



Our 35th Year

# Magnolia Messenger

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

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A Spring Scene in My June's Yard

Spring Time in Mississippi: Beautiful Azaleas

Magnolia Messenger readers know that this paper and all our mission work is made possible as God works through His people, providing the necessary funds to pay the costs involved. God has richly blessed. Thanks to our Gracious God and thanks to each of you through whom God has and continues to work. Please pray for us. (The Franks)

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**Son and Mother Re-united After 73 Years!**  
Bruce (age 73) Kisses His Birth Mother (age 88)  
*Heart-warming Story on Page 9*

### Reader Responds

***I do not know how I got on your mailing list; however, keep them coming!***

"Regards 'Winter 2013' issue (Front Page) -- I also do not remember/know(?) how I got on your mailing list and it's no longer important. However, keep them coming. I always welcome the inside front page editorial (preach the word, brother) and Cecil May's response to questions from readers. Comments on 'The Assembly' has troubled congregations for many years, and many congregations may still be that way, but I thought his response was right on, Bible based in every way. God bless you all as we continue in the faith. In Christ, (Charles W. Mooe, Belleville, IL)

**632**

Bible Students Sent in Answers to the "Q B"

Is YOUR Name On Page 23?

MM Reader Asks:

**QUESTION:** Would you please give us your opinion on who are the sons of God who married the daughters of man. Are they fallen angels, sons of Seth or they just regular men? (B.C.)

Cecil May Responds  
(As usual, on page 3)

Lessons we can Learn from a detached ear  
by John Gardner



"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" [read] (See Page 4)

**Hundreds of the Thousands Gathered in Gatlinburg, TN**  
A Scene at CYC Where About 12,000 Assembled in February, 2014.  
(Details on Page 13)



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

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## Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

### Encouraging Request

75 copies of the MM

Would it be possible for you to send 75 copies of the Magnolia Messenger to the Sylvia Church of Christ?? I will make them available to the congregation and use in **hospital and nursing home visits**... You and June stopped and camped at Raccoon Mountain Campgrounds in Chattanooga about 4 years ago when you were headed to "Polishing the Pulpit." You came to the Tiftonia congregation to worship. I asked you to speak and you spoke on Romans 16... I loved and enjoyed every second of the Bible class. The members were much impressed.. We sure enjoyed having you and June. If you are ever in the Dickson area, I'd love to have you speak for the brethren. Great little group of people... I love and appreciate what you folks are doing.... "(**Edgar C. Beard**; preacher for the Sylvia church)

Please discontinue my magnolia messenger. It's really a good paper, but I have so many good biblical papers, that I don't have time to read. Thank you. (M.P., TN)

**Editor's Response:** "Your request has been noted. We understand. Thanks for letting us know. Thanks also for your kind remark about the MM. If ever you wish to be back on our mailing list, please let us know." (alf)

Thank you so much for the Magnolia Messenger. I look forward to it and read it from cover to cover. Love the Question Box. (**Mary Salinas**, Milton, FL)

### Not So Encouraging

...I don't find enough items that are of real interest to warrant the expense of sending the magazine to us. In particular, what this nation (and world) needs now is compelling and independent factual proof that the Bible is indeed the literal and infallible word of God. In my opinion, your magazine is woefully short in this regard and seems to be written for churches of good folks who blindly believe that the Bible is the word of God because it says that it is. (**Name** withheld by editor)

Hello Brothers,

I'm writing to inform you that we have filled the minister position at the South Germantown Road Church of Christ. Our new minister is actually a graduate of Magnolia Bible College, in the person of **Paul Williams**. Thanks for your assistance in this endeavor. At His Service, (**Dedric A. Pearson**, Memphis, TN)

Dear Magnolia Messenger,

Thank you for your dedication to spreading the "Good News". We enjoy your newspaper so very much and pray that it will continue for many more years. Please accept our contribution as a token of love for the church and your work. (**Jamie & Cathy McCartney**, Ferriday, LA)

Thank you for your newsy scriptural paper. My son and family love it. Also keep up the good works. (**Thelma Rackford**, Cold Springs, KY)

## Scripture Warns:

### "Be Not Deceived"

- Editor -

Warnings imply danger. "Road closed. Bridge is Out. Detour." Ignore the warning and you will wish you hadn't. God doesn't waste words -- whether they be spoken by His Son or one of His inspired disciples. Be assured that when God warns of a danger, the danger is real. Take heed! Beware.

Jesus issued a solemn warning in Matthew 24. As He answered His disciples' questions about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world, He strongly warned his disciples, "Take heed that no man deceive you" (verse 4).

Jesus warned against false teachers. He said, "Many shall come in my name... and shall deceive many" (vs 5). In verse 11, Jesus said, "Many false prophets shall rise and deceive many." Later He predicted, "There shall arise false Christs and false prophets," adding that they "shall show great signs and wonders" as they seek to "deceive the very elect" (vs. 24).

One of the greatest dangers, faced by all who would follow Jesus, is the evil influence of false teachers. When Jesus says, "Be not deceived" or "Be not led astray", His warning must not be taken lightly. Jesus also warned, in His sermon on the mount, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

Paul warned about ministers of Satan who "fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness." He said such are "false apostles" and "deceitful workers". (2 Cor. 11:13-15). The apostle Peter wrote that, even as there were false prophets so shall there be false teachers who will be followed by many (2 Peter 2:1-3). The apostle John admonished his readers, "Believe not every spirit... try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

The warnings, which are many, are very clear. They came from the Lord Himself and from inspired disciples, such as Paul, Peter and John. There is danger. Be aware. Be careful. "Be not deceived."

You can be misled. So can I. You can be led astray. So can I. You and I need to follow the example of the Bereans who did not "believe every spirit [teacher]." As they received the word [teaching] with readiness of mind," they also "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11).

The apostle Paul warned about the special dangers of "the last days." He predicted that "Evil men and imposters

shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13). Paul also wrote that the "time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." Sadly, He further stated, "They shall turn away their ears from the truth and be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3,4).

The danger of false doctrine and false teachers exists not only among those on the outside of Christ's church, but also within. Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Paul added, "Watch and remember that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears and concluded, "I commend you to God and the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:29-32)

My dear brethren. Beware. Be on guard. When watching preachers on television, remember the strong Biblical warnings about false teachers. When listening to radio evangelists, never forget the dangers of false doctrine. When reading books (even "best sellers") or papers (even the *Magnolia Messenger*) be on guard against the teaching of error. When attending Bible classes and even hearing sermons preached in "our buildings"; always keep in mind the real danger of being deceived, of being misled. "Try the spirits." "Search the Bible." "Examine the Scriptures. Heed the warnings. **Be not deceived.**" (Editor; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090) [franksmm@aol.com](mailto:franksmm@aol.com)

### More Encouragement

Bro. Franks, the folks in this area receive the MM, and it is highly appreciated. I enjoy the many good articles, and the questions answered by brother May. I do quite a bit of writing in my later years, and send it out to friends. I now have you on my mailing list, and will be sending some to you along the way, to read, share, or whatever you wish to do with them.

In particular, I am writing about your recent article on Sexual Sins, homosexual, etc.. I am in process of putting together another book on **Boundaries -- Safe and Secure**. It will deal with God's boundaries for a lot of things... It occurred to me that your good article needs to be in the book. With your permission, I would like to include it in my next chapter, and will give you credit for its writing. Will you grant me that? The book is one that the one financing it, will be largely distributing it freely as she and I will. Let me hear from you. Brotherly, (**Don Tarbet**; Denison, Tx. 75020)

Keep up the good work. Its amazing at the pearls of wisdom to be found in this paper. (**Monroe F. Bentley**, Prairie Grove, AR)

May we reach our goal of 6,000 more circulation. Enjoy every bit of the Messenger. Always stay true to God's Word. No Comprise, No Watered-down, Tell it like God's word says. God Bless, (**Edward W. Lyon**, Memphis, TN)

**It Does Make A Difference**  
What is **TAUGHT**  
What is **BELIEVED**  
What is **PRACTICED**  
**"Be Not Deceived"**

**DANGER**  
**FALSE**  
**TEACHERS/TEACHINGS**

## Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

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A. L. Franks, Editor

# Bible Questions Answered

**QUESTION:** Would you please give us your opinion on who are the sons of God who married the daughters of man. Are they fallen angels, sons of Seth or they just regular men? (B.C.)

## RESPONSE:

The questioner refers to a statement at the beginning of the account of the flood in Genesis 6. Moses is showing the growth of wickedness and violence which caused God to condemn the world and bring on the worldwide flood.

“When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. . . . The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown” (Genesis 6:1-2,4).

Just prior to this chapter, Moses had traced the descendents of Cain. Beginning with Cain’s vain worship (4:5), pride and murder (4:8), his descendants are further characterized by Lamech’s polygamy and excessive violence under the guise of seventy-fold vengeance (4:23-24). There is no mention of God or godliness among Cain’s descendants.

Next Moses traced the descendents of Seth of whom Eve said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him” (4:25). Seth’s descendants are characterized by their collective worship of the Lord (4:26), by Enoch who walked with God (5:22) and by Noah who found favor in the eyes of the Lord (6:8).

## The Context

A natural understanding flowing from the Genesis context is that the “sons of God” are worshippers of God descended from Seth and the “daughters of men” were fathered by the violent, godless descendants of Cain.

By these verses in Genesis, the LORD is demonstrating how godliness and morality declined and wickedness and violence accelerated to the point it caused God to regret He had even created man. “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (6:5).

This growth of evil was accelerated when the men of God who were descended from Seth intermarried with the godless daughters from the line of Cain. Significantly, it was when the

children of God saw that the daughters of men were “attractive” that they married them. “And they took as their wives any they chose” (6:2). The “sons of God,” even, were not looking for virtue, godliness or faithfulness. They were attracted to attractiveness. “They took as their wives any they chose,” and they chose only by their eyes.

This is the first recorded instance of the godly marrying the ungodly and, as it so frequently does, it resulted in the apostasy of the formerly godly. Matthew Arnold observed, “The bad will sooner debauch the good than the good reform the bad” (*Commentary on the Whole Bible*, One Volume Edition, Zondervan, 1961, p.16).

Throughout His dealings with His people God has consistently warned the faithful not to marry worshippers of other gods or followers of deviant life-styles. As they approached the promised land inhabited by worshippers of the Canaanite fertility deities, the Ba’alim and the Ashteroth, God through Moses warned, “You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly” (Deuteronomy 7:3-4).

Widows, particularly, are “free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:39). If “only in the Lord” there means “only to a Christian” as I suspect, then I also believe it is not legislation directed only to a widow but is part of the consistent witness of Scripture that devout Christians should marry devout Christians.

Unfortunately God’s warnings to Israel went largely unheeded. For example, Ahab married Jezebel and she converted most of the nation of Israel to the worship of her god Ba’al.

When one branch of humanity was corrupt and the portion that had been virtuous and godly intermarried with them, it was then that the wickedness of mankind became great and every intention of their heart was evil. Only Noah found favor with God.

## Why Not Angels?

Some students of Scripture have maintained the “sons of God” here were angels who then married human

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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females. The offspring of this supposed relationship between divine beings and human beings were “giants” (KJV) or “Nephilim” (virtually every standard translation from the 1901 ASV on).

There are a number of considerations that weigh heavily against this view.

Many ancient mythologies from various civilizations tell of gods cohabiting with humans, resulting in superstrong or otherwise supernatural beings. Such fanciful “stuff” is noticeably absent from Scripture, and this incident is not an exception to that rule.

For one thing, the Nephilim or “mighty men” are said to have been on the earth before the marriage of the sons of God to the daughters of men, as well as afterwards (Genesis 6:4). They are not, therefore presented as being the result of that union. Identifying “Nephilim” as “giants” is by no means certain, as the translators of almost all recent versions indicate. Occurring only here and in Numbers 13:33, the word Nephilim clearly inspires fear and awe. H. C. Leupold maintains the word derives from “attack” and likely means something like “bandits,” “robbers,” “attackers” or even “tyrants” (*Exposition of Genesis*, Wartberg Press, 1942, Vol. 1, p.258). They are not so much famous as notorious.

“Angels” have not been mentioned or even hinted at in Genesis up to this point. Even the tempter of Eve and Adam is described as a serpent among other “beasts of the field.”

Perhaps most significantly, Jesus said “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in

marriage, but are like angels in heaven” (Matthew 22:30). Angels do not marry, not to each other and not to human beings.

## In Job, Angels

Those who believe “the sons of God” in this Genesis passage are angels usually start by citing the usage of the phrase in Job where it evidently does refer to angelic beings: “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them” (Job 1:6). Job 2:1 describes a similar meeting.

In his speeches throughout the book, Job questions God about His ways with men. Job does not believe he has done anything worthy of the calamities that have come upon him. In Job 38 God challenges Job’s lack of standing to question God by reminding Job of the many other things about God’s doings that Job does not understand or know: “Where were you,” God asks, “when I laid the foundation of the earth ... and the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4, 7). “Sons of God” in that instance as at the beginning of Job, must refer to angelic beings. No humans were in existence at that time.

It is safe to say, then, that in the book of Job “sons of God” refers to some kind of divine being, probably “angels.” It does not follow, however, that the phrase means the same thing in Genesis. The context of Genesis 6, as has been noted, points to “the sons of God” as the

descendants of Seth and “the daughters of men” as descendants of Cain, and their intermarriage as a major factor in mankind as a whole becoming wicked, violent and corrupt.

## Conclusion

As in the time before the flood, so also now, mankind is divided into two primary categories. Everyone is either walking the narrow way that leads to life or the broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). We will be at the last great day among the “goats” on the Judge’s left hand or among the “sheep” on His right.

For the devout Christian nothing in life should matter more than his or her walk in faith, in the light and not in darkness, after the Spirit and not after the flesh. All life-choices made should be weighed according to that priority. That certainly should include the choice of whom to marry.

In considering a potential mate, inward beauty, consisting of qualities such as holiness, gentleness and devotion to God, is more crucial and longer lasting than outward attractiveness. Nothing is more important in finding a marriage partner than to choose someone who will help you get to heaven. Your potential mate needs also to find that quality in you.

It is vital that you find the right kind of person when you marry. More than that, however, it is essential that you be the right person for your mate to marry. The eternal destiny of both of you may very well depend on that.

## Your Bible Questions Are Invited



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## The Healing of Malchus' Ear



**John Gardner**

Surely one of the least studied of Jesus' miracles recorded in the Gospels is his healing of the servant of the high priest on the night of his arrest. Perhaps it should be stated that the study of the miracle as a miracle in its own right is what makes it a rare study.

Certainly a complete study of each one of the four Gospel accounts would bring the student to the arrest scene in the Garden of Gethsemane. The events of that arrest, including Peter's rash action, would surely be a part of such a study. But the fact that Jesus "touched [the servant of the high priest's] ear and healed him" is only recorded by Luke (Luke 22: 51).

The healing of the servant's ear seems to many to be a nice part of the arrest story that rounds it out, but not a part that requires much attention. A number of books on the miracles of Jesus do not give it much space and some do not even mention it at all.

Another point needs to be made before we look closer at Jesus' last miracle on the way to the cross. The episode of the arrest of the Savior and Peter's errant sword play is often presented as an excellent example of how important it is to compare parallel passages of the Bible. One must study all four accounts of the Gospel to obtain a complete picture of what happened that night. Matthew relates that the one striking the servant of the high priest was "with Jesus" (Matthew 26: 51). John tells the reader that the one using the sword was Simon Peter and the one struck with it was Malchus (John 18: 10). Luke provides the information about the healing (Luke 22: 51), after noting that the ear severed in the violence was the "right ear" (Luke 22: 50).

While the event we are considering does provide an

excellent example of the necessity of considering all that the Bible says on a subject, was it done by Jesus and recorded by Luke just to become part of a Bible study method? Certainly there is more to it than that. The restoration of an ear to Malchus shows a lot in itself. We should not hurry by it on the way to the other dramatic events of Jesus' trials and crucifixion.

So what should we make of the touch of the Master's hand and the healing it brought to a man named Malchus?

First, it surely was done and recorded to show the contrast between the way of sinful man and the way of a merciful God. That night, Peter and the other disciples were still operating by the principles of the flesh. Although Jesus had told them that they should not "arm to the teeth" to face the enemy that was coming (Luke 22: 38), he had to rebuke Peter for using one of the swords they had (Luke 22: 51). He told those arresting him that "swords and clubs" were not necessary because of what he was about. But darkness and violence were temporarily fulfilling a divine plan that day (Vv. 52, 53).

Instead of hurting, the Lord came to heal. He cared even for the servant of the one who had set himself against Jesus for much of his ministry and wanted him dead. What an example of doing good to an enemy. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you," Jesus had said (Luke 6: 27), and now he practiced it in the sight of all. Hate would have rejoiced over the servant's pain and wished more pain on him and the rest of the mob. But before Jesus went with that mob to his own torture and death, he paused to touch a severed ear and fully heal an injured man because of love and compassion.

And then there is the matter of power. Who is this one who can heal a detached member of a man's body except the Son of God? Never mind the blood or the condition of the ear. With the Master's touch, it was alive and as well as any other part of the servant's body. No stitches or bandages required. Perfect healing. Instantly.

According to John's account, it seems evident that those who came to arrest Jesus had already heard of his mighty works of power. When Jesus identified

himself to them, "they drew back and fell to the ground" (John 18: 6). So it appears by their recoiling fear that they had heard something of Jesus' power; but they came to arrest him anyway. But before they could take him away, Christ showed all of them his power in a way they could not misunderstand. Their weapons were useless against his power had he not been yielding to the will of God (Matthew 26: 53). He granted the arrest because it was their "hour and the power of darkness" (Luke 53) fulfilling the Scriptures concerning him (Matthew 26: 56). With all that power, Jesus submitted to weak men as a way of submitting to his Father.

So the story of Malchus' healing has much to commend it in its own right. It adds further details to our understanding of who the Savior was and is.

