



Our 32nd Year

Magnolia Messenger

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

OCT. - DEC., 2010 -- VOLUME 32; NUMBER 4



The Man Standing At the Top of the Stairs

(Page 14)

— —
Ready unto Every Good Work

Be Encouraged - Read About Ray Gilbert

An 87 year-old Servant in the Lord's church who loves to say "Yes"

"It is about to split our church!"

QUESTIONS READERS'S ASKED: (1) Are fellowship meals, "love feasts," an authorized part of Christian fellowship? (G.F)

(2) Our preacher says a fellowship meal must accompany the Lord's Supper as part of the Sunday service. Since our elders have not agreed to that, several members and the preacher are meeting later in the day to take the Lord's Supper with a regular meal. Is he right about this? It is about to split our church. (L.T.E.)

Response by Cecil May, Jr.

(Page 3)



Your Bible Questions Are Invited

Thank you for reading the Magnolia Messenger!

Braylee Lambert



"Let's see... let me find the answer in my Bible. Just wait... someday, I'm going to be a Bible winner."

"The Question Box" (pg 24)

Picture: Not a "set up"
Words: "Made up"

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MBC Buildings Questions & Answers

YOUR Response Requested
(Turn to Page 13)

Lands of the Bible Cruise 2011

With Paul and Al Franks
12 Day Program Departs on
November 26, 2011
(Details on Page 22)

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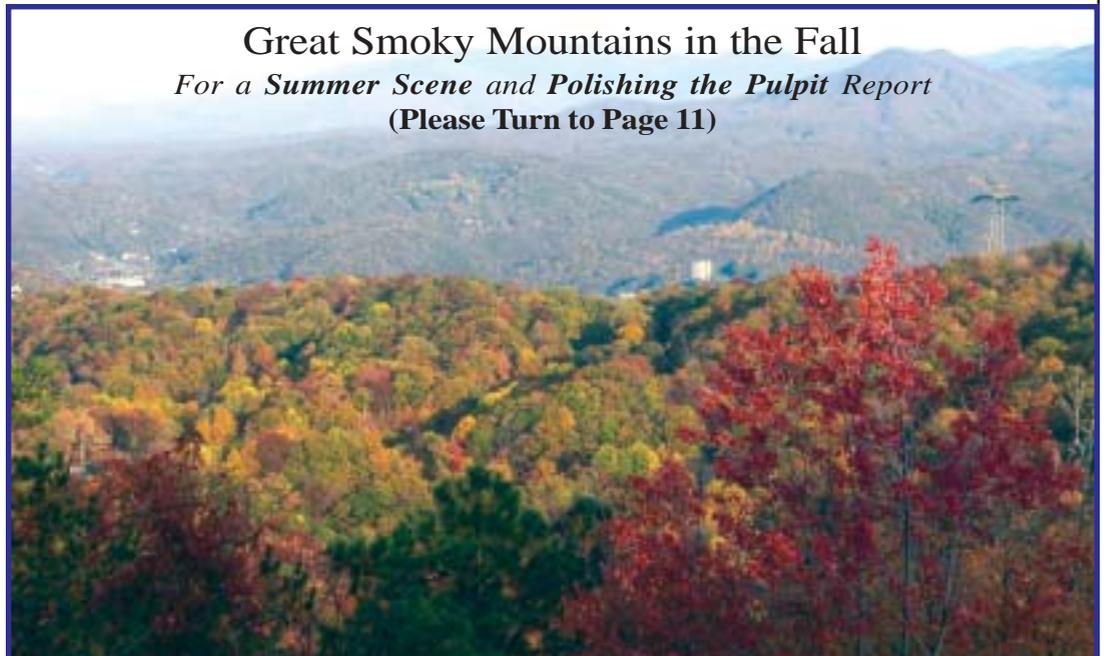
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Great Smoky Mountains in the Fall
For a Summer Scene and Polishing the Pulpit Report
(Please Turn to Page 11)



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

EDITOR'S NOTE: My June and I realize that we are richly blessed to be a part of the mission efforts of the "Magnolia Messenger." We are blessed beyond measure -- much more than we deserve! Daily, we thank God and God's people who make it all possible.

Readers of the MM often write "very favorable" comments about our work that we hesitant to publish; however, since the Magnolia Messenger is financially supported by you, our readers, we feel somewhat obligated to let you know how it is being received by many. The following is such a letter. Not deserving; yet, truly grateful to the one who wrote and to the One who makes it all possible. (alf)

Dear Al & June:

The pleasure of your visit and worship with us at Tiftonia was a wonderful surprise. I have received and read the Magnolia Messenger for several years with great appreciation for the magazine and the wonderful work you two do.

Having read so many articles written by both of you, I have been deeply impressed by your conviction and stand for The Truth. Truly, you follow and teach "The Old Paths."

I have wanted to meet and visit with you for such a long time, and was thrilled you stopped by that Wed-

nesday evening on your way to "Polishing the Pulpit." The lesson you presented from Romans 16 concerning Paul's encouragement of numerous named saints was a masterpiece.

It was truly a wonderful experience to have you "drop in" and allow us to meet you, and a thrill to hear you deliver such a wonderful message of encouragement. We are so happy you camped at Racoon Mountain Campgrounds and came our way. (Edgar C. Beard; Chattanooga, TN)

Brother Al:

I've been meaning to email you to express my thanks for mentioning the three books we're giving away. Since the notice appeared we've been flooded with requests - from all over the country. Lots of folks have been interested in the Mormon book especially. Before long we'll need to have more printings of all three.

Since stepping down from full-time pulpit work it's been a joy to be able to make materials available free of charge that will help brethren in their spiritual growth. Thanks again. (Jon Gary, La Vergne, TN 37086)

I really enjoy the Magnolia Messenger news letter. I pray to continue to receive them. This paper helps me to help others. It does my heart good to read this paper. Thank you in advance, (Patricia Tate, Blytheville, AR)

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

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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

Almighty God, My Loving Father

Editor's Note: Several weeks ago, I was blessed to receive an invitation to speak at the Freed-Hardeman University Annual Bible Lectureship in 2011. As I prepared the manuscript to be published and, later, to be presented, I decided to share with you, our MM readers, some of the Biblical teachings which have been brought to my attention as a result of this special preparation. In the following article, I am grateful to emphasize the wonderful realization that God, the Almighty One, is truly **my Heavenly Father.** (alf)

- A. L. Franks -

The concept of the Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe, being "my loving parent" or "my Heavenly Father," is a blessing beyond comprehension. This concept is made real, meaningful and practical through the divine revelation of God's will to/for mankind.

In Hosea chapter 11, the Almighty One speaks of Himself as a parent to the nation of Israel. Recalling Israel's deliverance from Egypt, through the leadership of Moses, God refers to Israel His "child." He declares his love for His child by saying that He called His "Son" out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1). Father God further declared, "I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love..." (verse 4). Consider these words used by the Heavenly Father: "child", "son", "cords of a man" and "bands of love." These words, used in Hoshiah's writings, convey the idea of a family relationship between God, the Father and Israel, His son.

This special relationship of a Father (God) and His children (Israel) was not as clearly taught in the Old Covenant as it is in the New Covenant. To those of us who live under the New Covenant, the "Father/child" relationship is, or should be, much better understood and appreciated. I know, personally, that the realization that God is my "loving parent" or, my Heavenly Father, is an concept that grows more precious as I advance in years and mature in Christ.

In the Old Testament, it was not until the days of Solomon that we find Scripture using the words "father" and "son" to describe divinity's relationship with humanity. Recorded in I Chronicles 17:13 are these words



Alfred (Al) L. Franks
- Editor -

spoken by God about Solomon, "I will be his father and he shall be my son." Also, David praised God saying, "...Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever" (I Chronicles 29:10).

The book of Psalms gives limited emphasis to this precious relationship of God, as father and His people, as children. In chapter 27 and verse 10, the relationship of God to his children is said to be stronger than that of earthly parents to their children. The Psalmist wrote, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." David also penned this words, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him" (Psalms 103:13). In Psalms 68:5, David wrote about God ("JAH"), declaring his care for the needy; describing God as "a father to the fatherless, and a judge of the widows..."

When we come to the New Testament and study especially the life and teachings of Jesus, "the Son of God," we are made to better understand the great blessing of being able to consider Almighty God as "Our Loving Father."

God, in His wisdom, saw fit to illustrate His relationship with His children to that of an early parent and his/her children. Scripture often uses the *earthly* to help us understand the *heavenly* or the *physical* so that we may see more clearly the *spiritual*. To think of God as a parent is something that we can grasp because of our own family relationships and human experiences..

From our earthly parents we have learned much. Also by becoming parents ourselves, much

more is learned, helping us to enjoy a deeper understanding and appreciation for the idea that God is "Our Loving Father."

From a physical standpoint, of course, our parents include two persons -- mother and father. In a spiritual way, God, as our loving parent, is perhaps better understood when we think of the combined qualities of a good mother and a father.

God, our Loving Parent, our Heavenly Father, has all the qualities that are characteristic of good earthly parents. Considering what our earthly parents mean to us, we can better understand what our spiritual "Parent" (Father) should mean to us.

From a personal standpoint, my earthly parents helped me form certain ideas which are deeply embedded in my understanding of God as my spiritual parent (Father). My mom and dad taught me about God through the love they demonstrated, especially in my early formative years. As a child, I looked up to them, respected them and, *most of the time*, obeyed them. They were far wiser; they knew what they were talking about (at least, I learned that later!).

My parents saw that my needs were met. I was sheltered, protected, clothed and properly fed. I never had reason to doubt their love for me. They truly cared. When my clothing caught on fire, I cried to my mother. She heard and came immediately to my side. Suffering burns herself, she put out the flames. She loved me.

As a little child, when the dog attacked me and bit me on top of my head, my Dad came to my rescue, administered first aid and took me to the doctor for medical attention. When I faced difficulties, dangers and tough decisions, I could always call upon my loving parents.

As children, brought up in a home designed by God and governed by His will, we are richly blessed. How thankful we ought to be! Our parents, through their leadership, instruction and example, helped prepare us for an understanding of what it means to have a loving Spiritual Father. Let us think and give thanks for the privilege of praying with these words: "Our Father who art in Heaven." (To Be Continued)

alf

Bible Questions Answered

“It is about to split our church.”

QUESTIONS: (1) Are fellowship meals, “love feasts,” an authorized part of Christian fellowship? (G.F)

(2) Our preacher says a fellowship meal must accompany the Lord’s Supper as part of the Sunday service. Since our elders have not agreed to that, several members and the preacher are meeting later in the day to take the Lord’s Supper with a regular meal. Is he right about this? It is about to split our church. (L.T.E.)

RESPONSE: Yes, to the importance of fellowship meals; no, to their being part of the Lord’s Supper assembly.

Eating Together

And Christian Fellowship

Fellowship, at its rudimentary definition, is mutual participation, doing things together.

It has been said, “Eating is no part of Christian fellowship.” That statement does not seem to me to be in harmony with Scripture.

The only specific thing spelled out on how to deal with a man who was to be disfellowshipped is not to eat with him (1 Corinthians 5:11). How can not eating with someone be a withdrawal of fellowship if eating with him is not part of fellowship?

Jude 12 and 2 Peter 2:13 refer to the “love feasts” (KJV, “feasts of charity”) participated in by the Christians to whom he was writing. Certain false teachers are referred to as “rocks,” “spots” or “blemishes” in their “*agape*,” their love feasts, fellowship meals.

Soon after the early church was formed, the Bible says, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Hugo McCord’s translation has “the breaking of the bread,” correctly noting that Luke’s original has the article before bread, which in usual Greek usage signifies a particular bread. Practically all students agree that “breaking of bread” in that context refers to the Lord’s Supper.

Four verses further on, however, we read, “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46). In that context, “breaking bread in their homes,” which evidently took place daily, is coupled with “received their

food,” language which suggests a full meal.

Elsewhere in Scripture the Lord’s Supper is connected to the Lord’s day (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians, chapters 11--16). This daily breaking of bread, receiving food, seems to refer then to fellowship meals.

The importance of table fellowship in building relationships is demonstrated negatively in the way the dietary and other laws in the Mosaic code built a wall between Jew and Gentile. Paul calls it “the dividing wall of hostility,” “the law of commandments and ordinances” (Ephesians 2:14-15).

The dietary laws in particular (Leviticus 11) did not allow Jews to eat things most everyone else commonly ate. The result is that Jews could not sit down with Gentiles for common meals, effectually cutting off meaningful fellowship. God intended for the Jews to be a separate people, and not permitting them to eat with the Gentiles helped accomplish that.

God, remember, showed Peter by a series of miracles, including a vision in which he showed the “unclean” foods were no longer unclean (Acts 10:9-16), that he and those with him were to go to the house of the Gentile Cornelius and preach the gospel to them. Interestingly, when the Jews questioned them about doing so, the Jews’ objection was not, “You preached to them and baptized them,” but, “You went into uncircumcised men and ate with them” (Acts 11:3).

When Peter refused to eat with Gentile Christians in Antioch, he had in effect withdrawn fellowship from them, though he knew better than to do what he did (Galatians 2: 11-14).

It should also be said, however, that biblical fellowship is not limited to eating together; it

**Response by
Cecil May, Jr.**



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includes much more.

Someone once noted, “When fellowship is mentioned, I smell coffee.” A visitation committee as a usual procedure handed out names and addresses of people who needed to be visited and then shared finger foods and desserts. On an occasion when there was reason to forego the food part of the meeting, the announcement was made, “Visitation team two will meet tonight and receive assignments, but there will be no fellowship.”

The announcement was erroneous, of course. As team two met to discuss their upcoming visits, they were having fellowship. When Christians worship together, we are having fellowship. When we work together on a benevolence project, we are having fellowship.

Anytime something is being worked on mutually people are having fellowship. Anytime Christians work on something related to God or service to others, they are enjoying Christian fellowship.

Fellowship Meals

And the Lord’s Supper

From 1 Corinthians 11 it seems obvious that the Christians in Corinth were mingling the fellowship meal and the Lord’s Supper. It seems equally obvious that the apostle is telling them in his letter that they should not be combined.

Here are his words, with verse numbers so they can be readily referenced. “[17] But in the fol-

lowing instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. [18] For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, [19] for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. [20] When you come together, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat. [21] For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. [22] What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not” (1 Corinthians 11:17-22).

Some observations from the apostle’s words:

He is discussing what takes place in the Lord’s Day, Lord’s Supper assembly. Note the assembly language: verse 17, “When you come together;” verse 18, “When you come together as a church;” verse 20, “When you come together.” (This 1 Corinthians text clearly shows that this assembly is the Lord’s Supper assembly. The evidence that it is “the Lord’s Day” or “first day of the week” assembly has been previously presented in these columns and will not be repeated here.)

A “fellowship” or “common” meal was being eaten in connection with what they were calling the Lord’s Supper. Evidently it was something like our potluck dinners, except that each person, family or clique seems to have kept their food to themselves. Some had almost none and others had too much. Paul says, “For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk” (verse 21).

Factions (1:10), including conflicts between rich versus poor (1:26), permeated the Corinthian Church, and Paul dealt with them throughout the First Corinthian epistle. These divisions manifested themselves here in what was intended to be a love feast and Lord’s Supper combination but which had become the opposite of anything showing love or resembling the Lord’s Supper.

As a result, Paul says, “When you come together, it is not the

Lord’s supper that you eat” (11:20). The King James Version renders it, “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper.” The obvious implication is that they were supposed to be coming together to eat the Lord’s Supper, as the church at Troas regularly did (Acts 20:7), but what they were doing was not the Lord’s Supper at all.

What remedy did the apostle suggest? Indignantly, he says, “What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?” (11:22). Later he repeats, “If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home” (11:34).

Since Scripture indicates that the churches often met in people’s homes (1 Corinthians 16:19), the commandments do not seem to refer to the place the fellowship meal might be eaten, but rather to the time. He is saying the “*agape*” (the love feast) does not belong in the assembly, where the Lord’s Supper most decidedly does belong.

He also says that when Christians share meals together they are to “wait for one another” and implies that they should share the food they have brought (11:22).

The Lord’s Supper, however, is not a meal to assuage hunger; it is a memorial. Paul reports that the Lord said, “This (bread) is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me,” and “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me” (11:24, 25).

There are a number of things that are appropriate for Christians on most occasions that are said by apostolic authority not to be appropriate in the assembly. Those with the gift of tongues are not to exercise their gift in the assembly; they are to “keep silent in the church” (*ekklesia*, “assembly” 1 Corinthians 14:28). Women are not permitted to “speak in church” (again, in *ekklesia*, “assembly” 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

If women need to know something during the course of the assembly, they are to “ask their husbands at home.” Does that mean they cannot ask in the car (or chariot) on the way home? It simply means, it seems to me, they are not to speak out during the assembly to ask, “for it is a shame for a woman to speak in

Turn to MEALS on Page 22



A Church Building and a Sign

1. **"Crockett"** -- name of the community, near Senatobia, in northwest Mississippi

2. **"Church of Christ"** -- The people who assemble in the building want the community to know that they respect Jesus Christ as the builder of the church and that the church belongs to him -- to Christ. The weekly bulletin of the Crockett church comments about the church with these words, *"Originated by Christ (Mt. 16:18) prior to denominationalism."*

3. **"Patience is trusting God's Timing."** Although not a direct quotation from Scripture, the idea of the message on the sign is scriptural. The need for patience is emphasized, allowing God to work on His schedule, knowing that He cares for His own and works all things together for the good of those who love Him.

4. **Schedule of Services** -- very helpful to those who wish to drop in for a visit, such as was the case with my June and me on Sunday evening, September 26, 2010.



Les Carey

Preacher for the Crockett Church

We were informed that brother Carey heard about the need for a preacher at Crockett through an ad which was published in the Magnolia Messenger. We are thankful he responded to the ad and are also thankful we were blessed to hear from him an excellent lesson on "Hard Hearts" delivered on the evening of our drop in visit.

"A Drop-in Visit"

Three things stand out as we consider what we found in our recent "Drop-in Visit" at Crockett. They are: (1) a kind and talented preacher (**Les Carey**), (2) a very capable song leader (**Bobby Stewart**), and (3) a very friendly, caring and encouraging congregation.

