

MAGNOLIA Messenger

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Magnolia Messenger

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“Let us consider one another to provoke unto LOVE and GOOD works.” (Heb. 10:24)

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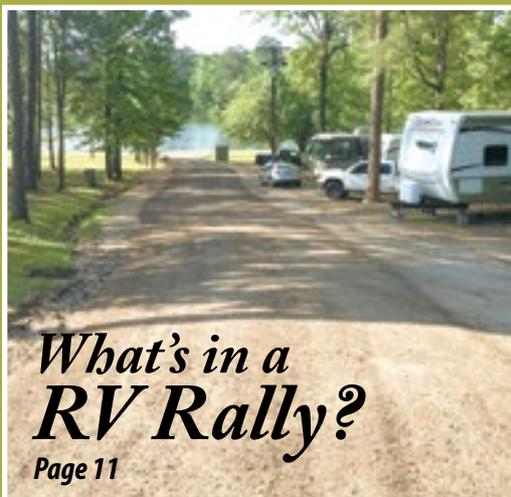
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Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.

1 Peter 1:23-25

■ **Bro. Franks,**

The M&M is like the M&M's candy you eat. You can't put it down till you read and answer the questions. (Ms. Lynn Sasser, Howe, TX)

■ I love your paper and always look forward to reading it. (Bobby Brown, Lucedale, MS)

■ **Dear Magnolia Messenger,**

I want to thank you all for sending the Magnolia Messenger to me and others here at Walnut Grove Correctional Facility. It is very insightful and useful in propagating the truth of the gospel... May God bless you all in your efforts to spread the truth. (Matthew Jacobs, Walnut Grove, MS)

■ **Magnolia Messenger:**

I found your paper at the Church of Christ in Pigeon Forge one year while we were vacationing. Enjoyed it then and have thoroughly enjoyed every issue since. May the Lord be blessed through your efforts. (Ben Webb, Benton, KY)

■ Thanks to all who contribute and distribute this uplifting publication. We always enjoy reading the true Bible teaching and the information from so many places. Thanks again. May God continue to bless us all. (Steve Gooch, Hernando, MS)

■ "Prayers and Blessings" for the good work you all do. God Bless, (Patricia Anthony, Tallahassee, AL)

■ Thank you for sending me the "Magnolia Messenger." I have enjoyed the "Question Box." (Carlotta Summers, Willis, VA)

■ **Dear MM,**

Once again I would like to tell you how much I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger. It is an uplifting source of information. We have no Church of Christ worship service at S.C.R.F. So the MM is the only source of truth here. I wish you would put some correspondence course info in the MM; that way I would be able to give it to other people and myself. Please keep up all your good work. (Samuel P. Fletcher Wiggins, MS)

■ **Dear Magnolia Messenger,**

I am sending a donation to help you with the great work for Jesus Christ. May you send this paper to every house in every city and state in the United States. I am a member of East Jackson Church of Christ in Jackson, Tennessee. (Frederick Alan Jones, Jackson, TN)



Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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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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My Dad's Last Sermon

"What Have They Seen in Thine House?"

By Al Franks, Editor

Bible reading can be exciting and stimulating! It can be uplifting, encouraging, informative and faith strengthening.

I was reminded of such wonderful blessings when sometime ago, "at random", I opened my mother's old Bible for a personal devotional. Following a prayer, asking for guidance, the passage selected was 2 Kings 20. As I began reading about the illness of King Hezekiah which was said to be "unto death", I observed a note written in the margin at verse 15. In a handwriting that I immediately recognized, I read these words, "Last sermon preached." Written above the verse itself was a name, the name "Lovis."

Yes, the handwriting was my mother's. I was reading from what was her Bible, which I inherited, and have recently started using frequently. The name, *Lovis*, was the name of my father. I noticed, for the first time, a few words in verse 15 which my mother had underlined. They were, "What have they seen in thy house?"

I had just learned something of great interest to me; something I did not know until that day! My mother (also now deceased) had left a note in the margin of the Bible text, stating that the last sermon my dad preached, shortly before his unexpected death, in May of 1971, was based on the question the prophet Isaiah asked Hezekiah, "What have they seen in thy house?"

The question, "What have they seen in thy house?" had great value -- not only in the days of Isaiah and Hezekiah, but also in our days. What about my house? What about your house? What would an unexpected visitor see if he came into your house?

It is my hope and prayer that unexpected company would see in your house things that would indicate your genuine interest in things spiritual and that you were truly putting the Lord, His kingdom and His righteousness first in your life.

Hopefully, there would be found in your house evidence of your respect

and love for the Holy Scriptures -- with a well worn Bible placed in an easy to-get-to location. Hopefully, there would be good wholesome literature readily available; maybe... just maybe, *a copy of the "Magnolia Messenger"!*

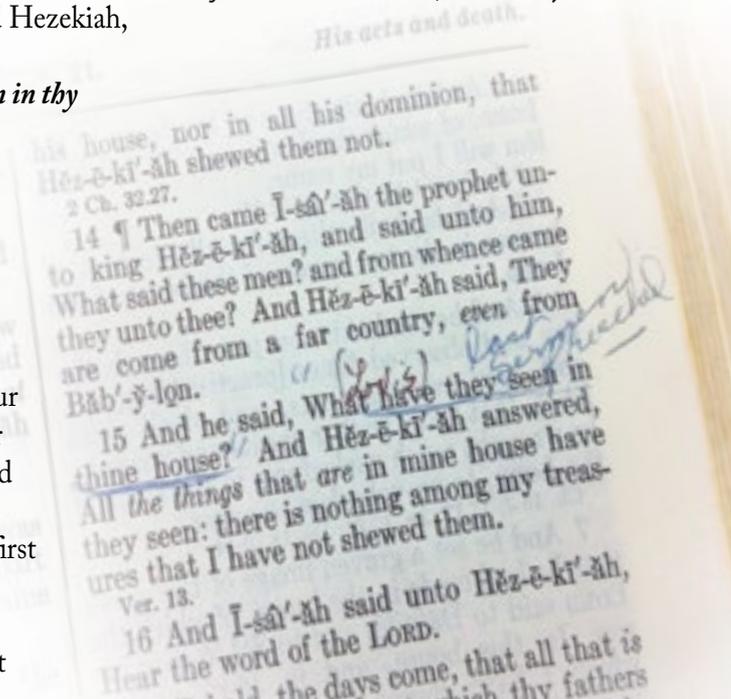
Hopefully, in your house, there would be no sign of ash trays; no trace of alcoholic beverages and no salacious literature of any sort. There might even be an indication that television was not a *time consuming idol* and that I-phones and computers were used with *bridled restraint*. Hopefully, in your house, a visitor would see and experience signs of *hospitality* so that he would go away from your house thinking of you as a

gracious host who was willing and ready to share your blessings with others, including unexpected visitors.

I do not know the points made in my Dad's last sermon, but I do know that the question "What Have They Seen in Thine House?" is still worthy of consideration. I am grateful to have learned the subject of Daddy's last sermon and be reminded that the question first asked by a prophet to a king is still valid and worthy of serious consideration by those of us who live today.

What would a visitor see in your house?

2 Kings 20:15 -- Isaiah asked Hezekiah, "What have they seen in thine house?"



Questions About Homosexuality

(a) *The world has completely bought the idea that discrimination against sexual partners of the same sex is like racial discrimination and, therefore, both morally wrong and constitutionally wrong. How did that happen so fast and how should Christians handle that fact? (J.C.)*

(b) *How should we react to a known homosexual who shows up at one of our worship services? ("No initials, please.")*

(c) *What are churches and preachers to do if preaching that homosexual relations are sin is labelled "hate speech" and made illegal? That would make it illegal to read parts of the Bible aloud. (D.E.E.)*

RESPONSE:

This issue has indeed developed rapidly. President Bill Clinton signed the "Defense of Marriage Act," defining marriage as between one man and one woman. President Obama was opposed to same sex marriage as recently as the last presidential election. Virtually every major world religion condemns same-sex sexual relations.

Now, suddenly, the Supreme Court has declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. Popular opinion has equated any rejection of same-sex sex as equivalent to the rejection of interracial marriage, and it treats rejection of full endorsement of homosexuality the same as if we were endorsing the unjust Jim Crow laws of the 1950's and 60's.

Same Sex Sexual Relations Not Equivalent to Interracial Relations

The idea that opposing same sex marriage is in the same category as opposing interracial marriage has been largely accepted by at least that part of the American public that controls which ideas are acceptable and which get labeled "hate speech." Much of the discussion centers on "sexual orientation." However, sexual orientation is not the issue. Anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, might be sexually tempted.

Race is not a choice, but whether or not to have sex and with whom, is a choice.

A long time friend and brother in Christ chose to marry a Christian woman. They chose, with the approval of God, to have sex as man and wife; the proof being three fine children. Later he chose to hang out in public bathrooms for the express purpose of finding other males with whom to have sex. After this secret life was exposed and after much marriage counseling, many tears and many, many repeated offenses, the marriage failed.

Another friend and brother in Christ, after a long marriage and several children, made a choice to have sex with the beautiful and vivacious wife of another friend and fellow-church member. After the secret came out, and, again, after much marriage counseling, many tears and repeated offenses, two marriages failed. Both were choices, sinful choices.

The Bible plainly states that sex with someone else's spouse and sex involving men with men and women with women are sin. While it is true that increasingly large numbers of people do not believe the Bible, it should come as no surprise to readers of this column that I do. Most readers of this column do, too.

I do not expect with this one column to persuade many unbelievers that the Bible is to be believed as the word of God.

What I do hope is to remind people that there are still many Bible believers all over the world who earnestly try to follow the Bible and who sincerely believe whatever it teaches.

The Bible teaches us to count everyone a neighbor and to love our neighbors as ourselves. It requires us, even as we deal with conduct we believe to be sinful, to be gentle and humble, not arrogant or self-righteous. It forbids calling others obscene or offensive names or using violence. It forbids hate, but calls us to speak the truth in love.

With all of that, however, it still condemns as sin sex between unmarried teenagers, adultery, no-fault divorce, couples living together without the commitment of marriage and sexual relations between people of the same sex.

"Men who practice homosexuality" are included in sin-lists, along with other sexual sins, murder, perjury and such like (1 Timothy 1:10). The phrase, "men who practice homosexuality" in 1 Corinthians 6:9, translates two Greek words that refer to the passive and active partners in consensual homosexual acts.

In describing the debauchery a society falls into when they refuse to recognize God, the Bible says, "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" (Romans 1:26-27).

Objectors say the Bible condemns homosexual promiscuity and coercive sex by men with young boys, both of which were common in the Greco-Roman society, but does not condemn monogamous marriages between two people of the same sex who love each

other. One looks in vain, however, for that distinction to be made in Scripture. Same sex sex, without qualifications, is called sin in Scripture..

Many of those who get incensed at Bible believers and charge us with intolerance because of what we believe to be sinful are themselves extremely intolerant of Bible believers, calling us names

("Bible-thumpers," "right-wing zealots" "fundamental extremists," "haters") and subjecting us to discrimination. "Tolerant" used to mean accepting other people's views without being ugly to them. Current ideas of tolerance require full acceptance of all views as equally valid and true. If all religions are equally true, then all religions are false.

Objectors remind us that the Bible was once used to argue against interracial marriage and to justify segregation and Jim Crow laws. However, the Bible says what it says. It specifically condemns showing partiality based on race or nationality (Acts 10:34). Every passage segregationists used to bolster their case can be clearly shown not to mean what they tried to make it mean. The Bible itself says, "The ignorant and unstable twist (the Scriptures) to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16).

The Bible should be read using the same interpretative principles applied to the study of any other ancient, authoritative book. When read intelligently it only reveals truth. The Bible does not justify segregation; it does condemn homosexual relations as sin.

A Homosexual Comes To Church

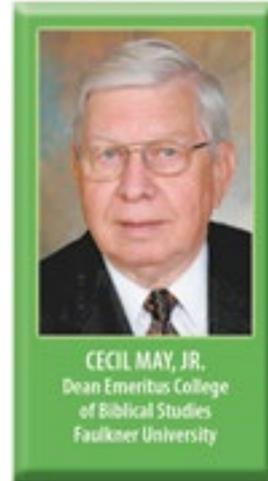
There should be no better place than church for a homosexual or a prostitute or an alcoholic or a covetous person. While some sins are considered more respectable than others, everyone comes to church as a sinner seeking healing and salvation. We should welcome everyone who comes, showing the love of Christ to all.

The Church is not a social club for the rich and righteous. It is a hospital for the sin-sick. People come to hospitals for healing; so the sick should be welcomed. They should be encouraged, instructed and admonished. They should hear the gospel of the grace of God, learning that "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20).

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The gospel has the power to effect great change! "Such were some of you!"

Christ associated with

Continued on page 19



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THE NECESSITY OF OBEDIENCE

By Seth Sullivan

Obedience is a commanded part of Christianity. It requires the child of God to evaluate his/her self and set their priorities straight. Living for God comes with a cost. It is vital for every child of God to count the cost for discipleship. Jesus noted that unless one “forsakes all that he has, he cannot be my disciple” (Lk. 14:26-33). The Bible exhorts to “seek the kingdom first” (Mt. 6:33) and to remain holy in a wicked world (Phil. 2:15). A sincere soul may then ask, “Why is obedience so necessary?” Allow me to make a few observations.

Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15). Therefore, if one continues to live unholy day-to-day it presents an attitude of irreverence. Keeping God’s holy commandments shows to God dedication and sincere devotion. Sometimes obedience may be an inconvenience. Scheduled meetings may have to be postponed, appointments cancelled, etc., however, being a friend to the Lord demands such loyalty (Jn. 15:14).

Be not dismayed. While earthly tasks (i.e. jobs, family, bills, etc.) must be given adequate concern, still the aim is to obey God and not man (Acts 5:29). Daily living will bring stress to every soul on earth, however, it is comforting to remember the whole of man should be to “fear God and keep his commands” (Eccl. 12:13). The Father of the universe knows what the

needs of man are and He will provide (Matt. 6:8, 33).

Heaven is the desired home of the faithful in Christ Jesus. This eternal abode offers forever rest, security, and joy. The Apostle John wrote that “All tears” shall be wiped away in Heaven (Rev. 21:4)! Christians must have their spiritual watches set on eternal time. For the Bible

explains that a man’s life on this earth is but “a vapor and then vanishes away” (Jam. 4:14). How one determines to live during this short time on earth will be vital at the Day of Judgment; for

the Bible says that only the obedient children of God shall inherit Heaven (Matt. 7:21-23).

Be careful to never attempt to offer a substitute for obedience. The man with only one talent went and buried his money and his excuses cost him his soul (Matt. 25:14-30). Are there excuses in your life? Do you live by faith only and not works (Jam. 2:14-16)? Make the choice to prioritize. Evaluate your daily schedule. Is time set aside for study and worship with the saints for Sundays and Wednesdays? Are there other activities going on which are taking precedence over biblical servanthood? Our loving Father knows what our needs are, therefore, trust in Him and rest assured of eternal rest!

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The First Chair

NOTE: Alex, age 13, was baptized by her dad and is a member of the Hall Street church in Ripley, MS. She is active in “Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.” This article is her speech presented in April before a female audience at the Memphis convention.

By Alex Green

Ok, it’s black and silver. It has one back, one seat, and four legs, and I want only ONE person to be in it. That ONE person is me. You see, I’m talking about a very special chair in my band hall at school. There’s only ONE chair for the best player in each section. I’m a flute player, and every week I work really hard to keep my seat in first chair. It’s so much fun. I love the competition, being with my friends, and being part of a big group that unites to make ONE big joyful noise.

But listen ya’ll, there are many things more important, I mean REALLY more important than being first chair in band.... and the ONE I’m talking about is being a Christian. Ephesians 4:4-6 says “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

To begin with, to be the best player in my band section, I have to listen to my band director, “Mr. C.”, and do what he says. Band class demands obedience just like God demands obedience from Christians. John 6:46-47 says “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:” Well, you know the rest... the wise man building his house upon the rock and the foolish man building his house upon the sand. James 1:22 has the same message, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” So, you see, I can’t expect to be in first chair only by listening to “Mr. C.”, I have to listen and do what he says.