Let us close with one other thought. Malchus returned to his house at some point after the Garden encounter, but he could not have been the same. He had both ears just as before he went out that night to arrest some troublesome rabbi, but now he was different. He was one of the privileged number to have been touched and blessed by the Master's healing hand. (*John preaches for the church in Brandon, MS. His address:*

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## Breakfast with Phil Sanders

**At home; on TV**

**- Editor -**

It was Sunday, February 16, 2014. Arising from a night's sleep, my June and I followed our morning habit of praying, reading and studying the Bible together. Then, after our spiritual nourishment, we both turned our attention to feeding our bodies. Perhaps, in part -- to make this article sound a little better, I decided to *help* her prepare breakfast. (Yes, I really did and I've finally learned how to fry an egg!)

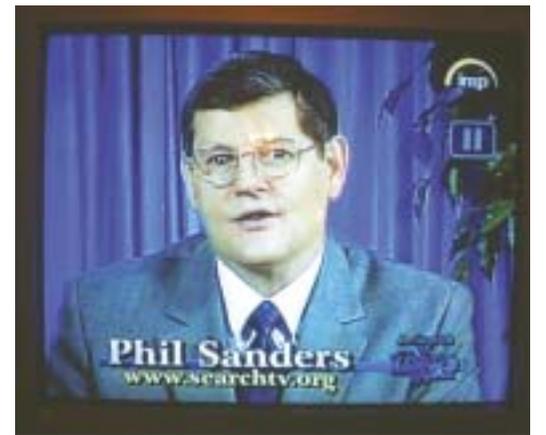
After cooking breakfast, we brought our food into the den where we could sit and, not only enjoy our grits, eggs and ham, but also watch and listen on TV to a good message from the Word of God.

Turning on the television, I pushed the recording button and pulled up the program known as "*In Search of the Lord's Way.*" This gospel program was aired in our area each Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. on DISH via the INSP Network. (GBN also carries the program each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.; then again on Monday at 1:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; and also on Thursdays at 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.)

When I pushed the start button, on the screen appeared a former Mississippi preacher -- Phil Sanders. (Several years ago, Phil preached for the church in Senatobia.) So as Phil started preaching, I started eating and listening -- enjoying breakfast with Phil.

In the introduction to his lesson on "What Have You Done?", Phil mentioned a friend of his, Steve Higginbotham, and recalled some of the things Steve had recently written about "Misplaced Affections." Phil quoted Steve about the way many folks think. He said:

*"We want a saviour, but we don't want a Lord;  
We want a crown, but we don't want a cross;  
We want a harvest, but we don't want to sow the seed;  
We want to go to heaven, but we don't go to church;*



*We want to grow spiritually, but we don't feed on His word.*

*We want Hollywood to clean up its act, but we don't want to stop watching;*

*We want the right to pray -- even in school; but we don't want to pray.*

*We want the 10 commandments posted, but we don't want to*

*live by their moral principles.*

*We want to love God, but we don't want to abhor sin;*

*We want to die the death of the righteous, but we don't want to abandon the life-style of the sinner."*

It was a good sermon. It was a good breakfast. The experienced TV preacher fed us with spiritual food as he called upon us to think seriously about our lives in view of the Will of God and the coming

judgement. I enjoyed breakfast with Phil that Sunday morning in February of 2014. The food my June and I cooked fed our bodies; the sermon Phil preached fed our souls. It was Jesus who said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). (alf)

### Reader's Response

...Each issue of the Magnolia Messenger is packed with uplifting articles. "The Journeys of Paul" add extra interest. With love and admiration, (Mary Warren, Memphis, TN)

### MM ADDRESSES

#### Changes & Additions

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**THANK YOU**



## Who Said That?

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

### Answer:

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

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

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

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

### A Warning that Deserves Repetition!

## Don Rudd Died

1950's  
Tupelo, Mississippi  
"College of Evangelists"

### Death Came at Age 82

When attending the lectureship at FHU in early February, I learned from **David Kenny** of Wadsworth, Ohio, that Don Rudd of Stockton, Missouri had recently passed into eternity.

Several older readers of the MM will remember Don Rudd in connection with **Tupelo**, Mississippi and the "**College of Evangelists.**" In the mid 1950's this "school of preaching" was founded by brother Rudd, who had become widely recognized as a talented and energetic preacher and debater.

Several preacher students came, from various parts of the country, to Tupelo and the new college to study at the feet of Don Rudd. Unfortunately, the existence and work of the school continued only for a few short years; however, good was accomplished.

Some of the men who began their training as preachers under Don Rudd's instruction, were to become widely known. These include **Wayne Jackson, E. C. Meadows, Wendell Fike and John Waddy.** (We were saddened to hear that John Waddy in Arizona also recently departed this life.)

Don Rudd (age 82) was born on June 14, 1931. At the time of his death (January 12, 2014), he was living in Stockton, MO.

**THANK YOU**  
for Reading the  
**Magnolia Messenger**

## A Call For Prayer A Call For Action

In the early part of October, 2013, the nation was saddened by the tragic death of 8 people in a wreck in Tennessee of a church bus from Statesville, NC. A tire blew out and the bus crossed the median strip and hit a sport utility vehicle and a tractor trailer. We ask our readers to pray for the family members and friends of those who were killed or injured.

Not only is this a call for prayer, but it is also a call for action. Many church vehicles get attention only when something breaks down. We request that each reader of the MM go to an elder or church leader in your congregation and ask him to see to it that each church vehicle has been checked carefully to see that the proper maintenance has been performed. By doing this you will save lives. We want to keep all of our readers! (**Paul Franks.** Thanks to Bud Myer who encouraged me to mention this to our MM family.)

## Now You Take It From There....

- by -

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## Your Road Ahead

From Eden to the end of earth time, God has not promised that life will be completely easy, always comfortable or never stressful; but that we patiently live one day at a time. But how are we to do this? From ancient to modern translations we should be able to learn a formula.

From the Authorized Version (KJV): "*Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*" And from the New International Version: "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own*" (Matt. 6:34). There are strikingly different phrases in English translation, but somewhere between the two, there is a message for adequate daily living, but how do we apply it? Please allow me to share a few:

**Be optimistic.** Begin each day with reflection upon divine promises. "*We are more than conquerors*" (Rom. 8:38), and "*I can do all things through him who strengthens me*" (Phil. 4:13).

**Be realistic.** Get real about commitment and sharing the Good News of salvation, which is only in Christ, and do it every day. Begin at home with your spouse, children, siblings and extended family. Then reach out to neighbors, fellow-workers, schoolmates and others. This has been successful since New Testament times.

**Be persistent.** One day at a time! Paul instructed Timothy: "*Be ready in season and out of season*" (II Tim. 4:2). Jesus instructed his followers: "*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*" (Mat. 5:16).

**Reflect.** Educationally upon the past, learning and adjusting from misjudgments, profiting from good judgments and planning each day for better judgments. Just as Paul adjusted to: "*forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press onward toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3: 13,14), one day at a time.

**Devote yourself to prayer.** Begin, continue in, and end each day with prayer. This is the full comprehension of, "*Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*" (I Thess. 5:17,18).

These, and other virtues, will make your road ahead easier, more comfortable and less stressful. This one-day-at-a-time regimen will bring a greater measure of: "*The peace of God, which surpassed all comprehension*", and "*will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 4:6,7). Happy trails on Your Road Ahead.

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

As Seen  
in a  
Mississippi  
Restaurant

Jesus com-  
manded: "**Let  
your light so  
shine before  
the world....**"



## News Report

## South Louisiana Churches Co-operate

In the Summer of 2012, brethren from congregations in South Louisiana came together and began meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana to discuss the need for unity and fellowship among churches of Christ in order to work together in bringing lost souls to Christ. The result of these meetings is "The Unity Fellowship."

The cooperative effort involves Prayer, Fellowship and a Door Knocking Campaign that takes place the second Saturday of each month at a designated congregation -- all in an effort to foster fellowship and working together in the work of the Lord.

Some of the congregations that have been involved are the Riverside Church of Christ (Lafayette), Railroad Ave Church of Christ (Morgan City), Crowley Church of Christ, Elysian Fields Church of Christ (New Orleans), Lafayette Church of Christ, Charles Street Church of Christ (New Iberia), Mill Street Church of Christ (Lake Charles), Railroad Avenue Church of Christ (Morgan City), Gibson Church of Christ (Gibson, LA), Monroe Street Church of Christ (Alexandria), Anderson Street Church of Christ, (New Iberia), Park Avenue Church of Christ, (Franklin), Sycamore Street Church of Christ (Franklin) and Blake Street Church of Christ in Lake Charles. A recent event was held at the Railroad Avenue Church of Christ in Morgan City, Louisiana on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

The Unity Fellowship continues to grow in number and in its efforts to work together in bringing lost souls to Christ. All congregations are welcomed to join these efforts. Please pray that God will continue to open up opportunities for brethren to *dwelt together and work together in unity.*

**Walter Guillory** will be available to visit congregations on the first Sunday of each month to speak about the Unity Fellowship. You can reach him by calling 337-281-2837.

## Remembering My Daddy

Guy Ferrell Hester



**Guy & Shirley Hester**  
Married 61 Years (less 10 days)

### - Ferrell Hester -

There are so many good and wonderful memories I have of my daddy that bring joy and warmth to my heart. Words alone cannot express my thoughts and feelings well enough.

Daddy was my first teacher of how life as a Christian young man should be lived. He was my first trainer in a young men's preacher training class. In this class he taught six of us how to prepare and preach sermons.

Daddy was my encourager, as I grew physically old enough to preach on a regular basis. Daddy was a great encourager to me as I went to college. Mama drove me to the preaching appointments because Daddy was preaching every Sunday morning. Daddy encouraged me each and every day as a father and a fellow preacher of the gospel of Christ.

In demonstrating to me how a young Christian man should live, I often went with Daddy in the summer to gospel meetings. I often stood with him in the back of the building and shook hands with all of the members as they left.

Daddy baptized me on Sunday morning, March 27, 1971, at Parsons, Tennessee. In traveling with Daddy, I also attended many lectureships where I observed him with other gospel preachers. I saw the respect he gave them and, in return, received from them.

Another thing I learned from Daddy was the art of conducting a funeral service that left the family feeling comforted. Daddy has preached numerous funeral services, wedding ceremonies and prayed many a prayer with and for others. Standing side by side with Daddy taught me so much more than a Preachers' School could. For this I am and will always be eternally grateful.

Daddy performed my marriage ceremony to Lynne on July 20, 1985, in Osceola, Arkansas. Daddy and Mama were at the hospital when both of my daughters, Rebecca and Patricia, were born and as well as when our

granddaughter Ella Cate was born. Daddy always cared about his children and grandchildren. Because of Daddy's love for all of his children and grandchildren they, in turn, loved him very much. This love causes all of us to try and follow his Christian example in every day life.

What can I, as a son, say about Daddy? I believe that, in his almost fifty-four years of preaching, he strove to follow the charge that the apostle Paul gave to his son in the faith Timothy.

Paul wrote, in 2 Timothy 4:1-8, *"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."*

*"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."*

*"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

Daddy: Thank you for your example as a father and a gospel preacher. Thank you for instilling in me the deep desire to preach only the one true gospel of Christ. With my heartfelt love, your son.

**NOTE:** Brother Guy Hester was living in Corinth, Mississippi at the time of his death. His son, Ferrell, who wrote the report, preaches for the Frayley's Chapel congregation, near Corinth. Ferrell wrote:

Dear Bro. Franks,

*Thank you for the Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy reading the variety of articles and information in each issue, especially Bible Questions and Answers. I do not know if you were aware of the passing of my Daddy (Guy F. Hester) on December 5, 2013. In his later years, Daddy came to love and appreciate the Magnolia Messenger. Daddy preached the gospel for almost 64 years...*

*Thank you not only for your love for the MM, but especially for the Lord and His church.*

ferrellhester@gmail.com



## 16th Annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally

(April 22-25, 2014)

**Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata,**

Louisville, MS

Keynote speaker

**Joe Ed Furr**

Theme:

***Sing a New Song***

(Tentative schedule)

**Tuesday through Friday**

**Tuesday—April 22**

4:00 PM -- -Arrive at Park

5:00 PM ----- Fish Fry

(Garnett Harris and Helpers)

6:00 PM -----Singing

**Wednesday—April 23**

9:30 AM — Get acquainted devotional

10:30 — Break

10:45 AM — **Joe Ed Furr; Lesson # 1**

12:00—Potluck Lunch

**(Everyone bring their favorite dish)**

1:00—Free time (games, activities, etc.)

5:00—Leftovers from Potluck—

6:00 PM —Singing and Worship Service

at Campground with **Joe Ed Furr**)

**Thursday—April 24**

9:30 AM — **Joe Ed Furr; Lesson # 2**

10:30 — Break

10:45 AM—**Joe Ed Furr; Lesson # 3**

12:00—Lunch on your own

1:00 PM – Free time (Games, activities, etc)

5:00 Hamburger Cookout sponsored by Franks' Chevy

6:00 PM – MM Auction (Ray Franks and helpers)

**Friday—April 25**

9:30 AM —Devotional

10:00 AM— **Joe Ed Furr; Lesson # 4**

11:00 AM — Closing remarks.

**End of rally**

12:00 Lunch on your own

(The Natchez Trace Festival begins Friday night and goes through Saturday (April 27th) on the historic square in downtown Kosciusko. Some will be going to this event. If you stay in the area till Sunday, Joe Ed Furr will be speaking at the **South Huntington Church** We would love to have you.)

**Kosciusko: South Huntington Street Church of Christ**

**Sunday—April 27; 9:30 A.M. -- Bible Class with Joe Ed Furr**

10:30 A.M. -- Worship with Joe Ed Furr

5:30 PM Area Wide singing with Joe Ed Furr

**For More Information/Reservations**

Call Paul Franks: 662-792-2700; apaulfranks@gmail.com

**Beautiful lodge and cabins are available**

**Objective:**

**Improving Congregational Singing**

## Speaker/Singer at our RV Rally



**Joe Ed Furr**  
(Sherman, Texas)

Our guest resource speaker for the Magnolia Messenger RV Rally in April 22-25, 2014 is Joe Ed Furr. Joe Ed Furr has been the pulpit minister for the Western Heights church of Christ in Sherman, Texas (North of Dallas). After thirty years in the pulpit, he is now the minister Emeritus. He provides preaching services for all the churches in the county.

Joe is a member of the board of directors of the Christian Care Centers in Dallas / Fort Worth. The CCC has been in business for more than 60 years.

Joe is the director for the singing school at Abilene Christian University. Joe and 20 teachers and coaches provide training services for song leaders, singers, song writers, and for men who would like to become professional song leaders.

This singing school was established near San Antonio, Texas in 1946. Today the school is conducted in rented facilities, using the Bible Building at ACU. Students and faculty reside in University Park Apartments and dine in the ACU cafeteria. 50 hours of intensive training are provided each summer during the month of July. Both elementary and advanced classes are conducted in all areas of training.

Thana Sue Furr, Joe's wife, is a professional developer of curriculum for children from the age of three to the fourth grade. She provides matching curriculum to connect Sunday morning Sunday school with Wednesday night Bible classes.

We are excited that Joe Ed and Thana are planning to come to Mississippi in April for our rally with an appropriate theme for the yearly occasion -- "Sing a New Song" (Paul Franks)

## Four Sisters. Four Sets Of Answers To "The Question Box"



Pictured above from left to right are **Carolyn Harvill**, (Michie, Tennessee), **Bernice Mills**, (Corinth, Mississippi), their longtime preacher friend, **J. Walker Whittle**, **Marie Lively** and **Brenda Harvill**, (Jackson, Tennessee).

We recently delivered a Bible to Brenda Harvill our most recent Bible winner from Jackson, Tennessee (See Page 24). We met Brenda's sister, **Marie Lively** who also lives in Jackson. It was encouraging to learn there are four sisters in their family and each one mails her answers to the "Question Box" in the *Magnolia Messenger*. Now, sisters... if you can just persuade brother Whittle to send in answers! (I remember him from FHU. (alf)

## Joe A Johnson Died in Jonesboro, Arkansas

Joe A. Johnson, 94, died September 21, 2013 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He preached his first sermon in 1938 at **Christian Chapel**, near his home in **Vernon, Alabama** and preached his last several months ago at the assisted living facility where he lived. **Wanda Hall**, his wife for 74 years, survives. (Death notice sent to MM by his son **Donald H. Johnson**, Springfield, MO). Our sympathy to the Johnson family.

## SAME SEX Shameful & Sinful

Romans 1:26,27

**KJV** -- "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise the men, leaving the nature use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men, working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet."

"MEN WITH MEN"

"Gays"

"WORKING THAT WHICH IS UNSEEMLY (KJV)  
"COMMITTING SHAMELESS ACTS" (ESV)

(homosexual relations)

"RECEIVING IN THEMSELVES...  
THAT RECOMPENSE OF THEIR ERROR WHICH  
WAS MEET (KJV)  
...THE DUE PENALTY FOR THEIR ERROR" (ESV)

"Aids" +

**ESV** -- "For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."

## When LIFE Comes **U N G L U E D**

- Ken Joines -

Have you used the word "stress" in the past thirty days? Are you stressed out? Have you spoken with your physician about the stressful nature of your job, school work, marriage or other relationships? No doubt about it, we are living in stressful times. And it is amazing to learn just how much stress the average person is living under.

Several years ago the Journal of Psychosomatic Research reported on a test that was given to patients. You could list the things that had occurred in your life just during the past twelve months and learn how much stress you were living with. This included things such as the death of your spouse, a divorce, the death of a family member or close friend, if you had gotten married, been fired, had retired, signed a mortgage, had trouble with your in-laws, or had changed jobs. Each of these had a point-value. At the end you tallied the score and if you scored higher than a certain number then your chances were 50-50 of developing a serious disease in the next twelve months. I took this test a little over a year ago and found that I was in a high-risk category.

In addition to this I read from a reputable physician that between 75 and 80% of all hospital beds are occupied by people with stress-related disorders of one kind or another — mental or physical. My purpose in this article is to help us learn what to do when our lives come unraveled. First, please read James 1:1-8. This section of scripture gives practical information on what to do with stress, strain and the disappointments of life.

Now, admittedly, I have some problems with this passage, especially verse two where we are told to, "Count it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds." Like you, I have asked, "How in the world can there be any joy when you face life's trials?" When things go wrong (and they will), when pain comes (and it will), when the sky falls in (and it will), what are we to do? How are we to emerge victorious over these things? These things come with life, but how are we to handle them? And it isn't that one person has trials and another doesn't. All of us have them.

