

## SELF REFLECTS ON BRUSH WITH DEATH

By **JILL THOMAS**  
Herald-Citizen Staff

**PUTNAM COUNTY** -- A month after the accident which shattered his knee, knocked out four of his teeth and nearly caused his tongue to be severed, the **Rev. Larry Self** is cracking jokes and talking about the lessons he's been learning.

On his desk sits a key chain a friend sent him after the accident. A silver oval is attached to a chain and on it are the words "Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly."

Self's guardian angel was flying right beside him when a drunk driver crashed directly into Self's car on Fairground Lane in early July.

"At first I thought I'd dreamed the accident, but when we got to the hospital the staff kept telling me it wasn't a dream. The next morning I thought I'd dreamed going into surgery, but they kept assuring me the surgery was done and finished. I was so relieved. I didn't want to have to go through surgery and here it was done and I'd slept through it," he said.

Even now, though, when Self stands with the help of crutches, his bent knee looks fragile.

"They had to put a lot of plates and screws in it," he said.

Is he concerned about becoming magnetized with all that metal in his knee?

"No, but I am worried about how I'm going to get through airport security," he joked. "I can't put any weight on it yet, but I'm hoping when I go in Aug. 30 that the doctor will allow me to start putting some weight on the knee.

Meanwhile I'm strengthening it with physical therapy," he said. "It's a little rough."

"I've remembered a number of cuss words that I thought were gone forever. They tell me if you come out of physical therapy and don't hate your therapist he didn't do his job," he laughed.

"And, oh, yes, don't eat breakfast before therapy. When the nausea hits you don't want to have a full stomach!"

In addition to a shattered knee, Self had to have 20 stitches on his tongue where he bit through it when the accident occurred.

"It was about cut in half," Self said.

"I figured after that I'd be able to talk twice as fast."

The tongue has pretty well healed. New teeth have replaced the ones that were lost in the crash, but the leg is still fragile and vulnerable.

Until it heals, the director of the Cookeville Rescue Mission is depending on the help of friends and relatives as he negotiates his way around the mission complex.

"This has been a learning experience for me. It's the little things. Every move has to be calculated. I used to run up and down these steps a hundred times a day, now I have to plan ahead when I'm going to the office and for how long. I can't even carry a cup of coffee with me anymore because of the crutches," he said.

"For years I thought I had to be out of the house by 7:30 a.m. and get right to work.

"But this has slowed me down and I've begun to have time to have breakfast with **Betty (his wife)**, and that has turned out to be a blessing," he said.

"I've learned that my deadly fear of needles disappeared when I found out how much those needles helped with pain control."

But the very pain that seemed excruciating to the 60 year old minister, turned out to affect the biggest lesson of all.

"I learned that when it hurts, all you want is for it to stop, for something to relieve the pain. That made me think about people who turn to drugs or alcohol. It's because they want to stop hurting.

"As a society, we need to get at the cause of a person's pain, not just provide alternative methods of pain control," he said.

At first Self assumed the accident would be a minor inconvenience.

"To show how naive I was, Saturday night after the accident I assumed the doctor would give me a walking cast that night and I'd be preaching the next day. When I learned I'd be having surgery, I figured I would have to take a day off.

"Now I've learned this is not going to be a quick thing, but my doctor says if I follow through with the physical therapy I should be back to riding my bike, running, and swimming with the grandchildren. But it won't be for a while," he said.

"I've lost a summer with my grandchildren, but what I've learned may be worth it."

Self's opinion of the driver who ran into him is one of forgiveness.

"Anyone who drinks doesn't need to get into a car. Obviously he has a lot of problems," Self said.

Meanwhile the Rescue Mission continues to function. After taking a rest for two Sundays in a row, Self is back in the pulpit and organizing the final days for "Shoes for Orphan Souls" on Aug. 27 -- where the Rescue Mission is accepting donations of new shoes, socks and shoe laces for children in Botswana, China, Guatemala, Kenya, Latvia, Romania, and Russia.

