

# MAGNOLIA Messenger

Volume 39; Number 2; SUMMER, 2017

**"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper"**

*Serving Mississippi, Louisiana and Adjoining States*

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

**MESSENGER**

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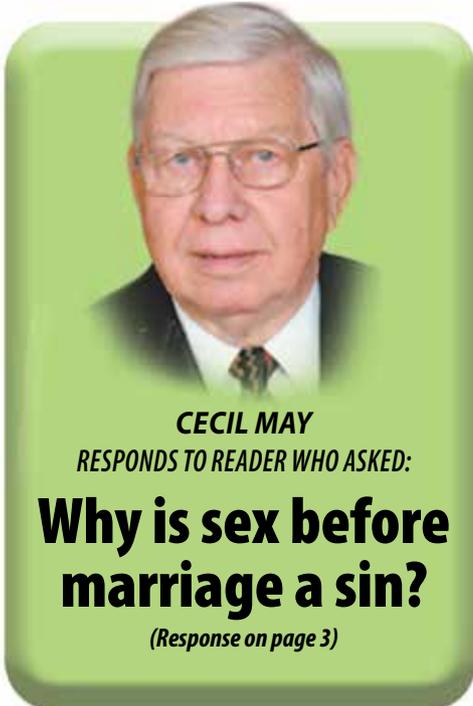
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**CECIL MAY**

RESPONDS TO READER WHO ASKED:

**Why is sex before marriage a sin?**

*(Response on page 3)*

- 2** **"Clothed And In His Right Mind"**  
*(A Plea: "Please dress like you are in your right mind!")*
- 4** **"Wanna Hear Some Good News Today?"**  
*(Asked by Joines as he remembers an old Ann Murray song)*
- 7** **"Do Not Go To Egypt"**  
*(Gardner Warns about the real dangers in "Egypt.")*
- 16** **Holy Scriptures: "All Sufficient Constitution"**  
*(Howard proclaims, "No amendments are needed.")*
- 18** **"The Right Way to Speak"**  
*(Franks calls attention to the power of speaking.)*
- 24** **"I Don't Want To Be A Pharisee!"**  
*(Study the "Question Box"; Send your answers to us. Thanks!)*

## Churches of Christ

**Featured In This Issue Include:**

*Booneville, Canton,  
Jackson (Siwell Rd), Kosciusko, Utica  
(Midway), Yazoo City, Smithville,  
Aberdeen, Greenwood (Sycamore)  
Mendenhall, Madison,  
Tupelo (E. Main); Zion Rest,  
Looxahoma, Nettleton, Antioch,  
Amory, Senatobia, Ripley, New Hope,  
and Christian Chapel.*

*Many others are mentioned.*



**Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away; behold,  
all things have become new.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

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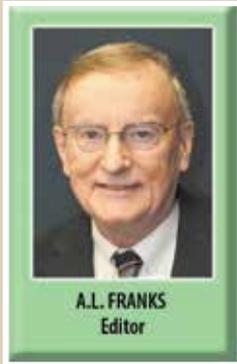
# "Clothed And In His Right Mind"

As Jesus stepped out of the boat and set foot on the land of the Gadarenes, He was met by a very strange man. The man was naked, mentally deranged and made his home in a cemetery. Scripture states, "He wore no clothes... nor did he live in a house, but in the tombs." This very strange man was filled with demons; so many, in fact, he was called "Legion." (Read Luke 8:26-39.)

The naked, demon possessed Gadarene was soon to undergo drastic changes. His life was to forever be changed by his face-to-face meeting with the man from Galilee. When under the influence of demons, the man was not only crazy, naked and a cemetery resident, he was also powerful and uncontrollable. The Bible says "he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles." With Satanic power, the crazy man "broke the bonds" and was "driven by the demon into the wilderness."

What a change Jesus made in this man's life! When freed from demon possession he was truly a different man. Those who had known him before he met Jesus were amazed at what they saw. They saw the wild and unclothed man of the past, now in complete control, clothed, sitting humbly and submissively at the feet of Jesus. The wild man had been tamed by the Lord; he was now "clothed and in his right mind." What a difference Jesus made!

This fascinating story reminds us to thank God for the powerful influence of Jesus in the lives of all who come to recognize His Lordship and willingly submit to His authority. All who have the "mind of Christ," who are now in their "right mind," have changed significantly by putting off the "old man" and putting on the "new man." Being in the "right mind" influences greatly what we think, do and



A.L. FRANKS  
Editor

**However, even with their "aprons" (girdles or loin cloths), when they heard God approaching, they hid themselves from His presence among the trees of the garden. There is something built within us, by nature (by the Creator), that causes human beings to feel, to sense, the "shame of nakedness."**

say. Even what we choose to wear!

When we come to know and respect the will of Jesus, often there is a need to *change* our clothes. Christians should not allow worldly designers of modern fashion to dictate what they wear. Modesty in dress is important to all faithful followers of Jesus.

Holy Scriptures clearly teach all women *professing godliness* to dress modestly and becomingly. Jesus warned his disciples about the serious sin (of course, all sin is serious!) of *mental adultery*, committed when a man looks "upon a woman to lust after her." This warning, while addressed specifically to men, brings up the question: "What woman 'professing godliness' would encourage temptation by wearing seductive apparel?" (Matt. 5:28; I Tim. 2:9,10)

In the very beginning, we are told in Scripture that, when God created Adam and Eve, they were "naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." However, after they ate the "forbidden fruit" and sin was introduced into the world, they realized they were naked and both felt an urgent need to cover their nakedness. The Bible says they "sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons" (Gen. 3:9). However, even with their "aprons" (girdles or loin cloths), when they heard God approaching, they hid themselves from His presence among the trees of the garden. There is something built within us, by nature (by the Creator), that causes human beings to feel, to sense, the "shame of nakedness."

Look further at Genesis chapter 3, verse 21, where we learn that *aprons* apparently were not adequate. We read, "Also for Adam and his wife, the Lord God made *coats of skin* and clothed them." There was a significant difference in the apparel made by the first humans

and that made by God. According to various translations, Adam and Eve had made for themselves "aprons or loin cloths or girdles." In contrast, God made clothing that covered much more. Various translations say that God made "coats or clothes or tunics." Is there not a big difference between an apron and a coat?

Finally, let's go back to the first of this article, when the naked Gadarene met Jesus. Remember, while the wild man was under the influence of demons, he not only lived in a cemetery and was crazy, he *also went without clothes*. However, after meeting Jesus, after he was cleansed of evil

**Being in the "right mind" influences greatly what we think, do and say. Even what we choose to wear!**

spirits and was again "in his right mind," he moved out of the cemetery and *put on clothes!* He put on clothes! He had met Jesus.

A closing appeal, especially to women: Please think and dress as "*women professing godliness*." Yes, it takes genuine faith and real courage to resist the pressures of our "*evil and adulterous generation*." I pray that God will bless you, and those you can influence, to grow in both desire and efforts to dress modestly. Would you permit me to kindly request, "*Please dress like you are in your right mind!*" Dress like you have met Jesus.

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## Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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### Magnolia Messenger

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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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# BIBLE

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### Because God Said So

God is sovereign; His word is law. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Therefore He is to be obeyed. Some things, like reenacting Jesus' death, burial and resurrection in baptism to become a Christian and remembering Jesus' sacrifice in the Lord's supper, are to be obeyed simply because God said so. However, commandments that involve morality or ethics, as we classify them, are not arbitrary.

God would not, could not, have made generosity to the poor a sin and stealing a righteous act, or hatred a fruit of the Spirit and love a work of the flesh. Moral and ethical laws flow from the very nature of God Himself. Love is a virtue because "God is love" (1 John 4:8). We are to be honest because "God never lies" (Titus 1:2). We are to be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

God's expectation for us is that "we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

### Because God Wants What Is Best For Us

God's love for us is undeniable. Scripture declares it and God's action seals it. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). He proved His love by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more,

now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). In other words, since God gave His Son for us when we were in rebellion, what blessing would He withhold now that we are His children? Anything He prohibits would have been harmful or He would not have forbidden it. Some teens speak of sexual intercourse as "going all the way." It is not an accurate designation. What takes place before marriage, with feelings of guilt, concern about commitment (song, "Will you love me in the morning?"), fear of detection, of pregnancy, of sexual diseases, is not really "all the way." It is not half the way, maybe not even a tenth of the way, to what is enjoyed by a husband and wife committed to love one another "as long as we both shall live," blessed by God and society, no fear, no guilt, just forever love!

### Because Sex Outside Of Marriage Dishonors The Purpose For Which God Made Us Sexual Beings

God ordained sex both for the continuation of the human race and also as a joyful way for husband and wife to express their exclusive, lifelong love and com-

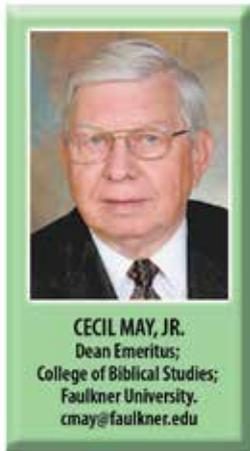
mitment to each other.

Popular mythology and Roman theology equate the discovery of sex with original sin. The phrase "forbidden fruit" is thought to

apply to sexual intercourse. The Roman Church declares sex for any purpose other than procreation, even within marriage, to be sin. On that basis, the Church declares birth control to be sin and prohibits marriage for priests, monks and nuns. The doctrine of the Perpetual Virginity of Mary was deemed

essential since no one "defiled" by sex could be elevated to "Mother of God" or Co-Mediatrix with Jesus. The passages that say Joseph "knew her not until she had given birth to a son" (Matthew 1:24-25) and that speak of "his brothers" (Mark 3:32-33) and even name them (Matthew 13:55) are "explained away" to protect this invented and unnecessary dogma.

God declares marriage to be an honorable state and the marriage bed to be undefiled (Hebrews 13:4). Paul's instructions to the young evangelist Titus regarding young women shows that when wives love and are submissive to their husbands, they are pure (KJV, chaste, Titus 2:4-5). Mary, like every woman, continued to be pure, chaste and holy as



### QUESTION

## Why Is Sex Before Marriage A Sin? (D.T.)

### RESPONSE

**Good, relevant question! There are several answers: because God says so; because God wants what is best for us; because sex outside of marriage dishonors the purpose for which God made us sexual beings; because sex outside of marriage dishonors one's marriage partner; because sex outside of marriage dishonors oneself; and because sex outside of marriage dishonors God.**

woman the same. Both are to "flee from sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18).

Sex is not "dirty" or "bad," except outside of marriage when it becomes sexual immorality and adultery (Hebrews 13:4). Sex is not appropriate matter for coarse talk or vulgar jokes, any more than God, Christ or the Lord's supper, because God gave it as a sacred and exclusive gift to committed, married couples.

Honor your prospective spouse. Keep yourself pure for her or him. Then in marriage give yourself freely to your partner. "The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).

In marriage, you truly "go all the way."

### Because Sex Outside Of Marriage Dishonors Oneself

The Bible does not rate sins, listing some as worse than others. Every sin is fatal unless it is forgiven. Sexual sin, however, in some unique way, is against our bodies. It is written, "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). To do so is to defile the temple of God, because God's Spirit dwells in us (1 Corinthians 9:19).

*Continued on page 14*

a faithful, loving wife, worthy to fill any role God wanted her to fill.

God told Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" and ordained husband and wife to be "one flesh," all before sin ever entered the world (Genesis 1:28; 2:24). Jesus said it was God who made them one flesh (Matthew 19:8) and Scripture shows that being "one flesh" involves the sexual relationship (1 Corinthians 6:16).

Scripture says providing a legitimate outlet for the satisfaction of sexual desire is a purpose of marriage (1 Corinthians 7:2-5). When God told Abraham and Sarah they would have a child together, "Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?'" (Genesis 18:12).

God ordains marriage for our pleasure so that we do not need to seek "the pleasures of sin."

### Because Sex Outside of Marriage Dishonors One's Marriage Partner

The "one flesh" relationship is an exclusive relationship. We should come to the marriage bed pure and undefiled, and we should expect the same from our marriage partner. The world, at one time at least, expected girls to be virgins but allowed "boys to be boys." God has no such double standard. He looks at man and



# Wanna Hear Some Good News?

Holy Bible

Ann Murray remains one of my favorite singers. She had a song we all liked, titled, “*We Sure Could Use a Little Good News Today.*” Far too often we know that the first 5-10 minutes of the local news is about who got shot today. There’s so much bad news that it is hard to recognize good news when it comes. Sad.

Just now, will you join me in I Corinthians 15. Apostle Paul begins, “I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you...” The word means, “*good news*” and it is a message of hope that is desperately needed in a world like ours. C.S. Lewis wrote, “Christians don’t need to be taught new ideas as much as they need to be reminded of old truths”. In v.3 he added, “...for what I received I passed on to you as of first importance.” My fellow preachers, there are a hundred things we could spend time talking about to our Sunday audiences but the gospel of Christ is of first importance. So said the apostle. For some this will seem just a needless review; for others it may be a time of decision.

## **You see, the gospel is based on... The Person of Jesus Christ**

Ours is not just another world religion and it isn’t primarily a set of rules we obey to be better people. Not primarily. Christianity is the worship of the person of Jesus Christ. He said, “If you have seen me, you have seen God. I and the Father are one.” And he verified that claim by performing miracles that only God could accomplish, and by living a perfect life that only God could live.

Sinful men felt so threatened by his perfection that they accused him of blasphemy and plotted his termination. At the approximate age of 33 he was crucified.

Some time back, TIME Magazine reported that liberal theologians are suggesting that Jesus really did not die on the cross; he just faked his death. They took him down early and he revived and rejuvenated himself in the tomb and stepped out, convincing his fans that he had been

raised from the dead.

Now, that would be quite some accomplishment: to endure a Roman scourging, to go through the horrors of a crucifixion for six hours, then take a spear in your side so deep that blood and water came out from the heart. And then go into a cave for three days without food and water or medical attention and then be strong enough to roll away the stone and convince your followers you had raised up from the dead! That, my dear friends, would be a miracle of epic proportions! It is much easier to believe the Bible than such a fairy tale.

The truth is that Jesus Christ the Son of God died for our sins. So says Paul in I Corinthians 15. You see, a lot of people have died a martyr’s death--dying for a cause. Jesus’ death was not like that; his death was a substitutional death (vicarious). Peter said, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross.” (I Pet. 2:24) The song is right, “I owed a debt I could not pay; He paid a debt He did not owe....”

Not many weeks ago, my wife and I had finished a good meal at Dale’s restaurant and were ready for the check. The server said, “You don’t have to pay; someone picked up the check for you.” Now, the really great news is that when the redeemed come to the end of our life, and we stand before God on that day, even though we have incurred all this huge debt of sin, he’s going to say, “You don’t have to pay... it has been paid in full by Jesus Christ My Son on the cross long ago, and he was raised from the dead for you.”

