



Our 35th Year

Magnolia Messenger

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

Volume 35
Number 3

FALL
2013

Magnolia Bible College Alumni/Staff & Friends Reunion



Kosciusko, MS
October 3-4, 2013
Thursday PM
&
Friday AM
(Details on Page 7)

Is
your
name
found
on
page
23
?



Thank the Good Lord for the Beauty of the Seasons. A Fall Scene near Tupelo, MS.

If not in this issue, please consider sending in answers to "The Question Box" for the next issue.

Readers' Response Requested
How Can We Best Use MBC Facilities?
(See Page 9)

Read/Learn
"Journeys of Paul"
Visiting churches and brethren in Mississippi and Louisiana
See Pages 4,8,13

Gospel Meeting
with
Cecil May, Jr.
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2
(Sunday thru Wednesday)

South Huntington St.
Church of Christ
Kosciusko, Mississippi
(662-289-3791)

Benefit by Reading
"Travels of Eddie"
Visiting among churches of Christ in North Mississippi.
Turn to pages 19, 20

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(CONTACT)
Magnolia Messenger
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090
662-289-3559 (office)
601-668-3344 (Al)
662-792-2700 (Paul)
franksmm@aol.com
apaulfranks@gmail.com



Teaching a Caterpillar About Flying. (See Page 17)

For Youth
Discovery '13
"Discover the Church
October 11-13, 2013
Fellowship, Food, Singing, Lessons on the Church, Discussion Groups, MSU Football, Friends, Worship
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"Forgive One Another"
An Impossible Command?
Study the Scriptures
With John Gardner on Page 4

Read
"Sexual Sins"
The tendency to become a practicing "gay" or "lesbian" appears to be an ever increasing problem. (Pg. 2)

A Reader Asked,
Why did the Jews ask Jesus for signs when he was always working miracles, giving them signs? What is the "sign of the prophet Jonah" that he promised them, as in Matthew 16:4?

May's Response:
(Begins on Page 3)

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(Additional info on page 7)

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (1)
HEAR the Gospel

"How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:14-17)
Before faith, one must hear;
He must hear the word of God.

BUT THERE IS MORE!
(Turn to Page 2)

SIMPLE; yet, SERIOUS!
Dealing With Anger
The Question Box
(Please Study on Page 24)

Magnolia Messenger
South Huntington St
CHURCH OF CHRIST
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Dear Magnolia Messenger,

I recently got my hands on a copy of the MM from 2012 (Oct.-Dec.). I enjoyed it very much. Would you please put me on y'all's list to receive the MM? And if possible would you send me the last two copies also? I want to thank you ahead of time, and I pray God will continue to bless the MM to keep blessing others. Your brother in Christ, (Ricky Keeton, Parchman, MS)

Mrs. June Franks

Your son and his wife visited our church in DeValls Bluff. I really enjoyed their visit. He gave me a Magnolia Messenger and I really enjoyed it. Would you please put me on your mailing list? Thank you so much. May God Bless you, (Glenda Fought, Hazen, AR)

I really enjoy the MM. When I get it, I do an overview of the articles and then I read every article. I find good, truthful writings. I enjoy reading about the church and it's people from around the states. Thank you so much. (Frances Smith, Grapeland, TX)

I have just received and read the current Messenger. I cannot commend it and your good work except in highest terms. You edit a remarkable journal that is helping the church to grow in Mississippi but also in many states. God will surely continue to bless you and June in this significant work. There are many features in the paper that I like and are accomplishing much good. I commend you for bringing in Paul with the paper. He has developed your same spirit. He will carry on the Messenger

into the future generations. God continue to grant you health, wisdom and zeal to promote the Lord's work. In Christ, (E. Claude Gardner, Henderson, TN)

Dear Bro. A.L. Franks

I just want to tell you how much I enjoy getting the Magnolia Messenger. I eagerly wait for the next issue to come. I enjoy the Question Box also. In this world in which we live, with all the troubles going on, it's a pleasure to know that there are such caring people and loving and dedicated to getting the Word out. May God bless each and every one that helps with the articles... (Brenda Goodwin, Water Valley MS)

Please Note:

In regard to the note from Jerry Miller of Vicksburg about Brother Reggie Crawford. We are so glad to have Brother Reggie and Sister Dewell worshipping with us at Somerville Church of Christ, since moving to our area! He is so talented and an inspiration to all. He is working with the jail ministry here, and also teaches class and fills in when our regular song leader is away. We are so glad they moved our way. (Linda Matheny, Somerville, TN)

Dear Franks Family:

I'm still enjoying your Messenger. Thanks for your hard work in keeping it going... Thanks a lot, (Jean Holliman, Pascagoula, MS)

**We Welcome
Readers' Response**

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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Supported By Contributions

A. L. Franks, Editor

Paul Franks, Associate Editor

Cecil May, Jr., Bible Questions Answered

June & Glenda Franks, Special Assistants

Telephone Numbers

Office/Home

662-289-3559

Cell

601-668-3344

Mailing Address

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578

Kosciusko, MS 39090

Editor's Note: The mention of a person or church in the Messenger does NOT necessarily mean that we either endorse or approve all the person or church may believe, teach and/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

Sexual Sins

Temptations & Forgiveness

Homosexual and/or Heterosexual

We, as people, are all different; yet, all of us are tempted. The Bible warns that the devil, our common enemy, "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). He uses different appeals to different people. What may be tempting to me may not be enticing to you. Of course, the opposite is also true.

With gracious help provided by our loving Father, we can and we must resist temptation. Scripture commands, "Resist the devil." The inspired text follows with the promise: "He [the devil] will flee from you" (James 4:7). We must fight against the temptation to **commit evil** or to **omit good** and, with the Lord's assistance, we can overcome. The word of the Lord promises, "... God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

Hebrews chapter twelve and verse one speaks of the "sin which doth so easily beset us." While this verse, in its context, may have direct reference to the sin of "unbelief"; yet, we all know that certain sins are more attractive or more enticing -- depending upon the person being tempted. People are different.

Not only does Scripture admonish, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you," it also says, "Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh to you." (James 4:7,8) With divine help, you and I can successfully "resist the devil." This we can do when we draw "nigh unto God" who is readily available to help us avoid sin -- no matter how attractive the temptation.

Sexual temptations abound. Homosexual behavior is attractive to some. Heterosexual



A. L. Franks, Editor

temptations entice many. The tendency to become a practicing "gay" or "lesbian" appears to be an ever increasing problem. No doubt, temptations surround us. An "evil and adulterous generation" far too often asks, "Why not?" and concludes, "I'll do whatever I desire! God wants me to be happy!"

According to the Bible, however, to engage in intimate relations with the same sex (homosexual), under any circumstances, is sinful.

True, temptations to commit sexual sins abound; however, be comforted with the realization that the temptation to sin is **not** sin! With the Lord's help,

temptation can be resisted. Temptation does not come with a license to yield. And, there is **never an acceptable excuse** for sinful behavior.

I am thankful, as I know you are, that the Good Lord is willing and ready to forgive all sins, including all sexual sins (I John 1:7-10). God's mercy is abundant. But, always remember: **the Lord requires repentance.** And, while we should feel compassion and show love for the sinner -- any sinner, who is "overtaken in a fault"; let us not forget that one indication of **true** love for others is to call for any and all who sin to repent; that is, to **change** their conduct

in order to enjoy the blessings of God's forgiveness. Forgiveness from all sin is available through/in Christ and His church, which was purchased with the precious blood of our Saviour. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). Not only is confession of sin required; so is repentance of sin. Remember the words spoken by Jesus to the adulterous woman, "... neither do I condemn thee." But then, our Lord added the command, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). franksmm@aol.com

The Bible also teaches that to engage in intimate relations with the opposite sex (heterosexual), outside of marriage, is likewise sinful!

According to the Bible, however, to engage in intimate relations with the same sex (homosexual), under any circumstances, is sinful. The Bible also teaches that to engage in intimate relations with the opposite sex (heterosexual), outside of marriage, is likewise sinful! The truth is -- **sodomy, fornication and adultery** are all sinful. (Study Romans 1:26,27; I Cor. 6:9,10; Eph. 5:3-5).

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

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (2)

BELIEVE in Jesus

"...for if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (John 8:24)

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is...."

(Heb. 11:6)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 8)

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTION:

Why did the Jews ask Jesus for signs when he was always working miracles, giving them signs? What is the “sign of the prophet Jonah” that he promised them, as in Matthew 16:4? (E.C.)

RESPONSE:

The Jewish leaders wanted a different kind of sign from Jesus than He was showing them, because they were looking for a different kind of Christ than Jesus came to be. They wanted an earthly king with miraculous power to lead their armies to victory against Rome and free them from Roman oppression.

Jesus, fulfilling the “suffering servant” prophecies of Isaiah and the Psalms, came instead to die for mankind’s sins, condemned by the Romans to death on a cross. Jesus’ signs of power over death, sickness and sin, therefore, did not impress them. They wanted signs that would show Him to be a powerful, victorious military leader.

Satan’s Temptation

Satan attempted to entice Jesus in the wilderness to demonstrate the kind of show-off sign the Jewish leaders

were wanting. He took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and urged Him, “If you are the

Son of God, throw yourself down,” quoting Scripture to the effect that God would send angels to bear Him up and keep Him from being hurt (Matthew 4:5-6 quoting Psalm 91:11-12). Jesus responded to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test’” (Matthew 4:7).

Some readers think Jesus is here saying, “I am the Lord your God and you should not be tempting Me.” But no. Jesus is saying that, even though God has promised protection, it is wrong to deliberately place oneself in danger just to test God to see if He will keep His promise. That is what is meant by “tempting God” (KJV), “putting Him to the test” (ESV). That would be similar to a reformed drunkard going to a bar with his former drinking buddies to test God’s promise to provide a way of escape with every temptation.

An Evil And Adulterous Generation

Almost always when people ask Jesus for a sign, he says, “An

evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign” (Matthew 12:39; 16:4; Luke 11:29 *et al.*). Their materialistic mind-set kept their mind closed to the Suffering Servant Son of God who came to defeat sin, death and hell instead of defeating Rome.

When He cast out demons, and they were unable to deny the reality of the miracle because too many others had seen it, they made the ridiculous charge that He was casting out demons by the prince of demons. “But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,’ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven” (Luke 11:15-16).

On one occasion the Pharisees and Sadducees asked Him for a sign and He said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation” (Mark 8:11-12). There

were occasions, however, when He used the familiar expression our questioner asks about, “no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” At least twice He used it cryptically, without further explanation (Matthew 16:1-4; Luke 11:29-30).

On one recorded occasion, however, Jesus did give an explanation of what He meant by “the sign of the prophet Jonah.” “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, ‘Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.’ But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth’” (Matthew 12:38-40). Jesus is obviously alluding here to the premier sign that He is who He says He is, the sign of all signs, His resurrection from the dead.

Paul says Jesus “was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead”

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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

(Romans 1:4).

Jesus’ brothers who grew up in the same house with him did not accept his claims during his ministry on earth (John 7:5). After his resurrection he told his disciples, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me” (Matthew 28:10). Paul, reporting Jesus’ resurrection appearances says, “Then he appeared to James” (1 Corinthians 15:7). After James had seen the resurrected Christ, this former unbeliever became a recognized leader in the Jerusalem church (Galatians 1:19).

In his report of Jesus’ resurrection appearances, Paul also says, “Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me” (1 Corinthians 15:7). The sight of the resurrected Lord transformed the foremost persecutor of the church into the foremost apostle and preacher of the gospel.

When someone asked Ken Joines why he believed Jesus was the Son of God, Ken replied, “Anyone who, being dead and buried, gets up and walks out of the grave under his own power is whoever He says He is.”

Jesus’ resurrection, “the sign of the prophet Jonah”--“as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”--would be the last and greatest sign that “evil and adulterous generation” would be given

Jesus told about a rich man in

torment who wanted Abraham to send Lazarus back to his brothers to warn them not to come where he was. “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead’” (Luke 16:29-31). Indeed, Jesus did rise from the dead and many people of that sort did nevertheless continue to disbelieve.

A Similar Sign Promised

When Jesus cleansed the temple of money-changers and animal sellers early in His ministry, the Jewish leaders asked him for a sign that would show He had authority to do such things. “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking about the temple of his body” (John 2:19-21). John then remarks that when Jesus was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this. Again, it was when they saw His resurrection that they believed.

His enemies both remembered and misunderstood this saying. While Jesus hung on the cross, “those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, ‘You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross’” (Matthew 27:39-40). They did not understand that He was saying He would be raised on the third day.

3 Days And 3 Nights

The generally accepted chronology of Jesus’ last week has the betrayal and trial on Thursday night, the crucifixion on Friday, burial in the tomb over the Sabbath and the resurrection from the dead in the early hours of Sunday. Jesus repeatedly said He would be crucified and “on the third day” be raised (Matthew 16:21; 19:23; 20:19 *et. al.*). Cru-

cified on Friday and raised on Sunday is “raised the third day” as the Jews normally counted time. It is not, however, “three days and three nights in the belly of the earth.”

In an attempt to make Jesus’ burial fit “three days and three nights,” some have postulated that Jesus was betrayed and tried on Wednesday, crucified on Thursday and raised on Sunday. A major objection to that view, however, is that it does not fit Jesus’ repeated prediction, “raised on the third day.” If He were crucified on Thursday and raised on Sunday, He would be raised on the fourth day.

There is no way to make “on the third day” and “three days and three nights” refer to the same period of time. The best solution, it seems to me, is to recognize that “three days and three nights” is used just once, used in the context of typology and is, therefore, figurative. Jesus’ often repeated prediction that He would be raised “on the third day” is literal. A primary rule of hermeneutics is that the figurative is interpreted by the literal, not the other way around.

Many Did Believe

There were many like Nicodemus who, instead of asking for different signs, did see Jesus’ miracles and believe He was who He said He was. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him’ (John 3:2).

An informal but interesting discussion is recorded in John 7 in which some believers are recorded as asking, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?” (John 7:31). That challenging question has not yet received a satisfactory answer.

On Pentecost, Peter said, “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know” (Acts 2:22). He then went on to attest to

See **JONAH** on Page 16

The Journeys of Paul, A Messenger

Louisiana

- Paul Franks -

Our first stop in Louisiana on this trip was in our favorite city -- Lake Charles. We love the EBCC congregation, having worked with them for almost 10 years; but, it also is where our 21 year old son, **Vincent**, lives and goes to school.

We were able to visit with some of the elders and were blessed to



Dan Manuel, Son (Scott) & Grandson (Morgan)

and his son **Scott** and grandson **Morgan** worked hard as many others whose picture I didn't get. That night, **Ray Hyatt** from DeQuincy spoke. His subject was on "Evangelizing our communities." He did a masterful job of presenting his lesson.

Ray gave two illustrations that I want to share with you. He told of **Tim Allen** who preaches for the Merryville church. Tim and a group of Christians knocked most every door in this small southern Louisiana town. They told everyone that a special prayer service was going to be held the



Vester Cooper

visit with my great friend, **Vester Cooper**. Vester and his wife, **Alice**, just retired after 30+ years of taking care of the facilities of the church. Recently Alice has been sick. Please pray for this wonderful couple.

Jason Clark is the new pulpit minister for the Enterprise Blvd Church of Christ in Lake Charles. He and his wife **Cecely** and their three year old daughter, **Phoebe**, have just returned to America after spending ten years as a missionary and English teacher in China.

Jason is a graduate of Harding University and also studied at the Harding School of Biblical Studies. He also received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Southern Arkansas University. The EBCC congregation is excited to have this family work with them.

After leaving Lake Charles we made our way to the Toledo Bend church of Christ. This congregation was sponsoring a Men's Leadership Retreat. On Friday night, there was the famous catfish supper caught and cooked mostly by **Tom Welch**. **Dan Manuel**



Tom & Ann Welch

next Sunday night and wanted to know if they had some specific prayer request. They filled up over five sheets of prayer requests and had a great crowd at the prayer service. One point made by Ray was that only one request was from someone who wanted to pray for the lost.

He also mentioned **Travis Murray** who preaches for the Jackson Chapel church, not far from Leesville, LA. He said that Travis and he were meeting with a contractor to do some work on the Leesville church building. Ray said his focus was on just the meeting and the repairs that were going to be done, but as they were leaving the contractor, Travis asked him if he was married, the con-

See JOURNEY, pg 8

"Forgive One Another"

An Impossible Command?

- John Gardner -

One does not have to read very far in the New Testament to understand that Jesus requires his followers to genuinely forgive others who sin against them (Matthew 6:14,15). The requirement not only applies to situations where an individual sins against us on just one occasion, but also where there are repeated offenses.

In the context of dealing with a sinning brother (Matthew 18: 15 - 17), Peter wondered if forgiving an offender seven times was generous and sufficient (V. 21). Jesus stated that the issue is not a mathematical formula, but a matter of the heart that is to be like the Father's heart (Vv. 22 - 35). Even forgiving seven times would stretch the spirituality of most, so how can we face the "seventy times seven" (open ended) forgiveness of the teaching?

If all of that is not difficult enough, consider what the Lord says, as recorded in Luke 17: 3, 4. "Take heed to yourselves. If you brother sins against you, rebuke him; if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him" (Emphasis mine, New King James Version). **Seven times in the same day?** And we are supposed to believe that his repentance is genuine? Some think the command borders on an impossibility.

Paul instructs the Colossian Christians that their faithful service to Christ includes "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3: 13). The "complaint" is not limited to minor offenses, although it certainly would include them.

In paraphrase, the Apostle tells the church at Colossae that if anyone has any kind of complaint against anyone in the body of Christ, they are to settle it by forgiving one another with full forgiveness as Christ forgave us. How well do our



John Gardner

congregations practice this?

Often the teaching on forgiving others is met with strong resistance in the hearts of those who have suffered much at the hands of others. They reason, "Forgiving others is commendable and worthy to be practiced; but when the offense is so devastating, as in my case, the command seems impossible to carry out."

When one thinks of physical and sexual abuse suffered for years in childhood, or murder, or maiming of someone for life, or defamation of character, or being stripped of earthly valuables which can never be restored, or torture, or the destruction of a family, or any number of other atrocities, indeed the thought of forgiving the offender seems impossible! Those who have not suffered at the hands of others in horrible ways would do well to not judge harshly those who have and who must wrestle with forgiving on a daily basis.

