



Magnolia Messenger

JUNE/JULY, 2008 -- VOLUME 30; NUMBER 3 -- Our 30th Year

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto LOVE and GOOD WORKS." (Hebrews 10:24)

MAGNOLIA MESSENGER
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Noccalula Falls at Gadsden, Alabama

Near the above pictured falls, MM couple from **Attala** (County), MS, Heard a powerful sermon preached by evangelist **James Watkins** in **Attalla** (City), Alabama
(Sermon/visit Report on Page 5)



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Peace Perfect Peace

Where is this found?

(May's Response on Page 3)



THREE BUILDINGS
ONE CHURCH

Brandon, Mississippi
Increasing Attendance
Produced a Need for
Additional Buildings

See page 16
(Read about a recent Ladies' Day with **Jane McWhorter**)

"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper" -- Serving Mississippi, Louisiana and Adjoining States

MM MS RV Rally Reminded us of our Home in Heaven



See & Read
Pictures/Story on Page 13

SOUTHAVEN

The 16th Annual Power Lectures are scheduled for July 27-31, 2008 at the Southaven Church of Christ. The theme is "David: The Man Who Had The Heart To Be King." **Wade Webster** preaches for the Southaven church.

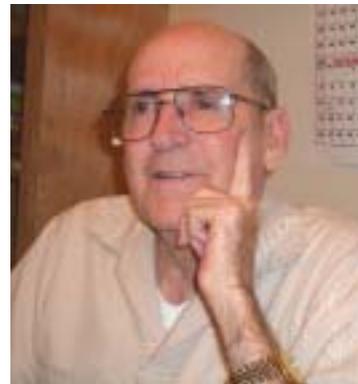
EUREKA SPRINGS

The folks at the Pine Mountain Theater in Eureka Springs, Arkansas have invited "In Search Of The Lord's Way" back for the third area-wide gospel meeting. **Mack Lyon** will be the speaker and the dates are July 7, 8, and 9, 2008. As noted in "The Search Light", it not only will be a spiritual feast but "you will be able to spend some time in the beautiful Ozarks."

OLIVE BRANCH

Shane Ruiz Drowned on Mission Trip

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Shane Ruiz. Shane was a freshman at Freed-Hardeman University and was on a spring break mission trip with FHU when he drowned in the Dominican Republic. Shane's father, **Joseph Ruiz** is the Hispanic preacher for the Greenwood Church of Christ. Their address is: **Joe, Bonnie & Michael Ruiz, 8540 Setter Lane, Olive Branch, MS. 38654.**



A Sad Search
With A Happy Ending
(Bush's Story on Page 7)

NEW ALBANY

Adam Evans is the new pulpit minister for the New Albany Church of Christ. Adam is married to Magan and they have three girls: Ema, Mary Kate, and Lilly.

Study "The Question Box"

Answer
"What is the Church of Christ?"
(See Page 20)

HEAVEN

no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!
(Count the "no's" on page 2)

She's not
that heavy;
She's my
daughter.

The Paseur
Story Will
Bless You!

turn to
page 19



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"Put them in mind... to be ready unto every GOOD work." (Titus 3:1)

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Happy; yet, Sad

Dear brother Franks,

It makes me happy to have been instrumental in obtaining this check to carry on the good work you do. On a sad note, the church at Hickory Flat is no longer in existence as a congregation. We had gotten few in number because of advancing years and heart aches it brings with it -- sickness, nursing home and death...

We had tried all we knew how to attract and build up the congregation to no avail. So, finally we could not go on any more. We even put up the building with a real estate agency. They sold it in short order. Sad, sad, it had to happen; but we tried. (Ronald V. Tega; 4954 Hwy, 4 E; Ashland, MS 38603)

Editor's Response: I know you tried, brother Ron, along with others. Understand your sadness. Thank you all for thinking of the MM. May God bless.

I would like to honor my late wife that passed away March 21, 2008. She was a Ms. girl that married a La. boy 65 years and 7 months ago. She was a member of the South Sulphur Church of Christ in Sulphur, La. A former member of the Maplewood Church of Christ in Sulphur, La. for about 50 years. Before that she was a member of the Utica, Ms. Church of Christ many years. Her name, Myrtle Annie Martin Morrison. We both loved the Magnolia Messenger. Thank you. (Jesse L. Jake Morrison, Sulphur, LA)

Thank you again for sending me the Magnolia Messenger and every time I get it I think how blessed we are to have you for our native son. This issue brought back special memories since Homer and I had lived in so many of the places you wrote about visiting. I remember when my sister and her husband, Murphy Phillips lived and worked with the congregation at Johnson Grove. Homer preached his first sermon in Alexandria and I'm glad to hear they are doing well. The church in Rayville is on the grow. Brother Jerry and Ann Lee are moving here to work full time with us. They had been driving from Monroe for the past year. If you are over this way please come by to visit us. I enjoy June's articles "From a Woman's Viewpoint" and I'm sure countless preacher wives can relate to her articles. We will continue to keep you in our prayers. Love, (Maxine Smith Lingo, Rayville, LA)

Thanks so much for all the good work you do in furthering the gospel and uniting the Body of Christ. (Charles Aldridge, Magnolia, MS)

Thank you for a well written paper. May God bless your faithful service. Please get the second check to the correct person. Thanks, (Maggie & Danny Craddock,)

Thank you for everything you do for the Lord's church. May God continue to bless you in His work. In Christian love and prayer, (Ken & Brenda Carter, Columbus, MS)

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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Editor's Note: The mention of a person or church in the Messenger does NOT necessarily mean that we either endorse or approve all the person or church may believe, teach or do. We do not (can not) have full knowledge of every person or church mentioned in the 'MM'; furthermore, we do not believe that our role before God is to be that of a judge. We pray, however, that we will never lend encouragement to anyone or anything in conflict with, or not in harmony with that which is plainly taught In Scripture. Your comments invited and encouraged. (A. L. Franks, Editor)

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Heaven

TEN "No's". COUNT THEM.

No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No!

Many are the reasons I want to go to heaven. The idea of "rest" has come to mean more to me than ever before. And, to be honest, to have a permanent address in God's "big house" where there are "many mansions (rooms), sounds very exciting. I want to get up close to Jesus in heaven and tell him, in person, how much I appreciate his love and his sacrifice. And, I want to personally say "Thanks" to the precious Holy Spirit for his work in making known to earthly beings the will of the Father in heaven.

Then, there is the prospect of living "next door" to Noah -- what a blessing! I would love to talk at length with him and find out exactly how long it took to build that ark. I would also ask what caused the death of Methuselah, who apparently died the same year the flood came. That would be interesting. Hope Methuselah is there!

And, then I think about going down the street and visiting with Abraham and Sarah and thanking them for their example of faith. There are so many things I would love to hear directly from the lips of Job. Wouldn't a nice long visit with Daniel be exciting? It's going to take a long time -- maybe an eternity -- just to take care of visits.

Going on down through the ages, I can't help but think about how wonderful it would be to spend time with James and John or, maybe Andrew and Peter. Or how about all four? Wouldn't it be grand to hear Paul tell about the night he received the Macedonian call? And, to meet up with that jailor who expressed his faith in Jesus by going "the same hour of the night", and after "washing the stripes of Paul and Silas" to have his sins washed away in the "after-midnight baptism". To speak with Luke and Timothy and Titus and so many more. How exciting!

I don't know about you, but I have a strong hope of being reunited with precious family members who have already gone on. There's a grandfather who raised six sons to be preachers. Oh, how I would love to see him and thank him. Then, there is my Dad who set a good example before me and encouraged me to become a gospel preacher. He's been gone to the other side for more than 35 years. And, I certainly can't forget the one I knew as the "world's best mother". She left my sister and me from a hospital room in Kosciusko more than six long years ago. I could go on and on and write about the things and/or the persons I am looking forward to experiencing and/or seeing in heaven. I want to go to heaven. It is my greatest desire. And, **I can. Thanks to Jesus! So can you.**

Ten of the many reasons I want to go to heaven are revealed in the last two chapters of the final book of the New Testament. Here the apostle John is directed to write about the appearance of the "New Jerusalem" -- the eternal home for all who are saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. A careful study of the text reveals at least **ten things that will not be in heaven.** And, knowing they will **not** be there makes heaven even more appealing. So, I admit. I want to go to heaven, at least -- in part, because of what will **not be there.** Let's take a look at the Scriptures.

Beginning in the first verse of chapter 21, we are informed that in heaven there will be *no more sea.* This is followed by many other things that will be missing in heaven. Here is a list lifted from Revelation



A. L. Franks
EDITOR

chapters 21 and 22. Obviously, some have a greater appeal.

1. No sea
2. No tears
3. No death
4. No sorrow
5. No crying
6. No pain
7. No sin
8. No temple
9. No night
10. No curse

In heaven, the Bible says "there was no more sea." (21:1) The need for seas will not exist in the "new heavens and new earth". All space up there will be habitable; no hurricane; no tsunami, no ship wreck;

no one ever "lost at sea". Safe. Secure. That's heaven. Wonderful!

In the "new Jerusalem", "made ready as a bride adorned for her husband," will be the "tabernacle of God." The saved will be "His people" and God himself shall be "their God." His loving care will eliminate all tears -- "no tears in heaven!" No death up there. Never a reason for sorrow or crying. And, thanks to our loving Father -- no pain in that fair land. Yes, I want to go to heaven. In large measure, because of what will **not** be there.

Repeatedly, in the last two chapters of the Bible, we are told that sin will not be in heaven -- no sinners up there. "The fearful", the "unbelieving", the "abominable", "murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars" -- barred from heaven. No sin there. (Study Rev. 21:8,27.)

Re-enforcing the absence of sin in heaven is verse 15 of chapter 22. "For without are the dogs, sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Heaven will be a happy place and one of the major reasons will be the absence of sin -- no sin in heaven.

Revelation 21:22 declares that there will be no temple in heaven. The reasons sound wonderful -- "for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." In that wonderful home of the soul, we will be in the very presence of God and Jesus. No temple! No temple needed.

Accustomed to night here on earth, it may take some getting used to up there, but in heaven there will be no night. The residence of the righteous will be lighted continually with the "glory of God". The lamp that never goes out will be the Lamb who died to take away our sins.

Finally, the inspired penman wrote, "And there shall be no more curse." This eternal state of the redeemed is in great contrast to this present life where, because of the introduction of sin by our common foreparents (Adam & Eve), the world and all its inhabitants live and die under the curse of sin. (study Genesis 3).

I want to go to heaven. I want you to go to heaven. And, thanks to God and His son, you and I can go to heaven. I challenge you: Become a Christian. Live a Christian. Die a Christian. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." (Rev. 14:13)

Heaven. What a wonderful home. And, in large measure, because what will not be there. I thank God for the "Ten No's" of Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Don't you? (601-668-3344; franksmm@aol.com; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090)

Bible Questions Answered

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following question and response was originally printed in the March/April, 2004 issue of the MM. Because of illness, brother May was unable to provide a current question and response.

QUESTION: There is war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Haiti. On September 11, 2001, our country was viciously attacked and we still feel at war. Political campaigns are virtual culture wars. Our children are involved in drugs and sexual liaisons that offend our sensibilities and violate the laws of God. In church we are in the midst of worship wars. Yet we sing, "Peace, Perfect Peace." Where can this peace be found? (Anon.)

RESPONSE: God's peace is real, but it does not depend on circumstances; so it can be experienced even in the midst of adverse circumstances like those to which you refer. The "peace, perfect peace," of which the song speaks, is "in this dark world of sin."

We can have (1) peace with God (Romans 5:1), (2) peace with one another in the kingdom of God (Ephesians 2:14-18), and (3) inward peace (Philippians 4:6-7). This inner peace is beyond the understanding of those who do not have peace with God.

Peace with God

The fundamental peace, the peace on which all other peace depends, is peace with God.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 6:23). Our sin makes us enemies of God. It separates us from Him (Isaiah 59:2) and from the fellowship with Him for which He created us.

God, in His perfect holiness, cannot abide sin. Only when our sins are forgiven can the enmity be erased and peace with God be renewed.

Because of His justice and holiness, He must condemn sinners, but because He is love, He wants to forgive. So God sent His Son as a propitiation (Romans 3:25), a substitute, to die voluntarily and undeservedly the death we deserved to die. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them. . . . He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:19, 21).

Jesus is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). His sacrifice was sufficient to save all mankind from all of their sins. All, however,

will not accept His sacrifice. "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it" (Matthew 7:13).

To receive God's grace and forgiveness we must accept it by faith in Jesus Christ and in His sacrifice.

That includes believing He is the Son of God, that he died for our sins and that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10). But the faith that saves is more than believing facts. Satan and his demons know these facts are true (James 2:19). Faith is trust. Trust believes these facts because it trusts God who revealed the facts, and trust responds obediently to the trusted One.

When God commanded Abraham to leave his country and go to a land He would show him to receive great blessings, Abraham believed. We know he believed because he went (Genesis 12:1-4; Hebrews 11:8).

Jesus tells us, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). If we believe Jesus and desire salvation, we will be baptized. "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

This is fundamental. If we think of it as secondary, or unrelated to the daily strife we see and undergo, we have no hope of peace. Our quest for peace must begin with peace with God.

Peace With One Another

Peace in our relationships with one another is also dependant on

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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Christ, "for He Himself is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14).

Paul speaks in this passage of one of the worse cases of ethnic and religious enmity the world has known, that of Jew and Gentile. Gentiles, a word which to the Jews was synonymous with "pagans" or "heathen," were aliens from the people of God, separated by the ceremonial and dietary ordinances of the law of Moses, to say nothing of its moral requirements.

Christ broke down the wall of separation and reconciled both Jew and Gentile to God in one body, the church, by His death on the cross, "so making peace" (Ephesians 2:14-16).

The brotherhood of Jew with Jew or Gentile with Gentile is, in Christ, no longer the significant connection. Now it is Christian with Christian, and whether one is Jew or Gentile is secondary, insignificant. Worldly associations and enmities are transcended by brotherly affection.

This is the spiritual fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of peace in the Messianic kingdom. Though couched in the carnal imagery of nations beating their implements of war into instruments of peaceful labor, they are fulfilled when fleshly enmities are dissolved in spiritual brotherhood in the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 2:1-4).

In the world there are still enmities, ancient and modern: black versus white, Jew versus Palestinian, rich versus poor. In Christ, however, it is more significant that we are Christians than that we are black or white. As Simon the Zealot and Matthew the Publican were melded into one as apostles of Christ, so people of every nation, tribe, class, color and language become one in Him.

Because we are one, we are to work to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3), constantly pursuing the things that make for peace (Romans 14:19).

Christians are to be peacemakers. Peacemakers are assured of a special blessing (Matthew 5:9). We make peace by working to reconcile the estranged, by encouraging Christians to love one another, and promoting understanding among those who differ, wherever we can. We also are peacemakers when we preach the gospel of peace and reconcile people to God. We are brothers one of another because we are children of the same Father God.

That is why the peace we enjoy with one another depends on the peace with God that comes through reconciliation to Him in Christ.

Inner Peace

So the apostle Paul, a prisoner in bonds, and for a time without sustenance or earthly comforts, can say, "I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11). "In whatever state I am" means "whatever circumstances there

are that would otherwise trouble me." He adds, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

In the previous chapter Paul had said he counts everything he had previously valued as loss or as a debit compared to the one asset he has now learned to value above all others: the justification (forgiveness) which is by faith in Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:8-9). In other words, he had found peace with God, and he recognized it was more important to his sense of contentment than anything else could be.

As a result, whatever deprivations or tribulations may come, he could know, "I am a child of God, my sins are forgiven, and I have a home in heaven. Thus, whatever else may happen, the main things are still taken care of, and I can therefore be content."

Clearly, then, this inner peace is contingent on the peace with God that comes with forgiveness of sins. Further, it is dependant on our believing that the "righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus Christ," that is, our forgiveness and new life in Him, is indeed the only main thing, so that all circumstances, however troubling in the world, are insignificant by comparison.

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

CM,Jr

More News Notes More

DENNIS

The Liberty Church of Christ plans a Gospel Meeting with **Billy Lambert** on July 27-30, 2008.

BOONEVILLE

Brian Kello has agreed to work with the Booneville Church of Christ as a Youth Minister Intern this summer.

VICKSBURG

Eric Welch has been selected as the full-time pulpit minister for the I-20 Church of Christ in Vicksburg. He and his family, **Stephanie, Ethan, Nathaniel and Hannah** will arrive in Vicksburg about the middle of June. **Paul Walden** and his wife LaRue have been working with the Vicksburg congregation for about three and a half years. Brother Paul plans to work with the Morton church.

BRAZIL

It was noted in the church bulletin from Batesville that the Brazil Church of Christ will not meet till April, 2009. The bulletin stated, "May God bless the good memories."

MEMPHIS

John Simpson and his wife **Dorothy** are scheduled to be honored on September 20, 2008 by the Leadership Council of the Graduate School of Religion for a lifetime of ministry. Brother Simpson is presently on staff at Bartlett Woods Church of Christ in Bartlett, Tenn. His official title is "traveling evangelist." The dinner will be at the Holiday Inn on Central across from the University of Memphis.

News or Notes Requested!

