



Magnolia Messenger

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

AUG-SEPT, 2008 -- VOLUME 30; NUMBER 4 -- Our 30th Year

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

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Words of Wisdom from the Heart of Hodge



Sample: "Fruit doesn't come from a dead stump." He added, "Leadership is character... integrity."

Please Turn to Page 10

**Elijah Battles
With Baal**
Answer
"The Question Box"
(See Page 20)

570
Bible Students
Sent in Answers
(Is your name on page 18?)

ISSUE INCLUDES
Looking at God's Face
by John Gardner -- Page 7
The Compassionate Shepherd
by Travis Brown -- Page 8
One Things is Needed
by Eddie Lewis -- Page 13
The Cross as A Pulpit
by Derek Williams -- Page 15
Plus
A Whole Lot More!

Special Sermon Series

The Truth About End Times

The Lake Harbour Drive Church of Christ in Ridgeland, Mississippi is hosting a special series of sermons entitled "**The Truth About the End Times**," featuring **Tyler Young**, from Roanoke, Texas, starting on **October 5th and going through the 8th** (Sunday-Wednesday) at 7:30 P.M.

The topics will be: **The Kingdom Is Come, The King Is Coming, The Rapture, Is Jesus Coming Soon? The Anti-Christ, and Are You Ready For Armageddon?** Contact us at 601-856-2165 or jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org.

FULTON

Homecoming for the Clifton Street church in Fulton is planned for **November 1-2, 2008**. Services are planned for Saturday evening at 7:00; Sunday at 9:30, 10:15 and about 1:30. **Al Franks**, editor of MM, is to be the guest speaker. **Russ Crosswhite** is the long time (15 years) local preacher.

A "Silly Dream" About Smoking

(Page 2)

For Whom Shall I Vote?

(Page 4)

Another Look At Bible Baptism

(Page 7)

Fall Lectures at MBC

Christ's Church In a Pagan World

Speakers on Saturday

Holland, Paseur & Paseur

October 18, 2008

(Details on Page 9)

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

Correction/Apology

Editor's Face Turned Red



In the June/July, 2008 issue of the MM, we reported on a sermon preached in Attalla, Alabama by **James Watkins**. After it was *too late* -- the MM was printed -- we discovered, that on page 16, the Messenger account stated, "*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.*"

This was not an accurate report of what was taught by brother Watkins in his excellent sermon. The little word "not" was used one time too many! (Sadly, I recall the incident in the Garden of Eden!) The report should have stated, "*The Lord's church is a monarchy, governed by Christ and not a democracy, governed by men.*" We sincerely regret the error and apologize to our readers and to brother Watkins. (alf/editor)

Among the Best in Bulletins

(Selected Articles from church bulletins)

Religion Is Dangerous!

Dalraida Church of Christ; Montgomery, AL (Page 6)

What Is The "Unpardonable Sin"?

East Main Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. (Page 8)

"I Kissed a Girl and I Liked It"

Vicksburg (I-20) Church of Christ; Vicksburg, MS (Page 17)

More "Drop-in" Visits

Clinton - Page 4
Christian Chapel - Pg 11
Bean's Ferry - Page 11
Ackerman - Page 15

**Plan to Attend
Our Next
LATX
MM RV Rally
October 22-26, 2008
Grapeland, Texas
(See Page 5)**

Bible Lands Trip

Hosts

Al and Paul Franks

Date

November 3, 2009

Cost: \$1998*

(From New York)

Classic 10-Day Tour

**Jerusalem, Galilee,
Bethlehem, Jericho
and other important sites**

(Depart from a city near you
for just a little more)

(*plus tax, tips, etc.)

More info

See Page 6

A Reader Asks:

What is meant by "the transfiguration of Christ?" What was its purpose and/or result? (M. E.)

May Responds:

(Turn to page 3)



A Man "Out of Focus"

(See Page 10)

Read about the unbeliever who said, "I am an atheist... on a scale of 1 to 10, I am a ten! I know there is no God."

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Change Service
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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)

Al and June,

Hope you are doing well. My family and I are doing well. Just getting older. In fact, I was reminded of this fact when I was reading the Messenger last night. I saw Tim McCarter's picture and immediately I thought, "He sure doesn't look like he did when we graduated; but then again I don't either."

I am presently working with the Nettleton Church of Christ in Jonesboro, AR. We have been here since last December. We are thoroughly enjoying the work. Our average attendance is around 300; we have two television programs, a radio program as well as other works and activities. So, there is certainly enough to keep one busy. But I do love the work.

Just wanted to let the two of you know that I appreciate the good work you do. I always enjoy reading the Messenger. The article on the Paseurs was truly inspiring. Keep up the good work. In Christ, **Jimmy Ferguson** (Jonesboro, AR)

Brother Franks,

Thank you so much for publishing my article in the Messenger. I really do appreciate it. I have received responses from as far away as Oregon, Kentucky and Texas. Its amazing what the influence of your work truly is!

I also have received responses from prisoners in three different prison systems asking for friendship and bible studies. Once again... thank you.
Mark Ray (Siwell, Jackson, MS)

Reader Leaves Interesting Message about a "Hound-dog" On Answering Machine

"Brother Al...

This is... (E.S., initials) and I've got a hound-dog on my neck, trying to find an e-mail number for Ray Paseur... and, I can't find that dude in my copy at all. Could you give me a ring? I know I'm stupid, but I ain't that dumb... I'm just stupid. ...Cannot find this, on page 19 -- Ray Paseur -- that e-mail number. Give me a ring, right back, and I'll get this fellow off my neck. Appreciate it."

Editor's Note: I made a call "right back" to my dear brother **E.S.** and learned that he had already found that "e-mail number" for which he was desperately searching so that he could get that "hound-dog" (a respected, faithful gospel preacher) off his neck. I knew, then, that he was right when he said, "I am not *that* dumb..."

I appreciate the call and hold this brother in great respect for his "works' sake." His words were kinda cute and I just wanted to share them with readers of the MM. (alf)

It was certainly heartwarming to hear your voice on Wednesday evening. We were privileged to host you a couple of years back, and if you are ever in our area again, just stop by. We are in the process of looking for a full-time preacher and will be honored if you would place the ad [See page 14, alf] in the Magnolia Messenger. (**Quardrick D. Brumfield**, Ocean Springs, MS)

A "Silly Dream" About Smoking

I haven't been in my father's presence since 1971. His death came suddenly on Saturday, May 1. It has been more than six years since I've been with my mother. Her departure took place on Thursday, February 28, 2002. This sad separation has continued for a long time.

However, on Saturday, July 26, 2008, I saw and talked with both my mother and my daddy. At the beginning of our conversation it was a delightful visit. Just to "see" them again... to "hear" their voices. How wonderful!

But, as we were talking, all of a sudden, the scene changed drastically. There, right before me, stood my dad -- holding a cigarette in his hand. And, directly behind him, was my dear mother with a lighted cigarette in her hand. I couldn't believe what I was "seeing".

Two precious people that I loved so dearly and who were powerful examples for me and my sister -- both were smoking.

I cried out, "Mama, I can't believe what I am seeing..."



A. L. Franks
EDITOR

Daddy, why are you and mama smoking?" Tears were running from my eyes as I pleaded that they not do what I was seeing them do.

Then, I awoke. In a way, I was relieved. It was only a dream -- a "silly dream". But, as I pondered, the dream provoked many thoughts and brought back a lot of memories.

When my dad was growing up as a young man, (far out in the "sticks" of southwest Louisiana), smoking was almost as

common as eating. Most men smoked cigarettes, many of them -- "roll your own," from tobacco purchased in pouches or cans such as "Prince Albert".

The men who did not smoke regularly, often chewed tobacco -- "Day's Work", "Cotton Boll" or whatever. Many ladies chose to dip snuff. Apparently, the use of tobacco was a sign of being "grown up".

Little kids were not generally allowed to use tobacco; however, upon reaching a respectable age, as a "teen-ager", it was sorta expected that "grown folks" were privileged to display their maturity by either smoking, dipping or chewing -- or all three!

My dad got his start with tobacco rather early in life. When I was very young, I recall that Daddy had already developed the habit of smoking. I remember that his favorite brand was "Lucky Strike". And, in those days, I sorta wondered why he didn't follow the example of a close neighbor who chose "Camels". Back in those days, it was said that a smoker would "walk a mile for a camel."

I never heard anyone say that it might be wrong to use tobacco or that tobacco may be harmful to one's health. Perhaps, it was being said, but I don't recall hearing it. Maybe I was too young.

Somewhere along the line, when I was about ten years old, I did begin to hear a few negative comments about tobacco -- that it just might not be good for you and, as a Christian, God may hold you responsible for how you cared for your body. There was very little, if any, talk about the possibility that the use of tobacco might be sinful.

Studies were being conducted. Reports began to circulate. Tobacco may, indeed, be harmful and may not be such an "innocent habit". By the time I had reached my early teens, I recall accepting the reports about the harmful use of tobacco and concluding that smoking might just be sinful.

Some of the scriptures that were brought to my attention were (I Cor. 6:19,20; 7:12; Rom. 6:12,13). I recall one day my dad and I were out in the woods, riding horses and looking for some stray cattle. As we rode along, I began to beg daddy to stop smoking.

It was not necessary to do so, for my dad knew the Scriptures better than I did; however, I recall quoting certain Bible statements as we rode along. ("...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you... ye are not your own... glorify God in your body." "...all things are not expedient... I will not be brought under the

Turn to DREAM on page 16

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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Influential People of the Past



A Great Aunt and Uncle: **Mertie and Thomas Franks**
(Picture was made 40-50 years ago)

My great uncle, **Tom**, served the Boxwood church as an elder when I was growing up in southwest Louisiana. Uncle Tom was a great source of encouragement to me. At the very beginning of my efforts to become a preacher, and as long as he lived, he was a **constant encourager**. I shall be **forever** indebted to my "Uncle Tom" for, without his influence, my life's story would likely have been very different. (alf, editor)

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTION: *What is meant by “the transfiguration of Christ?” What was its purpose and/or result? (M. E.)*

RESPONSE: The “transfiguration” is an event in the life of Christ recorded in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8 and Luke 9:28-36. Here is Matthew’s account:

“And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”

Jesus Teaches His Disciples that Christ Must Suffer and Die

“After six days” counts from the conversation Jesus had with his disciples in Caesarea Philippi in which he elicited from Peter the good confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

In each of the three gospels where the transfiguration is recorded, the transfiguration is the next recorded event after Peter’s confession and the conversation about it that ensued. Jesus followed Peter’s confession with a promise to build his church (in Matthew) or to establish his kingdom (Mark and Luke). All three state that it is at this point in Jesus’ ministry that he begins to redefine for his disciples what the Messiah must do: suffer, die on the cross, be raised the third day.

Matthew and Mark date the transfiguration six days after that conversation; Luke says “about eight days” after. Luke’s “about” takes care of any contradictory discrepancy, but his account likely also uses the method of counting days that includes both the beginning date and the ending date.

“Transfiguration”

“He was transfigured” translates the Greek verb *metemorphothe* (Matthew 17:2;

Mark 9:2). Our English word “metamorphosis,” used to denote the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly, is derived from this word and that is an appropriate analogy for Christ’s “transfiguration.”

Matthew adds “and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Matthew 17:2). Luke does not use the word *metemorphothe* but says, “the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white” (9:29).

This glory was not from a heavenly light shining on him, but from a physical change in Jesus’ body—his body assuming properties similar perhaps to what would later be his glorious resurrection body (1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49).

Peter, James and John

Jesus took with him to the unnamed mountain of transfiguration Peter, James and John. These are the same three disciples who were in the house at the raising of Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51) and in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of Jesus’ betrayal (Matthew 26:37; Mark 14:33). Because they were invited to be present on these special occasions, they are often designated Jesus’ “inner circle” of disciples.

Moses and Elijah

Moses and Elijah also “appeared in glory” (Luke 9:31) and conversed with Jesus.

Why Moses and Elijah? Perhaps because Moses is the great law giver and Elijah is one of the first and greatest of the prophets, thus representing “the law and the prophets.”

Also, neither of these two Old Testament characters had a normal death and burial.

Moses died on Mount Nebo in the presence of the Lord, no one but the Lord knowing where he was buried (Deuteronomy 34:6). He was allowed to see the promised land but not to enter it.

As an encouraging side thought, though Moses was severely punished for striking the rock and not speaking to it as commanded and for his arrogance (Numbers 20:12; Deuteronomy 32:38-52) and was, therefore, not allowed to enter the promised land to which he had brought the people of Israel, he was obviously not eternally condemned.

Elijah was taken up from the earth in a fiery chariot in the presence of his successor Elisha and did not experience an earthly death.

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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Four Lessons

We learn at least four important things from this event.

1. *The Transfiguration reminds us of the Messiah’s scriptural mission.*

There are several streams of Old Testament prophecy that predict and describe the promised Kingdom and its Christ. One that is very familiar to us and was also familiar to the Jews of Jesus’ day is that of the Son of David, who would rule as king as David had ruled over the people of Israel, and would restore to them their sovereignty, power and influence.

This kingly stream begins in Genesis when Jacob blesses Judah, David’s ancestor, as the ruling patriarch: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples” (Genesis 49:10).

It is confirmed by the prophet Nathan when he promises David, “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16).

The Jews understood and fully expected that the Christ, or Messiah, would be a descendant of David. The term “Son of David” had come to mean “the Messiah” (Matthew 21:9).

However, there was another stream of prophecy that pointed to the Christ and his work that the Jews, including Jesus’ disciples, had completely overlooked: the “Suffering Servant” promised by

Isaiah and foreshadowed in several of the Psalms.

A core promise of this prophetic stream says, “But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Christ would be the suffering servant who would die an atoning death for the sins of his people.

As soon as Jesus elicited from Peter the confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” he “strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ” (Matthew 16:16, 20).

The reason Jesus did not want his claim to be the Christ widely disseminated at that time is because most people would expect that his purpose was to raise an army to defeat the Romans and give Israel political and economic freedom again. He did not want to stir up the kind of trouble that expectation would cause.

Because he knew the Suffering Servant passages were expressive of his mission, he needed to redefine, for his disciples and others, what it meant to be the Christ, before it began to be announced that he is the Christ.

The next recorded event after Jesus told his disciples to tell no one he was the Christ is the transfiguration, at which Luke tells us his mission as Christ to suffer and die is what Jesus, Moses and Elijah talked about on that occasion. “(They) appeared in glory and spoke of his departure (Greek, *exodus*, KJV “decease”), which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem” (Luke 9:31).

Interesting that with Moses as one the participants in the discussion Luke uses the word *exodus* to describe Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension, his “departure.”

Jesus said over and over again that the scriptures defined the Messiah’s work as atoning death (Matthew 26:54, 56; Luke 24:25-27, for example). The first time he mentioned it, however, is in his conversation with Peter and the other apostles that included Peter’s confession. Matthew records, “From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised” (Matthew 16:21). He “must” because the Old Testament prophets said that he would. Reference has to be to the “Suffering Servant” stream of Old Testament prophecy concerning the Christ.

2. *The Transfiguration proclaims*

the Father’s divine approval of Jesus even over the Law and the prophets.

When Peter, thinking no doubt he was giving Jesus considerable honor putting him on a level with the great Lawgiver and the great Prophet, proposed building three tabernacles, one each for Moses, Elijah and Jesus, he did not even finish speaking before a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus said he came to fulfill the law and, until he had done so, every commandment, every ceremony, every dot over an “i” and every crossing of a “t” would continue to be binding (Matthew 5:17). But he did fulfill it, and, therefore, he “has made us both (Jew and Gentile) one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace” (Ephesians 2:14-15).

The first part of the words God spoke from heaven on this occasion, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” God also spoke concerning him at his baptism at the hands of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:17). Here on the mount of transfiguration God added, “Listen to him.”

