



Magnolia Messenger

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

JAN-MAR, 2009 -- VOLUME 31; NUMBER 1 -- Our 31st Year

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

662-289-3559 (H/O)

601-668-3344 (cell)

franksmm@aol.com



Faye Russell is Smiling

You might smile too,
if you were
107 Years Old!

(See Story on Page 10)

Bible Lands Trip

With Al & Paul Franks
November 3, 2009

Cost: \$1998*

(Details: Page 11)

News Notes

TUPELO

The East Main Church of Christ in Tupelo has set Saturday, April 18, 2009 for their Ladies' Day with **Shelia Butt** speaking.

SHREVEPORT/BOOSIER

Mark your calendars for the Greater Shreveport- Boosier lectureship on March 6-8, 2009 at the Sunset Church of Christ. The theme is "Revive Us Again."

BATESVILLE

The Batesville Church of Christ is planning once again to do mission work in **Amite county, Mississippi**. This mission trip is planned for Mar. 13-19, 2009.

FAYETTE, AL

Don McWhorter, faithful Gospel preacher and long time preacher in the Fayette, AL area passed away on November 30, 2008. We extend our deepest sympathy to his faithful wife and co-worker, **Jane**, for more than 50 years.

NEW ALBANY

Glen and Cindy Colley will host a Marriage Seminar, "You're Singing My Song" on March 27 and 28, 2009 at the New Albany Church of Christ. The minister for the New Albany congregation is **Adam Evans**.

JACKSON

The Siwell Road Church of Christ is planning a Gospel Meeting with **Roy Sharp** on May 1-3, 2009. **Mark Ray** is the local preacher and **Scott Jefcoat** is the youth minister.

GREENVILLE

The South Main Church of Christ in Greenville is having their Spring Homecoming on Sunday, March 29, 2009 with **Danny Dodd** as the speaker. On Saturday, March 28 the evening before the homecoming there will be a reunion in the fellowship room with finger foods. **Danny Holman** is the local minister at South Main.



Christians Visit Canada and Northeastern United States
(Read details of two groups who searched for fall foliage. Page 12)

(A Reader Asks) *Does God have a plan for my life? I keep being told he does. If he does, how do I find out what it is? I want to do God's will.* **(May's Response on Page 3)**

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

MBC Presents
28th Annual Benefit Dinner

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Attala County Coliseum

Kosciusko, Mississippi



Joey + Rory

"The Singer and the Song"

An Evening of
Entertainment & Fellowship

For more information,

Please call Kim or Linda
at 800-748-8655 or Email:
kgrymes@magnolia.edu

**Let Us
Give
Thanks**

MM
25,000+
each issue

Goes into
**Every
State
of the
Nation**

Reaches Out
with
Good News
to
Christians
and
Non-Chris-
tians

Thanks
to all
who
Receive
& Read
The M M

Readers' Response

Thank you for your annual report on the Magnolia Messenger. I am happy to see that you were able to close out this year with sufficient funds. Your paper is a blessing to so many people, including me. For that I also thank you both! I have come to appreciate the plain simple messages that you continue to publish... Keep up the good work! Love in Christ Jesus, (Stacy W. Carter, Louisville, MS)

I always enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. After I am through with it I put it in the hospital waiting room. Love you both, (Veva June Calhoun, DeRidder, LA)

Much More in This Issue



Editor's Note of Thanks

Generous financial response from MM readers to our "end-of-the-year" mail out to supporters has been very encouraging. We are thankful for the help given and/or promised by congregations and individuals. Because of such support, we are pleased that you are now reading the first edition of 2009. And, God willing, we do anticipate several additional issues during this year. Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support for "Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper" and related mission efforts. (alf)

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 309
Knoxville, TN

Magnolia Messenger
South Huntington St
Church of Christ
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Change Service
Requested

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

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Please remove me from your mailing list... You are doing a good work, but I just have more than I can read right now. God bless you. (Name withheld by editor.)

Bro. Franks:

It is always such a pleasure to speak with you. Like Daniel of old, you have an excellent spirit. You do such a commendable job with the Magnolia Messenger... Thanks again, (Don DeLukie, Monroe, LA)

Brethren,

Thank you for the *Magnolia Messenger*. Having taught in International Bible School (in those days), we travelled many miles plus surrounding states. Now in Edmond, we keep the paper in circulation. I retired from mission work on East Coast (health reasons). I am teaching inmates in several states and prisons. You are not forgotten. I was in Harding with Cecil May! (Thomas J. Marshall; 601 Vista Lane, 134; Edmond, OK 73034)

We appreciate your work and labor of love for the Master. In Him We Live, (J. C. & Linda Enlow, Fulton, MS) (NOTE: Bro. Enlow was seriously injured in a fall after his note to the MM was written. We understand he has spent several weeks in the hospital in Birmingham; however, we are thankful to report that he is much improved and is now home. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless our dear brother J. C.)

I hope this finds you and yours well. I always look at the pictures in the "Messenger" as I used to be an army photographer in Germany. You do a very good job with them. (You see, I went over there and captured one of them and brought her back with me). What type, make, model, etc. of camera do you use? Oh, I do read the articles also. Just thought you'd like to know that, too. God bless you all and the good work you do. (Neal Michael; Springfield, CO)

A GOOD EXAMPLE

With the current economic crisis I have been trying to send a little money to as many good works as I can, and I am encouraging my friends and family to do the same. I hope a "little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." I will try to send some more in the new year. Wishing God's richest blessings on you and yours, (Howard Cox; Alto, TX)

Dear Al & June,

Thanks for the great work you have done with the Magnolia Messenger over thirty years. I enjoy it and profit greatly. May God richly bless you both. Yours in Christ, (James Meadows, Knoxville, TN)

MM is truly a "Good News Newspaper". I read it before I even look at the other day's mail! Thanks for your service. (Mrs. Dabney (Wilma) Phillips, Montgomery, AL)

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

Published every 2-3 months (as funds and time permit). Mailed **without charge** to all who ask to receive it and to others for whom it is requested.

Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of more than 25,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your help is **requested, needed and appreciated!**

Supported By Contributions

A. L. Franks, Editor

Paul Franks, On Line Editor; www

Cecil May, Jr., Bible Questions Answered

June & Glenda Franks, Special Assistants

Telephone Numbers

Office/Residence
(662) 289-3559
Cell Phone
(601) 668-3344

Mailing Address:

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

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

E-Mail: franksmm@aol.com

A Great Mystery Christ and the Church

Ephesians 5:32 -- "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

God joined together *Christ and church*. As was said about **marriage** (husband and wife), may it be said about Christ and His church -- "Let not man put asunder" (See Matthew 19:6). The church and Christ stand together. They are inseparable. If one is important, so is the other. I pray: *Be not deceived.*

Paul, an inspired apostle, clearly shows, in Ephesians chapter five, the vital connection between Christ and His church. He taught that the church is the body of Christ; the church is dearly loved by Christ; that Christ is the head of His church and that Jesus is the Saviour of his church, his body. All these truths are clearly taught in verses 22 through 33 of chapter five, the book of Ephesians. Let's take a closer look.

The writer of the book to the Ephesian church illustrates and demonstrates the importance of the remarkable relationship between Christ and His church by his references to the well-known and meaningful relationship between a loving husband and his faithful wife.

In verse 23, scriptures says that the "husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church." The wife has a head - her husband. The church has a head -- Jesus Christ. The apostle added that Jesus is "the saviour of the body" [the church]. Remember this truth, *that Jesus is the "Saviour of the body/church"*, when you hear someone say, "Oh, you do not have to be a member of the church to be saved; you can be saved outside of the church." Be not misled!

Furthermore, the inspired writer made an important application when he wrote, "Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands..." *Wife*, be subject to your head or husband; *church*, be subject to your head or Christ. Paul added that both wife and church are to be subject to their head "in everything" (verse 24).

The Biblical illustration in parallel continues with another vital application. "Husbands love your



A. L. Franks
EDITOR

wives, even as Christ also loved the church..." And, it is said that Jesus demonstrated His great love for His church by *giving himself* for it. He willing **died** for the church. This tells us that a husband who truly cares should love his wife so much that he would literally give up his life for her. Now, I ask: who can read these inspired words from Ephesians 5 and fail to see that the church is very important to Jesus and that a wife is very important to her husband?

The loving relationship between Christ and His church is further emphasized by the statement, "That he might sanctify and cleanse *it* [the church] with the washing of

water by the word" (verse 26). Here we learn that the church of Jesus Christ is "sanctified"; that is, it is "set apart; made holy." For this reason, members of the church of the New Testament are sometimes called "saints" (see I Corinthians 1:2).

The apostle also tells how the *cleansing* takes place for those who choose to become members of the body or church of Christ. Verse 26, of Ephesians five, states that souls are cleansed "with the washing of water by the word." This means that through the powerful influence of God's Word, *penitent believers* are "washed" in the waters of baptism; thus, are cleansed by God's power through the atoning blood of Jesus. Upon such cleansing they are made new creatures and are added to the body or church of Jesus Christ.

(Read prayerfully John 3:3,5; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16 and I Peter 3:21).

God's work is not finished with those who become His children. He has more work to do with those sons and daughters who are "sanctified" and/or "cleansed." His desire is that those who are saved be a "glorious church." And, it is possible. Through the wonderful power of Jesus' blood, God enables His people, who make up Christ's church, to be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; that they be "holy and without blemish" (verse 27).

God's penman, Paul, emphasizes the love of Christ for his church by writing that a husband ought to love his wife "as his own body" (verse 28). He added, "He that loveth his wife loveth himself." Referring back to Christ and his church, Paul wrote that a husband should **nourish** and **cherish** his wife (as his own body), even as Christ also "nourisheth and cherisheth" the church (His body).

The closeness between Christ and his church is illustrated by the closeness of a loyal husband and a faithful wife. Paul wrote, "We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." He then stated, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Oh, what closeness; what unity; what oneness! Husband and wife; Christ and His church.

The special **oneness** is called "a mystery". But, the mystery has been; at least in part, revealed. Our understanding is increased when we, as did the apostle, compare the two relationships -- (between husband and wife and Christ and his church.)

My earnest prayer is for you and me, **may no one believe and may no one say, "The church is unimportant!"** To do/say is to belittle the body of Jesus; it is to show disrespect for the church, the church for which Jesus gave his life. May God help each one to respect and reverence the vital relationships between a husband and his precious wife and between Christ and His precious Church.

A. L. Franks
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090
franksmm@aol.com
601-668-3344

**We Solicit Your
Prayers, Comments, Suggestions**

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTION

Does God have a plan for my life? I keep being told he does. If he does, how do I find out what it is? I want to do God's will.

RESPONSE: God's plan for your life is expressed in several places in Scripture.

He Plans for Your Salvation

"God our Savior... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

"The Lord is... patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God's plan for you is that you should come to know the truth, turn to God and Christ and be redeemed.

You Were Made to Glorify Him

In a children's class prior to worship on Sunday nights the kids are asked, "Why were we made?" They are taught to answer, "To glorify God!"

That also is often expressed in Scripture. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

He Desires Your Fellowship

Since God created mankind in his own image, with a sense of right and wrong and with the power to choose between good and evil, it is reasonable to conclude that God desired beings who could love him, serve him and have fellowship with him because they wanted to, not just because they were programmed to or had no other choice.

Man and woman, however, in the early morning of time in the first paradise, sinned and broke fellowship with God. But he still did not give up on his plan for them. He announced in somewhat cryptic terms the ultimate defeat of the seed of the serpent by the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15). Even prior to that, "before the foundation of the world" God planned for this creature created to have fellowship with him to be redeemed and reconciled, even at the cost of the blood of his unique beloved Son.

God is sovereign. That means he is all powerful and in complete control. However, in his sovereignty, he made a sovereign choice to give mankind--you and me--freedom of moral choice. Only in that way could he have our freely chosen love and fellowship.

His plan then for our lives, made possible at great cost to him and to his Son, is for us, even though we

are sinners, to choose life, to be forgiven and to live faithful lives that will bring glory to God and show the results of our fellowship with him.

A More Detailed Plan?

However, that is likely not what our questioner was asking about.

Many believe God has planned every person's life down to the minutest detail -- where he should go to school, what he should major in, whom she should marry, where to live and work, etc. And in order to be happy all must find out what God has planned for them; for only so can they be "in the center of his will" and only so can they be truly blessed and successful.

I find nothing in Scripture that teaches that.

Where Shall I Work?

Pardon, please, for illustration purposes some paragraphs of personal contemplation.

From 1954 to 1977, I was preacher for four Mississippi congregations and one Oregon congregation for periods of time ranging from one to nearly eight years. All of the works seemed to go well, both by my estimation and by the evaluation of the church members and community leaders involved.

Every time I moved I could have stayed where I was, continued a good work and been pleasing to God. But everywhere I went turned out to be a positive experience as well, not only good for my family and me but, as far as I could tell, good for the kingdom as well.

I have also been a Bible teacher and administrator in four Christian colleges or universities.

At one point in the mid-1950's my wife and I were encouraged to go to Japan as missionaries. We came close to deciding to do so. Some circumstances weighed against it and we decided at that time to make Mississippi our "mission field," and did so for 43 years.

I believe I was "in the will of God" in the work I was doing in each of those years. I can even confidently think I see the hand of providence often in those years. But I believe I would have been equally "in the will of God" working in Japan if I had gone there and served faithfully.

Preachers sometime speak as if God has one place chosen for them to work and they can only serve faithfully if they find out where it is and go there. And congregations

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



Cecil May, Jr., Dean
College of Biblical Studies
Faulkner University
5345 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109
334-386-7154
cmay@faulkner.edu

may talk and write as if God has one particular person in mind to fill a ministry vacancy, and they must wait until God shows them who that person is.

"God has led me here and I am exactly where He wants me to be." "Please pray that I will find the summer job God wants me to have." "Lord, help us find and recognize the man you have prepared and called to be our preacher." Expression and prayers like this are often heard. What is striking is how absent similar language is from Scripture!

To be sure there is supernatural guidance of the apostles on particular occasions, as when Paul and Silas are led to Troas to receive the Macedonian call in a vision. But even for the apostles that was not the norm.

Use Common Sense, Wisdom

On Paul's second missionary journey, he and Silas and Timothy established churches in both Thessalonica and Berea, and Paul was soon run out of both places by persecution. Leaving his companions behind, Paul went on to Athens, but he wrote back to Thessalonica to say, "Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's co-worker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, emphasis CM, Jr.)

"We were willing." "We thought it best" (NASV). "We decided" (Confraternity).

How was their decision made?

They thought it best, and they had good reasons for it. They were concerned about their converts and their endurance under persecution, and they decided sending Timothy was the best means for meeting their concerns.

As Paul awaited trial before Nero in Rome he was refreshed by the company of Epaphroditus who had brought good tidings and gifts from Philippi. But Epaphroditus became ill and nearly died. Paul decided to send him home and explained it like this: "I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill" (Philippians 2:25-26).

Paul did not say he "felt led" to send Epaphroditus home, or that God had told him to do so. He said, "I thought it necessary."

Again, he had good reasons to think so: Epaphroditus was eager to get home (2:26); Paul wanted to turn the Philippians' anxiety over their messenger into joy (2:28); and Paul needed him as a messenger to take his "thank-you letter" to the Philippians. In Paul's wisdom (common sense) he determined sending Epaphroditus was the best way to accomplish important spiritual goals.

I believe in the providence of God, and I think that I have seen it at work in my life in regard to places I have worked. The apostle Paul believed in it as well, but the most he would say about a specific instance of it is "perhaps." To Philemon, concerning Onesimus: "For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever" (Philemon 1:15).

God certainly has a moral will. He has clearly expressed that will in Scripture. However, when we are faced with choices not involving immorality in either direction, God has given us "freedom of choice" and urged us to use our "wisdom," recognizing that any one of several choices might be quite good.

Whom Shall I Marry?

Even in regard to marriage, while there are certainly moral choices to be made and immoral choices to be avoided, within the range of Christians eligible to be married Paul makes it clear that they are free to decide whether to marry, as well as whom to marry (1 Corinthians 7). Under certain conditions "it is good;" under different conditions, the other "is better" (7:8-9).

Freedom of Choice

Consider Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree

of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17).

Adam and Eve's moral choice is clear. "Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Otherwise, they have freedom of choice. Suppose Adam were to press God and say, "I know I am not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but in order to be in your perfect will which of the other trees would you have me to eat first?" Would God not reiterate, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden"? Adam had no reason to suppose that eating any one fruit would please God more than another. The choice was left to Adam's own taste and preference.

God promises wisdom for the asking (James 1:5), but wisdom is not the same as specific information. The kind of wisdom God gives is defined later in the same epistle: "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere" (James 3:17).

In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul, by inspiration, specifically declares that Christians, of all people, ought to be competent to make wise decisions. He rebukes the Corinthians for going to law against each other before unbelieving judges and says, "Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?" (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

In decisions that do not involve moral versus immoral choices, we have God-given freedom. We should use spiritual discernment, evaluate the pros and cons and act, as Paul did, "as we think best." If we do so genuinely desiring to seek God and his righteousness above all else, then we can enter into whatever decision we make confident that we will be pleasing God and we will have his blessing.

