

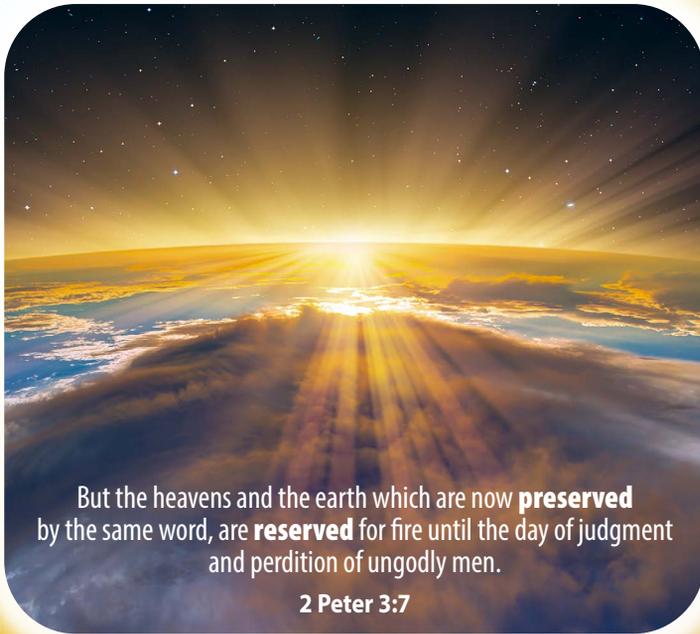
# MAGNOLIA Messenger

Volume 42; Number 1; SPRING, 2020

**"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS" Magazine**  
*Serving Mississippi, Louisiana, and Adjoining States*

*"Let us consider one another  
to provoke unto  
**LOVE** and **GOOD** works."*

*(Hebrews 10:24)*



**"Elders announce new Editor"**  
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**"A Tribute to Paul Franks"**  
**PAGE 6**



**March 24, 1958 - January 31, 2020**

**Have you not known?  
Have you not heard?**

**The everlasting God, the Lord,**

**The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.**

**His understanding is unsearchable.**

Isaiah 40:28



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# To our Readers and Supporters of the Magnolia Messenger

**FROM: The Elders of the South Huntington Church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS**

Dear Brethren,

The Magnolia Messenger has been under the oversight of the S. Huntington Church of Christ since its inception 41 years ago. It is a blessed work of our church and we are honored to have been involved in it. Brother Al Franks had served faithfully and admirably as its Editor over all these years.

Not only was his service as the editor much appreciated, but his role as one of our elders was a great blessing. We are reminded of the relationship of David and Jonathan. When David had to leave for his safety, Jonathan said, "... you will be missed, because your seat will be empty" (I Sam. 20:18). Indeed, Al Franks will be missed because his seat is empty. We yet mourn his passing while knowing that he would want us to move on.

So, the purpose of this letter is to announce to all our readers and supporters that we, the elders of the S. Huntington Church of Christ, have asked Dennis Doughty to be the new editor of the Magnolia Messenger. Dennis has graciously accepted this great responsibility. He has some large shoes to fill, but we feel he is exceptionally qualified to take on this role.

Dennis is no stranger to writing, editing, and publishing a paper. Many years ago he worked with Al in writing and publishing a little paper called "Truth in Love." It was a forerunner of the Magnolia Messenger. For eleven years in the State of Georgia Dennis founded and published a paper called "The Deaf Disciple." This paper highlighted deaf work among the church. For

five years he was an editorial aide to Basil Overton in publishing "The World Evangelist." For the past fourteen years he has written a weekly column called "Inscriptions" which appears in bulletins and newsletters. Dennis also has experience in non-church related publications. He has served as the editor of the "Mid-South Golfer" magazine.

In addition to all the above, Dennis has authored four books. Two of those were published by 21st Century Christian: "Heaven, A Christian Journey into Eternity" and "Road to the Upper Room."

Dennis is currently serving the Tunica Church of Christ as their preacher. He recently began his fourteenth year in that position.

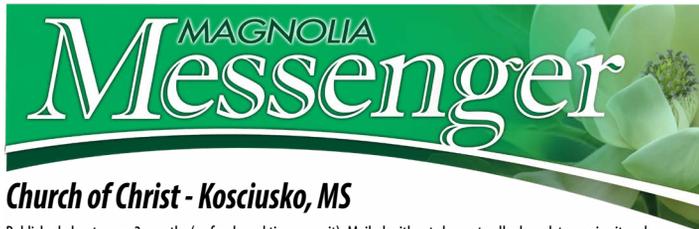
As you reflect on all this, please know that the entire Franks family also strongly believes that Dennis Doughty is the man for the job. June and Glenda Franks will continue to be heavily involved in the ongoing work of the Magnolia Messenger. As you pray, please remember these families as they continue to mourn the death of Al and Paul.

Should you have any questions about the work and direction of the Magnolia Messenger, please do not hesitate to ask. Your prayers and your faithful support are needed. May our God bless you in all your endeavors!

Sincerely,

**Les Ferguson, Sr.**  
Elder

**Andy Wood**  
Elder



**Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS**  
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 31,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your prayers and support are requested, needed, and appreciated!

**Supported By Contributions**

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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.*

(Dennis Doughty, Editor)

**E-Mail: dennis1848@bellsouth.net**



Save the date! The next Brotherhood-Wide Door Knocking Day will be October 3, 2020.

But don't wait until then! What if we knocked on doors each month? What if we taught people we normally see as we go (Matthew 10:7), wherever we go? (Acts 8:4). Door Knocking Day is great, but it can be more powerful if it becomes everyday evangelism. Put Door Knocking Day on your calendar for 2020, and between now and then, let's go meet our neighbors!

# MAGNOLIA Messenger

## "From Dennis"



In a recent meeting with the Kosciusko church elders I was asked, with the Franks family blessings, to become the new editor of the Messenger. I was honored to be asked and accepted their offer. I am now in my fourteenth year preaching for the church in Tunica and will continue to preach and meet the spiritual needs of this congregation. However, I am pleased to add this new role in my work for the Lord's Kingdom.

### Here is why I accepted this new challenge;

#### First, I have the time to do this.

Look brethren, none of us are as busy in the Lord's work as we could be. Almost all of us could do more than we are doing. This is certainly true for me. I may have to give up a round or two of golf, or spend a few extra Saturday mornings in the office, but I certainly have the time to give to this good work. Paul encouraged us all to be "wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

#### Second, I have the talent to do this.

I have been writing, editing and publishing stuff for well over thirty years. I even served as the editor of a golf magazine in Memphis for a short time. Not many preachers have this interest or background. If we learned anything from our Lord's parable of the talents, it is that He expects us to use our abilities to the fullest in His service, and not to dig a hole to hid them in. Again, all of us have skills and experience we have gained in life, and God expects us to use them to grow his Kingdom.

#### Thirdly, I have been given the opportunity to do this.

I did not seek this position. It is totally through God's providence that this has come my way. Like my work in Tunica, it is a door God has opened. It is hard to say no to God. By faith, we must take advantage of the opportunities we are presented with by his providence; "so then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:10).

I ask for your prayers and support in meeting this challenge.

Dennis Doughty

## FROM THE MAILBOX:

"Brother Dennis: I am delighted to know that you will be the new editor of The Magnolia Messenger. You are the right man for the job and will do a great work."

*Hugh Fulford, Gallatin, Tennessee*

"I appreciate you so much and I'm glad you will be at the helm of the MM. We needed someone with your kind, gentle spirit to do this. You have the background that has prepared you for it. And I think I recall a phrase from somewhere.....'Who knows but that you were brought to the kingdom for such a time as this?'," or words to that effect."

*Ken Joines, Southaven, Mississippi*

"God bless you as you become the editor of the Magnolia Messenger. I knew and dearly loved Al and 'his June.' They were a very special couple. My heart is still heavy over the death of Al. What a great Christian gentleman and an awesome speaker. God Bless you!"

*Edgar C Beard, Centerville, Tennessee*

"Did I read that you will be editing the MM? If so, I think you will do a good job. In fact, you were the first one to come to mind when I learned about Al's tragic death. Keep up your good work!"

*Bill Lambert, Searcy, Arkansas*

"I am so glad that you are willing and able to take on this added responsibility. I am so impressed with what you have already done for the Tunica congregation and that area."

*Harold Mobley, Utica, Mississippi*

"Congratulations, Brother Dennis. I am super happy to hear you are the new editor. I last saw Al at a funeral last year. He will be missed. I have read MM for 38 years and have always loved it!"

*Dale Jenkins, Spring Hill, Tennessee*

Dennis. I currently get the Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy the paper. I wondered from the last issue if you would become the editor. Glad you did. The paper is in good hands. Brother Al would be pleased. Keep up the good work. We will keep you and your work, as well as the Franks family, in our prayers.

*Bill Brandstatter, Marion, Illinois*

Dennis, I'm SO proud for you! What a fun, new adventure! I wish you the best in it.

*Cheri Suns, Florence, Alabama*

*(Cheri is an old friend of our family and just had to include her comments. Thanks Cheri!-dd)*

Dennis, you will make a great Editor of the Magnolia Messenger. Hope to write an article for you some time in the future. God Bless you.

*Don Green, Memphis, Tennessee*

"We just recently heard about your appointment to editor of the Magnolia Messenger. We can't think of anyone more eminently qualified to take over this position than you. We are sure it is not only with a great deal of sadness that you approach this task, but also with a resolve and a determination to maintain the quality of the publication done by the Franks family for so many years.

*The Rubies Class, Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ  
Lake Charles, Louisiana.*

# BIBBLE

## Questions & Answers

### MM Readers' ASK: Cecil May RESPONDS

**Response:** It seems clear that the body in which Jesus was raised is the same body that was laid in the tomb, the body in which he was crucified. He still had the nail prints in his hands and the hole in his side from the sword with which the Roman soldier pierced him (John 20:20, 24). He ate food (Luke 24:43), which suggests a physical body rather than a spiritual body. The clincher, however, is Jesus' own statement: "Touch me and see. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). Jesus was, therefore, still in his physical body when he spoke those words. It is in that very connection that Paul says, "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 15:50). Since the physical body cannot go to heaven, Jesus received his spiritual body when he ascended. When we go to heaven, we will then be like him (1 John 3:2).

### Objection

Some who believe Jesus was raised in his spiritual body point to his ability after his resurrection to pass through walls and suddenly appear in the midst of a crowd in a locked room (John 20:19). Does anyone think, however, that the One who, in his pre-resurrection body, walked on water, calmed stormy seas, and raised the dead, could not also pass through walls and appear suddenly in crowds? As a matter of fact, the Gospels record a somewhat similar event (Luke 4:29-30).

### What Is a Spiritual Body?

"Spiritual Body" sounds almost like a contradiction in terms, an oxymoron. Spirits normally do not have bodies; so my first response to the "What is a spiritual body?" question is, "I don't know; I can't imagine." However, that question is

### QUESTION:

*When Jesus was raised from the dead "on the third day" after his crucifixion, did he come out of the tomb in the body in which he was crucified, or in the "spiritual body" in which the Apostle Paul says the redeemed would be resurrected (1 Cor. 15:42-45)? And what is a spiritual body? (B. B.)*

asked and, at least partially, answered in Scripture. We can see and tell what Scripture says about it.

"But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?'" Ignoring the first phrase of Paul's (KJV) answer, "Thou fool," Paul uses the analogy of planting seed. The seed dies and a plant comes up.

The plant which the seed produces is not just one kernel of grain such as was put in the ground. It is more and better, but it is still an extension of the same life. In the resurrection, that which was sown was physical, that which is raised is spiritual.

Here is the scriptural contrast: mortal/immortal, perishable/imperishable, dishonorable/glorious, weak/powerful, natural/spiritual (1 Cor. 15:42-44, 54). At the resurrection, everyone in Christ will be changed into a spiritual body, whether they are alive at Christ's coming or have died and are raised (1 Cor. 15:51-52).



CECIL MAY, JR.  
Dean Emeritus;  
College of Biblical Studies;  
Faulkner University.  
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Applying all of that personally, in my spiritual body, I will no longer need my canes or my walker; my feet and legs will work fine, pain free. I will no longer need glasses; my incurable macular degeneration will be cured. I will no longer have to rely on hearing aids.

All Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autisms, and such like will be as if they never were. In short, I understand "corruptible" to mean "subject to various diseases and handicaps." The spiritual body is "incorruptible." Heaven, therefore, because our bodies there are spiritual and incorruptible, is a place of no disease, no pain, no infirmities. God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Paul uses the analogy of the seed sown and the plant and fruit which grows from it to illustrate both the differences and the sameness of the natural body that is buried (sown, planted) and the spiritual body that is raised. There is a continuance, a sameness, of seed to plant, as well as obvious differences.

In the conversation between Jesus and the Sadducees concerning resurrection, which the Sadducees denied, Jesus quoted God, speaking from the bush Moses saw burning but not being burned up. From the bush, God identified Himself as, "The God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Ex. 3:4). Then, from the fact

that God said, "I am the God of . . .", Jesus quoted an axiom no one disagreed with, "God is not the God of the dead but of the living." Those two facts together demand the conclusion Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are living. And contrasting that conclusion with the popular Greek notion of "the immortality of the soul," it also demands the conclusion, "Abram, Isaac, and Jacob are still Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

"Body," even a "spiritual body," is the means by which we are recognized and the means by which we accomplish things.

After his ascension, Jesus has such a body, and so shall we, in heaven. **MM**



## Tribute to A. L. (Al) Franks

### Founder, Publisher, Editor Magnolia Messenger

By Cecil May Jr.

This is a tribute to a great man, "a Prince in Israel," an effective communicator of the gospel, almost worldwide. It is also a tribute to a good friend for many years.

He was the Magnolia Bible

College Trustee who flew to Florence, Alabama, in 1980 and invited me to be President of Magnolia Bible College. He remained a wise and effective trustee as well as a loyal friend and supporter throughout my tenure there.

In all likelihood, there would never have been a Magnolia Messenger without Al Franks. The paper has had a tremendous influence for good, especially in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, but increasingly throughout the world. It currently has a circulation of over 31,000. If it were not to come, it would be regretfully missed by people in the homes to which it is mailed.