From the Heart of a Childs

"Jesus: Make Me Like You"

Tim Childs

One thing some people resist is another person trying to change them. A young lady may not appreciate it when her boy friend starts trying to mold her into something of his "ideal woman." So, she insists: "Don't try to change me; that's not me."

Occasionally you hear people say: "That's just the way I am." A man may have a problem controlling his temper. In a variety of circumstances he may become angered and therefore show it through piercing words, sarcasm or unkind actions.

When brought to his attention he says something like: "Everybody knows that's just me; everyone knows I have a problem controlling my temper." The idea often being conveyed is that you should just accept me the way I am with my spiritual weaknesses and flaws: "Don't try to change me."

While it is true that you and I have our weaknesses, it is not "a given" that we should just accept them, learn to live with them, and not be bothered by them. Jesus did not come to reinforce our flaws. He did not come and say, "Just be your natural self, however ugly and selfish you may happen to be."

Becoming a disciple and follower of Jesus, we have committed ourselves to adopting the totality of his teaching, his spirit



Tim Childs

of meekness, humility, long-suffering, forgiveness, and compassion; yes, we have obliged ourselves to adopting his way of thought and imitating his way of life.

The Christian life involves a process of growth, development, transformation... becoming like Jesus. Friend and brother..., heaven has no reservations available for those who tell Jesus: "Just leave me alone... don't try to change me." Instead of that approach, may we pray: "Jesus, make me like you" whereby the beauty of Jesus may unquestionably be seen within us. Never doubt the power inherent in his Word which can make us all he wants us to be.

Brother Childs preaches for the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Baldwin, MS. His address:

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More... More Readers' Response

Notice new address as on this check. Void old Tenn. address. I want to continue getting the MM. I probably have missed a copy or two. Thanks, Keep the good MM rolling. (Robert E. Lowery, Sun City Center, FL.)

Can't believe it's been so long since I've contributed to one of the best papers in the brotherhood. Keep up the good work! In Him, (Glenn S. Brooks, Forest City, VA)

A small donation for the preparation of the Magnolia Messenger that I truly enjoy. So sorry the funds have not been adequate to send to all those who enjoy the paper that you publish. May God bless you. (Mrs. Jimmie Hyde, Haleyville, AL)

Thank you for everything you do for the Lord's church. May God continue to bless you in His work. In Christian love and prayer, (Ken & Brenda Carter, Columbus, MS)

Thanks for reading the MM

LAFAYETTE

The Riverside Church of Christ in Lafayette has secured the services of **Jeremy Carter** from Harding University as the summer youth intern. **Lance Bennett** and **Danny Hebert** are the local ministers.

Visiting in North Central Louisiana

The Monroe Area

According to an older edition of brother Mack Lynn's book, "Churches of Christ in the United States", eleven churches of Christ are listed for the twin cities of Monroe and West Monroe, LA. **Up-to-date** information would, no doubt, mention other congregations, including the West Ouachita church in West Monroe.

In a recent visit to Louisiana (May 21-26), my June and I were privileged to visit a few of the dozen or so congregations in the twin cities. We visited first (on Wednesday night) with the West Ouachita church which is probably the **newest** congregation in the area. We were also blessed to visit with the Jackson Street church which is reported to be the **oldest** church of Christ in Monroe -- established in 1924. A brief report of these two visits is on this page.



Eternity:
Smoking or Non-Smoking?



The Meeting Place for the Jackson Street Church of Christ

For many years, we had heard about the Jackson Street Church in Monroe, Louisiana. However, it was only just recently that we were privileged to personally visit with the church. On Sunday evening, May 25th, my June and I "dropped in" for worship services. Glad we did.

It was a very friendly church. Although we were not personally known by most of the members; yet, almost everyone with whom we came into close contact seemed anxious to speak and to welcome us. The way it should be. We are thankful.

Services of the evening included prayer and the singing of several songs such as "We Are Marching to Zion", "We Bow Down" and "The Glory Land Way." The local preacher for more than a score of years, **Don DeLukie**, preached on "Sharing Christ." He said that the sermon that evening and other recent lessons were designed to "Revive our efforts to teach the gospel." A noble desire! Something that surely pleases the Lord.

We learned that the oldest congregation in Monroe presently brings

together about 270 worshippers each Lord's day and is overseen by three



Don DeLukie

elders: **Jim Fuller**, **Ricky Hudnall** and **Terry Ware**. Brother Don seemed very pleased to inform us about recent growth of the church involving several conversions and a number of brethren who have placed their membership with the Jackson Street congregation.

After services we were blessed to spend time with brother DeLukie and his wife (**Jean**), along with two other couples from the church as, together, we enjoyed a meal and a long visit. Thanks! And, may God richly bless. (alf & mif)

Durant Church Enjoys Increased Attendance



April 13, 2008 -- Emmette Armstrong, long time church leader in Durant, MS stands near record board indicating encouraging attendance for the church in Durant, Mississippi. He said that attendance is holding up and that **51** were present on May 11. He seems pleased and grateful. And, so is **Armand Willey**, who preaches for the growing congregation.



Home of the West Ouachita Church of Christ (West Monroe, LA)

May 21, 2008. On Wednesday afternoon, from West Monroe, Louisiana, we called Ray Paseur, former instructor at MBC, who preaches for the West Ouachita church. Almost immediately, after we hung up, Ray called back and issued an invitation, "Come and eat supper with us." We accepted.

So thankful we did. It was a blessing to visit in the home of the Paseurs -- with Ray and his wife, **Sharon**, and their daughter, **Andrea**. The food was good, the fellowship was great. An added blessing to our visit was the presence of Ray's widowed mother, **Jean Paseur** who now lives near Ray and his family and assists in car-

ing for their invalid daughter, Andrea.

After supper, we were blessed again with the privilege of a first time visit with the church for which Ray has been preaching the last few years. Blessed, we were to meet the faithful brethren who love the Lord enough to attend midweek services. Excited, we were, to learn that many of the church members at West Ouachita are regular readers of the MM.

We enjoyed meeting a young man named Wes Chapman and hearing him lead singing. Somehow, singing "This World is Not My Home" had a special meaning to us on the night of our visit.



Ray Paseur

Teaching
Wednesday night class on the
Song of Solomon

Ray did a superb job teaching the "Song of Solomon" from the Old Testament. He surveyed the entire book in one class. Thank you, brother Ray, for your good work in Louisiana and for all you have done over the years for Magnolia Bible College. May God bless.

For more information
about
the very special
Paseur Family,
please turn to page 19.

Couple from Attala (county), Mississippi Visit Church in Attalla (city), Alabama

On our way back home from East Tennessee, where we had just printed the March/April issue of the MM, we stopped in Gadsden, Alabama, to spend the night. Late in the afternoon, after taking a few minutes to view the beautiful 90 feet waterfall at Noccalula Park, my June and I decided to drive around the local area for a few minutes.

Leaving the city of Gadsden, we entered a smaller community named **Attalla**. A sign stating, "Attalla Church of Christ" caught our attention. Living in Kosciusko, in the Mississippi county of **Attala**, it was of special interest to us to see where a church of Christ assembled in the town of **Attalla**, Alabama.

As I was making a picture (shown with this article) a car, with two older men, pulled into the church parking lot. They informed us they were members of the church of Christ and that they worshipped with another congregation in the area. We learned that they had come to visit a gospel meeting in progress at the Attalla church and that services were scheduled to begin in less than 20 minutes.

June and I wondered. What are we going to do? We did not know about the meeting ahead of time and had not planned to attend church services on that Tuesday evening. Both of us were dressed in casual clothes. As we thought about what to do, the passage in James chapter two, verses 1-5, came to mind and we, quickly, decided to stay for services -- *blue jeans, tennis shoes and all*. The decision was easier to make when we learned that the visiting evangelist was **James Watkins**.

So, stay, we did. Glad we did. The Alabama brothers and sisters were very courteous and friendly -- welcoming us with open arms. But, isn't that the way it is supposed to be? Yet, neither of us had ever before visited a new congregation in such casual dress. But, what difference did it make?

The resident minister, **Stan Freeman**, spoke and welcomed everyone, including the couple

who had not planned to attend church services that night. He indicated that most of those present were, like us, visitors. We later learned that attendance of the Attalla church usually runs about twenty; however, *eighty-two* were present the night of our visit.



The song leader, **Ronnie Johnson**, asked that all worshippers turn to song number 488 and join together in singing about the wonderful blessings that are associated with "Standing on the

Promises". Afterwards, we challenged each other to work in the "Harvest Fields". Afterward, the opening prayer was led by another visitor, **Norman Flynn**.

The meaningful prayer was followed by the encouraging words of the song, "When Upon Life's Billows". Then, looking ahead with great hope, we joined our thoughts and voices in singing about that special time -- "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder."

After the uplifting song service, the visiting evangelist, **James Watkins**, stepped into the pulpit to deliver what would be an *unforgettable sermon* on the importance of the Lord's church. The gifted preacher, who is now in his early 80's began his lesson by quoting Matthew 16:13-18.

Brother Watkins called attention to "the *rock*" upon which Christ promised to build his church. He explained how that the wording of the Greek language, translated in the English text, did not allow the "rock" to be a man (Peter); rather, that "the *rock*" upon which Christ built His church, is the *foundational confession* made by the apostle Peter, when Peter declared Jesus to be **the Son of God!**



James Watkins, Evangelist

The talented preacher devoted several minutes of his sermon discussing the meaning of "church"; how that the word "church" is *singular* and that the church belongs to Christ, the builder; it is His! The preacher called attention to several erroneous ideas about the "church". For examples, he very ef-

Headway in Tunica

another GOOD NEWS report by Dennis Doughty

Since beginning our full time work the first of the year I do feel we have gotten off to a great start. The greatest joy has been the five baptisms we have had during these first few months. This has encouraged us all and put evangelism back into the work here.

There have been other small but important steps we have taken to reach out in to this interesting community. We have a web page now, come visit us at: tunicachurchofchrist.org We also have flyers in most of the hotels in the casino area so that visitors can know of our congregation's service times and location.

I have been out meeting as many people as I can and have been very impressed with the good name of the church here in Tunica. While it is a small congregation, it is held in high regard. This is a result of the excellent example and leadership of the men and women in the church here. This is and will be a great foundation for us to build upon, and is a wonderful asset to my work as well.

The county continues to grow. A small housing boom is underway, the Mid-South Fair will be moving to Tunica next year, and non-casino businesses continue to pop up. We covet your prayers that the church here will be up to the challenge we are facing.

COFFEEVILLE Gospel Meeting

Garvis Semore is scheduled to preach in a Gospel Meeting for the Coffeeville Church of Christ on August 3-7, 2008. **Don Roberson** is the local preacher. Garvis is president of MBC.

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Now, You Take it from There!



by

John Simpson

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About Church

Membership and Attendance

"Can't I be just a member and not have to attend church?"

Folk professing to be saved by grace through the blood of Calvary, but habitually absent themselves from church attendance are not just a twentieth or twenty-first century problem. This has been an ongoing hindrance to Christianity since Pentecost Day, to be dealt with by church leaders until the Lord comes with His angels to purge the Church of "all stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness" (Matt. 13:41), "when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father" (I Cor. 15:24).

Now to deal with the age-old question asked by many healthy and able-bodied church members: "Can't I be just a member and not have to attend church?" Answer: If it is possible, it is something like being:

- A student who will not go to school.
- A soldier who will not join an army.
- A citizen who does not pay taxes or vote.
- A salesman with no customers.
- An explorer with no base camp.
- A seaman on a ship with no crew.
- A business man/woman on a deserted island.
- An author without a reader.
- A tuba player without an orchestra.
- A parent without a child.
- A football player without a team.
- A politician who is a hermit.
- A scientist who does not share findings.
- A honey bee without a hive.

-Author Unknown

Now, read the Bible answer: "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (Heb. 10:25,26). Is that clear enough; or do you need me to run it by you again?

Now, you take it from there!

The "OUTS AND INS" of Preaching

At the time of our unannounced visit (April 16, 2008) the preacher was not "in". I guess you could say he was "out" -- *not home or at the office*. But that's okay, isn't it?

The work of being a full-time preacher requires "out-time" as well as "in-time". To be effective, a preacher needs to spend much time out in the field -- in the homes, in the "market-place" -- being where the people are -- teaching and serving.

Greg Ledbetter is the talented preacher who was not "in" at



the time of our visit. Greg (MBC graduate), preaches for the Elliott congregation, near Grenada, Mississippi.

Maybe... just maybe, we will catch him "in" next time. However, if he is "out", then... who knows? The church may grow and the preacher may even get a raise! Learning to **balance** the "ins and outs" is a continuing challenge for gospel preachers. **May God bless.** (alf)



Turn to ATTALLA on Page 16

“Excuses, Excuses.”

Part 2

- Travis Brown -

In the last issue we discussed Jesus' parable offered in response to a dinner guest's statement, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." (Lk. 14:15). As Jesus told his parable, he in effect said, "Yes, you all admire the ideal but you are not prepared to act upon it. You think it is grand, but you are too occupied with yourselves to take it seriously." 1

His audience was very familiar with Jesus' reference to a man making a "great supper." [KJV] In Palestine, when a man made a feast, the day was announced long beforehand and the invitations were sent out and accepted; but the hour was not announced; and when the day came and all things were ready, servants were sent out to summon the already invited guests. To accept the invitation beforehand and then to refuse it when the day came was a grave insult. 2

In spite of this, the invited "guests" began to excuse themselves from the feast one by one. They actually did not have a valid reason for their absence; they just searched for excuses to try and justify themselves for not wanting to be there.

That practice is still alive and well today. When it comes to accepting Christ and becoming a Christian or living a dedicated life of service to God, excuses come from all directions. God has always had a way of dealing with excuses. They did not work when first offered back in the Garden of Eden, from Adam and Eve, and they will not work today.

Let us now continue our study regarding some excuses we hear today. After stating the excuses, we will examine how God has already countered them through the lives of characters of old. We will notice what the book of Hebrews has to say about God's evaluation of those who chose to surrender themselves to Him and live by faith. Regardless of what others around them may or may not choose to do, these individuals were prepared to offer themselves to God rather than excuses. See if the following excuses sound familiar.

Excuse #3:

"But I will lose a good position [job, social standing, etc.]"

Answer: Consider Moses in Exodus chapter 2. Though Moses

was raised as the grandson of a Pharaoh in Egypt, he made the choice of God and His people. That choice cost him a position of royalty, wealth and honor in the eyes of men.

"Moses, do you know what you are in for? You will be an outcast for forty years and then spend another forty years leading

a stubborn and rebellious group of people. Is that worth it Moses?" (Heb. 11:24-27) *"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the*

people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."

Excuse #4:

"I am not going back to church because the brethren mistreated me."

Answer: Consider Joseph (Gen. 37 ff). Joseph was hated by his brothers who planned to kill him but ended up selling him instead. He was taken as a slave to a foreign country, falsely accused and imprisoned and forgotten after doing a good deed for someone who promised to remember him and try to help his situation. Have any of us ever been mistreated that badly? Joseph rose above those situations and continued to be faithful to God's purpose for him. He never offered excuses; only an unending loyalty. Joseph is listed among the great heroes of the faith in (Heb. 11:22).

Excuse #5:

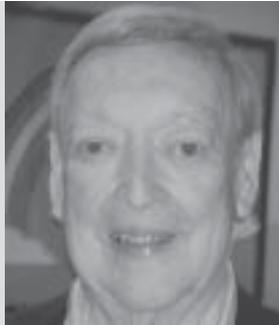
"I will do it later, when it is more convenient."

Answer: Consider Felix. Unfortunately, Felix is not a positive example like the others, but does demonstrate the excuse of wanting to wait until later (Acts 24:25). We do not have any record in God's Word of his "convenient season" ever coming. Living by faith is not a matter of convenience - it is a matter of conviction.

We have considered five areas where excuses are offered rather than humble submission. God's Word has the answer to all of our questions and concerns. Let's take

See Excuses on Page 16

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Don McWhorter Speaks on Establishing Biblical Authority

In an informal men's meeting with the Clinton church (at the same time his wife was speaking to a ladies day gathering in North Brandon), Don McWhorter spoke on "How to Determine Biblical Authority." While my June was in Brandon with the ladies, I chose to be in Clinton with the men. We both agreed: it was a profitable arrangement.

Brother McWhorter, who said he was "close to eighty", continues to be very active in the work of ministry. In addition to preaching regularly for the church in Fayette, Alabama, he conducts about 30 meetings each year, speaks on 6 or 7 annual lectureships and also conducts weekly radio and television programs.

According to the devoted and capable Bible student, brother McWhorter mentioned three ways to accurately establish Bible authority. **Number one:** Through direct, plain statement of scripture (not just commandment). **Number two:** Through "approved" example (not just example). **Number three:** Through implication from which you can draw a "necessary inference."

The experienced preacher effectively applied these Bible study principles to the role of women in the church, the use of instrumental music and the observance of the Lord's Supper.

After the hour's session on May 3, 2008, had ended, I was able to depart with the conviction that my time on a Saturday morning had been well spent. The fellowship at Clinton was pleasant; the lesson was beneficial. (For a report on the ladies' meeting at Brandon, see page 19.) alf

These Uncertain Times

Life & Money

Early on a Saturday morning, Philip, our middle son, called and said, "Dad..., David was killed last night... It is reported that he committed suicide."