Obey God

A popular keynote speaker at a well-attended workshop, spoke on the importance of obeying God. I thought, "An excellent topic!" Except that he began to describe the process by which he had come to be at the large church where he was currently working as preacher. They were constantly after him to come and he felt God was pushing him in that direction, but he was comfortable where he was and did not want to move. Only when he finally "yielded to God" and went did he find happiness and peace. So, "Obey God," he said.

When Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15), he was not

See RESPONSE on page 16

Helpful Hints For Song Leaders

- Ken Joines -

Humans have one thing in common: We seem to be born with both the capacity and tendency to sing. Music is a powerful medium. God knew that. You can take the very same words and simply read them, but this will not have nearly the impact as when set to music. Many a cause has soared to victory on the wings of a song.

A song can grab your attention. Even change your life. Once learned, a song will usually remain in your memory for a long, long time. God made us, put a song in our hearts and then asked us to—SING. “Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” “Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

In his world-famous **Halley’s Bible Handbook**, Henry Halley wrote, “Congregational singing, next to Bible teaching, is the best feature of a religious service, the most effective way to preach the gospel... Moses sang, and led the people in singing. Miriam sang. Deborah and Barak sang. David sang, and wrote the Psalms to be sung. Jesus and the Twelve sang. Paul and Silas sang. The angels sing. In Heaven, EVERYBODY will sing.” (p 938).

I have led a few Singing Schools, and while I am certainly no specialist in the field, even so, 50+ years of preaching has taught me much on the practical end of the spectrum. I have seen what will work and what will not work. I have always been interested in helping our people see the value of beautiful congregational singing. Good singing is a hallmark of the church, and can set the tone for an entire worship assembly. It is powerful and is worthy of our efforts to make sure we do it as well as we can.

I conduct gospel meetings all across the country, especially in recent years, and preach for a wide variety of congregations. I see lots of different styles of leading. And singing. Different, yet the same in so many ways. Would you please permit me to offer what I hope will be some helpful hints to those who lead our singing? I will do this gently because I have great appreciation for those men who voluntarily offer themselves in this valuable service to God and His church. Incidentally, how long has it been since you thanked YOUR song leader for his efforts?

Song Selection

Leaders will do themselves and the congregation a favor by remembering that not all great songs are adaptable to congregational use. A song may



Ken Joines

really move you when sung by a quartet, or by a chorus on a CD or by a special singing group on radio, and yet that same song may fall flat when you try to lead it down at church. The song may be truly a great song, but the composition may be more “singable” by a small group than by a congregation.

A case in point is the song *The Greatest Command*. I have heard it done well by choruses, but most of the time when I hear it done by a congregation I secretly hope we don’t have many visitors present because the sound is similar to that of a band warming up in the orchestra pit just before the concert. This is not conducive to worship. It is really a good song with a great message but hard for a congregation to sing well.

Song leaders should remember that, unlike a quartet or chorus, **the vast majority of people in the pew are not musicians**. For a song to do what God wants it to do, i.e., “teach and admonish” (Col. 3:16), the people must be able to sing it together in unison and harmony. Many of the newer so-called *Praise Songs* can be helpful when used properly. But to sing a one-line song over and over and over will cause the people to tire of it. A better use of these songs is to use them as “trailers”, tacking them onto a hymn with a similar message, thus emphasizing the latter.

Our great hymns have, many times, done as much to teach the fundamentals of God’s message as our preaching. Study the words and you’ll see that so much basic doctrine has been brought to us on the vehicle of song. Most of the “praise songs” are sorely lacking in this department.

Correct Pitch

Very, very few people can consistently pitch a song properly without help from a pitch pipe. Experienced singers often pride themselves in their imagined ability to do this, but more often than not they miss it. Pitch it too high and the sopranos and tenors can’t reach it; too low and the basses

suffer. The result is that soon the people will dread to see your name listed as today’s leader. Why waste good time when this problem is so easily remedied? Song leaders, invest some time and effort to learn how to use a pitch instrument. You will do yourself and the congregation a huge favor.

The Transition

If a hymn has more than one stanza, it is most important for the leader not to move too soon into the next stanza. Pause just a second or two and give the people an opportunity to draw a breath. I see many otherwise good leaders move too soon to the next stanza. When this happens the leader will be several words into the next stanza before the people can catch up. Not good. This, too, is easily remedied. Try it. You’ll like it!

Tempo

It is a given that a song’s tempo is often determined by the song’s message. For instance, *Rock of Ages* must not be sung as fast as, say, *We’re Marching To Zion*. It is equally important to know that the larger the church, the less likely they will be able to sing a fast tempo. A quartet can sing to a fast beat, but if you try this in a church of 800 you’ll find yourself a few words ahead of the people every time, resulting in a see-saw style of singing.

I do not like for a song to drag, but there is one thing worse and that is when the people cannot stay together because the leader wants to go too fast. A good practice is for the leader to actually listen to his people as the song progresses so as to not get ahead of them.

Other Hints

Never, never use unfamiliar songs at the morning worship assembly. We normally have more visitors at this hour and if they hear poor singing this will not be a good demonstration of the kind of music God ordained for worship. Another: Stand where you can be seen by the congregation. And please don’t go back too far to sit with your family. To do this means that when it is time for the invitation song, it takes too long for you to get to the pulpit, thus causing people to wonder “where is the song leader?” This takes their mind off the worship.

You and the preacher are a team. Stay near him. And by all means, dress for the occasion. Show your respect for what you are doing. This is not a style show, but there is no excuse for careless or sloppy dress when leading God’s people before His throne for worship.

Have an understanding with

the operator of the PA system. I have found it best to use the pulpit microphone rather than a lapel mic for this reason: You, the leader, can move into or away from the mic if you need more or less volume. Of course, in a perfect world the leader would be well-trained to use hand direction and the congregation would be well-trained to follow but this is more idealistic than reality. There are few things more effective than a good strong voice from the leader so long as he is not overpowering. It is good to coordinate the songs with the

sermon topic when possible, but don’t stretch this too far. It is not necessary. One preacher told of his songleader who always insisted on doing this, saying that he was tempted to preach on *The Song Of Solomon* just to see what the leader could do with this!

Ken Joines
7154 Golden Oaks E
Southaven, MS 38671
901-212-1601
kjoines35@hotmail.com

MM Welcomes
Your Comments and Suggestions



What Do I, As A Christian, Owe Obama?

Our 44th
President

Barack Obama, US President

I Owe Obama My Prayers.

The Bible teaches: “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; **for kings, and for all that are in authority**; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (I Timothy 2:1,2)

I Owe Obama My Subjection.

The Bible teaches: “Let every soul be subject to the higher powers...” “...ye must needs be subject...” (Romans 13:1,5). “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake...” (I Peter 2:13)

I Owe Obama My Honor.

The Bible teaches: “Honour the king.” (I Peter 2:17)

I Owe Obama My Tribute.

The Bible teaches: “For this cause pay ye tribute also; for they are God’s ministers...” (Romans 13:6) “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21)

Closing Caution:

President Obama may be considered the “*most powerful man in the world*”; however, whenever there is any conflict between the will of man and the will of God, the Christian’s **first** responsibility is to **Almighty** God -- the *Lord of lords* and the *King of kings*. Always remember the courageous response of the apostles, when earthly rulers commanded them to “not speak at all or teach in the name of Jesus. Peter and John answered, “Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.” A little later, when asked by these same earthly rulers, “Did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? To which the apostles boldly answered, “We must obey God rather than man.”

The One who decides, or has **already decided**, what is right and/or wrong is not man. For examples, man may say that **abortion is permissible** and/or that **homosexuality is okay**. Man may also restrict or even forbid the teaching of God’s word, but I (we) as a Christian(s) have a higher obligation! God and/or Jesus is my (our) “Commander-in-chief”. (A.L. Franks, Editor)

"A Service Greater Than to the President"

- Tim Childs -

With the inauguration of our new President, we have had another glimpse into the inner workings of the Executive branch of our Federal Government. Including the services of Air Force 1, there are thousands of individuals who, with admirable distinction, serve at the will and pleasure of the President. Upon greeting the President at the beginning of a new day, the aide will ask, "What can I do for you today, Mr. President?" Each staff member, each aide is prepared to give his or her greatest efforts in faithfully executing the orders of the President. For the Secret Service, no effort is counted too great, no expense is too costly to protect and secure the President and his family.



Tim Childs

What if you and I approached our service to the Prince of Peace, the prince of the kings of the earth with even equal determination, diligence and care? Isn't the person, who wears the name above all others (Philippians 2:9), worthy of greater loyalty and loving obedience? In the person of Jesus, the Christ, we serve a higher calling with a greater, nobler purpose. Suppose we began our new day, everyday, asking the Lord of lords, and King of kings, "What can I do for you today, my Lord?"

With due respect to our Commander in Chief, what so many of us apparently fail to realize is that everything about Jesus, the Son of God, transcends every facet of the person and the power vested in "the leader of the free world." For instance, Jesus' message overshadows any message formulated by the President and his speech writers although it is delivered with precision and the greatest oratorical skill. Jesus' message of peace through righteousness, hope and deliverance is a universal message that transforms lives and makes all the difference both now and in eternity. Jesus declared, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, KJV). Jesus' message of sanctifying truth, the gospel, is the seed that germinates, breaking forth into life eternal.

Our Lord, and Master, has great work for you and me. The nations and kingdoms of men may rise, fall and return to dust, but the kingdom of heaven endures forever. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). Discouraged, down and depressed we have hidden with Elijah in the cave long enough (1 Kings 19). God is asking still, "What are you doing here?" With a renewed mind and higher sense of purpose, it is now time to spring forth in haste and diligence with the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The Prince of Peace is counting on you.

Tim Childs; 956 South 4th Street; Baldwin, MS 38824
hillcrestchurcho@bellsouth.net

A Wednesday Night Visit With the Louisville Church Indicated that "Something Good is Going On"



Rachel (wife) & Jerry (preacher): Contributing Couple to "Something Good Going On"

A few weeks ago, my June and I pulled into the parking lot of the Louisville church. Immediately, we noticed that there were more cars than usual. When we entered the building, we saw more people than usual. During the Bible class we heard many excellent comments from students. The teacher/preacher did a good job. After services, we were impressed with the friendliness of the growing church. We were thankful to conclude that "Something good is going on."

Montgomery Faulkner Lectureship

March 2-5, 2009

Theme:

Hope for a Hopeless World

Over 90 different speakers;
101 different sessions

Keynote speakers

Night:

David Lipe, Clarence DeLoach,
Aubrey Johnson

Chapel, 10:00 a.m.

Doug Burleson, Clark Sims,
David Powell

A complete schedule is available at <http://www.faulkner.edu/academics/biblicalstudies/lectures09.asp>

Or just go to www.Faulkner.edu. A link to the "Annual Lectureship" is prominently displayed in the upper right hand corner. When you click on it, the main schedule comes up. There is another link in the upper left hand corner of the schedule to the "Special Tracks."

See Ad on Page 12

Marriage

Quotable Quotes

Compiled from various sources by Bobby Dockery and sent to the MM by a reader from Missouri. Thanks!

"Troubles in marriage often start when a man is so busy earning his salt that he forgets about his sugar."

"Too many marry for better or worse, but not for good!"

"If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she is not likely to grow into an old nag."

BRANSON, Missouri

Vacation in the Beautiful Ozark Mountains

2 Condominiums Available

Each: 2 BRs & 2 Baths
Each: Full kitchen & Den
Each: Sleeps Six

(1 mile west of Silver Dollar City)

Minimum: 2 nights -- \$250.00
Per week (7 nights) -- 600.00

Owned and Operated
By the Fulgham Family
in Yazoo City, Mississippi

**Information or Reservation
662-746-5865**

Now, You Take it from There!



by

John Simpson

4073 Stillwood Dr
Memphis, TN 38128-3056
j38128sim@yahoo.com

"He's On A Stump Again!"

Yes, and allow me to circumvent human reason, argument or alibis for excessive indulgence, and shoot from the hip with cold facts. Alcohol is inherent in Creation. God brought into being all of the ingredients to brew it, and in potent quantities. Yet excessive indulgence of any fruit or grain, or their by-products, was prohibited by the Creator.

My advice is still – never drink recreationally when you are sober!

A glutton or a drunkard was executed under Old Testament dictate (Deut. 21:21-22). Temperance, or self-control, is included in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and is one of the building stones of Christian virtue (II Pet. 1:5-7). The conclusion is: "He who lacks these qualities is blind or shortsighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins" (II Pet. 1:9).

Alcohol can take you out! Out from your family, out from your job, and out from society. The following testimonials are from inmates of a western prison:

No. 212908 – "If it wasn't for liquor I wouldn't be here. Young folks should pay attention to parents and not be influenced by wrong companions. Whiskey should

be prohibited."

No. 21928 – "I don't think I wrote that check, but I was too far under the influence of liquor to know."

No. 21952 – "I would not have been in trouble had it not been for drinking. Drinking is the greatest curse."

No. 21969 – "Most of my drinking has been social drinking. I am certain, however, if it had not been for drinking I would not be here."

No. 21991 – "I was very drunk and did not know what took place. I do not even know if I am guilty or not. I have never been in trouble when sober, only when drinking."

No. 21923 – "My advice to all is to leave drink alone. One cannot drink socially and not overdo. Every good opportunity I ever had has been lost through drinking."

Do not be deceived, the odds are against you when you gamble with alcohol. No person intended to become an alcoholic when taking the first drink. Neither did they become one at that point; excessive indulgence caused their downfall. My advice is still – never drink recreationally when you are sober!

Now, you take it from there!

There's Power in a Song!

"Where the Soul of Man Never Dies!"

Songs are powerful. They teach, admonish and build up (Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19). Songs stir our thoughts and emotions -- like nothing else! Someone has said, "The songs a nation sings are more powerful than its laws."

The lasting power of songs was graphically brought to my attention at an evening session of the recently conducted annual Bible lectureship of FHU in Henderson, TN. The voices of hundreds and hundreds of worshippers blended together in singing about a land/place "Where the Soul of Man Never Dies."

My memories raced way back into the past, nearly 60 years ago. I saw my dad sitting on one of the "amen pews" of the old Boxwood church building, near Merryville, LA. I heard his voice, loud and clear, as he sang bass to that wonderful song of hope - "Where the Soul of man never dies."

Thirty-eight years ago my dad died physically, but his influence lives on. And, in part, because I can still see and hear him sing about that very special place "Where the Soul of Man Never Dies." Yes, when it expresses Bible teaching, there is power in a song! (alf)

“Fringe Benefits” of Death

Includes
Bringing Brethren Together

An unexpected gathering; at least, for my June and me, came recently on a Sunday afternoon in north Mississippi. The assembly, which took place on January 9, 2009, reminded us of what may be called *one* of the “fringe benefits” of death and associated funeral services.

After our morning visit with the Pine Bluff church of Christ (*in north Mississippi, near Toccopola - between Pontotoc and Oxford*), we had opportunity to attend funeral services at Pine Bluff for a sister in Christ -- **Eljean Stone Coleman**. Sister Coleman was the wife of **Wayne Coleman** (living now in Oxford), who formerly served as an elder of the West President church in Greenwood, Mississippi. The funeral sermon was delivered by **Billy Bland**, an Instructor at the Memphis School of Preaching and a missionary to India. Brother Bland did a very good job.

After the “funeral”, as Eljean was “laid to rest” in the cemetery adjacent to the church building, family and friends gathered together in the “fel-

lowship room” of the Pine Bluff church and were blessed to partake of refreshments provided by the local church members and to spend valuable time with each other. Personally, we were thankful to be with the husband of the deceased, brother Wayne Coleman and members of his family.

We also were blessed to be in the company of several other brethren in Christ, coming from many congregations throughout the area. I recall visiting with brothers and/or sisters from such communities as **Pine Bluff, Oxford, Pontotoc, Tupelo, Indianola, Cold Water, and Samson**, Alabama, near where sister Coleman lived in a nursing home at the time of her death.

Our sincere sympathy to the Coleman family in their loss; our great gratitude to our loving Father for the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ and our special thanks to the Coleman family for suggesting that “*Memorials may be made to Magnolia Bible College; P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090.*” (alf/mjf)

A Visit in Eupora Made Us Feel We Were Back in Bible Times

January 4, 2004. The first Sunday of the month/year found my June and me in Eupora, Mississippi. Our planned purpose was to visit our brethren who are known as the “Eupora church of Christ,” where one of their members, **Juanita LeBouef**, was our most recent “Bible Winner.” (*Each issue of the MM we award a beautiful Study Bible to one student who sends in answers to “The Question Box.”*) A major reason for our visit was to present a Bible to sister Juanita in the presence of her brothers and sisters of the Eupora church. This we were privileged to do. But, there was much more!

As services began, we sorta felt we were in the presence of Bible characters of the first century; at least, *in name*. A brother by the name of **Paul** (Paul Hunt) taught an excellent lesson from God’s word. Then, a younger brother by the name of “**Peter**” (Peter Salley) very capably led the congregation in “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” Afterward, the local preacher, who is named “**James**” (James Hill), brought a challenging sermon on needed resolutions for the new year.

