Correction/Apology

In the June/July, 2008 issue of the MM, we reported on a sermon preached in Atalla, 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. (all/editor)

Elijah Battles With Baal
Answer “The Question Box” (See Page 20)

570 Bible Students
Sent in Answers
(Is your name on page 187?)

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!

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
LA/TX
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 “Silly Dream” About Smoking
(See Page 2)

For Whom Shall I Vote?
(See Page 4)

Another Look At Bible Baptism
(See 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)

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

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.”

“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 I 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 and I am enjoying the work. Our average
income has increased since last December. We are thoroughly
enjoying the work.

In Christ,
Mark Ray
(Jonesboro, AR)

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 conver-
sation 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
dramatically. There, right before
me, stood my dad -- holding a cigarette in his hand. And, di-
rectly 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...
Daddy, why are you and mama
smoking?” Tears were running
down my face. I pleaded that
they not do what I was seeing
them do.

Then, I
awoke. In a
way, I was re-
lieved. It was
only a dream
-- a “silly
dream”. But,
as I pondered, the dream pro-
voked 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 Louisi-
ana), smoking was almost as
common as eating. Most men
smoked cigarettes, many of
them - “roll your own,” from
tobacco pur-
chased in
pouches or
cans such as
“Prince
Albert”.

The men
who did not
smoke regu-
larly, often
chewed to-
bacco --
“D a y ’ s
W o r k”,
“C o t t o n
B o l l” or
whatever.

Many ladies
chose to dip
snuff. App-
parently, the
use of to-
bacco was a
sign of being
“grown up”.

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 hear-
ing it. Maybe I was too young.

Somewhere along the line,
when I was about ten years old, I
did begin to hear a few nega-
tive 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 con-
ducted. Reports began to circu-
late. Tobacco may, indeed, be
harmful and may not be such an
“innocent habit”. By the time I
had reached my early teens, I re-
call 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
(1 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 look-
ning 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 Scrip-
tures 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
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 that he used. 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 peripherally 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. And 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 32:52-55) and was, and therefore, not allowed to enter the promised land to which he had brought the people of Israel, he was obviously not eternally condemned. Elijah, on the other hand, was taken up from the earth in a fiery chariot in the presence of his successor Elisha and did not experience an earthly death.

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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! We can express those feelings to others! Sure, that’s our American right! Is the church the place for these views to be read and periodically published? Not at all, nor should the church 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 is divide us, and with the attitude that is prevalent in many circles today, certainly we 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, 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

gentry@wildblue.net

Berea church of Christ, (Burnsville, MS)

1336 CR 197, Blue Springs, MS 38828

Somewhere in Mississippi

Each additional number represent A Precious Soul!

Each extra dollar provides support for the World’s Most Important Work!

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, Milpport, 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 Sojourner’s in 1999... 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 white 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.

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 needed announcement. 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 Judge- ment and Salvation from Sin.

A Plea To Save Their Church Building

Brazil Church of Christ

Up until just a few months ago, the Brazil church of Christ in Tallatitche County, Mississippi, was considered “alive, but struggling.” Church membership in the small delta community (NW of Grenada; SE of Clarksdale) had dwindled until only three or four 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. The church is planning 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 services in the facility. To keep the building from complete ruin, it is essential to repair the roof very soon.

Brother Don Roberson of the Coffeeville 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 us with?

For more information, please contact Robert Rawson at 662-457-2485 (email: rrawson@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.”

Just enough room to once again say “Thank You” for receiving and reading the MM.
News Notes

BOONEVILLE
Greg Pollock and family from Senath, Missouri, was beginning his work with the Booneville Church of Christ as 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 which 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 alongside the present elders, Johnnie Bennett, John Dodd and Wayne McAplin. Blake Nichols and Terry Smith serve the Foote Street congregation as ministers.

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 Foote 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 Manteeville. Michael was recently baptized into Christ in June. Missy 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 Pineaulee 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 Mantee and CEDARS at Tupelo.

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

Please, join with us at Manteech Church of Christ in a 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 on the world as “In Search of the Christ.”

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. Thus they do by seeking, as Jesus did, to care for the needy and to “sow and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

Church buildings do, indeed, impress people! He desires that all his 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 and 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 1 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 our beautiful buildings are constructed, the work is done!

Church buildings do, indeed, impress some people, including me. But, remember, our mission is to impress God. He asks that we live Godly (like His Son, Jesus) and teach/prepare the church on the “good news” of salvation through His Son, our Saviour. (All/ editor)

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. 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 lightning 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. Hands print sets 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 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.

