



# Magnolia Messenger

APRIL-JUNE, 2010 -- VOLUME 32; NUMBER 2 -- Our 32nd Year

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

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090

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Early Morning Devotionals

**A Great Way To Start a Good Day!**

Elliott and Price Share on Page 17

Magnolia Messenger

Reaches Every State  
In The Nation

Circulation: Near 25,000  
**We are Thankful!**

## Campaign for Christ

Corinth, MS

Aug. 22 - 24, 2010

Why Christ is the Answer

Evangelist: Alan Highers

(See ad on Page 10)

Held in Baton Rouge, LA  
Goodwood Boulevard

- a report -

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## A Reader Asks:

**FIRE**

When Jesus said someone would be cast into "outer darkness," what was he talking about? If he means "hell," as is often said, how can there be "outer darkness" and "fire and brimstone" in the same place? (FDN)

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**DARKNESS**

## Read and Ponder A Good Man's Bad Decision

(Gardner's Article on Page 5)

"Some seem willfully ignorant of God's directives for male leadership, a cappella singing, the Lord's Supper only on the Lord's Day, and other matters as they "craft" a worship experience after the desires of the worshippers."



John Gardner

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

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Sermon on the Mount

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## Studying Salmon

May Help You Get To Heaven



According to a Ten Year Old

(Turn to page 20)

## Trip to Bible Lands Cancelled

Our planned trip in November to the "Lands of the Bible" has been cancelled by our provider -- Educational Opportunities. We are, however, making plans, God willing, for an **expanded** trip to the Bible Lands in the **fall of 2011**. We would love to have you go with us. For information, please call Paul at 337-515-7314. (Al & Paul)



Mexico Missions Proving Productive. Help is Needed. (Story on Page 15)

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)

Brother Franks,

We enjoy so very much the MM. Thank you for sending it and for all the good that is done through it. Your brother, (Ted Knight)

Read through MM last night. Excellent issue. Updates on MBC informative and needed. Need Ken Joines' wisdom in every issue. Even read June's article. She is very under paid! Proud my few words could be part of such an excellent issue. (Dennis Doughty)

To whom it may concern:

I do not know how you got my name and address, or how you got my new address when I moved recently, but I would like to request you cease sending me the publication "Magnolia Messenger." It's a waste of your effort as it goes immediately into the trash. Thank you very much. (Name withheld by editor)

Dear brother Franks,

Ava and I both enjoy the Magnolia Messenger. It allows us to keep in touch with Mississippi churches and people we haven't seen in years... I have personally appreciated your attitude, sound judgment and your leadership abilities... You have avoided the pitfalls of radicalism, hobbies and preacher jealousy. The biggest achievement (to me) -- you have created the desire to preach in your own son(s)? A sure sign you and June have lived what you preach. Not bad for a Mississippi

woman and a Louisiana man. I salute you in the name of the Lord whom we both love and serve.... (Bill Ross; 17327 Peggy Road; Alachua, FL 32615) **Editor's Note:** Bill Ross preached in Mississippi (Tupelo) back in the 50's.

Dear Al,

I have long enjoyed the work you and June have done, and do with the Magnolia Messenger. I would appreciate you adding... to your mailing list... I have enclosed an appreciation of \$\_\_\_\_. We have enjoyed every issue. Thanks again. Sincerely yours in Hope of Heaven. **Bill Huggins;** 3191 Sunnyview Drive; Union City, TN 38261) **Editor's Note:** Bill Huggins preached several years for the church in Booneville, MS.

I would like to receive your publication... I also was given one of the papers when I went to Ellisville, MS.

... I am the minister at the Church of Christ here in Interlachen, Florida. We are a small congregation of about 25-30 members. For this reason we take advantage of free publications where we can. Thank you again for the efforts you invest in this work. I believe it will aide in the strengthening of the saints here... I would like to know what it would cost to subscribe to receive 10 copies? In His Service, (Curtis Jones). **No Charge!** (editor)

Thanks for Reading the MM

Brother Franks,

I am so glad that you and June had the opportunity to go to Jerusalem and the surrounding areas mentioned in our Bibles and see the same scenes that are still there.

Very much have I appreciated the MM and the spirit and nature of which it is presented. I've never met you and your wife June but with this paper throughout the years I feel I know the both of you just from what I gather in the writings of what I consider one of the best publications made possible through the effort that is put forth to make it available to the areas of which it is mailed out.

I've never read a mean-spirited nor any article in this paper that has "an ax to grind". Your format given on the inside cover of the front page sets forth a very much desired description to the reader that he/she has to look forward.

Keep up the good work that all of you are putting forth and may God continue to richly bless you as well as the whole brotherhood according to His will.

I thoroughly enjoyed your article about your trip to areas of Palestine and hope you can go again, Lord willing of course. I, too, regret the situation presently in this area of our world. I do believe though as 2 Kings 6:16 lets us know about our status each and every day if we'd only heed the message of the Bible. (Randle C. Mauney, Corinth, MS)

You are doing an excellent job-- Your doctrine is from the Bible and it's good to read the Magnolia Messenger. Thanks, (John A. Parham, Midland City, AL)

I enjoy the MM so very much. It is a blessing to me and many others, I'm sure. Please accept this contribution and my prayers to help keep this "Good News" coming. In Christian Love, (C. Howell, Quinton, AL)

Thank you for the Magnolia Messenger. We love it. (Gene & Wilma Finley, Star City, AR)

Readers' Response... Welcomed!

Old Union  
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## Stopping Short

... Baptism  
... "Gift of the Holy Spirit"



Alfred (Al) L. Franks  
- Editor -

Saturday afternoon. Just past lunch. Sleepy, I felt. You know how it is. And, now that I've passed that special age of "three score and ten," I am fairly comfortable to take out time for a nap, especially on a Saturday afternoon. So, I stretched out on the bed, reached over and turned on the radio which was pre-tuned to a "talk station."

A man's voice was heard. Apparently, he was presenting a "short devotional thought." He read from Acts 18, verse 8. This is what he said as he quoted from scripture, "And many of the Corinthians hearing believed..." He stopped at this point in his quotation and immediately went on to another thought. I couldn't help but notice that the religious teacher stopped short. He didn't read or quote the last three words of the verse.

The message, had the teacher read the rest of the verse, would have been different. The scripture actually states, "...many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized." Why did the teacher leave out the words, "and were baptized"? Was his omission deliberate? Only God knows for sure; however, I do know that many religious spokesmen make it a practice to stop short of teaching the Lord's requirement for baptism as it is plainly taught in the holy scriptures.

As I considered writing this article for the MM, which may be perceived as critical of the radio minister for stopping short in teaching the entire plan of salvation, I couldn't help but recall other instances where it is a common practice for teachers to stop short in making known the "whole counsel" of God. Sadly, this "stopping short" business, at times, includes some who may go all the way in teaching the commands, but then "stop short" when stressing the wonderful promises to be enjoyed by all who choose to become part of God's earthly family.

For instance, in Acts 2:38, when those who heard Peter preaching on Pentecost asked, "What shall we do?" the apostle replied, "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." As already noted, some teachers find it convenient to stop short of stating both of the commands given by the inspired apostle. They stress the command to "Repent", but stop short of stressing the command, "Be baptized." This is a sad reality. It really is. But, keep reading.

What applies to "stopping short" in the matter of commandments, also applies to stopping short in the matter of promises. The inspired apostle issued two commandments; which were/are: "repent and be baptized." He also included two promises; that is, "remission of sins" and "the gift of the Holy Spirit." Now just as a teacher should not stop short with the commands given, neither should he stop short with the promises made.

Among the "great and precious promises" in Acts 2, our Lord promised the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. No one, including me or any other man, has a right to stop short of declaring the "whole counsel of God" on whatever Biblical topic is being discussed. The "gift of the Holy Spirit" is a vital part of the promises of the gospel; just as is the "remission of sins." And, although we may not fully understand what is meant by the Holy Spirit as a gift to new Christians; yet, the "gift" is a valuable/vital part of the promises given to believers; that is, to true believers who have demonstrated their faith in Jesus as both Saviour and Lord through obedience in repentance and baptism.

May I... may you... desire the "sum" of the gospel; may we make known that we want to hear "all that is commanded of the Lord" and that we will not be satisfied with any message or messenger who deliberately stops short in teaching the "whole counsel of God" -- whether it be in teaching His commands or His promises. (alf, 3/22/09)

More on these matters in future issues, Lord willing. Your comments, suggestions and scriptural articles are invited. Contact the editor at [franksmm@aol.com](mailto:franksmm@aol.com); P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090.

### Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

E-Mail: [franksmm@aol.com](mailto:franksmm@aol.com)

# Bible Questions Answered

**QUESTION:** When Jesus said someone would be cast into “outer darkness,” what was he talking about? If he means “hell,” as is often said, how can there be “outer darkness” and “fire and brimstone” in the same place? (FDN)

**RESPONSE:** Hell is undoubtedly what Jesus refers to with that expression.

## Outer Darkness

Jesus is the only one who uses the expression “outer darkness” and he does so three times, all recorded in Matthew.

1. Talking to his disciples, after seeing the great faith of the centurion whose servant he had healed, Jesus said, “I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 8:11-13).

2. In a parable Jesus told, a king, seeing a man at a wedding feast without a wedding garment, “said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth’” (Matthew 22:13).

3. In the parable of the talents the master said to the unprofitable one-talent man: “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:30).

Two other passages referring to darkness are worthy of note. The angels that sinned, according to both Peter and Jude are confined in gloom and darkness.

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into

hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment” (2 Peter 2:4); “And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6).

**Hell is unpleasant to contemplate, disagreeable to write about, but so important to avoid.**

On a side note, that fate of these “fallen angels” precludes their being the demons Jesus dealt with in his personal ministry, as some have suggested.

“Hell” into which these angels were cast is, in Peter’s word, *tartarus*, which both in Greek mythology and Jewish apocalyptic writings signified a subterranean place lower than Hades where divine punishment was meted out (Arndt and Gingrich, *Greek Lexicon*). The word appears only here in the New Testament.

## The Fires of Hell

“Hell” in Jesus’ sayings (and it is interesting that Jesus speaks of hell far more frequently than any other New Testament speaker or writer) is *Gehenna*. This word, formed from the “Valley of the sons of Hinnon” (Joshua 15:8; Jeremiah 7:32 *et. al.*), is the word in the Gospels for the place of punishment in the next life. As the questioner suggests, it is often associated with fire.

Often it is called the “*Gehenna* of fire” (Matthew 5:22; 18:9). It is the place “where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:48). It is the final sentence of condemnation for the wicked who persecute the righteous (Matthew 23:33).

The language is taken from the last verse of the prophecy of Isaiah, “And they shall go out

and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me.

For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh” (Isaiah 66:24). “The worm” is internal, “the fire” is external; thus the entire suffering of the damned is described.

“This *skolex* is the maggot that consumes the flesh of the corpse. The fact that it does not

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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die means that its work is eternal just as the fire is not quenched and is thus eternal. Within and without, torment shall be the lot of the damned. The bodies of the blessed shall shine with glory and eternal bliss, but the bodies of the damned shall be like rotting putrid corpses that have the worm within and the fire without” (R.C.H. Lenski, *Interpretation of St. Mark’s Gospel*, p. 408).

“Fire and brimstone” (KJV), translated “fire and sulfur” in many newer translations such as the ESV, is not specifically connected in any Scripture verse with *gehenna*, but undoubtedly refers to the same place. For example, “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

This expression occurs primarily in Revelation. One instructive verse gives the fate of Satan: “and the devil (Satan, verse 7) who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

From Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, many think of Satan as “King of Hell.” Many popular representations have him as the tormentor of the damned. This verse tells the truth. Rather than being the chief tormentor, he himself will be one of the tormented.

## Fire and Darkness?

The first response to how “outer darkness” and “fire” can coexist in hell is, “God in his power can take care of that.”

When the Sadducees challenged Jesus denying resurrection from the dead, he responded, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29).

The Sadducees had raised a question about a woman who legitimately (though hypothetically) had lived with seven husbands. Their question, “In the resurrection . . . whose wife will she be?” reflected an erroneous view of the difference between our physical bodies with its fleshly needs and our glorious, spiritual resurrection bodies.

Jesus showed that Scripture did indeed demand a resurrection, and, in effect, said of the Sadducees’ dilemma, “God can take care of that problem.” So that is a suitable answer here as well.

It is also pertinent to note that the language concerning hell (and heaven) is largely figurative.

That is not the same as saying, “The language does not really have any meaning.” Rather it says, “The torments of hell (and the beauties and glories of heaven) are so far beyond human imagination it is impossible to speak of them except figuratively, comparing them to the nearest earthly things we know and have experienced.

Hell is far more terrible than we can literally describe; heaven is far more beautiful and desirable than we can comprehend.

## Without God

Paul describes the people of

Ephesus, when they were pagans, as “having no hope and without God in the world.”

Darkness, in Scripture is often used metaphorically to picture evil and willful ignorance.

Shortly after speaking the words we call “the golden text of the Bible” Jesus said the following: “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the

**“The torments of hell (and the beauties and glories of heaven) are so far beyond human imagination it is impossible to speak of them except figuratively, comparing them to the nearest earthly things we know and have experienced.**

darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not

come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God” (John 3:19-21).

“The light (that) has come into the world” is, of course, Jesus himself. Evil and deliberately self-imposed spiritual blindness cannot stand light.

“Outer darkness,” where all that is evil will be, is a metaphor for the utter absence of God and Christ. And where there is no God there is not only no light but there is also no hope.

Dante had it right with his imaginary inscription over the gate of Hell: “all hope abandon, ye who enter here” (Dante, *Divine Comedy, Inferno*, iii.9).

Hell is unpleasant to contemplate, disagreeable to write about, but so important to avoid. Because we all have sinned we cannot escape it on our own merits, but through the grace of God and the precious blood of Jesus Christ his Son, he suffered death and hell for us so that we can receive him by obedient faith and need not come into condemnation. **CM**

**JESUS warned:** “... fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28)

*Thanks for always sending the Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy it very much -- especially Cecil May's articles. I always share my copy with someone else. May God bless the staff. (Evelyn Faulkenbury; Clovis, NM)*

## “God is Not Mocked”

**“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal. 6:7)**

- John Allan -

A constant struggle for Christians is endurance. There are many temptations to stop the Christian race and return to the world and its evil practices. Christians are mocked by non-believers and tempted to indulge in worldly pleasures. It is challenging to be faithful!

How do we persevere when we are bombarded with trials? How do we keep the faith at times when it appears the wicked are prospering? Paul helps us answer that question in Galatians 6:7; “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

Paul appealed to God’s natural order to demonstrate God’s spiritual order. Understanding both of them reminds us of the hope faithful Christians have of eternal life.

### There is a Natural Order

Paul’s statement that a man will reap what he sows makes no sense if there were no natural order. We are introduced to God’s natural order in Genesis.

Genesis 1:11-12 tells us that each plant God created produces “according to its kind.” You would not plant a tulip and expect a daisy to grow instead. If you plant a tulip a tulip is what will grow. This is consistent with God’s natural order.

Genesis 1:21 and 1:25 shows us that animals produce according to their kind. We know better than to believe that a cow would give birth to a hippopotamus or that an eagle’s egg would hatch to reveal a sparrow. We know better because we understand God’s natural order.

James reminds us of this simple truth in James 3:11-12 where he uses illustrations to prove that cursing should not proceed from the mouth of a Christian. James explains that it is as unreasonable for the mouth of a Christian to be the source of cursing as it is for a fig tree to be the source of olives.

If God’s natural order is not true then James’ illustration



John Allan

makes no sense. Yet, his logic in James 3 is so beautifully straightforward as to be understood most easily.

If this natural order did not hold true then God could rightly be mocked. He would be a liar because the observations from Creation as recorded in Genesis one do not align with fact. However, since God’s natural order is true those who mock God and His natural order by teaching otherwise will have to give an answer for their baseless claims against Him.

### There is a Spiritual Order

Understanding God’s natural order helps us to understand the spiritual order, which Paul explains in Galatians 6:8. Sowing to the flesh reaps corruption, and sowing to the spirit reaps everlasting life.

If you plant corn you know that when the harvest time comes you will be plucking corn. Just as certainly, we know that sowing to the flesh means we will reap corruption. There are many who live their lives sowing to the flesh and praying for crop failure. In other words, they live in sin but expect somehow that they will reap

**We know better than to believe that a cow would give birth to a hippopotamus or that an eagle’s egg would hatch to reveal a sparrow.**

eternal life. Such an expectation is not in harmony with the spiritual order.

Those who believe they can sow to the flesh and still reap everlasting life mock God because they deny that His

spiritual order will hold true. How sad and how tragic it will be on Judgment Day when those who have denied God’s spiritual order receive the consequences of their sin.

The Christian understands the spiritual order, and therefore sows to the Spirit. He has obeyed the gospel through hearing and believing the Gospel, repenting of sins, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). He continues his life in faithful service to the Lord, understanding that in doing so he is sowing to the Spirit to reap eternal life.

God is not mocked. Yes, there are those who mock Him, but their mocking is not justified and it will not stand. We cannot sow to the flesh and expect eternal life. We can sow to the Spirit, trusting God and His order for confidence that helps us persevere.

John serves as preacher for the Clinton, Mississippi church. Address: 155 Broadway St.; Clinton, MS 39056-4801 Email: johnalism@gmail.com

### More Readers’ Response

*I enjoy the Messenger. It is very good. Reading the poem by Barbara Cagle Ray, brought to mind a recent limerick of mine. It goes like this:*

*“There is tremendous profit with a smile.*

*It can be repeated in a very short while.*

*Just a little effort it takes, And a new friend it makes.”*

*The good part. It never goes out of style. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, (O. Wendell Pickle, Danielsville, GA)*

*Thanks, I really enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger, hearing about the work of different churches. I also enjoy the quiz and all other readings. Thanks again, for your hard work. Hope this little donation will help. (Willie Thames, Brandon, MS)*

*I enjoy the Messenger very much. Keep up the good work. (Audrey Seago, Senatobia, MS)*

*May God continue to bless you in your work! (Arthur Hume, Jackson, MS)*

*...Thank you and God bless you for the beautiful and wonderful work you do. Thank you, (Mary Warren, Willingham, N.J.)*

### Too Late to Attend; BUT...

#### We Wanted You to Know What was Planned

*The Maywood Missionary Retreat will be held May 13-15 at the Maywood Christian Camp in Hamilton, Ala. It’s for everyone interested in the progress of the gospel around the world.*

*The latest information has been added to the website:*

<http://missionaryretreat.net>

*Come join us for the most inexpensive price in the brotherhood for a retreat. For \$10 a night you get all the food you can eat (24/7!), all the fellowship you can handle, all the teaching and inspiration you can hold — in the midst of God’s nature and the comfort of the Maywood Christian Camp.*

*And some of the speakers are so experienced, they knew Moses!* (Signed) Randal Matheny

### You Can Receive and Read Every Issue of the Magnolia Messenger No Charge to You

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

### DeQuincy, LA Church Plans Meeting With a Special Theme “Campaign America”

In a recent email from **Michael Lerro**, preacher for the church in DeQuincy, LA., we were informed of their upcoming meeting. He stated,

Our meeting is called “CAMPAIGN AMERICA”. We are planning to have it May 14th-16th, God willing. The topics are “Principles that Made America Great” on Friday at 7 P.M., “Myths

That Could Destroy America” on Saturday at 7 P.M., “God’s Word, America’s Only Hope” on Sunday at 9:45 A.M., and “God Bless The U.S.A”, on Sunday at 5:30 P.M.”