So, for the morning service we were blessed to be led in study and worship by a capable trio -- Paul, Peter and James. We did learn that the church did not require participants in the services to have Bible names. They even allowed me, with the non-biblical name “Al”, to participate in the service. I was blessed to have an opportunity to speak words of encouragement and to present a

beautiful Bible to one of their own.

Other aspects of the Sunday morning assembly also reminded us of the way things were -- *back in Bible times*. The fellowship, warm and uplifting, seemed very genuine as we shared strengthening words of comfort. As a congregation, we were blessed to participate in singing praises to the Most High without the clutter of mechanical instruments of music -- like it was back in New Testament times.

Furthermore, the Bible, God’s word, was given much emphasis as it was effectively taught - both in classes and in sermon. All worshippers were provided an opportunity to participate in the communion service as we partook of the sacred emblems to remind us again of the great love of God demonstrated when Jesus willingly gave his life and shed his blood for each precious soul on Calvary..

Reflecting back on our visit, we can honestly say that “Eupora was Encouraging.” We were blessed to be among brothers and sisters who are earnestly seeking to be *just Christians* and members of Christ’s church. And, of course, having a Paul, Peter and James to lead the services of the day, added to another memorable “Drop-in-visit.” (Al & June)

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs....” (Col.3)

Pine Bluff Church of Christ

“Drop-in Visit”
on
January 11, 2009

It was a first time visit for us. Being unsure of the time for services, my June and I chose to arrive early at the meeting place of the Pine Bluff Church of Christ, near Toccopola, Mississippi.

Upon our arrival we noticed a van owned by “Coleman Funeral Home” parked near the church building. We also noticed a small tent in the nearby cemetery which had been placed over a freshly dug grave. We were soon to learn that a funeral was planned for the early afternoon. Seeing the open grave and the funeral van reminded us anew of the very serious work of the Lord’s church in helping precious souls prepare for death and eternity. (See article “Fringe Benefits of Death” on this page.)

Several minutes later, following our personal devotional, we noticed a car being parked, driven by a lady who looked like someone we had known for many years. Sure enough, the lady was **Avis Porter** who calls the nearby community of Thaxton her “home.” Sister Porter was married to preacher **Preston Porter** who died in July, 2000. Over many years, the Porters worked with several congregations including churches in Natchez and Belzoni.

Avis Porter is a talented writer/poet who has willingly shared several of her writings with readers of the MM. She welcomed us and took a few minutes to show us around the nice facilities of the country church. We were pleased when she informed us that **Nathan Swanson** was scheduled to preach that morning. (We remembered Nathan from back in the days when he was student at MBC.)

Before long, others began to arrive for the morning services. It was a privilege and a blessing to greet and visit several brothers and sisters who had come, as was their custom, to worship the Father in “spirit and in truth”. Very soon, however, the clock indicated it was time for services to begin.



Bill Russell, Teacher/Speaker

Wale McLarty warmly welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for the our presence, representing the “Magnolia Messenger.” We were encouraged.

This was followed by a study about the life of David (based on 2 Samuel 12), calling attention to the serious consequences of the sinful conduct of King David. The lesson was ably taught by **Bill Russell** and was well received by the class which freely participated in the discussion under the guidance of brother

Bill. It was encouraging to note that nearly one half of all present for the class spoke up, interjecting interesting comments and/or observations.

After the Bible class hour, there was more time for enjoyable fellowship. Then, at about 11:00 a.m., a very capable song leader, **Ray Coleman**, led us in the singing of some beautiful old hymns including, “To God Be The Glory” and “There is Rest, Sweet Rest.” Following a couple of songs, we were brought into the presence of God in a special way by means of a congregational prayer led by **Luke Michaud**. This was followed by a greatly loved song of praise entitled, “Worthy Art Thou.”

We had learned by now that Nathan Swanson, who was scheduled to preach that morning, had to be away due to job responsibilities; thus, the class teacher, **Bill Russell**, had agreed to bring the A. M. sermon. This he did in a fine fashion as he challenged all of us to make specific resolutions for the new year which was just beginning.

In his sermon, brother **Bill** asked us to “**Find Time to Read/Study the Word**” in 2009. He pointed out that if we consistently read just 2 or 3 chapters each day,

we could read the Bible in its entirety during this new year. Using texts from the New Testament, he stressed that the Word of God provides much needed guidance for marriage and other relationships; it also gives excellent directions concerning the attitude we should have and the use we should make of money.

The preacher, who doesn’t claim to be a preacher, challenged us, in 2009, to “**Lift Up Jesus, Our Saviour**.” This, he said, could and should be done through imitating His example and preaching His Word. He further challenged us to “**Be Worshipful**” and to “**Be Thankful**.”

He added that our goals for 2009 should include “**Listening to His Word**.” In his closing remarks, brother Russell reminded all of the need to respond to the Word of the Lord by being obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

After a thoughtful closing prayer led by **Bart Ratliff**, we enjoyed further conversations and visits. It seemed to us that no one was in a hurry to leave. Finally, we were treated to lunch by **Avis Porter** and **Caryn Swanson**, wife of Nathan.

Eating lunch in Toccopola’s small country store added to the enjoyment of our visit.

Thanks again to Avis and Caryn. We are thankful that we finally made it to Pine Bluff for what proved to be another delightful “drop-in Visit”. (alf/mjf)



Readers’ Response

Love your paper. You’re the greatest this side of heaven. Keep up the good work. Way 2 Go! (Don & Cindy Lee, Vina, AL) **Editor’s Note:** Readers do get carried away, sometime! Of course, we know better. Thanks, anyway!

Enjoy the Messenger and the good work you are doing. Enclosed is my check to use where it is most needed. (Kathryn Hart, Corsicana, TX)

Look forward to reading the MM and the interesting articles you put in it. (Eugene & Doris Springer, Hartford, KY)

Invitation Issued

(By: Houston, MS Church)



Invitation Accepted

(By the Franks)



A "Drop-in" on our Way to FHU Lectureship

On the first day of February, 2009, early on a Sunday morning, my June and I departed Kosciusko in route to Henderson, Tennessee to attend the 73rd Annual Bible Lectureship at Freed-Hardeman University. After a brief stop for a good breakfast at Mathison, we called the home of **Luskey Green**, preacher for the South Jackson Street church of Christ in Houston, Mississippi. His wife, **Donna**, informed us of the schedule for the morning services and stated that it would be great if we could stop by and visit.

So, stop we did. And, on our way into the church building, we noticed a sign out front which issued an interesting invitation saying simply, "Come Inside for message." We did and are glad. We heard, not one -- but two great messages.

Houston's preacher for about nine years, Luskey Green, taught the adult auditorium class which was studying the book of Genesis. The morning lesson was about Cain and Abel. Special attention was given as to why Cain's worship was unacceptable while Abel's was pleasing to God.

As I recall, brother Green covered only four verses in Genesis four; however, he made the class interesting, informative and challenging, especially with practical applications. His skillful use of "power point", placing the Biblical text on a large screen, was very effective. So, the Bible study about worship as demonstrated by Cain and Abel was the first message.

At the scheduled "worship hour", long time church member, **Hassell Franklin**, made a few comments and announcements. He warmly welcomed everyone, mentioning our presence and his appreciation for the work of the

"Magnolia Messenger". (Later in the services, I was given an opportunity to speak briefly, sharing words of encouragement and information about the MM.)

Then followed the minister's second message. Brother Luskey spoke about the "greatest commandment" -- love for God and neighbor. He noted that love is not just a claim we make or something we say. True love must be in one's heart and, as evidence, will demonstrate itself through actions. Basing some of his comments on the "love chapter" (1 Cor. 13), the preacher stressed that what we say, what we know, what we do and/or what we give, is no real value without love. Or, as the inspired apostle wrote, "It is nothing" -- unless it comes from the heart and is motivated by genuine love (verses 1-3). Brother Green's lesson was needed -- not just for others, but for us also. Thus, his sermon was the second message heard inside.

Thinking back over our visit, we recall with joy the special warmth of our brothers and sisters in Houston. Their words of encouragement, the financial support given and the love demonstrated indicates strongly that the South Jackson St. church has a "good heart" and desires to obey the "greatest commandment". My June and I are thankful we could accept their invitation to "Come Inside for Message." (alf/mjf)

Magnolia Messenger
is in need of
YOUR PRAYERS
Thank you!

"Holy Land" Trip

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

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

You can visit their website at www.eo.travelwithus.com and register to go with our group. **Our host number is 45403**. Please feel free to call Paul Franks at **337-515-7314** and request a brochure. This is a planned **10-Day** trip that will **change your life**. We would love for you to join us on our trip to Israel. (Al & Paul)

Lost Dreams

Madoff
\$50,000,000,000

- Dennis Doughty -

Paul taught: "those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare." He warned that this snare could "plunge men into ruin and destruction" (1 Tim. 6:9).

Never has this been better illustrated than in the Bernard Madoff ponzi scam which cost people a stunning \$50 billion worldwide. One losing investor lamented, "Oh, the many dreams I could have fulfilled with that money."

In our world there are too many whose dreams rest upon their bank accounts. Already some people in these difficult economic times have committed suicide, as their lives seem void without their riches. How sad. Yet casinos remain filled with those seeking to build their dreams on a pull of the quarter slots. Will Paul's lesson ever be learned?

"Pursue righteousness, godliness faith and love," Paul instructed (1 Tim. 5:11). Dreams are fulfilled through godliness. Yes, my IRA has lost some value, but it hasn't shattered my life or destroyed my dream of Heaven!

On what do your dreams rest?

Dennis Doughty

dennis1848@bellsouth.net

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Timothy 6:7)

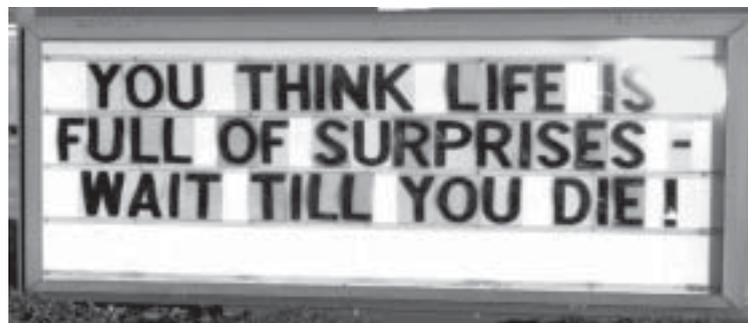
Alaskan Cruise

Planned by Christians
July 17-24, 2009
YOU are invited to
Join the Pigg Party!

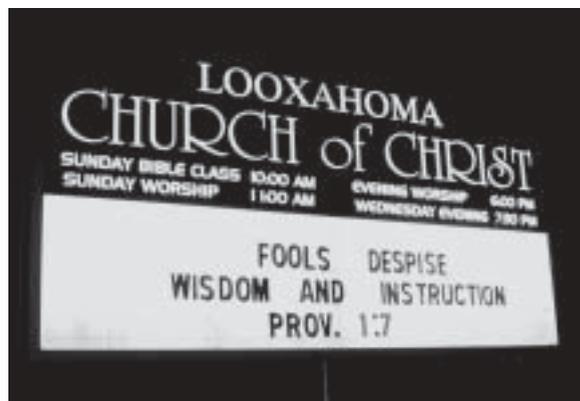
John Pigg, preacher for the Lake Harbour church, asked us to remind everyone that an Alaskan Christian Cruise is planned by members of the Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ in Ridgeland, Mississippi. The dates are July 17-24, 2009.

God willing, the cruise will depart from and return to Seattle, Washington. Inside state rooms are still available at a cost of \$2,288.00 **for two**, including all fees and taxes. This does not include air travel, insurance, excursions or gratuities. Required deposit is \$350.00 per person, fully refundable until May 3, 2009.

Each person is expected to make his/her own air travel arrangements. **Twenty-five** reservations have already been confirmed (as of 1-20-01). For further information, please call **John Pigg** at **601-842-7801**.



"Church Sign" -- Seen in Mississippi -- Jan, 2009



A Pleasant Sunday Evening Visit Near Senatobia, MS

Looxahoma Church of Christ

January 25, 2009

A return to a church where I've preached in meetings. Wonderful to see folks not seen in a long time. Also, very good to learn that Looxahoma's preacher, **Tim Burroughs**, was doing much better following some heart problems. It was also a pleasure to hear an excellent sermon preached by **Randy Collum**, a student at MSofP, supported by the Looxahoma church. Thanks to **Charles and Carolyn Ainsworth** for their hospitality and the delicious chili supper after services.

Encouragement Helps keep the MM in Publication

...I pray that in 2009 God's blessings will be with *The Magnolia Messenger* as you continue to proclaim and teach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The congregation (Waynesboro, MS) here appreciates your dedication and commitment... Again, know that you all are in our prayers and we wish you the best in this year and beyond... PS. You recently awarded a Bible to my wife's grandmother, **Juanita LeBouef**, in Eupora, MS. She has been a longtime reader and was thrilled to be the recent Bible winner. We used to joke with her that she would wait by the mailbox for the MM to arrive and then force the mailman to wait while she filled out the quiz so her name would be at the top of the list in the next MM. She's now a "celebrity" in the family. (**Randy Missildine**, Minister, For the Waynesboro Church of Christ, Waynesboro, MS)

Have YOU answered the "Question Box" on Page 20?

Do you have a friend you would like to receive the Magnolia Messenger?

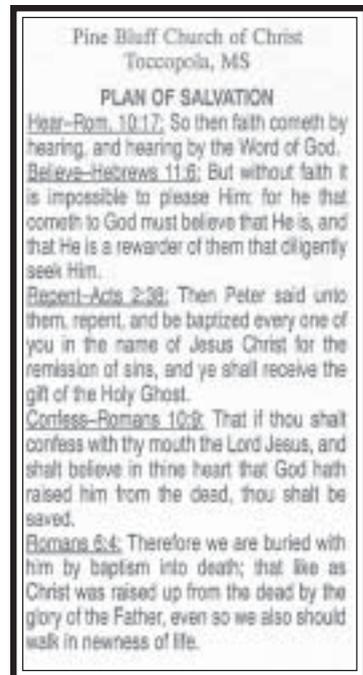
Are you a Christian? Are you a faithful Christian?



Jimmy & Dotsy Downs

Two Very Special People to Al & June Franks Recently Jimmy and Dotsy celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in DeRidder, Louisiana. It was largely through Dotsy's Influence I was blessed to meet and to marry my June. Through the years, we have travelled many miles together. And, for the past several years the Downs have been great encouragers and financial supporters of our work with the Magnolia Messenger. We appreciate them and congratulate them on their 50th (December 5, 2008). alf

You Never Know Where Your "Calling Card" May Go or Who Will Read



KNOXVILLE

The 35th Annual Lectureship of East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions will be March 1-4, 2009 at the Karns church of Christ in Knoxville, TN.

RIPLEY

The Beech Hill Church of Christ celebrated their 110th anniversary and Homecoming in October, 2008. Speakers were **David Lipe, Bill Lambert, James Draper, Jerry Coats** and **King McCaver**.

1st

Finally, Mississippi is First in Something That is Good!

1st

- **Garvis Semore** -

The state of Mississippi finally made the news for being first in something ...and it is good! You have no doubt seen the news reports of a Gallup Poll indicating that Mississippi is the most religious state. In fact, eighty-five percent of the respondents from Mississippi indicated that religion was an important part of their daily lives. Our friends in the southern region of our country can take comfort in knowing that the eleven states ranked as the most religious were southern states. Many of us grew tired long ago of hearing how our states were at the bottom of every poll in the nation.

While I may rejoice in knowing that our section of the country considers itself to be religious, and even says that religion is an important part of everyday life, I still find cause for concern. Scripture clearly teaches us the need for our faith to be translated into everyday living. The second chapter of the book of James reminds us that our faith and our works (or everyday living) are intricately woven together. Jesus Himself would teach the necessity of having our actions match our beliefs (Matthew 25).

Even in Mississippi, the most religious state in the nation, our

church buildings sit half-full. The 2009 edition of Churches of Christ in the United States indicates that nation-wide we have lost over 78,000 members in just the last six years. In addition, 526 fewer congregations are meeting today than there were just six years ago. For a number of states, including Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky, our numbers have declined less than 5%. The state of Georgia has even experienced a growth rate of more than 5%. In our region of the nation the numbers aren't as bad as other regions.

As I thought about empty pews and empty buildings I also thought about the paradox of living in the most religious state in the nation and still witnessing so much blatant sin all around us. One would be hard pressed to find a member of the body of Christ who does not personally know a preacher, elder, or Bible class teacher who has gotten caught up in an immoral relationship. Most



Garvis Semore

congregations have a few proverbial skeletons they would prefer to keep in the closet. Preachers and elders sit in amazement as church members reveal the same sin problems that exist in the world. Some of this is under-

standable. We are, after all, flesh and blood. We do live in a world filled of temptation. We are all sinners.

We absolutely must do a better job of reaching out to those whose lives are filled with sin. We must, as Christ did, love the unlovely (I can be pretty unlovely myself). At the same time we must do a better job of preparing ourselves to be the spotless bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:27).

