

*Just an incidental note on life at Skylands (and I am tempted to ask a lot of these). The organizational structure of Skylands was (and remains) superb. From the moment of arrival all was (hopefully is) in order. The places for meetings were assigned, the prayer schedules were out, the recreational activities were in order and in general there was nothing to confuse the guest (or the visiting speakers). We (the speakers) have at times chuckled about the optional afternoon Bible studies...not optional for speakers. These were almost always a blessing to me although I recall a couple of times when the moderator used the sessions as an area to preach for himself, occasionally nodding to one of his guests in the hope they would confirm his opinion. But these sessions along with the group prayer meetings, etc. were a blessing and efficiently operated. The talent night programs have been mentioned earlier...they may not have been all that the other things were but....at Asheville my wife, Ruth, organized all the speakers and conveners wives into a "chorus line" and they sang and somewhat performed the "Peanut Butter" song. The dignity of several of the sisters was questioned thereafter especially those who simulated movements of the Rockettes (in Christian form, of course) and it is hard to forget that some of the ladies could not remember when to move right and when to move left so that the chorus effect was somewhat stifled by laughter. If anyone says that the saints do not have a lot of good, honest fun, that party has never been to Skylands. One of the regular features of Talent Night was a poem by Rose Goyena describing the events of the week.....a representative work of Rose's appears in the added materials at the end of my messages and it is a poem from one of the Asheville weeks describing the recreative trip to the Nantahala River and the rapids riding.*

### **13: COVENANT COLLEGE, 1986: LEARNING TO TRUST THE LORD, STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

*An Introductory Note:* For much of my teaching career at Biblical Seminary I carried the title of Associate Professor of Church History and Old Testament. Church history was my "baby" but the study of the Bible was the stuff of which and on which we are built. I had to share that study in the Seminary faculty with three other men and so only had a few key Old Testament studies....I was the entirety of the church history faculty. But I have deeply valued the study of the Old Testament and have long held that it is a primary study for any real grip with the New Testament. On this occasion at Lookout Mountain I decided to take some of the theophanies and see what persons of the Old Testament learned about trust in the Lord from their encounters with God in this way. I thought I could enjoy seeing