Now God does not ask us to accept this teaching on blind faith alone. No.

## **The gospel is verified by... Sustainable Proof**

Paul here lists a number of credible eyewitnesses who could substantiate the resurrection. In v. 5 he says “Jesus appeared to Simon Peter.” This is the only mention of a

special appearance to Peter. This man had openly denied his Lord and probably wondered if he could be accepted because he had been such a coward. So sometime or other, Jesus had made a special appearance to Peter. Jesus is always ready and willing to communicate forgiveness and reinstatement. God loves us and welcomes our service even though we have messed up royally.

Then Paul says Jesus appeared to the 12 disciples(v.5). Remember that Sunday night when these men were meeting behind locked doors for fear of the Jews? They were trying to piece together the events of that day when suddenly a strange aura filled that room. The talking stopped and everybody turned and saw just inside the door... there was Jesus Christ in their midst! You can’t make me believe that goose bumps didn’t break out all over them like the measles and Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid, it is I.”

Paul then says, “...then he appeared to 500 at once.” Now, one or two people could be grief-stricken and hallucinating, but 500 saw him at the same time and they verified Jesus was alive!

God has given you and me ample evidence to believe. We have the testimony of all those people who saw him after the resurrection. Then we have the testimony of these people who were martyred for their conviction that Jesus is alive. We have the Bible, the calendar, secular history and the testimony of millions whose lives were transformed positively by the living Savior.

## **Well, then the gospel is fulfilled by the... Promise of Salvation.**

I Cor. 15:2: “By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.”

The fantastic promise of the gospel is that we, too, will be saved from death. And that is great news because death is the ultimate enemy of mankind, the final enemy. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies.” (John 11:25) That means that as Christians, when we die, even though our body is put in a tomb, our spirit goes beyond death to live with God. Death does not end it all. He has an eternal purpose for us.

In this chapter Paul uses the analogy of a seed, saying, when you plant a seed, the seed dies and decomposes, but mysteriously several days later a new green shoot of life comes bursting out of the ground and -- voila! there is new life! Then he says “so it is with the body. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown a natural body. It is raised a spiritual body.”

In this body of teaching he says God in his wisdom

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Ken Joines

constructs a fish in such a way that it can live in the water and a bird in such a way that it can fly. And he constructed man so he can walk on this earth. And God is able to make us a new body that will be suited to live in another realm -- Heaven! It will be immortal. And that is good news.

***If you are tired of the load of your sin, let Jesus come into your heart, let him take over your life. He will do this if you submit to this gospel. Believe him. Change your behavior. Confess his blessed name. Go with him into his death and be cleansed by his blood in baptism. Today.***

This means that every moment of this life has meaning and purpose. On the other hand, a whole generations of Americans is growing up hearing from their parents, friends and professors, "We don't know where you came from. You may be here purely by accident. And we have no idea where you're going when you die. But we do hope you enjoy the trip. Good luck!" And with no sense of identity and no awareness of destiny, we shouldn't be surprised that so many are disillusioned and trying to reach for all the gusto they can get in whatever stupid way they can. Because they have no direction for living.

Whereas the good news of the gospel is: we know where we came from. "In the beginning God..." And we know where we're going: "I go to prepare a place for you..." And with this sense of destiny and identity that makes every day full of meaning, Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life to the full." (John 10:10)

The world around us is so hungry for meaning, for a sense of identity and destiny. Hungry for some really good news. Christians can laugh in spite of bad news in the headlines, poor health, and temporary failures, because Jesus Christ is our ultimate hope! If you are tired of the load of your sin, let Jesus come into your heart, let him take over your life. He will do this if you submit to this gospel. Believe him. Change your behavior. Confess his blessed name. Go with him into his death and be cleansed by his blood in baptism. Today.

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# The Constitution of Christianity

## 200 Year Old Constitution in Comparison to 2,000 Year Old New Testament

### Dennis Doughty

I made it home one evening and was able to tune in to the Senate hearings on Judge Gorsuch to be our next Supreme Court judge. I happen to catch a part of the questioning that I found extremely interesting. There are several ways we might compare our 200 year old Constitution and the 2,000 year old New Testament, and the diverse ways people look at both today.

In a thought-provoking exchange in Judge Gorsuch's confirmation hearings, Senator Klobuchar of Minnesota, questioned his "strict constitutional" views. "Should the words and phrases in the Constitution be interpreted according to their original public meaning?" she asked. In a strong defense of his views the Judge stated that the Constitution is a "carefully crafted text judges are charged with applying, according to its original public meaning."

Gorsuch used as an example a car search, "If that would have been offensive two hundred years ago," he explained, "it has to be offensive now!" In a like manner the New Testament scriptures are a "carefully crafted text" ["inspired by God," 2 Tm. 3:16] and we as Christians must apply them according to their original meaning.

If a hierarchy of church officials and their traditions would have been offensive to Christ and the apostles two thousand years ago, they have to be offensive now. If infant baptism or apostolic succession was not a part of church practice then, how can they be a part of church practice today? If baptism was an immersion then, it must be an immersion now.

Jesus said "He who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (Jn. 12:48). In summing up the matter Judge Gorsuch said, "The Constitution doesn't change." Neither does God's written word. In his conclusion he stated, "The Constitution must endure." So too the Holy Scriptures.



Dennis Doughty

**Dennis Doughty • Preacher for the Tunica church of Christ  
dennis1848@bellsouth.net**

## Men's Leadership Retreat

Toledo Bend Church of Christ • 30361 Highway 191 • Many, LA 71449

**Friday and Saturday, August 14-15, 2015**

**Four Qualities of Effective Church Leaders**

Conviction, Character, Competence, Commitment

### Friday

6:00 PM Fish fry and fellowship  
7:00—7:30 Welcome, Introductions and Singing  
7:30—8:00 Conviction - Leon Bates (Longview, TX)  
8:00—8:30 Questions and Answers;  
Discussion - James Tidwell, Facilitator  
8:30 Dismiss for the evening with one song and a prayer

9:30—10:00  
10:00—10:30  
10:30—10:50  
10:50—11:00  
11:00—11:30  
11:30—12:00

Competence - Jay Alexander (DeRidder, LA)  
Questions & Answers /  
Discussion - James Tidwell, Facilitator  
Break  
Singing  
Commitment - Ray Hyatt (DeQuincy, LA)  
Questions & Answers /  
Discussion - James Tidwell, Facilitator  
Evaluations, Comments, Feedback,  
Closing Prayer  
Lunch of pulled pork sandwiches and chips. End of Retreat.

### Saturday

7:00 AM Breakfast in fellowship hall  
8:15 Singing and Prayer  
8:30—9:00 Character - Jerry Hodge (Shreveport, LA)  
8:00—8:30 Questions & Answers /  
Discussion - James Tidwell, Facilitator

12:00—12:20  
12:30

RSVP: Danny Manuel 318-256-0826 or dannymanuel21@yahoo.com

\*There is a very clean and spacious motel 2 blocks from our building with special rates for our attendees. You are welcome to bring a sleeping bag and spend the night in our building or bring an RV and utilize our hookups.



Rigs started pulling out on Friday A.M.

## Enjoyable Experience!

# 20th Annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally

It is amazing that 20 years has gone by since we held our first rally at Roosevelt State Park in Morton, MS. We were all much younger and several of those who came 20 years ago are not on this earth anymore. I caught the oldest, Harry Barkley from Jackson, MS pushing Dan Hawkins from Minden, LA, who is in a wheelchair. It reminds me that you can have any excuse you want or you can get up and do something to enrich your spiritual life.

Michael Whitworth, our guest speaker this year, brought the books of the Kings to life through his lessons.

Everyone benefited greatly as each was spiritually uplifted by his lessons. We also were blessed to raise some funds for the Magnolia Messenger through the auction. Ray Franks, who is battling cancer, came with his wife, Donna. Ray worked hard as an auctioneer to get as much money as he could for donated items. We raised over \$4,300 for rally expenses with leftovers going to the Magnolia Messenger. John Pigg, who also helped with the auction, was the highest bidder on a pig.

We want to especially thank Betty and Garnett Harris

of Brandon for their hard work and contributions to our 20th anniversary rally. We appreciate and love them for their service in the work of the Lord.

On Friday morning, as the rigs started moving out, just about everyone left to go home. A few chose to stay in the beautiful park for an extra day or two. We had people to stay in cabins, the lodge and, of course, in their RV's. Please consider making plans to attend one of our rallies. You don't have to have an RV to attend!

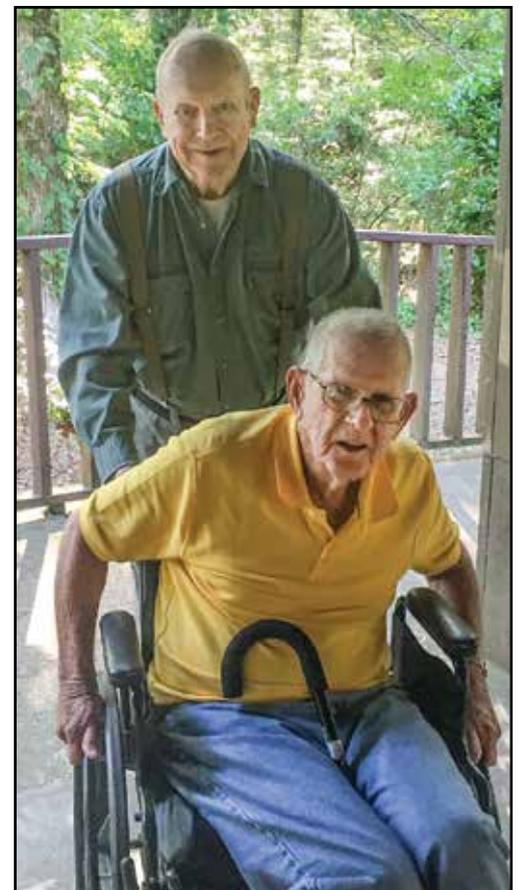
*(Report by Paul Franks)*



Michael Whitworth, Keynote Speaker



John Pigg, Highest bidder for pig



Harry Barkley (oldest attendee), Assisting Dan Hawkins

# “Do Not Go To Egypt”

## John Gardner

The title of this article should not be taken as advice about any current vacation or business plans some may have to visit the land of the Pharaohs. Although given the current state of affairs in Egypt and the increase of hostilities toward those who identify themselves as Christians, it would be wise to thoroughly investigate any plans that would take you to that ancient nation.

The words in the title form a clear, bold command of God, spoken by the prophet Jeremiah to God’s rebellious remnant in devastated Judah so long ago. “The Lord has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt!’ Know certainly that I have admonished you this day... Now therefore know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine and by pestilence in the place you desire to go to dwell” (Jeremiah 42:19,22, New King James Version).

To understand the import of God’s unequivocal prohibition against his remnant fleeing to Egypt to escape further destruction, we need to look at the larger context. A brief overview of Jeremiah 39–43 tells the story.

The time had come for rebellious Judah to suffer yet another attack from Nebuchadnezzar’s army and then be taken captive into Babylon (586 BC). Two other invasions had scourged God’s people and many were deported to Babylon (605 BC and 597 BC), but the hearts of the people and most of their leaders were set to do their own will, and not God’s will.

Zedekiah was the last puppet king of Judah. He rebelled against his earthly master Nebuchadnezzar and in so doing suffered the punishment of God (Jeremiah 39:1–7). The city of Jerusalem was reduced to rubble and almost everyone in the city was taken to Babylon in chains. However, a “remnant of the remnant” was left—the poor and certain others



selected by the captain of Nebuchadnezzar’s guard (V. 10). At the king of Babylon’s command, Jeremiah was lifted out of prison and sent home to remain in what was left of the city (V. 14). Because of his faithfulness to God, the Lord gave Jeremiah his life as a “prize” to him (V. 18).

Gedaliah was made governor of Judah to rule over the vanquished city and nation in the place of Zedekiah (Jeremiah 40:7). When scattered Judeans among the area nations heard that Gedaliah was put in power over the devastated remnant, they rebelled against him under the leadership of Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, and killed him and his supporters, along with some Babylonian soldiers (Jeremiah 41:2,3). The great slaughter perpetrated by Ishmael caused a reactionary leadership under Johanan, son of Kareah, to rise up against him to take charge (Jeremiah 41:11–16). Ishmael escaped, and the majority of all of the remnant followed Johanan who intended to lead them to Egypt to avoid Nebuchadnezzar’s wrath. They stopped near Bethlehem to inquire of God through the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 41:16–42:3).

In Jeremiah 42:4–6, it is recorded that the leaders promised that whatever God told Jeremiah, they would do. God’s answer was clear. If they stayed in the land, God would take care of them. If they sought refuge in Egypt, they would die (Jeremiah 42:7–17). God warned them with grave warnings (V. 18), then told them, “Do not go to Egypt (V. 19). The next chapters tell of the remnant’s obstinate rebellion, the taking of Jeremiah to Egypt against his will and the disasters that came upon them (Jeremiah 44:11–14).

Going to Egypt meant the Judeans did not trust God to keep and protect them. Going to Egypt meant they were liars who promised to obey God no matter what, then bailed out in unbelief when they heard a message they did not like. Going to Egypt meant returning to the pagan, idolatrous land that

had been the slave home of their ancestors before God saved them and made them his own. Going to Egypt meant finding out that the place of safety they sought was really a location for disaster they most feared. Going to Egypt proved to be a death march.

The Christian’s “Egypt” is the world left behind when one is rescued by the blood of Jesus and made a son or daughter of God in the beloved Son (Colossians 1:13,14). “Going to Egypt” for the weak and erring Christian is to return to the old life of sin, adopting again the world with its values and practices.

Paul raised this question to those in danger of going backward, “But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?” (Galatians 4:9). Such a return to “Egypt” was to fall from grace (Galatians 5: 4). This and many other strong passages in the New Testament about turning away from Christ to the world again (such as Hebrews 6:4–6; 10:26–31; 2 Peter 2:20–22) all shout boldly, fervently, “Do not go to Egypt!” No life worthy of the name is there. No security is there. No true joy is there. No strength to overcome life’s struggles is there. No hope is there. Only slavery, disappointment, and death is there.

So, brother or sister, “Don’t go to Egypt.” Turn more fervently to God, walk faithfully in Christ, live the life of the Spirit. “Egypt” and its pleasures will be totally destroyed in God’s good time, but those who do the will of God faithfully will surely live forever (1 John 2:15–17).