Mississippi is first! Mississippi is also first in an area that ought to trouble us greatly. Not long before Mississippi was proclaimed to be the most religious state we were also proclaimed to be the state with the highest rate of unwed mothers. In fact, the statistics indicate that a shocking

53.7 percent of births in Mississippi in 2008 were to unwed mothers – and that number is rising. Mississippi is first, and we should be excited about that fact. Mississippi is first and we should be embarrassed about that fact. Somehow there is a disconnect between being the most religious state and living a religious life. Somehow our churches must do a better job of teaching that being religious is more than a proclamation.

Being religious is even more than sitting in a church building and hearing all of the right doctrines recited. Being religious involves becoming living sacrifices. Being religious involves removing our own beams and then gently attempting to help remove the specks from our neighbors' eyes. If we are to be religious we must truly become salt and light. Religious people will go to those unwed mothers, or drug addicts, or anyone else who does not "look like us" and love them while showing them the love of Christ.

Mississippi is the most religious state in the nation in our words. May we also become the most religious state in the nation in our works. (*Garvis is president of MBC and can be reached at gsemore@magnolia.edu*)

Fishing with the Master

When Jesus, the Master Teacher, said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," He made it easy for us to relate to our task here on earth. These words form the basis for our 2009 Vacation Bible School series. Your students will learn they must decide to fish for Jesus by sharing God's word, using the great power God has given them to reel in the catch, and that love will keep the catch in the safety of Jesus' net.

Fishing with the Master

Be Fishers of Men (Luke 5:1-11)

Prepare to Share (John 6:1-14)

Go Fish the World! (Matthew 28:18-20)

Fish with Power (Acts 2:4-7)

Love the Fisher's Catch (John 21:9-15)

Call 1-800-551-8511 For Your Closest Bookstore

Visit Our Website: www.lambertbookhouse.com

LAMBERT BOOK HOUSE

Teaching Bible Truth Since 1950

1-800-748-8655
www.magnolia.edu

MBC News

P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

MBC Announces New Degree and Certificate

Beginning in January 2009, Magnolia Bible College is offering a new bachelor's degree and a certificate of achievement. These have been added to the B.A. in Bible and the B.Th. now already offered.

The Bachelor of Science in Bible degree will require the same 128 hours of credit that the Bachelor of Arts in Bible degree requires. The curriculum will include the same core of 39 hours of general education courses, 71 hours of core Bible and ministry courses, and 18 hours of elective courses as the B.A. The difference will be the substitution of a 3 hour Bible textual course and a 3 hour ministry course for the 6 hours of biblical languages (Greek or Hebrew) required for the B.A. The B.S. is designed for those who do not expect to pursue a graduate degree in Bible or ministry.

The Certificate in Bible and Ministry is not a degree, but a certificate showing successful completion of 30 hours of credit in Bible and ministry courses at MBC. The courses taken for a certificate will have the same requirements in every way as those taken for a degree. When all of the prescribed courses of the Certificate curriculum have successfully been completed, the student will be awarded a certificate at the time of the next scheduled graduation.

More details of the Certificate in Bible and Ministry are planned for a future issue of the Magnolia Messenger. Further information about the Certificate and the B.S. in Bible degree can be obtained by contacting the college: Academic Office, Magnolia Bible College, P.O. Box 1109, Kosciusko, MS 39090 (Phone 800-748-8655) or e-mail info@magnolia.edu.

"The Singer and the Song"
An evening of entertainment

Magnolia Bible College's
28th Annual Benefit Dinner
And Silent Auction
Featuring Joey + Rory



Saturday, April 18, 2009
Attala County Coliseum

For tickets call 662-289-2896
or email kgrymes@magnolia.edu.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

My name is...



Sam Allmond



... and everyone on campus knows it!

Come, see the difference the personal touch can make.

E-mail: info@magnolia.edu
www.magnolia.edu
1-800-748-8655

You Are Invited to join with us in Preparing Preachers and Training Teachers

Magnolia Bible College offers a fully accredited, quality academic experience. Taught by caring, Christian professors, students may pursue a two-year track, or four-year bachelors degree program for ministry preparation.

Like no other place, MBC offers a wide range of practical ministry choices. Our students enjoy opportunities to regularly preach, lead youth programs, be involved in campaigns, and have the chance to intern with churches locally, nationally and internationally. Active Christian service is blended with academic training to create unique ministry preparedness.

MBC students are active, committed and diverse. They may come from South Africa, the Bahamas, China, Nigeria, Ukraine or from right here at home, yet they all share a passion for the cross!

MBC is located in the picturesque town of Kosciusko, Mississippi on a campus adjacent to the South Huntington church of Christ. Known for her historic sites and home town atmosphere, Kosciusko has been named one of the "Best 125 Small Towns in America".

Located in the geographical center of the state and on the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway, the town and its small college campus offer a perfect setting for drawing closer to God. Join us in Preparing Preachers and Training Teachers.

Magnolia Bible College

Memorials & Living Tributes

The following donars recently made contributions to Magnolia Bible College in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones and/or friends. The names in **bold type** are memorialized or honored. The names following in lighter type are the donors.

Memorials

Harold Rosamond
Frances Huntsinger
Nelda Tickle
Tommy and Sondra Freeman

David W. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Norman Nelson, Jr.

Bessye Williams
Gigi Stanley
Bobby Carter
Bessell Lenon
Paul White
Doug Walton
Jimmie Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Lawrence

Kenneth Bane
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Starrett Chapman
Mr. T.D. Chapman

Bessie Beiber
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman
Romia Palmer

Beatrice Hunt
Faye Richburg
Obera McBrayer
Arlice Bridges

Don McWhortor
Mr. Barrett Chapman

Bo McCarley
Jimmy and Dot McClure

Mr. and Mrs. Ides Rutherford
Zetta Green
Shirley Few Spain

Jean Beauman
Mary Jane Haddock
Mary Ann Weast

James Randall Porter
Avis Porter

Maxine Timbes
Mrs. Grover Estes

Stella Helen Sampley
Tommy J. Hoffman, II
Kay Coke

In Honor of

X. L. and Mertie Love
Sam and Brownie Pearson
Dale and Betty Pearson

Ellene Vaughan
Lorene Lindsey
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Howell

Bert Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Roberts

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lambert
Mrs. Louis G. Strickland

Dwight Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Skates

Wayne Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Herbert

Raymond Kellum
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Turner

**Thank you for thinking of MBC
when you think of others!**

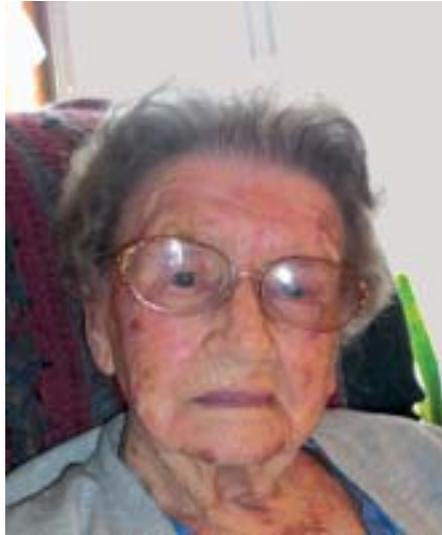
Note: MBC and MM memorials are handled separately.
(See also page 11). Thanks for helping!

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

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



Where Christians Assemble - Somewhere in Louisiana



Johnnie Faye Lauderdale Russell

Faye Russell is over 107 Years Old

She lives at Sardis Lake near Batesville, MS

- Report by June Franks -

Johnnie Faye Lauderdale was born more than 107 years ago to Jack and Annie Lauderdale of the Pine Bluff community near Toccopola, Mississippi. Johnnie Faye is pleased to say that she is not just 107, but that she is *107 and an half!* "Mama Faye", as she is affectionately called, has far exceeded the "three score and ten" mark; yea, way beyond the "four score" years the Bible speaks about in Psalms 90.

We were recently blessed (on Monday morning, January 26, 2009) with an opportunity to visit with her at Bobby's home (one of her sons), near Sardis, Mississippi. When we entered the house, we found sister Russell, very alert and sitting in her recliner, apparently ready for our announced "drop-in."

Johnnie Faye (Lauderdale) Russell had fourteen brothers and sisters. Out of the fifteen children there were **five** sets of twins. Johnnie Faye, herself, had a twin brother, named John Wade, who preceded her in death.

As we visited with sister Russell on that cold January morning, we were impressed with her memory as she related her experience, as a young girl, in becoming a Christian. She said that a traveling gospel preacher by the name of **A.Y. Howell** baptized her and her twin brother in the cold waters of a creek in the Pine Bluff community.

Sister Russell's husband passed away in 1952. She and her husband were blessed with five children. She had a sister named **Bertha Coleman** who died about ten years ago, at the age of 102.

Sister Faye told us about the first car she ever saw. She said that a doctor in the area owned the car and that, for ten cents, he would take folks for a car ride. Sister Faye said she didn't had the ten cents needed to go for a ride in the doctor's car.

On the Monday of our visit, we were told that "Mama Faye" had risen early and, thinking that it was Sunday, she expressed a desire to get ready to attend church ser-

VICES. As you might expect, her thoughts are not as clear as in times past; however, it was very impressive to realize that she expressed a *desire* to attend church services -- something she is unable to do at the present time.

We were very thankful, however, to hear that she was able to attend special Home-Coming services at the Pine Bluff Church of Christ which were held just a few months ago (September, 2008). Another of her sons, Bill, regularly attends services of the old home church at Pine Bluff where he also preaches a couple of times each month.

At the present, "Mama Faye" is cared for faithfully by two daughters who live nearby and by her son, Bobby, with whom she has lived since 1993. Her children told of the many, many afghans she has made and given away. In this respect, she reminds us of the good lady named Dorcas mentioned in Acts chapter eight.

We really appreciated the opportunity to visit with sister Faye Russell. We are thankful for her long life as a Christian and pleased to understand that, for the most part, she has enjoyed pretty good health all these many years -- *107 and one half!*

May God continue to bless sister Faye ("Mama Faye). We close with the hope and prayer that she will soon be able to attend church services, including the upcoming (fall, 2009) homecoming at the Pine Bluff Church of Christ.

"...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

HATTIESBURG

The Dewey Street church of Christ in Hattiesburg has extended a special invitation to attend their 3rd Annual *Family and Friends Weekend* to be held, Lord willing, March 13-15, 2009. Preacher **Eddie W. Sorrell, Sr.** stated, "We have an exciting weekend scheduled -- filled with food, fun, singing and preaching that any Christian would love to be a part of." On Sunday, March 15th, a **Gospel Meeting** is planned which will continue through Thursday, March 19, 2009. For more information, please feel free to call 601-543-3240.

Readers' Response

We enjoy the Magnolia Messenger each time it comes out. Enclosed is a small check. Hope it helps out in any way it can be used. Hope you continue for many years to come getting the Lord's Word to the people.... (Allen & Jan Wiese, Sardis, MS)

*It is always a pleasure to get the "Messenger." I noticed at times there are churches seeking preachers, "retired" and "a small salary." My father, **John W. Howell** was such a man. He retired from the Frisco R. R. in the early 50's, went to Hixon, Tn, then to Gulfport, Ms., Tallulah, La., West Point, Ms., and finally retiring to Iuka, Ms. All these churches paid him "small" salary. When I was a child he preached his summer vacation at churches in Mississippi, holding meetings and crossed the river to Arkansas preaching in Earle, Ark... Yours sincerely, (**Jane H. Mullins**, Southaven, MS)*

*I think the time has come to stop getting the Messenger. My reading material is piling up and seems to get that way more often these days. I have enjoyed your Messenger for a long time, but the time has come to cut back. Thank you for the work put into it. In Christian love, (**Nell Welch**, Monahans, TX)*

*We are living in Alabama now. James is preaching at Mt. View Church of Christ in Hodges, Al. now. We enjoy the Magnolia Messenger so much. Thank you. (**James & Rachel Palmer**, Brilliant, AL)*

*We enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. Its encouraging to read the news of our brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you both. (**Doug & Denise Gray**, Zachary, LA)*

Dear brother & sister Franks,

*I really enjoy reading the M.M. It is one of my highlights to read and answer the questions. It helps me to keep informed of all the activities in the brotherhood. (**Joe Arnold**, Auburn, KY)*

*...I'm writing to you all to see if I can be added to your mailing list. I would sure appreciate and would be a blessing to me. I am a prisoner in Texas. And well I truly believe in what the Church of Christ teaches. So it would be nice to see all this going on in the churches. Plus the teaching in the paper would help me grow in Christ too... (**Juan Antonio Macias**, Kenedy, TX)*

Bro. & Sis. Franks

*We really enjoy the Messenger. I believe you are doing many good things for the brethren through the paper. Keep up the good work and may God bless you both again in 2009. In Christian Love, (**James & Faye, Vanderford**, Booneville, MS)*

Thanks for writing to MM

"If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well." (James 2:8)

Woody Loden

Died January 20, 2009

A Man Known For His Love

Those who knew Woody Loden, III best would all agree that he was a man who expressed his special love in special ways. He truly loved the Lord and His church. He loved his wife and his family. He loved his community and his friends. He loved Freed-Hardeman University. And, he loved -- not only in word, but in deed.

As an elder of the church, as a trustee of FHU and as the husband of Patsy, his wife, he demonstrated his love. In 1995, (according to Rita Howell -- as reported in the Panolian, 2-9-07) he began the practice of showing his love to his wife in a very special way during February of each year. He wasn't content with just a small card; he wanted to show the largeness of his love

by having a selected card enlarged and enhanced by a professional sign maker. This practice, we understand, Woody continued until his recent death.

Thankful, we are, for the opportunity to know Woody and Patsy Loden. For many years, Woody served as a trustee of MBC, enabling us to know him better. It was also a great privilege for us, in 2007, to spend a week in our motorhome parked next to the Loden's home in Batesville. The occasion was preaching in a gospel meeting with the Batesville congregation. We could not have had better neighbors. Their hospitality was exceeding great.



Photo of article printed in the Panolian Newspaper

The funeral service, held on Saturday, January 24, 2009, was a testimony to the love people had for Woody. Along with hundreds of others, we stood in line for more than an hour, seeking to visit briefly with family members on the night before the funeral service.

Now that brother Woody has departed from us and from those he loved so dearly, his influence will continue to be felt in the hearts and the lives of all who knew this very special man who was/is known for his love. May God continue to bless the entire family. (alf/mjf)

FHU Blessed with Joe Wiley and Milton Sewell

The two men, Joe Wiley (left), now president and Milton Sewell, now chancellor of FHU, are putting their heads together as they plan participation in a funeral service for **Woody Loden, III** in Batesville, MS.



Last year the board of trustees of Freed-Hardeman University installed Joe Wiley as their 15th president, replacing Milton Sewell who had announced earlier that he would step down as university president. In a "semi-retirement" mode, brother Milton has agreed to continue his service to FHU in Henderson, Tennessee as Chancellor.

"I am thrilled that the board of trustees has entrusted me with the leadership of this wonderful university," said Wiley. "Dr. Sewell has accomplished great things during his long tenure with the university. I look forward to stepping in and continuing the great history of this university and the presidents that have served here...."

"We are excited about Dr. Wiley and the expertise he brings to the table," said **Mark Castleberry**, chairman of the Freed-Hardeman University Board of Trustees. "His

Turn to FHU on page 16

Beautiful Buildings *Waiting to be Destroyed!*



Beautiful Building of West Main Street Church of Christ - Tupelo, MS



Beautiful Building of Oxford, MS Church of Christ on N Lamar Boulevard

During the past year plans were in the making for both of the above pictured church buildings to be torn down and replaced with buildings for commercial enterprises. Even though destruction of the beautiful buildings was pending, leaders in both churches were convinced that generous financial offerings for each property would enable them to move to **new and better** facilities in different locations.

We understand, however, that, in part, due to the downturn in national financial circumstances, offers to buy were withdrawn; thus, plans to move to new facilities in new locations, have been put on hold. Leaders of the Oxford church

informed us that they have decided not to sell and relocate. However, the West Main church may still, sometime in the not too near future, make a move.

But, at least, for the time being, it may be said that the above pictured buildings are *too beautiful to destroy*. Of course, let us not forget that one day (and, it may be soon), when the Lord comes again, all church buildings will no longer be needed and will, along with the "heavens and the earth", be destroyed with fire. (2 Peter 3). But until the end comes, Christians need places to assemble. May God give church leaders the needed wisdom to know when to move and when not to move. □

"And he bearing his cross went forth unto a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha." (John 19:17)

An Open Letter From Paul Franks

Bible Lands Trip - 11/3/09

February 10, 2009

Greetings!

November 3, 2009 we are planning to leave on a journey to visit the place where many agree is the greatest place to visit on this planet. Our journey, Lord willing, will start from your nearest departure city and we will all converge in New York to take the journey together to see the Lands of the Bible.

My father and mother, Al and June Franks, editors of the *Magnolia Messenger* for the last thirty years, and my wife, Glenda, and I are planning this trip and we would love to have you go with us.

I have been to the *Holy Lands* and also have traveled all over the world, taking groups with me. We have partnered with the premier company that puts together group tours to the Holy Lands. They will make all of the arrangements and guarantee a first class trip for us. This company is called Educational Opportunities. They have been doing tours to the Holy Lands for 40 years.

On this journey, we are planning to see all of the major sites connected to the Bible Lands. We will be moving at a fast pace, but will still have plenty of time to soak it in and realize that we are actually visiting the same places where Jesus and His disciples traveled and ministered to so many people.