“Listen to him” implies in context, “Listen to Jesus even more than to the Law and the prophets.”

Jesus’ New Testament, as prophesied by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31-34), took the place of the Old Testament when Jesus “the testator” died (Hebrews 9:15-18).

There is still a great deal for us to learn from Moses and the prophets (Romans 15:4), but directions for the lives we are to live, the work we are to do and the worship we are to offer the Father are those in the New Testament not in the Old.

We are to listen to Jesus.

These words, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” come significantly from both the King and Suffering Servant streams of prophecy. “This is my Son” (Psalm 2:7) from the King stream; and “with whom I am well pleased” (Isaiah 42:1) from the Suffering Servant stream.

3. *The Transfiguration reminds us that suffering and glory are inseparably linked.*

When Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus commended him as speaking from God and not from men. But then Peter objected to Jesus for saying the Christ must suffer, be crucified and raised from the dead. He declared he would not let that happen. Jesus

For Whom Shall I Vote?

-Gordon Gentry-

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for the November elections to be over. It seems like we have been running to the polls virtually every week this year... and the news reports, etc... oh, my!

Some people will stand in the pulpit and attempt to influence the congregation's vote. We have had some folks already attempting to play the "brother" card on us this year, seeking votes.

The Bible does not give us any command concerning specifically who should be in which political office. God does say my job, as a Christian, is to be submissive to the government that is in power (Romans 13:1ff).

For whom should we vote? This is not a question the Bible answers directly, either. We must use all of our abilities to determine the candidate that has the most godly qualities, who would best lead our community, county, state or nation in the direction God would have it led and then vote for that candidate.

I have heard people make such statements as, "A person can't be a Christian and vote for so and so." The Bible never defines faithfulness by the person for whom one votes nor the political party with which one is affiliated.

Can we have strong beliefs concerning one party or the other? Of course! Can we express those feelings to others? Sure, that's our American right! Is the church the place for these views to be stated? Absolutely not! The pulpit or church classroom is not a place for political pandering. God tells us, *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching* (2 Timothy 4:2). It is our job as Christians, to preach the word -- not the party line. It is not our place, as Christians, to attempt to use the church or our affiliation with it for political gain.

When we align ourselves behind one party or candidate, about the only thing that can do is divide us, and with the attitude that is prevalent in many circles today, we certainly don't need anything dividing the church. God is against division. In 1 Corinthians 1:10 Paul pleads with brethren be united.

Instead of being politically divisive or being the source of division within the congregation, *Let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God* (1 John 4:7).

Paul writes Timothy, *I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence* (1 Timothy 2:1,2). May we all be guilty of doing just that!

Gordon Gentry

ggentry@wildblue.net

Berea church of Christ, (Burnsville, MS)

1336 CR 197, Blue Springs, MS 38828



Gordon Gentry

More and More Encouragement. Thank God!

We have enjoyed your paper so much. Keep up the good work. May God bless you! In Christian Love, (Gwen & Wes Hyatt, Memphis, TN)

Just wanted you to know we enjoy the Messenger. MBC has a special place in our hearts, and with everyone involved. In Christian Love, (Bill & Judy Wilson, Keith Wilson's parents, Milport, AL.)

We enjoy the Magnolia Messenger so much. Here's a little help. (Joyce Gray, Amory, MS)

Keep up the good work. We read your paper from cover to cover and really enjoy it. We worked at the college with Sojourners in 199--. In Him, (Iva Hill, Round Rock, TX)

Really enjoy the Magnolia Messenger! I was down and out about some things that had happened in my life - lately, when I picked up the Messenger and happened to read the "Paseur Story". After reading that, I resolved not to whine and complain, but to look at the blue sky - above - and to trust in my God. (His providence works in ways beyond my comprehension.) Take care, God Bless, In Christian Love, (Jerry & Jean Lewis, Okolona, MS) P. S. Small amount enclosed to help with Messenger.

Just enough room to once again say "Thank You" for receiving and reading the MM.

A Plea To Save Their Church Building Brazil Church of Christ

Up until just a few months ago, the Brazil church of Christ in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, was considered "alive, but struggling." Church membership in the small delta community (NW of Grenada; SE of Clarksdale) had dwindled until only 3 or 4 members were left. A difficult decision was made by the few remaining members to worship with other area congregations and cease trying to conduct regular weekly services in their building. This was not an easy decision.

Now that the church is no longer assembling in their church building, another difficult decision must be made. **What to do with the concrete block building?**

According to minister **Robert Rawson** of the Batesville church, the building is in fairly good condition except for a leaking roof. Brother Robert stated that plans are to continue using the building on various occasions, including an annual Gospel Meeting and periodic lecture programs. Hopes are, of course, that, one day before long, Christians will resume regular worship ser-

vices in the facility.

To keep the building from complete ruin, it is essential to repair the roof very soon. Preacher **Don Roberson** of the Coffeerville church, who is also a skilled roofing contractor, has agreed to furnish the materials and labor to repair the leaking roof. To help make this possible, the very few members at Brazil have raised about a thousand dollars. It is estimated that the repairs will cost another \$3,000.00.

Brother Rawson believes that there are folks "out there" (readers of the MM) who would be ready to make a contribution to preserve the church building in Brazil. I agree and have decided that my June and I will make a small contribution to the project. Would you join with us?

For more information, please consider contacting Robert Rawson at 662-457-2468, (email: rjrawson@panola.com) or send your contribution to the Batesville church. The address is: **Batesville Church of Christ; P. O. Box 349; Batesville, MS 38606.** Please earmark your check "Brazil Building Fund."

A Sunday Evening "Drop-in Visit" at Clinton

August 17, 2008

During the middle of August, after having spent a few days working in the Jackson area, my June and I decided we would re-visit the church of Christ in Clinton.

Arriving about 10 minutes before the scheduled service was to begin provided a wonderful opportunity to meet, greet and visit briefly with several friendly folks, including the three elders -- **Glenn Newell, Robert Shelton** and **Mark Bridges**.

I was out in the foyer, continuing to visit, when I heard a voice, coming from the auditorium, suggesting that it was time to begin services. We were warmly welcomed by **Jerry Jantz** who also made a few needed announcements. Afterwards, **Joe Powell**

stepped forward and very capably led the congregation in singing "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and "We're Marching to Zion."

The scripture reading and main prayer was effectively led by long-time member, **Ken Gardner**. Then, we were blessed to be able to join our voices together in admonishing one another to "Sing and Be Happy."

Afterwards, **Mike Hollingsworth** directed our thoughts in a serious study of the subject of "Sin". He called attention to the scriptures which reveal the Origin of Sin, the Consequences of Sin, The Law of Sin and Death, Sin and the Judgment and Salvation from Sin.

After services, my June and I agreed that brother Mike did a very good job in his presentation. Mike, who may be called a "tent-making" preacher (*he earns his living through secular work*), got his start in public speaking, as a young boy, through the effective program called "Lads to Leaders."

We ask that you remember in your prayers the Clinton church as they search for a full-time replacement for their former preacher, **Robert Burch**, who recently moved from Clinton. (See ad on page 14.) Also, you may enjoy reading about a 96-year-old member at Clinton who is still "Active in Attendance" (page 10). Another pleasant "drop-in."

Meeting Place for the Clinton Church of Christ

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Sunday Evening Preacher

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**A Golden Celebration (1958-2008)
Fifty Years of Work/Worship
Mantachie Church of Christ**

**October 3 - 5
Gospel Meeting**

Report by

Barbara Lummus

The church first opened its doors on Sunday, October 5, 1958, with twenty seven people present. The late **Floyd Decker** of the Gloster Street Church of Christ in Tupelo and **J. A. Thornton** of the Booneville Church of Christ were the speakers for the beginning service.

God has been good! In spite of all the trials and losses, we continue to have a membership of about seventy-five, including children.

Our oldest member, Mrs. Eunie Turner, will be 96 on March 5, 2009. Ms. Eunie is the mother of Delbert Turner, Jr. Our youngest member is the daughter of Michael and Connie Stanford of Mooreville. Michael was recently baptized into Christ. Melanie Stanford, daughter of Mike and Melissa Stanford, was also baptized. So

at the present time, we feel that we are progressing numerically and spiritually. Another reason is that we have obtained one of the most fantastic ministers of the Gospel, **Larry K. Lott**, to help us in all areas of church work.

The congregation is currently supporting Pinevale Children's Home at Corinth, MS; TV's "DaySpring"; TV'S "Let the Bible Speak" and TV'S "Looking to Jesus." The Mexican Mission is being supported monthly and other foreign missions are supported at intervals. Our outreach subjects are three nursing facilities, THE MEADOWS at Fulton; COUNTRYWOOD at Mantachie; and CEDARS at Tupelo.

A celebration with a gospel meeting is planned, beginning October 3 at 7:00 PM and ends with a luscious luncheon on October 5, and will be conducted by brother **Ray Miller** of Phoenix, Arizona.

Please, join with us at Mantachie Church of Christ in our commemoration of fifty years of service. (Written by *Barbara Lummus*)



**Church Buildings
Impress Men, Including Me**

God is probably not that impressed! He desires that all His people, who make up His one true church and wear the name of His Son ("CHRIST-ian"), make their impression for God and for good by being "Christ-like". He wants his children (the "Living Church", to give their emphases to Godly living and Gospel teaching.

According to the Bible, God is far more impressed with a beautiful life than with a beautiful building. People who make up the "church of the Lord" are expected to demonstrate, to each other and to the world, the love of God. This they do by seeking, as Jesus did, to care for the needy and to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

God has not required, nor has he asked that Christians build "monuments of stone" to His glory. Instead He asks that we hold "...forth the word of life" in the midst of "a crooked a perverse nation..." (Eph. 2:15). Jesus also commanded that His followers (His church) let their light "so shine before men that they may see your good works..." (Matt. 5:16). This is accomplished by imitating Jesus while He was on earth, who "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

While it may be true that a church building is considered a necessary tool in our day and time; yet, buildings do not "house the presence of God". Remember what Paul said to the Athenians, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (Acts 17:24). We should never confuse the carnal temple of the Old Covenant with the spiritual "temple" of the New Covenant. (See I Cor. 3:16,17.)

Buildings, even beautiful buildings, cannot substitute for the real work of the true church. At best, buildings can serve only as aids, helping Christians meet their God-given responsibilities to assemble. However, if we are not exceedingly careful, we can make ourselves believe that when our beautiful buildings are constructed, the work is done!

Church buildings do, indeed, impress some men, including me. But, remember, our mission is to impress God. He asks that we live Godly (like His Son, Jesus) and teach/preach the Gospel -- the "good news" of salvation through His Son, our Saviour. (alf/ editor)

Now, You Take it from There!



by
John Simpson
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Worth Every Penny of it!

Allow me to share from my files, a brief anonymous compilation that may revolutionize your evaluation of the required financial investment for child-rearing.

Cost of Kids

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140.00 for a middle income family. And that doesn't even touch college tuition. But that isn't so bad when you break it down. It translates into \$8,896.00 a year, \$741.38 a month, or \$171.08 a week. That's a mere \$24.21 a day! Just over \$1.00 an hour.

What Do You Get For Your \$160,140.00?

Naming rights – First, middle and last! Glimpses of God everyday. Giggles under the cover every night. More love than your heart can hold. Butterfly kisses and velcro hugs. Endless wonders over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies. A hand to hold, usually covered with jam.

A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sand castles and skipping down the sidewalk in pouring rain. Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day. For \$160,140.00 you never have to grow up. You get to finger-paint, carve pumpkins, play hide-and-seek, catch lightening bugs, and never stop believing in Santa Claus.

You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under the refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas. Hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day. You get a front row seat to history to witness the first step, first word, first bra, first date, and first time behind the steering wheel.

You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you are lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no university can match. In the eyes of your child you rank right up there with God!

You have all the power to heal cuts and bruises, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits, so they will some day be like you – love without counting the cost. **Enjoy your children and grandchildren!**

Now we can understand why David wrote: "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth" (Psalm 127 3,4).

Now, you take it from there!

DENNIS - LIBERTY CHURCH

Special Lecture Series -- "Archeology and the Bible"

The Liberty Church of Christ is planning a Special Lectures Series for Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28, 2008. The Lectures will deal with "Archeology and the Bible" and the speaker is scheduled to be **Rodney Cloud** of Hendersonville, TN. Lunch will be served following the Sunday services. **Ron Deaton** is the local minister.

News Notes

BOONEVILLE

Greg Pollock, formerly of Senath, Missouri, was to begin his work with the Booneville Church of Christ on August 3, 2008 as their new full-time minister. Greg and his wife **Danielle**, have three children. **Sarah**, 4 years old, **Ben**, 2 years old and **Hannah** is 5 months old. The family has lived in Senath where Greg has been the minister for the past nine years. The Booneville church bulletin stated, "We are excited about the Pollock Family coming to work with the Booneville church of Christ..."

CORINTH

Robert Shappley was recently selected and appointed to serve as an elder by the Foote Street Church of Christ. Brother Shappley will serve along beside the present elders, **Johnnie Bennett**, **John Dodd** and **Wayne McAplin**. **Blake Nichols** and **Terry Smith** serve the Foote Street congregation as ministers.

PONTOTOC

Jay Street, preacher for the Pontotoc Church of Christ (Church Street), recently wrote about the increased attendance for the Pontotoc congregation. Brother Jay reported the congregation recently had **130** in attendance for worship assemblies and **112** for the Bible classes. Encouraging!

FULTON

The Itawamba County Bi-Monthly Singing is scheduled for September 21, 2008 (3:00 PM.) at the Sauer Creek Church of Christ.

EDMOND, OK.

September 7, 2008 marks the beginning of the **28th year** of the media ministry now known around the world as "In Search of the Lord's Way." Our congratulations to this great ministry for reaching this milestone. The speaker on these programs is **Mack Lyon**.

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Church Bulletin Selections -- (1)

Editor's Note: Our present plans are to select and publish, in each issue of the MM, two or three of the many excellent articles we are blessed to read in church bullet-

tins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.* (alf).



Published by Dalraida Church of Christ; 3740 Atlanta Highway; Montgomery, AL 36109. Doug Smith, pulpit minister. The church secretary is Patsy Thebo. The article was written by Tom Holland.

Religion Is Dangerous!

A philosopher once observed that great crimes had been committed in the name of liberty. The same thing could be said relative to religion. We seem to be frequently reminded of the deadly nature of false religion.

A few years ago the sad story revealed a mass suicide of over 900 religious followers of a cultic leader. Then, April 19 of 1993, another sad death for many people including several innocent and helpless children who earthly-lives were terminated in a burning inferno of a religious compound.

These are the more sensational newsworthy deaths. But what about all of the people who daily suffer from the delusion of false religion? What about the scores of people bilked out of their money by religious charlatans?

Then consider the churches of Christ now being divided by those who clamor for change. Not a change to be distinctive, but a change to adapt to the religious traditions of denominationalism and a change so there can be a catering to the whims of an entertainment-oriented mentality. Not only are churches being divided, friends are being alienated and families are being split. This is being done by people who seem to think they have mastered the art of Christian love!

Pluralism is very appealing to an age that doesn't seem to

appreciate genuine conviction and lasting commitment. The "any religion is right," or, "one church is as good as another" syndrome may appeal to people guided by convenience rather than conviction based on God's Word. However, down the road this approach to religion is dangerous and potential death.

No wonder our Lord declared, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15). If it doesn't really

matter what one believes in religion there is no such thing as a false prophet.

In view of the dangerous nature of religion, no wonder the Holy Spirit would inspire the apostle John, the so-called apostle of love, to write, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

Pure religion (James 1 :27) of God is based on the Word of God, edifies the soul, solidifies families, unifies congregations, and brings hope for eternal life with God. The time has come for people who take religion seriously to get serious about religion.