He began preaching at a very early age and was preaching full time when he was 16 years old at Bilbo & Roberts St. Church in DeRidder, LA. Other places he has preached full time include, Mayfield in Saltillo, MS, Skyline in Tupelo, MS, Yazoo City, MS, Rolling Fork, MS, Poplar Springs in Clarksburg, TN, and South Huntington in Kosciusko, MS. He also helped start Churches in Forest, MS, Crystal Springs, MS, and Meridian, MS.

He was a talented writer. The Messenger was always

filled with excellent articles on a variety of biblical subjects, and many of the best ones he wrote himself. There were few topics he was unqualified to take on.

Humility is not thinking of oneself as not talented enough to take on a good work. It is not thinking of oneself as inferior to other workers. Rather it is always thinking of others and not thinking of oneself at all. By that definition, Al Franks was one of the humblest men I have known. He was kind, meek, and gentle to all people at all times.

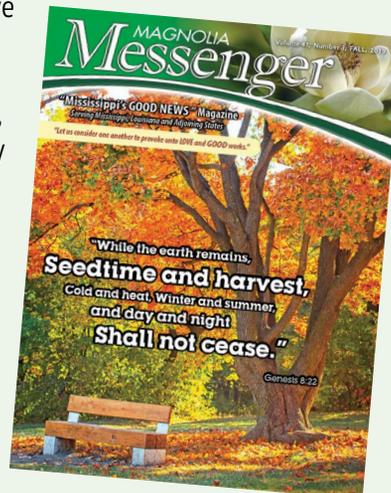
Al Franks was a loving husband, father, and grand-

father. His wife June, "my June" as he lovingly called her, has been a worthy helpmeet. A talented writer in her own right, she is effective as a teacher of women and children. Her articles are eagerly anticipated and widely read.

Al is survived by his wife, June Pearson Franks; sons Paul Franks (Glenda), Philip Franks (Tammy), and Stephen Franks (Lisa); sister Ina Sadler of Vidor, TX; grandchildren Vincent Franks (Kori), Philip Dale Franks II, Erin Hinson (Derek), Andrea Skelton (Shaun), Megan Shepherd (Andrew), Ashley Lambert (Rusty), JoAnna Roos (Derick), and Ali Meyer (Chris); great-grandchildren Braylee, Sadie, Silas,

Abel, Lucy, Addison, Matthew, Maci, Myles, Mila, Mabry, Henley, and Haley.

Al Franks was born January 3, 1939 and entered into glory October 16, 2019. His influence for good will continue to be felt, as his writings continue to circulate. **MM**



# A Tribute to Paul Franks

*Preacher, college administrator, entrepreneur,  
associate editor of The Magnolia Messenger*

## ● From His Wife, Glenda;

Today, January 31st, at 3:28 p.m. my heart was shattered into a million pieces. I lost my precious husband Paul. I knew this day was coming since he was diagnosed with ALS and Frontotemporal Dementia only 5 months ago. I definitely wasn't prepared for this day. He declined very rapidly. I was so thankful we had all of our family here surrounding him during his final breaths.

Paul and I had been married 42 years on September 9th. We have been blessed with three wonderful children and 5 beautiful grandchildren. He was a great husband, father, and papa.

Paul was one of the most generous people that I knew. He helped so many people who were in need. He loved people and he never met a stranger. He loved preaching and encouraging others. He would always ask, "are you happy?" He had a passion for life, and he made life fun.

One of Paul's passions was directing a Bible youth camp in Lithuania. He did this for 21 years. He loved traveling, especially in our motorhome.

I will dearly miss him, and there will forever be a hole in my heart. I know that he and his dad are in Heaven rejoicing together.





# My Dad!

## By Megan Franks Shepherd

Paul Franks was my dad. He was the “Papa” to my children. He was the husband to my mother. There are many titles I can use to describe my dad, but I would like to share some of my favorite qualities of his. My dad was great at instilling confidence in me over the years. He always told me he loved me, how proud he was of me, and how beautiful he thought I was. I felt special and important to him. He was a constant source of protection and security.

I’ve recently heard several people say that my dad was “larger than life,” which was true in many ways. He was a large man in stature, but mostly because of his large personality and zeal for life. He never met a stranger, and he genuinely loved people. I loved that about him.

He reminded me of Jesus in the way that he loved everyone no matter their social status, past mistakes, or outward appearance.

My dad was a very generous man. He was constantly helping someone in need. Whether it was loaning his vehicle, loaning or giving money, letting people live in his house or motorhome, or providing meals, my dad was always eager to help those in need.

My dad had a passion for adventure and travel. We loved

riding roller coasters and other thrilling rides together. Our travels are some of my favorite memories. Every year he led a group to Lithuania for a Christian youth camp, and I was able to tag along for 11 of the 21 years he went. Every trip Dad bought tons of candy to pass out to the kids, earning him the title “Candy Man”. He did the same when he traveled to Uganda in 2017. Unfortunately his diagnosis prevented him from going back to Lithuania and Uganda last year as he had planned.

My dad adored his five grandchildren and would do anything for them. He loved creating memories with them by taking them on trips and to fun places, and, of course, by buying them all the toys they wanted. We hope our children will always remember the times spent with their Papa.

My dad loved God, he loved people, and he loved his family. He loved singing loudly and preaching loudly. You always knew when you were in the presence of my dad. He also loved the Magnolia Messenger and enjoyed working directly for it the past 6 years. While we are so comforted by the thought of him worshipping in Heaven with Jesus and my Pawpaw, Al Franks, we miss him so much here on earth. We are so thankful for the hope we have to see him again in Heaven. **MM**

## ▶ MY FRIEND PAUL

*Paul Franks was a friend to me over the years through the many twists and turns of life—ever since we first met at Magnolia Bible College. I will always remember him greeting me asking, “Are you happy?” While sometimes that annoyed me, it always made me think if I was!*

*I had the opportunity to travel a great deal of the world with Paul through our work in Lithuania missions and journeying to the Holy Lands together. He was a good guy to have by your side when in a foreign country!*

*Paul loved life; he loved adventure; he loved Glenda and his kids and grand-kids; he loved his parents and family; he loved the Lord; he loved MBC; and he loved the Magnolia Messenger.*

*He was a particular blessing to my wife, Terri, and me when we lived in Lithuania. I am going to miss him, but I know he is now realizing what true happiness is.*



by Danny Dodd

## Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ

*Paul Franks was the pulpit minister at Enterprise Boulevard in Lake Charles, LA for over nine years. Paul’s forte was interacting with people. He never met a stranger and always made everyone feel welcome and valued.*

*Paul was an idea guy. He enjoyed planning activities such as weekend outings and cruises. He enjoyed having people in his and Glenda’s home and that included a wonderfully cooked meal by Glenda.*

*His tenure at EBCC was well spent and productive. He was truly loved.*

*Sincerely, Butch Elkin, Elder, EBCC*

# Alfred Paul Franks

by Cecil May, Jr.

My good friend and colleague, Paul Franks, died following a battle with a debilitating disease. Our mutual friend, Danny Dodd, preaching Paul's funeral, said the appropriate word for Paul is "large." He had a tall, large physical frame, an imposing presence, and a large voice. When he came into a room, everyone took notice.

The South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko, Mississippi, had a very active bus ministry in the late 1970's and one of the early converts was Glenda Black. She was "as pretty as a picture." Paul was immediately attracted, and they were soon married. Paul enjoyed saying he married a Black girl. He was large in hospitality, and frequently invited people home to eat, at almost the last minute. He would call Glenda and she would have food on the table when they arrived for however many he had invited. As far as I know, she never complained. Paul loved his Glenda and Glenda loved Paul.



I came to Magnolia Bible College as president in August, 1980. Paul had graduated in May a few months earlier, and Dean Bill Lambert, who served as interim president for about nine months before my arrival, hired Paul on his graduation as recruiter and fundraiser. He was, soon after my arrival, appointed Director of Development. I have known several successful fund-raisers; Paul was as good as the best.

He had initiative and was a self-starter. I often accused him of operating under the banner, "It is easier to ask for forgiveness than to get permission." However, his ideas usually came out on the successful side, like the used U-Haul truck he bought for the flea-market/auction MBC had annually. Paul foraged in people's garages and attics. "Can we have that?" "Do you still use that?" "That would go great at the auction!" It was a major income raiser every year. People came from all over the southeast to bid and buy.

He was not bashful about asking. The Bible College got in a financial tight, and I sent Paul out to raise some immediate money. He stopped at a board member's house, and the board member told Paul he saw him coming, knew what he was coming for, and handed him a check already made out. Paul looked at it, handed it back to him and said, "We have a serious deficit; we need more than that. Cecil will have my head, if I don't bring back more than that from you." The Board Member wrote a larger check.

Paul also proved himself to be an effective, faithful preacher of the gospel. He served the Mendenhall, Mississippi, church while a student at MBC. He served as the preacher at Forest, Mississippi, Lake Charles, Louisiana, and the interim preacher for Ripley, Mississippi. In 2013 he moved back to Kosciusko to work with his Dad and the Messenger.

We developed a special bond that continued through Paul's death. I felt toward him almost as a son, and I felt the love he had for me in return. Heaven gets sweeter as more and more loved ones and friends are there.

Good night, Paul. See you in the morning. **MM**

## MAGNOLIA BIBLE INSTITUTE

We are closing in on the end of the winter/spring session of classes. Final exams will be held the first week of April. As we bring this session to a close, we will have taught Acts, Hebrews and History of Israel 2. The Institute is still attracting good interest. Ten students were involved in these studies this session.

We do not plan a summer school session this summer. We will offer a short course on the Gospel of John. Dr. Willie Nettle will teach this short course.

It will be held on July 24-25 and July 31-Aug 1. Specific times will appear in the next issue, or call me at the number given below. Make plans now to attend.

We exist to train preachers and to help those already preaching to further their knowledge of God's Word. Of course we encourage anyone who wants to come and take these courses for credit or audit. And we do have a number of audit students. All of these courses are without charge. Audit students will also be given opportunity to purchase the text books if so desired. Our classes are especially designed for the preacher who is secularly employed. They can maintain their job while also improving their understanding of God's word.

When the fall classes begin in September, we will be offering "Survey of the Old Testament" on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Dr. Roger Hines will teach this course. On Saturday mornings we will offer two courses. Will Anderson will teach "Christian Evidences" from 9:00 – 11:15. Dr. Ray Paseur will teach the "Pentateuch" from 11:15 – 1:15.

We encourage you to come visit our campus, sit



in one of our classes and see firsthand what is taking place at the Magnolia Bible Institute. Of course, we are always seeking the support of those who like to encourage the training and teaching of gospel preachers and other teachers of the word. If you want more information, please give me a call, 601 562-4226. Your prayers are much appreciated. **MM**

Les Ferguson, Sr.  
Director

# RETREAT AT MAGNOLIA BIBLE CENTER

*Southaven Church of Christ • Southaven, Mississippi*

Robert Jefferies, Jr



If you are looking for a great place to have a retreat, you do not need to look any further.

Recently, thirty-one people from the Southaven Church of Christ travelled two hours south to the small town of Kosciusko, MS, to invade the campus of the Magnolia Bible Center. It is located on the property of the South Huntington Street Church of Christ.

For some time now, Michael Gahagan (one of our deacons) and I have been discussing some new activities for our youth groups. Michael and his wife, Christy, came up with the idea of having a winter retreat for both of our youth groups and their families. In order to help our families to not be so rushed, it was determined that a three-day weekend would work best. So, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend was selected. January 17-20, was the date that members of the Southaven Church of Christ have been looking forward to for the past few months.

Our group was amazed at everything the campus had to offer. They had a dormitory where numerous families could stay and a gymnasium with a full kitchen; and it would be all ours for the weekend. Upon arrival Friday evening, everyone got unpacked and got settled. The dorm suites had 4 beds with a Jack and Jill Bathroom setup and room for extra twin sized air mattresses so that even larger families could stay together. Downstairs of the dormitory, there was an area where everyone could congregate, relax, and even play pool together. On the main floor, our group enjoyed the kitchenette and living room area as well.

On Saturday morning, we enjoyed a big breakfast that we were able to cook in the large kitchen area of the gymnasium. After breakfast, while the young people were playing, the parents had a brainstorming session that was designed to help each other with



our personal family devotionals. We gathered around in a circle and offered up several ideas to benefit each other (Psalm 127; Ephesians 6:1-4).

That afternoon, we strived to follow in the footsteps of Barnabas where we engaged in a service project where each child wrote and decorated cards of encouragement for our shepherds at Southaven. In addition to those cards, each one wrote a card for a precious little girl who is battling cancer in Illinois (Acts 4:36; 11:22-23; 15:36-40).

On Sunday, we worshipped with the brethren at South Huntington. The brethren there were so warm and encouraging. Will Anderson is their very capable minister. He led us in a study in the book of James for Bible Class, and for worship, Will preached on Prayer (AM) & Psalm 119 (PM).

Our first annual winter family retreat was a great success. Throughout the weekend, our group shared many laughs, played many rounds of Gaga Ball, played a lot of basketball, we sang, we ate, and we had wonderful fellowship with each other as we strengthened our bonds with one another. We grew together in our love for each other, as well as our love for the Lord (Matthew 22:37-39). **MM**

*(If your group is interested in the Magnolia Bible Center for your event contact Les Ferguson, 601.562.4226)*

## THE STATE OF

*The* Church **Part II***See previous issue for Part I***WELL, WHAT ABOUT US?**

We noted what is happening on the “Christian” frontier in the U.S. today. Now, let’s take a look at churches of Christ; how are we faring? Let me say first that I’m not going to like what I’m about to say any better than you will. But we must be honest.

Jesus, through his apostles, established the church of Christ in the first century. On the birthday of the church, more than 3,000 were baptized (Acts 2). This body grew and grew. The Roman Empire tried to topple it, but the Empire fell instead. This happened because the people had an unshakeable faith in God; they really believed in what they were doing. They had made a vow to follow Jesus and they never looked back.

But in keeping with the very nature of humans, their zeal cooled and the doctrines of men started taking root. The Roman Catholic church—the first denomination—NOT the first church—can trace its roots to the early 7th century. That church took on more the characteristics of a political machine than a church.