All you have to do is to fill out an available application or go online and register at www.eo.travelwithus.com. Your Host will be **Paul and Al Franks**. Our **ID # is 45403**. Lord willing, we will be leaving November 3, 2009, which is a great time of the year to go to the Holy Lands. You pay \$300.00 per person for a deposit and then when you can, send payments on your balance. You can pay some each month so that you won't have to come up with the entire sum all at one time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at any time. My cell phone number is 337-515-7314. My email address is: paulfranks@bellsouth.net. I look forward to hearing from you and look forward to experiencing the Lands of the Bible. Make your reservation today!

Brotherly,
Paul Franks

P.S. The most **important thing** you need to do if you are even thinking about going on this trip is to realize you will need to have a valid passport that is *at least 6 months old* when you take the trip in November and it needs to *expire later than 6 months* after you get back.



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

JAMES "PETE" SMITH
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

MRS. AUDREY POPE
FRANCIS M. PRIDDY
Joan M. Priddy
(Vicksburg, MS)

DONALD WAYNE CROSS
Shelah Cross
(Palestine, TX)

EDWARD (BILLY) JONES
Audrey Jones Seago
(Senatobia, MS)

LAHOMA "MOM" BUFORD
Barry & Rose Mary Buford
(Montgomery, AL)

ELICK & PAULINE WALDEN
Dr. Gerald Walden
(Ripley, MS)

MARY GUILLORY
Bobby & Alice Humphries
(Natchez, MS)

CATHERINE WELCH
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

J. R. RUSH
Ruth Rush
(Churchala, AL)

MRS. PAT RITCHEY
Mrs. L. C. Stewart
(Water Valley, MS)

SAM & BROWNIE PEARSON
X. L. & MERTIE LOVE
Dale & Betty Pearson
(Winona, MS)

ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSON
SIDNEY MAE & JOE CLAY DAVIS
AUBREY TERRY
JAMES DIXON SIZEMORE
Harry & Betty Barkley
(Jackson, MS)

DON MCWHORTER
Ken & Brenda Carter
(Columbus, MS)

BERT BROWN
Ms. Velda B. Carter
(Batesville, MS)

MR. & MRS. ARVY G. DUPUY
Glenn Dupuy
(Florence, AL)

JIM FRANKS
Faye Stanford
(Byhalia, MS)

IDES & MARY G. RUTHERFORD
Ms. Shirley Few Spain
(Jasper, AL)

MABEL FRANKS
MINNIE MAE SWILLEY
Donald & Yvonne Swilley
(Belle Chasse, LA)

BEATRICE SHACKELFORD
KATIE STRICKLAND
Sid & Jean Clemmer
(Falkner, MS)

GERALD R. HOGGATT
BARNEY FOSTER
JAMES T. TISDALE
Glenn & Barbara Tisdale
(Dothan, AL)

BUD LEWELLEN
Talley & Barbara Neely
(Florence, MS)

CATHERINE WRIGHT
SAMMY WRIGHT
Tommy & Peggy Shull
(Southaven, MS)

BESSIE BEIBER
Hazel Cook
(Columbus, MS)

MR. BILL JACKSON
MRS. KATHY CORMIER
Jess & Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA.)

CAROLYN HILL
Covington Road Church of Christ
(Natchez, MS)

JAMES MILES
Nell Golden
(Columbus, MS)

MAXINE TIMBES
Nadine Patton
(Belmont, MS)

In Honor Of

(LOUIS G. STRICKLAND'S FAMILY)

THE CANNONS
THE CRAWFORDS
THE SMITHS
Bonnie Strickland
(Brandon, MS)

CATHY HOLLIE
Jerry & Jean Lewis
(Okolona, MS)

AL & JUNE FRANKS
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

WALT & PEGGY WALKER
Kay Bramlett
(Tupelo, MS)

Send Gifts to: **MM; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090**

SOUTH HUNTINGTON
CHURCH OF CHRIST

128 E. Huntington Street
P. O. Box 1399
Kosciusko, MS 39090
662-294-1877

HOMECOMING

MARCH 21-22, 2009

75th Anniversary Celebration
S. Huntington Church of Christ
Kosciusko, MS

It's a Homecoming and a Friends & Family Day!
Make Your Plans to be a Part of this Great Event
Scheduled for March 21 & 22, 2009

Saturday Evening, March 21, Features
A Catered Reception and Entertainment
At Magnolia Bible College's J. B. Hayes Activity
Building Gymnasium - 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 22
Bible Classes at 9:30 A.M. with Guest Teacher
Worship Service at 10:30 A.M. with Cecil May, Jr.
as Guest Evangelist

Lunch for All at the J. B. Hayes Activity Building
Gymnasium with a Singing Service to Follow at
1:00 P.M.

A Bus Trip Fall Foliage Adventure Led by Ray Franks



Adventurers Pause for Picture on Exciting New England Bus Tour

Report by
Judy Breckenridge

On October 5, 2008, at a bit past 7:30 a.m., a group of twenty two "Christian Leaf Peepers", assembled by Ray Franks, from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee plus a driver and a guide left Greeneville, Tennessee on a Greene Coach Charter Bus. Our destination: New York and New England. Our mission: to see the Spectacular Fall Foliage and experience wonderful Christian fellowship.

As our clean, comfortable coach left the hills of East Tennessee, we traveled on into Virginia's beautiful golden Shenandoah Valley until we reached the scarlet mountains of West Virginia and our first designated stop: The sacred soil of Gettysburg. Here our guide allowed each person ample time for photographs at their home state's monument. Afterwards, we visited the Eisenhower National Historic Site and toured the Farmhouse Retreat of the President and Mrs. Eisenhower and their family.

From the "solemn ground" of Gettysburg, our group journeyed on to Amish Country. We picked up an amiable guide for the afternoon who showed us—from a respectful distance—the daily lives of the Amish. Our tour ended at an Amish-Mennonite Store with lots of handmade souvenirs and the world's best pretzel.

After crossing the Hudson River and enjoying its blazing "farewell to summer," our group had lunch in New York City before heading on to Albany, the state's capitol. From here, we headed to Lake Placid—home of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics—and our guide showed us where figure skaters and other current contenders still train.

Our group left New York—tour bus and all—by ferry as we crossed Lake Champlain and drove off into Vermont where we stopped at the state house in Montpelier for lunch. We took lots of pictures outside the granite structure with its gleaming gold leafed dome and enjoyed shuffling through fall

leaves on the sidewalk as we walked back to the bus. More granite and gorgeous scenery awaited us as we drove through the White Mountains to New Hampshire where we spent the night at the North Conway Grand Hotel. ... and grand it truly was.

From New Hampshire, our group of "leaf peepers," headed towards York Beach, Maine, where we saw the famous and beautiful Nubble Light House and spent our morning break enjoying the brisk sea air and rocky coastline that is "so Maine." Our afternoon was spent in Boston, where we picked up a witty guide who introduced us to a mini-tour of the city that ended in the Old North Church. That night, after arriving in "Plymouth" or Plymouth as it is now spelled, most of our group enjoyed a lobster dinner (though doused by some from Louisiana with 'Slap Yo Mama Hot Sauce') that Greene Coach had arranged. We spent the night at the Pilgrim Sands, and for some, a room that were so close to the bay that we could almost reach out and splash in it. The next morning, we could not leave without seeing Plymouth Rock—which is so much smaller than most of us imagined—and a replica of the Mayflower.

After leaving Plymouth, we traveled on to Newport, Rhode Island and were taken on a tour of the Cornelius Vanderbilt Summer "cottage," the Breakers. The Mansion is elegant in Italian Renaissance Style with five-stories and 70-rooms overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Some of us had lunch at the Ocean Cafe, where a member of the group from Louisiana walked in and discovered her sister and her husband having lunch as they visited a port of call with a cruise line. We left Rhode Island and headed back through New York and New Jersey.

As we traveled south and homeward, our tour guide graciously arranged for our group to make a surprise visit to Philadelphia where we saw the Liberty Bell and toured some of

Turn to Bus Trip on page 16

J. C. Enlow Injured in Accident Is "Doing much better"

In a telephone conversation with J. C. Enlow (on 2/13/09), we were grateful to hear him say that he was "doing much better." Many MM readers know brother J. C. and have come to appreciate his world wide missionary efforts as director of *21st Century Global Missions*, based in Fulton, Mississippi.

A few months ago, J. C. was seriously injured in an hunting accident. We understand that a tree stand collapsed, causing him to fall 14 feet to the ground. Landing on his feet, J. C. thought, at first, he was not seriously injured. However, within a short time the extent of his internal injuries began to show up. He was hospitalized for several weeks, underwent three surgeries and spent much time in a coma.

Thank the good Lord, brother J. C. is now at home where his extended recovery is ongoing. He is so thankful to be able to work for short periods as his health returns and his strength is regained. He anticipates being able to resume his personal involvement in missions efforts in such countries as Belarus, Ukraine, Mexico and Nicaragua. May God continue to bless.

New York City Included Cruise to Canada Led by Paul Franks



Christians Enjoyed Sights in New York City before Cruise Departure

Report by
June Franks

It has been through the influence and financial assistance of our family, and especially our children, that Al and I have been privileged to make several journeys over the past few years.

One such trip we were blessed to take was to New York

and Canada which took place this past October, 2008.

Not only did we experience the thrill of seeing parts of the country in which we had never been, it was truly a great blessing for us to travel with other Christians from different parts of the United States.

In our group, there were five
Turn to Canada on Page 16

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY 2009 LECTURESHIP MARCH 2-5

HOPE

for a hopeless world

Our hope in Jesus is a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul Hebrews 6:19

More than 80 speakers will encourage and enlighten you as they share their source of Hope for a Hopeless World, March 2-5. Special tracks include Friends of the Restoration, youth and family ministry, women's topics and a new addition this year, prison ministry.

For more information, contact Cynthia Stinson or Cecil May at 334.386.7154 or cstinson@faulkner.edu.



Faulkner University

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

www.faulkner.edu
Montgomery, Alabama

Norman Rhodes: *Gone, But Not Forgotten*

Long time Elder and Church Leader in Monroe, Louisiana

(Special to the MM) On August 7, 2008, Norm Rhodes passed from this life in Glenwood Hospital following a heart attack.

He was 78 years old and was married to Mary Darling for 56 years. He was a member of the Jackson Street church of Christ in Monroe, Louisiana.

During his lifetime he was well noted for his emphasis on the Lord and the church.

He served as an elder at the Webb Chapel church of Christ in Dallas, Texas. The annual World Mission Forum was given birth by planning at Norm and Mary's kitchen table.

He moved to West Monroe, Louisiana in 1966. As a business man, he worked as an executive for Howard Brothers and helped Hal Frazier with the finances at World Radio. Upon the untimely death of Hal Frazier, Norm was given the task of directing World Radio which he did for over three decades.

He brought unprecedented visibility, awareness, and financial stability to this program of work. He also served as an elder for the White's Ferry Road church for 26 years.

His negotiations with national speakers brought the gospel to untold numbers of people. He was so well-known, especially outside of the United States, that his name was a household word among Christians in many countries.

When Christians from all the countries in Africa came together for the first time in an "All African Council" only two men from outside Africa were invited to speak, one of them being Norm Rhodes. At this historic meeting there were numerous reports, never heard before, of the effect of radio programs, especially in rural areas. No one had any idea so many Christians and so many churches existed, and a large number of them were from radio efforts sponsored by World Radio. Norm learned first hand the fruits of his labors.

He was an outstanding song leader and had the gift of bringing out the best in the audience. He was also a song writer and arranger.

His first love was the Lord and following that, his wife Mary and

his family. Among his children is an elder, a deacon, a preacher, and numerous Bible class teachers.

Brother Norm had attended a family event celebrating the new baby of his granddaughter Amy just hours prior to his hospitalization.

He is survived by His son Leonard and wife Diane of West Monroe, his son Mark and his wife

Marsha of Vicksburg, MS, His daughter Sarah and husband Billy of West Monroe, his daughter Linda of West Monroe, and his daughter Martha of West Monroe.

His funeral was held at the Jackson Street church in Monroe Louisiana. **Terry Ware** led congregational singing and **Don DeLukie** delivered the message in which he praised the life of a great man.

A visionary, ethical, God-loving man has gone on to his reward. He is missed by all who knew him, especially his family. The church was blessed by his allegiance to the Lord. His impact was literally worldwide.

Readers' Response

Enjoy the paper, especially Bro. John Simpson's articles. I go to church with him. (Lou Smith, Arlington, TN.)

You are doing a great job. Keep up the good work. (Ruth Nabors, Bartlett, TN)

Thanks for the best publication of the Churches of Christ! (Dr. & Mrs. Tim Mason, Stephenville, TX)

My daughter and I love the Question Box and the news from your paper. It was good to hear that Rod and Mimi Tate were well. We knew them when they worked for the church in Alabama. (Mrs. Joyce Key, Parrish, AL)

Please apply this contribution to the "Magnolia Messenger." We enjoy your paper very much. The Bible lesson is always uplifting. God bless you in this work. Sincerely, (Gerald & Sharon Freeman, Cleveland, AR)

Good Gospel paper with good sound articles. Especially enjoy the Quiz and always mail mine in. Thank you, (Wayne Crum, Caledonia, OH)

For Your Encouragement, the
Franks give Thanks



Norman Rhodes



Fulton Bible Institute - Fulton, Mississippi - Fall 2008 Class

Russ Crosswhite, director of the program of "Fundamental Bible Instruction, wrote. "The course we studied was Bible History I. We averaged 51 students that came from thirteen different congregations throughout Northeast Mississippi. The next course is Bible History 1 (Part 2) that will begin January 13.... Also, we'd like to invite you to visit one or more of our classes this next term. We meet from 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. on Tuesdays."

Fulton Bible Institute is a work of the Fulton Church of Christ. 662-862-4549;
E-mail: grcross@nexband.com; P. O. Box 251; Fullton, MS 38843

11th Annual *Magnolia Messenger*

RV Rally

April 29-May 3, 2009

(Wednesday through Sunday)

Percy Quin State Park McComb, Mississippi

Speakers: Rod and Mimi Tate



Mimi & Rod -- Pascagoula, Mississippi

Theme: *How secure are your investments?*

Wednesday—April 29

5:30 PM - Supper

7:00 PM - Special Service at McComb Church

Thursday—April 30

(Convention Center)

9:00 AM - Get Acquainted Devotional

10:30 AM—Rod Tate

11:15 AM - Rod Tate (Men) - Mimi Tate (Ladies)

12:00 Noon—Meal

1:30 PM - 1st Annual MM Golf Tournament

Quail Hollow Golf Course at Percy Quin State Park

6:30 PM - Pot Luck

Auction

Friday—May 1

(Convention Center)

9:00 AM—Devotional

9:30 AM—Rod Tate

10:15 AM -Break

10: 45 AM- Rod Tate (Men) - Mimi Tate (Ladies)

12:00 PM—Meal

1:30 PM - FREE TIME

6:30 PM - Reception, coffee, punch

7:00 PM - MM Appreciation Supper

Saturday—May 2

(Large Open Pavilion)

Early — 4th Annual MM Jimmy Bradshaw Fishing Tournament

9:30 AM - Pancake breakfast

11:00 AM - Entertainment

4:00 PM - Fish supper at Catfish Restaurant (a mile from park)

Sunday—May 3

10:00-AM services at McComb church.



Churches Seeking Preachers

Notice: We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. Please call or mail your request to: 662-289-3559 or 601-668-3344; "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us by addressing: franksmm@aol.com. We will plan to run each ad **not more than two times** unless a specific request for extension is received from the congregation looking for a preacher. **There is no charge for this service. Thank you for asking!**

DeQuincy, LA

The church of Christ in DeQuincy, Louisiana is looking for a man of God to work with our congregation, which has a morning attendance of ninety to one hundred including three elders and four deacons. We are located about 20 miles northwest of Lake Charles.

We are seeking a doctrinally sound young family man with training from a Christian university or a reputable preaching school who is skilled in speaking, in teaching Bible classes, and in Power Point presentation. More importantly, however, we hope to find someone who has a loving desire to serve God by motivating the youth of our congregation, conducting home Bible studies, reaching out to the lost, and visiting members in their homes, in the hospital, or at the nursing home.

Our employment package value is approximately \$45,000, which includes a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car brick home, other expenses and salary.

If you are interested in helping us serve God in southwest Louisiana, please send us your resume, a complete list of churches you have been associated with including phone numbers and contact names, and a video (preferred) and/or audio tapes.

We look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you in your service to the Lord,

Minister Search Committee
Joey Franks ----- 337-7867742
joeyfranks020@centurytel.net
Don Jackson ----- 337-786-5982
dannyjack@centurytel.net
Louis LaRocque ---- 337-7254487
glaroque00@centurytel.net

"Preach the Word"

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

The MM
 Requests
 Your Prayers
 and
 Your Suggestions

Editor's Note

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

Note Also

There is no charge to churches for this service. Thanks for asking!

Ellisville

The elders of the church in Ellisville, Mississippi have requested that we advertize their desire to locate a full-time preacher. We were informed that they were not all that particular about age and that the amount of their support is negotiable.