Forgiving another "from [the] heart" (Matthew 18: 35) is a tall order, but one that is possible for those who know God and experience genuine forgiveness in Christ. The Lord never gives his followers a command that is impossible to obey if they remain

in him. It may take weeks or months or years to reach that level of forgiveness of another that is sought, but God will travel that journey toward forgiveness with his child every step of the way.

Studying the life of Jesus

helps us deal with forgiving others. We know on the cross he prayed that God would forgive those who put him there (Luke 23: 34). Rather than rail justly against those torturing him to death, "He committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2: 23). When others hurt us or those we love deeply, we must pour out our hearts to God and ask Him to lift our burden of hate and vengeance and teach us how to forgive like Jesus forgave his enemies and like God forgives us daily (Ephesians 4: 32). If God can forgive a lifetime of daily sins we have committed against Him, with His help we can forgive a number of hurts and even horrors inflicted on us by others. It will not be easy, but it will be possible.

Looking at the examples of early Christians who imitated their Lord helps us forgive. Stephen, bowed and bloody from the stones

crushing the life out of him said, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin" (Acts 7: 60). Did he really want them to find forgiveness for such a horrendous act? Yes. When Paul was abandoned in a critical hour when he needed help the most, his response was a willingness to forgive and have God forgive those involved (2 Timothy 4: 16).

In forgiving others, one of the goals is to not give the offender or the offenses room to dominate one's daily thinking. Forgiving allows one to move on, to fill life with more positive things. If possible, we must disengage from the situations that cause added hurt or remind us vividly of past offenses at the hands of others. We must also choose to think on matters of life, not matters of pain and death (Philippians 4: 6 - 8).

Let no reader imagine that a short article or any article can provide all the answers for the tremendous difficulty of forgiving those who have done unspeakable things to another. The hope is that these thoughts have given some pointers and encouragement. John preaches for the Brandon church. Address:

John Gardner

P.O. Box 251

Brandon, MS 39043

gardner.john43@gmail.com

"Forgiving others is commendable and worthy to be practiced; but when the offense is so devastating, as in my case, the command seems impossible to carry out."

In forgiving others, one of the goals is to not give the offender or the offenses room to dominate one's daily thinking. Forgiving allows one to move on, to fill life with more positive things.

Christ's Life In The Open

Matthew 14:23 "He went into a mountain apart to pray and when the evening was come, He was there alone."

- James Horton -

There is a stillness that comes to the woods at the close of day. The creatures of the wild have settled in for the night and are quiet. Then, the hush of nature is broken by footsteps, as the Master comes into the woods.

Up the mountainside He climbs. He has left the world behind and far below. He is alone. He has sent His disciples by boat across the little Sea of Galilee. Now He seeks, and finds -- not complete solitude -- but the company of His Father! He has come up the mountain and into the woods alone to pray.

He found fellowship with God. Not in some synagogue or temple. Not in a shrine made by the hands of men. Not at an altar that has been consecrated by some renowned priest. But perhaps just under a tree that God has grown or on stone that nature has fashioned.

Jesus has come up on the mountain from the activity of feeding the 5,000. There, along the lake shore where the crowds had gathered, He had given of Himself without rest. But now He seeks time to relax, high on the mountain above the noise and the bustle of people.

Soon He will return to His work. Already, the boat bearing his disciples across the lake is in the midst of a stormy sea, tossed by high winds, and they will be afraid. He must hasten to them. But the feet that climbed up the mountain can as easily walk upon the waters. Then, when the boat comes to land on the other side, His disciples, and others attracted by Him, will be waiting for His arrival.

Actually, the Savior has come into the woods for more than rest. He has come up into the mountain seeking renewal and strength. He must be refreshed for His great ministry to a world in need of salvation. He must make contact with the true source of strength. He longs for a period of undisturbed and unbroken communion with His Father. He seeks it, and finds it, in the great outdoors!

Enlarging upon this incident, we have a picture of much of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus. A large part of His time was spent out-of-doors in the open! The great events of His life and ministry were nearly all outside experiences.

Even the area where He grew up is said to be one of the most beautiful



James Horton

locations in all the earth. Nazareth is situated in a secluded, cup-like valley amid the mountains of Zebulan just where they dip down into the Plain of Esdraelon. Its white houses feature climbing vines clinging to their walls and all around are gardens and groves of olive, fig, orange and pomegranate trees. The fields are divided by hedges of cacti and strewn with innumerable flowers of every hue.

Behind the village of Nazareth rises a hill 500 feet in height from whose summit there may be seen one of the most beautiful views in the entire world! There are the mountains of Galilee, with snowy Hermon towering above them; to the north is the ridge of Mt. Carmel, the coast of Tyre, and the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean are to the west. A few miles to the east lies the wooded cone-like Mt. Tabor and, to the south, the Plain of Esdraelon, with the mountains of Ephraim beyond.

The climate in Palestine is so fair that, for the majority of the year, one could sleep out on the ground in comfort. Doubtless, the body of Jesus was often wet with dew. Perhaps the moon and stars shown down upon His face as He fell asleep.

Our Lord must have loved the meadows and fields, the hills and valleys, the lakes and streams, the roads and trails, the plants and flowers, the sunshine and rain, the wind, the blue sky and the shining stars!

His own birth was so close to nature that the nearest companions of His first night on earth were barnyard animals. When He came to John the Baptist to be baptized of him, it was not to a man-made pool or a building, but to a river under open skies. There, out-of-doors, a 'Man of the wilderness,' baptized the "Son of God!"

To the two disciples who met Jesus shortly after His baptism and asked the Lord where He lived, the

Lord said, "Come, and see." They went with Him and spent the day. But, where? Jesus never owned a home. Perhaps it was to some quiet valley, or wooded spot, or alongside a stream, or under the shade of a large rock.

Of Christ's 64 parables, 32 of them took place out in the open. To Him, nature was filled with lessons of the divine: the fig tree, wind, clouds, rain, a mustard seed, vine and branches, tares, the lost sheep, a farmer and wheat fields, just to name a few; all packed with messages from God.

When Jesus preached, His pulpit was often upon a mountain top or lake shore or on a crowded street. His text might be a blade of grass, a flower blooming by the road, a gushing spring, a singing brook, a cloud, or a star.

Of the 48 miracles performed by our Lord, 37 of them call us to the out-of-doors. It was outside that Jesus calmed the sea, walked on the water, fed the multitudes, cleansed the lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, cast out demons and raised the dead.

It was in the wilderness that Jesus won the victory over Satan's temptations. It was as He walked by the sea that He called Peter, James and John. When He was transfigured, it was on a mountaintop, not in a back room of a synagogue. All of this bears, in a convincing way, the religion Jesus brought to men.

First, it confirms its genuineness. Jesus did not preach and teach in secret nor hide in the shadows. He did not shun publicity. He worked in the full glare of day, out in the open where He could be tested, investigated and scrutinized and where concealment was impossible and men could approach Him, touch Him, converse with Him face-to-face and hear His gentle voice and be blessed.

Secondly, Jesus' ministry in the open reveals its sincerity. Nature removes us from the ornate and artificial and brings us into the presence of the simple and sincere. Nature needs no make-up. It never poses as something other than what it is. It is never artificial.

The same is true of Jesus as a teacher of the will of His Father. There is no veneer or a sense of the high and mighty! Anyone could understand Him. He spoke the language of the common people.

Thirdly, Jesus' ministry in the open bears on its simplicity. Jesus

See Christ's Life - page 16

Now You
Take It From There....

- by -

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



Opening and Closing Doors

"Don't Slam That

Door!" Without doubt, from early childhood through my teen years, I heard that exclamation a thousand times. Both front and back doors to our house had outside screen doors held snugly closed by coil springs for fly and mosquito protection. When released from an open position, the sudden stop against the door facing would resonate through the house like a gun shot. At a young age I liked noise and didn't understand why old folk didn't; I understand now.

Metaphorically, every church has a front and back door; at times, both saints and sinner pass through them. Usually, the spiritual health of a congregation can be measured by the traffic that passes through both. When the number of those entering the front door (converts, visitor, or those placing membership) and those leaving through the back door is equal, the church is said to have stagnated, or outgrown its leadership.

When attendance increases, all things equal, there is evidence that leadership is aware of that back door and is making some effort to close it.

Ira North, pulpit minister for the great Madison Church, when there were over 5,000 in attendance, said: "One of our most urgent concerns is that back door." He was a strong advocate of keeping an eye on that back door, and gave **suggestions** on how to limit passage through it:

1. A dynamic pulpit; both preacher and song director.
2. Keep the church informed. Public announcements, printed page and all forms of media at hand. An informed church is a happy church.
3. Give everyone a job. We all want to be needed. However menial, an assignment makes one aware of his/her importance to our success.
4. Make everybody **SOMEBODY!**
5. Have a celebration banquet following each major event.
6. Challenge with a special event (once a quarter). Attendance drive, VBS, family day, teacher appreciation, etc.

These, and other suggestions, can do wonders in closing that back door. Obviously, that door cannot be completely closed; deaths, families moving and other legitimate reasons can keep going through it, but we must keep it to a minimum.

A lot can be said about keeping the front door open. Our primary mission is to bring the lost to salvation in Christ. And this does not consist of only swapping members, but leading folk to the water, through obedience to the gospel!

Now, you take it from there!



Church Bulletins Are Still Useful Tools

A Penetrating Bulletin Article

- John Allan -

In the New Testament we receive instruction on how to deal with scenarios wherein an individual wrongs us. *“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”* Matthew 18:15-17; KJV)

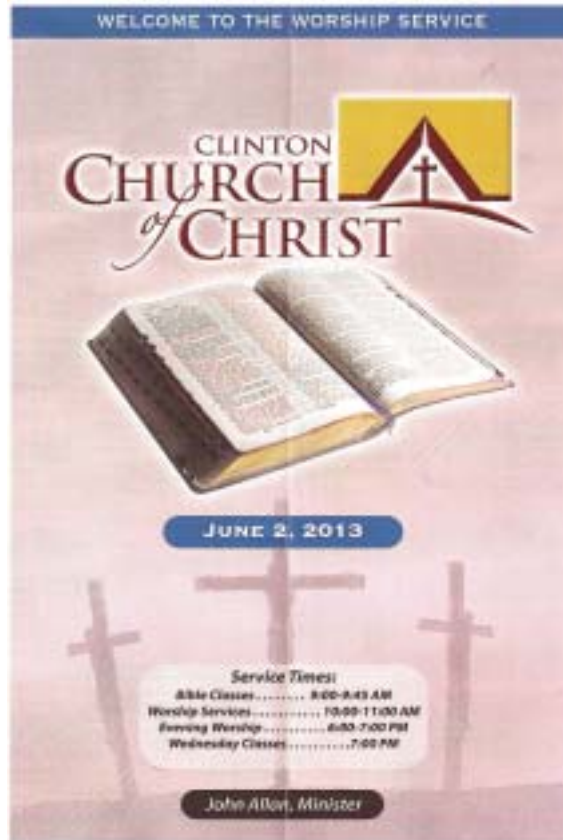
Great problems arise when we fail to follow God’s instructions. Too often we take our grievances to just about everybody except the one who has sinned against us. This opens the door for gossip, slander, and even the potential for false or incomplete information to be circulated among brethren.

Beyond creating a situation that can tempt others to sin, refusing to follow God’s design leaves the problem unresolved. Sometimes the guilty party does not know they have sinned against another. If they are not lovingly confronted, they will not be aware of their sin and will not recognize their need to repent. If they do know they have sinned and simply are hard-hearted (refusing to repent) then God’s pattern still needs to be followed so that discipline can be scripturally conducted.

We might try to justify deviating from these instructions. Perhaps we do not like confrontation.

Maybe we are waiting for the offender to come to us. It could even be that we like having an offense to hold against others. But when we refuse God’s instruction we also fail to confront sin; and this leaves the offending brother in peril (Isaiah 59:1-2). *(John Allan preaches for the Clinton congregation.)*

An Attractive Printed Bulletin



John Allan

Shepherds

Robert Shelton
Glenn Newell
Mark Bridges

601-922-6342

Clinton
Church of Christ
155 Broadway
Clinton, MS 39056
johnalism1@yahoo.com

Work Week 2013 Report from Rolling Fork



Youth from churches of Christ in Saltillo (Mayfield), Marietta (Zion’s Rest) and Rolling Fork are shown helping to fix-up a house in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. As a part of the Rolling Fork church’s annual summer work camp program the home of Lawrence Bell and the home of Alice Moffett were “fixed-up” this year. In its fifth year, the program has built one house and remodeled 13 others with the help of interested local businesses and individuals. *(Picture supplied by Deer Creek Pilot in Rolling Fork, MS)*

Involved Workers From Zion’s Rest (Marietta) Mayfield (Saltillo)

Report by
Norman Maranto

The Rolling Fork congregation has just completed our 2013 Work Week. With the assistance of members and youth from the **Zion’s Rest** congregation in Marietta and the **Mayfield** congregation in Saltillo, the **Rolling Fork** congregation was able to reach out into the community and provide very needed assistance to three families. Two homes were updated and another had storm debris cut up and removed.

Over the past five years this effort has included one new home being built and fifteen other homes receiving renovations. This outreach program has contributed to the Lord’s church receiving very positive attention within the community and the local church experiencing very positive evangelistic results.

This effort would not have been possible without God’s blessings, the Eldership at Zion’s Rest and Mayfield and the professional carpentry rendered by Christians willing to give of their time, talent and treasure.

Many thanks to **Mike Beasley** and **Adam Miller** who led **Kurt Bond**, **Jason Kelly**, **Bradley Bond**, **John Webb**, **David Wyers** and **Chris McCormick** along with many youth. **Stella Potts**, **Linda Bond** and **Joan Stiles** also provided much needed assistance within this effort and contributed substantially to its

overall success.

All of the members and youth of the Rolling Fork congregation are to be commended for their great effort made in this outreach to our local community. It was a great blessing for us in Rolling Fork to have worked and enjoyed fellowship with our brothers and sisters from Zion’s Rest and Mayfield. We have been stirred “unto good works” by their association and we love them so much for their willingness to take their vacation time to assist us.

The Rolling Fork church currently has an average of 28 in attendance and contribution of \$1,250.00 weekly. It participates in outreach efforts with the Mississippi Delta Community College Christian Center, the J.C.Choate World Evangelism efforts, the Berean Children’s home in Brookhaven and also maintains a weekly newspaper article in the local paper.

NOTE: Norman Maranto has been the preacher for the church in Rolling Fork and along with his wife, **Joyce**, have now served there for the past six years. Norman has also served as a Bible instructor at Sharkey Issaquena Academy for the past four years. *(Report sent to MM by Norman Maranto.)*

We Welcome

News Reports
Special Announcements
Teaching Articles
Magnolia Messenger



Nathan Wright, preacher for the Huntsville church, speaks at a recent service. His dad, Jim Wright led singing.

Nursing Home Services

(Two Churches Work Together)

The South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko and the Huntsville church, near French Camp, alternate -- taking turns, in leading Sunday services at the Attala County Nursing Home.

It is a **double** blessing -- (a) bringing joy and comfort to the home’s residents and (b) bringing joy to the hearts of brethren from both churches who come together in fellowship each month.

Every goal you have in this life is temporary. Your team loses, your business fails, your body ages, your mate dies, your health goes sour. BUT HOPE THAT IS IN CHRIST IS ETERNAL. (Read When We Lose Hope on Pg. 15)

*You Are
Cordially Invited
to
Visit and Worship
with a
Church of Christ
in
Your Community.
Where a
Warm Welcome
Awaits You!*

MM Welcomes

Comments, Suggestions, Ideas, Reports, Articles

The Saviour’s Plan for Salvation (3) REPENT of Sins

Jesus said, “...except you **repent**, you shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

God, “...commandeth all men everywhere to **repent**...” (Acts 17:31)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 9)

MAGNOLIA BIBLE COLLEGE ALUMNI/STAFF & FRIENDS REUNION

WHEN:

October 3, 4, 2013

**Thursday afternoon/evening
Friday morning**

WHERE:

On Thursday afternoon/evening all activities will be in the gym of the J.B. Hayes Building on the former campus of MBC. Friday morning activities will take place in the church building of the S. Huntington Church of Christ.

SCHEDULE:

Thursday, October 3:

1. The gym will be open at 1:00 P.M. for visiting and reminiscing.
2. The library is still intact. The Magnolia Messenger is using the former library office space for their offices. You may visit their offices, the library and the classrooms from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.
3. An evening meal will be offered in the gym starting at 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. Margie Ferguson served lunch the last few years in the gym. It was MBC's version of a "meal plan." She has agreed to replicate one of those lunches for our meal together on Thursday evening. You will have an opportunity to reimburse her for the cost of the meal.
4. From 7:00 until... More visiting, catching up, storytelling, etc.

Please Note:

We are sorry, but the dorm will not be available for housing. There are several motels available: Americas Best Value Inn – 662 289-6252; Days Inn – 662 289-2271; Super 8 – 662 289-7880; The Maple Terrace Inn Bed & Breakfast – 662-289-4131 (ask for Monica); Economy Inn in Carthage – 601 267-7900.

SCHEDULE:

Friday, October 4:

1. Breakfast (coffee, orange juice, donuts, and fruit) will be served in the fellowship room of the church building from 8:00-9:00 A.M.
2. At 9:30 A.M. we will replicate an MBC Chapel Service with singing, prayer and a message from Cecil May, Jr.
3. Appropriate announcements and a closing prayer will follow Brother May's message and will bring this reunion to its conclusion.

Some indication of how many are planning to come would be most helpful.