The visiting evangelist for the special meeting is **Dan Manuel**, preacher/elder of the Crockett Road Church of Christ in Palestine, Texas.



Michael Lerro

New local preacher for the church of Christ in DeQuincy



Dan Manuel

Visiting evangelist for the special meeting in DeQuincy

#### DeQuincy Church of Christ

225 Hall Street; P.O. Box 1104  
DeQuincy, LA 70633; (337)786-LIFE; [www.dqcofc.com](http://www.dqcofc.com)

## The Bible is the Perfect Guide

- Jimmy W. Garner -

Is there a perfect standard to go by in serving God? The apostle Paul answers: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2). Also Psalms 19:7: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Again, "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." (Psalms 119:89).



Jimmy W. Garner

Paul declared that the holy scriptures, the Bible, is the all-sufficient guide. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The Bible is the perfect standard by which we are to live!

Washington, D. C. is the home of the National Bureau of Standards. It is the federal agency that establishes accurate measurement standards in the United States. In that Bureau is a perfect inch, a perfect yard, a perfect millimeter, a perfect ounce, a perfect pound, etc. Every weight and measure that we have has its standard in that Bureau in Washington. Everything in weights and measures is judged by that standard.

What the Bureau of Standards is to weights and measures, God's word, the Bible, is to those who intend to obey and serve God, our Maker. God's word is perfect. If we live by the Bible, we will go to heaven to live with God eternally. (Acts 20:32; Revelation 22:14.)

Paul powerfully affirmed by the guidance of the Holy Spirit that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16). The scriptures are inspired of God—"God-breathed." God "breathed out" the scriptures!

Whatever we need, whether

in doctrine (teaching), for reproof (this means to convict us of our sins), for correction in life, or for instruction in righteousness -- the scriptures supply us with that! The Bible is the all-sufficient guide! We do not need another.

Do you regularly and seriously consult the Bible for guidance in your life?

Sometimes people say: "Why should I consult the Bible about my life and my problems? The Bible was completed two thousand years

ago. The Bible does not address my life-situation."

Bible principles do fit and address our life-situations today! God utilized His omnipotent power to give to "... us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The apostle Paul put it this way: "... that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:17). The English Standard Version says, "... that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." "And now I ... commend you to God ... and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

*(Brother Garner preaches for the Sweetwater Church of Christ [Hohenwald, TN]. His address is: Jimmy Garner; 3016 Old Highway 13, South; Linden, TN 37096)*

### JACKSON

The Hanging Moss Road congregation, in conjunction with the North Flora church, have planned a cooperative effort involving a Soul Winning Workshop and a Gospel Revival Meeting. The two efforts are/were scheduled for May 15 -- May 19, 2010. Visiting evangelist and Facilitator is **Charlie McClendon** of Jacksonville, Florida. **Curtis W. Pittman** preaches for the Hanging Moss congregation and **Ralph Flowers** is the preacher at Flora. For more information about this special cooperative effort, call 601-982-5219 or 601-879-3509. *It is good to see churches of Christ working together to save souls!* (editor)

## A Good Man's Bad Decision

- John Gardner -

"...The Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order" (1 Chronicles 15: 13, New King James Version).

David angered God, then became angry with God. It all happened because of a presumptuous decision David made about a procedure intended to further a wonderful celebration honoring God and blessing Israel. Because of his decision, he contributed to a man's death and caused great fear and consternation among God's people. Instead of blessing God's people, the decision deprived them of a blessing for three months.

### The Decision to Move the Ark

When David was established as king over Israel, he was moved by noble desires to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 13: 1 - 4). It had been in Kirjath Jearim for 20



John Gardner

The oxen pulling the cart stumbled near the threshing floor. That stumbling revealed human stumbling of a different kind. Uzza reached out a hand to steady the ark lest it topple from the cart (1 Chronicles 13: 9). "The anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark, and he died there before the Lord" (Verse 10). David immediately became angry, not with Uzza for touching the sacred ark, nor with himself for putting it on a cart instead of following God's plan (which he would later follow), but with God (Verse 11). Verses 12 - 14 tell us that David was overcome with fear and refused to move the ark toward the city, but placed it in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for safe keeping.

Three months later, a wiser and penitent David orders that the ark of God be brought from the house of Obed-Edom to Jerusalem in the manner "Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord" (1 Chronicles 15: 15). The Levites and priests sanctified themselves, and the "children of the Levites" carried the ark on their shoulders by its poles. The occasion was one of exuberant celebration and

**Some seem willfully ignorant of God's directives for male leadership, a cappella singing, the Lord's Supper only on the Lord's Day, and other matters as they "craft" a worship experience after the desires of the worshippers.**

years and was greatly missed by "all the house of Israel" (1 Samuel 7:2). It was the appointed place where the Lord of Hosts promised to dwell between the cherubim (2 Samuel 6: 2). What a blessing it was to have it close by as the focal point of worship to God.

When David gathered "all of the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand" (2 Samuel 6: 1) to bring the ark up from Kirjah Jearim to Jerusalem, he decided to place the ark of God on a new

cart. Two men were chosen to direct the humble conveyance, Uzza and Ahio (1 Chronicles 13: 7), with Ahio walking before it (2 Samuel 6: 4). The procession toward the city was joyous and celebratory as the sounds of songs and instruments filled the air. What a wonderful occasion it must have seemed... until they came to the threshing floor of Nachon (also called Chidon).

sacrifice to the Lord. The ark was placed in a tabernacle David had prepared for it (1 Chronicles 16: 1) and the whole nation received a blessing from David and gifts from his hand (Verses 2, 3).

Anger, fear, and disappointment followed the death of a faithful man because of David's decision to do what seemed good in his eyes rather than what God desired. All of that could have been avoided if only David had inquired of the Lord first.

### The Decision Analyzed

It was an uninformed decision. It was made without adequately seeking the Lord's will which God had revealed to Moses centuries before (Deuteronomy 10: 6). As religious as David was, when it came to moving the ark to Jerusalem, he did not search to find God's will in the Book of the Law for making such a move.

It seems apparent that many in the Lord's church today are making important decisions about worship practices without regard to what God has revealed in the New Testament. Some seem willfully ignorant of God's

**Anger, fear, and disappointment followed the death of a faithful man because of David's decision to do what seemed good in his eyes rather than what God desired.**

directives for male leadership, a cappella singing, the Lord's Supper only on the Lord's Day, and other matters as they "craft" a worship experience after the desires of the worshippers.

It was a decision which had the appearance of honoring God. Placing the ark of God on the cart was not intended to disrespect God. To the contrary, it was placed on a new cart, under the direction of two faithful men, and was the focus of the magnificent worshipping procession. Surely God would be pleased with the intention, if not the practice! But in fact, God was dishonored. Some today seem carried away with how "spiritual" or "uplifting" certain unscriptural innovations seem to them in their worship gatherings. Many leave feeling "closer to God". But what if God is dishonored because those gathering in the

See GOOD MAN on page 16

## "In Loving Memory Of"

### Paul Walden

1931 - 2010

Paul W. Walden entered this life on September 13, 1931. After more than 78 years of earthly life, much of which involved "Laboring in the Lord's kingdom", Paul entered into that special "rest" on February 19, 2010. Paul's life blessed the lives of countless folks who knew and loved him. My wife and I are thankful to be among that number.

Funeral services were conducted on February 22 at the assembly place of the North Brandon Church of Christ where Paul had served as a long time member. One of his sons, **Wayne Walden** led beautiful congregational singing and his son-in-law **David A Fields** presented a very fitting message.

All in attendance were blessed with the opportunity of expressing the precious hope all Christians have through Jesus. Such hope was appropriately exclaimed in the singing of, "To Canaan's Land, I'm on My Way." and "Mansion on the Hill Top." High respect and great admiration was vividly manifested by the large crowd attending the funeral service.

My June and I express our sincere sympathy to his beloved wife, **LaRue**, along with their children and families. May God richly bless each as you re-live your precious memories and as you recall the reasons you have for the wonderful hope of life eternal with the Father.

#### Comforting Words From One Who Loved Paul Walden

Brother Franks,

*You don't know that you know me, but you do. Over the last 30 years, we have met at MBC many times. I know that you and Paul were friends. My wife and I sat just in front of you at Paul's funeral.*

*I write in hopes that you would, after correcting spelling and any errors you find in my thoughts, that you would publish this.*

I came to church on Sunday morning and sat down; my wife came in and sat down beside me crying. She asked me if I had the heart medicine with me. "Why?" I asked. She said, "I have to tell you that Paul Walden died Friday; I did not know if I should tell you."

I was in shock... could not believe it. That night I could not sleep for a long time as I pondered his passing. I said to myself "A great flame has gone out." I thought about all the years Paul had preached at any place he could. He was not a great speaker, as the world might judge; he was about Bible Truth. If you ever heard him speak, you might not be impressed with his delivery, but you would come away with a full plate of Bible meat -- unless he thought you needed milk. Paul (the Walden) piled on the growth material, a lot like Paul (the apostle), whom he quoted often.

Then I thought about all the mission work to Jamacia and Cuba, when he would have to leave his wife and family for weeks at a time, not knowing, at the time, if he would be allowed to return home as there was a real danger of becoming a guest of the state.

Paul Walden and **the team** he worked with have had over 2,500

baptisms in Cuba alone. I could write pages of the things he has done to try and reach the lost.

After more reflection, I came to know that a great flame gives off sparks and some of them smolder for a long time. Others catch and make a flame right away. So, I realize the great fire has not gone out; it has spread over a great distance, just as Jesus passed the light on to the first century Christians who passed it down. So has Paul passed it on to all he could.

*(Written by and sent to the MM by David Henderson.)*

The Walden family can be reached at the following address:  
Mrs. Paul Walden  
106 Fawnwood Dr  
Brandon, MS 39042-4002

#### News Note

##### ASHVILLE, AL

The Ashville Church of Christ scheduled a Gospel Meeting for April 25 - 28, 2010 with evangelist **Wade Webster**, preacher for the Southaven, MS congregation. Brother Webster's announced subject topics looked very interesting. The planned sermons, with editor's comments in parenthesis, included a lesson on "The Song of Solomon" (*don't hear many lessons on that book*); then, there was a sermon on "Jesus Wept"; (*shortest verse; no doubt, a powerful sermon*) another entitled, "Making Hell Personal" (*a great need*) and a sermon about "Onesimus". Sounds like some good preaching. Sorry that this news note is out too late for you to attend what we have reason to believe was a great gospel meeting.



Hubert Franks

## The Lord's Church Is Important!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** On Thursday night, April 8, 2010, my June and I were excited to visit with the newly re-established church of Christ in Leesville, Louisiana. A gospel meeting, which had started on Sunday morning, was still in progress. Two powerful lessons were delivered that night by two different preachers; both of whom are relatives of mine -- an uncle (**Hubert**) and a first cousin (**Joey**).

**Hubert Franks** was the first of the two speakers for the evening. His sermon was a declaration -- "**The Church is Important!**" Several scriptural reasons were given by "Uncle Hubert" for the importance of Christ's church.

(1) The church is important because **it is the body of Christ**. Using Ephesians 1:22, 23, and several other passages, he stressed the **unity** of the Lord's body -- how that every member must give diligence to work together under the leadership of the "**head**" who is Jesus Christ. This means no schism; no division in the body which is the Lord's church. No one should ever question the importance of the church because it is Christ's spiritual body.

(2) The church is important because **Jesus built the church**. Jesus promised, "...Upon this rock I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18). Whatever Jesus built is important. And since Jesus kept His promise -- He built the church -- it is important.

(3) The church is important because **it is a blood-bought institution**. Jesus loved the church so much He "*gave himself for the church*" (Eph. 5:25). The apostle Paul stated that Jesus "*purchased*" the church "*with his own blood*." (Acts 20:28). Truly the church was "*bought with a price*". What a price! The blood of God's son. There can be no doubt: the church is important!

(4) The church is important because **it is the saved**. According to Acts 2:47, the Lord adds the saved

## Meigg Street - Corinth, MS

### Homecoming

Meigg Street Church of Christ's Homecoming celebration will be Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 4th, beginning with lunch on the grounds Saturday, July 3 @ 12:00 noon. There will be games and activities for all ages.

Sunday Service will start with Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m., fellowship luncheon at 12:30 p.m., and afternoon services at 2:00 p.m. Guest Minister for Sunday Services is Bro. Cederic Davis from Huntsville, Alabama.

If you are interested in competitive sports and games, please organize a team and let's have some fun. Games will consist of volley-balls, sack races, kickball, 3 on 3 basketball, board games, and more.

RSVP to [meiggstreetchurchofchrist@yahoo.com](mailto:meiggstreetchurchofchrist@yahoo.com)

to His church. Again, the apostle wrote about the church and Christ and said, Jesus is "*the saviour of the body*" (Eph. 5:23). Since the church is the saved, the church is very important.

(5) The church is important because **it is the "Lord's Support Group"**. The church is spoken of as the "*house of God*" (1 Tim. 3:15); it is the "*household of faith*" (Gal. 6:10). The church is **family** -- **God's family**. Christians are brothers and sisters. Hubert said, "God knew that we needed each other." He related how, that several years ago, when his wife of 43 years died, he was blessed with a "support group". **It was the Newton church of Christ**. This is the way God intended that our needs be met. As members of the Lord's church, all are "blood kin" through the sacrifice of Jesus and the shedding of His blood. As God's "support group" the church is important.

(6) The church is important because **it is the "pillar and ground of the truth"**. So teaches 1 Tim. 3:15. The church is to make known "the truth" in a "world of error". When we realize that knowing and obeying truth is vital, and that the Lord has placed on the church the responsibility of "preaching the gospel [truth]" to all the world (Mark 16:15), it is evident that the Lord's church is important. May no one ever doubt the importance of the

"World's greatest institution" -- the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Hubert Franks has served the church in Newton, Texas for more than 50 years. His address:*

Hubert Franks  
PO Box 38

Newton, TX 75966-0038

## News Note

### SHERMAN

**Joe Connell**, preacher for the Sherman Church of Christ has made fifteen mission trips to Ghana in Africa. Referring to a recent trip to Ghana brother Joe stated, "The program started this year with 900 registering on the first day and by the third day 1300 had registered. The children, which were not counted, would be 300-400. Also, there would have been a hundred of so who did not register. Fifteen years ago in the Brong-Ahafo region there were 30-40 congregations. Today there are 135-150. The brethren in those older congregations have rallied to do a great work."

*We are not members of your church but have a lot of friends who do belong. J. T. and Sue Morgan are real good friends. (Bill & Eloise Purvis, Florence, MS)*

*I enjoy so much the Question Box and reading the Magnolia Messenger. I pray the continuing of Magnolia Messenger will never cease. In Christ, (Gail Gurganus, Cordova, AL)*

## USED PEWS FOR SALE

Used pews *in very good condition* for sale.

28 are 12' and 6 are 11'.

Seat and back padded.

Price, *best offer above* \$8,000.00.

Located near Mobile in Spanish Fort, Alabama.

Phone (251) 626-3064, (251) 626-6629.

Relationships

“My God and I”

- Tim Childs -

How often do you think about your relationship with God? Have you given it much thought recently? Do you realize Satan wants us to live each day as though there is no God? Can we become so busy with such important things that we forget his presence and our real dependence on him? Is it possible for you and me to become quite similar to those spoken of in Scripture who did not like to retain the knowledge of God in their minds?

What do you think about the current state of your relationship with God? Are you and I in the great number of those in our society who would rather not think about that? Does that make us feel a bit uncomfortable? Or, do you have a healthy, thriving relationship? If you are willing to examine and evaluate in light of Scripture, what do you think God thinks about the state of your



Tim Childs

relationship with him? Is God well-pleased?

Have you given thought to what changes God may want you to make to produce a stronger, more satisfying relationship with him? Have you thought about

examining the life of Jesus to determine what it was, specifically, that enabled him to have such a close-knit, tight relationship with our heavenly Father? Do you suppose Jesus can give us insight into building a stronger, meaningful relationship with the Father in heaven?

What relationship do you experience with another/others that is more significant than the relationship you and I are able to develop with our Creator, Savior, Redeemer, Friend?

Address: Tim Childs; Hillcrest Church of Christ; 956 S 4th St; Baldwyn, MS 38824. E-mail: hillcrestchurch@bellsouth.net,

Bonnie Vansandt

Retiring as Director of Pine Vale Children's Home

“Who can find a virtuous woman?” (Proverbs 31:1)

Proverbs 31 certainly describes Mrs. Bonnie Vansandt, retiring director of Pine Vale Children's Home located at 1872 CR 700 in Corinth, MS. Bonnie and her husband, Jim came to Pine Vale in October, 1998. Upon his untimely death in 2001, the board hired Bonnie as director. On June 1, 2010, Bonnie will begin a new chapter in her life as a servant to the Lord.

Pine Vale has indeed been blessed to have Bonnie at its helm. She fits all the characteristics of the virtuous woman – strong, courageous and determined. Proverbs 31:20 also describes Bonnie as it says “She extends her hand to the poor, yes she reaches out her hands

to the needy.” Bonnie plans to continue volunteering her time and energy at Pine Vale following her retirement by opening and organizing a thrift store to help the needy of the community. She wants this thrift store to give Pine Vale children an opportunity to “have a job”; to work and meet the public, count money and organize.

Please join us as we wish Bonnie well in this new chapter in her life. And remember – the welcome mat is always out at Pine Vale! We look forward to serving God at Pine Vale. Our mission is three fold: to remain spiritually sound, to remain financially sound and to build on the foundation that has been laid. We need your support as we continue in the good work at Pine Vale. Come see us soon!

(Tommy and Lynn Baragona)

God willing, Tommy Baragona will begin working as Director of Pine Vale on June 1, 2010. Tommy and his wife, Lynn, are members of the Booneville Church of Christ, where he continues to serve as an elder. Their email address is: [tommybaragona@gmail.com](mailto:tommybaragona@gmail.com) or [lynnbaragona@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbaragona@gmail.com).

