

Williamson

# CLUSTER PAPER

Faith & Values

After the battle

## Franklin was revived when E.M. Bounds preached & prayed

By Art Toalston

E.M. Bounds may have been barefoot when he arrived at Franklin for what would become one of the Civil War's most gruesome battles.

If so, the 29-year-old Confederate chaplain was not alone. Dire shortages in supplies in 1864 had toughened a fourth or more of the Confederates to do without boots.

If, however, he had boots, it may have been at the insistence of troops with whom the 5-foot, 5-inch chaplain had regularly faced the prospect of death.

These days, Bounds is known as an author whose writings – *Power Through Prayer* being the foremost – are still on bookstore shelves across the nation.

But a key chapter in Bounds' life – yet one untouched by his own pen – began at the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864.

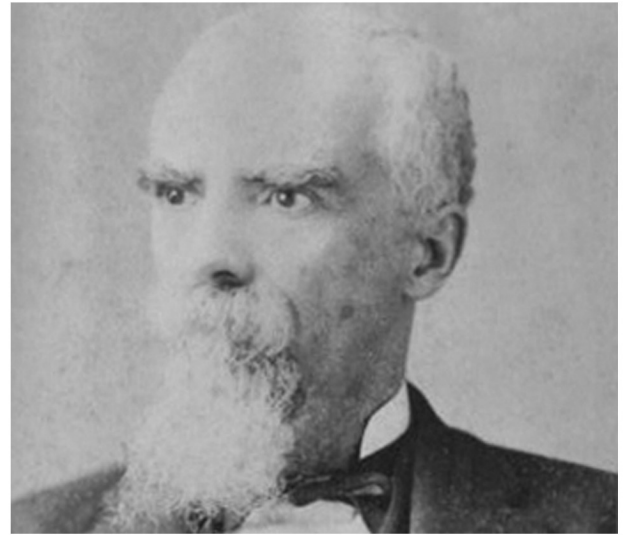
He was wounded but was able to continue ministering in the heat of a five-hour battle pitting 29,000 ill-fated charging Confederates against 30,000 dug-in Union troops.

Bounds subsequently remained in Franklin to soothe the agonies of soldiers as they died or recovered from their wounds or amputations. The battle left 2,200 Confederates dead or mortally wounded, while the Union death toll pushed toward 800. Soldiers too battered to rejoin their regiments "filled all the houses in the town, as well as every room in the courthouse, schools, and churches," the late Civil War historian Shelby Foote recounted.

After Bounds was taken into custody by Union troops and later released in Nashville, he returned to Franklin and became pastor of the depleted local Methodist church a few months later.

He also joined the effort to exhume, identify and rebury the Confederate dead from mass graves to a two-acre cemetery donated by the Carnton family from their farm.

Bounds began a weekly prayer meeting, initially with a half-dozen men from what is now First United Methodist Church. Lyle Wesley Dorsett, author of *E.M. Bounds: Man of Prayer*, recounted, "They got



WASHINGTON (GA.) HISTORICAL MUSEUM

E.M. Bounds

down on their knees together and prayed for revival – for themselves, the church, and the town." Darrell D. King, author of a second biography, *E.M. Bounds*, wrote that the men edged "deeper into communion with God as they desperately prayed for revival."

After more than a year of intercession, King wrote, "God opened the heavens and the fire of revival came to the little church in Franklin." Nightly meetings continued for several weeks, with 150 people making public professions of faith.

In the fall of 1868, however, Methodist officials assigned Bounds to a church in Alabama, to the dismay of his Franklin flock.

An article in the *Franklin Review* lamented, "The pious life and conversation of Mr. Bounds has been of incalculable benefit to this community, and we know he will prove a blessing wherever he goes. To the members of the church to which he is sent we will say, that the goodness of Providence has never been more benignly manifested towards you than when this eminently pious minister was called to your midst."

{CP}

For an expanded version of this story, go to [www.ClusterPaper.com](http://www.ClusterPaper.com) on the Internet.

Patti Traxler  
Realtor



SILVER POINTE  
PROPERTIES

p: 491-3568  
e: ptraxler@realtracs.com

**DAYLIGHT DONUTS** Meat & 3 Cafe

116 N. Royal Oaks Blvd.  
Franklin

M-F: 5 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
S-S: 6 a.m.-2 p.m.  
p: 794-0629

Mention this ad receive 25% off

**UPS** The UPS Store at Williamson Square Shopping Center

1113 Murfreesboro Rd.  
Suite 106  
Franklin  
phone: 790-7929

**LifeWay**  
CHRISTIAN STORES

**Books, Bibles, Music,  
Children's Items,  
Gifts & More!**

[www.lifewaystores.com](http://www.lifewaystores.com)  
6 Nashville area LifeWay locations!

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007  
For more information, visit  
[www.ClusterPaper.com](http://www.ClusterPaper.com).