We are thankful for the opportunity of making our first-time-ever visit to Crockett and can assure you that we are looking forward to a return visit. The Crockett church brings together about fifty souls each Lord's day morning and, according to member **Bill Kopf**, their weekly budget enables them to assist several good mission efforts. May God continue to bless. (alf & mjf)

TOCCOPOLA

The Pine Bluff Church of Christ near Toccopola, Mississippi had **120** in attendance at their recent Homecoming. This newsnote was sent to us by **Avis Porter**, member of the Pine Bluff congregation.

CORINTH

The Foote Street Church of Christ recently celebrated their 104th anniversary. **Wayne Kilpatrick** from Florence, AL and Heritage Christian University was the speaker for the special occasion.

TUPELO

Chad Ramsey, minister for the Gloster Street Church of Christ recently began his eighth year of working with the Gloster Street congregation. Brother Chad stated, "Over the past seven years, our congregation has grown steadily. Attendance has increased from a Sunday morning average of 160 in 2003 to 222 in 2010."

BOONEVILLE

Aaron Foster recently began a new area of ministry with the Booneville Church of Christ. He will serve as their college minister. Brother Aaron recently served the Berea church as minister.

Pine Vale Children's Home

Motto

"Helping Children Grow"

A Report
by
**Tommy
&
Lynn
Baragona**



Houseparents and Secretary at Pine Vale Children's Home in North Mississippi

"Helping Children Grow"

"Helping Children Grow" -- that is the motto of Pine Vale Children's Home. We at Pine Vale are blessed to have a kind and loving staff that work all day, every day providing physical, emotional and spiritual support for neglected and abused children.

Serving these children is a never ending operation that does not just shut down at five o'clock. Houseparents are on duty twenty four hours a day, seven days a week ensuring the children receive the finest care possible.

The Pine Vale staff comes from varied backgrounds but have one goal in common; that is to make a difference in the lives of the children who come to us. Our staff is made up of three sets of houseparents: **Jimmy and Jennie Gross** with 14 years experience at Pine Vale, **Bob and Maureen Sutphin** with 7 years at Pine Vale and **Dennis and Elsie Miller** who joined the staff this past August.

Angie Strickland is Pine Vale's office manager who is indispensable since she keeps us all on track with our daily schedules and appointments that come with taking children to various doctors, dentists, orthodontists and school activities. By example from all of these spiritually minded people, every child learns Christian values as they grow at Pine Vale.

Every day we work with children whose home life was very difficult and in some cases incredibly tragic. However, it is amazing to see God work in the lives of these precious young people. Before a child has been at Pine Vale very long, he/she knows that God cares and that all of our children are important to us and are loved by all of us. These children learn that they are not alone and will always have a concerned adult available who is willing to listen when they need to talk and who will help when they need help.

Children come to Pine Vale through the Department of Human Services, through the courts and through private placement by families. Pine Vale's doors are always open to any child or group of siblings in need of a home. We help as many children as our resources will allow and it is always our hope to serve more.

Pine Vale has existed forty years because of the generous support of many friends. We have been blessed to have opportunities to change the lives of children in so many ways. As we look to the future, our goal remains the same; to make a difference in the lives of the children who come to us.

Pine Vale is growing and as it grows we need your help. Please remember us as you make memorials, gifts, and/or prepare your budgets for the coming year. We are committed to providing only the best of care

and concern for children in a safe homelike environment. If your congregation is interested in supporting Pine Vale Children's Home as part of its outreach program, we would be delighted to visit with you. If you are in the Corinth, Mississippi area, please come by and see us. You are always welcome at Pine Vale.

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More

Readers' Response

Enclosed is a check for ___ to help with the Magnolia Messenger. I appreciate the paper and really enjoy doing the Question Box. Sincerely, (Myra Reaves, Elkmont, AL)

Thanks for sending us your monthly paper. We enjoy reading it. Enclosed is a small donation to help with expenses. In Christian Love, (Harry & Jean Miller, Rogers, AR)

Keep up the good work and have a great day. Keep smiling. God loves you. In Christian Love, (Tammy Byars, Bruce, MS)

Thanks so much for the paper and I appreciate all the good work that all of you do there. Hoping this helps in some small way. Many years ago we lived in Verona and went to Gloster Street. So I love to read all about things in Miss. In Christian Love, (Virginia Askew Young, Muscle Shoals, AL)

Thanks for Reading the MM.

One - One The Value of One

Note: John Gardner, long time Academic Dean of MBC (10 years) and an elder in the Kosciusko church, is in the process of moving to preach full-time for the North Brandon church in Brandon, Mississippi. He hopes to continue writing articles for the MM. We are grateful and commend this excellent article to you. (alf)



John Gardner

**1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1
(one)**

- John Gardner -

We live in the day of astronomical numbers. Many readers grew up in a time when a million was the largest number in common usage. Then we heard about billions. And now in more recent years the almost incomprehensible value called trillions is used daily in various financial reports.

But what is the difference between a million, a billion, and a trillion? Someone has illustrated it this way. If someone gave you a million dollars and told you to spend a dollar a second (60 dollars a minute) around the clock without stopping, it would take you about 12 days to spend it. If the amount to spend was a billion dollars, it would take about 31 plus years. To spend a trillion dollars in that fashion would take over 31,688 years!

You are one. I am one. You are not the only "one" out there. Nor am I. Neither of us may be the most important "one," but each of us is one and immensely valuable to God in heaven.

But let us return to the more familiar territory of billions. There are 6.8 billion people in the world, and counting. As someone said, "That's a lot of folks." If lined up side by side, the line of humanity would reach to the moon and back 3 times, with many "extras" left over (www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/337/1/visualizing-population.html). You are one of those billions and so am I. But if I am just one of billions, do I really count?

The Bible teaches unequivocally that each and every person on earth counts with God! The New Testament especially makes it clear as it reveals the ministry of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Throughout his ministry, Jesus both demonstrated and clearly taught the value of one soul in the sight of God.

The Master Teacher spent hours instructing the hundreds and thousands of people that swarmed around him (Matthew 5:1; Mark 2:1,2,13). But He also valued and taught individuals who sought him or whom he met along the way. Nicodemus came to Jesus at the end of a day that likely had been filled with teaching others, and Jesus did not refuse him (John 3:1-21). In fact, the most famous verse in the New Testament occurs in the context of the Savior teaching his night visitor (John 3:16).

If someone suggests that the Christ welcomed Nicodemus only because of his status as a ruler of the Jews, then consider the next chapter in John. Jesus sat on a well near Sychar in Samaria while his disciples went into the city to buy food. While sitting there, tired and hungry, Jesus was approached by a Samaritan woman whose life was entangled in a web of broken relationships and sexual sin (John 4: 5-26). He did not just watch her as she labored

to fill her waterpot. Nor did He wait for her to speak. He saw before him a soul of immense value in the clutches of sin and one that was heading only for more heartache and ruin. Jesus asked for a drink of water, and having peeked her curiosity about his break with custom, he began to teach this lone Samaritan woman about living water (John 4:7-14).

When she asked for that water, Jesus told her to go get her husband. He did not do so because his time was too valuable to teach just one

one

woman. He directed her to get her husband because he knew of the failures in her marital relationships and wanted to reveal to this woman that he knew all about her needs. When the woman directed the conversation to the subject of proper worship, Jesus taught her the nature of true worship (John 4:19-24).

When she speculated openly about the coming Messiah, "Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He'" (John 4:26). The Savior made one of his clearest, most direct statements about his identity, not to thousands, but to one solitary soul. Jesus valued each and every soul he met.

Christ often rescued individuals from harassment or harm that a crowd would have inflicted. He helped the woman taken in adultery (John 8:1-11) and the noted sinner risking scorn in the Pharisee's house (Luke 7:36-50). He saw and welcomed to fellowship a man often hidden in a crowd because of his short stature and one often rejected by his Jewish brethren because he was a rich tax collector (Luke 19:1-10).

The value of one soul is declared by the Christ in his trilogy of parables found in Luke **Turn to ONE on page 22**

Now, You Take it from There!

by -

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House Rules

While walking through the "State-of-the-Art" Veterans Hospital in Mid-town Memphis, a plaque affixed to a clinic waiting room wall seemed to leap out at me. The message was:

HOUSE RULES

1. *No Fussing*
2. *No Whining*
3. *No Back Talk*

I thought, how strange a code of conduct that drives such gracious, courteous, delightful, helpful and professional personnel who staff this institution. Then I wondered; maybe these rules are directed to patients – especially the "hard-nosed" ones. I also considered this could be only a humorous gesture of in-house origin to brighten the atmosphere. Whichever, you may choose.

Upon reflection, these are very close to the marching orders for all ranks under the banner of Christianity. After Jesus reviewed requirements for discipleship – "many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'you do not want to go away also, do you?'" (John 6: 66-67).

When Jesus commissioned His apostles: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16: 16), His House Rules were in essence:

1. *Get up.*
2. *Get out of here, and*
3. *Get busy with Kingdom business.*
4. *No Fussing.*
5. *No Whining.*
6. *No Back Talk.*

The message was: "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12), and "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16: 16). The mission and message have not changed for the 21st Century.

You may wonder, how strange a code of conduct to drive such gracious, courteous, delightful and professional personnel who share the saving grace from above, with those who struggle below. But the mission is yours, and the message is yours to share.

Now, you take it from there!



A Country Church Building No Longer Used for Worship Assemblies

A Place of Many Good Memories

Somewhere in Mississippi

"On Top of the World"

A Loving Tribute to Jean Armour Thornton
August 12, 1920 - October 11, 2010

NOTE: This article by **Jimmie Timbes** was published in the weekly bulletin of the Booneville Church of Christ in Booneville, MS dated Oct. 17, 2010. It is reprinted by permission. (alf)

J.A. Thornton was born and reared in Tiplersville, Mississippi. During his childhood days, through the influences of a Christian home and other godly men and women, his desire to preach the Gospel was created.

He obeyed the Gospel at the age of 14 under the preaching of his uncle, **F.G. Howell**, and was baptized by **Everett Day, Sr.** At the age of 18 he preached his first Gospel sermon. He proclaimed the Good News of the Gospel and baptized countless souls in more than a dozen states over 65 plus years.

What in the world can be said about "*Brother Thornton*"? That was just simply his name. He was known far and wide, in the Lord's church and in the community, as simply, "*Brother Thornton*".

We all have *Brother Thornton stories* ... how he delighted in telling the story of how he discovered America. He would tell how when he was born, he weighed a whopping two and one-fourth pounds, pillow and all! He loved to tell how the special lady from the community watched over him day and night, keeping him warm by the fire (and in August that was a chore!) and how his dear mother prayed that if the Lord allowed him to live, she would do all in her power to *make a Gospel preacher out of him*. Then he would say, "Well, I lived and I'm still trying to become a preacher!"

Brother Thornton had so many wonderful traits, but the one trait that stood out to so many of us, on a daily basis, was his positive attitude. We all knew his motto was, "*I'm on top of the world!*". No matter how he was feeling, physically or emotionally, our brother Thornton was **always On Top Of The World**. Folks often asked him how he stayed so positive, so he wrote a tract that he titled *How To Stay on Top of The World*.

In my files I have eleven other tracts and booklets that he wrote, plus two songs, and about fifteen years of Wednesday night Bible study books. Also in my

files I found his *Ten Rules For Personal Success*. They are:

1. Always do your best.
2. Be punctual and keep your promises.
3. Waste not time, for time is life.
4. Never postpone what should be done.
5. Use every opportunity to improve yourself.
6. Give cheerful cooperation.
7. Always be fair and square.
8. Begin each day with enthusiasm, determination and confidence.
9. Set your goals high and seek to attain them relentlessly.
10. Give yourself away. (Luke 12:15b).

Thank you, brother Thornton, for leaving your vast knowledge in written form for us! Brother Thornton baptized so many of us, "married" so many of us, and "buried" so many of our loved ones. The very best way for us to honor our dear brother, J.A. Thornton, is to live our life as He did, with Christ as our guide and Heaven as our goal.

We will miss him, but are confident of that great reunion, after a while. (by JAT; *the other one*)

Additional Notes by Editor

Funeral services for Jean Armour (J.A.) Thornton were conducted on Thursday at 2:00 P.M. at the building of the Booneville Church of Christ. As a reminder of the great influence of preacher Thornton, a pictorial review of his life was shown on a large screen. In less than 15 minutes an effort was made to summarize the life of a man who influenced so many thousands of souls, especially in northeast Mississippi.

After college at Freed-Hardeman, in 1941 brother Thornton's first full-time work began with the church in Vernon, Alabama. After Alabama; however, most of his life's work was with Mississippi churches, including Corinth, Sardis, Macon, Booneville and New Albany. For a total of 25 years, he worked with the two last named congregations. Brother Thornton, so we were informed, preached in about 500 Gospel Meetings and delivered approximately 20,000 sermons.

Three men were chosen to speak at the funeral service. Two were sons-in-law (**Ralph Gilmore** and **Jim Estes**). The



J. A. Thornton
Gospel Preacher
Died October 11, 2010

other speaker, **Jim Olive**, had grown up under the influence of brother Thornton and was encouraged by him to become a preacher of the gospel. At the service, which was declared to be a "day of celebration," the congregation sang three songs led by **Mike Timbes**, a deacon and long time member at Booneville. One of the songs, "*Why Stay, Why Stay Outside?*" was written by brother J. A. Thornton himself.

Ralph Gilmore, a son-in-law and Professor at FHU in Henderson, Tennessee, spoke with much affection for his father-in-law, recalling a statement often made by brother Thornton: "*The main thing is to make the main thing the main thing.*" Ralph applied the saying to four things which received much attention by brother Thornton during his ninety years of life. They were (1) Jesus and His Church, (2) His Family, (3) Freed-Hardeman and (4) Christian friends.

Jim Olive, who grew up in Booneville and who has, for the past 39 years, preached for the same Nashville church, recalled that he was only ten years old when brother Thornton came to preach at Booneville. He said that brother Thornton became "*the second strongest influence in my life -- next to my parents.*" As Jim recalled the life and work of J. A. Thornton, he declared, "*Today is a day of celebration.*"

The final speaker was Jim Estes, a son-in-law; also an elder of the Booneville church and "associate minister". Jim commented about the life of his father-in-law, recalling some of the things that, as a man, Jean Thornton "loved." These things included: practical jokes, children, fishing, music, giving and encouraging. All of these things, of course, were in addition to his first love for the Lord and His Work.

We will miss him -- one who has now gone out of this world.

Readers' Response

Hello,

Still enjoying the MM and the Question Box... Keep up the good work in the Good News paper. In Christ, (**Ms. Dorothy Laws**, Huntingdon, TN) (Dorothy, thanks for your informative letter. It is always good to hear from you. mjf.)

Dear Christian Friends,

Here's yet another interesting Question Box study. What a deep one!! The more I read, the more I wanted to learn. Thanks again for allowing the Question Box into our home. It's so great. God is Great! In Christian love, (**Bronwen Pollard**, Brandon, MS)

I am a concerned Christian mother and Grandmother. I appreciate the articles on pages 20 and 22 on Modest Apparel and Abortion. I have 2 precious granddaughters, ages 8 & 10. I have cut these articles out to pass along to them in hope that it will encourage them to do the right thing as they grow up. Sincerely, (**Anna Rainwater**, Michie, TN)

Would you please send me the Magnolia Messenger again? I got it for a long time and really enjoyed reading it. Could you please start with July/Sept issue? I read someone else's and saw an article on Richard Gooch that I would love to read again. He preached at the church where I grew up along time ago, and I had lost touch with him and Joe. (**Teresa Brumley**, Fulton, MS)

Dear Bro. Franks & Staff:

My wife and I really enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. We are retired and don't get around as well and we used to (or would like to) so the M.M. keeps us informed about the Lord's Church in many places. We still remember the Sunday evening several years ago when you and your wife dropped in on us at the Columbia Church of Christ. We are in our new building now on Hwy. 4 East. Our minister now is Sam Sidders from West Monroe, LA. (**Alton & Mildred Oser**, Grayson, LA) P.S. You all come visit us again anytime!

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized

Examples in the Book of Acts

Jews on Pentecost

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

Corinthians

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

Samaritans

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

Simon

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

Ethiopian Eunuch

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

Saul

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

Cornelius

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

Lydia

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

Jailor

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

Ephesians

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

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized!

Wonder Why? Could it be?

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Quotations from KJV & NKJV.

Have YOU Been Baptized?

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

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

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

"And now, why are you waiting?"

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

The Fruit of Gentleness

- Eddie Lewis -

Credo Mutwa is a South African Sangoma, or healer. He is an author and authority on African culture. He lost his son at an early age. To the Bantu natives a proper burial was vitally important. To be buried in a pauper's grave was a disgrace. But for a Bantu to have access to a cemetery, he must belong to a recognized church and have a recognized minister preside over the service.

The grief-stricken parents turned to their "Christian" minister, whose church the wife had attended for years, but Credo had not. When they asked for a funeral the minister flatly refused, giving no reason for the denial.

Later Mutwa wrote, "Strangely, the priest knew exactly what he was doing to me when he refused to bury my son, for over the years I had explained to him all the laws and customs of the Bantu. He refused simply because I was not, with the rest of my family, a member of his church."

From this experience Mr. Mutwa wrote a bitter book, "Africa, as My Witness." One of the chapters is entitled "Why Christianity Has Failed in Africa." He charges, "The culprits are those dictators and sadistic who wear their white collars the wrong way around."

It is sad that something like this happened in the name of Christ or Christianity. Many people through the centuries have suffered at the hands of those who profess to be the children of God, but have brought persecution and punishment to those who disagreed with them.

When I think of Christ, the single quality that strikes me most was His tenderness, gentleness, and kindness to those in sin, those afflicted, and His followers. It is true that God's justice and impartiality must be satisfied in all His dealings with man. "The soul that sins shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). But the fact is that God deals with man in the direction he is going. He has sensitivity to man. The blatant and willful



Eddie Lewis

sinner will die. The seeking and sincere heart will find the way to God and be saved.

Christ came not only to redeem us, but also to give us a clear picture of what God is like. He shows us the gentleness of God in His life.