Three days later, early on the following Tuesday morning, Paul, our oldest son called and said, "Dad..., John Dobbs' eighteen year-old son was killed last night... Apparently his vehicle had broken down and, as he was walking down the highway to get help, he was struck and killed by a truck."

These two recent telephone calls from two of our three sons are vivid reminders of how quickly life can cease. Yes, "life is uncertain." Yet, death is certain!

Then, in addition to the uncertainty of life, I was reminded recently of another "uncertainty". In the early morning hours, unable to sleep, I was listening to a "talk radio" program. A caller spoke to the host and to those of us who were listening, expressing deep concern about the "uncertain" and "scary" financial circumstances of America.

He commented, "I believe we are entering another 'great depression'." He continued, "Inflation is rampant. Our dollar is not worth a nickel... Gasoline is soon going to \$10.00 a gallon. And, nobody is able to do anything about it."

Doom. Gloom. Despair. Is there hope?

Now it is true. *Life is uncertain.* The Bible clearly teaches that life is a "vapor" -- it appears for a little time... then *vanishes away!* (James 4:14) The Old Testament patriarch wrote about life and said, it is "of few days" and "full of trouble" (Job 14:1,2).

It is also true. *Riches are uncertain.* The apostle Paul commanded, "Put not your trust in the uncertainty of riches." Instead, he stated an undeniable fact that "we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." He admonished us to put our trust "in the living God, who

giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (I Tim. 6:7,17).

Jesus clearly commanded, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth." He further declared, "You cannot serve God and mammon [riches]" (Matthew 6:19,24). Riches are uncertain. Here today; gone tomorrow. Can be said about life; also money! What is the answer?

Simple and scriptural

The answer is simple and scriptural. Always remember what Paul wrote to Timothy, "Trust in the living God" (I Tim. 1 6:19). To the church in Philippi, he said, "In nothing be anxious (worried), in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6).

We know not what tomorrow holds. We do know who holds tomorrow. Our God will not forsake us. We are more than conquerors through him who loved us and died for us. Because he who died for us was raised for us, we can live confident in these "uncertain times" that he will take care of us here and provide an eternal heavenly home over there.

This earth is not our home. We are just strangers and pilgrims here below. Therefore keep in mind, as the song states, "Earth holds no treasures... Heaven holds all to me."

Don't forget to pray. Pray earnestly. "Pray without ceasing." Our God is able. What a privilege. Don't neglect to study God's word. "Search the scriptures." What a blessing. God speaks to us. We speak to Him. One day, soon, we will be with him -- "at home; forever, with the Lord". *Very far better.* No tears, no sorrow. No death! Eternal life. Of these exceeding great and precious promises, in these uncertain times we can be certain!

He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is our rock; our fortress. Blessed be the Lord! (alf, editor)

Death Comes Unexpectedly To One So Young

John Robert Dobbs

10/3/90 - 5/21/08

Our hearts go out to John and Margaret Dobbs of Pascagoula, MS / Monroe, LA who have, as John said, "lived every parent's nightmare" -- through the sudden death of their son caused by a tragic accident on the highway. John, who has just started preaching for the Forsythe congregation in Monroe, Louisiana, expressed his feelings by saying, "This is a day of intense pain and emptiness that begins a long journey through the darkness of loss... The details on his passing are unimportant when compared to the beauty and joy that his life has brought to our family..." John also wrote, "... we will never know why... but it only matters now that we know where he is. He is alive. May the years pass swiftly until I see my son again. Out here, hope remains." Our sympathy. We love you. (alf & mjf)



"Until We Return to Eden and to Each Other" John Dobbs and His Departed Son

The God of Hope

- John Gardner -

"Now may the God of hope fill you... that you may abound in hope...." (Romans 15: 13)

Hope is so vital in this life. Miners trapped behind tons of rock and broken support beams tap out a code to those on the other side who might be able to hear it: "Is there hope?" The anxious couple steels themselves to hear the doctor's diagnosis of their child's disease and wonder, "Is there hope?" The man, sifting through the ashes of a life wrecked by drugs and sexual abandon, silently asks himself, "Is there hope?"

The question of hope is raised in the deepest gloom of anguish and fear. Is there hope to save the marriage, to cure the deadly disease, to build again on the ruins of failure, to overcome what looks like impossible odds? So much depends on the answer. If there is hope, all is not lost. If there is hope, we can hang on, keep on trying, and patiently wait.

Hope is even more vital to spiritual life. The one outside of union with Christ is "without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2: 12) because of sin. Jesus Christ is man's only hope (1 Timothy 1:1) because only he can take care of the sin problem through his blood.

The ultimate state of hopelessness falls on those who die in sin without the forgiveness of Christ when they are cast into hell. That punishment in all of its horror is "eternal" (Matthew 25: 30, 41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1: 8, 9). In *The Inferno*, a part of Dante's mythical trip from Hell to Heaven, there is written over the Gate of Hell the words, "Abandon All Hope, You Who Enter Here" (III.7). Hell is devoid of even the slightest glimmer of hope.

But the good news is, those who obey the gospel and walk with God share in "a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1: 3). This Christian hope is so rich because it envisions a transformation into the likeness of Jesus at his appearing (1 John 3: 1 - 3), a state of glory to be forever enjoyed in the presence of God (Romans 5: 2; Colossians 1: 5), and a reunion with the saved of all ages (1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18).

God specializes in hope for his children. In Romans 15, as Paul wraps up a lengthy section of scripture on relationships in the body of Christ, he caps the section with a mini-benediction. *"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15: 13). Paul makes it plain: Our God is



John Gardner

a God of hope. He is able to make hope abound in His children.

God is the source of our hope in this life and especially with regard to life to come. Paul said, as one who belonged to God and served Jesus Christ, he lived "in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1: 1, 2). Our "faith and hope" should rest solidly "in God" (1 Peter 1: 21).

Through his Holy Spirit, God empowers us to abound in hope. The Spirit reveals through the Word of God the promises of hope, the basis for hope, and the conditions of hope. By that Word of God we are encouraged to "lay hold on the hope that is before us," a hope which is "sure and steadfast" and that is anchored in heaven itself (Hebrews 6: 18, 19).

In our key verse, the apostle reminds us that at the heart of our hope is believing (Romans 15: 23), believing in God and in God's Son. The faith he discusses is an obedient faith (Romans 16: 26). Trusting in God to make good on His promises as we humbly submit to His commands is the pathway to biblical hope.

But notice also in the verse, that through that obedient trust comes "joy and peace." When one fully trusts in the Lord and submits to his will, there is an inflow of joy and peace that can fill the soul. That joy and peace are a part of the Holy Spirit's fruit in our lives (Galatians 5: 22). Gone are sadness and gloom. Banished are anxiety, agitation, and fear. Hope has arrived on the wings of faith and the soul is at rest and happy. What a hope! What a hope Giver!

An author unknown to this writer has aptly written:

Oh, who, in such a world as this,
Could bear his lot of pain;
Did not one radiant hope of bliss,
Unclouded, yet remain?

That hope the Sovereign Lord has given,
Who reigns above the skies;
Hope that unites the soul to heaven,
By faith's endearing ties.

John Gardner serves as Academic Dean of MBC. Brother Gardner's address: P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS 39090. jgardner@magnolia.edu

Berea Church of Christ Celebrates



The Berea church of Christ has reason to celebrate. They have paid off their building debt in just over three years.

Under the leadership of elders, **Ed Amerson** and **Jim Estes**, this spirited and forward looking congregation located in the Holts Spur community of southern Tishomingo County, just south of Burnsville, decided to replace their sixty-five year old building in the fall of 2003.

They constructed a beautiful new auditorium and classroom building, beginning in September, 2003. The new building was quickly built and the first service held in the new facility May 16, 2004.

With a construction cost of about \$230,000, a note of over \$100,000 had to be drawn for the construction. The generosity of the congregation and others who supported them was

displayed during the last service in the old building and the first service of the new building when nearly \$20,000 was contributed.

Now just three years and ten months later through the liberality, diligence and loving kindness of the sixty members of the congregation, the \$100,000 note has been paid off.

Gordon Gentry the Berea preacher reports that the church celebrated the occasion by burning the mortgage Sunday afternoon April 27, 2008.

With the congregation's long history of faithfulness to God and work in the community, the brethren at Berea look forward to a future that will be faithful to God, valuable to the community and edifying to those who are part of the family of God here.

(Report sent to MM by Gordon Gentry. Thanks, brother Gordon!)

Bruce Bush of Bastrop is Blessed

- Report by Editor -

Approaching the age of 75, Bruce Bush thanks the Good Lord daily that he was permitted to live long enough to make a much needed and drastic change in his life. Like so many others, Bruce started out in the right direction. He became a Christian at the early age of 12, (baptized by a preacher named Ferguson), he went to church services regularly and earnestly sought, as a young man, to be faithful to the Lord.

However, also like so many others, he got off on the "wrong tract", began running with the "wrong crowd" and became addicted to "wrong things". However, after he married, and while living in Olla, Louisiana, he "got back into the church." His wife also obeyed the gospel of Christ.

But, regrettably, over the course of time, Bruce drifted back into his old sinful ways. He associated with bad company and redeveloped bad habits which, he said, were "stronger than I was." Again, drinking alcoholic beverages became a way of life for him. And, as is often the case, he sought daily to satisfy his smoking addiction.

In 1982, he and his wife moved to Bastrop. He said, "We never went to church... seldom thought about the Lord... doing worldly things. He added, "We thought we were having fun."

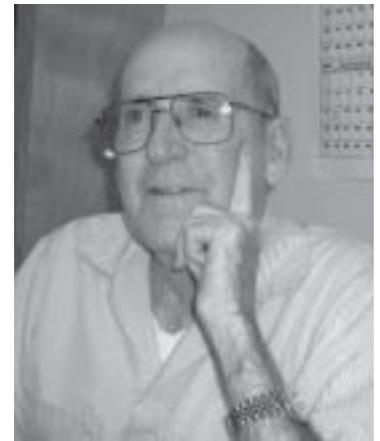
He told us about Bastrop's preacher, Waymon Swain, and one of the church's elders coming out to visit with him. His response to those early efforts was rejection, not repentance. Time passed. In 1996, after 42 years of marriage, he lost his beloved wife (Betty).

This great loss helped to bring Bruce to his knees. He tried to make some changes in his life.

He quit smoking and went to a treatment center in Jackson and gave up drinking for a few months.

However, he soon found himself again associating with bad company and going to the bad places.

As Bruce related his story to us, he said it was about 1999, when he really made the "drastic change" that was so needed in his life. For this change, he gives credit to the Lord for his goodness and mercy and to preacher Swain who continued to encourage him. Bruce also mentioned his sister in Yazoo City, Mississippi -- Velma DeLancey, who continually, through the years, encouraged him to do right. He said, "She is the one who had a lot to do with



Bruce Bush of Bastrop

where I am right now."

He added, "After I started doing what was right, those folks, I thought were my friends, quit coming around." Then he said, "I didn't need them anyway." He spoke affectionately of the Bastrop church, saying that after he came back to the Lord, the fine people in the church "took me in."

Brother Bruce expressed great gratitude for the blessings he has experienced in the past 8 or 9 years. He said that the "old" way of sin was no comparison to his new life in Christ. He spoke of his brothers and sisters in Christ as "wonderful folks... some of the best people I've ever met."

He rejoiced as he told us of three mission trips to Africa he was privileged to make with Waymon Swain. Swain and Bush, together, made two trips to Tanzania (2002, 2003) and one mission trip to Zambia (2005.)

Brother Bruce spoke with loving affection for his departed wife and their beloved children. He said that he regretted, for much of his life, he did not set a good example before them. He deeply regrets the *lost* opportunities. He

said, "All I can do now is hope and pray..."

I am so grateful that my June and I were blessed to spend time with

Bruce DuVonne Bush who is to celebrate his 75th birthday on June 30, 2008. We pray for him a very "Happy Birthday" and we thank God for the great change God made in his life which has produced wonderful blessings over these past nine years.

There is no doubt: Living for the Lord is, by far, **the way** to live. Manifold blessings in this life, and, in the world to come, blessings beyond comprehension. Thank you, brother Bruce, for reminding us of these scriptural truths. (See Luke 18:28-30.)

franksmm@aol.com

He said, "We never went to church... seldom thought about the Lord... doing worldly things. He added, "We thought we were having fun."

Increase YOUR Knowledge and Strengthen YOUR Faith
Read the Magnolia Messenger!



"Trinity United Church of Christ" in Chicago
Not to be confused with "churches of Christ"

Signs and Names -- Sometimes Confusing!

As MM readers know, the *Magnolia Messenger* is a publication of a **church of Christ** in Kosciusko, Mississippi. As a local church, the South Huntington Street congregation is associated with other churches of Christ in Mississippi and throughout the world.

Each local church of Christ is independent, self-governing -- with no earthly headquarters. We respect Jesus as **the** Head of the church, the *only* Head (He is **Lord!**) and seek to follow the New Testament as our rule of faith and practice.

The sincere desire of each of the faithful, with whom we are connected in Jesus, is to be "just a Christian" and a member of the church for which Jesus died. It is our firm conviction, that the church Jesus promised to build and which He purchased with His precious blood, was established almost 2,000 years ago on the day of Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem. Local churches of Christ in Century 21 earnestly seek to be, **not another denomination**, but a true restoration of the first century church of Christ.

Other religious bodies in America and the world are often identified by words (names) that present opportunities for confusion. One such example is a religious denomination known as the "United Church of Christ." This body which has more than one million members is said to be, "a mainline Protestant Christian de-

nomination principally in the United States, generally considered within the Reformed tradition, and formed in 1957, by the union of two denominations, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian.... (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

Let it be clearly understood:

The "United Church of Christ", formed in 1957, and the body of Christ, often identified by the scriptural phrase "churches of Christ" (Romans 16:16), are **not the same**. True, there are some similarities, including "designations"; however, there are **many** differences. And, in the judgement of this writer, the "differences make a difference" (*Study the "Question Box" on page 20*).

The editor/publisher of this paper is not a member of the same church the man is (or was) who is running for president. I would that he and I were members of the same church! (A. L. Franks, editor; 601-668-3344; franksmm@aol.com)

News and Views Are Welcomed by MM



Doug Kimbell
(visiting preacher)

Wilfred Burgess
(local preacher)



Place of Worship for the Delhi Church of Christ

"Drop-in" Delhi, LA

In May, my June and I lived in our RV for nearly a week in north central Louisiana (Monroe area). On Saturday evening, May 24, we were blessed to attend a gospel meeting conducted by the church in Delhi about 40 miles East of Monroe.

At 7:00 P.M. Delhi's preacher for several years, **Wilfred Burgess**, warmly welcomed everyone and expressed pleasure to see an encouraging number present for the evening services, including several visitors.

Lloyd Swain, visiting from the Central church in Bastrop, did a good job leading singing. After the first prayer, led by this writer, brother Swain led another beautiful song, expressing the great hope of all Christians -- "When We All Get to Heaven."

The visiting preacher, **Doug Kimbell**, youth minister from Brookhaven, Mississippi (the Johnson Grove church), presented a challenging study in which he called upon us to take a strong stand for the Lord and to **speak up** for truth and righteousness. He commented, "Christians have been observing a 'moment of silence' far too long!"

Faithfulness to the Lord, the preacher taught, involves doing. He said we should "talk the talk". He stressed the fact that "words are powerful." As Christians, he said, we should "speak for Him... speak His name... talk about Jesus" and that we need to "get over the phobia of being afraid to speak up for the Lord."

In the second place, the talented preacher (another MBC graduate) challenged us to "walk the walk," including being "committed to the great commission." He stressed, "Faithful Christian living is much more than meeting together 3 times a week."

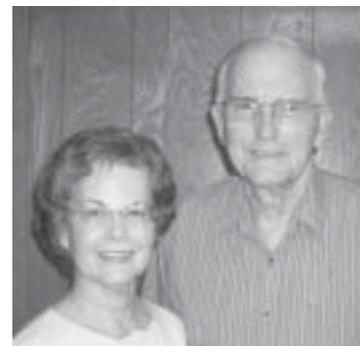
Bringing his penetrating lesson to a close, brother Doug asked, "Where on the battlefield of life are you today?" "Are you", he inquired, "in the fight, on the side line, or in the stadium?" "Too often", he said, we are busy "waving the white flag" when we need to be "busy fighting the good fight."

... It was indeed a great challenge, a good sermon and an encouraging visit. And, to top it off, the fellowship meal after services, prepared by some of Louisiana's best cooks was "icing on the cake."



A "Drop-in" at Bastrop, Louisiana. No services. Just Visits.

Thursday, May 22, 2008 -- My June and I left our motorhome parked in Monroe and drove our little gas miser (Saturn ION) about 30 miles north where we enjoyed spending time with two preachers we have known for a long, long time.



THE NICHOLS: Gloria & Joe

One preacher was Joe Nichols who preached many years in Mississippi and Louisiana (including Olive Branch and Natchez). Getting older, Joe and his wife, Gloria, decided to return to her home country around Bastrop where Joe continued to serve as a minister until a few months ago he resigned, in part, due to health problems. We were blessed to run into the Nichols at a restaurant in Bastrop ("Grannys"). Good food. Good fellowship. Remembering old times back in Yazoo City where we first got to know Joe and Gloria. They took us to the Central church building where the above picture was taken.

