

Powerful couple in ministry: Rev. Dr. Richard and Rev. Dr. Helen Styles.

# “Powerful Couple in Ministry: Rev. Dr. Richard & Rev. Dr. Helen Styles”

Rarely has a town been blessed with a couple who is as dynamic as that of Rev. Doctors Richard and Helen Styles. They have lived in Burlington, North Carolina from 35 years and have been pastoring First Baptist Church for the same amount of time. They have been married for 40 years and will be celebrating another anniversary on June 11th.

The Styles have two children, Richard W. Styles, Jr. and Helene Rishae Styles-Bunn. Each child has a child of their own, Wreayon Slade age 14 and Makaya Bunn age 7.

Rev. Dr. Richard Styles Sr. has served as a Pastor to three churches, Tupper Memorial Baptist in Raleigh, NC, Star of Bethel Baptist Church in Hendersonville, NC and First Baptist Church-Apple Street in Burlington, N.C.

Rev. Dr. Helen Styles is a Retired Educator and Administrator of 26 years from the Alamance-Burlington School System. Before that she served as an Eligibility Specialist with the Henderson County Department of Social Services.

The Styles met in a Thursday night prayer meeting on the University campus of Shaw University in September 1968. This should encourage us all to believe in prayer and what better place to meet than in a prayer meeting!

Dr. Richard Styles states that his biggest challenge is to be the Pastor that God wants him to be. Dr. Helen Styles stated that her biggest challenge is to rise above the limitations that have been placed on her spiritually and spiritual growth by mankind.

Dr. Richard Styles' greatest reward is leading people to accept the Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. Helen Styles' greatest reward is witnessing the changes God is making or has made in the lives of men and women she has mentored, taught or served.

They both agreed that the thing that keeps their marriage together is the grace and mercy of God. “Our love and faith in each other and our faith in God's power to keep us together.”

Dr. Richard Styles' favorite quote is “There is nothing to fear, but fear itself”, Dr. Helen Styles' quote is “I believe I can fly. If I can believe it, I can achieve it”.

Mentors are important in any relationship. They both have two. Dr. Richard Styles' being Mr. William Barns of Waterbury, Connecticut and Rev. William H. Stockley of Kingsport, Tennessee. Dr. Richard Styles stated that his father died when he was 14 years old and Mr. Willie Barns become a substitute father for me.



**Rev. Dr. Richard & Rev. Dr. Helen Styles**

It was because of him that I learned how to be a young man. It was he who raised money for me to go to college. It was he who gave me fatherly advice when I needed it.

Dr. Richard Styles stated that when he came out of seminary, Rev. William H. Stockley took him under his wings to lead him and guide him in the ministry. Rev. Stockley had been Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tennessee for 38 years. His church was a place of peace and the congregation was still thriving and growing. I sat literally at his feet and learned how to be a pastor of integrity.

Dr. Helen Styles' mentors were Mrs. Leola Allen of Kingsport, Tennessee and Dr. Mildred Thompson of Collinsville, Virginia. She stated that Mrs. Leola Allen was her missionary teacher and leader in her church where she grew up. “It was she who developed in me the love for missions and missionary work. Under her tutelage I learned the importance and the need for a total commitment to God and a genuine love for mankind”. Her second mentor, Dr. Mildred Thompson showed her how to be a woman of excellence in the ministry. A female minister of integrity who is always well-prepared to stand before God's people and to declare Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Doctors Richard & Helen Styles believe that making mankind ready for the end time harvest and making the world ready for the second coming of Christ should be the direction of the church in 2008. The present day church must minister to the whole of mankind leaving no one and no group behind. It must be instructed by

scripture and lead by the Holy Spirit to impact the world. The church must abandon being politically correct and take a biblical correct stand on the issues of sin, evil and world affairs. If it is to be a reckoning force in the world, it will need to change from business as usual and take a radical stand for the truth of the word, justice for all its members and biblical righteousness in every life.

The Styles have favorite scriptures: His being, Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me” and hers is Psalms 34:1-3, “I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord. The humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O'Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together”.

Dr. Richard Styles wants people to know that Jesus is everything and all they need. Dr. Helen Styles wants people to know that Jesus came into this world to save sinners like you and I. He has no respect of persons. He loves us all equally and He expects us all equally to live Holy and sanctified lives. It doesn't matter who you are or what you have done; Jesus gave His life in order that you may be saved.

His favorite songs are “Great is Thou Faithfulness Lord Unto Me” and “How Great Thou Art”. Hers are “I Never Would Have Made it Without You” and “Jesus, You are the Center of My Joy”.

The one thing he is passionate about is preaching the word of God; she is passionate about leading men, women, boys and girls to the saving knowledge of Jesus and His Love.

His hobbies are reading, walking and writing; hers are teaching, reading, cooking and fellowshiping.

Dr. Richard Styles encourages himself through praying and reading God's Word. “I believe God's Word is the answer to every situation.”

Dr. Helen Styles encourages herself by reading the Word of God to see what it says about her situation and her dilemma. “Then I apply God's promises and decrees to my life. Next, I sing a song that encourages my soul. Finally, I will listen to my heart and mind to see what God has to say”.

*God continues to bless Burlington and Alamance County in many ways. Two of these ways are Doctors Rev. Richard & Helen Styles. If you want to attend the services or sit under this dynamic leadership contact the church at 336-227-2542.*