*John Gardner; P.O. Box 1465;  
Brandon, MS 39043;  
Email: gardner.john43@gmail.com*

**“Do not go to Egypt!”**

**No life worthy of the name is there. No security is there. No true joy is there. No strength to overcome life’s struggles is there. No hope is there. Only slavery, disappointment, and death is there.**



# Booneville Brethren

## Make Faith Building Trip to Kentucky



Booneville's "Golden Circle" Will Long Remember Their "Ark Encounter"

By Jim Estes

The Booneville Church of Christ "Golden Circle" (ages 55 and up) has an active program of worship, service, and fellowship activities. We enjoy attending area gospel meetings, hosting an annual "Senior Adult Rally," providing an annual cookout for Pinevale Children's home, or helping pack religious material at the World Evangelism Headquarters in Winona. We are excited when we have an activity that provides fun, fellowship, and is *faith building* as well. Twenty-seven of us made a four day, three night trip to Kentucky in April of this year that met all three of those end points.

The itinerary included visits to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY, the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY, Cane Ridge Meeting House near Paris, KY, the Harland Sanders Cafe and Museum, and Cumberland Falls. Each element of the itinerary and the daily devotionals proved to be valuable tools for reflection and faith building. Even the visit to Colonel Sanders' Café was a reminder that we can "*still bear fruit in old age*" (Psalm 92:14).

The Creation Museum allowed us to walk through Biblical history from creation to the present day. They have done an effective job of showing how sin entered the world and of its terrible impact. In many of the exhibits there were comparisons of what the Bible says versus what the world says. It was a refreshing "in-your-face" challenge to the false teachings on evolution and the age of the earth. We were reminded God created a mature Adam and Eve. The same can be said for the rest of creation including the earth/universe itself. There is a lot of Bible truth taught throughout this facility. However,

if you are planning a visit, *be prepared for an incomplete and inaccurate plan of salvation to be shared.*

Our visit to the Ark Encounter was overwhelming in its impact. The "Ark" in Kentucky is built to Biblical scale

tion will challenge your thinking and maybe cause you to re-study the Biblical account of the flood. Once again, if you are planning a visit, *be prepared for an incomplete and inaccurate plan of salvation to be shared.*

We stayed in Georgetown, KY which is only 25 miles from the "Cane Ridge Meeting House." This is the location where Barton W. Stone and five other Presbyterian preachers published the "Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery." It was so encouraging to be at the place these men publicly gave up human creeds and declared that they would take the Bible as their only source of authority in religion. We had a great devotional service at this site. We read the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery, sang several songs, and gave God thanks for the courage and example of these men. Like Abel, they "being dead, yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4). The Cane Ridge Meeting House, a cemetery with the grave of Barton W. Stone, and a museum of Restoration History made this site a memorable stop during our trip.

Many of us love waterfalls. One of the last items on our itinerary was Cumberland Falls. This 125 feet wide and 68 feet high waterfall on the Cumberland River in Southeast Kentucky

is appropriately called the "Niagara of the South." After studying about God's creation and the reality of the flood and the seeing a replica of the saving Ark, the "icing of the cake" for this trip was witnessing this fine example of the beauty of His creation. (Jim Estes is one of the elders of the Booneville church. He may be reached at [jamesjeanita@bell-south.net](mailto:jamesjeanita@bell-south.net) or Jim Estes; P. O. Box 28; Booneville, MS 38829-0028. Thanks, brother Jim, for sharing this faith building article with readers of the MM.)



Booneville elders (Tommy Baragona, Larry Morgan, and Jim Estes) behind the pulpit at the Cane Ridge Meeting House. (Buster Green, also an elder, did not make the trip.)

using 20.1 inch cubits making this ship 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. When we saw the size of this ship, the magnitude of Noah's faith becomes evident. He had never seen rain, yet he built the ark just as God commanded (Genesis 6:22). The people who built this "ark" have tried to show how all the species could have been housed, fed and watered, and their waste removed. If they can show how it could be done with man's thinking, *just think how easy it would be with God's help.* This attrac-

*A report about a Saturday Ladies' Bible Class in Canton, MS*

# Keep Your Lamps Burning **24/7**



**By Bonita Branson**

December the third, two thousand and sixteen, was a very good and uplifting Saturday in Canton, Mississippi. Sisters of the Fulton Street Church of Christ came together at one of the sisters' home, where we were encouraged by delightful words. Feverish excitement, beaming high-spirit and a hundred degree zeal consumed the small dwelling.

## Jesus

It couldn't help to be anything but good talk as we discussed how Jesus, as a twelve-year-old lad, spoke with boldness and clarity about his need to be *"about my Father's business"* (Luke 3: 49). His commitment, his dedication and his sole purpose was to do his Father's will. To live faithfully in the Lord takes a strong, dedicated mindset and has to stem from a heart hungry for spiritual righteousness with a ready desire to glorify God. Jesus Christ is our one perfect example.

*"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And whither I go, ye know and the way ye know."* (John 14:2-4). Everyone in the room with wide eyes, like a excited child being given a special gift, considered the expectation of dwelling forever in a reserved prepared place. We discussed the admonition, *"...be ye faithful unto death"* (Rev. 2:10) with the understanding that heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.

## Saul/Paul

We also looked into the commitment of Paul (called Saul before his conversion). Paul became a prominent apostle; God saw him as a *"chosen vessel"* (Acts 9:15). Something really stood out about Paul in the mind of God who knows the heart. After his conversion Paul's dedication was re-channeled, becoming even more zealous in working for the Lord. He said, *"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Gal. 2:20)

Paul spoke about his departure in 2 Timothy 4: 6-8; how he had fought a good fight, finished his course and kept the faith, and that there was laid up for him a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous

judge, will give unto all who love his appearance. Oh, what good news! Let's stop here with Paul who said, *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21).

## Isaiah

We looked next at Isaiah who made a bold statement to God. He wrote, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, 'Here am I, send me'." (Isaiah 6:8). You've got to really mean it when you say you want God to send you. To send you is to forsake all others; as one of the sisters said, "We got to empty ourselves, our self junk can't dwell in harmony with God's spiritual adornments". And it can't! We got to roll up our sleeves and put our hands to the plow and go to work.

## Jeremiah

There was also Jeremiah; how God's words burned in his heart and were shut up in his bones. Read Jeremiah 20:9. That's what it is like when you're spiritually brewing and growing closer to God and He closer to you. *"Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you"* (James 4:8).

## Abraham

Abraham was another good example of faith and obedience. His story is told in the book of Genesis. Abraham interceded for Sodom. How deeply moved are we for the lost? Abraham's faith in God showed his concern and his compassion; he had a faith that was demonstrated by obedience. We, the sisters in Christ, concluded that the gospel, which is "good news" (giving hope and eternal life), is to be told! Shared! Hollered! Sung with praises and lived to glorify God's wonderful name! The scripture says, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest,"* Matthew 9:37-38."

## Seven Churches of Asia

We touched on the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation (chapters 2 & 3). We noted the gradings God gave them; only two had good gradings -- the church of Smyrna and the church of Philadelphia. *"I know thy works"* was stated by our Lord all through the letters to the seven churches. He gave

warnings and rebukes.

"Repent" was commanded to the five bad graded churches.

We discussed how we should not get comfortable doing nothing and/or doing something, but not the right something! We wanted good grades in school; therefore we should most eagerly want good grades individually and collectively in the Lord's New Testament Church. *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."* We must learn to work together, in unity, in forgiveness and with a Christ-like attitude. To do that we must learn to be humble people, allowing God to exalt us.

We shared with each other the question, "What is our temperature gauge reading for the Lord?" Hot! Cold. Or warm? We learn from the church of Laodicea that "HOT" is God preference temperature for the church. *"On fire for the LORD,"* how sweet it sounds! As another sister said, "We serve a living Christ, not a dead Christ." We joyously sang "Send The Light" and "A Beautiful Life". We filled the place we were meeting with a chain prayer of thanksgiving, mercy, honor, joy, and praises!

Yes, December the third, two thousand and sixteen was a good day. We left each other that day with a parting admonition: "If you aren't busy serving the Lord, then get busy; if you are busy, then get even busier!" There is no other job on earth, with everlasting benefits, than can come even close to being a fiery light for the Lord 24-7.

# Magnolia Bible College Campus in Use

## *Retreats... Retreats... Retreats*

By Derek Broome

Over the past year we at the Siwell Road Church of Christ in Jackson, MS have frequently needed a place to host special events or retreats for our congregation. With several venues to consider, an exciting venue came on our radar that we had never considered before, the campus of the Magnolia Bible College. Having not grown up in Mississippi and not moving here until seven years ago I had never had the privilege to visit or be a part of Magnolia Bible College while it was up and running.

Last fall we hosted our Ladies Retreat on the Magnolia Bible College campus and it was incredible. The facilities were in great shape, there were plenty of places to meet and have classes, and the dormitories provided a safe and comfortable place for our ladies to stay at night.

We were so pleased with how great the Ladies Retreat went we were more than excited to find out that the Magnolia Bible College campus would also be available in May for our annual youth retreat. The youth retreat this past May was wonderful.

The campus at Magnolia provided everything we needed, numerous places for classes and devotionals, plenty of space for games inside and outside, a well-supplied kitchen, beds for all of our teens an parents, and overall just a great atmosphere to have a very uplifting retreat. Honestly, this year's

retreat was one of my favorite retreats so far. It was an incredible time sharing and growing closer together as a youth group and Church family.

I am so glad we were able to use the facilities at Magnolia Bible College and I really hope we can again real soon. I would definitely recommend to anyone looking for a venue for a retreat to consider Magnolia Bible College. I know you will not be disappointed.

*Derek Broome • Youth and Family Life Minister  
Siwell Road Church of Christ • Jackson, MS*



# SALT

## Youth Rally

August 4th - 6th, 2017

### Siwell Road Church of Christ

(Jackson, MS)

Theme: *I'm Not Ashamed*

Guest Speaker

**Jerry Elder from Spring Hill, TN**  
Cost: \$25 per person (Housing Provided)

Register at: [www.siwellroad.com](http://www.siwellroad.com)

Registration Deadline: July 23rd

More and More Churches are Conducting  
**SPECIAL Summer Series**

One Example  
South Huntington Church  
Kosciusko, Mississippi



## Sunnybrook Children's Home

2nd Annual

### Champions for Children Benefit Dinner

August 12th at 7:00 P.M.

222 Sunnybrook Road, Ridgeland  
Tickets \$75



with Jill Freeze  
The Freeze Foundation

[www.sunnych.net](http://www.sunnych.net)



601.856.6555

# BUILDING A STRONG CHURCH

Wednesday Nights @ 6:30

- 6/7 **God's Unfolding Plan** Shane Merideth
- 6/14 **God's Mission Through the Church** Al Franks
- 6/21 **Following the Good Shepherd** Tony DeBerry
- 6/28 **Preachers Like Paul** Don Woods
- 7/5 **Teachers Like the Master Teacher** Travis Byars
- 7/19 **Deacons Like Stephen** Brad Carr
- 7/26 **Elders as Shepherds** Andy Dulaney
- 8/2 **Leaders and Sensitivity** Mark Shiers
- 8/9 **Learning to Serve** Dwayne Williams
- 8/16 **Leaders and Evangelism** Wesley Thompson
- 8/23 **Three Stages of a Church** Les Ferguson
- 8/30 **The Church on a Mission** Will Anderson

S. Huntington  
Church of Christ

# the JOURNEYS of PAUL

## “As the Bible Class Goes, So Goes the Church”

Almost half of the people in any given church will decide each week that a Bible Class is not for them. As Ira North said a long time ago, “As the Bible class goes, so goes the church!” Many churches invest very little into the Bible teaching program and, especially their own teachers!

Michael Whitworth is providing a teaching seminar called “Teaching Rocket” to help teachers in/for the local church which is designed to “educate, equip and empower Bible teachers.” We had Michael come with his seminar to Kosciusko, MS where he was well received. Everyone who came was encouraged to become a better teacher and was given tools to help him/her become a better teacher.

Michael has, for the last 12 years, served various congregations in Tennessee and Texas as a pulpit minister and education minister. He currently lives in Fort Worth, Texas with his wife and two daughters. Michael is the owner of Start2Finish publishing company and is the author of several commentaries and Bible study books..

Michael observed, “In the past we have gotten people to attend Bible classes because of tradition or compulsion.” He believes that our Bible classes should be our greatest emphasis in getting people to church.”



Michael Whitworth Teaching in Kosciusko

Today, people are looking for a small group of people that they can identify with and study the Bible. A Bible Class, he says, is “perfect for that situation.” Michael also thinks that a Bible class held in the church auditorium hinders people from really participating.

We know that it is difficult to get people to agree to teach Bible classes. One of the main things Michael does in his seminar is to encourage teacher training. He has found that when someone is trained properly they will teach. The Bible Class also prepares people for carrying out the Great Commission -- to go into the world and teach the gospel to every person.

The “Teaching Rocket” seminar provides excellent training across five areas: (1) The Goals of Bible Class, (2) Preparing/Delivering a lesson, (3) Good Bible Study Tips, (4) Classroom Dynamics, and (5) The Teacher’s Spiritual Life. The flexible seminar can be held on a Friday PM/Saturday AM, Saturday only or on Sunday afternoon following a light lunch. (report by Paul Franks)

*For more information and/or to schedule a seminar, you can call 817.988.8798 or visit [teachingrocket.org](http://teachingrocket.org).*

### ■ MIDWAY, UTICA, MS

Donnie Cain has been the preacher for this way-out-in-the-country church for over 36 years. The Midway church, which runs 50 to 60 in attendance, supports many good works around Mississippi and the world.

In a recent visit with this thriving church, Harold Mobley asked me to lead the singing which I really enjoyed doing. Tim Venerable, a visitor from Georgia, led the opening prayer in which he prayed for the success of the Magnolia Messenger. (Your prayers for the MM are needed.)

And, of course, Donnie did his usual great job with his lesson that day. It was an enjoyable visit for Glenda and me. We appreciate the Midway church (the people and their work) located near Utica, Mississippi and look forward to a return visit.

*Continued on next two pages*



Country church, located south of Vicksburg, financially encourages several good works.



Donnie Cain, Midway's Preacher for 36 Years

# the JOURNEYS CONTINUED



## ■ YAZOO CITY, MS

"Friends and Family Day" was March 19, 2017 at the Yazoo City Church of Christ. My good friend, John Staten, the local preacher, did a great job with the Bible class as well as the sermon for that day. I was grateful to have been invited to lead the singing. We had 87 in



*Family and Friends Worshipping Together*

attendance for worship, followed by a wonderful meal. Arnet Peery from the Madison congregation (near Jackson, MS) cooked a lot of the food.