"It's unreal all the kindness that's poured out to me -- cards from the staff, from children, from people who live in the housing projects up to the president and first lady of Tennessee Tech," Self said.

"The concern has come from so many directions,

"It's kind of like dying and getting to go the funeral!"

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## SHOES FOR ORPHANS

**Jill Thomas**  
Herald-Citizen Staff

**PUTNAM COUNTY** -- The old spiritual goes, "All God's children got shoes." Larry Self, director of the Cookeville Rescue Mission is taking those words to heart and is collecting new shoes, socks and shoelaces to send to orphaned children in Botswana, China, Guatemala, Kenya, Latvia, Romania and Russia.

"We've been asking people to donate either money or the shoes for several weeks now. This is all going to come together on Saturday (Aug. 27) at our great Shoe Collection Event," he said.

"We'll have music and food, games and all sorts of other activities. But mainly we'll be collecting those shoes."

The Cookeville Rescue Mission is partnering with Moody Broadcasting and Buckner Orphan Care International to collect the shoes that will be sent to the children this fall -- many of whom may have never had shoes before.

"These are children without parents or caregivers, many of whom live in orphanages due to the social upheaval in their countries. For these children every day is a struggle just to obtain the basic necessities of life such as food and clothing," Self said.

The shoes, socks and shoelaces must be NEW and are needed for children birth to age 18, sizes youth 1 -- adult 10. There is a special need for warm shoes for teenagers, sizes 3 -- 9. Athletic shoes, popular with most kids around the globe, are the type of shoe most needed.

Donations from individuals, churches, local businesses, and service groups or organizations are welcome.

Those who can't attend Saturdays celebration are invited to bring their donations to the Rescue Mission's thrift store this week between the hours of 8:30 a.m. -- 4 p.m. The Shoe Collection Event will take place on Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.

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*(Larry Self is the half brother of Sam Denny of Long Branch, TN. \*See Obt. of Sam Denny).*

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Cookeville Rescue Mission workers and supporters help spread the word about the Rescue Mission's Shoe Collection Event this Saturday. From left are Julie Briggs, project coordinator, Tom Briggs from the Rescue Mission, Jim Kmet from Great Harvest Bread Co., Larry Self, director of Cookeville Rescue Mission, Gary Foster of the Rescue Mission, Margaret Ridley, Rescue Mission secretary, and Diane Fox, church member and volunteer. \* Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea



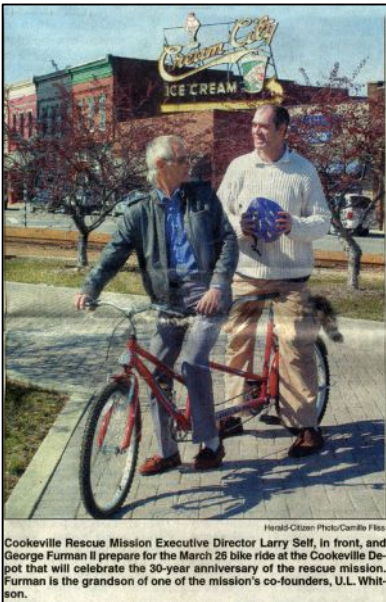


Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN  
1 January 2006, pg. D-4

Sun Trust Bank recently donated \$400 to the Cookeville Rescue Mission to help feed those in need. From left are Larry Self, Cookeville Rescue Mission Director and Deborah Morris and Barbara Wright of the Sun Trust team managers charitable contribution committee.

## Rescue Mission to mark 30 years with bike-a-thon from old location to new

**Lindsay McReynolds**  
Herald-Citizen Staff



Herald-Citizen Photo/Camille Fries  
Cookeville Rescue Mission Executive Director Larry Self, in front, and George Furman II prepare for the March 25 bike ride at the Cookeville Depot that will celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the rescue mission. Furman is the grandson of one of the mission's co-founders, U.L. Whitson.

**COOKEVILLE** -- The Cookeville Rescue Mission has come a long way since it began 30 years ago in an upstairs apartment of a downtown city building.