Please call the church office, 662 289-3791, or me at 601 562-4226 or e-mail me at lesfergusonsr@hotmail.com. We do not have addresses for everyone so letters will not be mailed. We will depend on the Magnolia Messenger, Face book and word of mouth. So please pass the info on. **(Les Ferguson, Sr. For all the Alumni)**



Potts Camp Church Hosts Gospel Meeting

"**Four Great Days**" is the way the church advertized their series of services held Sunday, July 28 through Wednesday, July 31. **Al Franks** (MM) spoke 3 times on Sunday. **Mike King** of the New Albany congregation preached Monday evening on the topic, "Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage." **James Horton** from Beech Hill (Ripley) was assigned "The Sin of Homosexuality" as a topic for Tuesday night and **Benny Braswell** of the Hernando Road church was asked to discuss "What the Bible Teaches About Abortion" on Wednesday night.

William J. Coats capably serves the friendly and loving church that brings together about 50 or 60 worshippers each Lord's Day. My June and I enjoyed our part in the meeting. What a blessing!



William J. Coats
Preacher for the Potts Camp Church of Christ

LIBRARY RE-OPENING

A Response From Jim Womack

...Remember me? I'm the absent-minded Librarian who worked at MBC for nine years. Recall that I was fresh out of Library School when Fenter Northern hired me back in August of 1992. I have nothing but good memories of my time there at MBC.

I read in your recent edition of the MM about the library re-opening. I remember that the book collection there is a very good one. I think it is great that the collection is being made available to interested persons... Sadly, in the nine years that I worked there, we lost anywhere from 50- 100 volumes a year to theft. I hope that Prince and those assisting him will put in place some appropriate safe-guards to keep the possibility of theft to a minimum. Sadly, many older, brotherhood titles aren't being republished; therefore, if a title disappears, it is gone for good. There is a valuable book collection there and I would hope that it can remain intact.

I am still indexing the MM for inclusion in Restoration Serials Index. In short, I get to read every article in your fine publication. It's great to be able to keep up with the brotherhood in Mississippi by reading your MM.

Extend my greetings to Paul and his family; for I know he will be an asset to your work.

(Jim is a librarian at Faulkner University in Montgomery. Jim Womack; 534 Atlanta Hwy.; Montgomery, AL 36109. His E-mail address: jwomack@faulkner.edu)

Great Library in Service Again!

- **John Gardner** -

It was with great joy that I read in the last issue of the Magnolia Messenger that the elders of the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko have decided to make the great resources of the former Magnolia Bible College library available for use to all who are interested.

For years, one question repeatedly asked those who once were heavily involved in MBC has been, "What will become of the tremendous library at MBC?"

Now there is an answer that should please those who contributed to the development of the library holdings and those who have profited from its resources over the decades.

The library will remain intact, no longer as a part of a great Bible college (except in fond memories), but as a part of the ministry of the South Huntington Street church, with full recognition that many hundreds contributed time and money to the growth of the Paul and Philip Gaunt Library and made it what it is today.

As Academic Dean at MBC for its last nine years, part of my responsibility was to oversee the development, maintenance, and use of the Paul and Philip Gaunt Library. The daily and weekly concerns of the library were the responsibilities of the library director and staff, which did a very commendable job with limited resources. By working closely with the library director and staff, I began to appreciate the richness, the depth, and the breadth of the resources that the casual visitor browsing the library might miss.

While the library contains a number of resources in the area of General Education courses, its true treasure lies in its vast holdings in Bible and religious studies. There is a wealth of

material in the form of various Bibles, Bible background books, critical introduction books, extensive commentaries on Old and New Testaments, doctrinal studies, volumes on church history, Restoration materials, books on preaching and preachers, sermon books and sermon outlines, Christian education books, Christian counseling resources, and a wide variety of religious journals and gospel papers dating to 2009.

The Paul and Philip Gaunt Library has a number of out-of-print books, including some rare first or early editions of Restoration publications. There are books in the former MBC library of tremendous value in many areas of religious research which are not available in many, if not most, college libraries throughout the brotherhood.

Prince Lewis, MBC graduate and a former library director at MBC, is volunteering his time and effort, along with others, to help update some aspects of the library that have remained dormant since the college closed in December, 2009. Such updates no doubt will include additions to the electronic cataloging system still in place in the library.

When the final guidelines for using the Paul and Philip Gaunt Library are in place and published, men and women from all over Mississippi and beyond will have access to a treasure that will continue to enrich the lives and ministries of hundreds of dedicated servants of Christ as it did for decades in the past.

We owe the South Huntington Street church and her elders our appreciation for putting a truly great library back into service. (John now preaches for the church in Brandon, MS. His email address: gardner.john43@gmail.com)

MBC's Library Served by "A Prince"

We are so very thankful that the old MBC Library with over 30,000 volumes, which was closed in 2009, has been re-opened!

A very capable and experienced librarian has volunteered his services. The library is now open to our brethren and to the public.



Call Prince Lewis, Librarian, for Information And for Hours of Operation -- 662-739-9495

Where the Potts Camp Church of Christ Meets in North MS



Journeys (Louisiana)

(Continued from page 4)

tractor said yes and yes to having children. Travis then invited him to the VBS at Jackson chapel was



Travis Murray

having. The family attended most every night! Ray stressed to all of us that we need to be praying for the lost and that we need to look at everyone we meet as someone who has/is an everlasting soul.

Saturday morning started with a wonderful breakfast followed by three sessions taught by quality speakers, **Bill Collins** from DeQuincy, **James Tidwell** from Toledo Bend and **Bill Pratt** from Natchitoches. All of these men did a great job with their subjects on leadership. Regret that I don't have the room to tell you about them.

We traveled from Toledo Bend, a short distance, to Natchitoches where we attended the Grand Ecore Road congregation. **Bill Pratt** is the local minister and serves the church as one of its two elders. The other elder is **Bill Dennis**. Brother Dennis is having some health issues and would appreciate our prayers on his behalf. This congregation is very involved with a prison ministry at Winn Correctional Center. It was great to visit with this congregation where we were able to spend time with a cousin, **Jerry** and his wife **Paula Franks**.



Airline Drive Church Building

We went next to the Shreveport/Bossier City area. We attended the Airline Drive church and had a great visit with this very active body of believers. When we came to the church building, I was pleased to



John Dollar, Dan Coffel, Carroll Floyd, Charles Beckham and Ben Brewster

meet so many that told me they received the "Messenger" and enjoyed reading it. Many years ago, **Don and Mary Denman** left Kosciusko and moved to this area and became members of this church. Not long after that, Don sent the church mailing list to the Magnolia Messenger.

The first person I met was **Diane Morton**. I learned that Diane grew up in Batesville, MS. The next couple that I got to visit was **Rudy and Linda Vaughan**. They had been visiting this church and were planning to place membership there. Linda told me that one thing that impressed them so much about this church was how friendly everyone was to them. One of the elders, **Carroll Floyd**, on the first Sunday they attended, took them to lunch and showed interest in them and in their spiritual growth. We enjoyed our visit the next morning with **Ben Brewster**, the senior minister, **John Dollar**, youth minister and their three elders, **Dan Coffel**, **Carroll Floyd** and **Charles Beckham**.

Airline Drive is involved in many different ministries. One statement that I heard from Carroll, when people ask him, "Where are we going to get the workers for all of these programs?" His response is, "we will get the workers from the programs that we start." They have seen that to be true from the many and various programs they have at this congregation of 400.

One program that I want to mention is **Bossier K.I.D.S.** For 29 years this church has operated this Foster Care agency and have provided for over 323 children. They operate three homes and are currently searching for Christian couples to serve as house parents. **If you know of someone, please contact the church office at 318-746-2645.**

One thing that Ben mentioned to me is that Christian families need to step up to the plate and serve as foster parents, and also adopt children. He added that homosexual couples are pushing to adopt and serve as foster parents. We really enjoyed our visit with this congregation. We plan to go back soon!

Our next city was Monroe. We attended the Forsythe Church of Christ where my good friend **John Dobbs** preaches. **J.J. Turner** was the guest preacher that day. He was also the speaker for the **area wide singing and fellowship** that was held that night at a local high school auditorium. We were invited to lunch with the Turners by **Mike**



J. J. Turner

and **Mignon Riley** which we enjoyed so much. **White Graves**, one of the elders at Forsythe, is a great friend. He serves on the board of Sunnybrook. His parents (now deceased) were active members of the Crystal Springs congregation for many years. We really enjoyed our visit with this fine church and with **John and Maggy Dobbs**.

Lord be willing, our plans are to soon return to Louisiana and visit with other churches and make more new friends. (Paul & Glenda)

In Memory Of J. D. Franks



Above picture, made in July of 2012, is of J.D., one of my dad's brothers. He battled cancer for three or four years before his departure on July 16 at the age of 86.

- Comments by Editor -

Ray Franks, a son of my uncle J. D., well known to those who attend our annual RV rallies in Mississippi and Texas, asked that a "line of appreciation" be placed in the MM to say thanks to "**all our RV Rally friends for the kindness shown to our family during the loss of my dad.**"

Uncle J.D. was not a preacher, as such; but he often preached! He served the Lord's church in DeQuincy, Louisiana, both as a deacon and, later, as an elder. He and his beloved wife, **Dorothy**, were married for 65 years.

Several years ago, Uncle J. D. asked me to "preach his funeral"; however, when the news of his death reached us, my June and I were on a mission trip in the country of Lithuania. Sorry we could not fulfill his request. Our sincere sympathy to his wife and all the family.

LOUISIANA—TEXAS RV RALLY

October 16 - 20, 2013

(Wed-- Sun)

Salmon Lake Park

Grapeland, Texas

Theme:

"Open Doors of Opportunity"

Schedule of Events

Wednesday Night

5:30 PM -- Pot Luck

6:30 PM -- "Weak Men Look For Opportunities, Strong Men Create Them"; Speaker: **John Pigg**; (Ridgeland, MS)

****After Services—Homemade Ice Cream.** (If you have a freezer, please make your favorite & bring it.

Entertainment: **Morris Tirpitz** (Shreveport, LA)

Thursday

10:00 AM -- "Forgiveness is Our Door Prize"

Speakers: **Danny & Donna Manuel** (Many, Louisiana)

Note: Men and Women -- Separate classes

5:30 PM -- Pot Luck

6:30 PM -- "God Closes Doors When We Fail To Walk Thru Them"; Speaker: **Bill Collins** (DeQuincy, Louisiana)

Entertainment: "Minute To Win It!!"

Friday

10:00 AM -- Auction (Funds to be used to pay costs of rally)

5:30 PM -- Fish Fry

6:30 PM -- Patriotic Program; **Todd Allen Herendeen**

7:15 PM -- "God Has Opened a Door to America" AND "Americana --A Picture Of A People Proud And Free"

Speaker: **Dan Manuel** (Palestine, Texas)

Entertainment:

Saturday

7:00 - 9:00 AM -- Breakfast Served At The Sunshine Inn

9:30 - 10:30 AM -- Gospel Singing

7:00 PM -- Dogwood Jamboree Presents "Autumn Country" at the Civic Center in Palestine, TX

****Sunshine Inn Open & Available For Games/ Fellowship**

Sunday Morning

Crocket Road Church of Christ

9:30 AM -- "What Lies Behind The Door Of The Celestial City?" --

Speaker: **Ray Franks** (DeQuincy, Louisiana)

10:30 AM -- "Listen For The Knock On Your Door"; Speaker: **Dan Manuel** (Palestine, Texas)

Additional Notes from Ray

Let's try to make this year's rally one with some new faces. **Just one more guest added to our core group can make a huge difference to everyone.**

Food & Entertainment: For our "early birds", there will be a Monday Night Hobo Stew & the traditional Tuesday night seafood dinner. Pot luck Wednesday & Thursday with our special Friday night **FISH FRY**. As you well know—**Nobody goes hungry around here!!** We will have gospel singing throughout the rally and entertainment at night including live music/ skits/ & comedy. **This year, we have added "Minute to Win It" to our game night as well as activities all day long including spades, checkers, dominos, washers and good Christian Fellowship.**

Ray & Donna Franks

Phone: 337-786-3095

Ray Mobile:337-515-0866

Donna Mobile:337-842-5821

Glen & Ena Franks: 337-477-2660

RV reservations are **not** needed. However, if you would like to **rent a cabin**, please call Salmon Lake Park—**936-687-2594**.

Where's the Beef?

- Seth Sullivan -

Living in south Mississippi, one will quickly learn that eating is something that Southerner's do best! For example, there are restaurants all around Hattiesburg that offer a variety of different foods. In particular, most people living in the South enjoy the savoring taste of steaks. Let me ask you a question, "Would you ever give up eating steak?"

We are truly a blessed people to have such an abundance of food provided for our everyday necessities. I can think of several countries which consume only beans and rice for their daily sustenance. It is interesting because those people in the vast regions of the world are hungry for something better.

Spiritually speaking, are you hungry for the Word? Do you eagerly desire to learn more about God and His will for you?

It made me stop and think about what the inspired Hebrew writer said, "For when for the time you ought

to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat" (Heb. 5:12).

What does this passage imply? The Word relates one's spiritual condition to food. He conveys the fundamentals of the faith to drinking "milk." This is interesting because the Hebrew writer seems to be upset in the context. At the beginning he exhorts that "for the time you ought to be teachers" meaning that at some point the child of God should have grown in his/her knowledge of God to begin desiring more solid food or "meat."

If I continue to grow as a Christian and I begin chewing on solid "meat" then why would I ever want to go back? Why would I want to revert to drinking milk when I can have beef?

The Hebrew writer continues to explain that those who drink milk are "unskillful" and "babes" (v. 13). Do I want to reside in this condition? Where I am unskillful



Seth Sullivan

in handling the Truth, not ready to teach and exhort? I know God's Word commands for every Christian to be a committed soul-winner (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 1:17). A true believer will ask the question, "Where's the beef?" Only through eating solid food can one mature in the faith (v. 14).

Therefore, every believer must be willing to accept the challenge to grow more knowledgeable of the Truth. That gaining wisdom from

God's Word is vital! That understanding God and His ways are essential! I must study and learn, and

then be ready to teach!

There are several outlets available to aid a believer in his/her personal growth: brotherhood publications, newsletters, commentaries, Bible classes, etc. There is an abundance of resources! Accept the challenge to study, to grow, to mature. After all, if you don't grow then the "babes" to follow will begin to ask, "Where's the beef?" Think about it.

Seth Sullivan, preacher
Waynesboro Church of Christ;
P. O. Box 94;
Waynesboro, MS 39367;
601-735-4086
sethka63@hotmail.com

A Much Needed Prayer



The Best Possible Use of "MBC Facilities"

Your Ideas are Solicited.

We Need Your Help!

For thirty-three years, beginning in 1976, thousands of Christians and hundreds of congregations contributed millions of dollars to begin, promote and sustain the valuable work of Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, Mississippi.

When MBC, sadly and reluctantly, closed its doors in the fall of 2009, all of the facilities (buildings) were left debt-free to the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko. The properties, located on church grounds, became the responsibility of the local church to pay the continuing costs of insurance, necessary utilities and maintenance.

During the past 4 years, the leadership of the Kosciusko congregation has considered several possibilities for the use of the facilities to further the Cause of Christ. Some progress has taken place. Difficult decisions have been faced. We are thankful that, in a limited way, some of the facilities are now being used.

The Hayes Activity (multi-purpose) Building is now being used regularly by the Kosciusko church for various functions -- including fellowship meals and gatherings for special events; such as area wide singings and youth meetings.

The Gaunt Library Building, in part, is now being used as offices for the Magnolia Messenger. The Messenger's use of the facility has enabled us to reopen the college library with its more than 30,000 volumes. Prince Lewis, a qualified librarian, has freely volunteered his services to make the library accessible and useful, on a limited basis, to whoever wishes to benefit from its vast resources.



The Cecil May, Jr. Academic (classroom) Building (pictured above) is not presently being used; however, it is now being made available for use by brethren. The Thompson Hall (dormitory), which can house up to 38 people, is presently not being used and is also now being made available for uses which will advance the Cause of Christ. (pictured at top, on right)



Thompson Hall (Old Dormitory) Available for Use

The academic building and the dormitory are now available (**without rent or lease payments**) to certain qualified people and/or works which would, in the judgement of the Kosciusko church, help strengthen the church of Jesus Christ -- especially in Mississippi. (User will be responsible for insurance, utilities and upkeep.)

Some possible uses of the "left-over" MBC facilities could include

- A home for the homeless
- A retirement home for the elderly
- A center for drug/alcohol rehabilitation
- A home for unwed mothers
- A home for children without a home
- A preacher training school
- A center for training church leaders
- A center for youth activities

For the right program and for the right people, the Kosciusko church would also be willing to make available limited use of other facilities which are now in use -- including the multi-purpose building, the library and, as needed, the church building.

We earnestly desire that all of the buildings be used to the glory of God. We are hoping/praying that some individual in the Lord's church or, maybe, a group of Christians can be found, so that working together, we can make **the best possible uses** of the valuable properties left from MBC.

Your response to this urgent request would be greatly appreciated. What do you propose? What would you be willing and ready to do? We would love to talk with you. Please address:

The Elders:
South Huntington Street Church of Christ
P. O. Box 1399
Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090
franksmm@aol.com
601-668-3344

Library available on limited basis



Multi-purpose building available on a limited basis



The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (4)

CONFESS Faith in Christ

"... with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10). Before being baptized, the eunuch **CONFESSED**, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37).

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 13)

From Yazoo City,, Trey Henry Writes:
“Selfless Service Grants Growth”

**Booneville Church Assists
 Yazoo City in V.B.S.**

With a disciplined attitude of selflessness, 15 brothers and sisters of Booneville Church of Christ in Booneville, MS recently travelled to Yazoo City, MS to serve the Lord in a community not their own -- most of them for an entire week!

Selflessly, they prepared materials, decorated classrooms, planned door-knocking routes, and knocked on doors in the Mississippi mid-summer sun, inviting folks to the VBS that they then

conducted with some help from local brothers and sisters.

That wasn't enough, though; they recognized that in those brief moments of invitation to VBS they had an opportunity to invite these individuals to study the Bible. Some accepted the opportunity to study. So, some of the Booneville brothers arranged and led studies. Then those studies became a catalyst to other studies that some brothers from Yazoo City led.

It was the invitation to study and hear the Word that bore the fruit of these times of study. The sharing of the Word in those studies immediately bore the fruit of 6 baptisms. Those baptisms served as encouragement to 5 others who, in the following few weeks, were baptized.