Now, my trials are bigger than yours. My hurts are deeper than yours. And you are just as sure that your trials are harder than mine.



Ken Joines

But that is because we live closer to our trials than to others. The real difference is in how we react to our trials when it just looks like life has come unglued. Are we going to master our trials or will they master us?

We do have some options. There are some ways to respond to hardships and I'd like to explore them just here. We will list four options, four ways we may choose to react.

### 1. BECOME BITTER.

First, I must tell you that this is not a good option, but it is an option. A lot of people choose to go this route. They become bitter and stay bitter for the rest of their days. He dies a bitter old man and she dies a bitter old woman. A job is lost, the house burns, a child is born with an affliction, he didn't get the promotion and so they just become bitter, blame God, quit the church and wish they had never been born. You can choose to be bitter but it will hurt no one but yourself. I am not responsible for what happens to me but I am responsible for how I react to it.

### 2. PRETEND IT DID NOT HAPPEN.

Just close your mind to it. Refuse to accept the reality of it. Crawl back into the den of denial. Immerse yourself in your work, or pleasure and get it out of your head. Take up a hobby and bury reality. Worse yet, start putting alcohol or some other drug into your body and alter your mind. This will cover it up but the problem is still there. And when the drug wears off, it will require a little more next time and soon you're an addict.

### 3. ENDURE IT STOICALLY.

Just grit your teeth, grin and bear it. And don't grin very much, either. Pretty soon you'll find that your heart has hardened. People will begin to avoid you because you're no fun to be around any

more.

### 4. TAKE GOD'S ADVICE.

None of these first three will be of any help whatsoever. But this option is a sane and far more practical solution, although at the outset it makes no sense at all. It sounds unbelievable and is strange to our ears. "Count it pure joy when you face trials"??? That is what he said but it just doesn't sound plausible. So let's analyze it and see if it really makes sense. How can there be joy in trials?

### IT WILL DRIVE YOU TO PRAYER

Things happen that just overwhelm you; they're beyond you. And you pray. Even the non-religious will pray. It drives you to prayer. And you will discover that this is your greatest source of strength. It is unaffected by circumstances. You can pray any time. Long or short, formal or otherwise. But you pray. And things happen!

Moses prayed. He asked God to not kill the Israelites. He said, "Lord, take my life but don't destroy them. You promised to take them into the promised land." AND GOD CHANGED HIS MIND! Did you know that every time God changed his mind about punishing man it was because of the prayer or a righteous person? Check it out.

Do you have trials, hardships, or troubles that seem to bury you? Well, when they drive you to prayer just remember this: We ought to thank God for anything that causes us to pray and get closer to Him. Count it pure joy.

So often I have stood at the bedside of someone in the hospital who has said something to this effect: "Ken, I have been so busy recently that I had no time for prayer, but I have prayed more since I've been in this hospital than in the past six months put together." Now, who am I to say it has not been a blessing for this person to be hospitalized?

We go along here in the sunshine. Everything is coming up roses, then BAM! Suddenly we are forced to say, "Oh my dear God, I cannot handle this. You must help me. Please help me climb this mountain."

### YOU MAY GAIN AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH IN GOD

You can rejoice and thank God for ANYTHING that helps your faith to grow. How and when does this happen? It is not likely to be during fair weather, when everything is running smoothly, you're making good money, have good health, the stock market buzzing and you have a good job. At times like that we Turn to LIFE on page 14

## Visiting Among Churches in North Mississippi

By  
Eddie Lewis



It has been a great joy for me to visit with 11 churches in north Mississippi during the months of October through December. It was very encouraging to me to see so many wonderful works being done to further the kingdom of God. Two Sundays I attended services at Germantown. I preached one Sunday and the other Sunday attended their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The following is a report of my visits.

### HOLLY SPRINGS

**October 6:** I visited with the Holly Springs church of Christ. They invited me to speak for their "Friends and Family Day." It was a joy for me to be back with the church. I visited with the church back in March and met their ministers, Todd Sanderson and Kerry Reid. Normally they have around 69 in attendance, but that Sunday they had 117. It was great to see friends from Germantown, TN and Corinth, MS there for this special day. I appreciate so much their support and interest in my work in north Mississippi.

I spoke on Philippians 2. I talked about "Esteeming Others" and "The Great Power We Receive from God." My lessons were well received.

I spoke with Todd and Kerry and they are very interested in our youth group having a special event with them, Ashland, and Potts Camp. All three churches are in Marshall County.

### GERMANTOWN

**Saturday, October 12:** I had the honor of speaking for the Senior Adult Rally at Germantown church of Christ. Around 100 people attended the special event. It was wonderful to visit with many from Germantown and the visitors from area churches. The theme was "Peace and Contentment" from the fourth chapter of Philippians.

### CHAPMAN

**October 13:** I visited with the Chapman church of Christ near Riley, MS. Mark Lindley is the minister there. He has served the

church for 11 years. He is a Freed-Hardeman University graduate. His wife, Kim, is from Indianola, MS and attended Sardis Lake Christian Camp when I was co-director at the camp. She was a friend of my youngest daughter Christy. It was good to see them again. The church is served by three elders. One of the elders, Barrett Chapman, is the father of one of our elders at Germantown, Barry Chapman. The Chapman church is in the process of selecting additional elders and deacons. They sponsor a weekly radio program. They have around 140 in attendance. It was good to visit with the church.

Mark's Bible Class lesson was on 1 Peter 3. He began in verse eight and talked about Christian relationships with one another. Good lesson.



Mark Lindley & Barrett Chapman

Mark's sermon was on "Magnifying Christ" (Phil. 1:18-20). He said we will magnify Christ for good or bad. He said we must magnify Him in our life and in our death. Good lesson.

### RIPLEY

**Wednesday, October 16:** I was invited to teach the adult Bible Class at the Ripley church of Christ. Their preacher, Donnie DeBord, was at the New Albany church speaking for their fall series. I appreciate so much the invitation by the elders to come and teach the class. It was wonderful to visit with the brethren there again. I did get to see one of their former preachers, Glen Fann and his wife, Judy who were there visiting with family. Glen and I went to college together.

### PINE BLUFF

**October 20:** I visited with the Pine Bluff church of Christ near Oxford, MS. The church is served by three vocational preachers: Luc Michaud, a pharmacist and FHU graduate, Nathan Swanson, a Harding School of Theology



Bill Russell, Nathan Swanson & Luc Michaud

graduate who works for a mental health center in Oxford, and Bill Russell, a retiree. They have around 39-45 in attendance. They have no elders. Bill invited me to preach that morning. I was glad to sub for Nathan. They had celebrated their anniversary two weeks before and Paul Franks had preached for them.

Bill taught the adult Bible Class. They are studying the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:21-30, about personal relations. They had a wonderful discussion on anger and how we are to talk to one another.

I preached on Luke 7:36-50 which deals with love and forgiveness.

I enjoyed my visit. I got to eat with the Russells after service. Oxford was full of people after the LSU football game.

### PONTOTOC

**October 27:** I visited with the Pontotoc church of Christ. Evan Kirby is the minister there. He is a graduate of Memphis School of Preaching and is working on a counseling degree. He and his wife, Kristin, a FHU graduate, have been there a year. They are a wonderful couple. Gordon Gentry is a retired minister that works with him. I know Gordon, but he and his



Evan & Kristin Kirby

wife were out of town. Jason Street is the youth minister. They are served by two elders. They have around 105 in attendance. They have a very active youth group. They had just returned from a work day at the Pine Vale Children's Home in Corinth.

While I was there, I saw John and Linda Gardner. John writes for the Magnolia Messenger and preaches now in Brandon, MS. It was good to see him and Linda.

Evan preached on "Paul's Rules" from 1 Thessalonians 5:11-22. He gave eight rules that we must practice, if we are to be

satisfied in Christ. It was a good sermon. I also attended his Bible class. They are studying a book by Wayne Jackson, "The Bible and Mental Health." Today he considered the "Enemies of the Mind":

perfectionism, pessimism, and anger. We had lots of good discussion.

### PONTOTOC (Hwy 15)

**November 3:** I visited with the Hwy. 15 church of Christ in Pontotoc, MS. Danny Rogers is their preacher. He has been there for four years. He is a Middle Tennessee School of Preaching graduate. He is married and has a family. Heath Lindley is their associate minister. He is a MSOP graduate and is partially supported by the East Main church in Tupelo. The church has two elders. They have around 90 in attendance. The day before I came they had delivered 279 baskets of food to



Heath Lindley & Danny Rogers

people in the community. The youth group was planning a Bible Bowl in the weeks ahead. I enjoyed my visit and meeting the brethren there. I did see some folks I knew from the Mississippi Delta.

Danny taught the adult Bible class. He talked about 2 Timothy 4: 13-21. He did a wonderful job describing the trials Paul went through and the relationships Paul had with the people he was writing about.

In the worship Danny presented a lesson on Revelation 11:1-2, "God Takes Some Measurements." He said God used His "reed" to measure the Temple, the altar and the worshippers. Good lesson about being prepared for the judgment.

### WEST RIPLEY

**November 10:** I visited with the West Ripley church of Christ. Jerry Owen is the preacher there. He has served the congregation for 30 years. He is a graduate of HST. I enjoyed meeting him and the brethren. The church has no elders. They have 39 in attendance. They are involved in supporting Pine Vale Children's Home and collecting money to help buy bikes for preachers in India.

Jerry taught the adult Bible class. They are studying: "Bible Basics" by John Wills. They



Jerry Owen and Wife

considered the purpose of the Bible and the Bible as our light. It was a good lesson and interesting discussion.

Jerry's sermon was on the world bearing the evidence of a Creator. He considered several sources that illustrate the truth that God is the creator of the World. It was a wonderful sermon.

### THEO

**November 17:** I visited with the Theo church of Christ near Corinth, MS. Ron Adams is the preacher. He has been there for two years. They have no elders. Their attendance is around 90. They support several works: Panama Missions, The Gaines Family in Tanzania, Barry Rosey in Kenya, and J.C. Enlow. They have a Thanksgiving project to help three families with a Thanksgiving meal. Also they support Pine Vale Children's Home and are sponsoring a child for the annual Christmas fellowship.

Greg James taught the adult Bible class. Greg has written a workbook on "Leadership." They are trying to prepare the church for selecting elders. Greg's lesson was very good on priorities. He works in the leadership program at Northwest Community College.

Ron's sermon was on Philippians 3:12-14, "Goals for Life." I liked his opening illustration.



Ron Adams & Greg James

He said, "When the sun comes up, we need to wake up running. The devil is after us." He encouraged us to look to the future, but live for today. Good lesson.

### FOOTE STREET (Corinth)

**November 24:** I visited with the Foote Street church of Christ in Corinth, MS. Their new minister is Reed Swindle. He came to them from Lewisville, TX. Terry Smith is their long time youth minister and Charles Curtis is their retired/associate minister. Charles has served Foote St. for over 20 years. They have four elders and have around 300 in attendance. They have a very active youth program and are very involved in Lads to Leaders. They support the Pine Vale Children's Home and several mission works. They are sponsoring some children for the annual Christmas fellowship. Also, they have an active Senior Adult program.

Judy and I worked with Foote St. from 1992-1997 and have many wonderful Christian friends there.

See TRAVELS on Page 16

## Today, He (73) Kissed His Mother (88) For the First Time!



January 20, 2014: Bruce Kissed His Mother For The First Time!

- Rick Ward -

Christmas Eve passed quickly in 2013 and Christmas Day came along as uneventful as ever for us empty-nesters. The grandkids were too far away to watch them tear into toys, so it was just my wife and me.

We saw no reason to get up early. Retirement has made us that way. As usual, I got up late morning and turned on my laptop to scour Facebook and check my e-mails. Not many people writing on Christmas Day except for holiday wishes. I got through my personal e-mails pretty quickly and then noticed what I thought might have been junk mail not properly routed. It was from Ancestry.com.

Although I have had an account with them for years and long ago posted our family tree for others to see, I don't usually get e-mail from them. I decided though, why not... I'll open it! The note said I had an inquiry on my Ward family tree and allowed me to click on a link to read it. That's where this "miracle on Christmas day" began.

In the early 1980's I began genealogical research on our family. I found most of whom I was looking for and then some. However, my Aunt Pauline had given birth to a child out of wedlock at age 15 and court records kept us from ever finding him.

She knew only that he had been born at King Daughter's Hospital and Home for Unwed Mothers in Natchez, Mississippi, on January 20, 1941 and that she had unofficially given him a first name only, calling him Charles.

She was allowed to care for him until his adoption date, which came in mid-March, so she had developed an attachment and bond. She was given no information about the adopting

family other than they were nice people and would honor her request to retain his name of Charles.

Years passed following a Ward family reunion that was put together in late 1983, after identifying many family members through genealogical research. Aunt Pauline's last name was Lott which was my mother's maiden name but, after both of their parents died at an earlier age, the Ward family who lived next door took them in.

My mother would later marry Homer Ward. Her sister, Bessie, had already married Frank Ward (brothers). The Ward's, themselves dirt poor, had few resources to raise the oldest Fred Lott (14), and his younger siblings, Jessie Paul and Carrie Pauline (twins). The children were not well supervised, with the smaller ones often placed on quilts under a

**Bruce Pate, a former Mississippi resident and gospel preacher, [preached full time for the Hollandale church of Christ on two occasions] was reunited with his birth mother after 73 years. Bruce, now living in Antioch, Tennessee, continues to preach and serve in the Lord's church.**

**We believe this heart-warming story is worthy of being read as a reminder that the providence of God is still at work in the world today. We can also rejoice with our brother Bruce Pate who is rejoicing. Not only has he been reunited with his birth mother, he has had opportunity to introduce his newly found family to the Lord's church in Shreveport, LA.**

shade tree while the rest of the family picked cotton for a living.

Two younger brothers, William Esker and Oliver Adrian, had

already died prior to their parents' departure, one due to his fascination with a snake in the cotton fields, the other of Whooping Cough.

Homer and Emma later became legal guardians over the twins, Jessie Paul and Pauline. However, when the Welfare Department learned that Pauline - only 14 at the time, was pregnant, they stepped in and took custody of her, accusing the Ward family of neglect and lack of supervision -- holding my dad responsible.

She was turned over to King Daughter's Hospital with the state as her guardian and a guarantee of medical care, supervision and school attendance as well as child delivery bills paid. There was just one catch, but it was not by choice. Aunt Pauline had to give up her child for adoption.

I remember, as a child, Aunt Pauline would often talk of him around some of my family members but was very closed-mouth around others. I can't imagine the guilt and regrets she must have

had. Following her stint at the hospital, she returned home and stayed with her older brother, Fred and his wife, Mary Alice.

Unfortunately at the time, she got pregnant out of wedlock again and avoided the Mississippi Welfare Department's watchful eye by moving to Mobile, Alabama with a family friend. There was no way she was going to give up a second child. Billy Gene Lott became her first son to keep as her own. She later married a man, with whom she bore no children, but divorced after several years and married Jodie Gary. Over the years she had 5 more children, Jodie, Joyce, Rebecca, Glen and Freddie. She still longed for her gone, but not forgotten first son.

What we didn't know was, that while she longed for him and we continued our search, he was alive and well, searching for her after he reached adulthood. In 1964 her son went to court in Hinds County and was given the opportunity to view his adoption record resembling a birth certificate which included his real mother's name Carrie Pauline Lott of Rosedale, MS, as well as the Natchez doctor's name that delivered him.

Trips to Rosedale, research and follow-ups on obituaries of Lott

Turn to KISSED on Page 14

## Please... Please: Just a Christian!

I don't want to be called a "Church of Christ Christian." I am just a Christian. I challenge everyone to drop what *kind* of Christian he or she is and *just be a Christian*.

I don't want to be called a "Church of Christ preacher." I am a gospel preacher. "Church of Christ" should not be used as a denominational name.

All that we are trying to do when using the phrase "church of Christ" is to let people know that the church belongs to Christ. There are other terms used in the Bible that could be used to refer to the church started on the day of Pentecost. The purpose of this article is to make a renewed plea for *Udenominational Christianity* -- which is to say, I am not a part of any denomination or group of denominations. I am *just a Christian*.

The disciples were first called "Christians" in what town? The answer, found in Acts 11:26, is Antioch. To be a *Christian* is greater than being an *American*. It is greater than being considered the richest person in the world. It is greater than being the next "American Idol." It is greater than *any adjective* or description that you could place before or after your name.

You become a Christian just like those who became Christians on the Day of Pentecost, according to Acts chapter two. Those who **believed** in Jesus were commanded to "**Repent and be baptized**" (Acts 2:38). If you have done something different, you might be something other than what Christ wants you to be.

The story is told of a preacher and a leading American statesman who was, supposedly, a professing Christian. The preacher had just asked the man to become involved in a massive effort to share their faith with people around the world. The man's response shocked the preacher. He replied, "*I don't wear my religion on my sleeve. My religion is personal and I don't want to talk about it.*" The preacher was startled and could only ask: "You are a Christian aren't you?" The other man replied "Yes, but I'm not a religious fanatic."

The preacher thought about that for a moment... and then asked, "Did it ever occur to you that it cost Jesus Christ His life so you could call yourself a Christian? It cost the disciples their lives too. Millions of Christians, throughout the centuries, have suffered or died as martyrs in order to get the message of God's love and forgiveness to you. Now do you really believe that your faith in Christ is personal and private and that you shouldn't talk about it?"

As quick as a flash the man responded, "No sir, I'm wrong. Tell me what I can do about it."