— — — —
 ("This excellent article written by **Tom Holland** needs to be read by every member of the Lord's Church - **Doug [Smith]**")

Holy Land Trip

Nov. 3, 2009 - Cost: \$1,998.00 from New York

We are planning a trip of a lifetime with Al and June Franks and Paul and Glenda Franks serving as tour hosts. We have contracted with Educational Opportunities of Lakeland, Florida to assist us on this trip. They have been arranging trips to Bible Lands since 1974.

You can visit their website at www.eo.travelwithus.com and register to go with our group. **Our host number is 45403.** You can call Paul Franks at **337-515-7314** and request a brochure. This is a 10-Day trip that will change your life. (See basic information on page 1)

"Mother of Ministers" Ozell Childs of Corinth Departed July 9

CORINTH - Ozell Heavener Childs, 92, died Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the Magnolia Regional Health Center. She was a member of Kossuth Church of Christ, a homemaker and a seamstress. She was a precious Christian who loved her family and friends and worked hand in hand with Mr. Woodrow in raising and harvesting the crops, milking the cows, and planting and harvesting the food from their garden. She enjoyed working with her flowers.

Services were conducted at the Magnolia Funeral Home Chapel of Memories in Corinth. Bro. Lennis Nowell officiated, and Dr. Jonathan Pharr delivered the eulogy. Burial was in Forrest Memorial Park Cemetery.

Survivors include her husband of 72 years, Woodrow Childs of Corinth; three sons, Minister G.W. Childs (Sherra) of Corinth, Minister Rex Childs (Shelby) of Dixon, Ky., and Minister Jerry Childs (Linda) of Corinth; seven grandchildren, William Childs (Jennifer) of Jackson, Tenn., Minister Hayden Childs (Lisa) of Haleyville, Ala., Minister Tim Childs (Betty) of Baldwin, Tabitha Puryear (Minister Darrell) of Greenville, Ky., John Mark Childs of Princeton, Ky., Jennifer Markham (Joey) of Dyersburg, Tenn., and Kim Pharr (Dr. Jonathan) of Saltillo; 10 great-grandchildren, Allison Childs, Christopher Childs, Jonathan Childs, Rylie Childs, Will Childs, Amber Markham, Sam Markham, Ashley Rose Markham, Tristan Pharr and Isaac Pharr; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by an infant daughter; her father, G.B. Heavener; her mother,



Ozell Childs and husband, Woodrow Childs
Married 72 Years

Bannie Ralph Heavener; two brothers, Learsley Heavener and Lindsey Heavener; and three sisters, Lela Hughey (Britt), Willie Mae Mauney (Dewitt) and her twin sister, Estelle Heavener.

Pallbearers were Hayden Childs, John Mark Childs, Tim Childs, William Childs, Joey Markham, Jonathan Pharr and Darrell Puryear.

Honorary pallbearers were Dr. Bob Davis, Milton Barker, Joe Garrett, Jim Thomason, Joe Duncan and Clarence Hinton.

"Mother of Ministers" sons & grandsons

Preachers in Childs' Family

Picture (1987)

(Back row; left to right)

G. W. Childs, Jerry Childs and Rex Childs

(Front row; left to right)

Darrell Puryear (married to granddaughter, Tabitha Childs) Tim Childs and Hayden Childs

Tim Childs, who provided pictures and information for this article, wrote: *This picture was taken in December 1987 at Darrell and Tabitha's wedding in Dixon, KY.*



Rex A. Turner, Jr Dies at Age 62

We were saddened to learn of the sudden departure of brother Rex Turner, Jr., president of Amridge University, formerly known as Southern Christian University, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Brother Turner was heavily involved in Christian education, following in the footsteps of his father, the late Rex Turner, Sr. He taught at Alabama Christian College and Alabama Christian School of Religion. In 1987 he was named president of ACSU. The school became known as Amridge University in January of 2008.

My personal knowledge of brother Turner goes back to the late 70's when he assisted in an extension program at MBC. Many are the preachers and teachers in the Lord's church who have been influenced greatly by the Turners -- both Sr. and Jr. Our sincere sympathy to the family. (editor)

Alaskan Christian-Cruise Planned for July 17-24, 2009

John Pigg, preacher for the Lake Harbour Church of Christ in Ridgeland, Mississippi, announced that they are planning to host a seven day cruise with the 4½ star rated Holland America Cruise Lines on the ship Zaandam. Plans are to leave out of Seattle, WA, to ports in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka, AK, Glacier Bay Scenic Tour, and Victoria, Canada.

The basic cost will be approximately \$1,750 per person for a double-occupancy inside stateroom and round-trip airfare on American Airlines out of Jackson, Mississippi.

John wishes to invite one and all to join with them "for this fun-filled, exciting summer vacation with Christian friends." He stated, "We plan to worship together on ship on Sunday, July 19 while in port in Juneau, AK. We have chosen this time because of the Salmon run and likelihood for viewing whales and wildlife.

A \$350 deposit per person is now required to book, which is fully refundable before May 3rd, 2009, at which time the balance of cost will be due. These rock-bottom prices will only be available for a short period of time." If you are interested and desire more information, please call brother Pigg at 601-856-8754 or email him at jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org.

Looking At God's Face

"They shall see His face and His name shall be on their foreheads" (Revelation 22:4 NKJV)

- John Gardner -

One of the greatest aspects of the Christian's hope is to see the Father and the Son face to face (Revelation 22: 4; 1 John 3: 2). To look on the face of the Father in all his glory, to see Jesus as he is—what more could one ask?

Yet sometimes the child of God may think more about walls of precious jewels, gates of pearl, and a golden street in "the great city" (Revelation 21:10, 18 – 21) than about being in the presence of the One who makes heaven what it is—heaven. When we get to the place where there is no death, no sorrow, no crying and no pain (Revelation 21:4) we certainly will know and appreciate it; however our focus will not be on what is *not* there, but on Who is there in our midst—our God!

The Apostle John brings the Revelation to a conclusion with at least two pictures of how "up close and personal" God will be with His people in heaven. First, God will dwell with His people (Revelation 21:3a) and they with Him. For emphasis on the reality of that great promise, John adds, "God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3b). God Himself—right there among His people, up close.

Second, God's children who serve Him will "see His face" and have his signature of ownership upon their heads (Revelation 22: 4). Before that timeless place is reached, no mere mortal can look on the face of God and live (Exodus 33: 20). Even the elite of Lord's chosen, recorded in Scripture, could only see the glory of His being, but not the very face of God Himself (Exodus 33:18–23). Although "the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend" (V.11), it is understood that up close and personal communication is meant, not an account of Moses literally looking on God. But for all of God's children around the throne—face to face! What a vision! What a blessing! A look like no other look ever before.

Enlightening

It will be an enlightening look. We will see and thus know much, much more of the One who calls us, loves us, and saves us by His own glory and virtue. Even as the beginning knowledge the apostles had, when compared with the complete revelation of God's will, was like the difference between a



John Gardner

hazy mirror and seeing "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13: 12), so will the sight of heaven and our God be infinitely superior to what we can only see by faith now. As to whether or not all of the questions generated by our experiences in this life will be answered, who can say for sure? Probably it will be enough for us just to be in heaven at last and experience fully that realm.

Enrapturing

It will be an enrapturing look. What joy will fill our hearts! To see the Father whom we love and the Son at His side will unleash a joy we are barely able to imagine. If we "rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" now (1 Peter 1:8) having never literally seen Jesus, what will it be like to see him at the Father's right hand "as He is" in all of his fullness? When we see Him in his glory, we will be "glad with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4: 13).

Engaging

It will be an engaging look. Those who look on God's face will not stand idly by and gaze, as if beholding a brilliant scene in nature.

No, the redeemed of heaven will worship together the One who has drawn them near (Revelation 4 & 5). Those redeemed by the Lamb will share in a worship that involves a multitude from "all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Revelation 7: 9) and angels too numerous to count (Revelation 5: 11). It will be a personal worship, but not an isolated worship.

Enduring

It will be an enduring look. "Forever and ever" (Revelation 22: 5). Those whom the Father draws to himself through Jesus Christ will bask in the light of God's glory and look on his face. They will not tire of it or wish for other scenes. The fullness of a resplendent heaven, resounding with the worship of millions, with God at its center will fill the redeemed as no scene on earth can. Earthly scenes change and those looking at them must sleep and eventually look elsewhere; but those who look on God's face will be forever filled by the glory of God and never tire of it or consider it less fulfilling.

By faith we see the face of God as we envision the face of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures. *For it is God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*" (2 Corinthians 4:6). Someday, however, if we walk in that light and are faithful in Christ Jesus, we will see directly the face of our God and our Lord Jesus Christ as he really is.

Brother Gardner serves as Academic Dean for MBC. He can be reached at P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, Mississippi or jgardner@magnolia.edu

United at Union Young People From 8 Churches Came Together

Report by **Rick Benson**

On August 30 the Union church of Christ sponsored our first Youth Day. We are very pleased to announce that there was 87 souls present that day. At least eight churches were represented from around Mississippi. This group was a true witness to the future of the church. They brought with them about 15 who are not yet members of the Lord's church.

Our speaker for the day was **Matt Bureson**. Matt is a recent High School graduate and a freshman at Heritage Bible College in Florence, AL. At 18, Matt is already an accomplished Gospel preacher. He is able to preach the word to young and old alike. Our song leader for the day was another student from Heritage, **Garrett Todd**, who is also a young man of God. These two modern day *Timothy's* did an outstanding job!

God really blessed the many weeks of preparation that was needed for this day to be a success. The week before we baptized two youth. These 2 new Christians brought some of their friends to attend the Youth Day event. With God's blessing we hope to sponsor another Youth Day next year.

(NOTE: The Union church is located in Newton County, about 30 miles NW of Meridian. Rick Benson, MBC graduate, serves as preacher for the growing church which presently brings together about 60 to 70 worshippers each Lord's day.)

LELAND

A Homecoming and Revival is planned for the Church of Christ, Highway 82 E., in Leland, Mississippi. The speaker is scheduled to be **Darrell Holt** of Pontiac, Michigan and the dates are September 24-26, 2008. On September 27, a Honors Banquet and Concert will be at 3:00 p.m. at the GHEC, 2900 Hwy 1 South, Greenville, MS.

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized

Examples in the Book of Acts

Jews on Pentecost

*"...they that gladly received his word were **baptized**... about three thousand souls were added to them."* (Acts 2:41)

Corinthians

*"Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were **baptized**."* (Acts 18:8)

Samaritans

*"But when they believed Philip preaching... they were **baptized**, both men and women."* (Acts 8:13)

Simon

*"Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was **baptized**..."* (Acts 8:13)

Ethiopian Eunuch

*"...And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he **baptized** him."* (Acts 8: 38)

Saul

*He "arose and was **baptized**."* (Acts 9:18)

Cornelius

*"And he commanded them to be **baptized**..."* (Acts 10:48)

Lydia

*"...she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was **baptized**..."* (Acts 16:14,15)

Jailor

*"And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes: and was **baptized**..."* (Acts 16:33)

Ephesians

*"When they heard this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus."* (Acts 19:5)

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized!

Wonder Why? Could it be?

1. Because Jesus, the Son of God and Saviour of man, clearly said, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."* (Mark 16:16)

2. Because an inspired apostle commanded thousands of Jewish believers to, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38)

3. Because a teacher of God asked and then commanded a fasting, praying,

penitent believer, *"And now, why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins..."* (Acts 22:16)

4. Because a man of God wrote, *"There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 3:21)

Note: Scriptures quoted are from the KJV and the New King James Version.

Have YOU Been Baptized?

"To be saved"? (Mark 16:16)

"For the remission of sins"? (Acts 2:38)

"To wash away sins"? (Acts 22:16)

"And now, why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash your sins." (Acts 22:16)

The
Magnolia Messenger
is always in need of your
Encouragement and Fervent Prayers
Thank You!

MBC Graduate, Chris DuPreez, Serves As An Effective Missionary in His Homeland of South Africa

A graduate of MBC (2000), Chris DuPreez continued his education at Heritage Christian University and, afterward, returned to his homeland in South Africa to serve as a missionary and a Bible college instructor.

For the past few years brother Chris has devoted much of his time to planting new congregations in South Africa and working to "restore" some churches that have "drifted from the faith".

Through door knocking, evangelistic meetings and distribution of gospel literature, an average of one new church has been planted during each of the past six years. This has resulted in the salvation of many souls who, thankfully, can look forward to an eternity with God in Heaven.

On Wednesday, August 20, brother Chris returned to Kosciusko where he presented an encouraging report about his mission work on the other side of the world. His effective use of pictures and comments enabled those of us, who heard him, to rejoice in the success of teaching the Word in Africa.



Chris DuPreez

Church Bulletin Selections -- (2)

Editor's Note: Our present plans are to select and publish, in each issue of the MM, two or three of the many excellent articles we are blessed to read in church bullet-

tins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.* (alf).



Published by the East Main Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. Gary Williams is the preacher. Renee Childers is secretary. The following article was adapted from the writings of Guy N. Woods.

What Is The "Unpardonable Sin"?

There is really no such thing. Neither the phrase nor the idea which it connotes appears in the sacred writings. The implication is that it is possible for one to so sin as to find it impossible to obtain forgiveness. There is no such situation. Taught repeatedly throughout the New Testament is the glorious fact that when (a) one genuinely repents of all wrong-doing, (b) ceases the practice thereof and (c) complies with the conditions applicable, pardon full and complete is graciously bestowed.

This has been the divine assurance through the ages. Long ago Isaiah penned these comforting words, "Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (55:6,7). God promised in the new covenant, "And their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 9:17).

The passage usually, but erroneously, designated as teaching "unpardonable sin" is 1 John 5:16, where reference is made to the "sin unto death." This is simply a sin which a brother will not confess -- as the larger context shows. The Lord will forgive every sin a brother confesses (1 Jn. 5:16), therefore, the sin He will not forgive is simply an unconfessed sin.

If I witness an erring brother or sister sin and am able to bring this person to penitence and confession, I not only may, but must, pray for him/her with the assurance that the Lord will answer the petition (Jas. 5:16). But, if he/she persists in rebellion, it is

useless to pray for their forgiveness. The Lord will not hear such a prayer.

The "sin against the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 12:31,32), is, in principle, the rejection of the Spirit's revelation, which He made, first through our Lord, and then through His representatives (2 Tim. 3:16,17). This sin is a denial of the Spirit's message, initially by direct inspiration, and then through the Book.

The practical effects of this denial is the rejection of the Lord's deity, the repudiation of His sacrificial death, the annulment of the atonement, and the implication

that a sacrifice will yet be made. Those who thus do would crucify Christ "afresh" from the allegation that He who died on the cross

was an imposter.

Salvation is denied to these, not because it is not offered, but because they have permanently rejected it (Heb. 6:1 ff; 10:25-28). The ever-flowing waters of the Well of Life are always available to those who desire to come and to quench their thirst. How we should rejoice that,

There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.

--Adapted from **Guy N. Woods**, *Questions and Answers*, Vol. 2

GREENVILLE

The South Main Church of Christ has set aside Sunday, September 28, 2008 as Sunnybrook Children's Home Day. The congregation has set a goal of \$8,000.00 over their budget to be given to Sunnybrook. **Danny Holman** is the preacher for the South Main congregation.

The Compassionate Shepherd

-Travis Brown-

God has entrusted a very important role unto men who meet certain qualifications. These men are to watch over, protect and care for the souls of others. We find them described as Bishops (1 Tim. 3:1-2), Elders (1 Peter 5:1), Overseers (Acts 20:28), Pastors (Eph. 4:11), Presbyters (1 Tim. 5:1), Rulers (Heb. 13:7,17), and Shepherds (1 Peter 5:2). This last term, shepherd, is descriptive of one who watches over his sheep. This illustration was fitting in biblical times because the people could easily identify with it in their cultural context. They understood what shepherding was all about. It was about feeding the lambs and the sheep, bringing them to good pasture lands and water, grooming and clipping them, delivering new lambs, leading them and teaching them to stay together, going off after the wandering lost ones, and protecting the sheep in the field and in the fold.