Here’s something else I must do to be first chair in band... be dedicated. That means I have

to practice, practice, practice. And guess what else... practice some more. Ok, now that gets old, and I get tired of practicing every day, or most every day. But being a Christian requires a lot of practice as well. I Thessalonians 5:16-17 tells us to “rejoice always and pray without ceasing.” That doesn’t mean to rejoice or pray

when I have time, when feel like it, or when everything is going my way. Also, Galatians 6:8-9 says “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” That’s the ticket.... we reap what we sow. So, if I practice that flute, it pays off. But, if I don’t practice, it definitely shows.

Finally, to be first chair, I have to LOVE what I do. Have you ever heard this? “If you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life.” Well, most things are like that. If you like what you’re doing, it doesn’t seem like a chore. Sometimes, we feel like we have to go to church three times per week, like it’s a chore. But, it shouldn’t feel like that. My mama says, “You don’t have to go to church; you get to go to church.”

You all know this verse. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Did you really hear that? God loved us soooooo much that he gave up his only son so we can have eternal life... think about it... eternal life with Him. Now, that’s what I call LOVE.

Ok, so its street is made of gold. It has 12 gates, a crystal sea and walls adorned with precious stones; and I want not just ONE person to get in it, but ALL of us to get in there. You see, I’m talking about a very special place called heaven. There’s only ONE way to get there. I’m a Christian, and every day I strive to keep my place in heaven. It’s going to be so much fun. I’m going to love being with my family and friends and being part of a big group that unites to make ONE big joyful noise.



Christian Joyfulness

By Russ Vickers

During the recent winter days here in Baldwin, I was thinking of the how we could encourage one another as fellow laborers in the kingdom of God. A good challenge for the Christian is to be joyful on a daily basis. There is a book called "Happiness is a Choice" by Barry Neil Kaufman. The theme of the book is that we can be happy if we choose to be. The world is looking for joyfulness, happiness and they are looking at the church to see if they can find it. Some might say to us that "if you had the problems I have it would be difficult."

Just imagine if the apostle Paul said that to us today. The Bible gives proof that we can be whatever we choose to be in whatever the circumstances. Most of the time when a minister is preaching before the audience there are people that he is addressing with various problems in their life.

In Acts chapter 16, we have the apostle Paul in the city of Philippi. He is on the riverside meeting with some ladies teaching them about Jesus. Lydia hears and obeys the gospel. They go back into town and meet a slave girl who was directed by a spirit of divination. Paul cast the evil spirit out of her and aroused the anger of her masters. Now this caused their arrest, a very severe beating, and they were cast into the innermost part of the jail, bound hand and feet in stocks.

Supposedly there is a large stone in the middle of the inner cell that Paul and Silas were reputed to be chained to in a sitting position. Picture Paul and Silas there in the dark not knowing what tomorrow held for them. What is their attitude?

Some would act in bitterness even toward God, because peaching and doing God's work is the cause of their being there. They could be wallowing in self-pity for their plight and no one else's there. They could take the attitude no one cares, even God, for there is nothing no one can do. They could have bitterness and vengeance toward the people that had them put in the prison and say, "I don't deserve this!" They could have hopelessness, despair, and many other negative emotions.

In Acts 16:25, we find them at midnight singing and praising God with the prisoners listening. Everything we read before verse 25 of the conditions was anything but conducive to a song and prayer service. This is a powerful reminder as well as a forceful example of the fact we can choose to be joyful. Paul and Silas chose to be joyful. There may be many of us who do not know that we can choose to be joyful but there are many who have chosen not to be.

Now just stop for a minute



RUSS VICKERS

and think; you have every reason to be joyful! Yet, if I have a financial setback or if someone gets on my back and becomes very critical, it is harder. Paul and Silas give me the example of one being joyful in whatever circumstance. If every congregation of the Lord's people would take hold of this concept, we would be able to have a greater outreach to unsaved souls. There are far too many of us complaining and telling others how unhappy we are.

There may be a stranger who comes into our worship service. They many not remember the songs sung, the sermon preached, but if they meet warm friendly people they remember that. Many visitors go home glowing from the warm and friendly welcome they experienced while visiting a given congregation.

Joy is contagious and powerful. It shows unity and togetherness. Joyfulness will draw people back when they visit if it is exhibited to them. Acts 16 shows that the attitudes displayed by Paul and Silas had a great influence upon him. They had something that would carry them through the extremely trying times.

Paul got out of prison this time and went on his way preaching the word. Years later, Paul sat down and wrote a letter back to those brethren at Philippi. As he writes back we find Paul in jail again, but now he is in Rome waiting trial, with execution a real possibility. As Paul writes to this church in these dire circumstances the result of the writing is known as the book of Philippians. This letter of Paul in trying circumstances is known the world over as the epistle of joy. It is the happiest book in the New Testament. In Philippians 4:4 Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice." When you can understand the circumstances in which Paul wrote these words they will take on new meaning.

Paul says "Don't let anxiety overcome you, don't worry about anything." One reason for this is for our own good. Anxiety or worry is wrong. Another reason is the influence it will have on others as you look back at verse 5. We have to get our lives right in order to influence other people in the right way. You have to choose joyfulness if you want the peace of God reigning in your life. Paul in jail is scarred from the beatings on his back, what is sustaining him? Peace of God. We have that peace by rejoicing in Christ.

Are we being robbed of our joy today because we are thinking of all those things that have caused us pain? We have to determine what we think about.

Paul chose to be joyful; we can too.

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Now You Take It From There

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Jeremiah 6:16

The weeping prophet wrote: "Thus says the Lord: 'Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it'" (Jeremiah 6:16). Legions of sermons, calling for a return to

"thus says the lord" for origin, doctrine and practice in religion, have been drawn from this Scripture. Most of these have dealt with the urgency for doctrinal purity, which is of utmost importance.

Recently, I came across a treatise written by a retired minister from Tennessee, dealing with the urgency for morality, from which excerpts are shared:

The Old Paths

"I liked the old paths, when Moms were at home, Dads were at work, Brothers went into the army, and Sisters got married BEFORE bearing children. Crime did not pay, hard work did, and folk knew the difference.

"When husbands were loving, wives were supportive and children were polite. Women wore the jewelry and men wore the pants. Women looked like ladies, men looked like gentlemen and children looked decent.

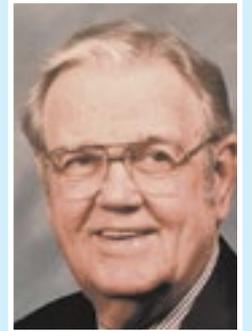
"When people loved the truth and hated a lie. They came to Church to get IN, not to get OUT! Hymns sounded Godly, sermons sounded helpful, rejoicing sounded normal and crying sounded sincere. Cursing was wicked, drugs were for illness and divorce was unthinkable.

"When the flag was honored, America was beautiful and God was welcome! We read the Bible in public, prayed in school and preached from house to house. To be called a Christian was worth living for and to be called a traitor was a shame!

"When preachers preached because they had a message and Christians rejoiced because they had VICTORY! Preachers preached from the Bible, singers sang from the heart and sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED! When being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God, being a deacon meant you would serve the Lord and His people, and being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus!" (Anonymous)

How much of this do we need to reclaim?

Now, you take it from there!



JOHN, ELIJAH, OR JEREMIAH?

By Mike Benson

If you are baffled about this recent issue in the gospel accounts, then join the club. In all candor, it has baked my noodle for years.

Why were so many people so mixed up about the identity of Christ?

Think about it. Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets” (Mat. 16:13-14). Huh? John the Baptist? Elijah? Jeremiah?

Why did Jesus even ask this question in the first place? And why was there such a diversity of opinion about Him, and why didn’t—and couldn’t—the Jewish masses simply see Him for who He really was?

How could anybody draw the conclusion that Jesus wasn’t Jesus, but John or one of the resurrected prophets from hundreds of years previous?

Work your way incrementally through the heart of Matthew’s gospel and pay attention to all of the people who either misidentify or were confused about the Lord’s identity. It was a common problem:

■ John sent a question to Jesus from prison. He asked, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another” (11:2b)? Don’t forget that John had earlier baptized Jesus, saw the Spirit in the form of a dove, and heard the voice of Jehovah (3:17)!

■ When the Lord healed a demon-possessed man, the multitudes inquired, “Could this be the Son of David” (12:23b)? Ironically, the Pharisees who

were present on that very same occasion said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons” (12:24b). Both groups were perplexed.

■ Even folks from His own

community were confused about Him. “When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, ‘Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is

this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not with us?

Where then did this Man get all these things” (13:54-56).

■ Herod was certainly stumped. The Bible

says, “At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus and said to his servants, ‘This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him’” (14:1-2).

■ Even the disciples wrestled with Jesus’ identity. Matthew records, “And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out for fear” (14:26; cf. v. 30). Later, when Peter, James, and John were alone with the Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter wanted to make, not one tabernacle for Christ, but three—one for Christ, plus one for Moses and Elijah (17:1-4). Obviously, this future apostle was still

confused about Jesus and His true identity.

But as I think about it, it occurs to me that perhaps we shouldn’t be so hard on folks back during the time when Christ walked the earth,



MIKE BENSON

because many are still puzzled about who He is today. For example, Muslims believe Jesus was a great prophet, but superseded by Mohammed. Buddhists believe He was simply a wise and enlightened man. Mormons

believe He was a man who became a god. Witnesses believe He was the first creation of Jehovah—He was Michael the arch angel. Members of the Church of Scientology believe He was just one of many good teachers. United Pentecostals believe He is the same person as God the Father.

I can hear what a few readers are thinking. “Well of course, Mike, we should expect denominationalists and cultists to misunderstand and misiden-

tify Jesus.” And you are right, but are they the only people who fail to see Christ as the Son of God?

It has been my observation that more than a few brethren view Jesus as little more than a “Sunday-only” deity. In essence, they’re confused about Him too.

He is someone to fit into their Sunday morning schedule, but He makes little or no contribution to their daily life in a meaningful way. They don’t pray through Him before their meals, they don’t talk about Him in their daily walks, and they don’t share Him with the lost. They don’t study about Him in daily devotions, they don’t exhibit the attitude or mind of Christ in their relationships, but exhibit carnality and divisiveness. The Lord is little more than a cheap eternal-fire insurance policy.

Brethren come by to see Him briefly at the church building before they hit the local buffet on Sunday. He gets a few of their dollars, He is someone to share crackers and grape juice with, and He’s the recipient of half-hearted praise

for His love, sacrifice, and example—but He’s not someone to be emulated or worshiped in spirit. He’s not Lord and Master of their lives (22:37).

“Yeah, just about everybody back during Jesus’ time got it wrong, but we’ve got it right today...” Some of us do. Some of us don’t.

It’s easy to indict people back during Bible times, because they were uninformed and blinded by their prejudices. It’s equally easy to censure those outside the body of Christ and expose their unbelief today. Both are necessary at times (Eph. 5:11), but perhaps before we get too caught up in reprimanding our peers—both ancient as well as modern, we might want to examine ourselves (Job 13:23; Psa. 119:59; 139:23-34; 1 Cor. 11:28-34; 2 Cor. 13:5).

Do we really believe that Jesus is THE Son of God? If our answer is, “Yes,” then let’s prove it church!

(John 14:15; 1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 3:2).

*Mike Benson 415 S 40th Ave
Hattiesburg, MS 39402*

THIRD EAST MISSISSIPPI MISSION FORUM

Union, MS

On Saturday, July 18th, 2015 the Union church of Christ located in Union, MS will host the Third East Mississippi Mission Forum. The forum will include six sessions; three in the morning and three in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided at the church building. The building is located just west of the intersection of Hwy 15 and Hwy 492 approximately half way between Newton and Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Topics will range from College Christian Student Center Missions, African Christian Bible Colleges and Indian Preacher Training School and Orphanages. Speakers will include brothers Al Franks, Perry Jinkerson, Greg Hamlin, Donald Robertson, Irven Skinner and Louis Rushmore. Sessions will begin at nine o’clock and end at four o’clock with an hour break for lunch.

We invite and encourage all to come and learn of Mississippi and world missions that are ongoing and of the opportunities to become involved, thereby being obedient to the command of Jesus to “go into all the world and preach the gospel.” (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16)

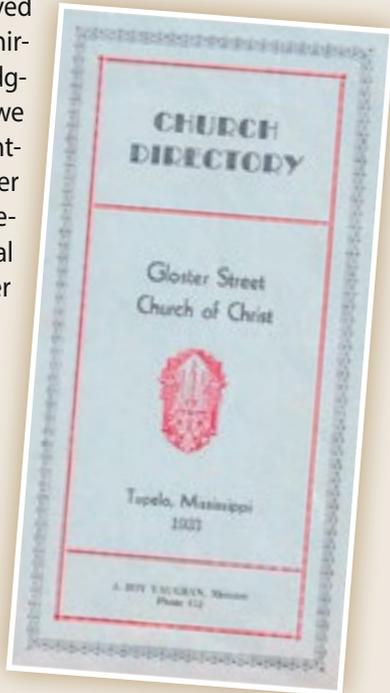
The Union church of Christ has a Sunday morning attendance of 40 to 50. We are served by three elders and four deacons. We support four foreign missions and one state side mission on a regular basis. Rick Benson, a graduate of Magnolia Bible College, is the minister.

Come and enjoy a day of fellowship and enlightenment. You will be our special guest. (Invitation from Therman Hodge)

Pages from the Past 1933

A few months ago, we received an interesting booklet from Shirley Holland who lives in Hodges, Alabama. She thought we might find the booklet, printed in 1933, about the Gloster Street Church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi to be of special interest. We did! Thanks, sister Shirley. (alf)

The pictured booklet, from which the article (on right) was taken, included the names of 122 members. Five elders were named: Carl L. Moore, E. D. Ferguson, T. D. Long, George Long and R. C. Beckham. Five deacons are also named: Glenn L. McCullough, J. D. Clayton, J. B. Bramlett, B. A. Gentry and A. R. Williams. Sunday school teachers who were named included four men and three ladies. The ladies listed were: Miss Edna Long, Mrs. Troy Pate and Miss Ruby Beckham.



CHURCH of CHRIST

New Testament Church

(The following article appeared in the 1933 brochure about the Gloster Street Church. The writer is unknown to us. It may have been written by J. Roy Vaughn, who was, at the time, preacher for the Tupelo church in northeast Mississippi. Editor)

1. Jesus The Builder

In Matt. 16:18 Jesus said to Peter, "...upon this rock I will build my church"; thus signifying that the church had not been built by any Old Testament character, neither by John the Baptist. They were all dead at the time He made this statement. Jesus is the founder of the New Testament Church, and he called it "my church" -- it belongs to him. This is the only church Jesus ever promised to build.

2. Jesus Died For The Church

"Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it" (Eph. 5:25). Some thoughtless people will sometimes speak lightly of the church, thinking that a man can get to heaven some other way than through the church. It's ridiculous to even think that Jesus would love so dearly an institution that he would die for it and this church be a non-essential. The church is the redeemed of the earth.

3. The Church Is The House of God

"That thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves, in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). If the church is the house of God, then the church is God's family. God's house is God's family.

All of God's children are in his family, his house, which is his church. If a man is a Christian, he is a child of God, a member of God's family, which is the church. Therefore, if he is

not a member of the church, he is not a member of God's family and not a child of God.

4. The Church Is The Body Of Christ

"And he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body. . ." (Eph. 1 :22). "... for his body's sake, which is the church" (Col. 1 :24). Christ had but one physical body. Is it reasonable to think he would have more than one spiritual body? This one spiritual body is the church.

5. Jesus Is The Head Of The Church

"And he is the head of the body, the church" (Col.1 :18). "... and gave him to be head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22).

The Lord had one head to his physical body. This one head controlled His physical body. He is the one head of His spiritual body, which is the church. No man, regardless of his ecclesiastical title, and no delegated body of men, have any authority to make laws for the church. The New Testament church had elders and deacons, and they were to impart the teaching of the Lord to the church -- not their own ideas and theories.

6. The Church Is Not A Denomination

"There is one body" (Eph, 4:4). "And He is the head of the body, the Church" (Col. 1:18). "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). A denomination is a body of people who have subscribed to a creed written by man. They are governed by laws of their own creation. A denomination does not include all Christians in either a given locality or the world. The "Church" for which Jesus died, does include all Christian in either a given locality or the world over.

