

Coleman Avenue church of Christ

In the mid-1990's a group of 6 guys were getting ready to graduate from FHU. They were moving to Memphis to enter graduate school or begin their careers. They were given the opportunity to live in a home owned by the Coleman Ave. church of Christ. The church at one time was very large, but because of the deterioration of the neighborhood had shrunk to around 50 members (many of them elderly). They needed the young men who could help lead in worship and the young men needed a place to live. It was a good fit.

When I moved to Memphis to teach school I visited there. I found a group of older loving Christians who were devout and welcoming. Men and women like James and Ramona Burns, Cletus and Ann Angle, Freddy Burns (who is 93 and still teaches the auditorium class), Virgie, Skipper, the little lady that always kissed everybody on the cheek, and the rest of the membership went out of their way to show love. The group of 6 was now a group over 20 and continuing to grow. The time at Coleman was filled with joy, friendship, fellowship, appreciation, and spiritual growth.

This past weekend Brent and Stephanie Evans and I attended a reunion of the group that we had at Coleman Avenue. We had a surprising turnout. We had people come in from Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Arkansas, and all over Tennessee. The group of college grads are now husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, doctors, dentists, optometrists, bankers, pharmacists, engineers, brokers, nurses, insurance adjustors, physical therapists, engineers, PhD's, ministers, and a weather man. What was impressive is most of our group is still faithful to the Lord. I credit some of this to the love and guidance we were shown by the members of the Coleman Avenue church of Christ and the relationships formed there by those of every age. I thank God for allowing our lives to cross. My life is richer because of my association with the Christians at Coleman Avenue in Memphis. I look forward to seeing you Sunday. *in Him, Craig*