VBS itself went well, with attendance continually growing from over 70 on the first night to over 100 on the fourth and last. Finally, from this exemplary service and sharing, a boldness to share the gospel has been growing among those of the Yazoo congregation.

The remarkable thing is, much of this good fruit started with some brothers and sisters from Booneville simply committing to serve

others in the name of the Lord.

Weeks have gone by, and we're still seeing the fruit of that service. Selfless service accomplishes very much. For it to have ongoing impact, however, we first have to appreciate it when we see it, and then to emulate it by



Jeanita Estes of Booneville teaches a VBS class

others.

We ought to learn from such examples of selfless service. As Jesus says, "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:14 (NASB)

Some brothers and sisters from one town selflessly gave of their time, energy, and resources. And to some brothers and sisters in another town it has made a great, eternal difference. We have praised God because of them and their service.

By **Trey Henry**, preacher,
 Church of Christ
 Yazoo City, Mississippi.
jamescalvinhenryiii@gmail.com



Lloyd Beard baptized Alexandria Jones

Scripture Commands:

"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

Justin Elliott (on right) has started early training children to enjoy singing praises to the Lord. His son and his sister's son are shown helping Justin lead singing in a recent meeting held at Potts Camp, Mississippi.



The Greatest Lesson I Learned From My Mother

“Be a good little boy!”

Editor's Note: What Richard Taylor's mother taught him at age four reminds me of what my mother used to say to me when I would ask her what she wanted for "Mother's Day", a birthday or for Christmas. She would almost always respond by saying to me, "The greatest gift you can ever give to me is to be a good boy."

- **Richard N. Taylor, Sr.** -

As I look back 82 years -- when I was about 4, I can remember my mother setting me down and talking to me about God and my life with Him.

Mother was saved when she obeyed the Lord in baptism at the age of 14. I was born when she was 24 and was the fourth child, having three older siblings: **Duane**, seven years older than I, then **Zelma**, **Zetta** and then me.

I was four now, and my little sister, **June**, arrived June 5th 1930. Mother was now more mature as a Christian and seemed to try harder to start her 'two babies' off, seeking the help of the Lord.

I was old enough to understand what my dear mother was saying to me. I can still remember it as if it were only yesterday. She said, "Son, God made the sun, moon and stars. He made the trees, grass and everything. He also made the animals and He made us. He is everywhere and knows everything. He even knows what I'm saying to you and what you are thinking at this very moment."

I must also say, that He knows what you are thinking as you read this, wherever and whoever you are.

By the time I was four and growing up on a farm in Oklahoma, seeing the little pigs that the mother sow had given birth to, helped me to realize that my mother had given birth to me. I never heard or thought that the "stork" had brought me. This helped me to truly love and appreciate my dear mother and try to do what she was directing me to do.

The **greatest statement** she made to me was when she said, "And son, God wants to help you to be a 'good little boy', **Richard Neale**."

Not that I've always been a 'good little boy' but I have always known that I had the help of my Father in Heaven to be my constant companion in all my life. He certainly has been, too. I can remember many, many events that would have been very close calls for my death but God has spared me until this very day. I also can think of many, many decisions that I and others have



1954 (?). From left: Garner (holding Perry), LouRette Morrow Taylor, (Richard's mother), Mable and Richard Taylor, Sr. (holding Richard, Jr.)

made that involved me, that has brought me many wonderful blessings.

I also, want to encourage all who may ever read this, to just forget who I am, my name and so forth. That's not important. Just say to anyone, regardless of their age, that you know of an 86 year-old man who remembered when he was four, that his mother taught him the **greatest lesson of his life**. Then if the one to whom you are telling this story has not understood the importance of letting God direct his or her life, it is never too late to start. The younger one is when he/she *learns this great lesson*, the better it is for him/her.

Remember there are basically two forces reaching out to you. All good is from God and all evil is from the Devil. Good and Evil

reaches you in many, many ways, shapes and forms. We all are made in the image of God. He has not made us to simply be robots -- doing things we can not help. He has made us all creatures of choice. Daily and moment by moment, we are privileged and responsible for choosing the good in life and never the evil. The Bible says, "Resist the Devil and he will flee from you, draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:7)

May God ever bless you and all of His children as you talk of Him freely to all of your acquaintances. Praise God for all of His abundant riches He bestows on all of us. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17, New King James Version)

Now friend, as I share with you this little article, do you want to have the Creator's help for you to live the fullest life possible and that you may reach that Heavenly Home also, some day? Then send me your request for a **FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE** through the mail:

Richard N. Taylor
 108 Snell Drive
 Florence, AL 35630

Or if you have a computer and would like to increase your learning of the Bible in that way, just send me your email address and request it. My email is <Richaty5@aol.com>.

**Help Richard, Age 86,
 Reach His Goal of
 1,000 BCC
 Before He Dies!**

Richard wrote on January 3, 2013: "I have set, as my goal, of enrolling 1,000 before I go on to be with Jesus and the redeemed of all ages. Will you help me to reach that goal by signing up, sending me your name and address and then signing up all your family and friends that you also love and want to go with you to heaven. Thanks, and God bless you." (Addresses at end of article)

An Unforgettable Trip We Are Thankful



Most of the 130 Bible Camp Participants in Lithuania (Camp Ruta 2013)

A Missionary Journey

Reported By

- June & Al Franks -

Our oldest son, Paul, has over the past sixteen years, gone on several mission trips to the country of Lithuania in Europe. The main purpose of his travels has been to provide assistance and guidance in annual Bible Camps conducted for young people at Camp Ruta, located near Vilnius, Lithuania.

Early in 2013, Paul renewed his encouragement to us to go with him and Glenda on their planned trip in July of this year. Finally, back in February we agreed to go. Several months in advance, our plane tickets were purchased -- thanks, in part, especially to our youngest son, Stephen. Now, we were obligated to go.

We must admit, however, that we were somewhat fearful. While we really wanted to go and participate in helping precious souls in a foreign country come to believe in God, His Son and His church, we were apprehensive about making such a long trip. The thought crossed our minds that one of us might get sick or even die in a far away land.

As we thought about making the long trip to a foreign country, we recalled an incident that occurred many years ago. The mother of a

young preacher, who really didn't want her son to go overseas to do mission work, said to him, "Son, you could be killed or die in that foreign country." The son, by faith, responded to his mom by saying, "Mother, it will be just as close to heaven from Africa as it is from the United States." It made us think!

We were blessed that we *didn't die* or even *get sick* while out of the country. In fact, from both a physical and spiritual standpoint, we actually seemed to have done better over there than back at home in Mississippi.

In making the long trip to Lithuania, (since it was necessary that we stop somewhere) it was decided that we would stay over in Rome, Italy for two or three days. Our son wanted us to see and experience first-hand some of the famous sites and to be reminded of the colorful history of the ancient city of Rome. He also wanted us to have a greater appreciation for the many Bible references to the city of Rome, especially as they related to the apostle Paul and the New Testament book he wrote to the church in Rome.

Our departure day came rather quickly. On a Monday morning, Stephen, our youngest son, took us to the airport in Memphis, Tennessee. In the early afternoon on July

8th, we boarded a plane for Detroit. After a little less than two hours, we landed in Michigan where we immediately changed planes for our overnight flight to Rome. Both flights -- to Detroit and to Rome, were completed on schedule. The journey from the USA to Europe, high above the North Atlantic Ocean, was fairly pleasant except for our inability to sleep while sitting up in a "cramped" environment as we traveling at 500 miles per hour above the dark waters. But, thank the Good Lord, we made it just fine.

Shortly after landing in Rome, Italy, we were made to rejoice when we saw Paul and Glenda waiting for us. (They had arrived in Rome an hour or so before us.) After the taxi ride to our hotel in the heart of the ancient city, we rested for a while, and then began our fascinating tour of the famous "Eternal City."

We were blessed to visit some of the ruins of the ancient city, including what is left of the old coliseum which dates back to the first century A.D. We also went to many of the major historical sites of the city. When we returned to our hotel at night, we found it to be of great interest to read some of the numerous Biblical passages about the city -- especially those that related to Paul's journey and his imprisonment at Rome.

Something else. Our opportunity to visit Rome caused us to appreciate **even more** the *simplicity* of the Lord's church as revealed on the pages of the New Testament. While the many cathedrals -- scattered throughout the city, may be described as "impressive" and/or "beautiful"; there is a need to be reminded of the Biblical truth that God **"...dwelleth not in temples made with hands..."** (Acts 17:24).

According to New Testament teachings, buildings and places are not sacred and should never be made an object of worship nor a requirement for acceptable worship. Jesus, in explaining the worship God seeks from true worshippers in the enlightened New Testament era, plainly states to his Jewish hearers that no specific *place* is especially holy or is required for acceptable worship -- *including Jerusalem!*

And to his Samaritan hearers, Jesus explained that no *mountain* is required for acceptable worship -- including what He called *"this mountain"* (probably Mount Gerizim (Study John 4:19-24). And, if Jesus were speaking directly to us today, I believe he would remind us that no building -- whether it be in Rome or anywhere else in the world, should be considered "sacred." Jesus said, "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him **in spirit and in truth**" (John 4:24).



The Old Roman Coliseum Dates Back to the 1st Century

While in Rome, we visited what is said to be "*one of the largest church buildings in the world*" -- "Saint Peter's Basilica." As we stood in the massive structure and watched those who passed by, we observed some slowly walking by a statue of the apostle Peter. It was sad to behold the misguided devotion shown by worshippers as they gently caressed Peter's feet and looked up in reverence and awe into the face of the image made of a blackened substance.

We were reminded of the Biblical account of the *real* apostle Peter -- found in Acts chapter ten. Cornelius fell down at Peter's feet and attempted to worship him. But, Peter raised him up and commanded, **"Stand up: I myself also am a man"** (verse 26). Also, there is an incident recorded in the book of Revelation where the apostle John fell at the feet of an angel to worship him. But, the angel responded, "See thou **do it not**. I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: **worship God...**" (19:10) This is a message that needs to be sounded forth throughout the world -- including Rome!

Sadly, our visit in Italy reminded us that much of what is considered "religion", as seen in the present city of Rome (and, throughout the world), is based upon that which *appeals to the flesh -- not true spirituality*. We were made to see anew that the religion headquartered in Rome is not a replica of New Testament Christianity, but is a mixture of certain Old Testament practices, pagan customs (including idolatry) and human traditions which, in many instances, set aside plain New Testament teachings.

After an interesting and disturbing visit in Rome, we were richly blessed with safe travel on to the city of Vilnius in the country of Lithuania. When we arrived on Friday afternoon, we were greeted at the airport by several of the preachers and church members from Vilnius. It was a wonderful and warm welcome! We are so thankful!

On Saturday, we were privileged to be in the company of several Christians from America who, like us, had come to serve as teachers and counsellors in the annual Bible Camp. The next day, on Sunday, we were richly blessed to wor-

ship with the church in Vilnius which meets on the sixth floor of an office building. The fellowship was warm and the acappella singing was "out of this world."

What a blessing it was to be with brothers and sisters from another part of the world, who are in love with the Lord and are faithful to God. Several of those who are now Christians in Vilnius were converted to Christ through the influence of the Bible Camp which had brought us from America to Vilnius. We went to Lithuania thinking we would be an encouragement to them; however, the truth is -- *they encouraged us even more!* We are thankful!

That first Sunday morning in Vilnius, Al was blessed with the opportunity of preaching. He spoke on the topic, "*Heaven, Our Home.*" In his lesson, he emphasized that the country of Lithuania was not home and that America was not really his home; but, like all believers, heaven was his real home. We are thankful!

On Monday we traveled by bus (similar to our Greyhound buses) to the camp located about an hour's drive from Vilnius. Two buses and a van were required to transport everyone to Camp Ruta - a total of 130 people.

The Bible camp at Ruta is very similar to camps we have in the states. After all, it was started by folks from America. The A-frame buildings were attractive; the accommodations were "primitive but adequate" for our use. We are thankful!

Some have asked what we thought was the *best part* of our trip. The response has been and continues to be, "*The best part of*

Camp Ruta

(Near Vilnius, Lithuania)

An International Event

Workers came from:

United States (Houston, Texas; Lake Charles, LA; Kosciusko, MS, Cheyenne, WY, Plus **Israel** and **Poland**

our trip was the people at camp with whom we were associated." The young people, who had come from three or four different countries, were very special. The counsellors, mostly from America, who

Turn to TRIP on Page 17



Mis-named: "St. Peter's Basilica" in Rome, Italy

Mexico Missions



Margie & Les Ferguson, Sr.

Les Ferguson, Sr. Leaving Kosciusko Pulpit to Devote Full-time to Mexico Missions

with us in this work in Mexico.

My wife, Margie, and I plan to return to Mexico on October 8. We will spend, Lord willing, the rest of the month there teaching and helping where we are

needed. Don and Lynn Roberson will join us for the first two weeks of this trip. Don is the preacher for the Coffeenville, Mississippi church. They have made one other trip to Mexico with us and were very capable in fulfilling the responsibilities given them while there. We are looking forward to having them work alongside us on this trip.

I am committed to doing a "Marriage and Family Seminar" and teaching a seminar on the book of Revelation. In addition to those special events, every Wednesday and every Sunday will be given to teaching and preaching special lessons that have been requested by the church leaders.

One Saturday will be devoted to a "preachers and wives" meeting. It is a reunion time for them and an excellent time for us to be able to address all of them in one setting. We will visit with every preacher separately as well while in the country.

On Sunday, August 18, I submitted my resignation as the preacher for the S. Huntington Church of Christ. It will be effective on December 31, 2013. At that time I will become the full time Mexico Missions Director.

The S. Huntington church will continue its oversight of the Mexico work and my role as the full time director. We will continue to live in Kosciusko and will be a part of the church family. This transition will allow me more time to be involved in raising funds and giving reports. It will also allow us the freedom to spend more time in Mexico and we plan to do that.

We truly believe this is a "win win" for the local church and for Mexico Missions. Your prayers for this transition and all it involves will be much appreciated. If you have any questions about our work, or if you would like me to come make a presentation please let me know. Contact:

Les Ferguson, Sr.
P.O. Box 1399,
Kosciusko, MS 39090
e-mail
lesfergusonr@hotmail.com
601-562-4226.

Mexico Missions is a work of the S. Huntington Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Its focus has primarily been on the State of Guanajuato in central Mexico.

Over the last 12 years we have been blessed to participate in planting eight churches in this state and one church in the State of Michoacan. Since then two other stateside churches have gotten involved and taken on complete oversight of two of these church plants.

The Crieve Hall church in Nashville has taken on the oversight of the church in the city of La Piedad in Michoacan. The Statesville, NC church has taken on the oversight of the church in Guanajuato, the capital city of the State of Guanajuato. That leaves seven churches under our direct responsibility.

All of these churches are using their own people to serve as the preachers and teachers of their respective congregations. All seven of these churches are located in cities with a population of from 65,000 to 450,000. So there are lots of people with whom to work and teach. All the churches are very evangelistic and are constantly having Bible studies with lost people.

The S. Huntington church has long been a church involved in training gospel preachers. That was seen in the birth of Magnolia Bible College and its work for over thirty years. With the close of the College, S. Huntington's emphasis on training preachers shifted to Mexico.

Three of the seven churches have branch schools of preaching and they are constantly training their prospective preachers and other church members. All of our preachers have either been trained in one of these branch schools or other schools of preaching located in Mexico.

Many of you who read the *Magnolia Messenger* helped the S. Huntington church train preachers through the Bible College. I ask that you continue to help us train preachers by having fellowship



Magnolia Messenger

Memorials & Tributes

The person whose name is in **CAPS** is memorialized or honored by the person(s) whose name is in lower case letters. **THANK YOU.** God bless!

In Memory Of

JAMES RAY FRANKS

Johnnye Faye & Rayburn Blackmon
(Merryville, LA)
Ray Hyatt
(DeQuincy, LA)
Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)
Boxwood Church of Christ
(Merryville, LA)
Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)
Jess & Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

J. D. FRANKS

Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)
Jerry & Eleta Grimmert
(New Albany, MS)
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)
Jess & Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)
Ray Hyatt
(DeQuincy, LA)
Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

MARY FRANKS

Fred & Martha Goff
(Grenada, MS)

SYBLIA SUMMERS

Larry & Brenda Summers
(Yazoo City, MS)

JAMES BLACK ALONZO WELCH HENRY RUTH COOK

Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

JAMES "DOC" FULGHAM

Charles & Juanita Fulgham
Yazoo City, MS)
Larry & Brenda Summers
(Yazoo City, MS)
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)
Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)
Ricky & Sue Fisher
(Lexington, MS)

GALEN HORNER

Buddy & Alice Waldon
(Ball, LA)

ANN TINGLE

Ms. Teresa Anderson
(Philadelphia, MS)

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John & Mary Thompson
(Austin, TX)

STELLA GOODSON

Beulah Davis
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DAVID W. JOHNSON

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(Hattiesburg, MS)

GLADYS TOMLINSON RUSS CORKERN DAVID CORKERN

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MRS. P. D. (GEUNITA) MURPHY

T. J. & Virginia Pedigo
(Montgomery, AL)

JOHN CORMIER

Thomas & Ann Welch
(Many, LA)

JOHNNYE "BA" ALDRIDGE

Betty & Garnett Harris
(Brandon, MS)
Mrs. Carole Milner
(Brandon, MS)

STEPHEN ALDRIDGE

Betty & Garnett Harris
(Brandon, MS)

RAYANN WOODRUFF

Ann Waller
(Booneville, MS)

IDES & MARY GLENN RUTHERFORD

Shirley Few Spain
(Jasper, AL)

ANNIE L. REYNOLDS

Sam T. Reynolds
(Lexington, MS)

ERLENE ELKINS JEAN WOODARD VIVIAN SLOCUM

JIM GAYLE
Otha Hewitt
(Lake Charles, LA)

EVIE G. SMITH

Rhenda J. Miltner
(Coldwater, MS)

HEATHER SUMMERS

JAMES MAGEE
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)
Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

DONNIE DELANCEY

BRUCE BUSH

Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

"BILLY" & GEORGIA MULLINS

LOIS A. FULGHAM

WILSON "BROTHER" ANTHONY

Ricky & Sue Fisher
(Lexington, MS)

HAZEL A. DUNLAP

Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

RICKY & SUE FISHER

(Lexington, MS)

EMMETT L. BARNETT

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

CRAIG & GINNY RUTLEDGE

Ms. Betty Moore
(Tiplersville, MS)

MS. RUTH PRITCHARD

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pritchard
(Steele, MO)

RUTH COOK

Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

In Honor Of

LINNIE MCMASTER

Mary Freeman
(Senatobia, MS)

SUSAN DELANCEY

RAY & DONNA FRANKS DAN & AUDREY MANUEL BILL & BARBARA RICHARDS

JOHN DIAL

DOC WALKER

ALLEN GRAY

Wilburn & Velma DeLancey
(Benton MS)

Suggestions for Contributors

In addition to the **name of the person** being memorialized or honored, please include **your name and address** and the **address of a family member** to whom a written acknowledgment may be sent. **THANK YOU** for caring for others and the Magnolia Messenger.