On Sunday, March 26, mission supporters will take part in a symbolic and recreational bike ride from the mission's original location on Cedar Street to its current location at South Jefferson Avenue and Davis Road in a celebratory bike-a-thon.

"We're celebrating 30 years of the rescue mission ministry," said Larry Self, who is the executive director and co-founder of the mission. "We're inviting bike enthusiasts to participate.

"We feel like the community's been so good to us," he said. "They're so much a part of our growth. We wanted to have a fun thing for them to participate in."

Bike riders may enter the ride for a \$30 registration fee, which helps raise funds for the operating budget of the rescue mission. Up to three bike riders may sign up under one registration.

"It's not necessarily a moneymaker," Self said. "But we figured that \$1 per year of service was fair."

The 3.1-mile bike ride will begin at 2 p.m. at the Cookeville Depot, which is across the street from where the original rescue mission was located at 16 N. Cedar St., upstairs of where the New Century Bookstore is now.

From the Depot, riders will proceed to Spring Street and turn left. Then riders will turn right onto Jefferson Avenue, which they will follow all the way to the rescue mission's current location where Davis Road meets South Jefferson Avenue.

The ride will conclude with refreshments and an open house at the rescue mission lodge.

And the week prior to the bike ride, the public is invited to view the progress the rescue mission has made at an open house from March 20-26.

Although the rescue mission can now hold more than 40 people per night including separate facilities for single men, women and families, Self said the mission actually began as an outreach ministry and became an overnight place for people to stay purely by accident.

"Cedar used to be a real hopping place," Self said. "We used to go there to minister to the men."

Self, his wife, Betty, and longtime Cookeville native U.L. Whitson, who is now 92 years old, founded the Cookeville Rescue Mission as their ministry headquarters on Cedar Street.

"We hung up the Cookeville Rescue Mission sign, and then people associated us with an overnight place to stay," Self said.

Self said the mission wasn't really prepared to handle the first request he received for someone wanting to stay at the mission.

"The first person we kept overnight was a young, black man," Self said. "I said, 'Well, we really don't have a place, but if there's a need ...'"

"I took a cot and some homemade biscuits and fried chicken and said, 'You're on your own.'"

And so the Cookeville Rescue Mission became a place to stay for those who had nowhere else to go.

Self said they started out with part of the upstairs building on Cedar Street and later obtained the entire upstairs with a room for a chapel and four or five rooms for people to stay.

But the mission has never lost sight of its original purpose, teaching people about God and the Bible.

"It's a ministry," Self said. "We have a nightly devotion and church services that are required (to be attended by those while they stay at the mission).

"Some people say we're forcing religion on people," he said. "We're not. We give them a hearing. Anywhere you put the Word of God out, they see it, and they can receive it or reject it."

Self said the mission moved to its current location in 1981 by renting part of the building from a church.

"Two or three months later, they decided to sell the building," he said. "That kind of built a fire under us, and our board decided to buy it."

Self said they had about \$64,000 left to pay on the building, and the rescue mission began taking over the payments at \$1,000 per month.

Fundraisers and donations allowed the mission to pay off the building by 1985, after which the mission continued to improve the building.

"When we moved in, we had a flat-roof building," Self said. "We did have to keep males and females in one building with one shower and two toilets. It was not a good mix."

The mission was able to build a family lodge on the property that opened in 1996 and renovated a donated building that was moved to the mission's location.

Then they built the thrift store, warehouse and dental clinic, which opened in 1998.

The thrift store was previously located on Broad Street, and its proceeds help operate the rescue mission.

Self said he's really proud of the fact that the mission is able to operate on a small annual budget of approximately \$165,000 supported by donations, various fundraisers and the thrift store.

"We're in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Self said. "Just someone to answer the phones takes a big bite. For the service we provide and the hours, I think it's very commendable."

Self said the mission receives funding from a number of churches who actually have the mission as a part of their budgets and weekly offering from those attending the church services at the mission.