Joe told us about a new book he has just published containing articles he has written through the years for publication in newspapers, bulletins, etc. It was a pleasure to spend a couple of hours with some dear friends from way back when.

The pulpit preacher for the Bastrop church was not at home or at his office due to an appointment he had to

MORTON

Cole Baird recently resigned as preacher for the Morton congregation in central Mississippi. Brother Cole, his wife (**Alyssa**) and their two small children have moved to Waldron, Arkansas to work with the congregation of about 60 to 70 in attendance. Filling in at Morton, for what may become an extended period, will be **Paul Walden** who has preached for the two or three years for the I-20 church in Vicksburg. (Vicksburg has hired a new full-time preacher.) Paul and his wife, **LaRue**, plan to continue living in the Brandon area and will drive to and from Morton.

keep with an eye doctor in Monroe. He had just undergone successful cataract surgery. When he returned, we were blessed to talk with him about the Bastrop congregation where he has served as preacher for more than twenty years. He was pleased to tell us about his son, Bob Swain, who had just concluded a "good gospel meeting" with the Bastrop church (May 11-15). Brother Waymon also made arrangements for us to visit with Bruce Bush who, up until a few years ago, had lived a life of sinful addiction to alcohol. Brother Bush repented and came back to the Lord and His church and has remained -- not only faithful in attendance -- but also dedicated to mission efforts. His story is found on page 7 in this issue of the MM.



Waymon Swain, preacher
At Bastrop for more than 20 years
... sorta "laid back" ...
At 74. Thinking about retiring (?)

extra... extra

Gospel Meeting

with evangelist

Waymon Swain

(Bastrop, LA)

August 3 - 6, 2008

Sunday: 9:30 A.M. & 6 P.M.

Mon - Wed: 7:00 P.M.

Nile Church of Christ

4608 Attala Road 1106

Carthage, Mississippi

601-267-9554 / 662-289-7536

Please Pray for this Paper. Thanks!

DEQUINCY

Dean Pye is the summer youth intern for the DeQuincy Church of Christ. Dean is a senior at Harding University and is a Bible and Psychology Major. **Michael Potthoff** is the local minister.

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MBC News

P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

2008 Spring Campaign Report

- by Les Ferguson, Sr. -

As you perhaps know, this year's MBC training campaign was held at Macon, Mississippi. This is the church where **Therman Hodge** serves as the preacher. Brother Hodge is an MBC graduate and is presently serving the school as our interim Chief Administrative Officer.

Our campaign was scheduled and held on Saturday, March 29 through Wednesday, April 2, 2008. We began with a Continental Breakfast at the church building at 9:00 AM. At 9:30, Therman encouraged us with a good devotional. We then divided up into teams and went to our assigned areas to begin our door knocking activities. We had a total of 15 "doorknockers" for that Saturday morning session. In addition, there were several members of the local church involved in other activities that had to be done in order for this effort to be successful. It was a great start to our campaign.

On Sunday, March 30, **Garvis Semore**, MBC President, taught and preached at the assemblies of the Macon church. The theme of this campaign/gospel meeting was "Sharing God's Love." Brother Semore's assignment was to preach on "Sharing God's Love with Our Neighbor" and "Sharing God's Love with Our Family." He did a tremendous job. We were pleased that visitors from the community were present for the morning worship assembly.

Our schedule on Monday and Tuesday called for us to be at the church building for breakfast at 9:00 A.M. followed by a devotional at 9:30. We were out on the streets from 10:00 - 12:00, door knocking, handing out literature, and inviting people to study and attend the gospel meeting.



Macon Campaign Workers

We came back to the church building for lunch from 12:00 - 1:15. Then we went back out and worked until 4:00 P.M. Free time was scheduled from 4:00 - 7:00. All of us came back to the building for the gospel meeting.

The Monday night through Wednesday night gospel meeting featured MBC students, with one exception. On Monday night, **Marshall Eubanks** spoke on "God's Love, the Kingdom of His Son." **Willie Bob Gates** led the singing. On Tuesday night, **Norman Spann** delivered the lesson on "God's Love, His Plan." **Don Green** led the singing. On Wednesday night, **Ben Jackson** closed the campaign/gospel meeting with a lesson on "God's Love, Where Do I Go From Here?" **John Gardner**, MBC's Academic Dean, led the singing. He was the one exception noted above. All of these brethren did a great job in fulfilling their assignments.

We covered all of Macon and a couple of other communities in the

vicinity. We worked hard and finished all of the area by late Tuesday afternoon. We did not work on Wednesday, except for a few follow up visits.

It is great to work when you are having fun. All of us enjoyed our time together and with the brethren of the Macon church of Christ. This was a very good effort for us. There were visitors from the community at every service. The local church was left with 20 good prospects to follow up on.

Another aspect that was good is that two MBC graduates gave of their time and came and knocked some doors with us. We were greatly encouraged by **Rick Benson**, MBC graduate and preacher for the Union, Mississippi church. He came on Saturday morning and brought 4 of his brethren with him to help us. On Tuesday, **Steve Shappley**, another MBC graduate and current president of the Alumni Association, came and helped us finish our work. Steve preaches for the Beans Ferry church near Fulton, Mississippi. We had 25 current MBC students, staff and faculty involved in this effort. The photo pictures some of that 25 plus several members of the Macon church.

We express our sincere thanks to the Macon church for their hospitality and for their desire to spread the good news of Jesus.

Next year's campaign is scheduled for March 28 - April 1, 2009 at Union, Mississippi. (Report by Les Ferguson, Sr. -- Christian Service Director)

A three point plea still valid:

(1) "Let's speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent."

(2) "Let's call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways."

(3) "Let's speak the truth in love."

Magnolia Bible College

Memorials & Living Tributes

The following donars recently made contributions to Magnolia Bible College in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones and/or friends. The names in **bold type** are memorialized or honored. The names following in lighter type are the donors. **Note:** MBC and MM memorials are handled separately. (See also page 11)

Memorials

Harold Todd
Jim and Pam Dreaden

David Porter
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Bret Powell
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Michael Cox
Jack Walker
Martha Myers
Ophelia Walker
Marie Perry
Rosie Owens
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In Honor of

Sharon Strickland Cannon
Bonnie F. Strickland

Marshall Eubanks, Jr.
Beverly Howell

Bobby and Sandra Anderson
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Costello

Note: MBC and MM memorials are handled separated. (See also page 10). Thanks for helping both!

Please Send
MBC Memorials
And/or Tributes To:

Magnolia Bible College
P.O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Christ's Church in a Pagan World

2008 Magnolia Bible College Lectureship

Saturday, October 18, 2008

8:30 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Dr. Tom Holland

Dr. Ray Paseur

Sharon Paseur (ladies)

Lunch available at minimal cost

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For more information:

www.magnolia.edu

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MBC's Spring Campaign at Macon Involved Students Hitting the Streets and Knocking the doors



Campaigning: An Important Part of Ministerial Training at MBC

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Armand Wiley

...and everyone on campus knows it!

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Benefit Dinner

Draws "Good Crowd" and Raises Thousands of \$\$

At MBC's 27th annual Benefit Dinner held on Saturday evening, April 19, 2008, Garvis Semore, MBC President, expressed appreciation to all who participated in this most recent fund raising effort. Even though attendance was "down somewhat"; yet, funds available, after expenses were paid, reached an encouraging amount, exceeding last year!

Special awards were presented to "special people" in the MBC family. Brother Semore stated, "At our Annual Dinner, MBC recognizes the outstanding achievements of one student, one alumnus and one volunteer. These individuals embody the qualities of Christ-like character and exemplary Christian service."

"Student of the Year"

Semore continued, "First, tonight's Student of the Year. This year's Student of the Year comes to MBC from Amory, MS. While at MBC, he served as the minister for the Pine Grove Church of Christ in Itawamba County and later as the minister for the Christian Chapel Church of Christ in Monroe County. This year's Student of the Year is already enrolled in the graduate program at Freed-Hardeman University. He was honored in February as the HEADWAE student by the Mississippi Legislature and is graduating Magna Cum Laude from MBC in May. He has been named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and to the Dean's and President's List. He and his wife Jan have two children, Andrew Marshall and Bailey Lauren. It pleases me tonight to present this award to Marshall Eubanks, our Student of the Year."



Marshall Eubanks

"Alumni of the Year"

Brother Semore continued, "We are always very proud of our alumni at MBC. There is a bright future ahead for all of our alumni. We have approximately 120+ MBC alumni. Of that 120, there are 80-90 who are preaching full-time in the state of Mississippi. That is amazing! But there are alumni who are living and working in other states as well. Our alumni are preachers, elders, deacons, missionaries, youth workers, teachers, social workers, campaign workers, etc. The list could go on and on. We are making an impact in the kingdom of our Lord every single day."

Winners – I am very impressed with this year's winners. Of course, every year there is someone who stands head and shoulders above the crowd. But this year may be a first. We have a tie! Both of our winners are leaders. They are both humble – they won't toot their own horn. They have both overcome enormous obstacles.

Not everyone has lived through a tornado and lived to tell about it. But our first winner (Shane Meredith) and his family did just that. He also galvanized a community to rebuild and move forward again after the tornado was over. He is

the minister for the Caledonia Church of Christ in Lowndes county. He is a young man who has shown leadership and maturity far beyond his age.

Our second winner (Rick Benson) is a fearless supporter of MBC. He is Mr. Personality and is an enthusiastic promoter of the school and what it represents. He has overcome many personal difficulties and gained the victory over each one with the help of the Lord. He is presently the minister for the church at Union, MS and is doing an outstanding work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present unto you the 2008 Alumni of the Year – Mr. Shane Meredith and Mr. Rick Benson.

"Volunteer of the Year"

Our final award for the evening is the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Volunteer of the Year is presented to individuals who go above and beyond in their service to MBC and her mission. The recipient of tonight's award has been a friend to the College for years. Her husband has served on the Board of Trustees at MBC since 2003. She also has the honor of having one of those thankless jobs as the wife of an elder. She is the mother of 4 children and the grandmother of 5. She has taught a Sunday school class for over thirty years. She has been a member of the Freed-Hardeman Associates for more than 30 years and currently serves as the

treasurer for the Tippah-Benton County Chapter of the Freed-Hardeman Associates. This year's Volunteer of the Year does a job that is "above and beyond" as we make preparations for our silent auction. It is my honor tonight to name Bobbie Chapman as the Volunteer of the Year!



Alumni of the Year
Shane Meredith & Rick Benson



Bobbie Chapman - "Volunteer"

Caledonia Church Rebuilding

After Tornado on January 10

Shane Meredith Writes,

We are not discouraged!

Shane Meredith, preacher for the Caledonia church in NE Mississippi wrote, recalling the destructive tornado that hit their community. He said, *On Thursday, January 10th a tornado came through Caledonia destroying parts of the school, many homes, our*

church building and fellowship hall. Despite this disaster we are not discouraged. We were blessed with a place to worship until we rebuild which is right down the street, only blocks away. (555 Main st. Across from the post office)

We Have Been Blessed!

Words cannot express the gratitude and amazement that we feel in our hearts for what God has done for us since January 10th. We now have a deeper understanding of what God can do through prayer and the love of His people. We are blessed to know how much God's love abounds in His church. We will be ever thankful to all of our brethren and churches who rushed to help us when we needed it most. As you can see, we have started on our

new building. We look forward to welcoming the community to worship with us there. God has provided for our every need and has done more than we ever imagined. - Shane M.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever." Eph 3:20-21



MAGNOLIA MESSENGER

Memorials & Tributes

The person whose name is in **CAPS** is memorialized or honored by the person(s) whose name is in lower case letters. Thank you. God bless! Please note that memorials and/or tributes given to Magnolia Bible College are handled separately. See page 9. (ALF, editor)

In Memory Of

GEORGE FLEMMING
CHARLES CHRISTOPHER
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

BILBO & DOROTHY MCNEEL
Barry & Diane Cole
(Mathiston, MS)

OPHELIA "BILL" WALKER
KENNETH WALKER
William "W. E." Walker & Family
(Clinton, MS)

OPHELIA "BILL" WALKER
Kuhlman Prayer Ministry
(Crystal Springs, MS)
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

J. C. CHOATE
Mary Donson
(West Monroe, LA)

MYRTLE ANNIE MARTIN
MORRISON
Jesse L. "Jake" Morrison
(Sulphur, LA)

IVADEEN "GIGI" GIBSON
Yazoo City Church of Christ
(Yazoo City, MS)

CONNOR LOUIS SMITH
Bonnie Strickland
(Brandon, MS)

JIMMIE DEAN CONNER
Larry & Diane Dunaway
(Columbia, MS)

MERLE PERRY
ROSIE OWEN
Charles Aldridge
(Magnolia, MS)

JIMMY BRADSHAW
James & Deanie Bradshaw
(Indianola, MS)

JOHNNY MORGAN
Lake Harbour Church of Christ
(Ridgeland, MS)

DWIGHT PERRY
61 South Church of Christ
(Natchez, MS)

Thanks for your help!

Gifts to MBC are handled separately from those given to the Magnolia Messenger. (See Page 9)

Send MM Gifts to.....

Magnolia Messenger
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090



MBC's Graduating Class of 2008

(From Left) Seth Sullivan, Shunkeith Evans, Donald Roberson, James Johnson, Benamin Jackson, Karen Hines, Oscar Graves, Marshall Eubanks, Jr., and David Paden

Seth Sullivan is from Magee, MS. Seth is a 2004 honor graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a B.A. in history education and classics. As of June 1, he began his work as associate minister with the Kensington Woods Church of Christ in Hattiesburg, MS.

Shunkeith Evans is from Jackson, MS. Shunkeith is the full time minister for the Tylertown church of Christ and is planning to pursue a master's degree at FHU.

Donald Roberson is from Ashland, MS. He is a roofing contractor and serves as the full time minister at the Coffeeville church of Christ. He plans to expand his preaching into the mission field.

James Johnson is from Camden, MS. James has been employed full time at Comcast and works in evangelism with the Fulton Street church of Christ in Canton.

Benjamin Jackson is from Glenwood, Iowa. Ben is a carpenter as well as being very active in the jail ministry in Kosciusko and Carthage, MS. He plans to go into full time ministry with emphasis in prison ministry.

Karen Hines is from Lubbock, TX and the wife of MBC's professor Roger Hines. She teaches a Bible class at the Liberty Street church of Christ in Canton where her husband is a full time minister. Karen plans to continue her studies in the field of education.

Oscar Graves is from Kilmichael, MS. Oscar is an active member of the Huntsville church of Christ. He has been a substitute Bible teacher and minister at the Huntsville, Oak Ridge and Duffee churches of Christ. His plans are to seek advanced degrees in the biblical languages.

Marshall Eubanks, Jr. is from Amory, MS. Marshall serves as the full time minister at the Christian Chapel church of Christ in Hatley, MS. Marshall is presently pursuing a master's degree at FHU.

David Paden is from Fulton, MS. David attended Itawamba Community College and is a 1996 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. He has served as the full time minister for the Tilden church of Christ while attending MBC. He is presently pursuing a Master of Arts in the New Testament at Freed-Hardeman University.

(Thanks to Mamie Tays for preparing the report from which this has been condensed. For full details, please see the March/April, 08 issue of the MM.)

Milton Sewell Selected as Speaker for MBC's Class of 2008



Graduation exercises were conducted on Saturday morning, May 17th, at the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS. The speaker selected by the graduates was Milton Sewell, former president of Freed-Hardeman University. Brother Milton, who is now Chancellor at FHU, made a challenging presentation to the graduates.

Seen in Louisiana

(SW of Monroe; Sign Below)

Blessing Lane. Whether avenue, street, route, apartment or country lane; do you not agree that we all live on "blessing lane"? Let us rejoice and give thanks. Our God is so good! "He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17). "...he giveth to all life, and breath and all things..." In Him, we live, move and have our being." (Acts 17:25,27)



MBC is Creating a Ministry Opportunity Web Page

MBC would like to assist our brethren as needs arise regarding ministry openings. We regularly have congregations who ask us to announce openings they have for ministers, associate ministers, etc. Our desire to assist you better has led to the decision of creating a Ministry Opportunity page on our website. This is just now underway, but we trust will be an asset to our brethren.

If you currently [or in the future] would like for us to post an opening in your congregation, please send as much of the information listed below as possible. We realize that not every segment will apply to everyone, however, the more information that you can give the better.

When you have completed the requested information, just email it back to me and it will be reviewed for approval and then submitted to the website. The information will be posted for 90 days after which it will be removed unless you contact us and ask for it to be extended another 90 days. We also request that you notify us as soon as the position is filled so that we can promptly remove it from the site.

We hope that you will find this service beneficial in your search for someone to fill the position that you have available.

Information needed for posting job opportunities.

See MBC Listing on page 16

Evangelistic Ministries

Evangelism Training Workshops and Campaigns

Eddie Lawson, Evangelist
P.O. Box 1933
Hamilton, AL 3550
(205) 412-4184

Hamilton Church of Christ
(205) 921-3232

Does your church need revival? Do you want to reach out to the lost in your community? Many congregations of the Lord's church want to reach out to the lost — they want to grow. But, they just don't know how. There is an answer!

— GOD'S FAMILY EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES CAN HELP! —

God's Family Evangelistic Ministries exist for the purpose of winning lost souls to Christ. Our mission is to reach as many lost people with the Gospel as we can. Our goal is to go to Heaven and help as many other people go as possible.