News Notes

BOGALUSA, LA

“so proud of the brethren”

Mike Price, preacher for the mission church in Bogalusa, LA., recently wrote:

“Since this last Saturday, we have been holding a gospel meeting. Trying to reach the lost as we knocked doors in our community as well as using this time to revive our commitments to God. We knocked doors Saturday and Monday setting up three Bible studies and have 10 contacts from the door knocking and hope to cultivate their interest in studying God's word.

Preaching started this last Sunday along with a pot-luck lunch and fellowship followed by more preaching. We had three visitors Sunday, 10 Monday evening at the 7:00 pm worship and 6 visitors yesterday evening (Tuesday) and we know of some more who said they would come tonight at 7:00 pm. Tonight is the last night of our gospel meeting.

Please pray for our Bible studies that are in progress at the moment. What makes this such a special meeting is that the Bogalusa congregation has done all the work. We had 10 people from this little mission work help in knocking doors, with others preparing food for the fellowship and I am doing the preaching. I am so proud of the brethren here at Bogalusa and their willingness to grow....”

BATESVILLE

A Gospel Meeting is planned for July 25 - July 30, 2010 at the Batesville Church of Christ, Batesville, Mississippi with Barry Grider doing the preaching.

NEW ALBANY

The New Albany Church of Christ states in their church bulletin that their search for a new minister has ended. The elders have announced that Mike King will soon be serving as their new minister. Mike and his wife, Shelia, will be moving to New Albany from Orange Park, Florida, where they have worked for several years. Their Spring Gospel Meeting is planned for May 30 - June 2, 2010. Jesse Robertson will be the guest speaker.

TUPELO

Three New Deacons

The Gloster Street Church of Christ has recently installed three new deacons. They are Louis Cervantes, Rusty Palmer and Dennie Smith. The Gloster Street congregation plans a Campaign to Freeport, Illinois on June 9-14, 2010. Chad Ramsey continues to serve as the local preacher.

Magnolia Messenger Welcomes News Reports

“Jesus Was All That!”

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was written by Rodney Livingston, a graduate of MBC and now a graduate student at FHU. Rodney wrote the article to fulfill a class requirement taught by Professor David Lipe. We've been asked to publish Rodney's article in the MM. Pleased to do so. His complete article consists of two parts. Part I is in this issue. (alf)

- Rodney Livingston -

The nature of Jesus as a human is something that has been debated through the centuries with little certainty in conclusions.

One thing that is certain is that Jesus is the Son of God and lived a period of time in a human body upon this soil. It is this student's conclusion that Jesus was all God and all man, all the same time. Jesus was the Son of God, meaning He was God; He was the



Rodney Livingston

Son of Man, meaning He was born into the world from woman in fulfillment of prophecy and the plan of God the Father.

One might ask, “Was Jesus limited as a human to the physical limitations of man?” One could answer, “It would certainly seem to be the case because Jesus was not, physically, in two different places at one time. However, mentally, He could be at all places, just as God can be, even while in His human body.”

For some, the misunderstanding or lack of clarity about the nature of Jesus, as a human, has caused them to conclude that Jesus never really lived upon this earth. He is viewed as the Son of God and portrayed as living without having ever really walked upon this soil. Consider this conclusion, “Huge volumes of scholarship exist to support the picture of Christ that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John portray.”(1)

Christ claimed to be “all that!” (John 14:6). He is the life because He is the creator of life and is able to give life from the Father (John 5:21). The way, truth, and life are through Jesus and He is the only way that all men must come to the Father.(2) Thus, the conclusion of the character of Jesus, upon which we must proceed, is that for mankind He is all that we need, should want, or wish to have!

First, thinking about the perfect nature of Jesus, we must look at the perfect birth by which

the Son of God entered this world. In its purity and simplicity, it was the birth that all mankind has experienced being born of woman. However, this birth was all but common to man, for in its inception was the Holy Spirit of God working with this woman to produce offspring without the aid of a man -- something never done before and never done again.

The prelude to this verse [about His birth] was hundreds of years of discussion about when, where, and how it would happen, something that no other human can claim. This discussion is well documented and preserved for humans because of the importance of the birth about which they were discussing.

Much of that discussion takes place by the prophet Isaiah. In chapter seven, he speaks through inspiration about the sign of the

Messiah to come. In verse 14, he mentions specifically the birth being from a young woman, a virgin as the Septuagint rendered it. The virgin is revealed as Mary in Matthew and Luke chapter 1 when the angel of the Lord is recorded as coming to Mary and sharing with her the will of the Lord.

Also, in Isaiah 9:6-7, he speaks of a child coming into the world with some mighty responsibilities to fulfill. Some hold Isaiah to be referring to a child of his day, but after careful analysis of the text, the only logical and Godly conclusion is that Isaiah is making reference to Jesus who would be born to Mary in Bethlehem as the Son of God -- perfect in conception and birth. This kind of conception was so unusual that Mary was scared and at first hesitated to play her role. However, after being reassured by the angel, she was willing to fulfill God's desire, even though it was still unfamiliar to her.

The birth of Jesus is the first stepping stone to the perfect nature of Jesus. How could something be perfect if the originality of it was not perfect? Jesus was perfect -- by the perfect will of God (Acts 2:23), by the perfect purity of His mother, Mary (Luke 1:34) and by the perfect righteousness of His Father (Matthew 1:19).

See “He's All That” on page 16

## World Wide Evangelism

and

### Harry D. Middleton

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

(Thursday; Feb. 25, 2010)

It was a pleasure to visit by phone this morning with Harry D. Middleton in Nashville, Tennessee. The pleasant visit reminded me of how blessed we were to become acquainted with him several years ago and to recall that it was mainly through his influence we obtained partial support for a full-time preacher in Forest, MS. (The support came from the Lebanon Road congregation in Nashville where brother Harry has long served as one of the ministers.)

In a recent newsletter received from him, we were reminded of the effective leadership provided by Harry Middleton in "World-wide Evangelism" through the use of Bible correspondence

courses sent out to thousands of students right here in the United States. The following is an excerpt from his recent newsletter.

In the last two years, over 3,000 requests for courses, have been received, making us close to, or slightly over, 25,000 since our beginning in October 1989. These courses could not have been made available without the help of so many of you. Your contributions have kept us in business. The thirty-nine (39) graders (missionaries) at Lebanon Road Church

have done a magnificent job -- keeping the courses graded and returned for mailing.

Our advertising in all the papers in a particular state has given us a tremendous advantage in getting to the citizens of that state. Through US Newspapers this is rather expensive, but is worth the cost. The ads have appeared in all the states that touch Tennessee, as well as, Tennessee, making a total of ten (10) ads. These ads have cost us a total of \$15,443.50.

Within the last two years, there have been sixty-three (63) requests for baptism, fifty-two (52)

requests to speak to an instructor, six (6) requests to view the *Julie Miller* filmstrips, and three (3) students have requested a Bible study in

their home. We have made every effort to see that someone was put in contact with these students, in order to honor their requests. You have made all this possible. I cannot thank you enough, and, please, continue to keep us in your prayers and financial plans.

Support for World Wide Evangelism (P. O. Box 40105; Nashville, TN 37204) with Harry D. Middleton is handled through the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ; P. O. Box 40105; Nashville, TN 37204

**Within the last two years, there have been sixty-three (63) requests for baptism, fifty-two (52) requests to speak to an instructor....**

## NORTH BRANDON Installs New Elders

Recently, the North Brandon church selected three new elders to serve their congregation with an average SM attendance of about 160. The elders are **Austin Brantley, Jackie Mullins** and **James Ruble**.

For more than 10 years, **Ray Penna** has served well as the local preacher. Brother Ray, however, is retiring later this year at which time he and his wife, **Melba**, plan to move to their newly constructed home in Holiday, Tennessee.

The church in Brandon is presently seeking a new preacher (see ad on page 18). We pray God's blessings upon the North Brandon church, its new elders and its retiring preacher.

## Readers' Response

We enjoy your paper and wish to continue to receive it. (Barry G. Roe, Brentwood, CA)

Dear Brother Al & Sister June,  
Janie and I want to thank you for all the efforts you do for the Lord and his Church. Thanks for such a great paper. Keep up the good work. In His Service, (Larry & Janie Wallace, Kosciusko, MS)

## Tornado Opened Doors For Service in Yazoo City, MS

Story on Page 14



*Somewhere in Mississippi*  
Meeting place for another church of Christ

## The Language of Prayer

Developing a strong prayer life is very much like learning a new language. The linguist Yancey writes, "If I want fluency in a foreign language [i.e. prayer, dd], I must set aside time, no doubt giving up something else in the process. I must keep working at it, persisting despite the awkward feelings of a beginner. I persevere only because I value the final result. Nearly everything worthwhile involves the same process."

### To develop this language of Prayer we need to:

1. Find a Place.
2. Find a Time.
3. Establish a Routine.
4. Be Present.

(Get away from the distractions of daily life.)

5. Be Persistent.  
(Pray often.)

6. Adjust Expectations.  
(Give God time to work.)

To learn any language you must study and practice the language and be around those that speak it. It's the same with learning to pray. How fluent are you in the language of prayer?

Dennis Doughty; Tunica Church Of Christ; PO Box 155; Tunica, MS 38676-0155; E-mail: dennis1848@bellsouth.net

## A Simple Prayer Answered!

This is a story about how God answered a SIMPLE PRAYER.

My wife and I are member of the Azalea City Church, in Mobile Alabama. We used to attend the Ellisville Church Of Christ, in Ellisville, MS.

She and I were setting on our patio about 2:30 Monday, May the 3rd. I was eating corn bread and milk when I got choked. I tried every thing I knew to do before I passed out. As I went to the floor, about to pass out, I heard my wife say, "MY GOD; WHAT CAN I DO?"

She is a lot smaller than I, so she could not pick me up. At this time I was on my knees and hands on the kitchen floor. I said, "God please don't let my wife see me go this way." At this time, she got over me and hit me between the shoulder blades as hard as she could -- she told me later. But, thanks to God, it was hard enough. The corn bread came up and I got my breath back.

When I was able to get up, I grabbed my wife and we both just stood in the kitchen floor crying and thanking God for answering a simple prayer, "MY GOD; WHAT CAN I DO?" **Raymond Kemp;** 10770 Army Rd Ext.; Chunchula, AL 36521.

[Raymond also stated, "My wife is the daughter of Houston and Ruth Eubanks. Bro. Franks, please print this in honor of my wife; because she is my hero!"]



Operation Center  
Damaged Church Building



Unbelievable  
Destruction



Supplies Came from Several States



Volunteer Workers Came by the Scores



## Honor Each Other

### Romans 12:10

*"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."*

### - Eddie Lewis -

The newspaper cartoonist H. T. Webster once amused himself by sending twenty telegrams to some of his friends. Each message contained just one word—"Congratulations!" As far as Webster knew, not one of them had done anything special for which to be complimented. But each person who received the note was so flattered they immediately wrote him a note of thanks. All twenty assumed they had done something worthy of his congratulatory telegram and told him about their experience.

Paul's statement in Romans 12:10, "Give preference to one another in honor," makes me realize that Mr. Webster was right. All Christians should strive to make other Christians feel good about themselves and their ability to achieve. Every Christian should rejoice with other's achievements and when they are honored we should rejoice with them. We should not feel jealousy or envy. When we can rejoice together, the body of Christ will mature and grow together in Him.

Some years ago a commercial was popular on TV. It pictured a man ordering a bowl of Raisin Brand cereal for breakfast. The waiter brought him the brand that is noted for two scoops of raisins in every box. He said, "Oh, I don't deserve the best, just the ordinary raisin brand will do." The waiter said, "Well, surely you've done something good before." He thinks for a moment and said, "Well, I did free a bee from under my windshield wiper one time." They all cheer because now he was deserving of the best.

It is sad that some people feel so unworthy of praise or honor. Christians should constantly be honoring each other. Not in a meaningless fashion, but because we realize we are children of God and God made us in His image.

I believe that Jesus gave us a great example of honoring others above ourselves in His act of washing the disciples' feet (Jo.



Eddie Lewis

13:1-15). Most of us are familiar with the story. In the upper room Jesus wanted to demonstrate His love for the disciples. He got up from the table and girded Himself with a towel and washed the feet of the disciples including Judas. Jesus shares the lesson when He said, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should so as I did to you" (Jo. 13:12-15). The principle is we should honor and serve one another. Paul confirms this when he said, "Give preference to one another in honor" (Rom. 12:10).

On another occasion Jesus spelled it out for them. He took the religious leaders to task about their pride and arrogance. Later in the chapter He delivered seven woes against the Pharisees. "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men... And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi" (Matt. 23:5-7).

Jesus turns to the disciples and drives home the point. If they are to be mature men of God, who can be used by God in His service, they must understand, "The greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (vv. 11, 12). Thinking of others, not being a self-centered, self-pleasing person is what Jesus wants us to be. Be a person that honors and serves others.

Another example of this principle is seen in Paul's

statement about what it means to have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5). Paul carefully tells us what Christ did to save us of our sins. It was a great act of unselfishness, humility, and self-sacrifice (vv. 6-8). This act brought to Christ what He is promising them they would receive if they honored others above themselves (vv. 9-11).

I realize that our exaltation will not be like Christ's, but God is promising us that we will be exalted as we honor others above ourselves (v. 15). The principle is seen in the first part of the chapter when he said, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (vv. 3-4). We must honor and serve others.

To help us develop and evaluate our attitude toward others consider these questions. First, how many times can you recall that you purposely attempted to honor someone above yourself? Second, in what way did you express your sincere appreciation for that person? Now, if you can't recall several situations where you attempted to honor someone—you probably have not.

I do want to emphasize that I am not talking about the proverbial "slap on the back." Someone who compliments you so you will do them a favor is not sincere and is using you for their own selfish gain. Of course, this type of behavior is wrong and deceitful. Christians should always be honest and sincere in their honor of another.

If you find it difficult to honor another or enjoy the success of someone else, maybe you need to take a closer look at yourself and consider if envy is a problem. Some cannot honor others because they want to be the center of attention. Some cannot honor others because they feel unworthy themselves. They have an inordinate desire for praise themselves. If this is your attitude it represents a serious problem and shows immaturity and carnality on your part.

See LEWIS on page 16

## Attention... Especially Mississippi, Louisiana (and adjoining states) Churches of Christ

This space is available for you to advertise your upcoming events, reports about good works and other encouraging things you wish to share with thousands who read nearly 25,000 copies of each Magnolia Messenger. Please feel free to submit your news and reports. **Thank you.** (editor)

### Trip to Bible Lands Cancelled

Our planned trip in November to the "Lands of the Bible" has been cancelled by our provider -- Educational Opportunities. We are, however, making plans, God willing, for an **expanded** trip to the Bible Lands in the **fall of 2011**. We would love to have you go with us. (A. L. and Paul Franks) For information, call: 337-515-7314.

## Magnolia Messenger

Thanks from the Franks for Receiving and Reading

### Mississippi Ranks First in the Nation!

Most Religious!  
Highest Level of Church Attendance!

**Phil Sanders** ("In Search of the Lord's Way" TV program) wrote saying, "Al, thought you'd want to know. From my research, I noted that Mississippi, as a state, has the highest level of church attendance of any state in the union.

**60% attend at least weekly**

**87% attend at least a few times a year**

This is from Landscape Survey of Pew Forum.org, page 161." He added, "According to Yeakley, churches of Christ attend better than any religious group in America."

Then, under the heading of "Tidbits", *American Profile* (May 16-22, 2010) included the following note about Mississippi. "The Magnolia State ranks as the most religious, according to a 2008 Gallup Poll based on more than 350,000 interviews. When asked, 'Is religion an important part of your daily life?' 85% of Mississippians said 'yes'."

**Editor's Comment:** Looks good. In at least two areas that really matter, **Mississippi is a leader!** Of course, just claiming to be religious and even faithfully attending church services is not enough to assure eternal life in Heaven. Think about it. Be thankful.



"Somewhere in Mississippi"

## "The Spirit That Is Beech Hill"

**Beech Hill (Ripley, MS)**

**Editor's Note:** The following comments were written by and sent out to several (including the MM), expressing one member's thoughts about and gratitude for his home church. **Makes me want to visit that church.** *Hope to do so, soon, Lord be willing. May God give us more churches like Beech Hill and more members, like James Horton, who realize and appreciate the spiritual blessings found in the church of Jesus Christ.* (alf)

### Church Family:

*If Bible classes, worship, fellowship sharing, praying and planning get any better than today on "The Hill," I don't know if the faint of heart will be able to stand it!*

*Your presence, and your excitement, in support of so many (98) of our beloved congregation planning to attend and participate in the LTL/L convention in Nashville was so uplifting!*

*Having been in Bible class over 13 hours ago and having heard King's challenging lessons from Hebrews, and then meeting this afternoon and after church again tonight, one cannot help but feel having been especially blessed in so many ways!*

*Pray diligently that our love, our unity and our devotion to one another, and to our Heavenly Father, increase as we all strive to bring glory to God by our daily lives! Today, yet again, we have seen the best of the "Spirit That Is Beech Hill!"* (James)

Magnolia Messenger

"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper"

**Circulation: 25,000**

## Campaign for Christ

August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM

### "Why Christ is the Answer"



**Alan Highers**  
of Henderson, TN

**Crossroads Arena**  
2800 Harper Road  
Corinth, MS 38834

Sponsored by the churches of Christ

### CHARLESTON

A Bible Lectureship was recently conducted by the church in Charleston, Mississippi, where **Robert Rawson** presently preaches. The special effort was conducted March 28 - 31, 2010 with visiting preachers including **Garvis Semore**, former president of MBC and present Instructor at FHU. Also preaching in the meeting was **Bruce Pate** of Nashville, TN (the Antioch church). Bruce formerly served as preacher for the Central Academy church, near Batesville, and the Hollandale, MS congregation. Also assisting in the lectureship was **Larry Cairo** from Alamo, Tennessee. (Newsnote compiled from information sent to MM by Robert Rawson)

**"Preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season."**

2 Timothy 4:2)



Copied from Bulletin  
Boxwood Church of Christ  
Merryville, Louisiana

### More & More Encouragement

*I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger, and I'm so glad that it's continued to be sent.* (Marcella Moore, Eupora, MS)

*Your positive, uplifting message contributes greatly to unity and strength.* (Malcolm D. Broyles, Pasadena, TX)

*I enjoy the MM and appreciate the sound doctrine it teaches.* (V. Marie Pierson, McKinney, TX)

*I especially enjoy the quiz and mail mine in.* (Wayne Crum, Caledonia, OH)

*Still enjoy reading the MM, that way I can keep up with you all and the great work you do. God bless both of you.* (Kathryn Hart, Corsicana, TX)

Bro. Franks,  
*Greetings from the Esto Church. I hope all is well with you both. Here is a small check to help out. As always your publication is well received and useful. I appreciate your efforts in continuing it's publication. Stop by again sometime. It's been too long! Yours in Christ,* (Bob McConkey, Bonifay, FL)

## Honor to Whom Honor An Out- break in SW LA



**Earl Franks** (on right) is congratulated by Wes Jeans (left) when special recognition was given to him on behalf of the Boxwood Church of Christ in Merryville, Louisiana. Earl, in his "retirement years" is freely giving much time and attention to the spiritual welfare of the small country church in SW Louisiana. (Boxwood is the MM editor's home church; where he grew up and started preaching.)