Let's call ourselves "*just Christians*" and challenge others to become Christians and Christians only. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). (Paul Franks; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; apaulfranks@gmail.com)

## Readers' Response

Thank you for an excellent paper. Enclosed is a small contribution to assist with your ministry. God bless! (George & Roberta Folk, Crossville, TN) (Each contribution large or small is appreciated and helps to insure the continuation of our work with the Magnolia Messenger. Thanks! jf)

Thank you all for the time and care you put into MM. I enjoy reading about the different congregations and what is taking place. May God continue to bless this good work. (Mary Prosser, Cantonment, FL)



Paul Franks  
Associate Editor

Dear brothers and sisters, We appreciate the works you are doing and the encouragement we get from your MM. May God continue to bless each and everyone who contributes in any way. May you be in health and safety and long life. In our Saviors love, (Steve & JoAnn Gooch, Hernando, MS)

Thank you for the paper. I really enjoy reading it. May God bless you all for your good work. God bless! (Ms. Gladys Jackson, Rock Springs, WY)

## John and Beth Pigg Honored On the Occasion of their "Retirement"



Richard Brooks (elder) presents plaque to Beth and John Pigg on the occasion of their retirement from full-time work with the Lake Harbour church in Ridgeland, Mississippi

It was a festive occasion on February 8, 2014, when a small multitude came together at the Lake Harbour church building in Ridgeland, Mississippi to participate in the "Retirement Celebration" for John and Beth Pigg. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and singing, led by Danny Magee, and comments made by special people in John's life. Most of John's family was able to attend this event.

The elders presented John and Beth with a generous retirement check so "John could buy *plenty* of worms for fishing." It was noted that he would never really "retire from preaching" because... "John will preach until he dies." (Just this past Sunday [Feb. 23] he preached for the Aliceville, Alabama congregation.) John is continuing to work and preach part-time for the Lake Harbour congregation as they look for a new preacher. (Paul Franks)

### Which, First: Chicken or the Egg?

- Donald R. Fox -

It would be interesting to know how many folks have heard the saying, "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" I believe that this saying is designed to extinguish or, at least, to cause doubts and confusion concerning one's belief in the creation as related in the Word of God, (Genesis 1:1) "*In the beginning God...*"

This old saying allows one to ask a few questions concerning evolution or creation. Let us entertain a few questions relating to our saying. Allow us to ask these questions, even though they are nonsensical.

*Has anyone seen or can one fantasize an egg creating itself? In other words, can a chicken egg develop without a chicken?*

We wonder as the egg started to create itself, *did the shell become whole before the yoke or did the yoke develop first?*

In order to believe an egg or the chicken made itself is to believe in the doctrine of spontaneous generation. Sadly, some will believe anything in order to reject our Creator. "*One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living*

*organism is impossible. Yet here we are—as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation.*" (Wald, George, "The Origin of Life," Page 270 as published in "That Their Words May Be Used Against Them" page 51, by Henry M. Morris)

**Common Sense Must Be Applied.**

*"For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God."* (Hebrews 3:4 KJV)

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#### Seen in the Bible

*"Let no corrupt communication [speech] proceed out of your mouth..."* (Eph. 4:29)

#### Seen in a MS Restaurant



## RETIREMENT

### Is Retirement Itself a Biblical Principle God Established for His People?

- Jerry Miller -

In "Preparing for Retirement" 1992, Larry Burkett answers this question by stating: "*Since there is so little scripture dealing with this subject, it would seem logical to make one of two assumptions: Either God forgot to discuss the subject of retirement, or it is not a part of His plan for us. I discovered long ago that God doesn't forget anything; therefore, it has to be that our whole perspective of retirement is out of balance.*" (pp18)

There is only one direct reference to *retirement* in the Bible, Numbers 8:24-25. The NIV and New American Standard reads like this: "This is what applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward; they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting. But at the age of fifty years they shall *retire from service in the work and not work anymore.*" The King James and American Standard Versions say: "*cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more.*" The New King James says: "*cease performing this work.*"

The New Testament makes references to **work** and **idleness** (2 Thess 3:6-13). "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

"We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.' We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right."

And there is I Timothy 5:8 which commands, "But if any



Jerry Miller

provideth not for his own, and specially his own household, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever ["infidel"]. So, remember: **Work is doing it. Discipline is doing it every day. Diligence is doing it well every day.**

It all starts with work. Work keeps us from three evils: *boredom, vice and poverty* Work has a prolonging effect upon our life expectancy. Work is where you put clothes on your ideas and walk them down the street.

Work is another of the common denominators of people who win. You cannot be the best, nor can you be or do anything of significance if you won't work and work hard. The only lazy or slothful folks who are wealthy are folks who inherited money or won it, and they are rare.

If you want to have fabulous relationships, work has to be part of your life. Today, retirement is **not** a time when we stop work, but when **we work at what we love -- on our own terms!**

Study Titus chapter two: "You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not

to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

"Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity,

seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

"Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed

**So, remember: Work is doing it. Discipline is doing it every day. Diligence is doing it well every day.**

hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you."

The Lord never said, "*Well, I've put in my time, it's time for some of the younger people to step up and take my place.*" But he did say to use our time wisely and train the younger women and younger men (Titus 2).

The Lord never said to, "*cease doing the Father's work.*" But He did say "go unto all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

We are to never tire of doing what is right (2 Thess 3:13), and we are to do it until the very end of the age (Matt 28:20). So as long as we can go and do, there is no such thing as "retirement" for a Christian.

*Jerry Miller is a deacon at the I-20 Church of Christ in Vicksburg, Mississippi and is willing to provide free workshops for local churches of Christ on Financial Management and Preparing for Retirement. Jerry can be contacted at 601-529-2951 or email him at actmiller@cablelynx.com.*

#### Reader Responds

I enjoy receiving your newsletter. Thank you for promoting God's Word in a world that so needs a light to shine bright. Sincerely, (Lynell D. Murray, Ellisville, MS)

# You Don't Have to Worry!

## Philippians 4:4-9

- Eddie Lewis -

Victor Hugo's story "93" tells of a ship caught in a terrific storm. At the height of the storm, the crew hears a terrible crashing noise below. They know what it is. A cannon they are carrying has broken loose and is crashing into the ship's sides with every blow of the sea. Two men at the risk of their lives manage to fasten it again, for they know that the heavy cannon on the inside of their ship is a greater danger to them than is the storm outside. So it is with each of us. The burdens within are more destructive to us than the storms without.

Paul had a good reason to worry! But he didn't. Instead he takes time in Philippians chapter four to explain to the Philippians the secret of victory over worry.

First, we need to explain what worry is. The Greek word is anxious. It means to be pulled in different directions. Our hopes pull us in one direction. Our fears pull us in the opposite direction. The old English word means to strangle. You know how worry makes you short of breath and your heart skip a beat. All these symptoms are the result of worry. From the spiritual point of view, worry is wrong thinking and wrong feelings about people, circumstances, and things. It is the greatest joy stealer in our lives.

It is not enough to tell ourselves to "quit worrying!" Why? Because that will not defeat worry. Worry is an inside job and it takes more than good intentions to defeat it. The antidote is a mind filled with the peace of God: "The peace of God... shall guard (like a soldier) your heart and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7, NASV).

If we are to defeat worry and experience the peace of God, we must meet three conditions God has laid down in this passage: **right praying v. 6-7; right thinking v. 8; and right living v. 9.**

### 1. Right Praying: 4:6-7.

Paul doesn't say "pray about it!" He is wiser than that. He uses three words that describe right praying: prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. All three are involved in right praying. The first word is the general word used for prayer and carries the idea of adoration, devotion and worship of God. When we find ourselves worried we must first turn to God in adoration for who He is and what He has done for us. We know He is greater than



Eddie Lewis

any problem we face.

The second word is supplication, an earnest sharing of our needs and trials. This word is talking about the spiritual intensity of our request. I find it interesting that when Jesus prayed in the garden before his death, the Hebrew writer says He made that request of His Father with "loud crying and tears" (Heb. 5:7). Paul, when he described his prayers for the brethren in Colossae, said he "labored fervently" for them (Col. 4:12). We must labor in our prayers.

The third word is thanksgiving. God certainly enjoys hearing from His children. I think when Jesus asked the Samaritan leper, who He healed, where were the other nine, He was pointing out that they should have given thanks to God for their healing (Lk. 17:11-19).

Also, Paul counsels us to take everything to God in prayer (Phil. 4:6). We are prone to take the big things to God and try to handle the little things ourselves, but this verse is talking about a mind set. We must know that God can and will help us with everything we face in this life.

The result is that the peace of God will guard our heart and mind (v. 7). When we become a Christian, we experience the peace of God (Rom. 5:1). It doesn't end there. We face trials every day, but on the inside we have a quiet confidence in God regardless of the circumstances, people, or things.

### 2. Right Thinking (v. 8).

We must realize that thoughts are real and powerful and affect our lives, even though we can't see them or measure them. Paul tells us to "take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor.

10:5). He tells us what we are to think about. He says think about what is: "true, honest, and just." These are the things worth thinking about. Next he tells us how to control our thoughts. He said think about those things that are: "pure, lovely, and good report." I like that because thinking about these things will lift our minds to higher and more noble thoughts. Also, he adds those things that possess "virtue and praise." Virtue motivates us to do better. Praise is what results when we think about these things.

### 3. Right Living (v. 9).

You can't separate outward action and inward attitudes. It is one thing to learn a truth, but quite another to receive that truth within your heart (1 Thess. 2:13). James said, "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (Jam. 1:22).

There is no middle ground. Either you yield your heart and mind to the Lord and practice right praying, thinking and living, or you yield to the flesh and find yourself torn apart with worry.

One of my favorite stories is by F.W. Boreham. It was during his early ministry. He went to visit with one of his senior members. He entered the room where the old man lay. He noticed a chair pulled up beside the man's bed.

"I see that I am not your first visitor today," said Boreham. The old man began to explain the presence of the empty chair. He said when he was a small boy, he had difficulty praying. His preacher suggested that he overcome this difficulty by placing an empty chair in front of himself when he prayed and by simply pretending that Jesus was sitting in that chair like an attentive friend. He said he had maintained the habit over the years.

Boreham left the house a short while later. A few days later, however, the man's daughter came to tell him her father had died. "I was out of the room only for a short time," she said. "When I returned, he was gone. There was no change in him except I noticed that his hand was on the chair." If God is present, worry is not.

By Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North Mississippi, Olive Branch, MS. His address:

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## The Phil Robertson Controversy

### Dennis Doughty

The Duck Dynasty's elder statesman, Phil Robertson, has been in the news lately. His candid statements in a magazine article were on about every news broadcast, cable station, newspaper, twit

and blog for several weeks. If you haven't heard of any of this maybe you have been camped out in your duck blind the past month or two.

In the article he spoke about several moral issues facing our nation. It was reported that he "paraphrased" a scripture. Actually he quoted it rather accurately.

Here is that scripture in it's entirety;

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

The fact that the scriptures warned that such folks will not be in Heaven seemed to come as a surprise to many. It is "God's Kingdom" in question and He has the right to receive or reject who He wishes. The news media, and several homosexual groups, took issue with Mr. Robertson. They claimed that he had no right to judge others. In defense some reporters let it be known that this was his

right to free speech under our Constitution, and that "Mr. Robertson stated his views, and the views held by many Christians in our country." **Wrong!**

The Duck Commander was not stating his *faith*. He was stating his *faith*. Big difference. The views are the views of God Almighty. If anyone takes issue with the behavior stated in said scripture, he should take it up with God, not Phil Robertson. Phil, myself, and all of us who have put our faith in God and His Son, must put aside our own views and live by the teachings of the Holy Trinity as best we can.

God is not condemning the



Dennis Doughty

lifestyles listed to be mean or cruel. The scriptures do not warn us of such behavior to keep us from enjoying life's great pleasures. Rather, God and the scriptures warn us of such things because they destroy our life, our family, and our nation.

Will those who would defend homosexual behavior, also defend other lifestyles mentioned in the passage such as thieves, drunkards or swindlers? If not, why not?

The media, and other politically correct groups, have an easy out. They simply state that the Bible is an old archaic book full of myths, fairy tales and old fashion thinking. They easily disregard its teachings, as well as those who believe in them. With few exceptions, everyone we see on our television screen, from movies to sitcoms to news reporters, have little or no spiritual life. Certainly not one based on the scriptures. We get that.

However, those of us who claim to be Christians have a greater dilemma. Do we stand for the truth of scripture, or do we choose to live by the views of our modern society? Do we truly put our faith in Christ, or do we go along with the crowd? Jesus made it plain, "He who is not with me is against me" (Matthew 12:30). It can be a difficult choice.

God, "with whom there is no change" (Psalms 55:19), and Christ who

"is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), have made their views plain on many subjects. Their views will not change. We are either for them or against them.

The great thing that is missed about the passage Phil quoted is the verse that followed; "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). You see, God is not trying to judge us sinners; He is trying to save us! (Dennis preaches for the Tunica Church of Christ. dennis1848@bellsouth.net)

## A Short Study of Romans 6:3-7

- Seth Sullivan -

Baptism is an important component to salvation. Contrary to Calvinistic theology of having a "Holy Spirit experience," today all of mankind can know the truth from God. Mark wrote it very distinctly that for salvation to be obtained one must "believe and be baptized (immersed)" (Mk. 16:16).

The Apostle Peter reinforces this point by proclaiming that "baptism does save" (I Pet. 3:20, 21). So what exactly does baptism do? Why is it so important? According to Scripture it *washes away sin* and *offers the forgiveness of sin* (Acts 2:38; 22:16). God must be obeyed (Matt. 7:21) and His desire is for all of mankind to be saved (I Tim. 2:4).

In Romans 6:3-7, Paul makes an interesting comparison of baptism to the death of Christ. He says that everyone who obeys is *baptized into Christ's death* (v. 3). As Christ died so does every obedient soul die to self. At this burial of baptism the sins from one's life are washed away and the "old creature" is gone -- being raised up walking in "newness of life" (v. 4).

Just as Christ was resurrected by the Father, likewise every soul is raised from the watery grave of baptism having "life." At baptism, the body comes in



Seth Sullivan

contact with that precious blood of Jesus, spiritually speaking, and being raised up, the believer is "freed from sin" (v. 7).

Now let me ask a question. Shall we continue in sin? When we bury the "old person" we must abandon every sinful habit, impulse, lifestyle, etc. Old habits are abandoned, self-discipline is maintained, and the confidence comes in knowing that when we sin, our Father is willing to forgive us -- as we repent from a sincere heart (I John 1:9). Of course, sin shouldn't be done out of a repetitive nature; efforts should be made to not repeat those sins (Heb. 10:26).

Are you living holy each day as a Christian? If not, repent and enjoy the blessings God showers upon the righteous (I John 1:7)!

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### Mis-Steaks (?)

#### Found in Church Bulletins

1. The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality.

2. This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn sing across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

3. The music leader invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join this event.

4. The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the congregation will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

5. The preacher, brother Nelson, spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

(Sent to MM by Philip Carter)

#### The Point:

Be not surprised if you find a "mis-steak" in the MM.



## Magnolia Messenger

### Memorials & Tributes

### In Memory Of

**N/M X. L. LOVE  
SAM & BROWNIE PEARSON**  
Betty Love Pearson  
(Winona, MS)

**MS CATHERINE LEIGH**  
Ralph & Teresa L. Anderson  
(Philadelphia, MS)  
Mary A. Rector  
(Morton, MS)

**LIZ HARPER**  
Ms. Yvonne W. Carter  
(Vicksburg, MS)

**MARIE WRIGHT**  
L.C. Wright  
(Booneville, MS)

**JAMES "DOC" FULGHAM**  
Charles & Juanita Fulgham  
(Yazoo City, MS)  
Bob & Glenda Singleton  
(Water Valley, MS)

**DOLORES WHATLEY  
ORA & ERNEST SPANN**  
Shirley & Gayle Waggener  
(Ball, LA)

**CHARLES JOHNSON**  
Patsy Johnson  
(Tupelo, MS)

**LUCY OZELLA RUTHERFORD  
HUGHEY**  
Patsy Morrison  
(Memphis, TN)  
**THELMA TAYLOR  
BETTY STROUD**  
Don & Virginia Taylor  
(Bon Aqua, TN)  
**PAUL W. WALDEN  
ZELDA L. WALDEN**  
Gerald Walden  
(Ripley, MS)

**CLARENCE & LOIS FULGHAM  
HOWARD & LYLE FULGHAM  
MADELINE FULGHAM  
BROADAWAY  
BRETT FULGHAM**  
Bob & Glenda Singleton  
(Water Valley, MS)

**GLADYE DERRYBERRY**  
Irene M. Wright  
(Raymond, MS)

**ELIZABETH JESSEMAN**  
Jane Mullins  
(Southaven, MS)  
JoAnn Lott  
(Southaven, MS)  
Olive J. Lorenson  
(Southaven, MS)

**LOUIS STRICKLAND**  
Reginal & Susan Crawford  
(Eads, TN)

**EVIE G. SMITH**  
Rhenda Miltner  
(Coldwater, MS)

**RALPH GARRARD**  
Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

**CURTIS & MARY THOMPSON**  
John & Betty Thompson  
(Austin, TX)

**ERNESTINE TRIMBLE**  
Jerry & Linda Childs  
(Corinth, MS)

**JESSE FRANKS**  
Ray Hyatt  
(DeQuincy, LA)

**JAKE FLOYD, JR**  
Jamie & Cathy McCartney  
(Ferriday, LA)  
**MRS STACY HASTINGS**  
Bobby and Sherry Johnson  
(Crosby, MS)

### In Honor Of

**MR. RANDY MEDLIN**  
Pierce Flatt  
(Pike Road, AL)

**JOHN & BETH PIGG**  
Charles & Betty Haywood  
(Brandon, MS)

**DEE DANIEL HUGHEY**  
Patsy Morrison  
(Memphis, TN)

**BONNIE STRICKLAND  
REGGIE & DEWELL CRAWFORD**  
Reginal & Susan Crawford  
(Eads, TN)

**GERRY LAMBERT  
(BIRTHDAY)**  
Nelma Ivey  
(Jackson, MS)

**DARRELL, HEATHER,  
NOAH & CARTER PATE**  
Landon Farris  
(Winfield, AL)  
**JUNE FRANKS**  
Donna Kaye Randle  
(Long time friend, Tupelo, MS)

### A Suggestion

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# The Journeys of Paul, a Messenger



Paul & Glenda Franks

Cold weather, sickness and getting to preach at my home church in Kosciusko, slowed down my travels during the first part of this year. In the last month, we have started back on the road and are excited to share some of the people and churches we have visited.