In 1517 there arose a German Monk named Martin Luther who dared write out 95 objections to some of Catholicism’s practices. He nailed this paper to the old chapel door in Wittenberg, Germany, sparking the Protestant Reformation, which would deteriorate into the complex system of denominations we have today.

In the early 1800s several preachers, mainly in Scotland and other parts of Great Britain, were preaching that all this division was killing the cause of Christ. They called for a restoration of New Testament Christianity, saying we should drop all the creeds of men, and the divisive doctrines and names and once again be the plain, simple New Testament church. Their call was, “Let us speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. Let us have no creed but the Bible.” When people did this, they did not create a new denomination; they simply began to restore the original church. This movement would spread like wildfire; churches of Christ sprang up everywhere as the people left these denominations. A century later, we were still growing rapidly and around 1960 Encyclopedia Britannica described us as the fastest-growing religious group in America.

**SO WHAT HAPPENED?**

I’ve traveled quite a lot in recent years, keeping in touch with a broad spectrum of our people and noticing various trends. I don’t like what I’m seeing. I recall when our churches were strong, vibrant, and evangelistic. In particular, I think of congregations in my home county in Kentucky. When I was in my teens the buildings were packed, and outside the raised windows, men were seated on the car hoods or on truck tailgates, listening to the preaching. The lost were coming to Jesus, being baptized.

Looking south in Tennessee, some of the largest churches there now have fewer than one hundred! Across the land we were hosting great Teacher Training seminars, and sponsoring evangelistic crusades, packing the coliseums. In Memphis every year we had a series called “Training For Service” where hundreds were being trained to be better teachers, elders, deacons, song leaders, personal evangelists and just plain servants. Brotherhood-wide projects could be easily funded. Not so much so now. So what happened?

At the risk of oversimplification, I’ll simply say that Satan really gets agitated when God’s people make progress! So, this Prince of Darkness moved in and began his dirty work. He successfully planted seeds of doubt and suspicion among us, causing us to distrust one another. He sidetracked many fine preachers, causing them to change the thrust of their work. Their preaching deteriorated into fits of harsh, bitter presentations, hurting and even destroying many souls, causing congregations to isolate themselves into smaller and smaller circles. As we moved into the 21st century, we were in such a state of disarray that it would become virtually impossible in most areas to bring our people together to put on a city-wide evangelistic campaign; we probably couldn’t agree on a speaker. Such cooperative efforts as cited earlier were stopped dead in their tracks. Hell was having a picnic!

To be sure, these are hard times for the Christian religion in America. Sadly, Christians have sat idly by and let Satan steal the church by creating havoc among and between us. Don’t ever forget that Satan loves to fish in troubled waters! The result is that he threw out his most attractive lures and snagged the weaker and the young, lead-

ing them wherever he willed. When attention focuses on these losses, someone usually says, “I just don’t understand it. . . . he was RAISED in the church!” “She knows better; she NEVER missed Sunday School. . . . her Daddy was an elder.”

It seems we’re trying every way to get away from more teaching and preaching. Sunday nights are being brushed aside with, “Oh, that’s just a tradition,” Granted. “People are so busy these days,” on and on. Would we care to face the real reason we’re doing less and less teaching? Let me give it a shot: We are too lazy to give ourselves wholly to Jesus. We’ve made real comfortable nests and have not developed sufficient convictions to move us to action. We’ve hired several “staff” members and we think they should carry the load. It’s as if we said, “Sunday nights, Wednesday nights, would you please just get out of our way. We have plans for Sunday night. We’re having a pool party, grilling some bratwurst, inviting several families over—oh, and we’ll even have a short “devo” at sundown. . . .” (this ought to satisfy the old fogies who think we ought to be in worship with the whole church). Never mind that we’re shutting off some more of the spiritual food supply so desperately needed! Result? The people are starving for knowledge.

How long has it been since you experienced a really soul-stirring, soul-saving revival effort?

We’re seeing all kinds of knee-jerk reactions by churches today. You may hear, “Let’s have Sunday worship, then Sunday School, then an abbreviated second service.” (those preaching will be told to keep that service brief or the people won’t stay for it), “Break into small groups and just meet in homes; we can reach our neighbors this way.” Or on 5th Sundays, “let’s have Sunday School, worship, then eat a big meal and then a short service (never mind that several people will miss the worship to go to the kitchen and prepare the meal!!!) Talk about shooting ourselves in the foot or letting the tail wag the dog! Say what you will about all this, but the fact remains that the total hours spent in actually teaching our people is steadily shrinking.

The Educational program is on life-support, nationally. A generation ago, nearly every congregation of 300 or more had not only a pulpit preacher, but an Educational Director whose job was to keep a good, solid teaching program in motion. Today, I do not personally know of even one church of any size that has an education director. And there’s such little interest that our universities no longer offer courses in that field! Almost none of the “community churches”—some with 1500 on Sundays—have Sunday School at all.

Please consider this: The Christian religion is a taught religion. The only way to become a Christian is to be taught. Over and over, God says, “Teach your children”, “Preach to every creature”, “let the older women teach the younger”, “preach the word”, and so on. The one and only way to be saved is through teaching and

preaching. So when we drop Sunday nights, and when all the preaching done is a 25-minute “lesson” (oh, and we’re not saying “sermon”, because the millennials have said “don’t preach to me”) at the worship hour plus an abbreviated second service, you can mark it down: THIS WILL SLOWLY WEAKEN THE CONGREGATION.

Rule of nutrition: Cut off the food supply and the body dies! Here’s a chilling thought: If it is true—and it is—that Christianity is solely a taught religion, and if we keep shortening the time we give to teaching, just who do you think is back of this? Who is encouraging this? DUH! Somebody wants us to do less teaching and preaching! And who would that be? DUH! I can just hear the “Church Lady” say, “Do you think it could be Satan?”

It would seem that those charged with feeding the flock—elders—would be the ones seeking ways for additional feeding time, not less. But herein lies one of our most serious problems—real leadership. Servant leadership. All across America I’m seeing case after case where what God intended to be a family with shepherds who actually know the people and their needs. . . . we have sat silently by and allowed elders to become a SHIP that is more of a political power-base than what God intended it to be. In fact, is the word “elderSHIP” even found in scripture????? Look for yourself. We’ve allowed this SHIP to do the very thing that God’s apostles said elders are NOT to do—lord it over the flock, holding private meetings, making decisions, then expecting everyone to fall in line or get out of the way: I Peter 5:2-4 “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is among you, watching over them not out of compulsion, but because it is God’s will; not out of greed but out of eagerness, not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. . . .”

God’s family is better described as an organism (body) than as an organization! It is a body, not a corporation with board members whose main function is conducting closed-door meetings and then coming out announcing “decisions” that scare the congregation half to death!

In some cases elders have decided that since some are better at shepherding and some at overseeing, some of them can be the shepherds and some church managers. Brethren, we must not allow such a prostitution of this sacred office that was meant to feed and nourish us, not manage with political tactics. We’ve been our own worst enemy by pulling back on the amount of time our preachers and teachers are spending in a serious teaching, mimicking the failing practices of those around us, by demanding less and less of each other.

*Continued on next page*

Ken Joines,  
Olive Branch, MS



# LOVE

## *the Brotherhood*

"There has and will be a lot written about Bro. Al Franks, but I saw firsthand his concern for the lost. The first time was over 11 years ago when I called him and he listened as I told him about the Back to the Bible Campaign and why the article on the campaign's results needed to be printed; when I told him I would call him back and let him know how many congregations asked about a Back to the Bible Campaign because of what they read in the MM, he agreed. About two months later I sent him an email with the calls we got from MS, TN, GA, and AL. He said that made his day. Every year after our campaign when none of the other publications would print anything we sent them, the MM always did, and no matter how bad the info was, he made it look like a silk purse. He was a great supporter of evangelism and especially in the South.

***Bro. Al Franks will be missed, but his love for the lost has not been lost by his successor because when I talked to Dennis Doughty and told him why our article needed to be printed, he made room for it. This magazine is mailed to over 30,000 homes each quarter and Al was always willing to speak at any congregation about his love for the Lord.***

### iHs

For the Elders,

**Cox Blvd church of Christ**

Tuscumbia, AL

**Russell R Blackwell**

*Elder Coordinating the Mission Program*

## THE STATE OF

# *The Church* Part II

We have without doubt weakened the Cause of Jesus Christ by this relaxed approach to discipleship.

We've listened as our members have said, "I just can't learn the Bible, I just can't memorize scripture, I can't, I can't, etc." But it's strange that these same people have memorized the lyrics of songs from the 1970s, and they can sit up and quote verbatim the batting averages of members of their team, or tell you exactly where this pro athlete went to college and what their win/loss record is. They can tell you who played the lead role in dozens of movies. The bitter truth is we don't learn scripture because we don't want to learn scripture!

We have 16-20 yr-olds who were "raised in the church" who cannot explain why baptism is necessary, why we eat the Lord's Supper every Sunday, why we sing a cappella, or why immersion is the only form of baptism taught in scripture. They don't know because we didn't teach them. He or she may have been raised in the church, but we taught them everything but the Word.

It is no different with the adult segment. When the church starts to shrink, we nearly always hear elders or preachers say, "We need a seminar on 'How To Grow a Church.'" And just watch us invite some guy in for three days whose main credentials are he teaches in a Christian college and has written books on "How To Grow A Church". Never mind that he has never grown a church himself; he wrote a book, so he must know. Why is it that when the church stops growing we always need another seminar, or study another book or class on the subject? Why is it we try everything under the sun besides getting out there and knocking on the neighbor's door?" "Oh! knocking on doors and studying with people doesn't work anymore," they tell us. Would you care telling that to the Mormons?.....it's their principle means of

growth and believe me they're growing!

Folks, we've got work to do to get the church back on the growing track. And I repeat that I'm not free of guilt. I've become lazy just like the rest of us. Occasionally we see a picture of 20,000 or even 135,000 Muslims kneeling at noon on their prayer cloths. They seem to have no trouble mobilizing their adherents. To our shame, I'm not sure if it is possible for churches of Christ to get 25,000 people to do ANYTHING together. We're too lazy and too divided. Jesus must be weeping. To borrow a passage from Matthew 23 where he looked out over the city and said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem..... how often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing." (ESV). I can imagine him saying through his tears, "Oh, American churches, how often would I have led you to victory over the corrupt doctrines of men, and how I would love to have brought you to strength when Islam swept your beloved nation, but you wouldn't come in off the lake or turn off your TV and follow me."

Forty years ago, one man did a study of the growth of the Pentecostals in Central and South America. He made a statement that keeps haunting me: "The growth of any organization—political, educational, or religious—is in direct proportion to its ability to mobilize its people."

Brethren, we have a lot of work to do. And it begins at home. Let's take a serious look at our home congregation and see where we need to make some changes that will get us back on the growing track. I think we all know what we need to do. Let's pray that God will help us actually do it! **MM**

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# "They are all dead"

by Dennis Doughty

The American composer, John Williams, is considered one of the all-time greatest, ranked alongside composers like Bach and Mozart. When Steven Spielberg asked Williams to compose the score for his movie, "Schindler's List," Williams at first declined, saying there were greater composers to choose from. Spielberg replied. "Yes, but they are all dead." Williams score won the Academy Award that year.

There were men, handpicked by Jesus, that gave instructions on how we are to worship. But they are all dead now. When asked "What must I do to be Saved?" there were men back in the day, led by the Holy Spirit, to give the correct answer. But they are all dead. The doctrines governing the church were set in place by the inspired Apostles (Acts 2:42), but they, too, are all dead.

*God's written Word is as powerful and as authoritative as it was in the days of the men who wrote it.*

But God's Word remains "living and active," it is not dead! It remains to this day "active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

God's written Word is as powerful and as authoritative as it was in the days of the men who wrote it.

A great illustration of this is the Tabernacle. From Mt. Sinai, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God and all the laws connected to it. He also wrote down all the instructions God gave him for building the Tabernacle, "for see, He says, 'that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you in the mountain'" (Hebrews 8:5).

Moses died forty years later, yet the Law he wrote remained "living and active" and was followed by the Jews for 1400 years. The temple of Solomon, and later by Herod, was built exactly by the pattern given to Moses on Mt. Sinai a millennium earlier. Moses was dead, but the Word of God he received and wrote was very much alive, and remained in force. It was still being strictly

obeyed and taught by the scribes and Pharisees a thousand years later. Jesus even instructed, "Therefore all that they tell you, do and observe" (Matthew 23:2,3).

Upon Jesus' arrival "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). He came and stated, "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Jesus is a risen Savior, He is the living Word of God, and so his written words are also alive, and His new covenant remains in force (Hebrews 9:15,16).



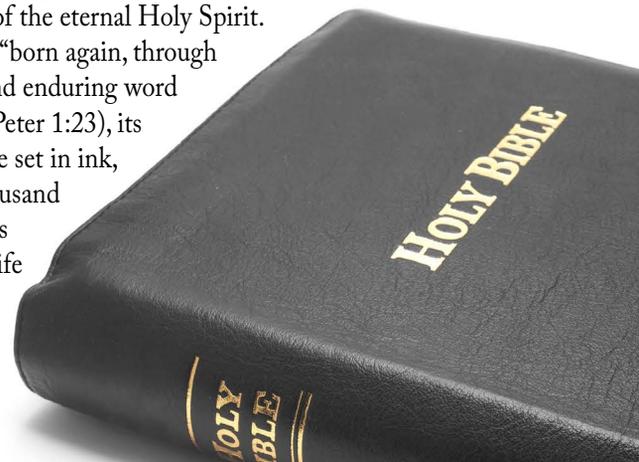
To the twelve handpicked men Jesus chose, called apostles, he promised "the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" (John 14:26).

The written words of Peter in his epistles are just as powerful today as his spoken words were on Pentecost (Acts 2). The many books written by the apostle Paul are as inspired as his famous sermon on Mars Hill (Acts 17).

The great compositions of Bach and Mozart remain today, and many enjoy their timeless symphonies. The orchestras today follow note by note as these talented men wrote them. Their music lives on.

God's living symphony of Truth and Salvation lives on as well. There are to be no new compositions! Let us follow chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word, as they are written. To tinker with, ignore, or be critical of, the teachings of the living scriptures is to ignore the teachings of the living God and the inspiration of the eternal Holy Spirit.

