

MAGNOLIA Messenger

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"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper"

Serving Mississippi, Louisiana and Adjoining States

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

**MAGNOLIA
Messenger**

40 YEARS

OF PUBLICATION

over 30,000 Circulation

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Churches and Christians*

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*I know all the birds
of the mountains, and the wild
beasts of the field are Mine.*

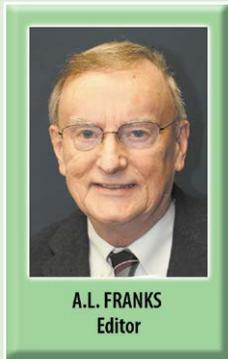
Psalm 50:11



Magnolia Messenger

AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS

In 1978, 2,000 copies of the first issue of the "Magnolia Messenger" were printed in Kosciusko, Mississippi. That first issue contained 12 pages, including an entire sermon preached by V. P. Black entitled, "If I Be Lifted Up." We were thankful. It was a good beginning. It was an exciting time, not only for my June and me, but also for many others who shared with us in this labor of love.



A.L. FRANKS
Editor

We were thankful then; we are thankful now. God has richly blessed our efforts over the past 4 decades. From 12 pages to 24 pages. From 2,000 copies to 30,000. From "just another paper" to a special mission work involving several servants of the Lord. We are so very grateful to God and His children for making possible the work of the "Magnolia Messenger". So, at this time, in this issue, we pause and write a great BIG THANKS to everyone for everything! We also ask that you please continue to pray for our continuing efforts to "provoke one another unto LOVE and GOOD works" as we move, by faith and in hope into our 5th decade of service to the world's greatest Cause, the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. (AI & June; Paul & Glenda)



Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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Editor's Note: The mention of a person or church in the Messenger does NOT necessarily mean that we either endorse or approve all the person or church may believe, teach and/or do. We do not (can not) have full knowledge of every person or church mentioned in the 'MM'; furthermore, we do not believe that our role before God is to be that of a judge. We pray, however, that we will never lend encouragement to anyone or anything in conflict with, or not in harmony with that which is plainly taught In Scripture. Your comments invited and encouraged.

(A. L. Franks, Editor)

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MBC Becomes MBC

WHAT WAS

Magnolia Bible College

IS NOW

Magnolia Bible Center



A dream of a few became a reality for many in 1976, when Magnolia Bible College opened its doors and welcomed six men, each of whom possessed a strong desire to prepare himself for effective service to the Lord. For thirty-three years, the doors of MBC remained opened and welcomed scores and scores of disciples who wanted to better equip themselves to serve the kingdom of Christ.

Yes, thank God, that for more than a third of century, MBC actively and effectively offered and delivered the training that helped prepare a small army of capable teachers and preachers. And, today, most of those trained at MBC continue in their service, filling pulpits and serving in various ways, throughout the world. We are very grateful and believe it is appropriate to pause and write, in this issue of the MM, "Thanks to everyone for everything." Most of all, we thank our Heavenly Father, who made it all possible.

■ A SAD DAY ■

In August of 2009, the MBC board of trustees made a very difficult decision. They decided that the doors, which had opened 33 years before, would be closed by the end of the year. It was further agreed that all MBC properties would be placed into the hands of the Kosciusko church of Christ. What a challenge to the church. Almost overwhelming! During the past nine years, very limited use of the college facilities has been made. And, although the buildings were deeded to the church "debt free"; yet, the upkeep has been a challenge to the church. However, God has provided. The challenge has been met. The properties are still debt free! Thank the Good Lord.

■ A GLAD YEAR (2018) ■

Earlier this year, the Kosciusko church has renewed the earlier dream with a revised plan for the expanding use of the beautiful facilities left to the church by Magnolia Bible College. We are thankful to state that Magnolia Bible College facilities are now designated as Magnolia Bible Center. MBC (the College), was initially under the eldership of the Kosciusko church but transitioned to the oversight of a board of faithful Christian men from several congregations. MBC (the Center) is under and plans to remain under the oversight of the eldership of the Kosciusko church. MBC is a mission effort of the local church, assisted by interested and faithful churches and Christians from a wide area. We are praying that you who are now reading these words will choose to have fellowship with us in the expanding use of the facilities bought and paid for by so many hundreds, even thousands, of Christians. (alf)

Check out page 5 for more info on MBC

BIBLE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

A BIBLE RESPONSE:

In Scripture, these issues are discussed in the context of differences over whether to eat meat, especially meat that has been sacrificed to an idol. Relevant passages include 1 Corinthians 8—10 and Romans 14:1—15:7.

Important Background Information

The Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15), the apostles, with the whole Jerusalem church, agreed and decreed that Gentiles are not required to practice circumcision or Mosaic laws, including the food laws. They do not have to become Jews before they can be Christians. Part of the decree was, "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

These requirements, including "abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols," were things associated with

The Bible does not endorse one man leadership. It prescribes leadership by a plurality of elders. If proposals, methods or projects are stopped any time one person objects to it, that becomes "one person leadership" of the worst sort. It completely overrides the eldership which is God's prescribed leadership model for a local church.

idolatry, and idolatry was absolutely to be avoided by all Christians.

It is sin, Scripture says, to sit in an idol's temple and participate in the worship of idols. "What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons" (1 Corinthians 10:19-21).

In Corinth, there was a complication. The idols' temples served as slaughter houses for the city. Animals were offered there to the idol by the idols' priests. The priests took part of the meat from the sacrifice as their living and, needing things beside just meat, traded it in the market

"Stronger Brother" and "Weaker Brother" (?)

Please discuss the obligation owed by the "stronger brother" to the "weaker brother" in terms of the weaker brother's "conscientious convictions," and the obligation owed by the "weaker brother" to the "stronger brother" in terms of the stronger brother's liberty in Christ. (M. M. C.)

place ("the shambles" KJV; "the meat market" ESV) for other needs. The meat was then sold to those who came to the meat market to buy.

Obligations of the Strong toward the Weak

"The strong," in this discussion, are those who understand our God is the only true and living God. Idols are not really gods at all. Therefore, when meat has been sacrificed to an idol sometime in its history, nothing happened to the meat; it is still just meat. "Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'an idol has no real existence,' and that 'there is no God but one . . . Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do'" (1 Corinthians 8:4, 8). As far as buyers in the meat market knew, the meat they were buying may or may not have been offered to idols. In such cases, Paul advised, "Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience" (1 Corinthians 10:25).

"However, not all possess this knowledge. Some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled" (1 Corinthians 8:7). These are "the weak," who do not understand that the idol is nothing and, therefore, nothing is changed about the meat when it is offered to an idol. Their weak conscience condemns them for eating meat, if it has ever been offered to an idol. A "weak" conscience, in that case, would be a misinformed or uninformed conscience.

The first obligation of the strong is to love the weak, to love them enough to give up their "rights" for the sake of the weak. The point is so as not to "cause them to stumble," that is, to act contrary to their conscience, thus to sin and perhaps be lost.

As an example of giving up rights, Paul used himself. He had the right to be supported by Christians in Corinth (1 Corinthians 9). "But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such

provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. . . . That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:15, 18).

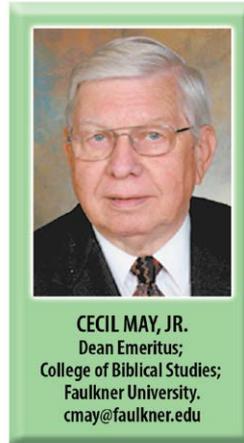
Similarly, he urges the "strong" Christians, those who know "an idol is nothing," and who know they have a right to eat meat even

if at some time in the past it was used as a sacrifice to an idol, not to eat under circumstances where it might cause a brother to stumble. So Paul advises, "If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, 'this has been offered in sacrifice,' then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his" (1 Corinthians 10:27-29).

If a person does something contrary to his or her conscience, even if it is not a sin in itself, it is sin for that person. In Romans, Paul elaborated on that. "Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin" (Romans 14:22-23).

The primary obligation of the strong is, "Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats" (Romans 14:20).

"But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this



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Once again, it is all right to eat "if it is received with thanksgiving." That seems to validate what I was taught early in life, "It ain't fit to eat if it ain't been blessed!"

weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. (1 Corinthians 8:9-13).

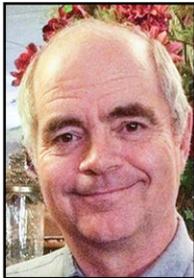
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A Place of Safety

"Saved by fire from the fire"

John Thompson

A young family was enjoying a nice picnic deep in the woods. It was a lovely day, and all was well until they turned and saw a forest fire rapidly bearing down on their location. The inferno was driven by a strong hot wind that increased both the speed and intensity of the flames.



Although they abandoned everything and fled in terror, they simply could not outrun the fire. Their destruction seemed imminent and inescapable.

The exhausted and terrified group stumbled into a small clearing already set ablaze by wind-driven embers. The hapless family was trapped between the fire ahead and the one behind. Unable to advance or retreat, they waited anxiously until the grass burned away before taking refuge in the smoldering field. As the raging fire overtook them, it stopped abruptly at the edge of the clearing, turned, and went around. The family huddled together as a tidal wave of flames destroyed the forest around them. The firestorm moved quickly onward in its unstoppable march of death and destruction. As the flames died and the smoke cleared, the family stood alive and safe on a blackened island surrounded by a sea of utter death and devastation – saved, as it were, from the fire by fire.

