

**RESCUE MISSION MOURNS ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS**  
Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Friday, 15 May 2009, front page  
By Megan Trotter

**COOKEVILLE** – U. L. Whitson one of the founding fathers of the Cookeville Rescue Mission, passed away this past Tuesday, May 12, at NHC Healthcare in Cookeville.



He was 95 years old.

He and Larry and Betty Self started the Rescue Mission in order to provide shelter and programs for men, women and families who need a clean, safe place to stay while getting enough money to get back on their feet or moving on to their next destination.

In March of 1976, Whitson met Larry Self and helped secure the funds and introduced Self to the right people to get the Mission underway.

“I never met a man that influenced my life more than Bro. Whitson did,” Self said.

Until his illness, Whitson held Friday night devotions and taught a Sunday school class each Sunday morning.

Whitson lived to see the Rescue Mission’s 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary this past March.

According to Self, the Mission was always one of Whitson’s biggest passions.

He took it upon himself to care for the homeless, feed them and even offer them jobs with his painting business.

“I cannot stress enough the contributions that Bro. Whitson made to the Cookeville Rescue Mission,” Self said.

“If it had not been for Bro. U. L. Whitson, then surely the Cookeville Rescue Mission would not exist today, and that’s my honest opinion.”

Whitson is survived by 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.

Whitson’s funeral was held Thursday at the Marsh Chapel.

**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.

**BROTHER U. L. WHITSON WAS SURE OF HIS GOAL**

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Friday, 22 May 2009, Pg. 8 – Religion  
By Colleen Martin

“to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted:” Ecclesiastes 3:1 &2.

I am fully aware that the *Herald Citizen* had done an outstanding tribute writeup on this Christian Cookeville citizen only a couple of months ago and years ago, the last time the Cookeville Rescue Mission had a building program, May 1999, with the construction of a thrift store and dental clinic, another outstanding article.

These two institution, U. L. Whitson and the CRM are synonymous. You can't speak of one without the other.

Here is a man who has made such an incredible contribution to his community that I must concentrate on him, also even though the *Herald Citizen* did its usual professional treatment of this man with their issue on may 15<sup>th</sup> of this month at his passing. Thanks for the front page feature of this unassuming but impressive member of this community.

Moreover, heartfelt thanks for allowing one more article on this gentleman by myself; and, in my opinion, this still will not be the last! Here is how our paths crossed that left its lasting impression on me, stirring me to devote an article to one individual of this community:

If there ever was a man who loved the Lord, it was Brother U. L. Whitson. I understand that his occupation was a painter. That was not the man I knew. I knew a man who loved to share the Word of God.

He was sincere in his faith and he was sure of his goal, heaven. He believed that when He accepted Christ as much younger man a change had occurred in himself. He had received the presence of Jesus Christ into his heart and he no longer was restless, but had peace that he had never know before.

Bro. Larry and Sister Betty Self of the Cookeville Rescue will tell you that Bro. U. L. was the one who saw the need for a haven for people wandering aimlessly throughout life's highways and hedges.

They all three heard the call to the ministry of the lost and wandering souls of Cookeville and the world.

The street of old town Cookeville that Brother U. L. had roamed when he himself had no hope were Cedar, Oak, First, Broad. Because of the enlightening love of Christ, he saw the needs of other longing to know what he had learned in an instant.

He no longer needed of a drink of the bottled wine, but the new wine that flows and quenches the spiritual thirst for the presence of the Lord.

Brother U. L. loved the Bible. Brother Whitson's grandson, George, inherited a stack of Bibles from his beloved grandfather. He said there were so many things underlined that it seemed as if Brother U. L. should have merely highlighted every line.

When I first met Brother U. L., I was going to Cookeville Rescue Mission to sing and teach on Thursday nights and sing on the first Friday monthly singings there, around 1998, after my first year in Tennessee.

The first direct contact with him was regarding "the Lily of the Valley" sung in Spanish and English. He was impressed and I was honored.

Kent, my husband, and I heard his testimony of how God had saved his soul out of a life of drinking and carousing, which he was not proud of. When Brother U. L. got to the end of himself, as many others have done, he invited Christ into his heart and was never the same again. He was a forgiven Christian, who realized the permanency of that status.

Simple? Yes. Sweet? Yes. So simple that to some it is a stumblingblock. Yes, the result of accepting Christ are sweet peace to a heart that has never known it.

He said that every time we mention the name of Jesus Christ that our name is written in the Book of Remembrance. In Malachi 3:16, such a book is mentioned, "a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name."

Brother U. L. also rejoiced that his name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life because He had accepted Christ. The lamb's Books of Life is mentioned in Revelation 21:27.

I can picture him at the feet of Jesus Christ where he said he would love to be.

Yes, Brother U. L. Whitson went home, leaving behind Mrs. Pearl Whitson, his precious loving wife. His daughter, grandsons and greats as well as a host of people who love him.

His reality of eternity has just begun. Brother U. L.'s vision continues. His faith will be shared to bring people out of a life of hopelessness to a loving, living Christ, who has him in His bosom right now. What a Lord; what a life that has been lived in our very presence that still lives on here and will evermore live with the Savior.

\*Collene Martin is a cashier at Wal-mart and lives in Cookeville with her husband, Kent.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>