We are "born again, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:23), its teachings are set in ink, and two thousand years later its words give life to all who will obey them. **MM**



# Let God Do the Fighting

*D-DAY had finally arrived...*<sup>1</sup>

by: **Mike Benson**

The Hebrews had languished for nearly five centuries under the heavy hands of their Egyptian oppressors (Exo. 12:40). Generations had known only cruelty, afflictions, and misery (1:11-14). In their calamity, they cried out to the LORD (2:23)—and He heard them (2:24-25; 4:31).

Now, in the fullness of His providence, the LORD was ready to bring His people out of bondage. He had previously sent nine miraculous acts of judgment upon the Egyptians, each one more severe than the previous (cf. chapters 7-10). Finally, in His most fearsome and awesome display of power, the LORD plagued the nation with the death of every first born (chapters 11-12). While He “passed over” the Hebrews (12:23-28), He passed through the Egyptians—and every home suffered loss, from the lowest member of society to the king himself (12:12, 29-30).

The Egyptians had had all they could stand and then drove the Hebrews from their domain (12:33-36). The NKJV says, “The Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, ‘We shall all be dead’” (12:33).

Oddly enough, as the Israelites exited Egypt, they took what appeared to be a very bizarre detour (14:1-4):

From the standpoint of military strategy, the detour God told the Israelites to take was sheer lunacy. They were already well on their way to freedom when God ordered them to turn around, go back, and camp between the desert and the sea... Wherever they were, the Israelites were completely vulnerable. They were out on Egypt’s frontier, surrounded by desert, with their backs to the sea. Why on earth would God put His people in this kind of

position? Any military strategist would have recognized immediately that they were trapped...<sup>2</sup>

From Pharaoh’s perspective, the Hebrews had gotten turned around in the desert and inadvertently cornered themselves, so he decided this was an excellent opportunity to force them back into captivity (14:5ff). With their backs to the sea, the king decided it was time to exhibit his own prowess. Yahweh (i.e., Jehovah), the God of the Hebrews had great power, but so did he—Amenhotep II<sup>3</sup>—the living god of the Egyptians, and he’d display it with the full might of his own military forces including 600 choice chariots (14:7).

Now think about what was transpiring on this occasion in the minds of the Hebrews. Pharaoh’s indomitable army was in route. They would march down into the midst of the helpless Hebrews and crush them. Thousands would surely die horrible, agonizing deaths, while the rest would be dragged back into oppression. It was a nightmare unfolding before their very eyes.

I’ve often pondered this pivotal note in Old Testament history. It occurs to me that the children of Israel actually believed God was impotent—at least now. Despite His promises to the contrary (3:8, 17-22; 4:21-23), despite the fact that He has raised up a deliverer in the person of Moses (ch. 2-5), despite the fact that He had shown a vast array of incredible signs and wonders over the past several months and executed judgement against the gods of Egypt (ch. 7-12; 12:12), the Hebrews believed at this very moment that they were doomed. They were stuck between a rock and hard place, between the waters of

the Red Sea and the violent aggression of Pharaoh’s soldiers. The inevitable conclusion to hundreds of years of subjugation was slaughter—then more subjugation. Jehovah could put on a series of exciting shows, but in the end He just couldn’t save. Watch:

*“And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have YOU taken us away to DIE in the wilderness? Why have YOU so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told YOU in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should DIE in the wilderness” (14:10-14—emphasis mine, mb).*

Moses took the immediate blame for their plight (notice how many times Israel said, “YOU”—mb), but ultimately the imminent death of the Hebrews was God’s fault. From their amnesic perspective, He wasn’t living up to His word and despite all of His miraculous bravado during the ten plagues, He apparently didn’t have sufficient power to stop the Egyptians now.

The truth of the matter was, every expression of providential care, every miraculous act of judgment against Egypt, and every distinction the Lord made between the Hebrews and the Egyptians should have been an occasion when Israel’s faith (as well as yours—1 Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4; 10:17) was not only being built, but intensified! So that by Exodus 14, when Pharaoh’s mighty army showed up on the horizon, the Hebrews should have said, “Stand still and watch everybody—God’s gonna fight for us again!”

Brethren, even though this story is



MIKE BENSON

# DO NOT BE AFRAID.

*Stand still, and see  
the salvation of the Lord,  
which He will accomplish  
for you today.*

thousands of years old, it's as fresh and current as this past hour's Facebook post. Think about it. When you're stuck—when you're between a rock and a hard place and your back is up against the sea, it's tempting to share Israel's faithless and illogical view. "God, despite the countless times I've prayed to you, you're obviously not going to deliver me. This detour is actually a dead-end..." (cf. Psalm 106:7-8).

In reality, it's when your suffering is the most palpable, and your doubts have risen to the surface that they must give way to faith in God (cf. Mark 9:24). Pay close attention to what Moses told Israel at this juncture:

"Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (14:13-14).

Now re-read those phrases:

***"The salvation of the LORD."***

***"HE will accomplish for you."***

***"The LORD will fight for you."***

Did ya'll catch that...? Fighting was God's job—faith was Israel's job.

Dear reader, faith in God doesn't mean we will never hurt, experience pain, or be free from troubles (Job 5:7; 14:1; Eccl. 2:23; John 16:33; Rom. 5:3-5; 12:12; Jas. 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 4:17). Faith in God doesn't mean we'll never know what it's like to be stuck with our backs against the sea (Psm. 46:1; Nah. 1:7). Faith in God means looking at His deliverance in times past and trusting Him with the same in the future (Psm. 9:9-10; 59:9-10; 62:8; Prov. 11:8). It means remembering that He cannot lie, that He's never been caught off guard, and that He's never been

impotent or less than all powerful (2 Sam. 22:33; 2 Chron. 20:6; Job 26:7-14; Psm. 71:18; 147:4-5; Jer. 10:12-13). It means accepting the fact that He's always in control, He promises to never forsake you—and that ultimately even the grave will bow to His divine will (Deut. 31:6; Isa. 41:10; Psm. 94:14; Heb. 13:5-6; Rev. 1:18). In other words, it means letting God do the fighting—because He's the only one qualified to do so.

Are you confused by a divine detour? Are you stuck between a rock and a hard place? LET GOD DO THE FIGHTING FOR YOU.

**MM**

1 "Deliverance Day"; 2 Philip Ryken, "Between the Desert and the Sea," *Exodus—Saved for God's Glory*, 383; 3 "Moses and the Gods of Egypt" by John J. Davis 80

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# Youth & Family



**RECAP**

**Challenge Youth Conference 2020**

**The Stop sign is the brightest and most recognized sign we see on the road today.**



What does stop mean? Maybe for some of us older ones, it means spin tires on pavement. For many in the world, it means no cop, no stop. Some people look at the stop sign and think a rolling stop to be just as effective because if we are honest, we have rolled through a few ourselves in our lifetime. But a rolling stop is not as effective, not to mention it is not legal. Stop means you must come to a complete halt in motion before proceeding.

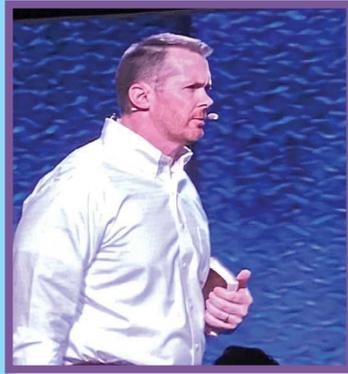


**Greg Ledbetter**

Why do we have stop signs? Are they to burden us? Do they want to make us stop because the government has the power? No, they are for our good. It is good to stop, look, and make sure we're not going to be hit. Young people, God tells us in the Bible to "stop" or "do not" or "wait." This is not because he wants to burden us. It is not because he does not want us to have fun. No, it is because it is for our own good.

In most cases, stop signs on the streets are obeyed without question. When someone comes to a stop sign, they know it means to stop their vehicle right now, and they do it. But, as we think about the commandments of God, many don't believe it means what it says. For most people in the world today, God's commands are not really commands at all but rather suggestions of things we may or may not choose to do. I want to be very clear, as the Bible is clear; the commands and truths of God do not change because we want them to, and we must follow them.

There are many things that God asks us to stop, wait, don't, that will help us to make it to our destination. I want to share a few with you today. He tells us to stop and choose our friends wisely. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:33 evil companions corrupt good morals. You see, this bad company will



Challenge Youth Conference, also known as CYC, is held each year in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This year 14,000 young people and adults met at the Leconte center to sing and listen to lessons on power. We discussed the power of the cross, the power of God's word, the power of the spirit, and the power of God. These lessons challenged our youth to use the power that we have in us as Christians to change the world. I was able to speak to Larry Davenport, who is the president of CYC and he told me that they realized 21 years ago there was a need for a conference, so they put one together in a hotel with 350 people. When I asked Larry if anything after 21 years surprises him, he said, "Yes, if 21 years ago you told me I would be

*The challenge Youth Conference (CYC) is a program for teens it focuses on the positivity of living for Jesus Christ. The goal is to help overcome the challenges of growing up in a society that's often in conflict with living a life for Christ.*

planning a youth conference for 14,000 people, I would laugh in your face. I am amazed that they keep coming and it keeps getting bigger and better". Someone asked Larry's wife, who does so much for CYC behind the scenes, how does this keep going as it has after 21 years? She said simply, "God just works." To that statement, I say Amen. I would encourage you to look into this conference for 2021 for your young people. In the words of my youth kids - it's life-changing. Go check out their website for more information, pictures, and resources <https://www.cyconline.com>. **MM**

force you into doing things you never intended to do. Influence is a powerful thing. You are being an influence or being influenced. Evil companions or bad friends will, at some point, influence you for evil. God's Word tells us to choose friends who help us do what is right.

God tells us to stop and consider the consequences of our choices. Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." Those who do drugs, have sex outside of marriage, and drink alcohol may think, "It's my choice. If I want to do these things what does it matter?" There are consequences to your choices. It does matter. The choices we make today determine the kind of people we will be tomorrow. The kind of people we are will determine where we will spend eternity. We must ask where we will end up if we continue going the direction we are going now.

God tells us to stop and prepare to meet Him. 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." There is no doubt we will meet God one day. It could be today or maybe a long time from now. While we are still alive, we have an opportunity to prepare ourselves. We don't have to live in fear of meeting God if we turn from our sinfulness and put our faith in Jesus Christ.

Many people are running God's stop signs every day and the results are devastating. Young people listen; you do not have to be among the casualties. By listening to God's warnings for your life now, you can have meaning and purpose, and you can be prepared to enjoy eternity with the Lord. It is my hope and prayer this is what you want for your life. God loves you so much he gave his Son to die for your sins and to give all of us hope. **MM**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

# S.A.L.T

**Seeking A Lasting Truth  
Youth Rally August 7th-9th**

*at the*

*Siwell Road church of Christ  
in Jackson Ms. Chase Surrell,  
Youth Minister for the Batesville  
Church of Christ in Batesville MS,  
will be the keynote speaker.*

*Check out the Siwell Road church  
of Christ website for information*

**<https://siwellroad.com>.**

# Who was he to me ?

by Mark Bridges

On a cool January morning my wife, Lexie, and I were on our way to Tupelo with our dear friend Patricia Carr. We made a stop on Hwy 15 in Choctaw County where we were given a little history lesson at this old church house. She led us around the small building to the back, to a small graveyard with about four or five graves. We stopped at the grave of John Lester Vaughan.

Have you ever approached a grave marker and wondered who this person was? The story she told us made me realize just who he was to me.

Mr. Vaughan was Patricia's grandfather who lived near Reform, Ms. He ran a sawmill for a living. She told us her grandparents were invited by a neighbor to hear a traveling preacher holding a two-week gospel tent-meeting in the area. The Vaughans were members of two different dominations, but went to hear the traveling preacher; after that first night they attended every service.

John knew his Bible well and after hearing the sermon, was converted and was added to the Lord's Church. This would have a lasting impact on many families' lives and people they would meet along the way.

John sawed the timber used to build this church building, that remains standing and is structurally sound today. The building was used for many years as the meeting place of the Reform Church of Christ.

As we walked around looking, peeking in at the old pulpit and dust-covered seats, it felt as if the gospel truth could be heard being taught to all in attendance. No Power Point here, just a back to the Bible plea.

John's family changed spiritually along the way. Many grew branches that were added to the Lords church, including Patricia.



Patricia Carr, granddaughter of John Lester Vaughan

Patricia, who was a Ballard, later married Emmett Carr, from Ackerman, a few miles down the road.

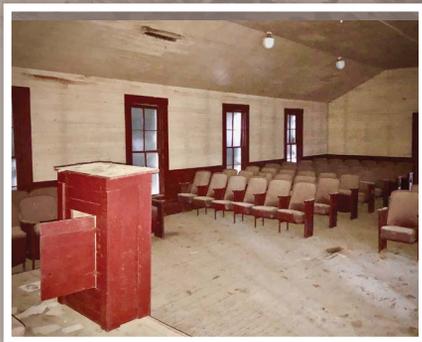
In the 70s, Emmett had a business in Richland, Ms, where I met the family and soon started working for him while in High School.

That's when I was invited to attend a worship service at the Clinton Church of Christ. There I heard Pervie Nichols preach, using more book, chapter, and verse than I'd ever heard in a sermon. I was later converted and grafted into God's family also. Looking back, I was added into two families, one spiritual and one earthly.

It's hard to explain today, to people outside the family, how I'm related to the Carr family. Emmett's own obituary listed me as his son, and my children as grandchildren. My children always called them Pop and Granny, and their own grandchildren called us Uncle Mark and Aunt Lexie.

So you may ask who was John Lester Vaughan to me? He was a man I never met who let the planted seed of the Gospel change his family's lives and spiritual tree. John, making that change, eventually grew more branches that added me and my own family.