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 you can understand why David wrote: “Beloved, 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!

Magnolia Messenger
Page 5

Now, You Take it from There!

by John Simpson
4073 Stillwood Dr
Memphis, TN 38126-3056
j38126sm@yahoo.com

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.

Booneville
Greg Pollock, formerly of Senath, Missouri, was beginning his work with the Booneville Church of Christ as 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 which 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...”

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DENNIS - LIBERTY CHURCH
Special Lecture Series – “Archaeology and the Bible”
The Liberty Church of Christ is planning a Special Lecture Series for Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28, 2008. The Lectures will deal with “Archaeology 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.
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. (af).}

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 cater to the whims of 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, unites congregations, and brings hope for eternal life with God. Pure religion (James 1:27) of God is based on the Word of God, edifies the soul, solidifies families, unites congregations, and brings hope for eternal life with God. The time has come for people who take religion seriously to get serious about religion. The "any religion is right" syndrome is a distressing and dangerous phenomenon. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you. (af).
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 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 on their heads (Revelation 22:4). Before that timeless place is reached, no mere mortal can look into the glory of God and never tire of it or consider it less fulfilling.

We will see and thus know much, yet still not “enough for us just to be in heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ as he is.” He “arose and was seated at the right hand of the Father” (Acts 2:34 KJV and the New King James Version).

Enduring

It will be an enduring look. “Forever and ever” (Revelation 22:5). Those whom the Father draws to himself through Jesus Christ will see 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 at MBC. He can be reached at P. O. Box 3109, 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 Burleson. 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 24-28, 2008. On September 27, a Honors Banquet and Concert will be at 3:00 p.m. at the GHEC, 2800 Hwy 1 South, Greenville, MS.

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.
The Compassionate Shepherd

-Travis Brown-

God has entrusted a very important role unto men who meet certain qualifications. The 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 (Rom. 12:8), Bishops or Shepherds (Heb. 13:17), 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 asks, “Who are you?” This question shows. The Lord will forgive a repentant sinner who desires to turn back to the Lord and make a new start. 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.

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 say: ‘I want to be an elder,’ then he has put 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.”

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 people he is serving. He will come under persecution and lose all their guilty stains. He 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 each of his mother for his 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, 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).”

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 careless and unresponsive attitude 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 check-up. 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 from both 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 humanitities 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 alone to pray for me.

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

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...
**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 18)

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
* Spoke before Louisiana legislature on the challenges and needs of families caring for disabled children
* (2005) - MBC Alumni of the Year

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 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).

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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.

See Page 10 for “Words of Wisdom” from the “Heart of Hodge”

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**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.

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**Magnolia Bible College**

Memorials & Living Tributes

The following donors 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.

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<td>Betty and Harry Barkley Miriam and Bob Holcomb Beef and Wayne Morris</td>
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<td>Sandra Anderson</td>
<td>Bobby Anderson</td>
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**Please Send**

MBC Memorials

And/or Tributes To: Magnolia Bible College

P.O. Box 1109

Kosciusko, MS 39090

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Note: MBC and MM memorials are handled separately. (See also page 11). Thanks for helping!
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 how, after all this time, I was surprised to find a man, a traveler, alone by himself.

He listened; although, he usually refused to talk.

I thought to myself, “I wish I could believe as he does.”

In his first lesson, 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 those of us who teach (all Christians should be teachers), “to 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. 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 think they are.”

He cautioned that we remember: “God is the authority; man is only a tool.”

When we decided to stop at a local church, in Clinton, Mississippi. There he sits, all alone. An Atheist: #10

He characterized him as a “fool” -- a man who said in his heart, there is no God.

To consider the evidence of a Creator, is “without excuse” (verse 16). According to Hodge, the four “Ls” 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 those of us who teach (all Christians should be teachers), “to kind” and to speak the “truth in love” (sounds like Ephesians 4:15).

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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 think they are.”

Friday night, August 22-24, 2008, Charles Hodge of Duncaniile, Texas was a guest of both MBC and the South Huncanck Tintvord uburch of Christ in Koscimcdo. By Hodge, son, so they can make it to 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 listener to benefit, “an effectiv what he called “The Four ‘Ls.’”

According to Hodge, the four “Ls” are, (1) Learn to Live, (2) Learn to Learn, (3) Learn to Laugh and (4) Learn to Love.