Earl is a very capable song leader and teacher, and is "pretty good" at whatever needs to be done. Through the influence of Ray Franks, a deacon in the DeQuincy congregation, this special honor was given to Earl for his faithful and dedicated service. Congratulations, brother Earl. We, too, appreciate you and your work in His kingdom. (alf)

## "Honor to Whom Honor"

There is a time; there is a place, to bestow well-deserved honor upon the servants of God. While no true servant of the Lord *seeks* to be honored by men; yet, in recognition of good work and exemplary lives, scripture provides authority for such encouragement. The Bible teaches that widows, elders, parents, wives and *all men* are to be honored. Specifically, the scriptures command, "Render to all their dues... honor to whom honor" (Rom. 13:7). "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." (1 Peter 2:17)

Two thousand years after the events of the first century, followers of Jesus still give honor/recognition to such people as the *poor widow* who cast into the treasury "two mites" (Mark 12:41-42). Also, the *wealthy woman* who anointed

the head of Jesus with precious ointment. Even to this day, Bible students and teachers still talk about her love and generosity. Of course, Jesus had predicted, "Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, that also which this woman hath done shall be **spoken of** for a memorial of her." (Matt. 26:13).

It is a blessing for the MM to give space to stories about disciples of the Lord being recognized for "their works sake". So, if you have such a story, please feel free to submit it for possible publication in an upcoming issue of "Mississippi's (and adjoining states) GOOD NEWS Newspaper." (Editor)

**See Page 12 for another special recognition given for service in the Lord's church.**

**EldersConnect**  
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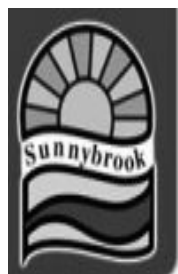
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# Sunnybrook Children's Home

New Executive Director for Sunnybrook Children's Home  
Warmly Welcomed at Reception held February 28, 2010

The numbers were very encouraging as many well-wishers came together on the last Sunday night of February to participate in an inspiring "Area-wide Song and Prayer Service" conducted in the gymnasium at Sunnybrook Children's



Rob Salley

Home in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

The many friends and supporters of Sunnybrook came primarily from three area churches of Christ -- Madison, Meadowbrook and Lake Harbour.

At 6:00 P.M. **Billy Long**, president of Sunnybrook's Board of Directors, welcomed the large crowd and made appropriate introductory remarks. Brother Long's comments were followed by a meaningful service mixed with earnest prayers and spirited gospel singing.

Song leaders for the special service included **Eric Livingston**, associate minister of the Meadowbrook congregation, **Bob Perry**, staff member at Sunnybrook and a member of the North Brandon church. Other good song leaders were **Mike Hampton** of the Madison church and **Danny Magee** of the Lake Harbour Drive congregation. Public prayers were led by **Chuck Bearman** (treasurer of Sunnybrook's board) and **Calvin Seago** (vice president of the board of Sunnybrook) and **Danny Magee**, a member at Lake Harbour.

A devotional, concluded with an invitation, was ably presented by **John Pigg**, preacher for the Lake Harbour congregation. Following the worship service, all were invited to walk a short distance from the gym on Sunnybrook's beautiful campus to the Woods-Williams Complex (cafeteria). This is where the reception honoring **Rob and Sheri Salley** was held.

The next morning, my June and I enjoyed the privilege of visiting at length with brother Salley. We were pleased to learn of his past experience in child care in-

cluding three years with Southern Christian Home in Morrilton, Arkansas and thirteen years with Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services in Valparaiso, Indiana where brother Salley, who holds a Ph.D., served

as the director of Program Services for Shults-Lewis.

Director Salley said that he was pleased to be now living in Mississippi and that he believed Sunnybrook to be "God's work." He added, "We do need congregations to be involved." Further conversation with brother Salley reminded us that the beautiful Sunnybrook campus at Ridgeland presently includes five cottages and nineteen children are in custodial care. He expressed his goal to soon be caring for at least thirty-two children.

For more information about Sunnybrook you are invited to call or write:

**Sunnybrook Children's Home**  
P. O. Box 4871  
Jackson, MS 39296  
Website: [www.sunnynch.net](http://www.sunnynch.net)  
Email: [rsalley@sunnynch.net](mailto:rsalley@sunnynch.net)  
Phone: 601-856-6555  
Fax: 601-856-6520

## Baton Rouge Seminar Speakers



Dan Chambers



Ralph Gilmore



William Woodson



report by  
Editor

Saying, "At this critical time in our fellowship", the elders of the Goodwood Boulevard congregation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, issued an invitation to area churches of Christ to attend their seminar on "The Bible and Christian Unity." This very special program was conducted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (March 12 - 14, 2010). My June and I were blessed to be among those who chose to attend.

Speakers for the uplifting and informative weekend were **Ralph Gilmore, William Woodson and Dan Chambers**. Brother Ralph is a Professor of Bible at Freed-Hardeman University and moderator of the popular "Open Forum" conducted each year in February at the FHU lectureship. He also serves as interim preacher for the church in Ripley, MS.

Brother William has served as chair of the Bible Department at FHU and as a Professor of Bible at DLU. He is an esteemed author and highly respected student of God's Word. He and his wife make their home in Lawrenceburg, TN.

Brother Dan presently serves as preacher for the Concord Road church in Brentwood, TN. He also is a very respected author and capable speaker. We were especially grateful that he made available a "free" copy of his book, "Where's the Piano?" to each visitor. (I have read and highly recommend it.)

Topics discussed by the prepared speakers on Friday evening were "What the Bible Says About Fellowship" (Gilmore) and "What the Bible Says About the Church." (Woodson). On Saturday morning the question, "Does Biblical Doctrine Really Matter?" was answered in the affirmative by brother Gilmore. This was followed by a two part presentation by brother Chambers, responding to the question, "What Does the Bible Say About Music in Worship?" Part I of the informative study was given in the morning session and part II, right after lunch. Then, At 2:00 P.M. all three guest speakers participated in a very meaningful Question and Answer session. Questions had been submitted by those in atten-

dance. Loving response was evident; yet, the answers were thorough and scriptural.

Finally, on Sunday morning, during the "Bible Class Hour", brother William did an excellent job dealing with the topic "How to Achieve Biblical Unity as a Congregation." This was fol-

lowed, during the "Sermon Hour", with brother Ralph making his usual scholarly response to, "How to Achieve Biblical Unity as an Individual."

The three men (Chambers, Gilmore and Woodson) selected to speak in the seminar, each did an excellent job evidencing great respect for the authority of the Holy Scriptures while, at the same time, showing loving concern for all who make up the body of Christ.

The announced attendance goal for the special event was 220 persons. I don't think this goal was reached; however, all who were present were surely benefited by the presentations and the attitude of each of the teachers. I know for sure that my June and I were blessed to spend a very memorable weekend at the seminar parked in our RV on the grounds of the Goodwood Boulevard Church of Christ in Baton Rouge, LA.

The Baton Rouge church known as "Goodwood" is overseen by four concerned elders. They are: **Randy Duhon, Clayton Goodrum, Tom Kelso and Jim Lackie**. According to their church bulletin, the congregation is also served by 15 deacons who have volunteered their time and talents to building up the church. The pulpit minister is **Doug Bureson** who, by the way, is scheduled to be one of our keynote speakers at our next MM RV Rally (planned for McComb, MS, April 28 - May 2, 2010). **Bryan Kirby** is the friendly and very helpful Associate Minister and the capable secretaries are **Chris Goodrum and Peggy Moragne**. May God richly bless this good church known as "Goodwood" which brings together an average of about 240 on Sunday mornings and operates on a weekly budget of a little less than \$8,000.

**Note:** We understand that copies of all lessons presented during the seminar are still available on CD and/or DVD. Please contact:

**Church of Christ**  
10715 Goodwood Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815  
Telephone: (225) 272-8936  
Web: [www.goodwoodchurch.org](http://www.goodwoodchurch.org)  
Email: [office@goodwoodchurch.org](mailto:office@goodwoodchurch.org)

## Who Said That?

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

**Answer:**

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

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

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

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



Age 94

**Magnolia Messenger  
- for all ages -**

On left: Our sister **Hopper**, age 94, (Tiplersville, MS) stated, *"I really enjoy the Messenger... read it from front to back."*

On right: **Carlye Blackmon**, age 6, (Merryville, LA) answered the most recent "Question Box" in the Messenger and, along with several others from the Boxwood church in Louisiana, *sent her answers to us.*

**We are Encouraged. Thankful!**



Age 6



**Bible Study: "Taking a Break"**

Group is shown taking a break from their work in answering the "Question Box". (68 students from the Enterprise Boulevard church in Lake Charles are named in this issue for answering the "QB" in the MM.)



**23**

**Years**

Preaching for the same church in Merryville Louisiana

**R. C. Franks** (standing) receives plaque from Jack Austin (seated), a member of the congregation.

On Sunday, April 11, 2010, scores of well-wishers and grateful folks gathered together in Merryville, Louisiana to honor R. C. Franks for his many years of unselfish and dedicated service to the church of Christ in Merryville. In addition to members of the local congregation and several from area churches, all three of R.C.'s children were present, along with his three brothers and one sister. My June and I were privileged to be among those expressing thanks to "Uncle R.C." for his many years of service as faithful preacher of the gospel.

During the morning worship services I was blessed to teach the auditorium Bible class. The morning sermon was delivered by R.C.'s youngest brother -- Hubert Franks who, himself, has been preaching more than 50 years for the same congregation in Newton, Texas.

After worship, under the guidance of Ray Franks, several made comments about what R. C. had meant to them and to the Cause of Christ. Those commenting included his three brothers, his children and others. Afterwards, a delicious meal was enjoyed by all who gathered in the "Community Center" located a couple of blocks from the Merryville church building. Truly, it was a **good day** -- giving "honor to whom honor" is due (Rom. 13:7).

**News Notes**

**JACK EXUM'S PASSING**

**February 7, 2010**

We are saddened to report the passing of a dear brother in Christ, Jack Exum. Brother Jack, who lived in Lake City, Florida, passed from this life on February 7, 2010, at the age of 81. He served as a Gospel preacher for many, many years -- devoting much of his time to Mission work and doing "Three Unusual Days".

**SALTILLO**

**Jonathan Pharr** has accepted the Youth Minister position at the Mayfield Church of Christ in Saltillo, Mississippi. **Adam Miller** is the pulpit minister.

**VERONA**

The Verona Church of Christ, near Tupelo, plans a Gospel Meeting with evangelist **Stanley Williams** for June 25-27, 2010. **Wayne Cox** is the local minister.

**JACKSON**

**Derek Broome**, who will be graduating on May 15 from Freed-Hardeman University, is scheduled to begin his work with the Siwell Road Church of Christ as Youth Minister on May 23. **Mark Ray** is the pulpit minister.

**CORINTH**

A special Appreciation Dinner honoring **Guy Hester** was held on Friday, April 16, 2010, in the fellowship room of the Frayley's Chapel Church of Christ. The dinner was given in honor of brother Guy for his **Sixty Years** of Proclaiming God's Word. (*Congratulations brother Hester for your many years of service in the Lord's Kingdom. Sorry we were able to attend. mjf*)

**Reader's Response**

**Not Typical**

*Please take me off your mailing me list. I've enjoyed reading the Magnolia Messenger. I am not a member of the Church of Christ. Thank you, Sincerely, (Name withheld by editor)*



**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!

*In Memory Of*

**JAMES E. HERRIN**

Becky, James & Doris Jean Herrin (Mesquite, TX)

**PAUL WALDEN**

Charles & Juanita Fulgham (Yazoo City, MS)  
Ouida Gentry (Florence, MS)

**MRS RUBY WALSH**

**RAY CAGLE**

Charles & Pauline Aldridge (Jackson, LA)

**RICHARD OGHIN**

**CLYDE PERKINS**

**MAX D. PARISH, JR.**

Chuck & Dorothy Henderson (Rolling Fork, MS)

**JIMMY BRADSHAW**

Deanie & James Bradshaw (Indianola, MS)

**ALBERT & VIRGINIA**

**"GIGI" STANLEY**

Bob & Mary McCafferty (Kosciusko, MS)

**JERRY "BUCK" BYRD**

Reid & Frieda Thompson (DeRidder, LA)

*Please Send Gifts to:*

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**GERTHA WARD**

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**GLENDA SEGARS**

**CAROLYN MARTIN**

**JAN KEY**

**PATSY WASHINGTON**

Anonymous (Tupelo, MS)

**HAZEL PERKINS**

Chuck & Dorothy Henderson (Rolling Fork, MS)

**AL & JUNE FRANKS**

Robert & Sheri Salley (Madison, MS)

**BONNIE VANSANDT**

(Her retirement: see page 7)

Tommy & Lynn Baragona (Booneville, MS)

Thank you for thinking of the **Magnolia Messenger** when you publicly remember or honor family and friends.

**PRAYER:** "I want to thank you, Lord, for being so close to me so far this day. With your help, I haven't been impatient, lost my temper, been grumpy, judgmental or envious of anyone. However, I will be getting out of bed in just a minute and I think I will really need your help then. Thank you, Lord." Copied, via "The Liberty Letter" (Dennis, MS)



New Home for Great Smoky Mountain Church of Christ in Pigeon Forge, TN. This church hosts **15 to 20 thousand** visitors yearly.



House for Preacher +  
 \$\$\$ Thousands \$\$\$  
 (Bank Account) +



A Very Nice Church Building (all debt free!)

**Leesville, Louisiana Church Closed Its Doors. But, Not for Long. Doors Reopened. Church Re-established. Thank God!**

A telephone call from a dear brother in SW Louisiana brought a mixture of news, both *sad* and *glad*. "Sad" because the doors of the meeting house of the church of Christ in Leesville had been closed. "Glad" because of announced plans to reopen those doors and re-establish the church. This mixed news came to us from **Travis Murray**, an elder of the Jackson Chapel congregation, located near Leesville. This church is also served by **Charlie McCain**, elder, and **Irby Perkins**, preacher.

It is our understanding that, due to declining attendance and other difficulties, the few remaining members of the Leesville church of Christ decided to disband and permanently close the doors of their church building. Later, after several months of non-use, the trustees of the Leesville church property decided to turn over the facilities (a church building and preacher's home) to the leadership of the nearby Jackson Chapel Church of Christ. This they did in November of '09. The transfer of buildings also included several thousand dollars in a savings account or CD.

It was exciting to hear from brother Murray their plans (with God's help) to reopen the doors of the church building and rees-

tablish the church of our Lord in the SW Louisiana town of 7,000 situated in a parish of 60,000 precious souls. He expressed a desire to enlist the help and encouragement of several other congregations in the area.

Within the past several months, personal visits were made to elderships and other church leaders among the area churches of Christ. Several churches gladly agreed to assist the Jackson Chapel brethren in their leadership to re-establish the church in Leesville.

Among the congregations that agreed to help financially were churches in/at Toledo Bend, Merryville, Boxwood, Lone Pine, DeQuincy, DeRidder, Jackson Chapel and Lake Charles, LA. Also assisting was the church in Newton, Texas. A number of individuals also agreed to help in various ways, including several preachers from the area. Others are considering giving assistance.

The first Sunday service was held on April 11th with nearly 40 in attendance. A gospel meeting was begun that day with preachers from area churches of Christ volunteering their services. Attendance was very encouraging with many area congregations represented nightly, along with several visitors from the community.

It was a blessing for us (my June and me) to be present for the Thursday night assembly and to hear an uncle and a first cousin earnestly proclaim the Word of God. **Hubert Franks**, long time preacher for the church in Newton, Texas (over 50 years), spoke on "Why The Church Is Important" and **Joey Franks**, an elder in DeQuincy, preached on the topic "Why It Is Important to Spread the Gospel." Both lessons were timely and well presented. I was blessed with the opportunity of closing out the special meeting on Friday evening. Please pray for the renewed efforts to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in Leesville, Louisiana.

**Church Closings**

*An Example Worth Considering*

More so than anytime in my life, church doors are being permanently closed. This is happening far too often. What can be done?

Look at the case of the Leesville church discussed in this article. Consider the example of the Jackson Chapel church. Think about how area congregations can help.

Yes, doors may be closed, but they can be reopened. May God richly bless all our efforts to do His will, to teach His Word and to follow the example of His Son and our Saviour.

T. R. Webb has accepted the challenge of preaching for the "new church" in Leesville, LA (more details later)



First Sunday Service in Re-opened, Re-established Church in Leesville, Louisiana

**Now, You Take it from There!**

by -

**John Simpson**

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



**Two Men of Prayer Contrasted**

- John Simpson -

One of the shortest parables of Jesus, recorded in 5 verses, may pack more instruction for self-examination than any other. Read it: *"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted"* (Luke 18:10-14).

How well constructed, how basic and factual, how compelling, how final! The characters are presented as one good and the other bad.

The Pharisee presented his case as being morally and ethically pure and religiously correct, comparing himself to others. Jesus leaves us to believe that he was a good man, lacking in humility and long in self-exaltation. The tax collector presents his case in humility with a full confession of sin and unworthiness, and a petition for forgiveness. By his own admission he was a bad man.

Notice the contrast. Read the statement of the Pharisee (verses 11&12); 34 words of self-congratulations, using the word "I" 5 times. Now read the prayer of the tax collector (verse 13); 7 words of confession, contrition and petition, with 1 small "me". The Pharisee came through duty, needing nothing, asking for nothing, receiving nothing and left unfulfilled. The tax collector came needing something, earnestly petitioning for mercy as a sinner, and left in peace with a burden lifted. The literal translation of his petition is: *"Make a propitiation for me"*.

We say "AMEN!", but rarely imitate the object lesson of this parable. A true worshiper isolates him/herself before God; each penitent becomes "the sinner". The abasement of others to a lower level than self, will not work with God! Just a straight forward confession of the truth is all it takes.

**Now, you take it from there!**

**Trip to Bible Lands Cancelled**

Our planned trip in November to the "Lands of the Bible" has been cancelled by our provider -- Educational Opportunities. We are, however, making plans, God willing, for an **expanded** trip to the Bible Lands in the **fall of 2011**. We would love to have you go with us. (A. L. and Paul Franks) For information, call: 337-515-7314.