It is said that the Eastern shepherd, as he brings his sheep back to the fold each night, stands at the door and counts each one. As he does so, he puts his hand on the head of each animal. He makes a habit of touching each one of them. If he were to grow careless and neglect to habitually touch his sheep, it would soon turn its head away when it heard his voice! This, of course, could be very serious, for with such a broken habit would follow the animal's actually ignoring the warning shout from the shepherd and subsequently could be disastrous for the sheep. 1

I think it would be safe to say that the relationship between a literal shepherd and his sheep is one of protection and provision which is carried out with genuine care and compassion. If that is true of the literal should it not be true as well of the figurative? If an elder is described by God as a shepherd, is it not fitting and right for the relationship between the elders and the congregation to be modeled after that of a shepherd and his sheep? When a shepherd does not assume this role in accordance with the intent of it, he is not meeting the qualifications as set forth by God.

The role of a shepherd/elder is entered into because of desire (1 Tim. 3:1). Bobby Duncan suggests the following paraphrase of this verse: "If a man stretches himself out so as to reach the point at which he can serve as an elder, then he has set his heart on a good work." Brother Duncan goes on to say, "... one should never be appointed to the eldership who does not desire that work." 2

Gary Hall gives a vivid description of a pastor/shepherd regarding his role as one who shows compassion toward his sheep. "The [shepherd] will have to face dark and gloomy moments regarding the personal and spiritual lives of his people. This may involve terminal illness, pain, fears, or the inability to overcome sin and temptation. No matter how dark things may become his God-given responsibility is to protect them and guide them even nearer to the Lord. ... At all times, even in the darkest, stormiest of hours the shepherd remains with his sheep. ... He cannot take time-out from caring for them. In a sense he worries about them as a mother for her children. His desire is to see them all safe and well, and the only way to achieve this is to be there with them. ... The middle eastern shepherd in Bible times would anoint the sheep with olive oil to heal wounds. Here we see that he was able to do something about the situation himself. This describes what James exhorted to be done if there is sickness amongst the members of the local church (James 5:14-15). Comforting the sick has always been part of the ministry of the [shepherd],



Travis Brown

therefore he should not pass the responsibility off to someone else. ... The shepherd would not leave his sheep in a fold overnight unless he was there with them ... There are those today who want nothing to do with their people once the church door is locked on Sunday evening. Paul told Timothy that a shepherd must be a man with an open heart and an open door (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8). ... It is impossible for a true shepherd to be a private man, for he has the burden

for his people. He desires to nurture and bring them unto maturity in Christ. Like the man in Nathan's parable the shepherd should love them (even if few in number) like his own family (2 Sam. 12:1-4)." 3

Along with guarding against error, God's shepherds must have a healthy blend of true compassion for soul, mind and body. Occasionally I hear of those who had called upon their shepherds during a time of desperate need and did not receive a compassionate response. On a few occasions, there was no response at all. This truly saddens me. Yet more importantly, I'm certain that it saddens the Lord to see the carelessness and apathy displayed by these spiritual leaders of the church.

Allow me to say right here that I believe these brethren who carelessly assume this office are in the minority. However, some do misuse their role as shepherds and run the risk of turning souls away from the Lord -- souls who have placed their trust in them and called upon them during times of great need.

In spite of this article's focus on a problem area within some elderships, I would like to say something now in their defense. Our elders have a tremendous responsibility in caring for the souls of the church. They often spend sleepless nights and difficult days wrestling with complicated situations. Countless tasks undertaken by our elders are never realized nor appreciated. We are indebted to our godly elders who are doing their best to fulfill their roles.

Still, we all are imperfect and sometimes fall short of what we should be -- even an elder. Every shepherd in the Lord's church would do well to give himself a spiritual checkup. Each elder should be honest in evaluating just how he is fulfilling his role. If he has neglected his duties and perhaps offended someone who may have been spiritually weak and at a critical point in his life, the right thing to do is to repent and seek forgiveness, both from God and from the one offended. Remember, the best leaders are those who lead by example.

I will end this article with one final thought for our spiritual leaders to consider. I do not know the author of these words, however I know that they are very thought-provoking.

I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

— You seem so close to God; but I am still very hungry, and lonely, and cold. 4

May we all love, honor and respect our shepherds as they fulfill their God-given roles. May we not take them for granted. May we be comfortable in calling on

Turn to SHEPHERDS on Page 16

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MBC News

P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Fall Lectures at MBC

Christ's Church in a Pagan World

October 18, 2008 - Saturday

8:30 a.m. -- Registration & Displays Open
9:15 a.m. -- Devotional in Church Auditorium

9:30 a.m. -- Classes

Ray Paseur
(church auditorium)
Be Ye Steadfast (1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13; 1:1-25)

Sharon Paseur
(Ladies Only AB - Classroom 4)
Rearing Children in a Pagan World

10:30 a.m. -- Keynote Presentation - I

Tom Holland
(church auditorium)
The Problem of Idolatry in Culture (1 Corinthians 8)

11:30 a.m. - Lunch - J. B. Hayes Activity Center
MBC Associates lunch available for \$6.00 (\$3.00 for children under 12)

1:00 p.m. Classes

Ray Paseur: *Pure Lives in a Sinful World* (1 Corinthians 6:6-11)
Sharon Paseur: *A Christian Woman's Hope in a Pagan World*

2:00 p.m. - Keynote presentation - II

Tom Holland
(church auditorium)
The Problem of Idolatry in Religion (1 Corinthians 10)



Ray Paseur
B.A., M.Ed., M.T.S., Ph.D.

* (1981-2005) - Professor of Bible, Dean of Students, Director of Institutional Research at MBC
* (2005-Present) - Minister: West Ouachita Church of Christ, West Monroe, LA



Sharon Paseur
B.A. (MBC)

* (1984-2005) - Academic Secretary, * Financial Aid Director at MBC
* (2006-2007) - Iberia Bank
* (2007-Present) - Suquest Properties
* Frequent speaker for Ladies' Days and Retreats
* Spoke before Louisiana legislature on the challenges and needs of families caring for disabled children.
* (2005) - MBC Alumni of the Year



Tom Holland
A.A.; B.A.; M.A.; Ph.D.

* Professor Bible and Speech at FHU and DLU (34 years)
* Director of Nashville School of Preaching
* Minister: Riggs Church of Christ, College Grove, TN
* Regular speaker on GBN

Displays at Lecture Program (confirmed vendors)

21st Century Global Missions; Tennessee Children's Home; House to House; Magnolia Messenger; Fishers of Men; Gospel Advocate; World Evangelism; Publishing Designs; and Bargain Bookfinders (Doc Woods).



Partial View of "Magnolia Friends" Who Gathered Together to Fellowship, Sing Praises and be Encouraged on Aug. 22

Friday night, August 22, 2008, was truly a memorable evening. It was a time of great fellowship, wonderful congregational singing -- led capably by **Michael Semore** (a brother to MBC president, Garvis Semore), and a provoking talk by the "one and only" **Charles Hodge**.

Michael Semore
Very talented song leader, led in the singing of many beloved hymns.



See Page 10 for "Words of Wisdom" from the "Heart of Hodge"

Our Sympathy to the Semore Family

On the very night of the special meeting of "Magnolia Friends" in Kosciusko, **Jean Semore**, mother to MBC president Garvis Semore and song director, Michael Semore, died in Tupelo, Mississippi. Our sympathy to the entire family in their great loss. May God richly bless.

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.

Memorials

Earline Kite
Huntsville Church of Christ
(French Camp, MS)

Mrs. Travis Riddle
Hills Chapel Church of Christ
Ladies Bible Class

Stanley White
Evelyn B. Curtis

Ozell Childs
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Starrett Chapman

Roy White
Hoyt and Joan Wade
A.C. Taylor
Gary and Clydeen Puryear
Jacky and Mary Sue Perrigo
Phil, Cissy and Cal Worley

Richard Christopher
Shirley Christopher
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Betty and Wayne Morris

Sandra Anderson
Bobby Anderson
Barbara Dycus

Note: MBC and MM memorials are handled separated.
(See also page 11). Thanks for helping!

**Please Send
MBC Memorials
And/or Tributes To:**

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

A lonely traveler on the Natchez Trace Parkway

Sad to say, but, Scripture calls the man "a fool"



Out of focus? Yes. But, so was the man! There he sits, all alone. An Atheist: #10

A few weeks ago, my June and I were traveling on the Natchez Trace Parkway, just north of Jackson, when we decided to stop at a pull-off, overlooking the beautiful Barnett Reservoir.

We immediately spotted a man who appeared to be a weary traveler that had also decided to take a break in his journey. He was apparently by himself, sitting alone in a folding chair, looking out over the beautiful water of the lake. Desiring to be friendly, I approached him and said something about what a blessing it was to be out traveling on such a beautiful day. Almost instantly, he responded, "I am an atheist. On a scale of 1 to 10, I am a ten." In his next breath, he added, "I know there is no God."

I was not expecting to hear such a statement -- so abrupt, so blunt! It sounded like the stranger was bragging about being a "number 10" atheist. I began searching for the right words to say to the pitiful man for whom I experienced immediate sorrow. I thought within myself, "Here is a man who *thinks* he knows everything, for he said, "I know there is no God." I remembered the verse in Psalms 14:1 which states, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." I had just met a "fool" -- a man who said "there is no God."

No purpose. No future. No hope!

I kindly called the atheist's attention to the beauty of our surroundings -- the water, the sky, the trees, the flowers and asked him to consider the evidence of a Creator in viewing creation. I thought of the passage which states, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament showeth his handi-

work" (Psalms 19). Based upon the writings of Paul in Romans chapter one, I asked the unbeliever

Why is the traveler a "fool"?
(Read Psalms 14:1)

to seriously consider "nature" -- through which the "invisible attributes" of God are "clearly seen", so that a man such as he -- an atheist -- is "without excuse" (verse 20). The unbeliever and I discussed briefly the "design" that is so apparent -- everywhere in the universe, including all life on earth. I asked him to consider how such marvelous "design" calls for a "Designer" -- God!

It truly was a great blessing to be able to share with the lonely traveler my own faith in a loving God and a sacrificial Saviour (the knowledge of which was made available by the Holy Spirit, through the inspired scriptures). This meaningful personal faith, which is "more precious than gold", provides real purpose for life here on earth and tremendous hope for the hereafter.

I must say, the atheist kindly listened; although, he usually responded to my comments with words of unbelief. I am thankful to say that, at one point, he confessed, "I wish I could believe as you do."

The time came for us to say "good-bye". After giving him a copy of the MM, I slowly walked away with a prayer in my heart that the lonely and hopeless traveler may soon become a Christian and experience the joy, peace, love and hope found only in Christ. I also departed with thanksgiving for the opportunities I have had to hear and believe "the Word". May this "number 10 atheist" become a "number 10 Christian." (alf/editor)

Words of Wisdom from the Heart of Hodge

During the weekend of August 22-24, 2008, Charles Hodge of Duncanville, Texas was a guest of both MBC and the South Huntington Street church of Christ in Kosciusko. Brother Hodge, soon to celebrate his 60th year of preaching the Gospel, once again, proved to be an interesting, knowledgeable, and humorous speaker. All who were privileged to hear one or more of his four lessons benefited from his words of wisdom.

Friday evening, to a sizeable gathering of "Magnolia Friends" on the campus of MBC, brother Hodge, in his "after-dinner speech" shared four lessons learned in life and called upon his attentive listeners to benefit from what he called "The Four 'L's'".

According to Hodge, the four "L's" are, (1) *Learn to Live*, (2) *Learn to Learn*, (3) *Learn to Laugh* and (4) *Learn to Love*. Among the many memorable statements made by the talented speaker, I wish to share just a few. Brother Hodge said, "It is easier to teach than to learn" and added, "Learning is the most exciting thing in the world." He then called upon those of us who teach (all Christians should be teachers), to "be kind" and to speak the "truth in love" (sounds like Ephesians 4:15).

He challenged Christians to "treat people right", saying that "treat people right" was a motto he had tried to follow in his life. Brother Charlie observed that it was sad to claim to be religious and then "forget how to treat people." He added, "The way we treat others is often determined by how we perceive God treats us." Near the end of his stirring lesson, he offered the following observation, "Learn to like people for what they are and not for what you like."

Friday night, August 22, 2008, was truly a memorable evening. It was a time of great fellowship, wonderful congregational singing -- led capably by **Michael Semore** (a brother to MBC president, Garvis Semore), and a provoking talk by the "one and only" Charles Hodge.

Sunday, August 24, 2008, was the day when three unforgettable lessons on "Leadership" were presented to the Kosciusko church. In his first lesson, brother Hodge challenged **every** child of God to recognize that he or she is a leader. Being the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world", as Jesus taught (Matthew 5), involves influence and influence is what a leader provides. Brother Hodge said, "A leader is someone you would follow to a place where you would never go alone." He caution that we remember: "God is the authority; man is only the deputy." He observed that all leaders have influence -- it may



Charles Hodge

be good or may be bad." The German **Hitler** was cited as an example of an evil leader with an evil influence.

Brother Hodge also challenged us to never minimize the value of the leadership provided by godly women in the church. He called attention to the scriptural teachings which show different roles ordained by God for men and women; such as women not teaching or usurping authority over men (see I Tim. 2:11,12); yet, Hodge showed from Scriptures that women had a great influence, as spiritual leaders, in the early ministry of the church. (See Romans 16 where mention is made of the leadership provided by such women as Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary and others.) Also, there was Timothy's mother and his grandmother, who were great influences in the life of Timothy. He spoke of Dorcas, mentioned in Acts 9, who was a leader among women. The gifted speaker asked us to never forget that while the "rooster may do the crowing, it is the hen that lays the egg."

Gladye Derryberry At Age 96, Active in Attendance

Sister Derryberry's son-in-law (Robert Shelton) spoke about his wife's mother saying, "There are at least two things she does not miss." Brother Robert then explained, "She doesn't miss a church service, and she does not miss going to the beauty shop."



Gladye Derryberry

By looking at her picture, you can see that her regular visits to the beauty shop has met with success! But, even more important, we are pleased to state that the picture shown of the 96-year-old attractive Christian lady was just recently made at a Sunday evening church service in Clinton, Mississippi.

During the morning worship hour, attendees benefited as the long time preacher spoke about the *Characteristics of Leaders*. He called attention to I Timothy 3 and Titus 1, where the qualifications of elders and deacons are detailed. He noted that the scriptural qualifications do not emphasize a man's talents or his I.Q. He observed that effective leaders are not selected so they can *become* leaders but are recognized for their leadership and selected. Asking that we respect for the authority of the Scriptures and the need to "preach the Word", brother Hodge said, "I'm scared of a pep rally religion."

He challenged all church leaders to "grow up; to mature". He said, "Fruit doesn't come from a dead stump." He added, "Leadership is character... integrity." And, he called upon leaders to be "faithful" and not seek to be "celebrities", adding, "an effective church leader is one we can trust".

At this point in his Sunday sermon, brother Hodge presented several challenges to men who serve as leaders, especially, elders in the church. He said, "Don't just do things right, but do the right things." He added, "Put people first -- not rules." To elders, thinking about securing preachers, he challenged, "Hire people smarter than you." He called upon us to realize that problems sometimes arise in the church and that "People are going to leave; just make sure the right people leave." And, finally, to elders, he said, "Don't turn the eldership into a complaint department."

In his closing lesson on Sunday afternoon, the *aging* (not, old) Texas preacher spoke on "Followship" -- using I Cor. 11:1 as a text. He said that the apostles

See HODGE on page 16

It was encouraging to learn that sister Gladye makes every effort possible to be faithful in attending **all** services of the church, including Sunday evening and Wednesday night. And, in so doing, she is truly a "worthy

example."