To accomplish this mission, our efforts are focused in three specific areas:

- Teaching and training others to be soul winners – as a lifestyle.
- Initiating true revival in the Lord's church one congregation at a time.
- Reaching out to the lost through organized door-knocking campaigns.

The evangelism training workshops are designed to:

- Convince and convict everyone that evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian.
- Equip each person by teaching them what to teach and how to teach others by using the most effective study plan available in the brotherhood.
- Motivate each Christian to go out and teach others the Gospel – become soul winners as a lifestyle.

The result of these combined efforts is CHURCH GROWTH – spiritually and numerically.



Robert (Bob) and Miriam Holcomb

Jackson, MS
Siwell Church
Elder & Wife
Honored
on their
50th
Anniversary

A combination of leadership, as an elder and as a couple. We are grateful for the example set by the Holcombs in Jackson, Mississippi. Bob follows in the footsteps of his father who also was an elder, first in the old "Belvedere church" which later became the Siwell Road congregation. Sister Holcomb is the daughter of Everett C. Day, long time preacher in Mississippi. The Holcombs are worthy examples and deserving of honor bestowed upon them by their physical family, church family and friends.

My June and I are thankful we were blessed to share in the event which took place on Saturday, April 12, 2008, at the Siwell Road church building. Just sorry we were late for the meal which was generously provided for all guests. May the Holcomb home continue to be what God would have it to be. And, may God richly bless Bob and Miriam.

Vicksburg's Bypass Church Honors Minister Willie Nettle For Twenty Years of Service

In appreciation to Willie Nettle for more than 20 years of service as preacher for the Bypass church of Christ in Vicksburg Saturday, April 26, 2008, was declared "Willie Nettle Day".

After formal education at Magnolia Bible College and Harding University Graduate School, brother Willie returned to his hometown of Vicksburg. Under the sponsorship of the Wooddale Church in Memphis, the Court-house congregation, in 1987, was started in Vicksburg. The growing church took advantage of the opportunity to purchase church property on Highway 61 North Bypass and moved into their new location in July, 1993. The church presently brings together about 160 members.

Brother Nettle met his future bride, Robin LaSandra Johnson,

Sullivans
Moving
from
Lake Harbour
Church
in Ridgeland to
Kensington
Woods Church
in Hattiesburg,
Mississippi

June 1, 2008



Breanne and Seth Sullivan

Lord willing, if all goes as planned, by the time you read this news note (after June 1), Seth Sullivan will have begun his new work with the Kensington Woods Church of Christ in Hattiesburg, MS. His role will be as a associate minister. Seth is a recent (May, 2008) graduate of Magnolia Bible College and is also a graduate of Southern Miss. He and his wife, Breanne, are very excited about their new work!

MMTravel Club

48

have already signed up!

Canada and New England Fall Foliage Cruise

You May Still Be Able To Get A Room
for Less than \$1,000 each!

October 9-18, 2008

"Cruise with Christians"

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westtv1@bellsouth.net ; Phone: 601-957-1660;

or

Paul Franks at
337-515-7314

paulfranks@bellsouth.net



Special Cake With
Edible Picture of Willie Nettle

in Tulsa, Oklahoma at a soul winning workshop. They married on July 28, 1984 in Monroe, LA. The Nettles have two children, William LaVell (21) and Lydia Joel (19). Brother Willie also serves as adjunct instructor of Bible and Ministry at MBC. Next year will mark his 30th year of preaching the gospel.

The special program honoring the Nettles involved several participants with James Scott serving as Master of Ceremony. Speakers included Les Ferguson, Sr. of Kosciusko who, through the Word, influenced Willie to obey the gospel on August 17, 1977.

The Bypass church, in honoring the Nettles, provided them with an all-expenses-paid cruise to Alaska which is planned for July of this year. The church stated, "We are blessed to have brother Willie Nettle and his wife, Robin. We thank God for their love and devotion for the church..." Our personal congratulations to brother and sister Nettle. May God continue to bless. (alf & mjf)

Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat

Sept. 19-20, 2008

Theme:

"Oh, Sister,
Where Art Thou?"

Speakers

Margie Ferguson

(Kosciusko)

Carolyn Upkins

(Jackson)

There is a maximum number of 180 for the cabins and it's a list of first received applications. The cost is \$10.00 each (make check out to SLCC Ladies' Retreat) and mail to

Nellie Caldwell

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Vicksburg, MS 39183

Food, Fellowship,
Speakers,
Singing &
Lots of Fun



The Dawkins: Eric & Pauline

Renewed
their
marriage
vows
(5/08)
after 25
years

Returning
to Tipton
Street
Church in
Kosciusko
for the
third time.

Born in the Bahama's. Eric's education includes formal studies in Memphis and Kosciusko (both are graduates of MBC). The Dawkins are scheduled to move back to Kosciusko in June ('08) to work/preach for the Tipton Street congregation. A capable and dedicated couple. We are pleased to welcome them and their three children back home. May God bless their efforts, along with the good brethren who make up the Tipton Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi

PONTOTOC

Paul Swanson and John Moore were recently installed as elders of the Pontotoc Church of Christ. Jay Street preaches for the Pontotoc congregation and Jason Street has been hired to work as Youth Minister.

MM Welcomes News Notes

A few months ago, Mississippi native son, Tim McCarter and his wife, Debbie, moved from Jamestown, New York to Cleveland, MS. Tim is preaching for the church on Ronaldsman Road.

Welcome back home, Tim. May God bless you in your work for Him.



Tim & Debbie McCarter

MM RV Rallies

Encouraging. Inspiring. Uplifting. FUN.

It has now been more than ten years since our eldest son, Paul, suggested that we advertise, in the MM, plans to hold a RV rally in Central Mississippi and to invite Christians who own recreational vehicles to come together for a few days of uplifting, faith building activities. The idea also was to provide encouragement for the two small churches of Christ in Scott County.

An ad was placed in the Messenger about the planned rally and, at the appointed time, nearly 50 "rigs" with more than 100 people showed up at Roosevelt State Park in Morton, Mississippi. It was an exciting time. With most of the park reserved just for our group, it was a time of rejoicing when we all got together. Words fail to describe the reaction of so many as we enjoyed worshipping together, eating together and playing together. Some actually commented, "It seems almost like heaven."

The idea "caught on". The Mississippi rally has continued every year with very encouraging results. Some who came to Mississippi from Louisiana decided that it would be good to have a second rally each year in the Pelican state. So, after a couple of Mississippi rallies, Louisiana began to host a rally. First, at North Toledo State Park near Many and then after the Hurricane Rita, it was moved to Grapeland - in east Texas.

Those who have attended, through the years, have shown great enthusiasm for these special gatherings. Our RV participants (including several who come and stay in cabins) have developed into a large "family". The rallies have also proven to be a great benefit to the publication of the "Magnolia Messenger" with attendees contributing thousands of dollars each year to help keep the MM moving on out. We are grateful.

Our most recent rally was held April 23 - 27, 2008. The emphasizes of our rally was on the subject of "Heaven". Dennis Doughty, preacher for the church in Tunica, Mississippi, was our guest speaker. Brother Dennis, who has recently published a book on Heaven, spoke several times and in every instance, enlightened, encouraged and excited those of us who are looking forward to going to our eternal home.



Dennis Doughty

When we conducted our first Mississippi RV Rally, a lady from Lafayette, Louisiana showed up driving her RV. She was alone. Having heard about the planned rally, she made the decision to come. That was 11 years ago. She hasn't missed a one. After the Louisiana rally was started, she also attended each of them.

Sister Eleanor, a *sojourner*, continued to use her RV in the service of the Lord, even after her husband passed away -- traveling all over the country assisting in campaigns and



Eleanor Townsend

special activities. Now, since she has gotten older (more than 80), she has sold her RV and stays in a cabin at our rallies. She is truly a source of encouragement and inspiration to all who know her.

The April rally in Mississippi was visited by a talented speaker from the former Soviet country of Lithuania. He came to the USA for a brief visit, on his way to a preacher training school in Mexico to teach Bible Geography in a preacher training school. **Vladimir Rancev** told about his conversion to Christ and his work for the Lord. He obeyed the gospel as a result of mission efforts by American Christians who have been working in Lithuania for the past several years. He is also a good friend to our son, Paul, who goes to Lithuania each year to direct Bible camps for the youth.



Vladimir Rancev

Is Your Name on the Roll?

-GarvisSemore-

For over twenty years I was a full-time, located minister at several congregations in four different states. I have found that people are basically the same regardless of the passing of time and the state in which we may find ourselves residing. Invariably, after several months, or even years, in a community someone would meet me and recognize that I was the minister for the local congregation. They would proceed to tell me the names of people they knew who were "members" of the congregation where I was preaching.

For the last three years I have served as president of Magnolia Bible College. I have had the privilege of traveling all over the south and of preaching for countless congregations during this time. Invariably, someone will learn where I preached last week or where I'm preaching next week and they will proceed to tell me the names of people they know who are "members" of the congregation where I was visiting.

The problem I have puts me at a loss for words. Too often those in the communities where I was preaching were telling me about people who "had their name on the roll," but who rarely attended worship services -- or participated in any form of outreach. Too often those who are telling about brethren they know in other communities "have their name on the roll," but they won't be present at worship while I'm visiting -- or participate in any form of outreach.

We seem to have the mentality that if our name is on a church roll somewhere then everything is fine. A cartoon came across my desk several years ago that contained the picture of a church building with a sign which read: "Visitors Welcome: As are members whose names are on our roll that we haven't seen them in the last ten years or better!!!" There have been some of those folks at every congregation where I served as the local minister. There are some of those folks at virtually every congregation where I visit. There are those who attend worship services once every couple of months. Still more attend worship services once a month. Still more a couple of services a month. And who could count the "Sunday morning only" attendees? But their name is on the roll!

The picture of the Christian life in the New Testament quite simply requires more commitment than having ones name on a roll. Jesus said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and



Garvis Semore

wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). Paul would add, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

Hate his own life? A living sacrifice? I'm afraid I don't always see it. We're talking about more than attending worship services. We're talking about reaching out to those around us who are hurting so badly. We're talking about getting out of our church buildings and associating with those who may not look like or act like or live like us so that we can bring them to the One who changes us both. Here's the truth of the matter. It's hard to convince people (or God) that we're making a sacrifice of our lives or that our lives don't come first when we choose to do other things before we choose to worship our Creator.

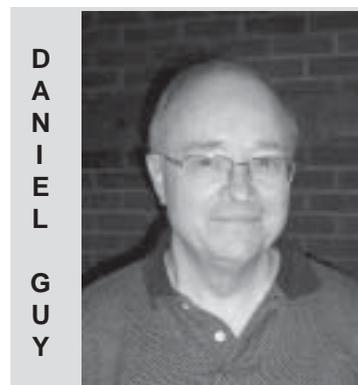
The old announcement, "We welcome our visitors to our services, we expect our members to be here," ought to be understood. If we truly are members of the Body of Christ we will WANT to be in the assembly when the saints gather. Another study for another day might well involve the fact that too many times we don't really experience worship once we attend "worship services." Our names may be "on the roll," but we have something far more important than a roll book kept by mere men in some local congregation. Our souls are on the line. Eternity awaits. Where will you be the next time your brethren bow down in praise to the King?

(P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS gsemore@magnolia.edu)

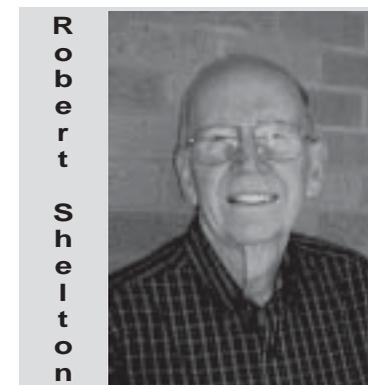
MEMPHIS

Peggy Moffet, wife of well-known Memphis preacher, **Jimmy Moffett**, died on April 11, 2008. Brother and Sister Moffett were honored at the 2006 Leadership Council Dinner for their contributions to ministry leadership.

**Our Next
MM RV Rally
Grapeland, Texas
Salmon Lake Park
October 22 - 26, 2008**
For more information
contact **Ray Franks**
337-786-3095 (home)
337-515-0866 (cell)
rdrfranks@centurytel.net
P. O. Drawer 218
DeQuincy, LA 70633



Daniel Guy recently left the mission field of Nebraska for the mission field of Mississippi. He is working with the Yazoo City church as an associate minister where **John Dial**, a physician, serves as the regular voice in the pulpit. Brother Dan does some of the preaching and works full-time taking care of "day-to-day" responsibilities. From recent reports, coming from several of the members, both of their preachers are said to be "doing a good job." Our prayers rise for Yazoo City, our former home.



Robert Shelton, known to a lot of Mississippians for his long work with "The Bible Speaks" television program (on Jackson TV stations for many years), retired a few years ago from his work as the full-time preacher for the Clinton Church. In a recent visit with brother Robert, we were reminded that he now serves the Clinton church as an elder and that he is also preaching each Sunday morning for the church in Tallulah, Louisiana. "Retired"? Well, maybe. Yet, still busy in the Lord's work.

Churches Seeking Preachers

Notice: We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. Please call or mail your request to: 662-289-3559 or 601-668-3344; "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us by addressing: franksmm@aol.com. We will plan to run each add **not more than two times** unless a specific request for extension is received from the congregation looking for a preacher. **Thank you for asking!**

There is no charge for this service.

New Orleans, LA (De Gaulle Dr)

The De Gaulle Drive church of Christ is seeking a gospel preacher to work with a congregation of 80-100 members. We are seeking a spiritually minded man who has the ability to interact with all ages, along with preaching and teaching duties.

Personal work and visitation are a must. The effect of Hurricane Katrina has decimated our community; there is much work to be done. Our congregation is very mission minded, supporting many works in many areas of the world. We also support television and radio ministries and the training of Gospel preachers.

At the present time, the congregation is served by three elders. Although our address is in New Orleans, we are located on the west bank of the Mississippi River and are a suburban community.

Compensation is negotiable in accordance with experience and ability. Other benefits such as paid vacation, Gospel Meetings and lectureships to be discussed.

Please send resumes to:

The Elders
DeGaulle Dr Church of Christ
4700 General De Gaulle Drive
New Orleans, LA 70131
or call
Wes Arabia - 504-858-2881
Bill Burchett - 504-392-4110
Howard Goodale - 504-319-3572

Aliceville, AL Full-time Preacher

The Aliceville Church of Christ is looking for a full-time minister to work with them. We are a congregation of 45 in Northwest AL. We are looking for a man of sound faith. We have a well located 3 bedroom, 2 bath home (recently remodeled). Salary negotiable. Population of Pickens county is 22,000, and Aliceville population is 3,300. If you think you would be interested in working with a loving congregation please call 205-373-3821, or e-mail jnpresley@wildblue.net.

(5/6/08)

Enumclaw, WA (Kibler Ave)

The Kibler Ave church of Christ in Enumclaw, WA is looking for a full or part time preacher. We are a congregation of 60-70 members located approximately 30 miles from Seattle at the basin of Mt. Rainier in a growing city of 11,000. We have two elders and are praying for a doctrinally sound man who has a heart for working with a loving family in sharing the joy and responsibility of serving the Lord. If interested, please call or write: **Holland Kellar** (206) 841-4183 or **Steve Hewitt** (253) 876-0100; hijkellar@comcast.net; P.O. Box 163, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

Ridgeland Church Seeks Youth Minister

Youth/Edu/family Minister opening with the Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS, located in NE Jackson, the capital and on the W side of the beautiful Barnett Reservoir in the corner of Hinds, Rankin & Madison counties, which is one the fastest growing population centers in MS. LHD has a diverse church with 160 members, 3 elders, pulpit minister & 9 deacons. Youth from k-1-12 composed of 40+, organized in 2 groups, with 4 yr old LL program. Must be married, self-motivated, experienced, evangelistic and have completed BA from Christian University or Bible College. For more info go to www.lakeharbourcoc.org, ymsearch@lakeharbourcoc.org, or call 601-856-2165.

Glenwood, AR PULPIT MINISTER

Full-time
Prefer married
Salary negotiable
Home furnished
Membership—110
Elders

Contact: Jack Gardner, Elder
Glenwood Church of Christ
PO Box 387
Glenwood, AR 71943
Home phone 870-356-3814
Cell phone 870-356-9140
jackgardner@alltel.net

Alexandria, LA (Jackson St)

The elders at Jackson Street church of Christ in Alexandria, Louisiana are seeking an evangelist who is strong in the faith, knowledgeable of the word, communicates effectively, experienced in working with a multi-cultural congregation, various social-economical backgrounds, and a wide range of age groups.

The city is centrally located within the state and its population is approximately 50,000. Additional information can be found on the web at <http://www.cityofalexandrialala.com/home.asp>. The congregation is about 115 members with an average attendance of about 95.

Evangelists who are interested in the position should submit a resume' (references required, a minimum of 4) and an audio cassette tape, DVD, or video (individual preference). Information should be submitted to: **Jackson Street church of Christ, Attn: Evangelist Search, 1856 Jackson Street, Alexandria, LA 71301. Phone: 318-442-3785, Fax: 318-442-3047 E-mail: jscoc@bellsouth.net**

"Preach the Word!"