Joining a denomination never did make a man a Christian.... A man can go to heaven and never hear of a denomination, but he cannot go to heaven without being a member of the church of the New Testament, which is the family of God -- the body of Christ.

Annual Revival Announced

July 1933
Foy E. Wallace

An "Annual Revival", planned for July, 1933, was announced in the booklet with Foy E. Wallace, Jr. from Nashville, Tennessee serving as the guest evangelist. J. Roy Vaughn was the local preacher.



Recently, The Waynesboro Church of Christ honored sister Jean Pierce. She was converted to Christ many years ago and studied hard and became a teacher in the church. She has taught in Bible Education for the Lord's Kingdom for 50+ years! (Submitted to MM by Seth Sullivan (on right), preacher at Waynesboro, MS.)

Ladies' Day

Saturday, September 12, 2015

Theme: "More Precious Than Gold"

Speaker: Tish Clark (Southaven, MS)

South Huntington Street Church of Christ Kosciusko, Mississippi

Begins at 9 A.M. (662-289-3791)

Psychological Contexts in Scripture

By **Jim Howard**

From the inception of the “American Restoration Movement” we have understood the importance of *“speaking where the Bible speaks and being silent where the Bible is silent.”* We understand that every word of Scripture is significant and should be taken seriously.

Less emphasized, but equally important, is the principle that every verse of Scripture has numerous contexts which must also be taken seriously in that verse’s interpretation. Included in this category are the chapter-and-verse context; the context of literary type; the context of time and history (When did this saying or event take place?); the context of purpose (Why this saying or event?); the context of identity (Who is speaking?); and the context of mood (Especially important in Job, Ecclesiastes, & II Corinthians).

Less attention has been paid to the context of psychology. This context has to do with feelings, responses and motivation. This context is particularly significant when understanding is required in regard to Scripture’s demanded obedient action. I would like to illustrate with *three different passages of Scripture.*

“Brethren, what shall we do?”

We all find exciting the account of the beginning of the church on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. We would also admit that a great deal was taking place on that occasion under the direction of the Holy Spirit. We thrill that three

thousand responded to Peter’s sermon and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. But why were so many obedient to the gospel that day? It was not just the command the Apostle Peter gave in 2:38. Those words were but the conclusion of a powerful



JIM HOWARD

sermon in which a psychological context for obedience was created.

The multitudes were motivated by the realization that fifty days previously they themselves had crucified the Son of God, one whom God had made both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). No wonder those thousands of Jews were cut to the heart and cried out to Peter and the Apostles “Brethren, what shall we do” (2:37)? The massive obedience was a direct result of the audience’s terror at the convicting message of Peter. How much worse can it get than killing God.

When we seem to have such limited results from our 21st century evangelistic preaching, does it occur to us that we have not created a similar psychological context because of our failure to preach gospel messages that convict the hearts of the hearers? **Convicting preaching is pretty rare nowadays.** Yet, God seems to desire preaching through which the Holy Spirit can do His convicting work (John 16:8).

“Put away that wicked person from among yourselves.”

A second illustration comes from I Corinthians 5 where

the Apostle Paul reprimands the Corinthian Church for its poor response to the tragedy of a man living with his father’s wife. Apparently the brethren in Corinth got the message and responded to this gross immorality. II Cor. 2:5-11 seems to indicate that the church had withdrawn fellowship from the immoral brother and that he had repented of his sin and been received back into the church. We rejoice at the apparent success of this church disciplinary procedure.

But contrast the Corinthian approach with that of many churches of Christ over the last fifty years. An elder presents to the Sunday morning assembly the list of

Why the current infatuation of so many of our congregations with instrumental music in worship? I’m sure that one of the motivations is to be like the churches down the street. Being isolated from that which is popular has never been attractive for many folks.

a dozen individuals who have not been seen by the church in the last year or two and announces that they have been disfellowshipped for failure of attendance. What’s the difference between this and the Corinthian method?

In the latter case no psychological context has been created. It seems obvious to me that the brother at Corinth had strong emotional attachment to the church and was deeply pained to be cut off from his brethren. This pain contributed directly to his repentance and acceptance back

If the latter individuals had not been in worship in many months, obviously they had not missed fellowship with the brethren. The latter approach lacking any psychological context will not motivate those who have already withdrawn themselves from the warmth of the fellowship. They will have no motivation for coming back.

“Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”

A third illustration of the psychological context principle is to be found in Eph. 5:18-19: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart . . .”

Why the current infatuation of so many of our congregations with instrumental music in worship? I’m sure that one of the motivations is to be like the churches down the street. Being isolated from that which is popular has never been attractive for many folks.

But I think a larger attraction is psychological, namely the emotions which can be conjured up by beautiful organ music. From a Biblical perspective, what is wrong with this kind of music in worship, aside from the total absence of any New Testament authority for it. Is its failure to comply with Paul’s admonition to “be filled with the Spirit” (vs. 18). That instruction governs the entire paragraph with its teaching about psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Instrumental music psychologically has the ability to create in the hearer emotions that have nothing to

do with God or the Holy Spirit. That kind of emotion involves no Biblical content and involves no Christ-centered mindset.

I think the Apostle Paul was recognizing this principle in regard to the church at Corinth where the brethren were allowing a gulf to be created between the music on the one hand and the rational God-ordained worship materials on the other. Thus his admonition: “What am I to do? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also, I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also” (I Cor. 14:15).

God does not desire unauthorized mechanical instruments of music but rather praise and thanksgiving which comes through the mind and heart as well the voice which is His instrument of choice

(Eph. 5:19).

God makes clear to his children both the content and the instrumentality which He desires in worship. But clearly a particular psychological context is involved.

I am sure that other illustrations of the need for a Biblical and Christ-centered psychological context could be found in the New Testament. But I hope that those mentioned here will convince us that it is not always sufficient to state a given command or instruction for some particular obedience. To bring about the desired result, the proper psychological context must be created.

(Jim Howard is an educator and minister who can be contacted at 103 Hallmark Pl, Madison, MS 39110.)

Lessons from an Old Man's Song

By **John Gardner**

Psalm 71 is an old man's song of praise to God and appeal for his help. Verses 9 and 18 tell the reader of this ancient song of Israel that the writer is an old man. He has known God and been faithful to him from his earliest days (Vv. 5, 6, 17). We do not know the psalm writer's name nor is there affixed to the psalm a traditional note (except in the Septuagint) to give us a hint who he might have been.

Commentators note that Psalm 71 is not easy to outline and does not follow a logical, orderly arrangement. It also contains sentences and ideas very much like several other psalms.

It is sad to see some who have traveled with the Lord a long way in life, only to abandon him in the closing days of their journey.

This should not surprise us when we sense the intensity of the psalm. When we are in dire circumstances and pray to our God, we may mix praise and petition, hope and concern, trust and struggle, as the writer does. We may use words from Scripture to express ourselves to God.

What lessons can all ages, but especially older saints, learn from this masterpiece? Before proceeding, stop and read Psalm 71 all the way through. Then consider the following.

There is great confidence, joy, and hope in living a long life for God. The writer had

known God all of his life. From his youth (Vv. 5, 17), and even figuratively before he was born (V. 6), he had sought God and been taught by God. Now he is old and counts on God more than ever. His hope is still in God. His trust is still focused on the Lord. What a life to remember; what a life to continue living! What a reason to seek the salvation and nurture of our children and grandchildren while they are young.

Even in old age, the faithful may encounter tests and trials. The psalm writer knew about that. He cried, "Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man" (V. 4 English Standard Version). Enemies in old age. They were watching, conspiring, and predicting his death (Vv. 10, 11). After all the years of being guided by God through "troubles and calamities," even now he has problems that are huge.

Sometimes the faithful must face their most difficult trials in their senior years. There may not be a gang of enemies poised to rejoice at their death, like the writer of Psalm 71 knew. It may be family distress and disintegration. Or it may be physical disease and decline in oneself or loved ones. It may be problems with contentious brethren. Or any number of other kinds of troubles. Advancing age does not give the Christian an exemption from some of life's most stressful trials.

In all of our trials, even in old age, we have God as our rock, refuge and deliverer. Read again the opening lines. "In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame! In your righteousness deliver me

and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me! Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come..." (Vv. 1 - 3). These words echo the strong cry of David in Psalm 31: 1, 2. He turned to God with all his heart and soul.

It is sad to see some who have traveled with the Lord a long way in life, only to abandon him in the closing days of their journey. How much more should God be our rock and refuge, our deliverer and savior, then! If ever there is a need for God (and there is all through life) it is when one draws near to his or her personal meeting with the righteous Judge.

As long as a child of God has mind and voice or writing instrument, let him or her proclaim the excellences of our God to all.

No matter what, we should be full of praise for God and extol his goodness. The psalm writer laces his song together with the cord of praise. "My mouth is filled with your praise and with your glory all the day" (V. 8). "But I will hope continually and praise you yet more and more" (V. 14). He promises praise to God for his faithfulness and for being the Holy One of Israel (V. 22). His joy overflows as one who praises God for his great works and for being a faithful redeemer (Vv. 19, 23).

Even in advanced age, the faithful saint should worship God from a full heart, with passion. Rather than settle cozily into long-established routines of worship, he or she should enter praise on every occasion with a heart of faith, hope, and joy that must find its expression.

The one who knows the

Lord must surely seek to tell others of him in all of his glory. "My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteous-

ness, yours alone" (Vv. 15, 16). Even in old age, the psalmist was eager to share the good news of God with the coming generation (Vv. 17, 18).

*John Gardner P. O Box 251
Brandon, MS 39043
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JOHN GARDNER

Tipton Street Church Set

"Revival"

As Their Goal for 2015

"Revival" brings increased spiritual interest or renewal in a congregation. As the picture below shows, revival has been the theme of the Tipton Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko during 2015.

My June and I were blessed to visit their services on Sunday evening (May 24, 2015) and see firsthand some of their efforts to encourage spiritual renewal. We are thankful for emphasizes being placed, by the church, upon the Bible as the Word of God and the complete spiritual Guide for man. It is very meaningful to see the influence of the Holy Scriptures upon those who call Tipton Street their "church home."

Leroy Watson did his usual good job leading the congregation in singing great songs -- proclaiming our faith and trust in Jesus and affirming our hope through Christ for all eternity. It was encouraging to see young men taking an active part in the worship services. It was also exciting to hear the audience respond to the sermon with their "Amen's," along with other encouraging vocal acclamations. Don Woods had chosen to base his sermon upon Haggai chapter 2, calling for God's people "to be strong" with the promised assurance of God who said, "I am with you" (verse 4).

Attendance for Tipton in Kosciusko, Mississippi runs from 60 to 80, and above, most Sundays. They carry on, not only with their regular services, but also frequently provide special programs for men, women and children of all ages. We are thankful that, with diligent Bible teaching, preaching and challenging one another to "love and good works", our brethren at Tipton are seeking to experience "Revival in 2015." (Editor)



Don Woods

MAGNOLIA Messenger

IN MEMORY OF

**VELDA CARTER
KAY GORDON
PEGGY LOTT**
Faye Hayden
(Batesville, MS)

JEANETTE QUIN
Tony & Ginny Luther
(Columbia, MS)

**EVELYN H. TUCKER
CHRIS GLISSOM
JEAN DALTON
EARLINE CONDR**
Chuck & Sondra
Dengler
Jeff & Cindy Condra
(Corinth, MS)

**JAMES LEWIS
MORROW**
Fred & Ann Prewitt
(Grenada, MS)

BARBARA COWAN
Dean & Nellie Caldwell
(Vicksburg, MS)

**WILFORD "PUD"
WALTMAN**
Carole Milner
(Brandon, MS)
Bonnie Strickland
(Brandon, MS)
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

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

**GENE JENKINS
PAUL COVE**
T. C. Nowell, Jr.
(Starkville, MS)

**GEORGE LEWIS, JR. &
LILLIE M. LEWIS**
G. Nelson Lewis &
Prince E. Lewis
(Baltimore, MD)
(Kosciusko, MS)

**DOT (MAMA DOT)
LOCKHART**
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**WILLIE RUFORD
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Domino Group
Christian Chapel
church of Christ
(Amory, MS)

**MRS. HELEN
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EVIE G. SMITH
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Wilburn DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

**JAMES CLIFTON JONES
BOBBY RAY MILLS**
Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

**BILL & BARBARA
RICHARD**
Carole Milner
(Brandon, MS)
Rob & Sheri Salley
(Madison, MS)



**JAMES H TUCKER, JR
BOBBY MILLS
DONALD SWILLEY**
Rayburn & Johnnye
Faye Blackmon
(Merryville, LA)

IN HONOR OF

- ALLEN & JUANITA GRAY
- CHARLES & MAXINE JONES
- JOEL & JEANETTE COLLINS
- JIM & DENICE DAVIS
- JAY & MARY HENLEY
- RAY & DONNA FRANKS
- TOMMY & PEGGY SHULL
- DEAN & NELLIE CALDWELL
- W. E. & JUDY WALKER
- DAN & AUDREY MANUEL
Wilburn DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

In addition to the name of the person being memorialized or honored, please include your name and address and the address of a family member to whom a written acknowledgment may be sent.

Thanks from the Franks

Who's Who

Among Leaders in Churches of Christ
(An Award Program)

The awards committee has met and decided to award a beautiful certificate to everyone who has been nominated by readers of the "Magnolia Messenger" to be named among those listed in "Who's Who Among Leaders in Churches of Christ?" We have also decided to give a special plaque to one of the nominees each time we print the "Messenger."

Following is a list of nominees who have been suggested thus far by MM readers. If you know one of these and think he/she should receive a plaque, we would love to hear from you. If you have someone else you would like to nominate, we would also love to hear from you. We will make a decision on the plaque winner(s) by the next printing of the Magnolia Messenger.

The following have been nominated and will be receiving a beautiful certificate.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. J. B. Carter , (Hamilton, MS) | 10. Louise Riley , (Aberdeen, MS) |
| 2. B. J. and Sharon Rachels , (Savannah, TN) | 11. Jean Lewis , (Aberdeen, MS) |
| 3. Gene and Madolyn Gibson , (Moorhead, MS) | 12. Kenneth Celestine , (Lafayette, LA) |
| 4. Calvin Barber , (Marietta, MS) | 13. Bob and Mary McCafferty , (Kosciusko, MS) |
| 5. LeRoy Hudson , (Shreveport, LA) | 14. Isaac Tenner , (Fayette, MS) |
| 6. Gene Dorman , (Morton, MS) | 15. Richard L. Felix, Sr. , (Baton Rouge, LA) |
| 7. Evelyn Sue Hamrick , (Pace, FL) | 16. Roy H. Johnson , (Montgomery, AL) |
| 8. Lee Otis Smith , (Coldwater, MS) | 17. Dale Boren , (Florence, AL) |
| 9. Jean Lewis , (Aberdeen, MS) | 18. James E. Daniel , (Winnfield, LA) |

Send in your nomination.

NW LOUISIANA Men's Leadership Retreat

Toledo Bend Church of Christ

30381 Highway 191 • Many, Louisiana 71449

Friday & Saturday; August 14-15, 2015

(Mark Your Calendar; Plan to Attend!)

Friday: 6:00 - 8:30 PM • Saturday: 7:00 AM - 1:30 PM

MISSISSIPPI

Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat

- Report by Betty Moss-

September 25 and 26, 2015

"Plan Ahead; Time Flies!"

We are planning two days of lessons that will bring our minds and hearts closer to Christ. The camp is a heart-warming place to learn and make new friends that will last for a lifetime.

The theme is: "Black and White and Red All Over" (Galatians 3:28). Our speakers are Jennifer Blake from Vicksburg, MS and Doris Stocklin from Riley, TN. The ladies are working very hard to make our twentieth meeting a wonderful learning experience and an uplifting program for women of all ages.

For more information and to put your name on the mailing list, please call Kari Martin at 870-404-3658.



WHAT IS AN... RV Rally?

By Paul Franks

The 17th annual MM RV Rally was held again at a beautiful central Mississippi resort called Lake Tiak-O' Khata in Louisville, MS. Some may wonder, "What is an RV rally?" Of course, as you know, the term "RV" stands for recreational vehicle (RV). My father has called his RV (motorhome) a "religious vehicle."