Please:
Send Your Gifts To:

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

Thank You

For Remembering the MM
As You Remember and/or
Honor Your Loved Ones

The Journeys of Paul, a Messenger

MISSISSIPPI

- by Paul Franks -

From the North Brandon Church in Brandon, Mississippi to the Champions Church of Christ in north Houston, Texas to the Vilnius Church of Christ in Vilnius, Lithuania, Glenda and I have been busy visiting and making new friends all around the world this summer.

Close to home, we had the privilege of attending the Oakridge homecoming, about 20 miles north of Kosciusko, MS.

Lennis Nowell, preacher for the Northside church in Corinth, MS,



The Surrettes: Darrell, Chellie, Will, Olivia & Rob

great friend, **Curtis Pittman**, is the preacher.

We also spent time with the West Main congregation in Tupelo and had a good visit with their pulpit preacher and his wife, **Doug and Vickie Greenway**. I was able to speak and give a report about our work.

Another visit, close to home, was when we drove to the Elliot church to visit that congregation and to see **Ken Salley**. I found out that Ken was on vacation and **Darrell**

Surrette was the guest preacher for that Sunday. Darrell and his family attend the Huntsville congregation outside of French camp. *He is available most Sundays if your congregation needs a preacher.* His phone number is 662-312-1339. There was a great crowd at Elliot and we were treated wonderfully.



Lennis Nowell preaching using an older version of "Power Point"

was the guest speaker. Lennis used a bed-sheet on which he had printed or painted an outline of his sermon. And, while the "sheet-sermon" visual aid may not be as up-to-date as the modern computer "power point", it was still effective in the hands of brother Lennis. **Elihue Thompson**, a long time friend and native of Kosciusko, is the local preacher. What a wonderful day of worship and fellowship at the Oakridge congregation.

Glenda and I were privileged to visit with our good friend, **Dennis Malepa**, who preaches in the country of Botswana in southern Africa. He was speaking at a men's conference for the Hanging Moss church in Jackson, MS, where another



Dennis Malepa (Botswana, Africa)



Hunter Wofford & Brad Adcock

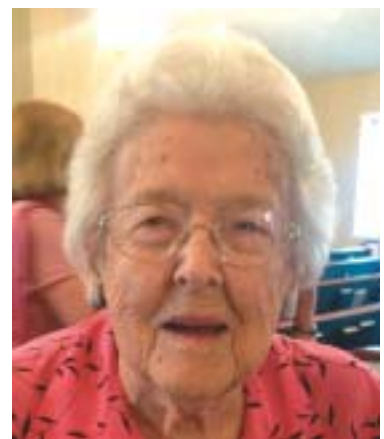
The church in Kosciusko hosted the last of the Mid-Mississippi area wide youth nights and we attended. **Brad Adcock**, the speaker, spoke on discouragement and **Hunter Wofford** led the singing. Both of these young men, who are members of the Kosciusko congregation, did an excellent job that night.

We had the opportunity to

visit the Goodman Oaks church of Christ in Southaven one Sunday. This is the largest church of Christ in Mississippi. We heard their senior minister, **Derek McNamara** preach. He mentioned that the greatest challenge facing the church is "Consumer Christianity". He stated that we are living in a culture that influences us to want everything our own way and if we don't get our

way, we move on. Also he mentioned that the elders are considered, by many in the church, as the "complaint department."

We got to visit with our good friend, **Ken Joines**, and had lunch with him. He showed us his "sports car" that his wife had purchased for them just before she died -- a few months ago. Ken is having health problems and would appreciate everyone praying for him.



Edna Pharr -- Age 96

I preached for the Marietta church where my great friend, **Ronnie Livingston**, is the preacher. We ate several times at Ramey's Family Restaurant in Marietta. I learned that the owners attend church services where Ronnie preaches and that the owner's grandmother, **Edna Pharr** who will be 96 in September, makes all of the homemade pies for the place. She attended every service of the church until recently because of health problems.

We made other visits which included a great trip to Louisiana that you can read about elsewhere in this issue. We appreciate the love and support that we felt and received everywhere we went. We earnestly hope and pray that we were an encouragement to everyone we met. (PF)

Alonzo D. Welch 1918 - 2013



Alonzo D. Welch

(Picture made by MM editor on January 27, 2013. This was the dedication day of the new church building for the Madison congregation in Madison, MS.)

We are saddened to report to MM readers the passing of Alonzo D. Welch of Madison, Mississippi. He was born in Hickory Flat, Mississippi on May 17, 1918 and departed this life at the age of 95 on July 14, 2013.

According to a report prepared shortly after his death, we learned that brother Welch, a gospel preacher, left fulltime ministry in 1963 to help establish several Christian service organizations. He was the co-founder and President of the Mississippi Christian Foundation; co-founder of Sunnybrook Children's Home where he served for thirty years as Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He founded and served as Executive Director of Natchez Trace Academy for eleven years and co-founded and served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Sunnybrook Estates, a retirement community in Madison, Mississippi.

Brother Welch was married to Katherine Netterville of Woodville, Mississippi, who worked alongside him through all his endeavors for 69 years before her death.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his daughters, Rosalind Welch Seabrook, Kanet Welch Thomas and Mary Welch Cooper, his seven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren and to his Sunnybrook Children's Home Family and all his friends and associates.

Those who were privileged to know brother Welch didn't have to be around him long until they learned that he had a special calling and heart for children and the elderly. He will be greatly missed. (Report compiled by June Franks)

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (5) BE BAPTIZED into Christ

"He commanded them to **be baptized** in the name of the Lord." (Acts 10:48)
 "...arise and **be baptized** and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

BUT THERE IS MORE!
 (Turn to Page 15)

MARRIAGE

God's Plan for Mankind

ONE
m a n
(for life)



ONE
w o m a n
(for life)

"...male and female made he them."

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground..."

And the Lord God said,

"It is not good that man should be alone."

"I will make him an help meet for him."

"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

(Gen. 2:7,18,22,24)

"Let marriage be had in honor among all, and the bed undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Heb. 13:4)

The Kingdom is Expensive

Mike Benson

How much would you be willing to give for a dime? Would you pay 25 cents? Would you pay 50 cents? How about a whole dollar? No?

Stack's
Bowers



Mike Benson, Hattiesburg Preacher

of stumbled upon one particular pearl that made all others pale in comparison. Though he had appraised many pearls during his business career, this one excelled them all. It

was exquisite; it was perfect.

Recognizing its inestimable value, the merchant went out and sold all of his pearl stock in order to purchase this one (Matthew 13:46).

But Jesus really wasn't talking about buying costly pearls; He was teaching a parabolic lesson about the kingdom and sacrifice.

You see, if you and I want to be followers of Jesus Christ, we must be willing to sacrifice our treasure too, whether it be: **(a) Comfort** (Matthew 8:19-20, Luke 9:57-58, 2 Timothy 1:12); **(b) Family** (Matthew 8:21-22, 10:36); **(c) Freedom** (Matthew 10:17-19; 11:2); **(d) Financial acumen** (Matthew 19:21); **(e) Prestige** (Philippians 3:5-7)

A man doesn't sacrifice \$1.84 million on a dime unless he knows it is very special, nor does a man sell his entire collection of pearls to purchase one pearl unless he knows it surpasses all others.

Dear reader, the kingdom of heaven (Daniel 2:44), is the most precious institution in existence because it was designed by the eternal God! It is exquisite; it is perfect! Are you willing to sacrifice to obtain it? How much are you willing pay (Matthew 16:26; Luke 14)? (Mike's email address: mbensonkw@att.net)

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An Anniversary Gift!

What Are We Going To Do?

On a recent flight to a mission point in Europe, my June and I were blessed to meet a very friendly and thoughtful flight attendant who once lived in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The attendant stopped and talked with us several times during our ten hour flight from Detroit, Michigan to Rome, Italy. During our conversations, she learned that we were soon to celebrate (on July 15) our 57th wedding anniversary.

Shortly before we began our descent into Rome, our thoughtful attendant presented us with an attractively wrapped package as she wished us, "Happy Anniversary!"

Later that day, in our hotel located in the heart of the ancient city of Rome, we opened the anniversary package and confirmed that she had, indeed, presented us with a bottle of Champagne.

What were we going to do?

Without any doubt, the flight attendant was trying, *in her way*, to show kindness toward us. She thought the gift of sparkling wine was very appropriate in the celebration of an anniversary. But, as "teetotalers", who had never tasted an alcoholic beverage who wanted to respect her and her *intentions*, we were faced with a difficult decision. **What were we going to do?**

Here is what we did. We decided not to give the wine to someone else. We determined not to consume the alcoholic beverage ourselves. We also concluded that it would not be best to hold on to the bottled wine, as a "keepsake."

So, in the privacy of our hotel room, I entered the bathroom and "popped the cork" -- not realizing the pressure of the sparkling fluid in the bottle. After cleaning up the liquid that sprayed out of the uncorked bottle, I carefully poured all the contents that remained into the waterpot that flushes. Later, outside the hotel, I found a waste container for glass where we gently laid to rest the empty bottle that we really didn't want.

A good choice. For my June and me, it was our only choice. Thank the Lord, we can still say,

Turn to WINE on Page 16

Notes From The Old Folks

Precious Memories

Recollections by Ann Rector

Here it is 2013 -- Never thought I'd live past 2000! That's when I bought my last car and it's still taking us and the power chair wherever we go!

Oh, how I miss the "Ladies Days". I used to go to with **Lila Tanner, Clemmie Simons** and others. We once went to **Tipton Street** (Kosciusko) Ladies' Day. We had the best time and the best food.

Then a lot of us remember the **Morton Ladies' Day** at Roosevelt State Park. Oh boy, that was something. The skits, the singing, the Bible studies, the crowing rooster at midnight in a certain cabin. Nobody got any sleep. But it was fun. I promised my dear friend **Katherine Welch** (now deceased) a room to herself (because she snored) if she would only come. She did and she was the only one who got a night's rest.

Oh, the stories I could tell about another dear friend, **Lila Tanner**, who now resides in a rest home in Sugarland, TX. On a 5th Sunday dinner day she, **Buddy** and the youngins got there but her platter of fried chicken didn't. The last thing she remembered, she gave it to Buddy to load up. Somehow he put it on the top of the car and never put it into the trunk. Retracing their steps when they got back home, she could not find the platter, bones or nothing. We laughed about that for a long time.

Lila was such an inspiration to me. When we moved to Morton, she was carrying **Cindy** out when she misbehaved and I was doing the same with my daughter, **Denise**. When she left here and went to Sunnysbrook, with Buddy to live, she had reared a second group of children (the Westbrook's) -- seeing to it they were at church at every service.

Buddy got a bunk bed that would accommodate all three

girls. We cleaned their house and washed their clothes. Their grandpa was in failing health and could no longer manage. Somehow they grew up and **J.R.**, the boy, graduated from the police academy.

Lila was always the "leader" in everything the ladies did at the church building. She brought her sewing machine and ironing board; made and hung the first set of curtains. **Mozelle Massey** made the present ones. We all pitched in and had fun doing it.

I was assigned bathroom cleaning one time I remember well. Lila inspected and gave me sandpaper and told me to go back and work on that rust ring. It worked and was sparkling when she gave me an "okay". She never stopped -- worked and retired from the post office in Pelahatchie. We still talk. The last time she and the girls came we visited over two hours here in my house.

I'm so glad we did what we did when we could. We used to go everywhere but now here we sit because **Lewie** [husband] cannot walk. I have to have a sitter if I leave for any length of time. I'm so thankful for close friends like **Patsy and Gene Dorman** of the Morton congregation and **Haskell Hood** of Siwell Road who come and relieve me some. I'm in good health and thankful I can help my husband (now 88) out. He falls a lot as his polio has come back and he's in some pain.

I cherish the memories of our Alaska trip with the Bracket's and Memorial congregation of Houston; the Branson trips, Denver, Orange Beach, FL and Smokey Mountain trip. I loved attending services in Gatlinburg but have never attended the "Diana Singing" -- maybe one day.

Here's to a big gathering "when we all get to heaven" See you there!

Ann Rector
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A Welcomed NOTE, PLUS...

THE "NOTE"

Brother Franks,

In all years that I have known you, I've never taken time to express my appreciation for all that you and your wife continue to do.

*You keep us connected with the best people in the world in such a meaningful way. You serve a purpose and a great need from a heart prompted by love. Thank you. If you can find a spot for **my story** (if there's any merit) it would mean a great deal to me...." (Richard Gooch; 120 Long Blvd.; Quitman, MS)*

THE "PLUS"

"The Right Kind of Marriage"

A Love Story About Josephine

- Richard Gooch -

In my younger years, I did as many others. I went to a lot of places and did so many things, but none seemed to bring happiness (maybe I didn't know what that consisted of). Then, halfway around the world, Josephine and I met. I realized then that I had been looking for her all the time -- no more wishing for someone else!

It has to be experienced to appreciate: she belonged to me and I belonged to her. We found happiness in each other which lasted for almost 64 years. If I said we didn't have problems, I might lie about other things. There were times we didn't like each other, but the love was still there and the wonder of resolving things just made it more meaningful.

I am reminded of Charlie Pride's song, "Kiss an Angel Good Morning." This is good advice for all who desire the right kind of marriage.

This is not meant to be a tearful testimony, I just want to encourage a close relationship for all family members. Don't forget to hug one another daily -- especially your children. Remember how the Lord would relate to us, if we would only permit it. Jesus said, "How often would I have gathered the children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings and ye would not" (Luke 13:34).

Jesus still wants all to come to him while we can. We don't know when it might be too late. Relationships are so important, especially when we have lost a loved one. How is our relationship to the Lord? He loved us so much that He gave His life so that our relationship with Him might be right. What have you given to Him? (Brother Richard, now alone, still preaches for the church of Christ in Quitman, Mississippi -- which he and his wife, Josephine, served together for many years before her departure several months ago.)

Magnolia Messenger

Appreciates

Comments and Suggestions

P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090
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The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (6)

BE FAITHFUL to the Lord

"Well done, you good and faithful servant... enter into the joys of your lord." (Matt. 25:21)

"...be you faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10)

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation includes **hearing the gospel, believing in Jesus, repenting of sins, confessing faith, being baptized into Christ and remaining faithful to Him as Lord.**

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When We Lose Hope

- Ken Joines -

What happens in a culture when people lose hope? They turn to artificial solutions such as chemical addiction, co-dependency, and chronic depression sometimes sets in. They have no sense of direction and reach out for anything that might give them hope. Some, in bitterness and anger, turn to a life of crime, taking up arms and mowing down children in a school room, innocent people in the workplace, and do unspeakably horrible things.

And I can tell you for sure that there will be times when the only thing that keeps us from doing something really stupid is that we have... HOPE. Dante wrote, "Life without hope is hell." Apostle Paul said, "We are saved by hope." (Rom. 8:24)

We soon learn that when there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present. The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Prov. 29:18). I used to think this was written to church leaders telling them they must have a view of the future, etc. But this is a truism telling us that when we have nothing to look forward to, nothing to have in our vision, we just dry up, wither and die, or perish.

Read Luke 24:13-35

These two men traveling to Emmaus that Sunday had lost hope. They had expected Jesus to restore Israel, but their hopes had been hanged on a cross and they thought the body was still in that grave. Their hopes were dashed and they were headed out of town when suddenly Jesus joins them, deliberately concealing his identity. In this narrative, three things happened that renewed their hope and gave them a reason for living. And by the way, Jesus will do the same thing for you and me right today.

He opened the Scripture

He reprimanded them for being discouraged and for not remembering what the Old Testament prophets had said about the Messiah. "Have you forgotten what Isaiah said about his being led like a sheep to the slaughter (ch. 53), or what David said about his hands being pierced (Psa. 22), and not being abandoned to the grave (Psa. 16)? Were you always asleep in the



Ken Joines

synagogue when they read these things aloud?"

Now, Jesus could have revealed himself to these men right there along that road, but he wanted their faith to be based

We soon learn that when there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.

not on a dramatic emotional experience, but on a solid understanding

of scripture. You see, our faith needs to be based in scripture and not on a warm fuzzy feeling that He lives in our heart. The more you read the Bible, the more your hopes are verified and the more substance there is for that faith. Apostle Peter said, "Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within you." And you cannot be prepared if you do not know the Word.

They opened their home to Him.

When they reached their destination at Emmaus these men invited this stranger into their home to eat with them. And when they sat down to eat, a most unusual thing happens. Verse 30 says when he was at the table with them He took bread, broke it and gave it to them. Do you see anything unusual here?

I'll tell you what I see: Jesus is the guest, and HE is the one who takes charge! This total stranger is allowed to be the host! To me, there is a message here and it is that Jesus Christ is not satisfied with just being a guest in my life. He wants to be the host, to be in charge. He is not going to be satisfied with your seeing Him as just an intellectual character in life. He wants you to see Him as the Risen Savior and allow Him to take charge in your life.

He is not satisfied with your Christianity when it brings you

to worship just on special occasions, or only when there's nothing else in the way. He insists on controlling your language, your finances, entertainment, marriage, habits, home, business dealings... everything. Jesus Christ insists on being the Lord OF all, or He will not be the Lord AT all. These two men invited Jesus into their home and allowed Him to take over. And their lives would never be the same again.