Wonder if anybody will ever stand by our grave markers and ask "Who were they to me?" We may never know whose life we might touch or change by helping graft them into the branches of God's spiritual tree because of the seed that's planted in us. **MM**



*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Genesis 22:18)*



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## 2020 TOPICS

**MARCH** • The Audacious Claims of Jesus

**APRIL** • Did You See What Happened Sunday?

**MAY** • I've Heard the Bible has Mistakes in It. Is That True?

**JUNE** • Coming into God's Presence

**JULY** • I Want to Be Saved like They Were in Acts

**AUGUST** • Who is at the Controls?

**SEPTEMBER** • Are We All Going to the Same Place, Just Taking Different Roads?

**OCTOBER** • Taking Care or Taking Control?

**NOVEMBER** • God's Love in Four Dimensions

**DECEMBER** • A New You in the New Year

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## The Berean Children's Home

is funded through donations from individuals and churches. If you, your church, or business would be interested in helping with this work, please contact us. We are a registered 501 c(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue code and a registered charity in the state of Mississippi. Therefore, all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

**Director: Andrew Redd 601-754-4138**

**Berean Children's Home**  
1180 Berea Tr SE  
Bogue Chitto MS 39629

**Email:** [bereanchildrenshome@cableone.net](mailto:bereanchildrenshome@cableone.net)  
**Website:** [bereanhome.org](http://bereanhome.org)  
**Facebook:** Berean Children's Home  
**Twitter:** @bereanhome

**Office Phone:** 601-823-5776  
**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday  
8:30 am-4:30 pm  
**Fax:** 601-823-5997

*Our mission at Berean Children's Home is to provide children with a loving home and to assist each child to mature spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.*



**"A FAMILY with a HEART"**



## Youth Day at Crockett

*I enjoyed speaking at the youth day at the Crockett congregation on Saturday February 15th. I appreciate the work Robert Rawson (pictured on the right) is doing there. Also pictured with some of the young people who attended is Ricky Woods (left) well known football coach at South Panola High School and member at the Senatobia congregation. He gave a great lesson on "There is no 'I' in Team!". -dd*



*A large turnout enjoyed a night of singing at Siwell Road Church of Christ*

### Save the Date

**June 14, 2020**

**HOMECOMING**

**FOREST CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Forest, Mississippi**

You are cordially invited to attend a Homecoming Service celebrating the 37th anniversary of the Forest Church of Christ. Please join us in a day of worship and fellowship.

**What: Homecoming Service**

**Where: Forest Church of Christ, Forest, MS**

**When: Sunday, June 14, 9:00 a.m.**

## PREACHER SEARCH

### ● Archibald Church of Christ

Minister needed: Archibald church of Christ located in rural north-east Louisiana. Sound congregation with 2 elders, 5 deacons and average attendance around 70. Several young couples and children. Active congregation with several outreach programs. Competitive salary with a 3 BR 2 Bath parsonage included.

**Contact: Bobby Dan Free at 318-331-7946.**

### ● Pine Grove Church of Christ:

Full-time preacher needed for congregation of 110 members, located approximately 5 miles west of Fulton, MS, off 4-lane Highway 25 north. Congregation made up of ages from infant to 90 years. They have 3 elders, 4 deacons, with a 3-bedroom, 2-bath house, that has just been completely renovated. Located within 1/4 mile of the church building. Salary negotiable.

**Contact: Steve Johnson 662 687-0825.**

### ● Tiptersville Church of Christ

Tiptersville, Mississippi (five miles south of Walnut); Congregation of 40 in need of a full-time preacher. Congregation has elders and deacons and a very nice home. **Contact: Donnie Green, 662-837-0568.**

### ● Coffeeville Church of Christ

Searching for a minister. A congregation of 45-60 people. A 3-bedroom 2-bath house is provided and also has a storage building. House is adjacent to the church building.

**Contact: Jim Peters 662-675-8623 or John Allen 662-473-8702**

### ● Boxwood Church of Christ

Full-time preacher needed for rural congregation in Southwest Louisiana. Boxwood Church of Christ is located 10 miles south of Merryville, Louisiana, in the Bivens community. We are a long-time established country church with loving members. 20-25 in attendance each week. Must be willing to work in the community and help teach classes. 3-bedroom/2-bath house provided. Salary negotiable. **Send resume to:** Boxwood Church of Christ c/o Wesley Jeans 339 Ruel Franks Road Merryville, LA 70653 337-825-6575

### ● Meridian Church of Christ

Located in Meridian, MS. In search of a full-time minister. The Meridian church is a warm, welcoming congregation composed of 60-75 active members. The church is served by two elders and four deacons.

It is our aim to honor God and His Son and to serve Him in accordance with His holy word. We are searching for someone to share, in a vital way, that endeavor. Please submit a resume' along with two audio/video sermons to: Meridian church of Christ, PO Box 3476, Meridian, MS 39303-3476 or E-mail to one or both of the following: **Andy Duncan (Elder), hadunca62@gmail.com** or **Tom Fair(Elder), htfair1@gmail.com.**

# News, Notes & Information

## "Droplets of blessings" from Venezuela

### Update on the benevolent work in Venezuela:

*(Last issue we ran an article on the benevolent needs in Venezuela and the efforts of a Christian couple heading up a monthly effort to send needed items to that country. They are making a difference in the lives of many in that ravaged country.-dd)*

"Just a short note to share with you some good news. Today we packed the January shipment that will begin its journey in a week or so. The total weight being sent is just over 2,000 lbs. That means that over the past 3 months close to 3 tons (6,000 lbs.) have been sent and all boxes have arrived safely. Isn't our God great?!"

"I received this photo of some of the children saying 'gracias'. The message began with these words 'Goticas de bendiciones' (small droplets of blessings) ... we embrace you from a distance.' It's hard to tell you that without tears in my eyes.

We are making a difference! Dios bendiga!" Steve Watson, Church of Christ, Pegram, Tennessee (steverwatson8@gmail.com)



## VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hot Springs Village, Arkansas · Come Serve With Us

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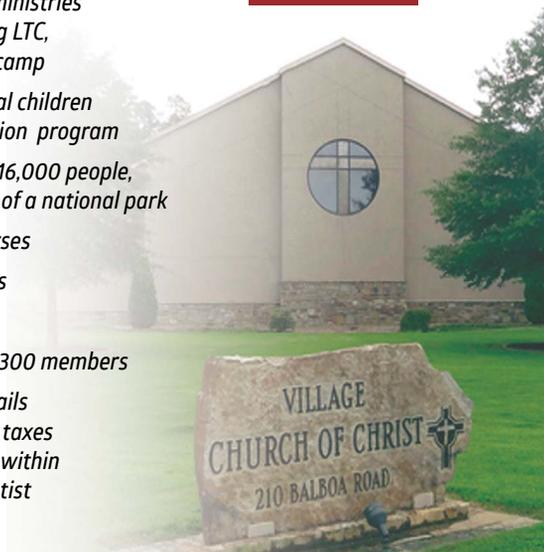
- A priority on missions & outreach
- A building "open" for community activities
- Active men's & ladies' ministries youth ministry including LTC, retreats, mission trips, camp
- A food program for local children guidance in local addiction program
- A gated community of 16,000 people, 32,000 acres, the "feel" of a national park
- 12 lakes ● 9 golf courses
- 14 new pickleball courts
- 10 clay tennis courts
- A bridge group of over 300 members
- 30+ miles of walking trails affordable housing and taxes major medical facilities within 45 minutes (UAMS, Baptist Health, CHI)

Church website: [villagechurchofchrist.org](http://villagechurchofchrist.org)

Village website: [ExploreTheVillage.com](http://ExploreTheVillage.com)

Contact # for more information:

**501.922.2827**



## "A Cup of Coffee with God"

*I look all around at the snow on the ground  
as the sunshine tries to beat back the freeze.  
The wind lightly blows, leaves fall to the snow,  
vacating their place in the trees.*

*No deer to be seen in this landscape serene,  
but that's just a part of going hunting.  
Though I don't ink my tag or put game in the bag,  
that doesn't mean that I go on wanting.*

*Despite being chilled, my mind and soul are filled,  
with reminders of God's great blessings.  
Though there be bumps in my road that irritate and goad,  
I have no reason for distressing.*

*I twist the thermos top and pour myself a cup  
while steam slowly rises in the air.  
No words are said, just thoughts in my head,  
as I meditate upon God in prayer.*

*I talk, and He listens while the snow still glistens  
in the sunshine coming down from His throne.  
Appearances can deceive, yet because I believe,  
despite the solitude, I am not alone.*

*So, I sit in my stand and view Creation so grand,  
and then look down at the snow where I trod;  
I'm reminded how good it is to sit in these woods  
and share a cup of coffee with God.*

Jay McElwain

*[Note: Jay is a member of the Horton Chapel congregation in Greenville, Kentucky. He directs their VBS every year, which I have been privileged to participate in for the past 12 years. He is an avid outdoorsman and wrote this while in a deer stand this past season.-dd]*

I drove to Greenville, Tennessee in January to attend the funeral of a favorite cousin of ours. The funeral was on a Saturday, and before heading home I attended the Sunday morning services of the Greenville congregation. We often attended here over the years when visiting with my mom's family. They have a beautiful building set upon a hill overlooking the city. As I walked in the first hand that greeted me was their long time minister Shane Hoover. It was a friendly congregation, and a wonderful worship service. -dd



# THE UNFORESEEN HAPPENED

## *The West Freeway Church of Christ shooting*

by Teresa Hampton

We had a beautiful worship assembly yesterday morning. Gary's lesson, "The Road to Rejoicing" was so encouraging. Everything in the service went smoothly until at the close of the service my husband received a text from his sister. Understand, texting someone that you knew was in worship was unheard of in the Hampton family. Gary knew it must be urgent. His sister explained that we would soon hear something on the news about a shooting, and they were safe, unhurt.

She, her husband, and other Christians assembled to worship, just as they did every Lord's Day. My brother-in-law and other men were quietly dispersing the Lord's Supper trays. And then the unforeseen happened. Shots rang out, people were ducking under pews. In six seconds it was over. Two brothers in Christ were down, one injured, one deceased, and the shooter taken down with a fatal shot from an alert member of the security team.

Gary's sister and her husband were not injured physically, but they and all the worshipers were emotionally in shock. Is this a bad dream? No, it is real. The injured Christian died at the hospital. Two godly men were gone in a flash.

Several things came to mind. First, death can come unexpectedly, and in the strangest settings. Places of worship are meant to be a safe refuge for the soul, a place where one can fully focus on praising our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

The truth is, we never know when death is at the door. The two appointments that everyone has and everyone will keep are death and judgment. "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). We must be prepared at all times, regardless of age. Are you ready?

Second, prayers should be offered for everyone, certainly the family of the two Christian men and prayers for the church family, but also for the member who was part of their security team and brought down the shooter so quickly! He, too, will emotionally deal with taking a life, even though it was necessary to save many lives. We should pray also for the family of the shooter.

Third, we have amazing words of comfort in God's word for those who lose loved ones. "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). Yes, we sorrow, but we have great hope in Christ our risen Savior. Paul wrote Timothy, "Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him" (2 Timothy 2:11).

Finally, the two men who lost their lives in this horrific event lived and labored daily for Jesus and for His Kingdom, the church. While we Christians all over the world are mourning this great loss, we must take heart when we read John's letter, Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them" (Revelation 14:13). Sweet rest. Praise God! **MM**



Teresa Hampton

**"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them"**

(Revelation 14:13).

*[Our prayers are with the West Freeway Church of Christ in Ft. Worth Texas as they heal from this tragic event. -dd]*

# WORKING FOR GOD & THE GOVERNOR

By John Pigg  
Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ  
Ridgeland, Mississippi

Like Joseph in Egypt, here is another great example of a good Christian man rising to a high position in government.

Trayon and Barbara George and three children, are from Canton, MS. They moved to Fulton, MS, in 1996 for Trayon to take his first assignment with the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Although Itawamba County had a 91% white population, the George's

were well received by the community and soon felt right at home.

Trayon had been a deacon in the Baptist church and Barbara a member of the Methodist

church. They first came in contact with the Plainview church of Christ while the congregation was conducting an evangelistic campaign. Jerene Files was the preacher at the time, and the person who knocked on their door, inviting them to worship services and asking them for a home Bible study. Trayon and Barbara welcomed the invitation and attended about seven times, and were given a warm and friendly welcome.

They had decided years before to look beyond racial prejudice and on the individual human heart as the main factors as to how they would relate to other people and where they would attend church. So, following several Bible studies using the Jule Miller film method of personal evangelism, they became convinced that they should change their long held religious beliefs and be baptized for the remission of sins. Trayon, Barbara, and the kids wanted foremost to please God and to obey His will which had been so clearly taught them from the scrip-

tures. Once they learned new truth concerning salvation and the Lord's church, which they had never studied, they couldn't argue with it. With open minds, humble hearts, and a willingness to obey the truth of God's Word, they began to grow spiritually and to get involved with the church more than they had ever been in their entire lives.

In 2002 Sgt Trayon was fortunate to be transferred back to Canton. He

was promoted to Lieutenant with the MHP and appointed to serve as Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves' personal detail leader on his protection team.

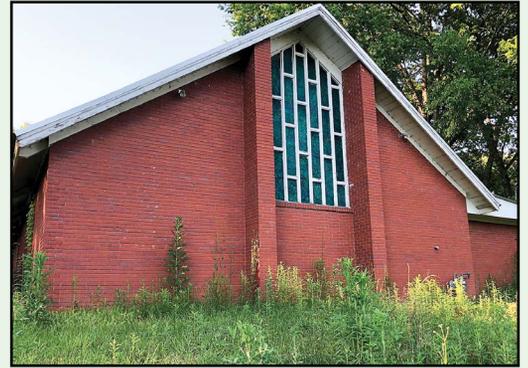


After visiting several congregations of churches of Christ in Madison County, Trayon's family settled on placing their workmanship with the Lake Harbour Drive congregation in Ridgeland. They made an immediate spiritual impact by getting involved in the youth and teaching program, and before long he was appointed to serve as a deacon. In 2011 Trayon was selected to serve as an elder and has functioned faithfully in that capacity for eight years in an eldership consisting of two black men and four white men.

Recently, with the election of Tate Reeves as honorable Governor of the great state of Mississippi, once more Trayon was promoted to a higher role of heading up a protection team of 18 Highway Patrolmen under his leadership. He anticipates being appointed Captain very soon.