About 17 years ago we had our first RV rally in Morton, MS at Roosevelt State Park. The purpose of that rally, and every other rally since then, has been to "encourage and provoke one another unto love and good works", as commanded in Hebrews 10:24. While it is true that many who have attended

over the years bring an RV to the rally, we have had, from the beginning, people attend who have never owned an RV. There have always been hotels, lodges and cabins for people to rent

sites are available. You can call 662-423-6515 to book or go to their website; www.mdwfp.com.

For our group meetings, we have reserved the main conference room at J. P. Coleman State Park which has a beautiful view overlooking the lake and river. (We will have this room Thursday through Saturday.) Last

so they could participate in this event without an RV.

I've said all of this to encourage you to consider attending one of our rallies in the future.

The next Magnolia Messenger rally will be November 4-7, 2015 at J. P. Coleman State Park near Iuka, Mississippi.

Cabins, lodge rooms and RV

year I was at this park the same week in November and found the fall foliage to still be very beautiful. The cost to attend this rally is FREE other than the cost of accommodations you choose to rent.

In our planned schedule of activities, we will have time for fellowship, food, and enter-

tainment. Very special periods of time have been scheduled to study and mediate on the Word of God. If you call the number at J. P. Coleman they book everything with a computer and don't show Magnolia Messenger on any page. I booked the conference room in my name, Paul Franks.

I want to especially thank Garnett and Betty Harris for serving as the Rally Masters for the most recent April rally in Louisville. They spent days and maybe even weeks preparing for the meals and everything that took place at this event. We

are also very grateful for the four young men (Will Anderson, Wesley Thompson, Greg Ledbetter and James Malone) who presented seven excellent thought provoking lessons on the theme: "What the Older Generation Wants to Say to the Younger Generation." This year we had campers from Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. We hope to see you at an upcoming RV rally! A rally is planned for Grapeland, Texas on October 14-18, 2015. For more information, you can call Ray and Donna Franks at 337-515-0866.



over the years bring an RV to the rally, we have had, from the beginning, people attend who have never owned an RV. There have always been hotels, lodges and cabins for people to rent sites are available. You can call 662-423-6515 to book or go to their website; www.mdwfp.com.



A big and delicious fish fry adds special spark in each of our rallies. Pictured above is Garnett Harris (left, front) and some of the others who freely give their time and talents to help out.



Potluck meals provide an enjoyable time for nourishing our bodies and just "spending time together" as "family."

Louisiana - Texas RV Rally

Salmon Lake Park, Grapeland Texas

Oct. 14-18, 2015

"Don't Live Life in the Pits"

- Wednesday "The Pit of Apathy"
- Thursday AM "The Pit of Un-thoughtfulness"
- Thursday PM "The Pit of Insecurity"
- Friday PM "The Pit of Political Apathy"
- Sunday Bible Class "The Pit of Un-forgiveness"
- Sunday Sermon "The Pit of Fear"

For more information contact: Ray & Donna Franks, Email: rdfranks@netcommander.com or call: 337-515-0866 or Glen & Ena Franks, Email: gefranks@att.net or call: 337-477-2660 or 337-842-7183. Cabins are available at the park. Call Salmon Lake Park 936-687-2594 for reservations.



Next MM RV Rally • November 4-7, 2015

J. P. Coleman State Park Iuka, Mississippi

For more information, read article above.



The Journeys of Paul



Attendees at Auction and Dinner on Behalf of Sardis Lake Christian Camp

Sardis Lake Christian Camp Continues Its Valuable Service

Sardis Lake Christian Camp has a special place in my heart. My first opportunity to serve as a camp director was at Sardis in 1988 when we started the 5th session.

Glenda and I traveled to Senatobia, Mississippi, on March 14 and attended an auction and dinner put on by the board of Sardis Lake Camp.

Carey File, who is on the board, came up to me and said he was at my first session in 1988 and he went every year after that. When the fifth session for 2015 opened up for registration, with 70 openings for girls, it filled up in 20 minutes! In 2014, over 1200 children attended Sardis Lake Camp.



Benny Taylor
(auctioneer)



Danny Jones
(Camp Administrator)

The recent auction and dinner helped raise over \$14,000. Danny Jones who is the camp administrator had prepared the food and also had built some furniture and gave it to the auction. Benny Taylor served as the auctioneer -- doing an outstanding job.

The most successful evangelism that I know about in the church takes place at our Christian Youth Camps all over the world. You can go to sardislakechristiancamp.org and learn more about this camp and also make a contribution to this great work. Vern Schrimsher is the president of the board, Zac Williams is the Treasurer and Josh James is the secretary.

“DROP IN VISITS”

Chapman Church at Ripley Miss

Sunday night, during their gospel meeting with Lance Foster from Iuka, MS, the Chapman church of Christ invited the youth from area congregations to visit and enjoy a fellowship meal. Glenda and I had the opportunity to attend.

We took with us a young Amy May (I think she is over 80). Sister May told us that she did the painting behind the baptistry.

We enjoyed our visit and were privileged to meet their

preacher, Mark Lindley who told me, as soon as met, “We love the Magnolia Messenger.” One of the four elders of the church is Barrett Chapman who we have known more closely and who has been a good friend for many years.



Mark Lindley
(Chapman preacher)



Barrett Chapman
(one of four church elders)

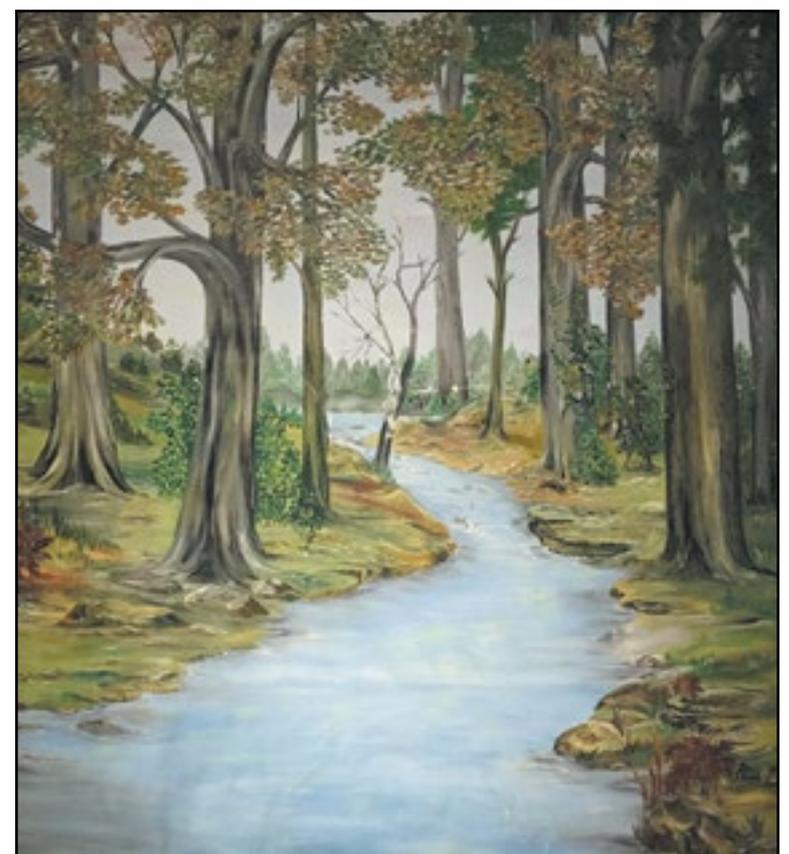
The other elders of the Chapman church are Jodie Criswell, Jarvene Shackelford and Tommy Wade. We truly had a great visit. The fellowship and meal was wonderful!

A DROP IN VISIT BY AL AND JUNE

Cleveland, Arkansas; New Liberty Church of Christ Meets Here

On Sunday, April 4, 2015, my June and I enjoyed a delightful “Drop-in Visit” with our brethren who live in/near Cleveland, Arkansas. In this rural area, about 40 miles NW of Litle Rock, on a rather cool and drizzling morning, about 50 souls came together for worship.

We were blessed to meet and hear their preacher, Jay Crow, present two good lessons from God’s word (Bible class and sermon). We are grateful also for the opportunity to speak to the church -- to encourage and to be encouraged! We further give thanks for an extended time with the brethren as we enjoyed lunch together. May God richly bless the disciples called “Christians” at Cleveland. We departed giving thanks to the Lord for the privilege of publishing the MM and for the fellowship of all (including Cleveland, AR) who help make our work possible. (alf)



Painting over Baptistry at Chapman By Amy May of the Ripley congregation



Paul & Glenda Franks

A visit with the Saucier Church

On a Saturday afternoon (May 9, 2015), Glenda and I stopped by the meeting place for the Saucier Church of Christ on Hwy 49 South in Saucier, Mississippi. This community is about 10 miles north of Gulfport, Mississippi.

Noticing a car and a place behind the building where obviously someone lived, I walked to the door and was welcomed by John Cotham who introduced me to his wife Margaret. My wife, Glenda, and I were pleased to be invited into the Cotham home where we enjoyed a delightful visit.



Margaret & John Cotham Missionaries at Saucier

In our conversation, I learned that John had decided, later in life, to preach. At the age of 40, to help prepare for the ministry, he enrolled in International Bible College in Florence, Alabama. For the past 6 years he has been preaching in Saucier. After telling the Cothams about our plans to attend the Saucier worship services the next morning, I was given the opportunity to preach.

The next day, twenty-eight precious souls were counted at the Sunday morning worship services. Glenda and I were well received and really enjoyed our visit with the Saucier congregation. The church in Ripley, Mississippi, where I have been doing some preaching, helps to support this mission church. We ask that you join with us in praying for this congregation of the Lord's people in south Mississippi.



Siwell Road Church Hosts

"Mission Sunday"

By Paul Franks

The Siwell Road church of Christ is on a mission. In their desire to promote the preaching and teaching of the gospel, the church supports several good works all over the world. To encourage their congregation and the various mission efforts they support, the church decided to set aside a Sunday for missions and invite representatives of the many good works they support to come and personally report on their efforts.

The "Mission Sunday" hosted by the Siwell Road church reminds us of our motto (goal) in publishing the "Magnolia Messenger." Our desire is to "provoke one another unto love and good works," as commanded in Hebrews 10:24. We are thankful to the Siwell congregation for their faithful support of the MM ministry, as well as the other good works they support.

My acquaintance with this congregation dates back to the days when the church was known as the "Belvedere Church of Christ." When I was preaching in Mendenhall, back in the 70's, the Myers family was a great encouragement to me as a young preacher. At the time, Betty Butler was a member at Mendenhall, along with her brothers -- Glen, Homer and Jimmy Myers. Their other sister, Sylvia Parish, was a member at the Belvedere congregation. From that connection and others, I have felt very close to Siwell/Belvedere for all of these years. Sylvia and Betty are presently members at Siwell Road. Almost 40 years later, it was a joy to visit with these Christian women and to be further encouraged by them.

Each of the mission workers who could attend "Mission Sunday" was provided a table in the foyer to display information. After a wonderful Sunday morning worship with Gary Hampton doing the preaching, we enjoyed a fellowship meal and, then after that, a 1:00 P.M. service. During that service, the men representing different mission works were given an opportunity to speak and give an update on their work.

I was blessed with an opportunity to talk about the mission work of the "Magnolia Messenger", involving our personal efforts in teaching and preaching, plus the publishing and distribution of nearly 27,000 copies of each issue of the MM which is presently mailed into every state of the nation. I was also privileged to talk about a special mission work in the European country of Lithuania, using Bible camps, where thousands of young people have been taught the gospel over the past 18 or 20 years.

Gene Gibson spoke concerning the Moorehead

Christian Student Center, George Hall shared information about the Biblical Institute of Central America and Louis Rushmore spoke concerning World Evangelism. (This ministry was started by J. C. and Betty Choate back in the '60's.) Other good works, such as Berean Children's Home and Siwell's own Deaf Ministry were stressed and encouraged.

In addition to the Myers family mentioned earlier, there are many other families in this church with whom I have developed friendships over the years. It is always encouraging to be around Christians who love each other and love the Lord. We pray that the Siwell Road church in SW Jackson, Mississippi, will continue to grow and will also continue in their efforts to "provoke one another to love and good works."



Workers representing mission works supported by Siwell Road Church. Top (Glenda Franks); Lower left (Madolyn & Gene Gibson); (lower right) Betty Choate and Joann Leggett; (lower center) Paul Leggett, Gary Hampton and George Hall. Bottom picture shows Bonnie and Louis Rushmore associated with World Evangelism. Sister Bonnie has since died. (See report on page 21.



Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

By Eddie Lewis

It was a great joy for me to visit among the churches during the months of January to March. I got to visit with several congregations and learn about their good works. I was encouraged to see all the good works being done to the glory of God. The following is my report as I visited among the churches.

■ January 4

I visited with the **Zion's Rest church of Christ** outside of Booneville, MS. Tony Brown has been the minister there for 25 years. He also owns a printing business in Booneville. The church has three elders and around 150 in attendance. They help support



EDDIE LEWIS



Billy Bellamy, Tony Brown and Donnie Sweeney, elders

several mission works and have an active youth program. The congregation has a good mix of ages. Tony's father-in-law, Calvin Barber, also preached for the congregation and still attends there. I was invited to eat lunch at the Barber's home. All the children and grandchild were there. What a great Christian family.

Tony invited me to teach the adult Bible class. Tony delivered the sermon. His theme for the new year is "Keeping My Heart Clean in 2015." His text was Psalm 51:10. David had a heavy burden of guilt because of his sin with Bathsheba. He cries out "Lord, create in me a clean heart." He is asking God to cleanse his heart so he can be right with God. Tony said, "It takes a washing to make anything clean." It was a good sermon. I enjoyed my visit with the church.

■ January 11

My mother, Mary W. Lewis, passed away this past week. On Sunday we had the funeral for her in Senatobia, MS. She lived to be 95 years old. She was a great Christian lady and mother. She was well loved by her church family and the community. We will miss her.

■ January 19

I visited with the **Hillcrest church of Christ** in Baldwyn, MS. They have around 100 in attendance and are served by three elders. Russ Vickers is the preacher there. He is a graduate of the Nashville School of Preaching and has served the church for a year and a half. They support several works and have an active youth program.

The part time youth minister is Andy Duncan. They are involved with Lads to Leaders. They mail out House-to-House, Heart-to-Heart to their community. They help support three TV programs in the area. The church has a good mix of ages and is very friendly.



Rush Vickers, preacher; Jimmy Dillinger and Larry Long, 2 of 3 elders

In Bible class, Russ taught a lesson on the works of the flesh based on Galatians 5:16-26. He started with jealousy and finished the list. It was a good lesson and had lots of good discussion.

In the worship, Russ preached about, "The Battle of Armageddon" based on Revelation 16:12-16. It was a very informative lesson on the false teachings on this subject that are so prevalent today. The message was we need to be prepared for the Lord's coming and the saints of God will overcome. I enjoyed my visit with the church.

■ January 25

I visited with the **Marietta church of Christ** in the town of Marietta, MS. Ronnie Livingston has been the minister there for 21 years. Ronnie is a graduate of MBC. He and his wife, Cathy, served as house parents in the dorm on campus. The church has no elders and their attendance is around 80. They support Pine



Cathy and Ronnie Livingston

Vale Children's Home, Heritage University, and the Magnolia Messenger.

I was surprised to find out that the Mayor and three aldermen in Marietta attend the church. Ronnie serves as one of those aldermen.

Bill Williams led the Bible class. Ronnie asked me to preach in his place, so I delivered my lesson on God's love, "Overwhelmed and Grateful" based on the story in Luke 7:36-50. I appreciate so much the invitation to speak.

After services they had their monthly fellowship meal. It was wonderful. There are lots of great Christians at Marietta.

■ February 1

I visited with the **Ozark church of Christ** in Ozark, MS. Carl Dunlap has been the minister there for 37 years. He is a graduate of the MSOP. They have no elders

and their attendance is around 61. After the tornado hit the Tupelo area last year, the church at Ozark served



Carl & Alesia Dunlap

the Ozark community by providing 200 meals a day and supplies for those who lost their homes. What a wonderful act of service.

In Bible class, Carl led the discussion. They are studying a book by Lewis Hale in the "Seedtime Series." The title is, "The Gospel According to Matthew." They are in chapter 25 and Carl asked different people to answer questions from the book. There was lots of good discussion.