One of our first visits was to attend a session of the Siwell Road School of Biblical Studies. **Gary Hampton**, the pulpit minister for this congregation in South Jackson, MS encouraged the elders to begin this good work. At the time of our visit, the school was in the second quarter of classes. The present schedule is for classes to meet for ten weeks on Thursday evenings. About 20 people were there the night I attended. The teachers this quarter, which ended March 13, were **Louis Rushmore** from Winona, MS and the **three Johns**,



Gary Hampton and John Allan

**John Allan** from Clinton, **John Pigg** from Ridgeland and **John Gardner** from Brandon.

On Sunday, January 12, we drove to Amory, MS to attend the funeral of **Jean Dickerson**, wife of **Paul Dickerson**, one of the elders of the Amory congregation. Jean's daughter, **Teresa** is married to **Garvis Semore**. We wanted to visit the Amory congregation and pay our respects to this wonderful family.

We enjoyed a great sermon from **Philip Hathcock** who has been the preacher for this congregation for many years. We got to visit with two of the elders, **Garland Anderson** and **Jimmy Vaughan**. Garland told me that his

mother, "loves the Magnolia Messenger." I have always enjoyed my visits with Jimmy. Jimmy flies jets for a living and he always has a good flying story to tell.

I saw a childhood friend, **Jimmy Hodges**, who said, "I can't wait to get the next issue of the MM." Also, it was great to see **Leslie and Sheila Grant**.

**Leslie** graduated from MBC many years ago. Another thing we wanted to do was to see **Tommy and Carrie Wall**. Carrie has written several books including a book on *U n d e r - s t a n d i n g Revelation* and *Cities of the Bible*. It is obvious from these books that she is a serious student of the Bible.



Arch Justice

I also got to visit with **Arch Justice** who turned 90 recently. He told me that he loved the Magnolia Messenger and "wanted to see it continue for many years."

During the funeral service a familiar name was mentioned. **Dexter Beavers**, a great gospel preacher who is deceased, was credited for sharing the gospel with Jean and Paul Dickerson. When I got to know Dexter, he was living in Houston, MS and it was obvious to all who knew him that he had a great love for the lost. We pray for the Dickerson family. We were also thankful to spend the day with a great group of Christians, the Amory congregation.

**Richard Wiggins** had invited me to attend the Parkview Church of Christ in Jackson, MS, where he



Parkview Church Building

preaches, so we decided to stop by for a visit the first week of February. We heard a great lesson on vision. The church was packed with over 300 in attendance. At the end of the sermon, over twelve people responded to the invitation. It was obvious that no one was in a hurry. Everyone seemed excited to be there. Richard has invited me back to preach sometime. I look forward to going back and visiting with this congregation soon.



Carrie Wall

Later in February, we attended the Mayfield congregation in Saltillo, MS. The elders and congregation were very friendly. We were impressed with the 140 in attendance for Bible Class and over 180 for worship that morning. Because the congregation is growing, they are in the process of adding space to their facilities.



Mayfield Church Expanding Facilities

Their preacher **Adam Miller** and their youth minister, **Adam Miller** (not a mistake, two Millers) are very busy with this church family. My father, Al Franks, was the first full time minister for this congregation back in 1957.

Sunday night we visited the Gloster Street congregation. I have been stopping by this church for many years. Gospel preachers have always been welcome at this congregation. It was good to see **James Segars** and **Clyde Mize**, two gospel preachers I've know for a long time. **Wendell Fike** is another gospel preacher who calls Gloster Street his home congregation. He was away that day preaching at a nearby congregation.

Their bulletin is called the *Gloster Messenger*. I like that name. Their pulpit preacher, **Chad Ramsey**, was out of town and their other staff minister, **Brian Galloway** preached that night and brought a wonderful lesson. One of the elders, **Gary Martin** invited Glenda and me to a care group meeting at the church building



Partial View of 12,000 in Attendance at CYC

where we enjoyed a delightful meal and fellowship with several of the Gloster Street members.



Silas & His Mom, Megan

We had made a decision to attend the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Lectureship in Knoxville, TN. Of course, that meant we could stop by Chattanooga and visit our grandson, **Silas Monroe Shepherd**. We did and had a wonderful time. We were also able to enjoy a visit with the East Brainerd church on Wednesday night. Then, on to Knoxville.

Since we were "in the neighborhood", we decided to take a couple of days and visit beautiful Gatlinburg. Here, we were to learn why so many church vans and buses were seen headed to Gatlinburg.

On an invitation from **Larry Davenport** who started CYC - "Challenge Youth Conference" around 14 years ago, we went to a Saturday night session and also worshipped on Sunday morning with thousands of Christians who had come from all over to attend this conference. CYC started with just a few hundred young people; but has grown greatly. This year there were more than 12,000 souls gathered in Gatlinburg - mostly young people from over 400 congregations.

The week before CYC had their conference, another mega youth rally involving churches of Christ, brought another 12,000 [plus] to Gatlinburg.

At CYC, scholarships were given to several young people to



"Church Vans from Everywhere"

attend our Christian colleges. Over \$45,000 were given to a children's home in Brazil.

It was very encouraging to meet Christians from all over the country who had decided to take some of



their valuable vacation time and bring their young people to this event.

On Sunday afternoon, we finally arrived at the facilities of the Karns Church in Knoxville, Tennessee to attend the preacher school's annual lectureship. Several months ago, **David Lipe** who is from Batesville, Mississippi, and a good friend, became the director of this



Cecil May & David Lipe

school. This year, Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies has 18 students from several different states who are preparing for the ministry.

One of the highlights of this lectureship was a dinner honoring **Cecil May, Jr.** Also, Brother May, each afternoon, took questions from the audience in an "Open Forum." Over 400 preachers, elders, deacons, teachers and church leaders attended this lectureship.

See **JOURNEYS** on Page 16

## KISSED

(Continued from Page 9)

family members never got him anywhere. A face-to-face visit with the doctor would also prove unhelpful. When her maiden name changed, he didn't know who to search for. None of us would have ever known he was still searching or even existed had it not been for that Ancestry.com Christmas blessing that arrived on my computer on Christmas Day, 2013.

I clicked on the link that day and it took me to the inquiry. It went straight to my Uncle Jessie Paul's picture and profile. He had been killed in a truck accident on July 1, 1953. The obituary had his birthday and surviving family member names. That is where it all comes together.

Aunt Pauline's **long lost son**, now 72 almost 73, had asked an old family friend, with experience in genealogy, to try and help him locate his birth parents. She had posted on my account that she was looking for Carrie Pauline Lott who may have been a twin sister to Jessie Paul which would positively identify him for the man she was trying to help. She wanted to know if anyone knew of Carrie Pauline's whereabouts or where she might be buried.

I responded quickly that Christmas morning assuring them Aunt Pauline was indeed alive and that we were also trying to find her birth son. I bit off all my fingernails waiting to hear back from her since I had no other contact information. Luckily she called the next day, but I was so anxious, it seemed like a year. She gave me his name and phone number and I wasted no time calling him. His first name was Charles so the family that adopted him kept their promise to retain the name Aunt Pauline had given him at birth, the name of a member of the Ward family she admired.

Charles Bruce Pate, born January 20, 1941 at King's Daughter's Hospital to Carrie Pauline Lott, was indeed the man I talked to. Tears welled up in my eyes as chill bumps ran over my body. I couldn't believe it. A man I had looked for on two occasions for several years, the same man who had looked for his birth mother for 50 years was about to be connected to his mother for the first time.

He told me about his life and the parents that raised him, both now long gone to be with the Lord. He spoke of a happy life with everything he needed. He had married in the 1960's and adopted a son himself before they had their own daughter a few years later. With his family dwindling down, he couldn't wait to talk to his mother. Little did he know though, she came with baggage... a whole slew of Lott's and Ward's that also couldn't wait to meet him.

I had prepared the family for it by talking to Aunt Pauline's

daughter, Joyce, and she received the call. Joyce, so intrigued by the caller herself, talked to him for some 20 minutes before handing the phone over to her shocked mother. I couldn't help but listen myself on the 3 way call for a few minutes but recognized their need for privacy shortly thereafter and muted my own phone. I did hear him say "mother" for the first time. She seemed dumbfounded and had to ask if it were really him. Connecting those two on the phone was probably one of the most important things I had ever done in my entire life, but I wouldn't stop there.

Knowing "Bruce's" birthday was less than a month away, I asked him if he would be willing to go see his mother in Shreveport, LA, if my brother and I would share the trip by picking him up and taking him home. He was elated and we planned for his birthday to be a surprise for Aunt Pauline. My brother would pick up my oldest sister on the way. She is the depository for old family pictures and had made sure over the past few weeks that he had a copy of every one he needed to piece his life together with us.

At about 1:30 p.m. on Monday January 20, 2014, my sister, brother and his wife delivered Bruce to the clubhouse at the apartment where my Aunt lives. My wife and I met her and Joyce in her apartment at the same time. Within minutes, she agreed to go to the clubhouse with us to check her mail and show us around. What she didn't know though was that she was about to look into the eyes of her son that she had not seen in 73 years. She also was unaware that Joyce and her siblings had arranged for many other family members to be there at that special moment as they embraced.

We shared a great visit along with wonderful food and a special custom made birthday cake with a copy of his birth certificate made of sugar paper on top. It was beautiful. But most importantly, I watched him kiss his mother for the first time.

Bruce stayed with Aunt Pauline in her apartment for the next 3 days as Joyce took them on tours of local sites of interest. I have no doubt they had a wonderful time. Bruce said she made up for the loss of 73 years in those 3 days. He could barely hold his emotions back.

On Thursday the 23rd of January, the time came for Bruce to once again say goodbye to his mother. We met them at Cracker Barrel in Vicksburg, MS where he would now ride with me, my wife and older sister back to his home in Antioch, TN.

When the picture taking started as we were about to leave, I couldn't help but notice how beautiful Aunt Pauline was. I had seen her in good times and bad over my 60

years of life but this day was different. She had a look in her eyes as she peered into Bruce's and a smile on her face so vivid it is running chills all over me at this very moment.

The long drive back to his home was filled with wonderful stories about his visit. He called his mother just before we arrived back at his home and he suggested that they talk on the phone every day from now on. Even after all the time they had shared together, he found it hard to hang up the phone on her.

I can barely explain the peace I felt in my heart. It felt like I had been given a tasking from higher power to make this connection possible. I followed the direction I felt I had been given and got the other parties together with a birthday for him like no other and a Mother's day far from the one we celebrate commercially. I think if I had left this world at that very moment, I would have felt fulfilled and done with all my duties ready to leave with a smile on my face.

The message and tasking I had gotten that Christmas Day allowed our family to unite with a child who had been missing from us for three quarters of a century. Finding him completed a page of our family tree, closing the book on this final chapter. I could never feel more privileged or blessed to have been part of this reunion.

**(A very special thanks to Rick Ward for sharing this story with readers of the MM. alf, editor)**

## Reader's Response

Hello Bro. [Paul]Franks,

*I've just read your great article in the Magnolia Messenger regarding abortion and agree so strongly that we should never forget the power of one. We are often so quiet in the social matters and worry about being politically correct even in Bible issues. Young people who are in worship services across the brotherhood many times never hear abortion being addressed from the pulpit. They never hear (sometimes from anyone) of the sanctity of life...*

*Often, young women simply do not know that there ARE alternatives to abortion; they are concerned only with the fact they are in an unwanted situation and are seeking a quick way out. I am shocked to learn of so many girls' mothers insisting and threatening them to have an abortion...*

*Do ask others to pray for any upcoming legislation which can affect this terrible tragedy of abortion in our nation. The good people of our country must rise up in righteous indignation and speak for those who have no voice of their own—the innocent and vulnerable unborn.*

*Thank you for your good article and I hope you will have more in the future. With your circulation numbers, much good can be done! Thank you so much. In Christ, (Lois Irby, President Putnam County, TN Right to Life)*

**YOUTH  
of the  
Durant  
Church  
Placed 1st  
in Bible  
Bowl at  
Parkway  
Church in  
Jackson,  
MS**



*"Our youth didn't miss a question."*  
(from left) Shakemia Anderson, Radarius Williams and Jakeria Williams. Captains Matt Anderson and James Williams are not pictured. (Report sent to MM)

## LIFE

(Continued from page 7)

tend to feel rather independent, don't we?

But when things come apart at the seams we soon find that we don't need much of anything BUT faith. It is a demonstrable fact that when our faith in self decreases, there is a corresponding increase of faith in God. So when trials come, count it pure joy because it gives your faith a chance to grow. Faith grows when we have the props jerked from under us. If we never had any trials, our faith would be weak, anemic and we would be spiritually sick.

This is not pleasant, but I didn't write it. And God didn't mean for it to be this way, but we—the human race—allowed Satan in and suffering is the result.

### **WE DISCOVER WHAT HAS TRUE VALUE IN LIFE**

We have all experienced this to one degree or another. Let's say you have a billion dollars. Everything is rosy. You have an appointment with your doctor. He comes in and says, "I'm sorry, but you have lung cancer." You say, "Let's operate." He said, "It is inoperable." Soon you struggle for the next breath. You'd give every dime you have just to have a healthy pair of lungs.

What do you suppose is uppermost in my mind during the next few days and weeks? Is it the stock market, the rotten political situation, problems at work? No! It will be God, Family, church, brothers and sisters in Christ and the presence of Jesus. These things last whether you're able to have a new car every three years, live in a big house or small apartment.

Yes, it is when adversity comes that we are able to think really straight. In Hebrews 5:8-9 we are told that Jesus himself learned obedience by the things he

suffered." Jesus had said, "The servant is no greater than his master." So if my precious innocent Lord had to suffer, I can expect the same.

And so, instead of complaining about it when trials come, instead of making myself and everybody around me miserable, it will be far greater to "Count it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds." Why? I will pray more. My faith will grow. And I will discover what has real value in this life. Every great saint has had his/her heart broken. They couldn't be great otherwise. Every mature Christian is one who has been molded by trials. Now, you can be bitter if you want. You can blame God and walk away from the church. You can pretend it didn't happen or just become sour and endure it. Or you can do what your big brother James said.

Some of you are having to endure unspeakable suffering and misery. May God give you sufficient strength each day to bear up under it, looking to the day when we can move into our eternal place of rest and peace with Him forevermore. (Ken Joines; 7154 Golden Oaks E; Southaven, MS 38671; 901-212-1601; kjoines35@hotmail.com)

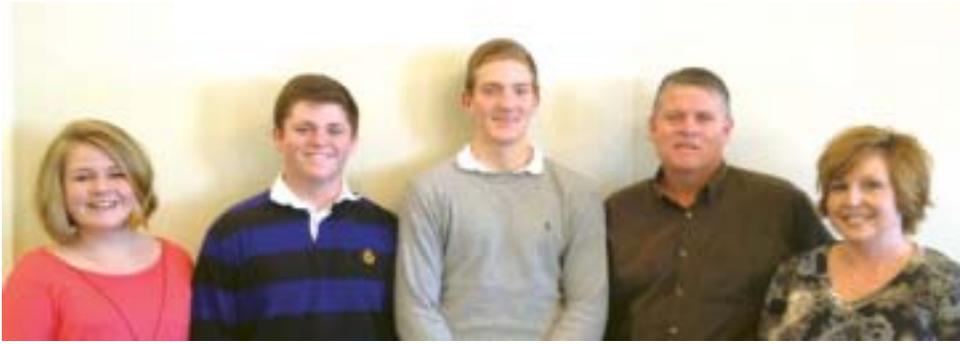
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## Australian Exchange Student Learns About Christ's Church in Crystal Springs



**Student from Australia Joins Mississippi Family for the School Year**  
Dom Gilbert (center) with his host family, Jeff and Dana Stratton and their children.

### The Christian Life is a Life of Evangelism

"*Saved to Save Others.*" This is the essence of Christianity. *Salvation* is the driving force of the Gospel. We who are saved by the Lord, should earnestly seek to help others come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. One way for Christians to evangelize is to open up their homes to an "exchange student" from another part of the world.

This is what the Jeff Stratton family has done in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Dom Gilbert (age 18) came from Australia to America and moved in with the Stratton family in September of 2013. Living with the Strattons, he not only is finishing his high school education, he is also learning the Gospel of Jesus through the influence of the Stratton family and the Crystal Springs church of Christ where his host family serve as active members.

**Keith Wilson**, local preacher for the growing congregation, spoke very kindly of the young man from Australia. Keith said, "He is a real good kid... He is so polite." Keith expressed appreciation to the Stratton family for showing kindness to an exchange student of another country, providing a wonderful opportunity for evangelism. (alf)

## Buildings CAN Make A Difference

In the mid eighties a new congregation was organized and started meeting in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. The first gatherings of the new church took place in a "community center". Shortly thereafter, a building -- which was originally designed as a place to sell and repair farm equipment, was made available as a meeting place for the church. ("The OLD" is pictured to the right).

After several years of meeting in the older structure, the congregation was able to erect a new church building in a new location, about two or three miles from the old place of meeting.



**"The OLD"**  
Farm Equipment Building - The Old Meeting Place

Following a recent visit with the Crystal Springs church (1-12-14) we believe it can be accurately said that **the new building has made a difference!** Attendance has "doubled" -- increasing to about 50 or 60 worshippers each week. Also, the faithful work and Bible teaching of their long time preacher, **Keith Wilson**, has made a positive difference in the work of the Lord in Crystal Springs. We join with our Crystal Springs brethren in giving thanks to Almighty God.



**"The NEW"**  
Home of the Crystal Springs Church of Christ

**Magnolia Messenger**  
*Appreciates*  
*Comments and Suggestions*

## Isn't It A Shame What Has Happened to Shame?

**- James A. Horton -**

As the winter weather of ice, snow and cold temperatures subside and the warmer months are near at hand, so the desire and trend of many wearing less clothing becomes more evident. This gives rise to our consideration of what has happened to the feeling of shame in our culture, when it comes to dress, or the lack thereof.

