



Our 35th Year

Magnolia Messenger

Volume 35
Number 1

Jan.,- Mar.,
2013

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

**Who Is This Woman?
What Is She Holding? Why?**



(Answers on Page 23)

NO PLACE FOR A POPE
in the
Organization of the
New Testament Church
(See Page 2)

"Polishing the Pulpit"
Sevierville, TN
August 23-29, 2013
**Over 2,000 Expected
Plan To Attend**

Sunday Morning
"Drop-in"
Siwell in Jackson
(Details on Page 9)

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**Hattiesburg's KW Church
"A Beehive of Activity"
After Recent Tornado**

*"Scores of volunteers from
across the Magnolia State and
beyond have already been to
this area to help."*

(Report on Page 14)

In This Issue

Page 4: "What Must Jesus Think?"

Page 5: GPS -- God's Plan of Salvation

Page 10: The Power of An Invitation in Tupelo

Page 11: "Esteem Others Better Than Self"

Page 22: "...In Prison and You Visited Me Not"

PLUS, A Whole Lot More!

Magnolia Messenger Expanding

Target: Louisiana

Churches of Christ in Louisiana number around 228 with 24,000 members. Compare that to Mississippi's 380 churches with 43,000 members and you realize that the church is stronger in Mississippi than Louisiana. Also, the population of Louisiana is over a million more than in Mississippi....

We Have Set A Goal

(Read details and how you can help on page 8)

"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper" ----- Serving Mississippi, Louisiana and Adjoining States

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Mark Your Calendar!

15th Annual
MM RV Rally
at beautiful
Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata
(Louisville, Mississippi)
April 22 - 25, 2013
(Monday thru Thursday)
Resource Speaker
Bill Lambert



Bill Lambert

Retired Teacher at Harding University. Native Mississippian. Served MBC in early years as Instructor, Academic Dean and Interim President.

Topic
"Amazing Grace"
Make Plans To Attend
(More information on page 9)

Attention: Internet Users
you can now go to our website
www.magnoliamessenger.com
and sign up to receive via e-mail special news and notes

SIMPLE yet SERIOUS

ANSWER

"The Question Box"

(See Page 24)

A Reader Asks About

Matthew Chapter 24

Cecil May Responds

With Six Convincing Reasons Why
*"...all BEFORE verse 34 concerns the
destruction of Jerusalem and all AFTER it
concerns Christ's second coming."*

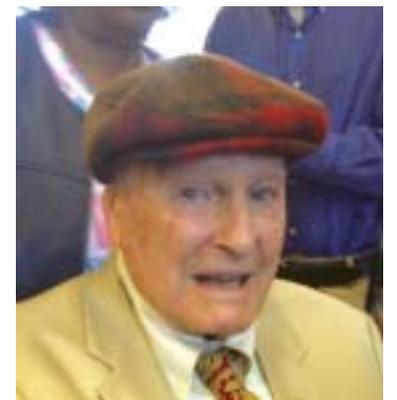
The Excellent Study Begins on Page 3

Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes

March 29-31, 2013

Over 20,000 Expected

Conventions In
**Atlanta,
Dallas,
Louisville,
Memphis,
Nashville and
Orlando**



*"The largest gathering of
youth and adults in the broth-
erhood"*

"Brother Sunnybrook"
A Meeting at Madison
(Turn to Page 21)

Magnolia Messenger
South Huntington St
CHURCH OF CHRIST
P. O. Box 1578
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**CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED**

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

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Negative

Please remove my name and address from the Magnolia Messenger's mailing list. I do not want to receive your publication. Respectfully, (N.H. Searcy, AR)

Added to the email request was the following statement said to have been made by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

EDITOR' RESPONSE:

We certainly respect and always seek to honor the wishes of MM receivers who prefer not to be MM readers. We are pleased to say that very few requests to be taken off our mailing list are received. In contrast, however, we receive many, many requests to be added to our ever growing mailing list. We are thankful -- that only *only* a few ask to be *taken off* and that *many* ask to be *added*!

We are in agreement with Martin Luther King's statement quoted above by the reader who wants off our list. We do wonder why it was attached to his request. Maybe, because there is always a need for us to *make sure* we are fulfilling our objective to teach the Word of God as "it is written." Would you please join with us in our daily prayer to *always* teach the "truth in love." (A. L. Franks, editor)

Positive

"We appreciate so much the work being accomplished through the Magnolia Messenger. The news shared with so many does encourage, uplift and edify. We thank both of you for your willingness to have continued this good work for so long.

Our family here in Rolling Fork would like to participate with you in a small way in provoking one another to love and good works. Our family budget this year was approved with a payment of \$500.00 to the Magnolia Messenger. We know this is not a lot of money in relation to what it costs to fund the work there, but we are excited to participate to this extent in your efforts to assist others." (Norman Maranto, preacher; Rolling Fork, MS)

"... I mention this to give emphasis to the importance that the Messenger has been to me and the encouragement it brings to my ministry.

"... As we have been making plans and setting goals for 2013 with a 'renewed' emphasis on commitment to prayer, study, worship, serving and growing, I gave copies of the Messenger to each family for review. I then suggested that we request being added to your mailing list. I have received an enthusiastic response -- YES!

"... May the Lord continue to bless your every effort." (Wayne Harvell, preacher; Ardmore, TN)

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are encouraged! We are thankful to every reader and to every supporter. **Thank God!**

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

Published about every 3 months (as funds and time permit). Mailed **without charge** to all who ask to receive it and to others for whom it is requested.

Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of more than 24,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your prayers and support are **requested, needed** and **appreciated!**

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

How Was/Is the New Testament Church Organized?

JESUS CHRIST

The One and Only Head

- Editor -

Jesus asked his disciples, "... who say you that I am?" The apostle Peter answered, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**" Our Lord responded with a wonderful promise saying, "...upon this rock I will build my church...." (Matt. 16:13-18).

Reading carefully Peter's confession and Jesus' promise and, considering other scriptural teachings, we can be assured that the solid, firm and lasting bedrock upon which Jesus would build His church was **the truth** Peter had just confessed, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**"

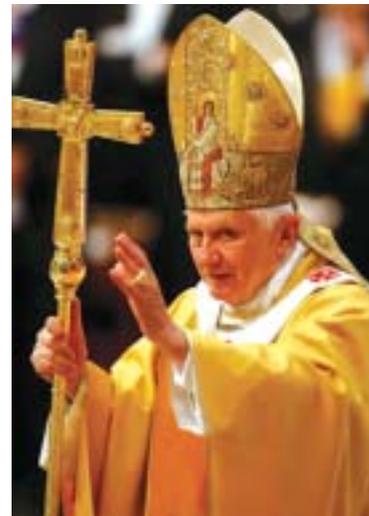
When the gospel was preached in Jerusalem, on Pentecost and thereafter, the Bible teaches that those who became obedient believers (those who repented and were baptized) were saved and were daily "added to the church" (Acts 2:47). The saved were added "to the church." (No denominational name. No denomination! Simply "the church.") Additional references in the book of Acts, speak of all who are saved as "the church." These include Acts 5:11; 8:1,3; 9:31; 11:26; 12:1,5; 13:1; 15:1.

New Testament teachings refer to the Lord's church in very special ways; such as, "the kingdom of God/Heaven", "church of God", "house of God", "household of faith", and "churches of Christ." No denominational name -- no denomination!

In view of events taking place in the religious world today, it seems in order to ask: *How was the church built by Christ organized?* What does the New Testament teach about church organization?

Christ is the Head

Since Christ built his church, died for his church and purchased the church with His blood, it obviously is "His church". He owns it. It is His. It comes as no surprise; therefore, to read in Scripture that Jesus is "the head of the body, the church...." (Col. 1:18). New Testament teachings clearly



The New Testament Church No Place For A Pope!

show that Jesus, and Jesus, alone, is **the** head of **the** church. He is the **head** of His church (Ephesians 5:23). Scriptures leave absolutely no room for any head over the church other than Jesus Christ. Not any **one** man; no **group** of men! **No pope.** No council, no conference to rule or

Scriptures leave absolutely no room for any head over the church other than Jesus Christ. Not any ONE man; NO GROUP of men! NO POPE. No council, no conference, no congregation, no school and no paper to rule or to run. He, and He ALONE, makes the rules; He, and He alone, is in charge. HIS WORD, the New Testament, is the source of all rules, laws and regulations.

to run. He, and He alone, makes the rules; He, and He alone, is in charge. His Word, the New Testament, is the source of all rules, laws and regulations. The New Testament church, according to the New Testament, was/is under the control of the one and only Head -- Jesus Christ.

As Jesus made preparation for the establishment of His church (kingdom) upon earth, He selected twelve men to serve as His



A. L. Franks, Editor

special representatives -- His apostles. In the beginning of His ministry, He sent them forth under the "**limited** commission" to preach the gospel of the coming kingdom *only* to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 10:5,6).

At the end of our Lord's personal ministry, just a few days before His church was established and His kingdom "came with power", Jesus gave the "**great** commission", commanding his apostles to "Go into **all** the world and preach the gospel to **every** creature" (Mark 16:15). This great task of sharing "good news" of salvation with all the world, began with the Jews who were assembled in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following Jesus' resurrection.

As a result of preaching the gospel -- declaring the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and including the Lord's plan for salvation ("repent and be baptized," Acts 2:38), about 3,000 precious souls responded by faith and were baptized into Christ "for the remission of sins." This was the beginning of Christ's church on earth; it was **the birthday** of the church of Christ.

The organization of the Lord's church, initially, involved these men known as "apostles." However, New Testament study reveals that the office/work of the apostles was **temporary**. This is true because no man could serve as an apostle of Christ unless he was *personally selected* and "*sent forth*" by Jesus. No man could serve as an apostle unless he had been an eye witness of Jesus and His resurrection (Matt. 10; Acts 1:21-26). After the original apostles died, there were **no successors**. The organization of Christ's church, since the first century, does not include apostles!

A further study of the epistles of Paul, written, in part, to inform Christians of God's plan for church organization, makes very clear that it was the Lord's intent that men (identified as "elders"), serve as "*under-shepherds*," in providing guidance and care for

See HEAD on Page 19

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTION:

What is the “abomination of desolation” mentioned in Matthew 24? (E.M.M.)

RESPONSE

The “abomination of desolation spoken by the prophet Daniel” (Matthew 24:15) is “Jerusalem surrounded by armies,” according to the parallel passage in Luke 21:20. It is Roman soldiers as they marched on Jerusalem leading up to its defeat and destruction in 70 A.D.

The discourse concerning this in Matthew 24 is also recorded in Mark 13 and Luke 21.

“Spoken by The Prophet Daniel”

Daniel uses the phrase “abomination of desolation,” in two different contexts. Alexander, called “the Great,” conquered the known world of his day with the express purpose of making Greek language, religion, art and philosophy the world standard. On Alexander’s death the territory he had conquered was divided among three of his generals. Seleucus was given the territory that includes Israel. Seleucus’ son and heir was Antiochus Epiphanes.

Antiochus attempted to force the Jews to abandon JHVH, “the LORD,” and adopt the Greek gods. He desecrated the Jewish temple, sacrificing a sow on the altar. This is told in detail in the apocryphal book 1 Maccabees which, though not inspired, is a reasonably accurate history of events that happened “between the testaments.”

Daniel speaks of the “abomination of desolation” in two different contexts. In chapters 11 and 12 he predicts the abominable desecration that would be wrought by Antiochus Epiphanes. This prophecy is so detailed and accurate that Bible believers and modernist scholars alike recognize what Daniel is talking about, disagreeing only on whether Daniel was written before or after the facts.

In Daniel 9, however, the phrase is set in a different context and is apparently the reference of which Jesus speaks. Daniel 9 gives a timetable that does not fit Antiochus’ desecration of the temple. Using days as years, the ordinary way of understanding such prophecies, the timetable brings us to the time of Jesus Christ. What Daniel said in this

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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chapter would be accomplished describes what Christ accomplished: “to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness . . . and put an end to sacrifice and offering” (Daniel 9:24, 27).

Two Questions, Two Answers

Matthew 24 is divided into two parts, answering two questions. “When will these things be?” (referring to the conquering of the city and destruction of the temple) and “What will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” (Matthew 24:3).

Jesus answers both questions, speaking first of when the temple will be destroyed. He outlines a series of precise signs leading up to the fall of Jerusalem, telling his disciples the exact moment they are to flee the city (Matthew 24:4-34). Then he replies to the second question, what will be the sign of your coming? No one knows when that will be, he says, and there are no signs pointing to the time of its occurrence (Matthew 24:36-51).

The dividing line between the two answers is verse 34, “Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”

SIX REASONS

Here are six cogent reasons for concluding that all before verse 34 concerns the destruction of Jerusalem and all after it concerns Christ’s second coming:

1. The two questions Jesus is answering (24:3)

“Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, ‘You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.’ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?’” (Matt. 24:1-3).

“When will these things be?” is obviously asking “When will the temple be destroyed?” “What will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” is the second question. The disciples may well have thought it was all one question, believing nothing could possibly happen to their sacred temple until the world also came to an end, but Jesus clearly answers them as two separate events happening at different times.

2. The “signs” cited before verse 34 all did happen within that generation (24:5-14)

“False christs, false prophets, wars, rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes (24:5-7) are all well documented, both from the Bible and from uninspired history, as occurring during this period. But these, Jesus said, are “just the beginning of the birth pains” (24:6).

Tribulation (persecution) including death, apostasy, lukewarmness and more false prophets are also known to Bible readers as occurring in this time (24:9-13). Following these Jesus speaks of what would be a nearer sign: “the gospel... proclaimed throughout the whole world... and then the end will come” (24:14).

The apostle Paul declares that sign also was fulfilled within the generation to which Jesus was speaking. Colossians 1:6 speaks of “the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing.” And again Colossians 1:23 says, “The hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.”

3. Luke’s interpretation for us of the final sign, the “abomination of desolation” (24:15, Luke 21:20)

Jesus is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple. The “abomination of deso-

lation” is the final sign, the precise moment in which immediate flight is necessary in order not to be overtaken in the tribulation and destruction. What Matthew calls the “abomination of desolation” Luke, in the parallel passage, calls “Jerusalem surrounded by armies.”

As the Roman soldiers are seen advancing on the city, that is the precise moment to flee. And immediate flight is urged. If they are out in the field or up on the housetop they are not to take time to go back through the house. They were to pray there would be no hindrances to flight.

The word “abomination” usually implies some connection with idols. The expression “abomination of desolation,” therefore, suggests idols that bring destruction.

The Roman legions carried their ensigns with them when they marched, just as our armies carry the American flag. The Roman ensigns were metal eagles or replicas of the emperor on top of a pole.

An incident recorded by the Jewish historian Josephus is instructive toward understanding why this phrase would be applied to the Roman soldiers. Because the ensigns were images such as were forbidden by the first of the ten commandments, the Jews strongly protested the ensigns being brought into their holy city. They showed themselves ready to die rather than accept them without protest. Because “keeping the peace” was so important to the Roman authorities, Pilate relented and the soldiers did not carry their ensigns when they were in Jerusalem (*Ant.* xviii 3. 1).

Obviously the armies coming in 70 A.D. to besiege Jerusalem and put down a Jewish rebellion would have their ensigns prominently displayed. Hence the appropriate designation for the advancing Roman army, the “abomination that desolates.”

4. The command to flee (24:16-20)

If Jesus were talking about the second coming, as many maintain, why would he command his disciples to flee? Jesus’ second coming is our “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13), not something to be feared or from which to flee. And even if it were appropriate to flee, where would one go?

According to one of the earliest Christian historians, the Christians understood Jesus’ warning and did flee, to a town called

Pella, where they escaped the fate of the Jews who stayed in Jerusalem (Eusebius *Eccl. Hist.* III. 5).

By the way, during this time, Jesus says not to expect his literal return. If someone says he is over here somewhere, do not believe them. When the second coming does occur, he says, it will be visible to everyone (24:21-28).

At this point in the discourse Jesus describes the actual destruction of Jerusalem in apocalyptic language (24:29-31). The moon and stars falling and darkening, the sign of the Son of Man riding on the clouds to execute judgment, and the other phrases in this section all have Old Testament parallels as descriptions of God’s judgment on various nations. Very similar language, for example, is used in Isaiah 13 and 14, where the destruction of Babylon is being predicted.

5. The “this generation” statement (24:34-35)

At this point in the discourse Jesus says, “Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” One hearing those words at this point would naturally understand “all these things” to be what he has said up to this point, and “this generation” to be the sum total of people living at the time Jesus was speaking. That is, indeed, exactly what Jesus is saying.

Various theories which depend on “this generation” meaning something other than the sum total of people living when the words were spoken have been proposed. However, “this generation” always means “the people now living.” It never means anything else..

To this point Jesus has been answering the question, “When will the temple be destroyed,” giving a series of signs to enable his followers to know the precise moment to flee, so as not to suffer with the Jews at the hand of the Romans. These words were spoken somewhere around the year 30 A.D. and the Roman invasion occurred in 70 A.D., 40 years later, the approximate length of one generation.

Appending the statement, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away,” adds to the solemnity and certainty of Jesus’ pronouncement. The prediction echoes his earlier plaintive cry, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who

See QUESTION on Page 19

Extending Fellowship Beyond Walls of Church Building “Good Practice”; “Catching On”



Greenwood Brethren Enjoy Food and Fellowship
At Restaurant After Sunday Evening Services

My son, Paul, and I stopped by a restaurant in Greenwood for a sandwich as we were returning home from Cleveland, Mississippi on January 13, 2013. Right after we sat down to eat, we were pleased to see several familiar faces entering the same restaurant. Very quickly we realized that the folks were from the West President Street congregation in

Greenwood and that they were doing what they often do after Sunday night worship services. They were extending their fellowship beyond the walls of their church building. We were just thankful they were at the same place at the same time we were, enabling us to join with them in sweet fellowship with brothers and sisters of like kindred faith. (alf)

News Note

DERIDDER, LA (BILBO)

I really appreciate a recent call from **Wayne Farris**, one of the elders of the church in DeRidder, Louisiana. Brother Farris called to ask if I could participate in a special day they were hosting for “Seniors”, coming up in April.