Christians throughout the great Magnolia state ought to be proud of this outstanding officer who works for God and our Governor! **MM**

## Update on the Lexington church of Christ Mission Project



We are still very excited about this project and look forward to having a dedication in possibly six to eight weeks. The building was in such disrepair and landscape had to be cleared of overgrowth and brush, so it has required more time and money than was originally anticipated. Despite these issues, along with complications from weather events, great progress has been made, and we eagerly await the dedication and opening for the community. Below is a list of the work that has already been completed as of 10/17/2019:

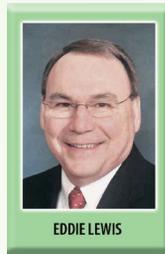
*Work Completed:* Remove trees from around main sanctuary and along driveway · Repaired water leaks in classrooms connected to sanctuary · Removed 2 walls between classrooms, making 2 larger rooms · Removed tile from classrooms and fellowship hall · Removed all damaged ceiling tile · Unscrewed and moved pews around in sanctuary · Removed carpet from sanctuary

### **Work to be performed for completion:**

- Excavation work on driveway and parking lot
- Finish all flooring
- Enlarge sanctuary bathrooms
- Upgrade lighting in sanctuary
- Install new entry doors ( front and side )
- Paint interior ceiling and walls as needed
- Repair and reinstall pews in sanctuary
- Minor woodwork on exterior of building
- Paint exterior of building
- Have gas reconnected and turned on --- in progress
- Relocate water meter --- in progress
- Installation of new sign on building and on street.

Curtis W. Pittman, Ministering Evangelist  
Hanging Moss Road Church of Christ  
Jackson, Mississippi

# Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi



EDDIE LEWIS

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

## October through December 2019

### by Eddie Lewis

*I appreciate so much the opportunity to inform you about my mission work among the churches in North Mississippi. This report covers the months of October through December. During this time I got to visit with six churches and served as an interim at the Coffeerville church."*

I preached at the Coffeerville church of Christ five Sunday mornings during this quarter. They continue to look for a full-time minister. They have around 60 in



John Wayne Purdy and Eddie

attendance and no elders. They do offer a preacher's home next to the church building. It's a wonderful congregation. They have a good mixture of ages and have an active Lads to Leaders program. Please remember them in your prayers as they look for a minister.

■ **October 6:** I was invited to preach at the Ashland church of Christ. Don Roberson is the minister there. He was to be away on a mission trip, but family illness caused him to cancel his trip. He asked me to preach anyway, which I was happy to do. I appreciate the good work that Don is doing in Ashland. They have



Jim Lakey and Don Roberson

no elders and around 70 in attendance. The church is growing and reaching out to the community in a good way.

I taught the adult Bible class. Jim Lakey, their regular teacher asked me to. My theme was forgiveness. We looked at the parable of the "Unmerciful Servant" based on Matthew 18:21-35. It tells us that God will forgive us our sins, if we forgive those who sin against us. It is an in-depth study of the nature of man's judgement, God's divine forgiveness, and the nature of the human debt. In worship I preached on faith. We looked at the examples of the centurion in Luke 7 and the example of the nobleman in John 4:46-54. It's a great study about faith and how our faith is seen in our love for one another, in the actions we take, and the trials we face. Faith is something we grow as we study and pray.

■ **October 13:** I was invited to preach at the Zion Rest church of Christ in the country near Booneville, MS. Tony Brown is the bi-vocational minister there. He has worked with the church for over 30 years. He and Nora were

away on a vacation trip. The church is involved in several ministries. They have a good mix of ages and have three elders with 150 in attendance. I enjoyed my visit with them. For lunch I got to eat with one of the elders, Donnie Sweeney, and some of his friends. It's a very good congregation and lots of friendly folks. In the Bible class I presented a lesson on forgiveness. It is based on the parable of the "Unmerciful Servant" Matthew 18:21-35.

In the worship service I preached on "The Abundance of the Heart" based on two passages in Matthew chapters 12:22-37 and 15:1-20. Both deal with Jesus being confronted by the Pharisees. They accuse Him of healing by the power of Beelzebub. He refutes them and gives a teaching about our hearts. Our hearts can be seen through the words we speak. Our words are to be encouraging and up-lifting. Also, Jesus says we will give an account of our words in



Nora and Tony Brown

the Judgement. I pray that both these lessons were an encouragement to the brethren there.

■ **November 3:** I was invited to preach at the Tiplersville church of Christ. Conner Patterson had served the congregation for over a year as their minister. He graduated from FHU and is pursuing a degree in counseling. The church is served by two elders and has 50 in attendance. They are looking for a new minister that can help the congregation grow. They do have a nice home for the minister's family. The first Sunday they have a fellowship meal, so I was blessed to get some home cooking. It is always a joy to visit with the good folks at Tiplersville. Please remember the church in your prayers as they search for a new minister.

In the Bible class I presented a lesson on the parable of “The Laborers in the Vineyard” based on Matthew 19:27-20:16. It is a very interesting parable on the grace of God.

In the morning worship I preached on “Creeping on the Promises of God” based on Luke 7:1-10. It is a lesson on faith. We considered the example of the Roman Centurion and the great faith he showed.

In the afternoon worship I preached on the parable of the “Good Samaritan” based on Luke 10:25-37. It’s a great example of Christian compassion.

■ **November 24:** I visited with the Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. Alan Underwood is the new bi-vocational minister there. He is a teacher in the Desoto County Schools and works with the Antioch congregation. Alan has worked with the church for a little over six months.

He is doing wonderful work for the congregation. I had not heard Alan preach, so I wanted to hear him and visit. It



Alan and Lori Underwood

was great seeing the brethren there. For four years I preached there once a month for the congregation. It was a sweet homecoming. The church has no elders and 40 in attendance.

Alan taught the Bible class. They were studying 1 Samuel 20-21. He talked about David and Jonathan’s covenant with each other and Saul’s desire to kill David. It was a very interesting discussion.

In the worship Alan talked about prayer. He had challenged the congregation to start praying each day and pray for five people by name. At the end of the lesson he challenged them to pray that God would help them see what they could do to help lead these friends to Christ. He talked about the two prayers that Jesus offered in Luke 9. One was followed by Him asking who the people

say he is and Peter’s confession. The second was at the transfiguration and Jesus focusing on the cross. It was a good lesson.

■ **December 1:** I visited with the Pontotoc church of Christ. They recently hired a new pulpit minister—Bob Williams. He is an FHU graduate and came to Pontotoc from Georgia. He has been in ministry for several years. We welcome him and Sandy to MS. The church has 124 in attendance and has an active youth program. Gordon Gentry has been the associate minister with the church for several years. It is a wonderful congregation. I got to visit and eat a fellowship meal with some of the members.

Gordon was scheduled to preach, but he asked me to preach instead. I was happy to speak to the congregation. I preached on “Creeping on the Promises of God” based on Luke 7. It is a great story of the faith of the Centurion at Capernaum.

In Bible class Gordon is teaching a series on “The Scheme of Redemption.” This Sunday he talked about a summary of the land/nation promise of God to



Bob Williams and Gordon Gentry

Israel. It was a good lesson as he considered a history of the promises of God to His people.

■ **December 8 and 29:** I was invited to preach at the South Main church of Christ in Greenville, MS. Danny Holman is the minister there. He is doing excellent work. They have around 80 in attendance and three elders. Danny was out of town and asked me to substitute for him. I appreciated the invitation and enjoyed seeing the brethren there. Judy and I worked with the congregation from

1997-2000. On Sunday nights they have small group meetings. One group meets



Darrell Blaylock and Bill Payne-elders Greenville South Main

at the building and the others meet in homes. I enjoyed eating lunch with Bill and Becky Payne and their family and friends.

■ **On December 8** in the Bible class I taught the lesson “The Freedom of Forgiveness” based on Matthew 18:21-35. It is a parable from Jesus about the nature of man’s judgement and the nature of divine forgiveness. It reveals to us the heart of Christ. On the 29th I taught the lesson “God is Generous” based on Matthew 20:1-16. It is a beautiful parable about God’s grace.

In the worship I preached on “The Power of Faith” based on two parables. The faith of the centurion Luke 7:1-10 and the faith of the nobleman John 4:46-54. The lesson helps us understand that faith works with love, is seen in our actions, and will be tested. On December 29, I preached on “Only One Returned” based on Luke 7:11-19. Gratitude is a key attribute of the Christian. I talked about three relationships where we need to show our gratitude. I enjoyed my visit with the congregation and seeing old friends. **MM**

## 25 Years of Service

Ronnie Livingston celebrates 25 years of serving as the minister for the Marietta Church of Christ, Marietta, MS. On February 23, 2020 the Marietta church honored Ronnie with a plaque and a luncheon for his dedicated service. Ronnie is a graduate of Magnolia Bible College.



## NEW ELDERS

# San Miguel Mexico

IN

*John Pigg, Director Mission GTO  
Ridgeland Mississippi*

Nearly 20 years ago the elders of the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS, began a new foreign mission program. The main goal was to evangelize the city of San Miguel de Allende in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, with a population of 170,000.

Les Ferguson, Sr., who was the preacher and one of the elders, became the Director. Looking back, it was no doubt God's providence that led the elders to discover that Fernando Arroyo and his wife Tony were graduating from a Christian Biblical Institute in Toluca, Mexico, and were searching for where God wanted them to serve their country of 130 million people, the 10th largest in the world. The elders were thrilled when Fernando and Tony and their two children agreed to move to San Miguel and to establish an Iglesia de Cristo (church of Christ).

Soon the San Miguel church began to grow extensively both spiritually and numerically, and today it has over 100 members. Within a few years the Kosciusko elders and Fernando decided to start a Biblical Institute in San Miguel as a satellite of the school in Toluca, MX. They expanded their missionary goals to include preparing preachers that they could hopefully send to other cities in the state of Guanajuato and plant other congregations. As of today, there have been 43 graduates of the Institute and 16 churches have been started!

Two years ago, the elders of the Lake Harbour Drive congre-



gation in Ridgeland, MS, took the oversight of Mission GTO Mexico. They have continued to build on the foundational mission strategy that the Kosciusko church began many years ago. As retired preacher for LHD, the elders asked me to serve as the Director.

Another major goal of this mission program from its beginning was to develop self-supporting congregations which would eventually be scripturally organized with elders and deacons. After much preparation and prayer, training and encouragement, on the 22th of December, 2019, the San Miguel congregation selected and appointed its first eldership with three great spiritual leaders: Fernando Arroyo, Sergio Gonzales, and Rodolfo Sanchez. Over 300 Christians from all over Guanajuato assembled for worship with the San Miguel

church and to celebrate this historic milestone event to God's glory. Lord willing, the example of the San Miguel church will motivate other congregations in GTO to soon become Biblically organized.

On behalf of the elders at Lake Harbour Drive, I want to thank the many congregations throughout MS, AR, TN, LA, and AL, and scores of Christians who are partners with them in financially

supporting this exciting and extensive missionary enterprise. Your generous contributions are enabling the gospel of Christ to be faithfully preached, lost souls to be saved, and the Lord's church to be planted in other cities in GTO, and we truly thank you. **MM**



***New Elders appointed in the church in San Miguel Allende, Guanajuato Mx. Left to right: Fernando & Tony Arroyo, Sergio & María Gonzales, Rodolfo & Alma Sanchez***

# Precious Memories

## IN MEMORY OF

**PAUL FRANKS**  
 Wilburn DeLancey  
*(Delhi, LA)*  
 Yvonne Carter  
*(Vicksburg, MS)*  
 Brenda Littleton  
*(Ragley, LA)*  
 Larry Rount  
*(Kosciusko, MS)*  
 Mary Tooke  
*(Whitehouse, TX)*  
 Evelyn Sigmund  
*(Lake Charles, LA)*  
 Ann Rector  
*(Marton, MS)*  
 Ron & Linda Cole  
*(Nolensville, TN)*  
 Ricky & Sue Fisher  
*(Lexington, MS)*  
 Bobbie Pedigo  
*(Prattville, AL)*  
 Danny & Terri Dodd  
*(Sherwood, AR)*  
 Bobby & Lila Schmitz  
*(Water Valley, MS)*  
 Bill & Sabrina Collins  
*(Crosby, MS)*  
 Clear Creek Church of Christ  
*(Hixson, TN)*  
 Gwen & Jerry Jackson  
*(Welsh, LA)*  
 Mary Ellen, Steve & Stacey Albritton  
*(Crystal Springs, MS)*  
 Beth & Glenn Beall  
*(Kosciusko, MS)*  
 Marty, Reicy & Suzanne Sanders  
*(Brandon, MS)*

**LAVON HENLEY**  
 Virginia Henley  
*(Daphne, AL)*

**SYLVIA ALLEN**  
 Wanza Gray  
*(Corinth, MS)*

**AL FRANKS**  
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Spears  
*(Lake Charles, LA)*  
 Virginia Young  
*(Muscle Shoals, AL)*  
 Charles & Carmen Moore  
*(Belleville, IL)*  
 Therman & Sadie Hodge  
*(Meridian, MS)*  
 Robert & Elaine Evans  
*(Steens, MS)*  
 Bonnie Strickland  
*(Brandon, MS)*  
 Ray & Melba Penna  
*(Holladay, TN)*  
 John & Sandy Dean  
*(Pittsburg, PA)*  
 Sidney & Jean Clemmer  
*(Falkner, MS)*

Alice Dempsey  
*(Bradford, AR)*  
 Linda Crotwell  
*(Morton, MS)*  
 Nelma Ivey  
*(Jackson, MS)*  
 Carole Milner  
*(Brandon, MS)*  
 Ellisville Church of Christ  
*(Ellisville, MS)*  
 Talmadge & Rose Anderson  
*(Ellisville, MS)*  
 Donny & Dottie Lawson  
*(Brookhaven, MS)*  
 Ron & Linda Cole  
*(Nolensville, TN)*  
 Leslie & Ivynell Wyatt  
*(Nashville, TN)*  
 Dorothy Laws  
*(Jackson, TN)*  
 Ann Rector  
*(Morton, MS)*  
 Tom Welch  
*(Many, LA)*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Turner  
*(Baldwyn, MS)*  
 Ralph & Teresa Anderson  
*(Philadelphia, MS)*  
 Wilburn DeLancey  
*(Delhi, LA)*  
 Ricky & Sue Fisher  
*(Lexington, MS)*  
 Mrs. Raymond Mabry  
*(Lake, MS)*  
 Toby Cook  
*(Brandon, MS)*  
 Elizabeth Dickerson  
*(DeQuincy, LA)*  
 Betty & Garnett Harris  
*(Brandon, MS)*  
 Tommy & Peggy Shull  
*(Southaven, MS)*  
 Glenda Singleton  
*(Water Valley, MS)*  
 Mamie Tays  
*(Spring Hill, TN)*  
 Jerry & Janette Cooper  
*(Amory, MS)*  
 Columbia Church of Christ  
*(Columbia, MS)*  
 DR. Robert & Linda McCrory  
*(Benton, KY)*  
 Gloria Shiers  
*(Greenwood, MS)*  
 Aaron & Virginia McDonald  
*(Killen, AL)*  
 Laverne Becker  
*(Prattville, AL)*  
 James & Emma Gaines  
*(Olive Branch, MS)*  
 Robert & Dorothy Chambers  
*(Coldwater, MS)*  
 Bill & Helen Lambert  
*(Searcy, AR)*  
 Victor & Glinda Boone  
*(Bessemer, AL)*