## ■ SMITHVILLE, MS

"Friends and Family Day" was March 26, 2017 at



*Elders Jerry Pierce and Danny Stephenson*



*Where the Church Assembles*

the Smithville church where Jeff Horton is the preacher. Jeff and Carla have been working with this church for over 7 years. The elders are Jerry Pierce and Danny Stephenson. Jeff preached that day and did a great job. A great crowd assembled; the food was delicious. The Smithville church is very active in this small town in Northeast Mississippi.

## ■ ABERDEEN, MS

We have been going to Aberdeen lately because our son, Vincent Franks, married Kori Riley on May 20, 2017 in Aberdeen. On a Wednesday night recently we enjoyed visiting their mid week service. The young people in this church are actively encouraged to participate in the activities.

One of the elders, Todd Wilemon, is shown standing with the young people in this photo. We were blessed to visit also with one of the elders of the church, Tom Allmond, who has been in



*Elder Todd Wilemon Helping Young Men Develop Leadership Skills*

the printing business in Aberdeen for many years. This explains why this church has one of the nicest bulletins we have ever seen.

## ■ HAMILTON, MS

We were able to meet Tim Wilson, who for many years preached for the church of Christ in Hamilton, MS. Tim told us that the church has a new preacher. He is Ken Burleson, former Mississippi preacher who recently decided to move from Florida back to Mississippi.

## ■ MENDENHALL, MS

My first job in preaching was in Mendenhall, MS in 1977. Glenda and I were able to visit with this church recently and enjoyed spending time with Ronnie Greenhagen, who has been preaching there for over 17 years. It was great to see Elvis Dilmore, Cliff and Mert Brown, and also Irene Knotts as well as many others that day. A big part of our heart is still in Mendenhall. We pray continued progress for that congregation.



*Ronnie Greenhagen, Preacher, 17 Years*

## ■ CARROLTON, MS

At the Old Union Church of Christ on August 6-9, I am scheduled to hold a gospel meeting (revival). Glenda and I are looking forward to being with this great group of people.

## ■ VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

We plan to have three weeks of camp again this year in the European country of Lithuania. The first week will be for the younger children. The week I plan to go (July 10-16) is for teenagers. Danny Dodd will have a Family camp later at the same campground, about 40 miles north of Vilnius. Please be praying for these camps and the young people who will attend.

## ■ GREENWOOD, MS

Glenda and I have been blessed to visit more than 165 churches of Christ during the last 4 years. On May 7, 2017 we went to the Sycamore Street Church in Greenwood, MS. One of the things I had noticed was that they were planning to serve breakfast and lunch that day at their building. This created interest for me!

We arrived at 9:30 AM and didn't leave until 5:00 PM that afternoon. It is apparent that when the Sycamore brethren get together to worship and fellowship they are not in a hurry to leave. Over 130 were in attendance on a day they were honoring their preacher,



*Home of Sycamore Church of Christ*

Montrell Greene, for his four years of service to the church.

During the Bible class taught by Lawrence Horn, Glenda and I were pleased with how brother Horn handled his class. He was very interested in the subject he was teaching, making it easy for us to listen and learn.

We also got to visit with two of the older men in the church, Marion Hayes (90) and Clifton Cross (93, almost 94). It was encouraging to see these men at church that day and to learn they were still active in the congregation.

Jacques Pittman from Brookhaven, MS spoke on



*Lawrence Horn, Long time Bible class teacher*



**Jacques Pittman of Brookhaven, Guest speaker at Sycamore**

being a "Salty Christian." It was a wonderful message from Matthew 5: 13-16. Brother Pittman's dad is Curtis Pittman who preaches in Jackson, MS. As a friend of Curtis, I sent a message to him, after I heard his son, saying, "Your son is a better preacher than you!" He agreed.

Brother Pittman encouraged us to "do what God says to do... Everyone needs to be a salty



**Marion Hayes (90) and Clifton Cross (almost 94).**

Christian, not just the preachers, elders, deacons, but everyone!... "When everyone is becoming like that, people will be interested in becoming a part of the church." It was a long, enjoyable day at Sycamore in Greenwood, but a day that I will not soon forget.

■ **MADISON, MS**

Garvis Semore preaches for the Madison church, in the Jackson, MS area), which brings together about 100 each Lord's day. Each Wednesday, one of their members, Arnet Peery, cooks delicious food for an evening meal. Bible students assemble at 6:00 PM and enjoy a meal together; afterward they enjoy a Bible class taught by Garvis. In a recent WN visit with the church we enjoyed both the meal and the Bible Class.

*Below: Madison church enjoys eating and studying together on Wednesday Evenings*



■ **EAST MAIN CHURCH (TUPELO)**

Glenda and I were in the Tupelo area recently to attend the graduation of our new daughter-in-law (Kori Franks) from ICC in Fulton, MS. On Sunday morning, we were blessed to visit the East Main congregation where some of my relatives still attend. Before their deaths, my grandfather, Monroe Pearson, and an uncle (Hoyle Pearson) worshiped with this church for many years.



Gary Williams has been doing a good job as the preacher at East Main for over 19 years. The church has three elders, Dennis Hallmark, Mike Ratliff and Mike Childers. We were privileged to meet with the adult class in the auditorium taught by Michael Wilson. The church has over 225 in attendance with a budget of \$7,900.00 per week and are involved in mission work all over the world. We also enjoyed the opportunity of visiting with Buster Kingsley and his wife, Betty, who worship at East Main after retirement from full-time ministry in Mississippi. We enjoyed our visit with this fine church and hope to go back at a later date.

**NE MS Ladies' Retreat**

*Tishomingo State Park • Iuka, Mississippi*

**October 27, 28, 2017**

*Speaker: Lana Pirtle (Henderson, TN)*

*For more information, please call*

*Robin at 662-231-2367 or Jessica at 662-681-5727*

■ **ZION REST, MARIETTA, MS**

Every month, preachers in the Booneville and Tupelo area get together for a meal and to share what is going on in the churches where they work. I was able to ride with Greg Pollock, preacher for the Booneville Church of Christ, to the Zion Rest church building. Several of the ladies had prepared home made desserts and others had prepared delicious food for the event. Tony Brown is the preacher at Zion Rest; his father-in-law, Calvin Barber, a long time preacher in North Mississippi, attends this church as well.



**(Center) Clyde Neaves (Age 96)**

I took a picture of the group. You might want to see how many of these people you might know. I also blessed to visit with Clyde Neaves who is from the Mayfield church in Saltillo, MS. He is 96 years old and is pictured on this page. Tony Brown is on his right and Carl Dunlop of the Ozark congregation is on his left.



**More than just preachers gathered at Zion Rest. There were cooks and other encouragers.**

Make Plans Now

**Attend The Next Diana Singing!****September 8, 9, 2017****3000 to 4000 attend**

The next Diana singing will be **September 8-9, 2017** in Diana, TN, about one hour south of Nashville on I-65. You take Exit 22 and go one mile south on U.S. 31A, turn left and go three miles and you will be in Diana, TN. There are 75 RV sites, so if you have an RV, go early and help them get ready for the singing.

The first person I usually see is Lawrence Taylor who is responsible for helping find spots for the RVers who come to the singing. The next person that I usually get to visit with is Tom Holland. I visited with brother Tom and asked him if he planned to be, in two years, at the 50th Anniversary of the Diana Singing. He said that he had been praying to God about that one thing. Brother Tom has had several health issues.

You can email the singing at heyjack1935@gmail.com or go to their webpage at www.dianasinging.com. One of the songs that brother Holland led with great enthusiasm, in the June gathering, was "Never Grow Old!" Every year, for the last 48 years, there has been a singing in Diana, TN on the 2nd weekend of June and the 2nd weekend of September. Let's all pray that Tom Holland will be able, along with thousands more, to attend in two years, the 50th anniversary of the Diana Singing.



Tom Holland



Lawrence Taylor



Small segment of the thousands gathered at the Diana Singing

## Booneville Senior Adult Rally August 12, 2017

Booneville Church of Christ, 406 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Booneville, MS  
mailing address: P.O. Box 28, Booneville, MS 38829

Theme: **Still Bearing Fruit** (Ps. 92:12-14)

### Schedule:

- 9:30 Registration (light refreshments in Annex)
- 10:00 Welcome/Prayer/Singing
- 10:25 Paul Franks Speaks
- 10:55 Singing/Prayer
- 11:10 Lunch (In church Annex)
- 12:15 Singing/Prayer
- 12:35 Paul Franks Interviews AL Franks about "Still Bearing Fruit in Old Age"
- 1:00 Announcements/Song/Closing Prayer

Please RSVP to the Booneville congregation letting us know how many will be coming to this Rally. It will help with meal planning.

Phone: 662-728-5544

email: office@boonevillecoc.com

## Bible Questions & Answers

Continued from page 3

### Because Sex Outside Of Marriage Dishonors God

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; . . . Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you" (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 8). "Flee from sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18). "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous" (Hebrews 13:4).

Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Sex with anyone other than our marriage partner desecrates God's temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Because of our trust in Him, and, because of our gratitude for the amazing, abounding grace He has freely given us, we adopt the lifestyle to which God calls us, and that includes abstinence from sex before marriage and faithfulness to the monogamous "one flesh" relationship of marriage (Ephesians 5:3-5).

### If One Has Already Had Sex Outside Of Marriage, What Then?

What is written above is to encourage virgin young people (and older people) to remain that way until marriage. For those who have already succumbed to temptation, hopefully, this will be taken as an appeal to start over.

Once we have sinned, two things are true: 1) If, as children of God, we regret and acknowledge our sins to God, He gladly and graciously forgives. 2) Even forgiven sins, however, carry consequences.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more" (He-

brews 10:17). "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20). That means, "The more sins we have, or the greater our sin may be, God's grace increases all the more to take care of the sin." There is no doubt that God completely, absolutely forgives, and so should we. "As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

What has been said is not intended to put anyone "on a guilt trip." If we have faith in God, we believe His assurances and accept His forgiveness.

"Do not be deceived," though. "God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). The law of sowing and reaping is woven into the warp and woof of the universe, much like the law of gravity. A forgiven armed robber may still have to spend time in jail. A penitent and forgiven drunkard may still die of cirrhosis of the liver. David was penitent and confessed and was forgiven, but, as Nathan predicted, the sword never departed from his house. The child he conceived with Bathsheba died. His son Amnon raped his sister Tamar. His son Absalom murdered Amnon. Absalom later was killed leading a rebellion against his father. Sowing to the flesh insures a harvest of corruption (Galatians 6:8).

However, consequences of God-forgiven sin should not include shunning or non-forgiveness by faithful brothers and sisters.

There are two purposes to this sowing and reaping reminder. It should be a deterrent to further sin. If, when David saw Bathsheba bathing, he could also have seen the future and the harvest he was sowing, he surely would not have entered the path of sin. Also, when consequences do come, it should provide comfort, knowing that the consequences do not nullify God's full forgiveness.

"Keep yourself pure" (1 Timothy 5:22). "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

## Mississippi Ministers' Wives Conference

# October 20-22, 2019

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# Widowhood

## Workshop

by Dean Miller

My wife left me on Christmas morning, 2013. Not by her choosing. Not by mine, either. She departed to be with Christ (Phil. 1:23). Her death, after less than a decade of living with Parkinson's Disease, turned my life upside down. We met at church at age 15, married at 19 and enjoyed 41 years of serving the Lord together as husband and wife. I had been half of a whole for so long but upon her death had to begin dealing with the reality that was not true anymore.

In January, 2014, curiously engaged in research of brotherhood ministries for the widowed, it was apparent we needed to do more. That conclusion was the beginning of the Widowhood Workshop ministry. What can or should we do? How can we raise awareness of the biblical teaching about widowhood? How can we encourage ministry on behalf of the widowed? How can we engage the widowed in ministry to help them use their experience for the glory of God and benefit of others? Surely, we can do more, right?

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27; NKJV).

Right religion is more than right beliefs. It's about right actions based on those beliefs. When "the implanted word" is truly received with meekness, the hearer becomes a doer (Ja. 1:21-25). That doer has much to do. Included in the doing is (a) visiting orphans; (b) visiting widows; (c) keeping oneself "unspotted from the world." Both (a) and (c) have been addressed in the brotherhood for decades. We have always exhorted one another to perfect the holiness of God in our daily lives (2 Cor. 6:17-7:1), haven't we? For decades we have worked together to provide ministry on behalf of at-risk children in our culture. We have encouraged foster parenting and adoption.

We have created and sustained ministries to help people with those choices. Children's homes throughout the brotherhood provide evidence of our commitment to the welfare of youth in jeopardy. What have we done, though, for the widowed? Have we neglected the widows (Acts 6:1), again?

Visiting widows and/or widowers is more than making social calls. Those kinds of visits are helpful, even needed. Are we doing that? There is a value in *the ministry of presence*. Loneliness and social estrangement are major "trouble" for those who have experienced love and loss. The Greek word translated "visit"

in James 1:27 is "primarily, to inspect (a late form of episkopeo, to look upon, care for, exercise oversight)" (W.E. Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words). Thomas Manton observed, "Under this word by a synecdoche are comprehended all the duties of love. To visit, is to comfort...to relieve..." (An Exposition on the Epistle of James).

There are over a quarter million citizens of our country annually who enter widowhood. There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 13 million widowed in the US at any given time. What congregation of the Lord's church doesn't have widows and/or widowers? What community doesn't have widowed residents? Widowhood ministry has the potential for any church to be a great "inreach" as well as "outreach."

Widowhood Workshop is a broad, flexible ministry. Because of the loving, understanding, visionary church I now work with, I am available to visit with congregations to conduct workshops (visit [www.widowhoodworkshop.com](http://www.widowhoodworkshop.com)) to help members better understand both the divine and personal perspective about this unique life circumstance. The workshops can be designed to fit the desires and needs of the local church.

Another aspect of this ministry is a secret/private Facebook page exclusively for widows and widowers in churches of Christ. Within this group, members are both giving and receiving support, comfort, and encouragement. It has been gratifying to see members of this FB group expressing themselves freely and being a blessing to one another by their thoughtful posts knowing they are communicating with brothers and sisters in Christ who also know about love and loss by personal experience.

Also, we started a local Widow & Widower Fellowship ministry in Maury City, TN. These monthly fellowships are attended (on the average) by 28 people from within a 30-40 minute radius. Over half of the group is from denominational churches. They are experiencing the love and compassion of the Lord's church. Some of them are seeing the church in a different light.

Widowhood ministry has potential. Potential to glorify God. Potential to be a blessing to many. Potential for the local church. Potential to draw people closer to the Lord, maybe even convert them to Christ! The Lord can open doors. We need to have the vision to see the open doors and courage to walk through them.

Dean Miller (330-412-1456)  
Maury City (TN) church of Christ  
[ram952@yahoo.com](mailto:ram952@yahoo.com)

**There are over a quarter million citizens of our country annually who enter widowhood. There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 13 million widowed in the US at any given time.**

*"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world"*

(James 1:27; NKJV).

# THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: *An All-Sufficient Constitution*

By Jim Howard

There is no question that in churches of Christ we are experiencing an identity crisis. Fifty years ago, one traveling across the USA, might stop at a church with a "Church of Christ" sign in front of the building and pretty much know what to expect on entering the building. That is no longer the case. Various innovations are more and more being introduced. Also less frequently from our pulpits are being heard sayings like "Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent" or "Call Bible things by Bible names." I don't think many sermons are being preached on the importance of restoring the New Testament Church. I doubt if a large percentage of our members could explain, if asked, the uniqueness of churches of Christ.

I would like to offer an analogy which I hope will help with this problem.

Whenever there is a vacancy on the United States Supreme Court, as happened recently, a major debate occurs. The discussion has to do with the qualifications of individuals nominated to fill that vacancy. Specifically, the questions raised have to do with the candidate's views concerning the Constitution of the United States. Basically the job of the Supreme Court is to deal with questions as to whether a particular law is "Constitutional" or not.

The U.S. Senators, interviewing the candidate, want to know how that person views the nature of the Constitution. Is that candidate a "strict constructionist" who views the principles of the Constitution as timeless—who believes that the founding fathers, who framed this

document that was ratified in 1787, believed that the Constitution which they created would always guard the freedoms and uphold the laws of this nation. Or on the other hand would the candidate for Supreme Court Justice view the Constitution as an evolving document that should change as

the culture and views of the citizens of this country change.

Even strict constructionists recognize that changing circumstances demand updating (e.g. on the question of women voting or the number of terms allowed a President) so amendments have been added over the years. But the strict constructionist believes that the undergirding principles for the governance of our great nation need not change -- that the founding fathers understood the principle of democracy and exhibited great wisdom in creating such a Constitution. The attitude that the constitution is a changing and evolving document is illustrated by one Justice who officiated at a lesbian wedding a couple of years ago. Apparently she felt that the founding fathers were not smart enough to see the values of same-sex marriage, but that sophisticated, advanced culture had made that discovery.

## A Real Parallel or Analogy

I see a real parallel or analogy between this debate and that presently going on in churches of Christ. Some in the church believe that, as Thomas Campbell put it, the New Testament should be our only rule of faith and practice (Declaration and Address, 1809), that the New Testament is as adequate a constitution for the New Testament church as the Old Testament was adequate as a constitution for the Old Testament church. If Campbell was right, and I believe he was, the constitution does not change. *In contrast to the U.S. Constitution no amendments are needed.* The principles for the governance, worship and lifestyle of the church are just as adequate today as they were two thousand years ago.

In contrast, those who see the New Testament as an evolving document believe that N.T. prohibitions concerning women's leadership in public worship are outdated as is the authority for a cappella music in worship in an age that has come to appreciate the "spiritual value of instrumental music." Just as the founding fathers of our nation were wise enough to include principles that have served us well for more than two hundred years and continue to serve us well, so the "founding fathers" of the New Testament (the Apostles) were wise enough to give us an all-sufficient constitution for that which is pleasing to God and of great value to those of us who are trying to be pleasing to Him. May the Lord guide us and empower us to be faithful to His inspired word.

*Jim Howard is an educator and minister who may be contacted at [howardjl621@att.net](mailto:howardjl621@att.net).*



JIM HOWARD

*In contrast, those who see the New Testament as an evolving document believe that N.T. prohibitions concerning women's leadership in public worship are outdated as is the authority for a cappella music in worship in an age that has come to appreciate the "spiritual value of instrumental music."*

## Who's Who Among Leaders in Churches of Christ

We are looking for influential leaders in the church who deserve recognition, but who are not seeking it. Please contact us and let us know of someone you would like to nominate as a proven and effective leader. You can send an email to [apaulfranks@gmail.com](mailto:apaulfranks@gmail.com) or call me at 662-792-2700. You may also send your nomination or request to:

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

Fill in the blanks:

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_, because of his/her outstanding merit and service, to be recognized by the Magnolia Messenger (2017) as "Who's Who Among Leaders in Churches of Christ".

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Jon Mark Smith Represents Eastern European Mission

Jon Mark Smith has recently started working with Eastern European Mission, based in Dallas, Texas. The mission of this ministry is to provide Bibles for countries around the world. Their focus has been on European countries as well as Russia and countries associated with Russia.

Jon Mark, a graduate of MBC, is married to Marie Dendy of Kosciusko, MS. He has served as a gospel preacher in Mississippi and Texas. More recently, he has also been involved professionally in community development.

Representing EEM, Jon Mark travels and visits churches to encourage support for this great ministry. A few weeks ago, Jon Mark visited the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko where he shared his passion for the challenging work of making Bibles available throughout the world. You can reach him at [jmsmith@eem.org](mailto:jmsmith@eem.org)



Jon Mark Smith  
(Representative of EEM)

# What Do We Learn from Lads to Leaders?

*NOTE: Under the heading, "From the Preacher's Pen", Greg Pollock, preacher with the Booneville church of Christ, provides answers to a timely and important question. His remarks in their weekly church bulletin were directed to the Booneville church.*

by Greg Pollock

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

We had a wonderful Lads to Leaders convention this past weekend! Many of you were participants. Many of you are parents of the participants. Many of you have supported the Lads to Leaders program greatly over the past year. Many of you were event leaders. Many of you were encouragers. Many of you were patient and encouraging as the participants practiced their presentations before you. For whatever you have done to support our Lads to Leaders program, thank you!

All of the hard work paid off. Our participants represented themselves well. They represented our congregation well. They represented God well. They have learned so much and grown so much over the past year!

Remember that our local recognition ceremony will be held on April 30. Any pictures you have need to be emailed to the office immediately!

As we reflect back over this past weekend and past year, consider these things we can learn from Lads to Leaders.

## 1. Young people are doing wonderful things.

Lads to Leaders convention is a culmination of

several months of work. This can be seen in all of the entries in Art Says It, Banner, Scrapbook, and Mass Media. It can be seen in the work they have done in Keepers, the verses learned in Centurion of Scripture, the memorization in Know the Books, the many good things done through Good Samaritan, and the lessons learned and taught in Puppets.



## 2. Young people are being trained.

At the Lads to Leaders convention hundreds of people read the Word of God publicly, lead songs, give speeches, participate in debate, and answer Bible questions in Bible Bowl. Many have read the Bible through in a year, received training in Junior Leader, learned lessons through Pearls and Gifts/Guard, gained valuable experience in year-around singing and speech, and learned how to teach others through a Second Language.

## 3. Parents are investing in young people.

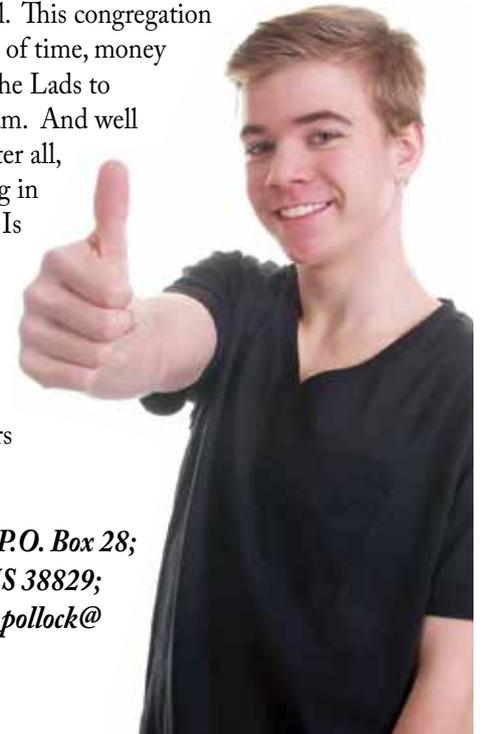
One of the great things about Lads to Leaders is it is a family program. It is not a "young" people thing. It is not an "old" people thing. It is multi-generational. It is families coming together. At convention, we see little kids, older kids, teenagers, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins. All ages are present and all ages are involved. It is one of the few "programs" around

that is so multi-generational. Our youth do a lot in Lads to Leaders, but the parents do a lot as well! It is refreshing that in the midst of parents focusing on preparing kids in school, sports, music, gymnastics, etc., parents are also focusing on preparing kids for work in the kingdom.

## 4. Congregations are investing in young people.

It is obvious that churches put a lot of time, money, and effort into the Lads to Leaders program on the national and local level. Seeing hundreds of congregations come together on one weekend to help young people is exciting. Booneville is certainly no exception when it comes to investing in young people. For this, we are thankful. This congregation puts forth a lot of time, money and effort for the Lads to Leaders program. And well we should. After all, we are investing in young people! Is there a better investment out there? Thank-you for all you do for our Lads to Leaders Program!!!

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# Lessons I've Used In 57 Years of Preaching

By Robert Rawson

It's a joy to share with you three precious lessons I have learned and shared with former student preachers, for more than fifty years. As I began preaching in August, 1960, Paul Sparks was my wonderful mentor. I learned from him to make notes as I go through life. I'm glad I did/have. Here are three valuable lessons I've followed in my years of preaching.

(1) Be a personal worker for the Lord. By doing this, I analyze methods and Scripture to use so better teaching can be done. Thinking ahead, I prepare for the study to get underway. It's a joy to work with the student as a verse is analyzed, as to its words and proper definitions, then move to the context wherein the verse is found (Patriarch, Mosaic or Christian dispensation). I could then make the proper application to myself and the student with whom I am studying. Personal growth would occur as this 'study to be approved' takes place (2 Timothy 2:15).

(2) Use questions to carry on studies. In His ministry,

Jesus often did this. This prolonged the study in a less defensive manner. Consider Jesus' question when He asked, "John's baptism, whence was it -- from Heaven or of man?" (Matthew 21:25-27). Those to whom he asked the question replied, "We can not say" to which Jesus replied, "Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things". The question was used first and later the statement. It was a tense situation, but Jesus led the conversation into a fuller study. Now, it resulted, in that situation, in their rejection.

(3) Always base choice of sermons on the needs of



*Robert D. Rawson, Preaching Since 1960*

people. I never run out of sermon topics or Scripture. God thought we needed 66 books in the Bible. Each one gives us, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, a special lesson which can be applied. People have special needs that can be met with topics that others also need to hear. As we preach to people about the need of facing truth, falsehood, patience, anger, complacency, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Judgment, joy and hope, we will help those in the audience to become aware, have conviction, make changes and please God.

*Preaching locations: Nile (Kosciusko), Carthage, Durant, Milledgeville, TN, Ruleville, Okolona, Ruleville (a 2nd 5 years), Batesville (35 years) and now Crockett (Senatobia). Wife: Rebecca Jane Hull Rawson, 49 years on June 22, 2017; two sons: Bobby and Brooks (Alamo, TN) and daughter, Beth Ledbetter (Brandon); five grandchildren: Will, Ella Grace, Jack, Garett (Alamo) and Olivia Ledbetter (Brandon). Email: rjrawson@panola.com*

## from a Woman's Viewpoint

# The Right Way to Speak

By June Franks

As a child growing up my favorite Bible verse had to do with our speech. The verse is Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." The verse meant a lot to me then and still does. According to the Bible a soft answer spoken is the right course to take. I will have to admit it has not always been easy to give a soft answer.



JUNE FRANKS

How should we apply Proverbs 15:1 to our life? When you encounter someone who is angry, the best approach or should we say the Bible approach, is for you to *speak softly*. Just imagine what would happen if you re-

*Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

turned angry words spoken to you with angry words. Most likely a "fight" would ensue. It would be best to say a silent prayer, then answer in a soft voice. It can be a very difficult situation to speak with a soft answer, especially when you are being attacked by someone who is using harsh or angry words.

The Bible also teaches that we are to be peacemakers. The one who wants to keep peace will not argue or fuss in return. As Christians, we should all want to keep peace if at

all possible. The Bible says, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5: 9) There are times when we do need to speak up, especially if error is being taught or if we are being criticized unjustly.

In addition to my favorite Bible verse, there are many other verses in the Bible that deal with the tongue or our speech. The Bible says, "Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it." (I Peter 3: 9-11) This verse encompasses the way we speak and teaches that we should do our best to keep peace and even to ensue it. This verse teaches, in order to see good days, we should be careful how we speak. Have you ever had a bad day because of the way you spoke to someone?

In the political world today, and even in the church, if we disagree with someone, instead of calmly and peacefully discussing a matter, we often want to jump on the person and attack him/her viciously.

The Bible says, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." The Bible continues, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." (James 3:5-6,8). James 1:26 says, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and brideth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." It is difficult at times to bridle our tongues, but we should pray for strength to do so. If we do not bridle our tongue, the Bible says our *religion is*

*vain*. This sounds serious, if we do not control our tongue, because in the end whatever we do is vain.

The Bible says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." (Luke 6: 45) To be angry with someone and to have hatred in one's heart toward another causes our religion to be in vain. How can our heart be right with God if we spew evil out of our mouth toward another?

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." (Colossians 4:6)

We would have a better world, home and church if each one of us would heed this scripture, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4: 29) The Bible says, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be." (James 3: 8-10)

The tongue has the power for much good and/or for much evil. We can speak words of encouragement to uplift someone or we can choose to use our words to tear down. The Bible says, "Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body." (Proverbs 16:24)

We know from the Bible that there is a right way to speak. These verses have reminded each us of the right way.

(Mrs. A. L. Franks; P. O. Box 1578;  
Kosciusko, MS 39090; franksmm@aol.com)

## Quilts for Homeless Family Shelter

(Vicksburg, Mississippi)

This spring we were privileged to worship with the Maryville, TN, Church of Christ. We thoroughly enjoyed the Bible Class and worship services. After worship we met Wendy Winstead and, as we often do, we turned the conversation to the Homeless Family Shelter in Vicksburg, MS.

The Shelter is an ongoing project that the Bypass Church of Christ started as an outreach ministry to the Vicksburg/Warren County community. It operates under the auspices of *Lifting Lives Ministries*, a 501c3 non-profit organization started by the local church.

The Director is Joel Dimmette, and Board Members are Willie Nettle, Bobbie Heads, Stan Woodson and Nellie Caldwell. An old motel on the corner of Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 27 was

remodeled and turned into the Lifting Lives Family Homeless Shelter. The facility has a total of 20 rooms that can be used for families.

Upon hearing about the Family Shelter, Wendy asked if we could use quilts and, of course, the answer was YES. A group of ladies from the Maryville Church meet regularly to make quilts for such a need as this. We were given 8 beautiful quilts to benefit the shelter. We are SO grateful for the hard work that went into making the quilts and for the generosity of this special group of loving people who made this possible.

We invite you to check out the website for our shelter – [www.liftinglivesfamilyshelter.com](http://www.liftinglivesfamilyshelter.com) and see if there is a way that you or your congregation can help with this worthy cause.