### Ground Breaking Ceremony held on Sunday, March 7, 2010

Lake Harbour Church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS Building New Facilities

The first Sunday in March was a very special day for the church in Ridgeland, MS. Ground was broken to signal the beginning of planned construction of their new facilities to accommodate the growing church. The above pictured thirteen men were excited to participate in the ground breaking.

The Lake Harbour Church of Christ is presently overseen/served by five elders and nine deacons. Two new elders were recently appointed. **Bill Underwood** and **Marlin Ivey** are now serving with **Morris Houston**, **L. C. Reece** and **Marion Freeman**. Evangelist **John Pigg**, local preacher, stated,

*"We have broken the 200 barrier once again since the Madison church began and things are looking up in the future. We praise God for the growth and unity of the church."*

We congratulate our brethren at Lake Harbour for their progress in the Kingdom of Christ. (alf)

## Yazoo County Struck by Killer Tornado

*"I know not what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow."*

by Larry Echols

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, Yazoo City and Yazoo County were struck by a large, F4 tornado shortly before noon. Nature's tornadic force cut a path of death and destruction from Satartia through the northeast corner of the county, killing four people. There were 174 homes totally destroyed and many more that received major damage. Devastation is everywhere! Many folks lost everything they owned but escaped with their lives.

While delivering goods and services throughout the area, we have heard many stories of close calls, heroic efforts made to save the elderly and children. One mother gave her life while protecting her three sons by shielding them with her own body. She was Yazoo's first fatality. Others jeopardized their lives to save neighbors and friends. The stories are moving! Acts of love and kindness were exhibited, the likes of which you don't hear of often. We ask, "Why does it take things like this to bring people together?" I am convinced that love is the underlying reason (I Cor. 13:3).

Several members of the Yazoo City church of Christ were affected by suffering injury and property loss. The congregation consists of several elderly families, and we are so thankful that they went through the storm untouched.

We are dedicated to the task at hand in assisting those that need our help. Won't you join hands with us as we endeavor to do the Lord's work? The Yazoo City church of Christ has been blessed by being put in the position to help alleviate victims' suffering by ministering to their needs. We often pray and ask God to use us in His service, and now, we have a wonderful opportunity before us. You would be so proud to know that the majority of the church here has worked almost non-stop, day and night.



Said to be The Tornado that Hit Yazoo City on 4/24/10

Congregations from Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee and other states have donated clothes, groceries, water, cleaning supplies, baby needs, tarps, mops, brooms, shovels, etc. Many have sent cash. Some have sent vehicles and work crews. *At the present time, we do not need any more clothes or water.* However, you may donate any of the above.

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." The reception we have received from the community has been astounding. "But now abideth faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love" (I Cor. 13:13). People are looking to God's people for help during this time of need. Their lives will be disrupted for some time. Some have become unemployed because their workplaces were destroyed. They need our love and prayers. This one event is going to help the Lord's church in Yazoo City for many years to come.

Please pray for the victims and for those who have lost loved ones, that their sufferings and grief will one day leave them. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk 16:15-16). In a poverty stricken area such as this, sometimes a sack of groceries goes a long way towards preparing a heart to receive the gospel.

Brethren, I believe that we should seize this opportunity to help prepare people for the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please remember us in your prayers (James 5:16). May God bless you!

For more information, please contact  
**Yazoo City Church Of Christ**  
1230 E Broadway St  
Yazoo City, MS 39194-9055  
662-746-2579

## McComb, Mississippi Church Uses Cable TV to Teach the Gospel

Since 1999, the McComb Church of Christ (Parklane Blvd), has employed the use of *locally produced* television programs to spread the gospel. Each Sunday both A.M. and P.M. sermons preached by their minister, **Jim Talbert**, are carefully recorded and skillfully combined to form a weekly one hour program that is telecast each Lord's day at 1:00 P.M. on their local Cable TV company.

In addition, upwards of 600 "spots" per month are aired as

"commercials" in the various shows carried by the cable system. These "ads" are used to promote "Bible Call", a telephone ministry which answers all kinds of Bible questions which inquirers may ask. **Don Jackson**, a local talented member, is the man behind the scenes in both the preaching program and the "spots". It is evident that he enjoys his work and is thankful to be a part of the overall efforts to reach the community of McComb with New Testament Christianity.

**Don Jackson**  
at work behind  
the scenes.

Each week, Don records both Sunday sermons delivered by McComb's pulpit minister (**Jim Talbert**) and combines them into a one hour presentation of the gospel for their local cable TV provider.



### Another Good Work By McComb, MS Church of Christ

**601-684-7151**

**Bible Call**  
Telephone Library

**BIBLE CALL** is a public service religious information library consisting of hundreds of five-minute recorded messages on a wide variety of Bible subjects.

**BIBLE CALL** is completely automated; available 24 hours a day. Just call the number listed above from any touch-tone phone and follow the instructions given.

### Note Burning Creates Excitement in Kosciusko Time for Thanksgiving.



#### All Indebtedness Paid. No More Monthly Notes!

(From left) **Dewey Lawrence** (elder), **Les Ferguson, Sr.** (preacher) and **Jim Dendy** (elder) rejoice to burn notes on church buildings for South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko. **John Gardner** (elder) was unable to be present for the joyous occasion witnessed by many who were gathered for the special Sunday afternoon service held March 21, 2010.

## Saving Souls in Mexico Missions

**Eight Years:  
Seven Churches Planted;  
Three More Planned!**

- report by -

**Les Ferguson, Sr.**

The picture to the right was taken on Saturday, February 20, 2010 in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. All of the preachers and their families in our Mexico Missions work are present. There were also several church members and non-church members present on this occasion.

This group represents the churches that have been established in the state of Guanajuato in the past eight years. On this particular trip we were blessed to be a part of the eight year anniversary celebration of the church in San Miguel.

This was the first church established in this part of Mexico. The San Miguel church is ably served by Fernando Arroyo and his wife, Tony. They have two children. Joining Fernando is co-minister, Aurelio Valdes and his wife, Nellie. They have three children. This congregation averages **80 – 100** every Sunday. This church is also home for a branch school of the School of Preaching in Toluca, Mexico.

The official name of the school is: Instituto Latinoamericano de Estudios Biblicos (ILEB). Fernando Arroyo is the instructor. This school has already produced several preachers. And as I write this report, there are two more preachers ready to be sent to plant another church, and another preacher who will graduate in one year.

**What is lacking now is the funding needed to support these brothers** as they seek to plant the Lord's church in cities in Guanajuato without a church. If you are interested in helping us in this great mission field, please give me a call.

Other preachers and churches represented in this picture are as follows:

< Rene and Cleo Ramirez and their four children – preaching in Comonfort. This church averages **60 – 80** in attendance every Sunday. It has been in existence for five years.

< Raciél and Ilse Ramirez and their two children – preaching in Guanajuato city. This church is averaging **25 – 45** in attendance.

< Uriel and Patty Reyes and their three children - preaching in Celaya. This church also averages **25 – 45** in attendance.

< Martin and Ruth Perez – preaching in San Luis de la Paz. They are averaging **28 - 35** in attendance.

< Rodolfo and Erica Valenzuela and their three children. This is one of the newest churches. It has been in existence for less than a year. They are averaging **10** in attendance.

< Jonathan Mojica is single – preaching in Santa Ana/La Piedad. This is the newest church in our Mexico Missions work. Jonathan has been in this area only since the first of the year. He has recently baptized three people and is having **10** in services.

We have targeted three other cities as cities in which to seek to plant a church **as soon as funding permits**. Those cities are in the state of Guanajuato. They are Silao, Co Manuel Doblado and Salvatierra.

It is a great mission field and we invite your participation. As stated above, if you are interested, please give me a call – **662 289-3791**. I will be most happy to share information with you or I will come and make an official presentation. Please pray for the spread of the gospel in our country and in Mexico.

**Les Ferguson, Sr**  
**P. O. Box 1399**  
**Kosciusko, MS 39090**  
**E-mail:**

lesfergusonr@hotmail.com



Preachers and their families who are working among the seven newly established churches of Christ in Mexico

## 12th Annual

### MS MM RV Rally, "Very Encouraging"

Under the leadership of Paul Franks, we were blessed to complete our 12th annual MM RV rally in Mississippi for 2010. This year, for the second time, the rally was held at the beautiful Percy Quin State Park near McComb, MS. Scores of RV campers came together to camp in their various "rigs", along with many others who came to stay in park cabins and/or hotel. It was a very special time for a special "family" of campers. Truly encouraging.

We were blessed to have very capable speakers bringing challenging lessons from the Word of God on the vital theme -- "Spiritual Warfare".

The rally "officially" began on Wednesday night with a "kick-off" service held at the church building for the McComb Church of Christ. Paul Franks presented the first of seven scriptural studies reminding us of the fact that we, as Christians, are actually engaged in a serious spiritual battle.

We are grateful to the McComb church for their generous hospitality. They provided food for all campers following the evening service on Wednesday and, then again, on Sunday (after morning worship) they spread a delicious "pot-luck" meal. More encouragement!

On Thursday morning we were richly blessed to spend some very quality time in a "get-acquainted" session. This was followed by Biblical lessons from **Doug Burluson** (preacher, Goodwood Blvd church in Baton Rouge) and **Dennis Doughty** (preacher, Tunica, MS church). Ad-



Doug Burluson

ditional lessons were presented by both speakers on Friday morning of the



Dennis Doughty

MM RV rally was officially closed Sunday with the morning worship services of the McComb congregation. **Jim Talbert**, local preacher for the church, taught the adult Bible class and **Al Franks** preached on Satan's great ef-

forts to convince lost souls that it is not really necessary to follow or obey the Saviour's clear and simple plan for salvation. The morning worship services were followed with a delicious "fellowship meal" provided by the generous congregation. Wonderful food. Great fellowship. What a way to end an "encouraging rally."

A special thanks to the elders of the McComb church of Christ -- **Terry Lockhart** and **A. J. Spring** and to their preacher for the past six and one half years -- **Jim Talbert**. They have extended to us an invitation to return for another rally next year. We hope to accept and plan, once again (God willing) to be encouraged.

In addition, a special thanks to **Doug Berry** and his wife, **Ila** for their skilled services in preparing food for three meals during the rally. Also, thank you, **Kathy Doughty**, for sharing with all of us a couple of very funny stories about your beloved husband. (alf)

**The Bible Still says:  
"Preach the Word"**

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

## LA/TX RV Rally

**Date:** October 27 (Wednesday) thru October 31 (Sunday)

**Where:** Salmon Lake Park – Grapeland Texas 75844

Phone for park: 936-687-2594

**RV sites are already reserved for you; no need to call.** If you want a cabin at the Park call the Park to reserve.

*For more information on other possible places to stay contact Ray or Donna Franks. 337-786-3095 (Home) – (Cell) Ray 337-515-0866 – (Cell) Donna 337-842-5821*

**Theme:**

**"Let's Dream The Impossible Dream"**

A Better Life; A Better Country;

A Better Family; A Better Church Family

During the rally, there was set aside time to visit, to eat together, to play together, even to have a birthday party (Happy 80th birthday, Bill Richard!) and to personally express our love and appreciation to/for each other. All was very encouraging!

The 12th annual Mississippi

## He's All That!

(Continued from page 7)

While the full understanding of a virgin conception is not possible, the full understanding of a natural conception is not either. One can clearly see the Old Testament working to foretell the birth and the New Testament working to record the birth just as detailed in the Old Testament; thus, it is concluded in the virgin (perfect) birth.

With a perfect start, Jesus would proceed to a **perfect life** to claim that He was **all that!** The life He lived upon this soil was indeed perfect. The perfect beginning was built upon until the perfect ending, the Cross of Calvary. The Hebrews author in chapter 4, makes the claim for Jesus as being the High Priest, as one who has been there, done it and was more successful than anyone else.

In order to be perfect at life, one must live it and not succumb to the forces of evil. Jesus did that! In order to be perfect, one must live a life that is focused upon others more than upon one's own interest. Jesus did that! In order to be perfect, one must live a life overcoming Satan and be able to say without exception, "Get behind me Satan." Jesus did that; thus, *a perfect life!*

Because of Christ's Sonship, He was great. Because He was divine, He is great. Because He has gone through the heavens (Hebrews 4:14), makes Him different from Aaron. But, because He was fully human and therefore

able to understand our weaknesses and temptations, yet did not give into any of them, His life was perfect. He was **all that!** (3)

According to the New Testament, Jesus displayed all the attributes of God. Jesus is able to know all things like God (John 16:30), He is able to be in all places at any time, thus making the claim to be with His disciples (Matthew 28:20), He has all the authority (Matthew 28:18), and in nature, Jesus is eternal (John 1:1). (4)

This student concludes that Jesus was more than the "begotten son" of God. He is the "only begotten" in that He is a one-of-a-kind person. While upon this soil, He was **all that!** Anything He wanted to claim He could. Anything He wanted to accomplish, He was able, and anything He needed to restore He did! His beginning was perfect and the life that followed was perfect and now a perfect Son sits at God's right hand to judge us all on the appointed day.

### (Footnotes)

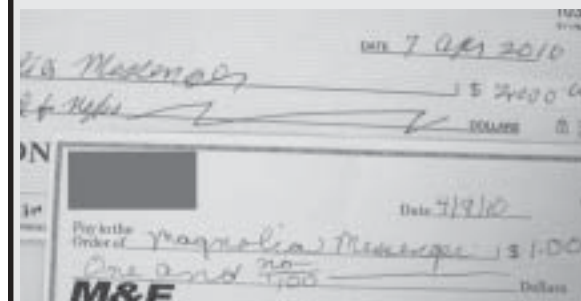
1. Michael F. Wilkins and J.P. Moreland, ed., *Jesus Under Fire* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 44.
2. James D. Bales, *The Biblical Doctrine of Christ* (West Monroe: Central, 1966), 5.
3. Simon J. Kistemaker, *New Testament Commentary: Hebrews* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984), 125.
4. Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 169.



Stacking MM's  
as they come off the  
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of the  
Magnolia Messenger



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\$2,000.00  
or  
Smaller  
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We need and appreciate all gifts - large or small.  
Once again:  
**The Franks say/give "Thanks"**



Somewhere in Mississippi

### Magnolia Messenger Welcomes

Suggestions, Ideas, Articles,  
News Reports, Prayers and  
Financial Support. All are  
needed and much appreciated!

### GOOD MAN

(Cont. from page 5)

assemblies called Jesus "Lord," but refused His choice of worship (Luke 6: 46; John 4: 24)?

It was a decision with serious consequences. Uzzah made his own bad decision when he reached out a hand to steady the ark; but there would have been no temptation to do so had David not decided the ark should be transported on the cart rather than on the shoulders of the Levites. There was an unnecessary funeral and grief. An otherwise humble man of God erupted in anger toward God. The processional was disbanded and the whole operation halted for three months. Those who corrupt God's plan of worship today will likely not see anything so dramatic, but the consequences will be grave indeed. Week after week "vain" worship will be offered to God (Matthew 15: 8, 9) and those deceived will likely feel good about it.

David's second attempt at moving God's ark to Jerusalem got it right. God was honored and the people were blessed. Repentance and "re-deciding" on the part of some who have departed from the New Testament plan of worship will hopefully bring a change of direction, honor God, and work a blessing among His people before it is too late.

[gardner.john43@gmail.com](mailto:gardner.john43@gmail.com)

## LEWIS

(Continued from page 9)

The Corinthians had a problem with this because they wanted to have the spiritual gifts that would win them the praise of other brethren (1 Cor. 12). Today some want positions of leadership because they want the praise of men. Some want to lead a class or program because they want the praise of others. These attitudes will divide the church as a person seeks the praise of others.

The church is a place where we seek to honor and serve others above ourselves. I believe this attitude of a Christian is seen in the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument  
of Your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me  
sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,  
Where there is despair, hope,  
Where there is darkness, light  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek

To be consoled—as to console,  
To be understood—as to understand,

To be loved—as to love,  
For

It is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned,

It is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life.

Let's seek to honor one  
another above ourselves. In  
Christ we know that we are  
important to God because of the  
great sacrifice He made for us.

By **Eddie Lewis**, Associate  
Minister, Germantown Christ of  
Christ; 8723 Poplar Pike;  
Germantown, Tennessee 38138

Please Remember to Pray for the *Magnolia Messenger*

## EASTER

(Cont. from page 18)

on the truths of God's Word. If you are searching for such a church, we want to encourage you to let it be known by indicating your interest in talking to one of our ministers or having further Bible study about the church of Christ on our green registration cards in the pew in front of you and dropping it in the collection plate. May God bless each of us as we faithfully worship together on this Sunday in every avenue of worshipful service, but especially as we commune in the Lord's Supper and commemorate our Lord's glorious resurrection. (John Pigg can be reached by addressing: 338 Lake Harbour Drive; Ridgeland, MS 39157; [jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org](mailto:jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org))

### 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  
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Owned and Operated  
By the Fulgham Family  
in Yazoo City, Mississippi  
**Information or Reservation**  
**662-746-5865**

## News Note

### GREENVILLE

We are pleased to announce the special Birthday Celebration that was held for **Lizzie M. Baugh**. Sister Baugh recently celebrated her **90th birthday**. She is a faithful member of the South Main Church of Christ in Greenville, Mississippi. It was said of sister Baugh that she had told her kids she would *let them* throw her a birthday party when she reached 90. (Congratulations Sister Baugh! Al and I are sorry we were not able to attend. We knew sister Baugh when the church was established in Hollandale, Mississippi many years ago. mjf)

### PRICE

(Cont. from page 17)

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:1-9

**Never underestimate the power of one life invested in another!**

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19 Sealcrest Dr  
Picayune, MS 39466-3076  
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## Whenever I Am Afraid

Early Morning Meditations #31  
- Raymond Elliott -

A few years ago, I heard the late beloved Franklin Camp deliver a moving sermon as one of the speakers on the Faulkner University Lectureship. I believe the theme of the lectureship that year was, "Blessed Assurance".



Raymond Elliott

Brother Camp was referring to various passages of scriptures that had sustained him over the years. He also related that in the month of May, 1981, he learned that he had to have open-heart surgery. He said that he had to wait twelve days before he could have surgery. While lying on a hospital bed for that length of time, he thought of the great seriousness of this type of surgery.

He admitted that he was afraid, realizing the seriousness of the kind of surgery. He then thought of Psalms 56 that was written by David during a very trying time in his life. David had to flee from the presence of Saul who sought to kill him and he also had to deal with the Philistines who wanted him dead.

In this particular psalm, David is seeking the help of God to deliver him from those who sought his life. In verses 3 and 4, David writes, "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?" Again, in verses 10 and 11, "In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

Brother Camp noted that David was a strong man, having killed a lion and a bear while protecting his sheep and had killed Goliath the giant (I Samuel 17). Yet, David said that he was afraid. Brother Camp said that if David could be afraid, so could he. But, the encouragement is to be found in the statement, "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid."

