

Michael Bell

Class of 1963

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2022

Others before self. Sacrifice over pleasure. Guidance without results. Impact through action. Goals amidst doubt. Compromise instead of conflict. Joy because of effort. Kindness with everything. Pastor Michael Bell, who for 50 plus years offered spiritual guidance at Glendale Christian Church in Central Kentucky, lived these scenarios over and over.



The MCHS alumnus honoree didn't just prepare Biblical messages for Sunday services and oversee administrative duties, but demonstrated God's principles on a daily basis within and outside the church walls. As a result of Bell's community involvement, leadership and outreach, Glendale Christian flourished in physical dimension and membership numbers and Hardin County enjoyed an enhanced lifestyle and infrastructure. In those five decades, church attendance soared from 40 members to nearly 400 and a beautiful \$2.5 million sanctuary now graces the far west end of Glendale's Main Street.

The 1963 MCHS graduate has garnered nearly every accolade ever given in Hardin County, ranging from the Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame induction, Boys Scouts Distinguished Citizen Honor, Farm-City Relations Award to numerous elected and appointed memberships on utility, civic, education and service boards. And that impact crossed Hardin County boundaries as well. The State of Kentucky recognized Bell as an Outstanding School Volunteer. His alma mater, Louisville Bible College, presented him with the Distinguished Alumni Award, as well as Honorary Doctorate honors and a prestigious appointment to its Board of Regents.

As a minister, he often had to work late into the night to accommodate his pastoral tasks and participation in civic projects, but Bell still found time to connect with youth, a mission close to his heart. For years, the deep voice emitting from the high school press boxes for Hardin County football, baseball and basketball games belonged to the Madison native. When the final buzzer sounded, he immediately exited the sports booth to mingle with athletes, parents and fans. As a result, Bell once again led the way and became the first non-athlete ever to be inducted into the Central Hardin Athletic Hall of Fame and the 5th Region Athletic Hall of Fame.

Those Bell handshakes, friendly hellos and kind words magnify even more when the small town hosts its annual Glendale Crossing Festival, the brainchild of Bell who is often called the town's "unofficial mayor." Every October, cars and guests pack the 2-lane road leading there, with large hay fields doubling as parking lots.

But for the 2022 MCHS Hall of Fame recipient, his busy, heavy workload paled in comparison to the outcome and the opportunity to assist others in their faith journey. For Michael Bell, *God Above All* reigns as the ultimate force.