The Bible is replete with passages that tell us how God's wrath is kindled against sin. It also describes in detail, from beginning to end, the Father's unfathomable love for mankind. That love prompted a great plan for Jesus to take our sin burden upon

Himself, fully pay its penalty and save us. In so doing God provided a way for us to receive grace and pardon even while His wrath against all unrighteousness was thoroughly consumed. We are constantly and properly reminded of this great plan of redemption in our assemblies. In fact, we hear this message with such regularity from our pulpits, prayers and classes that familiarity can, over time, numb us to the wonder of grace. May it never be.

At the institution of the first Passover, the blood of a lamb was sprinkled on the doorposts of the Israelites. That night as God's wrath came upon the Egyptians, He 'passed over' His people when He saw the blood of the lamb. The New Testament teaches that Christ is our Passover (I Cor 5:7). Just as during the time of the Exodus, God's wrath also passes over us when He sees the Blood of the Lamb.

At the center of that burned-out clearing stands an old rugged Cross. Stained with blood divine and charred by the fury of a righteous God against all unrighteousness, the Cross remains our only place of refuge against sin, death and hell. Those within its perimeter are safe as God's wrath against sin, having been consumed in the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, passes over them. Jesus truly paid it all!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3: 16-17)

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Living Your Life For **THAT DAY**

Les Ferguson, Sr.

The title of this article comes from a recent issue of "The Searchlight," a publication of "In SEARCH of the Lord's Way." For many years Mack Lyon was the one all, who watch this excellent TV program on Sunday mornings, saw and listened to. Phil Sanders is the face of the program since the passing of Brother Lyon and is following his footprints in doing a wonderful job of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

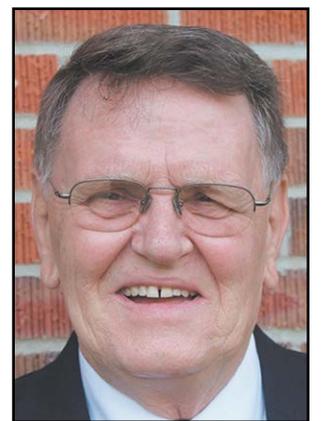
In an article in that issue referred to above, Chris Lyon, Mack's son, was reflecting on the passing of some Christians whom he knew. He related that his father, on hearing of the passing of faithful Christians, would often say, "They lived their lives for that day."

"They lived their lives for that day." What about it, fellow believer. If death came knocking shortly after reading this, could/would that statement be said in reference to you or me? Am I truly living my life for that day? If not, **I should be because** ... *it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). Preparation for that day must be made in this life! When that day comes, it is too late for any preparing. There are no second chances. Just ask the rich man of Luke 16. The record says, " ... he died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes.... (Luke 16:23). He could see, he could understand, but it was too late. He had failed to live his life for that day.

Each of us knows if we are ready for that day or not. If we are truly walking in the light there should be no fear. But if there is yet some change you need to make, some forgiveness you need to seek, **see to it!** Don't let that day come and find you unprepared.

I am reminded of the Apostle Peter's exhortation in I Peter 4. He writes of a Christian who has ceased from sin, that he no longer live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God" (I Peter 4:1,2). As I write this, I am yet alive. How much time do I have left? I do not know. But whatever is left, that is the rest of my time. Peter says, don't waste it. Live it for the will of God! **Live it for THAT DAY!** (LF)

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the facilities of what was
Magnolia Bible College
are now the facilities of what is

Magnolia Bible Center

(Thank God & His Children)

Plans/Prayers For the use of MBC facilities

Continuing Retreats for Preachers

- Workshops for Church Leaders
- Special Studies Workshops
- Evangelism: Soul Saving Workshops
- Youth Programs / Camps for Youth
- Ministers' Meetings / Conferences
- Marriage Enrichment Seminars

Area-wide Lectureships

School of Biblical Studies

(Interest is Growing!)

MBC Library Available

(35,000 Volumes)

Private Retreats for Sister Churches
(Facilities available for area-wide churches of Christ)

Plus Your Suggestions

Please HOPE, PRAY and PLAN with/for us!

May God's Will be Done!

May MBC Facilities be Used to His Glory!

A MISSION WORK

(Under the oversight of the elders of the Kosciusko church)

Immediate Assistance is Requested

(Christians and Congregations)

Our Goal

\$50,000.00 by December 1, 2018

Can you...Will you... Give or pledge?

Please Pray About Being One Of:

- 10 Christians/Congregations to give/pledge \$5,000.00
- 100 Christians/Congregations to give/pledge \$500.00
- 1,000 Christians/Congregations to give/pledge \$50.00
- Christians/Congregations to give/pledge _____ (any amount)

For more information, to schedule use of facilities or to give/pledge, please contact:

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MAGNOLIA BIBLE CENTER

P. O. Box 763 • Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090

MBC FACILITIES



New "MBC" -- Magnolia Bible Center

(Includes Huntington Street Church Building)

MBC Facilities include (a) dormitory, (b) library, (c) multi-purpose and (d) academic buildings. (e) Church building also available as needed



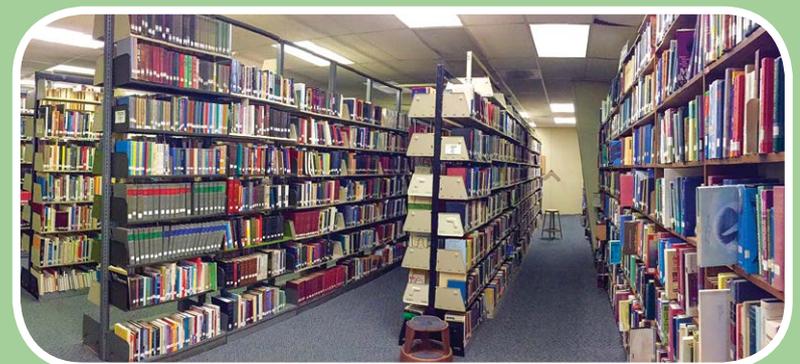
MBC Dormitory (Accommodates up to 40 guests)

(Ideal for retreats, conferences and workshops)



MBC Multipurpose Building

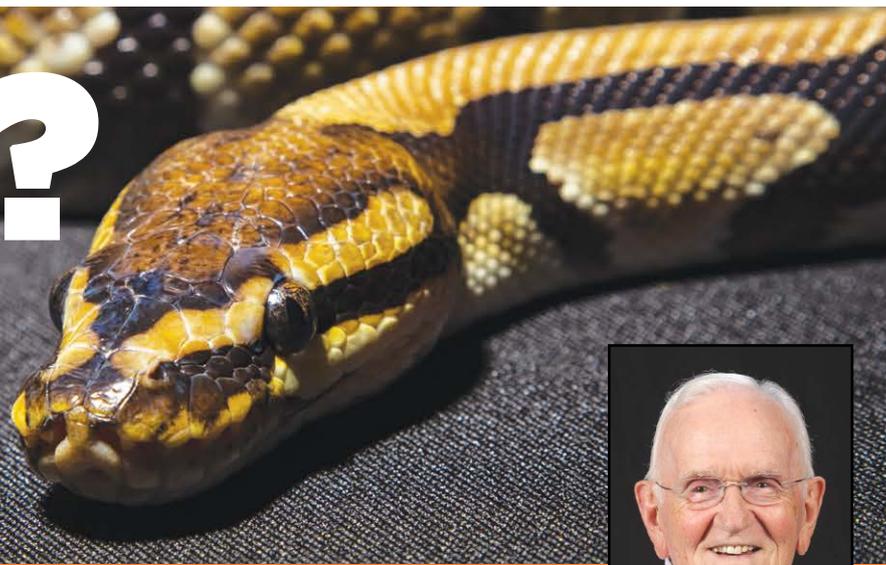
(Offices, kitchen, gym with room to seat hundreds!)



MBC Library (partial view) -- 35,000 Volumes

Strange?

Not Really!



Ken Joines

Satan is real. There's evidence everywhere. Jesus said Satan is the father of lies, and described him as the deceiver and murderer. (I John 3:8; John 8:44; II Cor. 11:3) Wherever you find pain, suffering, hatred, separation, broken homes, sickness and death, there you will find his slimy fingerprints. At funerals I usually try to remind mourners that this death was not God's doing. Satan is the father of death and all evil, so let's be sure to get this in the right column and not attribute this to the God of love and compassion. Make no mistake: Satan brought sin and suffering into this world and he is still in the business of inflicting pain and suffering whenever and wherever he can.

Having said that, now please consider this: Satan is sly. Smart. And unless you have claimed the power of God within you, he will outmaneuver and outwit you every time! God said, "Be alert...your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (I Peter 5:8). On one occasion Jesus told Simon Peter, an apostle, "Satan...will sift you like wheat." (Luke 22:1). He is no fool and will use any and every means to destroy the foundation of our faith. He is a master at muddying the waters to prevent our seeing the truth God wants us to know. Please consider with me the work of Satan in the art of confusing the minds of good people.