The Ellisville church, located in Jones County near Laurel, brings together about 100 folks and is overseen by two elders. If interested in helping a loving and caring church to grow, you are asked to please contact **Jim Hale** (an elder) at 601-477-9967. Please send your resume' to:

Church of Christ
5 Serenity Lane
Ellisville, MS 39437

Lucedale

Rocky Creek

The Rocky Creek Church of Christ is looking for a full time minister. We are an established country church with a membership of approximately 160 with an average attendance of 100/110 for Sunday morning worship. Salary negotiable; house available or you may live away from the property. We have three (3) elders and (3) deacons. We are looking for someone with a strong doctrine base, would prefer someone with prior full time experience but not mandatory, married with good people skills. We are located six (6) miles north of Lucedale at Hwy 63 and Rocky Creek Road. Contact **Ben Harrison** at (601) 947-3776.

(RR-1/15/09)

Memphis, TN

Associate Minister

The Berclair congregation in Memphis, Tennessee is looking for a retired minister to assist in preaching and teaching in our service to God. The church can provide a 3 bedroom, 2 bath residence, utilities and a small salary. This warm, friendly body of servants is served by elders, deacons, and dedicated Christians that want to reach the lost. Please contact the elders by phone at **901-685-9022** or email at www.berclaircofc@aol.com

Pineville, LA

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

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

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

Ocean Springs, MS

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

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

43rd Annual Lectureship
 March 29- April 2, 2009

Theme: "To Seek and to Save"

Memphis School of Preaching
 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road; Memphis, Tennessee
 (Featuring about 50 Speakers)

Lafayette, LA Youth/Worship Minister

Riverside church of Christ in Lafayette, Louisiana is seeking a full-time Youth/Worship minister. He should have a minimum of two to three years experience and be married. He should possess a strong knowledge of God's Word, with the ability to relate to young minds. A desire and willingness to work with youth in various family situations in a predominately Catholic community is a must.

The primary responsibility is to work with an ongoing youth ministry to encourage spiritual growth and faith formation. The Youth/Worship minister will help develop a program that will enhance a stronger relationship with the Lord and one another. His secondary responsibility will be to assist in planning and leading worship.

Competitive salary, benefits, and a house will be provided. You may send your resume to:

Youth Minister Search
C/o Riverside church of Christ
111 E. Camellia Blvd.
Lafayette, LA. 70503

Ph 337-984-2035

Fax 337-984-3383

E-mail & Website

kmitchell@riversidechurchofchrist.org
www.riversidechurchofchrist.org

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things." (Rom. 10:15)

Biloxi

Rodenburg Avenue

Brethren in Biloxi are seeking a full-time preacher for their congregation which brings together about 70 worshippers each Lord's day. Their former preacher, **Lyle Gillis**, who had served the church for the past three years, passed from this life on Jan. 2, 2009.

The city of Biloxi presents a special mission challenge for the right man and/or family and is in need of a capable preacher to work with a caring congregation in spreading the Good News of the Kingdom of Christ. For more information and/or to submit a resume, please contact:

Church of Christ
173 Rodenburg Ave.
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531
 Or, please call Dwain Jones
228-392-0235
(cell) 228-365-6558
 (Request received on 1/16/09)

Maud, AL Church Seeks Minister

Elders
 House Provided
 Attendance: About 90
 Desire a married couple

More Information?
 Call Sammy Johnson at
 256-360-2601

Send Resume' to
Maud Church of Christ
2775 Maud Rd
Cherokee, AL 35616
 2/09

Meridian (Highway 19, North) Seeking Full-time Preacher

Attendance: About 80
Three elders & Three deacons

601-482-5318
 or call Dwight Callens at
 601-527-7149

Send Resume'
Meridian Church of Christ
2229 Highway 19N
Meridian, MS 39307-4014

2/2/09

"Preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season." 2 Timothy 4:2)

News Notes

Good News from Angola Louisiana State Prison 1,000+ Converts

NATCHEZ

Coleman Allmond called a few weeks ago to inform us that the Natchez congregation (Hwy 61 South), for which he preaches, plans to continue their monthly support to the MM during 2009. We are thankful.

We were also encouraged to learn that the prison ministry in Angola, Louisiana, which is dear to his heart, continues to make much progress. He gives much credit to the dedicated efforts of **Richard L. Felix, Sr.** who is supported by the South Baton Rouge church in Baton Rouge, LA.

Brother Allmond stated that the ministry at the Louisiana State Prison has, over the past several years, resulted in **more than 1,000** conversions. He told us about a special Banquet planned for the month of February at Angola to honor new converts and those who led them to Christ. We anticipate a detailed report in an upcoming issue of the MM.

LEAKSVILLE

In a phone conversation with **Ronald Byrd** we were informed that the church of which he is a member in Leaksville, Mississippi presently brings together about 30 to 35 each Lord's day. The church is benefiting from the preaching of **Carl Clayton** who drives up from the Coast each Lord's day. Ronald stated that brother Clayton has been filling in for them for more than a year now and is doing a good job.

The Leaksville congregation is scattered over a rather large area; thus, each Sunday they assemble at/before 10:00 a.m. and remain together until about 1:30 or 2:00 P.M. This enables the church to have Bible classes and worship in the morning. Then, they eat lunch together and have an early afternoon service at 1:00 P.M.

We do appreciate hearing from brother Ronald and our brethren at Leaksville and are pleased to share this report with readers of the MM.

8th Anniversary

Jackson Area Congregations Celebrate With Metro-East Church of Christ on January 25

By Alice Thomas-Tisdale
Jackson Advocate Publisher

Several old adages come to mind when referring to Metro East church of Christ. "Time sure flies when you're having fun" is just one. Metro East church of Christ celebrated its eighth anniversary Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, in their church building at 1820 Hwy 80 West in Jackson, a facility it moved into a year ago. The congregation's steady growth can be attributed to their strong belief in "Bringing Families Together in Love," which they chose as their anniversary theme.

Brother Paul Williams is the congregation's founding minister. "God has truly blessed us," he said. Throughout the day's event, over 800 souls came to enjoy Sunday school, morning worship, anniversary lunch, afternoon service and a congregational acappella concert. "Thank you all for coming," Williams said over and over as people came and went. "Your presence has made today special."

On tap for the hallelujah celebration were Jackson area churches of Christ. Ministers from each congregation, with topic in hand, addressed enthusiastic members and guests comfortably situated in the spacious auditorium to hear the word of God exclaimed in their individual preaching and teaching styles.

Up first was minister James Evans of Fulton Street church of Christ in Canton. His topic was *Claiming Our Divine Calling*. "There is no greater calling than God's calling," said Evans. "If Barack, -- oh yes, we can be on a first name basis with him -- called me, I'd see it as an honor. But there's no greater calling than the divine calling. Be ready to answer the call," he said. Referring to Prov. 1:24, Evans said, "Unfortunately, some people refuse their calling."

Minister Richard Wiggins of Parkview church of Christ, utilized Matthew 9:35 to briefly discuss *Claiming Our Divine Compassion*. "Most people don't know what compassion means. They think it means 'weak.' But it means to have empathy for one another, to be moved in your bowels, to have concern from the bottom of your heart," said Wiggins. "Christians should be moved by the situations of those in need. Christ cared about people. He saw pain, their problems, and he was moved with compassion to do something about it."

Minister Curtis Paige

of Williamson Ave. church of Christ seemed to be the right choice to talk about *Claiming Our Divine Conviction*, which he said must be based on something of the gospel. "To be convicted in service to God means to be Christians 24/7. Let your light shine, be of good character in what we say and where we go. Be pleasing in the sight of God," he said. "Those who trust God will have their mind fixed on him. Yes, we can claim our divine conviction in God in 2009! Put away lying, speak truth to your neighbor. Don't give place to the devil, only to God," he advised the "amen" crowd.

Minister Isaac Young of Capitol Street church of Christ spoke on *Claiming Our Divine Commission* referencing Isaiah 55:11. "God's word will not come back void. There is value and power in his word, he said. "God wants to bless all of us, but it depends on how flexible a responder of the will of God we are." Young made no apology for being a lover of the Word. "This word will discipline you, deepen your understanding, direct your path, dispel your darkness, and disarm your enemies. I love to celebrate souls being saved, lives being changed. God says 'preach the word!' but you've got to be excited about the word as well as obedient to it."

Minister Liddell Tripp of Timberlawn Road church of Christ took to heart the task of teaching on *Claiming Our Divine Character*. Working from Psalm 100, Tripp said, "Character reminds me of when I was growing up and we were told 'you are what you eat.' You are who you are in word and in deed. Men, when you start looking for a wife, watch a woman and you'll know her character. God has given us everything we need to live a fruitful life," he said, in sharing 2 Pet. 1:3 with the congregation.

Minister Edward Thompson of West-Northside church of Christ in Clinton, was bold in his preaching of *Claiming Our Divine Courage*. "If you want good success have courage. You are not successful because you don't have backbone. Stand up! Stop leaning, stand up! And don't move until the Lord says move," stated Thompson. He also encouraged those who find life's challenges overwhelming. "Success is to the man who falls down more than once and keeps getting up."

Minister Ralph Flowers of North Flora church of Christ in Flora, had an easy time talking about *Claiming Our Divine Commitment*. Guiding the members to Colossians chapter one, Flowers stated, "Be faithful,

diligent. If you do, you'll reap if you faint not. Paul suffered for the church, you can't serve without hardship." He said the average person won't commit to something they can't see with their eyes. "If the weatherman says it is going to rain and your car is dirty, you won't wash your car. If we just look at the conditions in life, we won't be committed. The power is in the word and not in the vessel. Don't go from church to church. Stay put and do God's will," he said. Flowers added that God put challenges in life to grow your faith. He suggested following the four "B's": Be friendly so people can believe, and then they can belong to become servants of God.

Minister Curtis Pittman of Hanging Moss church of Christ closed out the anniversary celebration with encouraging words about *Claiming Our Divine Connection*. He told visitors that, "those who gladly received the word became children of God. We've got the same DNA as God; we come from the same blood line -- kinship. I extend the invitation to you to be connected to God through Jesus Christ. In First John, they didn't believe God could put on flesh because flesh was sinful. John let them know the apostles gazed upon Christ. They saw him preach, heard him teach. They handled him after the resurrection. John said, 'We witnessed God in the flesh.' And because the apostles had a vertical connection, we have a horizontal connection for a divine connection."

For additional information on Metro East church of Christ, which serves Hinds, Rankin and Madison counties, call 601-949-2770 or email: metroeastcoc@yahoo.com. You may also visit 'WWW.myspace.com/metroeastcoc.'

Participating Preachers in Jackson Area Celebration



Bro. Curtis Paige
Williamson Ave. church of Christ
Jackson, Mississippi



Bro. Curtis Pittman
Hanging Moss church of Christ
Jackson, Mississippi



Bro. Isaac Young
Capitol Street church of Christ
Jackson, Mississippi



Bro. James Evans
Fulton Street church of Christ
Canton, Mississippi



Bro. Liddell Tripp
Timberlawn Road church of Christ
Jackson, Mississippi



Bro. Ralph Flowers
North Flora church of Christ
Flora, Mississippi



Bro. Richard Wiggins
Parkview church of Christ
Jackson, Mississippi



Bro. Edward Thompson
West-Northside church of Christ
Clinton, Mississippi

(Report and Pictures Supplied by Alice Thomson-Tisdell and Paul Williams)

Greetings From Russia

I haven't seen you in several years but think of you often, particularly when I read the MM. Most of the time I read it online in Russia where I have been on assignment for the past 2 years with my company, Shell Oil. If you look up Yuzhno-Sakhalin on the web, you'll see where I live. Betty will soon live here with me.

Warm congratulations on completing 30 years of service to your brethren with publishing of the Messenger. Well done. You featured Betty and I as newlyweds during what I think was the first year of the Magnolia Messenger. We've now completed 31 years of marriage and have two grown children and one young grandchild. God has been very good to us.... (John Thompson)

Thanks for Writing the MM.

The Sign Looked Good But, the Music Was Just Too Much!

While traveling and thinking about a place to worship on Sunday morning, we consulted the internet and found a church nearby identified as "Sherwood Church of Christ." So, we made preparations to visit. Hired a taxi and drove to the address. Sure enough, there was an attractive building with a sign out front that stated "Church of Christ."

Entering the building, we were warmly greeted by several very nice people and escorted to a class room where Bible study was "wont to be made". Passing by the auditorium, I glanced inside and saw a disturbing sight. On the stage (pulpit) there were several mechanical instruments of music. I was reminded, "It takes more than a sign out front."

We had come to a church that, if I understand the Scriptures correctly, uses *too much* music in worship; that is, singing and plus instrumental. This situation presented a problem. The New Testament does not authorize the use of mechanical instruments in the worship of Christians to God. The New Covenant commands, "Singing" (Col.3:16, Eph. 5:19). And, my earnest desire is to please God. So, the sign *outside* looked good; but the music *inside* was **too much**. For the New Testament and for me. (alf)



Minister Paul Williams and wife, Eve
Metro East Church of Christ

Canada

(Continued from page 12)

couples from Missouri who were all related physically. Several also made the trip from the Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ in Lake Charles, Louisiana where our son, Paul, preaches. As expected many of our group were from different towns in Mississippi.

Al and I were also blessed to travel with some of our immediate family. Al's only sister, **Ina Sadler** from Vidor, Texas, her daughter, **Rachal Hughes**, Kountze, Texas and Rachal's daughter, **Amanda LeBouef** from Beaumont, along with our son Paul and his wife, Glenda, from Lake Charles, all made the trip.

We had one day to "sight see" in city of New York. Several in our group had never been to New York City. We rented a bus and were privileged to tour the city. Our driver carried us to many of the main attractions, including Central Park, the Rockefeller Plaza, and "Times Square".

It was a surreal moment as we drove by where the World Trade Center Towers once stood and to see first hand where such a great tragedy had taken place on American soil.

After New York City, on Thursday, October 9, 2008, we boarded our ship "Explorer of The Seas" and set sail for Sydney, Nova Scotia our first port of call.

Several in our group had never seen the "Statue of Liberty" which was truly an awesome experience as we sailed out past it on a beautiful fall afternoon.

We left Cape Liberty Cruise Port, New Jersey at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday. One of our group, **Tina Holmes** from Vicksburg, Mississippi, arrived at the dock five minutes after the doors to the ship had been closed. She was too late. Those in charge would not allow her to board.

However, two nights later, when we arrived in Sydney, Nova Scotia, on that Saturday morning, guess who was standing on the shore as we were docking. We were pleasantly surprised to see that it was Tina. Tina hadn't given up. She was able to make arrangements to fly part of the way and then ride a bus the



Waterfall Seen in Quebec, Canada
Smaller but higher than Niagara Falls

rest of the way until she caught up with us in Sydney. We were all so thankful she made it and enjoyed being with her for the rest of the cruise.

In Sydney Nova Scotia, we,

along with others, rented a van and drove what is called "the Cabot Trail." It was a delightful drive which allowed us to see some beautiful fall foliage.

The next day, our port of call was Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Even though we had a "church service" planned for later in the day, to be conducted onboard ship, Al and myself, along with Paul and Glenda, attended a Sunday morning service at Charlottetown with a congregation identified as a Church of Christ.

Our Sunday worship service aboard ship was conducted in a private chapel, located on the 16th deck of the massive supership. After leaving Charlottetown, as we sailed along, the worship was very meaningful as we joined our voices in singing praises to God and offering our thanks through prayers. Being the first day of the week, we were all given an opportunity to partake of the Lord's Supper. The sermon on the ship at sea was delivered by Al. Then, on Wednesday night of that week, we returned to the same room for a devotional service. Meeting in the "upper room" (16th floor) on a huge ship in the Atlantic ocean was, to say, the least, very special.

While docked at beautiful Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, several in our group were privileged to visit the home and farm that inspired a well known book entitled, "Anne of Green Gables." After leaving Charlottetown, we cruised the Saguenay River. This was a very interesting and delightful experience as we sailed along close to the land.

The next day, we docked at Quebec City, Quebec in Canada. This is a charming city with a lot of beautiful buildings, one being the regal Fairmont Chateau Frontenac, one of the world's great hotels. The city is located on the St. Lawrence River

Valley, framed to the north by the majestic Laurentian Mountains and to the south by the Appalachian foothills and mountains leading to New England. The fall foliage was also very pretty at Quebec City.

Our next port of call was Halifax, Nova Scotia. This is also a very beautiful city. We also saw some of the prettiest fall leaves as we drove around the Island. There, we also we blessed to see in Peggy's Cove what is perhaps the "most photographed Light House" in all of Canada.

We had heard that Catherine Wilcoxson's mother was a patient in a nursing home in Halifax. (Paul Wilcoxson and Catherine had lived in De Quincy, Louisiana where Paul was the preacher)



Tour Leaders, Paul & Glenda Franks
Light House Near Halifax, Nova Scotia

Al and myself, along with Paul and Glenda, made arrangements to visit with Catherine's mom (**Doris Kenny**) while we were in Halifax. It was a blessing to us to be able to surprise her with a visit from fellow Christians from the States.