In Mark 6, we read of King Herod's dilemma. There was a new preacher in town and Herod was in a quandary about whom he might be. He actually believed "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead." (vs. 16) Herod feared John for he knew that "he was a just and holy man." (vs. 20) But, although "he heard him gladly," (vs. 20b), he did nothing about following John's teaching. He was like those of Ezekiel's day as God described them: "For you are to them as one with a pleasant voice, for they hear yours words, but they do not keep them." (Ezek. 32:33)

In predicting Jerusalem's destruction, (Jer. 6:1-30) the prophet Jeremiah asked, and then answered his own question: "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush." (Jer. 6:15) Earlier, in a gesture of repentance, Israel had expressed regret for their sinfulness by replying to God, "We lie down in our shame... for we have sinned against the Lord our God... and we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord." (Jer. 3:25)

Before we too rapidly rebuff those of Old Testament times for their failure to feel and to express shame for their sins, listen to how Paul described one of the characteristics of man which would result in a great apostasy from the faith: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron..." (2 Tim. 4:1-2) *What are the results of one's conscience being deadened to shame?* The answer: **no regret, no remorse, no feeling of guilt, past feeling, no fear of God and no repentance!**

Many today appear to offer excuses for their sin by stating: "Everybody's doing it!" "I don't want to be left out!" "What I am doing is not as bad as what others do!" "I can't help what other people think!" "In fact, I don't care what other people think!" (This sounds like the reasoning of Miley Cyrus in her recent escapade of lewdness on national television!)

Shame began in the Garden of Eden. After the creation of Adam and Eve, the Bible says,



James A. Horton

"They were naked and were not ashamed." (Gen. 2:25) But after they sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, something changed! "Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together..." to cover their nakedness. (vs. 7) "Then the Lord God called unto Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?' And so he said,

"I heard your voice in the garden and was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.'" Adam and Eve were not self-conscious of their nakedness before their sin. They were created of God as perfect beings -- with no temptation, no evil thoughts, no lusting, no wickedness and no sin. But after their transgression, they saw, in their humanity, that they were different from God. They were human, frail and weak!

The sin of Adam and Eve separated them from God. (Isa. 59:2) and, perhaps, even from each other. They had been "one flesh," and, up until now, their thoughts and actions had been of "one heart and one soul." Now, that, too, had changed. Adam even blamed his wife for leading him into the transgression by saying, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate." (Gen. 3:12) From now on, they may have even doubted one another.

And so, shame entered into the world at the same time as sin was evidenced by man's disobedience. In fact, **shame is a result of sin!** Shame implies a perfect standard which has not been met. It gives a devout man or woman a sense of not measuring up to God's expectations.

His word is the perfect standard. In Lev. 11:44, God said, "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy, for I am holy."

### "Situation Ethics"

We live in a day of "Situation Ethics." This is the idea that the situation determines the right or wrong of a matter, not the Word of God. We live in a postmodern era in which many argue that there is no authority -- no set standard of human behavior. The resulting philosophy is: "If it feels good, do it." "Let your conscience be your guide." "Do whatever you like, as long as no one else gets hurt, it doesn't matter!" In today's culture, 'right' and 'wrong' keep changing with the change in the attitudes of society.

Today's world reminds us of the time of the Judges when "...there was no king in Israel and everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (17:6) But be warned: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Prov. 14:12)

**See SHAME on page 16**

## TRAVELS by Lewis

(Cont. from page 8)



Charles Curtis, Harold Jones & Reed Swindle

It was great to see them and meet Reed.

I attended the adult Bible class taught by one of their elders, Harold Jones. Harold's lesson was on 1 Peter 3:8-17. It was a wonderful study of what it means to be a blessing to others. There was lots of good discussion.

Reed's sermon was "Gratitude and My Heart," from Luke 17:11-19. It was about the story of the Samaritan leper. He described all the leper gave up when his disease struck and the gratitude he expressed to Jesus for his healing. We will be grateful when we realize that: (1. We don't deserve what we have. (2. Gratitude helps my heart. "Gratitude is the legs of humility.") (3. Gratitude helps me show God my heart. It was a very good lesson.

### WEST CORINTH

**December 1:** I visited with the West Corinth church of Christ. Blake Nicholas is their new minister. He is a graduate of FHU. Jonathan Harston is their youth minister. He is a student at FHU. They have two elders and their attendance is around 160. They actively support the Pine Vale Children's Home and many mission works. They have an active Lads to Leaders program.

Blake taught the adult Bible class. They are in a study of Ezra



Jonathan Harston & Blake Nicholas

and Nehemiah, "Study of God's Great Builders." They considered Ezra 4 by answering questions. They talked about: Principles of Restoration, The Importance of a Good Foundation, and How the Devil Works through Evil Men.

Blake's sermon was taken from Luke 17:11ff: The Story of the Samaritan Leper. He mentioned: The Leper's Loneliness, The Master's Mercy, Faith's Freedom, and God's Glory! It was a very good lesson.

### WENASOGA

**December 15:** I visited with the Wenasoga church of Christ near

Corinth, MS. G.W. Childs is the minister there. He has served the church for 17 years. They have two elders: G.W. and Clarence Hinton. They actively support Pine Vale Children's Home. GW was sick and

could not preach, so he had invited Charles Curtis from Foote Street to preach for him. Also, he asked me to teach the adult Bible class. It was good to see GW again and meet the brethren there. They have about 30 in attendance.

Charles lesson was taken from 2 Timothy 4:6-10. He asked the question: "How do I know if I have persevered?" He gave three questions to answer this question: 1. How current are my efforts for Christ? 2. Where is Christ in my list of loyalties? 3. How long has it



G. W. & Sherra Childs

been since you told someone about Jesus? It was a good lesson.

I taught the Bible class on Luke 7:36-50. It's a wonderful lesson on love and forgiveness. It's about the woman that washes the feet of Jesus with her tears. It illustrates the love of God for us and how we are to love each other.

### NORTHSIDE (Corinth)

**December 22:** I visited with the Northside church of Christ in Corinth, MS. Lennis Nowell is the preacher and has served the church for 22 years. The Nowells are loved by many in the community. The church has no elders. They have around 31 in attendance. They support different works.

Lennis taught the adult Bible class. They are using the Foundation Series from the Gospel Advocate. The lesson this week was: "Affecting the Community." They considered three examples from scripture.



Lennis & Janice Nowell

Lennis' sermon was "How Does Faith Come?" He was trying to encourage each member to practice daily Bible reading. They will consider each book of the New Testament in the coming year. It was a good lesson on Matthew.

### GERMANTOWN

**December 28:** Judy and I attended the Germantown church of Christ. We wanted to end the year with our church family. I appreciate so much the support that the church has shown for my family and my work in North Mississippi.

During this year I have visited with 45 churches in north Mississippi. I have preached at 10 of these churches. I served as an interim preacher in the month of January for the Saucer Creek church in the Fulton area. It was wonderful to meet and worship with the church there. It has been a wonderful year of service to the Lord's church in north Mississippi. I look forward to next year as I continue my travels.

Report by Eddie Lewis  
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Olive Branch, MS 38654  
lewis7946@gmail.com

## JOURNEYS by Paul

(Continued from Page 13)

Finally, I would like to mention a visit we had to the Aliceville church of Christ in Aliceville, Alabama. What a joy it was to walk into the church building that Sunday morning and be greeted by so many friendly people. One reason I was there was to take a picture of the church and to report on a decision that was made, in the last few weeks, to merge two congregations of the Lord's people in this small Alabama community.

Due to an electrical fire in their meeting place, a small congregation of black Christians began to meet with the — mostly white, Aliceville congregation. After much prayer and discussion it was determined that the best thing for the cause of Christ in that community was to join forces on a permanent basis.

On the first Sunday in February of 2014 it became official. **Mark Landis** and **Artis Hinton** serve as the two preachers of the congregation. **Jim Presley** and **Tommy Blakney** are the two elders. The Sunday we attended, there were 54 people present and over \$1,500.00 in contribution. The singing, preaching and the entire service was uplifting.

Paul Franks apaulfranks@gmail.com

## SHAME

(Continued from page 15)

Actually, **shame can be an instrument of God to motivate us to repent.** Peter denied the Lord three times before going out and "weeping bitterly." (Matt. 26:75) Paul taught that "godly sorrow" could move a man to repent. No doubt, the sense of shame and sorrow for having sinned is the prelude to confession. David must have felt that way when he said: "For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against You, and You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight." (Ps. 51:3-4)

Jeremiah referred to those who "...refused to be ashamed." (3:3b) In Zechariah 7:11-12 the prophet was speaking of the Jewish nation who had "...made their hearts like flint, (KJV - 'an adamant stone') refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. 'So they cried out unto Me, and I would not listen,' says the Lord of hosts."

**Seriously, when was the last time you felt a sense of shame for your public, or private, sins against your loving Heavenly Father?** What was it that you said or did that brought shame upon your name, upon the Lord's church or upon the name of your family? Ask God for forgiveness. I urge you to "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on

him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isa. 55:7) Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and of His Father's, and of the holy angels." (Lk. 9:26). Psalms 119:80 "Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, that I may not be ashamed." Lev. 18:5 repeated in Rom. 10:11, "Whoever believes in Him shall not be put to shame." I Pet. 4:16, "Yet, if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed."

Final thoughts: The prophet Ezra recorded, "As the evening service I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread my hands to the Lord my God. And I said, 'O, my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, My God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt had grown up into the heavens.'"

Do you feel the same sense of shame and regret for having sinned? Do you sometimes feel that your transgressions have stacked up to the heavens? Will you respond to God's urging to repent, confess your sins and be forgiven? In the deepest show of humility and shame, Ezra went 'out back,' laid upon the ground and asked God's forgiveness. Will you do the same? Will you do it now?

*James A. Horton, a gospel preacher. His address: James A. Horton; 839 Ashland Rd; Ripley, MS 38663. jahortn@yahoo.com*



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## Newspaper Advertising Encourages Unity Among Churches of Christ

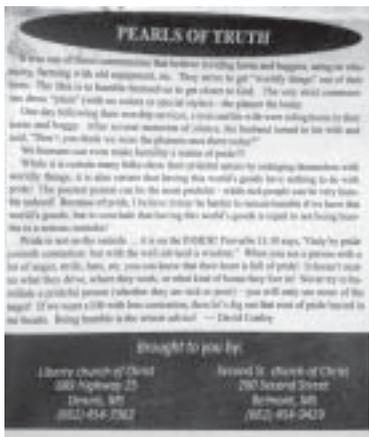
**Liberty at Dennis, MS  
Second Street at Belmont, MS**

We are blessed to receive the *Belmont & Tishomingo Journal*, published in Belmont, Mississippi. This weekly paper was owned by **Wayne and Katherine Mitchell** who recently, due to age and health, retired from the Newspaper business and sold their paper to the **Alan Williams** family.

Over the past few months, we have noticed that two churches of Christ in the area have been *jointly* publishing in the *Journal* a weekly Bible teaching article called "Pearls of Truth". We understand that **Adam Cozart**, preacher for the 2nd Street church in Belmont and **David Conley**, preacher for the Liberty congregation at Dennis, take turns writing the articles.

It is encouraging to see sister churches of Christ uniting in their efforts to influence the communities they jointly serve. We commend the example of the Liberty and Second Street churches to

brethren everywhere. Our continuing prayer is that all who know us, as members of churches of Christ, may have reason to respect our **faithful** and **united** efforts -- as we seek to spread the soul-saving message of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying



world.

We have selected one of the recently published articles (1/22/14) to include in this issue of the MM. Our special thanks to David Conley for permission to edit and reprint one of his excellent articles which should cause each reader to think more seriously about the "Power of Pride." (alf)

## A Problem with Pride

It was one of those communities that believe in using horse drawn buggies, having no electricity and farming with old equipment. They strive to get worldly things out of their lives... The very strict communities dress "plain" (with no colors or special styles) -- *the plainer the better.*

One day following their worship services, a man and his wife were riding home in their buggy. After several moments of silence, the husband turned to his wife and said, "Don't you think we were the plainest ones there today?"

We humans can even make humility a matter of pride!

While it is certain many folks show their prideful nature by indulging themselves with worldly things, it is also certain that having this world's goods does not, within itself, produce pride! The poorest person can be the most prideful -- while rich people can be very humble indeed! It may very well be harder to remain humble if we have this world's goods, but to conclude that having this world's goods is equal to not being humble, is a *serious* mistake!

Pride is not on the outside... It is on the **inside**. Proverbs 13:10 says, "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom." When you see a person with a lot of anger, strife and hate, you can know that his heart is full of pride! It doesn't matter what they drive, where they work or the house in which they live.

I would advise -- never try to humiliate a prideful person (whether rich or poor) -- you will likely only see more of his anger! If we want a life with less contention, then let's dig out that root of pride buried in our hearts. Being humble is the wisest advice. (David Conley, preacher for the Liberty church. His address: 689 Highway 25; Dennis, MS 38838. Reprinted by permission. Thanks, brother David!)



David Conley



Fulton Bible Institute Averaged 75 Students During Most Recent Term

Russ Crosswhite, preacher for the Fulton congregation and Institute Director, wrote to us saying, "Here is the picture from the recent Fulton Bible Institute banquet following the 2013 fall term. The class averaged 75 students per class with several congregations represented. We studied the Revelation chapters 1-12 and the next course [began January 28] will be a study of Revelation chapters 13-22." For more information, contact the Fulton Church of Christ at [fultoncoc@nexband.com](mailto:fultoncoc@nexband.com).

### North Mississippi Churches Invade Collins, Prentiss and Taylorsville 80 plus

In an announcement sent to the MM by **Steve Carter**, preacher for the church in Collins, a very special evangelistic effort was planned for the second week in March. Steve wrote as follows.

The Collins church of Christ (1187 McDonald Chapel Road) will serve as host to a large number of campaigners from the north Mississippi area (**Batesville, Corinth, Iuka, and others**) during the week of Spring Break.

The eighty plus campaigners and their chaperons will arrive in Collins Friday night, March 7<sup>th</sup> and stay through the 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be nightly bon-fire/devotionals at the church building and the campground on Hwy 84 W and daytime Bible studies from house to house.

The special series of services will begin Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 – 3:00 and Monday evening through Wednesday evening at 7. **Josh James** (Batesville) will be doing the preaching. The group will be holding *simultaneous services* in **Prentiss** and **Taylorsville**. The public is invited to participate in the various activities.

Scriptures state: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalms 133:1). Dwelling together and working together, not only is *pleasant* and good; it is also *pleasing* to our Lord who prayed that all may be one (John 17). May God richly bless all such efforts to His honor. (alf)

### VICKSBURG Gospel Meeting

The Vicksburg Church of Christ has a Gospel Meeting scheduled for August 17-20, 2014 with **Clark Sims** doing the preaching. **Eric Welch** is the local minister.

### MS Delta Churches Cooperating

Each winter, in January, churches of Christ in the northern half of Mississippi work together in sponsoring what is called the "Delta Enrichment Seminar." This year, the seminar was conducted in Cleveland on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

The theme, based on studies in the epistle of James, was "Practical Christianity." If all went as planned the subjects, speakers and congregations were as follows.

"Overcoming Trials" – **Mark Shiers**, West President Street church of Christ, Greenwood, MS.

"The Fiery Tongue" – **Danny Holman**, South Main Street church of Christ, Greenville, MS.

"Friend of the World or Friend of God" – **Michael Bates**, Batesville church of Christ, Batesville, MS.

"Effective, Fervent Prayer" – **Tony Brown**, Zion Rest church of Christ, Marietta, MS.

The announcement upon which this report is based was sent to us by Tim McCarter, of the church in Cleveland which served as host congregation for this year's program. I regret we were unable to attend; however, we rejoice to see brethren working together to teach the Word of God. (alf)

### MONTGOMERY, AL "Elders' Connect"

Faulkner University would like to extend a welcome to Elders, Leaders, and their wives to this year's Elders Connect. The dates are **June 9-12, 2014**.

Speakers scheduled include **Billy Hilyer** (Talladega, AL); **Cecil May** (Wetumpka, AL); **Ken Wilson** (Puyallup, WA); **Scott Gfleaves** (Montgomery, AL) and **Matt Vega** from Montgomery, AL. For more information, contact **Sam Long** at 334-386-7256.

### Pine Vale Children's Home (Corinth, MS) Opening for House Parents

Applicants preferably have had some experience in rearing children, like to be involved in church activities, special activities and traveling. Applicants should be well organized and flexible.

For those interested in doing mission work, this is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child.

Paid medical insurance, vacation, paid housing and utilities are just a portion of the benefit package offered to employees.

Interested couples should contact:

**Tommy Baragona, Director  
Pine Vale Children's Home  
1872 CR 700  
Corinth, Mississippi 38834  
662-286-6555  
[PineValeCH@comcast.net](mailto:PineValeCH@comcast.net)**

### VERONA

A Gospel Meeting is planned for June 6-8, 2014 at the Verona Church of Christ with **Brad McNutt** doing the speaking. **Wayne Cox** is the preacher at Verona.

(1)

### The Saviour's Plan for Salvation 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 the word of God.

**BUT THERE IS MORE!**

(Turn to Page 18)

## Searching for Preachers

**Notice:** We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. The inclusion of a congregation and/or preacher on this page or anywhere else in the MM is not be understood as an endorsement. Please check out!

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

### Bartlett, TN (Ellendale)

We at Ellendale are in search of a minister of the Gospel who is enthusiastic and eager to work for the Lord's church, one who is sound in the faith and willing to be the motivator for this group of people who are striving to please God in everything we do.

We believe there is an exhorter of people, like Barnabas, who will be willing to work with the church at Ellendale so we can grow in number and in spirit, spreading the Word of God -- first in the church, then in the community around us. We are a sound congregation, with good people who want to see many people in this area be obedient to Christ.

Salary and large 3 bedroom home provided.

**Ellendale Church of Christ**  
7365 U.S.Hwy.70  
Bartlett, TN 38133  
(901) 386-5008

### Madison, MS (Jackson Area)

The Madison Church of Christ is seeking a full-time pulpit minister. We are dedicated to serving our community and spreading the Gospel of Christ. The 125 member congregation is served by two elders and three deacons. We moved into our new building last year. Please contact us at

**Madison Church of Christ  
Minister Search**  
483 Reunion Parkway  
Madison, MS 39110  
Telephone: 601-853-9558

### Gospel Meeting

March 29, 30, 2014  
(Saturday & Sunday)  
Speaker

**Michael Bates**

(Batesville, MS)

**Cleveland  
Church of Christ**  
212 Ronaldman Rd  
Cleveland, Mississippi  
662-843-5073  
(Tim McCarter, local preacher)

### South Sulphur, LA Seeks Full-time Minister

The South Sulphur Church of Christ of Sulphur Louisiana is seeking a full time, mainline, conservative minister. We are a very small congregation with excellent debt-free facilities located just off interstate 10 on Highway 27 south.