Minister Needed - Eupora, MS -

The Eupora (MS) Church of Christ has an immediate opening for a minister. The congregation of 70-90 members is seeking a man to preach the Word of God, lead in church and out-reach activities, and help with congregational communications. Experience preferred, but not required. Three bedroom house and vacation package included. Send resume to Eupora Church of Christ, 2194 West Road, Eupora, MS 39744. Contact Mart Salley (662-552-6278) or Paul Hunt (662-552-0206) for further information.

Encouragement

I enjoy very much the Magnolia Messenger, a good sister from my home church at Looxahoma, MS, Libby Gordon sends me her copy when she's finished, from time to time. I appreciate the Messenger and sister Libby's love for the truth and God's people. We get no religious material from the Lord's church except that which loving brethren send us. I love your paper, especially at this time. I am studying with a young man who is seeking the truth, your paper is a valuable tool in this effort. Could you please put him on your mailing list and keep the both of us in your prayers. In Christ, (Bobby Brown, Greenwood, MS)

A small donation for the preparation of the Magnolia Messenger that I truly enjoy. So sorry the funds have not been adequate to send to all those who enjoy the paper that you publish. May God Bless you. (Mrs. Jimmie Hyde, Haleyville, AL)

OCEAN SPRINGS, MS

The Ocean Springs Church of Christ, located on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, is in search of a Pulpit Minister. We are a growing congregation with many young families with children and an active Youth Ministry program. We are a diverse group of many traditions and socio-economic backgrounds, but we unite under the banner of the Lordship of Jesus. We are planning to begin work with a new minister in August of 2008. Please address all resumes and correspondence to: The Elders, 1116 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs, MS, 39564, or email to secretary_oscofc@yahoo.com. Our telephone number is 228-875-7811. (email underscore between y and o)

New York

Jamestown Church of Christ Preacher Search

The Jamestown Church of Christ, Jamestown, NY, located in the beautiful Allegany region of Western New York, is prayerfully seeking a full time minister to fill the vacancy due to the relocation of our current minister of over 9 years.

We are a doctrinally sound congregation recognizing the scriptures as the sole authority for our existence. We have an attendance of 75-85 members with a good mix of all age groups. We are financially sound, evangelistic by nature and have a desire to promote and spread the gospel throughout Western New York, Pennsylvania and the world.

The Jamestown community has a population of approximately 40,000, with excellent schools and a rural setting. We are the only church in Chautauqua County and the potential for growth in the area is great.

We are seeking a mature, married, family oriented minister that is energetic, outgoing, doctrinally sound, and has the ability to relate to all age groups and across multi-cultural backgrounds. The ideal candidate will have experience in fostering church growth through development and implementation of educational and evangelistic programs. The candidate must have strong verifiable "leadership" references.

Education: higher education preferably in Biblical Studies or a Preaching /Ministerial certificate from a recognized school in the brotherhood. Application Portfolio to include: Cover letter, complete resume including references both personal and from past congregation(s). Also, include spousal interests/activities related to the church. CD with 2 sermons, family photo and any health conditions should be included. Please submit the portfolio to the following address: Minister Search Jamestown Church of Christ, 875 Fairmount Ave. W.E. Jamestown, NY 14701

Steens

Searches for Servant

Pete Bowen, one of the elders in the Steens congregation, located near Columbus, Mississippi sent the following advertisement.

The Steens church of Christ is in need of a full-time minister. Attendance normally ranges from 50 to 60 for Sunday worship. We prefer that the minister be married with children. We offer a very nice 3 bedroom home. Salary is negotiable. Steens is located approximately 7 miles NE of Columbus, MS. Please send resume or call Elders as listed below.

Steens Church of Christ

P. O. Box 10
Steens, MS 39766
Frank McDaniel
662-328-0701
662-574-9911
Pete Bowen
662-329-2370
662-251-2442

Brother Pete ended his note by saying, "Thanks for a great paper and for offering this service to churches in need." Editor's Response: "Welcome"

Encouragement

Magnolia Messenger, enclosed is \$25.00 to help in your paper. We really enjoy reading it. May God help you in continuing this great paper. In Christian Love, (Harry & Jean Miller, Rogers, AR)

I am sending a small contribution to you for your excellent "Magnolia Messenger." I enjoy the articles and especially The Question Box". I am a member of the Busyrus, Ohio congregation. Thank you for sending the paper to me. In Christ, (Wayne Crum, Caledonia, Ohio)

At the Por Los Niños children's homes we believe in empowering children to face the future. This means feeding the children physically, mentally, and spiritually. We provide a loving home-style atmosphere with Christian house parents in a village setting. A good education is foremost and we are currently building a new school which will have a computer lab, library, and English language courses.

You Can Visit the Children You Sponsor!

Call About Seven or Ten Day Work Trips To The Por Los Niños Village.

Family Life Missions
Call 662-324-8472
Family Life Missions
Po Box 928
Starkville, MS. 39760

Help Central America End Cycles of Poverty and Hunger

Call us today and help give a child hope to face the future.

Children and the Assembly

- Ken Joines -

We should never underestimate what a child's mind can absorb while squirming in a pew down at church. You may think he couldn't possibly be hearing anything, then be surprised by something he says.

Years ago, Gene and Carmen Duke had their little 3-year-old granddaughter with them on the back pew at Whitehaven. I was preaching about God and came down pretty strong with, "God is *eternal!*" The little one dropped her coloring book and said, "Granddaddy! He said God is a *turtle!*" Most of us could cite endless cases of where children absorbed things we thought beyond their capability.

Even tiny children can think. They can reason, understand and grasp important concepts. This has been proved by various studies, and experienced by many a Sunday School teacher of toddlers.

Why, then, have we bought into the idea that the church assembly is *no place for little ones*? Is it inconvenient to tend a child in church? You bet. Is it taxing on parents' nerves? Yes. Do crying children sometimes disrupt others' attention? Of course. Does an exasperated mother ever want to stand up and shout to a long-winded preacher, "Let my people go!" Without a doubt.

Well, am I saying that a church should not have an attended nursery? I am not saying that at all. But sooner or later those little ones need to move to the larger assembly. And sooner than you may think, because if a little one is allowed to camp out in a nursery until he is 3 or 4 years old, it will be very hard to train him how to behave in the assembly.

Years ago, churches began to provide a "cry room"—a glassed-in area—where a crying child could be taken for a brief period. As soon as he settled down, he was brought back into the assembly. This was called training.

A wise and thoughtful parent will not sit in the assembly oblivious to the fact that a child is disrupting the entire congregation. On the other hand, when a child throws a fit and is taken to a room where he can romp and play with all kinds of



Ken Joines

toys, and if he is never disciplined for his misbehavior, he soon learns that throwing a fit can be rewarding. And he'll do it every Sunday. But if when he throws a fit he always experiences some kind of pain or discomfort, then he will quickly learn that this is not such a good idea. Kids are not dumb!

So, mothers and fathers, bring your tiny tots to the assembly. Sit near the back so it will be

convenient to go out without disturbing others. When you need to, take the child out. And pay no attention to the glares from the self-righteous who act as though their child never misbehaved in church.

Train your precious child that this is a special place, and a special time, and not a place to talk aloud or scream and eat. A few small snacks may be in order, but don't make it a tailgate party!

This is a good place for some words of advice to teens and adults. I notice when I go in some places of business there is a sign that says, "No food or Drink, Please." So put down your Coke or Coffee when coming into the house of worship. This is not a ball game or concert. Be a good example for the children who are watching. And you can be certain they are watching.

kjoines35@hotmail
7154 Golden Oaks E
Southaven, MS 38671

A "Drop-in" at Wren



Near Aberdeen, Mississippi, a sign in front of a church building says, "Welcome." It means what it says. And, the meaning gives credit to the next line on the sign which says, "Wren Church Of Christ." Every congregation that claims to be Christ's church should work hard to make everyone feel welcome.

On April 9, 2008, my June and I dropped by for a Wednesday night service. We were truly "welcomed" by everyone. Good to see **Tommy Lawson**, long time preacher for the Wren church which brings together about 40 to 50 worshippers each

Lord's day. Appreciate so very much **Gerald Worthey** asking if I would teach the Bible class. Excited, we were, to see a young lady baptized into Christ that very night.

Wren may be a small church, but seems to be active as they stress evangelism, Bible learning (as noted by the banner pictured below) and by being "ready unto every good work." It was a delightful way for June and I to spend an evening in our April visit to NE Mississippi. Thanks Wren brethren!



Tommy Lawson



Where the Wren Church Assembles (Near Aberdeen in NE Mississippi)



(left) Randy Missildine, evangelist and Richard Gooch (right), local preacher at Quitman

No Quitting at Quitman

After more than a dozen years, **Richard Gooch** continues to serve as the dedicated preacher for the Quitman church which brings together 50 to 60 each Lord's day. Recently, the church conducted a gospel meeting with evangelist **Randy Missildine** from Waynesboro doing a good job.

On the day of our visit with the church, attendance was very encour-

aging. Several area congregations were represented, especially at the afternoon service. An extra 20 minutes or so was devoted to congregational singing with brother **Dickerson** leading the singing. The Quitman church was established many years ago with the assistance of **Wayne and Catherine Mitchell** who now live and work in Belmont, MS.

Cross-Centered Religion

- Jimmy W. Cox -

Everything about Christianity centers around the death of Christ on a cross (Matt. 27:33-38).

The Lord's church centers around what happened on the cross on which our Lord died. (a) His blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28). (b) Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:23). (c) The church preaches the Gospel, the message of the death of Jesus on the cross, His resurrection and the benefits that can be received by those who enter Christ's spiritual body.

Salvation from sins centers around the events of the death and resurrection of Christ (Eph. 1:7, Eph. 2:16). After faith, repentance and confession of Christ as the Son of God, we *are baptized into His death*, and arise to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-5). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things have become new" (II Cor. 5:17). Jesus shed His blood as He died on a cross; He died to remit our sins (I Cor. 15:3).

Observance of the Lord's Supper brings to the memory of Christians, the death of our Savior on a cross. The Lord's Supper is the only memorial that our Lord instituted for His church. Early Christians partook of it on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7). We remember His death in this memorial feast.

The death of Christ is the dividing point between God's Old Covenant with Israel and Christ's New Covenant with all those who become part of His spiritual body, the church. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross" (Col. 2:14). The New Covenant is a better covenant, based on better promises, and the *perfect* sacrifice (Heb. 8:6; Heb. 10:12).

Only those who accept the invitation of Christ will be saved. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Unload that heavy burden of unforgiven sins, obey the gospel invitation of Christ and become a Christian. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Brother Jimmy Cox is a member of the Columbia Church of Christ and can be reached at 54 Cox Ln; Sandy Hook, MS 39478-9435

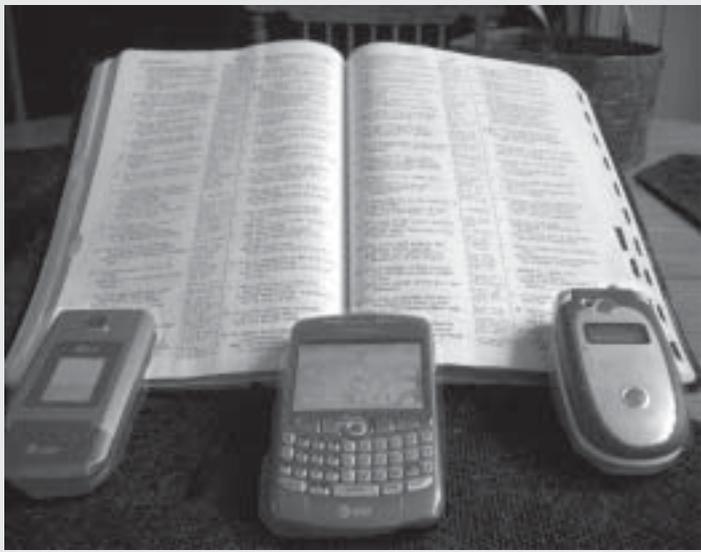
Think on This Cell Phones & Bibles

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our cell phones.

What if...

- ... we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- ... we turned back to go to get it if we forgot it?
- ... we flipped through it several times a day?
- ... we used it to receive messages from the text?
- ... we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- ... we gave it to the kids as gifts?
- ... we used it as we traveled?
- ... we used it in case of an emergency?

This is something to make you go hmmm... **Where is my Bible?** Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phones, we don't ever have to worry about our Bibles being disconnected... because **Jesus already paid the bill.** (Taken from the *DeQuincy, LA Church Family bulletin; Michael Potthoff, preacher;*



MBC Listing

(Cont from page 11)

1. Name of person providing information, how authorized to send job (i.e. elder, search committee, etc.) phone and/or e-mail
2. Contact person for applicants, contact's address (must supply contact or building address), telephone number
3. Congregation name, mailing address, telephone number, and fax number, if available, e-mail address and Web site, if available, average attendance
4. Position to be filled, brief job description, deadline to apply

5. Leadership structure of the church (i.e., # elders, # deacons, other ministers, supported mission church, etc.)

6. Compensation package (i.e., salary range, benefits, house, etc.)

7. Any special requirements (i.e., degree, # yrs. experience, married, etc.)

8. Application instructions (i.e., mail/fax/e-mail resume, phone for interview, # references, sample tape, philosophy of ministry, etc.)

Contact: **Travis Brown**
Director of Admissions
Magnolia Bible College
tbrown@magnolia.edu

Meeting of Ladies at Brandon Consider "Dealing with Difficult Emotions"

May 3, 2008, was the date for our annual Ladies' Day at North Brandon. We were very privileged this year to have **Jane McWhorter** as our guest speaker. She spoke to us on the topic of "Dealing with Difficult Emotions." She pointed out to us that emotions are very natural in our lives. We have to learn to deal with them in the proper way. She used a very impressive visual illustration of the emotion of **anger** -- that of a pencil jabbed into an apple. The pencil can be removed, but the hole is still there. It is the same with the use of angry words -- they can be taken back, we can ask for forgiveness, but the hole or hurt may still be there. It takes time to heal.



Jane McWhorter
Guest Speaker

We had 75 ladies in attendance for our Ladies' Day this year. They came from several congregations in the Jackson area and as far away as K o s c i u s k o , Lumberton and Southaven in Mississippi, and Bastrop, Louisiana. We appreciate the support we always have from sister congregations.

Our day ended with a meal served to us by **men** of our congregation. They did their usual excellent job. It was a very uplifting day and we appreciated Sister McWhorter for making the time to come our way.

(Report by **Melba Penna**; pictures by **Betty Harris**, both of the North Brandon Church of Christ)



A few of the seventy-five attending the North Brandon Ladies' Day
(Note: Record Board)

Fulton Bible Institute Averaged 48 Students Per Class Studying the Book of Ephesians

Pictured below is a class photo of students taking "The Book of Ephesians", a course offered by the Fulton Bible Institute in Fulton, MS during the Spring Term of 2008. The class averaged 48 students per class from eleven dif-

ferent congregations in the Northeast Mississippi area. At the end of the course banquet, **Tommy Stanford** from the Mantachie church of Christ received the Star Student award and the **Westside church of Christ** in Houston, MS and the **Fulton church of Christ** tied for the Church participation award.

The next course planned is **Bible History I**. It will meet Tuesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., beginning, God willing, August 26, 2008.

Fulton Bible Institute is located at 500 South Clifton Street in Fulton, MS. For more information or if interested in taking a course, please contact **Russ Crosswhite**, the School Administrator, at 662-862-4559. Mailing address: P. O. Box 251; Fulton, MS 38843. rgross@nexband.com

MM Requests Your Prayers

Attalla

(Continued from page 5)

fectively proved by Scripture that the church is not a *building* and that it is not an extension of the *Jewish synagogue*. He further showed from the Bible that the church is not a *political organization* nor a social club and that the **true** church of Jesus Christ is not a *denomination*.

Our dear brother Watkins made very clear that, scripturally speaking, the Lord's church is not a monarchy and that the church of Christ is not a democracy, governed by men. Then, as the visiting speaker closed his sermon, he stressed that being a citizen of Christ's kingdom is vital and that the process of becoming a member of the Lord's church is clearly taught in the Scriptures. The Saviour's plan for salvation requiring faith, repentance, and baptism was clearly presented, followed by a special invitation to any who may still be out of Christ.

As my June and I think back over the experiences we had while out of state in early April, we are in agreement that our *unexpected blue-jean* visit with the small, but friendly church in the town of Attalla, Alabama was truly one of the more memorable "drop-ins." We continue to find life to be exciting and are frequently reminded that some of life's greatest joys come from events which are not planned nor expected. **God is so good!** (A/ & June Franks)

Thank You
Receiving & Reading
Magnolia Messenger

Excuses

(Cont. from page 6)

the time to discover God's answers to those questions.

As in Jesus' parable, refusing the master's invitation is a grave insult. Our Master invites us all to enjoy what He has prepared for us. May we gladly accept His invitation and throw the excuses away before it is everlastingly too late. (2 Cor. 6:2) "...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

1. Butler, Paul T. "The Gospel of Luke." The Bible Study Textbook Series. College Press Publishing Company. Joplin. 1981.

2. Barclay, William. "The Gospel of Luke." The Daily Study Bible Series. The Westminster Press. Philadelphia. 1975.

* Thoughts for this article came from an article in the Gospel Minutes. June 29th. Bound Volume 1979.