Please note that there seemed to have been a progression from verse 3 when David said "I will trust in You" to verse 11 when he declared "In God have I put my trust".

As I listened to this great man of God confess his fear along with David's, I thought to myself, if David and brother Camp could be afraid at times, surely I could also be afraid in certain circumstances. But,

David said that he trusted in God when he was afraid. And, that trust in the Lord will calm the troubled soul.

The word trust is mentioned 74 times in the book of Psalm and carries the idea of leaning on and trusting in someone; to have implicit faith and full confidence in another. In Psalm 46:1 we have these beautiful words, "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble..." Again David exclaimed, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by" (Psalm 57:1).

Recently, two of our dear Christian lady friends were diagnosed with breast cancer. The 'C' word does not need defining. It is one word that brings fear to our very souls. This passage in Psalm is one that I encourage these ladies and others to read and meditate on and do as David did: "In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word)" (Psalm 56:4, 10). Our Father has promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Go to Him in prayer and leave there your every care and He will uphold you with His everlasting arms.

*"The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
My heart trusted in him, and I am helped;  
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices;  
And with my song will I praise Him."* (Psalms 28:7)

Raymond Elliott  
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Prattville, AL 36067  
[raymondelliott@knology.net](mailto:raymondelliott@knology.net)

**Thank you for Reading the Magnolia Messenger**



### Morning Meditations

What a WAY to Start the DAY!

## Daily Devotionals

**Editor's Note:** Daily devotionals are very important in the spiritual growth of God's precious children. (Ask any mature Christian.) Setting aside a certain part of each day for an extended period of "time with God" (Bible Study, Meditation, Prayer) can and will bring wonderful blessings! Such devotionals can and, in many cases, should be very private and very personal. Jesus warned about the evil of hypocrisy as He encourage those who would make a show of religion to "enter into your closet" and "shut your door" and give, pray and fast to the Father "in secret". (Matthew 6:1-18).

"Secret" devotionals can assist greatly in overcoming the sinful desire to use religious activities to attract to oneself public attention and/or seek the praise of men. It is true, however, that personal, private devotionals can, and often do, provide both the *right motive* and the *right material* for public teaching. (Ask any "good preacher".)

On this page, in this issue of the MM, we are pleased to share with our readers articles written by two brethren who have learned some of the great benefits coming from "morning meditations". Out of their own personal and regular times "spent with God" have come powerful lessons they have willingly shared with internet readers. By special permission from both writers we are pleased to publish some of their thoughts which came out of their daily "morning meditations". Thanks to both **Mike and Raymond.** (alf)

### Reader's Response

*I received your wonderful paper Monday, 12-28-09 and was blessed with some of the articles in it... I pray that I will be able to continue receiving the "Magnolia Messenger", it is a good paper of the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Paul Howard, Angola, LA)

**Thank you for thinking of the Magnolia Messenger when you remember and/or honor Friends and Relatives (See Page 12)**

## How Are We Investing Our Lives?

Devotional #90  
Mike Price

**Scripture: 2 Kings 1-3**

*"O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old - what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done."* Psalm 78:1-4

**What do we want to leave behind when our life on earth is over?**

What will be the memories of our efforts for God? Will others know of God and HIS Son, Jesus Christ, because of us? What are the footprints we are leaving and where are they leading those who follow us?

**It is in the life of Elijah and his example that gives us direction in answering the above questions.**

What did the prophet Elijah leave behind when God called him home? The last day of his life puts things in perspective. Elijah visited the schools of the prophets where young men trained. We see Elijah's final investment in the life of Elisha.

**When we invest in the lives of those around us and leave them an example of faithfulness and love, we leave more than gold and silver.** We leave them garments of power like Elijah left that day for Elisha. What garments do we leave? We leave robes of white by the preaching of the gospel. All those that have been led to Christ are clothed with Christ. In the preaching of the gospel, people are clothed by God and wear the garment of Christ.

**Paul wrote to Timothy,** "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" 2 Timothy 2:2

As we teach our children how to dress when they become toddlers, we also teach those whom we have led to Christ. We show them by our lives how to wear the clothing given to every Christian by God.

*"Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my*



Mike Price

*Father and his angels."* Revelation 3:4-5

**Are we investing ourselves in someone?** For Elijah, it was Elisha. He left behind one young man who would have a double portion of his spirit and carried on the work of God.

**Who will we leave behind? What kind of people, by our example, will they be?** Will our lives leave behind footprints in the sand of time that look like the footprints of Jesus? Will those we leave behind see a clear and worn path left by our walk that leads to the Master? Does our path lead those around us to Jesus Christ and HIS Salvation?

**HERE IS A SHORT PRAYER:** Our Father who art in heaven, will you keep me faithful in teaching others who will in turn teach others the truths of Your Word and the Way of Your Life? In Jesus name Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** "These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.*

See PRICE on Page 16

## Churches Looking For Preachers

**Notice:** We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. Please mail your request to: "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us by addressing: [franksmm@aol.com](mailto: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!**

### Searching Waynesboro, MS

The Waynesboro church of Christ, located in southeastern Mississippi, is seeking to fill the pulpit with a sound New Testament minister.

Our congregation was established in Waynesboro in 1952 by only a few faithful Christians. The congregation size consist of about 50-55 each Sunday morning with a weekly budget of \$1,700. The population of Waynesboro is approximately 6,500 with the church building located on Hwy 145, North. The Waynesboro church has no elders or deacons.

#### Salary

Base of \$37,000 + (Negotiable upon qualification/experience)

#### Home Provided

3 bedroom house in nice location

Those applying for this position should be well-rounded in all areas, a leader, and exhibit a desire to help the congregation to grow. The responsibilities of the minister should be considered traditional -- preaching and teaching the whole truth, greeting and following up on newcomers, working to restore the unfaithful and visiting the sick and shut-ins.

#### Contact:

**Terry Heathcock** (after 6:00 PM) 601-735-2288  
[cbheathcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cbheathcock@yahoo.com)  
**Jim Bowen** 601-671-0987  
[www.sufinta@bellsouth.net](http://www.sufinta@bellsouth.net)  
**Jamie Heathcock**  
601-735-3014 or  
601-410-0894  
[snookiejam@hotmail.com](mailto:snookiejam@hotmail.com)

Mail Your Resume to:  
**Waynesboro Church of Christ**  
Preacher Search  
P. O. Box 94  
Waynesboro, MS 39367

### 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!

### Recent Response

Brother Al,

I just wanted to send you a note from the Rock Springs church of Christ in Rock Springs, Wyoming, letting you know that we have a preacher here now on a 6 month trial. We are so blessed to have him here. I would like to take this time to thank you so much for putting our ad in your paper and helping us out in our search. If you would, please take our ad out of the publication so others can use the space as needed.

Thanks again and may God Bless you in all your efforts, **Dave Jackson** (Rock Springs, WY)

Bro. Franks,

Thank you very very much for running our ad while we were looking for a preacher. I am happy to report that we have hired a very good man and he is working out very good for us. He is an excellent preacher and teacher.

We had several responses to the ad and we truly appreciate your help. May God bless you in your good work and the excellent message you make available to all of us. **Sam Stidham** (for the Hickory St. Church of Christ, Arcadia, Florida)

### A Challenge to Parents

**Encourage Your  
Talented Son  
To Dedicate  
His Life to  
Preaching the Word**

### Brandon, MS

Presently looking for a scripturally sound experienced full time gospel preacher for the North Brandon Church of Christ. This is a congregation with a Sunday morning attendance of approximately 160 located in central Mississippi, just east of Jackson. Brandon is a city with a population of 20,600 and last year was rated by Money magazine as the 54th best small city in the country in which to live.

Interested preachers, please send a resume and a recorded sermon to:

**North Brandon  
Church of Christ  
Atten: Austin Brantley  
PO Box 251  
Brandon, MS 39042**

If you need additional information please either call **601 825 3986** or email [Abbrandon@aol.com](mailto:Abbrandon@aol.com)

**Need a Preacher?  
Run an Ad. -- No Charge**

### Preacher Available

#### Buddy Borland

Preacher Available for local work with 43 years experience. Have experience as pulpit minister, visitation and personal work minister, and involvement minister.

#### Buddy Borland

Call: 205-652-7889 Home  
205-652-2308 Church Office

*"... and how shall they hear without a preacher?..."*

(Rom. 10:14)

### Oak Ridge

Northeast Mississippi  
(A country church in Prentiss County, near Booneville)

Presently looking for a full-time family man to preach for a church widely known for their "great singing." Need someone who is "experienced" and is "sound in the faith"

Attendance: About 60, average  
Budget: \$2,200.00 - weekly  
House Provided (3 bedrooms)  
Salary + benefits

Resume and recorded sermon requested. Send to:

**Oak Ridge  
Church of Christ  
CR 7461  
Baldwyn, MS 38824**

Contact:

Larry Coats - 662-728-3451  
Larry Kennedy - 662-416-5077

### West Plains, MO

The Central church is in need of a Youth/Family Minister by mid-summer 2010. The church is in daily prayer. We are asking God to help in our search for the right person to come and help us on our journey. Central church of Christ has six elders and ten deacons with good facilities and with a good teen ministry and a number of young married couples. Central is located in the beautiful Ozarks in West Plains, MO. Home of the Zizzers and home of the Grizzlies (MSU).

Contact

**Pat Casey** (417) 256-8551.  
Email: [coccentral@wpcs.net](mailto:coccentral@wpcs.net)  
[www.churchofchristcentral.com](http://www.churchofchristcentral.com)

### Louisville, MS

#### Church Finds Minister

Al & June,

I wanted to let you know that the Louisville church of Christ has hired a new full-time minister, **Danny Butler**. He comes to us from Carbon Hill, AL. He and his wife Wanda has been living in an RV for a few months staying close to their daughter and son-in-law, **Jim Hill** who is the church of Christ minister in Eupora. In fact he had placed an ad in Magnolia Messenger this month for "Preacher Available" Please continue to pray for us. (**Glenda G. Johnson**)

### Jackson Grove

Jackson Grove church of Christ -- a small country congregation about 100 miles south of Memphis TN, in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi is seeking a sound gospel preacher who is retired or has a job that would allow him to be available on weekends.

The position will be available July 4, 2010. Contact **James Kiihnl** 662-647-3448 or **John Deaton** 662-647-2085.

*"...How shall they preach, except they be sent?..."*

(Rom. 10:15)

### Preacher Wanted Saraland, AL

Attendance: 270

Elders: 5; Deacons: 10

Call: (251) 675-2752

Resume to:

**Central Church of Christ  
225 Saraland Blvd. South  
Saraland, Alabama 36571**

### Ellisville, MS

*A note from the elders, sent to the MM by Talmadge Anderson, asked that we place the following in the Messenger.*

#### Preacher Hired

The Ellisville church of Christ proudly announces the end of our search for a minister.

**Verlon Carrell, Jr.** from Alabama by way of Georgia, Florida and Arizona has agreed to become the minister of the Ellisville church of Christ. Verlon brings with him, his wonderful wife, **Ginger**, and three sons, **Blake** - age 11, **Bryant** - age 8 and **Bredon** - age 7.

Verlon's dedication to the Truth as presented in God's word and his enthusiasm in sharing the Christian life with others will truly be a beacon here in Ellisville and Jones County.

We welcome Verlon and his family with open arms and look forward to many years of serving God together with them.

We invite you to come and hear Verlon as he shares the Gospel with every one who will listen. We know you will be uplifted by the way he presents the Good News.

**Morning Worship: 10:30 A.M.**  
**Evening Worship: 6:00 P.M.**  
(Family Day is the first Sunday each month with a fellowship meal following Morning Worship and no evening services this day)

Elders

**Ellisville church of Christ  
5 Serenity Lane  
Ellisville, Mississippi 39437**

### Starkville Searching For Preacher

**Lonnie Smith**, a member of the Metro East congregation in Jackson, recently wrote. "I still help in serving with the North Montgomery congregation in Starkville... a minister [is] needed at North Montgomery. Please note that resumes' can either be sent to P.O. Box 1953, Starkville, MS 39760 or e-mailed

to [LonSmith1981@gmail.com](mailto:LonSmith1981@gmail.com) for review. Also, if any questions are asked about the position, please call at 662-617-2199 and leave name and contact if not available.

*"...How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things!"* (Rom. 10:15)

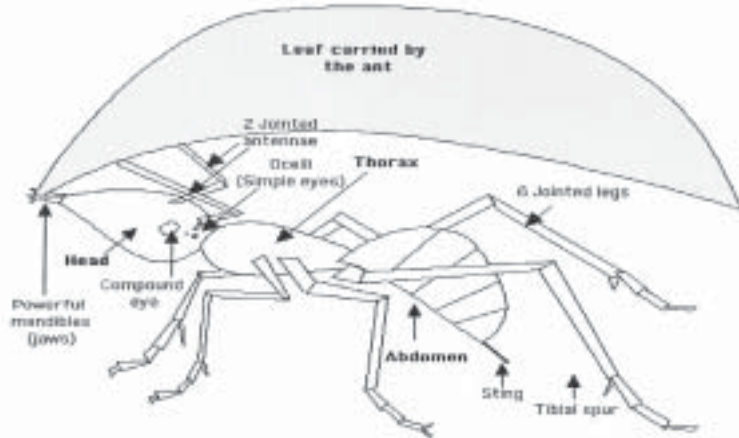
## Finding God through Science - Symbiosis

by Bill Echols

**Symbiosis**  
(noun)

### Definition

**1. Biol:** *The intimate living together of two kinds of organisms, especially if such association is of mutual advantage.* **2.** *A similar relationship of mutual interdependence.*



**Males** - Males are small and have wings. They fly from the colony to mate with the queen. They die soon afterwards.

In this example, the two kinds of organisms intimately living together

are the leafcutter ants and the fungus. The ant benefits by having a single source of food; the fungus benefits by having a rich, protected area in which to grow and reproduce spore.

I see the power of a superior mind, or intelligent creator, working here. How could nature working alone have combined the leafcutter ant cultivating a single food source of fungus? How did the original leafcutter ant learn about the fungus? From where did the capacity come to carry almost ten times its own weight? How did it learn to cultivate the fungus underground? How did the fungus learn to thrive underground and use ant feces as food?

Why does the scientist who examines in detail the layered complexity of the universe, whether viewed through the microscope or via the telescope, often reject the thought of a superior mind or intelligent creator when there are tens of thousands of examples like the leafcutter ant? The only reasonable answer is vanity.

Vanity is the reason most scientific minds reject God as the superior mind. Humility is difficult for the intelligence; it is especially

difficult for the one who thinks he is intelligent. Sadly, since vanity excludes submitting to a higher being, it also means rejecting His simple plan for redemption.

**Vanity is the reason most scientific minds reject God as the superior mind. Humility is difficult for the intelligence; it is especially difficult for the one who thinks he is intelligent.**

Remember this admonition from Solomon:

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**  
(NIV)

- 13.** *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*
- 14.** *For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

Written by and submitted to the MM by Bill Echols, a member of the church in Clinton, MS. Brother Bill's e-mail address: b\_echols@bellsouth.net

The Way It Must Be  
**God is in Control**  
Sign in Baton Rouge, LA church building



## The "Easter Translation"

Next "Easter" - April 24, 2011

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The annual "Easter" celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for 2010 is now passed. However, as you think/plan ahead for annual celebrations of Christ's resurrection in the months of March or April, I ask that you please give prayerfully consideration to the following observations from the pen

of **John Pigg**, preacher for the Lake Harbour Drive church in Ridgeland, MS. This excellent article appeared in their weekly church bulletin (April 4, 2010). It is worthy of your time.



**John Pigg**

The King James Version of the Bible could be called the "Easter Translation" because, in 1611, one of the instructions that King James gave to the translators was not to change any of the accepted terms found in previous English translations. Since the word "Easter" was the "customary"

rendering of Acts 12:4 in other translations prior to the KJV, it was incorporated in this venerable version. However, the original Greek word is simply "Passover" translated as such 29 other times in the NT. "Easter" is, therefore, an unfortunate mistranslation.

The majority of translations since the KJV have the correct rendering of "Passover." Passover, including the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was an annual, eight-day, Jewish religious festival that was commanded by God that commemorated Israel's exodus out of Egyptian slavery. By applying the blood of a lamb over their doorpost, their firstborn sons were spared death when God brought the 10th and final plague on every home in Egypt.

Passover was observed in the month of Nisan on the Jewish calendar which corresponds to our March or April. In the context of Acts 12:4, the Roman King Agrippa had already killed the apostle James and intended to do the same with Peter, but wanting to please the Jews and since this was during the days of "Unleavened Bread" (v. 4), he waited until "after Passover" (v. 4).

The translation of "Easter" in the KJV has led some to suppose that the early church was already, in Herod's time, having special services of celebration of Easter time, as is the custom of most denominational churches in our day. The facts are, however, no such "once-a-year-Sunday-religious-festival" celebrating the resurrection of Christ as Easter on the first Sunday following Spring was observed in the early church.

In the New Testament, and for centuries following, Christians did not celebrate with a special religious service -- in honor of Jesus' resurrection -- on one particular Sunday of the year; they celebrated His resurrection by participating in the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day.

The Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ, in following the commandments of Christ Himself in the Gospels (Mt. 26:26ff; Mk. 14:22ff; Lk. 22:18) and seeking to restore the practice of the early church (Acts 2:42ff, 20:8; 1 Cor. 11: 17ff), do not prepare a pre-Easter religious program or promote an all-out Easter musical or drama production.

Although believers may differ in our opinions about engaging in the children activities of the Easter Holiday, we ought to be united in following the pattern of New Testament worship every First Day of the Week by our faithful participation in the Lord's Supper and other acts of worship such as giving, singing, praying and studying God's Word as His church family.

Certainly there can be no wrong in children studying in Bible classes, our singing songs, or preaching a Gospel sermon about the resurrection of Christ during the "Easter" season. But why have special religious services "only" at this time of the year simply because it is a common practice of most denominations? Why should we follow the traditions of men in the 21st century and not follow the simple teachings, practices and emphasis of Christ, his apostles and the early church in the 1st century?

I am thankful to be a part of a congregation that does not seek to conform to conventional religious trends and traditions, but stands fast

See "Easter" on Page 16

For/by **YOUTH****"Swimming Up Stream"**

- Timmy Willis -

When I started to prepare my talk for you today on the topic of faith is the victory, my dad suggested I look up the word victory in the dictionary. Part of its definition according to the Webster is the success in a struggle or endeavor against odds or difficulties.