Homeless Shelter workers look over the quilts given by Christian ladies in Maryville, TN.



## Vacation Bible Schools continue to be a Valuable Building Service

As we enter the summer season of 2017, we are thankful to be reminded of the value of conducting vacation Bible schools during the summer months. While many churches have transitioned to evening schools; yet, others still have their morning schools. We can know for sure that whenever the Bible is taught, great good is accomplished.

The “seed of the kingdom” still needs to be planted in the hearts of all -- young and old. May God bless all such efforts to grow the church as we remind each other that Vacation Bible Schools are still a Valuable Building Service for the Lord’s church.

Among churches conducting VBS this summer, we are pleased to mention the North Brandon church in Brandon, Mississippi. Their school is scheduled for the evenings of July 24, 25 and 27 from 6:10 to 8:00 PM.

Children’s classes will be studying “*God’s Superheroes: The Super Hero in You.*” Evening classes provide an opportunity to have a special class for adults. The adult class at Brandon will study “*The Lord is My Strength*” based on Exodus 15:2. Topics and speakers are: Monday: *Finding Strength In Christ’s Word* - Ray Passeur; Tuesday: *Finding Strength In Christian Fellowship* - Chris Butler; Wednesday: *Finding Strength In Christian Service* - Al Franks.



### IN MEMORY OF

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|---|--|---|--|
| <b>HELEN JONES</b><br>Bobby & Geneva Baird<br>(Batesville, MS)  | <b>JUDY WILSON</b><br>Wal-Mart Pharmacy<br>Mrs. Ed Patten, RPh<br>Mr. Jerry Owen, RPh<br>And Associates<br>(Hazlehurst, MS)                                      | <b>WOODROW &amp; OZELL CHILDS</b><br><b>DANIEL &amp; JETTIE KOON</b><br>Jerry & Linda Childs<br>(Corinth, MS)                       | <b>JESSIE (DICK) GREEN</b><br>Bobby & Alice Humphries<br>(Natchez, MS)<br>Bonnie Skates<br>(Natchez, MS)<br>Marvin Green<br>(Prairie County, AR)                                 |
| <b>SHIRLEY PEARCE</b><br>Joyce Reich Gray<br>(Amory, MS)  | <b>ALMA MADDOX</b><br>Nelma Hazlip<br>(Natchez, MS)  | <b>DAVID W. JOHNSON</b><br><b>MRS MATTIE BRISTER</b><br><b>MRS. MATTIE LOU BROWN</b><br>Charles & Mary Johnson<br>(Hattiesburg, MS) | <b>MRS. DOROTHY B. FRANKS</b><br><b>MR. CHARLES RAY BERRY</b><br><b>ALLEN L. HEARD</b><br><b>AUDREA WALLACE</b><br><b>MS. EVELYN SMITH</b><br>Ms. Cindi Franks<br>(DeQuincy, LA) |
| <b>DOROTHY FRANKS</b><br>Ray Hyatt<br>(DeQuincy, LA)  | <b>DOROTHY CORNELIUS</b><br><b>JOYCE SHELLY</b><br><b>JAMIE ROOKER</b><br><b>IRENE TAYLOR</b><br><b>GARLAND ELKINS</b><br>Jay & Cindy Street<br>(West Point, MS) | <b>BILL WELSH</b><br>Bobby & Alice Humphries<br>(Natchez, MS)<br><b>Irene Wright</b><br>(Raymond, MS)                               | <b>MILBURN GREER</b><br><b>MARCELLE MOBLEY HARPER</b><br>Harold & Bonnie Mobley<br>(Utica, MS)   |
| <b>PHYLLIS BRITT WILLIAMS</b><br>Faye Stanford<br>(Byhalia, MS)   | <b>JACK CHARLES</b><br>Frances Charles & family<br>(Baton Rouge, LA)   | <b>DOROTHY B. FRANKS</b><br><b>KAYLA FRANKS</b><br><b>ARVIS D. MIDKIFF</b><br>Reid & Frieda Thompson<br>(DeRidder, LA)              | <b>IN HONOR OF</b><br><b>ERNIE DUHON</b><br>Reid & Frieda Thompson<br>(DeRidder, LA)   |
| <b>EVIE SMITH</b><br><b>BANEY MALONE</b><br>Rhenda Miltner<br>(Coldwater, MS)   | <b>BOOTS YOUNG</b><br>Orrin E. Nearhoof<br>(Richmond, KY)  | <b>LOU BROWN</b><br>Ginny Luther<br>(Columbia, MS)  |  |
| <b>VELMA DELANCEY</b><br><b>J. D. FRANKS</b><br><b>DOC WALKER</b><br><b>JUANITA FULGHAM</b><br><b>WANDA CHAUNCEY</b><br><b>JAMES GRUBBS</b><br><b>BRUCE BUSH</b><br><b>FLORENCE BUSH</b><br><b>ALBERT LOWERY</b><br><b>RONNIE ZUBER</b><br><b>RUTH PRITCHARD</b><br>Wilburn DeLancey<br>(Delhi, LA) | <b>KAYLA FRANKS</b><br>Ray & Donna Franks<br>(DeQuincy, LA)  | <b>MARGARET GASKIN</b><br>Emma Burch<br>(Muscle Shoals, AL)   |  |

*(Memorial in last issue should have read from Yazoo City Church of Christ)*

## The Following List Says Something Good About Churches of Christ in NE Mississippi

**Informative, Encouraging, Unifying**

- May 21-24** Gospel Meeting – Saucer Creek – *Nathan Hale* - 7:00 pm
- June 3** VBS – Jacinto – 9:00 am - 12:00 pm – classes for all ages
- June 4-7** Gospel Meeting – Second Street, Belmont – *Josh McCrary* – 7:00 pm
- June 4-7** Gospel Meeting - West Corinth – *B.J. Clarke* – 7:00
- June 4-8** POINT (*A camp for Christian kids who want to be Godly leaders*) – West Corinth
- June 4-7** VBS – Snowdown – 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm – classes for all ages
- June 5-9** VBS – Booneville – 9:30 am - 11:30 am – classes 2 yrs old through adult
- June 4-7** VBS – Frayley’s Chapel – 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
“When God Turned Egypt Upside Down”
- June 11-15** VBS – East Main, Tupelo – 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm – classes for all ages
- June 11-14** Gospel Meeting – North Rienzi – *Don Green* – 7:00pm
- June 23** Gospel Singing – Danville – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – (refreshments at 9:00)
- July 9 -13** Gospel Meeting – Burnsville – *Phillip Hines* – 7:30 pm
- July 13** Youth Night (Summer Series) – Danville – 7:00 pm
- July 16 -19** Gospel Meeting – Marietta – *Keith Wilson* – 7:00 pm
- July 22** VBS – Hillcrest – 9:00 am - 1:00 pm – classes all ages
- July 23-26** Gospel Meeting - Berea – Sunday: *Ed White*, Monday: *Mark Neaves*, Tuesday: *Jimmy Hitt*, Wednesday: *Roy Davidson* (week nights 7:00 pm)
- July 23-26** Gospel Meeting – Zion Rest - *Phillip Hathcock* – 7:00 pm
- August 6-9** Gospel Meeting – Jacinto- *Tony Brown* – 7:00 pm
- August 12** Senior Rally – Booneville – 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
*Paul and Al Franks* (lunch served)
- August 13** NorthEast Night – Booneville – 6:00 pm – fellowship meal afterwards  
(All NEMCC students, faculty and staff are especially invited)
- Aug. 13-16** Gospel Meeting – Liberty – *Keith Parker* – 7:00 pm
- Aug. 13-16** Gospel Meeting – Snowdown – *Donnie Debord* – 7:00 pm
- Aug. 20-23** Gospel Meeting – Hills Chapel – *W. T. Allison* – 7:00 pm
- Aug. 20-23** Gospel Meeting – Hillcrest – *Ray Kennedy* – 7:00 pm
- August 27** Parenting Seminar – Booneville  
“Parenting In A Media Filled World” – *Delton McGuire*  
9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6:00 pm  
(Designed to help parents learn to deal with the dangerous and harmful media surrounding our young people today.  
For additional information – [www.parentingandmedia.com](http://www.parentingandmedia.com))
- Sept. 24-26** Campaign for Christ – Booneville Church Building  
*Jeff Jenkins* – 7:00 pm
- Oct. 22-24** Gospel Meeting – Danville – *Wayne Cox* – 7:00 pm

A special thanks to someone(s) in the Booneville church (2nd Street) for gathering and sharing this good news about activities going on among churches of Christ in northeast, MS.

# Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

By Eddie Lewis  
 Missionary to North Mississippi,  
 9423 Laurel Hill,  
 Olive Branch, MS 38654.  
 E-mail: lewis7946@gmail.com



*It was a great joy for me to visit among the churches. This quarter I was able to visit with several churches and preach at just a few. The following is my report as I visited among the churches.*

**LOOXAHOMA (January 1)** I visited with the Looxahoma church of Christ in Tate County. Jeremy Thornton is the new preacher there. He and his family have been there just over a year. I enjoyed meeting Jeremy and learning about him. He is a graduate



Travis Cooper



Jennie, Jo Lee, and Jeremy Thornton

of the MSOP and has been in full-time ministry since 2014. The church has three elders and around 84 in attendance. One of the elders, Travis Cooper, taught the Auditorium Bible class. They were studying the book of Ephesians and considering chapter three, "The Mystery Of Christ." Travis

did a good job of leading the class in a study of God's plan for the church.

In the worship, Jeremy preached on Philippians 3:14, "Our Goals For The New Year." Jeremy talked about personal goals of growth in our knowledge and relationship to Christ. He also talked about some church goals for 2017. He outlined some of the ways they hope to reach out to the community for Christ. It was an ambitious plan for the year. I pray God will bless their efforts with both growth in number and spiritually. It was good to visit with the church there and see some old friends. They had a fellowship meal after the morning services and I enjoyed the good food. It was a blessed day.

**NETTLETON (January 8).** I visited with the Nettleton church of Christ. Jimmy Bates has been the preacher there for 30 years. It was a pleasure for me to meet him his wife, Helen. What a wonderful couple. He is a graduate of MSOP. The church has no elders and around 40 in attendance. They had soup and sandwiches after services. It was wonderful to visit with such a friendly church. They have a great mix of ages in attendance.

Stephen Lochridge taught the Auditorium Adult class. He is the new adult teacher for the congregation and he did a wonderful job of teaching on the Letter to Philemon. Stephen had some good points and led the class in some great discussion. He will be a blessing to the church in Nettleton.

Bro. Jimmy preached in the worship. His lesson was based on Luke 9:23-26, "Christian Living Is A Daily Responsibility." He emphasized four points that are necessary for Christian living. He said study, worship, daily righteousness, and concern for the lost are all important if we want to live the Christian life. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed my visit with the church and getting to meet Bro. Bates.



Jimmy Bates and Stephen Lochridge

**AMORY (January 15).** I visited with the Amory church of Christ. Philip Hathcock has been the minister there for 28 years. I enjoyed meeting him and his wife, Cindy. They are a wonderful couple. Their oldest granddaughter was baptized by Philip that morning.

It was a wonderful occasion for the whole church family. Philip invited me to eat lunch with his family. I enjoyed sharing a meal with them. They have three elders and around 230 in attendance. Cody Hardin is the youth minister for the congregation.

I attended Philip's Bible class. They were using a book by Daniel King on "The Search For Happiness." They were looking at the chapter based on Ecclesiastes 3:11-13. It was a good study for looking on the sunny side of life. Philip did say that we are all building a monument by what we do in our life. What kind of monument are you building?



Cody Hardin & Philip Hathcock

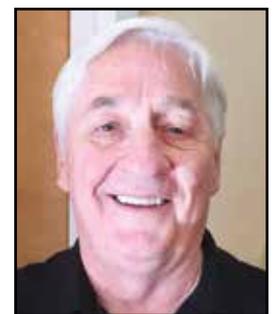
In the worship, Philip continued the theme of happiness. He considered several verses that emphasize the importance of dealing with problems and trial by trusting in God to help us. He said, "It's important for Christians to be happy and talk kindly about the Lord's church." I agree with that statement.

**ANTIOCH (January 22).** I preached at the Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. It is always good to see the folks at Antioch. They have a wonderful spirit of love for each other and care for their community. I enjoyed visiting with them and worshipping together.

In Bible class I finished my study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. We considered the final section on the Christian Armor. God has given us the spiritual tools to fight the forces of evil. I pray that each of us will open up our hearts to God's power.

In worship, I preached on Joshua 18, "Possessing Our Possessions." Joshua challenged Israel to do what God had asked them to do and take possession of their inheritance. As Christians we must do the same; take possession of the blessings of God, internalize His love, trust in His promises. These are the things God wants us to do.

**SENATOBIA (January 29).** I visited with the Senatobia church of Christ. Mike Jones is the minister there. The youth minister is Grant Azbell and Eric Bogus is the involvement minister. They have four elders and around 340 in attendance. This Sunday Joe Beam from Franklin, TN was there to conduct his 911 workshop. He is the founder of "Marriage Helpers" and works with couples in crisis. The workshop was Friday and Saturday. He stayed over to Sunday to speak in the Bible class and worship.



Joe Beam

In Bible class he talked about two key principles to help a marriage in crisis: Respect and Results. He talked about a controlling spouse. He talked about how and why people act this way in relationships. It was a very interesting lesson.

In worship he preached on 2 Samuel 11, the story of David and Bathsheba. It was a great lesson on facing temptations and how to deal with them. Bro. Joe is a great communicator. I enjoyed visiting with him and several old friends at Senatobia.

**ANTIOCH (February 5).** I preached at the Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. I always enjoy visiting with the folks there. What a wonderful group of Christian friends. In Bible class I began a study of "The Fruit Of The Spirit" based on

Galatians 5. The study was an introduction to the subject. I asked the question of how we develop these fruits. Also, I expressed the power these fruits give us to battle the works of the flesh.

In worship, I considered Joshua 20, "A Place our Father has Prepared." Joshua discusses the Cities of Refuge. I used that to illustrate the wonderful blessing we have in Christ as we flee to Him for refuge. In Him we have protection, peace, and provision. It's a good study.

**SMITHVILLE (February 12).** I visited with the Smithville church of Christ in Smithville, MS. Jeff Horton is the minister there. They have two elders and about 85 in attendance. I enjoyed meeting Jeff and getting to visit with the brethren there. The church has a good mix of ages. Each Sunday morning Jeff speaks for "The New U.TV" program on the local cable network. He then comes to the building to teach Bible class and worship.

