

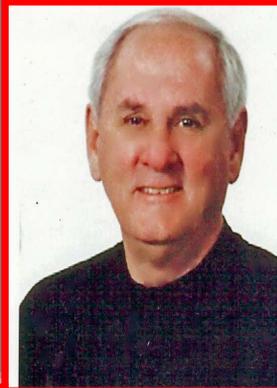
BUD HAMILTON
Center

CHS - Bio

Mr. Success ...
Bud Hamilton

1955

Current



Where has the time gone??? It seems like yesterday that I was sitting in Miss Bridges Home Room Class. I've been reading with great interest those biographical articles that my "old" classmates are sending in and I've been thinking I'm going to send a sketch of my life since high school. It has been an incredible journey to this point in time. **Here goes**

Upon graduation from Central in 1956, I accepted a tennis scholarship from Tulsa University. While at TU I was President of the Junior Class, Captain of the Tennis Team and President of the Lettermen's Club. I became a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and served in the Chapter as Pledge Trainer and the Vice President my senior year. I majored in Marketing and Management. In my senior year, I met and married my life partner of 46 years, Sandy Doss Hamilton (CHS Class of '57). She was a student at TU.

After graduation, we moved to Houston where I had accepted a job with Milwhite (which later Baker Hughes Division). Milwhite was a service company in the oil industry. In September of 1962, Sandy and I moved to New Orleans. I spent the next five years doing offshore work for the company in the Gulf of Mexico. We then moved to Lafayette, LA where our son Jeffrey was born. We were transferred back to New Orleans when I was promoted to a sales position. In 1970, we were once again sent back to Lafayette, where I was promoted to Manager of the Gulf Coast Division.

In the spring of 1975, I received a call from Houston corporate and within five days was actually living in London running our Eastern Hemisphere. We remained in London for five years. During this time, we were so blessed with many opportunities of expanding our horizons and we traveled through out the world. I had been in 62 countries when I finally retired seven years ago. **More about retirement later ...**

During the time over the Eastern Hemisphere, Sandy and I entertained many executives of various worldwide oil industry companies plus top government officials of many countries. We were blessed with so many opportunities of learning about different cultures while living overseas. We were very involved through a friend from college, Ron Young, in the London theatre. We held the cast party of the Broadway hit, "*A Chorus Line*" in our home when the show closed in London. We met many famous 'stars' of the theatre in London and the US and enjoyed the connections it offered us to the British dignitaries and royalty including Prince Charles. We even entertained the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir John Thomas at dinner in our home. He was Speaker when Churchill was Prime Minister during WW2. The stories he told was such privileged information and we shall always have those memories for the rocking chair days.

Our son had great experiences from the age of 8 through 13 while attending the American School in London. When they were studying Greek History, they had a class trip to Greece. The same applied to studying many other European countries. They were always going here and going there. His classes were a cultural mix so he was exposed to many other nationalities.

Our days of living in London ended however when in 1980 we were assigned back to the Houston corporate office where I assumed the responsibility of President of International Operations and Sr. Vice President of the corporation. The travels continued. Sandy made

many of the trips with me. However, some of the areas were not to her “liking” such as **Algeria and Nigeria**. I retired from Baker Hughes after 37 years in that industry.

That retirement from Baker was a short-lived four months. An oil industry related company called me and asked me to come onboard to help them get that company ready to sell and I accepted ... so it was back to commuting from our “retirement home” on Lake Conroe, which is 61 miles north of Houston. I was with that company for two years when we sold it to another group who for some reason asked me to stay on and run the new company. I did but after two years I said **I’m really retiring** ... and I did.

Upon retirement, Sandy and I took our first cruise and became “hooked.” We’ve had 10 cruise trips since then and try to take at least one cruise a year. Last year we cruised the Baltic Sea including two days in St. Petersburg, Russia.

My wife and I have now become active in the Methodist Church and at present, are members of the Montgomery United Methodist Church where I’ve served as Chair of Trustees for the past three years. This has been a challenge as we have a new church building and are rapidly growing our membership. I also have the great privilege and honor of serving my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the area of Kairos Prison Ministry of Texas. In fact, next year I’ll be over this ministry at the Polunsky Prison, which is Texas’s death row.

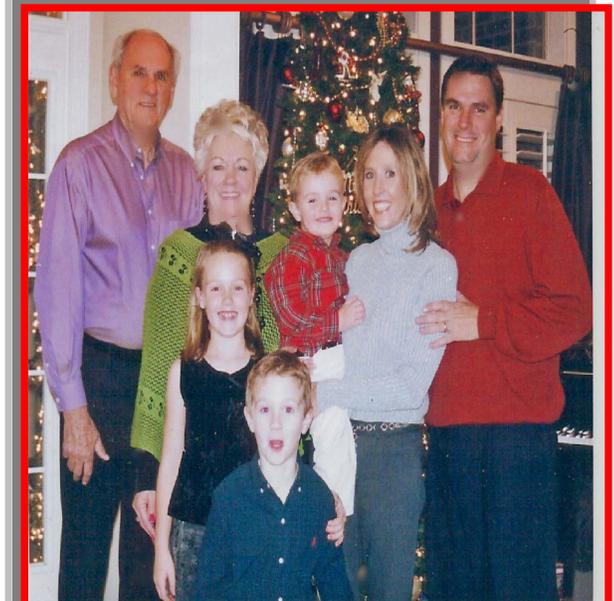
Life has treated my family with many graces and huge responsibilities; learning opportunities of other cultures; the joy of meeting many leaders of the world and the humble joy of serving God. I am the “**Poppa**” of three

“precious” grandchildren, Jessica, Jonathan and Jack. My son and daughter-in-law reside in College Station, Texas where our son has a State Farm Insurance Agency. They are both Texas A&M grads. Their home is 51 miles from ours on Lake Conroe ... so you can imagine the travel time back and forth for soccer, baseball, dance and other activities. Being a grandparent is such a hoot. We have a granddaughter and two grandsons, ages 9, 6 and 3. They are busy bees! I’ve included a photo of my family taken this past Christmas at our son’s home.