Gentleness is also a fruit of the Spirit. The word translated gentleness means kindness or sweetness of disposition, a willingness to be of service to others. The opposite of this word is harsh or crabby.

The word is used in 1 Corinthian 13:4—"Love is kind;" 2 Peter 1:7—"Brotherly kindness," which is one of the Christian graces; Ephesians 4:32—"Be kind one to another, tenderhearted," Paul lists the characteristics of the new man.

Also, Paul speaks of God's kindness and forbearance to us in Romans 2:4. We must understand that God's kindness does not provide the opportunity to sin. It is a terrible thing to try to tread on God's kindness that will bring His wrath. In God we have justice and gentleness in balance.

Those to whom God shows His kindness are: **The afflicted**—"The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble" (Nah. 1:7); **The poor**—"Thou didst provide in Thy goodness for the poor, O God" (Ps. 68:10); **Those who hope and trust in Him**—"O taste and see the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him" (Ps. 34:8); **Those who reverence and fear Him** "How great is Thy goodness, Which Thou hast stored up for those who hear Thee." (Ps. 31:19).

Paul charges his fellow workers to be gentle in their dealing with others. "The Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all..." (2 Tim. 2:24, Tit. 3:1, 2).

Like all fruit of the Spirit, gentleness is a characteristic we must grow into. You cannot decide one day to be gentle and the next possess the trait. The following are three things we can do to help us grow in gentleness:

1. Take time for tenderness. The story is told of Lenin, the founder of Communism in Russia. To promote his revolutionary ideas, he wrapped himself in his work. His friends saw him as a miserable man. One night his wife asked him to awaken her, if her dying mother needed her. His wife had been attending her and was exhausted. He said he would. She awoke the next morning to find her mother had died in the night. She confronted him in anger. His reply, "You told me to wake you if she needed you. She died. She didn't need you." It is possible for us to be so wrapped up in our work, or a cause, that we have no time for tenderness.

Contrast that to Christ. His cause was the greatest of all time, yet He took time for the children that crowded around Him to gently show His love (Mk. 10:13). He gently spoke to the woman at the well and helped her find the water of life (Jo. 4:7). He gently stooped down to help the woman caught in adultery be restored from her sin (Jo. 8:1). It's great to see all the time Jesus spent in doing gentle acts of kindness for people in need. We must take time for tenderness.

2. Eliminate the shadow wars. We can dwell on wrongs we feel others have done to us and lose our peace that creates gentleness. Don't be like Jack. He was going down a country road and had a flat tire. He opened his trunk and discovered he had forgotten to replace his jack he had used a few days earlier. He saw in the distance a house. As he walked toward

See GENTLENESS on page 22

William Woodson Departed on 9/4/10

On Saturday, September 4, 2010, an e-mail from **Dale Jenkins** (via way of **Ken Joines**) reached my computer. It stated,

You many have already heard, but about 6 this evening brother William Woodson of Walker Country, Alabama, former chairman of the Bible department at FHU, first chair of the DLU Bible graduate program, and former minister at Granny White died.

The last year his health had gone down and the last two to three weeks he has been in the hospital. Jeanne and his family, Dan Winkler and Jeremiah Tatum were with him when he died. I appreciate how our friend Jeremiah has ministered to this family the last several years and more specifically the last few weeks.

He leaves a pretty amazing legacy and will be missed by many in our great brotherhood...."

"For to me... to die is gain... to depart... is very far better." (Phil. 1:21-23)

Damascus, Arkansas

Noel Moser Died at age 101

*Adult Bible class teacher
in the same congregation for 78 years!*

Editor's Note: The main emphasis of the Magnolia Messenger is Mississippi; however, on occasions, we are pleased to include items from our sister states, especially those adjoining the Magnolia state. We give a special thanks to **William Kay Moser** for sending information about the life and death of his beloved father who lived more than 100 years before his recent departure. You will benefit by learning about this rather uncommon, yet, "common man." You will value the hope that every Christian has who "dies in the Lord" as you read the closing comments written by his son. (alf)

Noel Moser was born August 23, 1909, near Morrilton, Arkansas --almost on the banks of Little Strawberry River in Fulton County. He lived his entire life within eight or ten miles of where he was born.

Noel became a Christian when he was a teenager and began teaching adult Bible classes part or full time -- a practice he continued for 78 years in the same congregation -- the Morrilton congregation. He was a farmer with 700 acres and grew



William Woodson

Editor's Personal Note:

For more than 50 years, the influence of William Woodson has been a part of my life. I first met brother William when he was preaching for the East Main Church in Tupelo, Mississippi and I was preaching for the Sky-line congregation, about three miles east. On one occasion he heard me preach a sermon and afterwards took me aside and kindly taught me "the way of God more accurately" (see Acts 18:26). It was a meaningful experience.

Turn to WOODSON on Page 22

cotton, corn and hay and raised dairy and beef cattle.

Noel was married to his wife, Lois, for seventy years before she preceded him in death.

His only surviving son, William Kay Moser, wrote the following about the death of his dad.

"The last Sunday afternoon he was not responsive but we believe he knew that all his family was with him in the rehab room and we held his hands as he took his final breath. We believe select angels were dispatched shortly after midnight to take his sanctified spirit to the bosom of Abraham, who was standing in for God in the story told in Luke chapter 16. The story of Lazarus and the angels carrying him to the bosom of Abraham is certainly in the Bible to encourage us to believe the same will be provided us if we trust and obey God. We believe he did." Brother Kay closed his comments by adding, "We buried him on my mother's birthday, the 14th of October. Divine providence for our comfort? Who is to say it isn't?"

(William Kay Moser preaches for the Damascus church of Christ; # 6 Highway 124 West; Damascus, AR 72039)



Signs Still Exclaim: "GOSPEL MEETING" Servants Still Proclaim: "The TRUTH in LOVE"

In August **Bob Swain**, former preacher for the South Main Church in Greenville, Mississippi, visited the Nile church, a few miles south of Kosciusko, and preached in an "old fashion" gospel meeting using effective power point presentations. We were blessed to hear him speak one night and were very impressed with the kind and loving way brother Bob presented New Testament teachings about the church of our Lord and its God-given place in the salvation of souls. We are still persuaded that such preaching cannot help but to do good. May we always remember that the power is in the Word -- the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). And, may God help each of us to always encourage the proclamation of the "truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

MM Welcomes News Reports and Teaching Articles

Winona Church Hosts Gospel Meeting Featuring One of Their Own.

Under the banner, "Realistic Christianity," the Winona church conducted a Gospel Meeting October 3rd through 6th with Chase Surrrell returning to his home congregation and effectively proclaiming the Word.

Chase, who grew up in Winona, is the son of Billy Joe and Wanda Surrrell who, along with other family members (included grandparents -- Bill and Mary Surrrell) are members of the Winona church. Chase studied for the ministry at MBC, obtained his B.S. degree in Bible from FHU and is presently working on a "Masters of Ministry" at Freed-Hardeman.

The young Surrrell presently serves as one of three ministers for the Christian Chapel church of Christ at Hatley, near Amory. (Christian Chapel is one of the largest rural churches of Christ in Mississippi with Sunday attendance running about 270 each Lord's day.)

My June and I were blessed



Chase Surrrell
Native son of Winona

to hear brother Chase speak on Monday night (10/4/10). His subject, "Do I Really Love My Neighbor?" was based on scripture recorded in James 2:1-13. Evidencing serious preparation, the talented speaker challenged all to follow the practical teachings of the inspired James who wrote that if we truly love our neighbor, we will not show partiality -- regardless of wealth and/or influence. Using Jesus as our example and teacher, Chase further called upon us to love as Jesus loved and as He taught. (alf)

North Brandon Church Conducts Meeting

Tony Brown, preacher for the Zion's Rest church in Prentiss County, was the visiting preacher for a recent Gospel Meeting hosted by the North Brandon church in Brandon, Mississippi. My June and I were blessed to be in attendance one night and heard brother Tony present a very powerful sermon on the Crucifixion of our Lord. He approached it from the standpoint of what a witness might observe as he watched the execution from some distance. It was a thought provoking sermon, producing greater gratitude in our hearts for the love demonstrated by God, the Father, and by His Son, Jesus,



Tony Brown

North Brandon Church Hires New Preacher

After the resignation of Ray Penna, who chose to retire and move to Holiday, Tennessee, the North Brandon church asked John Gardner to serve as their full time preacher. Brother **John** and his wife, **Linda**, have just recently moved from Kosciusko to Brandon in order to accept the challenge of once again being involved in full-time local preaching. For the past ten years or so, John has served as Academic Dean of Magnolia Bible College. He also served much of this time as one of the elders of the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko. As some have said, "North Brandon's gain is Kosciusko's loss." (*Brother Gardner plans to continue writing articles for the MM. Grateful.*)



John Gardner

Union Church Hosts Gospel Meeting with Evangelist Steve Kirby



The Kirbys: Lisa and Steve Kirby

My June and I enjoyed our recent visit with the Union church (near Meridian, MS). The church hosted a Gospel Meeting with evangelist Steve Kirby of Clarksville, Tennessee.

Seeing Steve and his wife, Lisa, stirred memories -- reaching back a quarter of a century when it was our privilege to introduce Steve and his wife to the Meridian church (Highway 19, North). Steve and Lisa joined with **Bill Merritt** and his wife, **Nancy**, to form an evangelistic team to help firmly establish the newly formed congregation. For ten years the Kirbys continued their Mississippi missionary work before moving back to Tennessee.

On the last night of the October Gospel Meeting, brother Steve preached on "Growing in Fellowship." After explaining the meaning of fellowship, he used I John 1:5-10 to answer, "What is the Nature of True Fellowship?" Then using effectively I Thess 5:14, he stressed some simple steps required for growth in Christian Fellowship. They are: (a) *Warn the*

Unruly, (b) *Comfort the Faint-hearted*, (c) *Uphold the Weak* and (d) *Be Patient with Everyone*. Speaking of "growth," Steve said, "The biggest room in our lives is growth."

Illustrating the meaning of "fellowship," he asked that we think of two fellows in a ship who need (depend upon each other) and must work together. Steve rightly stressed that fellowship is "much more than a meal together." He said, "It is sharing a godly walk together."

One of the specific points he asked us to remember is the fact that a "Christian is not sinless, but a Christian will strive to sin less and less and less."

The Union congregation is overseen by three elders (**Bill Koch**, **Sam Williamson** and **Rick Benson**) and is also served by Rick Benson, as preacher. Attendance the last two Sundays before our visit, according to posted records, was 49 and 42. May God continue to bless. May unity always prevail at Union. (alf)

Lake Harbour Church Conducted Meeting in October

David Lipe of Henderson, Tennessee recently conducted a Gospel Meeting for the Lake Harbour church in Ridgeland, Mississippi, where **John Pigg** serves as the local preacher. It was our privilege to hear his powerful lesson on "Repentance" preached on Monday evening, October 18.

Brother Lipe has just recently resigned as Bible professor at FHU in Henderson and has accepted the challenge of a full time work as preacher for the church in Cookeville, Tennessee. He has, however, agreed to continue to serve as chairman of the annual lectureship at FHU where he and his wife, **Linda**, have worked for the past two decades. We pray the very best for David and his family as they make this transition back into full-time local work.

The Lake Harbour church is served by **John Pigg** as Pulpit



David Lipe

and Outreach Minister, **Dustin Abbot**, Youth and Family Minister and **Juana Hall**, Church Secretary. The church is overseen by five elders and assisted greatly in its work by ten deacons. The congregation consists of about 200 each Lord's day and is presently in a building program.

“Deliverance of The Suffering Creation”

John Poore

The ability to consciously process the frailties of this world, and our personal humanity, is virtually impossible. We mortals see very little rhyme,



Earthquakes, floods, destructive storms, wildfires, and other unfortunate events give powerful testimony to the transitory nature of this realm. The young, the old, the unborn, rich, poor, and even the “righteous” suffers persecution. (2 Timothy 3:10-12)

reason, or pattern in the labor pains of God’s universe. (Romans 8:18-25) Our finite minds can neither learn, nor fully understand the harnessed bondage that yearns to be liberated through decay and death into that glorious freedom with God!

Some of God’s greatest servants succumbed to the weakness and torture of the flesh. Moses, by choice (Hebrews 11:25) Paul, through his own willingness (2 Corinthians 11:21-29) Job, Stephen, and ultimately the Lord Himself (Isaiah 53; Matthew 26, 27) Fleshly/earthly deliverance is our mode of transportation from the cruel uncertainty of this world to a triumphant arrival at the throne of God!

The daily guttural groans of creation struggle should cause us to eagerly expect that eternal hope for which we have been called, and patiently anticipate. Perhaps the Christians “acceptance” of creature suffering is more spiritually beneficial than his or her “understanding” of it.

To remain spiritually objective with creation groaning, Christians must become keenly aware of the presence of the Divine in their personal lives. Living in accord with the Spirit will allow us to be mindful of spiritual qualities like “life and peace”. (Romans 8:5-6) When we pray in bewildering events, God’s Spirit will intercede for us with messages too difficult to express. God then searches and finds that troubled heart, and works in that struggling life of those that love Him. (Romans 8:26-28)

In “jars of clay” we experience crushing perplexities, desperate persecutions, abandonment, and destruction. However, in the physical body of every believer, the “death and life of Jesus” must be borne. (2 Corinthians 4:7-12) Creation challenges should not discourage us, but rather strengthen and renew us on a daily basis. Paul describes this life as a single moment of trouble which leads us by faith to know eternal joy with God. (2 Corinthians 4:16-19)

The temporary suffering of creation manifests itself in several ways for various purposes. Jesus, for example, learned obedience through His personal pain of suffering. (Hebrews 5:8) Discipline and chastening from the Father is a spiritual window through which His children can see the magnitude of His love for them. (Proverbs 3:11, 12)

The suffering of this, yet to be delivered, world should never come to us as some unexpected event, but it should be an opportunity for collective participation in the struggles of Jesus. As Christ was insulted, suffered, and died, we must praise and give glory to God as we bear the perfect name of that One which we strive to follow. Doing good, in spite of earthly shackles, is a commitment to faith in the Creator. (1 Peter 4:12-19)

Escaping the destruction of this world is a process by which fellow-believers can identify and sympathize with Jesus and one another. (Hebrews 4:14-16) Living through the groaning deliverance of this creation is a daily opportunity to embrace the

Creation anguish is universal and common to everything that God made from nothing.

Union, MS Church Enjoys Success With Outreach Program

Report by **Rick Benson**

One of the challenges a small congregation faces is how to motivate people to come into our church buildings, meet us, and hear the gospel preached. And, of course, to bring them in a scriptural way. By using the example of the early church, in Acts, we were able to accomplish this goal.

On October 9, 2010, the Union Church of Christ held an outreach program called “Share & Serve.” This event, which took place in our church building, was to serve the town of Union, Mississippi, with its population of 2,000. The Union church, with a membership of only 50, had over 30 of our folks to participate in this work. They all were blessed in their efforts to serve those in need

The small Union congregation collected clothing, household items and food. We had no idea how many people would come; however, we were pleased that thirty-one families came to us, representing ninety-one souls. All who came wanted clothing; we were surprised that not all asked for food. We actually had some food bags left over. Each person we helped was given an invitation to our up-



“Sharing and Serving” -- A Very Special Day in Union, Mississippi

coming revival meeting, along with information about the New Testament church.

Everyone who came asking for help, filled out a form in which we offered various services. We are now in the process of following up on the requests. About 15 requested home visits and Bible studies. Many also have needs with which we can help in the future. These include: more clothing, G.E.D instruction and job placement.

All of those who requested assistance opened their doors for us to visit them in the future. Our revival meeting began on Sunday, the day after our clothing and food distribution. Steve Kirby from the Hillsdale congregation in Clarksville, Tennessee, was our guest

evangelist. Each of his messages focused on “How to Grow as a Christian.” Some of his sermons were on Prayer, Evangelism and Fellowship. Four persons who came to “Share and Serve” attended the meeting. Also, during the meeting, we had one soul to obey the gospel.

This special event taught our congregation how to work as Christians on a “day by day” basis. As a preacher and an elder, I was blessed and was made to rejoice when I saw the work we accomplished. In the future, we are hoping for more fruit.

For more information about this program, email Rick Benson unionchurchofchrist@yahoo.com.

eternal nature of the Lord. The tabernacle of God will be void of the pain, disappointment, and death of this present time. (Revelation 21:3, 4)

Awaiting the final liberation of this world should be every reason to believe, rather than an excuse to deny the power and wisdom of God! In this mortal body, we are not what we will be. However, our future hope rests in the promise of being like Jesus, when we see Him as He is. (1 John 3:1-3) Experiencing the troubles of creation can help us to not fall too deeply in love with this old sinful world! (1 John 2:15-17) Creature suffering can in no way compare with a glorious future with God in heaven! (Romans 8:18)

(Brother Poore preached in Mississippi more than thirty years ago and assisted in the beginning of Magnolia Bible College. His address: 26437 Whirlaway Terrace; Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-1550.)

The Road Less Traveled

- David Haddock -

The Bible speaks of two paths in life,
One is broad and filled with wickedness and strife;
It's a road often traveled by the majority of men,
It seems filled with enjoyment, but it's also filled with sin.

The broad path seems so fun, but it leads to doom,
This road never gets filled up, for more sinners there's always room;
The world sees this road as the smart way to travel,
But many on this path see their life begin to unravel.

For even though sin may be fun for a season,
The sinner finds his life empty with no rhyme or reason;
But there's a narrower path with a smaller gate,
It leads to a life of peace and a better fate.

This narrow path is found by few,
It requires obedience to God and a life that is new;
It's a different way to travel and to the world it's not sensible,
It requires faith & forgiveness -- things the world finds reprehensible.

But this narrower path is filled with goodness and light,
In a world of evil and darkness, it offers an answer to man's plight;
For man's soul is eternal, no matter what some might say,
It's Heaven or hell on the judgement day.

So make your mind up, and enter in the narrow gate,
No matter what you've done, you can change your fate;
God loves us so much, He wants none to fall,
And that's why He made available the gospel for all.