In Bible class he was in a study of 1 Corinthians. They were in chapter seven. He had a good discussion about husband/wife relations. This is an important subject for all churches. I was pleased to see that Jeff very humbly talked about his own growth in this area of his relationship. In worship he presented a lesson on "We Are Soldiers" based on 1 John 2:16-17. He talked about the battle plan of Satan mentioned in verse 16. He spent his time talking about the "Pride of Life." It was a very good lesson on the battle that each Christian faces with pride.



Carla and Jeff Horton

**RIPLEY (February 19).** I was invited to speak at the Ripley church of Christ. Josh McCrary is the minister there. His wife mother was seriously ill and her doctors called in the family. We pray for the family. At this time I don't know the condition of Moriah's mother, but we continue to pray.

It was good to see the folks at Ripley. I enjoyed visiting with them and eating lunch with David and Linda Cook and their family. David is one of four elders at Ripley. It's a good congregation and last Sunday they had 300 in attendance.



Bert Brown, David Cook, Barry Grisham, and Mark Martindale-elders

I presented three lessons from my book, "Finding The Heart of Christ." In Bible class I talked about forgiveness—"The Second Chance" based on John 8:1-12 the story of the woman caught in adultery. In worship I talked about gratitude—"Only One Returned" based on Luke 17:11-19 the story of the ten lepers. In the afternoon worship I talked about our words—"The Abundance of the Heart" based on Matthew 12:22-37 and Matthew 15:1-20. Our words reveal whether our heart is good or bad. It was a good day.

**CHRISTIAN CHAPEL (February 26).** I visited with the Christian Chapel church of Christ outside of Amory, MS. Marshall Eubanks Jr. has been the minister there for the last 10 years. He is a MBC graduate and has his Master's degree from FHU and some classes at HST in the DM program. He and his wife have two grown children. His associate minister is Bobby Cleveland, who is his brother-in-law. Their youth minister Nathan Powell was away at Youth Challenge with 40 of the youth. Marshall and Bobby share the pulpit and have a great working relationship. I enjoyed meeting Marshall and Bobby. They graciously took me out to lunch.

The church is served by five elders and 12 deacons. They have around 250 in attendance, which makes them one of the largest, if not the largest, country congregation in Mississippi. I enjoyed meeting the folks at Christian Chapel.

I attended Marshall's Bible class. They were studying a book by Wendell Winkler on Romans. They were in chapter eight. It was a very interesting study of the Holy Spirit. In the worship service Marshall was preaching a series of lessons on the "I Am" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. The statement under consideration was "I Am The Good Shepherd" based on John 10:10-18. He talked about His purpose, His relationship with us, and His sacrifice. It was a good lesson.



Bobby and Benjamin Cleveland and Marshall Eubanks Jr.

**NEW HOPE (March 5).** I visited with the New Hope church of Christ near Amory, MS. David Highland is the minister there. He has worked with the church for 8 years. He plans to retire and move the first of May. The church already has someone coming to take his place. It was great to meet David. He is a graduate of IBC and has worked in ministry for several years. He has moved to his home in Hardin County, Tennessee. He wants to do part-time work in his home area.

The church has around 23 in attendance. They have no elders, but have a good mix of ages. It was a joy to meet the brethren there. They had a fellowship meal after services and invited me to attend. It was good to eat some home cooking.

David taught the Bible class. They were beginning a study of James. The theme for the lesson was "Christians will face trials in this life." It was a good lesson on how to face trials and our faith in God. In worship David presented the lesson "Relationship with God—Assurances and Responsibilities" based on 1 Peter 1:5-11. He pointed out that God loves us and is devoted to us. He did point out that we have some responsibilities in our relationship to God. When a person knows God his understanding of grace and peace is constantly expanding. We have choices and decisions we must make. It was a good lesson.



David Highland

**RIPLEY (March 12).** I was invited to preach for the Ripley church of Christ in Ripley, MS. Josh McCrary is the minister there. He and his family were away for the funeral of Aletha Ray, the mother of Moriah, Josh's wife. We express our sincere sympathy to Moriah and her family during this time of loss. I enjoyed visiting with the folks in Ripley. The church has four elders and around 300 in attendance. I enjoyed eating lunch with Bert and Helen Brown. He is one of the elders.

I also got to visit with Randle Miskelly and his family. He is one of the elders at Tiplersville. His son-in-law, Rodney Hilliard, had passed away earlier that week. Rodney was the minister for the Marlow church and had been sick for some time. It was good to see Randle and his family. It had been a hard week for them. We continue to remember them in our prayers.

I presented three lessons from my book, "Finding The Heart of Christ." I talked about zeal, being a servant, and faith. In Bible class I present a lesson on "Our Passion for God." We looked at Jesus' example of zeal in John 2. In worship I preached on "The Spirit of a Servant" based on Matthew 20:17-28. In the afternoon worship I preached on "Creeping on the Promises of God" based on Luke 7:1-10. I pray that each of these lessons was an encouragement to the Christians attending.

**ANTIOCH (March 26).** I preached at Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. I finished up a study of Joshua and considered "Love" as one of the fruit of the Spirit. In Bible class we considered the fruit of the Spirit. We considered love. We looked at several verses that talk about love for God, love for our fellowman, and love for self. 1 Corinthians 13 is the classic verse that describes what love is and is not.

In worship I preached a lesson of Joshua 23. Joshua is trying to encourage the leaders of Israel to be faithful to God. He challenges them to be obedient, committed, and devoted to God. It was a good day.

# From Afghanistan

## Urgent, Urgent Request for Prayers

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Several weeks ago, Betty Choate sent the following report written by Katheryn Haddad. And, although it has been a while since the request was first made, we have chosen to print the plea to remind us that members of the Lord's church are, indeed, undergoing extreme persecution in certain parts of the world for simply preaching the gospel of Christ. Betty said that the brother mentioned fled to India four years ago when he was first threatened. She said, "He was with the church in New Delhi and that is how I knew of the family. He has kept in contact with me through these years and also texted me Friday night when this new threat was made known to him." We pray that all is well with our brother mentioned in this article. (alf)*

### Thursday night, this message was received in the US from Afghanistan:

I will be in heaven with my Lord very soon. This night at 7 pm I received a warning call from government spies. He told me, "We know you are preaching and spreading Christianity in our country. You will pay heavy atonement."

John Mark (not his real name) was converted through World English Institute five years ago. Even though Christianity is illegal in Afghanistan, he urged over forty people to study with WEI.

Someone with the Taliban cornered him in an alley and demanded \$50,000 or prison for spreading Christianity. He and his family escaped to India, but he could not find work there. They returned to a different city in Afghanistan and remain free, probably because he pays them a weekly bribe.

Since then he has baptized his two older sons, and two other couples who were also WEI students. They worship in secret and whisper their songs so they do not get caught.

A few months ago, he decided to remain silent no longer and began teaching the gospel again. He convinced over fifty friends and relatives to become Christians. They have not done so yet because they fear for their lives. He keeps encouraging them.

With last Thursday's threatening phone, John Mark sent his wife and five children to hide with relatives in another province. On Friday, he decided to go to the mountains to hide. Word was spread throughout the brotherhood with disguised messages through church of Christ Facebook groups. Hundreds of people have replied that they are in constant prayer.

Friday night John Mark decided not to flee to the mountains after all. He is hiding at a friend's house, but is still in his city. He thinks that, since it was a government agent who called him, they may take him to court before executing him, just to have some semblance of legality.

Three weeks ago, another Muslim convert in Iraq faced the same thing. He was taken to court last week where they intended to imprison him the rest of his life. He wrote his mentor, "Pray that I will not deny Jesus my Lord before the judge." Many prayers went out on his behalf, God intervened, and the judge actually dismissed the case.

This Christian in Iraq sent this advice to his brother in Afghanistan: "You must know that the one who defends you is Christ himself, and that all those who confront you will be afraid of you, and you should know that the prayers going up for you will make miracles. Therefore, I say to you, Rejoice because you will prevail."

John Mark has given instructions to his oldest son (age 20) to contact his mentor if he is killed. The mentor asked him a few weeks ago what his wife thought of his preaching to so many. Both knew it was just a matter of time before he was caught. He said, "She is a strong Christian and mother and will be able to finish raising our children."

Some well-meaning Christians in the Western World have suggested we get him and his family out of there. John Mark will not leave. He will not forsake his countrymen. He wants to save their souls from hell and that is what he will keep doing until they kill him.

In case he is allowed to go to court before being imprisoned or executed, he is studying Paul's defenses when he was in court. In one of his mentor's messages to him on Friday, she said, "You, my spiritual son, are leading the church into a new era of courage and standing up for truth, no matter what. Lead on, my son. Lead on."

## WHO'S WHO Among Leaders in Churches of Christ



Brother Al Taylor is presenting a certificate of Who's Who Among Leaders in churches of Christ to brother Gary Atwater. Gary is the preacher for the College Street Church of Christ in Thomaston, Georgia.

We are looking for people to be nominated as special servant/leaders in the church. We are asking that you contact us and let us know of someone you would like to nominate: You can send an email to me at apaulfranks@gmail.com or call me at 662-792-2700. You can send your request to P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. Write name of person you wish to nominate on line below:

is being nominated for  
**Who's Who Among  
Leaders In Churches of Christ**  
*In Recognition of  
Outstanding Merit and Service*  
The Magnolia Messenger, 2017



Trudy Fann (left) with Bette Zumbrum giving certificate from MM to her. Both ladies are active members of the church in Deltona, FL.

### New Mexico Church Seeks Minister

#### Rio Rancho Church of Christ

Attention:

Minister Search Committee  
1006 22nd Street  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Note: We are thankful that the MM goes into every state in the nation and are pleased to run the above as requested.

### Seeking Full-time Pulpit Minister

#### Enterprise Boulevard

Church of Christ  
Lake Charles, LA

<http://www.blvdchurchofchrist.org/>

### North MS Ladies' Retreat

Sardis Lake  
Christian Camp - Sardis, MS

Sept. 22-23, 2017

Speaker: Regina Ellis  
& Beverly Johnson  
For more information,  
call Kari at 870-404-3658