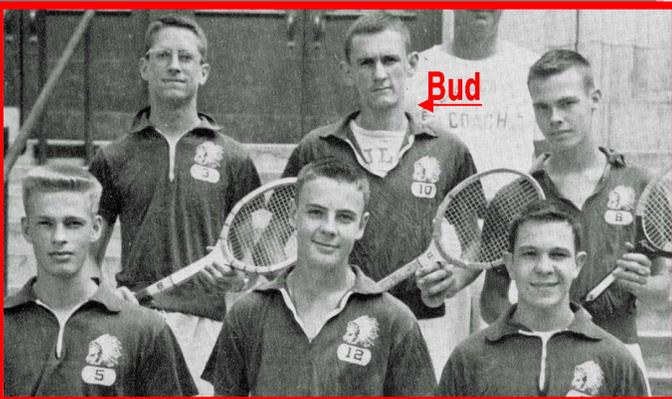
I unfortunately won’t be in attendance at the reunion. It is being held on the same dates that I’ve accepted the responsibility of being over the Texas Prison Ministry five day retreat. I know that a good time

will be had by all. I hope that many will

renew old relationships and that the reunion will be well attended. I will look forward to a complete report of all the happenings. Please take lots of photos but be sure to put names under them. *We’ve tended to change just a little in looks while growing older!*



**Back row: Bud, Sandy, Jack, Julie & Jeff
Front row: Jessica and Jonathan, Christmas 2005**



(DOWN FOR MORE INFO)

Upon completing the above I (Fred Benford) I contacted Bud for corrections and additions. In doing so I asked Bud the following additional questions:

“You did not mention any girlfriends in your bio? Did you date at CHS, if so who? Any hobbies besides basketball and tennis? When did you start playing tennis and where did you play (public courts?) and did you have lessons? How tall are you? You played Center on the BB team so you must have been the tallest. Do you have any hobbies today? Still play tennis?”

Below is Bud’s response:

Now for your questions:

*Did I date at CHS? Yes, in my Senior Year.....I went "steady" for a few months with **Suzie Baldwin**.*

I started playing tennis at age 12.....and definitely on public courts. I didn't play on a private court until I was out of college. When residing in Lafayette, La., 3 other "oil men" and myself organized the now huge tennis tournament in Lafayette, called the Oil Man's Tennis Tournament. I continued to play tennis until seven years ago....then .developed knee problems which later resulted in surgery.....so had to hang up the racket. I also played golf through the years but here again because of the knee situation, gave that up too.

As for the basketball.....I'm still 6'4" and according to Sandy.....still have those sharp elbows that I was famous for. During two of my college years, I played on an "Oklahoma" team that always was matched against The Harlem Globetrotters. Now that was an experience that Sandy and I have laughed about through the years. These games were during my Junior and Senior year at Tulsa U. She still loves to point out that they made me look pretty silly out on the court.

Sandy and I have indeed been blessed with a glorious "run" on earth. Like you Fred, I discovered my love for the Lord late in life. Probably about 7 years ago when I took the "Walk to Emmaus". This is a spiritually uplifting weekend when sponsored candidates are at a camp learning and studying and being shown the love of Jesus and how He can work in your life. One either has a glorious experience with this retreat or one can have a "Mountain top" experience. I was blessed with a "mountain top." My personal life and walk has changed dramatically since that retreat.

Sandy and I are more than "active" in our church. She works in the office, with public relations.... newsletter publication and weekly bulletins and is very involved in many of the missions of the church. (Her field being an artist and interior designer.)

Likewise, I work at our Food Pantry which feeds the hungry in our area, I work with the youth in what is called UM Army.....where youth are assigned "housing repair projects" and spend one week at a camp "somewhere" in Texas while working on such projects.

As I stated in bio.....I'm Chair of Trustees of the church.....and that takes up lots of time.....as we are over the building and grounds.....and other projects that always seem to arise.

I also make a mission trip to Mexico once a year where we build a house for a family and interact with those receiving the house. It is very touching and gives you much more reward than what they receive. I am also on a team for Habitat for America which builds wheelchair ramps for those in need.



Suzy Baldwin

(down for more)

But, I must say....that Prison Ministry has become my passion. This is a field that you might want to look into.....it is very rewarding on a personal level.

Kairos is an ecumenical group world-wide that goes twice a year into the prison to bring the message of Christ to at least 40+ candidates from the men in white (prisoners.) We then follow up with monthly meetings at the prison with these selected men in white. These prison candidates are selected by the Prison Chaplain. Outside volunteers.....like me.....almost always equal one on one to the prisoners.

You can email Kairos at: cay@kairosprisonministry.org. They could tell you how to contact someone in the California area.

The theme of Kairos is, Listen, Listen, Love, Love.

I, too have a 30 minute time period each and every morning with my coffeewhere I study His word. Makes for a great day, doesn't it?

It was very nice to hear from you and I'm sorry I'll not be at the reunion. I would have liked to have met you in person.

*In God's Love,
Bud*