Baptism and Communion

In the Christian religion, there are really just two things that are directly and inseparably related to the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior. They are (1) Baptism and (2) the Lord's Supper. The former is a reenactment, the latter a commemoration. Also, for as long as anyone

I recently watched via the internet a baptismal service done by a preacher in a "community church" in my area. Just before the baptism he looked at the audience and said clearly, "...this water does not save you.

Only the blood of Jesus can save". Such a statement contains just enough truth to confuse.

can remember there has been constant sharp disagreement, heated debates, frustration, confusion and misunderstanding in both of these arenas.

Baptism, for instance. Is it by immersion only? Is it to forgive my sin, or is it just symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection? Who may perform it? Who are the subjects?

Am I saved before being baptized? God's word will make clear the answer to all these questions.

Then the Lord's Supper. When should it be observed? Is it for members only? Is it just bread and grape juice or is it somehow turned into the actual body and blood of Jesus? Must/may we use fermented wine? How often? Should it be central in the Lord's day worship, or just "made available for those who feel they need?" Again, God's word will make clear all the answers.

I dare say that I am well within bounds in saying that there are no two things in the entire body of Christian doctrine where the water is any muddier. Surrounding these two doctrinal foundation stones is a thick fog, as it were, to keep people confused and from looking beyond the outward. I recently watched, via the internet, a baptismal service done by a preacher in a "community church" in my area. Just before the baptism he looked at the audience and said clearly, "...this water does not save you. Only the blood of Jesus can save".

Such a statement contains just enough truth to confuse. Yes, it is the blood of Jesus alone that saves. God has preserved for us a case in the Old Testament that can help us see this truth. Read in II Kings chapter 5 the story of the cleansing of Naaman. He had leprosy and was directed by God's prophet to dip seven times in the Jordan river to be cleansed. He dipped and was cleansed as promised. Was it Jordan's water that cleansed him? Of course not! It was the power of God made available in response to his obedience that cleansed him. And I think most would surely agree that had he refused to dip he would not have been healed. We are said to be "baptized into his death." (Romans 6:3-6). Think of it: his blood was shed in his death. We're baptized into that death. It is in baptism that we meet the blood that saves us. Baptism clearly links us to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A few thoughts now about the Lord's Supper. It is my belief that this sacred meal should be served every Lord's day in observance of the fact that our Lord rose on that day. Is there a direct command in scripture to this effect? No. Jesus said simply, "Do this in remembrance of me..." (I Cor. 11:25) A little deductive reasoning just here can help us. Jesus had told his apostles that after he left them, the Holy Spirit would come and guide them "into all truth." (John 16:13). Thus, the practice of these men would reflect what the Spirit taught them. So, what was their practice? One rather significant piece of evidence is in Act 20:1-6. In his heavy travel schedule, this apostle stayed in Troas seven days. Why? We can't be certain, but it strongly suggests he may have stayed all week so as to

worship with them the following Sunday and observe the supper with them. Then there's I Cor. 16:1-2 where he asks the Christians to take an offering on "the first day of the week". This is most surely not the only time we can make a monetary offering, but he seems to have known that they would be meeting on the first day of the week. Why? The only logical reason is that they were together for the Lord's supper on Sunday, so they were to collect these funds at this assembly for the poor in Palestine.

Another thing that weighs heavily on me is that there are some people and events that I want to never forget. I always remember my wife's special days: birthday, our anniversary, Mother's Day, etc. My parents. My children. Special days in their lives. I observe these days because those people are precious to me. When those days and those people come to mind, my heart is touched and moved. I can assure you that I don't need a command for those observances. My love is sufficient to move me to action. And at a much deeper level—spiritual level—there is one day that stands out above all: the day my Savior stood up and walked out of his own tomb! Everything that is truly significant hinges on that stupendous event! Why would any Christian even want to let the Lord's day pass without remembering, without eating the bread and drinking the cup in remembrance? And even though we don't have a command that says, "Eat this supper every Sunday", the love we have for him who died in our place should be sufficient to drive us to do so.

Question

Since there are but two forces at work in our world—God and Satan—which one of these would you suppose has caused all this confusion? Which one, God or Satan, would like to make it difficult for you to sift through all this confusion in your search for God's will? Or to put it another way, if you were Satan, what more vulnerable place could you possibly attack than at the very foundation of our faith? So it really isn't strange that there's all this confusion about baptism and communion, is it?

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to Christianity. Be wrong in either of these areas and you're in deep trouble with God. And if the teaching of your church misses these vital truths, then that church cannot possibly be the one for which the Savior died.

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Scriptural Response

To A Sermon In Favor Of Using Instrumental Music in Worship

PART TWO

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second part of brother Cecil May's response to a sermon defending the use of instrumental music in Christian worship. To read and study the first part, please go "on line" to magnoliamesseenger.com and read the first of the four articles (Spring issue for 2018). (Extra printed copies of the MM with the first article are also available by calling 662-289-3559 or emailing, franksmm@aol.com.) Thank you for your interest in doing God's will in God's way. (alf)

■ Instruments in Heaven?

It is said that musical instruments in Old Testament worship and musical instruments in heaven clearly show that God does not hate musical instruments. Of course, no one maintains that God hates musical instruments. He commanded their use in Old Testament temple worship along with many other things not commanded in the New Testament. What about harps in heaven? "Harps" are mentioned three times in Revelation.

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (5:8).

And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps (14:2).

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and

PSALLO: The one time it might have connotations of "play" or "pluck", the instrument to be "plucked" is specified: "making melody (psallo) to the Lord with all your heart."

its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands (15:2).

Of the three occurrences, one does not speak of actual harps but of "a voice like the sound of harpists playing on their harps."

Revelation is "apocalyptic," written in signs and symbols, explaining spiritual things by speaking of more familiar material things. In heaven we will no longer be clothed in our fleshly bodies, but in spiritual bodies, immortal, incorruptible and glorious (1 Cor. 15:42-43). I do not know what "a spiritual body" is, beyond its description in Scripture. I do not expect, however, to literally walk on a golden street, in a city adorned with every kind of precious stone (Rev. 21:19-21). I do not expect to see literal golden bowls full of incense, or a sea of glass mingled with fire, or literal harps.

■ Psallo?

It is said that psallo, one of the Greek words translated "sing" or "sing praises" in the New Testament, actually means "sing with instrumental accompaniment." Its etymology comes from "to pluck" and it is used in the Septuagint to mean "sing with instrumental accompaniment." Meaning, though, is not determined by etymology; it is determined by current usage. By New Testament times it had come to mean "sing." Every recognized version so translates it. (It is not argued that the word specifically means "sing without instruments" by definition. It just means "sing." It does not say, "no instruments;" it does not include them. It does not authorize them.)

Psallo is used five times in the New Testament, including twice in the same verse.

Romans 15:9, And in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing (psallo) to your name."

1 Corinthians 14:15, What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise (psallo) with my spirit, but I will sing (psallo) with my mind also.

Ephesians 5:19, Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody (psallo) to the Lord with all your heart.

James 5:13, Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise (psallo).

The one time it might have connotations of "play" or "pluck", the instrument to be "plucked" is specified: "making melody (psallo) to the Lord with all your heart."

■ "The Law of Silence?"

Our speaker correctly notes that silence alone does not prohibit. We do many things not mentioned in Scripture without objection. We build and meet in church buildings, we use song books and power point and sit on padded pews, none of which are mentioned in Scripture or known by the early church. It is only when a specific command is given that silence concerning parallel things prohibits.

If in preaching it has been said that *silence prohibits*, mark that up to speaking shorthand. Silence only prohibits when there is specific direction, plus silence about parallel kinds of things. It is not so much the silence as the specific command that prohibits. The classic example is Noah's ark. God said, "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood" (Gen. 6:14). No one seems to know now what kind of wood "gopher" is, but God knew and Noah knew. "Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him" (Gen. 6:22).

Obviously, if God had just said, "Make yourself an ark," any material would do. Because He specified "gopher wood," using any other kind of wood would have been disobedience. The New Testament uses specific commands and silence in precisely this way: priests from Judah are prohibited because Levites are specified. "For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily

a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests" (Heb. 7:12-14). Note, "in connection with (Judah) Moses said nothing about priests."

Throughout the New Testament, "singing" is given apostolic approval, and consequently God's approval. Sometimes reference is to individual Christians singing praises, as Paul and Silas in a Philippian prison (Acts 16:25). Sometimes it is speaking of Christians edifying one another in corporate assembly (1 Corinthians 14:15). Every reference to Christians worshipping and praising God musically specifies they were singing. In no instance were musical instruments mentioned as being present or used.

■ What Else Comes in Through the Same Door?

The early nineteenth century restoration leaders, contrary to what is said, were aware that their adopted principle, "Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent," would cause some common practices to be prohibited.

Thomas Campbell, in his influential "Declaration and Address," pointed out, "If one adopts the view that anything religious is acceptable to God as long as it is offered sincerely and is not specifically prohibited, the door is opened for many other practices that the one urging that position to justify instrumental music may not want at all." When he urged "that nothing be enjoined as a condition of communion that is not expressly stated in Scripture," Alexander Campbell objected. "If that principle be followed, infant baptism will have to be given up." Thomas did not think so at that point, but said, "Of course, if infant baptism be not found in Scripture, we

"If one adopts the view that anything religious is acceptable to God as long as it is offered sincerely and is not specifically prohibited, the door is opened for many other practices that the one urging that position to justify instrumental music may not want at all."

can have nothing to do with it" (Richardson, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 1, pp. 236-238). After further study, both of the Campbells, as well as others, began to teach that biblical baptism was immersion in water of believing adults and were immersed, though they had been sprinkled as infants.