We are pleased to commend sister Derryberry for her love for the Lord and His church. It is also a pleasure to say "Happy Birthday" to our dear sister Derryberry who celebrated her 96th birthday in September of 2008. May God continue to bless. (Sister Gladye is the mother of **Ann Shelton**, wife to Robert, a preacher and elder.)

Christian Chapel Church of Christ

**A "Drop-in Visit" Where We Found,
A Country Church Continuing to Thrive**

The country church which is the subject of this report, is usually identified by an expression that calls for continuing evidence. Known as "**Christian Chapel**", this church of Christ near Amory, Mississippi, has effectively served the Cause of Christ for more than 100 years. This country church which brings together more than 200 worshippers each Lord's day, is capably served by 5 elders: **Sam Carpenter, David Gray, Vaughn Howell, Alan Pearson** and **Tommie Smith**. The CC church has an active program of work that includes local evangelism (with special emphasizes given to the youth), encouragement to brotherhood programs and other mission efforts.

On Sunday morning, July 13, 2008, it was a privilege for my June and me to visit the thriving congregation in northeast Mississippi's Monroe County. A major objective of our "drop-in visit" was to present a beautiful Study Bible to our newest Bible winner -- sister **Dathol Camp** who lives in nearby Amory and worships with the Christian Chapel congregation.

A very special thanks to the local preacher for allowing me the opportunity of speaking briefly to the Sunday assembly and, afterwards, to present the Bible to sister Camp. In my comments to the congregation I related some impressions that they, as a church,

had made on us, as visitors.

It was blessing to be able to mention three important impressions the church had made on us (and others) the day of our visit. (1) The church displayed a genuine interest in visitors. (2) The country church expressed an earnest belief in prayer with an early morning prayer session with several of the church leaders gathered for a "prayer session". That was in addition to the seven public prayers which were an integral part of the morning worship services. (3) The church demonstrated great respect for the Bible as God's word and the source of spiritual Truth. This was clearly evidenced in the adult Bible class and in the morning sermon, both of which were very ably taught/preached by Marshall Eubanks.

Following the morning services, my June and I were blessed to have lunch with and spend some quality time with two of their staff ministers and their families - **Marshall Eubanks** and **Bobby Cleveland**. Their third staff minister, **Chase Surrell**, was busy with a special planned activity for the youth.

It was an encouraging, inspiring day. So thankful, we were, to see *another* country church holding fast to Christ and His word and showing that it is still possible for a true church of Christ to -- not only survive, but to **thrive**, even in today's world. (alf)



Meeting Place for the Christian Chapel Church of Christ

Staff Ministers for the C C C of C



Marshall Eubanks, Pulpit



Bobby Cleveland, Involvement



Chase Surrell, Youth

BEREA: The Berea Church of Christ, Berea, Mississippi has planned a special series called, "Fishers of Men." It is a twelve week course of specialized training in person-to-person evangelism. The series of studies will be on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and will run from August 21 to November 20, 2008. For more information contact **Gordon Gentry**, preacher for the Berea congregation. His numbers are 662-869-2402 or 662-231-3967.

**Churches of Christ
....Who Are We?**

**An Answer
Found on the Website for
Christian Chapel Church**

With so many different churches and religious groups in today's world it's easy to become confused. This is especially true when different groups wear similar names such as "churches of Christ," the "United Church of Christ" or the "Church of God in Christ."

Perhaps you wonder what distinguishes churches of Christ from other religious groups. Hopefully, a brief introduction will help to clarify things.

Those of us in churches of Christ desire to be non-denominational. In the later part of the 1700's, on the American frontier, a number of people began to ask similar questions. "Why not go back beyond all the denominational doctrines and simply be like the church that we are told of in the Bible? Why not use the Bible alone as a guide and put away depositional handbooks, creeds and laws? Why not do simply what early believers did so that we can be what they were; simply Christians."

These individuals insisted that all a person had to do to become a Christian is what people in Bible times did. The name church of Christ is taken from Romans 16:16 where the apostle Paul said, "the churches of Christ greet you." Rather than being a denominational name it is merely a description of who the church belongs to.

We hold the strong conviction that the Bible is the inspired word of God and the only authoritative source for religious instruction. In Hebrews 1:1 we are told that "In the past God spoke to the fathers through the prophets, but in these last days has spoken to us through his son." Jesus, on one occasion told his followers, "all authority has been given me in heaven and on earth" - Mt. 28:20, and since the New Testament contains Jesus' instructions to his apostles, we believe that it alone is sufficient to know the will of God.

If you have never visited a church of Christ before you may have questions about what to expect. We strive to make our worship services friendly and caring. We never do anything to make our guests feel uncomfortable or out of place. We want you to feel like you are home among friends; because you are.

The Bible tells us that God is spirit and those that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth, John 4:24. From this passage we learn three very specific things. First, our worship must be directed toward God. Second, worship must be prompted by the right spirit, and third, we must worship God in truth. Since the Bible is the truth of God we desire to worship according to the directions of scripture. Since Christians live under the New Testament we seek to pattern our worship after that of the New Testament church. (This copyrighted response is reprinted in the MM by permission from the Christian Chapel congregation.)

Sunday Evening at Bean's Ferry



Meeting Place for Itawamba's Bean's Ferry Church of Christ

On Sunday at 5:00 P.M., it was both a privilege and a blessing to visit with and to preach for the Bean's Ferry congregation, located on Highway 25, a few miles south of Fulton. Two days earlier my June and I were honored with the opportunity of visiting the **Steve Shappley** home and enjoying their hospitality, including a delicious lunch which they graciously shared with their unexpected guests. Brother Steve was also very kind in making arrangements for me to preach on Sunday evening.

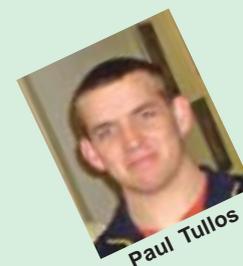


Steve Shappley
Preacher for the
Church at Bean's Ferry

It was good to visit with the faithful brethren who make up the present congregation and to recall our past association with the church through their elders and their missionary evangelist, **Paul Murphy**, seeking to plant new congregations in various parts of Mississippi. For example, their influence was very helpful in establishing (1983) the church in Forest, Mississippi. We are grateful for the memories and for the recent visit. (alf/mjf)

Please Remember to Pray for the *Magnolia Messenger*

My name is...



Paul Tullos



... and everyone on campus knows it!

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Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes Announces New Convention Site in Memphis To Serve Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas Area Churches

"The amazing growth of Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes continues as we announce the addition of a fifth convention site starting in 2009. Memphis, Tennessee was really an ideal location," states **Roy Johnson**, Executive Director for the organization.

He stated, "We have 5,000 convention participants that live within a two hour span of Memphis. The Marriott Downtown event planning staff offered us a superb convention experience for our people. This convention will offer luxury comparable with Opryland without the crowds to deal with."

There continues to be a necessity to find convention space that offers a family atmosphere and also provides the meeting space needed for convention events. The increasing cost of travel comes into consideration as well. In 2008, there were 16,500 attendees at Atlanta, GA; Indianapolis, IN; Nashville, TN; and Orlando, FL.

The beautiful atmosphere of the Memphis Marriott Downtown

and Convention Center has caused great excitement among the 1,800 attendees already committed for 2009. The awards ceremony will be held in the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. It is acoustically designed so that sounds on the stage can be heard throughout the hall. The theater-style seating adds elegance to an already exciting event at the Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes convention.

"Memphis attendees will definitely have a first class experience at this convention," Johnson states. "In fact", he continued, "we fully expect to meet our capacity crowd with this first year convention site. Those who want to attend need to let us know now if they haven't done so."

Further information about the Memphis Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes convention can be obtained by calling 334 215-0251, on the web site www.lads-to-leaders.org or by email ladsoffice@lads-to-leaders.org.



For Sale: (as seen in a Tennessee store) Bibs for small children Sorta cute (?) What are your thoughts? Can a very small child be an "itty bitty Christian?" Who is a Christian? Why so many different religious (denominational) names? Why not be "just a Christian?"

(Your comments welcomed.)

Popular "Power Point"

"Aid in Teaching Truth"

As a young preacher, I learned early to appreciate the value of charts used by preachers of the gospel. The Truth was still taught; yet, the presentation was, in many instances, more effective. With the aid of Bible teaching charts, the gospel message was often more easily understood and remembered. Then, along came the use of flannel boards, which, like charts, aided preachers in their proclamation of Biblical truth.

Today, "Power Point" has become popular. I think I understand why. It, too, adds to the effectiveness of teaching because two important senses are greatly influenced -- hearing and seeing!

For example, while recently present for a Sunday morning worship service in Kosciusko, we "heard" and "watched" as Les Ferguson, Sr. presented Bible teachings on "Why We Baptize." Partially, as a result of his effective use of "Power Point", I still recall the four points he made in his scriptural lesson. He pointed out, with the aid of "power point", the following reasons why those who seek to follow the New Testament, always baptize those who believe.

1. To Be Saved
2. To Contact Christ's Blood
3. To Get into Christ
4. To Enter the Kingdom.

Several verses were quoted by Les to show the scriptural basis for the above cited reasons for baptism. (Such references as Mark 16:16; Rom. 6:3; Eph. 1:7; Gal. 3:27, etc.)

The reasons given were good reminders for all and needed teaching for many. And, without a doubt, the use of "power point" aided greatly in making the powerful points. Thanks, brother Les! (alf)

Gospel Meeting

I-20 CHURCH OF CHRIST
3333 N Frontage Road, Vicksburg

September 14-17

Speaker - John Rice
Managing Director of Backwoods Christian Camp, Lenoirville, Alabama

Times and Topics

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - "Is There a God?"
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - "We Should Listen"
Sunday 6:30 p.m. - "Change Will Come"
Monday 7:00 p.m. - "Joy of Saying Jesus Is"
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. - "A Resurrected Life"
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - "The New Life"



From the Heart (pen) of a Child

"God is the only one we are supposed to love the most. It is a very good thing to go to church and learn about God and Jesus. If someone gets hert, don't laugh at them -- help them."

(Written September 20, 2006)

Hailey Marie Brewer
P. O. Box 387
Toccopola, MS 38874



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

FRANCES ASKEW
VIVIAN FRANKS
ANNIE JEANS FRANKS
MILDRED COOLEY
Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

DENVER PENNA
Garrett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

FRANCIS PRIDDY
Carolyn McCoy
(Vicksburg, MS)
Hugh A. Allen
(Edwards, MS)

OPHELIA WALKER
Ron & Mary Clemons
(Pearl, MS)
Wayne & Betty Morris
(Clinton, MS)

JACK LOTT
Tony & Ginny Luther
(Columbia, MS)
Larry & Diane Dunaway
(Columbia, MS)

MRS. BOBBY CHAMPION CARTER
M/M Ray Williford
(Leland, MS)
Stacy W. Carter
(Louisville, MS)

MARTHA MYERS
LEE HOOD
MERLE PERRY
ROSIE OWEN
MICHAEL COX
Wayne & Betty Morris
(Clinton, MS)

FRANCES ASKEW
LORENE SPIKES
Jesse & Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

FELIX FANCHER, SR.
DORIS ADDISON
Hazel Cook
(Columbus, MS)

A. D. LOTT
M/M George Barber
(Mantachie, MS)

GLADYS & MUTT KEMP
BRIAN FORMAN
HEATHER SPENCER
W. A. GREEN
Carl & Vera Spencer
(Jackson, MS)
Dale & Barbara Spencer
(Brandon, MS)

DELA BOWMAN
Irene M. Wright
(Raymond, MS)

BETTY TURNER
Mrs. L. C. Stewart
(Water Valley, MS)

NORMAN RHODES
HEATHER SPENCER
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

TOMMIE MIDDLETON
Lynn Gallego
Betty D'Melia

JIMMY BRADSHAW
James & Deanie Bradshaw
(Indianola, MS)

BEATRICE HUNT
Dorothy & Chuck Henderson
(Rolling Fork, MS)
PERRY INGLES
Jim & Alice Dempsey
(Bradford, AR)

In Honor Of

JOHN & JUDITH DIAL
RAY & DONNA FRANKS
CHARLES & JUANITA FULGHAM
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

MM Readers Say "Thanks"

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

Send MM Gifts to.....

(1)

"One Thing is Needed"

(1)

-Eddie Lewis-

There is no such thing as "partial" commitment. When the pilot of a giant airliner is speeding down the runway, there is a certain point where he cannot decide to remain on the ground. When he crosses that line, he is committed to the air, or the plane crashes disastrously on the ground. That pilot cannot change his mind when the plane is two-thirds of the way down the runway.

Unfortunately, there are Christians who "have never left the ground" in their faith. They have been sitting there for years and years gunning their engines. "Vroom! Vroom!" They are always getting ready. They have been planning to, meaning to, wanting to, trying to, going to, aiming to, hoping to, but the tragedy of tragedies is they have never left the ground.

Mary's Example

Jesus and his disciples traveled to the town of Bethany to visit with His friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). They welcomed Jesus into their home. He begins to teach the crowd that gathers. Mary sat with the people listening to Jesus as He teaches of the Kingdom to come, but Martha, wanting to be a good host, is busy preparing food and serving the guest.

She is upset that Mary is not helping her. So she approaches Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that Mary has left me to do all the serving by myself. Tell her to come and help me. We have a house full of guests."

Jesus' answer is a gentle rebuke to Martha, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things, **but one thing is needed**, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Jesus is pointing out to Martha that only one thing is important in this life, only one thing is necessary; that is, **to hear the word of God and do it!** To me, this is a needed message for today. All other things in life are secondary to the one most important thing, to hear and do the will of God in my life. If the possessions and relationships of my life don't help me reach that goal, then I don't need them. My desire is to hear and do the will of God.

One passage that comes to mind when I think of commitment to Christ is Jesus' statement in Matthew, chapter 6, verses 19-34. He tells us to lay up our treasure in heaven. He tells us to have a single purpose for life. "No one can serve two masters." He tells us not to worry about life. Not to worry about

food, clothing, or shelter. God will provide these things for us if we are faithful to Him. He ends this section of Scripture by saying, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

I believe this is what Jesus is saying to Martha. "Why are you concerned about this house work, or being the good host, when only one thing is important right now, and it can help solve all your other concerns." **That one thing was to hear and do the will of God.**

THINGS WE PUT BEFORE CHRIST

Consider some things we often put before our commitment to Christ and consider why?

Material Possessions The American dream is a house, two cars, color televisions, all kinds of appliances, a computer, and many other devices. We will work ourselves to death to buy all we can to make us feel we have arrived socially.

Why do we feel this way? Is it **pride, envy, or fear** that we will be the only people on the block that doesn't have one? Jesus asked us, "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Only one thing is needed in this life. You are to provide for your family. There is nothing wrong with a comfortable living, but when possessions become the focus of your life, you have fallen into the trap of putting them before the **one needed thing.**

The Job

Most everything we have said about material possessions can be said about a person's job. It is a matter of priorities! Maybe he is the one who is so tired from work that he sleeps through the worship service. Maybe he is the one who spends so much time at work that he can't take his children to a ball game, or some other activity. Maybe he is the one who spends so much time at work that he can't visit a friend that needs to talk to him about his soul. **One thing is needed!**

Recreational Activities

This includes all forms of recreation and hobbies. It is not a sin to have a hobby, but when that hobby interferes with our devotion to God and our involvement with the Kingdom of God, it is taking too great a place in our hearts. Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). To Paul, when he lived his life, Christ was seen in everything he did. I am sure Paul had recreation times, but

even in those times God was glorified.

Our Families

Our families are the most important relationship in this life, but God has to be even more important (Matthew 10:34-39). He is not asking us to leave our families to serve Him. The picture He is drawing is one of a family together serving Him. The parents are teaching their children to love Him and serve Him. They love each other, but the cross is in the center of their family.