"We have a few folks from the community who come to church here who aren't staying here," Self said. "For the year of 2005, we raised more than \$27,000 just through offering."

"The thrift store is a good ongoing fundraiser," he said. "It's kind of a win/win situation. It allows people in the community to dispose of things in a positive way, and it gives our people something positive to do."

Self said the mission also works with other community agencies to help people staying at the mission who actually want to live and work in Cookeville.

"We encourage people to go out and look for work," he said. "We try to cooperate with other agencies. There's a lot of good, long-term help with job training (at the Upper Cumberland Career Center) and Habitat for Humanity."

"But by the same token, where are they going to sleep tonight?" Self asked. "This is emergency housing."

Self said the mission starts everyone who needs a place to stay with three "free nights" before pushing them for some sort of plan of action.

"We try to find out what light they have at the end of the tunnel, what their plans are," he said.

"We understand we don't have an answer for everyone's problem," he said.

But the mission does try to provide for those passing through who are needing some relief.

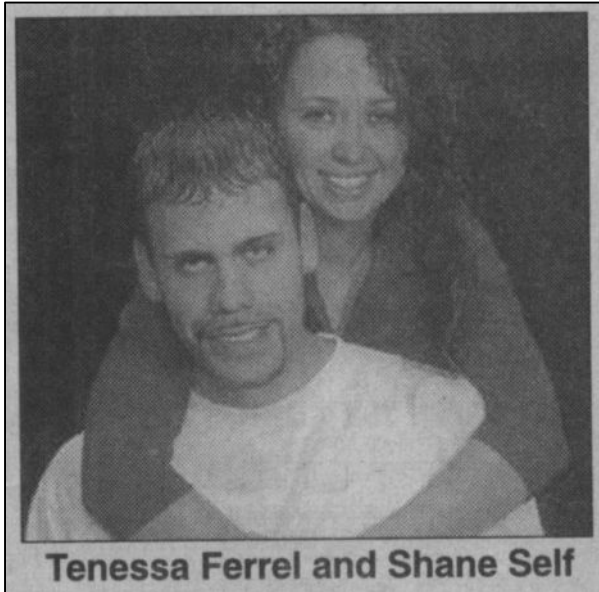
"We feel like people coming off the road are already feeling down," Self said. "We want this to be as bright and cheerful as we can make it."

To register for the bike ride fundraiser, you may pick up a form at the Cookeville Rescue Mission Offices or the thrift store at 1331 S. Jefferson Ave. or the Cookeville Bicycles store at 610 W. Jackson St.

For more information, call (931) 528-5819 or (931) 525-6330.

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<http://www.ajlambert.com>



**TENESSA SHAVON FERREL, SHANE WAYNE SELF**

Tenessa Shavon Ferrel and Shane Wayne Self were united in marriage at 8:30 a.m. March 10 in Gatlinburg. The wedding ceremony was officiated by Wayne Nabors.

The couple took its wedding trip in Gatlinburg.

The groom is the son of Rev. Larry and Betty Self. The couple will reside in Gatlinburg.

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 7 May 2006, pg. C-5.

**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
LARRY SELF – COOKEVILLE RESCUE MISSION’S DRIVING FORCE**

**By Sarah Holloway**

Special to the Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Friday, 22 May 2009, pg. 6

Horizons 2009: The Road To The Future

“I understand that some people say it’s the best thing that ever hit Cookeville, and another group says we oughta be run out of town!”

The Rev. Larry Self, director of the Cookeville Rescue Mission is speaking of comments he heard in the early days of the mission. It began in March 1976, in the upstairs rooms of the building on the corner of Cedar and Broad Streets that now houses New Century Books and Goods.

“It took us a while to catch on,” he said. “People didn’t know who we were and what we were trying to accomplish.”

Larry first came to Cookeville in 1973 and was then pastor of Cookeville Baptist Temple Church in Cookeville. “I was there for about two years,” he said, “and we had started a little mission because of a tent revival there. Bro. U. L. Whitson, who was the co-founder of Cookeville Rescue Mission and an icon around here, introduced me to some folks that he was working with who were struggling with alcohol and things of that nature, and I felt led toward helping folks like that.