Infant sprinkling for baptism, like instrumental music, is not expressly forbidden in Scripture and is widely



Roger Johnson

Repentance is a message that man has needed to hear since the beginning. Adam and Eve stood in need of repentance when they ate the forbidden fruit and violated God's will. From that day to this, repentance has been a requirement for man, in order to be right with God, because all have sinned and need to turn from wrong (Rom. 3:23).

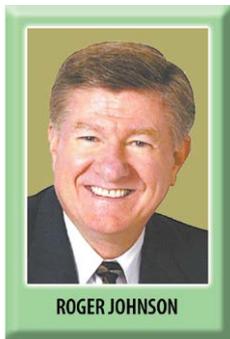
In every dispensation God has called upon man to repent. For many years Noah pleaded with people of his generation to repent of their corruption lest God would destroy them (Gen. 6; 2 Pet. 2:5). The great prophet Hosea begged Israel to listen to the word of God, "for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land" (Hos. 4:1). He later urged them, "Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity" (Hos. 14:1).

The forerunner of Christ said to his contemporaries, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2). The Lord began his ministry with the same message (Matt. 4:17). The church began with a message in which Peter urged people to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Following the healing of the lame beggar, Peter said to the curious crowd that had gathered, "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away" (Acts 3:19). When the baptized believer, Simon, sinned he was told to "repent of this wickedness of yours" (Acts 8:22). In the last book of the Bible, the Ephesian church, which had left their first love, was told to "repent and do the deeds you did at first" (Rev. 2:5). From one end of the Bible to the other, men are told to repent.

Repentance involves a turning, a change in the direction of one's life. It is more than just sorrow for having committed sin; it is a change of mind and heart that results in a change of life. The apostle Paul wrote, "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (2 Cor. 7:10). Notice that godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation. By contrast, just being sorrowful for sins committed does not produce repentance, but results in spiritual death. It neither changes one's behavior nor his relationship to God. The difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow is illustrated in the lives of two apostles. Simon Peter three times denied the Lord, but after realizing his sin he went out and wept bitterly. That's godly sorrow. On the other

hand, Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus afterwards felt remorse, but went out and committed suicide. That's worldly sorrow.

Through the years people have reacted differently to the call for repentance. Noah's contemporaries did not change their evil ways and, thus, suffered destruction. They rejected the message and, evidently, didn't want to change. On the other hand, the Ninevites heeded the message of Jonah and repented in sackcloth and ashes (Jonah 3). Jesus stated that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter



ROGER JOHNSON

the kingdom of God before the religious leaders of the day because they repented at the preaching of John and believed (Matt. 21:31-32). On Pentecost, we marvel that three thousand people were baptized (Acts 2:41), but they were probably only a small minority of the throng that gathered (Acts 2:5, 9-11).

Why is there such a vast difference in the way people respond to the gospel message? Is it the message itself that causes such a different reaction on the part of people? Or, is it the messenger himself that produces different reactions? Those who like the messenger respond positively to him while those who, for one reason or another, don't care for him respond negatively.

Perhaps the parable Jesus told in Matthew chapter 13

When we lament that people are not being converted today as extensively as in days gone by, we should not feel the need to "adjust" the message to appease them. Neither should we fault the faithful messenger for the lack of responses. After all, he is only a servant. We should be diligent in preaching the same message that has always been delivered by God's messengers... Repent or perish! If there is no repentance, there can be no pardon.

sheds some light on the question. In the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23) He said there are four different kinds of soil on which seeds fall. Some fall beside the road and birds devour them; others fall on rocky soil and cannot develop a root system that would provide nourishment in the heat of the day; still others fall among thorns that choke out the plant before it has time to develop; and, lastly, there are seeds that fall upon good soil and bear fruit.

Why did some seeds produce and others did not? There is no indication that anything was wrong with the seeds or the one who sowed them. The reason for the difference between the fruitful and unfruitful seeds was the kind of soil in which the seeds fell. In His explanation of the parable Jesus said the soils represent the heart that is the receptacle of God's word (Lk. 8:11). If a man's heart is hardened or shallow or crowded with the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, it is not prepared to respond properly to God's word.

This provides some insight into the reason why there are different responses to the gospel in different cultures and periods of time. The acceptance or rejection of the gospel isn't due to the message or the messenger necessarily, but largely depends on the heart of the one hearing the message. Three thousand people repented and were baptized on Pentecost, but thousands of others were not. Why? It could not have been because there was something lacking in the message. It was inspired of God. Neither was it the fault of the messengers because Jesus said they would be guided into all truth (Jno. 16:13). Those who did not repent were either not convinced they needed to repent or perhaps were not willing to change their lives.

We often wonder why there are not as many conversions today as there was in the first century or during the Restoration Movement of the 1800's. Why were there 500 baptisms on a month-long campaign in Donetsk, Ukraine in the mid-1990's while the same messenger delivered

the same message in the United States without similar results? The problem is not with the message "for it is the power of God for salvation" (Rom. 1:16). The message is the same today as it was in the first century. Neither is the problem necessarily with the messenger for God continues to use imperfect earthen vessels to unveil the precious treasure of His word (2 Cor. 4:7). Paul even rejoiced when the messenger did not have proper motives in preaching the gospel (Phil. 1:15-18). Please note that the content of their message was not what Paul ques-

tioned, but their motive. Probably the reason why people do not repent and obey the gospel is because they either do not see the need or are unwilling to do so.

When we lament that people are not being converted today as extensively as in days gone by, we should not feel the need to "adjust" the message to appease them. Neither should we fault the faithful messenger for the lack of

Continued on page 14

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Continued from page 7

practiced by many denominations. What basis of objection to infant sprinkling is left to one who accepts instrumental music on the grounds that it is not specifically forbidden? The Bible is silent about any hierarchical church governing arrangement, with an overseer or elder overseeing more than one church.

Since the Bible specifies overseers within each congregation and is silent concerning any other arrangement, we conclude that is God's intended arrangement for local church government. Others, who believe silence is permissive, have overseers (bishops, KJV) over more than one congregation, and one group has one universal bishop (Pope) over the whole church. Popes and territorial bishops come in under the same reasoning as instrumental music: the Bible does not expressly forbid it.

Besides the episcopal model of church government, with its authoritative hierarchical bishopric, "dancing before the Lord," burning of incense and prayers to departed saints are among other practices that not only can come in under that same rubric, but have done so and are presently practiced on the basis of that rationale.

Of Old Testament recorded events, the Bible says, "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Cor. 10:11).

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire (strange fire, KJV) before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified (KJV, "must be regarded as holy"), and before all the people I will be glorified'" (Lev. 10:1-3).

Nadab and Abihu learned that a holy God wants to be worshipped with holy things. "Strange" things (KJV), "unauthorized" things (ESV, NIV) are not holy. God is not just "holy"; God is "holy, holy, holy." How we worship Him in prayer, in the Lord's supper and in singing, is "a big deal." We are to be "true worshippers" (John 4:23). "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

TO BE CONTINUED

Next Issue of MM

In Part III of brother May's response to a sermon "in favor of" instrumental music in Christian worship, he answers such questions as

"Are the singing passages in Ephesians and Colossians congregational or individual? Also, "Is there no pattern for worship?"

Be looking for the Fall issue of MM in September of 2018, God willing. (alf)



Many of the 70 Students Who Studied Together in Fulton, MS

Fulton Bible Institute Holds Spring Banquet

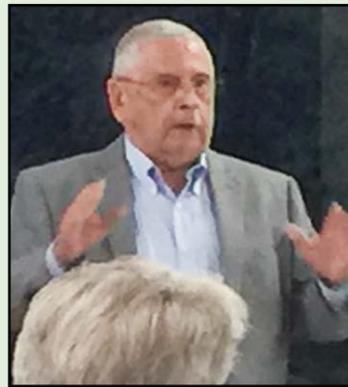
It's the close of another year of study for the Fulton Bible Institute. This year Bro. Steven Shappley, from the Beans Ferry church, led the class in a study of 1 & 2 Peter. Around 70 students attended the class, coming from all around the area. One group came from the Westside church in Houston, MS.

The class used material from the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, TX. The late Ted Stewart was the speaker. It was a twelve-week in-depth study of 1 & 2 Peter.

Joe Connell was the speaker for the banquet on April 17. Joe gave a wonderful lesson on habits we need to develop to apply the Word successfully to our lives. I enjoyed Joe's lesson and his humor.

It was great for me to see brethren from all over the area. I thank Steven for the invitation to come and visit the class. I also got to meet the new minister and his family for the Fulton church of Christ. Matthew Thigpin and his wife Paula and their two children Elizabeth and Austin were present for the banquet. They are to move to Fulton the first of May. They are a wonderful young family. I know Matthew will do a great work in Fulton. He is a graduate of Heritage and FHU with a master's degree from both universities.