I was excited as he related the news that on a recent Sunday they almost reached 200 in attendance for morning worship services. (They counted **193**. *Should have*

asked a preacher to count!)

Wayne Farris is one of three men who serve as elders for the church meeting on Bilbo at Roberts Street in DeRidder, LA. The other two are **John Eaves** and **Bobby Mills**. Serving effectively as preacher for the growing and friendly church, since the summer of 2000, is **Jay Alexander**. Sorry I couldn't accept the invitation due to previous commitments. May God bless.



Church Bible Class Answers “The Question Box”
An Example

You may wish to follow. Thanks! (See Pages 23 & 24)

Family Departures

“...to depart and be with Christ is far better.” (Phil. 1:23)

Jane McWhorter

Best Selling Author

Died: Feb. 26, 2013

Many years ago, I was in Fayette, Alabama and needed a place to stay. **Jane McWhorter** opened her home and I was able to stay with **Don and Jane McWhorter**. Don was a gospel preacher and TV evangelist and Jane was a bestselling author.

A few years ago, we took a group on an Alaskan Cruise. Don and Jane went with us on this adventure. It was a blessing to get to know this couple better. Don died not many years after that and on February 26, 2013, Jane passed away after a brief battle with leukemia. Her funeral was Friday, March 1, 2013 at the Fayette Church of Christ. (PF)

Basil Overton

The World Evangelist

Died: February 28, 2013

On February 28, 2013, **Basil Overton** passed away. Brother Overton was connected with International Bible College which later became Heritage Christian University. He was the editor and publisher of *The World Evangelist*, a paper he edited for nearly 32 years.

In the early days of *Magnolia Bible College* and the *Magnolia Messenger* I had the opportunity to visit with Brother Overton. He was always very friendly and was willing to give of his time to help and support others.

One of the famous sayings that so many have mentioned about Brother Overton, was his statement, “*One reason I enjoy my work is that I do not know what I am doing. By that I mean that I have no way of knowing what the long-range results of what I'm doing will be.*” I know this statement has been an encouragement to my father, Al Franks, editor of *The Magnolia Messenger* and to so many other gospel preachers and church leaders. (PF)

Dear Brethren,

The Magnolia Messenger is a breath of fresh air and I enjoy very much receiving it. Thank you. The articles are uplifting, encouraging and informative and help light the Way. Enclosed are names and addresses of those that I hope will benefit from it as I have. God bless your good works. (Marysville, CA)

What Must He Think?

“The Sinner’s Prayer”

Is there any evidence that this prayer has any validity?

response by

- **Tom McLemore** -

In modern times, multitudes seeking salvation have been told, “Pray the sinner’s prayer.” In such a prayer one asks Jesus to come into one’s heart and forgive one’s sins.

Millions have prayed this prayer thinking, “Now that I have asked Jesus to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins, he has entered, I have accepted Jesus as my personal savior, and thus I am saved.”

Is there any real evidence that this prayer has any validity? Where in all of Scripture has anyone been instructed to pray such a prayer, and where in all of holy writ is there one indication that anyone ever made such a request, much less that such a request was honored?

As if that were not serious enough, have people praying this prayer thought of the serious implications of taking such an approach? Why should Jesus do what people ask him to do in this unscriptural request?

Those who make it do not do what Jesus has asked them to do in the scripture, so what obligation does Jesus feel to do what they ask him to do?

It is precisely like saying, “Jesus, I don’t have to do what you command me to do, but you have to do what I ask you to do. I don’t have to believe that salvation comes from doing what you ask me to do, but I can believe that salvation comes from what I ask you to do.”

Can you imagine how Jesus must be feeling when he has to listen to multitudes praying this prayer? Do you suppose he must be thinking, “Why should I do what you ask when you will not do what I commanded? I commanded you to be baptized, and you won’t do it. You ask me to come into your heart, forgive

you of your sins, and save you. Why should I do it?” (This is not to mention how he must regard the ones who know exactly what he said [Mark 16:16] and yet advise their hearers to ignore it and seek salvation simply by asking).

Does Jesus hold his own commandments in such utter scorn as to think, “Well, I know they are absolutely unwilling to do what I commanded, but I will do what they ask anyway. It doesn’t matter that they will not do what I command. All that matters is that I do what they ask?” Could we in our wildest dreams ever conceive of Jesus’ thinking after such a fashion?

What must he be thinking? Likely, he is still of the mind He has always been, and is still saying, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in... Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Revelation 3:10; Luke 6:46, emphasis supplied). That is what he still must be thinking.

Jesus has spoken. He calls people to enjoy the salvation he provides. None need call upon him apart from heeding HIS call. “As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear,” says the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 7:13). Let us think about it.

Tom has served as a Gospel preacher in Selma, Alabama for about twelve years. He used to preach for the church in Ridgeland, MS. Brother McLemore’s address:

Tom McLemore
301 Pinehaardt St
Selma, AL 36701.

VERONA

The Verona Church of Christ plans a Gospel Meeting with **David Jones** as the speaker. The dates are June 21-23, 2013. **Wayne Cox** is the local minister.

The Saviour’s Plan for Salvation (1)

HEAR the Gospel

“How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?” “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:14-17)

Before faith, one must hear; he must hear the word of God.

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 5)

"The Drunkard's Child"

a song

Gene C. Finley, who lives in Star City, Arkansas, wrote to us saying, "There has been quite a bit on television lately about the temperance movement. The W. C. T. U. [Women's Christian Temperance Union] is an international organization of women who believe in personal total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages and who work for the



J. W. Ferrell, Song Writer
1879 - 1973

speaks of the change that alcohol made in the child's father. The words are, "O father, once you loved your child, and we had much to eat. Mother and I were nicely clad; And life -- it seemed so sweet. You never spoke unkindly then, nor dealt an angry blow. O father, dear, 'tis sad to think, that rum has changed you so."

The final stanza in-

cludes a plea coming from the drunkard's child. He begs: "O father, look to God; through faith His love can make you whole; His power can break that appetite, and save your sin-sick soul."

In today's world, we need more and more voices (including **songs**) crying out against drunkenness and the dangers associate with alcohol consumption. The Bible still teaches, "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags" (Prov. 23:21). The scriptures also ask: "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?" Then, the Holy Scripture answers, "They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." (Prov. 23:29,30).

News Note

DENNIS

Ron Deaton has retired as the full time preacher for the Liberty Church of Christ in Dennis, Mississippi. The Liberty congregation extends a warm welcome to their new minister and his wife, **David and Debra Conley**. The congregation had a "Friends and Family Day" and Gospel Meeting March 3-6, 2013. The speaker was **David Conley**, their new minister.

abolition of the alcoholic traffic." Brother Gene continued, "I remember a song which was very popular, 'The Drunkard's Child.' I found it in a song book, New Hossannas. The song was copyrighted in 1904 and was dedicated to the W.C.T.U.

"It was written by brother **J. W. Ferrill** (1879-1973). We are probably all familiar with some of his other songs -- 'A Soul Winner For Jesus' and 'Wonderful City of God', among others.

"He was born in Grosbeck, Texas and spent most of his life in Texas. He taught singing schools

J. W. Ferrell

A Member of the Lord's Church
Author of 40 Songs
including
"A Drunkard's Child"
"Wonderful City of God"
"A Soul Winner For Jesus"

for approximately 30 years and authored about **40 songs**. His last few years were spent in the Park Plaza Nursing Home in Mart, Texas.

"He was very popular there because of his gentle nature, his Christ-like life and his beautiful strong tenor voice. Mrs. L. D. Johnson said of him, 'He is a man of deep religious convictions. As an active member of the church of Christ, he was motivated to put into song that which he held most dear -- 'the love of God for all'."

The song "The Drunkard's Child" contains five verses and begins with the following words: "O father do not ask me, why the tears roll down my cheek; nor think it strange indeed, that I should own a grief or speak. But, O, my grief is very great, My brain is almost wild; It breaks my heart to think that I must be a drunkard's child."

The second verse of the song

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News Note

GREENWOOD

Several weeks ago **Michael Hony**, a member of the church in Greenwood, wrote to the MM saying,

"West President Avenue Church of Christ has a new preacher! Brother **Mark Shiers** will begin the Lord's work in Greenwood, MS beginning in January. We are so blessed and thankful to have him. He is a genuinely loving and caring person. Brother Mark is a very humble, hard-working servant of the Lord."



Mark Shiers

New Preacher at Greenwood
His work began at the West President congregation in January, 2013

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (2)

BELIEVE in Jesus

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

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

11:6)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 8)

GPS

God's

Plan of

Salvation



Artist's Conception of GPS Block II-F Satellite in Earth Orbit

(The above was seen on a church sign.)

GPS

The Global Positioning System (GPS) was developed during the cold war era out of a need for accurate and reliable determination of the position of the U. S. Navy's submarine-launched ballistic missiles and the U. S. Air Force's missiles and strategic bombers. This amazing system was made available for civilian use in 1983 after Korean Air Lines flight 007 was shot down after straying into USSR prohibited airspace. Less accurate navigation systems were in use at the time.

GPS is composed of 24 or more satellites orbiting around the earth along with ground-based monitoring and control stations. Signals received from at least four satellites are used for best accuracy.

GPS has become a widely used tool for military and civilian applications. The aviation industry uses the system for navigation, approaches to airports, landing in bad weather and air traffic control. The system is constantly being upgraded with additional signals being added to increase its capability.

God's "positioning system" positions precious souls for successful navigation through this life and then from earth to paradise and heaven.

Our spiritual position without God is clearly documented in the New Testament book of **Romans** (please read 3:23 and 6:23).

The gospel is God's power to lead us to salvation and eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (1:16). He died for us and all can be saved through Him (5:8). The "G" in GPS might also stand for **gospel**, which means "good news." If you are lost on a road trip, then redirected by your GPS, this is good news. The most valuable news is that lost souls can be saved through the power of Christ's death and resurrection (1:1-4).

The theme of being justified by faith runs throughout Romans (see 5:1). This is our *response* to Divine grace, the process of gaining access into this grace (5:2). This faith

involves trust and is to be confessed (10:10-11). None of these responses are acts of human merit. We gain access (but cannot earn this) by loving, trusting, obedient faith. The inspired writer in Romans maintains that a man is justified on the principle of faith. God's plan for salvation is based on the principle (system) of faith; boasting is excluded (3:27-28).

Repentance is another scriptural expression of faith. God's grace/kindness leads us toward repentance (2:4).

In this system of faith God calls on us to "recalculate" in whatever ways are personally needed. If I am self-seeking and rejecting truth, I must turn in repentance from this evil, which is to be replaced by being God-seeking and seeking His truth (2:8).

Still another demonstration of faith is being buried with Christ and into Him and his death (6:3-4). Read directions given to Paul, the apostle, who wrote Romans (Acts 22:16). Also, he writes in Ephesians about cleansing "by the washing of water through the word." The cleansing power is "his blood" (5:9). Directions to where God washes sins away by the blood take us to the water of baptism (a response of faith and in obedience to God's word).

Very early in Romans the obedience that comes from faith is mentioned (1:5). At the close "that all nations might believe and obey Him" is proclaimed (16:26). There is essential, trusting obedience that comes from faith/belief. This is faith expressed, simply part of being saved by grace through faith.

After burial with Christ, we are raised to live a new life (6:4). Our lives and bodies are to be offered as living sacrifices (12:1). "GPS" calls us to live the rest of our lives in faithful service, righteousness (but not self-righteousness) and repentance (6:12-19).

(This article was co-written by **Allen Dixon** and **Bill Cozart**. Both men are members of the Lord's church in Germantown, TN. They can be reached in care of: Germantown Church of Christ; 8723 Poplar Pike; Germantown, MS 38138. Telephone: 601-754-6472)

Meridian Mother

Shares Her Thoughts About The
Starkville Church of Christ & University Christian Student Center

- April Koch -

There are many concerns as parents get ready to send their children off to college. At the top of that list is the question, "What will happen in my child's spiritual life as they are on their own for the first time?" As parents, we pray we've done our best to instill God's word in their hearts, but we also know they're going to need lots of encouragement.

Mississippi State University began to rise to the top of our daughter's pick of schools so we began to talk to friends about the Starkville church of Christ located just off campus. We learned about the UCSC (University Christian Student Center), made a call to the church office, looked at the website and when the final decision was made to attend MSU, we visited the church on a Sunday before the semester started and made sure they would be looking for her.

The ministry of the Starkville church of Christ and the UCSC provides opportunities for spiritual growth as well as a place to "hang out". Besides the regularly scheduled meeting times of the church, Bible studies, prayer groups, singings, retreats and other activities are planned to encourage young Christians to be together and to invite their friends to come too. The UCSC is open and available anytime students want to be there. They have access to a kitchen, wi-fi, TV, study desks, ping pong and pool tables and lots of other amenities. For some, it becomes a home away from home. The vision of the elders and church leaders to provide a place where young people can be with other Christians, as well as invite others to study and learn about God's plan of salvation, is a blessing to so many.

THANK YOU to the Starkville church and each person who plays a role in providing for the needs of the UCSC and the college "kids" that come to MSU.

If your high schooler is planning to go to college away from home, you are encouraged to be in touch with the church in every city where there is a college of consideration. Choosing a college/university is an important decision and knowing that a Christian family is there, ready and waiting to encourage and make them feel needed and wanted, will not only nourish the mind but also the soul.

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:2-3)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above was written by a concerned and thankful mother who asked that we publish her thoughts in the MM: Her address: **April Koch**; 4225 36th Street; Meridian, MS 39307. April also included contact information for the Student Center at Starkville. Contact:

Perry Jinkerson, Campus Minister/
UCSC Director: perry@ra.msstate.edu



Disciples Asked:

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus Answered,

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child....

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be as a little child. Make me one of your 'little ones'.

(Read Matthew 18:1-6)

MM
Welcomes
Your Suggestions
Your Comments
Your Criticisms
We Really Do!

Thank you for your dedication and hard work getting out the MM. I am always encouraged by it. We continue to keep you in our prayers. Sincerely, (Anthony & Carolyn Williams, Jacksonville, FL)

Thank you for the Magnolia Messenger. I have read it and studied the different writers... messages good! Keep up the good work! Enclosed find a small donation to help continue the Messenger. In His work, (Roy Brooks, Hamilton, AL)

I like your paper...especially the Question Box and I always complete it. (Wayne Crum, Caledonia, OH)

**Do You Have
Family & Friends
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and addresses.**

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The Falling Leaves

- Johnie N. Jenkins -

As I sit by the window, I am struck by the beauty of the golden leaves of the trees this fall. They have finished their course; they have completed the job they were designed by God to do and they float slowly to the ground to be no more. While they were beautiful as they helped the trees to bear an abundant crop of acorns, and other nuts, their beauty in their work is nothing to compare to their beauty as they approach the end of their life.

Their golden colors light up the darkness of the forest. Soon the leaves will fall and the trees will appear to be dead; however, God has prepared the trees not for death, but for a dormant period, a sleep, after which they will once again bring glory to God by budding and bearing fruit. This can be a metaphor for our learning.

Just as the beautiful leaves are worn out in service, they now show their greatest beauty. Just so, the many aging saints in the congregation who have worn themselves out in service to God, are now approaching the autumn of their lives. They will soon fall, asleep in the Lord.

Their beauty in these later days is far greater as they now show the full glory of a life spent in service to God. They light up the darkness of this world with the beauty of their aged lives. They now serve as beacons of light as they finish their course. Like the beautiful autumn leaves, they are beginning to fall. The beauty of their lives remains and they inspire us. Like the tree, they will soon be dormant, asleep

in the Lord. Their body will die, but the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Just as the tree will bud again in the spring, these aged saints will arise in the resurrection.

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so

we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thess. 4:16-17). Matthew 22:32 states, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

Just as we will soon miss the golden leaves of the trees, we will soon miss these saints. Just as we enjoy the beauty of the autumn leaves, let us enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the saints who are in their golden years.

Let us thank God that we have had the privilege of knowing them. Their life is not yet over, their influence is still great, and their light still shines brightly in this world and illuminates the way for the younger who can see in them the beauty of a life well spent in service to God. May their light continue to brighten the path for those who follow. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Psalms 116:15).

Johnie Jenkins, is an elder in the Starkville church. His address: 670 Country Club Rd; Starkville, MS 39759-965 jjenkins@ms.metrocast.net

Reader Responds

Al,

I was reading again the April-June, 2011, issue of MM -- the article by Cecil May on Bible translations. I thank you for running the entire article in one issue. It is very helpful and useful information. I read again the poem by Barbara Ray 'On Losing a Spouse.' I had read it last year shortly after my wife, Diane, passed away and had forgotten to write a thank you note to sister Ray. I wrote her a thank you note tonight.

I am attaching a shepherd's pen article I wrote for the Starkville bulletin this past week. If you find it appropriate you may use it some time in the MM.

Again, thank you for your work and I am praying God's blessing on Paul and Glenda as they make the change and become more involved in MM and on you and June as you also change courses.

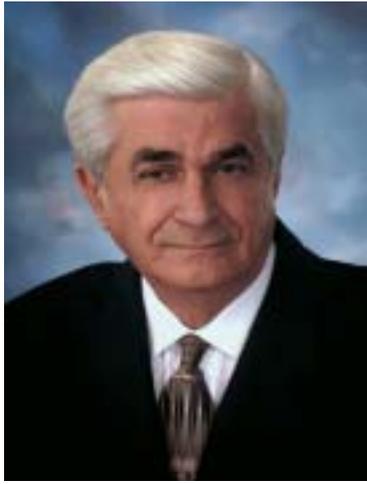
Johnie N. Jenkins

Edward Marion Stevens

Gospel Preacher

(Madison, MS)

Departed Nov. 6, 2012



"Brother Stevens was baptized by L. C. Pope in 1943. He began going with brother Pope to small congregations such as Yazoo City and Ketchum, Mississippi to preach and lead singing."