This is a high growth, low unemployment area, with good church growth potential. Compensation package of \$48,000 includes \$1,000.00 a month housing allowance.

#### Candidates should be:

1. Effective gospel preacher / teacher.
2. Lover of the lost.
3. Willing to work / self-starter.

#### Of less importance:

1. Marital status
2. Education
3. Age.

Call for more information, or send resume -- please include CD's etc. to:

**Ray Hyatt**  
P O Box 417  
DeQuincy, La. 70633  
Email:  
rayhyatt@yahoo.com  
Phone:  
Home: 377-786-2083  
Cell: 377-513-8423

*"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...." (Rom. 10:15)*

### Demopolis, AL Searches for Preacher

The Canal Heights church of Christ in Demopolis, AL is seeking applicants for a full time gospel preacher/pulpit minister. We average 50 to 75 in attendance. We want Bible preaching not story telling.

We have two elders and two deacons. Preacher's home is provided. Experience and preaching education is a plus. MUST BE SOUND IN DOCTRINE!

If interested we would like resume and two sermons on CD, website, or link emailed to greg8297@gmail.com or mail to Church of Christ P.O. Box 100 Demopolis, AL 36732. For more information leave message at 334-289-3484 or call 334-212-9814.

### Kosciusko, MS

(South Huntington St.)

The S. Huntington Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi is looking for a full-time preacher. We are a congregation with elders and deacons. Our attendance on Sunday mornings runs from 80 - 95.

We are located on the campus of the former Magnolia Bible College. Thus, we have some great facilities that need to be filled with people.

Some of the qualifications for this position include:

An unqualified love for the Lord.

A strong commitment to the Bible as God's Word.

Prefer a Bible related degree or certification of graduation from a recognized School of Preaching.

An ability to work with elders.

A demonstrated ability to work with members of all ages, but especially with young people.

A demonstrated ability to use technology, especially Power Point

A strong commitment to evangelism, locally and in the world.

A family man with children preferred.

A single-family residence in a nice community in Kosciusko can be considered as a part of the compensation package.

Please send a resume along with a desired salary range to the **Preacher Selection Committee; P.O. Box 1399; Kosciusko, MS 39090** Please include at least two audio or video sermons.

### Church of Christ

**820 South Huntington Street**  
Phone Number: 662-289-3791  
Website:  
southhuntingtoncoc.org  
Contact Name:  
**Les Ferguson, Sr.**  
Phone: 601-562-4226; Email:  
lfergusonmm@hotmail.com

### Gospel Meeting

May 18-21, 2014  
(Sunday: 9:30 & 10:30 AM)  
(Mon - Wed at 7 PM)

#### Cecil May, Jr.

Union Church of Christ  
Union, Mississippi  
662-582-1220

(2)

### The Saviour's Plan for Salvation 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 19)

### Lake Harbour Church

(Ridgeland, MS)

The Lake Harbour Drive (LHD) Church of Christ is seeking a full-time Youth and Young Adults' Minister. LHD is a well established congregation located in Ridgeland, MS, a suburb of the greater Jackson metropolitan area. This very diverse congregation of God's people averages 230 on Sunday mornings. Our Youth group consists of approximately 20-25 teens, which includes numerous teens from nearby Sunnybrook Children's Home.

We are looking for a strong Bible based individual who is expected to teach, lead, unite and motivate our youth and young adults. The candidate should be an energetic spiritual leader, as well as able to interact on a personal level with our children, youth and families.

To find out more about the desired qualifications and duties, please visit the church website: [www.lakeharbourcoc.org](http://www.lakeharbourcoc.org); or [youth.lakeharbourcoc.org](http://youth.lakeharbourcoc.org); Facebook: Lake Harbour Youth Group or Twitter: @LHCOCYouth.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, references and family photo to [yayamsearch@lakeharbourcoc.org](mailto:yayamsearch@lakeharbourcoc.org).

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is Supported by  
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THANK YOU!**

## 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)

### MM ADDRESSES

#### Changes & Additions

Contact

**Glenda Franks**

[glendafranks@yahoo.com](mailto:glendafranks@yahoo.com)  
662-792-2800

**P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090**

**THANK YOU**

## Pine Vale Children's Home, Inc. Corinth, MS

### Position Available: Executive Director

#### Responsibilities Include:

Administrative management of Pine Vale Children's Home. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the business affairs, human resources, financial management, information systems, facilities management, and policy development for the facility. The Executive Director is also responsible for developing and implementing the fund raising program for Pine Vale.

#### Qualifications Include:

The Executive Director must be a faithful Christian who has skills in public speaking and public relations. The preferred qualifications are a Master's Degree in Social Work, Administration, Psychology, or a related field. Candidates with a Bachelor's degree and work experience will also be considered. The position of Executive Director is a full time position which will require some travel.

#### Benefits Offered:

Salary commensurate with education and experience. Health Insurance coverage. Retirement package. Paid vacation and sick leave. Housing and utilities provided.

Send Resume To:

**Director Search Committee  
Pine Vale Children's Home  
1872 CR 700  
Corinth, MS 38834**

2013 Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat  
(Additional Information)



**Speakers/Participants in the 2013 Retreat.**

(Left) Jane Maynard, Regina Ellis, Kari Martin and Barbara Cooper

In the most recent issue of the MM, we were pleased to include a report of the 2013 Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat, lovingly written by **Betty Moss**. After the article was published, Kari Martin sent additional information about the retreat, including the above picture.

We regret that our earlier report did not mention that **Regina Ellis** was one of the gifted speakers at the retreat. Concerning Regina, Karla wrote: "Regina Ellis is just a simple girl serving an awesome God. Regina is a child of God, wife, mother, and friend living and serving in Mountain Home Arkansas. Regina enjoys sharing God's word in person and through

social media. Regina has been teaching ladies' bible classes, and speaking at Ladies' Days and Retreats since 2001. Regina can be contacted at reginaellis@suddenlink.net

"The **2014 Ladies' Retreat** is planned for Sardis Lake Christian Camp **September 26 & 27, 2014**. Interested ladies can send me (**Kari Martin**) an email at klm0401@centurytel.net."

Sister Martin added, "Thank you very much for all your help. This retreat is an important event for many women each year, and we are always happy to welcome new attendees!"

"It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgement."  
(Heb. 10:25)

**Are You Ready  
For YOUR appointment?**

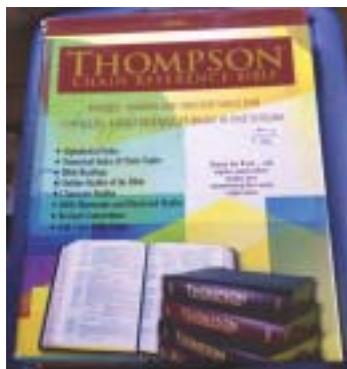
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**For Remembering the MM  
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Honor Your Loved Ones**

**See Page 12**

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*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")**

**Second East Central  
Mississippi Lectureship**

**Saturday  
April 26, 2014**

On Saturday, April 26th, 2014, the Union Church of Christ, Union, MS, will host the second East Central Mississippi Lectureship. The theme for the Lectureship is *Taking the Gospel To The World...* Six speakers will provide information on the importance and ways of spreading the gospel locally and world wide.

Keynote speakers and their topics are:

**Chris Shippley**, Duffee Church of Christ. *Taking the Gospel to India*

**Chris Butler**, Philadelphia Church of Christ. *Local and Youth Programs*

**Louis Rushmore**, World Evangelism, Winona, MS. *Taking the Gospel to South America*

**Les Ferguson, Sr.**, Koscuisko Church of Christ. *Taking the Gospel to Mexico.*

**Mark Hudson**, Quitman Church of Christ. *Taking the Gospel to Those in Prison.*

**Ray Paseur**, Forest Church of Christ. *Taking the Gospel to the South Pacific.*

The lectures will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. Sessions will begin on the hour throughout the day. Lunch will be provided at the church building.

The meeting location is **909 E. Jackson, Union, MS**. It is just west of the intersection of highways 15 and 492 at Union.

Please come and learn how the church in this area is reaching out with the gospel and ways that you and your congregation might be more active in this God directed endeavor.

For more information call **Rick Benson** (662-582-1220) or **Therman Hodge** (601-480-7067).

In **nothing** be *anxious*...

In **everything** *pray*...

(Phil. 4:6)

**MM ADDRESSES**

**Changes & Additions**

Contact

**Glenda Franks**

glendafranks@yahoo.com

662-792-2800

P. O. Box 1578

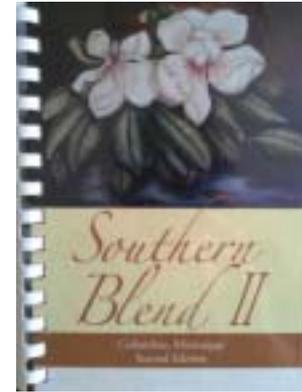
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**THANK YOU**

**Southern Blend II Cookbook**

Sponsored by **Gail Ward** and **Patsy Conquest**

(Members of 7<sup>th</sup> St. Church of Christ, Columbus & Caledonia Church of Christ, Caledonia, MS)



**Price:**

\$15 (Columbus pickup)

Or

\$20 (U.S. shipment)

**Features:** Hardcover, 1308 recipes, 546 pages

Contact and Order Info:

**\*Gail Ward,**

244 Hwy 373, Columbus, MS 39705

662-352-4231 gward4@hotmail.com

**\*Patsy Conquest,**

318 Wynhurst Ct., Columbus, MS 39702

662-328-9671 patsyconquest318@gmail.com

**All proceeds benefit 2 missions with Columbus roots:**

- 1). **Casa de Esperanza Children's Home**, Santa Ana, Honduras.
- 2). **Kathy Cadden**, director of **Operation Ukraine**, which sends hospital supplies/equipment to Ukraine and other parts of the world.

**Reader's Response**

*I have received the Magnolia Messenger for several years and enjoy reading it. I would like for you to send it to my son who is in prison... Since he has been in prison he has been studying the Bible continuously. He has been a Christian for years but strayed for a while and made some grave mistakes. Thank you for the Messenger and your devoted work for the love of God. Yours in Christ, ("Another Mississippi reader")*

The  
**Magnolia Messenger**

Regularly Enters Through

**Locked Doors,**

Bringing

**Information, Inspiration,**

and

**Instruction**

to

**multitudes of prisoners.**

We thank God and those who make the circulation of the MM possible!

**Thanks from the Franks**



**Wendell & June Agee**

Former Clinton, Mississippi Folks  
Seen at SIBS Lectureship In  
Knoxville, TN

**(3)**

**The Saviour's  
Plan for Salvation  
REPENT OF SINS**

Jesus said, "...except you *repent*, you shall all likewise perish." (Lk 13:3)  
God, "...commandeth all men everywhere to *repent*..." (Acts 17:31)

**BUT**

**THERE IS MORE!**

(Turn to Page 21)

### As Seen in Mississippi

A Tennessee Resident  
Displays His Conviction  
(Based on Bible Teachings)

One MAN plus  
One WOMAN equals  
**MARRIAGE**  
(GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH)



## Wonder Why These Records Were Written

People **DISOBEYED**;  
People **DESTROYED!**

### Nadad & Abihu

(Leviticus 10:1-2)

**Disobeyed:** "...offered strange fire before the Lord which he commanded them not."

**Destroyed:** "And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

### Korah

(Numbers 16: 31-33)

**Disobeyed:** Led a rebellion against the authority of God and Moses. (Num. 16:1-22)

**Destroyed:** "...and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up... went down alive into the pit and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation." (Num. 16:32,33)

### Uzzah

(2 Samuel 6: 6-9)

**Disobeyed:** "Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it..." (verse 6)

**Destroyed:** "...and God smote him there for his error and he died by the ark of God." (verse 7)

### Examples: Book of Jude

#### (a) Israelites

**Disobeyed:** "They believed not." (verse 5)

**Destroyed:** "... The Lord having saved the people out of the land of Egypt afterward destroyed them..." (verse 5)

#### (b) Angels

**Disobeyed:** "...kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation..." (verse 6)

**Destroyed:** "...reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day." (verse 6)

#### (c) Sodom & Gomorrah

**Disobeyed:** "...giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh..." (verse 7)

**Destroyed:** "...suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (verse 7)

Consider the disobedience and destruction detailed in the book of Jude and ask, **Why were they written?**

**INSPIRED ANSWER:** "Set forth for an **example.**" (vs. 7)

Consider the above and other Old Testament records of disobedience and destruction and ask, **Why Were They Written?**

**THE INSPIRED ANSWER:** I Cor. 10:6 -- "Now these things were **our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted... Now all these things happened unto them for **ensamples** and **they are written for our admonition** upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Yes, God is good. God is love. But, sin is terrible. Sin brings suffering and, **if not repented of**, sin brings **destruction**.

Jesus warned, "**...and fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell.**" (Matthew 10:28)

**Be not deceived. Heaven is wonderful but hell is horrible!**

"Behold therefore the **goodness** and the **severity** of God..." (Romans 11:22) (Compiled by alf)

## Legs of the Lame

### "Unequal"

call for. I really like it. I'll just give it to you instead."

"No," the minister replied, "I want exactly what the physician specified, that and no more." "But the doctor did not say not to use it," the druggist replied. "Nevertheless, I can only accept the prescription as the doctor gave it, and it must be filled that way or not at all."

The following Sunday the druggist went to hear the preacher and he happened to be preaching on "The Great Physician Healing the Sin-Sick Soul." In the course of the remarks, the preacher stated that although the Bible taught that all should be baptized, and although Peter commanded "everyone of you" to be "baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), he thought that one could be saved without baptism.

Later the minister affirmed that the addition of instrumental music in the worship, without a specified command, was entirely safe and

sound. "Though in the teaching of Christ," he said, "we do not find where He ever commanded us to use instrumental music; we know that He did not say not to use it."

As the druggist shook hands with the preacher after the service, he quietly said "**Surely the legs of the lame are unequal.**"

It is strange that many sincere people can go to churches not found in Scripture, and listen to preachers change -- add to and take from the Bible in sermons -- without ever questioning it. Preaching that changes God's Word will harm the mind, heart, and soul as much as poison will harm the body. Let us all take heed what we hear (Mark 4:24), and carefully search our Bibles (Acts 17:11).

(Article taken from a newsletter received a few years ago from **Harry D. Middleton** of Nashville, TN. Its message is sorely needed in our day. Read with prayer. - Editor)

The apostle Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (I Peter 4:11)

# Food for Thought

## Ladies Day

### March 22, 2014

#### SIWELL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Registration:**  
**8:30 - 9:00AM**  
(Light breakfast Served)  
**9:00 - 12:00 Noon**  
**Lunch: after Noon**

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and learning!**  
**Please bring  
a friend!**

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**Guest Speaker**  
**Evelyn Apple**

Evelyn Apple grew up in a Christian home in Pennsylvania. She has been married to Jody Apple for 35 years. She spent 24 years homeschooling their three children. They worked with a congregation in suburban Philadelphia, PA for 25 years. The Apples currently live in Knoxville, where Evelyn helps teach student's wives' classes at the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies, and helps Jody in his work with the school and International Gospel Hour.

## Women in the Ancestry of Jesus

(Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Tamar)

- Avis Corley  
Porter -

“And Solomon begat Boaz of **Rachab**, and Boaz begat **Ruth** and Obed begat Jesse. And Jesse begat David the King, and David the King begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias.” (Matthew 1:5-6) Her name was **Bathsheba**. (II Samuel 11 :3).

These are scriptures from the lineage of Jesus recorded by Matthew. It may seem surprising that God would have included the four women mentioned in the lineage. But this reflects God's grace to all races and shows His forgiving heart.

Joshua sent two men to spy out the land, even Jericho. They came in to a harlot's house named **Rahab**. She hid the spies and they rewarded her by saving her and all her family when Jericho was destroyed. (Joshua 6:23) She had become a believer in the Living God. (Joshua 2:1-24) Rahab later became the mother of Boaz who was Ruth's second husband; thus became her mother-in-law. Surprised?

Ruth was a Moabite who came back with Naomi to her homeland as the famine was over. She told Naomi -- in the one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible -- that Naomi's God would be her God. (Ruth 1:16). (*It is used today in weddings.*) She obeyed the law of Moses and became the wife of Boaz, who was the brother of Elimelech, Naomi's deceased husband (Ruth 4:3).

Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed. Obed begat Jesse, Jesse begat David and David begat Solomon. Ruth was the grandmother of Jesse, great grandmother of David and the great grandmother of Solomon. Thus Ruth was ancestress of King David, King Solomon (I Kings 1:11) and Jesus, the King of Kings. Ruth is blessed to have a book in the Bible bearing her name. Only God knew all this was in the future of a young Moabite woman.

King David lusted after Bathsheba and committed adultery with her. He went to great lengths to cover their sin, even to the point of murder. David had other wives (I Samuel 24-42). I wonder why Bathsheba was the woman that continued the lineage to the Saviour. The secret things belong to God. (Deuteronomy 29:29)



Avis Porter

Judah took a wife for Er, his firstborn, whose name was **Tamar**. And Er, Judah's first born was wicked in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord slew him. Onan, his brother, refused to raise up seed to his brother by preventing conception. It displeased the Lord and the Lord slew him (Genesis 38: 1-10).

Judah told Tamar, his daughter-in-law, to remain a widow at her father's house until his son, Shelah, was grown. Talk about patience... but her's ran out! But time had passed and he had not given him to be her husband. She put off her widow's clothes and sat in an open place and Judah thought she was a harlot. He asked to come in unto her. She asked for a pledge until he sent a kid from the flock. He gave her his signet, bracelets, and staff.