Parents of young children, listen up: if you wish to transfer your faith to them, it is essential that you open your home to Jesus. A weekly Sunday School class is not sufficient. Your children must have a Bible. And you must insist that the READ it. And live by it. It may mean having meaningful plaques and pictures on the walls that call attention to the spiritual side of life.. It means saying grace at mealtime and living an authentic Christian life in front of them. We must open our homes to Jesus.

He opened their eyes

Verse 31 says their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. Have you ever wondered how he revealed himself to them? Some say he did it miraculously. Others suggest that when he prayed they recognized his voice. But they had been listening to him talk for a couple hours and didn't recognize his voice.

I think it was something else. Verse 35 says "he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." It is my personal opinion that when Jesus picked up that bread and handed it to

Jesus Christ insists on being the Lord OF all, or He will not be the Lord AT all.

them they saw something that caused goose bumps all over their bodies. They suddenly

noticed these awful scars lacerations from the nails that had torn his hands and wrists during those hours on the cross. It was then that it hit them like a ton of bricks that they were having a meal with the Risen Savior of mankind, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. And I just think that when he saw their jaws drop, he broke into a confident grin, got up and walked out and disappeared into the night.

After Jesus got up and suddenly left, they started talking, "Were not our hearts burning within us when we walked with

See HOPE on Page 16

Christ's Life

Continued from page 5

brought religion and nature together. He is a poor disciple who is afraid of science. Nature will never contradict God. Man may come short of the facts and draw the wrong conclusions but, if he is honest, the path of science leads to God.

So, much of which Jesus would bless us is to be had out in the open! There is rest for tired nerves, renewal of energy and courage, recovery of poise and deliverance from pressures. One cannot help but feel sympathy for children who grow up in 'asphalt jungles' having never walked on soft soil, ran bare-footed in the tall grass or waded in a cool stream.

When you are worn out, take to the woods. Get away from people. Get close to nature. Are your nerves on edge? Grab your tackle box and fishing pole and let's make our way to a laughing stream. On a rock lifting out of the water, we'll eat our lunch while we feed on the beauty of God's good earth. Another mile or two down stream and we'll head home for a night of dreamless, restful slumber. Then, when morning comes, we'll feel as Browning said: "God is in His heaven and all is right with the world."

Or, get into a boat and launch out into a river or lake. Or, you might just choose to sit under a shade tree in your yard, look up and follow the clouds, and forget your troubles.

Hope

Continued from page 15

him along the road, and he opened the Scripture for us?" (v.32)

And even though it was night and it was seven miles back to Jerusalem, they jumped up and ran excitedly back to town and shared the news. He is risen! Jesus is alive! He was at our house! Their eyes were really opened! The source of real hope sat right across the table from these men and they didn't even recognize him until their spiritual eyes were opened.

So many today have been looking for hope from every angle but the obvious one. And they need to open their eyes and see Jesus. When we do this we will have a joy that the world does not know and cannot take away. Psalm 146:5 says, "Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God." In Christ alone we can have an unfailing hope. Every goal you have in this life is

Have you soured on life? Mount a horse and let's ride on a bridle path through the woods and splash through streams that cover our boots and stirrups with water. We'll gallop beside the rippling brooks while riding toward the skyline. From time to time, we'll look down on the tree tops passing below us. We'll see cattle grazing, hear the sounds of ax and saw and smell the cedar and pine. We'll see smoke curling up from the roofs of cabins and feel the gentle breeze brushing against our cheeks.

Later, as you lay aside your fishing pole, or tie up your boat, or stable your horse, you will feel that the burdens of life have been removed, the cares and concerns of the world have slid from your shoulders, and weights have been lifted from your heart. You will come to believe that the world is kinder than you thought, and the people better, and God is surer and nearer.

Into the woods the Master came. "He went up into a mountain to pray and when the evening was come, He was there alone."

We would do well to follow our Lord into the out-of-doors, and be refreshed! (James A. Horton is one of the ministers of the Beech Hill church, near Ripley, MS. His address: James A. Horton; 839 Ashland Rd; Ripley, MS 38663; jahortn@yahoo.com

temporary. Your team loses, your business fails, your body ages, your mate dies, your health goes sour. But hope that is in Christ is eternal. He conquered the grave and he assures me I will, too. There is a marked difference in the way a Christian faces death. Oh, we sorrow, "but not as those who have no hope" (I Thess. 4:13).

Because I am saved I have a constant hope that will not fade. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." This truth sustains me through life's darkest hours. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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

JONAH

(Continued from page 3)

what Jesus called "the sign of the prophet Jonah," His resurrection from the dead. "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:32).

Throughout Asia and into Europe, Acts tells how Christianity spread by means of the preaching of the resurrection of Christ. When Paul came to Corinth he preached Christ crucified and resurrected, "And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized" (Acts 18:8).

In Corinth, on his second missionary journey, Paul found unbelieving Jews with the same problem they had during the lifetime of Jesus. "For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:22-24).

The "sign of the prophet Jonah," the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, removes all doubt. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Thanks for Reading the MM

**Lake Harbour Church
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Church Growth

A Biblical View

- Compiled by John Bauer -

(from various sources)

Almost every religious journal carries an article about church growth. Seminars are conducted about it. Experts on church growth have become as numerous as fleas on a dog. There are many misconceptions about church growth as well as mistakes as to what real growth is. Many err in regard to what it takes for a congregation to grow.

The general consensus seems to be that if the contribution is above average or exceeding the budget, it is an indication of church growth. While it is true that if a church is to grow properly each member must give liberally and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 8:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7), a big contribution is not the determining factor in church growth. Some "big givers" in the church are such because the preacher doesn't "step on their toes". Should he begin to "crack down" on their sins, they cut down on their contribution. A church is not growing much if an above average contribution depends on sanctioning sin.

Another false measurement of church growth is an incorrect assessment of numbers. A mere shift of members from one place to another is no growth at all. The Lord's instruction is "Go make disciples" (Matthew 28:18 - ESV) rather than "compete for what you already have". New carpet, air conditioning, comfortable pews, or size and beauty of a building do not determine growth. Millions of dollars have been spent on the concept that such are indications of church growth.

What then are indications of real growth? Let's ask ourselves, how God conscious are the members? Do they put Him first in their lives? (Matthew 6:33). Are they seeking to present His image in daily conduct? (2 Corinthians 3:18; James 1:23). How do the members treat one another? Do they "rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep"? (Romans 12:15). What about indications of concern for the needy? (James 2:14-18; I John 3:17-18). Is there an earnest desire that the lost hear the gospel? If members are faithful in true evangelism and real benevolence as they should be, church growth will take care of itself; all the church growth seminars being conducted not withstanding.

Most members say they want the church to grow. But church growth is a lot like the weather -- everybody talks about it, but no one does much about it. Ask yourself, how long has it been since I invited a non-Christian to attend a service and hear the gospel preached? It might be surprising how many people in your city or community have never been personally invited to attend the services of the Lord's church. What are you (and I) doing to help the church grow?

John Bauer preaches for the Old Aberdeen Road Church of Christ; 1350 Norther Eshman Ave.; West Point, MS 39773) E-mail: bauerjohnr@yahoo.com

WINE

(Continued from page 14)

that we have never knowingly tasted an alcoholic beverage. And we know, if we continue to abstain, that we will never become addicted to strong drink nor will we act foolishly because we are "under the influence".

For the sake of taking the "safe course;" for the benefit of our influence upon others -- to "shun the appearance of evil"; and to avoid placing a stumblingblock before others, we chose not to drink it, to not give it to another and to not to hold on to it as a "keep-sake." It's gone, but not forgotten.

Scriptures that helped us make the decision we made include Romans 14:21; Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35; I Thess. 5:22. In addition to the holy scriptures, having lived on this earth for more than seventy years, there is clear evidence of the great

and grave dangers of alcohol consumption. It is dangerous and destructive. (ALF)

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TRIP

(Continued from page 11)

freely gave of their time and energy, were extra special. And so were those who planned the curriculum and directed the camp. We are so thankful!

In addition to daily Bible classes and various activities, a service was conducted each night which featured some of the most beautiful singing ever heard, along with a meaningful Bible lesson presented by different talented speakers (preachers/teachers). We are thankful!

Al taught a Bible class every day for the counselors and adult workers with 15 to 25 in each class. Several of the participants could not speak English; therefore, we were pleased and very grateful for capable translators.

Before going to the Bible camp in Lithuania, we never realized how much planning and effort was required to have a camp of that magnitude. The camp requires several dedicated workers and leaders. Our son, Paul, who had a vital role in keeping everything going, is just one of several who make it all possible. We are very thankful that he also tried hard to make sure that we were kept happy.

In addition to everything else, Paul and Glenda did a lot of shopping and cooking. Glenda prepared a number of meals, using a little hot plate, to supplement food served in the cafeteria. Our cabin door was always open to any camper who just might be a little hungry. Sandwiches, chips, cookies and drinks were provided at all times.

The last night at camp was very special. As we all gathered around a big campfire, we sang beautiful songs and listened to a young man preach who, several years ago, was converted to Christ at camp. Afterward, other campers, those who so desired, were given an opportunity to speak. It was thrilling and encouraging to hear several campers relate how God's word presented at camp had changed each of their lives and their eternal destiny. Some told about how they had been brought up as atheists, but -- because of camp -- had been led to faith in Jesus and had become Christians. We are so very thankful.



The Fire Felt Good On Closing Night of Bible Camp

Early Sunday morning we returned to Vilnius for a closing service with the church. Paul preached a clear and scriptural sermon on what is involved in becoming and being a Christian. Then, after worship services, we said our "good-byes" and began our long journey back to America and Mississippi.

We first flew to Brussels, Belgium; then on to Rome where we spent a few hours before our plane departed for Chicago. Paul and Glenda had to take an earlier flight so we were left all by ourselves to make our way back home.

Trying to communicate was difficult; we got misplaced; however, we shouldn't have worried. God's providence was at work. At the airport in Rome, we met a young man from Starkville, Mississippi, who was experienced in foreign travel. Like us, he was flying from Rome to Chicago. And, of course, he spoke English. (Thank the Lord!) He told us that his last name was "Franks" -- we felt like kin-folks!

We were pleased to learn that, he and his family worship with the Lee Blvd Church of Christ in Starkville, MS. (Wonderful!!) He told us that just a few days before leaving on his trip to Europe, he had lunch with **Andy Miller**, preacher for the Starkville church. So needless to say, our new acquaintance -- **Houston Franks** and his traveling companion, were a big help to us in going to the right place to get on the right plane. We are so thankful!

About seventeen hours later, we finally arrived safely in Memphis, where our son, Philip, was waiting at the airport to meet us and to drive us home. Needless to say, we were tired but richly blessed. Our journey which ended in Kosciusko at 10:00 P.M., was made even more memorable because all three of our sons were very helpful. We are thankful.

We offer praise to our Loving Lord for safe travel, good health and the wonderful opportunity to help folks in a far away land prepare for a home in Heaven. We truly are grateful to God for what we are pleased to describe as "an unforgettable trip."

Report
by Al & June
Franks



Houston

Teaching a Caterpillar About Flying

Trying To Describe Heaven (?)

- Gordon Gentry -

Most of us have questions about heaven. Many of our questions center about the perceptions we have based upon the experiences of life on earth. For example, we try to compare eternity to so many days/years/millennia on earth, but there really is no comparison. A frequently asked question is, "Will I know my loved ones in heaven?" Then we wonder, "Will I remember those whom I loved, but who were not fortunate enough to be a resident of heaven?" Some picture heaven as a golf course, or a beautiful vista or... well, you know.

The answers to such questions are not specifically found in the pages of the Bible. Instead, we are given glimpses into the heavenly realms and some of those are fading views, at best. Why then, are we not given a better answer to these questions? Obviously, that question is not answered, either.

In fact, there are many questions the astute Bible student would like to have answered that are not specifically addressed.

Why this is true is not addressed either, except the inspired writer does tell us, "Many other signs

therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31) Our conclusion must be that we are given the exact information we need to obey the Gospel and inherit eternal life.

When we try to describe heaven, it seems clear that the descriptions, even Biblical descriptions, are very inadequate. For example, if a person has ever viewed the Grand Canyon, they would be hard pressed to adequately describe what it is like to stand on the rim of that great landmark and view the hundreds of square miles of beauty that lies before the eyes.

Without a doubt, the Bible's description of heaven is even more inadequate. God reminds us that "as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than



your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9) It is also written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

To help us better understand why this lack of detail is evident requires another thought.

Think a moment about the butterfly. Such a beauty of nature, such a wonder of movement; flitting here, alighting there, investigating this, flying to see that. They are a marvel to behold in their brilliant colors and their liberating freedom of flight. What a beautiful world they must observe. However, their life has not always been that way, for there was a day when they were an earth-bound caterpillar. Imagine the difference between crawling on the dirty ground and flying in the clear blue sky.

A frequently asked question is, "Will I know my loved ones in heaven?" Then we wonder, "Will I remember those whom I loved, but who were not fortunate enough to be a resident of heaven?"

In some ways, our life is similar to the stages of development of a butterfly. The big word for it is "metamorphosis". Said simpler, the butterfly we see is the last of four stages of change this creature has undergone. It started as an egg, which then developed into a chrysalis, then emerged as a butterfly. We start life in the womb, then that wonderful day of our birth when we emerge into the world. Life ends and we are buried, then at the glorious resurrection day, we emerge from the tomb to live eternally with God.

In Paul's great discussion of resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15, he tells us in verses 42-44, "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is



The Caterpillar Becomes a Butterfly

sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body."

He previously (1 Corinthians 15:35-38) used the example of a seed being planted and compares the body it has when planted with the body it has when it grows. Compare, for example, the ugly, wrinkled corn seed to a beautiful seven-foot tall thriving, productive corn plant. He seems to be telling us that our spiritual body will be something akin to that by comparison. However, beyond that, we do not have much of a glimpse into that aspect of the heavenly realm.

In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul describes a trip into the third heaven where the traveler heard "inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak." (Verses 3-4)

Now, for a moment consider the lowly caterpillar. Use your imagination to try to explain to him what it is like to fly. Remember he is earth-bound. He probably can't see very far in front of his face. How would you explain the joys of flying to that creature? It seems that this would be an almost impossible task. This would be comparable to trying to tell us earth-bound humans about the joys and beauties of heaven. There are scenes and relationships and experiences we will have in heaven for which there is no way, no words to explain to us earth-bound travelers, for we can hardly see the horizon, much less the beauties and wonders of heaven.

When we have questions about heaven, we need to realize that God has promised something that is beyond our present capabilities to comprehend. In addition, we need to realize that it is God's love that has promised this caterpillar (us) such a wonderful hope, future and eternity. We do not have to know or understand everything about it, but we do need to understand as best we can the God who has promised. After all, this caterpillar (us) is trying to learn about flying.

NOTE: Thanks to brother Gordon Gentry, one of the ministers of the Pontotoc church of Christ, for submitting this thought provoking article to the MM. His address: 369 Church Street; Pontotoc, MS 38863
ggentry@wildblue.net

Have You Answered "The Question Box" in this issue of the Magnolia Messenger?

Caledonia Church Now Served by Preacher Grady Scott



SCOTTS: Grady and Bonnie

Grady Scott recently wrote to the MM and said that he was enjoying his work as preacher for the church in Caledonia, Mississippi. Grady, who has been at Caledonia for seven months, commented, "The brethren are faithful to the word and have been really good to us since we came."

Brother Scott, who has been preaching for 35 years, moved to Mississippi from Ravenswood, WV where he had preached for seven years. He is a graduate of the East TN School of Preaching and of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN. He added, "We really appreciate receiving the Messenger. I clip a number of the articles each issue to keep for reference... May the Lord richly bless you and all those involved in the Magnolia Messenger!"

Bible Winner

Now You Can Take Your Choice

Bible Study Library CD or Thompson Study Bible

(Each is valued at over \$100.00)



If you are selected as our new Bible winner, you now have a choice of either of the above. Is your name on page 23?

(Please Answer "The Question Box")

The True Physician

(by Benny B. Bristow)

Our bodies have diseases, They give us medications,
That attack against our will. To make our bodies whole.
We seek the best physicians, But only the Great Physician,
Longing to be healed. Can heal the sin-sick soul.

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Email: franksmm@aol.com

Churches Looking For Preachers

West Ouachita

Church of Christ
West Monroe, LA

We are searching for a full time preacher. We are located in West Monroe, Louisiana, with 4 elders and 2 deacons. Our attendance ranges from 40 to 60 with all ages. We believe in sound doctrine and we need someone as soon as possible. All applications must have references.

Please contact **Todd Chapman** at **318-355-1999** or email: toddchapman@yahoo.com

News Notes

BATESVILLE

An area wide Gospel Meeting is scheduled to be held at the Batesville Junior High in Batesville, MS September 23-25, 2013.

LUCEDALE

A Ladies Day is planned for September 28, 2013 at the Rocky Creek Church of Christ near Lucedale, Mississippi. The theme is "When Life Hands You A Lemon." The speakers are Toni Lucas and Sherry James.

NEW ALBANY

Amy Vest the oldest member of the New Albany Church of Christ passed away on Wednesday July 31, 2013. Sister Vest was 98 years of age. We extend our deepest sympathy to her church family as well as her physical family.

VERONA

The Verona Church of Christ is planning a Gospel Meeting for next year. The dates are January 17-19, 2014 with Michael Bates as the speaker. Even though it is next year, please mark your calendar for this date.

VICKSBURG

A Gospel Meeting is scheduled for September 15-18, 2013 at the I-20 Church of Christ in Vicksburg, Mississippi. John Rice (Managing Director of Backwoods Christian Camp in Lineville) is to be the speaker.

TCHULA

The congregation in Tchula, Mississippi announces a Gospel Meeting planned for October 20-25, 2013, with services to be conducted Sunday through Friday. The days and speakers scheduled are:

Sunday: **Billy Moore**

Monday: **Don Woods**

Tuesday: **McArthur Williams**

Wednesday: **DeWayne Williams**

Thursday: **Ezell Landrum**

Friday: **Montrel Green**

McArthur Williams, long time preacher for the Tchula church, gave a phone number for anyone who would like more information: **662-590-3690**

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 one or 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!
Editor

Booneville, ARK

The Heritage Addition Church of Christ in Booneville, Arkansas is seeking a full time pulpit minister beginning June 1. We are a 'mainline', conservative congregation with Sunday AM attendance of approximately 100.