Long Time Associated With the Capitol Street Church in Jackson

Edward Marion Stevens left these earthly confines on Tuesday, November 6th, 2012 after a lengthy illness. He was born on August 10, 1929, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was baptized by **L.C. Pope** in 1943, and shortly thereafter began going with brother Pope to small congregations such as **Yazoo City** and **Ketchum**, Mississippi to preach and lead singing.

When he was 15 years old, his family moved to Jackson and there he attended the Capitol Street Church of Christ. Brother **Rex Turner** held a meeting at Capitol Street and encouraged him to go to Montgomery Bible College in Alabama.

He married Marilyn Eloise Fulmer on March 18, 1953, and they began their married life in Enterprise, West Virginia. Here Marion established two congregations. In 1955, they moved to Melbourne, Arkansas so he could attend Harding College and from here moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he attended Memphis State.

In 1959, they returned to West Virginia and located with the Blueville Church and worshipped

there for five years. In 1963, they relocated to Parkersburg, West Virginia at the Lynn Street Church and worked there until 1966 when he moved to Sunrise Church.

In 1970, Marion relocated his family to Jackson, Mississippi. Here the family worshiped with the Capitol Street Church and Marion preached in Rolling Fork and Canton. In 1978, the Capitol Street Church asked Marion to help with the work there and he accepted -- having the privilege of ending his work where it first began.

Capitol Street later rebuilt at a new location and was named "Metro Church of Christ." Due to a devastating illness, his wishes were cut short and Marion preached his last sermon on October 27, 1992. Many prayers from all over this country and tender loving care from his wife and family enabled Marion to return to the pulpit he loved and preach and teach until 2004.

Marion leaves behind his beloved wife, Marilyn, three children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. *(Our special thanks to brother Steven's son, Daniel, for sending this report to the MM.)*

One Reason We Are Doing What We are Doing

**Paul & Glenda Franks
Are Now Working with Us!**

A Reader Writes

I am so thankful for you and June. And I seriously pray for God to give you a LOT more years to publish the MM. There is not another such paper in its class. I've lived and worked in other areas and I am familiar with such papers as The Rocky Mountain Christian, et al, but there is none with the depth and breadth and quality that you have in the MM.

The church will suffer greatly when you can no longer put the paper out, so I am praying that when that times comes God will have someone ready who can take it over and do as good a job as you do. But who is out there with as much knowledge of the churches in this region as you have??? So take care of yourself and live a long time, you hear? Cecil May's page is priceless and so I'm praying for him to continue writing for many more years a well. We need voices like yours and his so badly.

Your friend and brother,

Ken Joines

Southaven, Mississippi



Paul and Glenda Franks

Now a part of the MM Team

Readers Say "Welcome"

Welcome to Paul and Glenda as they undertake their work with Magnolia Messenger. (Miriam Styers, New Albany, MS)

Dear Al, Paul, June, Glenda, I pray God's blessings and wish you well in joining together in the work of the "Magnolia Messenger" and spreading the gospel. The paper has very good and needed articles in it... (Rachel Hayes, Valdosta, GA)

So glad you will have Paul and Glenda working with you. Please greet them for us. I always enjoy the paper. God bless you! (Dorothy Wright, Searcy, AR)

"All You Are Brethren"

*Be not called "Rabbi"
Call no man "Father"*

According to the inspired record found in Matthew, the inspired writer of the first New Testament book, recorded the plain and simple teaching of Jesus Christ was said,

"Be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master [teacher] even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

Jesus continued, *"And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ."*

Our Lord concluded this admonition by saying, *"But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."* (Study Matthew 23:1-12)

It is clear, from the instructions of our Lord, that **titles** or words that bestow special honor

upon certain disciples -- *words which are used to elevate one above another* -- are out of place.

Jesus plainly commanded, call no man "Father." Neither be ye called "Masters." Christians have one Father; that is, God. Christians have one Master; that is, Jesus Christ. All who are in God's family are simply **brethren**. Titles that intended to elevate one above another should not be used. So said our Lord. **"For YE are ALL brethren."**

NOTE: To identify or to describe a fellow disciple by stating what he does, or *the work he performs*, is not what is forbidden by our Lord. Neither is Jesus saying that it is wrong or sinful to refer to one's **male earthly** parent as "father". Rather, Jesus is saying that when we think or speak of ourselves in our relationship to God and to one another in the "family" [household of faith] -- **we are all just brethren**. Enough said? (alf)

SIMPLE yet SERIOUS

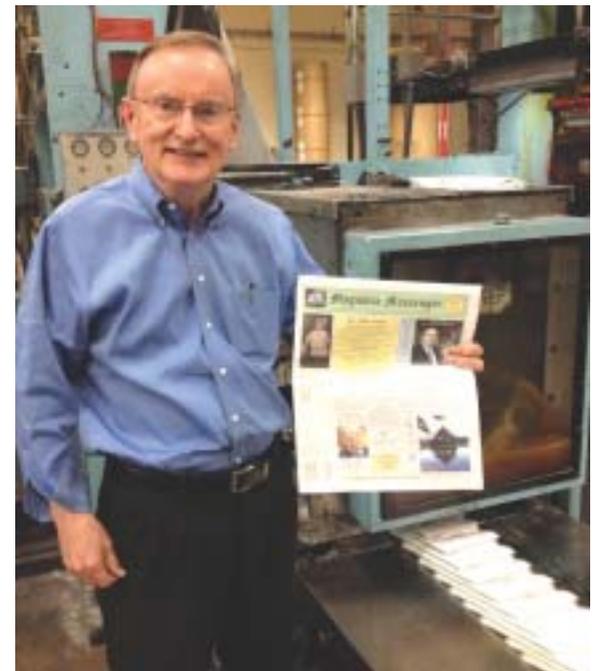
"The Question Box"

(See Page 24)

An Exciting Day... Always,

At the
"BIRTH"
of a
New
Issue
of the
"MM"

Thanks
to each
church
and each
Christian
who helps.



Al Franks, MM editor, holds one of the first copies of a recent issue of the Magnolia Messenger which had just come off the printing presses in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He and all who are closely associated with the Messenger, are grateful to acknowledge that it is **the faithful and generous support** of scores of churches and hundreds of Christians that makes the MM a reality. We thank God and his generous children. May God continue to richly bless our **joint efforts** as we, **together**, seek to "provoke one another unto LOVE and GOOD WORKS."

Magnolia Messenger

Appreciates

Comments and Suggestions

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Watch DIRECTV®

"Getting To Know Your Bible"

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

Billy Lambert
Speaker





Charles W. Leonard Honored for Sixty Years of Preaching

Leonard (left) and Mike Swims

The Danville church of Christ, located in the Biggersville, Mississippi community, hosted a reception on Saturday, February 9, 2013, honoring brother Charles W. Leonard for sixty years of faithfully preaching God's word and working as their preacher for twenty-eight years. The reception also welcomed brother **Mike Swims** as their new full time preacher. Brother Swims will graduate from Memphis School of Preaching June 16th, and then begin his work with the Danville congregation. (Report sent to MM by Phil Leonard)

Magnolia Messenger Expanding

Target: Louisiana

- Paul Franks -

Churches of Christ in Louisiana number around 228 with 24,000 members. Compare that to Mississippi's 380 churches with 43,000 members and you realize that the church is stronger in Mississippi than Louisiana. Also, the population of Louisiana is over a million more than in Mississippi.

My father, Al Franks is from Southwest Louisiana and I lived in that area for the last ten years. We continue to be vitally interested in the future growth of the body of Christ in Louisiana which is also another "Magnolia state." The state *flower* for both Louisiana and Mississippi is the Magnolia.

One way that we believe will edify and help build up the body of Christ is to send the Magnolia Messenger to more people. I was talking to a preacher in Louisiana last week and he told me that the church where he preaches gets one bundle. He requested extra bundles because the members enjoy giving them to their friends and neighbors.

We are sending less than 2000 copies of the paper to individual addresses. We have a

goal to increase that number in the next few months. We also send small bundles of the paper to 67 churches in the state of Louisiana. We want to increase that number too.

Churches can send their church directories and we will add each address to our mailing list. You can also send names and addresses of your friends and family that live in Louisiana or anywhere else and we will be glad to add them to our mailing list.

The Dequincy, LA congregation has made a substantial contribution to enable us to start the process of gathering and adding these addresses. It would be a great blessing and would help with keeping the costs down if, after reading this article, you will encourage your congregation to send in their complete mailing list so we can add their names.

We need other churches and individuals to help us with this goal for **expansion**. If you or your congregation is able, please make a special contribution to the Magnolia Messenger for this effort. Thank you!

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

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (3)

REPENT of Sins

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

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

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 10)

A Good Visit at Oak Grove -- Serving Since 1879

One of the Oldest Churches of Christ in Mississippi

(Report by Paul Franks)

The oak tree is known for its longevity. Maybe that is why so many churches have "oak" attached to their name. The *Oak Grove Church of Christ East of Como, Mississippi* (just south of Memphis) has been worshipping God in the same community since 1879, making it one of the oldest churches of Christ in Mississippi.

As Glenda and I were driving to visit this congregation, I called a telephone number associated with this church and reached **Floy Smith**. I learned that she was a member of the congregation and was pleased to tell me the details concerning the times of services. As we walked into the building we couldn't help but notice the friendliness of the members. Their preacher, **Stefan Dickerson** taught the Bible class with a warmth and passion that was refreshing. I was given the opportunity to lead singing and Stefan preached a powerful sermon on a Christian's inheritance. He must have used over 25 different verses and all of them he quoted from memory.

Stefan made some comments about the Magnolia Messenger that were so encouraging. Stefan told the church that in 1985, during a meeting in Looxahoma, Mississippi, my father, Al Franks, held a gospel meeting and that he and a friend, **Shannon Brewer**, obeyed the gospel and were baptized into Christ. He mentioned that he grew up reading and appreciating the Magnolia Messenger and it seemed everywhere he went he would see a copy of the Messenger.



Stefan Dickerson Standing in Front of The Oak Grove Building

Brian Adkins was the preacher at Looxahoma back then and just happened to be at Oak Grove the same morning we were there. Brian now preaches for the 69 South Church in Columbus. Also, Shannon who was baptized back in 1985, presided over the Lord's Supper.

As we talked to Stefan's wife, **Mary Helen**, we learned that her parents are **Calvin and Pam Seago** of Senatobia, MS where Calvin serves as one of the elders of the church. We enjoyed our visit so much, we are already making plans to return. (Paul Franks)



Stefan & Mary Helen Dickerson

News Note

NEWALBANY

The Church of Christ in New Albany, Mississippi had a "Friends and Family Day" on February 24, 2013. Their attendance goal was 250. The church also has a Gospel Meeting planned for March 17-20, 2013 with **David Lipe** doing the preaching. There will be a meal following the morning service on the 17th, with the evening service beginning at 7:00 P.M. There will be a meal provided each evening Mon-Wed at 5:45, hosted by the adult classes. Everyone is invited. **Mike King** is the local minister.

There is **no subscription price** to receive the Magnolia Messenger. It is supported by volunteer contributions from churches and individuals. We appreciate all who make this work possible. **Thanks again.** (From the Franks and all who read the MM.)



Speaker Teresa Hampton

Teresa Hampton has led ladies' classes and retreats for Christian women across the U.S., Canada, and Scotland. She has written five study books for women. Her secondary passion is her artwork, in particular, patches. Teresa taught kindergartens at Mobile Christian School in Mobile, Alabama, and middle school girls' Bible classes at Georgia Christian School in Valdosta, Georgia. She is married to Gary C. Hampton. They have two children, Nathan and Tabitha.



Phone: 601-372-2551 www.siwellroad.com

Ladies' Day, 2013

March 23, 2013

Siwell Road
Church of Christ
4075 Siwell Road;
Jackson, MS 39212

Registration:
8:30 am to 9:00 am
(Light breakfast will be served)

9:00 A.M. to Noon
Lunch: Noon

Please RSVP to:
Mary Clemons at
601-372-2551

Another "Drop-in Visit" Sunday Morning at Siwell Road in Jackson

"The Lord Has a Dream"

- Report by Paul Franks -

Gary Hampton, the new pulpit minister for the Siwell Road congregation, preached a message entitled, "The Lord Has a Dream" on February 10, 2013. More about the message in a moment.



Gary Hampton and his wife, Teresa

As we walked up to an impressive building in southwest Jackson on Siwell Road, the door opened and Latasha and Ronald Baker welcomed us into the church building. They greeted us warmly, gave us a handout and wanted to know if they could be of service to us. They had been living in McComb, MS and had recently moved to the area.



Latasha and Ronald Baker

As I was walking into the auditorium, I couldn't help but notice on the bulletin board how this congregation uses the internet through Facebook and Twitter to stay in touch with each other in the church.



Brother Gary's sermon had two points that made me think of

my new work with the Magnolia Messenger. He said, "The Lord expects the church to have a "world vision." Gary mentioned that the vision begins at home. He said, "Start where you are!"

My father, Al Franks, for the last 34 years of printing the Magnolia Messenger, has been a missionary on behalf of the Lord's church in Mississippi and surrounding states. He has led in the planting of some new congregations and sought to assist several weak, struggling churches. I am excited about coming home and helping in this worthy work.

I also learned of the interest Siwell Road has in foreign mission

work in that they are helping many different good works. One such mission, dear to my heart, is the body of Christ in Vilnius, Lithuania. For the last 15 years, I have had the opportunity to be involved with a Christian youth camp in Lithuania. Both of the ministers who preach in Vilnius, attended the camp when they were younger. Their experience at camp was one of the things that lead them to Christ.

Gary's second point was the Lord expected His church to be "overflowing with brotherly love." I couldn't help but think of the theme for the Magnolia Messenger over these past 34 years, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works." (Hebrews 10: 24) The Magnolia Messenger is a not a "gossip" or "fault seeking/finding" publication. The goal of this paper is to provoke us to more love and to be involved in as many good works as possible. It is hard to love and be involved in good works that you know nothing about.

Glenda and I felt an "overflowing of love" from the members of the Siwell congregation that morning. We

were invited **at least** a dozen times to eat with a group that was meeting and eating at the building after the services. On the handout given to us, there were 33 names of people who were involved in some way with the services that morning. My good friend, **Ron Clemons** did a great



Virgil Parish & grandson, Josh Hester

job leading the singing and it was wonderful to see **Harry Barkley** helping to wait on the Lord's Table.

After the services, I got to visit with Virgil Parish who informed me that five generations of his family attend the Siwell congregation. I also was given a sucker from the "Sucker Man", **Terril Morris**, who gives out candy -- mainly to people younger than me every Sunday after services.



Terril Morris

At the luncheon I visited with **Judy Walker** and **Alice King**. They were excited to talk about their *Sojourner Mission* trips they are planning -- soon to work at Sunnybrook, at the headquarters



Judy Walker & Alice King

of the Sojourners at Camp Bee and on to the state of Washington to work with a Christian Youth camp.

As we were getting ready to leave, I noticed some young people still in the auditorium.

See **SIWELL** on page 19

15th Annual MM RV Rally

April 22 - 25, 2013

at beautiful

Lake Tiak-O'-Khata in Louisville, MS

Mark your calendars for April 22-25, 2013 for the **15th Annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally**. The rally will be held again this year at Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata near Louisville, Ms. We have reserved all of the RV sites and several hotel rooms and even some cabins. You can call the resort at 1-888-845-6151 (662-773-7853) and mention you are with the MM RV Rally. There is a limited number so please call today and make your reservations.

Bill Lambert, retired professor from Harding University and well known in Mississippi will be our resource speaker. The theme is "**Amazing Grace**". **Ray Franks** will be conducting our annual auction again this year. Also, our annual Magnolia Messenger Appreciation

Supper will be held Thursday night at the end of the rally. We hope to have a huge crowd at this event.

Quality fellowship, wonderful lessons from God's word, being able to support a great work like the Messenger and super food are all good reasons why you need to make plans to attend this year's rally. Remember, you don't have to have an RV to attend. We have several who come every year who have never owned any kind of RV and we have all ages who attend the rallies.

If you have any questions or if I can be of help to you please send me an email or call. My email address is apaulfranks@gmail.com and my phone number is 662-792-2700. See you in Louisville, Mississippi at the end of April.

Tentative Schedule



Bill Lambert
Resource Speaker
Theme:
"Amazing Grace"

Monday—April 22

5:00 PM—Arrive at Park
6:00 PM – Fish Fry at the campground
7:00 PM—Singing

Tuesday—April 23

9:00 AM— Get acquainted devotional
10:30 — Break
10:45 AM—Bill Lambert Lesson # 1
12:00—Potluck Lunch (Everyone bring their favorite dish)
1:00—Free time (games, activities, etc.)
5:00 —Leftovers from Potluck—
6:00 PM -- Magnolia Messenger Auction
(Ray Franks and Associates)

Wednesday—April 24

9:00 AM —Devotional—Kenneth Jarrett
9:30 AM— Bill Lambert Lesson # 2
10:30 AM—Break
10:45 AM—Bill Lambert Lesson # 3
12:00 NOON—Lunch on your own
1:00 PM—Free time (games, activities, etc.)
5:00 PM Supper at campground (Hamburgers/Hotdogs)
6:00 PM Special Service campground—Bill Lambert

Thursday—April 25

9:00 - AM—Devotional –Ray Franks
9:30 - AM—Bill Lambert Lesson # 4
10:30 - AM—Break
10:45 AM—Questions and Answers
(Bill Lambert and Al Franks)
12:00 -Noon—Lunch on your own
1:00 - Free Time
6:00 PM -- **Magnolia Messenger Appreciation Supper**

Huntsville Church (Near French Camp, MS) Hosts Russian Acappella Ensemble



"Psalom" -- Spiritual Music Ensemble from Russia

On Friday night, January 18, 2013, **Nathan Wright**, preacher for the Huntsville church of Christ in Central Mississippi, welcomed an "almost packed" house to what many of us who were present will recall as an "evening to be remembered."