We finally arrived back at Cape Liberty Cruise Port, New Jersey on Saturday, October 18. A bus was waiting to take us back to the airport where we were all able to make connections with our differing flights to take us back home. Al and I (along with Paul and Glenda) flew back to Lake Charles, arriving around 10 PM. It was wonderful to be welcomed by two of our precious grandchildren, Megan and Vincent.

We thank God we had the opportunity to travel and to see parts of this magnificent world made for us by God. We continually thank our Heavenly Father for creating such a beautiful world. We are also truly grateful that we all had a safe trip and enjoyable trip. Yes, Christians can have fun!

A special thanks to Don West, our travel agent from Jackson, Mississippi and to our son Paul Franks, for hosting this unforgettable trip.

**You Can
Receive and Read
Every Issue of the
"Magnolia Messenger"
Mailed Directly to You
No Charge to You**
MM; P. O. Box 1578;
Kosciusko, MS 39090
E-mail: franksmm@aol.com

Excellent Exhortation

"Read God's Word the Holy Bible Daily"

(No matter on whose building the sign is written!)



Are You a Daily Bible Reader? Why Not?

FHU

(Cont. from page 10)

experience as a successful university president and his academic pedigree are second to none." ...In addition to his work in academia, brother Wiley has been a deacon and an elder in the church of Christ.

After about nine months serving as president of FHU, it is apparent, based on comments heard at the recent annual Bible Lectureship (February 1-5, 2009) that the trustees made a good choice and that FHU will "stay the course" in teaching students "How to Live and "How to Make a Living." We urge you to pray for both men and the school that means so much to so many. (alf)

Mark the dates.
Plan to Attend
Diana Singing
(Diana, Tennessee)
Celebrating 40th Anniversary
June 12,13 & Sept 11,12, 2009
(More details; next issue)

Bus Trip

(Cont. from page 12)

the city. If that were not enough, our guide and driver delighted us further that afternoon with a stop in Baltimore, Maryland, where we had lunch on the Riverfront. Our wonderful day ended in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, as we crossed the Potomac River and arrived at the picturesque Bavarian Inn. Here, we stayed in elegant chalets or rooms in the Inn that looked truly like a German Castle. We gathered that evening for an elegant farewell meal.

After eight glorious days, our New York-New England Leaf Tour had come to an end, but memories and friendships made were certain to last. Our guide was professional and caring; our driver roadworthy and patient and our experience: unforgettable, enjoyable, and eager to travel again with Greene Coach.

**Thank You
Receiving & Reading
Magnolia Messenger**

RESPONSE

(Cont. from page 3)

talking about obeying inclinations or strong inner impulses. We obey Jesus when we love God with all of our being and our neighbor as ourselves, when we feed the hungry and visit the sick and lonely, and when we hear the words of his apostles which he has commanded them to teach us.

We read those commandments in Scripture. We do not conjure them up out of our subjective consciousnesses.

The idea that God has planned out a course of action for every individual, including where he shall go to school, what course of study she will pursue, whom to marry, where to work and what to wear is not biblical.

We are to obey God in all things. We are to seek his kingdom and righteousness first. We are to put other people's interests ahead of our own. Then when we choose where to work or whom to marry or what road to take, where God has not specifically spoken, we can do what we believe is best and God will be with us and bless us.

Conclusion

In those areas where there is no divine command or moral principle involved, the Christian is free and responsible for his or her own choices. Any decision made within the moral will of God is acceptable to God.

Responders' Note: For some illustrations in this response I gratefully acknowledge debt to Gary Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God* (Portland OR: Multnomah Press, 1980).

“Don’t Complain About the Briars”

- Travis Brown -

A man met a little fellow on the road carrying a basket of blackberries, and said to him, “Sammy, where did you get such nice berries?” “Over there, sir, in the briars!” “Won’t your mother be glad to see you come home with a basket of such nice, ripe fruit?” “Yes sir,” said Sammy, “she always seems glad when I hold up the berries, and I don’t tell her anything about the briars in my feet.” The man rode on. Sammy’s remark had given him a lesson, and he resolved that henceforth he would try and hold up the berries and say nothing about the briars.¹

A positive, grateful attitude can make all of the difference in the world. God has used men and women of old who looked at how things could be done through God’s direction and assistance instead of potential problems with the task at hand. They chose to look at the berries instead of the briars. There are always potential problem areas with any task. These great people of faith focused on ways to get the job done instead of countering with, “But God, what about...?” Think of how differently the story may have gone if God’s servants had replied to His wishes with, “But God, what about ... ?”

“Noah, I want you to build an ark of gopher wood to safely carry you through the flood.” “But God, what about a smaller boat -- it would be finished much sooner. Do You know how long it is going to take me to build one that big?” “But God, what about cedar instead of gopher wood -- it will look prettier and smell great. With all of those animals, we will need all of the pleasant smells we can muster onboard.” “But God, what about destroying the world with fire -- you could prepare a special cave for us and the animals -- it would be so much faster than waiting for flood waters to rise and then go back down.” Noah had a tremendous task at hand, but he searched for ways it could be done instead of trying to find the easy way out.

“Joshua, I want you to capture the city of Jericho by doing exactly as I instruct. You will take the city by marching around it in a specific manner and a set number of times.” “But God, what about letting the children and elderly people be excluded from these marches -- they won’t be able to keep up.” “But God, what about allowing some talking if it is done in low tones -- you know that it isn’t human nature for people to be silent for that long a period of time.” “But God, what about



Travis Brown

allowing us to walk around the city in shifts on the final day -- seven trips around Jericho is going to wear everyone down to where we will not be able to fight.” Joshua was given a task by God. Instead of looking at all of the negative aspects and complaining at how inconvenient the job would be, he made the commitment to get the job done. We never read a “But God, what about ...?” that fell from the lips of this great servant.

What about us today? It is now our turn to take up the mantle and carry out the assigned tasks. What is our attitude toward those things God requires of us? Are we one of those with a “Here am I, send me” attitude (Isaiah 6:8)? Do we gladly volunteer for service or

do we respond with, “But God, what about ... ?”

Though the tasks given to us may not be as extraordinary in our eyes as building an ark or capturing a city, they are no less important. God has entrusted us with the soul-saving message that will bring hope into a hopeless world.

God says, “I need someone to take the time with that child. Take them under your wing and teach them, train them, mentor them so they will grow up making wise decisions and, when the time is right, make the greatest decision of all -- becoming a child of Mine.”

“I need someone to visit that elderly person who thinks there isn’t a soul on this earth who knows about them nor cares about them. I need someone who will prove them wrong, someone who will manifest a love for their fellowman that will rise above the time, energy and even monetary cost involved.”

“I need someone who will be a beacon of light in the community, on the job, at home and at the worship services. I need someone who will stand in the gap and demonstrate what true Christianity is. I need someone who is determined to overcome whatever Satan throws at them and with My help be able to hear one day, ‘Well done good and faithful servant.’ I need someone who wants to be with Me in heaven more than anything else and has a goal of taking as many souls with them as they can.” That is what God is looking for.

Is He asking too much of us? Are His demands unreasonable? God has blessed us with basket after basket after basket of plump, sweet berries. He gives us the sunshine and rain and every good and perfect gift. All that we have and are is because of Him. He loved us while we were sinners and gave His son to die for us [Rom. 5:8]. What is He hearing from you? Is it “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!” as Paul said (Phil. 4:13)? Is it, “Let us arise and do it now!” as Joshua and Caleb said (Num. 13:30)? Or does God only hear an endlessly repeated, “But God, what about ... ?”

For some of us, perhaps it is high time we start thinking more about the berries and stop complaining about the briars!

¹ *Stories for Preachers & Teachers. V1.0. Pulpit Helps Illustration Collection 1. HeavenWord, Inc. 1999.*

Travis Brown

Director of Admissions, MBC
tbrown@magnolia.edu

Meet Madison’s New Minister

On Sunday evening, December 14, 2008, my June and I were blessed with another opportunity to visit services of the recently organized Madison church, located a few miles north of Jackson. We were very pleased to meet, for the first time, **Jim and Lois Howard** who moved in October, 2008, to serve as Madison’s first full-time preacher.

In addition to finding the Howards to be very friendly, we were privileged also to learn that, as a preacher, Jim Howard is very capable. This was especially evident in his excellent sermon for the evening entitled “Banquet Etiquette”, based on the teachings of Jesus, in part, as recorded in Luke 14:16-24.

Brother Jim and his wife, Lois, have enjoyed an interesting career of work including teaching at Harding University, back in the late 60’s and early 70’s. Then, moving to the Houston, Texas area where he preached and, afterwards, to the Memphis area where he served a number of churches, including two nearby congregations in Mississippi -- Como and Olive Branch. In October of 2008, he and Lois accepted the challenge of working with the newly (about 2 or 3 years ago) established church in Madison, Mississippi.

In a follow up telephone conversation with brother Howard on 1-22-09, we learned that the Madison church is presently bringing together about 120 persons each Lord’s day. Brother Jim was pleased to state that a recent



Jim Howard
New Preacher at Madison, MS

meeting of the men of the church resulted in a goal to select elders for the congregation during 2009.

Jim also related, with joy, the progress that was being made in fulfilling their plans to soon begin construction of new facilities. (They presently meet in an old school building in Madison.) Eleven acres of land on Reunion Parkway in north Madison have been purchased as the site where their new building will be constructed, God willing.

More than once or twice, in our phone conversation, brother Jim Howard requested prayers on behalf of their evangelistic work in what is recognized as one of Mississippi’s fastest growing communities. Let us honor that request and pray for their determined efforts to glorify God through His Son and His church. (Editor)

A Return to Oxford

On Sunday, January 25, 2009, my June and I were blessed with an opportunity to visit the morning worship services of the Oxford church in their beautiful facilities on North Lamar Boulevard. As we were driving over to Oxford from our camp ground at Sardis Lake, we couldn’t help but recall some pleasant memories from the past involving **David Chadwell** who served for many years as preacher for the Oxford church. (David, we understand, still lives in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he moved to preach when leaving Mississippi.)

According to the church bulletin for January 25 a “motto” or goal for the membership of the Oxford church is “*Following Jesus Every Day*.” Truly, a good and great goal!

Participants in the morning services that morning included **John F. Kennedy** (real name), who was visiting from Memphis and who taught the adult auditorium Bible class. **Casey Coston**, who serves as campus minister, presented an excellent lesson on “Glimpses of Hope.” (The pulpit minister, **Bob Brewer**, was present; however, as a part of his work and plans, he is seeking to prepare younger men to fill the pulpit at Oxford.)

Afterwards, there followed what, we all would agree, a very important part of the service as believers joined together in the weekly observance of the Lord’s Supper. The communion service was made especially meaningful that day through the wise selection of scriptures and thoughtful comments made by **Doug Shields, Jr.**

Of course, as always, it was pleasant to meet and greet many brothers and sisters in the Oxford church. We, especially, enjoyed the privilege of spending time with one of the six church elders (“shepherds”) and his wife (**Kenny & Kay Coleman**).

They were kind enough to ask us out for lunch -- an invitation, we were pleased to accept. The food was good. The conversation and fellowship was even better. We were pleased to discuss serious and significant matters relating to the present state of the church and their hopes and plans for the future. My June and I found our visit with the Oxford church and with the Colemans -- not only pleasant, but encouraging. We are thankful for the opportunity to finally return and to renew our acquaintance with the Oxford church.