Travis Brown
Director of Admissions
Magnolia Bible College
tbrown@magnolia.edu



Dealing With BURNOUT



Mark Ray

- Mark Ray -

Many today are paralyzed by feelings of depression, helplessness and despair. The term 'burned out' is used more and more in our fast paced world.

God has a plan for helping us deal with the problem of helplessness or burnout. This plan can be seen in the example of Moses. In Exodus

2:15, Moses fled Egypt, probably feeling like a failure. Everything he had worked for his entire life had just collapsed and he was left without hope or purpose.

Having a case of burnout does not mean that you are a failure or a person that is too weak to cope with life. In fact, Moses was a man of faith before his burnout occurred, Hebrews 11:24-26. Moses had just reached the point where everything seemed to fall apart and appeared hopeless. God gave Moses direction and helped him restart his life to become one of the greatest rulers of Israel. He did this by telling Moses to do the four "S" words.

Solitude

spending time alone with God

One reason our tanks may seem to run empty is we don't take time to fill them up with God. Moses was not ready to be a leader of Israel until he spent time in the desert with God. All the knowledge and education of the Egyptian Empire could not equal the quiet solitude of a shepherd with his Lord.

Even Jesus, God's own son, zealously guarded his time alone with the Father. On numerous occasions we read in the Bible of the times Jesus spent nights in prayer and fasting. Jesus was a very busy man. The book of John tells us that no book on this earth could contain all the teachings and actions of Jesus because there were so many, John 21:25. Yet, interspersed with the constant business of being the Messiah, Jesus knew the power of solitude with God.

Today's Christian must spend time with the Lord. This is done in personal Bible study, prayer and meditation. It is when we are busiest that we must remember to slow down to commune with God.

Splendor

recognizing the beauty of creation, salvation and sanctification.

Moses' impression with the burning bush led him to holy ground, Exodus 3. The Psalmist stated, "The heavens declare the glory of God," Psalm 19:1. When we recognize the work of God in the beauty of the sunset and the power of the storm we will see the hand of the master artist in heaven. When I hear the giggle of my two boys or see the beauty of my wife, I remember there must be a God in heaven that loves me and cares for me.

Even Jesus, God's own son, zealously guarded his time alone with the Father. On numerous occasions we read in the Bible of the times Jesus spent nights in prayer and fasting.

When I read passages of the Bible that teach me that God loves even me, John 3:16, and that Christ died for me even though I

was an unlovable sinner, Romans 5:8, I see the splendor of the gospel. Paul wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3.

We must remember the source of every spiritual blessing and constantly stand in awe in the presence of our Lord. When we enter into the darkest hours of our lives we must remember the brightest illuminations of the light. This recollection will carry us through the deepest depression, the loneliest of nights and the dreariest of days.

Even some of the greatest Bible characters became discouraged (Moses, Exodus 2; David, 1 Samuel 22 and Elijah, 1 Kings 19:4.) There is no sin in burning out or becoming discouraged.

Service

having true purpose in life

"Vanity, vanity" is what Solomon found concerning the end result of the pursuit of physical pleasures, Ecclesiastes 1:2. Our life is worthless unless we spend it in pursuit of the Maser. Moses received his call, "Bring my people out of Egypt" Exodus 3:10. Paul was able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" 2 Timothy 4:7.

When we feel down we must rededicate ourselves to service for the Lord. Jesus told us that he who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for the sake of Jesus will find it, Matthew 10:39.

Soul Mate

having a companion who can listen and understand

Of course we always have Jesus who is our intercessor and friend. But it is also good to have a human friend here on this earth to share our joys and sorrows. The Lord gave Moses his brother Aaron, Exodus 4:14. Elijah had the younger prophet Elisha, 1 Kings 19:16.

When we are in danger of facing burnout we should seek out someone with whom we can talk and share our desires and problems. A good friend is someone who will listen and not necessarily tell that person what to do. A good friend is someone who will want what is best at all times for others.

We also must seek to be the sort of person others can seek out and confide in during times of need. Christ created the church so that we could edify one another and build each other up on our way to heaven, Hebrews 10:24-25.

Burnout is a major problem among church leaders and among all Christians today. We must remember that it is not a permanent disease that makes us worthless but it is a condition that brings us down only temporarily. Even some of the greatest Bible characters became discouraged (Moses, Exodus 2; David, 1 Samuel 22 and Elijah, 1 Kings 19:4.) There is no sin in burning out or becoming discouraged. God wants to lift you back up and put you to greater use in his service.

Mark Ray preaches for the Siwell Road congregation in SW Jackson. His address: Mark Ray; 4075 Siwell Road; Jackson, MS 39212. E-mail: marksiwell@gmail.com

VICKSBURG

Seminar on Hermeneutics

The Bypass church announced a Special Saturday Seminar on Hermeneutics or "How to Understand the Bible Better". It was planned for Saturday, May 31, 2008 in the church annex at 787 Hwy. 61 North Bypass. Sessions were planned from 9:00 a.m. until 12:50 p.m. Classes are to be taught by **Willie Nettle**, adjunct Bible Instructor at Magnolia Bible College and preacher for the Bypass church. Contact numbers: 601-638-6165 or 601-638-5142.

Evangelist at Enterprise



Dennis Hardaway

My June and I were blessed to recently visit a meeting in progress with our brethren at Quitman, Mississippi. Also visiting the Sunday afternoon service was the long time preacher for the church at Enterprise, Mississippi -- **Dennis Hardaway**. Brother Dennis informed us that he has served as preacher for the Enterprise church (a few miles south of Meridian) since 1990. He was grateful to say their Sunday services are presently bringing together about 40 to 50 worshippers each week. We hope to visit before long, God willing.

Gospel Meeting

Old Union Church of Christ Carrollton, MS with evangelist A. L. Franks July 20-23, 2008

Eupora Lumberton & Hill's Chapel

Don Green, who worked the past few years with the Eupora congregation has returned to Hill's Chapel (near Booneville) to be their preacher for a second time. Replacing him at Eupora is **James Hill** who has been preaching at Lumberton, MS. We pray God's blessings to be with both preachers, their families and with all three congregations.

19th Annual **Ladies' Day Program East Laurel Church of Christ 1901 N Mississippi Ave Laurel, Mississippi 601-428-1466 Saturday, June 21, 2008 8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. (Breakfast and Registration) Program: 9:30 A.M... until... Theme "A Tisket, A tasket; God Has Filled My Blessing Basket" Speaker Earlcine B. Carter (Mound Bayou, Mississippi)**

Kosciusko (Tipton Street) **Gospel Meeting July 13 - 16 Sunday through Wednesday Theme: Strengthening The Church Sunday Billy Moore (Ruleville) 10:45 AM -- Leadership 3:00 PM -- The Individual Monday Les Ferguson (Kosy) 7:30 -- Family Values Tuesday James Evans (Canton) 7:30 -- Church Attendance Wednesday Al Franks (Kosy) 7:30 -- Personal Bible Study**



(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

1. Julius Lee Morris
2. Betty Waddle
3. Barbara Beard
4. Mrs. Sandra Jones
5. Rebecca Alexander
6. M/M Bowden Grisham
7. Elbertine Wesberry
8. William & Atlean Snow
9. Otis & Linda Baker
10. Sandra Grisham
11. Bea Estes
12. Clifford Crowder
13. Roger King
14. Mike Jones
15. Kay Shiers
16. Vera Spencer
17. Melvin & Kay Linton
18. Janie Green
19. Carolyn Harvill
20. Ray Parham
21. Debra Michael
22. Lorenzo Carter
23. Juanita LeBouef
24. Mary & Maggie Green
25. Martha West
26. Mary Jo Purdon
27. Carole Shelby
28. Willim Glover
29. Martha J. Cooper
30. Cheryl Carter
31. Dwight E. Hester
32. Sue Glenn
33. Dorsa Sparks
34. Melba Sewell
35. Olen Roden, Jr.
36. Eileen Williford
37. Marie Sykes
38. Miriam Styers
39. Margaret Googe
40. Brenda S. Burlison
41. Billie Boyd
42. Wilma Branch
43. Betty Shackelford
44. Mary M. McDonald
45. Katie Houston
46. Ann McDonald
47. Cathey Roberson
48. Taylor S. McCullough
49. Nancy L. Taylor
50. Ima Jean Fogus
51. Mrs. Janice Vaughan
52. Frances Harrell
53. Carol Bonner
54. Marion S. Graves
55. Ms. Daphne Stephens
56. Kerry Deaton
57. Patrilla Maddox
58. Nancy I. Switzer
59. Wynell Thompson
60. Emily Hall
61. Shelia Hall
62. Betty A. Skinner
63. Betty Stewart
64. Billy Willingham
65. Bonnie B. Glass
66. Gladys Wiser
67. Garry Gooch
68. Ray Ann Woodruff
69. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
70. Wilda Pounds
71. Peggy Wroten
72. Quincy Allen
73. Brenda Thrower
74. Ann Kimble
75. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
76. Mildred Herrington
77. Willa Fox
78. Penny Clanton
79. Bobbie Loggins
80. Paul D. Gaunt
81. Gladys M. Vines
82. Linda B. Keirn
83. Sandra Welch
84. Rosie Felton
85. Warren Scott Gallaher
86. Evelyn Page
87. Mrs. Desiree Hare
88. Jennifer F. Gray
89. Minnie Young
90. Paul & Marcella Black
91. Linda Paden
92. Doris Darnell
93. Opal Chittom
94. Patricia Thornton
95. Tammy Bullard
96. Barbara Markham
97. Mary N. Faulconer
98. Alice Humphries
99. Bill & Miriam Moore
100. Joyce A. King
101. Arva L. Fisher
102. Mrs. Cecil Smith
103. Pearl Hitt
104. Lois Ginn
105. Alma Maddox
106. Horace D. Thomason
107. Jane S. Bell
108. Carolyn T. Taylor
109. Ruby Dilmore
110. Elvis Dilmore
111. Peggy E. Cooper
112. Mrs. Walter (Iva) Hill, Jr.
113. Nelda R. Newkirk
114. Kevin Clements
115. Gina Sellier
116. Terry Newkirk
117. Ben Hightower
118. Kimberly Pearce
119. Shirley Pearce
120. Linda Hogue
121. Mrs. Dorothy L. Thornton
122. Lisa Dettor
123. Fran Williford
124. Margaret E. Johnson
125. Paul & Elsie Bryson
126. Mr. Michael Coleman
127. Gantt Carter
128. Irene M. Edwards
129. C. W. Jackson
130. Hattie Hooper
131. Exie Motes
132. Sandra Travis
133. Dahlia McAfee
134. Ava Cleveland
135. Jane Walker
136. Mike Sullivan
137. Ann Rector
138. Cheri Moore
139. Danny Stacks
140. Kathie A. Stacks
141. Barbara Yates
142. Elizabeth R. Conway
143. Mamie Guinn
144. Vic & Ruth Hawn
145. Brenda Wilson
146. Dannie Davis
147. Don "Ug" Lee
148. Jewell Phillips
149. Olen Moore
150. Mary Lois Moore
151. Shellie Hancock
152. Karen Sue Britt
153. Ruby Wright
154. Genie Hening
155. Elledith Harris
156. Linda T. Shirley
157. Charlotte Ritter
158. Jack L. Falls, Sr.
159. Olye Rush
160. Louise McLeod
161. Betty Clark
162. Jeff & Debbie Shull
163. Johnny & Princess Watson
164. Annie M. Pipkin
165. Dot Alexande
166. Margaret Burnett
167. Gladys Bryant
168. Sidney Clemmer
169. Dee Kepler
170. Ellene Vaughan
171. **Dathol Camp**
172. Lorene Lindsey
173. Maurice Graves
174. Barbara Rushing
175. Brenda Carter
176. Peggy S. Walker
177. Robert Blackburn
178. Donna Guilley
179. Travis Hamilton
180. Ruth M. Blazer
181. Melba Ogg
182. Patricia Wright
183. Dezarie Ashby
184. Myra D. Reaves
185. Dot Winslett
186. James A. Brooks
187. Bobbie Saxton
188. Ruby Gideon
189. Mattie Ann Owens
190. Paul Franks
191. Blaine Stevens
192. Chastity Lemelle
193. Kelsey Cash
194. Aaron Fontaine
195. Bobby Amos
196. Donald Shillow, Jr.
197. Drew Broussard
198. Jessica Hance
199. Jake Hance
200. David Sigmund
201. Aaron Macon
202. Tori Barrilleaux
203. Hunter Hewitt
204. Daniel Decareaux
205. Taylor Drost
206. Kenneth McReynolds
207. Anna McReynolds
208. Leora White
209. Marilyn Estes
210. Louis Estes
211. Hollie Hewitt
212. Vicky Estes
213. Josef Cash
214. Karen Cash
215. Gloria Watson
216. Janet McReynolds
217. Bill Edwards
218. Terri Edwards
219. Anges Gandy
220. Randall Gandy
221. Suzan Dubrock
222. Ashley Kebodeaux
223. Bart Prather
224. Janet Thibodaux
225. Johnnie Thibodaux
226. Sandra Martin
227. Trisha Thibodeaux
228. Paulette Boudreaux
229. Ancilla Nolan
230. Patricia McArthur
231. Linda Wranosky
232. Debbie Doucet
233. Ray Doucet
234. Patricia Cole
235. Tommy Cole
236. David Kineman, Sr.
237. Tammy Kineman
238. Ena Franks
239. Glen Franks
240. Cary McCartney
241. Marlene McCartney
242. Leonard Guillory
243. Jean Smith
244. Kathie Bordelon
245. Erline Elkins
246. Otha Hewitt
247. Barbara Gayle
248. Crystal Green
249. Craig Green
250. Linda Ruth Reed
251. Martha Mantel
252. Cynthia Green
253. Bud Wranosky
254. Debra Sigmund
255. John Sigmund
256. Steve Griffin
257. Margaret Griffin
258. Glenda Franks
259. Christine Poynter
260. Jason Poynter
261. Wanda Ward
262. Grady Ward
263. Debbie Anderson
264. Jerry L. Hart
265. Eileen Ferrebee
266. Buster & Sandra Green
267. Verna Spake
268. Ruby McCrory
269. Imogene Kirk
270. Buddy Parsons
271. Bobby Brown
272. Ruby L. Matejka
273. Mrs. W. C. Wells
274. Claire Mosley
275. Grace Whitley
276. Billie McCurdy
277. Sharon Huckaba
278. Gala Webster
279. Jerry & Norma Inman
280. Sherry Gordon
281. Joe Arnold
282. Rubye Davis
283. Joan Palmer
284. Doris Carroll
285. Wanda Griffin
286. Dorothy Ford
287. Laura & Inez Brannon
288. Helen Hopkins
289. Debbie Chapman
290. Pat Harris
291. Wayne Crum
292. Phillip Smith
293. Jerry Hawkins
294. Jeremy McFarlin
295. Imogene Grayson
296. William Pyron
297. Michelle Simpson
300. Ann Sims
301. Lessie Tanson
302. J. L. Eaton
303. Shirley Phillips
304. Hazel Cook
305. Evelyn Stanford
306. Ms. Lois Wright
307. Alice Dempsey
308. Jim Nowell
309. Charlotte Vandiver
310. Anita Lee
311. Ed Istre
312. Jessie Baker
313. Paul McElroy
314. Barry Cole
315. Velda Carter
316. Mrs. Mildred Wilkerson
317. M/M Arthur Burnett
318. Claude Edwards
319. Mrs. L. C. Stewart
320. Jimmy Anderson
321. Joe Carlile
322. Joey Alcede
323. Dianna Alcede
324. Craig Bolding
325. Dody Treme
326. Renee Treme
327. Alice Cooper
328. John T. Sikes
329. Vester Cooper
330. Jwill Sims
331. Ashley & Rusty Lambert
332. Peggy Alcede
333. Eileen Tyson
334. Mattie Gregory
335. Crotez Brown
336. Addie Brown
337. Earlean Jones
338. Bettie Brown
339. Mary Dennis
340. Emma Price
341. James Hudley
342. Alice M. Amas
343. Stan Killian
344. E. T. Browning
345. Doris Johnson
346. Jeannie Browning
347. Tina Deville
348. Scot Nugent
349. Eunice Kirkwood
350. Doralyn Felton
351. Admiral Tidwell
352. June Faulkner
353. Osteen & Era Hinson
354. Gail Gurganus
355. Connie Fountain
356. Dorothy Brunson
357. June Brents
358. Grace Childer
359. Shirley Dewett
360. Diane Dunaway
361. Patricia McClure
362. Lizzie M. Gibbons
363. Mrs. Dean Howe
364. Annie Ruth Pery
365. Bronwen Pollard
366. Idna M. Eddington
367. Kay Bramlett
368. Maryanne Ray
369. Eddie Vermillion
370. Jim Vermillion
371. Jo Masters
372. Janie Victor
373. Ms. Millie Goode
374. Mildred Isom
375. Sandy Dean
376. Barbara Cox
377. Ina Sadler
378. Shirley Bostick
379. Connie Tice
380. Hazel P. Perkins
381. Billie Jane Davis
382. Lucille Jackson
383. Bernice Mills
384. Carol Bradley
385. Angie Mask
386. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
387. Mary Adams Warren
388. Gaynell Doughty
389. Rachal Hughes
390. Dorothy Ann Cameron
391. Edith Winters
392. Mrs. Audrey McCarver
393. Evelyn Faulkenburry
394. Bernice Townsel
395. Linda Crochet
396. Betty Standard
397. Freida Sanders
398. Christine Holliday
399. Erica L. Holliday
400. Oscar F. Yates
401. Mable L. Hodges
402. Carolyn Garrett
403. Johnnie Evelyn Mancill
404. James Breckenridge
405. Glenda Jefcoat
406. Gladys Jackson
407. Rick Bishop
408. Mima R. Vines
409. Glen Brady
410. Sue McDaniel
411. Betty Van Buren
412. Shirley Waggener
413. Pierce Flatt
414. Kittie Edwards
415. Anna Price
416. Bobby W. Adams
417. Stacey & MeLinda Hawkins
418. Susan Jones
419. Joe Jones
420. Faye Cottrell
421. Mary T. Feist
422. Elsie M. Moore
423. Elizabeth Hines
424. Elizabeth Dickerson
425. Vera Winfrey
426. Jack Meredith
427. Ruby Pounds
428. John L. Gates, Jr.
429. Aaron & Amy Miles
430. Bonnie Skates
431. Charlene Williams
432. Ann Mixon
433. Irene Wright
434. Marjorie French
435. Sue Gurley
436. Arlis Hinton
437. Peggy Hartman
438. Irma Lucas
439. Velma B. DeLancey
440. Roger Thorson
441. Myrtle Rogers
442. Glenda Wilson
443. Patricia Connaway
444. Jo Ann Mills
445. Dotsy Downs
446. Veva June Calhoun
447. Mary Lou Mirante
448. Ella Darnell
449. Beth Pigg
450. B. A. Basford
451. Isaac Humphrey
452. Bodean Collum
453. Marie Lively
454. Melvin Easley
455. Frederick Alan Jones
456. Bonnie Howell
457. Glinda R. Grant
458. Jerry Grant
459. Frieda Thompson
460. Ried Thompson
461. Wes & Roda Jeans
462. Dorothy Franks
463. Earl Franks
464. Vernie Cornes
465. Helen Franks
466. Lucy Franks
467. Stephanie Slaydon
468. Johnnye Blackmon
469. Sommer Burnett
470. Dennis Ray McNairy, Jr.
471. Daniel Mastin
472. Akyra McNairy
473. Kenyetta Smith
474. Diamand Mancrief
475. Louella Whitehead
476. Rubye S. Miller
477. Aleesha Quarles
478. Roddrick Williams
479. Shakemia Anderson
480. Corissa Quarles
481. Caliyah Quarles
482. Jakeria Williams
483. James Williams
484. Patsy McClung
485. Katie Houston
486. Mary A. Jacobs
487. Rebecca Alexander
488. Glenda Wooldridge
489. Sue Davis
490. Millard C. Davis
491. Jon Skinner
492. Kara Skinner
493. Billy Stokes
493. Mary Stokes
495. Marty Alexander
496. Dawn Alexander
497. Wayne Rigdon
498. Betty Skinner
499. Debra Gallaher
500. Larry Gallaher
501. Greg Mullinicks
502. Mrs. Jean Lewis