Nathan warmly welcomed everyone. Present were visitors from the community and several area churches of Christ. I noted visitors from Ackerman, Winona, Eupora and Kosciusko. The preacher then said that sometimes, in Scripture, followers of Christ are spoken of as "peculiar people." He added that when Jesus came into the world about 2,000 years ago, He was, no doubt, considered by many as "peculiar."

For instance, Nathan said that although Jesus came into a world where instrumental music was commonly used in worship, He did not -- neither through His example or teaching -- ever influence His followers to use mechanical instruments in worship to God.

Nathan called attention to specific New Testament instructions which teach that His disciples are to "worship God in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). He mentioned the command recorded in Ephesians 5 which states, "...speaking one to another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" (verse 19). The preacher also quoted from Hebrews where worshippers are admonished, "...let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

As the very capable country preacher named Nathan introduced the singing group from Russia, he used a word that has

become more and more common. That word is "acappella" which means "singing without instrumental accompaniment." Nathan added that the expression "acappella" literally means singing according to the style (manner) of the chapel (church).

Brother Wright pointed out that from the time of the first century church, until only about 200 years ago, the usual style or manner of music in the church was "acappella"; that is, without instrumental accompaniment." Nathan commented that although many today may consider acappella music "strange or peculiar", it hasn't always been so considered.

After his meaningful introductory remarks, Huntsville's gifted preacher then officially introduced the talented singers from Russia known as "Psalom" who, "after the manner of the church," sang several songs with words which had been lifted directly from Scripture. The text of the songs were taken from the Old Testament (especially Psalms) and from the New Testament.

As those of us who were blessed to be in attendance, listened to the Russian singers, we were reminded anew of just how beautiful the blending of human voices (male and female) can be when singing praises to our Almighty God and Heavenly Father. It was also very evident that the Russian group, in humility, were sincerely pouring out their hearts in worship in their singing of beautiful "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs."

That Friday night at Huntsville, we were again reminded of God's guidance for Christians in the important matter of acceptable worship. Without a doubt, only vocal music is authorized

See Acappella on Page 19

Magnolia Messenger Readers' Response

Connelle and I look forward to getting the Messenger. Its news helps us keep up with the brethren we got to know while living in MS for 16 years. Thanks! (Richard L. Peace, Paris, TX)

I always enjoy the Messenger so much! Keep up the good work! Thanks! (Peggy Engel, Tupelo, MS)

Mr. Franks,

Recently I received a copy of the Magnolia Messenger. I don't know how you got my name, but I sure have enjoyed reading the publication and hope to continue receiving it. Also, my brother would appreciate being included on your list of readers. Enclosed is a small token of appreciation to help in any way. Thank you so much, (Jimmy Robinson, Athens, AL)

To Messenger,

We all here enjoy reading the Question Box. Thank you for the lesson. May God bless you all. (Rogersville church of Christ, Rogersville, AL)

Enjoy the paper very much. I work the Bible Quiz even tho I don't mail it in any longer. Just don't want to cut up the paper as I give it to others. (Peggy Cooper, Cookeville, TN)

Enjoy the MM. Since I compile the church bulletin here I occasionally use an article from the MM. I am a member of the Church of Christ in Chester. Keep up the good work and God bless... (Judith Riffle, Chester, WV)

Dear Brethren,

Enjoy the paper very much, and I wish that I was able to send more help in publishing it. Thank you for all that you do in glorifying our Father in Heaven and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In His Name, (Sue McDaniel, Eddy, Texas)

Dear Editor,

We do so very much enjoy the MM... We attend the Ripon Church of Christ in Ripon, CA. Cecil May visited us a few years back. What a great time we had. Caleb O'Hara is our preacher. A fine young man. (Mrs. Gaylan C. Cleveland, Tracy, CA)

May God continue to bless you and Paul in your efforts to continue the Messenger. (Dorothy & Chuck Henderson, Rolling Fork, MS)

Thanks for all your work with the Messenger. It is good to receive the news of all the churches as well as the good articles. (John Purdy, Coffeeville, MS)

I pray that the Franks family and Magnolia Messenger have the greatest year ever for 2013. In Christian Love, (Billy Byrnes, Carlisle, MS)

**MM Welcomes
Your Suggestions
Your Comments
Your Criticisms
We Really Do!**

The Power of an Invitation

A Story About
Glen L. McCullough
Tupelo, Mississippi

Brother Glenn L. McCullough was in the dairy business near Tupelo, Mississippi. Mr. A.D. Prince was a salesman from Memphis who regularly called on him for needed supplies.

One day, Mr. Prince arrived at brother McCullough's farm rather late in the afternoon. He was told he would have to come back the next day because there was a Gospel meeting at the Gloster Street church of Christ that night and he was getting ready to attend. Mr. Prince said that was fine and agreed to come back the next day.

As he was leaving, brother McCullough thought, "I should ask him to attend our Gospel meeting." He invited the salesman to stay for supper and attend the Gospel meeting. Mr. Prince agreed

and not only attended that night, but attended three nights of the Gospel meeting conducted by Jack Meyer. Even though he learned what to do to become a Christian, he did not obey the Gospel during his visits.

A few months later, Mr. Prince was given a new job and did not come back to Tupelo to call on brother McCullough. Years passed by and one day brother McCullough saw a newspaper story about A.D. Prince III, who was a student at a Christian college.

He made a few phone calls and found out Mr. Prince had received another invitation to attend a tent meeting in Memphis, which was a few blocks from where he worked. He attended the Gospel meeting and obeyed the Gospel the first night. Later, he became an elder in the church and the student honored at the Christian college was his grandson.

Years later, both brother McCullough and brother Prince learned they had a terminal disease and were given just a few months to live. As time drew near for both men, brother Prince had his sister to drive him from his home in Arkansas to brother McCullough's home in Tupelo to pay one final visit and to say, "I want to thank you for inviting me to the Gospel meeting that night. If it had not been for your invitation, I probably would never have heard the Gospel and become a Christian. It was your invitation that made it possible for my family, my grandchildren, and me to become Christians. I will be forever grateful. Thank you."

It was your invitation that made it possible for my family, my grandchildren, and me to become Christians. I will be forever grateful. Thank you.

What would have happened to the Prince family if brother McCullough had said, "My conscience

says I ought to invite this salesman to the Gospel meeting, but I know it won't do any good?"

The Bible says, "Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage" (Mat 22:9). Gospel meetings are not out-of-date; neither is inviting the lost to hear the preaching of the Gospel. —

(Editor's Note: This article showing the power of an invitation was copied by us from the church bulletin of the Rocky Creek congregation in Lucedale, Mississippi. Rocky Creek had, in turn, picked it up from another bulletin known as "The Leonard Street Light." Further confirmation of details was made by MM editor through conversations with **Joe Connell**, long time preacher in Tupelo and Glen McCullough's daughter-in-law, **Lanier McCullough**, also of Tupelo.)

Everyone Can Invite Someone

Thank You For Reading the Magnolia Messenger.

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (4)

BE BAPTIZED into Christ

"He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." (Acts 10:48)

"...arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 14)

Esteem Others

Philippians 2:1-11

- Eddie Lewis -

A famous comic strip character said, "I love mankind, its people I can't stand." People can rob us of our joy. For Paul, he faced problems from two groups, some at Rome and some at Philippi. When Epaphroditus brought the generous gift to Paul from the church at Philippi, he brought the good news of their concern and the bad news of division in the church family. There was a double threat to their unity, false teachers from without (3:1-3) and the disagreement between two sisters in the church (4:1-3).

Paul knew that there was a difference between unity and uniformity. True spiritual unity comes from within; it's a matter of the heart. Uniformity is the result of pressure from without. So he appeals to the highest form of spiritual motivation—their relationship to Christ. He tells them in a gracious way that their disagreements reveal a spiritual problem in their fellowship.

Paul tells them the basic cause for this problem is selfishness! And the basic cause for selfishness is pride. There is no joy in the life of the Christian that puts himself above all others. The secret of joy in spite of circumstances is a mind focused on Christ. The secret of joy in spite of people is the submissive mind. The key is verse three: "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves."

Humility is when a person knows and accepts himself (Romans 12:3). He yields his will to Christ as a servant, to use what he is and what he has for the glory of God. We become servants for Christ's sake. Paul gives four examples of this submissive mind in chapter 2. I want to look at the example of Christ in verses 1-11. There are four characteristics of the submissive mind seen in Christ.

1. Christ always thinks of others and not himself (v. 5-6). We are to have the same "attitude" as Christ (v. 5). After all "outlook determines outcome." If the outlook is selfish, the actions will be divisive and destructive (James 4:1-10).

Paul is talking about eternity past. Jesus was in the "form of God." Since God is a spirit (John



Eddie Lewis

4:24), Jesus is spirit. The word form is not talking about shape or size, but His inward nature. Jesus is God.

Also Paul said that Christ is "equal to God." Other verses support this statement (John 1:1-4). As God, Jesus certainly didn't need anything. All the glory and praise of heaven is His.

Verse six makes an amazing statement about Jesus. He did not think His equality with God "something selfish to hold on to." Jesus did not think of Himself; His thoughts were of others. He could not use His privileges for Himself. He used them for others so we might be saved for eternity. We are to have that same attitude.

In the New Testament there are 20 "one another" passages that talk about our relationship to one another. Christians that have experienced the love and fellowship of Christ cannot be selfish.

2. He serves (v. 7). Thinking of others in an abstract way is of no value, we must get down to the nitty-gritty of true service. Paul traces the steps that Jesus took to become a servant.

* He emptied Himself, laying aside His attributes as God.

* He became flesh and blood; He lived in a sinless body.

* He used that body as a servant.

* He took that body to the cross. He willingly died on the cross.

That is grace. When Jesus served man it wasn't an act. He really served man. In the gospels over and over again we see Jesus serving others. "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for all" (Matthew 20:28).

In the upper room Jesus' disciples refused to serve each

other (John 13). Jesus arose from the table and laid aside His robe and put a towel about His waist. He began to wash the disciple's feet. When He finished, He commanded them to do the same thing for each other. That is the submissive mind.

3. He sacrificed (v. 8). Many are willing to serve, if it doesn't cost them anything. But if there is a price to pay, forget it! J.H. Jowett said, "Ministry that costs nothing, accomplishes nothing." I think he is right. The submissive mind lives for the glory of God and the good of others and if it cost, he is willing to pay the price.

John Dobbs told of a teen church group in Nashville that decided to get coats for 500 children in their school system. They did all kinds of work projects to get the money to buy the coats and gave them to the children. One boy sold his bike to give money to the cause. That is the heart of a servant who understands that sometimes sacrifice is required.

4. He glorified God (v. 9-11). Of course, the goal of all we do as Christians is to glorify God. Paul warns about vain glory. That is the kind of rivalry that pits one Christian against another. Jesus humbled himself and God exalted Him. We are to live for others. We expect sacrifice and service, but in the end we know that God will exalt us. Peter said, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

We remember many great biblical examples, like Joseph and David that suffered and sacrificed for God. In the end, God exalts them to positions of honor and glory, because they had been faithful to Him. God will do the same today for those who are willing to submit their will to the Father.

Eddie Lewis, Olive Branch, MS,
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Challenge to Parents

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



MM Reader Makes Request Encouraging Christians to Pray for Our Country

Hi Al and June.

My name is Richard Sortore from Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. David Barton, a web page designer from Gatlinburg Church of Christ, and I have a web page, to ask all Christians to join our effort to get Christians praying, around the clock, 7 days a week, for our great country. Please check out our web site and join us in prayer. We would like you to put it in the Magnolia Messenger after you check it out and you approve. Thanks. Richard Sortore <http://www.prayfourcountry.net>

Thank you for all the good sound reading in this paper. Our prayers are with you in this transition. (Eugene & Peggy Harrison, Vernon, AL)

I enjoy the "Magnolia Messenger" very much. The Question Box is good. I am happy you plan to continue it. In Christ, (Evelyn Faulkenburry, Clovis, NM)

Answers: Last Issue -- "The Question Box"

Great Lessons From Small Books

Four One Chapter Books; Philemon, 2 & 3 John and Jude

Persons Named in the Books

In the space following each name, write the name of the book where the person is mentioned. Then, underline either "F" or "U" to indicate whether the mention was "Favorable" or "Unfavorable."

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Aristarchus Philemon (F or U) | 6. Onesimus Philemon (F or U) |
| 2. Michael Jude (F or U) | 7. Demetrius 3 John (F or U) |
| 3. Diotrophes 3 John (F or U) | 8. James Jude (F or U) |
| 4. Archippus Philemon (F or U) | 9. Balaam Jude (F or U) |
| 5. Gaius 3 John (F or U) | 10. Demas Philemon (F or U) |

True or False (reference)

- T 1. The phrase "paper and ink" is found in only 1 of the 4 epistles. (**2 John**)
True 2. "Face to face" appears in two of the four books. (**2 & 3 John**)
True 3. Enoch was the 7th generation from Adam, the first man. (**Jude**)
True 4. The "error of Balaam" involved greed for earthly reward. (**Jude**)
True 5. One of the four books mentions no human by name. (**2 John**)
True 6. God destroyed Sodom because of sexual sins. (**Jude 7**)

Supply the Missing Words

Find each of the following quotations selected from the four books, fill in the missing words and write the reference where each is found.

- "... it was **NEEDFUL** to **WRITE** unto you, and **EXHORT** you that you should **EARNESTLY** contend for the **FAITH** which was **ONCE** delivered unto the **SAINTS**." (**JUDE 3**)
- "Whosoever **TRANSGRESSETH**, and **ABIDETH** not in the **DOCTRINE** of **CHRIST** hath not **GOD**..." (**2 JOHN 9**)
- "... for I **TRUST** that through your **PRAYERS** I shall be **GIVEN** unto **YOU**." (**PHILE. 22**)
- "I have no **GREATER** joy than to **HEAR** that my **CHILDREN** walk in **TRUTH**." (**3 JOHN 4**)

In Which of the Four Books

- Is Each of the Following?
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1. "Paul the aged" | Philemon | Locate the most "ungodly verse" to be found in the four one chapter books. (Note: The word "ungodly" appears four times in one verse. The reference to the "most ungodly verse" is JUDE ; verse: 15) |
| 2. "church in thy house" | Philemon | |
| 3. "anti-christ" | 2 John | |
| 4. "elect sister" | 2 John | |
| 5. "do more than I say" | Philemon | |

Study & Answer "The Question Box" on Page 24

Deeper Into LOVE and STEADFASTNESS

- John Gardner -

“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ” (2 Thess. 3: 5, English Standard Version)

First and Second Thessalonians are two of Paul’s earliest letters, written to a young church that had begun well and was maturing (1 Thess. 1: 2, 3; 2 Thess. 1: 3, 4). But the persecutions and problems assailing their faith were not going away. Attacks from unbelieving Jews (1 Thess. 2: 14 – 16), the testing of moral soundness (1 Thess. 4:1–8) and doctrinal questionings (1 Thess. 4: 13 – 5: 11; 2 Thess. 2:1–12) were putting extreme pressure on the young body of believers.

Within both letters are the words *“May the Lord”* (or similar words) which indicate that Paul prayed to God for Him to work mightily in the lives of the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 3:11–13; 5: 23, 24; 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17; 3: 5, 16). These “mini prayers” may not strike us as prayers at all, but just desires for the young Christians at Thessalonica. However, bringing God into the picture as the One who alone can effectively bring about the changes desired clearly shows that Paul was seeking His involvement.

Paul’s expressed desire that the Lord “direct” the hearts of the Thessalonians “to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ” is interesting. Surely they already knew the love of God and were standing fast in Christ. Their faith that provided steadfastness and their love for God and His people (1 Thess. 3: 6) was evident to Timothy when he visited them. But the saints in persecution-riddled Thessalonica needed more of what they already had.

“The love of God” in our passage refers to a deeper love for God than the Thessalonians had yet known. The path to that love would be a deeper understanding of how much God loved them. “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4: 19). Our love for Him and our love for our fellowman is based on the prior love of God. “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4: 10).

In response to His love for us, we are almost bound to love Him



John Gardner

more and more until it captures our whole being (Matt. 22: 37). Almost bound to, but not quite. Satan would dull our hearts so that we are satisfied with a lesser love rather than a robust one that compels us to keep the commandments of God’s Beloved Son (John 14: 15).

Love makes the keeping of God’s commandments a joy, not a burden that drags down the soul. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5: 3). The one looking to God only out of duty or fear will find the way of Christ burdensome, especially when there are sacrifices to be made and suffering to endure. But the one who responds to the unfathomable love of the God who is love will count every sacrifice a blessing and every occasion of suffering a time to rejoice (Luke 6: 22, 23).

But Paul also prayed that God would direct the hearts of the young Thessalonian Christians “to the steadfastness of Christ” (2 Thess. 3: 5). Jesus modeled the race of endurance or steadfastness that every Christian must run (Heb. 12: 1). “Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12: 2). He is out before us, encouraging us to keep on running and not to quit. Our faith is built on Christ and He will bring it to perfection (completion) if we stick with Him.

The Thessalonians were already enduring a lot, but more trials were on the way. They needed a deeper understanding of Christ’s personal steadfastness so they could commit to a more unshakable endurance of

their own. What they needed, we need.

What will twenty-first century Christians be called upon to endure before the century runs its course? No one but the Lord knows for sure. But given the driving forces of this world that are exercising more and more ungodliness, it is a sure thing that those of us who would follow Jesus must have more and more of his steadfastness or we will not be faithful to the end. The command to “Be faithful unto death” (Rev. 2: 10) may take on its original meaning of martyrdom for many more saints of this age than was true in the recent past.

May Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians be our prayer for ourselves. May we entreat the Lord to direct us all into a deeper appreciation of and commitment to the love of God and into an unshakable steadfastness to Christ that is based on his perfect example.

John Gardner

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(Columbia, MS)

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Magnolia Messenger

Memorials & Tributes

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

In Memory Of

MAYBELLE MCBRIDE
TROY STREET
Thomas McBride
(Ripley, MS)

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Mildred Jackson
(Hohenwald, TN)

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Suggestions for Contributors

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

Thank You

Please: Send Your Gifts To:
Magnolia Messenger
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

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

Greenwood Church Hosts “Delta Enrichment Seminar”



Tim McCarter



Harold Redd



Michael Bates

Saturday, January 26, 2013, turned out to be another “Blessed Day” for my June and me. We were privileged to make the drive from Kosciusko to Greenwood where we assembled with brethren from several area congregations. All had come together at the facilities of the West President Street church to be “enriched” by an annual seminar hosted by delta churches of Christ.

The theme of the series for 2013 was “*Allowing God to Answer Our Challenges*.” Following an early morning time of warm fellowship, the seminar was kicked off by **Tim McCarter** of the Cleveland church who addressed “*The Challenges of Worldliness in Our Lives*.” This was followed by **Harold Redd** of the Midtown church in Memphis who spoke on “*Challenges in the Church*.”

With a short break between each session, the third speaker was **Michael Bates** of the Batesville church who spoke on “*Challenges in the Family*.” Then, for the fourth and closing message of the day, Harold Redd came back to the pulpit and delivered his second lesson entitled, “*Challenges of Faith and Commitment*.”

Without a doubt, all three speakers/preachers presented excellent lessons as they effectively called upon all to meet the real world challenges by allowing God’s word to provide the needed answers.

To give an example of the benefits of the powerful presentations, I call attention to the first of the two lessons presented by brother Redd -- “Challenges in the Church.” He used as his text 2 Chronicles 34. This chapter relates the story of how “the book of the law of the Lord” was found as the “house of the Lord” was undergoing repairs from years of nonuse and neglect.

With the skill that comes through years of study and ex-

perience, the Memphis preacher noted four things that helped the kingdom of Judah face the challenges of their day. All points involved the influence of the book of the law of the Lord.” Here are his points: (1) they READ the book; (2) they RESPECTED the book; (3) they RESPONDED to the book; and, (4) they REVERED the God of the Book.

The preacher went on to say that the four responses made by Judah, back then, brought great

blessings to the people of God; and, similar responses by those who would please God, today, will also bring great blessings.

All four powerful lessons were informative and edifying. The warm fellowship was genuine and meaningful. So thankful that my June and I were privileged to enjoy another “blessed day” by visiting our brothers and sisters who came together in Greenwood to be *enriched* and left without being disappointed. (Editor)

Gospel Meeting

June 9 - 12, 2013

(Sunday through Wednesday)

with evangelist

Harold Redd

(Midtown Church in Memphis)

Tipton Street

Church of Christ

Kosciusko, Mississippi

Don Woods, local evangelist

(631-439-3772)

Please Tell Others About the Magnolia Messenger

Prom Alternative Retreat

An Encouraging Announcement

(Seen in a church bulletin from Montgomery, Alabama)

“Prom Alternative Retreat will be April 5-7... This is a Montgomery Area Wide event and will include a nice banquet, beach day, Adventure Island, nightly activities, devo. singing, etc. This will be an exciting and spiritual uplifting event. Sign up ASAP!”

Editor’s Note: “Refreshing.” “Worthy of imitation.” May God bless our young people and their parents as they “dare to be different” in order to honor and to please the One whose name we are all blessed to wear; that is, the name “*Christian*”. (alf)

Now You Take It From There....

- by -

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



The Sweet Perfume of Home

Someone has written: “Home is the place where you are always welcome when no one else wants you”!

Jesus had a home-away-from-Home, at Bethany about two miles east of Jerusalem near the Jericho Road. When no one else wanted Him, He went to the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, where He was afforded the comforts of home.

The Bible records several events that took place there – one in particular: “So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving...Mary took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume” (John 12:2,3).

All of us, who enjoyed even the semblance of home, can stroll down memory lane and breathe the fragrance of belonging where others care. How pleasant to recapture this hallowed sanctuary of molding us for what we are today.

Please indulge me for this personal experience. Recently I visited our old home place in south central Arkansas and recaptured many pleasant memories. I climbed the steps to the front porch and slowly entered the house where I grew from toddler to adulthood – the house was filled with the fragrance of childhood memories. There were special places of reverence in that old house. The fireplace, where the entire family would sit in the evening, share experiences of the day, do homework, sing hymns and pray. Then the dining table, where we enjoyed luscious meals prepared by our Mother and sisters. No boisterous or idle behavior was tolerated here – throwing food was a “Federal Offense” with expulsion from the table and proper correctional measures followed. And the front porch; with rocking chairs and a swing, where countless hours of sharing, playing and serious moments were enjoyed.

On the outside we worked under biblical mandate: “Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl. 9:10), and ... “Labor, performing with your hands what is good” (Eph, 4:28).

This visit is probably the last time I will view that old house, but if I live and remain mobile, perhaps I can return and stand where it once stood, to recapture more childhood memories. Remember: “Home is the place where you are always welcome when no one else wants you”. All of us need to cherish the sweet perfume of home!

Now, you take it from there!

Magnolia Messenger

“Mississippi’s GOOD NEWS Newspaper”

Circulation: 24,000 & Expanding!

Help Comes To Hattiesburg After Tornado Hit



Kensington Woods Church
"A Beehive of Activity"

Scores of volunteers from across the Magnolia State and beyond have already been to this area to help.

He was supposedly enjoying the good life, retired, living in a condo in Florida. But **Mike Baumgartner**, in 2008, responded to an opportunity to help with a disaster in Louisiana and his life has never been the same.

Since then, he along with hundreds of other Christians have established a Disaster Assistance



Tremendous Damage But No Lives Lost!

weeks, he has been in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to assist the Kensington Woods church after a devastating tornado struck this city and surrounding areas on February 10, 2013. The number of meals served has gone over 12,000 meals. I had the opportunity to go out one morning with two of Kensington Woods members, and deliver meals. The concrete slab



Ken Edgar and Ken Brown by Concrete Slab: (all that was left of a woman's house hit while she was asleep inside. She was unharmed!)

where the two **Kens** are standing (above) is all that is left of an elderly woman's house. She was asleep in her bed and the tornado took her house and left her unharmed. There was tremendous damage all around, but thankfully no one lost their life. I found **Jessie Pope**; Kensington's deacon over disaster relief, at the building busy passing out supplies to people coming by. It was a



Jessie Pope, KW Deacon (over disaster relief)

already been to this area to help. It is truly a blessing to assist others in need. (Report by Paul Franks)



Mike Benson, Pulpit Minister For KW congregation and Mike Baumgartner

Ministry where he is prepared -- with a mobile kitchen and all of the supplies -- to show up the day after a disaster to help a congregation minister to those in need.

He has traveled from New York to Colorado, and for the last several

weeks, he has been in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to assist the Kensington Woods church after a devastating tornado struck this city and surrounding areas on February 10, 2013. The number of meals served has gone over 12,000 meals. I had the opportunity to go out one morning with two of Kensington Woods members, and deliver meals. The concrete slab

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(Jake, Jessica & Eliana Grace)

Hance Family Enhanced by Adoption

Jake Hance is the Youth and Family Minister for the Enterprise Blvd Church of Christ where I served as pulpit preacher for almost 10 years. Jake and his wife, Jessica, have wanted children but had been unsuccessful. They began to think of adoption and called an agency to discuss the legal issues concerning adoption.

This agency, just a few days ago, called Jessica and told her they had a birth mother and she had rejected all of the other profiles. The mother had chosen Jake and Jessica, but there was a problem. The agency needed \$32,250 within 72 hours after the baby's birth.

Jake and Jessica decided to build a Facebook page. Just three days after the page, "Help Jake & Jessica Adopt," was created, the couple reached their goal.

Jake said, "There's no other explanation for it, but God's hands are totally on this. A few days ago, we were ready to throw in the towel and a few days later, God met the need." The new baby is named Eliana Grace Hance. (Report by Paul Franks)

Wonder Why These Records Were Written

**People DISOBEYED;
People DESTROYED!**

Nadad & Abihu
(Leviticus 10:1-2)

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

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

Korah

(Numbers 16: 31-33)

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

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

Uzzah

(2 Samuel 6: 6-9)

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

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

Examples: Book of Jude

(a) Israelites

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

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

(b) Angels

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

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

(c) Sodom & Gomorra

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

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

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

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

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

THE INSPIRED ANSWER: 1 Cor. 10:6 -- "Now these things were **our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted... Now all these things happened unto them for **ensamples** and **they are written for our admonition** upon whom the ends of the world are come."

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

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

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

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

(Compiled by alf)

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (5)

BE FAITHFUL to the Lord

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

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

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

(PLEA: Turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in obedient faith)

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

The Message of The Empty Chair

One of our favorite restaurants in Kosciusko is known as "The Place For Fish." For lunch each day, the Carters (owners) prepare a good variety of "home cooked" vegetables, several choices of meats with salads and desserts. Called the "Fish Place", it is only on Wednesday that they offer fish for lunch. However, the restaurant lives up to its name on Thursday through Saturday evenings with "all you can eat" fish and seafood.

In a recent visit at lunch time, my June and I couldn't help but notice an empty chair which is **almost always** occupied by the same person -- a lady we know as "Ms Melba". (She comes early and stays late.) But, today, her chair was empty. Immediately we knew that something was not just right -- not normal. She was either out of town or sick or whatever. So, we asked, "Where is Ms Melba?" We were informed that she was ill and unable to come for lunch.



that something was not just right -- not normal. She was either out of town or sick or whatever. So, we asked, "Where is Ms Melba?" We were informed that she was ill and unable to come for lunch.

Ms Melba's empty seat in the restaurant reminded us of some of the empty seats (pews) in our church build-

ings which are **almost always** occupied by the same faithful members. And, when their pew is empty, we know something is not normal. The person is either out of town, sick or whatever. Thank the Good Lord for all such faithful, dependable members!

The empty seat in the restaurant and the empty pew is the church building encourages me to ask about **your** faithfulness in church attendance. Do you attend regularly? When you are not present, are you missed? Does your absence from church prompt others to ask "Where is (your name)?" Are you regular enough to be missed? Remember, Scripture admonishes, "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (Heb. 10:25). Does your church attendance indicate a strong faith in Jesus and great love for His Cause, His church? Our earnest plea is that you attend church services so faithfully that when your pew is empty, many will notice and ask, "Where is (Your Name)?" (Editor)

Ladies' Day

I-20 Church in Vicksburg
Saturday, May 4, 2013

Speaker

Jane Maynard

Theme

"Women of God in a Changing World"

8:30 --Registration

9:00 -- Worship and Lessons

11:15 -- Lunch to be served

(Request submitted by Stephanie Welch)

MONTGOMERY, AL

Brother **Pierce Flatt** recently sent a contribution in honor of **Mrs. Bannie Burt** of Montgomery. His note included this information about Sister Burt.

"Sister Burt is 93 years old and is the epitome of a life long loyal servant of the Lord. She taught in the youth department of the University church for years, she taught ladies to teach, she set up and organized our Bible School resource room, she taught classes for teachers on designing and making hand-outs and study aids for the children to take home and in later years provided all the teachers with their needed materials for their classes. Although it is more difficult for her to get about without aid she still is a great encouragement and aid to our teachers."

(So sorry that we were not able to attend the Faulkner Lectureship. Thank you, brother Flatt, for honoring sister Burt and sending us this information. JF)

Forest, Mississippi

Youth Awarded for Accomplishments in Bible Study



The youth of the Forest Church of Christ recently participated in an awards day. The older Bible students were awarded for reciting the Old Testament, New Testament, and the sons of Jacob. The two youngest participants were awarded for reciting Bible facts. Those participating were (L to R, Front row): Timothy Geter, Madelyn Hollingsworth, Hudson Bynum, Hank Geter, Nate Geter. (L to R, Back row): Will Geter, Justin Gunn, Shane McIntyre, Makayla Hollingsworth, and Eric Gunn. (Information and picture provided MM by Gera Bynum. gera.bynum@rushhealth.com)

Swedenburgs Celebrate Golden Anniversary in Columbus, MS

Wally and Carolyn Swedenburg recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Friends and family honored them with a reception at the 7th Street Church of Christ in Columbus where Wally is one of the deacons. Wally told people as he greeted them about Carolyn and their celebration of this milestone, "It was no trouble at all." Congratulations to the Swedenburgs. I pray that many more marriages will make it to 50 years and more. (Report by Paul)



50th Anniversary

Carolyn and Wally Swedenburg

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

MM Welcomes
News Reports, Announcements, etc.



A Sunday Visit With the Church in Welsh, LA

Pictured above are Shane Comeaux, Lane Comeaux and Conner Stakes with their teacher Joyce Broyles

(Report by Paul)

Glenda and I had the opportunity to visit with the Welsh church of Christ near Lake Charles recently. Between the Bible Class and the worship service three young men stood at the back of the auditorium and quoted their memory verse for that morning. Those same three young men conducted the service for the Lord's supper and did a tremendous job. Their teacher, Joyce Broyles, is to be commended for encouraging these young men to take an active part in the services.

After Wife's Death, Ken Joines Is Now Rescheduling



Ken Joines
Contact Information
(See column to the left)

Almost a year ago, when my wife's condition was worsening, I cleared my calendar of meetings and other speaking engagements so I could spend my time at her side. Churches were extremely understanding and most have rebooked my appointments. Jan passed from this life on November 20.

This is to inform all who are concerned that I am again available for gospel meetings, special weekends, interim preaching, substitute preaching, or in any other way I may be useful to my brethren. I am willing and ready to go anywhere I am needed. Distance does not matter.

Cleveland Church Welcomes Visitors... Saying, "We Care."

- Editor -

It was an unusual visit. On Sunday, January 13, 2013, we were blessed to be able to travel to Cleveland, Mississippi where I was scheduled to preach in the absence of **Tim McCarter**, local preacher for the Ronaldman Road congregation.

The visit was unusual because my June (wife) did not accompany me. (Seldom does this happen!) Because of pressing obligations, she decided it would be best for her to remain in Kosciusko for the day. So, instead of my wife, our oldest son, Paul, agreed to make the trip with me. He even agreed to provide his car and to drive. That was nice!

Paul and I enjoyed a very good Lord's day with our Cleveland brethren who worship in their beautiful facilities, located on the west side of Cleveland -- just a very short distance from Delta State University.

It was a privilege for me to teach the adult auditorium Bible class and then to preach during the morning worship service. Most of the afternoon was spent in the home of **Lowell Kirkbride**



and his wife, **Donna**. (Brother Lowell is one of the three elders of the church that brings together about 80 or 90 worshippers each Lord's day. The other two elders are **Joe Garrison** and **Lyn Reaves**.)

For lunch, sister Kirkbride had prepared a delicious meal which we were privileged to enjoy as we shared with 4 other guests. Later in the day, at five o'clock, Paul was blessed with

the opportunity of presenting a very challenging sermon at the evening service.

Looking back over our **unusual** visit in Cleveland (*in that my June was not by my side*), there is one more thing I would like to share with you. While we were very impressed with the friendliness of the entire congregation, there was one **special act** which, we believe, deserves specific mention.

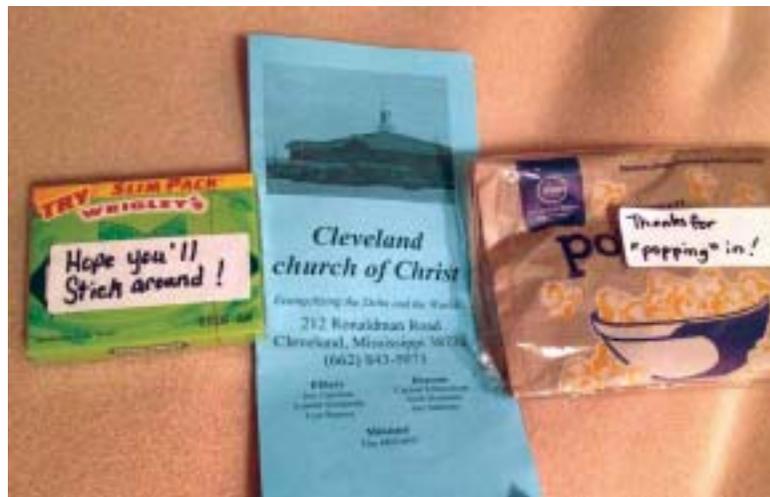
A young man named **Zachary** came up to me at the close of the evening service and handed me a **visitor's packet** that his Sunday morning Bible teacher had helped her class prepare to be given to all visitors. Upon investigation, I found the packet to be very meaningful, serving effectively to make favorable memories of our most recent visit with the Cleveland church.

The packet included a bag of popcorn with hand written words saying, "**Thanks for 'popping in'!**" There was also a little box containing several sticks of gum with a note attached which said, "**Hope you'll stick around!**" Then, even more meaningful was the enclosed attractive leaflet (tract) entitled "**We Care**."

After being thanked for "**popping in**" and being asked to "**stick around**", I was encouraged. Of course, I can't share the popcorn and gum with MM readers, but we can share some of the words written in the "**We Care**" tract.

This we are doing in hopes that other congregations, who are not already doing so, may consider preparing and giving out similar "**Visitor's Packets**" to each visitor. Such a gesture can leave a good taste, make pleasant memories and provide encouragement for a return visit.