(David Haddock; 1603 Dogwood Terrace; Clinton, MS 39056)

Don't Wait on Moses As Your Tour Guide Of the Holy Land

An Unsolicited Suggestion by

- Doug Greenway -

For many years I have known that one day I would tour the Holy Land. There was always the issue of our having children at home, a working wife and of course the expense of what was usually billed as a 10-day trip. In addition to that, it got on my last nerve that folk who had gone to Israel would inevitably come back and say, "Go! Even if you have to borrow the money to go, Go!"

Now, my children are grown and gone and my wife Vickie retired in May. We signed up for the November, 2010 *Magnolia Messenger Tour* that was eventually cancelled by the tour company. We were determined to join a Christian group a.s.a.p. for this trip of a lifetime and managed to find a group of about twenty brethren from the Nashville area who were excited for us to join them in mid-June. I came home wanting to share our enthusiasm with the MM readers through this unsolicited article. I asked Brother Al if I could write these words.

Truly, it is unexplainable the glory one feels to "walk where Jesus walked." Our faith will never be the same. The benefits I received, as a minister of 34 years, is equal to the Masters Degree I received in biblical studies. And Vickie and I made so many memories! We rode a camel together, floated in the Dead Sea, worshipped in the Garden of Gethsemane and renewed our marriage vows at the Mt. of Beatitudes.

FULTON

The annual Homecoming for the Fulton Church of Christ was held on November 7, 2010. Richard Rogers from Fayetteville, TN was the speaker.

Vickie and I 100% paid our own way. We found it VERY beneficial to travel with brethren. And, a guided tour with someone who has been there before is the only way to go!

Let me encourage all you brethren and sistern to book that Holy Land tour a.s.a.p.! Let me encourage elderships to pay any or all expenses -- to pay the way of their preacher and his wife. Invest in them so they will come home and share the experience with you! (We took about 450 pictures and I came back and did a Sunday night lesson from some stop on each of the days of the trip -- with our own PowerPoint slides.) Make the trip while you can still walk 2-3 miles/day.

So, here is an unsolicited plea from this preacher to you — don't wait on Moses to lead a tour group to the Holy Land. His touring days are over. However, Paul & Al Franks are still working on a tour for 2011. Let them know you are ready to go. And, "Go! Even if you have to borrow the money to go, Go!" Shalom.

— — —
Doug Greenway, pulpit
minister

West Main church of Christ,
Tupelo, MS
doug_greenway@yahoo.com

See Ads on
Pages 11 and 22
**Lands of The Bible
Cruise 2011**

**The Bible Still says:
"Preach the Word"**
"Reprove, rebuke, exhort"
(2 Tim. 4:2)

13th Annual MM MS RV Rally

To be held, Lord willing, at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, MS on April 27 - May 1, 2011. Our theme will be: **Living life focused on two days, This DAY and that DAY.**

Plenty of cabins and rooms at the lodge are available at the present time. All of the lodge rooms are reserved under my name. You can call the State Park (601-684-3938) and reserve a cabin/RV site today. Don't wait to the last minute. Make your reservations today.

If you need more information, you can call me at 337-515-7314. (Paul Franks, director of Mississippi Rally)

How I Wish the World Would Celebrate Christmas

- Dennis Doughty -

A little girl came and sat in Santa's lap. "What would you like for Christmas?" the jolly old man asked. There was this look of shock on the little girls face. "Why Santa," she said, "didn't you get my e-mail?" I wonder if Santa has a Facebook page?

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. What a joyous time for our kids, grandchildren, and for the kid that is in all of us. It is a happy time. In the midst of this joyous season we cannot deny that there is a spiritual side to Christmas; a "Reason for the Season." If it must, let me share with you how I wish the world would celebrate Christ's birth.

Washington and Lincoln

When I was a boy in school we had two holidays; one to celebrate Washington's Birthday, the other to celebrate Lincoln's.

On those occasions we would study about these men and what they did for our country. We studied about their work and their role as president. But we never studied anything about their births. I know of no facts or stories concerning the circumstances of their births.

These holidays have since been combined into Presidents' Day and we have added the celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday. Now kids in school are taught about what he did for the civil rights movement, his famous speeches, and the events of his untimely death. The news clips on TV do not show scenes of where he was born or pictures of him in his crib, nor of stories of his aunts and uncles coming to his home to visit him as a baby.

Celebrate His Life!

I wish the world would celebrate the birth of Jesus the way it celebrates the birth of



Dennis Doughty

other men, by concentrating on His life. I wish our nation would look more at His accomplishments, teachings, world influence, and death; than at the manger scene, the three wise men, and the shepherds tending their flocks. It's all about "the baby Jesus." If the world has decided it must celebrate His

I wish I could take the Christmas season and somehow change the emphasis from the manger to the cross; from the three wise men bringing gifts to the three days in the tomb; from the annual Christmas service to the weekly remembrance of his death.

birth in a special way, let us at least encourage it to do it right!

The truth is that the scriptures give little emphasis to his birth. Matthew covers his birth and first two years in a mere 20 verses (Matthew 1:18-2:12). Luke likewise devotes only 20 verses to the Lord's birth (Luke 2:1-20). The gospels of Mark and John make no mention of the event at all. Throughout the rest of the New Testament there is no direct mention of any of the events of Christ's birth.

Rather, Jesus of Nazareth bursts upon the scene as a wise, charismatic, mature thirty year old (a middle age man in those days), and attracted large crowds by the hope he brought to their lives, by his life style, his teachings and his miraculous powers. Let us celebrate this life!

I wish I could take the Christmas season and somehow

change the emphasis from the manger to the cross; from the three wise men bringing gifts to the three days in the tomb; from the annual Christmas service to the weekly remembrance of his death.

Yes, His virgin birth was special, miraculous, humble and unique. However, in our celebration, let us not lose focus on the man he became and how his life changed the world.

Regardless of what I feel, or what the scriptures teach, this man-made holiday is here to stay. I could choose devote my energy to condemning and criticizing it. But I would probably be wise to use it; use it as a tool to speak of the greatest life ever lived; use it as a tool to echo the words from Pentecost; "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both

Lord and Christ- this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36). This is how I wish the world would celebrate

Christmas.

To this point I wrote the following poem.

Behold Him!

Behold Him in the Manger, the earthly form of God's love. Listen as the host of angels, sing to the shepherds from above.

Behold Him on the mountainside, as he taught the multitudes. Join him as He feeds them all, with 5 loaves and 2 fish for food.

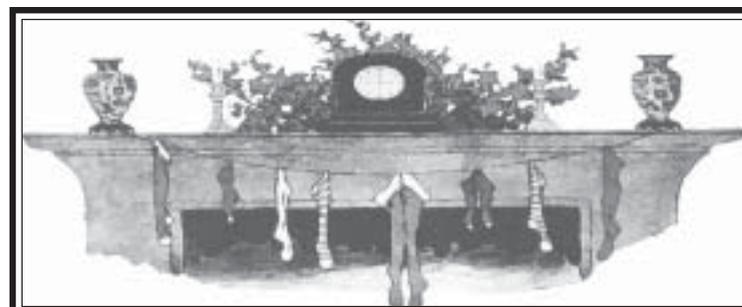
Behold Him as he healed the sick; the blind, the leper, the lame. Walk with him into Jerusalem, as the crowds shout out his name.

Behold him in Gethsemane, as He prepares to die. Watch Him before Pilate as the mob cries, "Crucify!"

Behold him on the cross in a darkened noonday sky. Be silent as the stone rolls back, and angels proclaim, "He's alive!"

Behold Him. Oh, behold Him! His hands and feet nail-scarred. Behold Him. Oh, behold Him! Will you now follow his star?

Dennis preaches for the Tunica church of Christ. His address: Dennis Doughty; P. O. Box 155; Tunica, MS 38676 E-mail: dennis1848@bellsouth.net



Special Series in Sevierville

(Near Gatlinburg in the Great Smoky Mountains of TN)

- A Report -



“Polishing the Pulpit” Series Brought Together Over 2,000 Souls

For several years (since 1995), an annual program (workshop), designed especially for preachers, has been conducted in various Alabama cities including Jacksonville, Oxford, Montgomery, Huntsville and Birmingham. It was also held in Tennessee cities such as Jackson, Pigeon Forge and Chattanooga. In 2001, PTP came to Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

For the past three years, however, “Polishing the Pulpit” has settled down in Sevierville, Tennessee. The format and program has been greatly expanded in an effort to provide help for all members of the Lord’s church -- not just preachers.

Scriptural motivation for PTP may be found in Paul’s statement to Timothy, “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God... (2 Tim. 1:6). The purpose behind the yearly program is now said to be: “To assist preachers, church leaders and Christians by providing sermon and illustration materials, instruction by mature, capable preachers, development of sermon ideas, practical ideas about church work, suggestions of beneficial books and ministry tools, and visits to exemplary congregations to learn ‘hands on’ and ‘how to.’”

“Polishing the Pulpit” is under the direction of the elders of the Lord’s church in Jacksonville, Alabama. They select men to be directors of each event, in-

cluding Allen Webster, who is the editor of “House to House - Heart to Heart”, a popular bi-monthly magazine that now has a circulation of 1.8 million copies.

My June and I were blessed with the opportunity of attending the most recent program held August 17 - September 2, 2010, in the beautiful facilities of the Sevierville Convention Center. Some of the best known and gifted speakers in the church were an attraction to the more than 2040 who registered. (Allen Webster told me that the total registered was 2,043.) This number greatly exceeding the previous attendance record by more than 600.

Organizers of the special event booked 102 different speakers with ten concurrent sessions each hour covering a multitude of subjects. 375 separate classes were scheduled over seven days. Special classes were designed for elders, deacons and their wives. There were programs for teenagers and younger children.

Host churches in the area included the Gatlinburg, Seymour, Sevierville and South Knoxville churches.

My June and I truly enjoyed the time spent at PTP. The lessons were informative, scriptural, uplifting and motivating. The fellowship was warm and precious. We hope to return next year, God willing.

For more information about the program for 2011, please go

online: polishingthepulpit.com, or address: Jacksonville Church of Christ; P. O. Box 520; Jacksonville, AL 36265.

I cannot think of a more beautiful section of the country to visit than the “Great Smoky Mountains” of Tennessee, or a nicer group to be associated with than faithful members of the Lord’s church. I urge you to make PTP in the Smokies at Sevierville a part of your plans for 2011 -- God be willing. (alf)

Lands of the Bible Cruise 2011

*Encompassing the Old Testament
(Moses and the Israelites in Egypt)
and the New Testament
(the Gospels and Jesus’ Ministry;
Acts and Paul’s Ministry)*

With Paul and Al Franks
12 Day Program Departs on
November 26, 2011
Prices starting at \$949*
(cruise only)

**plus airfare, tips, taxes, excursions, etc.*

Details on Page 22

The Montgomery Family and the New Albany Church

The New Albany Church of Christ conducted a Gospel Meeting on October 3-6, 2010. The theme of the meeting was “A Legacy Continued.” It was very interesting to note that the five speakers during the meeting were descendants of the Montgomery family. The following was taken from the church bulletin, “**Bobby and Mary Montgomery** made a significant impact upon the churches and cause of Christ throughout north Mississippi and the world. Mary passed from this life on April 30th, 2010, followed by Bobby’s death on July 5th. Though gone, they are not forgotten. Their legacy continues through the lives of their family members who are preaching the gospel. Five of their family members will be speaking for this meeting.”



Part of the Crowd Attending “Polishing the Pulpit” in 2010



Keys to new house presented to Willie Bennett (seated) by Norman Maranto. Others pictured (from left) Terri Hardin, Joyce Maranto, Dorothy and Chuck Henderson

Rolling Fork Church (Assisted by Others) Does Extreme Makeover

- Report by June Franks -

Recently, we received a letter and a newspaper clipping from a dear friend in Rolling Fork, Mississippi.

Mrs. **Ozelle Courtney**, a neighbor to us when Al and I lived in Rolling Fork in the early 1960's, wrote a nice letter catching us up on the news from her family and also from the Church of Christ in Rolling Fork.

Mrs. Courtney said, "Thought you might like to hear from Rolling Fork Church of Christ so I am sending you this "Deer Creek Pilot." (The local newspaper)

Mrs. Courtney added, "Norman and Joyce (Maranto) are doing a fantastic job here. They have helped a lot of people around town and they just finished this new house for Willie Bennett."

A special thanks to Mrs. Courtney for sending the good news relating to the church in Rolling Fork.

It is so encouraging for the Lord's church to be recognized for doing a good work rather than to be known for the ungodly lives of some of the members.

After further correspondence from brother Norman, who is the local preacher for the Rolling Fork congregation, we wanted to share this good news with the readers of the Messenger.

Brother Norman would be the first to say that the Rolling Fork church did not do the work all

by themselves. It took cooperation from several churches, local business and individuals in the community to get the job done.

For the past three years the Rolling Fork church has organized a "work week" for youth and volunteers from across the state. The congregations from which the workers came were the **West Main Church of Christ** in Tupelo, the **Zion's Rest Church of Christ** in Marietta, the **Christian Chapel Church of Christ** near Amory and the **Sherman Church of Christ**.

Brother Norman stated, "There is 20% unemployment with no industry while farming struggles to compete on the world market. For many the only income is Social Security and Government transfer payments. This area is the 2nd poorest Congressional District in the nation."

Therefore, brother Norman saw a need for help in his own community. He stated, "Many mission trips are planned abroad by congregations when there is poverty and souls all around us. We sometimes look out of our own communities and think poverty exists away from us... when it is right here in our own hometown."

Brother Norman continued by saying, "Their mission is to do repair work on several homes of individuals that would not be able to do the work themselves,

have these jobs hired out, or have family members to do them."

According to brother Norman, "Living conditions were improved, the gospel was shared and hearts were touched. There were 4 houses updated, and one house was demolished and another one built in its place." The keys to the new house were turned over to Willie Bennett, the owner of the new house.

Brother Norman added, "All our young people were well behaved, excellent role models, fun to be with, hard workers and fantastic representatives for Jesus Christ. It was a great week!!"

He continued by saying, "The family of the church of Christ in Rolling Fork sends our love to each of you. Please plan visits to our area and keep us in your prayers as we work together to make a difference in the lives of others... one house at a time and one soul at a time."

(A special thanks to the Church in Rolling Fork, and the other congregations and individuals involved, for the good example they have set for other congregations to imitate. mjf)

God Willing -- Our Next
MMMS RV Rally
April 27 - May 1, 2011
McComb, Mississippi
(See Page 10)



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

MARK WARD
Hazel Cook
(Columbus, MS)

EARL EDGE
John T. & Ann Smithson
(Chattanooga, TN)

DAVID W. JOHNSON
Charles & Mary Johnson
(Hattiesburg, MS)

JAMES & MAXINE TIMBES
Joel & Mary Ellen Johnson
(Booneville, MS)

MAURICE GANN
Virginia Gann & Daughters
(Rapid City, South Dakota)

HERMAN B. SKATES
Bonnie Skates
(McComb, MS)

VELMA CARRAWAY
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

WILMA THOMAS
ELSIE ASHFORD
Velda Carter
(Batesville, MS)

HEATHER SPENCER
JIMMY BRADSHAW
PETE SMITH
OPHELIA WALKER
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

BILL YORK
Mrs. Estelle McDonald
(Kountz, TX)

JERRY LEE TAYLOR
Mrs. Travis H. Taylor
(Booneville, MS)

PATSY HYATT
IRBY PERKINS, JR.
HELEN FRANKS
CHARLIE JEANS
Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

CLEO BROOKS
Larry & Diane Dunaway
(Columbia, MS)

PAT HYATT
HELEN "BOB" FRANKS
Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

JIMMY BRADSHAW
James & Deanie Bradshaw
(Indianola MS)

RUTH BYARS MANNING
Earl Manning
(Memphis, TN)

GRADY THARPE
OSCAR & MAUDIE JENKINS
Matthie Tharpe
(Trenton, TN)

In Honor Of

SUZANNE MADDOX
DICK ROOT
Dorothy M. Tuccio
(Natchez, MS)

WOODIE & PATSY MCCLUNG
RAY & DONNA FRANKS
JOHN & JUDITH DIAL
DAN & AUDREY MANUEL
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

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

Please send your gifts in
memory of or
in honor of
family and/or friends to:

News Notes

HARTFORD, KY.

Brother **Eugene Springer** wrote to tell us of the passing of his wife, **Doris**. Sister Doris died on July 22, 2010 after developing an abscess on her foot which was the 2nd fastest growing staph infection. The Springers worked with the church in **Rolling Fork**, Mississippi before moving to Kentucky. We extend our deepest sympathy to brother Eugene and the entire Springer family. Brother Eugene stated that he plans to continue preaching at Hartford.

LEESVILLE, LA.

"Things are going good at **Jackson Chapel** (near Leesville, LA). Our attendance is slowly growing. We've had two baptisms, one family placed membership and two or three came forward for prayers. I was up at **Leesville** church last Sunday night and I think there were about thirty people there, so they are getting better. Keep praying for us, as I know you will. Hoping to see you all soon." (**Billie Boyd**, Leesville, LA)

Questions and Answers

One Year after MBC Closed

- John Gardner -

On December 17, 2009, Magnolia Bible College closed its doors after 33 years of faithful service to the cause of Christ. The institution dedicated to educating and training gospel preachers and other workers ended its ministry with dignity and grace. Its rich legacy will long endure.

Most know that MBC closed because of low enrollment, rising costs, and diminishing financial support due to the economy. But in the minds of many who loved and supported MBC so faithfully, questions remain, especially about the disposal of the buildings, campus, and assets of the college. The following questions and answers may be helpful in addressing those questions.

What happened to the buildings, campus, and assets of MBC after it closed?

According to a land lease agreement between the founding Trustees of MBC and the elders of the South Huntington Street church of Christ soon after the college began, the college was given permission to build and develop itself on the land owned by the church. The lease stated that in the event the college ceased to exist, the land and all developments on it would revert to the church. Magnolia Bible College's Board of Trustees honored that agreement when the college closed and transferred all building titles to the South Huntington church. The Board graciously freed the J. B. Hayes Activity Center from indebtedness by taking that debt on themselves and, in agreement with the South Huntington elders, held some assets toward the payoff of that debt.

What does the South Huntington Street church plan to do with the buildings, campus, and assets?