(Report by Eddie Lewis)



Joe Connell, Banquet Speaker



New Preacher for the Fulton Congregation, Matthew Thigpin With his wife, Paula, and their children, Elizabeth and Austin

A "Dr Pepper" Day (10-2-4)

My favorite soft drink is Dr Pepper. This popular drink was first made in Waco, Texas (1880's), about a year before Coca Cola had its beginning. As a child, I remember hearing and seeing advertisements promoting "Dr Pepper Time" at the hours of ten, two and four o'clock (10-2-4).

The old advertising phrase, "Dr Pepper Time," came to my mind when, on December 17, 2017, my June and I were blessed to assemble three times with two churches for "Sunday Worship Time"-- at ten, two and four. The "Sunday Worship Time" matched exactly "Dr Pepper Time" -- at 10:00, 2:00 and 4:00.

At 10:00 A.M. -- (Chapman church, near Ripley, MS)

At 2:00 P.M. -- (Chapman church, near Ripley, MS)

At 4:00 P.M. -- (Jumpertown church, near Booneville, MS)

Refreshing, invigorating, uplifting. Dr Pepper Time? But, even more refreshing, more invigorating and more uplifting is Sunday Worship Time. The privilege of gathering with and enjoying fellowship with

spiritual brothers and sisters is a great blessing. Joining our hearts together in the worship of our Heavenly Father, even as we feast upon His word, has to be at the top of all earthly blessings, seasoned with heavenly flavor.

God wants us to be blessed. He wants us to be refreshed, invigorated and uplifted. For these reasons, He instructs us to "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25).

Sunday Worship Times. They may not always be 10, 2 and 4. The times may need to be adjusted. Maybe more like 9 or 10 and 5 or 6. Whatever time your local church assembles, be there. Participate. Eat and drink. Our plea is that you take advantage of all Sunday Worship Times. You will be glad. Remember the psalmist who said, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go up into the house of the Lord" (Psalms 122:1). [alf]



What the Magnolia Messenger RV Rallies Mean to Me

By Michael Hony

When Paul Franks asked me to write an article telling what the RV rallies mean to me, it wasn't hard. All I had to do was put in writing what I had been telling people for years. I first learned about the rallies by reading the Magnolia Messenger, several years before I had an RV. The rallies influenced my decision to buy an RV. I always said "I'll go to the rally when we get an RV", but... **you don't have to have an RV to attend!** So, we could have come several years before we had an RV and tent camped or rented a hotel room or cabin.

The road to purchasing an RV is a story in and of itself, but, basically I tent camped for 40 years before purchasing the first trailer. As we would go to different campgrounds with the tent, we admired the trailers, but I always thought,



Michael Hony

"Oh, I'll never be able to afford a trailer." Well... low and behold... After 2 years of shopping we found a great used trailer for \$18,000! Then, as we traveled with our first trailer, I admired the Airstream trailers. I had always admired Airstreams, even as a child. Once we started attending the rallies, I remember telling everyone there that Airstreams were my favorite, but we would never be

able to afford one. Then... low and behold... **we bought an Airstream!**

As I said earlier, the rallies influenced my decision to purchase an RV. Another huge factor at the time -- post 2007/2008 economy -- was a huge loss of money. We had been discussing purchasing an RV when we retire, but the loss of money changed my point of view; it opened my eyes to a different view. Prior to the bad economy I had worked overtime for 20 years, saving as much as I could. Then,

when so much of the money I had saved evaporated, I decided maybe I should work less, spend a little more money and enjoy my time here a little more. At least if I bought tangible goods I could look out the window and see them! So, we had been shopping for a trailer, but were so very limited by my tow vehicle with a 6 cylinder and 5,000# towing capacity. So, I first bought a V8 pickup! Limitations removed! We went and got the trailer we wanted. Then, when we could, we began attending the rallies. We decided to begin enjoying the RV lifestyle in our 40's rather than waiting till we retire in our 60's. (A trailer is the next

I believe the Magnolia Messenger is a good evangelistic outreach tool. It is a well written newspaper that is so encouraging to read as it breaks the bread of life unto its readers. The paper gives us the Word and the truth. It is a great study aid with relevant articles with practical application.

natural progression for people who love camping and have been tent camping for a lifetime.)

Our first MM rally was the 2011 rally at Percy Quinn State Park near McComb, MS. Since the first rally, we were hooked and have attended every rally since, including that rally at Percy Quinn, 7 LA-TX RV rallies at Salm-on Lake Park in Grapeland, TX, 3 rallies at Roosevelt

State Park at Morton, MS, 4 rallies at Lake Tiak O'Khata at Louisville, MS, and 3 rallies at J. P. Coleman State Park north of Iuka, MS. We plan our entire year around the rallies. (Suggestion: Put the rallies on the calendar first, then plan the rest of the year.)

But, I digress... Now, I've said all that to say how important the rallies are to me and why. I always describe the feeling like when we were kids and went to vacation Bible school or Maywood Christian Camp for a week in the summer: **uplifted, recharged, encouraged, motivated.** The slogan for the Magnolia Messenger and the rallies is Hebrews 10:24: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." The week of time away from work with Christian brothers and sisters does just that. It is a week of singing, praying, hearing God's word, enjoying fellowship with one another and playing games in our free time. It is a week of being out of the world for the moment.

It is great to hear from other congregations of the Lord's church; to learn what missions, evangelistic efforts, and good works they are doing. It is encouraging to know the Lord's work is taking place in other areas. It is so easy



Mike Price teaching God's word at most recent rally



Beautiful Lake Tiak O'Khata at Louisville, MS
(Home of Recent MM RV Rally)



Eating Together/Fellowship
(Important and Enjoyable Part of Every Rally)



Tony Coleman leading singing at recent rally



to make life long friends at the rally; to develop long lasting relationships with others. Once we have become friends, I/we look forward to seeing one another at the next rally.

The bottom line is this: *It is our brothers and sisters in Christ who are going to help us stay on the path and take hold of the promise.* I think it is important to make friends with fellow Christians, to hang out with, spend time with, eat diner with, go to the movies with, go bowling with; whatever our hobbies are, if we hunt, fish, golf, ride bicycles or motorcycles, fly radio control airplanes, whatever our hobbies or interests are; *to participate in all things with fellow Christians when we can.* The rallies are a way to enjoy our RV's while fellowshiping with other Christians. The rallies afford us the opportunity to fellowship amidst the beauty and splendor of the evidence of creation we see in nature.

The rally has a similar effect on my soul and spirit as missionary work. To be able to attend is a great blessing for me. When you go on a mission trip, the intention is to bless others as you evangelize, but I come home feeling encouraged and uplifted. If I encourage others just a little bit, I am more greatly rewarded than those I hopefully encouraged, a great return on investment. I believe the *Magnolia Messenger* is a good evangelistic outreach tool. It is a well written newspaper that is so encouraging to read as it breaks the bread of life unto its readers. The paper gives us the Word and the truth. It is a great study aid with relevant articles with practical application. The MM rallies help raise money to print the Messenger, a very good cause. One of the highlights of the rallies is the action taken to raise funds for the Messenger.

Who doesn't need encouragement? I know I do! Every day I need encouragement. The rallies and the friends we have made at the rallies are truly encouraging. It is the greatest feeling in the world, when you have a death in the family, to look up to see friends from the rally attending the funeral. The love that is shared and demonstrated by our Christian brothers and sisters from other congregations is amazing. Coming to a rally is like coming home. The slogan for the LA-TX rally is "backing in for a good time" and the song for the LA-TX rally is "God's Family". There couldn't be a better slogan to describe the week of fellowship that lies ahead and there couldn't be a better song to summarize the feelings we have for one another.

I would encourage anyone who possibly can to attend the next rally. Look for times and dates in the *Magnolia Messenger*. As of now, I think the LA-TX rally is October 17-21 and the MS-TN-AL rally at J. P. Coleman State Park is scheduled for November 7-10, 2018. Please join us and come hang out at my trailer on site #42! We are typically the youngest couple in attendance. We need more young people! All I can say about that is, "Old folks rule!" A lot can be learned from our elders. The older people are young at heart and very competitive at dominoes and cards!

May all the fellowship, singing, praying and lesson series at the rallies be to His glory! May the evangelistic outreach effort and edification and encouragement brought by the *Magnolia Messenger* continue!

Michael Hony is an active member of the West President Street church of Christ in Greenwood, Mississippi His email address: m.hony@pureairco.com

A Visit in Little Rock

The Levy Church of Christ "Mission Minded"

Danny Dodd preaches for the Levy Church of Christ in North Little Rock, Arkansas. This church has 14 elders and more than 600 members. Glenda and I recently enjoyed our visit with this friendly church. Danny is a graduate of Magnolia Bible College from Greenville, MS. He is married to Terri and they have two daughters.

Just one example of mission emphasizes by the Levi church is their involvement in the European country of Lithuania where Danny has been actively involved for many years in the work. Each year he conducts the Family Camp which is the third camp at Camp Ruta near Vilnius, Lithuania. (PF)



Terri and Danny Dodd

Buddy Muirhead Active at age 90

In a recent visit to Searcy, Arkansas, we were blessed to run into Buddy Muirhead and his daughter. Buddy is now 90 years old. I remember well his years in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he was very active in the Lord's church and am very grateful for his expressed love and appreciation for the *Magnolia Messenger* and Magnolia Bible College. He and Cecil May, Jr. were very close. Buddy served over 50 years as the captain of a huge steamboat, taking passengers up and down the Mississippi river. (Paul Franks)



Buddy Muirhead and daughter "at church"



Scene at Recent Youth Retreat Held Near

Meridian, Mississippi

The Mississippi Youth Retreat in the Meridian area began in 2015 under the leadership of Shun Evans (preacher at Tylertown) and Dennis Hardaway (preacher at Enterprise). Several others have also been involved. The purpose of the retreat is to encourage spiritual growth in teenagers.