Read "**Message**" (this page)



Visitor's Packet Included Three Items: Gum, Tract, Popcorn

Gum Saying: "**Hope You Will Stick Around.**"

Tract Proclaiming, "**We Care!**"

Popcorn Exclaiming: "**Thanks for Popping In.**"

Unexpected Blessings Arrive From the Lord Daily

On Saturday morning, January 26, 2013, My June and I stopped for breakfast at a McDonald's in Greenwood. The food was good, but something else was even better. We were blessed with an unexpected opportunity to visit with David and Gloria Shiers who also had stopped by for breakfast. We had become acquainted with this fine couple, many years ago, when they were living in northeast Louisiana where I was privileged to preach in two or three Gospel Meetings for the church in Archibald, near Rayville.

We learned that David was retired from preaching and that he and his wife were in the process of moving from Saulsby, Tennessee, back home to NE Louisiana.

What a blessing to see them -- to visit and eat with them. Reminds us anew of the advantages of being part of God's family so that, no matter where we may travel, there is always the possibility of being blessed by a surprise meeting of a brother or sister in the Lord. We thank the Lord!



Gloria and David Shiers

Parents of Mark Shiers, new preacher at Greenwood. (Story on Page 5)

Question & Answer

Why Do We Care? Because God Cares.

The Message of the Brochure

A little brochure being given to church visitors in Cleveland, Mississippi, expresses the earnest desire of the congregation to be of assistance in meeting both physical and spiritual needs of friends and neighbors in the delta community. The leaflet states,

"It is our goal in this life to live in such a way as to be pleasing to God. We fulfill that goal, in part, by the way we care about others.

It's very easy to say that we care about others. It's quite another thing to demonstrate that care. It is also quite easy to care about those who agree with us. It's quite another thing to care about those that may disagree with us. However, God expects us to care about and do good to all people (Galatians 6:10).

We want you to know that we care about you, as an individual person. More importantly, we want you to know that God cares about you, as an individual person."

The flyer listed some of the ways the Cleveland church had prepared to use in demonstrating genuine care for the physical needs of their neighbors. Then, the leaflet emphasized the urgent desire of the church to help meet the spiritual needs of their community. The tract continued,

"Part of our community outreach involves a desire that everyone who does not have a personal relationship with God, be able to establish such a relationship. In order for anyone to have such a relationship, they must know what God has said about the matter. To encourage more Bible study, we are offering several different avenues to encourage and assist you in gaining a greater knowledge and depth of understanding of God's word...."

"The most noticeable method we employ in helping people meet their spiritual needs is providing a place and time for people to worship God. We believe that the word of God is the final authority in religious matters (2 Timothy 3:16,17). In light of this fact, we do our very best to conduct

worship services that reflect the teachings and examples of New Testament worship with neither additions nor subtractions (1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18,19).

In connection with these worship services, we also conduct Bible classes designed for various age groups. If you desire to be a part of a group diligently studying God's word and seeking to do His will, you should consider becoming a part of one of these classes.

We sincerely hope that you will give us the opportunity to get to know you on a personal level. Feel free to visit with us at any time. We will be glad to sit down with you and answer any questions you may have about who we are, what we do, and why we do it."

The little tract closed with the following appeal:

"Please consider this an open invitation to visit with us at any time. We promise that you will not be singled out or embarrassed in any way.

If you are looking for a group of people who are seeking to worship and follow God in a way that is based on the simple truths of the New Testament, without the trappings and traditions of denominationalism, and with each individual of equal worth and importance before God, you have found it.

'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord... (Isaiah 1: 18)

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

Being An Example

- Seth Sullivan -

Personally, I can recall several individuals who I would count as role models in my life. I remember my high school football coach who always pushed me and kept challenging me to improve my skills. I know my parents and grandparents reared me compassionately with love and firmness. Of course, the list could go on. Being an example is a vital source of strength to others! We must recognize who we are influencing. It is a sad but true statement that others will also be vulnerable to bad examples as well.

In Old Testament times, there are a host of bad examples. In the story of Cain and Abel, Cain killed his brother because God accepted Abel's offering and rejected his (Gen. 4:13-15; I John 3:12; Jude 11). Even the children of Israel at times practiced evil works which despised the LORD (Heb. 3:15-19).

The child of God must be a godly example! The inspired Hebrew writer states, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). When we need an example of faith, we can turn in Scripture to the story of Abraham (Heb. 11:8-10; Rom. 4:18-23). If we are afraid, then we can be strengthened by Daniel and his courage (Dan. 6:7-10, 22). When evangelizing, studying, or teaching others, we must attain boldness like the Apostle Peter (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29), and be willing to give ourselves totally to the work of Christ like Paul (Phil. 1:21; I Cor. 9:19-23; II Cor. 12:15).

There is no better example than Jesus Christ! He encompasses all the godliness that the child of God should desire to

mimic. While on earth, Jesus endured (Heb. 12:1-3; I Pet. 2:21), was loving to others (John 15:13; 10:11; Gal. 2:20), and was in prayer to His heavenly Father daily (Mk. 1:35; Lk. 22:41-44). Jesus showed deity's love by dying on the Cross of Calvary (cf. Jn. 3:16).

Likewise, Christians must also be godly examples! This requires every child of God to be given to not only faithful worship but to holy living each and every day! Even though the world may place obstacles in our way we must not allow Satan's schemes to overtake our influence. May each of us reflect on the example of Christ and live in such a way that will not only be pleasing to Him but will also be influential to others (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:14-16; I Pet. 2:11-12; I Cor. 10:32; Col. 4:5-6)!

Seth, who preaches for the Lord's church in Waynesboro can be reached by addressing: **Seth Sullivan; 1401 Walnut Street; Waynesboro, MS 39367. E-mail: sethk63@hotmail.com**



Kenneth and Barbara Jarrett

Louisville Church Welcomes New Preacher

We welcome Kenneth and Barbara Jarrett to the Magnolia State. Brother Jarrett is the new preacher for the church in Louisville, Mississippi. He has been preaching for over 50 years and is excited about his new work in Mississippi.

The Jarretts have 3 children. One of their daughters, **April**, is married to **Paul Meacham** who is preaching near Oxford, MS and finishing a degree at Old Miss. He plans to move to Montgomery and teach at Amridge University.

Brother Jarrett is planning a series of articles in the local newspaper and is working on other projects to encourage the church in that community.

Our annual RV rally will be conducted, God willing, at Lake Tiak-O'Kata in Louisville on April 22-25 and we have asked brother Kenneth to be one of the speakers. (Report by Paul)

The Magnolia Messenger Requests Your Prayers

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Attention MS, LA, TN, AL and AR Churches of Christ

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

My Wife Asked Me To Take Another Woman Out to Dinner

Editor's Note: This article you are about to read was received from a friend and reader of the "Messenger". The friend did not identify the writer; however, I thought as he no doubt did, that the article was worth sharing with MM readers. Of course, the "me" in the title of the article is not me and the "wife" is not "My June", although neither of us would have objected to the request. (alf)

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you too, and she would love to spend some time with you."

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my MOTHER, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us."

She thought about it for a moment, and then said...

"I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

"I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting."

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Halfway through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

"It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said.

"Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation - nothing

extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.

"How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home.

"Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son."

At that moment I understood the importance of saying, in time, "I LOVE YOU" and to give our loved ones the time they deserve. Because nothing is more important in life than family... and they shouldn't be put off until "some other time." (Writer Unknown to us)

Yazoo City Church Welcomes New Preacher



Trey Henry has accepted the challenge of working full time with the Yazoo City church. He and his wife, **Morgan** and their two children, recently moved from Leesville, Louisiana to Yazoo City where his parents (the Calvin Henrys) had served many years ago. (More information later. Lord willing)

The First Official Act

- Dennis Doughty -

In our first President's Inaugural address in 1789, George Washington stated, "It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States."



Dennis Doughty

The first official act of our first President was to ask God's blessings, His "benediction," upon our nation. He knew that liberty and happiness for our country could only be supplied through our devotion to God, "The Almighty Being."

George's first official act as President was evidently honored by God; hence the great nation we became. We have enjoyed happiness and liberty as no other nation ever has. As David proclaimed; "The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry" (Psalms 34:15).

Washington's statement reflects the deeply religious faith of our founders. The first official act of The Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia from 1777-1783, was a resolution to begin each session with prayer. They filled their resolutions with scripture quotations and calls for prayer and fasting, and for God's blessings upon

our nation. When Bibles ran in short supply because of the war with England, Congress passed a resolution on September 11th (interesting date), 1777, to print 30,000 copies and to make them available to the public; so much for their belief in a separation of church and state. (*Christ and the Continental Congress* by David Miller)

The greatness of America throughout its history can be directly attributed to the acknowledgement of God by its leaders, and the faith in God by its people. Our liberty and happiness will continue only as long as these facts remain true. "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Another "Good Year" in Tunica

- Dennis Doughty -

As we have come to the end of another year in Tunica, Mississippi, I am rejoicing in what the Lord has done in this place in the year of our Lord 2012. I feel honored to be preaching here, and looking back over these past five years I am amazed at what God has done in this important part of the state.

The year was highlighted by two

major events. First, the campaign we had in the summer was a wonderful success and certainly showed how willing this congregation is to work together to accomplish big things. Second, we hosted Tunica's Annual Community Thanksgiving Program over the Thanksgiving Holiday. This service packed our building to overflowing with people from the community. It highlighted

our style of worship and helped to reshape our standing in the town. Again, our members here worked hard to make this a success.

Both these activities also highlighted how much we still depend upon other congregations to help us do big things. The Lake Harbour Congregation in Ridgeland, Mississippi brought their young people and ministers and financial resources here and helped us in conducting a summer campaign. The Goodman Oaks congregation in Southaven came and helped us in the Thanksgiving Program we hosted for the community. We thank God for these congregations and what they helped us accomplish this year.

In these activities I have seen some

See Tunica On Next Page

Rock Springs, CO

The Rock Springs church of Christ, a congregation of 15-20 people located in southwest Wyoming is seeking a full time minister/evangelist. The congregation is seeking a man who loves the Lord and His Word, who truly cares for others and is ready to "Speak the Truth in Love". Must be willing to actively search for lost souls as this area should be considered a mission field. His family must be supportive and active in congregation.

The candidate must come "with support" as the congregation can furnish only limited support. **Nice Facilities** with Auditorium to seat 200, five classrooms and an office. **House provided** (3 BR, 2 bath)

For further information or to submit a resume and references, contact the:

Rock Springs Church of Christ
P.O. Box 854
100 Clearview
Rock Springs, WY 82902
(307) 362-8594 or (262) 490-1962

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(See Page 12)

Churches Looking For Preachers

Notice: We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. Please mail your request to: "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us by addressing: franksmm@aol.com.

We will plan to run each ad not more than one or two times unless a specific request for extension is received from the congregation looking for a preacher. There is no charge for this service. Thank you for asking!
Editor

Booneville, ARK

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

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

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

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

Lake Charles, LA

Seeks Full-time Minister

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

The church is located in Lake Charles, LA at 2801 Enterprise Boulevard. Website: <http://www.blvdchurchofchrist.org>
EBCC has 4 elders, 7 deacons and 4 staff ministers with an average attendance of around 282. Lake Charles is an economically sound area with unemployment of 6.8% -- well below the national average.

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

Used Church Pews Available

The Batesville, Mississippi Church of Christ (Eureka Street) has used pews available. If interested, call **Kelly Standard** at 662-934-7313.

DeQuincy, LA

"Retired" Preacher Available for Gospel Meetings, Seminars and/or Fill-in Preaching.

Contact:
Paul Wilcoxson
404 LeBlanc Street
DeQuincy, LA 70633
Cell: 337-802-2212

Preacher Available

(Part time; Fill-in)
Central Mississippi

Contact
Jim Mordecai
Carthage, Mississippi
601-214-0364 or 601-927-5264

"Preach the Word"

Caledonia Seeks Full time Minister

(Open: 9/15/12)
Marital Status: Preferred Married
Salary Range: Negotiable
Benefits: Minister's House
Contact:
Sonny McLellan at (205) 695-7864, (Cell) (205) 712-0122
E-mail:
sonny5735592@yahoo.com

The Caledonia church of Christ [near Columbus, MS] presently has an attendance of 60 plus on Sunday mornings. The church is located in an area that is very favorable for future growth. The growing town of Caledonia has an excellent school system.

The church is blessed with a beautiful new building and is located near Columbus, MS and the Columbus Air Force Base. There is no debt on the building; a nice preacher's home is adjacent to the building. Resumes, salary history and audio or video examples of recent sermons, may be submitted to

Caledonia Church of Christ
C/o Sonny McLellan
3161 Aberdeen Road
Vernon, AL 35592



A Sunday Morning Gathering of the Church in Tunica

“Drop-in” at Siwell in Jackson

(Continued from page 9)

They were preparing for their trip to Nashville to attend the *Lads to Leaders* Convention. **Jeff Conquest** and **Derek Broome** were helping these young people to prepare.



Jeff Conquest and Derek Broome

W. E. Walker gave us a tour of their fellowship/Gym building that had been built a few years ago. He was especially proud of their World Bible School Room where members of the Siwell Road congregation teach the gospel to people all around the world.

As Glenda and I were leaving after spending over 4 hours with this church, we ran into one of the elders, Andy Dulaney, who was still at the building fulfilling his duties.

Glenda and I enjoyed our first “drop in” visit since starting our work with the Messenger. Be assured: We look forward to coming to your area in the near future. Remember: **I am available to preach, teach, lead singing, and assist in short term efforts for the church. Please let me hear from you.**

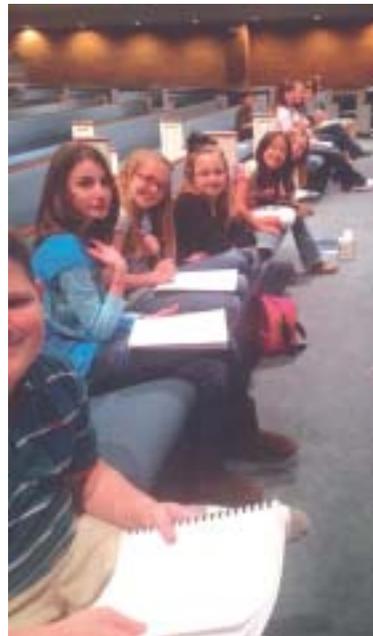
Paul Franks
Associate Editor
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HEAD

(Continued from page 2)

the “sheep” (members) in each respective flock (congregation) of saved believers.

The apostle Paul wrote to Titus, requesting that he “set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city...” (Titus 1:5). Paul and Barnabas, on their first missionary journey, returned through cities where they had established churches, and “ordained [appointed] them elders



Siwell Road Youth Getting Ready for “Lads to Leaders”

Siwell Church

(more information)

This very active church with an attendance of about 300 is presently served by five elders. They are **Bob Allen, Chris Bates, Andy Dulaney, Dale Ledbetter** and **Paul Leggett**. The church is also blessed to have 17 special servants (ministers) known as “deacons.”

Just a few months ago, **Gary Hampton** and his wife, **Teresa**, moved to Mississippi from Tennessee so Gary could work full time as their pulpit minister. **Derek Broome** serves as their Youth and Family minister. (For more information about this good church, please go to their website.)

in every church” (Acts 14:23).

In the books of First Timothy and Titus, Paul lists specific qualifications that must be met by those who are willing and ready to accept the responsibility of caring for the flock. (Read I Tim. 3 and Titus 1).

Elders, according to the New Testament, are to serve as examples as they “feed the flock” and “watch for souls.” They serve, as did the apostle Peter, in

Acappella

(Cont. from page 10)

in the New Testament. **Please consider:** Christians should not feel they are missing out on something of real value by refusing to use mechanical instruments in worship to Almighty God. Instruments are not needed nor should they be desired by those who seek to please God!

“Singing and making melody in your heart,” as commanded by God’s Word, can bring great joy and lasting satisfaction to our hearts as we seek to communicate with our Creator. To add another kind of music -- instrumental, is not only *unauthorized* in the New Testament; it certainly isn’t necessary. So, we ask: *Why seek to please ourselves or someone else rather than God?*

After the less-than-an-hour service, the Huntsville brethren invited everyone to their fellowship area where all could comfortably enjoy visiting, eating and drinking together. We were amazed to see and to taste what the Huntsville **sisters** (mostly) had put together in the form of food and treats to top off a delightful and spiritually uplifting evening. Thanks, Huntsville brothers and sisters. (Al & June)

HEAD

(Cont. from column 2)

the vital work of “under-shepherding” detailed in I Peter 5:1-4. This passage states, “*Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof... neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*”

The New Testament church (then and now) was/is under the control of the **ONE** head, who is Jesus Christ. Each local congregation, when organized according to the plan of God, functions under the oversight of specially qualified men (an eldership -- always plural; *never one*) who lead the church, through example and feeding.

Regardless of what is going on in today’s religious world, with its emphasizes upon a man (pope) serving as “head of the church”, may our continuing plea be that we go back to the New Testament where there **is no place for the pope** and where Jesus is the **ONE and ONLY** Head. May each disciple submit fully to Him and follow His will. And, may all followers of Christ, including elders, view themselves simply as **servants**. (Al Franks, editor of MM)

franksmm@aol.com
601-668-3344

QUESTION

(Continued from page 3)

are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! See, your house is left to you desolate” (Matthew 23:37-38).

6. The contrast between the two sections

The second section of the discourse, which answers the disciples’ second question, “What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?,” begins “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only” (Matthew 24:36).

A stark contrast is evident from these first words. The first section leads the hearers through a detailed set of signs enabling them to know the exact moment to get away as the city begins to be besieged. The answer to the second question begins, “No one knows the time.” And that emphasis continues, emphasizing, since no one knows when Christ will return, that there are no signs, no warnings that would tell it was soon to occur.

Jesus compares his second coming to the flood in Noah’s day when the people “were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away” (Matthew 24:39). He repeats a figure used often in discussions of his coming, “the thief in the night” who does not tell the householder what day or time he will come to rob and steal.