Then I set out to find something I'm excited about in my own life to illustrate it with. And let me tell you, I LOVE to fish. I'll fish in anything that has water if I have a pole. At home I mainly catch bass. When I go fishing in north Arkansas I fish for trout. When I go to Florida to see my grandparents, I fish for cool salt water fish that obviously aren't around here. My definition of cool is anything that gets on my line. Someday I hope to be able to catch some Salmon.

From what I've read and the fishing videos I've watched when it's too cold or wet to actually fish, the story of a salmon's life is very different from other fish. They undergo a major life change, in the end they just want to go home, and they go through it all for a cause.

After hatching, salmon start their journey down stream. When they get close to the ocean, they enter brackish water where there is a mixture of salt water and fresh water. There they undergo smoltification.

This is a major life change that adapts them to salt water. Depending on the species, it could take anywhere from a month

to 3 or 4 years. When it is finally done they are called smolts.

I think this is very similar to us. When we think about becoming a Christian it could take any amount of time to decide. And, we also undergo a major life change. After repentance we are baptized and after we are baptized we are called Christians. II Corinthians 5 says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation.



**Timmy Willis**  
(10 Years Old)

*Timmy attends the Goodman Oaks Church of Christ in Southaven, MS. He has been in the "Lads to Leaders" Program for 5 years.*

Old things have passed away. Behold all things have become new."

Also, on their journey when they get all the way out to Japan, they make a large arc. Then they start heading home. They just want to go home. They have senses that tell them if they are going the right direction. But, there is one thing different - after they hatch, they go downstream, but this next journey is upstream back to their home.

This is close to what humans face. We are born and life is going pretty good. But, you notice it is time to turn around and go upstream because of

God, and you just want to go home. Our home is in heaven. That is our eternal home.

Finally, salmon are doing this for

the cause. There is nothing that is going to stop them short of death. In the letter of Hebrews the author says "You have not resisted to the point of bloodshed." These salmon are doing it for the cause and they definitely have things to get in the way. They have bears, eagles, nets of fishermen and waterfalls.

A salmon may spend a day trying to jump over a waterfall. The record salmon jump is 12

feet. When they finally make it back to the spawning ground, they lay their eggs and die. And just remember they are doing this for the cause - the cause of the next generation. We need to be more like the salmon. We need to be faithful Christians no matter what the obstacle so future generations may know God. That is part of our cause.

Have you made a life change? Do you want to go home? Are you working for the cause so others can go with you? Hebrews 11 is the hall of fame of faith and victory, giving a long list of Bible men and women who all endured to the end of their lives so they could go home.

This cloud of witnesses still remains around us, cheering us on to the end and beckoning us home. My dad says getting to heaven will be a marvelous family reunion. And best for all of us, we'll celebrate our faithful victory with our heavenly Father that we've waited our lifetimes to see.

(Timmy can be reached via email: toddwillis@netzero.net)

Have you answered  
**The Question Box**  
Lately?  
Study in this issue the  
**"Sermon on the Mount"**  
(See Page 24)

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**The MM  
Requests  
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**Books by Brethren**

Reviews and Advertising  
MM -- Our Policy

Frequently we receive requests to advertise or give publicity, through the pages of the Magnolia Messenger, to new books published by brethren.

We deeply appreciate all such earnest efforts by the many dedicated and gifted writers among us. We gladly state that we have, over the years, personally benefited greatly from the works and words penned by uninspired; yet, faithful servants of God.

However, with our limited time, talents and space available, we feel it needful to adopt a policy of **not** personally agreeing to review and publicize in the MM books or other materials which are offered for sale.

If requested, we will consider running **prepared ads** for members of the Lord's church who have good printed materials and or other services they wish to make available to brethren. We would expect that those who make such requests will contribute financially to help with MM publishing costs. (*Of course, we reserve the right to exercise care in selecting ads to run in the Magnolia Messenger. The MM is not designed to operate on fees charged for advertising.*) Thanks for your understanding. (alf, editor)

**Congratulations!**  
Lake Harbour Drive Church of Christ  
Ridgeland, Mississippi  
John Pigg, Minister  
On the renovation & expansion of their facilities  
**\$1,200,000**  
Construction &  
30-Year Fixed-Rate Permanent Financing  
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**Answers: Last Issue****Jonah, the Reluctant prophet****I. Lesson on Obedience**

1. List five things God sent out and/or prepared (appointed) to help teach Jonah his need for humble obedience. (The answers are found in chapters 1 and 4. The first letter of each answer is given. You are also asked to write in the numbers for the chapter and verse where each answer is found.)

1. **Wind** (1:4)
2. **Fish** (1:17)
3. **Gourd** (4:6)
4. **Worm** (4:7)
5. East **Wind** (4:8)

**II. Statements Made by Jonah**

(Locate the chapter and verse in the book of Jonah where each of the following statements are written.)

1. "I am an Hebrew." (1:9)
2. "Take me up and cast me forth into the sea." (1:12)
3. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord." (2:7)
3. "I will pay that which I have vowed." (2:9)
4. "It is better for me to die than to live." (4:1)
5. "I do well to be angry..." (4:9)
6. Which of the above statements did Jonah repeat? "*It is better for me to die than to live.*"

**III. Jesus and Jonah**

(Study Matthew 12:39-41;  
cf. Luke 11:29-32)

1. How does the phrase "Three days and three nights" apply to both Jonah and Jesus? To answer, fill in the missing words: "*For as JONAS was THREE days and THREE nights in the WHALE'S BELLY; so shall the SON of MAN be THREE days and three NIGHTS in the HEART of the*

**EARTH."**

2. Why did Jesus say the Ninevites would "rise up in judgement" and condemn those who were living at the time of Christ? To answer, fill in the missing words. "... because they **REPENTED** at the **PREACHING** of **JONAS**; and, behold, a **GREAT**ER than **JONAS** is here."

**IV. True or False**

1. **TRUE** I know the only Old Testament reference where Jonah is mentioned outside the book of Jonah. (2 Kings 14:25)

2. **TRUE** The men on the ship cast lots to determine who was responsible for the violent storm on the sea.

**V. Qualities of God**

**How is God described by Jonah?** "**GRACIOUS** God, **MERCIFUL**, slow to **ANGER**, and of great **KINDNESS** and **REPENTEST** thee of the **EVIL**." (4:1)

**VI. Four Things the Ninevites Did**

Because of their recognized sinful behaviour, what did the Ninevites do to show their faith in God and their repentance before God? To answer, complete the wording of the following verse: "Proclaimed a **FAST**"; (2) "Put on **SACKCLOTH**"; (3) Cried "**MIGHTILY** unto God" and (4) "**TURNED** from their **EVIL** way."

**VII. Two Final Points**

1. List two persons mentioned in this little book who were said to be angry? **GOD** and **JONAH**. (3:9 and 4:1)
2. The city of Nineveh was occupied by more than **120,000** (**SIX SCORE**) people and also "much **CATTLE**." (4: 11)

**Studying Salmon  
May Help You Get To Heaven**



(See Question Box)

## These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

1. Mr. Kenneth Harris
2. Modean Edwards
3. Vera Spencer
4. Julius Lee Morris
5. Audrey Bowling
6. Jeff & Debbie Shull
7. Buddy Parsons
8. Bernita Booker
9. Annie Mae Pipkin
10. Maggie R. Edmonds
11. Cathey Roberson
12. Ruth Christian
13. Dee Kepler
14. Linda Shepard
15. RayAnn Woodruff
16. Kathie A. Stacks
17. Danny Stacks
18. Frances I. Harrell
19. Norma Taylor
20. Carol Bonner
21. Kerry Deaton
22. Gala Webster
23. Don "Ug" Lee
24. Betty Jo Stewart
25. Bowden & Melba Grisham
26. Carole Shelby
27. Sharon Huckaba
28. Katie L. Houston
29. June Faulkner
30. Dwight E. Hester
31. Robert Blackburn
32. Elledith Harris
33. Travis Hamilton
34. Carolyn Garrett
35. Dot Winslett
36. Otis & Linda Baker
37. Gladys Wiser
38. Cheri G. Moore
39. Era Hinson
40. Melba Ogg
41. Kaye Wise
42. Jean Forrester
43. Lenola Balentine
44. Margaret Burnett
45. Phyllis K. Spiers
46. Marvin England
47. Vic & Ruth Hawn
48. Debra Michael
49. Tommy Muirhead
50. Penny Clanton
51. Charlane Stanfield
52. Rebecca Alexander
53. Olen Roden
54. Ms. Helen Johnson
55. Paul & Elsie Bryson
56. Madonna Michael
57. Wilda Pounds
58. Barbara Armstrong
59. Wynell Thompson
60. Laverne Coker
61. Willie Beardain
62. Ken Sullins
63. Tammy Bullard
64. Patricia Thornton
65. Margaret Googe
66. Ellene Vaughan
67. Lorene Lindsey
68. Dathol Camp
69. Melody Woodruff
70. Karen Britt
71. Ruth Gunter
72. Mima R. Vines
73. Linda B. Keirn
74. Peggy Engel
75. Linda T. Shirley
76. Ray Parham
77. Miriam Styers
78. Dorothy Brunson
79. Inez & Laura Brannon
80. Ouida Gentry
81. Dorthy Ford
82. Bernice Townsel
83. Gladys Bryant
84. William L. Thompson
85. Irene M. Wright
86. Rosie M. Felton
87. Doris Laird
88. Julie Fiveash
89. Ginny Luther
90. Dorothy Alexander
91. Ann McDonald
92. Willa Fox
93. William & Atlean Snow
94. Carolyn Harvill
95. Sidney Robinson
96. Janie Green
97. Ann K. Kimble
98. Brenda Thrower
99. Myra D. Reaves
100. Marie Sykes
101. Velma Isom
102. Mrs. W. C. Wells
103. Glen Brady
104. Ruby McCrory
105. Alma Maddox
106. Princess & Johnny Watson
107. Marcella Black
108. William Pyron
109. Rick Bishop
110. Anna Free
111. Dorthy Laws
112. Kristy Pipes
113. Danny Feazzell
114. Hattie Johnson
115. Hattie Hooper
116. Joyce A. King
117. Joseph & Bobbie Priddy
118. Roger King
119. Mary M. McDonald
120. Linda Hogue
121. Natalie Grisham
122. Mary Jo Purdan
123. Beulah Rupert
124. Velva Dykes
125. Donna Gulley
126. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
127. Ima Jean Fogus
128. Dick Green
129. John L. Gates
130. Charles Coffey
131. Brenda Brockway
132. Esther Williams
133. Philip Bradley
134. Carol Bradley
135. Jerry & Norma Inman
136. Everett Boyd
137. Bobby Brown
138. Ruby Wright
139. Libby Williams
140. Ms. Mary Brannon
141. Sandra Welch
142. Vera Winfrey
143. Weida Pyron
144. Myrle Turman
145. Bonnie Skates
146. Betty Shackelford
147. Linda Cook
148. Allan & Ann Kelley
149. Shirley Styers
150. Jack L. Falls, Sr.
151. Barbara A. Beard
152. C. W. Jackson
153. Cathy Clark
154. Joyce Faye McQueen
155. Admiral Tidwell
156. Annie Ruth Perry
157. Genie Henning
158. Sue Mason
159. Linda Swain
160. Shirley Bostick
161. Deborah Brannon
162. Pauline Jones
163. Lester & Grace Cooley
164. Rubye Miller
165. Charlene Williams
166. Connie Tice
167. Juanita Bryant
168. Kay Shiers
169. Christine Holliday
170. Mrs. Louella Whitehead
171. Betty VanBuren
172. Lisa Dettor
173. Sylvia Birt
174. Everjean Parson
175. Jimmy & Clara Davis
176. Peggy Hartman
177. Bill & Miriam Moore
178. Olen Moore
179. Mary Lois Moore
180. Peggy S. Walker
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182. Kathy Perry
183. Lloyd Lambricht
184. Velda B. Carter
185. Eunice M. Kirkwood
186. Pinky Hawes
187. Martha Simpson
188. Sandy Key
189. Iva Hill
190. Trudie Raney
191. Tommy & Peggy Shull
192. James Hoy
193. Josie Isaacs
194. Lydia Gourley
195. Linda Crochet
196. Thelma Talbert
197. Nellie St. Clair
198. Jerry & Jean Lewis
199. Dannie Davis
200. Vickie Comer
201. Dan J. Hawkins
202. Edith Winters
203. Evelyn Faulkenbury
204. Jo Masters
205. Ben Hightower
206. Charles & Pauline Aldridge
207. James Breckenridge
208. Debbie Eubanks
209. Betty Standard
210. Lawrence Horn
211. Diane Dunaway
212. Charlotte Trigg
213. Allie Ruth Waters
214. Patrilla Maddox
215. Jennifer F. Gray
216. Michelle Simpson
217. Chestley & Helen Nash
218. Floyce Anderson
219. Betty A. Skinner
220. Mildred Herrington
221. Mrs. Clela Burnett
222. Bob Chaffin
223. Barbara Baker
224. Mrs. Cecil Smith
225. Michael Coleman
226. Clifford Crowder
227. Kathy Brewer, Sam Ales, Josie Hanks
228. Bonnie B. Glass
229. Mary Ella Webster
230. Billie J. McCurdy
231. Pearl Hitt
232. Merlene Scott
233. Ronald West
234. Martha West
235. Lucille Jackson
236. Juanita LeBouef
237. Fran Williford
238. Doyle Varner
239. Minnie Gwyne
240. Linda Anderson
241. Carroll Rampley
242. Frances Williams
243. Marie Harrell
244. Coy Daily
245. Faye Frazier
246. Dorsa Sparks
247. Gretchen Grimes
248. Brenda Burlison
249. Ruby Dilmore
250. Elvis Dilmore
251. Trillie Strickland
252. Mrs. Sharon Freeman
253. Gladys Jolly
254. Opal Wright
255. Barbara Beard
256. Thoms Tucker
257. Eileen Williford
258. Edmon & Kathy Wheeler
259. Marcella A. Moore
260. Barbara Yates
261. Sidney Clemmer
262. Mrs. J. H. O'Briant
263. Mrs. Dorothy L. Thornton
264. Glenda Jefcoat
265. Mattie Ann Owens
266. Cortez Brown
267. Earl Johnson
268. No Name
269. Mary L. Williams
270. Jerry Jones
271. Imogene Grayson
272. Mary Dennis
273. Alice Marie Amos
274. James Hudley
275. Grace Childers
276. Shirley M. Phillips
277. Madison Munn
278. Doris Jean Fletcher
279. Ollye Rush
280. Carolyn Perry
281. Doralynn Felton
282. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
283. Peggy Cooper
284. Sammy Cooper
285. Ed Istre
286. Totsie Istre
287. Nell Golden
288. Shirley Dewett
289. Mrs. Bertie Wilson
290. Shellie Hancock
291. Bonnie Dixon
292. Jim Vermillion
293. Eddie Vermillion
294. Mary Jacobs
295. Mary Adams Warren
296. Della Rhodes
297. Rosie Lee Odoms
298. Mattie Luster
299. Johnny & Carol Moore
300. Charles F. Dudley
301. Connie Fountain
302. Marie Lively
303. Kittie Edwards
304. Mary Feist
305. Wayne & Carol Rigdon
306. Bonnie Howell
307. Mary Adams
308. Oscar F. Yates
309. Mary Horton
310. Aslaeae Dean
311. Ernestine Lathan
312. Diana Schmied
313. Ruby Pounds
314. Mildred Carroll
315. Ida Green
316. Patsy McClung
317. Emily Hall
318. Shelia Hall
319. Millie Goode
320. Wayne Crum
321. M/M Arthur Burnett
322. Sandra Grisham
323. Benita Burge
324. Wes & Rhoda Jeans
325. Wanda Yancey
326. Ella Darnell
327. Sherron Dixon
328. Ms. Dorothy Laws
329. R. Neil Capper
330. Sandy Dean
331. Ruby Gideon
332. Verna Spake
333. Jessie D. Baker
334. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins
335. Francile Davis
336. Doris Darnell
337. Sue McDaniel
338. Mary N. Faulconer
339. Sibyl Goodman
340. James R. Brooks
341. Aaron & Desiree Hare
342. Carolyn P. Olson
343. Dahlia McAfee
344. Linda Stanley
345. Patricia McClure
346. Carolyn T. Taylor
347. Betty Clark
348. Mrs. Dean Howe
349. Alice Dempsey
350. Juanita M. Tynes
351. Gail Gurganus
352. Barbara White
353. Myrtle Rogers
354. Exie Motes
355. Ocena Faye Thurston
356. Althea House
357. Bea Basford
358. Kathey James
359. Bronwen Pollard
360. Lucretia McNeese
361. Kay Bramlett
362. Daniel Mastin
363. Diamond Mastin
364. Courtney Woods
365. Zack Moore
366. Sommer Burnett
367. Paige Wiggs
368. Billie Boyd
369. Sheri Glazier
370. Emily Glazier
371. Lois Cleo Wright
372. Carlye Blackmon
373. Windy Blackmon
- 374. Reid Thompson**
375. No Name
376. David Blackmon
377. Frieda Thompson
378. Stephanie Slaydon
379. Mrs. Johnny F. Blackmon
380. Lucy Franks
381. Dorothy Franks
382. Jessica Slaydon
383. Nicholas Slaydon
384. Missy Blackmon
385. Helen Franks
386. Ardessa Swilley
387. Earl Franks
388. Mrs. Betty Eubanks
389. Bobbie Holder
390. Eleanor Townsend
391. Tammy Franks
392. Natalie Stewart
393. June Brents
394. Jerry Howard
395. Inez Blation, Betty Logan
396. Minnie Young
397. LaShanda March
398. Ruth Goodwin
399. Mrs. Hazel Perkins
400. Bobby Lively
401. Mae Cabby
402. Ina Sadler
403. Jeffrey Smith
404. Jeffrey E. Elliott, Sr.
405. Harlen & Ruth Headley
406. Martha Cooper
407. Melvin & Kay Linton
408. Annie Jean McGill
409. Rosie Thurman
410. Imogene Kirk
411. Mary VanHouten
412. Jaquita Jordan
413. Hattie Johnson
414. Judy A. Spencer
415. Nell Rigby
416. Wanda Eaves
417. Dotsy Downs
418. Jo Ann Mills
419. Mary Lou Mirante
420. Sherry Gordon
421. Dianna Alcede
422. Joey Alcede
423. Peggy Alcede
424. Bobby Amos
425. Ashley Aquino
426. LeAnne Bennett
427. Kathie Bordelon
428. Otis Boudreaux
429. Paulette Boudreaux
430. Sam Childress
431. Gary Clarkson
432. Kristy Colombo
433. Paul Colombo
434. Kara Crowell
435. Daniel Decareaux
436. Suzan Dubrock
437. Erline Elkins
438. Judith Elkins
439. Walter Elkins
440. Laura Farve
441. Glenda Franks
442. Paul Franks
443. Vincent Franks
444. Kendall Frye
445. Barbara Gayle
446. Cynthia Goodly
447. Craig Green
448. Crystal Green
449. Jacob Hance
450. Hunter Hewitt
451. Kenny Hewitt
452. Melinda Hewitt
453. Otha Hewitt
454. Mo Johnson
455. Linda Jones
456. Ashley Lambert
457. Rusty Lambert
458. Debbie Laster
459. Rita Malbroux
460. Patricia Hanney McArthur
461. Ana McReynolds
462. Kenneth McReynolds
463. Kenny C. McReynolds
464. Lydia McReynolds
465. Tola Morgan
466. Ancilla Nolan
467. George Nolan
468. Missy Nugent
469. Pam Oliver
470. Jason Poynter
471. Aveory Ramirez
472. Latania Ramirez
473. Linda Ruth Reed
474. Megan Franks
475. Andrew Shepherd
476. John T. Sikes
477. Vivian Slocum
478. Katlyn Smith
479. Brandi Sonnier
480. Benjamin Treme
481. Renee Treme
482. Cindy Voight
483. Grady Ward
484. Wanda Ward
485. Gloria Watson
486. Leora White
487. Bud Wranosky
488. Linda Wranosky
489. Betty Harris
490. Janie Wallace
491. Margaret Gann
492. Alpaulthenia Cotton
493. Martha Lawrence
494. Linda Gardner
495. Pat McElwain
496. Cindy Newsom
497. Betty Moss
498. Reba Cagle
499. Melanie McCafferty
500. Marsha Simmons
501. Louisa W. Ganier
502. Susie Johnson
503. **YOUR NAME**, next time!(?)