Over the past three years the program has grown. The most recent fellowship site was in the State Park near Collinsville, MS. The retreat featured several days of lectures for the youth and the adults. The mission is to advance the youth in Christ and encourage the brotherhood. Plans are being made to have the next fellowship in Kosciusko at Magnolia Bible Center on South Huntington Street. (Report and picture provided by Don Woods, Kosciusko minister).

A LETTER FROM

Billye Wiygul

in Fulton, MS

Dear Magnolia Messenger,

I was looking in my mother's (Magie Turner) old Bible the other day. I found this in it. I do not know if she wrote it or not, but I wanted to send it to you... I enjoy your paper and the Question Box."

The following poem is what she sent.

Teaching Little Children

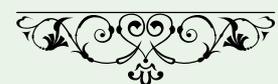
Before your child has come to seven,
Teach him well the way to Heaven.

Better still, the truth will thrive,
If he knows it when he's five.

Better yet, if at your knee,
He learns it when he's only three.

Better than that, if from you,
He learns of God when he's only two.

Best of all is when you've begun,
To teach him truth before he's one.



the JOURNEYS of PAUL



Kosciusko Church Hosts Area-wide "Men's Day"



On May 19, 2018, at the May building on the campus of Magnolia Bible Center, over 50 men and boys from several area congregations came together to encourage and motivate one another. The theme of the day was "Mighty Men of Valor". The three capable speakers were Shun Evans from Tylertown, Don Woods and Will Anderson from Kosciusko, MS. We had breakfast and lunch prepared for us. It was a very encouraging day. (PF)



Featured Speakers
Shun Evans, Will Anderson and Don Woods

Oak Ridge Church (Attala County, MS) Hosts Gospel Meeting



Doug Dingley (the tall one) recently preached in a gospel meeting for the Oak Ridge church of Christ, 15 miles north of Kosciusko, MS. Elihue Thompson (far left) serves as the local preacher. Larry Black (second from left), a member at Oak Ridge, had visited the church in Cleveland, OK, where he met Doug and invited him to come to Mississippi and preach in a meeting. On far right is Corey Parish who regularly leads singing at "The Ridge."



A Recent Bible Winner

A few weeks ago, I was able to go with Glenda to one of my favorite places: the Ripley Church of Christ. After church services the elders and Josh McCrary (preacher, on left, above) gave me the opportunity to present a beautiful new Bible to Ronald Chapman and his wife, Jane. Ronald was our Bible winner a couple of issues ago. Congratulations to the Chapmans and thanks to the Ripley church. (PF)

Dennis Malepa Visits Mississippi

(Missionary in Botswana, Africa)

Sixteen years ago, I went to several churches in Mississippi and Tennessee, working with Dennis Malepa, seeking to find support for his school and mission work in Botswana, Africa. One day we walked into the meeting place of the Hanging Moss church of Christ where Curtis Pittman served as preacher. Curtis asked me to preach and I informed him that Dennis was ready to preach.

From that time on, the Hanging Moss congregation in Jackson, Mississippi has served as the sponsoring church for Dennis and his family. Curtis reminded me of a comment I had made at that time about his congregation being "big enough to support a foreign missionary."

Dennis was back in Mississippi on May 27, 2018 and preached for the Hanging Moss church where they raised that day over \$6,000 for Dennis and his work. They have set a goal to raise \$20,000 by September.

The next day was Memorial Day and we invited Dennis and Curtis and their wives to Timberlake Campground to have a cook-out. Later, we took Dennis and his wife, Dollina, to Kosciusko where he spoke in "chapel" and preached for the Kosciusko church on a Wednesday night.

It was great to finally meet Dennis' wife, Dollina. They are a great couple with a wonderful mission work in the country of Botswana. (PF)



Dennis and Dollina Malepa with Curtis Pittman



A "Drop-in Visit"

William Carey Parkway Church of Christ Hattiesburg, Mississippi

"Growing and Going"

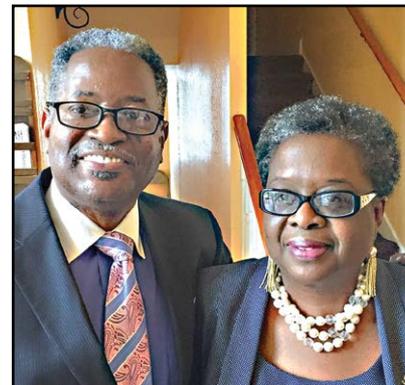
Glenda and I really enjoyed our visit with this congregation several weeks ago while we were in Hattiesburg, MS. Everyone treated us very friendly and we really enjoyed the service. Eddie Sorrell is the minister for this congregation. Also, Paul Warren is the associate minister.

The church is involved in many different things, including personal work and door knocking campaigns each month. They have a youth ministry, food pantry/distribution, van ministry and a prison ministry.

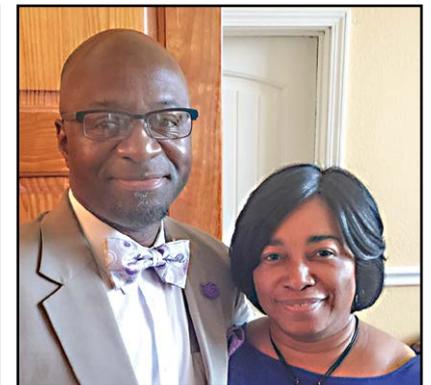
Their goal is to build in the near future a multi-purpose building so that can reach out to the neighborhoods around them.

Recently they had a gospel meeting with Lloyd Harris from the McAlmont church of Christ in Little Rock, AR. They had several responses and some baptisms.

If you find yourself in Hattiesburg, MS, the church is not far off HWY 49 in the south part of town. Their website is www.helvestonroadcoc.com Their theme for 2018 is "Go Forward". We look forward to going back and visiting with this church again. Great people and a great church. (PF)



Eddie (Bertha) Sorrell
Preacher



Paul (Sonya) Warren
Associate Preacher



J. C. Franks (89) Died in Searcy, Arkansas

J. C. Franks died on June 12, 2018, just one month from his 90th birthday. J. C. and his wife, Cooter, were members at the Boulevard church of Christ in Lake Charles when I became their preacher. He was always an encouragement to me and truly was a "Christian Gentleman!" (PF)

Start-up Gospel Singing Is Making "A Joyful Noise"

Todd Cottrell's plan was to unite area churches of Christ in Northwest Mississippi and the Memphis area for a Friday night of acappella gospel singing. A volunteer song leader at the Goodman Oaks Church of Christ in Southaven, MS, Todd saw a need for Christian fellowship apart from the Sunday worship assembly and set a plan in motion to fill that void.



Todd Cottrell

There was a lot of uncertainty at first. Todd needed to secure a meeting place. The elders at Goodman Oaks alleviated this fear, offering the church's Family Life Center as the venue. Then came the planning and coordination. Promotional material needed to be created. Sound and projection personnel had to be scheduled. Last but not least, guest song leaders had to be convinced to lend their services.

"We wanted to pack the Family Life Center," Cottrell explained. "But honestly, we didn't know what to expect – how many people would show up. We just did the best we could and put it in God's hands."

That initial gathering was not without its challenges.

"A few song leaders we reached out to were unavailable on the date we scheduled," Cottrell said. "One person had to cancel because of work commitments. Here we were, last minute, and I'm having trouble finding song leaders."



Finally, one day before the scheduled event, Todd reached out to Mark Embrey of the Senatobia Church of Christ. Mark graciously accepted Todd's invitation. Together, Mark and Todd led that initial Joyful Noise gospel singing on April 13, 2018. In addition, Todd recognized several other song leaders in attendance and asked them to participate.

About 300 people attended the first Joyful Noise gospel singing on April 13, 2018. Todd hopes to springboard to a second success on July 13, 2018.

"We want to make this a quarterly event," Cottrell said. "God willing, we'll grow our numbers until we outgrow the Family Life Center."

What then?

"Well move to our Worship Center auditorium which easily seats over 800."

The next Joyful Noise gospel singing is Friday, July 13, 2018 at 7 PM in the FLC at Goodman Oaks Church of Christ, 1700 Goodman Rd. in Southaven, MS. Everyone is invited.

(Report sent to MM by Calvin Dean who said, "Ken Joines asked me to email the following story to you regarding the Joyful Noise gospel singing in Southaven." Thanks Calvin and Ken! [MM editor])

REPENT or PARISH

Continued from page 8

responses. After all, he is only a servant. We should be diligent in preaching the same message that has always been delivered by God's messengers...Repent or perish! If there is no repentance, there can be no pardon.

Change is not something we like. It challenges our ego and pride. What motivates us to overcome these twin hindrances and repent? The apostle Paul said that God's kindness leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4). If the realization that God so loved us that He surrendered His Son to ill treatment and crucifixion does not motivate us, then little else can.