Jay & Cindy Street  
*(West Point, MS)*  
 Pine Bluff Church of Christ  
*(Toccopola, MS)*  
 Roy & Eunice Rogers  
*(Columbus, OH)*  
 Brenda Allen  
*(Vidalia, LA)*  
 Bobbie Pedigo  
*(Prattville, AL)*  
 James Grubbs  
*(Seneca, SC)*  
 Julia Neill  
*(Marysville, CA)*  
 Carol Freeman  
*(Vernon, AL)*  
 Bobby & Lila Schmitz  
*(Water Valley, MS)*  
 Bill & Sabrina Collins  
*(Crosby, MS)*

**RAY FRANKS**  
**VELMA DELANCEY**  
 Wilburn DeLancey  
*(Delhi, LA)*

Betty & Garnett Harris  
*(Brandon, MS)*  
 Tommy & Peggy Shull  
*(Southaven, MS)*

**ROLAND & JUANITA COLEMAN**  
**KENNY COLEMAN**  
 Mary Freeman  
*(Senatobia, MS)*

**DEZMERE MARIE ANDERSON**  
 James Anderson  
*(Gatlinburg, TN)*

**JOHN GARDNER**  
 Mamie Tays  
*(Spring Hill, TN)*

**MRS. EVIE SMITH**  
 Rhenda & Terry Miltner  
*(Coldwater, MS)*

**JAMES FLANAGAN**  
**LARRY HARRIS**  
 Ann Hulseay  
*(Haleyville, AL)*

**GEORGE LEWIS, JR**  
**LILLIE LEWIS**  
 George Lewis III  
*(Kosciusko, MS)*

**JIMMY THORNTON**  
 Angie Thornton  
*(Bailey, MS)*

**GWEN LAROCQUE**  
 Ray Hyatt  
*(DeQuincy, LA)*

**DOROTHY WALTON**  
 John & Suzanne Walton  
*(Madison, AL)*

**IRENE STEED**  
 Ray & Sharon Passeur  
*(Kosciusko, MS)*

**DWIGHT HAZLIP**  
 Nelma Hazlip  
*(Natchez, MS)*

**J.T. STREET**  
**BOBBIE LEE SHELTON STREET**  
 Jay & Cindy Street  
*(West Point, MS)*

**MARK BISHOP**  
 Dan & Ann Harris  
*(Columbus, MS)*

**JIMMY DALE WOLFE**  
 Gary & Judy Wolfe  
*(Lillian, AL)*

## HONOR

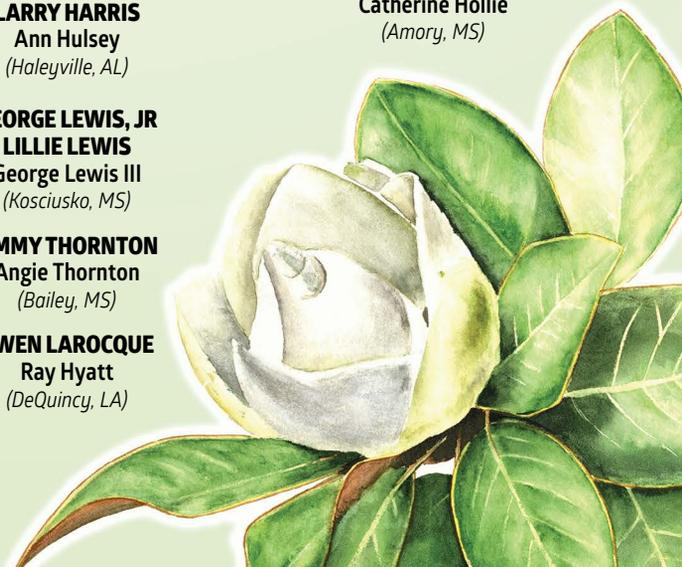
**DAN BEARDAIN**  
**90TH BIRTHDAY**  
 Ola Jean Morrow  
*(Duck Hill, MS)*

**THERMAN & SADIE HODGE**  
 Ron & Linda Cole  
*(Nolensville, TN)*

**LARRY & ELAINE MELTON**  
 Sidney & Jean Clemmer  
*(Falkner, MS)*

**RAY & SHIRLEY COLEMAN**  
**JOHN & SANDRA COLEMAN**  
**TONY & BARBARA COLEMAN**  
**SID & VICKI COLEMAN**  
 Mary Freeman  
*(Senatobia, MS)*

**PHILIP HATHCOCK**  
**BIRTHDAY**  
 Catherine Hollie  
*(Amory, MS)*



# from a Woman's Viewpoint

# My Son

## From His Mother, June, written the night of Paul's death;

It is 1:30 during the night and I am still wide awake as I role and tumble being all alone in this big bed. I can't sleep because my heart is so heavy with a deep grief. First of all, I miss my beloved husband as we never slept apart. His death was the only thing that would ever separate us.

Then as I lay here thinking and praying, I can't help but recall the night on March 24, 1958 at 10:02 that I gave birth to a precious baby boy. He was born at the hospital in Tupelo, Mississippi. He weighed 8 lbs 14 oz and was given the name Alfred Paul. We were young and afraid but so excited to be blessed with a bouncing baby boy!

This baby boy became a man and what a man he became! God blessed him with many talents! He loved to sing and at the age of 6 he began to lead singing at church. If you were ever in an audience with him, you definitely could hear him sing above all others! He didn't need a microphone to be heard when he was preaching or leading a song!



He loved people and never met a stranger. He was a very generous person and wanted to share what he had with others. He loved to have people in his home and to feed them a meal. Of course, it took his sweet wife Glenda being willing to cook, which she always did.

He loved to preach and the places where he preached on a full-time basis experienced spiritual and numerical growth under his leadership. He loved mission work and God blessed him with many trips to conduct a Bible Camp in Lithuania.

He loved to travel and he was blessed to travel to many places stateside as well as abroad. He wanted his daddy and I to share in some of his adventures. We were blessed beyond measure to go to Israel with him and Glenda. He wanted his dad and us to experience being at the Bible Camp in Lithuania. He wanted to take his dad especially with him to Rome. We were able to go to Rome on our way to Lithuania one summer. Then he wanted us to see beautiful Switzerland. With Paul's help, as well as our other boys, we were able to make these trips.

Even though he had a good work in Lake Charles, Louisiana, he wanted to come back to Mississippi and help his dad with the Magnolia Messenger. He loved his dad and he would call him almost every day seeking his advice when he was preaching in Lake Charles.

Paul was diagnosed with ALS in August, 2019, and it progressed very quickly. So on January 31, 2020 at 3:28 that afternoon I, along with other family members, watched him as he breathed his last breath. As his mom, the one who brought him into this world

and one who loved him more than her own life, this was a very devastating thing to witness. His dad was very much missed today as we needed him for his calm way and support that he always provided.

We had prayed that Paul be kept comfortable and that he would die peacefully. We believe our prayer was answered in this regard. We have a great hope for Paul and believe that he is whole again, surrounded by heavenly beings in the arms of his Savior and in a joyful reunion with his sweet dad!

As I conclude my thoughts tonight, I want to especially thank Paul's wife, Glenda, for the amazing care that she gave Paul throughout this horrible journey. We were blessed and he was blessed that he had a wife that catered to his every need. Thank you Glenda. I love you so much for taking good care of my son and your husband!

I love you my precious son and pray that we will be once again united in that beautiful place called Heaven! **MM**

## To our Magnolia Messenger Family:

**The Bible says** "... but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it." (1 Cor. 12: 25, 26)

*The Franks family has suffered two great losses in just a space of three months. My beloved husband Al Franks, the editor of the Magnolia Messenger passed from this life on October 16, 2019.*

*Also my precious son, Paul, who was scheduled to be the editor of the Messenger departed this life after a short illness on January 31, 2020.*

*You, the readers of the Messenger, have reached out to our family during our great losses to express your deepest sympathy in ways that far exceeds our expectations.*

*Your expressions of sympathy have been overwhelming to our family. We find it beyond our ability to adequately express our deep appreciation to each of you for what your words of comfort have meant to us during our great losses. We have gained strength and comfort because of your tremendous out pouring of love through those who have given in memory of Al and Paul, those who sent cards, letters, texts, flowers, money, gifts, messages, calls and prayers for our family. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for every expression of sympathy! Our prayer is that we will all continue to work together to provoke one another unto love and good works.*

June and Glenda Franks

# Northeast Mississippi Ladies Bible Class



by **Leeanna Walker**

Since August of 2017, ladies from all over northeast Mississippi have gathered for a monthly bible class. The idea was born from a conversation between two sisters in Christ about the lack of opportunities for ladies to fellowship, and the lack of relationships between members of the Lord's church from the same area but different congregations. Several sisters from the Skyline church of Christ in Tupelo, MS, decided to do their part to alleviate this gap.

The original idea was to meet in homes, have a dinner, bible study, and fellowship. They hoped that 8-10 others would share their interest and attend. The first class was held in the home of a sister from Skyline where more than 30 ladies attended. They

were so encouraged by the response that they decided to try it again the next month. Upwards of 30 ladies attended and they quickly realized that meeting in homes was not going to be conducive to the numbers in attendance.

The decision was made to host the class in local church buildings, and they continued to meet through May of 2018. After a break for summer, the ladies at Skyline began planning season 2. News spread through social media posts and word of mouth, and several congregations were represented at the first class for 2018. That year classes were hosted at Skyline, East Main church of Christ, and West Main church of Christ. Attendance grew with each passing month. The group is currently in their 3rd season

of meetings where 40 sisters attended most recently.

A schedule is made in August of those who are willing to teach and those who want to host. The hostesses will choose the location, the menu, and provide the main course. They communicate with others through a messaging app and ask for volunteers to bring side dishes, desserts, and drinks. The teacher for the month chooses the topic for discussion. Several young ladies who participate in the year-round song-leading event for Lads to Leaders use this time as an opportunity to practice their song-leading skills. The class has been a blessing to everyone involved, and it is their prayer this effort will continue to thrive and be an asset to the community. **MM**

## A Small Gesture

by **June Franks**

We never know how a small gesture on our part may impact another person's life.

We met Christy Jenkins from North Charleston, South Carolina, several years ago at Polishing the Pulpit in Sevierville, Tennessee.

We were seated by Christy at a large gathering of people at PTP. During the intermission we just started a conversation with Christy. We introduced ourselves to her but immediately began focusing our attention on her. We exchanged pleasantries and enjoyed very much our conversation with her. As our custom, we also introduced her to the Magnolia Messenger by giving her a copy and also securing her address so we could add her to our mailing list.

Christy was very sweet and cordial. We enjoyed meeting Christy and felt blessed that we had the opportunity to meet her. As I recall, we never saw her again. When we arrived home, we added Christy's address to our mailing list.

But little did we know that our conversation with Christy had impacted her life in a such a positive way until just a few days ago when we received her message!

We are sharing Christy's message to remind each of us that a small gesture on our part may mean a lot to someone else.

Thank you Christy for allowing us to share your message with others. **MM**

*Good evening! You likely don't remember me but we met briefly at PTP a few years ago. I just wanted to express my condolences on your loss. Although I only met Mr. Franks one time, he made a lasting impression on me. A few years ago, I went to PTP for the first time, and I remember being a bit overwhelmed by it. I'm more of an introvert so it was difficult being around so many people I hadn't met before. I happened to sit next to you and Mr. Franks during one of the sessions, and you both were just so kind to me. He told me about the Magnolia Messenger (which I still read!), and you both made me feel right at home. I can only imagine what an incredible influence he was to those who were blessed enough to be around him in their day-to-day lives. I'm so very sorry for your loss, and I pray that God continues to grant you comfort and peace.*

**In Christian Love, Christy Jenkins**

# "INSCRIPTIONS"

by Dennis Doughty

## 20/20 VISION

In the scriptures the word "vision" appears 105 times, from Genesis to Revelation. It appears 22 times in the book of Ezekiel. The entire book of Revelation is based upon visions John received. God instructed Aaron on how He would communicate, "I, the LORD, shall make myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream" (Nu. 12:6). It is through visions that God often revealed his word and will.

When Samuel was a lad serving in the Tabernacle, we read, "and the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision" (1 Sa. 3:1). God's word and "visions" are somewhat synonymous. So when Solomon wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Pr. 29:18), he was not talking about a lack of future planning, but that when God's word is not being revealed, taught, and followed, that people spiritually and morally "perish."

God's visions are now revealed to us through His word; not through dreams, but scripture, not by angels, but by the inspired word. What "visions" will be revealed to you this new year? Will you discover a new truth from a favorite verse? Perhaps a sermon will touch your heart in a special way. What will you learn this year about your own salvation, or God's will for your life? Will you be amazed by an answered prayer? What will be your 2020 vision?

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Yes, our climate is changing. This month, Thursday March 19, was the Vernal Equinox, which is the first day of the Season of Spring. So, yes, the days are getting longer, and warmer; the climate is changing. I for one, am happy to see it. While the weather is not always pleasant, thankfully, it is always changing.