NOTICE

All answers received before June 8, 2008, have been included. Thanks to all who read the MM and answer "The QB". (see page 20)

More Encouragement

We did a study of the Conversions in Acts tonight (5-28) and I used a close likeness of your Q box form to make it an interactive study. I will send the forms via USPS later. These good people [14 names - see 487-500, all] all took part in the study. Thank You and may God continue to bless You and June and the Magnolia Messenger. (Larry B Gallaher, preacher for the Duffee church of Christ)

Greetings within fellowship and love of God! My name is Roger Thorson and I'm 50 years old here at Parchman... I'm writing with prayful request to find out how I might receive Magnolia Messenger. I received Jan/Feb 2008 volume 30; number 1--our 30th year... from the volunteer chaplain passing through one day. It was such a rich blessing of encouragement!! See most all my family after my God, bless her, my dear Mother, which passed on to be with her Lord in September, 2006! So see, she was my spiritual helper and encourager in my life...The Lord, provided me with (love and encouragement) now from persons who writes from other countries! And I do my very best to return this cycle...Truly most grateful for your taking time, efforts in reading and answering my letter. Would also love to receive your prayers...God bless, keep and provide!!! Within His Fellowship and Love, (Roger E. Thorson, Parchman, MS)

Editor's Response: Your name has been added to our mailing list, Roger. Thanks for asking. God bless.

Please note the above address. While I appreciate your efforts, the prison administration prefers we have the correct address on all incoming mail. You might be interested in the enclosed bookmark. On it you have information relative to the purchase of a book I have written. That book should serve as proof that something good can come out of Angola. I'm sure you and your readers will enjoy the read. Additionally, if one of your members is interested, I would welcome correspondance. Perhaps I am like the children in the poem you published, but it would be nice to have someone help cry. Christ be with you,

James H. Forrest, #086655
Camp F/2; LA State Prison
Angola, LA 70712

I love and appreciate you so much for sending me the Messenger. I enjoy reading it and am encouraged also. I pray that God will bless you for all the time and work you put in it. I enjoy doing the Question Box and also learn a lot doing it. In Christian love, (Robert Blackburn, Florence, AL)

This is to help support the circulation of the Magnolia Messenger. Keep up the good work. (William J. Hall, Guntown, MS)

The MM Requests Your Prayers and Your Suggestions

... From A Woman's Viewpoint ...

Why Me, Lord?

- June Franks -

Why me, Lord? is a question that, as a people, we often ask, especially when we are having problems or things are not going very well in our lives. This question reminds us of Job in the Bible. We are familiar with the problems that Job faced in his life and, probably, at times, he wondered, "Why me, Lord?"

The book of Job sets forth the problem of human suffering, with the premise that just men may be visited with severe afflictions. We do learn from a study of Job that his suffering was not placed upon him because he was an ungodly person.

The book describes Job as a pious, God fearing man. The book of Job also makes clear the attitude a sufferer should have toward God. We should *trust* God under the unknown and all manner of conditions.

Several years ago, we published a story in the Magnolia Messenger about **Ray and Sharon Paseur** and, at that time, their *three* daughters. After a recent visit in Ray and Sharon's home, we decided to do a follow up story about their family.

Ray and Sharon were blessed with three beautiful little girls; however, all three daughters, when they were very young, were afflicted with a very rare and crippling disease. This disease caused all three girls to not develop normally -- physically and mentally.

I'm sure Ray and Sharon could have asked many times the question "Why us, Lord?" The affliction and anguish suffered by the Paseur family over the past three or four decades is hard to imagine. Most of us would probably keep asking, "Why? Why me, Lord?"

The Paseurs may have wondered and may have asked, "Why, Lord?"; however, those who have been close to them through the years, seldom, if ever, heard them complain. In fact, Ray and Sharon have always been an inspiration and encouragement to so many of us because of their love, devotion, attentiveness, and patience shown toward their precious children.

Two of their three daughters, Diana and Stephanie, have already departed this life and gone on into eternity. Both lived longer than was expected, no doubt in part, because of the devoted love and care that Ray and Sharon bestowed upon them. Diana died when she was only 17 and had she had lived, she would have just passed her 42nd birthday on June 3, 2008.

Stephanie died a few years ago when she was 30. Andrea is the only daughter left. She is now 31 years old and weighs 112 pounds. She is *totally*



June Franks

dependent on her parents to do everything for her.

Instead of looking for reasons to not attend services of the church, Ray and Sharon are so excited that, for the first time in many years, they can now, once again, worship together as a family and attend all the services of the church. Brother Ray has made a wagon for Andrea, on which she can be placed and then rolled up a ramp into their spacious station wagon.

On the evening we were privileged to visit and eat supper with Ray and Sharon, we were greatly impressed with the way they went about getting ready for Wednesday evening services. Sharon fed Andrea and dressed her for the midweek church service. Then, Ray picks up Andrea (all 112 pounds!), carries her out on the carport, places her on the special wagon and rolls her up into their station wagon. Then, they are off to the church building where they reverse the procedure, taking her into the building for services.

Andrea is a happy child. She doesn't speak; however, she laughs a lot, loves to watch television and enjoys getting attention. Andrea seems to be so happy that she can also attend church services with her mom and Dad. As she lies on her little homemade wagon she is constantly looking around the church auditorium with a big smile on her face.

Members at the Lord's church in West Monroe, Louisiana pay a lot of attention to Andrea. They enjoy buying little things for her, like pretty bracelets which Andrea loves to wear.

You cannot help but admire Ray and Sharon for the example of love and patience they set before others. In spite of all their difficulties, they both seem to enjoy life as they daily count their blessings.

Ray, who has an earned doctor's degree, presently serves as preacher for the West Ouachita Church of Christ in West Monroe, Louisiana. Many will remember Ray's capable service as a professor at Magnolia Bible College where he worked about twenty years or so before moving to Louisiana. Sharon, who is a graduate of MBC, also worked for the college before their

move.

After losing her beloved husband, **Jean**, Ray's mom, moved from Alabama to West Monroe where she could be near Ray, Sharon and Andrea. Jean is also a big help in caring for Andrea and looking after Ray and Sharon.

We were reminded once again, on our recent Wednesday evening visit, what a wonderful and special people the Paseur family is. A statement made by Sharon really stands out in my mind. She said, "Without a doubt, I know where my girls are." And, to a Christian mother and/or father this means everything -- to know that your children have gone to be or are going to be *with the Lord*. Sharon added, "The girls have been good for us."

Thank you, Ray and Sharon for opening up your home and sharing your lives with us. You are "good for us." We love you. (A1 & June 601-668-3344; franksmm@aol.com)

Thank you for reading the MM!

Your Prayers for the Continued Work of the Magnolia Messenger are Solicited

A Home in Heaven

A preacher can't get us to heaven,
Nor a family member so dear.
We must study God's holy word,
Where He tells us His plan so clear.

We can't work our way to heaven,
Though many good deeds we do;
He has set forth His commands,
To be followed by me and you.

We can't pray our way into heaven,
But we should pray everyday.
God knows if we're sincere,
By our hearts, not what we say.

We will make mistakes in life,
As long as breath is in us all.
God keeps His arms wide open,
And will catch us when we fall.

We are saved by God's grace,
And not of our own merit.
Jesus Christ bore our cross so,
We would not have to bear it.

God's plan is not hard to follow,
If we truly want to obey.
If we want a home in heaven,
There is just no other way.

Nina Thorn
1135 Ratliff Ferry Road
Canton, MS 39046-9688



Three Afflicted Daughters. Only One is Left. Ray picks up daughter, places her on wagon, into the van and on to all church services!

P
A
S
E
U
R

a good teacher

a great preacher

And,
a very special Dad!

Story By Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray
BCagleRay@Aol.Com



Scars of Disappointment

We sat together on that cold winter night, while outside, the soft flakes of snow fell at a rapid pace. My father and I laughed and talked about the day I was born. The old coal stove turned red and made warm crackling sounds as he remarked... "and tomorrow you'll be twelve".

The only thing that I was truly interested in was where he'd hidden my gift. The shiny red bike I longed for was nowhere to be seen, yet it was missing from the store window. My father said he couldn't afford it this year; times were tough and twenty dollars was hard to come by. Still, I went to bed excited. I was sure that he was only preparing me for a surprise.

The next morning my father handed me a box with a beautiful red bow. I opened the gift to find a black leather Bible with a note on the outside: "To my son: please read this every day and never forget that material things are not the most important things in life."

To say the least, I was devastated. Words can't describe the hurt I felt when I realized that this was my one and only gift. I sulked for days, then shoved the Bible in a drawer beside my bed.

Years passed, my father died and I was suddenly alone. "Where do I go for comfort?" I thought. I went back to my childhood home to find that long-forgotten birthday present. I lifted the Bible from the box, laid it in my hand and gently caressed the aged leather binding. I opened it and tears stung my eyes. In disbelief, I stared at a crumpled twenty dollar bill with a note: "Happy birthday, son. I sold a few things and managed to get together the money for your bicycle. I asked the storekeeper to take it from the window and save it for you. Now you can go and buy it."

Oh, if I could relive that day! If I had only looked inside the Bible. How long did my father wait to hear my screams of joy when I found that twenty dollar bill? How long did he bear the scars of disappointment?

Now on the eve of my fiftieth birthday, the snow again is swirling outside, sparkling between heaven and earth. Somehow, the past just caught up with the present. I am upon my knees begging for forgiveness. I hope that somewhere, somehow my father can hear the pleading of my guilt-ridden soul.

The End (Fiction)

Use of the
King James Version
may be helpful

The Question Box

Is your
name found
on page 18?

what is the Church of Christ

As you know well, words have different meanings to different people. When you hear the word "church", what comes to your mind? A building? A denomination?

This month's "QB" asks you to ponder New Testament teachings concerning the church established by Christ and purchased with his blood. Please approach this lesson prayerfully as you seek to better understand what the Bible actually teaches about the true church of our Lord. (*Of course, this brief study can serve only as an introduction to the church established by Jesus Christ. We would be happy to*

study further with you or suggest someone in your area with whom you could study.) When you complete this lesson, would you please join with hundreds of others and send your answers to us (see page 18)? By so doing you will **encourage others** and you may also be selected as our **next Bible winner** (see page 19). Each issue, by random selection, we choose one student who sent in answers and to him/her we award a beautiful Study Bible. You may be the one! Thank you for answering "The Question Box." (A. L. Franks, editor and author of QB. Telephone: 601-668-3344; email: franksmm@aol.com)

How is Christ's church identified in the New Testament?

(Match the reference [right] with appropriate word or phrase [left].)

___ "Way"	___ "Church of God"	1. Acts 8: ___	6. I Peter ___:2
___ "Church"	___ "Church of the Living God"	2. Acts 19: 23	7. Romans 16:16
___ "Body of Christ"	___ "Temple of the Living God"	3. 2 Cor. ___:16	8. Eph. ___:12
___ "Churches of Christ"	___ "Household of faith"	4. I Peter ___:10	9. I Tim. ___:15
___ "Flock of God"	___ "People of God"	5. Galatians 6:___	10. I Cor. 15:___

How were individual followers of Christ identified in the first century?

(Match the reference with the identifying word.)

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Disciples | ___ I Peter 4:16 |
| 2. Saints | ___ Matthew 23:8 |
| 3. Christians | ___ Philippians 1:1 |
| 4. Brethren | ___ Acts 11:26 |
| 5. Children | ___ Romans 8:16 |

How did a sinner become saved and a member of the Lord's church?

(Supply missing words)

Acts 2:38 -- "..._____ and be _____ everyone of _____ in the _____ of Jesus...."

Acts 2:41 -- "Then _____ that gladly _____ his _____ were _____"

Acts 2:47 -- "... And the _____ added to the _____ daily such as should be _____."

Where Does the Bible Say?

Select the reference which teaches each of the following facts about the church. **References to help are:** (A) Acts 20:28; (B) Ephesians 1:22, 23; (C) Matthew 1:21; (D) Ephesians 5:23; (E) Luke 19:10; (F) Acts 2:47; (G) Matt. 16:18. Write in the space provided the letter for each reference. The first one is done!

FACTS: 1. God's "only begotten son" was named "Jesus" because He came to "save his people from their sins". ___ C ___ 2. Jesus came to earth to "seek and save the lost". ___ ___ 3. Jesus promised, "...I will build my church...." ___ ___ 4. The church was "purchased with his own blood." ___ ___ 5. All who are saved are added by the Lord to His church. ___ ___ 6. Jesus is said to be the "saviour of the body." ___ ___ 7. The body of Christ is the church of Christ. ___

Thank you for answering "The Question Box"

Please Send Your Answers to Us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Notice: Each person who sends in answers will be recognized in the next issue of the "MM" (see page 18). Also, by random drawing, the name of one student will be selected to receive a beautiful New Study Bible. **You may be the one.** Please send your answers to:

The Question Box
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

You Can Receive and Read

Every Issue of the
"Magnolia Messenger"
Mailed Directly to Your Home or Business
No Charge to You

Address: MM; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090
E-mail: franksmm@aol.com

A Trip to Bible Lands

2009

Lord willing, sometime next year, Al Franks and Paul Franks are planning to take a group to the Bible Lands. We have partnered with one of the most successful companies that puts together tours to the Holy Lands. In their 30+ years of operation, they have not had one major incident regarding any kind of safety issue.

This, we believe, will be the most exciting and encouraging trip you, as a Christian, will ever take in your life on earth. If you are interested in going with us, please let us know. An exact date has not been selected just yet; however, we planning to go at a time when it is the most cost effective. For a brochure, please contact Paul Franks at paulfranks@bellsouth.net or call 337-515-7314.

Someone Has Said Something Worth Repeating Worth Repeating

1. "Problems are only opportunities in work clothes."
2. "People who do not believe in prayer will make an exception when tragedy strikes."
3. "Innocence is better than repentance."

(via Mountain Echoes,
Ardron Hinton, editor)

Disciples Asked:

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus Answered,
Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child....

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be as a little child. Make me one of your 'little ones'.

(Read Matthew 18:1-6)

New Bible Winner Dathol Camp

Amory, MS
Congratulations!
Have Bible; Will Deliver



Flowers: "A beautiful gift from God"
So says my June. I agree! Don't you? (Tennessee Tulips)