Peter declared that the patience of God also leads to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). Some were questioning wheth-

er Jesus was going to come in judgment (2 Pet. 3:7) at which point Peter spoke of God's patience in giving men the opportunity to repent.

In the powerful sermon on Pentecost Peter proved from Scripture that everything that happened to Christ was according to God's plan (Acts 2:23). They were "pierced to the heart," i.e., they realized they had sinned in crucifying Jesus and asked what they should do (Acts 2:37-38). It was after their hearts were touched that they were then told to repent. When people are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God and understand they are sinners needing redemption through Him, they will repent, but will not do so until then.

Roger Johnson

508 W. 6th St. • Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(706) 718-0526

Gospel Meetings/Revivals Still Taking Place; Still Doing Good

"Preach the word." A charge given long ago. (2 Tim. 4:2) No substitute for the "Word"; no substitute for "Preaching." Long ago, Paul wrote, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those that believe" (I Cor. 1:21).

John the Baptist, as he prepared the way for the Christ, preached. Jesus, Himself, was a preacher. He trained a group of men to preach and commissioned them to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

The first church of Jesus Christ had its beginning in Jerusalem through the preaching of Peter and other apostles. Paul, a preacher, journeyed extensively in the first century world, preaching and proclaiming the gospel of Christ. He planted churches of Christ throughout much of the world. He wrote, "I am ready to preach the gospel to you in Rome", adding, "I am not ashamed of the gospel... it is the power of God unto salvation... (Rom. 1:14-16).

I am so very thankful that gospel meetings and or "revivals" are still being conducted. When God's word is preached/taught, whether to several or one, honest truth-seeking souls will still listen, believe and respond. It is exciting to hear penitent believers confess their faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and witness as they are baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. That's the way it was. That's the way it is! (alf)



John Pigg Proclaiming the Gospel in a Revival held a few weeks ago in Yazoo City, MS. Many souls were strengthened and at least three put on Christ in baptism!

Les Ferguson, Jr. Accepts Offer of Pulpit at Oxford

Note: At our request, brother Les, Jr. responded with the following report about his upcoming move from the Lake Harbour church at Ridgeland in Jackson to Oxford, Mississippi. Thank you, Les.

Transitions and Books

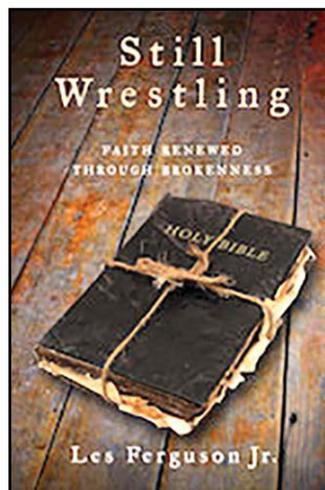
July 1, 2018 will be my first Sunday as the new preaching minister with the Oxford Church of Christ in Oxford, MS.

This move follows four great years in the Jackson Metro area with the Lake Harbour

Drive Church of Christ. I will forever be indebted to this church family for helping me find my way back into ministry. The work at Lake Harbour has been exhilarating. We have experienced tremendous growth and vitality.

One of the best things for me personally during this time has been the opportunities to write and publish. Over a year ago I began writing a monthly column for the Clarion Ledger. In April, I was blessed by the publication of my own book, Still Wrestling: Faith Renewed Through Brokenness by Leafwood Publishers. This book is available online in multiple formats from the publisher as well as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and LifeWay stores. In May, Leafwood Publishers released another book, Surrendering to Hope: Guidance for the Broken, in which I have written a chapter-- and it is available from the same merchants.

I am thankful for the new opportunity in Oxford and look forward to new avenues of service and more personal growth as a minister.





Memories & Magnolia Messenger 1992 - Yazoo City

Georgia Mullins, at age 81, is captured leaving worship services in Yazoo City, MS on a snowy Sunday with a copy of the MM in her hand. One of her daughters, Bobbie Saxton, is seen in background. Another daughter, Sue Fisher, sent picture to us. (MM has been published since 1978. We are thankful for the memories and the MM.)

NEWS & NOTES



Coffeeville Church Hires New Preacher

According to John Purdy, the Coffeeville Church of Christ has recently hired a new preacher. His name is Ben McRee. Ben is a student at Freed-Hardeman University. He commutes from Coffeeville to FHU, an arrangement which seems to be working good for the congregation.

T. J. Pedigo Passes Into Eternity

The Magnolia Messenger received a note from Bobbie Pedigo informing us about the passing of T. J. Pedigo and to send a memorial in his honor. Brother Pedigo passed away on November 8th, 2017 at the age of 91 years old. He was a full-time minister and part time for 47 years. He died from heart failure over night. According to Sister Bobbie he went to bed fine but didn't wake up. (We extend our deepest sympathy to Sister Bobbie and the Pedigo family.)

VERONA, MS

The Verona Church of Christ is planning a Ladies' Day on September 8, 2018. Cindy Rogers is to be the speaker.

KOSCIUSKO, MS

The South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi is planning a Ladies' Day for September 15, 2018. The speakers will be Dianne Ivery from Henderson, Tennessee and Moriah McCrary from Ripley, Mississippi. The theme is "Be Brave: Trust and Obey!" Please mark your calendar for this special Ladies Day!

DENNIS, MS

The Liberty Church of Christ in Liberty, Mississippi has a Gospel Meeting planned for July 15 – 18, 2018. Keith Parker is to be the speaker.

Greg Swindle Now Serves "Herald of Truth"

Greg Swindle, a graduate of Magnolia Bible College, recently became the President and CEO of "Herald of Truth." Herald of Truth is a sixty year old ministry that has featured several well known and talented preachers, including Batsell Barrett Baxter, Harold Hazelip and Landon Saunders. In 2016, this ministry was reaching into 166 of the 195 nations of the world, enabling millions of people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ every day.



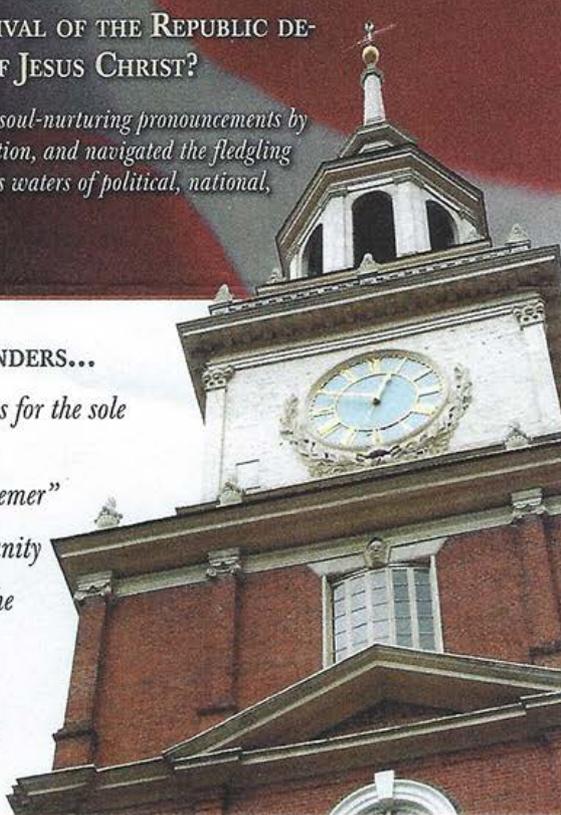
AMERICA'S MOST PRESSING CONCERN

DID THE FOUNDERS BELIEVE THAT THE SURVIVAL OF THE REPUBLIC DEPENDS ON AMERICA'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST?

"Prepare yourself for the eye-opening, spiritually enriching, soul-nurturing pronouncements by a group of men who literally presided at the birth of our nation, and navigated the fledgling Republic against all odds through the dangerous, treacherous waters of political, national, social, and international turbulence."

WHO TODAY WOULD BELIEVE THAT THE FOUNDERS...

- Called upon all Americans to set aside entire days for the sole purpose of petitioning God
- Acknowledged Jesus Christ as "our gracious Redeemer"
- Advocated the exclusivity and priority of Christianity
- Affirmed the critical importance of the Bible to the people
- Asked God to forgive Americans for their sins
- Beseeched God to spread Christianity throughout the Earth
- Requested that God establish American Independence on Christianity and Christian morality
- Urged Americans to keep all of God's laws
- Enjoined on Americans the practice of Christianity as the foundation of national happiness
- Credited God with America's military success and national prosperity



Date: August 24-26
Time: Fri. & Sat. 7:00 p.m.
 Sun. 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Place: Plainview church of Christ
 18585 Old Hwy 25 North
 Fulton, MS 38843
 (662) 322-6446

COME AND SEE THE EVIDENCE WITH YOUR OWN EYES.

How to Listen to a Sermon

John Gardner

Let's be honest. Learning how to listen to a sermon better is not a priority with many. For some the preacher's message is to *be endured* if it cannot *be avoided*. Others persuade themselves that witnessing hundreds of sermons as they are presented in the assemblies guarantees in itself that they have heard those sermons well. For such, and others like them, a lesson on learning how to listen to a sermon better may be of little interest.

On the other hand, there are multitudes among God's people who *long to hear a message from God* delivered through the words of a faithful messenger so God can work mightily in them (1 Thessalonians 2:13). They truly want to hear the word of their God as completely as possible so

Maintaining attention to the message from God's messenger requires that we deal with a number of "deadly D's" which are often present.