A great stewardship was placed on the shoulders of those who lead the church which meets on South Huntington Street in Kosciusko with the closing of the college. Months before MBC actually closed, the elders sought input from MBC's family and friends, both near and far, about the best possible use of the college's assets when it closed. Ideas poured in and the elders considered them carefully and prayerfully. Some well-developed proposals were presented to the elders and each

one was reviewed. Feasibility studies were done for various possibilities.

When all of the ideas had been prayerfully considered, three scenarios emerged for further exploration. **(1)** Keep the campus with its buildings and assets and form an alliance with a Christian college or university or a compatible school of preaching in the brotherhood to continue the tradition of training gospel preachers. **(2)** Keep the campus with its buildings and assets and develop a multi-use plan built around short term blocks of preacher training, church retreats and rallies, and the utilization of year round office space for various ministries like child care services, counseling services, or benevolent services. **(3)** Sell the campus with its buildings and assets and use the money to plan, launch, and sustain some new ministries that would impact the cause of Christ at home and abroad.

Where does the situation of the former MBC property stand now?

The prospect of forming an alliance with an established Christian college or university, or a compatible school of preaching, to continue training gospel preachers was thoroughly explored. Christian schools of higher education were contacted about the possibility of a branch campus in Kosciusko. Some expressed interest, but lacked funds for such a bold venture...

...At the current time, the South Huntington Street church is maintaining the buildings and paying utilities to keep them ready for whatever noble use may be made of them for the glory of God.

Readers of the Magnolia Messenger, who perhaps had ties to MBC or who care deeply about other ministries, are invited to send suggestions to the elders about the use of the campus, buildings, and assets of Magnolia Bible College. Suggestions should be sent in writing to:

**Elders
South Huntington St.
Church of Christ,
P.O. Box 1399,
Kosciusko, MS 39090.**

Call or Email
**601-668-3344
franksmm@aol.com**



The J. B. Hayes Activity Building

For more than 33 Years
Hundreds of congregations and
Thousands of individuals
Have generously given to MBC.
This appeal is especially to you!

Suggestions/Prayers
Are Earnestly Requested

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SHS Church of Christ
P. O. Box 1399
Kosciusko, MS 39090**

call or e-mail:
**601-668-3344
franksmm@aol.com**



The Cecil May, Jr. Academic Building



The Paul and Philip Gaunt Library Building



The Darrell Thompson Dormitory Building

Additional Information

Two meetings have recently occurred concerning the multi-use idea for the campus. Involved within this approach is the **possibility** of a **School of Biblical Studies**. This idea is being seriously considered and has, we believe,

tremendous potential. The costs of operating such a school would be much lower. **Please Pray** that the best possible use of the "left over facilities" of MBC will be made to the glory of our gracious God!
(alf)



Elders for the Starkville Church of Christ. Pictured from left to right: Terry Kiser, Johnie Jenkins, Roger King, Bailey Howell, Bascom Allen, David Shaw and Dean Stewart.

A "Ground-Breaking" Experience Starkville

The Starkville Church of Christ at 1107 East Lee Blvd. celebrated the groundbreaking for construction of a 600-seat auditorium and 10,000-sq. ft. University Christian Student Center on Saturday, August 7. The congregation's preaching minister **Andy Miller** stated, "We have grown to a point where our 320-seat auditorium is overflowing. We have been using an annex worship area to temporarily meet our growing needs, but it is neither adequate nor a long-term solution. It is time to add to our vision of how we can serve the Lord here in Starkville."

The current facility is located a half-mile south of the Mississippi Highway Patrol and is in walking distance of the MSU campus. The new auditorium is being added to the existing facility at that location. General contractor for the project is Southland Construction out of Tupelo and completion is expected by August 2011.

In addition to Miller, the congregation is blessed to have two other full-time ministers. **Perry Jinkerson**, campus minister for 26 years, directs the University Christian Student Center which serves about 100 active college students, and **Wesley Thompson** has served the church for nine years as youth minister.

Miller explained that while this event signified the beginning of building a physical structure, the project is much more than brick and mortar for this congregation: "This is sacrifice and commitment in a tough economy. It is a desire to grow and reach out to the wonderful community of Starkville. It is a focus to reach out and help build up the lives of our young people on the MSU campus. This is a first step in a plan to add additional classroom space and, eventually, a recreational facility and a larger fellowship area. More than just

turning dirt, this celebration was turning over a new leaf in the history of the Starkville Church of Christ."

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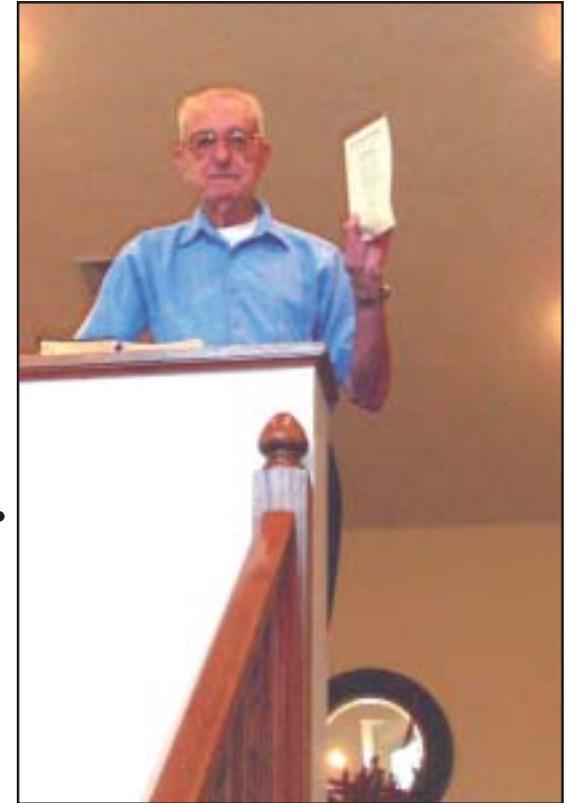
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The Man at the Top of the Stairs

Ray Gilbert

A Not So Common Man



- by June Franks -

Every Sunday morning when one ascends the staircase to the upper foyer of the church building of the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi, he/she is met by Mr. Ray Weaver Gilbert.

Brother Ray is the official "greeter" -- the person designated to greet each worshipper and to hand out the church bulletin for each Sunday morning.

Even though he is eighty seven years young, brother Ray always reaches out his hand to help you make that last step or two as you climb the stairs. He greets everyone with a smile and a hug. When you ask how he is doing, he always responds with, "Better than I deserve."

In my lifetime, I don't believe that I have ever personally met anyone who is more thankful, than brother Ray Gilbert, to be "just a Christian."

He says, so often, that he doesn't understand why more people can't see **the truth**. It really disturbs him that those who should be faithful to the Lord's church do not attend regularly.

Ray Gilbert is so very thankful to be in God's spiritual family. He often says that he can't understand why other people do not want to experience the same spiritual blessings that he experiences.

When brother Ray is called upon to lead in prayer he does such a good

job. His prayers are truly from the heart and so sincere.

Brother Ray is the first to raise his hand when a need arises to help a good cause. He is very free hearted with his time and money. He keeps saying, "I have been so richly blessed."

Ray stands ever willing and ready to participate in all good works -- from helping conduct services at the nursing home to opening and closing the church building, to filling glasses with ice for a church fellowship meal.

Recently, brother Ray spoke at one of the local nursing homes on a Sunday afternoon. He did a great job as he related the Bible story of the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. He asked all of us who were present to consider our own faith and what we would do if we were faced with the same or similar circumstances.

Brother Ray is an excellent craftsman. He has made approximately twenty cedar chests for the little girls in the church
See TOP OF STAIRS on page 22



Ray Gilbert - ALWAYS in his pew come service time (Listening intently to sermon by Les Ferguson, Sr.)

“Some Things Money Can’t Buy”

Money Cannot Buy

Contentment
Good Name
Virtue
Joy of Salvation
Peace
Heavenly Mansion

- Tim Childs -

It was a day like most days before, and yet it was wonderfully different. When the rooster crowed early and he awoke to the dawning of a new day, he never imagined how life-altering this day would be.

Later in the day the forty-something year old man had been brought to a prime location at the gate of the temple called “Beautiful.” There he had come to seek alms from beautiful spirited, benevolent countrymen coming to pray in the middle of the afternoon. He couldn’t work to provide a living, to purchase material goods, or a roof over his head. Why, he couldn’t even stand on his feet for he had a disease that had afflicted him every single day of his life.

What a grand occasion in a public setting for the power and glory of God to be set on display once again. Among the multitudes, along came Peter and John to pray. Peter and John approached the needy man, and whether they searched themselves for any spare coins we simply are not told. At Peter’s command they fastened their eyes on one another and Peter spoke with confidence the cheer bringing words: “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk” (Acts 3:6). Peter then took him by the right hand, lifted him up, and his feet and ankle bones immediately received strength. He jumped for joy and praised our God and Father.

The citizens of Jerusalem began to stir around the three men in amazement at what had just occurred to the man they’d known for decades as being impotent in his feet. How much silver and gold would the beggar have been willing to pay to be able to walk, to run, to leap? But, it was a gift of healing from the Lord that money couldn’t buy.



Tim Childs

Even in a commercial the world asks, “What’s in your wallet?” In contrast God asks, “What’s in your heart? Who or what is first in your life? Where are you storing your treasures” (Matthew 6:19-20)? The mind and value system of Christ is diametrically opposed to that of the world. Any time we subscribe to the value system of the world we automatically make ourselves enemies toward God. The Son of God teaches we cannot love God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

Wal-Mart has a new slogan prominently displayed in their stores and used in their radio ads: “Save Money. Live Better.” What you and I need to remember is that living better lives is not exclusively associated with saving money and having more cash in our pocket. While Wal-Mart and other retail stores seem to have all the goods, there simply is an abundance of goods frequently overlooked by most of us that can never be found on their shelves. God has an overflow of gifts, blessings and spiritual qualities he wants to pour out for our abundant living, and yet we have not, because we fail to ask (James 4:2). We need to hunger to be rich toward God. Many are starving and poor with reference to God.

Searching the shelves of your local store you will never find contentment. Contentment cannot be manufactured, packaged, transported or sold. There is not enough money in the entire world to purchase an ounce of it. Yet, the Holy Spirit has revealed to us that godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). The spirit of contentment is set in contrast with the spirit of certain Christians James addressed who were engaged in wars and

fighting’s among themselves due to the lusts that unfortunately were continuing to war in their bodies. Contentment will never injure or destroy another individual for personal gain.

Searching the shelves of your local store you will never find a good name. It can not be bought with money. How precious is a good name! Again, the Spirit of God teaches us that “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1). For what are you willing to sell your good name? How foolish we are when we trade it. It can never be bought back.

Searching the shelves of your local store you will never discover virtue. It is not available in the smallest container. In Proverbs 31 the Holy Spirit reveals beautiful traits honorably displayed in the virtuous woman. The woman of vanity, however beautiful she may be in physical appearance, can not rise to the worth of the virtuous woman who blesses her husband and her children by her self-respect, dignity and virtue. Her beauty is only skin thin and fades quickly. “Who can find a virtuous woman? For her worth is far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10). Friend, neither virtue nor a virtuous woman can be bought with money.

Searching the shelves of your local store you will never find the joy of salvation. Following David’s grievous sins by adultery and murder, and the confrontation by Nathan, God’s prophet, with a broken heart he petitioned the Lord to “restore unto me the joy of thy salvation” (Psalm 51:12). Friend, the joy that thrills our hearts resultant from God’s gift of salvation can not be bought with money. The eunuch of Ethiopia had not been buying goods and services when he went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39).

Searching the shelves of your local store you will never find peace. It has no selling price. The Holy Spirit reveals through Paul in Romans 5:1 that “being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ....” Inner peace resulting from the removal of our guilt and shame, peace

See Money on Page 17

James Malone New Preacher at Forest



James Malone

James Malone of Brandon, his wife (Kimberly) and their three children are now worshipping and working with the church in Forest, Mississippi. James replaces Steve Perry who served well as Forest’s preacher for the past two or three years. James, like Steve, also has another job (he is a civil engineer) which provides primary support for his family; thus, as a preacher, he is considered “part-time.”

In a recent conversation with brother James, we learned that Sunday attendance is now running 25 to 30 each Lord’s day. He said that almost every service they have two or three visitors. A few weeks ago they had what they called “Friends and

Family Day” which brought together 49 precious souls. Good news!

Brother Malone sounded as if he were truly encouraged by the response of the church to his work with them. We pray God’s richest blessings to be with him, his family and the Forest congregation. (alf)

The Bible Says,
9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. (Rom. 12)

Answer “The Question Box” - 24

The Bible Says,
16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. (Rom. 12)

Winona Church of Christ Is Served by a New Preacher

Since July 4, 2010, Graig Owen has been doing full-time work as an evangelist for the church in Winona, Mississippi. The young preacher is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee and is working on a graduate degree from Harding in Memphis. Based upon personal observations and the testimony of some who know him well, Craig demonstrates great ability as a public proclaimer of God’s word. He grew up in New Albany; however, his parents now live in Oxford, Mississippi. He is not married.

Craig works under the oversight of Winona’s two elders, **Ralph Pace** and **Bo Surrell**. He serves the congregation that brings together about 60 to 70 worshippers each Lord’s day. Other special servants of the Winona church include five deacons. They are: **Bobby Bennett, Robert Brown, Billy Surrell, Cole Surrell and Matt Surrell**.

On October 4, 2010, it was a pleasure to meet and visit briefly with Winona’s new preacher. We were in Winona to attend the Monday evening service of their Gospel Meeting with Chase Surrell. (See article about meeting on page 8.) Craig spoke optimistically about the work of the local church, especially as it relates to reaching out with the gospel to the youth of the community. Although the Winona church has only a few teenagers; yet, on a recent Monday night, **fifty-two** young people gathered together at the church building for study and fellowship.

We pray that the Lord’s church in Winona will continue to grow in numbers and in influence for the Cause of Christ. It seems apparent that the new preacher, Graig Owen, will be a “moving force” for good. May God bless all as they seek to do His will. (alf)



Craig Owen

21st Century Global Missions Report - an update -

NOTE: Steve Shappley, preacher for the Beans' Ferry congregation, near Fulton, Mississippi, and an associate with J. C. Enlow in 21st Century Global Missions, recently wrote to us, saying:

I wanted to update you on the work of 21st Century Global Missions. We exist for the purpose of recruiting, educating, and encouraging communicators of the gospel in their language, culture, and country. We establish four year Bible schools offering diplomas in Bible only. These schools are located in the Ukraine, Belarus, Mexico, and Sierra Leone, West Africa. We have four Saturday schools in the Mexican state of Chiapas: one in San Cristobal, one in Ocasingo, one in Tapachula and one in Cacahoatan. Our newest Saturday school is located in Oaxaqueno, Guatemala. We also support two teachers in a Saturday school in Managua, Nicaragua. Future plans include schools in Cuba and Monrovia, Liberia in West Africa.

The newest school of 21st Century Global Missions is located in Freetown, Sierra Leone in West Africa. With the dedicated work of our brother, Isaac Daye, an evangelist who works with World Radio in Gambia, the churches in Sierra Leone are having success teaching and converting Muslims in their country. In February of 2010, brothers A.D. Smith of Texarkana, Arkansas and J.C. Enlow went to Freetown for the purpose of laying the groundwork for the beginning of a new school. While they were there a young Muslim man was converted with the assistance of brother Jacob Sesay, who is the representative in Sierra Leone for World Bible School. The young man's name is Mohamed A. Sheriff, Jr., and he worships with the Mayenkinah congregation. With the support of the churches of Christ in Sierra Leone, this planning bore fruit and classes began the first Saturday in May of 2010

A Director/teacher (Christian Asgill), a Secretary (Maseray Kargbo), and five other teachers (David Sahr Fondow, A.J.S. Koroma, A.S. Korwah, T. Bai Kartuech, and Alfred P.T. Menefee) work with the school. Classes are held at the buildings of the Tengbeh Town Church of Christ and the Priscilla Street Church of Christ. Brother Christian Asgill reported recently, "We thank the Almighty for His Grace as things are going fine with the school ... I made mention of two Nigerian brethren (Jeremiah Obot and Edit Bassey) from the Nigerian Mission for African Evangelism (NMAE) who are now assisting [teaching] the Book of Acts and the English Language ... Brother Isaac Daye passed our way and commended us for the good work we are doing. I also informed him that it was good we decided to begin with about 40 students and now we have an average attendance of between 25-33."

We are certainly excited about the good news from West Africa and the potential to reach so many souls with the gospel. Lord willing, a teacher from the U.S. is making plans to hold a seminar in Sierra Leone this year.

Brother Glen Bowman, who is the preacher for the Como Church of Christ in Como, MS, is planning on going to Sierra Leone in October of 2010. He will hold an evangelistic campaign and also conduct a class on personal evangelism.

Through the providence of the Lord, the work of Global Missions continues to expand... We welcome brethren to come by and visit us at any time....

(Steven Shappley; Development Director for 21st Century Global Missions)

Contact information:
21st Century Global Missions
PO Box 277
Fulton, MS 38843
662-862-4886
Fax: 662-862-7030
E-mail: global_miss@yahoo.com
Web page:
www.21stcenturyglobalmissions.com



Mohamed A. Sheriff, Jr. receiving a certificate of baptism from A. D. Smith & J. C. Enlow. With them are Jacob Sesay (World Bible School) and Isaac Daye (World Radio).

Goodman Oaks Church

(Southaven, Mississippi)

Hosts "Golden Years Rally" on Saturday, September 25, 2010

**215 persons
representing
26
Congregations**

- editor-

We were blessed to awaken early Saturday morning in our RV parked on the beautiful campus of the Goodman Oaks church. Here we had spent the night, awaiting the planned events of the second annual "Golden Years Rally" hosted by the church in Southaven, Mississippi. We woke up to a pleasant cool front which had arrived, making September 25th a very nice day -- breaking a long siege of very warm weather.

My June and I were richly blessed to meet and/or greet many "older" saints from several congregations in north Mississippi, the Memphis area and other places, including Carthage, MS. The reception of those in attendance was very encouraging as they listened attentively to our respective lessons. I was blessed to speak twice to both men and women; June spoke to all the ladies in one session during which time the men were heard four "future preachers" present brief lessons from the word of God.