A successful candidate will be competent in the pulpit and have a passion for lost souls. You may visit www.booneville.com for general area information. For more information, or to submit an application, please contact:

**Heritage Addition
Church of Christ
PO Box 155
Booneville, AR. 72927**

E-mail or call:
thedutchman@centurytel.net
or rscottbgcslc@magtel.com,
or Telephone: 479-675-3582

Lake Charles, LA

Seeks Full-time Minister

Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ is searching for a full time pulpit minister, beginning January 2013. EBCC is a well established church having recently celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

The church is located in Lake Charles, LA at 2801 Enterprise Boulevard. Website: <http://www.blvdchurchofchrist.org>

EBCC has 4 elders, 7 deacons and 4 staff ministers with an average attendance of around 282. Lake Charles is an economically sound area with unemployment of 6.8% -- well below the national average.

Resumes may be sent to
**Enterprise Boulevard
Church of Christ
2801 Enterprise Blvd.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Fax: 337-430-0093**

"How beautiful are the FEET OF THEM THAT PREACH the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things." (Rom. 10:17)

South Germantown Road

(Memphis, TN)

The South Germantown Road Church of Christ in Memphis, TN, is seeking an experienced minister/evangelist to help fulfill our mission of "Glorifying God as disciples of His Son: Anchoring, converting and teaching souls in our community and abroad."

We are a very loving congregation of 210 individuals, located in southeast Memphis. There's much to be excited about at South Germantown Road, including the recent opening of our Activity Center building, designed to enhance our very active Outreach Ministry.

We are an actively growing church, seeking a spiritual and dynamic leader to serve with our three elders, four deacons and five ministry leaders.

The ideal candidate:

- * Loves the Lord
- * Is well-grounded in scripture and sound in doctrine—has a minimum of three years of experience, five-plus years preferred preaching and leading a congregation

- * Has a servant's attitude

- * Has a true heart for outreach and evangelism

- * Has a wife and family who interact well with the congregation

- * Leads his own house well

- * Has a deep sense of responsibility

- * Is organized and demonstrates strong administrative skills

- * Is hospitable and friendly

- * Loves people

Preference: Bachelor or masters degree in Bible/ministerial studies

South Germantown Road
Church of Christ
3825 S. Germantown Rd
Mmphis, TN 38125
901-309-9809

Visiting Among Churches in North Mississippi

Southaven
Independence
Olive Branch
Antioch
Coldwater
Looxahoma
Thyatira
Crockett
Greeville
Cleveland
Seanatobia
Como
Sardis

Eddie Lewis, who lives in Southaven, Mississippi sent to the MM a report of his visits among churches in North Mississippi. He said,

"It has been a great joy for me to visit with 13 churches in north Mississippi during the months of April through June. It was very encouraging to me to see so many wonderful works being done to further the Kingdom of God. The following is a report of my visits."

Report by
- Eddie Lewis -
(Roving Evangelist)

April 7: SOUTHAVEN

I visited with the Southaven church of Christ. Their preacher is **Wade Webster**. Wade has been with the church for 6 years. **Robert Jefferies** is their associate minister. Their attendance is around 290. They support several mission works foreign and domestic. They are the sponsoring congregation for the **Gospel Broadcasting Network** and the **Power Lectureship** each April. I saw some old friends from Greenwood—**Sammy and Grace Williams**. Also, I saw **Wally Scaife** who preached at the church in Ruleville when I preached at Cleveland. It was good to see old friends.

Wade taught the adult Bible class on Romans 8:31-39. He said God can work things out that seem impossible.

God gave His Son, the greatest gift of all, for us. We should ask God for all our needs (Eph 3:20-21). We are more than conquerors because of God's love. We can face the difficulties of life and know that God loves us.

Wade's sermon was on the parable of the householder (Mt. 13:51-52). His points were: Truth must be Seen, Stored and Shared. We must understand God's word. We must treasure the word in our hearts. We must share the word with others.

Both lessons were very good. I enjoyed meeting the brethren at Southaven.



Wade Webster

April 14: INDEPENDENCE

I visited with the Independence church of Christ. **Dan Cates** is their preacher. He has been there for 14 years. Dan is a teacher at the Memphis School of Preaching. Dan was leaving the next day for a mission trip to South Africa. **Kaleb Hall** is their associate minister. He is a student at MSOP. After graduation in May he left for Fayette, AL. Also they have **Rafael Ramirez**, a student at MSOP, working with their Hispanic congregation.

Kaleb taught the adult Bible Class. His lesson was on Hebrews 2:5-9, "The Humanity of Jesus." He got into a discussion of the Holy Spirit and miracles. He used some material from Bro. G.K. Wallace's book, "Denominational Dogmas." The purpose of the miracles in the New Testament was to confirm the message to the unbeliever (1 Cor. 14:22), and the design of miracles was to bring about the written word (1 Cor. 13:8-10). It was a good lesson.



Dan Cates, Carl Hounshell & Webber Ferguson

Dan's lesson was "They Shall Part Alive" (1 Sam. 30:25-30). Dan was leaving on a mission trip to South Africa the next day. He wanted everyone at the church to know that even though they were staying behind they shared in the reward of this work. He said the one who goes into battle will reap the reward. The ones who stay with the supplies will reap a reward, because all receive the same reward in the Lord (Mt. 20:1-16). It was a good lesson on the body working together (1 Cor. 12).

I found out that **Webber Ferguson**, one of the elders, is a nephew of my aunt **Ruth Ferguson**. Also, I have other relatives that attend there.

April 21: OLIVE BRANCH

I visited with the Olive Branch church of Christ. **Mike Hixson** is their preacher. He has been in Olive Branch several years.

I have heard Mike speak before and he is a very good speaker. **Billy Sasser** is their song leader. He has a beautiful baritone voice. Their attendance is around 242 on Sunday morning. They have three elders that shepherd the church. I want to thank the Tuesday morning



Mike Hixson

Bible Class for sending me a "Thank You" card. Thirty-two people signed the card thanking me for attending their services. It was a great encouragement to me. Since then I have received cards each week from members thanking me for attending their meeting. What a great example of reaching out to the community.

This Sunday, **Robert Rawson** was speaking in their Spring Gospel Meeting. It is always good to see **Robert and Jane**. They now work with the Crockett church of Christ.

In the Bible class, Robert talked about "The Church is in God's Plan." He used Isaiah 2:1-4. In the last days God would establish His kingdom and all the nations would be part of it. In the worship service, Robert talked about "The Church is the House of God." Again he use Isaiah 2 and considered the description of the people of the House of God. As Christians our convictions will draw others to God. Robert did a wonderful job.

I must mention that I saw **David and Kathy Taylor** and **Jennifer (Lewers) Bashaw**, old school mates of mine from Senatobia. David is the director of the Olive Branch airport. Jennifer is a school teacher in Desoto County. It was good to see them.



Kathy & David Taylor

April 28: ANTIOCH

I visited with the Antioch church of Christ half way between Independence and Coldwater. They have two young men that rotate preaching for the church: **Chris Keeton**, who is the youth minister at Hernando, and **Jim Rutledge**, a student at FHU in the master degree program. I heard Chris preach, when I visited with Hernando. He brought some youth families with him from Hernando. They normally have around 36 in attendance, but on that Sunday, because of the youth from Hernando, they had 44. Some of the members were out of town.

I was warmly greeted by three ladies from the church—**Margaret Powers, Beth and Sherry Moore**. I understand that the day before these ladies and others helped plant some beautiful flowers in front of the building. Also, I meet **Howard Scruggs**, who cares for



the grounds at the church building. He reminded me that the Antioch church is the 2nd oldest church in Mississippi. It was established in 1868.

Chris presented some wonderful lessons. In Bible class they resumed a study of Acts 18:23 and studied Paul's work at Ephesus. In the worship, Chris preached on Matthew 26, the Trial of Jesus and Peter. Not only was Jesus on trial before the Sanhedrin, but Peter was on trial in the garden. He denied Jesus three times. Later in Acts 4, we see this same Peter standing before the Sanhedrin, that crucified Jesus, and defending his Lord. He had changed. He was now willing to do God's will. Both were good lessons.

May 5: COLDWATER

I visited with the Coldwater church of Christ. **Clifton Angel** is their preacher. He is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching and has been there three years. He is a single man.



Clifton Angel

They are served by three elders. **Billy Bland** is one of the elders. He was out of town in a meeting at Virginia Beach, VA. **Tim Wilkes** is one of the elders. He is the Director of "Fishers of Men," which is a ministry sponsored by the Cordova church of Christ. **Jim Jackson** is the other elder. They have about 65 that attend each Sunday.

Seth Daniels was the teacher for the Bible class. His lesson began in Hebrews 1:8, the Superiority of Christ to the Angels. He listed seven ways that Christ is superior to the angels. He did say that angels minister for God's people. God's providence works.

Clifton Angel's sermon was on Giving—2 Cor. 9:6-15. He asked the question, "Is God pleased with our giving?" Our whole life should be about giving. He listed six principles about giving seen in this

passage.

May 12: LOOXAHOMA

I visited with the Looxahoma church of Christ. **Tim Burroughs** has been their preacher for nine years. It was a great meeting and his family. He is a graduate of MSOP and has his BA from Amridge University in Montgomery, AL. Also **Jeremy Thornton** is their associate preacher. He is a student at MSOP. Their attendance is around 100. I was excited to see **Tom Gordon**, one of two elders, and his wife, **Libby**. I was reminded about helping their son, **Keith**, while attending Delta State University. Their whole family attends at Looxahoma. Also, it was great to see a high school classmate, **Ronnie Sowell**, who is a deacon at the congregation. There are lots of wonderful people at Looxahoma.



Jeremy taught the adult Bible class. They are using the Gospel Advocate Companion Series. The title was "Jesus Appears to John." It was a study of Revelation 1:9-20.

Tim preached from 1 Timothy 3:15. His theme was, "A Mother from the Bible." He told some funny things that children say about their mothers. A faithful mother is one who respects the scripture and God. It was a great lesson on mothers for Mother's Day.

May 19: THYATIRA

I visited with the Thyatira church of Christ. Their preacher is **Tim West**. He has served the church for 14 years. He is a graduate of Magnolia Bible College. Tim's mother was very sick and has since passed away, so he was out of town. **Charles Martin**, one of the deacons, spoke in his place. Four of their members were going on a mission trip to Panama in June.

In 1964, I was baptized at Thyatira. **Judy** and I had our wedding ceremony there in 1965. I saw two elders, **Ed Dandridge** and

See TRAVELS, next page

Travels in North MS

(Continued from page 19)

Winfred Oglesby, who have been a great influence in my life. I love and appreciate them. Since my visit, Bro. Winfred passed away on May 31. I know he will be missed by the church there.



Ed Dandridge

Other elders serving at Thyatira are **George Williams** and **Phil Meredith**. Phil taught the adult Bible class. Also my cousin, **Rita**, is married to **Andy Stacks**, one of the elders. *Thyatira is the oldest church of Christ in Mississippi.*

In Bible class, they have been studying the Church. Phil talked about worship and then the organization of the church. He said preachers are for encouragement and edification of the church. Elders are to lead the church and serve the church, not make the rules for the church. Charles Martin's sermon was from 1 Samuel 17—"Facing Our Goliaths." He said our faith is the difference. Do we see our Goliaths as insurmountable or opportunities to do God will.



George Williams & Phil Meredith

May 26: CROCKETT

I visited with the Crockett church of Christ. They are west of Senatobia. **Robert Rawson** is their preacher. He came there after his retirement from the church in Batesville. Their attendance is about 58 on Sunday morning.

Robert taught the adult Bible class. He considered Revelation chapter 2. They are considering the spiritual lessons seen in Revelation. He talked about the church in Ephesus. They had left their first love. He considered the church at Smyrna. They were facing tribulation and poverty as they were confronted by the "Synagogue of Satan." John calls them to faithfulness.

Robert and I shared the sermon. He introduced the subject



Eddie Lewis & Robert Rawson

"Love and Forgiveness" (Luke 7:36-50). The story is of an unnamed woman who washes the feet of Jesus with her tears. I presented the applications. (1. The story tells of Christ's love for us. (2. Our love for Christ is in proportion to our consciousness of sin. (3. The parable teaches us of the importance of love. **Tom Osborn** led the singing during the worship. I enjoyed my visit.

June 2: GREENVILLE

The elders at the Greenville church of Christ invited me to come and preach for them, while their regular preacher, **Danny Holman**, was away visiting family. Danny has been there for several years. The church is served by four elders: **Darrell Blaylock**, **Henry Halliburton**, **Bill Payne** and a new elder **Robert Wicker**. The attendance is 120 on Sunday morning. They have some small study groups that meet during the week. These group studies don't take the place of their Wednesday night service.

They had a mission group leaving for Nicaragua the next Sunday. Judy and I worked with the Greenville church in 1997-2000. We have many wonderful friends there. It was great to renew old friendships and visit with the brethren we haven't see for a long time. I taught lessons on two parables in Luke. The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the story of the Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-50).



Becky & Bill Payne

June 9: CLEVELAND

The elders at the Cleveland church of Christ invited me to come and preach for them while their regular minister, **Tim McCarter**, was away visiting family. Tim has worked with the church for several years. He is doing a wonderful work there. The church is served by three elders: **Lynn Reeves**, **Lowell Kirkbride**, and **Joe Garrison**. Their attendance is 80-100 on Sunday morning. It was wonderful to see so many old friends. The church had just completed their VBS with great success.

Judy and I worked with the Cleveland church in 1984-1992. Our girls meet their husbands in Cleveland, so we have many

wonderful ties to the church and community. I taught lessons on two parables in Luke.



Lynn & Edna Reaves

June 16: SENATOBIA

I visited with the Senatobia church of Christ. **Mike Jones** has been the preacher there for 20+ years. They are served by four elders: **Chuck Adams**, **Paul Embrey** (song leader), **Kenny Puryear**, and **Calvin Seago**. Their attendance is 330 on Sunday morning. Twenty-three of their members were to leave June 27 as part of a mission trip to Panama. Also, they had just returned from their session at SLCC. The worship service that day was conducted by **Grant Azbell** (youth minister and a student at HST) and **Robin Robison** who lead the camp session. Two other men (**Theron Fly** and **James Somers**) talked about how camp had influenced their lives. We sang all the camp songs. It was a wonderful service and brought back a lot of good memories of my time at SLCC.

Craig Owen is their involvement minister. They have small groups that meet on Sunday night. **Scott Lauderdale** taught the adult Bible class. He considered 1 Peter 3:7-9, which was a wonderful tribute to fathers on Father's Day. I got to see many old friends. I want to mention one of my closest friends, **Perkins Cochran**. It was good to see him and his wife, **Wanda**.



Mike Jones & Grant Asbell

June 23: COMO

I visited with the Como church of Christ. **Kyle Hooper** is their preacher. He is a graduate of HST. **David Buskirk** is their associate minister. He is a student at HST. They have around 56 in attendance. They have small groups that meet on Sunday night. They do support many mission works and had attended the first session of SLCC with Senatobia and several area churches. They also have 4 workers leaving with the Panama mission group on June 27.

David taught the adult Bible class. His text was 2 Thessalonians 2—"The Man of Lawlessness." He made some very good points about this controversial theme.

Kyle's sermon was on Galatians 3:23-26—"Saving Faith—Our Freedom in Christ." We are free from the rules of the Old Testament Law, because of the sacrifice of Christ. We don't need the guardian, because we walk in the new way of the Spirit. Both lessons were very good and encouraging.

I enjoyed meeting and visiting with the brethren at Como.



David Buskirk & Kyle Hooper

June 30: SARDIS

I visited with the Sardis church of Christ. **Hal Johnson** has been the preacher there for 16 years. They have three elders: **Bobby Gitter**, **Joe Hensley** and **Allen Wiese**. Allen is a retired preacher from Coffeeville. They have about 50 in attendance. Hal and the preacher at Central Academy have a weekly radio program: "Let the Bible Speak." The church is planning a meeting and family day coming up in August and September.

When I arrived in Sardis, I stopped at a gas station and met a man I went to school with from Senatobia. He is a Methodist and told me he listens to Hal's radio program. My class-mate told me he enjoyed the program very much, but when Hal got to talking about baptism my old class-mate would turn the station. You never know who is listening and what good you are doing.

In Bible class, they studied Acts 21. Hal talked about Paul heading to Jerusalem. He talked about Philip the Evangelist and Paul's arrest in Jerusalem.

In the worship, he considered 1 Tim. 1:1-5—"What it means to be a Christian." Three points: Love out of a pure heart, have a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Both lessons were very good.

Brother Eddie concluded his report with these words:

"What a wonderful honor it has been for me to visit and encourage the churches in north Mississippi. Blessings..." Report by:

Eddie Lewis

9423 Laurel Hill

Olive Branch, MS 38654

lewis7946@gmail.com

Eddie's Report is Free to the MM
Thanks, brother Eddie!

Thank you for reading the Magnolia Messenger!



We Have The Bible!

A rich man in torment wanted his brothers to see Lazarus raised so they would believe. Abraham said if they do not believe Moses and the prophets they will not believe even if one is raised from the dead. Jesus was raised from the dead and those who did not want to believe still did not.

People who do not believe the Bible likely will still not believe even if they were to see a miracle.