Self

The last thing we put before God, and probably the hardest to overcome is... self. It is natural for man to think of himself before God, or even his family, but the reason Christ came into the world was to help man get out of himself and into Christ. At that point he will begin to see the needs of others and love and care for them. "He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5: 15). We are to live for Christ!

I have tried to point out that only one thing is needed in this life; that is, **to hear and do the will of God.** Men try to put other things first, but only one thing is necessary. I encourage you to follow the example of Mary in the little town of Bethany -- sit at the feet of Jesus, listen to His words and do them!

This excellent article was written and sent to the MM by Eddie Lewis, associate minister at Germantown. His address is: Eddie Lewis; Germantown Church of Christ; 8723 Poplar Pike; Germantown, TN 38138.



Meeting house for a church of Christ Somewhere in Mississippi

Eddie Lawson Writes About Evangelism Training Workshops and Campaigns

Dear Al,
Hope this finds you and June doing great. We appreciate the good work you do.

...We have been doing this [workshops & campaigns-alf] full-time for 5 years. I had been doing campaigns ever since I went to IBC in the early eighties. But in the last five years we have had **285** to obey the gospel in 23 campaigns, and 37 restored. (For restored we only count the ones who have left the Lord and His church.)

We have had campaigns from South Carolina to Utah. We were in Utah last year and had 12 to obey the gospel, even in Utah. They have recently called us and asked us to come back. They said the campaign was the only thing they have ever done to help them grow.

We work with churches of any size. Most of the ones we work with are from 20 to 100, but we have worked with churches of several hundred. We are scheduled for a campaign in **Carthage** this September. We hope we can help them double this year. **Amory** plans to schedule for next year. I have talked to Brother Charles Durr at **McComb**. We will have a campaign there if they can work out a way to house our campaigners.

We first teach evangelism training workshops. A church can have a workshop and not have a campaign, but they cannot have a campaign without first having a workshop. There are several reasons for this, but most of all we want to help them change to be an evangelistic church after we leave.

If we go and "do a campaign for them" and go home and everything goes back like we had never been there, then I believe we have failed. We tell them they can get classroom training in the workshop. Then if they have a campaign they can get on-the-.. job-training.

And then after we leave, they go on to graduation. Hopefully, for some of them, this will become a life-style that they will continue and teach and train others as well.

Al, I could go on and on, but if you need more information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thanks for your generosity in giving us some visibility in the Magnolia Messenger.

Your brother in Christ and servant to our Lord,

Signed: **Eddie** [Lawson]

See/Read Ad (below)



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.

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. **There is no charge for this service. Thank you for asking!**

Inclusion of a church and/or preacher on this page or any other page in the MM is not to be considered an endorsement.

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"

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

I do enjoy the MM. I read it from front to back also fill out the Questions. But this is the first time of sending in. Our son, Mickey Pendergrass went to school down there back in early 70's. His sweet wife is from Macon, MS. He is an elder at the Clarkridge, AR congregation, where he was baptized by his father who preached there several years in the late 60's and early 70's... Well, I just meant to say, "Hello" and say we enjoy the MM. Thank you for sending it. In Christ, (Thelma L. Pendergrass, Ava, MO)

Kentucky (Nicholasville)

The Nicholasville church of Christ is looking for a full time preaching minister to work with a countywide population of approximately 45,000. This congregation of 50+ members is eager to work and grow and is presently active in canvassing the city, spreading God's word for the growth of the church. "There is great growth potential here".

We are located just 6 miles south of Lexington KY, and are looking for someone who will preach sound new testament teaching and will challenge our congregation to grow. We believe that all members of the church should be active and working for the cause of Christ, not just the preacher.

Salary is negotiable and is based upon experience and education. Please provide a resume and tape/video if available. Address:

Nicholasville Church of Christ
701 South Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Contact: **Randy Grow**
Email: rgrow@windstream.net
Phone: 859-509-0427
(Rec. 7-30-08)

**The MM
Requests
Your Prayers
and
Your Suggestions**

WANTED

The Clinton Church of Christ, Clinton, MS is seeking a full time evangelistic minded minister. We prefer that he be married with children. Attendance normally runs between 55 and 65 for Sunday worship. The congregation has 3 elders and 3 deacons. Please send resume with references to:


**CLINTON
Church of Christ**
155 Broadway Street,
Clinton, Mississippi 39056
or email to:
clintoncoc.org
For more information you may call:
601-924-5300

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.

Pineville, LA

The Pineville church of Christ in Pineville, Louisiana is prayerfully searching for the man God has chosen to fill the pulpit in this faithful congregation. We are a devoted group of Christians whose focus is on God and spreading His word. The Pineville congregation has been meeting since the 1950s and we have a membership who is willing to work and explore fresh ideas for community outreach.

We consider a full time minister our partner in evangelism and would like to work with someone who is prayerful, loving, energetic, kind, humble, and faithful. We are searching for a man who is willing to be creative in reaching the lost and is doctrinally sound. The ideal candidate will edify this congregation and is praying as fervently as we are about this process.

If you are interested in providing information for us to review, please do so by sending a resume, reference list, and audio and/or video of a variety of sermons to the **Pineville church of Christ, 3605 Highway 28 East, Pineville, Louisiana 71360**. You may email -- pcoc@suddenlinkmail.com. Once information is received, you will receive a questionnaire about specific topics.

Ocean Springs, MS

The Eastside Church of Christ in Ocean Springs, MS is currently seeking a full-time preacher. We are a congregation of approximately 70 members w/o elders. We are in a great location and doing great work. We have an active evangelism program, youth (Lads to Leaders) program, satellite Bible Institute, leadership workshops, marriage enrichment programs and currently researching radio ministry. We are seeking a married man who loves God, loves people and loves winning souls for Christ. We would like man with at least a four year degree from a bible institution (preferably). Please send resume, three recent tapes and or videos. Salary is commensurate to local average cost of living.

Eastside Church of Christ
7701 Highway 90E.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Attn: Minister Search Committee
228-875-5239

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 4,300. If you think you would be interested in working with a loving congregation please call 205-373-3821, or e-mail jnpresley@wildblue.net.

Aliceville Hires Preacher

Thank you for posting the Aliceville Church of Christ Minister search information. We had twenty-three responses. We have responded by mail to all candidates showing interest in the work. **Sam Beavers** from Charlott, TN has been hired and will preach his first sermon on September 21st. Thank you for your continued support. We wish you great success in the Lord's work. **Jim Presley**, Aliceville, Alabama Church of Christ

Olive Branch

We are seeking an enthusiastic and energetic full-time, preaching minister to serve with 2 elders, 5 deacons, and an education minister. If you are a family man, sound in doctrine, passionate about New Testament preaching and teaching, excited about congregational worship and personal devotion, hungry to reach the lost world, and willing to embrace new technologies and ministries, we would like to hear from you. Interested individuals should contact us in any of these ways:

By email: resumes@fscoc.org
By phone: 662-655-0580
By US Mail:

**Minister Search Team
Friendship Church of Christ
3250 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Olive Branch MS 38654**

Please provide a resume, references, salary requirements, and recordings of two sermons (tape, CD, DVD, mp3, etc.). Also reference any website or blog you maintain if you wish it to be reviewed.

"Preach the Word!"

More and More

Encouragement

I have really enjoyed the last MM. As I read it, there was Bro. Tommy Lawson. I've known him many years at Nettleton. Bro. Garvis is married to my cousin. Then here was Bro. Steve Shappley. I've known him 5 years, since they moved to Beans Ferry. I love him and his family. Bro. Richard Gooch and his late sister Wanda were high school classmates. I've known Bro. David Paden, Tilden Church of Christ, for about 13 or 14 years. Bro. Marshall Eubanks, Jr.'s grandpa preached for us when we were going to Nettleton and I've known him for several years. I met Bro. Ken Joines when my late husband was in the Mohlenburg County hospital in Greenville, Kentucky. I met Sister McWhorter at a Amory ladies' day a few years ago. He preached a meeting at Nettleton when we were still going there. Please excuse the chicken scratch writing. My hand is not as steady as it used to be. Of course, I've known you and Bro. Franks for many years, too. So I visited a lot of friends while I read the MM. I know a lot of the folks that attended Fulton Bible Institute. Love, (Lois Cleo Wright, Fulton, MS)

Please accept this check to help in the publication of the Magnolia Messenger. God bless you for the wonderful paper you produce for us. I especially enjoy reading about your visits to other Churches of Christ. Yours in Christ, (Ken & Linda Harris, Senatobia, MS)

I received my paper this week. Very Thankful to read the good news. May God bless you and family and staff of the paper. Brother in Christ, (Don Lawler, Bear Creek, AL)

...I enjoy the Question Boxes and your paper. Thank you for sending it to me. I enjoy reading it. Thank you! (Kristy Pipes, Clovis, NM)

June, I wanted you to tell you how much I enjoyed your recent article in the "Magnolia Messenger." How blessed we are to have healthy children, grands and greats! Ray and Sharon are truly an inspiration and wonderful example of Christian faith and love. Thank you for writing about them. May God bless you and your family as you strive to serve Him. With Christian Love, (Marlene Rushing, Bogue Chitto, MS)

Thanks so much for your publication. I enjoy it very much. Would you please send your paper to my daughter and son-in-law? They previously received your paper when he preached in Meridian, MS where Bro. Therman & Mrs. Sadie Hodge were members. When he took his new preaching position in Tennessee, I guess you didn't have their new address.. They enjoyed seeing their dear friends (Mrs. Sadie Hodge) in this recent paper as well as the other articles. I really enjoy looking up your questions on "The Question Box" page. Keep up the good work and May God bless. Your Christian friend, (Linda Anderson, Gainsboro, TN)

BOONEVILLE

A Guyana update was given in the Booneville church bulletin of their mission efforts in Guyana. During July there had been 65 baptisms, 20 restorations and 7 weddings. Brother **Lloyd Beard** and others lead in this mission work.

“Father, Forgive Them...”
The Cross as a Pulpit

- Derek Williams -

Most of us never forget the last words spoken to us by our precious mothers, fathers and friends. I once read some of the last sayings of men who were about to be executed for committing first degree murder. Some of those men expressed remorse for their crimes. Others, would say that their punishment was unjust. Still others ‘said nothing at all.

When Jesus finally made it to Mt. Calvary, the soldiers began raising the wood structure little by little until it finally slide into the hole with a loud thud. From that moment, Jesus began the process of dying by crucifixion.

The enemies of Christ slowly began heckling Rome’s victim, prodding him to give His last words before dying. Earlier I mentioned reading some of the last words of convicted murderers. Most of them would speak kind words to their family. Others would thank their friends for the support.

It’s interesting that the first words Jesus spoke from the cross were directed at His enemies. Men who were crucified by the Romans would often curse their executioners and spit on anyone who stood nearby. They would curse those who came to witness their death and some of them would even curse their own mothers and fathers for the day they were born. Sometimes a man would become so vitriolic the Romans would pull their tongue out and cut it off at the roots.

The crowd of enemies who stood at the foot of the cross waited to hear what Jesus would say first. With the cross as a pulpit, the first words from the lips of our suffering Lord are found in Luke 23:34, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

While the enemies of Jesus were cursing Him, our Lord was asking for blessings for them. Do you remember what Jesus taught us in Luke 6:27-28? He said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Don’t ever get the idea that Jesus asked you to do anything that He Himself did not demonstrate perfectly.

Has your spouse said something unkind to you? Has your boss made unfair demands on you? Has a classmate made crude remarks about your appearance? Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:14,



Derek Williams

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Hanging from the nails, the first words out of our Lord’s mouth was for the forgiveness of those who had put Him on the cross.

Jesus was praying, “Father, forgive Pontius Pilate who washed His hands to try to rid Himself of the decision about me... Father,

forgive the men who placed a crown of thorns upon my head... Father, forgive

the crowds who shouted, ‘Crucify Him and let His blood be on us and our children...’ Father, forgive the men who drove the nails into my hands and into my feet to keep me on this cross.”

In my first 30 years of life, I looked up at Mt. Calvary through the eyes of those who witnessed, from the ground, this greatest injustice in history. I asked myself, “How did Jesus do this for us?” All that changed on August 22, 1993 when I witnessed the birth of my first child and

I became a father. When they placed that baby girl in my hands, it was the most precious sight I had ever seen. This was my child and I committed my life to protecting her from all harm. Sometimes when I think of someone who might dare to hurt one of my children, I shudder at the vengeance I would crave because I am my children’s father.

Now, when I take the Lord’s Supper, I see it differently than I did in my younger days. I often look back at the cross through the eyes of God the Father and think, “Lord, how were you able to do it? What love is this that God could give His sin-less Son for me, His sinful son?”

I wonder as a father, how close God came to stopping this horrific crime of humanity against deity. Perhaps that is why the first words of Jesus had to be, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

If you ever have any doubt about whether Jesus will forgive your sin, just remember His first words from the cross. Hear Jesus say, “Father, forgive her of that abortion... Father, forgive him of that adultery... Father, forgive them for their lying, their cheating, and their stealing.” When all of our sins were laid on Jesus, He prayed, “Father, forgive them.”

Why did Jesus say about His tormentors, “For they do not know what they are doing.”? These people were simply ignorant of the enormity of their crime. They did not know that the Creator of the Universe had come into the world and was being crucified by the creatures. The Bible says in John 1:11, “Jesus came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.” The greatest sin in this world is for humanity to refuse to receive Him.

Unbelief is the father of all other sins. All the other forms of rebellion you can commit against a Holy God can be forgiven. But to say “No” to Jesus -- for *that*, there is no forgiveness.

Sadly, there is a type of Christian who ignorantly thinks he can swim in the sewer of sin all week and then come to “church” on Sunday and God’s grace will fumigate him. He lives as if he believes that righteousness is something you can put on like a Sunday suit and all the other days of the week he can wear the robes of worldliness.

That is willful ignorance of God’s grace and God’s wrath. When describing the people who

Sadly, there is a type of Christian who ignorantly thinks he can swim in the sewer of sin all week and then come to “church” on Sunday and God’s grace will fumigate him.

crucified Him, Jesus said, “They do not know what they are doing.” If you are living a double life, Jesus can not say that about you because you know *exactly* what you are doing. I believe the hottest part of Hell is waiting for those people who are living as counterfeit Christians.

Did this prayer of Jesus ever get answered? Yes. On the day of Pentecost, the fog of ignorance was lifted for all the people to see exactly what they had done. In the inaugural Gospel sermon Peter said in Acts 2:36-38, “Therefore let

Turn to PULPIT on Page 16

“Drop-in”

Ackerman Church Hosts Gospel Meeting

Sermon for Wednesday
 “Rearing Children Who Crown and Compliment Your Marriage”

On Wednesday evening, August 6, 2008, my June and I traveled 34 miles from Kosciusko to Ackerman to attend their summer gospel meeting. Thankful we did.

Although services were not scheduled to begin until 7:30, we were blessed to arrive about thirty minutes early. As we were parking our little Saturn, we were pleased to see a couple we’ve known for many years -- brother and sister **Doss** from the Eupora congregation. We

later learned that the Eupora church had decided that they would all just come over to Ackerman for the mid-week service. Not only would they be blessed by the special meeting; they would also encourage a sister congregation. It was very good to see **James Hill**, along with his family, who recently moved from Lumberton, Mississippi, to preach for the Eupora church.

We were grateful to have had several minutes to “greet and meet.” Many of those present, we have known for a long time. This, of course, includes Ackerman’s preacher-- **Ed Casteel**. Brother Casteel and his wife have been working for the past 8 years or so with the church that presently brings together about 90 to 100 worshippers each Lord’s day.

At 7:30, the local preacher very warmly welcomed everyone and announced that one of their young men,

Tyler Hunt, would lead the singing. I must say that Tyler did a good job leading the congregation in songs that, not only stirred our memories, but also stirred our precious faith.

At the closing service of the meeting which had started on Sunday, **Gary Williams** (preacher for the East Main church in Tupelo) stepped into the pulpit and, after a few opening remarks, announced his topic for the evening -- “Rearing Children Who Crown and Compliment Your Marriage.”