**NOTE:** All students who sent in answers received by May 5 are included. Answers that come later will be recognized in our next issue, God willing. Thanks for answering "The Question Box". (alf,editor)

Encourage Others to  
Answer the "QB"!

## By/For/About Women... Mostly

### God Made a Beautiful World

- Ollye Rush -

Our God made a beautiful world,  
It's the people who're not contented.  
People are saying "this world is in a mess";  
But, it's the minds of the people that's in it.

God made everything in this world,  
And about everything, He said, "That's good."  
We have not learned to appreciate,  
And enjoy it like we should!

People are dying every day,  
We see it as well as we're told.  
We used to estimate deaths because of...  
But, the young are dying like the old!

Let us get to know who our God is,  
He created the world; it was not invented.  
It's not the world that's claimed messed up,  
It's the minds of the people that's in it!

Written by and sent to the MM by  
Ms. Ollye Rush  
1636 Raymond Rd; Apt 9M  
Jackson, MS 39204

Magnolia Messenger  
Circulation -- 25,000  
Into Every state in the USA  
We Thank God & You

### The Final Journey

- Ouida Gentry -

There's an appointment we all must keep,  
We're going home; our reward to reap.  
Harvest is determined by the seed we sow,  
Ready or not, we all must go!

There's a way our arrival can be ever so sweet,  
The angels of God will carry us safely to Jesus' feet.  
He shed his blood to wash us white as snow,  
Has His blood cleansed you; are you ready to go?

It's serious business, this trip we're taking,  
But oh so glorious, if the right decisions we're making.  
By sacrificing his Son, God has done his part,  
We must accept His great gift with all our heart.

If we do not obey, Jesus suffered and died in vain;  
This heavenward journey requires us our spirit to tame.  
The real joy here is to make the lives of others sunny,  
Totally committing to God, ourselves, time and money.

Earthly desires become dim as we more like Him grow.  
His death, burial and resurrection is the seed we must sow.  
We MUST take someone with us on this trip;  
It's the devil or Jesus. Who is guiding your ship?

Written and sent to the MM by  
Ouida Gentry; 112 Courtney Circle; Florence, MS 39073

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sheri Glazier of Bonita Springs, FL, recently wrote to the MM stating, "I am sending this article, written by my daughter, because I think some of you knew brother **Charles Salmon.**" Her daughter, Emily, participates in the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program. She prepared the article as a project in Mass Media training.

### Faith is the Victory

- Emily Glazier -  
(13 Years Old)

Not long after Christmas 2009, a member of the church died, Mr. Charles Salmon. Mr. Charles was a very evangelistic man. He went on mission trips to Ghana, Africa for many years and told others about Jesus even when he was sick. He was known and loved by many members of the church.

There is a big reason why Mr. Charles was so evangelistic. Mr. Charles had faith. Hebrews 11:1 says: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." I believe that some day Mr. Charles's faith and good works will be recognized by our Lord Jesus when he comes to take His saints away. Faith truly is the victory!

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus said if you have faith as a mustard seed you will tell a mountain to "move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Another person with faith was the poor widow (Mark 12:42-44) who put two mites in the treasury. This contribution was all that she had, but she believed that God would provide. Jesus took notice of the widow and said: "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury."

Let's put our trust in God and run the race of faith. 1 John 5:4 says: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

(Address: 25460 Stillwell Pkwy.; Bonita Springs, FL 34135)

### Ellisville Church Hosts Two Meetings in Two Months

In a conversation with a dear friend, **Talmadge Anderson**, we learned that the Ellisville church, near Laurel in SE Mississippi, recently hosted a seminar on the book of Revelation taught by a former preacher at Ellisville, **Don Taylor**. The first of the two meetings was held in March. The following month, **David Lipe** preached in a Gospel Meeting. Both meetings were very encouraging and helpful, according to brother Talmadge.

## In Memory of "Mama"

Blanche Meeks

"She truly enjoyed reading the Magnolia Messenger and answering "The Question Box" (lc)

- Linda Cook -

On December 13, 1939 Blanche Marie Patrick and Jessie LeRoy (Roy) Meeks were married. Six sons and one daughter were born to this couple who farmed -- raising hogs, cows, cotton, corn and soybeans. They worked hard providing for their children and instilled in each child a work ethic that would take them far in life.

Through the years Mama supported Daddy in the farming while providing a protective love and caring for each child. She was such a good cook and always had something cooked on the stove.

She and Daddy were able to see that each child was educated. All received undergraduate degrees from Mississippi State University. When the education process was finished Mama and Daddy had two Ph.Ds, (Doyle and Ralph) a physician, (Jimmy) a dentist, (Rudy) a MIS director, (Eddy) a master teacher, (Danny) and a daughter with a business degree. (That's me)

Mama spent Saturdays and Sunday afternoons ironing the clothes for the boys to take back to college. She took pride in those pants and shirts being pressed just right. I also remember seeing her iron sheets that she took off the clothesline. She probably would have been disappointed in the disheveled appearance of the clothes hanging in my closet after I started my own family.

Mama and Daddy lived humbly and loved and were proud of all of their children. I never heard a cross word spoken between the two of them. They were members of the Tiplersville Church of Christ.

They never let us know if they were worried about finances or anything. Daddy passed away in 1984. Mama didn't want to go on, but she did, and we rallied around her. Later, in August 2003, Mama lost her oldest son, Doyle. She seemed to be able to take whatever came her way with such strength. Her faith was so strong and it carried her through the hard times.

Living a Godly life was of utmost importance to her. She would always say, "We have to live right and be ready to go." Later in her life after she suffered a stroke and was not able to attend church regularly, she would say, "I hope the Good Lord understands my not going to church every Sunday."

She was so kind and good, never wanting to be a burden to her children, and willing to go along



Blanche Meeks

with our ideas... like when, because of her health, we thought she should not drive anymore; she willingly gave it up and never complained.

There were lots of times when she felt so bad but she rarely said anything and when she did we knew it was bad. She invited all her children and grand and great grandchildren to her house each first Sunday for lunch. It was our "get-together" day.

Our last "get-together" Sunday with her was Sept. 6, 2009. She had been diagnosed with cancer and was on hospice living at my brother, Danny's house, just up the hill from her house. Our "get-together" was held there with her in a hospital bed. She passed away on Sept. 28, 2009 with most of her children and grandchildren at her side. She left behind six children, twenty-two grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

Her Christian example and her influence live on today in our lives. I find myself trying to do things and act as she would. It is not possible to match her purity and goodness, but it makes me a better person to try.

She loved to answer the "Question Box" in the Magnolia Messenger. I always looked for her name in the list. It gives me a good feeling to do things that she did so now I'm sure to answer the "Question Box". Our family has been blessed to have the Daddy and Mama that we had and we await the day when we can be with them again.

(Written by Linda Cook of Ripley, MS and submitted by her to the MM. Thank you, Linda.)

### STEENS CHURCH PLANS GOSPEL MEETING

Aug. 1 - 4

The Steens church of Christ (near Columbus) will have a gospel meeting August 1-4, each night at 7:30 with brother **Ben Flatt** from Henderson, Tennessee, doing the preaching.

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

## I Had A Dream

- June Franks -

Dreams are mentioned frequently in the Bible. Throughout the Scriptures significance is attached to dreams.

Without a doubt one of the most important dreams of the Bible is when the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1: 20,21)

Therefore, it was in a dream that the announcement of our Lord's birth was proclaimed.

One of the most interesting situations in the Bible involving dreams is in regard to Joseph of the Old Testament. The Bible says, "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed." (Genesis 37: 5,6)

Joseph proceeded to tell his brothers and his father his dreams. Joseph's father rebuked Joseph and said unto him, "...What is this dream that thou hast dreamed: Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?" (Genesis 37:10)

Bible students will recall that, years later, Joseph's dreams came true. The Bible says in referring to Joseph's brothers and father, "And when Joseph came home, they (his brothers) brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth." (Genesis 43:26)

In Bible times dreams had special meanings and were often rightly regarded as genuine communications from God. However, we live in a different dispensation. We are living in the Christian age, (the "Sunlight Age"). In our present age of light (full or complete revelation) dreams are not reliable sources upon which to base our spiritual beliefs. God's Word, the Bible, is the authority and not our dreams or some other person's dreams.

There are warnings in the Bible against deception by false dreamers and their lying dreams.

Dreams have been described as a series of thoughts, or emotions



June Franks

occurring during sleep. We don't understand why we dream as we do. So often, we have never even thought about the situation about which we have dreamed.

Recently, I had a dream which seemed so real that when I awoke I was crying. In my dream we had attended a church fellowship meeting where everyone had shunned us or totally avoided us. No one would sit with us when we ate. In my dream, the fact that everyone ignored us was very disturbing.

What did my dream mean or what lessons could I possibly learn from my dream?

My dream reminded me of how important it is to make everyone feel included and to feel welcome in church related situations. It is easy for us to want to sit and to visit with those with whom we feel most comfortable. I, also, plead guilty to doing this myself.

My dream caused me to re-think my actions toward others. How do I come across? Do I show partiality? Do I treat those with handicaps and that may not be on the same social level, as I think I am, with the same degree of kindness? (Please read Matthew 25)

It is human nature for us to want to sit with those with whom we have much in common and truly enjoy their company.

My dream reminded me of how we are to treat others. The Bible says, "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here

under my footstool; Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" (James 2:1-4)

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as someone who does not regard the person of men. (Matthew 22:16) We should imitate Him. As members of the church, we should avoid having clicks. We should make it our goal to be friendly with everyone.

We may think we do not like a certain person. However, often it is the case that when we get to know a person better our opinion of him/her often changes.

In saying all of the above, each individual still has his or her responsibility in being friendly with others. We should not wait on someone else to be friendly with us.

My dream just further emphasized to me that I don't want to be treated like I was treated in my dream. I should treat other people like I would want to be treated.

In conclusion, we should always practice the Golden Rule. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7: 12)

Mrs. A. L. Franks  
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Kosciusko, MS 39090  
franksmm@aol.com

## A Pleasant Visit At Pleasant Valley

I like that name - "Pleasant Valley." I like that church - "Pleasant Valley Church of Christ" (NE MS). My June and I enjoyed our Sunday evening visit with the country church on Feb. 14; truly a pleasant visit at Pleasant Valley. Their preacher, **Rickey Greene**, invited me to preach; I accepted. We were privileged to present a beautiful Study Bible to Patricia Thornton, our most recent Bible winner.



Patricia Thornton - Bible Winner

## POEMS

*By*

*Barbara*

**Barbara Cagle Ray**

BCagleRay@Aol.Com



### A Little Bit of Heaven

There's part of the sun in a golden apple,  
And the verdant leaves of each tree that grows.  
God floats past us in the fragrant breeze;  
A bit of moonlight graces each velvet rose.

The gentle rain is inside each tulip cup,  
And God's smile is in the rainbow revealed.  
His hand has laid a silent loveliness,  
On the emerald valleys and atop the hills.

He speaks to us in the thunderclouds,  
And in the voice of every bird that sings.  
His smile is on the face of every child,  
Yet His spirit is as silent as angels' wings.

He is closer to us than our next breath;  
In all of nature He reveals himself, it seems.  
God sends us a little bit of Heaven  
In each and every living thing.

### ...And Then He Called Her "Mother"

God gave her the face of an angel  
With bright eyes like flickering candlelight.  
He spun her hair with a golden thread,  
Then gave her the grace of a bird in flight.

He gave her the royal beauty of a rose,  
And enough love to encompass the world.  
He placed a crown of stars upon her head;  
Her price was far above rubies and pearls.

Her life was a fountain of unending faith,  
And she had more love than a heart could hold.  
Her countenance revealed peace and joy,  
Yet something was missing within her soul.

Then God gave her the greatest gift of all,  
A gift of happiness unlike any other—  
He gave her the joy of bearing a child,  
And then He simply called her "Mother."



**Home of the  
Pleasant Valley Church of Christ**

Use of the  
King James Version  
may be helpful

## The Question Box

Is your  
name found  
on page 21?

### The Sermon on the Mount

"The Master's Masterpiece." The "Greatest Sermon Ever Preached." Such words seem inadequate to describe the wonderful sermon known as the "Sermon on the Mount" preached by Jesus, the Christ, as recorded in the apostle Matthew's account of the gospel (chapters 5, 6 and 7).

Do yourself a great favor and prayerfully re-read and study this powerful sermon. Never has so much been said in so few words. No message ever delivered has had the impact of Jesus challenging words spoken first to his disciples of the first century and then recorded for the benefit of all generations thereafter.

How blessed we are to have the "Sermon on the Mount." Obedient response is truly revolutionary. No

person who hears and obeys can ever be the same. It is a "life-changing" message. So, take the time to study and respond to each section of the "Question Box" for this issue of the MM.

Upon completion of your study, please send your answers to us. By so doing, you will encourage others (see page 21) and you may be the student selected as our next "Bible Winner" (see page 23). (Each issue, we award a beautiful **Study Bible** to one student, selected at random, who sends in answers. This time, YOU MAY BE THE ONE. Thanks for your interest in Bible study and for answering "The Question Box".

(Alf, MM editor and author of the QB.)

#### Our Heavenly Father

Jesus emphasized, in His sermon, our relationship with God. He is our Heavenly Father. We are His children. Match the phrase Jesus associated with our Father God (column 1), which best matches the reference given (column two). Supply the missing chapter or verse.

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> He is glorified through good works.    | 1. Matthew 7:11                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> His will must be done (obeyed).        | 2. Matthew __:16               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He knows/cares for all our needs.      | 3. Matthew 6:___ and verse ___ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He is perfect; He is our example.      | 4. Matthew 7:21                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He feeds the birds; He will provide!   | 5. Matthew __:45               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He sends the rain; makes sun to rise.  | 6. Matthew 6:32                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He sees in secret and rewards openly.  | 7. Matthew __:48               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He gives good things to those who ask. | 8. Matthew 6:___               |

#### Numbers Are in the Answers

9. List **three** acts of righteousness which, when done "in secret", bring blessings from God. **A** \_\_\_\_\_, **P** \_\_\_\_\_ and **F** \_\_\_\_\_.
10. List **three** enemies which can corrupt or consume earthly riches. (**M** \_\_\_\_\_, **R** \_\_\_\_\_, and **T** \_\_\_\_\_.)
11. The word "Blessed" is found how many times in Mathew chapter five? *Circle the correct number.* (**Answer:** 4, 8, or 9 times)
13. How many times in Jesus' sermon did He speak of God as being "in heaven" and/or refer to Him as "heavenly Father"? *Circle the correct number.* (3, 5, 8, or 10)
12. The expression, "I say unto you" is found how many times in chapter five? *Circle the correct number.* (3 \_\_\_; 5 \_\_\_ or 8 \_\_\_)

#### True or False:

13. I can quote the "golden rule" of the Bible.
14. In His sermon on the mount Jesus mentions both dogs and hogs.
15. In chapter five Jesus speaks about sheep and wolves.
16. A corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit.
17. To enter the kingdom one must do more than say "Lord, Lord."
18. A foolish man is one who hears but fails to obey the words of Christ.
19. The greatest of all sermons is divided into three chapters and 117 verses.
20. A person who seeks to correct another while he doing the same or worse is, according to Jesus, a hypocrite.

#### 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 21). 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**



#### Special Presentation for Jane Bell (insert, right) Recent Bible Winner

On Sunday, February 14, 2010, my June and I were blessed to visit the morning worship services of the Tiptersville church of Christ, near Ripley, MS. One reason for our visit was to present a beautiful Study Bible to the husband of a recent MM Bible winner -- Jane S. Bell. Jane was faithful to send in her answers to the "Question Box"; however, she died unexpectedly and unknown to us before her name was selected as our Bible winner and announced in the Oct-Dec, '09 issue of the MM.

At the request of her caring family, we were pleased to present her Bible in loving memory of sister Bell to her husband, Buddy Bell, pictured above surrounded by their grandchildren who were present for the special presentation. The precious grandchildren are, (from left), **Libby Meeks, Larson Bell, Landon Meeks, Leigh Bell and Lauria Bell.**

Our sympathy is extended to and our congratulations are expressed to the Bell family. We greatly appreciate the wonderful spirit manifested toward us and the Magnolia Messenger. In addition, we give thanks for the warm fellowship of our brethren of the Tiptersville church which is ably served by evangelist **Gary Martin** and overseen by elders **Donnie Greene** and **Randle Miskelly**. **Buddy Bell**, husband of Jane, our Bible winner, serves as one of two deacons, along with **Connie Alberson**. Our visit was on a special day, with a special church and included a special presentation. May God richly bless! (editor)

Dear Brethren,

You have been sending the Messenger to my father, William Turner, but he has passed away. However, I have enjoyed receiving it and would like to continue. Enclosed is a contribution to that end. I have thoroughly enjoyed the publication and am encouraged to read faithful words of those in like faith." (**Julie Neill**, Marysville, CA)

#### New Bible Winner

**Reid Thompson**

(DeRidder, Louisiana)

**Congratulations!**

**You are Invited**

to answer the  
"Question Box" (this page)



A Mississippi Sunset at our MM RV Rally (See Page 15)