

# LOCAL NEWS

## A man on a mission for God

### Visit to New York City leads many hearts to Christ; Strickland makes TV appearance

by Monica Magee Glisson  
Editor, *The Advance Yeoman*

Paul Strickland, of LaCenter, is a man on a mission for God. Wherever he goes he carries along Gideon Bibles and tracts telling about the plan of salvation, which he gives out to all he meets.

Recently Strickland, along with his daughter, Suzie Nutt and granddaughter, Paige Harper, both of LaCenter, visited New York City to attend the Billy Graham Crusade event. The three spent three nights in Times Square.

After arriving in New York, Strickland visited two hotels telling tourists and employees about God and the plan of salvation. He had his Gideon Bibles shipped to his hotel prior to leaving Ballard.

The highlight of Strickland's trip was visiting the Today Show, where he met Ann Curry.

"I gave her some tracts and a Bible," Strickland said. "I told her that Princess Diana had kissed me on my left cheek, so she kissed me on my right cheek."

What happened next was God's work.

"Ann had to go back on camera, so she laid her tracts and Bible on a TV set. The wind picked up and blew the tracts off to the people in the audience. It was God's work," Strickland said with a smile.

The following day Strickland returned to the set of the Today Show with his daughter and granddaughter, who had made him a sign for the event.

"They made me a sign that said, 'Granddaddy got kissed by number one Princess Diana in London, number two Ann Curry right here, number three will it be Amy Grant?'," Strickland commented.

Two young ladies beat Grant to the kiss. Natalie Morales kissed Strickland twice on the cheek telling him that he was the "perfect southern gentleman."

Next a girl from California got in on the act.

Finally, Grant hugged and kissed Strickland, while the Today Show crew taped them. The poster was also taped.

"I was interviewed on camera. They asked who I was, where I was from and so on. The guy filming said that I was the highlight of the morning show,"

Strickland said.

Throughout the trip Strickland said the many people from various places gave their hearts to Christ.

In Flushing Meadow, the three attended the Billy Graham Crusade. On Saturday morning the event was geared towards small kids, while the evening was for teenagers.

The three visited Macy's, the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and Ground Zero.

"The whole thing was fabulous," Strickland commented. "People gave their hearts everywhere."

This was not Strickland's first New York City trip. About 60 years ago when stationed in Maryland he made his first trip to the Big Apple. In 1965 he attended the World's Fair there. Throughout the years, he has visited the city on and off. His daughter had also visited New York City, but it was Paige's first trip.

Strickland has worked with Billy Graham in seven states.

*Look for more about Strickland's work in next week's Advance Yeoman.*

# SOCIETY

**A man on a mission for God**

## **Strickland shares God with many at Mary Kay Convention in Dallas**

by **Monica Magee Glisson**  
Editor, The Advance Yeoman

Wherever Paul Strickland, of LaCenter, travels his Gideon Bibles and plan of salvation tracts are always close by. As he visits other areas of the world, he always leaves God's word behind. He is a man on a mission for God.

In late July, Strickland and his wife, Lou Nelle, a Mary Kay representative, attended the Mary Kay Convention in Dallas, Texas.

"People gave their hearts to Christ during the entire trip, from start to finish," Strickland said with smile.

Upon arriving at the convention, about 8,000 people were preparing to leave and another 8,000 were arriving.

Upon boarding a bus, the driver greeted Strickland with, "Hi, Paul." It turned out this driver was one that had driven Strickland in New York City a month prior during the Billy

Graham Crusades.

Strickland was excited to receive hugs and kisses from all the girls on the bus. "They wanted to kiss me and have their picture made with me because I was sharing Jesus Christ," Strickland commented.

Due to a heart condition, Strickland can not carry over five pounds. This allows him to make more trips to his car to get more Bibles and tracts. Those trips to and from the car lead to more souls won.

On one trip to the car, Strickland saw a group gathered around a girl who was crying with joy. As he went to witness to them, he was told that the girl's director had just led her to Christ.

"They had just prayed for a Bible. God sent me there and there I was with a Bible," said Strickland.

The twist to this story is that the director that led the girl to Christ was led to Christ by Strickland at last year's conven-



**Paul Strickland**

tion.

After leaving Dallas, the Stricklands visited Western Texas and New Mexico. Many gave their hearts to Christ in these areas also.

"I want to stress that it is God doing the work not me," Strickland commented. "All glory to God."

## A MAN ON A MISSION FOR GOD

# Strickland relives 3,000 mile mission trip for God

by **Monica Magee Glisson**  
Editor, *The Advance Yeoman*

In mid-October LaCenter's Paul Strickland, along with his wife LouNelle, traveled by car through six states. "People gave their hearts to Christ during the entire trip," Strickland said.

The return trip home brought the couple across Illinois and Indiana and gave Strickland the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with even more people.

The Stricklands spent three nights in Jackson, MI where many gave their hearts to Christ including a teenage boy.