Three months later he couldn't find her and was told she had played the harlot. Judah said bring her forth and let her be burnt. *And wasn't he one to condemn her! Had he "forgotten" His sin??* Tamar sent him his things and said she was with child by the one they belonged to. She gave birth to twins, Pharez and Zarah (Genesis 38:1 - 30). And Judah begat Phares and Zara of Thamar (Matthew 1:3). So Judah, Phares, Zara and Tamar are listed in the lineage of Jesus. (The line continued through Phares. Luke 3:33) To me this is another surprise because of how the birth came about.

(*I guess we need to remember there was only one sinless person and that was Jesus.*) These four women, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Tamar had a privileged position in the lineage leading to the Saviour. How blessed we are to have his earthly genealogy. And until eternity people will be reading about it in God's word.

(Written October, 2013) Avis Corley Porter 9803 Hwy. 336 Thaxton, MS 38871

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



### Still Hanging on the Wall (28 Years Later)

The wall plaque pictured above recently caught my attention. It has been hanging on a wall since December of 1985, first in my mama's house; then, in our house. For some reason, the wording on the plaque came "alive" as I slowly read each line early on the morning of January 20, 2014. I recalled that it was 12 years ago in February, on the 28th, that "Our Mother" departed, we believe, to "be with the Lord!"

As I slowly read the beautiful words -- lovingly hand "cross stitched" by my June, tears filled my eyes as I remembered my dear mother and thought of the love she shared, not only with me, but also with my faithful wife of 57 years; to whom she had become -- not just another "mother-in-law" but another "mother".

The wall plaque reminded me of many reasons I have for giving thanks. It also stirred joy within my heart for the blessed hope of life beyond the grave -- a hope we have only through Jesus Christ. **Are you a Christian? Are you in Christ?** The Bible declares, "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...*" (Rev. 14:13)

### Judgement Day is Coming! Are YOU Ready?

(2 Cor. 5:10)

(4)

### The Saviour's Plan for Salvation 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 22)

## "OUR Mother"

Lucille Franks Stumph  
Mama Died  
February, 2002  
12 Years Later

Mama Remembered  
February, 2014

A Wall Plaque  
Caught My Attention



## To "His" Mother

"Mother-in-law..." they say, and yet,  
Somehow, I simply can't forget,  
'Twas you who watched his baby ways,  
Who taught him his first hymn of praise,  
Who smiled on him with living pride,  
When he first toddled by your side.

"Mother-in-law..." but oh, 'twas you,  
Who taught him to be kind and true.  
When he was tired, almost asleep,  
'Twas to your arms he used to creep.  
And when he bruised his tiny knee,  
'Twas you who kissed it tenderly.

"Mother-in-law..." they say, and yet,  
Somehow, I never shall forget,  
How very much I owe  
To you who taught him how to grow.  
You trained your son to look above,  
You made of him the man I love,

And, as I think of that today,  
Ah, with thankful heart I'll say,  
"OUR MOTHER."

Author of poem unknown to us. Words were copied, hand stitched and framed by June Franks in December of 1985 in honor of "Our Mother" (Lucille Franks Stumph). Mama departed this life, twelve years ago, on February 28, 2002. (A. L. Franks, MM editor)

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"Thank you for the opportunity to serve."

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

### Spring Cleaning

- June Franks -

After the first signs of spring and, especially after a cold winter, as women, we begin to think about doing some much needed spring cleaning.

Our country has experienced one of the worst winters we have had in several years. Even some of the Southern states have seen extremely cold weather with plenty of ice and snow.

We are thankful. God has blessed us with different seasons - winter, spring, summer and fall. Each season has its own unique beauty and with differing weather conditions. As a people, we look forward to the change in seasons. Spring is especially beautiful with all the flowers, the budding of the trees, the green grass and foliage.

Spring is also the time of the year when we think of doing spring cleaning. After the winter season, with the house having been closed up, we look forward to opening the windows and airing out our house. It is also a good time for doing some spring cleaning of the house

Let us not forget, however. It is much more important that we focus on cleaning up or cleaning out those areas of our life that are not well pleasing to God, rather than doing spring house cleaning. Spring cleaning can wait.

As the Bible says, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord." (Lamentations 3:40) Let us take a look at our own lives and ask ourselves how we would appear before God at the time of our death or in the day of judgement?

The scriptures read, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath **clean** hands, and a **pure** heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." (Psalm 24:3-5)

This scripture says it is the person with **clean** hands and a **pure** heart who shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Let us make sure that we have clean hands and a pure heart. We are the only one that can correct this matter if we are failing in these areas in God's sight.

David prayed for a **clean** heart. "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou



June Franks

*hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a **clean** heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."* (Psalms 51: 8-12)

The Bible teaches what really makes us unclean or dirty. Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:" (Mark 7: 21,22)

The following is another Bible verse which should cause us to want to purify our hearts, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse** your hands, ye sinners; and **purify** your hearts, ye double-minded. (James 4: 8)

Let us also prayerfully consider these words lifted from Proverbs.

"Keep thy heart will all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil." (Proverbs 4: 23-27)

Our prayer should be, as we do our own spiritual spring cleaning, to make this request, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139: 23,24)

Even though we are now several months into the year of 2014, the following poem still seems so very appropriate. This poem was found taped in the front of a Bible that belonged to my sweet mother-in-law, **Lucille Franks Stumph**, who

departed this earthly life on February 28, 2002.

#### Forget ...

Forget the old year's sorrows; forget its lonely days. Forget its toils and hardships, its dark and weary ways.

Brood not o'er blighted prospects; O'er hours with sadness rife. Look forward to the new year -- its hope, its cheer, its life!

A gracious boon -- **this new year** -- unsoiled by sin or care. No gem of earth so precious, no springtime morn more fair.

Its worth can ne'er be measured; its charms can ne'er be told; But free, how free this new year, alike to young and old.

How shall I spend this new year? The answer is quickly given: "Make each succeeding moment a stepping stone toward heaven.

"Reach out thy hand in blessing to suff'ring ones below; Twill keep thy cruise from failing and cause thy heart to glow.

"Send portions to the needy; go share another's grief. Point upward to the Master who offers sweet relief.

"Sound out the gospel message; win lost ones to the fold. Thus spent, the joys of **a new year** on earth can ne'er be told." (Author unknown to us)

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**(5)**  
**The Saviour's**  
**Plan for Salvation**  
**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!**  
(Look to your right, this page)

## POEMS

By  
**Barbara**

Barbara Cagle Ray  
bcagleray@comcast.net



### Tear Down the Wall

*I had a friend who was very dear to me;  
Our private thoughts we would confide.  
Then we voiced a difference of opinion,  
And both our hearts swelled up with pride.*

*Instead of talking, we just built a wall  
Between the two of us very high and wide.  
Neither one of us tried to tear it down  
Or make attempts to reach the other side.*

*The wall loomed there for many long years,  
And we both were becoming old and gray.  
We stared at cold cement and stone  
Until one day it began to crumble away.*

*We stood gazing at each other once again;  
Our hands touched as stones began to fall.  
Pride is sometimes such a powerful thing—  
Why didn't we just tear down the wall?*

### The Important Things

*I plan to do something important one day,  
But now my life is full of little things:  
Clothes to be mended, tears to kiss away,  
A husband to feed- "Lord, give me wings!"*

*There are nightly prayers to be heard;  
Tired children must be rocked to sleep.  
There's hair to be brushed, ribbons to tie,  
And a birthday party to plan next week.*

*Suddenly, the house has grown so quiet;  
My husband is gone; the phone never rings.  
I guess now there's finally time for me,  
And I can do all those important things.*

*Oh, but there's such an ache, a loneliness,  
When the time of "little things" has flown.  
Why do we fail to realize until then-  
We were doing the important things all along?*

### 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.**

**(PLEA: TURN TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN OBEDIENT FAITH)**

Call: 601-668-3344; E-mail: franksmm@aol.com

(See Question Box)

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439. Olga Magee
440. Bonnie Skates
441. Anna Lee Pruitt
442. Jeff & Debbie Shull
443. Gwendolyn Gray Bryant
444. Mrs. Eileen Williford
445. Hattie Johnson
446. Mrs. Shelia A. Williams
447. Elizabeth Dickerson
448. Deba Sigmund
449. Annie R. Copeland
450. Minnie Garner
451. Joyce Talbert
452. Meredith Peek
453. Renee B. Mayer
454. Earl C. Woodard
455. McArthur Williams
456. Peggy Havard
457. Patricia D. McClure
458. Johnny Rodgers
459. Michael Coleman
460. Carla Owen
461. LaVerne Knight
462. Juanita LeBouef
463. Rebecca Alexander
464. Kathey C. James
465. Bodean Collm
466. Margaret Bailey
467. Dorsey & Margie Burton
468. Tommy Lewis
469. Demetrius A. Davidson
470. Mary Beth Dietz
471. Bonnie Poore
472. Sandra Welch
473. Polly Templeton
474. Rita Smith
475. Mary M. Makin
476. Ella Darnell
477. Marcella Moore
478. Velma Isom
479. Ginny Luther
480. Martha J. Leggett
481. Lucy Baughn
482. Eddie D. Beard
483. Jolene Dale
484. Howard Turner, Jr.
485. Dwayne Bennett
486. Mary T. Feist
487. Rocky Dial
488. Frank Winding
489. Earl Franks
490. Dorothy Franks
491. Tommy & Peggy Shull
492. Doris Carroll
493. Merle Johnston
494. Willa Fox
495. Lynn Sasser
496. Ann Holeman
497. Mattie Hoy
498. Lula F. Vanderford
499. A. J. Horton
500. Johnnye Blackmon
501. Mary Dyer
502. Thyra Sumlin
503. Natalie Stewart
504. Nell & Tommy Lawson
505. Bobby Price
506. Esther Hall
507. Linda T. Shirley
508. Barbara Loden
509. Beverly Miles
510. Jack Stillman
511. Connie Fountain
512. Gaynell Doughty
513. James & Gloria Breckenridge
514. Barbara Yates
515. Dorothy Dean
516. Philip Rogers
517. Dan J. Hawkins
518. Lessie Tanson
519. Muriel Rothwell
520. Hattie Hooper
521. Jean Girdner
522. Floy I. Smith
523. Mary A. Turner
524. Dorothy Laws
525. Carol Bradley
526. M/M Michael Glover
527. Wilbert S. Butler, Jr.
528. Louise Billiot
529. Gerry Hahn
530. Bud & Linda Wranosky
531. Olen Roden
532. Ann Whetstone
533. Ms. Iris Casteel
534. Barbara A. Beard
535. Marsha Porter
536. Hubert C. Thornton
537. Michael Deaton
538. Glen Brady
539. Cathy Bullock
540. Thevor B. Dent, Jr.
541. Hilda Thornton
542. Mrs. Pat Shadle
543. Carolyn Perry
544. Lois Nielson
545. Scott Nelson
546. Bobbie Sindle
547. Joe E. Jernigan
548. Betty Jo Stewart
549. Yvonne Swilley
550. Dee Kepler
551. Billye Wiygul
552. Arvis Midkiff
553. Harold & Bonnie Mobley
554. Imogene Grayson
555. Joyce McKee
556. Frances Mingea
557. Doris Gillespie
558. Mrs. Pearl Hurst
559. Nancy Akers
560. Marilyn Reaves
561. Sandy Dean
562. Jack C. Meredith
563. Geneva Baird
564. Aileen Ross
565. James Sanders
566. Willie Lois Rogers
567. Julius Lee Wales
568. Neil & Betty Marshall
569. Beulah Rupert
570. Lozell Milligan
571. Mary Townsend
572. Dorothy Banks
573. Willam Pyron
574. Drucilla Blackmon
575. Marcy Lkanarauk
576. Debbie Eubanks
577. James Ivy
578. Kenneth Harmon
579. Lawrence Horn
580. Barbara McGee
581. Linda Swain
582. Marshall Kern
583. Prince E. Lewis
584. Silas Shepherd
585. Ravernell McNeese
586. Naomi Jahneke
587. Phyllis & Ron Alexander
588. Nettie Doss
589. Sonya Ballard
590. Yvonne Burrell
591. Cynthia Green
592. Tamatha Bradshaw
593. Addelee S. Brown
594. Linda Sue Kennamore
595. Don Lee
596. Reginald Davis
597. Sharon Huckaba
598. Mary Ellen Hammack
599. Wayne Crum
600. Eddie Carroll
601. Barbara Carroll
602. Mike Wofford
603. Larry Wallace
604. Paul Franks
605. Carolyn Kendrick
606. Heather Renee McCollum
607. Amanda Tomas
608. Imogene Kirk
609. Shellie Hancock
610. Betty Harris
611. Fronie Stephenson
612. Carol DeBord
613. Beverly Armstrong
614. Alberta Craft
615. Sylvia Birt
616. Regina Arnett
617. Olye M. Rush
618. Jackie Hester
619. Laura Carter
620. Paula Conley
621. Sue M. Fisher
622. Johnnie Perry
623. Sherri Williams
624. Eleanor Townsend
625. Ione Wester
626. Mike Sullivan
627. Brandi Clutts
628. Foy C. Smith
629. Mary King
630. Shirley Meeks
631. Alice Dempsey
632. Ruby Windham

Thank You For  
Answering the "QB"

Use **KJV** For  
Wording & Spelling

## The Question Box

Use **KJV** For  
Wording & Spelling

### Is Baptism Really Necessary?

Recently a friend told me of a prison chaplain who would not allow him or anyone in his group to baptize any of the inmates. The chaplain was going to make them wait for a year, until they got several to baptize, so they could baptize them all at the same time. A famous TV preacher recently stated, on his TV show, that there were members of his church, who had been members for 30 years, who had never been baptized.

The chaplain and the TV preacher both apparently believe that people can be saved without ever being baptized. But, what does the Bible teach? People are baptized for various reasons. And, while it is true that the Bible gives several different reasons for being baptized; yet, if we believe we are saved before baptism we are ignoring Biblical reasons for baptism.

The New Testament stresses baptism! We are saved by God's grace but we **must accept** or **receive** God's grace. How do we accept or receive the grace of God? **An example:** God's grace brought down the walls of Jericho. How did the children of Israel receive this act of grace? The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:30, "By \_\_\_\_\_ the walls of Jericho fell down, \_\_\_\_\_ they were compassed about seven days." We receive or accept grace from God by having faith to do what He tells us to do. Jesus says, "He that \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_ shall be saved." (Mark 16:16) Letting someone baptize you is not working or earning anything. It is evidence of a faith that is willing to obey.

I hope that you will seriously and prayerfully study this important topic. *(Paul Franks)*

#### Match the Conversion Account in Acts that Best Fits the Phrase Taken From Scripture

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ Who was baptized past "midnight"?  | 1. Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:47)             |
| _____ Who was baptized for "the remission of sins"?  | 2. Eunuch (Acts 8:38)                                   |
| _____ Who, "when they believed were baptized"?   | 3. Saul (Acts 22:16)                                    |
| _____ Who "went down into the water" and "was baptized"?   | 4. Jailer and his household (Acts 16: 25,33)            |
| _____ Who was baptized and said, "If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord"?                | 5. About 3000 souls on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38) |
| _____ Who believed in Jesus, but was commanded, "Arise, be baptized and wash away thy sins"?       | 6. People in Samaria (Acts 8:12)                        |
| _____ Concerning whom was it asked, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?" | 7. Lydia, seller of purple (Acts 16:15)                 |

#### Saved by "Faith"?; Saved by "Grace"?

Submitting to the Lord Jesus and humbly obeying his command to "be baptized for the remission of sins" does not take away from the love, mercy and grace of God. Our loving response to His grace, mercy and love, in reality, shows our faith in Jesus and our sincere appreciation for what God has freely made available for us -- **salvation**. The Bible teaches that baptism puts one into Christ where salvation is found. **Complete:** "Know \_\_\_\_\_ not, that so \_\_\_\_\_ of us as were \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ into his \_\_\_\_\_?" (Romans 6:\_\_\_\_) **Fill in:** "For as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as have been \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_." (Galatians \_\_\_\_:27)

God's grace is marvelous, but we are required to be obedient. The Bible says that Jesus "became the author (source) of eternal salvation unto all them that \_\_\_\_\_ him." (Hebrews \_\_\_\_: 9) Of course, God is **the** Judge. Satan works on the mind. People make honest mistakes. Everyone is obligated to study his/her Bible. Remember these words spoken by Jesus, "Not everyone that saith unto me, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that \_\_\_\_\_ the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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**



Our New Bible Winner Holds Two Precious Possessions

A Baby & A Bible

Brenda Harvill of Jackson, TN.

Brenda Harvill of Jackson, Tennessee, was our most recent Bible winner. My June and I were privileged to deliver her Bible while we were attending the recent lectureship at Freed-Hardeman University. We found Brenda at her home, taking care of three small children -- the smallest of whom would not permit her to lay him down without crying. So, holding the baby in one arm, she held her new Study Bible in the other arm for the above picture.

Our congratulations to sister Brenda as our Bible winner, and also to her three sisters -- all of whom, we were told, regularly send in answers to "The Question Box." We were blessed to meet one of her sisters, **Marie Lively** (who also lives in Jackson, TN). She came over to Brenda's house and was there for the presentation. And, like Brenda, we found Marie to be "so sweet" (that's how my June described the two sisters). We are thankful and encouraged! (alf)

**New Bible Winner**  
**Ione Wester**  
Pontotoc, Mississippi  
**Congratulations!**

**Notice**  
**Answers to Last Issue**  
We had planned to include the answers to our last issue; but because of a computer problem, we were unable to do so this time. Hopefully, next time. (editor)

**16th Annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally**  
(April 22-25, 2014)  
**Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata**  
(Louisville, MS)  
Speaker/Song Leader  
Joe Ed Furr



**Joe Ed Furr**  
Gospel Preacher and Director  
**"The Singing School"**  
Conducted Each Summer in Abilene, Texas

**Emphasis on Congregational Singing**

**(See Page 6)**

#### Commendable Quote:

"Recently a few large churches have begun to abandon a cappella church music in favor of instrumental music. This has caused concern. The Singing School is fully dedicated to promoting, developing, and encouraging a cappella church music. If we are going to perpetuate church music into the coming century we will need to continue to train our people to maximize the quality of a cappella congregational singing." (Quotation taken from the website for "The Singing School", directed by Joe Ed Furr)

**Make Plans to Attend!**

**(Details on Page 6)**