See the beautiful church building pictured on page 11

Now Available

*Sacred Songs
of the Church*

A hymnal completed from
a lifetime of work

Publishing Designs, Inc.
P.O. Box 3241
Huntsville, AL 35810

publishingdesigns.com

(888) 662-1009

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. John L. Gates, Jr. | 76. Ms. June Faulkner | 151. Lozell Milligan | 227. Jeff & Debbie Shull | 303. Mitch Ward | 366. James T. Whitaker, Sr. |
| 2. Charles Coffey | 77. Wilda Pounds | 152. Jim Nowell | 228. Ray Parham | 304. Reed Mitchell | 367. Verna Spake |
| 3. Juanita LeBouef | 78. Carol Bonner | 153. Jewell Phillips | 229. Mattie Cole - Gregory | 305. Katie Davis | 368. Sue Mason |
| 4. Weida Pyron | 79. Sidney Robinson | 154. Roy Gambrell | 230. Bettie Brown | 306. Luke Hobson | 369. Patsy McClung |
| 5. Louise Gavin | 80. Louella Whitehead | 155. Paula Triplett | 231. Earl Johnson | 307. Velma DeLancey | 370. Evelyn Young |
| 6. Doralynn Felton | 81. Exie Motes | 156. Ima Jean Fogus | 232. Mary Dennis | 308. Kay Wise | 371. Billie Boyd |
| 7. Freida Sanders | 82. Roy Davidson | 157. Artis W. Hinton | 233. Alice M. Amos | 309. Barbara Markham | 372. Ella Darnell |
| 8. Doris Laird | 83. Sue Gurley | 158. Evelyn Page | 234. Jerry Jones | 310. Edith Winters | 373. Hattie Johnson |
| 9. Mrs. L. C. Stewart | 84. Penny Clanton | 159. Sidney Clemmer | 235. Imogene Grayson | 311. Mrs. Dorothy L. Thornton | 374. Sommer Burnett |
| 10. Alma Maddox | 85. Barbara J. Baker | 160. Marie Lively | 236. James Hudley | 312. Pat Harris | 375. Paige Wiggs |
| 11. Glenda Wilson | 86. Steve Nelson | 161. Linda Crochet | 237. Anthony Neil King | 313. Gail Gurganus | 376. Daniel Masten |
| 12. Juanita Wilson | 87. Pierce Flatt | 162. Ebb Barber, Jr. | 238. Jessie Baker | 314. Tommy Bullard | 377. Dathol Camp |
| 13. Bonnie Howell | 88. Melba Sewell | 163. Genie Henning | 239. Ruby Matejka | 315. Patricia Thornton | 378. Kay Bramlett |
| 14. Trillie Strickland | 89. Wilma Branch | 164. Anna Lee Pruitt | 240. C. W. Jackson | 316. Esther Williams | 379. Jackie L. Hester |
| 15. Linda Laird | 90. Elledith Harris | 165. Mary N. Faulconer | 241. Ella F. Gentry | 317. Joe Arnold | 380. Betty Harris |
| 16. Edward Pearson | 91. Mary M. McDonald | 166. Mrs. Neal Smith | 242. Rosie Lee Odoms | 318. Pearl Hitt | 381. Idna Eddington |
| 17. Willa Fox | 92. Debra Michael | 167. Bea Basford | 243. Dezarie Ashby | 319. Dorothy Ford | 382. Sue McDaniel |
| 18. Leonard Williams | 93. William McCormick | 168. Barbara Dee Pitts | 244. Patricia Wright | 320. Inez & Laura Brannon | 383. Dennis McNairy |
| 19. Glenda Jefcoat | 94. Sam Long | 169. Garry Gooch | 245. John & Debra Sigmund | 321. Charlotte & Doyle Varner | 384. Diamand Latrice Mastin |
| 20. Sharon Huckaba | 95. Michael Coleman | 170. Maxine Pommer | 246. Elsie M. Moore | 322. Sandy Dean | 385. Akyer Denise McNairy |
| 21. Faye Stanford | 96. Janie Green | 171. Ralph & Doris Gillespie | 247. Ms. Millie Goode | 323. Caleb Blackman | 386. Rita Wilson |
| 22. Frederck Alan Jones | 97. Sherry Townsend | 172. Cheri Moore | 248. Eddie Vermillion | 324. Wes & Rhoda Jeans | 387. Mary Adams Warren |
| 23. Linda B. Keirn | 98. James Breckenridge | 173. Bonnie Glass | 249. Jim Vermillion | 325. Stephanie Slaydon | 388. Stacey&Melinda Hawkins |
| 24. Kathie Stacks | 99. Dot Winslett | 174. Elvis Dilmore | 250. Linda Paden | 326. Nicholas Slaydon | 389. Dotsy Downs |
| 25. Danny Stacks | 100. Maurice Graves | 175. Ruby Dilmore | 251. Stone Houston | 327. Carter Blackmon | 390. Veva June Calhoun |
| 26. Travis Hamilton | 101. Johnny & Princess Watson | 176. Elizabeth Ann Kimble | 252. Ginny Luther | 328. Jessica Slaydon | 391. Mary Lou Mirante |
| 27. Edmon & Kathy Wheeler | 102. Roger King | 177. Era Hinson | 253. Bobbie Loggins | 329. Earl Franks | 392. Jo Ann Mills |
| 28. Arva L. Fisher | 103. Josie Isaacs | 178. Barbara A. Beard | 254. Nellie St. Clair | 330. Lucy Franks | 393. Kelly Rudy |
| 29. Annie Burgess Ballard | 104. Ollye Rush | 179. Ruby Pounds | 255. Brenda Carter | 331. Melissa Blackmon | 394. Bobbie Saxton |
| 30. Marie Sykes | 105. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr. | 180. Mima R. Vines | 256. Patrilla Maddox | 332. Johnnye Blackmon | 395. Kathie Bordelon |
| 31. Bea Estes | 106. Shelia Woodard | 181. Dorsa Sparks | 257. Evelyn M. Jack | 333. Wayne Crum | 396. Shirley Phillips |
| 32. Mamie Guinn | 107. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 182. Nadine Patton | 258. Mary Jo Masters | 334. Sandra Grisham | 397. McArthur Mullins |
| 33. Carolyn Garrett | 108. B. J. Womack | 183. Karen Britt | 259. John Mayher | 335. R. C. Cobb | 398. Lisa Dettor |
| 34. Vic & Ruth Hawn | 109. Nicole Womack | 184. Bernice Townsel | 260. Jean Lewis | 336. Sarah R. Day | 399. Rosie Felton |
| 35. Shirley Waggener | 110. Na'Nia Womack | 185. Marie Harrell | 261. Vera Winfrey | 337. Jimmie Brown | 400. Bonnie Skates |
| 36. M/M Ken Sullins | 111. Bralan Womack | 186. Karen Bolts | 262. Evelyn Faulkenburry | 338. Margaret N. Freeman | 401. Myrtle Rogers |
| 37. Minnie Gwyne | 112. Joyce A. King | 187. Mary Brannan | 263. Dora Burdue | 339. Margaret Burnett | 402. Nellie St. Clair |
| 38. Dahlia McAfee | 113. William Pyron | 188. Annie Mae Pipkin | 264. Carolyn T. Taylor | 340. Alice Green | 403. Patricia D. McClure |
| 39. Ray Ann Woodruff | 114. M/M Dennis McNairy | 189. Ollye Rush | 265. Mattie Hoy | 341. Manah Wallace | 404. Nancy H. Blair |
| 40. Peggy Wroten | 115. Dorothy Alexander | 190. Lois Ginn | 266. Lorenzo Carter | 342. Aslaen Dean | 405. Ms. Loretta Luster |
| 41. Dee Kepler | 116. Doris Carroll | 191. Charlene Williams | 267. Irma Lucas | 343. Della M. Rhodes | 406. Oscar F. Yates |
| 42. Floyce Anderson | 117. Donna Gulley | 192. Grace Childers | 268. Hazel Fehrs Brown | 344. Imogene Kirk | 407. Peggy E. Cooper |
| 43. Bowden & Melba Grisham | 118. Melvin & Kay Linton | 193. Wynell Thompson | 269. Mrs. Lucille Jackson | 345. Alice Dempsey | 408. Diana Schmied |
| 44. Tommy Muirhead | 119. Billy Willingham | 194. Grace Potts | 270. Christine Holliday | 346. Nathan Weida | 409. Bodean Collum |
| 45. Betty Clark | 120. Mattie Ann Owens | 195. Joyce & Sandy Key | 271. Anita R. Price | 347. Juanita M. Tynes | 410. Jerry L. Hart |
| 46. Katie L. Houston | 121. Magdalene Tillman | 196. Ruby Gideon | 272. Warren Scott Gallaher | 348. Libby Williams | 411. Iva Hill |
| 47. Elbertine Wesberry | 122. Larry M. Byles | 197. Shelia Hall | 273. Vera Spencer | 349. Roger Thorson | 412. Dorothy Hagger |
| 48. Rick Bishop | 123. Phyllis K. Spiers | 198. Emily Hall | 274. Clara Davis | 350. Melvin Easley | 413. Lois Wright |
| 49. Dalton L. Dietz | 124. Mary Ella Webster | 199. Olen Moore | 275. Mrs. Dean Howe | 351. Don "Ug" Lee | 414. Louisa W. Ganier |
| 50. Barbara Yates | 125. Florene Ashmore | 200. Mary Lois Moore | 276. M/M Arthur Burnett | 352. June Brents | 415. Sharon Simmons |
| 51. Kay Shiers | 126. Lenola Balentine | 201. Michelle Simpson | 277. Ms. Janie B. Victor | 353. Nancy L. Switzer | 416. Dot Carlile |
| 52. Myra D. Reaves | 127. Jack L. Falls, Sr. | 202. Hattie M. Hooper | 278. Peggy S. Walker | 354. Bobby Brown | 417. Joe Carlile |
| 53. Frances Harrell | 128. Ed Istre | 203. Billie J. McCurdy | 279. Lorene Lindsey | 355. Everett Boyd | 418. YOUR NAME |
| 54. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 129. Charlotte Ritter | 204. Lester & Grace Cooley | 280. Ellene Vaughan | 356. Mrs. Angeliqe Newsom | How About Next Time? |
| 55. Judy Redd | 130. Jennifer F. Gray | 205. Jeskel Beard | 281. Mary Jo Purdon | 357. Deborah Brannon | |
| 56. Louise McLeod | 131. Geneva Brooks | 206. Betty Shackelford | 282. Shan Grisham | 358. Anita Fowler Smith | |
| 57. Mrs. V. E. Buffington | 132. Mrs. Shay Shumpert | 207. Annie Ruth Perry | 283. Melba Ogg | 359. Shellie Hancock | |
| 58. Charlane Stanfield | 133. Coy Daily | 208. Michael Hony | 284. Betty Jo Stewart | 360. Mattie Luster | |
| 59. Bronwen Pollard | 134. Paul & Elsie Bryson | 209. Alan Dees | 285. Mrs. W. C. Wells | 361. Helen Gordon | |
| 60. Diane Dunaway | 135. Claude & Brenda Faught | 210. Miriam Styers | 286. Ruby McCrory | 362. Sherry Gordon | |
| 61. Lawrence Horn | 136. Linda T. Shirley | 211. Buddy Parsons | 287. Thelma V. Walker | 363. Bobby & Sue Marques | |
| 62. Joseph Coleman | 137. Mike Sullivan | 212. Robert Blackburn | 288. Dorothy Brunson | 364. Shirley Bostick | |
| 63. Martha West | 138. Jane Walker | 213. Mrs. Sharon Freeman | 289. Vera Ashmore | 365. Margaret J. Cooper | |
| 64. Ann McDonald | 139. Fran Williford | 214. Eileen Carter | 290. Mildred Carroll | | |
| 65. Nell S. Golden | 140. Paul D. Gaunt | 215. Greg Mullinicks | 291. Ardella Newman | | |
| 66. Hazel Cook | 141. Carolyn P. Olson | 216. Ora Stennett | 292. Janie Harrison | | |
| 67. A. J. Horton | 142. Armand Willey | 217. Gladys Bryant | 293. Ben Webb | | |
| 68. Olen Roden, Jr. | 143. Modean Edwards | 218. Phillip Bradley | 294. Mildred Herrington | | |
| 69. Ruby Wright | 144. Enuice Kirkwood | 219. Carol Bradley | 295. Beulah Rupert | | |
| 70. Margaret E. Johnson | 145. Doris Darnell | 220. Betty Standard | 296. Margaret Gooze | | |
| 71. Beulah Rupert | 146. Lou Smith | 221. Ben Hightower | 297. Hazel P. Perkins | | |
| 72. Carole Shelby | 147. Tommy Shull | 222. Sandra Welch | 298. James R. Brooks | | |
| 73. Linda Hogue | 148. Betty Van Buren | 223. Kittie Edwards | 299. Patricia Connaway | | |
| 74. Kerry Deaton | 149. Shirley Pearce | 224. Natalie Grisham | 300. Cleta Burnett | | |
| 75. Linda McKay | 150. Kimberly Pearce | 225. Cathey Roberson | 301. Betty A. Skinner | | |
| | | 226. Janice Vaughan | 302. Cathy Ward | | |

NOTICE

All answers received before Feb.10,2009, have been included. Thanks to all who read the MM and answer "The QB". (see page 20)

**You Can
Receive and Read
Every Issue of the
"Magnolia Messenger"**

Mailed Directly to Your Home or Business

No Charge to You

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

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

Lord, Make Me A Servant in 2009

- June Franks -

It is not human nature for us to want to be servants. We are usually thinking we deserve a much greater position in life than that of a servant or we may be thinking of how others should serve us.

The world as a whole looks upon being a servant as one of the most lowly positions. However, Jesus taught right the opposite from this way of thinking.

These remarks are just reminders to us of how important it is for us to have the attitude of humility in that we are willing to serve others.

The Bible says, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

When the mother of James and John requested of Jesus that her two sons may sit, the one on His right hand and the other on His left, in His kingdom, Jesus responded by saying, "Ye shall drink indeed of my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father."

Jesus further stated, "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise author-

Why is this Woman Pictured in the MM?



Otha Lee "Doc" Hewitt

1. Because she was one of several people who helped with our "end of the year" mail-out for the MM. We wanted to say "thanks" for all the help provided by Christians in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
2. Because she was caught reading the Magnolia Messenger.
3. Because she happens to be a sister to MM editor's father. She is my "Aunt Doc". (alf)



June Franks

ity upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:26-28)

Jesus is our supreme example of showing humility and of one having a servant attitude. The Bible says, "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, Verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him." (John 13: 12-16)

The Bible also says about Jesus, "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." (Philippians 2:7)

Some of the great men of the Bible referred to themselves and other Christians as "servants" such as Paul, Timotheus, James and Peter. (Philippians 1:1, James 1:1, II Peter 1:1) Phebe was also spoken of as a servant of the church which is at Cencrea. (Romans 16:1)

It seems that many of us are wanting and waiting to be served. We often hear the statement, "No one called me or came to see me while I was sick." In other words they are saying, "No one served me."

It is true, as a member of the body of Christ, we have a responsibility to care for the sick and those in need. God has given each one of us that responsibility.

When you know of someone who needs a visit, phone call or maybe just a card, do you always

do what you can do to help others, or do you just sit back and wait for someone to serve you?

Some even want to blame the whole church and have been heard to say, "Well I'm just quitting the church, because no one called or visited me while I was sick."

We should never quit the church -- no matter who fails in their responsibility -- whether it is a member or one of the elders or a preacher. Often times those in the church may not know of an illness; therefore, they do not respond as we think they should.

We are not trying to excuse anyone of his neglect but, on the other hand, we should never, never say, "I am quitting the church because of what someone may do or not do."

The way we serve God is by serving others. The Bible says, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

May each one of us try to do better in 2009. It is a privilege to serve others. Those who make it their goal to serve are the ones usually blessed more than anyone else. It is truly a blessing when we serve as God would have us to serve. (Mrs. A. L. Franks; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; email: franksmm@aol.com)

Ladies' Day
 March 28, 2009
Jane Maynard
 "Sowing Seeds of Kindness"
 9:30-- 2:30
 Lunch Provided
Church of Christ
520 E Race Street
Rolling Fork, MS

Ladies' Day
 Looxahoma
 (Senatobia, MS)
May 16, 2009
 Beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 Theme:
WE FROG
 "We Fully/Forever
 Rely on God"
 Speaker
Vickie Ramsey Greenway
 For more information,
662-562-8501
Looxahoma
Church of Christ
109 Lyles Road
Senatobia, MS 38668

Two Thousand And Nine

+ 2009 +

Avis Corley Porter
 9803 Highway 336
 Thaxton, MS 38871



Note: Sister Porter is a member of the Pine Bluff Church of Christ at Toccapola, Mississippi. (See "Drop-in Visit" on page 6)

Can you believe it is two thousand and nine,
 And we are leaving the old year behind?

Let us vow this will be the best year yet;
 Over large and small problems, let us not fret.

Why not call up a relative or a dear old friend,
 If you have had a quarrel, let it quickly mend.

When wrong, "I'm sorry", is always good to say;
 For more patience and understanding, we should pray.

Don't make rash judgements; think things through,
 Or you will end up feeling sad and blue.

Don't make a promise you cannot keep,
 And cause a tender heart to weep.

Your debts you should strive to pay,
 And be kind and loving in what you say.

With family and friends, stay in close touch;
 To your heart and theirs, it will mean so much.

Let the example you live daily be good;
 Be a Christ-like role model as you should.

Be grateful for all the blessings the Lord did send;
 He will never forsake us and will be with us until the end.

In 2009, daily, the Bible we should read,
 And God's words, we should faithfully heed.

**Increase Your Knowledge; Strengthen Your Faith;
 Read the "Magnolia Messenger" (This Issue)**

Have YOU answered "The Question Box"- page 20?

Recent Bible Winner
Juanita LeBouef
 of
 Eupora, Mississippi

Sister Juanita is a member of the church in Eupora where James Hill serves as the capable preacher.

(Turn to Page 14)

Read the story which tells about our visit with the church in Eupora -- a visit which made us feel sorta like we were "Back in Bible Times."



Use of the
King James Version
may be helpful

The Question Box

Is your
name found
on page 18?

The Folly of a Fool

I undertake this lesson preparation with reservations, recalling the words of our Lord who said, "...whosoever shall say, *Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire*" (Matthew 6:22). It is a serious matter to speak of a brother as a **fool**; yet, Jesus identified certain people as *fools* and, furthermore, inspired scriptures repeatedly teach that some are indeed "fools.". Of course, God knows the heart; I do not. It is possible, however, to use the scriptures and identify

those the Lord considers to be *fools* and/or *foolish*.

This lesson asks you to ponder prayerfully the teachings of our Lord and the "wisdom writings", especially of Solomon, and answer each section of this study. After completion, please send your answers to us. **You will encourage others** and **you** may be our *next Bible Winner*. (Each issue, by random selection, we award a beautiful Study Bible to one person who sends in answers. Thank you for answering the "QB". (alf)

"Fools and/or Foolish" (Jesus)

The above words are used to describe people with certain undesirable characteristics. Jesus spoke of some as "fools" or as "foolish". Match the phrase in column one with the most appropriate statement in column two. (Chapters to help in your study are: Matthew chapters 7, 25, and 23; also Luke chapters 12 and 24)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Foolish Builder | ___ Foundation was sand |
| 2. Foolish Virgins | ___ Left God out of his plans |
| 3. Foolish Farmer | ___ Blinded to the truth |
| 4. Foolish Disciples | ___ Slow to believe prophets |
| 5. Foolish Hypocrites | ___ Waited until it was "too late" |

How to Identify a Fool (Proverbs)

According to the book of Proverbs, fools have certain characteristics. Read each of the following chapters and find the verse which lists one of the qualities of a fool. Match the reference in column one with the characteristic in column two.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Proverbs 01:___ | ___ <i>Despises wisdom and instruction</i> |
| 2. Proverbs 10:___ | ___ <i>Trusteth in his own heart</i> |
| 3. Proverbs 12:___ | ___ <i>Always right in his own eyes</i> |
| 4. Proverbs 14:___ | ___ <i>Despises his father's instructions</i> |
| 5. Proverbs 15:___ | ___ <i>Has no delight in understanding</i> |
| 6. Proverbs 18:___ | ___ <i>Makes mockery of sin</i> |
| 7. Proverbs 28:___ | ___ <i>Hides hatred and utters slander</i> |

"No God!" (Who said that? Answer: "The Fool")

Please find the two chapters in the book of Psalms which are almost identical. One chapter is divided into six verses; the other into seven. You are asked to locate the chapters and fill in the missing words.) Both chapters begin with the following *sad* words.

(Psalms ___:1 and Psalms ___:1)

"The _____ hath said in his _____, there is _____ God...."

Faithful Parents and Foolish Children

According to the wisdom writings in Proverbs, how do foolish children affect their loving and caring parents? Write the missing words in the following quotations selected from Proverbs chapters 15,17 and 19.

- "A _____ son maketh a _____ father: but a _____ man despiseth his _____." (Proverbs 15:___)
- "He that _____ a _____ doeth it to his _____: and the _____ of a _____ hath no _____." (Proverbs 17:___)
- "A foolish _____ is a _____ to his _____, and _____ to her that _____ him." (Proverbs 17:___)
- "A _____ son is the _____ of his _____...." (Proverbs 19:___)

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

Corrections

"Austin" & "Hill"

In the Nov/Dec, 2008 issue of the MM, we mistakenly identified a picture of Faires Austin as Austin Faires. (Faires is an Austin.) We also goofed in identifying a picture of Gene Hill as Jerry Hill. (Jerry is Gene's wife.) Sorry about the mistakes! Thanks for your forgiveness! (alf/Editor)



Thanks
Lone Pine Church

There's something in this issue of the MM that will surely "**Ring Your Bell.**"

News Notes

BELMONT

M. Wayne Mitchell, Publisher of The Belmont and Tishomingo Journal for the past thirty-four years has also been preaching for the Mt. Gilead Church of Christ near Belmont, MS. for the past twelve and a half years.

BATON ROUGE

A Youth Rally, Renewal 2009, is planned at the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ for February 27-March 1, 2009 with guest speaker **Patrick Mead**.

COOKVILLE, TN.

The 2009 Tennessee Bible College Lectureship is scheduled for April 29 - May 3, 2009. The theme is "Evangelizing the Eastern Seaboard."

New Bible Winner
Jerry Jones
Memphis, Tennessee
Congratulations!

Bible Lands Trip

Jerusalem, Galilee,
Bethlehem, Jericho
and other important sites
With Al & Paul Franks
November 3, 2009
Cost: \$1998*
(From New York)
Classic 10-Day Tour
(Details on Page 11)

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized

Examples in the Book of Acts

Jews on Pentecost

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

Corinthians

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

Samaritans

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

Simon

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

Ethiopian Eunuch

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

Saul

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

Cornelius

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

Lydia

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

Jailor

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

Ephesians

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

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized!

Wonder Why? Could it be?

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Quotations from KJV & NKJV.

Have YOU Been Baptized?

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

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

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

"And now, why are you waiting?"

Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins." (Acts 22:16)