(Cecil May, Jr.; Taken from "Preacher Talk", June, 2013. Address on Page 3)

Amory Ladies' Day
Sept. 28, 2013
9:00 -12:00 PM.
 Speaker
Celine Sparks
 8:30 a.m. - Refreshments
 9:00 a.m. - Registration
 Lunch Provided

"Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. (Eph. 3:20)

Amory Church of Christ
1005 Blvd Dr, N.
Amory, Mississippi 38821
662-256-5813

EDITOR'S NOTE: We regret that the following advertizement is being published after the date of the event. Very sorry we did not know about the event before our previous issue of the MM. (alf)

Ladies' Day
 Midway
Church Of Christ
 Utica, Mississippi
Sept. 7 2013
 Speaker
Margie Ferguson
 (Kosciusko, MS)

More... More
Readers' Response

Magnolia Messenger,
 Thank you for sending me the Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy it very much. Thank you for inviting us to send the names and addresses of our family and friends to receive this wonderful paper free of charge. Keep up the good work. (Wanda Peterson, Show Low, AZ)

Brother Franks,
 Please add our name to the mailing list. We truly enjoy the MM and used to receive it. For the past two years, we were "living" and "working" in Branson, Missouri and we feel that our MM was returned, unable to forward. We will be in Louisiana this year. May God continue to bless you and your family as you labor in His Kingdom. Thank you for adding our name. In Him, (Waymond & Theresa Hales, Rayville, LA)

I appreciate the work you are doing to spread God's Word. Thank you! (Beverly Ducharme, Lafayette, LA)

Dear Magnolia Messenger,
 My name is Robert Spears. Please, I ask you from my heart, please send me the Messenger while I am locked up in the state of Texas. This paper is what I need -- filled with the Spirit of God and all the things to read while I sit here in prison... (Robert Spears, Palestine, TX)

Dear Bro. Franks,
 I just received a copy of the Magnolia Messenger from my sister-in-Christ. I read every word on every page from front to back! ... I would very much like

to receive your newsletter. May God keep blessing you in your good works. Thank you, (Drucilla Blackmon, Jackson, MS)

To the Franks,
 We enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. There is so much good information in it. We pray the good Lord will continue to bless you and your family in this work. We are enclosing a few names of our family, also hope this small check will help in your work. In Christian Love, (Barry & Ann Embry, Coldwater, MS)

So happy to receive the MM and see the good news of the Lord's church in MS. Wish the same thing was happening in Southeast MO and all over the world. Really enjoy doing the Question Box. God bless, (Gail McMillen, Portageville, MO)

Charles Johnson passed away March 6, 2013. I will send a donation soon. Charles loved your work and read the Magnolia Messenger front to back. He would want me to keep this up. (Patsy Johnson, Tupelo, MS)
 (We are so sorry to learn of the death of your husband. It is encouraging to know of his love for our work in publishing the Messenger. May God bless you in your great loss. mjf)

Magnolia Messenger,
 Sirs, I recently read your publication for the first time and see it as a useful work... (Jim Hendrix, Arab, AL)

To: Magnolia Messenger:
 ...Thank you so much for this paper. I love reading it and I learn so much from it. Thanks again, (Deborah Ann Locicero, Liberty, MS)

Al and June,
 Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the publication of this paper. (James & Rose Horton, Ripley MS)

Dear Franks families,
 ...I'm glad to see the paper has a new home in the library. God bless you in your work. I have every confidence in you and I'm grateful for your efforts! (Dottie Wright, Searcy AR)

Mr. Franks,
 I am sending our church bulletin and the names to send the Magnolia Messenger. I get my daughter's and enjoy it. Our congregation has almost gotten down to a woman's congregation. Our men are dying off. We have about 5 working men if they are all present. I think the members will enjoy it. With our love, (Mrs. Willie Huckabee, Houghton, LA) (I am 80 and my husband will be 85 this month.)

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

God's Love Cannot Be Measured


*God can send a rainbow,
 That reaches across the sky.
 He has created rivers and
 Oceans that will never go dry.*

*Think of all the patience,
 He has with you and me.
 We can't direct our own footsteps --
 That is plain to see.*

*He hasn't promised that we will find,
 A chest filled with silver and gold;
 But the blessings He gives us --
 A chest would not hold.*

*We must obey His will and not
 Be overcome with wordly pleasure.
 He has the whole world in his hand;
 God's love cannot be measured.*

Nina Thorn
 1135 Ratliff Ferry Road
 Canton, Mississippi 39046



Martha, Martha...

From **One Negative,**
 Comes **Two Positives!**

- Avis Porter -

As Jesus traveled, He came to Bethany where He visited with Mary, Martha and their brother, Lazarus. While Jesus was teaching in their home, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened. Martha, however, was "cumbered about with much serving." She came to Jesus and asked him to have Mary help her serve.

Instead of Jesus honoring her request, He answered and said, "Martha, Martha, thou art troubled about many things. But one thing is needful and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41,42)

This is the **only negative** thing the Bible reveals about Martha, while there are many good things she said and did, especially in connection with the death and resurrection of her brother, Lazarus (John 11:1-45).

From this one *negative*, there are *positive* lessons to be learned. **First**, Martha should have been more concerned with the *spiritual* than with the *physical*. Centuries later, we are still in need of learning that lesson and applying it to ourselves. We are to put God first in our lives and love Him more than any human or anything else.

A **second** lesson we can learn from this incident is to *realize* our many blessings and *appreciate* them. If you had lived back in the days of Mary and Martha, wouldn't you have loved the opportunity to **personally** hear Jesus teach? So seize whatever opportunities you have to do God's will today. May you, like Mary, make the right choice -- choose the "good part which shall not be taken away."

(Avis Corely Porter; 9803 Hwy. 336; Thaxton, MS 38871, written March 31, 2013)



Wings
 Women in God's Service

Expressing the Love of Jesus
 Sister to Sister with Virginia Hamblin

John 13:34
 John 15:12

Lake Harbour Church of Christ
Ladies day program
 Saturday, October 5th 2013
 Refreshments 8:00 am
 Program with Registration 8:30 am

Virginia Hamblin is a member of the Lake Harbour church of Christ, a gifted bible class teacher and speaker on ladies spiritual growth. Through her presentations, she offers engaging and practical application of spiritual truth. In 2011, Virginia spoke at the Kensington Woods Church of Christ Ladies Day Program in Hattiesburg, MS. Virginia continues to use God's Word as her authority and His Spirit as her guide. She also uses her gift of teaching to win souls and build up the body of Christ while enjoying the hobbies of gardening, growing flowers and reading. She lives in Canton, MS and is married to Olie Hamblin, Jr. and they have four sons and two adopted sons.





Information & Registration
<http://wings.lakeharbourcoc.org>

338 Lake Harbour Drive
 Ridgeland, MS 39157
 601-856-2165

Magnolia Messenger
 Appreciates
 Comments and Suggestions
 P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090
 franksmm@aol.com

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

How Old Are YOU Spiritually?

- June Franks -

God has truly blessed our family this year with four precious babies! The twins, Henley Lynn and Haley Grace Skelton were born on January 17, 2013, Silas Monroe Shepherd was born on April 8, 2013 and Myles Brant Hinson was born on June 18, 2013.

We thank God for the births of these precious babies and for God's care in watching over them as they grow and develop physically and mentally.

The twins, Henley and Haley and baby Silas were all born six weeks early. Naturally, we were more concerned about their health and their development since they were not carried to full term.



The Twins: Henley and Haley.
Or is it Haley & Henley Skelton?

It is amazing to see just how fast each of the babies is growing. All four of the babies seem to be in good health and are developing according to their time schedule.

As I have watched our babies grow and mature, it has reminded me of how one should grow after becoming a Christian. We would be sad and very upset if any one of our babies did not show signs of growing and developing as they should.

God, our Heavenly Father, is concerned when His children (Christians) are not growing spiritually. We should be concerned about the spiritual growth of others but we also should ask -- each of ourselves, "How much have I grown spiritually?"

A new Christian, in the beginning, is a *babe in Christ*; but, as time goes on, there should come spiritual growth and maturity.

The Bible describes a believer, after he is baptized into Christ, as a "newborn baby." Baptism is that final step in the process of the "new



June Franks

birth" (*born of water and spirit*, John 3:5). One who has been baptized into Christ is born again and is said to be a "new creature" in Christ (Romans 6: 3-6).

We are newly born in the beginning of our Christian walk; however, God doesn't want us to remain babies forever! Just as we would be concerned about one of our babies not developing properly, likewise, we should be concerned when one who has been a Christian for years, still acts just like a baby and doesn't seem to be growing spiritually.

It is true that we are *not to judge*; but, the Bible does teach that we can know one by the fruit he/she bears. (Matthew 7: 16)

The Bible says, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

"For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5: 12-14)

If one is desirous of growing spiritually, it seems that you would not have to beg him to attend church services. Not attending church services is an outward sign of one's lack of, or desire for, spiritual maturity. Certainly, there is much more in being a Christian than just attending church services, but "forsaking the assembly" is an indication that something is wrong.

As growing Christians, we should recognize the fact that it is a great privilege and honor to be able to worship God and to be

in fellowship with our church family. We attend services to worship God, to serve and not to be served.

The following are "reasons" that people give for not being faithful in church attendance. And, sometimes, they are excuses for leaving the church. These "reasons/excuses", written by **Thom Rainer**, were copied from Kosciusko's South Huntington Street church bulletin edited by **Les Ferguson, Sr.**

+ "The worship leader refused to listen to me about the songs I wanted."

+ "The preacher did not feed me."

+ "No one from my church visited me."

+ "I was not about to support the building program they wanted."

+ "I was out two weeks and no one called me."

+ "They moved the time of the worship services and it messed up my schedule."

+ "I told my preacher to go visit my cousin and he never did."

So sad... So many have to "babied," so to speak, just to keep them attending. It seems like you can never pay them enough attention. It doesn't matter how much you visit and plead with them they just do not respond favorably to God's word. They don't seem to realize they are still acting like babies. It is so sad, but their actions indicate they have not continued to grow and to mature spiritually as Christians.

Just as we expect a baby to grow up physically and, no longer need milk, so God expects the same for us as Christians.

The Bible says, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (I Corinthians 3:1-3)

We all recognize the importance of feeding our souls. Such necessary feeding comes through a study of God's Word and a recognition of the necessity of being faithful in attendance.

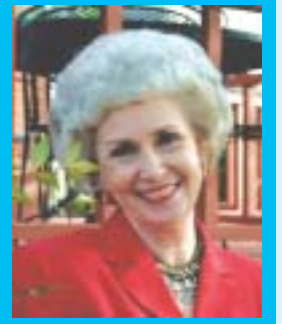
We may know a lot about the Scriptures and be able to quote many Bible verses, but it takes a lot more than just knowing the scripture -- we must obey it in order to be pleasing to God.

(See OLD, Col. 4; This page)

POEM

By
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray
bcagleray@comcast.net



When Childhood's Gone

*This neatly polished, peaceful home
Is filled with love and happiness.
Yet with all this sweet contentment,
There are so many things I miss.*

*There are no smudges on my windows,
No fingerprints to clean, it seems.
The floors glisten at the end of day,
And the furniture so brightly gleams.*

*There are no toys strewn on the floor,
No small child with huge fears to ease,
No tears to lovingly wipe away,
Or storm doors slamming in the breeze.*

*There aren't constant questions being asked,
Like, "Mama, where did God come from?"
Bedtime stories are not needed now,
Goodnight lullabies are no longer sung.*

*Never take for granted God's greatest gift—
The laughter of a small, innocent child.
Soon childhood's flown and they're grown,
But the memories still bring back a smile.*

*When they're grown, we love just as much;
We never thought we'd one day miss
The fingerprints, toys, and slamming doors,
That we exchanged for all this cleanliness.*

OLD

(Continued from Column 3)

Of course, we will never attain perfection but those who have been in the church for years need to grow up and mature spiritually.

If all the members of the church would act like Christians and be faithful in attendance, then the preachers and elders serving local congregations could devote more of their time in studying and helping others become Christians.

Look at your own life. How old are you spiritually? Are you still a babe and can only drink milk, or are you growing spiritually and now able to eat meat? These are very serious questions. How you can honestly answer, may indicate where you spend all eternity.

We are to be Christ-like in our attitude and actions. Just because we have been baptized into Christ doesn't insure that we have a irrevocable ticket to heaven! When you become a Christian, it is just the beginning of your Christian life. You need to grow up! (MJF)

Attention Mississippi, Louisiana, TN, AL & AR Churches of Christ

This space is available for you to advertise your upcoming events, reports about good works and other encouraging things you wish to share with thousands who read the Magnolia Messenger (24,000 copies of each issue). Please feel free to submit your news and reports. **Thank you.** (editor)

(See Question Box)

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(Turn to Page 24)

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546. Nell Millsaps
547. Johnnye Blackmon
548. Nigel & Shelley Cotton
549. Faye Cummins
550. Guy & Kayla Jaxzon-Rae
551. Christeen Teague
552. Ernestine Ayers
553. James Chestnutt
554. Rossie Clark Cotton
555. Manuel & Al Cotton
556. Lauwyn & Gloria Cotton
557. Jonas & Dorothy Cotton
558. Sherrie Boone
559. Nan Conley
560. Ronnie Taylor
561. Justin Taylor
562. Natalie Stewart
563. Patricia Connaway
564. Debra Sigmund
565. Kay Bramlett
566. Ms. Pat Shadle
567. Alice Dempsey
568. Amanda Pendley
569. Ms. Dorothy Laws
570. YOUR NAME, next issue?

Thanks for answering and sending in your answers to "The Question Box."

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

The Question Box

Dealing with Anger

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

Being angry is not fun to me. Mark Twain said, "Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured." You may be that person who struggles with anger. Sometimes you might be *tempted* to harbor anger about something because, in your mind, it justifies you not doing something that you should be doing. It is sad to see and hear someone still angry about something that happened many years ago.

Anger is an incredible issue in the Bible and today. We need to study God's instruction manual about this God given emotion to help us be what God wants us to be. The first verse I ask you to read is Proverbs 19:11, which says, "The discretion of a man _____

his anger; and it is his _____ to pass over a transgression." (Fill in missing words.)

One major "secret" in dealing with anger is that the more you have the Word of God living in you; the easier it will be to overlook and/or forgive a person for doing you wrong. Someone, in the past, has done you wrong; someone will do you wrong in the future.

How we deal with the transgression of others against us indicates our maturity level as a Christian. How mature are you? Are you maturing as a Christian or are you still a baby in Christ? Babies don't have as much fun as mature Christians. You are missing out if you still want to be a baby in Christ. **Grow up!** We all need help, support and prayers. (Prepared by Paul Franks)

Name the person(s) who manifested anger in the following Bible references

- 1) _____ Gen. 4:5,6 ----- "unto his offering he had not respect... he was very wroth"
- 2) _____ Gen. 27:34,45 ----- "until thy brother's anger turn away from thee"
- 3) _____ Gen. 30:2 ----- "his anger was kindled against Rachel"
- 4) _____ Numbers 20:10,11-- - "with his rod he smote the rock twice...."
- 5) _____ Numbers 22:27 ----- "his anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff"
- 6) _____ II Kings 5:11----- "He was wroth (angry) and went away and said, 'Behold....'"
- 7) _____ Matt. 2:16 ----- "he was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew "
- 8) _____ Luke 15:28 ----- "he was angry, and would not go in"
- 9) _____ Matt. 26:74 ----- "he began to curse and swear, saying, I know not the man"
- 10) _____ Exodus 32:10 ----- "let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them"
- 11) _____ Mark 3:5 ----- "when he had looked around about on them with anger"
- 12) _____ Eph. 4:26 ----- "Be ye angry, and sin not"

What three references above would be considered "righteous anger"?

_____, _____ and _____.

Words of Wisdom from Proverbs

(Supply missing numbers and words)

1. (Prov. 14: ____) ---- "He that is soon angry dealeth _____."
2. (Prov. 15: ____) ---- "A wrathful man stirreth up _____."
3. (Prov. ____:1) ---- "A soft answer turneth away _____; but grievous words stir up _____."
4. (Prov. 16: ____) ---- "He that is _____ to anger is better than the _____."

A Formula for Success:

James ____:19 --- "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to _____, slow to _____, slow to _____."

Usually Anger is a Symptom of a Deeper Problem.

Read James 1:20-21, James 4:1-2.

What follows anger many times is "a root of _____." Hebrews 12:14-15

Dealing with Anger Appropriately

It is possible if you will follow James 1:____. "...receive with _____ the engrafted _____, which is able to save your souls."

Thank you for answering the Question Box. Encourage your friends to send in answers.

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 23). Also, by random drawing, the name of one student will be selected to receive a beautiful New Study Bible or A Bible Study CD Library. **You may be the one.** Send your answers to:

The Question Box
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090



Sunday Night Attendees at Pepper's Lake Church in Devalls Bluff, AR
Bible Winner (last issue): **Mary VanHouten** (2nd row; on left)

One of the jobs that Glenda and I have been able to do in our work with the Magnolia Messenger is to deliver Bibles to winners of our "Question Box" study on this page of each issue.

This last time, **Mary VanHouten** from DeValls, Bluff, Arkansas was the winner. She called and asked if we were going to deliver her Bible *all the way to Arkansas*. I told her that I have been hoping we would have a Bible winner in Hawaii so we could deliver the Bible there!

Since Arkansas is not that far from Mississippi, and since we were already in Memphis, we drove over to DeValls Bluff on a Sunday afternoon so we could visit the Pepper's Lake church of Christ where Mary attends.

Jim Nowell, who attends that church, has been getting the MM for many years and had told Mary about the publication. Brother Jim says that he has been sending in answers for years and, then, Mary sends her answers in *for the first time* and wins! Of course, he was happy that she was the winner.

The church was so friendly to us. They allowed me to preach and talk about our work. Their preacher, **Jim Winner**, was not there for the evening service. I told the church that I was going to take a picture of Mary and everyone else who wanted to be in the picture. Almost everyone present came up and poised for the above picture. It was exciting to award Mary a Bible CD from the Magnolia Messenger. We had fun! (Paul Franks)

Congratulations to Our
New Bible Winner

Carolyn Perry
(Delhi, LA)

Please Join Us....

Special Bible Lectures

Yazoo City

Church of Christ

Yazoo City, Miss.

Sept. 22-25

Sunday 9:30 A.M. Bible Class

10:30 A.M. Worship

6:00 P.M. Worship

Monday 7 P.M. (Mon. Weds.)

Come and hear the Word of God taught each evening with **DAN MANUEL** the host of **GIVE ME THE BIBLE** a local and National television program sponsored by Churches of Christ in the East Texas area. Please join us nightly for this special series of lessons.



Dan Manuel
Palestine, TX.

Song Leader: Ray Franks (DeQuincy, LA)