The "future preachers" were young men, ranging in age from 8 to 14 years. They were **Robert Cashion** (8), **Sean Bobo** (10), **Timmy Willis** (12) and **Tyler Willis** (14). All did a great job. They really did! Goodman Oak's preacher, **Steve Reeves**, expressed his hope that from the Goodman Oaks church, in future years, would come several more gospel preachers.

A great number of those who attended the rally expressed their appreciation for the "Magnolia Messenger." We also were very encouraged in that many additional brethren made known their written desire to regularly receive every issue of the MM. We are grateful to God and to the Goodman Oaks church for the efforts of the day and for the invitation to be speakers for the special event.

Steve Reeves, pulpit



minister for the Goodman Oaks church, wrote about the rally in their weekly church bulletin. He said, "Thanks again to all of you who helped plan and prepare for our "Golden Years Rally" this past Saturday. We had **215** in attendance representing **26** different congregations. Al and June Franks both did an outstanding job with their

respective classes and Ken Joines blessed all of us by leading our singing. We have received many favorable comments by our guests and plan, Lord willing, to host next year's rally here at Goodman Oaks on Saturday, September 24, 2011."

Next Year: September 24, 2011



(From Left): Ken Joines (song leader); Al & June Franks (speakers) and Steve Reeves (Goodman Oaks preacher & MC)

Note: Above picture, along with a beautiful card, was sent to the MM by a Goodman Oaks group known as "The Encouragement Class." It was signed by 37 members and included the following statement, "Dear Al and June -- Thank you for making this rally a really good day for everyone. You did your part so well." (We are grateful and encouraged! alf/mjf)

See Page 11 -- Your Response is Respectfully Requested

Charleston, MS
Lectureship/Discussion
December 6, 2010

(Monday)

10:00 a.m. -- 3:00 P.M.

featuring

Andy Scott (Hernando), **James Hill** (Eupora),
Danny Butler (Louisville) and **Robert Rawson**
(Batesville/Charleston)

"Lunch with us" (RSVP) 662-563-0523

Vital Topics

Charleston Church of Christ
410 East Main kStreet
Charleston, Mississippi

(For more information, call 662-563-0523)

Oxford Church Expands Their Work With World Bible School

The Oxford church [Lamar Avenue] has partnered with John and Beth Reese in spreading the gospel ever since the year they graduated from college and moved to Salisbury, Rhodesia. Because of the civil war in Rhodesia, John and Beth moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, and soon began using World Bible School literature in their work there. Quite naturally they recruited members of the Oxford church to serve as WBS teachers for students they would recruit with advertisements in local papers. This work has continued through the years and recently has expanded in a rather remarkable way.

Much to the delight of John and Beth, their thwarted dream as newlyweds of carrying the gospel to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) is now being fulfilled in a big way with World Bible School. As a part of this WBS effort, Oxford church is sending thousands of WBS lessons to Zimbabwe students each year. The work has mushroomed because of referrals sent in by students completing the Introductory Lesson. The answer sheet for this Introductory Lesson contains space for the names of ten friends to whom the respondent would like to have lessons sent. Most of the introductory lessons returned will contain eight or ten referrals.

The second thing that has led to this explosion of students is a practice learned from the Starkville, MS, congregation. A postage paid return envelope addressed to native Zimbabwean WBS worker Alice Mhlanga's office is included with each lesson sent out. Because of the tragic inflation rate that has produced widespread poverty, few of the students are able to afford the postage to return the lessons even to a Zimbabwe address. Alice then sends returned lessons in bundles to Cedar Park where they are sorted and sent to the various churches with students in Zimbabwe.

The biggest job of such massive mail-outs is addressing the envelopes. Four of the Oxford members, Tommie Waters, Elza Dahl, Renée Russell and Amy Lauderdale, devote several hours a week to this job.

Pictured are some of the Oxford church WBS workers and 400 pounds of lessons (about a three months effort) ready to be shipped. The lessons are shipped to Europe in bulk and from there are mailed to the individual students in Zimbabwe.

(Pictured left to right: Nathan Murray, Cora Beal Shields, Elza Dahl, Amy Hutson, Tommie Waters, Margaret Orf, Renée Russell, Mike Williams, Doug Shields)



MM Solicits Church Reports!

LONG BEACH

While staying overnight at Timberlake RV Park in Brandon, Mississippi, we were very pleased to run into **John Tate**, a fellow RV'er and an elder of the Lord's church in Long Beach. It was encouraging to hear brother Tate speak briefly about some of the good things for the Lord's church that have come out of Hurricane Katrina that devastated the Gulf Coast about five years ago. He also informed us that **Mark Hodges** continues to serve well as preacher for the church at Long Beach. Sorry we didn't have time to visit longer. (*You never know who you will meet at a RV Park. Interesting!*)

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)

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662-746-5865

A Challenge to Parents

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

MONEY

(Cont. from page 15)

with God which passes man's comprehension, peace and tranquility in the home, peace and unity among God's people can not be bought with money.

Those glorious mansions, which never need repair due to deterioration, cannot be bought with money. Yesterday the report was in the headlines that the Villa Leopolda on the French Riviera was sold to a Russian billionaire for \$752 million. This was said to smash the previous record for the most expensive house in the world. The unnamed man's \$ 752 million cannot make the acquisition of even one tiny room of a mansion located in the far back corner in that city of gold. The real estate in heaven cannot be bought with money. It is God's gift ... an inheritance to his faithful children.

In conclusion we note the worldly mind despises the true treasures which have no price tag. Which is more precious to us... the things which are temporal, or the things which are eternal? How wise or how foolish will our choices be? "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Brother Childs preaches for the Lord's church in Baldwyn, MS. His address: Tim Childs; Hillcrest Church of Christ; 956 S 4th St; Baldwyn, MS 38824; hillcrestchurch@bellsouth.net

Miracles: Why Written? Answers: Last Issue

NOTICE: In the gospel according to John, the writer detailed eight marvelous miracles performed by Jesus as proof of Jesus' identity as the Son of God. They are listed below. You are to **match the miracle** of Jesus with the appropriate phrase, reference and/or number in each of the sections below. (Not every section includes **all** eight of the miracles.)

1. Turned water into wine
2. Healed the son of a nobleman
3. Healed a cripple (impotent) man
4. Multiplied loaves and fishes

5. Walked on water in a storm
6. Gave sight to a man born blind
7. Raised Lazarus from the grave
8. Filled a net with great fish

SECTION I -- Match the the miracle listed above with the correct chapter in John where the miracle is recorded. Supply missing numbers for verses.

- 8 John 21: **1-14**
- 1 John 2: **1-11**
- 7 John 11: **1-46**
- 2 John 4: **46-54**
- 6 John 9: **1-38**
- 3 John 5: **1-16**
- 4 John 6: **5-14**
- 5 John 6: **15-25**

SECTION II -- Match the miracle listed above with the number associated with each of the miracles. Supply what is meant by each number.

- 1 Six **waterpots**
- 8 153 **fishes**
- 2 7th **hour**
- 7 Four **days**
- 3 38 **YEARS**
- 6 7th **DAY**
- 4 Twelve **BASKETS**
- 5 25-30 **FURLONGS**

SECTION III -- Match the miracle with the place where each miracle was performed

- 2 Capernaum
- 7 Bethany
- 1 Cana
- 3 Bethesda
- 4 Place of "much grass"
- 5 Sea, near Capernaum
- 6 Siloam
- 8 Sea of Tiberias (Galilee)

SECTION IV -- Match the miracle with the best phrase associated with each one.

- 3 Five porches
- 4 5 and 2 available
- 5 "Be not afraid."
- 6 Clay ointment
- 2 Sick with "fever"
- 1 Mary was present
- 7 Mary & Martha
- 8 Didymus involved

SECTION V -- Miracle produced faith. Match the miracle with the appropriate phrase.

- 4 "...This is of a truth the prophet that should come into the world." (6:14)
- 6 "And he said, Lord I believe...." (9:38)
- 1 "...and his disciples believed on him." (2:11)
- 2 "... himself believed and his whole house." (4:53)
- 7 "And many of the Jews... believed on him." (11:45)

SECTION VI -- Match the miracle with that over which Jesus demonstrated his mighty power.

- 5 Power over gravity
- 6 Power over birth defects
- 7 Power over death
- 1 Power over substances
- 2 Power over deadly illness
- 3 Power over crippling disease

True or False

- TRUE** 1. Another name for Thomas, the "doubter", was Didymus.
- TRUE** 2. Jesus used the word "sleepeth" to describe death.
- TRUE** 3. The Pharisees found fault with Jesus because he healed on the Sabbath.

Your Opinion -- Which of the eight miracles do you believe demonstrated most vividly the power of Jesus, the Son of God? **Raising Lazarus after being dead four days.** (My opinion; alf)

Please Remember to Pray for the Magnolia Messenger

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

The Bible Says,
20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (Rom. 12)

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.

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!**

Pascagoula

(Central Church)

Congregation of 70-80 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast seeking full time minister. Position currently open. Salary negotiable. Desire a minister mature in the Word and evangelistic minded. Degree from a recognized Christian school or equivalent preaching experience required. Computer skills a plus. Candidates send resume, references and salary requirements by letter or e-mail.

For additional information call, **Jim Ingram at 228-990-9518** or write to

**Central Church of Christ
P. O. Box 2104**

Pascagoula, MS 39569
Email:

noblesjack@bellsouth.net

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

(Rom. 10:15)

Meridian, MS

(Northside Church)

Brother Franks,

I am currently the preacher at Northside Church of Christ in Meridian, MS. I will be leaving after the first of the year to work with the Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies. The brethren here have asked me to help advertise the full-time preaching position here starting January 1st, 2011.

The congregation averages 60-65 per week in attendance on Sunday mornings. They provide a house, plus utilities and a fair weekly salary. Looking for a family man, sound in Doctrine with a good personality.

Resume may be sent to **Northside Church of Christ, PO Box 3163, Meridian, MS 39301** Contact name will be **Chuck Rowell (601) 416-1220**. Would like to have someone ready to start after first the year.

Guyton E. Montgomery

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.

Lone Oak

(Columbus, MS)

(6-11-10)

The Lone Oak Church of Christ located in east central MS is looking for a sound New Testament preacher. The congregation is over 100 years old and is the oldest in the county. Average attendance 62-68 each week. We have two elders and two deacons.

House provided, a 3BR,2 full baths, with large walk-in closet and deck. Has new paint and floor covering through-out. Those interested should be well grounded in the scriptures, able to preach and teach the whole truth; friendly, working to restore the unfaithful and visiting the sick and shut-ins.

Contact:

William P. Mason

662-251-5076

Mason1404@bellsouth.net

1404 Sanders Mill Road

Steens, MS 39766

Adrian Sanders

662-356-4440

418 Logan Lane

Steens, MS 39766

Lepanto, AR

The Lepanto Church of Christ is looking for a full-time minister to work with the church here in Lepanto. The congregation's attendance ranges from 40 to 50 members. We do have housing available. If you would like to apply, have any questions or just want more information, please contact:

J. C. Lewis

at 870-475-2156 or

Whit Herndon, Jr.

at 870-475-3838

Lepanto

Church of Christ

P. O. Box 339

406 Kenwood Street

Lepanto, Arkansas 72354

Madison

(Jackson, MS)

(7-25-10)

The Madison church of Christ is currently searching for a Youth and Family Minister to serve our congregation. The congregation has a membership of 110 and we currently have 2 elders and 4 deacons. Please submit resume to

Madison church of Christ

P.O. Box 1845,

Madison, MS 39130.

Or contact Brad Guth @ Email :

bradandamyg@gmail.com.

Phone: 601-988-3439.

South Point, Ohio Minister Needed

(10/19/10)

The Church of Christ at South Point, Ohio is looking for a full time minister to work with the members in growing spiritually, numerically and in spreading the Good News of the Gospel.

The elders are seeking someone with 5 to 10 years experience and someone who is looking to have a long term affiliation with a congregation. Individuals who apply should be willing to work with all ages, participate in visitation, personal evangelism and, of course, preaching and teaching the truth. The congregation has a regular attendance of 75 - 85 members. Interested individuals should send a resume with references to

Church of Christ,

P.O. Box 542,

South Point, Ohio 45680.

Include salary and benefit requirements. Feel free to include an audio or video copy of some of your sermons.

Need a Preacher?

Run an Ad. -- No Charge

Sulligent, AL

The Sulligent church of Christ is looking for a new minister to come work with us. We are a congregation of about 40 people. We are looking for someone who can move into our preacher's home, it is a three bedroom home with a two car garage, and work with our community. We would also like to find someone who either uses Power Point or would be willing to learn to use it. Please send interested applications to:

Sulligent Church of Christ;

P.O. Box 486

Sulligent, AL 35586

Or email

your resume to Josh Webster at

joshuawebster38@yahoo.com

DeQuincy, LA

Position: Pulpit Minister

(9-15-10)

The church of Christ in DeQuincy Louisiana, which is located in the southwest part of the state, about 20 miles northwest of Lake Charles, is searching for a minister to work with our congregation. Currently the congregation has three elders and four deacons.

We are a loving congregation with a Sunday morning attendance of between 80 and 100 members. We are active in a Prison Ministry program each Sunday at the local prison, we support other area congregations when they are in need of someone to fill their pulpits, and we are also supporting mission work. We help support an area church youth camp, Red Oak Springs in Newton Texas, as well as other types of benevolent work in our community.

We are looking for a doctrinally sound, reasonably young family man with training from a Christian University or reputable Preaching School. We will also consider new graduates. We would like someone with a good pulpit delivery, who can teach Bible classes, conduct home Bible studies, and have "strong" people skills with a loving desire to regularly visit the Family of God, be it at their homes, in the hospital, or at the nursing home.

Our employment package value is approx. \$45,000, which includes a 3 bedroom, 2 baths, 2 car garage, brick home and other expenses.

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

Ray Franks

P O Drawer 218

DeQuincy, Louisiana 70633

Home: 337-786-3095

Cell: 337-515-0866

DeWitt Green

Box 254

Reeves, Louisiana 70658

Home: 318-666-2468

Cell: 713-515-7631

Free House

Now Available For
Retired/older Minister

The church of Christ in Okalona, Mississippi has available a nice three bedroom house with two full baths. The house is ready for immediate occupancy by a preacher who is older, retired, needs a place to live and is willing to help in the overall work of the church. The house is located next door to the church building in Okalona. The congregation presently includes 25 to 30 persons who come together each Lord's day. **Chris Carter** has served as their local preacher since August of 2009. For more information, please call **Ken McVay** at 662-401-7808. (*information current as of 10-11-10*)

Gardendale, AL Decatur Highway Church

(9-1-10)

The Decatur Highway Church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister/evangelist. Responsibilities include regular pulpit preaching and effective evangelistic outreach to the surrounding community.

The Decatur Highway Church of Christ is located just north of Birmingham, Alabama. It is a congregation of 400+ members with seven elders and twelve deacons. Our desire is to grow spiritually and numerically and we seek someone to assist in this effort.

Please send statement of interest or resume to H. Wayne Shew, c/o Decatur Highway Church of Christ, or electronically to wshew1@gmail.com.

Decatur Highway

Church of Christ

P. O. Box 1171

1750 Decatur Highway

Gardendale, AL 35071

Ferriday, LA

(10/12/10)

The Ferriday church is looking for a preacher to work with their congregation of about 50. Applicant is expected to become a part of the community and be willing to "get out" and work. He will need to be "sound in scripture" with a supportive family.

A house is furnished by the church (3 BR; 2 baths). Presently, the church has no elders. Ferriday has a population of about 4,000 and is 12 miles across the Mississippi river from Natchez.

Contact:

Don Tassin - 318-336-4735

(after six)

J. L. Barker - 318-744-9709

Church Office - 318-757-4626

(leave message)

Mike Barker - 318-757-3676

or 318-719-0671

Pantego, NC

Pike Road Church of Christ, Pantego, NC (Location: eastern NC, rural area) The congregation is 70+ years old and is self-supporting. Average attendance is 85, with a large number of young children in the congregation. We have 3 elders and 6 deacons. House provided, 4 BR, 2 full baths.

Those interested must be sound and well grounded in the Scriptures, experienced, friendly, willing to visit members and non-members in the area, as well as be willing to work to restore the erring. Contact numbers of the elders: **Ervin Manning** (252) 935-5213; **Bryan Copeland** (252) 935-5084; **G.R. Fletcher** (252) 935-5338 Resumes may be sent to: **Bryan Copeland ; 783 Pike Road ; Pantego, NC 27860**

Shreveport Area Churches Enjoy Monthly Prayer Breakfasts

Ken R. Nichols of the University congregation in Shreveport, Louisiana, recently sent the following news report to the MM.

Our congregation (University Church of Christ) has been having monthly "Men's Prayer Breakfasts." It was going well; so decided to try and get our sister churches to meet with us. There are about ten churches of Christ in the Shreveport/Bossier area.

We all met, had a great time, exchanged ideas, prayed together, and was wonderful.

Next, we all agreed to be a "Host" church each month. We would all meet at one place and have prayers and coffee. It is great!

Our group (University) hosted October. We had five other churches meet with us and exchanged ideas, plans, prayers, etc!! We had 52 on October 9th, Saturday morning (1 and 1/2 hours).

Please run a note in the "Messenger" for us. Churches need to fellowship.

Editor's Response: Amen. We fully agree, brother Ken. It is wonderful to learn of congregations in the same area working together, enjoying fellowship and in a united effort, seeking diligently to expand the borders of Christ's kingdom on earth. May God bless your efforts and may others follow your example. (alf)



On Saturday, October 9, from Shreveport area churches, 52 men gathered for prayer and fellowship. Ideas and plans were shared among the six congregations represented at the Saturday morning meeting. **LOVE & UNITY:** "By this shall all men know you are my disciples." (John 13:35)

Durant Church of Christ

"A Source of Some More Good News"

**Several recent baptisms
Attendance: UP... up to 60+**

Reports starting in a few weeks ago. A phone call from a brother in Durant stated, "We had five baptisms just within the past few days." Then, another call: "Two more were baptized." Another brother from Durant called to say, "I've just got to give you some more good news. We had over 60 in attendance this past Sunday."