It was easy to follow the talented preacher’s message, in part, because of the hand-out which had been distributed. Six

meaningful main points were made in his sermon. The preacher said if our children are going to be our “crown and compliment”, that, we as parents, must do at least six things. He stressed that parents must “tend their F.A.M.I.L.Y.”; that is, their children’s **faith, actions, morals; icons, loyalty** and to “tend to them *while they are young.*”

Brother Gary earnestly pleaded with parents to always remember that raising their children was an extremely important work. He called for parents to accept responsibility for what parents allow to influence their children in the home. He made a good point by saying that children not be allowed to have televisions, telephones or computers in their rooms. He taught that parents need to care and to know who/ what is influencing their precious children. A good lesson. A good visit. A good evening! (alf)



Gary Williams



New Building Replaces One Destroyed by Tornado on Jan. 10

Caledonia Church Says “Thank You!”

“To all of our brethren who helped us through prayers, words of encouragement and donations. Thank you and may God richly bless you for what you’ve done to help us. We are truly grateful. Because of your generosity and love God has provided for our every need including the means to build a new building in which to worship and serve Him.

We will be ever thankful for the assistance that you gave us and we hope during our gospel meeting or sometime in the future you can come and see what God has given us through your donations and prayers.”

Caledonia Church Says “Visit Our Meeting”

September 21-24
 846 Main Street
 Caledonia, MS 39083

Speakers:
 Sunday: **Shane Meredith**
 9:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 6:00 P.M.
 Monday & Tuesday: **Pete Murff**
 Wednesday: **Travis Brown**
 Services Nightly (M-W): 7:00 P.M.

“Please honor us with your presence at one or all of these nights. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you. For directions please call (662) 356-6017 or (662) 251-6017 or go to our website; www.churchofchrist1.com”

TRANSFIGURE

(Continued from page 3)

rebuked him strongly, saying that idea came from men and not from God (Matthew 16:17,23).

Jesus understood from the Suffering Servant prophecies that he could be glorified as Christ only through suffering the humiliation of the cross. "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:26).

But Jesus also wanted Peter (and us) to understand that, just as Christ could only be glorified after suffering on the cross, we who would be his disciples must also suffer before glory can be ours. "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'" (Matthew 16:24).

The connection between suffering and glory, both for Christ and for those who would belong to him, is often made in scripture.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories (1 Peter 1:10-11).

And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Romans 8:17-18).

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name (1 Peter 4:12-16).

4. *The Transfiguration is used to confirm Peter's eyewitness testimony as evidence for Christ's divinity.*

In his first epistle the apostle Peter says,

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the

voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain (2 Peter 1:16-18).

This, Peter went on to say, confirmed the prophetic word, which itself shows so eloquently and conclusively that Jesus, in fulfilling those many prophecies, proved himself indeed to be "the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

PULPIT

(Cont. from page 15)

all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do? Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

How did that formerly ignorant crowd react to God's requirement? The Bible says in Acts 2:41 that about 3000 people accepted Peter's message and were baptized. These people responded to the proactive forgiveness that Jesus offered when He prayed from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." On the day of Pentecost, the prayer of Jesus was answered 3000 times.

In 1830, a man named George Wilson killed a government employee. He was tried and sentenced to be hanged. However, President Andrew Jackson sent him a pardon. Strangely, Wilson refused to accept the pardon and no one knew what to do. So the case was carried to the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Marshall wrote the court's verdict. In it he said, "A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged." And so he was.

The request of *Jesus* made for your forgiveness from the cross is nothing more than black print on white paper until *you* accept it. Will you? Your sins will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in hell, but they will not be overlooked. The one request made by *Jesus* to the Father on the cross was for your forgiveness but *you* must accept it.

— — — — —
Derek Williams, gospel preacher, can be reached by addressing, **Bartlett Woods Church of Christ; 7800 Old Brownsville Road; Arlington, TN 38002**

More & More Readers' Response

Thanks for the encouragement you send us through the Magnolia Messenger. Seeing God at work in the lives of others helps us in our own daily tasks! The inspiring story on Ray Passeur and how the Macon congregation went "door knocking" gave us excellent examples to follow. We have also stopped to worship at Wren on our way to Memphis and enjoyed their fellowship and warm Christian welcome. Just wanted you to know the Caledonia church is still doing well and hope to meet on the 20th for our first service in our new building. God has truly blessed us, and we pray He will richly bless those who have helped us since the January 10th tornado. Our "obstacle" right now is getting baptismal garments (yes, another "important" item that was destroyed.) Continue to pray for us and always know you and your work for Him will be our prayer! God Bless! (Ken & Brenda Carter, Columbus, MS)

We have enjoyed this paper for a number of years now and appreciate the effort you have put forth to encourage and keep your members faithful and to help those who are not members of the church and encourage them in the truth... Looking forward to the next publication. Yours in Christ, (M/ M Glenn Netterville, Woodville, MS)

I love QB! Could you please send me the "QB" to my home? I enjoy it so much! I am a member of the North Brandon Church of Christ and have been participating in your QB" regularly. But would rather have it mailed to my home address. Thanks! P.S. I've never felt so close to the Word of God! It is such a wonderful experience and challenge. (Bronwen Pollard, Brandon, MS)

Thank for the paper. Keep up the good work. (Dennis Drake, Doniphan, MO)

"Preach the Word"
 "Reprove, rebuke, exhort"
 (2 Tim. 4:2)

**Service Schedule
 Sign States
 Beginning & Ending**



Seen in Mississippi
Note: Worship: 11:00-12:30

DREAM

(Continued from page 2)

power of any." "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body...."). I literally begged daddy to quit smoking. I remember him saying that he was seriously thinking about quitting; and, as I recall, he actually went so far as to promise me that day he would stop smoking.

Thank the Lord. So far as I know, daddy did give up the bad habit of smoking he had developed many years before. I am not certain, exactly, when he completely stopped using "Lucky Strikes" or "Prince Albert". And, it is altogether possible, that for a while, he would substitute a "chew" for a "smoke." However, he felt the pressure building within, not only from his family, but also from his church family over which he served as an elder. I believe strongly that my dad really wanted to do right and to be a good example. And, I am so grateful that he was able, finally, to break a very strong and bad habit.

At the young age of 59 my dad died suddenly. The actual cause of death was said to be a circulatory problem which involved his heart (maybe, a blood clot). How much, *if any*, the long use of tobacco had contributed to his death, only God knows. I just know that his example in overcoming a serious problem was an encouragement to me and to many others. I also know that parents, sometimes, need to listen -- even to their children who beg them to give up harmful habits.

Starting out using tobacco, as in my dad's case, may have been innocent enough -- based on ignorance; but, continuing the habit

**Prayers for the MM
 are
 Much Appreciated!**

Hodge

(Continued from page 10)

were first called to be *followers* and were required by Jesus to be "servants" (see John 13). He further challenged elders to not try to do all the work. He admonished, "Delegate or Die." He asked that we have the utmost respect for the authority of God as he speaks to us through the written Word - the Bible. And, among his closing remarks the wise preacher said, "A great leader takes people where they don't necessary want to be, but need to be." (alf/editor)

in the face of insurmountable evidence of physical harm, was not and is not a good option for any person who earnestly seeks to be "light" and "salt" in a world of evil.

My mother, who never smoked or dipped, lived many years after my dad died when he was just short of becoming three score years old. Mom lived more than four score years (died at age 83). During the last several years of her life, she suffered with serious breathing problems. How much, if any, "second hand smoke" contributed to her failing health and eventual death, only God knows. I do know that my dad would never, intentionally, have done anything that might harm the one and only beloved wife of his life.

What may be true (and, *an excuse*) in the life of my dad is not likely to be true among those of us who are blessed to live in the latter part of Century 20 and the early part of Century 21. There is absolutely no excuse today. Tobacco **is** harmful. Over and over, studies have clearly shown that the use of tobacco can (and does) shorten life and contribute to illnesses which greatly curtail living life to the fullest.

As I besought my dad, more than 50 years ago, I beseech you. Please don't ever start using tobacco. And, if you are presently smoking, dipping or chewing, please give it up. **You can.** With God's help! Be assured: our prayers are with/for you. May God bless. (alf/editor)

**Thank You
 Receiving & Reading
 Magnolia Messenger**

Compassionate

(Cont. from page 8)

them during our darkest hours; knowing that they will be there. Finally, may God bless us all with truly compassionate shepherds.

Sources:

1 Stories for Preachers and Teachers.

2 The Elders Which Are Among You. Bobby Duncan. 1989.

3 Article "As A Shepherd" Gary J. Hall.

4 Bible Illustrator for Windows. Version 1.0. Parsons Technology.

Travis Brown
 Director of Admissions
 Magnolia Bible College
 662-289-2896
 tbrown@magnolia.edu

Church Bulletin Selections -- (3)

Editor's Note: Our present plans are to select and publish, in each issue of the MM, two or three of the many excellent articles we are blessed to read in church bulletins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.* (alf).

tins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.* (alf).



Vicksburg Reminder

Vicksburg Church of Christ, 3333 North Frontage Road, Vicksburg MS 39180

VOL. XXXX

July 23, 2008

No. 30

Published by the Vicksburg Church of Christ; 3333 North Frontage Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180; **Eric Welch**, who is now serving as full-time evangelist for the church, adapted the thought-provoking and disturbing article from one written by **David Courington**. **Sharon Green** is secretary for the church.

"I Kissed a Girl and I Liked It" ?

Can you guess what last week's number one song on the Billboard Pop chart was? "I Kissed a Girl and I Liked It." This song by Katy Perry is about a girl-to-girl kiss: "I kissed a girl and I liked it. The taste of her cherry chapstick. I kissed a girl just to try it." And then, "I hope my boyfriend don't mind it."

Since it is parents' responsibility to protect their children from our evil society, as we have been studying on Sunday evenings, I want to warn parents and teens about this song and how it could influence you or your friends.

This song is one' more example of the radical, militant agenda of the homosexual

movement in our country. As Jared Jackson has stated that "the real agenda behind the 'gay'

This ungodly (not alternative) life-style is a choice and, therefore, changeable, as Paul noted in I Corinthians 6.9-11... Hope is available for those who wish to' leave this life-style.

marriage lobby is to not (sic) only get acceptance for their pathetic life-style, but to get the government to back a wave of persecution against Christianity" (<http://www.-fortifyyourfaith.org/posts/19-the-real-agenda-behind-gay-marriage>).

In fact, just recently, two religious book companies, Zondervan and Thomas Nelson, are being sued for publishing translations of the Bible that condemn homosexuality. States such as Massachusetts and California have now made same-sex marriages legal. The onslaught will only worsen.

Let us not forget what the Bible says as we, Christians, enter this battle for our families against a life-style so abominable, that the Lord spoke what he desired when he made them "male and female" (homosexuality is prohibited here by silence - Gen. 1.26), was forbidden by patriarchal law and the law of conscience in Genesis 19, by the Old Covenant (Lev.

20.13) and even upheld by the New Covenant of Christ: (Romans 1.24).

In regard to the law of conscience for the Gentiles, Paul says in Romans 1.24-27, "God gave them (Gentiles) over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men

committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error."

This ungodly (not alternative) life-style is a choice and, therefore, changeable, as Paul noted in I Corinthians 6.9-11: "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [1] effeminate (the passive role of a homosexual partnership-ew), nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor the revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (emphasis mine-ew). Hope is available for those who wish to' leave this life-style.

Parents, let's stay alert at the growing gay-rights agenda in music, movies and magazines and guard our families well. Remember also that the battle belongs to the Lord and He will triumph.



Eric Welch

Eric and his wife, Stephanie, moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, June 13, where he is serving as evangelist with the I-20 church in Vicksburg.

Eric is originally from Monterey, TN and Stephanie from Lynchburg, TN. They met at Freed-Hardeman University where Eric earned the BA in Bible (1995) and Master of Ministry degrees (1996) and Stephanie the Bachelor of Social Work (1995). Eric began the new Master of Divinity program at FHU in 2005.

They have been married 12 years. They have three children, Ethan (9), Nathaniel (7) and Hannah (4), whom Stephanie home schools. Eric and Stephanie served as missionaries in Lasi, Romania with two other families from July 2000 - January 2007. The church of Christ in Parsons, TN, was their overseeing congregation.



Somewhere
in
Mississippi

Pontotoc Ladies' Day

Church of Christ
369 Church Street
Pontotoc, MS 38863
Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008
Guest Speaker
Sheila Butt



Theme

Seasons of Service

Begins at 9:00 a.m.
Lunch at 11:30 a.m.
for more information
please call 662-489-9989
email: crcs60@yahoo.com

From: "The Preacher's Notebook"

Editor's Note: I appreciate the writings of **Floyd C. Johnson** that come to us through the weekly bulletin of the Huntington Park church in Shreveport, LA. Under the heading,

"Preacher's Notebook", brother Johnson writes short, but very meaningful articles. We are pleased to share one of his brief but vital lessons published July 27, 2008. (alf)

It Depends Upon Who's Speaking!

"The singing was bad, the singing was good." I have heard both comments after the same service over the years. "You spoke a little too long; I could have listened for another hour." Believe it or not I heard that once! "The elders made the wrong decision; our eIders always seem to be in tune with the needs of this congregation."

Now, which one of these statements is true? Answer: *none of them!* It is all a matter of personal perception, an opinion stated as fact. An opinion or perception is a personal matter usually based on feelings. It is a statement of preference; of likes and dislikes.

Some people seem to be upset all the time and over everything. Others seem to always be able to maintain an

even keel. Here is one I have heard often and one contradicts the other. "You people are not very friendly; you people are the friendliest group of people I have ever known." Now which one is correct? Which one do you base a decision on? Where should we focus our attention?

It isn't that genuine problems don't need to be addressed. Solutions should be found for real problems, but you cannot deal with everyone's feelings, opinions, and personal preferences that some may express. My friends, Jesus could not please everybody, and neither can we!

Brother Johnson's address:
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6161 West 70th Street
Shreveport, LA 71129
hpcofc@bellsouth.net

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Notice after 30 years
Robert Rawson is now setting up gospel meetings, seminars and workshops (church development, marriage & family, personal work) for the years 2009 and 2010, Lord willing. Please, plan with him: **662-563-4941, or 138 Faith Drive, Batesville, MS 38606.** He has served with the Batesville brethren since July, 1978.

Church Attendance A Means to an End



Enter to LEARN



Exit to SERVE

reminders from a Florida church
Gulf Breeze Church of Christ
(Pensacola, Florida)

Matthew 20:26-28

"...Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister...."

