

RELIGION

THE  STATE

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Reflections

Hagiography: This refers to writings about the lives of saints. This was a considerable industry from early times until the close of the Middle Ages.



Chris E. Leitner

Occupation: Chris Leitner, 75, is a retired cattle farmer. He was the fifth child in a family of seven children born to Charles and Nellie Salley Seitner of Fairfield County. He's married to the former Lottie Riley. They had three daughters; one is deceased. They also have five grandchildren.

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BELIEVERS

Christianity is a way of life

■ **My spiritual journey:** Reared in a Christian home, I've been a member of Bethel United Methodist Church for more than 70 years.

■ **Why religion is important to me:** It's my way of life. I've devoted myself to the service of Bethel as a member of the administrative council and choir as well as a church school teacher and lay speaker.

■ **What's usually misunderstood about my faith:** There have been events in my life when I knew the hand of God was at work and that the results were not just luck, good fortune or circumstance.

■ **My favorite passage of religious writing:** I have read the Bible from cover to cover many times and the Psalms and the New Testament are my favorites. I also like reading "Guideposts" and "Upper Room" magazines.

■ **My favorite hymn or religious song:** Singing is such an important part of worship. Two of my favorite hymns are "O For a Thousand Tongues" and "The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows."

■ **Current spiritual leader I admire most:** To know the Rev. and Mrs. Will Rogers is to love them. These two retired Methodist missionaries to Brazil are the most dedicated people I know. I admire them greatly.

■ **My spiritual practices:** Daily devotions and prayers, regular attendance at worship services, playing the piano for church school and singing in the church choir.

■ **Ways my faith makes me different from most people:** If there should be any difference, I would think it is in setting priorities. What is more important, worship services or sports and other entertainment?

■ **My image of God:** As a supreme being — the source. Everyone has received so many gifts and blessings. There are some who choose not to recognize God as the source. I choose to recognize him and praise him for my blessings with sincere thanks.

■ **How I put my faith into action:** With so many calls for our attention coming from all sides, I find that my faith has helped remove the temptation to neglect the things that are spiritual for the things that are temporal.

To nominate a layperson of any faith for this feature, write to Believers, c/o The State newsroom, P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, S.C. 29202. Include an address and telephone number for your nominee.