the University of Alabama.

In 1976, Miss Bess Robertson discovered the property for sale, and CBM Ministries of North AL purchased the 80 acre camp, complete with 6 cabins, dining hall/kitchen, 2 small guest cabins, and craft building. In 1986, a 30' X 70' swimming pool and multi-purpose gymnasium were constructed. Dormitories and locker rooms within the gym were completed over the next 2 1/2 years. In 2000, thanks to an anonymous donation of \$72,000, construction of a new 2-story Chapel was finished, complete with central heat and air. The bottom floor of this building is now the Ponderosa Student Ministries Office. Thanks be to God, who supplies our every need!

Mr. Glenn Miller served as the first Camp Director from 1976 to 1999. Jeff Nelson was named Interim Director in 1999. In January 2003, the Board of Directors officially named Jeff Nelson, Executive Director.

In 2006 we changed our name to Ponderosa Student Ministries to reflect all the areas of ministry in which we are involved:

Ponderosa Bible Camp & Retreat Center

Ponderosa Public School Ministry aka Dekalb County Released Time

Ponderosa Mailbox Club Ministry

Ponderosa Hospitality Ministry

Ponderosa Student Ministries and Ponderosa Bible Camp's purpose is to help boys and girls to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, to help them develop Christ-centered personalities, to be witnesses for Him, and to be effective members of their local churches. The Bible is taught as the Word of God, and the authority for faith and conduct.