During the weekend of August 22-24, 2008, Charles Hodge of Duncanville, Texas was a guest of both MBC and the South Hunting-}

Charles Hodge

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 Hun-}

Friday night, August 22-24, 2008, Charles Hodge of Duncanville, Texas was a guest of both MBC and the South Huntington Street church of Christ in Koscimka. By Hodge, son, so they can make it to 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 listen-
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 emphasis given to the youth), encouragement to brotherhood programs and other mission efforts.

On Sunday morning, July 13, 2008, it was a privilege for me 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 Campbell who lives in nearby Amory and worships with the Christian Chapel congregation.

A very special thanks to the local preacher for allowing me the country church hold their morning worship 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. (all)

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.

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. (all/mf)

Steve Shappley
Preacher for the Church at Bean’s Ferry

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

Chase Surrell, Youth

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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 depository 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.)
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; Orlando, FL; and Atlanta, GA; as well. In 2008, there were 16,500 events. The increasing cost of luxury comparable with Opryland without the crowds to deal with.

“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, or by email ladsoffice@lads-to-leaders.org.

For Sale: (as seen in a Tennessee store) Bibs for small children

Sonia 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! (all)

From the Heart (pen) of a Child

“God is the only one we are supost to love the most. It is a very good thing to go to church and lern about God and Jesus. If someone gets hurt, don’t laugh at them -- help them.”

(Written September 20, 2006)

Hailey Marie Brewer
P. O. Box 387
Tuscopolis, MS 38674

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
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

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

OPHELIA WALKER
Ron & Mary Clemmons
(Pearl, MS)
Wayne & Betty Morris
(Clincoln, MS)

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

MRS. BOBBY CHAMPION CARTER
MM Ray Willford
(Leland, MS)
Stacy W. Carter
(Louisville, MS)

MARTHA MYERS
LEEHOOD

MERLE PERRY

ROSE OWEN
MICHAEL COX
Wayne & Betty Morris
(Clincoln, 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
Bettie D’Meila

JIMMY BRADSHAW
James & Deanie Bradshaw
(Indiana, 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)

Send MM Gifts to......
“One Thing is Needed”

-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, getting ready. They have been putting before our commitment to Christ the most important thing in their life. “No one can serve two masters.” He tells us to lay up our treasure in heaven. He tells us to have a single goal, then I don’t need them. My purpose for life. “No one can serve God and the Devil!”

He tells us to lay up our treasure in heaven. He tells us to have a single goal, then I don’t need them. My purpose for life. “No one can serve God and the Devil!”

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.

We first teach evangelism 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 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. AI, 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)
Churches Seeking Preachers

**Notice:** We are pleased to lead 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 understanding! 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**

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. Last year there was a home mission in the congregation. Please provide a resume and contact Elder Bowen.

**Steens**

P.O. Box 10
Steens, MS 38766
Frank Dantu
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”

**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: growr@windstream.net
Phone: 859-509-0427
(Ext. 72-08)

I have really enjoyed the last MM. As I read it, there was Bro. Tommie Lawson. I’ve known him many years at Nettleton, Bro. Garvis is married to my cousin. Then here was Bro. Steve Shapley, 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 15 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 Greenfield, KY. I met Sister McWhorter at a Amory ladies’ day afew years ago. He preached at 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. (Lois Cleo Wright, Fulton, MS)

Please accept this check to help in the publication of the Magnolia Messenger. 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. Thompson and Mrs. Sadie Hodge were members. When he took his new preaching position in Tennessee, you guess I 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 Guayana update was given in the Booneville church bulletin of their mission efforts in Guayana. During July there had been 65 baptisms, 20 restorations and 7 weddings. Brother Lloyd Beard and others lead in this mission work.

The Nicholasville church of Christ is looking for a full time preaching minister to work with this congregation of 45 in Northwest AL. We are looking for a man of faith. We have a well known 3nomadics.com baptism. Recently our new elders, Salary negotiable. picnic is. Our church and Aliceville population is 300. If you think you’d be interested in working with a loving congregation please call 205-373-3821, or e-mail jnpresley@wildblue.net.

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 church congregation has been meeting since the 1950’s and we have a membership who is willing to work and explore fresh ideas for community outreach.

We consider a full time minister our pastor’s work is not just 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. “Preach the Word!”

I would like to provide information for you 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, 3805 Highway 28 East, Pineville, Louisiana 71360. If 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 adult Sunday School program, youth (Lads to Leaders) program, satellite Bible Institute, youth leadership workshops, marriage enrichment programs and currently researching radio ministry. We seek a married man who loves God, loves people and loves winning souls for Christ. We would seek a man with at least a four year degree from a bible institution (preferably). Please send resume, three recent letters of reference 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
226-875-5239
“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 own mothers and curse those who came to witness their executioners and spit on anyone who was passing by.