## 530 Sent in Answers to the "Question Box" (See Page 24)

1. Carolyn Stanford
2. Margaret Parker
3. Bonnie Brown Glass
4. Frances Harrell
5. Sidney Robinson
6. Patricia Glover
7. Dorothy Winslett
8. Garry Gooch
9. Betty Van Buren
10. Doris Darnell
11. Stacey, Melinda and Gregory Hawkins
12. Jerry Fleming
13. Barbara Morgan
14. Bill Moore
15. Linda Gentry
16. Masey Brown
17. Doyce Britt
18. Dorothy Brunson
19. Carole Shelby
20. Ella Gentry
21. William Pylon
22. Ellen Welsh
23. Anita Price
24. Doralynn Felton
25. Carolyn Ware
26. Ray Parham
27. James & Katie Houston
28. Sherian Martin
29. Vickie Comer
30. Brailey Bryan
31. Becky Nelms
32. Kim Easterling
33. Jim & Judy Hill
34. Bernita Booker
35. Peggy Wroten
36. Lloyd Beard
37. Mary King
38. Don Lee
39. Dwight Hester
40. Wilda Pounds
41. Pat Moore
42. Faye Stanford
43. Robert Hurst
44. Burlean Leatherwood
45. Ronnie Brooks
46. Geraldine Ford
47. Sherry Ross
48. Mary Jacobs
49. Katheryn Lee
50. Ollie Wooten
51. Mary Dennis
52. Mary Williams
53. Edwin Williams
54. Sandra Hudley
55. Dorothy Booker
56. Bettie Brown
57. Cathy Brown
58. Ida Wells
59. James Hudley
60. Garfield Moss
61. Lorene Kimble
62. Mary Whitehead Lewis
63. Linda Kennamore
64. Marilyn Howell
65. Marcello Moore
66. Billy Alford
67. Vera Spencer
68. Inez & Laura Brannon
69. Herschel Ford
70. Rosie Mae Felton
71. Bobbie Loggins
72. Rosa Sanders
73. Bettye McCool
74. Edie Motes
75. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Burnett
76. Bernice Townsel
77. Maggie Edmonds
78. Alice Humphries
79. Sarah Dantzler
80. Sue Fisher
81. Sharon Dantzler
82. Linda Keirn
83. Charlane Stanfield
84. Nancy Floyd
85. Marie Lively
86. Wanda Cochran
87. Perkins Cochran
88. Carol Manning Bonner
89. Billye Wiygul
90. Oreatha Johnson
91. Lawrence Horn
92. Mary Cathie Grigsby
93. Melvin & Kay Linton
94. Madonna Langford
95. Victor Boone
96. Christy Pounds
97. Juanita Brown
98. Velva Dykes
99. Sharon Praytor
100. Toni Burnett
101. Gwendolyn Bryant
102. Blaise Fernandez
103. Dianne Wiley
104. Steve Gooch
105. Sharon Huckaba
106. Ed Lyon
107. Cheri Moore
108. Jim Vermillion
109. Eddie Vermillion
110. Mack Moore
111. Ima Jean Fogus
112. Rachel Pruitt
113. David Cox
114. Gail Saxon
115. Rhenda Miltner
116. Terry Miltner
117. Jessie McDonald
118. John Mayher
119. Mary McDonald
120. Joyce Reich Gray
121. Bobby Brown
122. Ameer Burdun
123. Ann Whetsone
124. Mark Williams
125. Joe Arnold
126. Audrey Bowling
127. Shane, Lindsey & Sawyer Cardwell
128. Lane & Lynn Bell
129. Bobby Garrett
130. Susan Boyd
131. Gay Null
132. Betty Skinner
133. Patricia McClure
134. Arva Fisher
135. Jolene Dale
136. Bernard Macon
137. Lady Garth
138. Brent Glover
139. Bonnie Howell
140. Shirley Ray/Bernice Richardson
141. Loretha Widger
142. Judy Von Dollen
143. Linda Shadrix
144. Shelia Hall
145. Prince Lewis
146. Carolyn Garrett
147. Esther Briggs
148. Wes & Rhoda Jeans
149. Earl Franks
150. Dorothy Franks
151. Bobbie & Mike Goodknight
152. Malcolm & Keitha Hare
153. Jean Clemmer
154. Sidney Clemmer
155. Kenneth Lee Harmon
156. Vivian Covington
157. Charlotte Rauchle
158. Minnie Williams
159. Lisa Dearman
160. Fred Williford
161. Sue Hamrick
162. Jane Walker
163. Waymond Hales
164. Ella Darnell
165. LeeAnna Singleton
166. Keith Wilson
167. Amanda Wilson
168. Foy Smith
169. Ann Kelley
170. Dillie Horton
171. Wanda Orman
172. Madonna Michael
173. Bonnie Skates
174. Sharon Rachels
175. Rick Bishop
176. Betty Harris
177. Shirley Shive
178. Nellie Lester
179. Glen Brady
180. Willa Fox
181. Betty Spears
182. Claude Williams
183. Charlotte Vandiver
184. Floyd Goode
185. Merlene Scott
186. Nell Millsaps
187. Jean Lewis
188. Arvel Miles
189. Betty Miles
190. Carrie McGrone
191. Lucille Anders
192. Mary Adams
193. Marjorie Wilburn
194. James & Gloria Breckenridge
195. Janie Green
196. James Hurlbut
197. Mary Prosser
198. Elsie Moore
199. Ginny Luther
200. Stan Neuenschwander
201. Carolyn Perry
202. Ruby King
203. James Flanagan
204. Kathy King
205. Gwendolyn Bryant
206. Beverly Miles
207. Doris Jean Fletcher
208. Alice Nix
209. Steven Arthur Franklin
210. Patricia & James Thornton
211. Claude Edwards
212. Peggy Harmon
213. Mary Turner
214. Bonnie Lipsey
215. Artis Hinton
216. Thomas Logan
217. Kerry Deaton
218. Richard Odom
219. Mary Laurent
220. Darryl James Sterling
221. Sarah Hill
222. Dee Kepler
223. Mrs. Dean Howe
224. Annie Mae Pipkin
225. Jimmie Brown
226. Bonnie Holcomb
227. Geraldine Wilbanks
228. Sherron Dixon
229. Barbara Loden
230. Nicholas Welch
231. Bertha Johnson
232. Ms. McKinney
233. Marvin England
234. R L Clark, Sr.
235. Kay Shiers
236. David Delatte
237. Sandy Dean
238. Howard Hollman
239. Frankie Moore
240. Della Rhodes
241. Onngaleah Huff
242. Bobbie Sindle
243. Ann Holeman
244. Betty Standard
245. Joyce McKee
246. Thomas Forrest, Sr.
247. Rebekah & April Gough
248. Karen Sue Britt
249. Betty Shackelford
250. Lillian Humphrey
251. Jan Wiese
252. Bobby Lively
253. Paul & Darlene McElroy
254. Mattie Ann Owens
255. Foster Owens
256. Amy Hutson
257. Peggy Engel
258. Doris Townsend Britt
259. Mary Jo Hoffman
260. Janice Gallaway
261. Mary Brannan
262. Michael Coleman
263. Clifford Hampton
264. Emile & Peggy Rollins
265. Dorothy Banks
266. Melissa Nugent
267. Faye Stamps
268. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell
269. Pat Shadle
270. Linda Bonner
271. Carolyn Jackson
272. Sylvia Madden
273. Paul Pounds
274. Althea House
275. Irene Rogers
276. Bethany Stephens
277. Nadine Patton
278. Linda Cook
279. Jane Kuykendall
280. Charlotte Ritter
281. Mary Townsend
282. Dannie Davis
283. Tiffany Garmon
284. Betty Chattman
285. Caidan Holliday
286. Kalib Smith
287. Samuel Eckford
288. Jamia Brandon
289. Tiffany Williams
290. Terell Williams
291. Christiana Williams
292. Josh Williams
293. Karmen Paine
294. Faith Eckford
295. Trey Williams
296. Chris Holliday
297. Kayla Paine
298. Alex Williams
299. Michael Euer
300. Nan Conley
301. Ruby Silvers
302. Brenda Green
303. Natalie Stewart
304. Christene Holliday
305. Carl Trim
306. Hedy Lewis
307. Charlene Jent
308. Carolyn Harvill
309. Mary Johnson
310. Wanda Yancey
311. Bet Tucker
312. Melba Ogg
313. Margaret Freeman
314. Edward Pearson
315. Kathy Perry
316. Merle Johnston
317. Lucille Jackson
318. Deloris Detherage
319. Patsy McClung
320. Geneva Brooks
321. LaVerne Corley Becker
322. John Hazel
323. Diane Dunaway
324. Danna Noorali
325. Mary Salinas
326. Sylvester & Linda Burton
327. Charles Coffey
328. John Gates, Jr.
329. Lois Nielson
330. Richard Reel
331. Shelia Ganier Williams
332. Jane Barnett
333. Vera Winfrey
334. Edmon Wheeler
335. Mary Faulconer
336. Kenny Young, Jr.
337. Wanda Robinson
338. Mary Robinson
339. Frederick Jones
340. Michelle Simpson
341. Judy Poyner
342. Ken Harris
343. Gloria Wilborn
344. Tommy Muirhead
345. Princess & Johnny Watson
346. Irene Wright
347. Ann Hulsey
348. Scotty Balentine
349. George Lowrey
350. Linda Swain
351. Ann Sims
352. Ruby McCrory
353. Donna Gulley
354. Linda Irwin
355. June Faulkner
356. Bobbie Clayborn
357. Ruby Wright
358. Bettye Ohrem
359. Bobby Marques
360. Beulah Rupert
361. Elizabeth Dickerson
362. Juanita Slaughter
363. Billy Willingham
364. Ann Shelton
365. Wm. & Atlean Snow
366. Ann Kimble
367. Judy Willis
368. Jimmie & Anita Taft
369. Glenda Jefcoat
370. Earlean Williams
371. Kathryn Jarrett
372. Mary Ella Webster
373. Marilyn Leary
374. June Brents
375. Mild Herrington
376. Jeremiah & Shelia Woodard
377. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.
378. Benrus & Nicole Womack
379. Geraldine Lagarde
380. Purnell Lagarde
381. Karen Bush
382. Bonnie Poore
383. Brenda Redd
384. Geri Spears
385. Andrea McAllister
386. Reagan Hall
387. Sandra Grisham
388. Lynn Grisham
389. Tommy & Peggy Shull
390. Paul & Elsie Bryson
391. Ruby Nell Parham
392. Lessie Tanson
393. Ann Cockroft
394. Nettie Doss
395. Charles Beal
396. Peggy Havard
397. Shirley Bostick
398. Elizabeth King
399. Sue Foster
400. Johnnie Mobley
401. Josephine Carter
402. Robert Huffar
403. Catherine Allen
404. Benjamin Pollock
405. Turner Foster
406. Andrew Langley
407. Sandra Holloway
408. Anderson Long
409. Levi Swinney
410. Tommy Baragona
411. Mackensy Floyd
412. Arlaina Rogers
413. Gibson Foster
414. Ava Elliott
415. Kaylee Willcutt
416. Mikey Smith
417. Brayden Hanna
418. Peyton Hodge
419. Tristan Pharr
420. Curley Haley
421. Irma Lucas
422. Rosie Lee Odoms
423. Theresa Henderson
424. Sherry Townsend
425. Elnorsh Duckworth
426. Carlos & LaSanda Stringfield
427. Michael Harvill
428. James Garher
429. Noah Crider
430. Jack Stillman
431. Linda Boone
432. Tom Kelly
433. Michael Deaton
434. Ann Cumberland
435. Ruby Worthey
436. Gerald Worthey
437. Annie Greer
438. Jackson Mayer
439. Emma Beth Mayer
440. Tyler, Courney & Easton Mayer
441. Shellie Hancock
442. Eva Almon
443. Joyce King
444. Carla Owen
445. Jo Ann Mayer
446. Carry Mayer
447. Mildred Carroll
448. Jimmy Coggins
449. Jennifer Gray
450. Betty & Lynn York
451. Sandra Morris
452. Wayne Crum
453. Hattie Johnson
454. Millie Goode
455. Harold & Bonnie Mobley
456. Annie McGill
457. Tommy & Nell Lawson
458. Mr. & Mrs. Williams
459. Martha Leggett
460. James Wilburn
461. Marjorie Wilburn
462. Sonny Meeks
463. Bobbie Childs
464. Marty Stephens
465. Hailey Kennedy
466. Miranda Medlin
467. S. Chism
468. Edwin & Wendy Rodriguez
469. Regina Coates
470. Benny Wallis
471. John Raines
472. John Michael Mann
473. Laura Green
474. Shane Green
475. Donna Johnston
476. Jacob Johnston
477. James Johnston
478. Stephen Mann
479. Lynnette Johnston
480. Dianne Peeler
481. David Cook
482. Justin Luster
483. Linda Cook
484. Beth Wilbanks
485. Connie Streiber
486. Johnie Jumper
487. Libby Cloninger
488. Ann Akins
489. Benny Akins
490. Jane Chapman
491. Ronald Chapman
492. Rodney Chapman
493. Brenda Chapman
494. Bonnie Jordan
495. Carol Kuper
496. Alese Kuykendall
497. Katie Alsup
498. Liz Alsup
499. Mike Bennett
500. Janet Bennett
501. Mary Alice Cross
502. Lisa Morrison
503. Matt Morrison
504. Ray Henderson
505. Sherry Henderson
506. Regina Morton
507. Billy Morton
508. Wendy Roberson
509. Betty Henry
510. Kathy Hill
511. Peggy Wallis
512. Joyce Moore
513. Mary Pedigo
514. Johna Hopper
515. Avis Moody
516. Jerry Harrell
517. Barbara Harrell
518. Russell Taylor
519. Sonny Graham
520. Sandra Graham
521. Juanita Bryant
522. Linda Curry
523. Paul Curry
524. Mary Perkins
525. Judy Moore
526. Patsy Conquest
527. Johnny Stapp
528. Gordon Banks
530. Dorothy Banks

*NOTE: All answers received after June 15, will be recognized in our next issue, Lord willing.*

*Thank you for encouraging others to study the Bible by answering "The Question Box."*

*If your name is not listed on this page, send in your answers to the QB found on page 24.*

# THE QUESTION BOX

## “I Don’t Want To Be A Pharisee!”

A song we often sang when we were children exclaims, “I don’t want to be a Pharisee!” Why did we sing (or still sing) that song? Regretably, there are people in our day who end up being Pharisees. The Pharisees of Jesus’ day had, apparently started out wanting to please God. When immorality and unrighteousness prevailed in the lives of so many Jews who had abandoned the laws of God, the Pharisees became known as a religious sect that wanted to obey every one of God’s commands. And, if God wasn’t clear enough on what He wanted, they created a whole bunch of new commands. The Pharisees were considered a very religious people who took their faith seriously. Now it is true that people in every age should take their faith seriously; however, one can easily step over the line, from pleasing God to disobeying Him, by becoming like the Pharisees of Jesus day. In this month’s Question Box, we ask you to study three traps that warped the Pharisees thinking. **Please read the story found in John 8: 1-11 (use KJV) and write True or False to each of the following 12 statements.** (Paul Franks)

### 1) “Rules Become More Important Than People!”

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Pharisee didn’t really care about the woman, they were trying to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, that they might have to \_\_\_\_\_ him.” (John 8: \_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. “If you are not going to \_\_\_\_\_ people when we invite them to church, don’t invite them.” “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly \_\_\_\_\_; in honor preferring one another.” (Romans \_\_\_:10) [Both blanks, same word]
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. “The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ to us-ward, not willing that any should \_\_\_\_\_, but that all should come to \_\_\_\_\_.” (2 Peter 3: \_\_\_)

### 2) “Their Agenda Became God’s Agenda (at least in their thinking!)”

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Pharisees of the Bible saw Jesus as an enemy of **their** god. Their god was always on **their** side. So anyone who opposed them was opposing God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A sure sign of becoming like a Pharisee is that when (a) people aren’t listening to you, (b) your opinion is being ignored and/or (c) things are NOT going your way, you become really \_\_\_\_\_. “Be ye \_\_\_\_\_, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” (Ephesians \_\_\_:26) [Both blanks, same word]

### 3) “They Believed Their Personal Sins Could be Covered up as Long as They Outwardly Kept Their Rules!”

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. “Even so ye also outwardly appear \_\_\_\_\_ unto men, but within ye are full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.” (Matthew \_\_\_: 28)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. You can hate your brother or sister in the church, but as long as you obey all of the “important rules” you are okay with God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the \_\_\_\_\_, and though I give my body to be \_\_\_\_\_, and have not \_\_\_\_\_, it profiteth me \_\_\_\_\_.” (I Cor. 13: \_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Jesus taught us to judge between sin and iniquity and to take a stand against all immorality. However, many people today do not like the teachings of Jesus against sin and immorality and are often heard quoting (**out of context**) verses like, “\_\_\_\_\_ not, that ye be not \_\_\_\_\_.” (Matthew \_\_\_:1) and “He that is without \_\_\_\_\_ among you, let him first cast a \_\_\_\_\_ at her.” John 8: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Jesus told the woman in John 8: \_\_\_ to “Go, and \_\_\_\_\_ no more.” She had not come to him for forgiveness. She was dragged there against her will. He doesn’t say “your sins are forgiven.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Jesus will come again and condemn all who live lives of sin. (2 Thess. 1: \_\_\_; 2 Cor. 5: \_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. “Knowing therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, we \_\_\_\_\_ men;” (2 Cor. 5: \_\_\_)

### 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

## Most Recent Bible Winner

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(Union Point, GA)

Congratulations!

## Now You Take It From There

John Simpson

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j3812sim@yahoo.com

## “Seniors Have It Made!”

By John Simpson

Growing older, with reasonably good health and comfortable assets, is a great blessing, especially in America. The old adage of, “once an adult and twice a child”, is pictured as struggling to learn who you are in adolescent and teen years, becoming who you should be in adult years, and enjoying the peace of having all outside pressures of economic, social, political and family relations lifted in senior years. Well, seniors are here to tell you that the top side of that old adage has been exaggerated!

Grandchildren believe that grandparents are rich, all outside pressures have vanished, and “seniors” are granted extra years beyond child-rearing to serve and satisfy all the whims of grandchildren. Who has taught them to believe this? Parents and grandparents have caused them to believe nothing else. We have sown the wind and are now reaping the whirlwind.

In generations past, parents owed their children a general education of reading, writing and arithmetic; plus social order of conduct (citizenship) and self-preservation (work) at adulthood. This ethic is from Biblical dictate (I Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28) and applies to all generations.

A young man of authority and great riches came to Jesus for counsel and was astonished at the advice he received about how to order his personal affairs (Matt. 19:16-22). And, “when the disciples heard this, they were very astonished” (Matt. 19:25). The NOW generation may be very astonished that I would entertain such thoughts, and especially for my placing them into print. But if life grants you to reach senior years, you will love me for it.

But there is a “Hallelujah Flip Side” to this scenario. Watching and assisting children and grandchildren prepare themselves to become qualified in training and character to become leaders in things we believe to be important, is one of the greatest joys in becoming of age; old age, that is. Give them their just dues, and they may become as important as you may think you are. Help them to become everything according to their capacity, do it according to your judgment and means, and then rejoice together with them.

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

**Ladies' Day: Sept. 16, 2017; 9 A.M.**

Huntsville Church of Christ;

French Camp, MS

**Speaker: BETTY CHOATE:**

“How do you wear Christ as you grow in His image?”

**Information? Text: 662-552-9582**