Carl asked me to preach in his place. I graciously accepted the invitation and presented my lesson on the love of God from Luke 7:36-50. It is entitled "Overwhelmed and Grateful."

It was fun visiting with the church. Carl and his grandson took me out to dinner. I enjoyed the fellowship. I was able to meet the preacher at Pleasant Valley, Ricky Green. I plan to visit there next week.

■ February 8

I visited with the **Pleasant Valley church of Christ** near Marietta, MS. Ricky Green has been the minister there for 15 years. They don't have elders and their attendance is around 62. They have a great mix of ages. Several of the young men led the service.

Jonathan Green, Ricky's son, taught the adult Bible class. Jonathan is a school teacher in the local high school. They are using the Gospel Advocate Family Study Series. The lesson for the day was "Repentance and Confession." They dis-



Jonathan Green

cussed six verses that apply to this theme and answered several questions from the book. It was a good study.

Ricky asked me to speak in the worship. I graciously accepted the invitation and presented my lesson on the love of God from Luke 7:36-50. I enjoyed my visit with the church family.

■ February 15

I visited with the **New Bethel church of Christ** in New Site, MS. Ray Kennedy is the preacher there. He is a graduate of FHU and has worked in the area for a long time. He and Pat live in the New Albany area. They have no elders and their attendance is 45. They have three services on Sunday morning. They don't have an evening service. I enjoyed my visit with them.

In the Bible class, Roy Taylor was the teacher. They are studying the Bible Study Guide Series by James Meadows. They are in the book of Acts. Roy asked the questions and the members answered. It was a good study.



Pat & Ray Kennedy

In worship, Ray preached a lesson about lying. His text was the story about Saul's death in 2 Samuel 1:1-16. The Amalekite man lied to David about what happened to Saul and it cost him his life. Ray emphasized that lying is a sin (1 Tim. 1:9-10). It was a good lesson.

■ February 22

I visited with the **Antioch church of Christ** in Blue Springs, MS. Rodge Rives is the minister there. He has worked with the church since May of 2014. He and his wife, Kelsey, recently had their first child. Rodge is a graduate of Southeast School of Biblical Studies in Chattanooga, TN. The church is served by three elders and their attendance is around 75.

Rodge taught the Bible Class. They are studying Proverbs 19:18f. They had a good discussion on discipline in the family and the church. I think Rodge made some good points. He did say that he was just starting in raising a family so he doesn't have all the answers.



Rodge & Kelsey Rives

In the worship, Rodge considered Genesis 12: 1-6, "The Life of Abram." He talked about how Abram related to the call of God. Abram followed the call of God and we must answer our call also. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed worshipping with the church and meeting Rodge and Kelsey.

■ March 1

I visited with the **Mayfield church of Christ** in Saltillo, MS. They are in the process of finding a new minister. Adam T. Miller left the church after 8 years of service to return to his home congregation in Louisiana. Their associate minister, J. Adam Miller will be preaching for them in the interim. I enjoyed meeting Adam and his family.

One of the elders is a young man, Mark Stiles that I meet at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS where he was converted and met his wife. We are proud of Mark and his spiritual growth.



Adam & Suzanne Miller

The church has a wonderful mix of ages. They sponsor a TV program, "Ancient Words," on the local cable network. They support other mission works and benevolent works. They have an active Lads to Leaders program. I enjoyed meeting the brethren there.

I got to eat lunch with the Stiles in their home. It was wonderful to catch up with them and their family. They have a wonderful family.

Adam taught the adult Bible class. They are beginning a new study on the life of Paul. It was a good introduction to Paul's life and ministry. There was lots of discussion.

In worship, Adam began a series of lessons on the "Seven Churches of Asia." The first church was Ephesus. He emphasized the importance of us heeding the words of John to not leave our first love. We must remember, repent, and do the first works. It was a good lesson.

■ March 8 and 15

I was invited to preach at the **Pleasant Valley church of Christ** near Marietta, MS. Their regular preacher is Rickey Green. He was away on a vacation trip.

Jonathan Green taught the Bible class. Jonathan is a school teacher in the local high school. They are using the Gospel Advocate Family Study Series worship, over the two Sundays, I presented a series of lesson on Philippians 2:1-18. The first lesson was "Esteeming Others." Jesus is our example of having a submissive mind. The second lesson was "Power to Receive." Paul is our example of how to cultivate a submissive mind. I enjoyed my visit with the brethren.



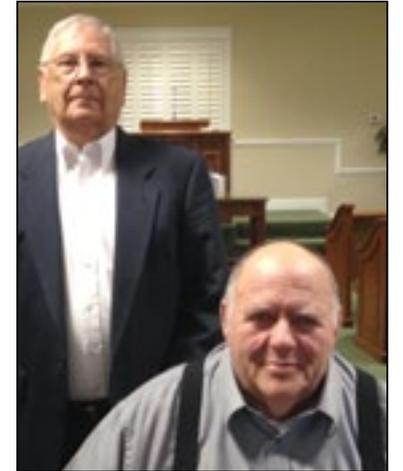
Barbara & Ricky Green

■ March 22

I visited with the **Sherman church of Christ** in Sherman, MS. Clay Foster is the minister there. He is a bi-vocational preacher and has preached for them for two years. He has attended the congregation for 15 years. Clay works at the Daily Journal in Tupelo. It was great to meet him and his family.



The church is served by two elders who are former ministers for the congregation: Joe Connell and Gene Shocklee. Joe worked with the church from many years after his retirement from Gloster Street in Tupelo. They have around 60 in attendance each Sunday and are involved in several works. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new ones.



Top: Clay & Lana Foster
Bottom: Joe Connell & Gene Shocklee, elders

In Bible Class they watched a DVD series entitled "Campaign Capitol Hill." The speaker for the lesson was Rick Lawson from Georgia. He spoke on "A Call to Repentance." It was an interesting lesson.

Clay preached in the worship service. His text was from 1 Samuel 20 the friendship of David and Jonathan. He talked about our need to develop a heart like Jonathan. In their friendship we see four characteristics of a true friend. A true friend is loyal, he loves unconditionally, he is accountable, and he has a like faith. It was a very good lesson. I enjoyed my visit.

■ March 29

I visited with the **Gloster Street church of Christ** in Tupelo, MS. Chad Ramsey has been the preacher there for 12 years. He is a graduate of FHU. He is the author of the Adult Foundation Series by the Gospel Advocate. Brian Galloway is the associate minister. They are served by five elders. The well known preacher, James Segars is one of the elders. Also, a young man that attended DSU while I preached for the church in Cleveland, Paul Callens is one of the elders. It sure makes you feel old when a student you've known in the past becomes an elder. They support many works. They sponsor the "Dayspring" television program that airs daily in the Tupelo area and support the "Searching the Scriptures" television program.

Also, I got to meet Clyde and Annette Mize. Clyde is one of the preachers who travels once a month to speak at the Pine Bluff congregation in Toccopola, MS.

Aliceville, Alabama

Mission Report from the Philippines

By **Mark Landis, missionary**
(a physician and a preacher)

We continue to work long hours seven days a week; often we have two or more small group Bible studies a day. Many have decided to be baptized. It doesn't stop there. We also follow up with new converts. I have been informally training several men who help in the work. We are about to start a summer apprentice program for young men who are interested. That will enable even more Bible studies. I continue to work hard to produce scripture based material. For example, the Bible study we use is a four part series I have adapted for the work here. We are training leaders from many churches to use it.

Although constrained by time and money, the medical work continues to help many. It also yields results in the form of more open doors. People travel to see me from an hour or more away. They are often the most grateful. The two baptized this Monday were on the remote mountain village where we have

been studying and are the first of what we hope will be a new complete church. We have plans for keeping it going using existing resources.

Rose and the children continue to be an active part of the work. Tabitha takes blood pressure; Hannah takes temperatures when needed with the touch-less thermometer, and Rose makes sure people fill out the proper forms. She and Tabitha also organize and hand out medicine.

Rose teaches Bible classes to the women and conducts personal Bible studies with women. She also helps as a silent partner in the large group studies, Hannah continues to teach children and is developing class material for the children to distribute to the congregations. She also does most of the cooking since Rose has a packed schedule.

There is a lot of benevolent work that I cannot report on specifically due to privacy issues. We have been able to help many people who were otherwise destitute and in need of daily needs... We do this by helping with needed capital from

The church here now has moved firmly back to the Bible. It had been following man-made traditions due to a lack of biblical knowledge. Many restoration principals we take for granted in the U.S. seem to have never been taught here.

micro-businesses. In this way, we don't just help them once, but continuously help them to help themselves. It is hard to plan a meal at our house because we often have to add extra

plates and practice scriptural hospitality.

The help we were able to give after the last two typhoons, Ruby and Simiang, has kept many members from becoming destitute, including one key gospel preacher. The church here now has moved firmly back to the Bible. It had been following man-made traditions due to a lack of biblical knowledge. Many restoration principals we take for granted in the U.S. seem to have never

been taught here. The preachers and teachers who attend Saturday classes now have much greater depth of Bible knowledge and the tools to increase their knowledge further.

Based on my last report from Jack, it looks like our support has dropped lately. I appreciate anything and everything you do on that end with the support. We have cut back the Saturday class to every other week to save time and money and focus on other parts of the work. We don't want to stop completely due to the positive impact it is having. Medicine is expensive and that work will also suffer without more support. (Report sent to MM by the elders and other church leaders in Aliceville, Alabama who sponsor brother Landis and his family in their medical mission work in the Philippines.

*For more information and/or to assist, please contact: Church of Christ
629 3rd Ave. N.W. P. O. Box 317
Aliceville, AL 35442*

Visiting Among Churches in North Mississippi

Continued from page 15

It was good to meet them. I appreciate their work for the church at Pine Bluff.

Gloster Street has their worship service first. Chad preached on "Stop False Doctrine" from Titus 1:10-16.

He emphasized that not everyone

teaches the truth, so Paul is warning Titus to take action against the false teachers. We must be people who seek the truth. It was a good sermon.

Chad taught one of the adult Bible classes. They are using the Foundation Series from GA. The lesson for the day was on Prayer. He considered Matthew six, Matthew seven, and 1 Timothy 2. All have great teachings about the importance of prayer in the Christian's life. There was lots of discussion. I enjoyed my visit with the church there.

Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North Mississippi, 9423 Laurel Hill, Olive Branch, MS 38654



Chad Ramsey & Paul Callens

Have You Invited Anyone to Church Lately?

by **Paul Franks**

In 1938 Donald Wood was born in Washington DC. He joined the military and was sent, in 1957, to Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he served as a military policeman at the base.

One day he didn't have anything special to do so he called a girl that a friend had told him about. The girl's name was Sherry North. Sherry was a member, along with her dad, of the Boulevard Church of Christ in Lake Charles, LA. Sherry's dad worked for the railroad; her mother had died of cancer. Sherry invited Donald to church. As a result of the

invitation, Donald said that he, along with Sherry, became very involved in the youth program at church.

One Sunday, an elder of the church preached and Donald responded to the invitation and was baptized.

During the next year Donald had to go to England twice, but worshipped when he could with the Blvd congregation. Sherry moved to another state with

her dad and he moved back home in Maryland. He began to attend the services of the church there and was encouraged to attend David Lipscomb College.

At Lipscomb, Don met his future wife, Katie. During the time he was at Lipscomb he began to preach and was able to preach most every Sunday. After they graduated and married, he began to preach full time and she taught school.

He has now been preaching for over 50 years. For the past six years, he has been serving the Clarksdale, Mississippi congregation. He has

never heard from Sherry and has never been back to Lake Charles; but, he is so thankful that a young Christian lady invited him to church. Have you invited anyone to church lately?



from Paul's Pen

Can you pass the Wal-Mart Test

I continue to be reminded that everyone counts and you are missed when you don't attend a church service. Not only are you missing out on a blessing, but you are keeping others from being blessed -- because you are not there! You may not realize just how important it is for you to be there for the sake of the body. We should love the church and "seek it FIRST" in our lives.

You have a tremendous impact on people that you influence. You probably would be surprised just how many people you influence.

I have a test for you dealing with missing church for the reason of being sick. Would you go to Wal-Mart? Occasionally when I visit with someone who missed, they tell me that they were sick and couldn't attend church. Eventually, if you are not careful, you will rarely attend because of getting out of the habit. Attending church regularly and on time is a matter of habit. When you mention church attendance they say, "I was sick, or my

spouse is sick." However, when the time comes to purchase stuff at Wal-Mart, many are well enough and/or willing to leave the sick spouse in order to purchase the needed items to sustain physical life. May God help us to realize that worshipping our Heavenly Father, studying His Word, singing, praying, taking the Lord's Supper and giving as we have been prospered are all vital to the spiritual health of each individual. Sustaining our spiritual life and growing spiritually is really more important than our daily food and acquiring stuff at Wal-Mart. Don't you agree?

I want to challenge you to be faithful! We all get physically sick and we need to take care of our bodies. We also have the tendency to get spiritually sick. We need the fellowship of our brothers and sisters to help encourage us to be faithful to the Lord. Do you really believe that you can be a follower of Christ and not be active in His body? Take the Wal-Mart test!

\$20 Worth of Spaghetti Turns into \$1000

Several years ago, while we lived in Lake Charles, Louisiana, the restaurant Olive Garden came to town. Someone told me that Olive Garden takes \$20.00 worth of spaghetti and turns it into \$1,000.00! (Perhaps a slight exaggeration!)

When Olive Garden opened in Lake Charles, 8,195 people ate there the first week. My family and I went the second week at a time when we only had to wait a little while. A lady at a local bank said that during the first week the restaurant was open, she got there ten minutes before it opened, and one hour later, she finally got her food. Not having time to eat before she had to be at work, she requested a carry out. It was not until 3:00 PM that she finally got to eat her cold spaghetti.

Waiting at your favorite restaurant is probably something you do on a regular basis. Most of us consider that waiting time is well spent because we finally get to enjoy a great meal. We are a country where so many are obsessed with food and our waist lines prove it! We are able to watch the food network on TV 24/7. We have cooking shows of all kinds on various networks. Food is talked about and promoted constantly in our media.

I am reminded of what Jesus said when he was tempted in the desert "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matt. 4:4)

Compare your time spent waiting on the opportunity

to buy "overpriced spaghetti," or just eating meals at home, compared to spending time in the word of God. People are starving themselves spiritually, their faith suffers and their lack of spirituality proves it. We all know that "faith comes by hearing the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Little time spent in reading and hearing the word of God produces little faith.

Another byproduct of spending too little time in the word of God is confusion and ignorance on what the Bible actually teaches. If we would study our Bible more, for example, we would know, without a doubt, that God says the practice of homosexuality is a sin. In our media today we hear the uproar concerning homosexual ministers and same sex marriages. Serious Bible students know that such is an abomination to God.

What happens with folks today is they decide for themselves that the word of God is not the real authority in their lives. Their own opinions, feelings and ideas rule their beliefs.

Let's spend more time feeding our souls with the word of God, other good books and materials like the Magnolia Messenger so our faith will grow more than our waistlines.

Challenge: Spend more time producing faith, even if it is the size of mustard seed and see what mountain God can move through you. Time so spent will be better than Olive Garden taking \$20 worth of spaghetti and turning it into \$1000.

Youth "Powered Up" in Cleveland

The 23rd Annual Mississippi State Youth Conference was held at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS on May 29-31. The theme this year was "Powered Up: Christian Youth Living Life on Holy Spirit Maximum!" This event was hosted by the Delta area churches of Christ. Billy Moore who

preaches for the Ruleville congregation was the chairman of the event. Over 800 people attended with more than 30 Mississippi churches participating.



During the youth conference, great lessons were presented. Several activities were planned, including a pageant on Saturday night where two from the older youth were crowned "Mr. and Miss Youth Conference." From the younger youth two were crowned, "Mr. and Miss Congeniality." Those crowned are eligible to attend and compete in the National Youth Conference that will be held this year in July at Oklahoma Christian University. Over 15 states will send their winners to this event.

The West Looxahoma congregation (a few miles east of Senatobia, MS on Hwy 4) sent the most to the Mississippi conference with 38 in attendance. It was exciting to be in attendance at this conference and to see all of these young people serving and praising God.



Who Touched Me?