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

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5. Jan Fitzgerald
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7. Kimberly Pearce
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403. Margaret E. Johnson
404. Diane Dunaway
405. Ms. Gail Gurganus
406. Kay Bramlett
407. Myrtle Rogers
408. Ann Mixon
409. Rosa Lee Johnson
410. Emily Glazier
411. Sheri Glazier
412. Alphonso Ward
413. Nelda Newkirk
414. Terry Newkirk
415. Gina Sellier
416. Lucretia McNeese
417. Natalie Stewart
418. Patricia McClure
419. Irene M. Wright
420. Alma Callahan
421. Blanche Meeks
422. Shirley Dewett
423. Kristy Pipes
424. Billie Boyd
425. Lessie M. Tanson
426. Kathy Rogers
427. Frieda Thompson
428. Lisa Dearman
429. Bonnie Skates
430. Hattie Johnson
431. Verna Spake
432. Vera Winfrey
433. Doralynn Felton
434. Mrs. L. C. Stewart
435. Evelyn Stanford
436. Mrs. Lois Cleo Wright
437. Asleen Dean
438. Mariah Wallace
439. Irma Lucas
440. Mattie Luster
441. Rose Knox
442. Shelia Woodard
443. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr.
444. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.
445. Nicole Womack
446. B. J. Womack
447. MaNia Womack
448. Bralan Womack
449. Dotsy Downs
450. Wanda Eaves
451. Veva June Calhoun
452. JoAnn Mills
453. Kathy Perry
454. Oscar F. Yates
455. Margaret Burnett
456. Nadine Patton
457. Shelia Williams
458. Thelma L. Pendergrass
459. Sandy Dean
460. Betty Standard
461. Minnie Young
462. Connie Tice
463. Gaynell Doughty
464. Trillie Strickland
465. Imogene Kirk
466. Brenda Wilson
467. Betty Waddle
468. Bonnie Howell
469. John L. Gates, Jr.
470. Charles Coffey
471. Tommy & Peggy Shull
472. Jerry & Norma Inman
473. Lora Ann Ray
474. Catherine Isom
475. Peggy Hartman
476. Debbie Bradshaw
477. Bennie Green
478. Ashley Kebodeaux
479. Bernice Coulter
480. Micah McCoy
481. Peggy Alcede
482. Debbie Anderson
483. Jimmie Anderson
484. Ila Berry
485. Caden Bolding
486. Kathie Bordelon
487. Otis Boudreaux
488. Paulette Boudreaux
489. Charles Brittain
490. Doreen Brittain
491. Drew Broussard
492. Dortha Carlile
493. Joe Carlile
494. Pat Cole
495. Tommy Cole, Sr.
496. Slice Cooper
497. Vester Cooper
498. Kara Crowell
499. Kasey Crowell
500. Daniel Decareaux
501. Debbie Doucet
502. Ray Doucet
503. Erlene Elkins
504. Judith Elkins
505. Vanessa Elkins
506. Walter L. Elkins, Jr.
507. Louis Estes
508. Marilyn Estes
509. Vicky Estes
510. Jeremiah Farve
511. Laura Farve
512. Ena Franks
513. Glenda Franks
514. Paul Franks
515. Vincent Franks
516. Randall Gandy
517. Barbara Gayle
518. Bill Green
519. Mildred Flo Green
520. Sharon Gomez
521. Christopher Green
522. Craig Green
523. Crystal Green
524. Cynthia D. Green
525. Jake Hance
526. Jessica Hance
527. Tina Harris
528. Kenny Hewitt
529. Otha Hewitt
530. Sarah Jones
531. David Kineman
532. Tammy Kineman
533. Angie Kirby
534. Dustin Kirby
535. Bethany Landry
536. Debbie Laster
537. Martha Mantel
538. Amanda Manuel
539. Sandra Martin
540. Cary McCartney
541. Marlene McCartney
542. Allison McReynolds
543. Ana McReynolds
544. Kenneth McReynolds
545. Tola Morgan
546. Ancilla Nolan
547. Missy Nugent
548. Pamela Oliver
549. Camille Poynter
550. Hayden Poynter
551. Jason Poynter
552. Linda Reed
553. David Sigmund
554. Debra Sigmund
555. John Sigmund
556. John T. Sikes
557. Katlyn Smith
558. Edrice Thomas
559. Benjamin Treme
560. Body Treme
561. Renee' Treme
562. Grady Ward
563. Wanda Ward
564. Gloria Watson
565. Leora White
566. Bud Wranosky
567. Linda Wranosky
568. Benita Burge
569. Betty Clark
570. Ina Sadler

YOUR NAME...
NEXT TIME!

NOTICE

All answers received before Sept. 2, 2008, have been included. Thanks to all who read the MM and answer "The QB". (see page 20)

More Words of Encouragement

Many thanks for sending us the Magnolia Messenger. We thoroughly enjoyed and read every copy. We are both past our mid 80's and it seems we find ourselves going over every article. Keep up the good work!!!... Yours in Christ, (John & Lynn Odom, Jackson, MS) [Charter members of the Meadowbrook Church of Christ in Jackson.]

Please start the Magnolia Messenger to both my daughters. I know this small donation won't count for much, but, maybe added to the many, it will help a little. Thank you, (Kathy Perry, Delhi, LA)

P. S. Enjoy the MM so much myself. Wish everyone I know could/would read it.

Thank You
Thank God!Plan to Attend
Our Next LA/TX MM RV Rally

(You don't have to have an RV.)

October 22-26 - Grapeland, Texas

(See Page 5)

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

The End Results

- June Franks -

There is, without a doubt, no way that we can predict the future or to know what will be the end results of the choices we make in our lifetime. The Bible is, however, filled with information about the choices we make and how they do affect our lives.

The Bible tells us how to have a good life. It doesn't mean that every thing will be good in our life, but according to Romans 8:28, everything will *work together* for our good, if we love the Lord.

The Bible also says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). If the choice we make is to continue in sin, our wages then will be spiritual death.

We are all called upon to make choices and, so often, those choices affect us for the rest of our lives -- whether they be for good or bad.

If we, sometimes, could only look into the future, we might not make some of the choices that we make. We can learn from our study of the Bible, and also should be able to learn from the personal experiences of others, as we consider the end results in their lives.



June Franks

However, so often, we forget about the future and we think of only satisfying our present day (moment) desires. We don't think about the end results. How tragic!

There is a commercial on television that says, "I want it all and I want it now." As a people, doesn't this describe the day and age in which we live? It doesn't matter who we hurt or what it takes to get what we want. We never seem to consider the end results of our actions.

In the very beginning, the devil was deceitful when he lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden. God had told Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the "knowledge of good and evil." God said, "If you do, you shall surely die." The devil comes along and says, "Ye shall *not* surely die." (Genesis 2:4)

The Bible continues, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat." (Genesis 3:6)

Eve was only thinking of the present. If she *had only stopped to think* of the consequences of her sin and what the end results would be.

The Bible also states in I John 2: 16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

All types of sin are portrayed by magazines, television, and movies to be fun, and the popular thing to do. But the media does not picture the end results of engaging in those sinful activities.

The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). The Bible also teaches that we are to abhor that which is evil and we are to cleave to that which is good. (Romans 12:9)

One verse that we should think about, on a daily basis, is First Thessalonians 5:22. The Bible says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." How many of us have done things, in the past, that we have truly regretted?

What would be the outcome, if everyone who had an *affair* (the Bible calls it "*adultery*"), had asked before hand, "What will be the end results of my doing this?"

Recently, a young mother's life came to a tragic end. Sin entered her life and she went from one sin to the other -- seeking pleasure and fun. She gave up on the marriage that God had intended for her to have as long as she lived. How much better her life could have been if she had only thought about and considered the end results of her actions and the choices she made.

Billboards through out the state of Mississippi promote gambling as a fun thing to do. But the casinos never tell you the end results of so many who participate in such activities.

The casinos even acknowledge, "If you have a problem gambling call Gambling Anonymous." We must consider the fact if we never gamble, then we do not have to be concerned about becoming addicted.

We hear of those winning at the casinos but how often do they publicize those who have lost their life's possessions by gambling or become so addicted to gambling they do not have money for food or house payments?

The same is true of the use of alcohol and other drugs. If we make the choice to *never touch/taste*, then we will never become addicted. You may think this sounds too simple and/or that there's no fun in life unless we participate in such evil activities.

Solomon said, "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 1:2) Solomon's conclusion was, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

It is a great source of comfort to know that when we do make wrong choices, God is there -- ready to forgive and to forget, if we will only meet his terms, including repentance.

The end results of our choices can turn out to be good. We may have to suffer because of our wrong choices but we can be assured as long as there is life, we can have forgiveness in Christ Jesus. A truly great blessing.

The writer can be reached by addressing, June Franks; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090 or by e-mailing: franksmm@aol.com.

By
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray
BCagleRay@Aol.Com



Unaware

What good is life without the love
Of He who fashioned every star?
And does a vault of purest gold
Make you happy if alone you are?

Is the joy as great in Autumn's gold,
If we never look up to see the trees?
How much magic is there in seashells,
If we fail to look at the rolling sea?

What good are awards and college degrees
If valuable lessons are not learned?
And how prized our earthly possessions
If by our sweat they are not earned?

What kind of parents can we truly be
If we're not there when storms arise?
How much joy is there in dazzling stars
If we fail to gaze toward the sky?

Would we be reaching for Heaven's gate,
If God's face would not be there?
How much good really comes from life
If we walk through it unaware?

If There Were No Children There

Some say children should be seen, not heard.
I think that statement is absurd!
We would not hear the shouts of glee,
That sound like music to my ears, you see.

I dreamed we went to worship on Sunday,
Watching for children to come our way.
We were sad when not a child came;
We sat on a pew, but it was not the same.

As we left the church building that day,
We were so sad, our words could only say,
There was not a child -- not a girl nor boy,
To fill our hearts with joy.

We went home with heavy hearts that day;
For the children had all gone away.
A feeling of sadness came o'er me,
Then happiness -- just a dream, you see.

Be careful how you treat children away,
As they grow up to be leaders one day,
Always remember what a Christian should be
Do we wish them to grow up like you and me?

[Matthew 19:14] But Jesus said "Let the little children come unto me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Written by and submitted to the MM by Sarah Ozella Kendrick (Farley church of Christ); 12306 Chicamauga Trail SE; Huntsville, AL 35803 (Edited by alf)

North Mississippi

Ladies' Retreat

Tishomingo State Park
October 24 & 25, 2008

(Friday & Saturday)

speaker

Maggie Colley

theme:

"Fan The Flame"

Preregistration

Requested by October 10

Send \$30.00 per person to:

Hillcrest Church of Christ,

C/o June Wigginton,

1089 Hwy 348,

Guntown, MS 38849

For additional information contact:

Robin Whitley

662-231-2367

Registration begins Friday at 5:00 P.M.
Supper served at 6:00 P.M. Retreat
concludes after lunch on Saturday.
Bring bed linens for bunk bed, flashlight,
etc.

DRESS CASUAL!!!!

Each lady is asked to bring a door prize
and each congregation a skit (if you'd
like).

Use of the
King James Version
may be helpful

The Question Box

Is your
name found
on page 18?

Elijah Battles With Baal

Ahab, king of Israel. The most wicked of the wicked. The Bible says, "And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him." Again, "Abab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him." (1 Kings 16:30,33)

Elijah, prophet of Israel. Perhaps, the greatest of the great. He appears on the scene rather suddenly during the evil reign of Ahab and Jezebel. The apparent purpose of Elijah's work was to save Israel from the idolatrous worship of Baal. Interestingly, like Enoch of old, Elijah did not experience physical death (2 Kings 2). And, like Moses and Jesus, he, too, went without food for 40 days (1 Kings 19:8). Along with Moses, he

appeared with Jesus on the "mount of transfiguration" (Matthew 17).

This month's study brings to our attention the striking work of Elijah in his struggle against idol worship and the evil king Ahab. Read prayerfully **I Kings chapters 17, 18 and 19**. As you read, please complete each part of this quiz. If you will, send your answers to us. By so doing, you will encourage others (see page 18) and you just may be our **next Bible winner**. (Each issue, by random selection, we award a beautiful Study Bible to one student who sends in his/her answers to "The Question Box.") **You may be our winner for this issue!** Thanks for expressing your interest in Bible study by answering the "QB". (alf)

Note: All answers are found in I Kings chapters 17, 18 and 19, unless otherwise noted.

Foods and Sources

Note: God showed special care for his servant Elijah during a very long drought by providing food and water for him. Match each of the foods (column one) with the correct source through which God provided the food. (Write in chapter and verse where the answers are found.)

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. bread and flesh, morning and evening | ___ Angel (__:__) |
| 2. "a little cake" & bread for "many days" | ___ Ravens (__:__) |
| 3. "cake baked on coals" | ___ Widow (__:__) |

Who Asked/Stated What?

Note: You are to match the question asked or statement made (column one) with the right person who asked the question or made the statement (column two).

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 4. "How long halt ye between two opinions?" | ___ Obadiah (__:__) |
| 5. "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" | ___ The People (__:__) |
| 6. "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God." | ___ Elijah (__:__) |
| 7. "Art thou my lord Elijah?" | ___ Ahab (__:__) |

Numbers in I Kings 17-19

Each of the following questions is answered with a number.

(The numbers are: 100, 7000, 3, 12, 12, 42 and 7)

8. How many barrels of water were poured on Elijah's sacrifice and altar? _____
9. The number of persons in Israel who had not "bowed the knee to Baal." _____
10. Because of the prayer of a "righteous man", how many months passed without rain? _____ (see also James 5)
11. How many times did Elijah's servant look out over the sea before he saw a small cloud? _____
12. How many of God's prophets did Obadiah feed and hide in caves? _____
13. How many stones did Elijah use in building the altar used in his sacrifice to God? _____
14. How many times did Elijah stretch himself upon the dead body of a widow's son? _____

Finally

15. List **in order** the three special displays of nature that occurred when Elijah was standing upon the mount, **before** the Lord actually spoke to him in a very unexpected manner.

(__) Earthquake; (__) Fire (__) Strong Wind and (4) "a still small voice".

Thank you for answering "The Question Box"

Please Send Your Answers to Us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

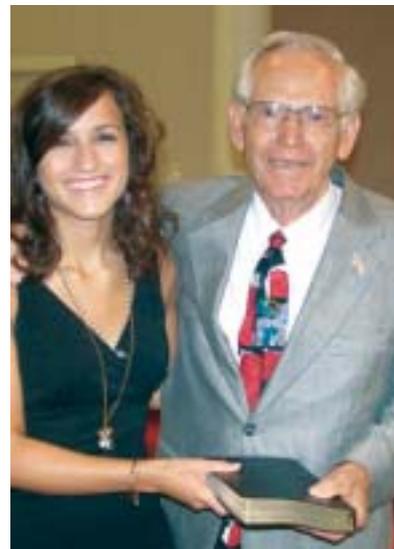
City: _____ State: _____

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

Recent Bible Winners



Joe Carlile (on right)

Brother Carlile's Bible was presented to him by our granddaughter (Megan Franks). Joe lives in Lake Charles, LA and is a member of the Boulevard congregation, where he is one of upwards to 100 students who sends in answers each issue. He was our Bible winner for the Mar/April, 2008, issue of the MM



Dathol Camp

Sister Camp lives in Amory, MS and is a member of the Christian Chapel congregation. She was our Bible winner for the June/July, 2008, issue of the MM. Her Bible was presented to her in the presence of the Christian Chapel church. (See article on page 11.)

Christian Student Center At Moorhead Announces Their Annual "Fish Fry and Auction"

The Christian Student Center in Moorhead, Mississippi is having their Annual "Fish Fry and Auction" on September 26, 2008. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 PM. and the live auction will follow. If you are able to attend, you are encouraged to bring an item or two to be auctioned off. Some suggested items are: Homemade jellies & relishes, cakes, pies, breads, kitchen gadgets, antiques, Christmas gift items, children's toys, sets of dishes, trays, furniture, garden tools, lamps and plaques.

Gene and Madolyn Gibson are the dedicated workers at the Christian Student Center. (662-246-8284)

New Bible Winner
351. Courtney Woods
Sulligent, AL
Congratulations!

Who Said That?

*"Woe unto you, ye blind guides...
Ye fools and blind....
Ye serpents,
ye generation of vipers...."*

Answer:

JESUS. Jesus said that! (Read Matthew chapter 23.) **BUT...**

JESUS: We think of Him as "kind, gentle, loving and compassionate." And, rightly so. He was/is!

But, remember. Jesus *knew* the hearts of evil men; He knew their hypocrisy. A careful reading of Matthew 23 teaches clearly that our Lord disliked -- **not** the hypocrite, but his hypocrisy!

Jesus **knew** whereof He spoke. Now, before we go out and begin to speak of people as "blind", or call them "fools" and/or refer to them as "serpents", we need to stop and ask, "Do we **really know** their hearts?" Jesus did. We may *think* we know when we really do not know. Doesn't the Bible somewhere admonish, "**Be slow to speak**"? (alf, editor)