“We rented that building through Mr. Whitson’s connections. I hadn’t been in town but two years and didn’t know anybody, didn’t have anything but a bunch of debt. The Carlen family was very good to us.

They let us rent the building for little or nothing and for the first few months, Bro. Whitson paid that himself.

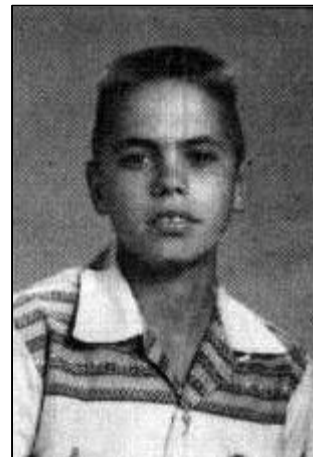
“It was 23 steps straight up, and we hung up a shingle as a rescue mission,” Self said. “Back then, Cedar Street was a hopping little street. We’d look down the stairs and see the guys ganged around, pooling money to buy whatever they were gonna drink that day, and we’d go down and invite ‘em up for coffee and doughnuts and Bible tracts, and then people started requesting overnight lodging.

“When you do that, you have to have overnight staff, but we did that for five years. We didn’t have a shower; didn’t have a kitchen sink. It was very primitive. We started with single males and then a woman and three children showed up and we started taking them in.

“One of the first churches in town that supported us on a regular basis was the First United Methodist Church,” Self said. “Jim Chariday was associate minister of First UMC at that time, and apparently they were impressed with what we were trying to do. I had talked to a group in Sunbright, TN, about our work, and they sent us donations on the rent.”

The Cookeville Rescue Mission today is located at 1331 S. Jefferson Ave., and the facilities include a men’s dorm, the Lighthouse Family Lodge (opened in 1996), Marsh Chapel sanctuary (which was one the Wilhite Baptist Church), and a thrift store, dental clinic and office and warehouse complex which was built in 1998.

I talked with Rev. Larry there in his small office where the walls was filled with pictures and replicas of light houses given to him over the years. His desk is covered with papers, pencils, peppermints, a tennis ball, coffee cups, family pictures and a teddy bear wearing a tie. He’s never seen a lighthouse, but he had one put on the roof of the Family Lodge because of its symbolic message of light and guidance for those at sea, and he says it’s proved to be a beacon to a number of people who stay with them.



“We rented this building in 1981 for a few months and later bought it with two acres of land from the group who owned it then,” Self said. “We gave them \$1,000 and took over the payments. I didn’t learn much in school about arithmetic, but I learned a lot when we started paying \$1,000 a month with the interest rate through the roof. So that built a fire under our board of directors, and we paid it off within five years.”

(Pictured: Larry Self as a young boy).

Larry Self is the youngest of six children born to Troy and Minnie Self in DeKalb County. Only one brother, Jimmy, who lives in McMinnville, survives of his five siblings. His father was a sharecropper who also did construction work, and when I asked about his childhood, Larry said, “The biggest heartache in my childhood was my dad. He was a part-time drunk and a mean drunk. He was a good man. He was converted about a year and a half before he died, but he would come home stumbling drunk, go to sleep and wake up mean as a rattlesnake.



“He didn’t beat us, but my mom was a teetotaler, just like I am, and if a jug of whiskey was brought in the house, you could consider it a broke jug of whiskey. She would absolutely break it or pour it out and that’s when the fight would begin. He would go a long time and not drink at all, but when he did, it was bad. That was the worst experience of my childhood.”

Larry and Betty Self have been married for 47 years. They met when he was working on a dairy farm in DeKalb County. (Pictured: Larry and Betty Self)



“She came up to baby sit for her sister and brother-in-law while they worked in the fields,” he says. “They lived about a mile from our home, so naturally I scooped her out and we started dating.”