Three times he repeats the warning, “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44, see also verses 42 and 50).

Jesus calls what he is talking about in this part of the discourse, “that day and hour” (24:36). When Scripture speaks of “that day” without additional modifiers it usually refers to the Christ’s second coming and its accompanying judgment. For example, “Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day” (2 Timothy 4:8), and “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’” (Matthew 7:22).

Correcting Errors

Recognizing that the “signs” of this discourse tell when the

destruction of Jerusalem in the first century would occur and are not, therefore, signs of the second coming of Christ, corrects premillennialism, especially dispensationalist premillennialism.

On the other hand, seeing that the second section is talking about the second coming corrects some preterists, frequently referred to a “the 70 A.D. theorists,” who believe the whole discourse is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem.

No, the fact that Jesus is answering two questions, with two different answers, which is clearly seen when the contrast between the two answers is noted, means that the two sections are talking about two separate events.

Conclusion

Two questions: “When will the temple be destroyed?” and “What will be the sign of Jesus coming and the end of the age?”

Two answers: “The temple will be destroyed within this generation, and you can tell by signs exactly when to escape,” and, “No one knows when the second coming will be, and there are no signs to warn it is almost here. Stay ready because it can occur at any time.”

“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming” (Matthew 24:42).

TUNICA

(Cont. from page 18)

wonderful spiritual growth among our members. Several we have baptized the past few years have remained faithful and continue to grow. We have great harmony and enjoy a wonderful fellowship with one another. Our numbers have not grown as much as I would like as our attendance is around 25-35 on any given Lord’s Day. But we remain an active and growing congregation in the Mississippi Delta, where many churches are struggling to keep the doors open.

I look forward to 2013, my sixth year in Tunica. Over half of my salary comes from outside support from congregations and individuals. We are so grateful for this support (and could always use a little more), for without it our work here would not be possible.

Dennis Doughty, Minister
901.267.3100
Dennis1848@bellsouth.net

Magnolia Messenger

Welcomes Your

Comments and Suggestions

Have **YOU** Answered
“The Question Box”
On Page 24?



FHU Lectureship "Open Forum" Remains Popular
 Ralph Gilmore (moderator, behind stand, David Lipe (lectureship director, seated) and Dan Jenkins (middle), one of many participants



Thomas H. Holland
 Keynote Speaker
 On Wednesday Evening

Tom Holland was just one of the 123 scheduled speakers at the FHU lectureship for 2013. And, as is usual for him, brother Holland did a commendable job challenging all who would follow the Jesus of the New Testament to be like unto the Old Testament Joshua who, according to Joshua 11:15, "Left No Good Thing Undone."

I could not help but notice that brother Tom was using the aid of a "walking stick" as he made his way around the campus of FHU. I think also that it would be understandable to say that he appeared to be a "little older" than he did back in the 60's, when he was one of my instructors at Freed.

Facing the reality of aging, causes me to rejoice to tell you about the young man who is pictured in this column. His name is **Alex Hopper**. My June and I were blessed to meet and visit briefly with Alex, following one of the lecture sessions. We were excited to learn that the young man, as a "newly born Christian" was **only a few hours old!**

Yes, the very afternoon of our conversation, at about 4:00 P.M., Alex told us that he had been baptized into Christ. He said that he lived in Henderson (or nearby), and had become a student at FHU where he been taught the

gospel and was converted to Christ through the influence of those associated with the University.

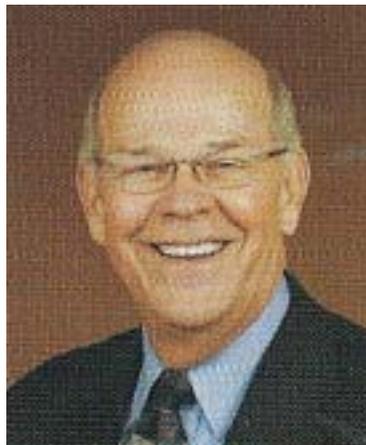
We are grateful that, although our long time soldiers of the cross will soon no longer be among the earthly living; yet, there are babes being born into God's family who can be trained to carry on the greatest work in the world. Who knows? Alex may someday be another Tom Holland! (alf)



Alex Hopper

Freed-Hardeman University Hosts 77th Annual Bible Lectureship Feb. 3 - 7, 2013

2013 Lectureship Dedicated to The "Life and Service Of Jay Lockhart"



Jay Lockhart

"A Preacher's Preacher"

Jay Lockhart serves as an elder and preacher for the church in Whitehouse, Texas. The 2013 lectureship committee stated,

"The FHU family is honored to recognize the contributions of this good and godly man, a Christian gentleman and preacher's preacher."

Congratulations to our brother Lockhart.



Freed-Hardeman: **THE MAIN BUILDING:** Back in the '60s **Home of Many Memories**

The many hundreds who were privileged to make their way to Henderson, Tennessee, during the first full week in February, 2013, were richly blessed to enjoy serious Bible studies based on the Old Testament books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. All attendees would, no doubt agree, that one of the greatest blessings of the annual lectureships at FHU is the warm fellowship enjoyed by brothers and sisters in the family of God

Contemporary concerns were discussed, including "Homosexuality", "Women and Social Justice", and "Conflict Resolution." Special lessons were available, **without charge**, for preachers, elders, and deacons and all other church members.

Monday and Tuesday featured a workshop for preachers, students, parents and individuals who minister to young people in the church. Then, on Wednesday, there was a workshop de-

signed to "promote and strengthen the Bible school program in the local church."

The lectureship provided "just about everything for everybody." There were lessons on computer usage for churches, a "Restoration Tour" of Henderson, classes just for women and even some special entertainment including "Pickin' n' singin'" on Wednesday night after the evening lecture.

My June and I are grateful we could once again attend the lectureship and stay on campus in our motorhome (so convenient!). We would encourage readers of the MM to make plans to benefit from the next lectureship at FHU planned, God willing, for February 2-6, 2014 when the theme will be "**The Patience of Hope**" based on "First and Last Things in Thessalonians." (Editor)

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Time and Eternity in the Old Testament

(Psalms 90 & Ecclesiastes 3)

- Jim Howard -

By conflating [combining] Psalm 90 and Ecclesiastes 3, one can get a pretty good idea of the Old Testament concept of time and eternity. In Psalm 90, a psalm attributed to Moses, the psalmist stresses the eternity of God in contrast with the time limitations of man. In sobering tone the psalmist makes it clear that in a world of change the timelessness of God is man's only ground of stability. From everlasting to everlasting God is God.

Man's allotted time frame is seventy years or "by reason of strength" eighty. The psalmist pessimistically defines the span of man's life as "toil and trouble" and he is soon gone. Man's brief tenure is directly attributed to God's action.

More specifically, in tones that remind us of Genesis

There is nothing new under the sun. Life is not going anywhere. Everything that will be has been.

chapter 3, the end of man's time on earth is because of God's wrath. "For we are consumed by thy anger; by thy wrath we are overwhelmed" (vs. 7).

It is not that God's wrath is aimed at individual men. Scripture makes clear that individual death is the responsibility of "... him who has the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14). Rather, universal death is under the auspices of God's wrath in the same sense as those other punishments detailed in Genesis 3 as a result of man's Fall.

In commenting on this passage James Luther Mays has made the excellent observation that "The wrath of God is a linguistic symbol for the divine limits and pressure placed against human resistance to his sovereignty... Death is the final and ultimate 'no' that cancels any pretension to autonomy from the human side" (Psalms. Interpretation. A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching, p. 292).

Death as God's limitation on man reminds us of the Almighty's concern in Genesis 3 that man be driven from the Garden lest he "...put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (vs. 22). In light of God's sovereignty over man as evidenced by death and man's limited life span, the psalmist's prayer is "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart



Jim Howard

of wisdom" (vs. 12).

In shifting our attention to Ecclesiastes chapter 3, we find similarities and differences in comparing this passage with Psalms 90. Our biggest problem is a widely held and generally accepted interpretation of the poem about time in verses 1-9. All of us have probably heard these words utilized to beautify wedding ceremonies. Or we remember the popular song taken from this scripture.

There's just one problem! To interpret these words as words of positive beauty ignores the total context of the Book of Ecclesiastes whose tone from beginning to end is pessimism if not cynicism. There is nothing new under the sun. Life is not going anywhere.

Everything that will be has been. If we are to be true to the total theme of this book, we must recognize that this poem about time's contrasts is a powerfully negative statement of life's repetitive monotony.

Rather than viewing such an interpretation as a negative,

however, one should recognize that these verses actually set the stage for one of the most important verses, not only of Ecclesiastes, but of the whole Bible. "He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind" (vs. 10). I find this to be one of the most exciting, one of the most challenging, and one of the most enigmatic verses in all of Scripture.

What does it mean that God has put eternity into the mind of man (RSV) or that he has set eternity in the hearts of men (NIV)? I think this verse is inspiration's counter balance to Psalms 90. The central message of Psalms 90 is that time places such stringent limitations on man (as evidenced by his early death) that man should recognize that he is made for more than time. He has been created for eternal fellowship with God.

Of course the nature of this eternity is not spelled out in the Old Testament. That truth remains to be revealed in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament. To say as the Preacher does that God has placed eternity in the hearts of men is to remind us that God has created man with an innate sense that he has been made for a higher destiny, for something better. The message for all of us as Christians is that we must build our transient lives on something

The message for all of us as Christians is that we must build our transient lives on something higher, something more lasting, than what the world offers.

higher, something more lasting, than what the world offers. Such a response is the

only fitting one for a Creator God who so honors us as to place eternity in our hearts and minds.

Jim Howard, Minister; Madison Church of Christ; P.O. Box 1845; Madison, MS 39130

Madison Church Plans Marriage Matters Seminar

(With Jerry & Lynn Jones)

March 24-27, 2013

Jim Howard, preacher for the Madison church wrote, "We of the Madison Church invite those from throughout the area to share the significant opportunity of this free seminar. Thank you."



Madison Church Dedicates New Facilities

On January 27 the Madison Church of Christ, 483 Reunion Parkway, Madison, Mississippi, dedicated its new church building. Located on 11 acres immediately adjacent to Madison Station Elementary School, the 10,000 sq. ft. facility features an auditorium seating 250, six classrooms, a fellowship hall and kitchen, youth center, library, offices, and nursery. The 1.4 million dollar facility was constructed by Copeland & Johns General Contractors.

Bob Brown and

Kyle Smith serve as elders of the seven-year-old church. Garvis Semore, Professor of Speech Communication at Freed Hardeman University, gave the dedicatory address for the service which was attended by Mayor Mary



Garvis Semore



Leon Sanderson

Hawkins Butler and Alderman Guy Bowering. Leon Sanderson, Associate Minister with the White Station Church in Memphis, led the congregational singing. Two hundred twelve were in attendance.



Also Attending: Alonzo Welch (Member at Madison, Age 94; Co-Founder of Sunnybrook Children's Home) and Mary Hawkins Butler (Mayor of the City of Madison)

An Update On Alonzo Welch

On Thursday, February 14th, I enjoyed a very pleasant telephone conversation with Rosalind Seabrook in Ridgeland, Mississippi, who is a daughter of Alonzo Welch. Rosalind spoke about her dad's age and his present circumstances. I learned that brother Welch is 94 and, Lord willing, will celebrate his 95th on May 17.

His daughter said that, although her dad was physically unable to be very active; yet, he remains very "upbeat... has a good humor and enjoys life." She said, "When the sun is out, he likes it." She added, "His enjoys seeing people and, occasionally, talking on the phone with dear friends. She said that he often spoke about his departed wife (Kathryn)

and where she is." Roslyn also mentioned that her dad was very happy to finally see a permanent building for the church in the city of Madison.

Alonzo Welch is most widely known, among members of churches of Christ in Mississippi, for his role in the founding and functioning of a home for "homeless." He, along with others (including Clark Stringer, J. J. Massie, J. C. Redd and Robert M. Moon, were instrumental in the beginning of what is known as "Sunnybrook Children's Home."

The first temporary cottage was opened in June of 1964, the second cottage opened in December and, in June of '67, the home ("Sunnybrook") moved to its permanent location in Ridgeland, MS. Sunnybrook is overseen by a board of ten Christian men. Rob Salley is the executive director.

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

"...in prison and ye visited me not."

- June Franks -

Matthew 25 contains three stories or parables related by Jesus. Each of these parables emphasizes the necessity of being prepared to meet God in the Day of Judgement. The last of these parables deals with the separation of the "sheep and goats" in the day of judgement.

It is easy to casually read over the words of this parable and not really take seriously the specific teachings of our Lord concerning why the "sheep" and the "goats" are separated.

In Matthew 25, our Lord speaks of the final judgement -- at which time He will welcome into His eternal kingdom the "sheep" -- those on His right hand, who made needed preparation. Jesus taught clearly in this story that if one is to be ready for Judgement, he must be involved in service to others. Jesus said:

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The commendation of the "sheep" by the Lord will be followed by His words of condemnation to the "goats." The record of Matthew 25 continues:

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not, sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not."

"Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked or sick, or in prison, and did



June Franks

not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25: 35-46)

Included in the activities required in preparation for the Day of Judgement, did you notice the emphases our Lord placed on caring for people in prison? To the "sheep", Jesus said, **"I was in prison, and ye came unto me."** But to the "goats" He said, **"[I was] in prison, and ye visited me not."**

Now, you may be thinking, "I can't go into a prison and visit and, besides, I am afraid to go." Now, we are not sure what the prisons were like in Bible times. We do, however, have accounts of disciples being in prison; for example see Acts 16: 19-20.

Even though you may not personally be able to visit those in prison, you may be interested to learn that the *Magnolia Messenger* serves as a vehicle through which we can reach, and are presently reaching, many who are in prison. We are thankful to report that the *Messenger* is received by many, many inmates in prisons scattered all over the nation. We feel blessed to say that the *Messenger* is now being used effectively to teach multitudes who are in prison.

We receive many and frequent letters from prisoners throughout the country. Most of them answer the "Question Box" which is published in each issue of the *Messenger*. They write expressing their gratitude that *someone cared enough* to add their address to the MM mailing list.

Of course, those in prison have to rely on others to help with the expenses of producing and mailing the *Messenger* to them. Therefore, when you support the work of the

Messenger you are, in effect, helping many prisoners to receive the *Magnolia Messenger* without charge to them. On the pages of the MM, the lonely prisoner can regularly read the message of salvation through Christ and His church. And, as you know, it is not possible to know the impact that is made upon those who receive and read the *Messenger* behind his/her cell walls.

Here is an example: A prisoner in the state of New York recently wrote, saying that he had picked up a copy of the *Messenger* from out of the garbage can. He went on to say, in his letter, just how encouraging the MM was to him and that he desired to be added to our mailing list.

We are truly thankful for the many congregations across the land that have active jail ministries. All who do so are to be commended for their efforts to fulfil the will of Jesus in "visiting those in prison" by taking to them the gospel of Christ.

It has been observed by some that prisoners are often receptive to hearing/reading the Word of God while they are in jail; but once they are released back into society, they will go back to their old ways. Who are we to judge? God still commands us to teach and to visit those in prison.

Remember, Jesus said: **"[I was] in prison and ye visited me not."** These are very sobering words.

Following are words from other letters we have received recently from prisoners:

Greetings! I hope and pray that all is well with all of you. I wanted to thank you for all for the Magnolia Messenger and for sending it to me. It helps me a great deal to know that there are people out there who care. Thank you for the encouragement, scripture, kind words, poems, etc. that are listed in the MM. I just wanted you to know that I appreciate all of you and that you will always be in my prayers. May God continue to bless and keep you all. Please, keep up the good work. You bless so many with doing the work that God has led all of you to do. (Rachel Elleene Cook, Lowell Correctional Institution, Ocala, FL)

Please send me your paper. I have read things in many bulletins from your paper. I'm in prison for 2 more years and learning much about God's Word. Thanks! (Forest Toothman, St. Marys Correctional Center, St. Marys, WV)
Dear Magnolia Messenger,
I've enjoyed the Good News to-

POEMS

By
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray
bcagleray@comcast.net



The Truly Great Church*

The large affluent church is so beautiful,
With stained glass windows and a steeple.
My little country church is pure and simple,
Filled with neighbors and friendly people.

The stately church building is refined,
With velvet covered seating in lovely hues,
But in my modest wooden country church,
We love our hand-hewn hardwood pews.

Whether it be a grand massive structure,
Or a meager one with no room to spare;
It can only be a truly great church,
If God's will is all that matters there.

***Note:** The word "church" is used in an accommodative sense in this poem. Bible students know that the church is not a building; rather the people.

Church building (on right) is an artist rendering of the old meeting place for the church in Kosciusko.



Weeping With the Willow

There's an old willow tree in the meadow;
Its branches lightly swing and sway.
When I need guidance from on high,
Its arms beckon me to kneel and pray.

My vitality and zest for life are lost,
And I need to find them once again.
Prayer seems to be my healing balm—
A voice silently whispers, "I understand".

Time slowly steals the vibrant years,
Just as winter fades the rose of spring.
As years pass, the willow weeps more, too;
I guess it's the natural scheme of things.