By Paul G. Dixon

It was not uncommon in the early days of the New Testament for people to hear, see, and occasionally be able to touch Jesus. In 1 John 1:1, John lays claim to the fact that he was among the elite who actually, physically touched our Savior. He said, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of Life."

In Michelangelo's famous painting "The Creation of Adam" in Rome's Sistine Chapel, God is depicted as the great Creator reaching out to touch the pinnacle of His creation, Adam, the first man. Adam's arm is also outstretched, but sadly, the finger of Adam's hand doesn't quite touch the finger of God. Whether he knew it or not, the artist painted for us a sad reminder that though the God of heaven desires to have a close relationship with all of His creation, man frequently fails to do his part.

Throughout biblical history, the Lord's benevolent touch was felt on a number of occasions by individuals who were reaching towards Him. In every one of those instances, man benefitted from the experience. One case involves a woman whose story is one of faith. She believed that the power of God could cure her long term illness. Her story reminds us of how faith is demonstrated and was worthy of one of Jesus most memorable compliments!

On this occasion, after the diseased woman comes behind Jesus and touches his clothes, she is healed immediately of her infirmity. Jesus then asks the crowd, "Who touched me?" Jesus



Christ, the master teacher, strategically asks a question as a skilled surgeon might guide a sharp instrument.

With precision, He moves His audience to look inside themselves and embrace His prescription for the abundant life.

"And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, came behind him and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." (Luke 8:43-48).

Certainly the power of God through the great physician provided her cure and in those days it was instantaneous and miraculous, but she had also contributed something. It was her tremendous faith demonstrated in just the touch of her human hand. Unwilling to choose the path of least resistance she fought her way through the mob. And regardless of the many failed attempts by physicians to affect in her a cure, she refused to give up until she found someone who could rescue her.

Isn't it this kind of faith that doesn't escape the notice of our Lord and is a vital part of man's connection with his Creator? Trusting in His power to cure can have the vilest sinner looking to Jesus for the answer to the greatest disease of all, sin. For a person to be spiritually healthy, he/she must be washed or cleansed of sin. God through Christ immediately heals by removing sin today when one properly obeys His word. For the penitent believer, this is accomplished through an immersion (baptism) in water for the remission of sins, as shown in Acts 2:38. For the wayward child of God, it is achieved through confession and prayer, as 1 John 1:7-10 reveals. Isn't it natural for children to want to be close to their fathers and for a loving and nourishing Father to be near his children?

Paul G. Dixon, gregory2006usa@bellsouth.net.
(an elder for the church of Christ in Northport, Ala)

DeQuincy, Louisiana

Seeks Full Time Preacher

The DeQuincy Church of Christ located at 225 Hall Street DeQuincy Louisiana, in a community of about 5000, is seeking a full time preacher. The church is served by three elders with a membership of about 90. The church desires a biblically sound preacher who has a passion for the church and people. We offer a salary in the range of 45,000 with a three bedroom home. The web site is www.dqcofc.com. For more information please contact one of the elders Don Jackson - donnyjack@centurytel.net 337-786-5982, Ray Franks - rdfranks@netcommander.com cell 337-515-0866 or Paul Wilcoxson - pwilcoxson@gmail.com 337-802-2212.

Gospel Meetings in Central Mississippi

(Area churches of Christ)

Oak Ridge

June 21-24, 2015

662-582-1100

Chase Surrell, visiting evangelist

Durant

June 28-30, 2015

Dwayne Williams, local preacher

601-317-4268

Tipton St. (Kosciusko)

July 12-15, 2015

Don Woods, local preacher

731-439-3772

Huntsville

July 12-15, 2015

Nathan Wright, local preacher

662-262-7525

Nile

August 9-12, 2015

601-416-7813

Keith Wilson, visiting evangelist

It Ain't Easy being Us!" Life is a Struggle

By Dennis Doughty

Life is a struggle. Life as a Christian is becoming an even harder struggle! As a comedian used to say, "It ain't easy being me." Well, in today's world it ain't easy being US! Our struggles



are both within and without. Paul said that he wanted to do good, but ended up doing the very evil thing he did not want to do (Romans 7:19). Today's world encourages us to do the evil. Outside pressure to sin makes it harder to do the good.

Our own nation is making

living for Christ more difficult. Our courts have taken God out of our schools, our government supports abortion, our society's illegitimate birth rates are destroying the family, the press ridicules biblical values, the internet is polluting our youth, civil rights groups march against Christian business, Hollywood has made havoc of our morals, and a growing number of states are encouraging drug use. Our society is turning people away from God, and not toward Him, It makes living a Christian life hard, and raising our children even harder.

We must turn the wick up and let our light shine brighter,

we must strengthen our salt and let it have a stronger influence. We are the last hope of this nation! We all have got to strengthen our back, because the cross we are called to bear

in today's world is getting heavier by the hour. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (Ephesians 6:10).

We must never give up! We must run to win the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24), take up our cross and follow the Lord (Luke 9:23), be tough and finish the

course (2 Tim 4:7); No, it ain't easy being us, but Jesus never said it would be easy, just worth it!

dennis1848@bellsouth.net

Our society is turning people away from God, and not toward Him, It makes living a Christian life hard, and raising our children even harder.

Questions About Homosexuality

Continued from Page 3

gluttons, drunkards and other sinners, never to participate in their sins or to encourage their sins, but always to give them an example of true righteousness and to demonstrate His love and concern for them. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:12-13).

"Just as I am," we sing, because we are invited to come to Christ just as we are; but we come to be transformed, not to stay as we were. Hospitals do not allow people with contagious diseases to roam the corridors and patient rooms freely spreading their sicknesses.

Many note that Christ is attractive to many people but the Church or Christians are not. That may often be due to the unchristian way some

supposed-to-be Christians act. If we act as Christians are commanded to act, the world will be a better place for all to live and Christians will have a better reputation: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

The LGBT Agenda

In addition to individual people with homosexual tendencies and temptations, a fairly large cadre of folks take pride in their proclivities, parading in bizarre outfits in "Gay Pride" exhibitions. They "glory in their shame" (Philippians 3:19).

They claim to promote "tolerance," but they are very intolerant of anyone who disagrees with them. Instances of attempts by the LGBT lobby to silence religious speech regarding homosexuality or the traditional view of marriage are featured in the news media al-

most daily. They seem to forget that Americans have a constitutional right both to freedom of speech and to freedom of religion.

If they have their way, just reading aloud the biblical passages listing homosexual activities as sin may be forbidden as "hate speech." Laws forbidding discrimination may be used to force Christian schools to hire homosexual teachers. They are already using societal pressure to force Christian businessmen and women to show approval of same-sex weddings by catering, photographing or otherwise participating in them.

The first amendment in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution guarantees the free exercise

of religion. It should protect our pulpits and religious papers, though one never knows what a future Supreme Court might rule.

The LGBT radicals are currently arguing that Christians are free to say whatever they believe in their churches, but not in the public square. Religion was never intended to be confined to church buildings and Sunday school classes. We are to love our neighbors, evangelize and declare sin to be sin wherever we go.

While we are to work with individual homosexuals with gentleness and humility, as instructed (Galatians 6:1), we must stand firmly and courageously against whatever legal

barriers are set up to preaching and teaching the plain truth of God's word. As Peter and John told the ruling powers of their day, "We must obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

Conclusion

Elton Trueblood predicted several decades ago that, respecting sexual morality, Christians were becoming a distinct, conscious, tiny, minority. Peter wrote, "The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead" (1 Peter 4:3-5).

Here is what Christians need to do:

- Model sexual purity, chastity and loving monogamy, living God's ideal for marriage, "one man for one woman for life." "Flee from sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18). Condemning homosexual activity while secretly committing adultery or visiting prostitutes is the height of hypocrisy. "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:22, 25).
- Do to others as you would have them do to you (common paraphrase of Matthew 7:12). Do not use offensive terms in talking to or about homosexual people. Do not participate in beating, ridiculing or harassing them. That kind of conduct brings sympathy to the victims of it and causes people to question the validity of the Christianity

of those perpetrating it. On the contrary, if you see them being treated cruelly, take up for them, defend them. They are human beings for whom Christ died. Love them as God and Christ loves them,

- Try to help them understand and conquer their sin. They may not be able to help how they feel about someone, but they can control their actions. Many of them will not be receptive, but the unreceptive ones probably will not come to church. Those who do come may respond to a loving, welcoming reception. Remember, correction of error or sin is part of love and correction is to be given gently, with humility and with respect (Galatians 6:1; 1 Peter 3:15-16). We are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
- Regardless of public opinion or Supreme Court decrees, sin is still sin and we must speak the truth about it. We should do so courteously and respectfully, but firmly and fearlessly.

SOUTH HUNTINGTON

Church of Christ

2015 Summer Series

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A Study of the Book of Proverbs

Each Wednesday Night at 6:30 P.M.

6/3/15	The Beginning of Wisdom	John DeBerry Jr. (Memphis, TN)
6/10/15	The Source of Wisdom	Guyton Montgomery (Ackerman, MS)
6/24/15	Wisdom and Marriage	Tony DeBerry (Memphis, TN)
7/1/15	Wisdom and Money	John Gardner (Brandon, MS)
7/8/15	Wisdom and Speech	Robert Rawson (Senatobia, MS)
7/22/15	Wisdom and Work	Johnny Beckwith (Philadelphia, MS)
7/29/15	Wisdom and Pride	Al Franks (Kosciusko, MS)
8/5/15	Wisdom and Parenting	Mark Shiers (Greenwood, MS)
8/12/15	Wisdom and Anger	Paul Franks (Kosciusko, MS)
8/19/15	Wisdom and Sexual Integrity	Les Ferguson Sr. (Kosciusko, MS)
8/26/15	Wisdom and Alcohol	Don Woods (Kosciusko, MS)

662-289-3791 – P.O. Box 1399

820 South Huntington Street – Kosciusko, MS 39090

Have You Seen Me?

Mykendrionia (MiMi) Lewis

Please help the Kosciusko, Mississippi police department find 14 year old Mykendrionia (MiMi) Lewis. If you have any information on the whereabouts of (MiMi) please contact the police department at 662-289-3131. She has been missing for over a week. She was last seen walking down Peeler Street on May 27 in Kosciusko, MS.

According to June Woods, wife of the preacher for the Tipton St. Church of Christ in Kosciusko, MiMi is a member of their congregation. MiMi's mother has pleaded, "Please, please tell her to come or to call home..."



The Best Kept Secret

IN THE CHURCH TODAY

By Paul Franks

This past Easter Weekend in Memphis, Tennessee, you had different conventions you could attend. The Lad's to Leaders Convention was being held at the Sheraton Hotel next to the Convention Center in downtown Memphis.

An atheist group was also having a convention in the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis. It seems where ever there is good, the devil works overtime to promote his agenda.

Over 2200 young people, their parents and church leaders came to the Memphis site while another 18,000 plus attended L2L conventions in Nashville, Atlanta, Dallas, Orlando and Louisville, Kentucky. Since I have been preaching some in Ripley, MS, I was involved with the 50 plus folks that went from Ripley to Memphis.

L2L is so much more than a yearly convention. It is amazing to see firsthand all of the hard work that goes into a L2L program during the year. With all of the various events that the young people prepare for it encompasses just about everything one does during the year at church. The program encourages studying the Bible at home as well. The young people from the Ripley congregation were strengthened as well as all of us who went with them.

One of the first people I met was Mike Whisenant who was the Master of Ceremonies and the Assistant Convention Director.

There are hundreds of volunteers who make all of this work. The judges are all volunteers and help to make this a wonderful competitive arena. I heard one of the young men say from Ripley, "Well I didn't win this year, but I learned what to do for next year and I am already working toward that goal."

It is made clear that everyone who participates is a winner as many trophies and medals are given out during the convention. David Pryor who owns the Trophy Shop in Oxford and in Clinton, MS has been the source of all of these trophies over the years.

This program encourages and builds up the local church like no other program I have ever seen. When a congregation is active in this program, the statistics prove that 85% and above will stay faithful to

the church.

Please contact the office of Lads to Leaders at 334-215-0251 or go to their website at www.lads2leaders.com and order their DVD explaining this program. The DVD is entitled, "The Best Kept Secret in the Church Today." Ben Giselbach who is L2L's newest field representative will be glad

to visit your congregation and explain the program to you.

Yes, the devil was present in Memphis that weekend just as he is every weekend. The devil is not going to win and it is obvious when you recognize how bright the future is for the Lord's church when you see the young leaders in action at a Lad's to Leaders Convention. We pray that this good work will continue and grow.

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

Over 2200 young people and their parents and church leaders came to the Memphis site while another 18,000 plus attended L2L conventions in Nashville, Atlanta, Dallas, Orlando and Louisville, Kentucky.



L2L: Over 2,200 Gathered in Memphis; More than 18,000 Assembled in 5 Other Cities



Mike Whisenant, MC at Memphis Convention



Riley Schmitz (One of the many excited winners!)



Lads to Leaders Rely Heavily on Volunteers (Three of the many volunteer judges pictured above)



Brenda Johnson, wife of L2L director, Roy Johnson and Ben Giselback, a field representative



Numerous Groups (large and small) Came From Many Congregations (Above Group Represented the Hall Street Church of Christ in Ripley, Mississippi)

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Vacation in the Beautiful Ozark Mountains
2 Condominiums Available
 Each: 2 BRs & 2 Baths
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 Sleeps Six
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Bonnie Sue Rushmore

"A Christian lady who gave her life for others"

By Gail Bragg

What is one of the greatest things a person can do for his or her fellow man? One might answer "lay down his life for them." Bonnie Rushmore didn't take a bullet like a soldier on the battlefield or die for someone as Christ died on the cross. But to me, she did give her life for others. She gave her life, her life's work, for her fellow man in the furtherance of God's kingdom, in her service to the Lord, to help save lost souls. She did this by working alongside her husband, Louis, on the Gospel Gazette Online, the Voice of Truth International magazine, and helpful tracts which were translated into other languages and sent to several countries of the world.

She also accompanied Bro. Louis on many trips to Asia and South America to teach and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Bonnie taught women from a handful to 200 or 300 at a time in India or in Guyana in South America. She sometimes taught up to 5 times the number of men who had gathered to hear Bro. Louis teach! It didn't matter if they had to go down a remote river in a flat-bottom boat or travel over jungles and

moun-
tains in
a small
plane.
Together
they went!

I wish
I had
known
her better

and had more conversations with her. I was around her for only a few hours in total, with brief conversations. When she and Bro. Louis were at Union church for a presentation, I felt privileged to sit next to her at the fellowship meal. Today, I can't remember what we talked about specifically, but you can rest assured it was about someplace she had been in her missionary travels to Asia or South America. I'm sure she would not have remembered me at all, but I was in awe of her dedication and commitment to the Lord's work, for I've always felt that the work of



a missionary is one of the most honorable and most important works on earth.

I had lost two long-time friends in very recent years with the same illness Bonnie had. So when I learned that Bonnie had pancreatic cancer, I prayed as often as possible for her recovery. She was too important in God's kingdom to lose at such a young age. She had too much to offer, too much work to be done. I rejoiced when she was in remission; I struggled inwardly as the disease returned. I could not, and still cannot, understand these circumstances. And while I'm busy asking "why?" let me also ask why she continued to labor, even when she was not well, why after more chemo and more treatments, why not give up, take to her bed and rest and not be struggling to write or do just a little more work before she would be unable to do so? It is my understanding that she continued working for the Lord up until the last two weeks of her life. That is amazing!

Perhaps the answer to my questions came to me this afternoon from Bonnie herself as I was re-reading a copy of the Rushmore Newsletter

from several months ago. She wrote "Some would say that God did not answer my prayers. However, we must realize

that God answers all prayers but not necessarily the way we want them answered (James 5:16; 2 Peter 3:8). I asked that God grant me the ability to serve Him for as long as I remained on this planet. That prayer and the prayers of 1,000's of Christians around the world have been answered!" And so they were, dear lady.

A statement from Bro. Louis in that same publication states "Literature can endure longer than we can; if we leave a legacy after we depart from this life, it will be the literature we have written and distributed around the world."

From Jane's Corner

By Jane Maynard

Our family moved to Winona, Mississippi in 1984. Shortly thereafter I became acquainted with sister Stella Winters of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. We began a friendship that grew through 30 years. Our paths crossed often as we spoke at Ladies' events across Mississippi, many times working together at those events.