Larry was 17 and Betty 16; they were married about five months later. “I wouldn’t recommend that for everybody,” he said, “but it worked for us. We lived with my folks for about a year. I tell people I didn’t turn out right because Betty didn’t raise me right. Our first baby was born in less than a year.”

The Selfs have five children and seven grandchildren. Their oldest, Patsy, lives in Sunbright; Sandra lives in Double Springs and also manages the thrift store; and Connie, the youngest daughter, lives in Livingston. Their oldest son, Larry William Self, and their youngest, Shannon Wayne, live in Cookeville.

Larry has a winning, trademark smile and an effortless flow of words when speaking of his life’s work and mission. At age 64, he’s one of those enviable people who eat anything he wants and still weights “about the same thing I did when I was 19 or 20.”

“I’ve been converted for 42 years,” he said. “A man I worked with at Ross-Geer & Tool Co. in Lebanon introduced me to Christ. That verse of scripture from Romans 10:13, ‘For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,’ had a big impact on me. I knew I wasn’t much but at least I was a ‘whosoever.’ I’m from the old school – I believe in being called to preach, and I felt a calling about a year later.” After preaching for a few years, he was ordained as a pastor in the Baptist church.

Until the present property was paid off, Larry worked half a day as a carpenter, painter and at other jobs and half a day at the mission. He was put on a salary after a big fundraiser at the Cookeville Mall, championed by Putnam County Judge Luke Medley, brought in enough money to pay off the mortgage.

“I was able to work full-time at the ministry then,” he says, “and Betty only started working as a paid employee in the early ‘90s.”

When asked about the people who come to the mission, Larry said, “We get people by word of mouth and a lot through law enforcement – Highway patrol, Sheriff’s Department and Police Department. All the restaurants and all-night places around the interstate send people to us. Some are just hitchhiking and need a few nights to rest while they’re trying to relocate. Sometimes Plateau Mental Health Center and the Emergency Room at Cookeville Regional Medial Center refer people to us.”

I asked about the cost and he said, “It doesn’t cost them anything. We start everybody on three nights. If they want to stay longer, they have to fill out a form and meet certain criteria – they have to be working or looking for work or they can be outpatients at whatever hospital. The people who stay here keep the building and the grounds clean. We use some community service folks like people with speeding tickets or teenagers targeted for trouble at school, but mostly it’s our own people.”

After touring the buildings, I can attest to the cleanliness; I’ve seen motels that weren’t as clean. Larry has a common-sense attitude toward his work. “A rescue mission manager is like anything else: a grocery store, a restaurant. I’d say about 95 percent of the people we deal with are nice folks. The other 5 percent, getting their life straightened out, they’ll go through the 30-day program here and then into a six to nine-month program at the farm, growing things and taking care of a few animals. We want to raise some vegetables and grow some flowers. I think flowers would be the best thing in the world for the body, mind and soul. And we’ve already got a sell lot right here.”

The mission celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary as a rescue mission this past March 15, and I asked Larry if he ever got discouraged or felt burned out.

“Very rarely. I take the scripture from the book of Psalms, ‘This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.’ I love every day. Living a Christian Life is exciting because you never know what God is going to do next. To quote my friend and Christian lawyer, John Acuff, ‘He’s totally dependable and totally unpredictable.’”

I asked about the people who have made a difference in his life and Larry said, "There's an old song called, 'the Good Folks in My Life,' and there is just a string of people that the Lord has put in my path. My first pastor, Bro. James Jackson, worked with me, led me to the Lord, baptized me and encouraged me when I started preaching.

"And of course, Bro. U. L. Whitson had been my mentor and was such a good man. Bro. Ray Sanders from Sunbright has been a big encourager. I worked for Raymond Rodgers at Rodgers Carpet, and he was almost like a father to me; I loved him. They all taught me by their own attitude and lifestyle rather than them telling me this and that."