Men who were crucified by the cross were directed at His enemies. While the enemies of Jesus were speaking from the cross, the words Jesus spoke from the mouth of God were 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 thought of what I would do. My children are my precious sight.

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 it 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 them 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 forgive 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 w i l l f u l ignorance of God’s grace and God’s wrath. When describing the people who crucified Him, Jesus said, “They do not know what they are doing.” If you are living a double life, Jesus cannot 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 everyone who is thirsty come, let him take the water of life freely.”

Did you know that the Creator of the Universe is crying out for His children to come to Him and receive His love and forgiveness? God has given us through your donations and prayers.

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

At the closing service of the meet- ing which had started on Sunday, Gary Williams (preacher for the East Main church in Tupelo) stepped into the pul- pit 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 mes- sage, in part, be- cause 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 certain 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 par- ents 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 com- puters in their rooms. He taught that parents need to care and to know who is influencing their precious chil- dren. A good lesson. A good visit. A good evening! (all)

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Mother Church Washington, September 21-24

Speakers:
- Gary Williams
- James Hill
- Margie Doss
- Brother Casteel
- Tyler Hunt

S American meeting schedule:
- Monday & Tuesday:
  - “Visit Our Meeting”
  - New Building Replaces One Destroyed by Tornado on Jan. 10

Caledonia Church Says “Thank You!”

“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 most 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 sometime in the future you can come and see what God has given us through your donations and prayers.”

CaledoniaChurch Says “Visit Our Meeting”

September 21-24

846 Main Street
Caledonia, MS 38938

Speakers:
- Sunday: Shane Meredith
  9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. 6:00 P.M.
- Monday & Tuesday: Peter Murff
- Wednesday: Travis Brown

Schedules:
- 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) 751-4057 or (662) 556-4207 or go to our website: www.churchofchrist1.com"
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 revealed to us in the present time were so foolish as to assume that the Gentiles would not share the same inheritance with us, or that they would not obtain the same share of Christ’s sufferings and glories. In fact, through him the Gentiles have access to as the same grace that is enjoyed by the Jews, and although they formerly did not obediently accept the good news of God’s grace, now that they have come to understand this, God has not been unfair to Jews, but has now also granted the Gentiles the mercy he had previously promised to the Jews. For as God in his mercy has taken away the sins of many, he has strengthened his chosen people. He exalted him, is often made in scripture. In his first epistle the apostle Peter said, “If anyone suffers as a Christian, he has been chosen to share in the suffering of Christ, so that, when the time comes for him to be rescued, he may also share in the glory of Christ. To this end you must be holy and be prepared to suffer, being mindful of the apostles and prophets, who suffered as they obeyed God concerning things they had not yet seen: because they were testify- ing of you and were to be imitated.” (1 Pet. 4:12-16).

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 revealed his glory to us from the Father, 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 voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain (2 Peter 1:17). This, Peter went on to say, confirmed the prophetic word, which itself shows so eloquently and conclusively that Jesus, in fulfilling those prophecies, proved himself indeed to be “the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

The Transfiguration is a primary example of God’s action in confirming the Messiahship of Jesus. This event occurred in the latter part of the ministry of Jesus in the Galilean region where Peter, James, and John were to experience a profound change in their understanding of Jesus. The transfiguration is recorded in the synoptic gospels. The apostles were called to be witnesses to the events and to review the experiences with others. Luke records the event in Acts 2:34 and 3:19, and John describes it in John 21:10. Jesus was transfigured in the presence of Peter, John, and James. Jesus was transfigured in the presence of Peter, John, and James.

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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 bulletin screen.
These Sent In Answers (Turn to Page 20)

More Words of Encouragement


Turn to Page 20
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 up on 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.

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 3:4)

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. She 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 can say it 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.

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 5:00P.M. Supper served at 6:00 P.M. Retreat concludes after lunch on Saturday.
Bring bed linens for bunk bed, flashlight, etc.
DRESS IS CASUAL!!!!
Each lady is asked to bring a door prize and each congregation a skit (if you’d like).

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 our 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 never look up to see the trees? 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?

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?

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The Question Box

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.” (I 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 (I 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.” (aff)

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 baken 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 (____) “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

Use of the King James Version may be helpful

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)

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”? (aff, editor)