In the following years Stella spoke for the Winona congregation at one of their Ladies' Days. Following that event she and I sat down together to discuss a way or ways we might put together some kind of an event for ladies to help bridge the racial distance between some of the sisters in the state of Mississippi. We finally decided that a retreat would be the best answer. I think my suggestion was that we go home and pray about it for some time. Stella's suggestion was "Let's just do it sister Maynard."

So we just did it and in reality Stella gets the credit for having a greater faith than I had in bringing about what is now known as the yearly Sardis Christian Camp Ladies' Retreat. We



were joined early on in directing this event by sister Minnie Young of Winona, Mississippi, and for the next 18 years we worked together to do the best we could to provide a welcome place for sisters from many places to come together for fellowship and spiritual growth.

Working together for many years, Jane Maynard, Stella Winters and Minnie Young provided leadership for the annual Sardis Lake Christian Women's Retreat.



I believe all who attend year after year would tell you the retreat has been a success. The event is always well attended by women not only from Mississippi, but also Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

In 2013 after much prayer and discussion between the three of us and recognizing we were all growing older and in some stages of health problems, we resigned as the directors of the event. We have placed the overseeing of the event into the hands of two very capable young women; Kari Martin of Mountain Home, Arkansas and Ann Nunnley of Natchitoches, Louisiana. These ladies did a great job with the retreat last year and we will celebrate 20 years this coming September.

On October 22, 2014 our beloved Stella went home to that final and Eternal Retreat with the Lord. I sorely miss our long visits on the phone. Only time and eternity will tell of the good that has and will come from Stella's firm faith long ago in the possibilities that the Sardis retreat would afford ladies from every walk of life. Her works do follow her.

Stella was my sister, my friend, and my encourager. And if I could say anything to her today, I would say;

***So take your ease now; in the arms of Jesus.
Sing on sweet spirit; in the courts of God.
Sheltered safe there; through endless ages.
Lord, thank you for our dear sister's love.***

Jane Maynard • P.O. Box 172 • Clarkridge, Arkansas 72623

The Connection between the Cemetery and the Church

At a recent funeral service in north central Mississippi I was reminded of the vital connection between the church and a cemetery. A church building (representing the church) and a cemetery may not always be close to each other (as is the case in above picture); yet the church (body of Christ) is a vital link in the preparation the living must make for dying. The church of our Lord teaches the way of salvation; the church is the saved (prepared) and those who die "in the Lord" (in His church) are said to be "blessed." (Rev. 14:13)

Focus... Focus... Focus

By June Franks

Our twenty two year old grandson, Vincent, is a wonderful example of a Christian young man. A word he often uses in his prayers is the word "focus." He often says while leading a prayer, "Help us to stay focused."

Focus means "a central point, as of attraction, attention or activity." As a verb it means to "direct your attention or effort to something specific."

Vincent's prayer and the phrase he uses about staying focused has made an impression on me. It reminds me that, whatever we may be doing in life, we need to stay focused on what is at hand; and, more especially, we need to stay focused on our spiritual life. We have trouble staying focused in a lot of areas; let us never forget the most important area of our focus should be in our relationship to Jesus Christ.

We live in this world and we are distracted by things of this world. We are often tempted to lose our focus on Christ and His Church. We find ourselves distracted by the concerns of life. Being distracted by the cares of this world will prevent us from really being focused on Christ.

A person who lets the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches keep him from focusing on Christ is described like this in the Bible. "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." (Matthew 13: 22) Many of the things which may dis-

tract us are not wrong within themselves, but do keep us from focusing on the most important things in life.

The Bible says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12: 1,2)



JUNE FRANKS

As Christians, we are running in this race and our eyes should be focused on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus is at the finish line and as we run in the race of life, we are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses who are encouraging us on. Those who run in races keep focused on the goal and try to not become distracted by anything or anybody. They recognize the value of focusing on crossing the finish line.

Let each of us keep our eyes focused on Jesus and not let trials and tribulations distract us from finishing our ultimate goal. Trials and tribulations will consume our attention if we are not careful. The Bible says, "Yet hath not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the

word, by and by he is offended." (Matthew 13: 21)

If we keep these verses in mind it will help keep us focused on Christ and to be able to stay on the right track. The Bible says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3: 1, 2) We should keep our eyes focused on our eternal home. As the old song states, "This world is not our home; we are just passing through." The Bible says, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers (sojourners) and pilgrims..." (I Peter 2: 11)

Just recently I had to purchase new eye glasses. My old glasses were not in focus any more. When I had my eyes examined, I was given a prescription for new glasses. My new glasses are more in focus and help me see more clearly. We should take time to examine our spiritual glasses and make sure that we stay focused on the most important things in life. Let us stay focused on our eternal home. Are you staying focused?

Thanks, Vincent, for the reminder of our need to always being focused on our spiritual life. We should be serious about our spiritual well being. Not being focused spiritually could cause us to lose our souls! What a tragedy that would be!!!

"A Century of Grace & Truth"

by Paul Franks

One of my favorite places to go to when I worked for MBC in the late 80's was the church in Senatobia, Mississippi. Mike Jones was and still is the preacher! Flo Seago was one of the elders. Brother and Sister Seago treated me like family. One of the elders today is a son of Flo Seago, Calvin Seago. The other elders are Chuck Adams, Paul Embrey and Kenny Puryear. Through the years, I have known Mike to be an encourager to preachers and good works

The Senatobia church started in 1915 – one hundred years ago. This year the church

wanted to celebrate its centennial. Two ladies of the church were given special responsibility to help make this event happen. **Gail Tomlinson and Ann Marie Zettergren** worked diligently to make the weekend of April 12, 2015 a great celebration.

Past ministers and their wives were invited to this grand occasion. David and Joyce Chadwell, Allan & Carole Isom, Brian Magnuson, Michael and Amy Anderson, Phil & Jackie Sanders, Dale & Sheila Hartman, Jesse & Brenda Pope, Tom & Priscilla Parsons and Dale & Beverly Brannon were all recognized at this event.

After a wonderful worship service, a meal was provided for everyone. Following the meal the chorus from Harding University sang. A phrase of a famous old song seemed to sum up the attitude of those who participated in the weekend celebration, "Tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us on." As I was departing the church building, I saw several young ladies and asked them to pose for a picture. I wondered if any of them would be able to attend the bi-centennial of the Senatobia Church of Christ. I hope so!



Don't Count Your Troubles

*If we don't count our troubles,
Then we can see
All the wonderful blessings,
God is giving you and me.*

*We can help others,
By doing good deeds.
We are displeasing to God,
When we don't help those in need.*

*Do we feel let down,
When things don't go our way?
Look at all the sick people,
That may not live another day.*

*By doing what is right,
We will feel like our blessings double.
If we want our light to shine,
Don't count your troubles.*



(Nina Thorn; 1135 Ratliff Rd.; Canton, MS 39046)

These sent in answers to the "Question Box" (See page 24)

- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Earl A. Franks | 79. Bob Simpson | 156. Bobbie Loggins | 234. Louise Gavin | 312. Emma Gilreath Wheeler | 390. Mary Prosser | 467. Eva Garrison | 545. Sue Hamrick | 623. Tom Woodard |
| 2. Nicholas Slaydon | 80. Bobbie Childs | 157. M/M Arthur Burnett | 235. Chery Boudreaux | 313. Exie Motes | 391. Sharon Huckaba | 468. Judy Gurley | 546. Dianne Wiley | 624. Linda Shadrix |
| 3. Lyndon Slaydon | 81. Ty Grisham | 158. Pierce Flatt | 236. Robert Blackburn | 314. Weida Pyron | 392. Brenda Harvill | 469. Emma Beth Mayer | 547. Barbara Yates | 625. Rosie Drewery |
| 4. Stephanie Slaydon | 82. Johnie R. Jumper | 159. Janice Vaughan | 237. Velve Dykes | 315. Gloria Boyd | 393. Linda Sue Kennamore | 470. Julie Elliott | 548. Mary Salinas | 626. Floy Smith |
| 5. Jessica Slaydon | 83. Helen Brown | 160. Carolyn Garrett | 238. Anita Taft | 316. Linda Hogue | 394. Bobby J. Lively | 471. William J. Coats | 549. Jan Wiese | 627. Artis W. Hinton |
| 6. Wes & Rhoda Jeans | 84. Jon Grisham | 161. Dannie Davis | 239. Barbara F. White | 317. Sharon Praytor | 395. Minnie Gwyne | 472. Linda Crochet | 550. Allena Wiese | 628. Doris Jean Fletcher |
| 7. Daniel McMillin | 85. Benny Wallis | 162. Steve Gooch | 240. Anne Hulse | 318. Terry Dyer | 396. Marie Lively | 473. Brenda Taylor | 551. Peggy Hartman | 629. Fran Williford |
| 8. Bailey Reese | 86. John Raines | 163. Amy Hutson | 241. Gerry Gooch | 319. M/M John Ose | 397. Iva A. Hill | 474. Linda T. Shirley | 552. Evon Jarrett | 630. Bronwen Pollard |
| 9. Billy R. Morton | 87. Patrick Chapman | 164. Linda Cook | 242. Richard L. Odom | 320. Beth Cook | 398. Linda Miller | 475. Gary Mayer | 553. Mary Jo Purdon | 631. Jessica Slaydon |
| 10. Regina Morton | 88. Brenda Chapman | 165. Carolyn Stanford | 243. Cathie (Mary) Grigsby | 321. Wilda Pounds | 399. Carlotta Summers | 476. Edmon Wheeler | 554. Catherine Hollie | 632. Nicholas Slaydon |
| 11. Paul Franks | 89. Lauren Elliott | 166. Carole Shelby | 244. Pat Shadle | 322. Gay R. Null | 400. Georgia L. Risner | 477. Opal Gifford | 555. Betty Lackey | 633. Stephanie Slaydon |
| 12. Christina Nunnally | 90. Robert Elliott | 167. Nadine Patton | 245. John Hazel | 323. Pam Nichols | 401. Nan Wiley | 478. Bert Lee Hall | 556. Kathie Bordelon | 634. Dorothy Franks |
| 13. Jennifer Stanford | 91. Rob Elliott | 168. Mary King | 246. Mary M. McDonald | 324. Mrs. Lucille S. Jackson | 402. Mrs. Bertie Wilson | 479. Tishia L. Williams | 557. Samuel P. Fletcher | 635. Earl Franks |
| 14. Betty Rose Henry | 92. Michele M. Elliott | 169. Bonnie Holcomb | 247. Joyce Talbert | 325. Billie Boyd | 403. Bernard Macon, Sr. | 480. Coneria M. Garrett | 558. Elledith Harris | 636. Wes & Rhoda Jeans |
| 15. Wanda McCollum | 93. Brittany Lawson | 170. Mary E. Tucker | 248. Elsie Baskerville | 326. Bud & Linda Wranosky | 404. Paul R. Tipton | 481. Laisheing A. Smith | 559. Christy Pounds | 637. Doug & Laura Brackbill |
| 16. Mike Griffin | 94. Patton Bennett | 171. Bobbi Cradic | 249. Laura Nanney | 327. Rachel M. Odom | 405. Judy A. Spencer | 482. Tommy & Nell Lawson | 560. Glenda Wooldridge | 638. Tori Brackbill |
| 17. Wade Huddleston | 95. Karson Meeks | 172. Yolanda Hosley | 250. Ann Holeman | 328. Joyce Mckee | 406. Thomas Logan | 483. Shirley Bostick | 561. Eileen Ferree | 639. Mary Faulconer |
| 18. Olivia Griffin | 96. Karen Meeks | 173. Rick Bishop | 251. Judy Poyner | 329. Cora Odom | 407. Johnetta Lewis | 484. Kay Clayton | 562. Sandy Rushing | 640. Stacey, Melinda
Gregory Hawkins |
| 19. Sue Huddleston | 97. Sonny Meeks | 174. Lawrence Horn | 252. Terry & Melissa Bryant | 330. Wanda Peterson | 408. Rocky D. Dial | 485. Casey & Kim Mayer | 563. Paul Briley | 641. Edith Winters |
| 20. Edna Griffin | 98. Anissa Yancey | 175. Joyce A. King | 253. Gloria M. Wilburn | 331. Mary Jane Goode | 409. Barbara D. Morgan | 486. Barney & Betty King | 564. Gene Turner | 642. Jane Walker |
| 21. Bert Brown | 99. Nathan Stanford | 176. Kimberly Easterling | 254. Margaret Ratliff | 332. Irene Rogers | 410. Rhonda Freeman | 487. Jean Girdner | 565. Nola A. Kirk | 643. Bernice Richardson |
| 22. Ben Wallis | 100. Sherry Gordon | 177. Doralynn Felton | 255. Johnny Ivy | 333. Michael Coleman | 411. Mrs. June Faulkner | 488. Bobby Brown | 566. Mark Kellum | 644. Barbara Loden |
| 23. Roger McAlister | 101. Merle W. Johnston | 178. James Hill | 256. Jimmie Brown | 334. Julius Lee Wales | 412. Rosie Taylor | 489. Ralph Clayton | 567. Lyman & Betty York | 645. Ruby Worthy |
| 24. Charles Shelton | 102. Gracie Stroud | 179. Judy Hill | 257. Morvin Green | 335. Melvin & Kay Linton | 413. R. L. Clark, Sr. | 490. Jo Ann Mayer | 568. Faye Vanderford | 646. Gerald Worthy |
| 25. Bruce Wallis | 103. Linda Swain | 180. Tommy Muirhead | 258. Ann Whetstone | 336. Trillie Strickland | 414. Katisha Colvin | 491. Joyce Briscoe | 569. John L. Gates, Jr. | 647. Rose Knox |
| 26. Peggy Wallis | 104. Ms. Rosie M. Felton | 181. Sharon Ann Dantzler | 259. Merlene Scott | 337. Frankie Moore | 415. Victor Boone | 492. Bill Moore | 570. Charles Coffey | 648. Sandra Johnson |
| 27. Eddie Carter | 105. Marilyn Howell | 182. Betty A. Skinner | 260. Nell Millsaps | 338. Lynn Sasser | 416. James & Gloria
Breckenridge | 493. Gary Wolfe | 571. Lillie McCullum | 649. Lydia Sellers |
| 28. Patricia Carter | 106. Linda B. Keirn | 183. Willie Beardain | 261. Ann Kelley | 339. Bettie Jones | 417. David J. Delatte | 494. Carl Trimm | 572. Carolyn Robinson | 650. Elsie Moore |
| 29. Beth Wilbanks | 107. Dee Collier | 184. Anne Shelton | 262. Mary Robinson | 340. Kenneth Harmon | 418. Lois Cleo Wright | 495. Sue Mason | 573. Mary Jacobs | 651. Doris Townsend Britt |
| 30. Carole Shelby | 108. Bettye McCool | 185. Alice Humphries | 263. Wanda Robinson | 341. Jeremiah & Shelia Woodard | 419. Oreatha Johnson | 496. Shellie Hancock | 574. Jerry & Norma Inman | 652. Iris Casteel |
| 31. Bonnie S. Jordan | 109. Maggie R. Edmonds | 186. Mrs. Pearl Hurst | 264. Bernita Booker | 342. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 420. Mattie Ann Owens | 497. Bethany Stephens | 575. Linda Swan | 653. Caiden Holliday |
| 32. Lutie Willingham | 110. Alma Maddox | 187. Carol Bonner | 265. Frederick Alan Jones | 343. Benrus & Nicole Womack | 421. Foster C. Owens | 498. Donna Bryan | 576. Michael Harvill | 654. Chris Holliday |
| 33. Katie B. Grisham | 111. Lisa Dearman | 188. Sidney Robinson | 266. Sherron Dixon | 344. Ma'Nia & Bralan Womack | 422. Doris Lowery | 499. Mary Brannan | 577. Susan Ainsworth | 655. Trey Williams |
| 34. Martha Sue Carter | 112. Ann Rector | 189. Charlotte Ritter | 267. Ima Jean Faqus | 345. Dorothy Taylor | 423. Cecelia Roney | 500. Debra Michael | 578. Hattie Johnson | 656. Joshua Williams |
| 35. Marjorie Wilburn | 113. Mildred Herrington | 190. Ruth M. Shappley | 268. Donna Gully | 346. Ila M. Reeves | 424. Jan O'Kelley | 501. Cheryl Wall | 579. Jimmy Coggins | 657. Alex Williams |
| 36. Grace Floyd | 114. Bernice Townsel | 191. Kerry Deaton | 269. David Dunnavant | 347. Janice Lewis | 425. Alice Dempsey | 502. Phyllis K. Spiers | 580. Bonnie Howell | 658. Samuel Eckford |
| 37. Ronald Chapman | 115. Doyle Varner | 192. Lloyd & Barbara Beard | 270. Patrilla Maddox | 348. Linda Matheny | 426. Kathy Perry | 503. Cheri G. Moore | 581. Bertha Rockingham | 659. ? Verner |
| 38. Jane Chapman | 116. Rosa Sanders | 193. Modonna Michael | 271. Earlene Parsons | 349. Madonna Langford | 427. Laura Dixon | 504. Ida Walls | 582. Jerry Gilliam | 660. Mattie Luster |
| 39. Sherry Henderson | 117. Prince Lewis | 194. Vera Ashmore | 272. Lozell Milligan | 350. Jessie McDonald | 428. Bonnie Dixon | 505. Peggy Engel | 583. Henry Norris | 661. Ollie Wooten |
| 40. Joey Bryant | 118. Alberta Craft | 195. Faye Stanford | 273. Billye Wiygul | 351. Pamela Luna | 429. Michael Deaton | 506. Annie Mae Pipkin | 584. Sarah Hill | 662. Burlean Leatherwood |
| 41. Barry Grisham | 119. Annette Clifton | 196. Carolyn Ware | 274. Natalie Grisham | 352. Shirley Graham | 430. Elnorsh Duckworth | 507. Sylvester & Georgia Taylor | 585. Kathryn Lee | 663. Bettie Brown |
| 42. Chris Grisham | 120. Marcella Moore | 197. Rhenda Miltner | 275. Dorsa Sparks | 353. Shelia Hall | 431. Herschel Thach | 508. Bonnie Glass | 586. Velma Isom | 664. Cathy E. Brooks |
| 43. Carolyn Medlin | 121. Joycelyn Thornton
Dotson | 198. Terry Miltner | 276. Betty VanBuren | 354. Imogene Grayson | 432. Roger Thorson | 509. Elnora Mack | 587. Christopher J. Smith | 665. Willie Stancil |
| 44. Grey Roberson | 122. Ann Kimble | 199. Mary Beth Dietz | 277. Marion Crelia | 355. Brenda Collums | 433. Lisa Dettor | 510. Virginia B. Kissell | 588. Carolyn Hendrick | 666. Mary Dennis |
| 45. Ramonia A. Alister | 123. Wm. & Atlean Snow | 200. Dorothy Winslett | 278. Lois Nielson | 356. Cathy Powell | 434. Willie P. Thornton | 511. Carolyn J. Pitts | 589. Don Lee | 667. Sherry Ross |
| 46. Donna McMillin | 124. Carol Bradley | 201. Charlotte Vandiver | 279. Addelee Brown | 357. Jack L. Falls, Sr. | 435. Esther Hall | 512. Brenda Redd | 590. Teresa Goff | 668. Ida Wells |
| 47. Mike Harrison | 125. Gwendolyn Bryant | 202. Ann Sims | 280. Paul & Elsie Bryson | 358. Stormie Smith | 436. Joanna Hayes | 513. Marsha Porter | 591. Sydney Fallon | 669. Ada Wilbern |
| 48. Linda Harrison | 126. Mary Adams | 203. Marty Danilchuk | 281. Carolyn Harvill | 359. Juanita Flanagan | 437. Sherry Townsend | 514. Ruby Wright | 592. Charles Goff | 670. Geraldine Ford |
| 49. Mary Jo Lence | 127. Beverly Miles | 204. James & Katie Houston | 282. Glenda Jefcoat | 360. Ms. Jean Bohanan | 438. Norma Behl | 515. Earlean F. Williams | 593. Tommy Shull | 671. Curley Haley |
| 50. Wanda Green | 128. Christene Holliday | 205. Mary Jane Hollis | 283. Vera Winfrey | 361. Bobby E. Marques | 439. Bonnie Poore | 516. Everjean Parson | 594. Emmette Armstrong | 672. Garfield Moss |
| 51. Hayley Green | 129. Carolyn Perry | 206. Sherian Martin | 284. Christine Colwell | 362. Ben Hightower | 440. Patricia Colburn | 517. M/M Timothy Hollidays | 595. Katie C. Barmer | 673. Edwin Williams |
| 52. Sam Green | 130. Audrey Bowling | 207. June Brents | 285. Joe B. Holmes | 363. Jerry Fleming | 441. Nellie Dickerson | 518. Mary Mann | 596. Michae A. Euer | 674. Mary Williams |
| 53. Jerry Green | 131. Sue M. Fisher | 208. Ray Parham | 286. Bobby & Shirley Howell | 364. Betty Spears | 442. Clifford Ann Green | 519. J. L. Eaton | 597. Nell Holloway | 675. Cortez Brown |
| 54. Zoe Green | 132. Ann McDonald | 209. Betty Clark | 287. Emily Overton | 365. Wayne Crum | 443. Peggy Havard | 520. Bernice Mills | 598. Jewell Hill | 676. Batsell Booker |
| 55. Laura Green | 133. Ms. Sarah Dantzler | 210. Rutha Eastman | 288. Marcy L. Kanapaux | 366. Dwight E. Hester | 444. Pat Morris | 521. Sidney Clemmer | 599. Jennifer Gray | 677. Wade Hardy |
| 56. Shane Green | 134. Barbara Farris | 211. Mark Williams | 289. Evelyn Faulkenbury | 367. William Pyron | 445. Ruth Gunter | 522. Jean Clemmer | 600. Laura Hyatt | 678. Josephine Carter |
| 57. Alex Green | 135. Dorothy Banks | 212. Billy Willingham | 290. Judy Willis | 368. Margaret Freeman | 446. Buddy Parsons | 523. Jane Kuykendall | 601. Garlington, Lynell | 679. Dorothy Booker |
| 58. Glenda Franks | 136. Willa Fox | 213. Rachel M. Pruitt | 291. Shirley Waggener | 369. Jack Stillman | 447. Stan Nevenschwander | 524. Althea House | 602. Kenneth Calhoun | 680. Ella Darnell |
| 59. Avis Moody | 137. Pamela Duet | 214. Dorothy Brunson | 292. Brenda McDougal | 370. Paul & Darlene McElroy | 448. Kaye Wise | 525. Shirley B. Smith | 603. Mrs. Bobbie Clayborn | 681. Mrs Marvis Lee |
| 60. David Cook | 138. Peggy Wroten | 215. Melba Ogg | 293. Glen Brady | 371. Mrs. Selma L. McBeth | 449. Jim Hurlbut | 526. Betty Ohrem | 604. Patsy McClung | 682. KittieV. Edwards |
| 61. Mary Lou Elder | 139. Hilda Laster | 216. Mary Jo Hoffman | 294. Bert Tingle | 372. Geri Spears | 450. Catherine Allen | 527. Doris Darnell | 605. Phillip M. Carter | 683. Jessie Fell |
| 62. Janet Bennett | 140. Pat Moore | 217. Tom McLemore | 295. Holly Ingram | 373. Sandy Dean | 451. Dale Brennan | 528. Myra O. Reaves | 606. Steven Arthur Franklin | 684. Carol Case |
| 63. Mike Bennett | 141. Margaret Parker | 218. Angelina Sutherland | 296. Kelly Faggard | 374. Linda Paden | 452. Billy F. Alford | 529. Nancy Akers | 607. Kay Bramlett | 685. Jessie & Emma Pope |
| 64. Evelyn Jamieson | 142. Frances Harrell | 219. Helen Depriest | 297. Kimberly Humphres | 375. Nettie Doss | 453. Rebecca Alexander | 530. Mrs. Dean Howe | 608. Gail Gurganus | 686. Ginny (Virginia) Seep |
| 65. Edsel Jamieson | 143. Mary Ella Webster | 220. Anna Rainwater | 298. Grace Grant | 376. Flossie L. Hernandez | 454. Luke Eubanks | 531. Marilyn Reaves | 609. Bonnie Skates | 687. Reginald Davis |
| 66. Dana Morton | 144. Elvis Dilmore | 221. Linda Crane | 299. Ms. Margie C. McKinney | 377. Lucille Anders | 455. Nell Tipton | 532. Dan Hawkins | 610. Joyce Clayton | 688. Barbara Skrobak |
| 67. Linda Cook | 145. Ruby Dilmore | 222. Ruth Lacey | 300. Ethan & Lauren Wooldridge | 378. Connie Fountain | 456. Claude Williams | 533. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell | 611. Ginny Luther | 689. Eva Almon |
| 68. Jenny Thompson | 146. Martha A. Freeman | 223. Marvin England | 301. Herschel Ford | 379. Diane Dunaway | 457. Sylvester & Linda Burton | 534. Billie Jane Davis | 612. Thelma Talbert | 690. Rex Ann Roderick |
| 69. Justin Thompson | 147. Linda Swain | 224. James R. Brooks | 302. Inez & Laura Brannon | 380. Natalie Stewart | 458. Tonia & Kayla Brown | 535. Mr. James Flanagan | 613. Kathay Coopwood James | 691. Alice Hollis |
| 70. Donna Schmitz | 148. Sandra Grisham | 225. Martha Slate | 303. Mary L. Smith | 381. Mrs. Shelia A. Williams | 459. Justin Elliott | 536. Charlotte Langley | 614. Charles Beal | 692. Cynthia Peacock |
| 71. Riley Hogue | 149. Elizabeth Dickerson | 226. Irene M. Wright | 304. Betty Stanford | 382. Tina SeEVERS | 460. Tyler Mayer | 537. Lessie Tanson | 615. Rosie Lee Odams | 693. Lillie Jeanette Williams |
| 72. Kenny Schmitz | 150. Gail B. Saxon | 227. Ms. Juanita Bryant | 305. Deloris Detherage | 383. Joe & Pat Arnold | 461. Zack Mayer | 538. Mary Dyer | 616. Roger King | 694. Sandra McClain |
| 73. Jo Nunnally | 151. Bobbie Saxton | 228. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 306. Johnny & Princess Watson | 384. Eileen Williford | 462. Kurt & Shelly Clayton | 539. Joyce Jarrett | 617. Juanita Tynes | 695. James H. Chestnut |
| 74. James Nunnally | 152. Vera Spencer | 229. Travis Hamilton | 307. Michelle Simpson | 385. Doyce Britt | 463. Walt & Peggy Walker | 540. Ellen M. Gardner | 618. Kathryn Evon Jarrett | |
| 75. James Wilburn | 153. Sonia M. Kelly | 230. Gerry Hahn | 308. Ken Harris | 386. Carol Cooper | 464. Halley Holtelander | 541. Della M. Rhodes | 619. Martha Leggett | |
| 76. Ann Akiens | 154. Dick Green | 231. Eddie Vermillion | 309. Lou Smith | 387. Wanda Orman | 465. John Conner Miller | 542. Waymond Hales | 620. Idna Gddington | |
| 77. Debbie Stephens | 155. Claude Edwards | 232. Jim Vermillion | 310. Wanda Cochran | 388. Dee Kepler | 466. Jackson Mayer | 543. Bobbie Sindle | 621. Mrs. Pat Glover | |
| 78. Ginger Simpson | | 233. Ava Kate & Jean Lewis | 311. Sharon I. Rachels | 389. Janice Galloway | | 544. Shirley Shive | 622. Kellen McKinney | |

Answers received after June 2 will be recognized in next issue, Lord willing.

THE QUESTION BOX

“What Must I do to be Saved?”

After a dramatic earthquake in his prison, a Roman jailer ran into where the prisoners were “and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’” (Acts 16:29,30). Isn’t this the most important question that anyone can ask? To find the correct answer to this question consider the following thoughts. (By: Dennis Doughty)

Note: It will be helpful if you use the KJV in answering the QB.

FIRST, do not trust the advice of men, not even your preacher. Sadly, there are as many different answers to this great question as there are preachers in any given city.

SECOND, Fill in missing numbers and words

- (Romans 3:___) “Let _____ be true and every man a _____.”
 - (1 John __:1) “Beloved, _____ not every spirit, but _____ the spirits, whether they are of God because _____ false _____ are gone out into the world.”
 - (Philippians 1:___) “Some indeed _____ Christ even of _____ and _____, and some also of _____ will.”
 - (Acts 20:___) “Also of your own selves shall _____ arise, speaking _____ things, to draw away _____ after them.”
- Second, seek the answer to this great question for yourself. (It is your soul that is at risk.)
- (Romans 14:___) “So then _____ of us shall give an account of _____ before God.”
 - (Philippians 2:___) “Wherefore, my _____ brethren, as ye have always _____, not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, _____ your own _____ with fear and _____.”

THIRD, go directly to the New Testament scriptures. Look at Jesus’ teachings, then look at the many examples of men and women finding salvation in the book of Acts. These were being saved by the tens of thousands (Acts 2:41;4:4;5:14;6:7). If you follow their example you will receive the same salvation they received.

Match the examples of conversions (left) with the correct chapter in the book of Acts.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| ___ Lydia | 1. Acts 10 |
| ___ 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost | 2. Acts 18 |
| ___ Saul of Tarsus | 3. Acts 6 |
| ___ Cornelius | 4. Acts 9 |
| ___ Ethiopian Court Official | 5. Acts 2 |
| ___ Many Corinthians | 6. Acts 16 |
| ___ Many of the Priests | 7. Acts 8 |

FINALLY, Go back to the story of that Roman Jailer. He asked the question, “What must I do to be saved?” Look at the whole story in Acts 16:22-34. By doing so you will find the answer to the greatest question ever asked.

(True or False)

- ___ 1. Paul and Silas had been badly beaten before being put in prison.
- ___ 2. The Jailer showed great compassion and put them in a comfortable cell.
- ___ 3. Paul and Silas could be heard singing and praying.
- ___ 4. The prison bars were opened by a great wind.
- ___ 5. After the Jailer asked, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul taught the word of the Lord to the jailer and all in his house.
- ___ 6. The Jailer showed signs of repentance by washing their wounds.
- ___ 7. After being released from prison, Paul returned some days later and baptized the Jailer.

Please Send Your Answers To Us

(Print your name... Please. Thank you!)

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 Most Recent Bible Winner

Bible winner Caleb McMillin (center, holding his Bible) is shown with his family, Tim and Donna McMillin and brother (Daniel).

Over 100 people from the Hall Street congregation in Ripley, Mississippi, filled out answers to the MM “Question Box.”

Studying as a group providing a much greater chance of someone from the Ripley church to win the Bible.

We ask that you encourage your congregation to fill out and send in the answers to the Question Box in this issue. You may wish to do so as a Bible class project or, as we have done in Ripley, make the “QB” Study a part of your Sunday evening service. (Paul Franks)



Our New Bible Winner

Kay Clayton

(Potts Camp, Mississippi)

Answers to the last Question Box (Spring, 2015)

“Providence: The Silent Sovereignty of God”

We try to make the Question Box challenging and also easy for everyone to do. Sometimes the questions can be confusing. We appreciate your patience.

Thanks for taking the time to study your Bible and answer the Question Box. Please encourage your Bible class, the congregation where you attend and your friends and family to answer the QB and send in your answers. We would like to reach a goal of 1,000 that complete the QB before our next printing this fall.

Fill in the blanks:

- (1) -Matt 6:33, first, added;
- (4) -Romans 8:28, all, good, love;
- (6) -Psa. 23:1, shepherd;
- (2) -Hebrews 13: 5-6, leave, forsake;
- (3) -Matt. 10: 29-31, fear, value, sparrows;
- (5) -I Cor. 10:13, faithful, tempted, able, temptation, escape.
7. I Thess. 2:18, Satan;
8. Eccl. 9:11, time, chance;
9. James 4:15, will, this, that;
10. Philemon verse 15, perhaps.
- Job 1: 22, sinned, foolishly;
- Job 42:2, everything, thought

All of the true and/or false statements happen to be true!



Encourage Others Send in
Your Answers To
“The Question Box”