I remembered. Not many months ago, attendance at the Durant, Mississippi church was running less than thirty on Sundays. Baptisms were not being reported.... Something must be going on.

So, on a recent Sunday morning (November 7, 2010), my June and I drove the eighteen miles from Kosciusko to

Durant. Our desire was to worship with the church and see first hand what was taking place. I am grateful to write that we were pleased and encouraged with what we saw and heard. We want you to be encouraged, and, so this report.

We found in Durant a revival of spiritual emphasis in the church -- a "revival" that has affected several of the members. The church has developed a very active outreach program involving the use of a large van. Door knocking is a feature of the work



Preacher: Philip Evans

-- especially on Saturday mornings. Emphasis upon benevolence has become more noticeable, especially since a tornado hit near Durant, in the county of Holmes, earlier this year. Several of the men (including teens) are demonstrating God-given talents which had not previously

been as evident. Special events are planned and are taking place on a frequent basis. It seems like every time you turn around the Durant church is announcing another event -- a Gospel Meeting, a "Men's Day," a "Women's Day" and/or a Marriage Seminar.

Seed are being sown. The Word is being taught. Invitations are being extended. Transportation is being provided. Needs are being met. And, I am confident that in all of these efforts, there is much dependence given to prayer -- asking God's blessings to "give the increase."

On the Sunday of our visit, Durant's regular voice in the pulpit, **Philip Evans**, preached a



Place of Assembly for the Durant, Mississippi Church of Christ

See **DURANT** on page 20

**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

Berean Childrens' Home Moving From LA to MS

Berean Children's
Home, Inc.



The Berean Childrens' Home, established in 1979, is relocating from Louisiana (near Hammond/Albany) to Lincoln County, Mississippi (near Brookhaven). Construction of the modern new facilities is underway, according to Wendell Davis, long time leader in benevolent work of "caring for the homeless." Brother Davis wrote the following report.

We lift our voices in thanksgiving to the Lord. He is blessing our efforts to build a new home for children. Churches and individuals have expressed great support for this move to Lincoln County, Mississippi. Berea will be located near the Mt. Olive Church of Christ. Mt. Olive Church has sponsored Berea from its beginning and without them we would not have had a home for children.

Please keep alert for children we might help. If any Church of individual knows of a child needing a good Christian home let us know.

Pray for us. It is our prayer that this move will assure the continuation of the home in the future. Thanks again for your faithful support.

We are trying to arrange several trips to update people on the home, If your congregation would like for us to come and discuss the activities please contact us. We would like for a church to sponsor a meeting and invite area congregations to attend. Thanks for your support and help.

E-mail: bereanchildrenshome@cableone.net
Address: Wendell Davis; P.O.Box 1009; Brookhaven, MS 39602
Phones: 601-757-8766 (cell) or 601-833-4376 (residence)

Improving Preaching In Worship

- Doug Greenway -

I would like for you to think a bit with me about the above title. Perhaps the first thing that comes into your mind is a list of some things the *preacher could do* to improve his 30-minute time-slot twice each Sunday. But, have you ever thought about what the *hearers could do* to improve the preaching process?

A faithful gospel preacher is a rare bird. I have observed that many congregations feel like the preacher they just hired is not quite as good as the one they just lost. I facetiously sometimes ask a church, "You don't want a worse preacher than you have, do ya?" Brothers and sisters, take care of your preacher!

Many preachers would think they'd died and gone to Heaven, if just *once in a while* one of their elders or church leaders would get up in the pulpit and publicly "*Amen!*" what the preacher had just preached! I know I'm starving to death for it! And, befriend your preacher. This will shock some of you, but "Preachers are people, too!"

Now, looking at the person *in the pew* — Mark 4:24 says,

"Take heed what ye hear..." and Luke 8:18 has it, "Take heed therefore how ye hear..." Whether the preaching process is viewed from the standpoint of the responsibilities of the preacher or the audience — responsibilities do exist. Some preachers need to improve their delivery and some audiences need to improve their receptivity.

Now, let me offer some suggestions; some ways for you to make your proclaimer a better gospel preacher! You can do this. As an individual you can...

1. Prepare for Sunday morning on Saturday night.

* I would advise any preacher to list Sunday's sermon topics and an applicable scripture reading in the mail-out church bulletin (or post them), so that the congregation can meditate on them ahead of time.



Doug Greenway

Would you?

* Make sure that whatever clothes everybody is going to wear Sunday morning are laid out Saturday night.

* Everybody locate their Bibles and study their Sunday School lesson. Highlight and make notes.

2. Preserve Saturday night as preparation for Sunday morning.

My wife is in charge of my calendar. She *always* has veto power of my schedule. But, she knows I do not like to be out late on Saturday night for *any* reason. I want to be 100% come Sunday morning! They used to tell us in Preacher 101 -

Improving preaching in worship will bless the Lord's church all the way round! Be part of the solution and not part of the problem! Amen?

- "If you don't get your sleep Saturday night — the church will get *theirs* Sunday morning!"

3. Purify your mind for preaching by turning away from worldly entertainment.

This is a good idea *any* time — but especially good for Saturday night and Sunday. It astonishes me how many Christians watch the *same* empty, silly, trivial, titillating, suggestive, TV shows and movies that most unbelievers watch. And then, they wonder why they are not spiritually minded!

Instead, you might want to turn off or censor the television on Saturday night and get out some board games and sit down together for *family game night*.

4. Pray for those who will lead in worship. I would *like* to be able to tell you that the most hurtful hurts I have experienced from others, over

my 33 years of full-time preaching, have come from non-Christian people. Not so.

I would *like* to be able to tell you that the unkind words and deeds that a *minority* of my brethren have handed to me — were delivered by people who had no personal agenda, and who had regularly prayed for me. But I can't say so.

Psalm 106:25 (NKJV) — (speaking of Israel): 25 "But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD."

If *all* your kids hear about, on the way home from church on Sunday, is "roasted preacher" and "stewed elders" and "scorched Bible class teacher" -- don't be surprised if when they grow up -- they run away from their church home!

5. Plan to be blessed when God's people come together. As we *enter* a spiritual opportunity, let us come on the scene on the lookout for God, and *leave* on the lookout for other people to bless! We are *blessed* to *bless* others!

And, anything worth hearing is worth thinking about. I have a saying, "Go out behind the barn and think about it!" Yet, *some of us* do not

bring our Bible and we have never taken the first note. Either you have a photographic memory or else you are not expecting to take home much — from the preaching process!

Psalm 19:10-11 says about God's Words: "*More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*"

Improving preaching in worship will bless the Lord's church all the way round! Be part of the solution and not part of the problem! Amen?

Doug Greenway
West Main church of Christ
Tupelo, MS
doug_greenway@yahoo.com

Ray Hyatt

lost his
*Best
Friend*
(Wife)

Patsy Ruth
Hyatt
1929 - 2010



— "Til Death Do Us Part" —

Married Sixty Two Years

It is said that *behind every good man is a good woman*. This statement could not be any truer of Pat Hyatt, the wife and "Best Friend" of Ray Hyatt.

Patsy stood beside Ray and supported him for sixty two years as his beloved wife. We will miss her beautiful smile and laughter, her never ending hospitality and the fun spirit she radiated.

Ray served as an elder for the DeQuincy Church of Christ for many years and is well known in the brotherhood as a gifted proclaimer of God's word. Patsy was blessed to have three sons, eight grandsons, one granddaughter and four great grandsons who she loved dearly and was very close to.

Patsy was a faithful member of the DeQuincy church of Christ and a lifelong resident of DeQuincy Louisiana. She was active and loving all her life. Patsy will be remembered for her care and concern for others, and especially for her close knit family.

She embraced Jesus while she was alive and now Jesus has embraced her. Grief is never comfortable for any of us, but fond memories and the assurance of our loved one's Christianity brings peace.

In Loving memory.....

Written by and sent
to the MM by
Ray & Donna Franks

DURANT

(Continued from page 19)

powerful sermon. Brother Evans lives in Clinton, considers himself to be a "fill-in preacher," and doesn't ask for financial support for his work. He is, apparently, doing a good job.

After morning services each Sunday, the church eats lunch together and then they re-assemble for an early afternoon service. This makes for more "togetherness" on the Lord's day; also provides two Sunday services but only one trip to and from the church building.

On the day of our visit, attendance was not far from 60 -- I believe, 56 were counted. Contribution was \$730.00. The atmosphere at Durant appears to be one of faith, hope, truth and love. I was blessed to speak briefly to the congregation at the end of the morning service and was very pleased with the kind reception and interested manifested in the "Magnolia Messenger."

We deeply appreciate the leadership provided in Durant by dear friends we have known for nearly forty years -- **Emmette and Beverly Armstrong**. We may not know for sure all that is going on in Durant, but we do know that we left that afternoon greatly encouraged by what we saw and heard in Durant, Mississippi -- just 18 miles west of Kosciusko.

Magnolia Messenger
Wants/needs **your**
Prayerful Support

Reader's Response

Dear Sir,

I would like to start receiving your magazine the Magnolia Messenger. I believe it will help me to get to know the Lord better and to stay in God's grace. I will be praying for you all at the magazine. Since I am in prison in North Carolina, I cannot make a contribution right now but when I get out I will be able to send a contribution to you. Your Brother in Christ, (John Hazel, Lillington, N.C.)

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

1. Mrs. Louella Whitehead
2. Sherry Gordon
3. Penny Clanton
4. Jean Forrester
5. Evelyn Blurton
6. Jaquita Jordan
7. Maggie R. Edmonds
8. Annie Mae Perry
9. Bobbie Loggins
10. Barbara Beard
11. Elledith Harris
12. Madonna Michael
13. June Faulkner
14. Ray Parham
15. Billy Willingham
16. Bernita Booker
17. Miriam Styers
18. Hazel Cook
19. Bernice Townsel
20. Miriam Dendy
21. Julie Miller
22. Marsha Simmons
23. Linda Gardner
24. Magaret Gann
25. Martha Lawrence
26. Callie Barnhill
27. Mary McCafferty
28. Lenola Balentine
29. Ann Kimble
30. Dorsa Sparks
31. Vic & Ruth Hawn
32. Jennifer Gray
33. Coy Daily
34. Ken Harris
35. Michael & Estelle Glover
36. Wm. & Atlean Snow
37. Willa Fox
38. Doris Darnell
39. Christine Holliday
40. Dennis McNairy
41. M/M Dennis R. McNairy
42. Akyra O. McNairy
43. Joyce King
44. Mrs. Mary Faulconer
45. Vera Spencer
46. Jerry & Norma Inman
47. Linda Hogue
48. Carole Shelby
49. Annie Mae Pipkin
50. Deborah Brannon
51. Dewight E. Hester
52. Nadine Patton
53. Fran Williford
54. Genie Henning
55. M/M Jerry Lewis
56. Jim Nowell
57. Linda T. Shirley
58. Carolyn Garrett
59. Nell Tipton
60. Frances Harrell
61. Dot Winslett
62. Don "Ug" Lee
63. Rick Bishop
64. Martha Simpson
65. Barbara F. White
66. James Hill
67. Judy Hill
68. Melba Ogg
69. Era Hinson
70. Olen Roden
71. Mary Van Houten
72. Kay Shiers
73. Anna Rainwater
74. Amy Hutson
75. Barbara A. Beard
76. Michael Coleman
77. Glenda Jefcoat
78. Mary Brannon
79. Iva Hill
80. Norma Taylor
81. Kerry Deaton
82. Patsy A. Moore
83. Doyce Britt
84. Gail Magee
85. Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson
86. Mary Jacobs
87. Imogene Grayson
88. Katie Houston
89. Glen Brady
90. RayAnn Woodruff
91. Lisa Dettor
92. Janie Green
93. Cathey Roberson
94. Marvin England
95. Eileen Williford
96. Garry Gooch
97. Doris Carroll
98. Marcella A. Moore
99. Willie Beardain
100. Mrs. W. E. Buffington
101. Paul & Elsie Bryson
102. Travis Hamilton
103. Buddy Gray
104. Mike Moore
105. Buddy Parsons
106. Deneen Naquin
107. Clotele Thibodeaux
108. Rosie Lee Odoms
109. Bonnie B. Glass
110. Debra Michael
111. Shirley Styers
112. Rebecca Alexander
113. Michelle Simpson
114. Vera Ashmore
115. James R. Brooks
116. Ercil Lord
117. Barbara Loden
118. Yvonne Swilley
119. Mima R. Vines
120. Connie Fountain
121. Linda Crochet
122. Merlee Scott
123. Danny C. Stacks
124. Kathie Stacks
125. Edward Pearson
126. Carol Bonner
127. Myra D. Reaves
128. Charlane Stanfield
129. Philip Carter
130. Johnny & Princess Watson
131. Eileen Ferrebee
132. Doyle & Charlotte Varner
133. Carolyn Harvill
134. Dee Kepler
135. Anna Free
136. Brenda Carter
137. Iris Casteel
138. Juanita LeBouef
139. M/M Arthur Burnett
140. Tommy Shull
141. Ruby Wright
142. Debbie Eubanks
143. Marie Lively
144. Darla Ferguson
145. Karen Bolls
146. Rosa Sanders
147. Warren Scott Gallaher
148. Margaret Googe
149. Clifford Crowder
150. Julius Lee Morris
151. Wynell Thompson
152. Peggy Wroten
153. Roger King
154. Mildred Herrington
155. Alma Maddox
156. Linda B. Keirn

Your Name on This Page

Means Much

1. You are a Bible student!
 2. You encourage us and others!
- Thank You For Answering
"The Question Box"**

157. Betty Jo Stewart
158. Ima Jean Fogus
159. Donna Gulley
160. Otis & Linda Baker
161. Grace Childers
162. Ella Darnell
163. Shelia Hall
164. Emily Hall
165. Beulah Rupert
166. Charlene Williams
167. **Elvis Dilmore**
168. Ruby Dilmore
169. Kaye Wise
170. Betty A. Skinner
171. Ann McDonald
172. Jeff & Debbie Shull
173. Esther Williams
174. Ed Istre
175. Barbara Yates
176. Betty VanBuren
177. Eddie Vermillion
178. Jim Vermillion
179. Betty Standard
180. Mrs. W. C. Wells
181. Sherron Dixon
182. Thomas Forrester, Sr.
183. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell
184. Robert Blackburn
185. Elizabeth Hines
186. Bobby Lively
187. Sherry Townsend
188. Charles Ray Coffey
189. John L. Gates, Jr.
190. William Pyron
191. Ruth Christian
192. Phillip Bradley
193. Carol Bradley
194. Bernice Mills
195. Thelma Talbert
196. Rosie Felton
197. Mary Salinas
198. Melvin & Kay Linton
199. Dorthy Ford
200. Laura Brannon
201. Trillie Strickland
202. Michael Hony
203. Pierce Flatt
204. Danny Rucker
205. Alice Dempsey
206. Kay Bramlett
207. Eunice M. Kirkwood
208. Kathie Bordelon
209. William Edwards
210. Sandy Dean
211. Shirley Bostick
212. Ginny Luther
213. Bonnie Dixon
214. Evelyn M. Doss
215. R. C. Hibbler
216. Catherine A. Allen
217. Faye Stanford
218. Kathy Perry
219. Ruby Gideon
220. Natalie Stewart
221. Dick Green
222. Mrs. Lucille Jackson
223. Mrs. Betty Eubanks
224. Hattie Johnson
225. Barbara Markham
226. Jo Masters
227. Mrs. Carla Owen
228. Peggy E. Cooper
229. Sammy Cooper
230. Gwendolyn Bryant
231. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins
232. MCarthur Mullins
233. Gladys Bryant
234. Jackie Hester
235. Patricia Thornton
236. Tammy Bullard
237. Eleanor Townsend
238. Jamie Hoy
239. Diane Dunaway
240. Weida Pyron
241. Mariah Wallace
242. Marie Green
243. Wanda Yancey
244. Elvira Irons
245. Doralynn Felton
246. Edmon & Kathy Wheeler
247. Bodean Collum
248. Bonnie Howell
249. Kittie Edwards
250. Ms. Dorothy Laws
251. Gladys Jackson
252. Charles Aldridge
253. James Breckenridge
254. Mrs. Dorothy L. Thomton
255. Floyd Goode
256. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
257. Myrtle Rogers
258. John Hazel
259. Bonnie Skates
260. Patsy Muniz
261. Travis Murray
262. Amanda Edwards
263. Sherry Murray
264. Denise White
265. Reid & Frieda Thompson
266. Shirley M. Phillips
267. Nicholas Slaydon
268. Helen Franks
269. Stephanie Slaydon
270. Jessica Slaydon
271. Dorothy Franks
272. Missy Blackmon
273. Johnnye Blackmon
274. Carlye & Windy Blackmon
275. Carter Blackmon
276. Lucy Franks
277. Earl Franks
278. Wes & Rhoda Jeans
279. Hannah Fariss
280. Wayne Fariss
281. Taylor Fariss
282. Julie Fariss
283. Cathy E. Brooks
284. Burlean Leatherwood
285. Cortez Brown
286. Wardie Parks
287. Alice Amos
288. Mary L. Williams
289. Mary R. Dennis
290. Batsell Booker
291. Bettie Brown

292. Jerry Jones
 293. James Hudley
 294. Brenda Vick
 295. Chole M. Howe
 296. Dorothy Brunson
 297. Harlen - Loretta Headley
 298. Billie Boyd
 299. Elsie M. Moore
 300. Mattie Ann Owens
 301. Peggy S. Walker
 302. Angela Jackson
 303. Karen Britt
 304. Irene M. Wright
 305. Bobbie Saxton
 306. Betty Clark
 307. Mrs. Sharon Freeman
 308. Edith Winters
 309. Mary Adams Warren
 310. Lawrence Horn
 311. Minnie Gwyne
 312. Claude Edwards
 313. Sue Mason
 314. Shelia Foster
 315. Jimmy Downs
 316. Janice Lewis
 317. Betty Husband
 318. JoAnn Mills
 319. Mary Lou Mirante
 320. Veva June Calhoun
 321. Dotsy Downs
 322. Robbie Cole
 323. Doris Laird
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 342. Lisa Dearman
 343. Marie Green
 344. Josie Isaacs
 345. Annie McGill
 346. Jaquita G. Jordan
 347. Tamatha Bradshaw
 348. Debra Yee
 349. Marilyn Howell
 350. Anita R. Price
 351. **YOUR NAME**
- NEXT TIME. Okay?