While some worry about "Global Warming," we need not be. Man has only been keeping accurate temperature readings since 1880. So, we have no idea about the temperature 300, or 3000 years ago. Even in biblical times there were "hot days" (Lu. 12:55), and cold snowy days (Pr. 25:13). There were great thunderstorms (Ez. 1:4), destructive tornados (called 'whirlwinds,' Pro. 1:27) "famines and earthquakes" (Mt. 24:7), and even a global flood (Ge. 7:19).

Through all this the earth, and mankind, has survived. God promised Noah, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease" (Ge. 8:22). So it has been and will continue to be. Will the summer of 2020 AD be hotter than the summer of 2020 BC? We will never know. We do know that the seasons will change, and that God is in control. So, enjoy this Spring day, for "this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Ps. 118:24).

*(Please feel free to use these short articles for your bulletin or devotionals. If you would like to receive my weekly "Inscriptions;" just let me know by email; dennis1848@bellsouth.net)*

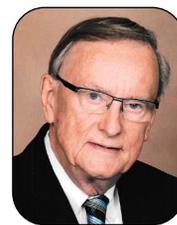
## "Remembering Al"

### A Proud Editor

Al Franks not only served as editor of the Messenger, it was also his "Calling Card." You could trace where he and his June ate, stayed, and visited by the Magnolia Messengers he left behind. He wrote this back in 2011, while in Hattiesburg, where the paper was being printed at that time;

"While we were in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, my June and I handed out several copies to people we met on that very first day. We were in a store know as "Dirt Cheap" when we handed a copy to a nice lady who was shopping for a toy to give her grandson.

Later, when eating at Cracker Barrel, we were pleased to present a new copy of the MM to a waitress named Debbie. Later in the day we stopped at a roadside fruit stand and gave a Messenger to a lady selling watermelons. Then, we stopped in at the Kensington Woods church building and had delivered copies of the new issue to Secretary Mary Kay Stickroth, elder Ken Upchurch, preacher Mike Benson, and his wife, Lanore, who joined us for lunch at noon.



Later in the day, a waitress at Red Lobster seemed very pleased to receive a copy, especially when she learned that her dad, who is plant manger for Signature Offset Printing in Hattiesburg, had just printed our new issue. Then, there was another waiter named Jarris who received the paper kindly...and, so the MM gets around.

We are grateful to all who receive and read the Messenger. We find it beyond our ability to adequately express our great appreciation to all who help financially in the publication and distribution of each issue. Every dollar counts and every dollar helps to spread the "Good News" about the Lord and His church. (ALF)"

Yes, Al was proud of this publication, and used it wherever he went to spread the good news of the gospel. Let us be inspired by his example. -dd

### RECENT BIBLE WINNER

**Juanita Brown**

Falkner, Ms

Bible presented by  
Cameron Hutchins  
preacher at Marlow

Church of Christ

**Congratulations!**



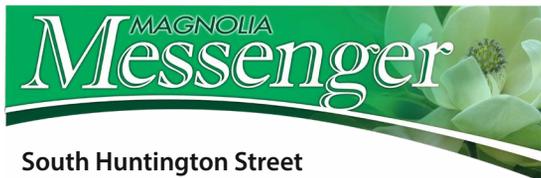
## These Sent In Answers to QB, Last Issue

- |                           |                            |                           |                              |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jane Walker            | 72. Carol Manning Bonner   | 143. Nell Millsaps        | 214. Mitchell Gurley         | 285. Ted Russell          | 356. Faye Stanford     |
| 2. Loren Blackwell        | 73. Dorothy Winslett       | 144. Bobby Brown          | 215. Judy Gurley             | 286. Judy Van Dollen      | 357. Ruby Wright       |
| 3. Patricia Connaway      | 74. Glenda Wilson          | 145. John L. Gates, Jr.   | 216. Dana Holtzlander        | 287. Josephine Ruffer     | 358. Sherian Martin    |
| 4. Billie Noles           | 75. Kathy Hill             | 146. Charles Coffey       | 217. Lucille Jackson         | 288. Michelle Simpson     | 359. Joseph Bolden     |
| 5. Linda Swan             | 76. Alice Swan             | 147. Princess Watson      | 218. Henry Norris            | 289. Esther Hall          | 360. Mary Mann         |
| 6. Elizabeth Todd         | 77. Don Nix                | 148. Judy Willis          | 219. Mary Grigsby            | 290. Chris Beam           | 361. Stephen Mann      |
| 7. Vannie White Sturgis   | 78. Billy Willingham       | 149. Ann Kimble           | 220. Jim Hill                | 291. Betty A. Skinner     | 362. Lawrence Horn     |
| 8. Ruby Nell Parham       | 79. Ira Riley              | 150. Doris Darnell        | 221. Judy Hill               | 292. Linda Kennamore      | 363. Pat Shadle        |
| 9. Sue Glenn              | 80. Florine Riley          | 151. Sue Mason            | 222. Shirley Bostick         | 293. David Morris         | 364. Ann Willingham    |
| 10. Bettye McCool         | 81. Brenda Green           | 152. Inez Brannon         | 223. Wes Jeans               | 294. Jacob Morris         | 365. Rosa Sanders      |
| 11. Ma'Nia Womack         | 82. John Brooks            | 153. Laura Brannon        | 224. Rhoda Jeans             | 295. Braxton Williams     | 366. Faye Stamps       |
| 12. Bralan Womack         | 83. Clara Allen            | 154. Herschel Ford        | 225. Dorothy Franks          | 296. Tariah Bowen         | 367. Julius Lee Wales  |
| 13. Berus Womack          | 84. Jessie Allen           | 155. Stan Neuenschwander  | 226. Malcom M. Hare, Jr.     | <b>297. Grace Eckford</b> | 368. Jeff Ennies       |
| 14. Nicole Womack         | 85. Burrell Brown          | 156. Rachel Pruitt        | 227. Keitha Hare             | 298. Levi Burnett         | 369. Betty Miles       |
| 15. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 86. Loretta Graves         | 157. Marvin England       | 228. Stephanie Slaydun       | 299. Jada Burnett         | 370. Arvel Miles       |
| 16. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr. | 87. Irene Rogers           | 158. Linda Burton         | 229. Earl Franks             | 300. Keneley Wofford      | 371. Mildred Carroll   |
| 17. Sheila Woodard        | 88. Peggy Wroten           | 159. Sylvester Burton     | 230. Patricia Glover         | 301. Seth Burnett         | 372. Peggy Hartman     |
| 18. Gloria Boyd           | 89. Sheila Ganier Williams | 160. Kimberley Easterling | 231. Tommy Lawson            | 302. Glenda Carpenter     | 373. Jimmie Brown      |
| 19. Vera Spencer          | 90. Wanda Orman            | 161. Kay Shiers           | 232. Nell Lawson             | 303. Sandra Sturdivant    | 374. Sue Fisher        |
| 20. Sarah Dantzler        | 91. Pat Moore              | 162. Fern Land            | 233. Danny Stacks            | 304. Frank Winding        | 375. Fannie Johnson    |
| 21. Sharon Dantzler       | 92. Sarah Hill             | 163. Jack Falls, Sr       | 234. Jane Kuykendall         | 305. Bonnie Dixon         | 376. Paul Bryson       |
| 22. Tommy Muirhead        | 93. Sherron Dixon          | 164. Troy Thompson        | 235. Oreatha Johnson         | 306. Michael Euer         | 377. Elsie Bryson      |
| 23. Maggie R. Edmonds     | 94. Katheryn Lee           | 165. Doris Jean Fletcher  | 236. James Thornton          | 307. Fran Williford       | 378. Grover E. Carter  |
| 24. Peggy Jackson         | 95. Lisa Dettor            | 166. Bonnie Lipsey        | 237. Patricia Thornton       | 308. Claude Edwards       | 379. Bonnie Holcomb    |
| 25. Ray Parham            | 96. Gwendolyn Bryant       | 167. Barbara Skrobak      | 238. Alice Dempsey           | 309. Delores Rhodes       | 380. Carolyn Perry     |
| 26. Ed Lyon               | 97. Gwen McCauley          | 168. Mary Thornton        | 239. Thomas Forrest, Sr.     | 310. Sharon Huckaba       | 381. Cheri G. Moore    |
| 27. Mary Adams            | 98. Mary Brannon           | 169. Betty Standard       | 240. Joe Arnold              | 311. Karen Bolls          | 382. Beverly Miles     |
| 28. Carolyn C. Stanford   | 99. Christine Holliday     | 170. Bernard Johnson      | 241. Jatoria Garth           | 312. Michael Brotherton   | 383. Bill Moore        |
| 29. Dorothy Brunson       | 100. Valerie Sykes         | 171. Eva Almon            | 242. Zayshon Doss            | 313. Betty Shackelford    | 384. Ima Jean Fogus    |
| 30. Mary Dyer             | 101. Kaylee Bauer          | 172. Joyce King           | 243. Lady B. Garth           | 314. Belinda Escoubas     | 385. Jani Green        |
| 31. Carolyn Ware          | 102. Tyler Bauer           | 173. Glenda Wooldridge    | 244. Alanta Tate             | 315. Vera Winfrey         | 386. Dee Kepler        |
| 32. Laura Nanney          | 103. Lorenzo Carter        | 174. Pierce Flatt         | 245. Lee Ehart               | 316. Jean Lewis           | 387. Bobbie Loggins    |
| 33. Beth Cook             | 104. Beverly Young         | 175. Forrest Thomas       | 246. William Snow            | 317. Sue Glenna           | 388. Linda B. Keirn    |
| 34. Linda Cook            | 105. Willie Carter         | 176. Geraldine Wilbanks   | 247. Atlean Snow             | 318. Jerry L. Neighbors   | 389. Velma Isom        |
| 35. Shellie Hancock       | 106. Daniel Carter         | 177. John Fordley         | 248. Katie Barmer            | 319. Fred Wesson          | 390. Emile Rollins     |
| 36. Amy Hutson            | 107. Mack Moore            | 178. Lucille Anders       | 249. Blaise Fernandez        | 320. Sonja Adams          | 391. Peggy Rollins     |
| 37. Charlene Jent         | 108. Sandra Graves         | 179. Connie Fountain      | 250. Sandy Dean              | 321. Ann Hulsey           | 392. Jim Crownover     |
| 38. Jimmy Black           | 109. Bernita Booker        | 180. Raymond Keel         | 251. Janice Galloway         | 322. Tishia William       | 393. Dee Collier       |
| 39. Dale Housh            | 110. Perkins Cochran       | 181. Jane Barnett         | 252. Sidney Clemmer          | 323. Natalie Stewart      | 394. Barbara Nickerson |
| 40. Pearlie Hurst         | 111. Wanda Cochran         | 182. Frank Warner         | 253. Jean Clemmer            | 324. Sheila Hall          | 395. Bonnie Howell     |
| 41. Wilda Pounds          | 112. Roscoe Slate          | 183. Lillie J. Williams   | 254. Faye Garrett            | 325. R. L. Clark, Sr.     | 396. Margaret Teague   |
| 42. Doyce Britt           | 113. Gail B. Saxon         | 184. Phyllis Spiers       | 255. Eddie Clark             | 326. Mattie Ann Owens     | 397. Bertha Rockingham |
| 43. Mary Whitehead Lewis  | 114. Lisa Dearman          | 185. Ginny Luther         | 256. Luccile Clark           | 327. Foster C. Owens      | 398. Martha Magee      |
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## THE QUESTION BOX

My first full-time preaching duty was with the Antioch congregation that meets near Blue Springs, MS. The first Gospel Meeting had been scheduled prior to my arrival. Newton Gribble brought a series of messages based on what he called, "The Grace Notes of Life." In 2 Peter 1:5-7, one finds seven qualities that are to be added to our faith: "virtue, knowledge, self-control,

perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness (brotherly love), and love." Our brother from Alabama preached or taught an excellent series regarding each of these seven "grace-notes." II Peter 1:1-11 is under consideration here. The answers to the questions below can be more readily answered by using the New King James Version.

1. Who is the power behind Peter's writing this passage? Our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The name/word "Christ" means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What was the Old Testament word for Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In verse 2, Peter uses a similar phrase, "of God and of Jesus our Lord." Define Lord.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. To whom is the apostle Peter writing 2 Peter 1:1?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In verse 3, what has been given by divine power? \_\_\_\_\_ that pertain to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. How do we get all those things? Through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In that knowledge of Him (Christ), we are called by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What second thing have we been given (verse 4)? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Why have we been given these promises? That through them you may be \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Why are we partakers of the divine nature? Having \_\_\_\_\_.
12. What does it mean to "give all diligence" in verse 5? \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Firmly implanting the grace notes into one's life insures the Christian (verses 8-11):  
 Will not be \_\_\_\_\_  
 Will not be un \_\_\_\_\_  
 Will never \_\_\_\_\_

Will receive an abundant \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ.

### Matching the Grace-Notes

14. Virtue \_\_\_\_\_ Agape love, the love we show even to enemies
15. Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ Phileo love that could be identified with affection
16. Self-control \_\_\_\_\_ The quality that helps one keep on keeping on
17. Perseverance \_\_\_\_\_ Causes one to be devout, having reverence to God's character and laws
18. Godliness \_\_\_\_\_ Self-discipline or temperance
19. Brotherly-kindness \_\_\_\_\_ Gained through experience or education; associated with someone who is able to teach the faith
20. Love \_\_\_\_\_ Morally good; acting in conformity to the moral law; practicing the moral duties, and abstaining from vice; strength of mind and spirit

### Fruits of the Spirit Compared to the Grace-Notes

21. Using the NKJV how many fruits are exactly the same as the grace-notes?  
Name these qualities: \_\_\_\_\_
22. True or False. One could compare the lists: fruits of the Spirit and the Christian virtues (grace-notes) and find that by comparing synonym with synonym, the lists are basically the same.
23. What happens if these qualities are not added (v. 9)? Peter says we are \_\_\_\_\_ even to \_\_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_\_ that we are \_\_\_\_\_ from old \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Why should we be diligent to add those qualities? To make our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sure.
25. With that surety in verse 10, to where is an entrance supplied/given?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Question box done by Glenn & Beth Beall)

### Please Send Your Answers To Us

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTICE: Each person who sends in answers will be recognized in the next issue of the "MM" (see page 31). ALSO, by random drawing, the name of ONE student will be selected to receive a beautiful New Study Bible.

**"The Question Box"**  
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