Cookeville's Leslie Town Centre recently named the Cookeville Rescue Mission as the second-quarter winner of the \$500 Together We Care Program, and Larry is looking forward to a fundraiser for the mission at the Leslie Town Centre June 5. It will feature David Browning from Bristol, VA, as "The Mayberry Deputy," a Barney Fife impersonator. For more information about this event, call Larry or Betty Self at 528-5819.

Larry Self's dreams for the future have a way of coming true. He said, "You know the basics of life are food and shelter and clothing. Praise God. I get blessed every time I walk across the property and see where we were and where God has brought us. It's exciting."

\*See Chapter 5 at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

### **U.L. Whitson Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for U.L. Whitson, 95, of Cookeville, will be held Thursday, May 16, at 1 p.m. in the Marsh Chapel of the Cookeville Rescue Mission.

Burial will be in Cookeville Cemetery.



Family will receive friends Thursday, May 14, from noon until time of services at the Rescue Mission.

Mr. Whitson died Tuesday morning, May 12, 2009, at NHC Health Care of Cookeville.

He was born Sept. 22, 1913, in Putnam County to the late Grover and Alice Hawkins Whitson.

Mr. Whitson founded the Cookeville Rescue Mission with Rev. Larry Self. Until his illness he had been actively involved with activities at the Mission. Since the Mission's open house on March 15, 1976, he held Friday night devotions and taught the adult men's Sunday School class on Sunday morning.

He was a self-employed house painter in the Cookeville area. During World War II he worked in Oak Ridge with the Manhattan Project.

His family includes his wife of more than 70 years, Pearl Ament Whitson (whom he married Nov. 24, 1938, in Kentucky); a daughter, Judith Furman of Sparta; two grandsons and their families, George C. Furman and Jennifer Richardson and Andrey and Dorota Furman, all of Cookeville; four great-grandchildren, Kiah, Morgan, Mia and Lola Furman, all of Cookeville; and a nephew, Dr. Sam Barnes of Cookeville.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Whitson was preceded in death by a sister, Lillian Barnes.

Pallbearers will be George and Drew Furman, Doyle McClain, Dr. Sam Barnes, J.P. Barnes and Bert Merritt.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cookeville Rescue Mission, 1331 S. Jefferson Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501.

Rev. Larry Self will officiate the services.

Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Please share your thoughts and memories at [www.hhhfunerals.com](http://www.hhhfunerals.com).

Wednesday, May 13, 2009: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

### RESCUE MISSION READY TO 'STEP UP' MINISTRY

Megan Trotter  
Herald-Citizen Staff  
Friday, Jun 26, 2009

**COOKEVILLE** -- The Cookeville Rescue Mission has big news. In what director Larry Self is calling the biggest step for the mission since its creation in 1976, the mission board has purchased a seven-acre property for a Christian rehab farm on the edge of White County.



The peaceful property located on a street off of Old Kentucky Road contains a home which currently only holds two bedrooms, however renovations to the building and multiple bunk beds will enable up to 10 residents at a time to live at the

farm with three Rescue Mission staff members. The property also holds a barn which will be used as a indoor basketball court, a gathering for special events, and eventually as a place to hold a few barn animals that will be under the residents' care. The property has been named Step Up Farm.

"We're targeting anybody who has a life-controlling habit and who're wanting to change," said Self.

The farm has been in its planning stages for many months. Dealing with all the fine print took a lot of time and effort, as the owners of the property lived out-of-state, the real estate agency handling the transaction was based in Brentwood and the Rescue Mission staff resides in Cookeville. Finally the deal was made official and ownership of the farm passed to the mission in early June.

Residents will be required to first go through the Rescue Mission's 30-day program, undergo a background check and pass a drug screen. They must be physically and mentally able to follow basic instructions and to perform simple duties around the farm. While at the farm, residents will be required to pay \$100 a week. This money can come from a day job, a family member, a sponsor or other means such as unemployment checks.

"In a reasonable amount of time, (the farm) is going to be self-supporting. I said that we just could not let it be a drain on what we're already doing (at the mission)," said Self.

While at the farm, residents will attend life rebuilding classes, work around the farm and make crafts and grow crops that will be sold in the mission parking lot and the thrift store. Residents will stay about six to nine months at the farm before graduating out.