All answers received by November 15, 2010, are included. Answers received later will be in our next issue, God be willing. Thanks for responding to "The Question Box."

More Readers' Response. We are grateful!

Dear Brethren,

*Just want to thank you for the Messenger, and the great message it gives. Been intending to thank you for years! I'm sending your paper to my son in Kansas... My son and I were baptized by Bro. **Furman Kearley**. I also have a daughter and I thank God they are both faithful members of the Church. My son attends a small church in Beaser, Kansas... and on the way to church he quizzes the children on the Question Box. If possible could you send the Messenger to him?... Sincerely, (**Thelma C. Rachford**, Cold Springs, KY)*

*I am Mae Adams. I go to Iuka Church of Christ. Bro. **Lance Foster** is the Minister. I would like the Magnolia Messenger and my sister would like the Magnolia Messenger... Thank you for all your prayers. I enjoyed your articles in the paper. Keep up the good work. Thank you very much. (**Mae Adams**, Tishomingo, MS)*

*I enjoyed your article "Remembering My Daddy" (MM July-Sept, 2010). Thanks for sharing your memories of your father. I am encouraged by his legacy. Keep up the good work. May God bless you according to his divine will and purpose. I remain your brother, friend and servant." (**Bobby L. South**, Jasper, TX)*

EDITOR'S SAYS:

I'm embarrassed. I lost my notes taken as I listened to **Philip Hines** preach at the I-20 church in Vicksburg a few weeks ago. I really wanted to give details of his sermon dealing with the subject of "Repentance" (I think!). I know it was a good lesson, very scriptural and powerfully presented. If you have an opportunity to hear brother Hines, from Hartsville (?), Alabama, preach, take advantage of it. **Hold on to your notes!** (alf)



WOODSON

(Continued . from page 7)

While preaching in Tupelo, William was studying at the Graduate School (Harding) in Memphis. His desire was to prepare himself to help prepare others to preach. He volunteered to conduct a private class in the study of the Greek language for the benefit of E.C. Meadows and myself. We studied with him each week in his office at East Tupelo. A few years later, it was my privilege to sit at his feet in various classes at FHU in Henderson.

Through the years, contact with brother William was fairly frequent; such as, hearing him speak at lectureships. On one occasion I was asked to speak at a lecture series in Anniston, Alabama. I was asked to deal with a

rather difficult subject relating to God "hearing sinners' prayers." Brother Woodson, who was another of the speakers, was sitting on the front pew as I presented my lesson. As I offered my comments, I was very pleased when he indicated his approval with a "thumbs up" signal.

Brother Woodson was always encouraging in our work with the "Magnolia Messenger," including the last time I heard him speak in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, earlier this year. The positive influence of William Woodson in my life is, no doubt, a testimony that countless others can claim. I'm thankful that the world and the church has been richly blessed by the life and work of William Woodson. We need more like him. (alf)

Lands of the Bible Cruise 2011

Encompassing the Old Testament
(Moses and the Israelites in Egypt)

and the New Testament

(the Gospels and Jesus' Ministry; Acts and Paul's Ministry)

With Paul and Al Franks

12 Day Program Departs on

November 26, 2011

Prices starting at \$949*

(cruise only)

*plus airfare, tips, taxes, excursions, etc.

You are invited to join Paul and A L Franks as they lead a group of Christians on a trip of a lifetime. Lord willing, we plan to leave on Friday, November 25 and fly to Rome -- arriving on Saturday morning, November 26, 2011 and take a bus tour of Rome. That evening we will board the beautiful Norwegian Jade and sail on the Mediterranean Sea. The cruise includes all of your meals while on the ship and 11 nights in your cabin, along with the ship's entertainment. In just one trip you will get to visit most of the major places you read about in the Bible. We will arrive back in Rome on December 7th at which time there will be an **optional** overnight tour of Rome before we fly home.

We have a limited number of cabins already booked for this trip and would love to have you make plans to go with us. You can email Paul at apaulfranks@gmail.com or call him at 337-515-7314 and he will be glad to send you a brochure and answer any questions you might have. Don West, our travel agent, is available to assist you with all of your travel arrangements. His number is 601-957-1660 and his email is westvl@bellsouth.net. An initial deposit of \$800 per cabin is due by July 22, 2011. (\$400 per person with two in a cabin) The final payment is due by September 05, 2011. This gives us all plenty of time to save and get ready to make this journey.

Since space is limited, we are asking everyone who is making plans to go to send in \$100 per person as a non-refundable deposit for us to hold your cabin for this trip. You can mail your check to **West Travel Service, 800 Colonial Cr., Jackson, MS 39211** or you can charge it to your credit/debit card by calling Paul Franks at 337-515-7314. If you use a credit/debit card there will be an additional 3% service charge. The cruise line is offering different discounts for this trip and you might qualify for one of these. You will need to ask Don West about the discounts. We are expecting the **airfare** to be around **\$900.00** round trip from most US cities to Rome during this time of the year.

We will have worship services together on the two Sundays we are on this trip. We will have other times to meet and study from the Bible concerning the places we have visited during that day. We will be eating dinner together each night. You will have a tremendous amount of fun on this trip, however, I believe the greatest benefit is that your faith will grow and become stronger. What better investment can you make than that? (Paul)

MEALS

(Cont. from page 4)

church (in *ekklesia*, "assembly" 1 Corinthians 14:35).

In the same way, "Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?" and "If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home" means for them to eat somewhere and sometime other than in the assembly.

Potluck meals, love feasts, are an important part of the church's family atmosphere and biblical fellowship. But they are not to be part of the Lord's Supper or the Lord's Day -- Lord's Supper assembly. □



Somewhere in Mississippi

TOP OF STAIRS

(Cont. from pg 13)

family, as well as wooden tool kits for the little boys.

Brother Ray is a humble man. He doesn't want to take credit for anything that he has been able to accomplish.

Brother Ray is always commenting that he is so thankful for his church family, his brothers and sisters in the Lord. I know for a fact the South Huntington Street congregation is blessed to have brother Ray Weaver Gilbert as one of her members.

Brother Ray was heard to comment recently that becoming a member of the Lord's church was the best thing that he had done in his life.

We love you brother Ray. We pray God's continue blessings upon you.



Ray greets and hands bulletin to Larry Simmons, one of the Kosciusko church deacons

GENTLENESS

(Continued from page 7)

the house he rehearsed in his mind what he would say to the family. As he got closer the lights went out. As he approached the door, he was so worked up in his mind, that he blurted out when they answered the door, "You and your stupid jack! You can keep the thing!"

Most of the wars we face in life are imagined. If we will keep our mind on Christ, we will find the peace we want and from that peace springs gentleness.

3. Be gentle at all times. I realize it is hard to do. There are times when our nerves are on end, and tension stabs at us, but in those times we are to exercise gentleness. Tensions in life tend to cause us to be frustrated. We fuss with our family and friends. Yet we have got to hold on to that inner strength that can help us be gentle, even in times of trial.

Paul no doubt was in all kinds of pain and under a great deal of stress, but yet he grew in gentleness. In times of illness we need to watch that the pain does not push out our gentleness. As we rise to new authority on the job or even in

the church, we need to withstand the temptation to lose our tenderness with others. Be gentle at all times!

It is so important that we grow in this Fruit of the Spirit. There is so much harshness in our world. A counselor did a study. He took ten delinquent students. After he won their confidence, he asked them, "When was the last time your parents told you they loved you?" Not one could remember, but they could remember being called "stupid" and "dummy" by their parents. The counselor then asked ten achievers, at the same school, the same question. All said, "This morning," or "As I left for school." People respond to love, and gentleness.

There is a need to preach about justice, Hell, and the wrath of God, but the hungry, lost, lonely, heart-broken souls are looking for a Savior who loves them, and cares for them, and saints that show that same concern.

By Eddie Lewis, associate minister, Germantown Church of Christ, Germantown, TN, 38138.

ONE

(Continued from page 5)

15. All three parables teach what is stated clearly in verse 10 where the Scriptures say "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." One in a hundred sheep is valued (Vv. 3-7). One in ten coins is cherished (Vv. 8-10). And each one of the two sons who sinned, each in his own way, is so valued by the kind, forgiving father (Vv. 11-32). How can one miss heaven's estimate of a solitary soul in such parables or in Jesus' rhetorical questions of Matthew 16:26 where he asks, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

You are one. I am one. You are not the only "one" out there. Nor am I. Neither of us may be the most important "one," but each of us is one and immensely

valuable to God in heaven. Each soul around us, no matter how he or she looks in physical form, is one and worth seeking, saving, and serving for the glory of God.

We should gladly help the least one among us even if it is with single deeds of kindness because God is watching over those little ones. "And whoever gives one of these little ones only [one] cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42).

In the day of incredible numbers, never forget the value of one.

Brother John can be reached in care of the North Brandon Church of Christ; PO Box 251; Brandon, MS 39043-0251 or e-mail: gardner.john43@gmail.com

Remember to Pray
For the Work of the MM

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

Dreaming of a Better Relationship and Eliminating the Nightmares

- June Franks -

We may dream of having a better relationship whether it be in the home, with your church family, neighbors or at your place of employment.

However, in reality, it probably will not do any good to simply dream of a better relationship. If we only dream about a better relationship, it probably will never happen.

In fact, it takes effort on our part to have a better relationship. We are the only one that is in control of our actions and not someone else.

Even though we often want to blame others for not having a good relationship, it is really left up to us to do our part (to do our best) in maintaining a good relationship with those with whom we come in contact. Could each of us not improve in our relationships with others?

The 17th century poet, John Donne said, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

The Bible says, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." (Romans 14:17)

Therefore, as a part of this world, we are going to come in contact with others on a daily basis. How we act (or react) as Christians is so important.



June Franks

However, the most important relationship that we could ever have is our relationship with God. As you are reading this article answer, "What is your relationship with God?"

If your relationship is not what it should be, then don't wait to correct that situation.

First, one must be in Christ. The Bible says, "For as many of you have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27)

As Christians, the very basis of our relationship is our common union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. The Bible says, "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death,

we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." (Romans 6:4-6)

Your relationship with God could be like the one the prodigal son had with his father. Just as with the prodigal son, God will welcome you home if you make the needed corrections in your life.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the Father ran to meet his son when he saw him coming. Our Heavenly Father will do the same for us when we return home.

Recently, someone who was supposedly a "Christian" made this statement, "If I died tonight I would be lost." That is a very sad and serious statement -- evidently this person's relationship with God is not what it should be. Just maybe her relationship with others is not what it should be.

We can be assured if we do not have a good relationship with God we are definitely NOT going to eliminate the nightmares.

In order to have a proper relationship with God, in our marriage and with all with whom we come in contact, we must first have a proper respect for God's Word.

The Bible says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God..." (James 4:7) Submit means to yield to or surrender to the will or authority of another.

We are to also submit to one another. The Bible says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." (Ephesians 5:21)

In order to be able to submit to one another, the Bible says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:3,4)

If we will *submit ourselves*, then we can have a better relationship without dreaming about it. Being submissive in all areas will certainly aid in eliminating any nightmares we may have.

Mrs. A. L. Franks

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Thank you for Reading the Magnolia Messenger

POEMS

By

Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray

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When Earth's Beauty Is Beyond Me

When Spring no longer beckons me
With her long-stemmed daffodils,
And forsythia bushes dripped with gold
No longer give my heart a thrill—

When Summer roses robed in crimson,
And the salvia lace of ruby red
Blaze beneath my bedroom window,
Yet fail to turn my head—

When Autumn's afire with red and gold,
And leaves in gay profusion fly,
Then brightly carpet lifeless sod,
But do not catch my eye—

When Winter's delicate white snowflakes
No longer delight this old heart,
And diamond gems upon the lawn
Fail to make the teardrops start—

When earth's beauty is beyond me,
And its miracles I can't behold,
There can only be one reason why—
I now walk on the street of gold!

Bible Teaching Articles From Christian Women are requested and will be welcomed by the MM Staff.

Turning the Other Cheek

Nina Thorn

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Canton, MS 39046

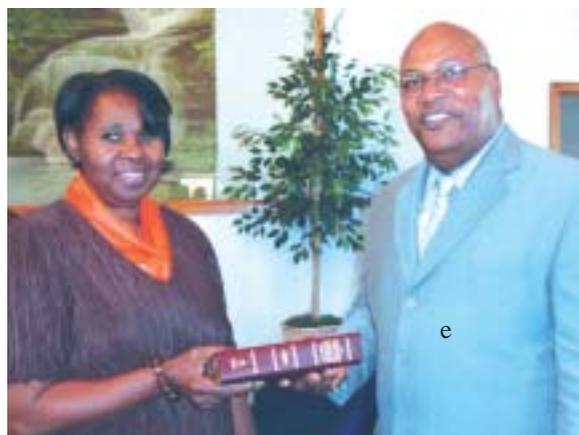


When people talk about us,
Or call us a bad name;
Do we turn the other cheek,
Or want to treat them the same?

God knows what's in our hearts,
Everything we do or say;
He wants us to love and forgive,
When offenses come our way.

God was angry at times,
But He never committed a sin.
Do we want to act like Christians,
Or just let Satan win?

When we obey God's will,
It's not a form of being weak;
It really shows how strong we are,
When we turn the other cheek.



Our Most Recent Bible Winner

Maggie Edmond
of the
North Montgomery Street Church
of Christ in
Starkville, MS

Willie Williams, preacher for the North Montgomery Street church in Starkville, presents a beautiful Study Bible to Maggie Edmond, our most recent MM Bible winner (see "Question Box" on page 24). Brother Williams has just recently come to Starkville from Cape Girardeau, MO, where he served as preacher for 14 years. He and his wife, Annette, are looking forward to a long and fruitful work in Starkville. Willie is from the Charleston area where he grew up in a family of seven boys -- **all of whom have become gospel preachers**. Our congratulations to sister Edmond, as our Bible winner, and to brother Williams, as Starkville's new preacher.

Use KJV
for wording & spelling

The Question Box

Use KJV
for wording & spelling

“Four in One”

This month’s study is exciting; in part, because we are covering four of the 27 New Testament books in just one lesson (“Four books in One lesson!”). Of course, each book has only one chapter with a total of only 82 verses. The three New Testament writers who penned the books are: Paul, John and Jude. The books are...?

These epistles, like all inspired scriptures, are filled with “profitable words” for “doctrine,” for “reproof,” for “correction” and for “instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). You can be assured that your study of “the Question Box” for this issue will, indeed, be time well spent.

Would you, please, complete each of the following sections and then send your answers to us? By doing so, you will learn, **encourage others** (see page 21) and you may be our next Bible winner. (Each issue, by random selection, we award a beautiful Study Bible to one student who sends in answers. **You just may be the one!**)

Thank you for your interest in the study of God’s word as indicated by your response to “The Question Box.” May God richly bless as you study and obey. (ALF - editor/author of the “QB”)

Fill in the Blanks

- Where in these four books do you find what may be considered “the most ungodly verse” in the Bible? (Note: the word “ungodly appears four times in this one verse.) _____
- Which one of the four books mentions: (a) “paper and ink,” _____; (b) “ink and pen,” _____; (c) “antichrist,” _____; (d) “face to face,” _____
- Give the name of the book and the verse which contains each of the following phrases: (a) “earnestly contend for the faith,” _____; (b) “...neither bid him Godspeed,” _____; (c) “...thou wilt also do more than I say,” _____; (d) “...pulling them out of the fire...”, _____; (e) “...and going after strange flesh...”, _____

Match the Statement and the Person. (Who said?)

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ___ “The Lord rebuke thee.” | 1. John |
| ___ “The Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints.” | 2. Michael |
| ___ “I wish in all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health.” | 3. Enoch |

Match the Phrase and about Whom it was Stated

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| ___ “...destroyed them that believed not...” | 1. Sodom |
| ___ “...suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” | 2. Angels |
| ___ “...reserved in everlasting chains.” | 3. Israel |

Match the book (column two) which mentions the person named in column one?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| ___ Cain | 1. Philemon |
| ___ Timothy | 2. II John |
| ___ Demas | 3. III John |
| ___ Balaam | 4. Jude |
| ___ Enoch | |
| ___ Michael | |
| ___ Onesimus | |

To whom were the books written? (Place proof verses in parentheses)

- (a) Philemon: _____ (____)
- (b) II John: _____ (____)
- (c) III John _____ (____)
- (d) Jude: _____ (____)

FINAL QUESTION: Locate the reference (book, verse) which teaches that, in addition to Sodom and Gomorrah, there were other cities destroyed by fire. _____ What were the names of the other cities destroyed by God? . _____ and _____ (Deut. 29:____)

Please Send Your Answers To Us

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

Watch DIRECTV®
“Getting To Know Your Bible”

Monday - Friday
DIRECTV Channel 377
9:30 p.m. CT
3:30 a.m. CT



Billy Lambert
Speaker

Our Congratulations To
Reid Thompson



Recent Bible Winner

(We regret that we were unable to personally deliver the Bible to Reid. It was mailed to him. We borrowed his picture from our RV Rally Directory.)

The MM
Requests
Your Prayers
and
Your Suggestions

God Willing -- Our Next
MM MS RV Rally
April 27 - May 1, 2011
Percy Quinn State Park
McComb, Mississippi
Details
See Page 10

NEW ALBANY

The New Albany Church of Christ has announced the arrival of their new minister. **Mike King** was to begin his work on September 12, 2010.

Our Newest
Bible Winner
Elvis Dilmore
(Mendenhall, MS)
Congratulations

Another Beautiful Mississippi Delta Sunset



Taken in Robinsonville at the Home of Dennis & Kathy Doughty
Dennis preaches for the nearby congregation in Tunica. My June and I were blessed to visit the Doughtys on Saturday where we spent the night in our motorhome parked in their yard. Sunday morning I preached for the closely knit and growing church at Tunica. Dennis called us that night, stating that another precious soul was baptized into Christ on Sunday evening. We rejoice!