Sometimes when I hear myself say "Amen",
My voice seems so tremulous and frail.
Though I can't see where life is leading me,
I know my Heavenly Guide so well!

day through your paper, and I pray our Almighty God and Savior will continue to bless your ministry. You're reaching out to people like me "who are searching and learning what God's will is for our lives... it means more than you could ever imagine. Thank you so much. Sincerely Yours, (Angela McInnis,

Mississippi Department of Corrections, Flowood, MS)

The *Magnolia Messenger* and its related work is made possible by interested individuals and congregations. Thank you so much for your support in helping to make possible a special ministry of reaching out to prisoners. (June Franks)

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

Answers: Last Issue (See Page 11)

1. Zach & Amie Guttery
2. Debra Michael
3. Linda F. Anderson
4. Barbara Beard
5. Ima Jean Fogus
6. Tom McLemore
7. Stan Neuenschwander
8. Marty Danilchuk
9. Ruby Wright
10. Sherron Dixon
11. Faye Stanford
12. Imogene Grayson
13. Marie Lively
14. Vera Ashmore
15. Ken Harris
16. Bobby Brown
17. Donald J. Peckinpaugh
18. Barbaras Loden
19. Nadine Patton
20. Doyce Britt
21. Dorsa Sparks
22. Genie Henning
23. Jean Lewis
24. Arva L. Fisher
25. Bernita Booker
26. Yvonne Swilley
27. Elizabeth Dickerson
28. Virginia B. Kissell
29. Madonna Langford
30. Bobby Lively
31. Dot Winslett
32. Merlene Scott
33. Joe B. Holmes
34. Carolyn Stevens
35. Maggie R. Edmonds
36. Juanita Flanagan
37. Bonnie Skates
38. Foster C. Owens
39. Mattie Ann Owens
40. Ms. Jewel Heron
41. Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson
42. Gene Hester
43. Ann Holeman
44. Betty J. Craig
45. Ms. Jean Bohanan
46. M/M Edmon Wheeler
47. Mary Salinas
48. Ms. Eileen Williford
49. Glenda Jefcoat
50. Michael Deaton
51. Betty Spears
52. Evelyn Doss
53. Fran Williford
54. Garry Gooch
55. Annie Mae Pipkin
56. Rhenda Miltner
57. Terry Miltner
58. Bobby Marques
59. Mary Robinson
60. Mary McDonald
61. Harlen Headley
62. Kay Shiers
63. Pierce Flatt
64. Patrilla Maddox
65. Madonna Michael
66. Michelle Simpson
67. Charlotte Ritter
68. Ann McDonald
69. Juanita LeBouef
70. Willie Beardain
71. Paul & Marcella Black
72. Jerry L. King
73. Idna Eddington
74. Betty Stewart
75. Mary A. Jacobs
76. James Hudley
77. Wade Hardy
78. Karen J. Sanlin
79. Mary Williams
80. Cortez Brown
81. Mary Dennis
82. Bettie Brown
83. Jerry Jones
84. Willie M. Stancil
85. Addie Brown
86. Cathy E. Brooks
87. Deborah Lacicero
88. Thomas Forrest, Sr.
89. Patricia Brown
90. Paula Triplett
91. Janie Green
92. Anita Taft
93. C. W. O'Kelly
94. Mr. Scott Nelson
95. Bobbie Loggins
96. Louise Gavin
97. James Hughes
98. Myra D. Reaves
99. Ms. Faye Frazier
100. Shellie Hancock
101. Carolyn Garrett
102. Kerry Deaton
103. Wilda Pounds
104. Julius Lee Wales
105. Frances Harrell
106. Margaret Parker
107. Jim Vermillion
108. Eddie Vermillion
109. Linda Hogue
110. Carolyn Harvill
111. Dianne Wiley
112. Id Istre
113. Gwendlyn Gray Bryant
114. Marcy Kanapaux
115. Buddy Parsons
116. Carl Trimm
117. Terry Lowery
118. Exie Motes
119. Evelyn Faulkenberry
120. Peggy Hartman
121. Ollye M. Rush
122. Trillie Strickland
123. Vera M. Winfrey
124. Betty Standard
125. Sue Hamrick
126. Brenda Vick
127. Admiral Tidwell
128. Arvis Midkiff
129. Don Lee
130. Irene M. Wright
131. Eva Almon
132. Linda K. Hughes
133. Phillip Carter
134. JoLene Dale
135. Sarah Brown
136. Lisa Dettor
137. Shelia Hall
138. Emily Hall
139. Linda Paden
140. Kathy Perry
141. Ernestine Lathan
142. Bobbie Hill
143. M/M Edmon Wheeler
144. Linda Boone
145. Iris Casteel
146. Sylvia Birt
147. Lisa Dearman
148. Dorothy Laws
149. Ovenia Dean
150. Judy A. Spencer
151. Billie Jane Davis
152. Jane Walker
153. Michael Euer
154. Christian Burnett
155. Jalissa Hinton
156. Diamond Mastin
157. Ashley Hinton
158. Jelissia Lucas
159. Tre Rogers
160. Shamyia Smith
161. Trey Williams
162. Tura Verner
163. Rashandsvig
164. Lacey Mastin
165. Charles Coffey
166. John L. Gates, Jr.
167. Ruth Christian
168. No Name
169. Patricia D. McClure
170. Meredith Peek
171. Ennis L. Wallace
172. Althea House
173. Gail B. Saxon
174. Rebecca Alexander
175. Mary Brannan
176. Rosie Lee Odoms
177. Amy Mahers
178. Joyce & Sandy Key
179. Jennifer Gray
180. Mrs. Shelia A. Williams
181. Terri Sykes
182. Terry & Norma Inman

THANK YOU FOR SENDING IN ANSWERS
by doing so

You Encourage Others to Study the Bible!

PLUS

You May Be Our Next Bible Winner!

183. Cheri G. Moore
184. Wilbert S. Butler, Jr.
185. Mrs. Ernie Batts
186. Shirley Dewett
187. No Name
188. Peggy Alcede
189. Otis Boudreaux
190. Paulette Boudreaux
191. Judith Elkins
192. Walter Elkins
193. Louis M. Estes
194. Ena Franks
195. Glen Franks
196. Paul Franks
197. Judith D. Gillman
198. Mo Johnson
199. Timothy Lambert
200. Ancilla Nolan
201. George Nolan
202. Allen Parham
203. Linda Ruth Reed
204. Marcus Rideaux
205. Sherry Vanda Vanter
206. Sherry Townsend
207. Ray Ramsey
208. Shawanda Elliott
209. William Richards
210. Alice Humphries
211. Jane Kuykendall
212. Wanda Cochran
213. Annie R. Copeland
214. Sue Glenn
215. Karen Britt
216. Mary Smith
217. Renee' McCormick
218. Stacey, Melinda & Gregory Hawkins
219. Robert Blackburn
220. Edith Winters
221. Mary T. Feist
222. Dahlia McAfee
223. Ann Kimble
224. M/M Ken Sullins
225. Emile & Peggy Rollins
226. Bernice Townsel
227. Ricky Robinson
228. M/M Arthur Burnett
229. Emma Gilreath Wheeler
230. Linda Crochet
231. Shirley Graham
232. Danny Stacks
233. Kathie Stacks
234. Neil & Betty Marshall
235. Glen Brady
236. Ann Kelley
237. Kenneth Harmon
238. Tara Johnson
239. Kelly Rudy
240. Wendy Williams
241. Wanda Eaves
242. Anita Cutshell
243. Robbie Cole
244. JoAna Mills
245. Diane Dunaway
246. Carla Cadden
247. Dorothy Brunson
248. Merle Johnston
249. Debbie Kirk
250. Carrie Wall
251. Roger King
252. Elvis Dilmore
253. Ruby Dilmore
254. Dean Bass
255. Michael & Estelle Glover
256. Wm. & Atlean Snow
257. John Hazel
258. Wayne Crum
259. Wanda Guin
260. Willa Fox
261. Opal Sappington
262. William Pyron
263. Carrie Williford Hankins
264. Mary Prosser
265. Ms. Modean Edwards
266. Herchell & Jessie McDonald
267. Kelly Key
268. Rick Bishop
269. Billy J. Smith
270. Sandy Dean
271. Barbara Yates
272. Mr. Michael Coleman
273. Mrs. James Vanderford
274. Shirley Bostick
275. Thelma Talbert
276. Alberta Craft
277. Mrs. Dean Howe
278. Debbie Eubanks
279. Bill Moore
280. Jessica Slaydon
281. Nicholas Slaydon
282. Stephanie Slaydon
283. Earl Franks
284. Dorothy Franks
285. Caleb Blackmon
286. Missy Blackmon
287. Wes & Rhoda Jeans
288. Doug & Laura Brackbill
289. Tori Brackbill
290. Kittie Edwards
291. Frances Ewing
292. Patricia A. Cieloha
293. Imogene Kirk
294. Olen Roden, Jr.
295. Helen DePriest
296. Mary Townsend
297. Melba Ogg
298. Bonnie B. Glass
299. Melvin & Kay Linton
300. Kathryn Lee
301. Vickey Middleton
302. Barbara Skrobak
303. Margaret N. Freeman
304. Shirley Ray & Bernice Richardson
305. Willie P. Horton
306. Rosa L. Sanders
307. Jean Clemmer
308. Sidney Clemmer
309. Dorothy Banks
310. Sue Johnson
311. Gary Wolfe
312. Tommy Shull
313. Jeff & Debbie Shull
314. Patty Henson
315. Bobbie Holder
316. Floy Smith
317. Peggy S. Walker
318. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
319. Della M. Rhodes
320. Ginny Luther
321. Lucille Jackson
322. Bonnie Mobley
323. Kathey James
324. Sandra Welch
325. Mrs. Bertie Wilson
326. Sharon Huckaba
327. Bernice Mills
328. Mildred Carroll
329. Linda Cook
330. Patsy McClung
331. Lois Nielson
332. June Brents
333. Juanita Akin
334. Shirley E. Carter
335. Gail Gurganov
336. Linda Matheny
337. Patricia Lowery
338. Willene Gipson
339. Laura Nanney
340. Bettye McCool
341. Marcella A. Moore



Glenda Franks Presents Bible to Jane Walker,
A Recent Bible Winner in Haynesville, LA

342. Josie Isaacs
343. Teresa Anderson
344. Mary Ella Webster
345. Nan Conley
346. Ruth Gunter
347. Alice Dempsey
348. Elsie Moore
349. Doris Jean Fletcher
350. Nelda S. Anderson
351. Dorothy Alexander
352. Mark Rutherford & Ron Nickert
353. Joe Arnold
354. Grace Childers
355. Richard Stinnett, Jr.
356. Pat Morris
357. Catherine A. Allen
358. Karen Bolts
359. Bonnie Howell
360. Lynell Garlington
361. Lessie Tanson
362. Trudie Raney
363. Connie Fountain
364. Al Paulthenia Cotton
365. Manuel Cotton
366. Dion & Teresa Cotton
367. Lauryn & Gloria Cotton
368. Rossie Clark Cotton
369. Jonas & Dorothea Cotton
370. Guy & Kayla Jaxson-Rey
371. Nigel & Shelley Cotton
372. Dick Green
373. Johnny & Princess Watson
374. Vera Spencer
375. Alma Maddox
376. Betty Clark
377. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
378. Betty A. Skinner
379. Shelia White
380. Lloyd & Barbara Beard
381. Pat Moore
382. Paul & Elsie Bryson
383. Mrs. Hilda Laster
384. Claude Edwards
385. Carolyn Stanford
386. Coy Daily
387. Billye Wiygul
388. Brenda McDougal
389. Marvin England
390. Rachel M. Pruitt
391. Mrs. Lois Cleo Wright
392. Bonnie Holcomb
393. Barbara F. White
394. Lenola Balentine
395. Mrs. Pearlle Hurst
396. Travis Hamilton
397. James R. Brooks
398. Bettye McCool
399. Shelia Grant
400. Gloria Boyd
401. Joyce A. King
402. Kimberly Easterling
403. Doris Darnell
404. Carol Bradley
405. Debbie Holmes
406. Audrey Bowling
407. Amy Hutson
408. Carol Bonner
409. Dee Kepler
410. June Faulkner
411. Brenda Taylor
412. Peggy Engel
413. Linda T. Shirley
414. Doris T. Pace
415. Norma Taylor
416. Carole Shelby
417. Brenda Harvill
418. Nell Millsaps
419. Janice Vaughan
420. Vickie Weatherbee
421. J. L. Eaton
422. Ray Parham
423. Shirley Styers
424. **Betty Van Buren**
425. James & Katie Houston
426. Donna Gully
427. Billy Willingham
428. Sidney Robinson
429. Paul Howard
430. Mary M. McDonald
431. Emily Overton
432. Doralynn Felton
433. Linda B. Keirn
434. Rosie Felton
435. James & Judy Hill
436. Dorthy Ford
437. Inez & Laura Brannon
438. Charlene Williams
439. Tommy J. Muirhead
440. Eileen Ferrebee
441. Debra Sigmund
442. Mary Lee Alberson
443. Thyra Sumlin
444. Mary Prosser
445. Eunice M. Kirkwood
446. Mary Salinas
447. Mrs. W. C. Wells
448. Kathy James
449. **YOUR NAME**, next time.

All answers received on/by March 5, 2013, are included in this issue. If your answers reach us later, they will be recognized in our next issue, God willing.

Thanks for Answering
The Question Box

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

The Question Box

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

“Be ye also ready”

The disciples asked Jesus about the destruction of Jerusalem, His coming and the end of the world (Matthew 24:3). Jesus responded to each of their questions -- calling attention especially to the need of making preparation for the Second Coming of Christ and the end of the world. Then, following in **Matthew 25**, Jesus related three separate stories (parables) in which He admonished all His followers to be ready.

These stories/parables may be designated as follows.

- The VIRGINS -- “Foolish/Wise”**
- The SERVANTS -- “Good/Wicked”**
- The NATIONS -- “Sheep/Goats”**

This month’s study asks that you prayerfully review our Lord’s teachings involving ten virgins, three servants and all nations. In each of these

illustrative stories Jesus emphasizes the need for preparation by followers of Jesus -- preparation which most certainly requires activity on the part of all who would be ready for His coming.

Please, if you will, take a few minutes and benefit greatly by answering each section in this month’s study. After completing your study, would you send your answers to us? By so doing, **you will encourage others**; plus, **YOU** may be our **NEXT Bible Winner**. (Each issue we randomly select one student from all who send in answers and award to him or her a beautiful Study Bible or, beginning with this issue, a CD of a great Bible Study Library.) Thank you for your continued interest in the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, as evidenced by your response to this month’s quiz. (ALF, editor and author of “QB”)

The Virgins (25:1-13)

(True or False)

- ___ 1. The kingdom of heaven is compared to virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom.
- ___ 2. The substance of oil was involved in that which separated the wise from the foolish.
- ___ 3. All of the wise virgins stayed awake as they waited for the coming of the bridegroom.
- ___ 4. Five virgins were said to be foolish because they refused to share their oil with others.
- ___ 5. All of the virgins cried out together for the door to the marriage to be opened.

Fill in the missing words: “_____ therefore, for ye _____ neither the _____ nor the _____ wherein the _____ of _____ cometh.” (Verse ___)

The Servants (25:14-30)

(True or False)

- ___ 1. Before traveling into a far country, a man gave nine talents unto five of his servants.
- ___ 2. The varying abilities of the servants helped determine the number of talents each was given.
- ___ 3. Upon their lord’s return, each of the servants had doubled the talents given to him.
- ___ 4. The “reward” given to two of the servants was *exactly* the same.
- ___ 5. All of the servants were said to be fearful of losing their lord’s money.

Fill in Blanks: How were the servants described by their lord?

- (a) Servants one and two: “_____ and _____.”
 (b) Servant number three: “_____ and _____.”

The Nations (25:31-46)

(True or False)

- ___ 1. When the Son of man comes in judgement, he will be accompanied by angels.
- ___ 2. As a shepherd divides sheep from goats, the Lord will separate doers from non-doers.
- ___ 3. When we serve a person in need, we are serving the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ___ 4. “Come, ye blessed” or “Depart from me, ye cursed” will be heard by all at judgement day.
- ___ 5. The “kingdom” and “everlasting fire” are both said to be “prepared.”

Fill in Blanks:

- (a) I was **HUNGRY** You gave me _____
 (b) I was **THIRSTY** Ye gave me _____
 (c) I was **NAKED** Ye _____ me
 (d) I was a **STRANGER** Ye _____ me in
 (e) I was **SICK** Ye _____ me
 (f) I was a **PRISONER** Ye _____ unto me

Are YOU Ready?

Are you wise or foolish? Are you good or wicked? Are you a sheep or a goat?

Please Send Your Answers To Us

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

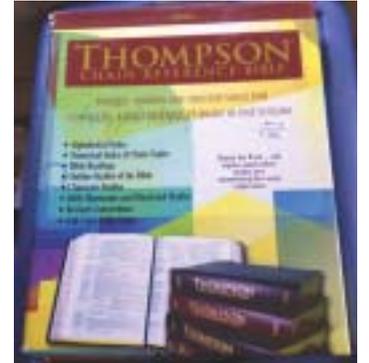
Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Notice: Each person who sends in answers will be recognized in the next issue of the “MM” (see page 23). Also, by random drawing, the name of one student will be selected to receive a beautiful New Study Bible or A Bible Study CD Library. **You may be the one.** Send your answers to:

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

Bible Winner

Now You Can Take Your Choice
Bible Study Library CD or Thompson Study Bible
 (Each is valued at over \$100.00)



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

(Please Answer “The Question Box”)

Our New Bible Winner

Betty Van Buren

(Houma, Louisiana)

All I Ever Really Needed to Know, I Learned From Noah’s Ark

(a) Plan ahead.

It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark!

(b) Stay fit.

When you’re 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.

(c) Don’t listen to critics --

Do what has to be done

(d) For safety’s sake,

Travel in pairs.

(e) Speed isn’t always an advantage.

The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails!

(f) If you cant fight or flee --

Float.

(g) Don’t forget:

We are all in the same boat.

(h) Remember:

*The ark was built by amateurs;
 The Titanic was built by professionals.*

(i) Also Remember:

*The woodpeckers INSIDE are often
 A bigger threat than the storm OUTSIDE.*

(j) Make Sure You:

Don’t miss the boat.

(k) And, Very Important:

No matter how bleak it looks, there’s always a rainbow on the other side!

(Lifted from bulletin of Rocky Creek church of Christ; Lucedale, MS)