Self says he hopes to start with two residents and then gradually add more until they have 10 total, with residents continuously graduating out and new ones coming in. Husband- and-wife team Daryl and Charlene Dotson along with Mission staff member Herman (Crow) Clark will live at the farm and act as mentors to those staying there.

At first, Self says he was hesitant to let a woman stay on the premises, surrounded by 10 men. However he was swayed by the couple's enthusiasm for the project, and after discussing the situation with his wife, Betty, Self says he came to a realization.

"All men, they like to be mothered. Like my wife, she can be younger than some of the men (at the mission) and they talk to her like she's their mother," he said.

He also believes that having a woman present in the house will also make the farm's neighbors less apprehensive, though he has had little opposition to the farm's location as of yet. In fact, he says, neighbors to the farm have been overwhelmingly supportive so far of his plans and even offered to help where they can.

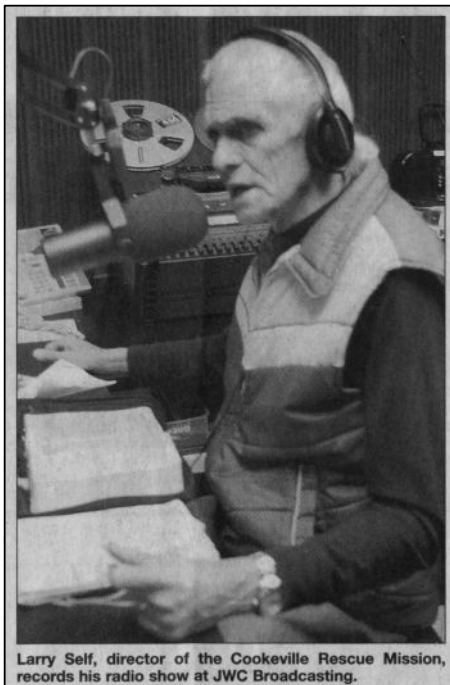
The mission will hold a building dedication at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 28, at the Rescue Mission. After the brief ceremony, those interested in visiting the farm can caravan behind mission staff members to the property.

In the near future Self says he hopes to be able to cut a walking path through the acres of forest property and make secluded spots where residents can go to meditate or pray.

"Atmosphere is the key," he said. "If we just wanted a warehouse of people and to collect a fee, we'd have built a bigger building. Atmosphere is what we're looking for."

### **MISSION EXPANDING AIRWAVES**

Megan Trotter  
Herald-Citizen Staff  
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Larry Self, director of the Cookeville Rescue Mission, records his radio show at JWC Broadcasting.

**COOKEVILLE** -- For several years those listening to the local 1600 AM Classic Country (WATX) radio station have been able to hear Cookeville Rescue Mission director Larry Self give news and information about the Mission, but now listeners in surrounding states will be able to tune in as well. The Gospel radio station 90.9 FM King of Kings Radio in Kentucky will now also be broadcasting Self's 15-minute show.

"The biggest thing right now is promoting our Step Upward Farm," said Self. "People that have addictions themselves and their loved ones, nine times out of 10 they want to get them out of their environment (to help break their addiction). There's people out there who need what we've got out there on the farm who are living in Kentucky or Virginia. "This would be ideal to get them over here away from their old life."

Self added with a chuckle, "They say birds of a feather hang together, and some people hang with the wrong feathers." The same program is played on both stations, and Self records his broadcast at JWC Broadcasting in Cookeville where the audio is then e-mailed to the Kentucky radio station. "I sit there and

do one program and they do it all up and send it over there to Kentucky," said Self. "(In the past) you used to have to make cassette tapes and mail them, so you were always working several days behind."

Listeners can tune in to 90.9 FM King of Kings Radio at 7:45 p.m. EST every Saturday and 1600 AM Classic Country at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. "Getting on this very powerful FM station -- it covers a few states -- we feel like it's going to broaden our audience to get our message out," said Self.