On their way to Lansing, MI, where Strickland has deeded to farm, many gave their hearts to Christ.

The couple attended Grace Baptist Church in Jackson where many of the members are originally from Kentucky.

The next night was spent in Wisconsin where Strickland has two farms. Many gave their hearts to Christ including a 13-year-old girl, who was with her mother. They had moved to

South Bend, IN from Minnesota. This family assisted the Stricklands in finding a certain place in Minnesota, where Amy lived.

Amy, 19, worked with the Billy Graham Crusades in New York City in June. Amy had driven Strickland around in Flushing Meadows in a golf cart as he couldn't walk that much due to his heart problems.

Strickland worked all four services at the crusade and was interviewed twice during it. He and Amy had shared Jesus Christ together to many.

"Amy was timid to begin with, but after working with me she would walk or drive right up and share Jesus Christ," Strickland said. "God put us together. I think she will be a missionary someday."

While in New York City, Amy was like a mother hen to Strickland, taking good care of him.

Strickland worked with Amy's father many years ago, as her father worked as a trainer with Billy Graham Crusades for

25 years.

Two of Strickland's Minnesota farms are located about 45 miles from Amy's family.

Strickland stayed at the Mall of American in Twin City, MN. Amy had breakfast with him one morning. This breakfast led to two giving their hearts to Christ. Many more in Minnesota gave their hearts to Christ.

Iowa was the next stop on the Stricklands trip. Many there gave their hearts to Christ, including a Hindu man, who was the manager of the motel where they stayed.

The next night the couple got tired and decided to stay in Effingham, IL. "I know why we pulled in," Strickland said. "It was because it was what God wanted."

The girl working at the motel's front desk was a church member, but had never given her heart to Christ. Strickland talked with her and she gave her heart on the spot.

"All glory to God," Strickland said with a smile.

BALLARD FARMER GIVES GLORY TO GOD  
FOR TITLE AS 'NO. 1 SOUL-WINNER.'

# Strickland passes out Bibles with smile

By Angie Kinsey, The Paducah Sun

LA CENTER, Ky.

**A**s the owner of 25 farms in nine states, Paul Strickland knows all about planting. But the most important seeds he sows are spiritual, he said.

"I started buying land in 1957 and I kept on buying," Strickland said. "After I had my heart attack, I was not able to farm my land, so I started buying out-of-state. The primary purpose of buying the farmland is so I can share Jesus Christ with people.

"The Gideons (International) say I buy and give away more Gideon Bibles than anyone in the world. Some years I buy and give away 10,000 Bibles and more than 100,000 tracts. They say I'm the No. 1 soul-winner in the world. But I give all the glory to God."

Strickland, 75, farms in Ballard and Christian counties in Kentucky. His other farms are in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas.

"I own primarily corn," he said. "In Minnesota, I grow Green Giant peas, corn, and soybeans. In Wisconsin, it's corn, spearmint, peppermint, plus other things. I've got 19 oil wells in Kansas. In Texas, we grow cotton, wheat, and corn."

Strickland and his wife, Lou Nelle, frequently travel to the farms, and he passes out Bible and tracts to everyone he encounters along the way. "People are very receptive," he said. "They are just wanting to hear about Jesus Christ. Practically 100 percent give their heart to Christ."

Strickland, a La Center native, has been a member of La Center First Baptist Church most of his life. After serving in the Army, Strickland majored in industrial administration at the University of Kentucky. "They started building the (Paducah Gaseous Diffusion) Plant and I went out there when the plant started up. I was hired in 1952. In 1983 I was in charge of two buildings and a \$15 million budget and I had a massive heart attack. I was unable to work for awhile."

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— Paul Strickland

Strickland eventually went back to work as a consultant. "They still call me up to pick my brain," he said,

Strickland began handing out Bibles after he joined the Gideons International in 1979. He said he shares the gospel with people he meets on the farm, in gas stations, courthouses, airports, and even on the phone. "I have a heyday with telemarketers. They are so glad to hear a kind word and someone who will tell them of Jesus Christ. I mail them a Bible."

Strickland has also been on mission trips to Europe and Central and South America. He met Princess Diana on a trip to England. "I met her on the street and witnessed to them like they were anybody else. To me a soul is a soul, whether it comes out of a gutter or is a princess. She hugged and kissed me and said, 'How sweet that you're in London sharing Jesus Christ with us.'"

Strickland said he has kept in touch with many of the people he has met on trips. "Nobody treats me bad. I take pictures of them and get their names and addresses. I need a personal secretary because it's thousands of these people all over the world. I get a lot of letters and every month I have money to turn into the Gideons."

While he's home, Strickland teaches Sunday School to residents at Life Care Center of La Center and he visits the Ballard County Jail.

This year he hopes to go on another mission trip to Poland. "I want to share Jesus Christ with as many people in the world as I can," he said. "I want to go wherever He leads me and do the best I can."



Angie  
**Evangelizing to all:** Paul Strickland even uses telemarketing calls as a chance to spread the gospel.