**Distractions & Disturbances
Discomfort & Day-Dreaming**

their faith can be strengthened (Romans 10:17).

Such eager hearers must be reminded from time to time that the task is not easy. Jesus, the Master Communicator, commanded his audience on many occasions, "He that has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 11:14; 13:9; Mark 7:16; Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22). On one occasion He used vivid imagery when He said, "Let these words sink down into your ears..." (Luke 9: 44 New King James Version). One can easily visualize Jesus' words going deep into the hearer's mind. Such oft repeated instruction from our Lord to those who heard him clearly indicates that hearing God's message as it should be heard is not easy.

Being a good hearer of a gospel sermon requires being a good listener. And that requires something of the hearer beyond just being in the presence of the presentation. Part of what is needed can be considered using the acronym "APT." To be an apt listener, consider the following.

■ **ATTENTION.** We must attend seriously to what is being said. Peter called for the attention of the lame man

at the Beautiful Gate of the temple before he could teach him and heal him (Acts 3:4). The Scriptures then say, "So he [lame man] gave them his attention..." (V. 4) We must "pay" attention to the speaker over a period of time or the sermon is lost on us. Peter knew that the lame man's "undivided" attention was essential for him to be blessed. In our world of short attention spans (mere seconds in some cases) attention worthy of the name is hard to come by. We must intend to really listen to and hear the preacher (and no one else) for a period of time. If there is *no intention*, there can be *no attention*, at least for very long.

Maintaining attention to the message from God's messenger requires that we deal with a number of "deadly D's" which are often present. The good hearer must successfully handle **Distractions** and **Disturbances** such as people moving around in the field of vision, a vibrating cell phone begging to be noticed, or noises and voices nearby that irritate and make it difficult to hear. Another "D" is **Discomfort** that may be a little excessive.—too hot, too cold, too cramped. And what about **Day-Dreaming**? The lure of the mind to take a trip without leaving the pew. What will taking a five or ten minute excursion hurt during a 25 or 30 minute sermon? Actually quite a bit. Key content of God's message can be lost as we mentally set sail for other times and places. We must pray and work to successfully handle such matters and defeat the "deadly D's."

■ **PARTICIPATION.** Part of good preaching is reasoning with the hearers from the Scriptures (Acts 17: 2). That means that the hearers must be engaged with the speaker in mental activity. The ideas of the sermon must be examined and evaluated in the light of God's truth. Eternal truths must be separated from opinions and human traditions conveyed in the sermon. That activity must begin during the sermon and should continue afterward (Acts 17:10,11).

Preachers often talk about connecting with those who hear them. A good preacher wants to connect with his hearers intellectually and emotionally. But a good listener must also want that connection and be willing to work for it. Together, speaker and listener facilitate God's plan to change minds and lives (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23, 24).



JOHN GARDNER

■ **TAKEAWAY.** A takeaway is a key idea or point that emerges from a presentation or discussion. A sermon worthy of the name has at least one or two major ideas or points that should be taken to heart by the hearer and taken home to use. A sermon is fully "heard" when something from it is put into practice. The takeaway from Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost was clearly what the thousands of lost hearers needed to do to be saved (Acts 2:37,38). "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized: and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2: 41). The apostolic preaching that followed that day also had takeaways about worship, fellowship and Christian living (Acts 2:42-47). The good listener will mentally assess during and at the end of the sermon what can be taken away for immediate and future use.

One of the most prolific radio gospel preachers of the 20th century was **V. E. Howard**. His radio ministry spanned several decades, consisted of thousands of gospel sermons, and reached tens of thousands of listeners. After some important point in his lessons, he would often pause and ask, "*Are you listening?*" It was a call to get the point

A sermon worthy of the name has at least one or two major ideas or points that should be taken to heart by the hearer and taken home to use. A sermon is fully "heard" when something from it is put into practice.

of Scripture being made.

Maybe the weekly hearer of gospel sermons today should take the initiative and silently ask, "Am I listening, really listening to what God is trying to say through this faithful brother's message?" If the answer is no (or not much), then lift up a quick prayer that the Lord will help His needy servant become a more apt listener of the divine message.

John Gardner is an educator, gospel preacher and an elder of the church in Brandon, Mississippi. Email: gardner.john43@gmail.com

Questions & Answers

"Stronger Brother" and "Weaker Brother"

Continued from page 3

Here is another obligation of the strong to the weak. "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains" (Romans 14:1-3). While we often use "despise" as a synonym for "hate," in the Bible it means, "count as worthless" or "disdain." This obligation requires us not to think less of the weak, not even to continually point out that the Bible calls them "the weaker brethren," and not to relegate them to second class citizenship in the kingdom by refusing to use them. "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. . . . Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:1, 7).

A Further Clarification

It has been correctly pointed out that the text says, "Do not cause a brother to **stumble**," not, "do not cause a brother to **grumble**." If congregations and congregational leaders had to discontinue doing anything anyone objected to, very little, or maybe nothing, would ever get done. If a few members strongly object to something which is in harmony with the Scriptures and which the church as a whole, led by its elders, have decided to do, and, if the objectors threaten to leave if it is implemented, it is obvious they are not going to be "caused to stumble." They are not about to be influenced to sin.

The Bible does not endorse one man leadership. It prescribes leadership by a plurality of elders. If proposals, methods or projects are stopped any time one person objects to it, that becomes "one person leadership" of the worst sort. It completely overrides the eldership which is God's prescribed leadership model for a local church.

We are to be careful not to cause a brother with a weak conscience to stumble, but strident objectors, likely, are not weak, stumbling brothers.

Obligations of the Weak toward the Strong

"One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not

the one who eats (the strong) despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains (the weak) pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him" (Romans 14:1-3). Just as strongly as the strong are told to abstain from their rights in order not to put a stumbling block before the weak, the weak are told not to judge or condemn the ones whom the weak believe are engaging in something wrong.

Practically speaking, this is difficult for the weak to do. Usually, the weak do not know they are weak. Their consciences tells them eating meat that has been offered to idols is wrong because idolatry is wrong. Eating such meat, we know from Paul's inspired comment, is neither required nor wrong, but they believe it is wrong. It is natural to condemn someone, if they are doing something wrong. It is the same if they are doing something you believe is wrong.

Nevertheless, "Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand." (Romans 14:3-4).

Further, the Bible says, "The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God" (Romans 14:6). The key that validates either eating or abstaining is "since he gives thanks to God." Later, when Paul was dealing with the beginnings of Gnosticism, he spoke to Timothy of some "who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:3-4). Once again, it is all right to eat "if it is received with thanksgiving." That seems to validate what I was taught early in life, "It ain't fit to eat if it ain't been blessed!"

Bottom line: the reason we should not judge one another is, "So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer" (Romans 14:12-13).



KOSCIUSKO
(In the **CENTER** of Mississippi)

MBC
(Magnolia Bible Center)

Your Prayers are Earnestly Requested
See Page 5



Blessing of Hope

Avis Corley Porter

*When trouble comes your way and it is hard to bear,
With God's help you can do it and a smile
you can wear.*

*No use to bring others down with a frown,
All have troubles of their own that abound.*

*Be a blessing of hope to others every day,
By the life that you live and the words that you say.*

*A word fitly spoken is like a medicine
that does good, Like Barnabas, encourage others
daily as we should.*

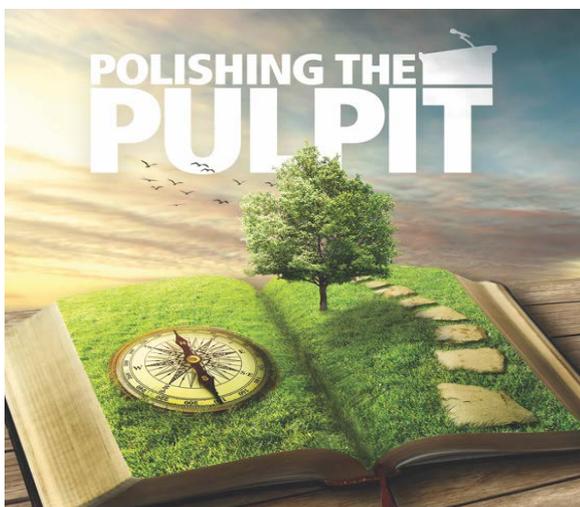
*You can do this and be an inspiration too,
You can lift their spirits and help them not to be blue.*

*We can help others with their heavy load to bear,
And our kindness and love we can freely share.*

NOTE:

Sister Porter is fighting cancer in her own body; yet, she is constantly seeking to encourage others. Thank you, sister Avis. God bless. Her address:

Avis C. Porter
9803 Highway 336
Thaxton, MS 38871-9711



2018 SCHEDULE

August
17 - 23, 2018

Sevierville, Tennessee

polishingthepulpit.com

"A Life Changing Event"

from a Woman's Viewpoint

Which Do You Choose: Good or Evil? God or Devil?

By June Franks

To be able to make choices is probably one of the greatest powers we have in our life. According to God's plan, each one of us has the ability to choose, to choose in small things as well as significant things. The choices we make today will affect our lives for years to come, and maybe, through out all eternity! Our lives are defined by the choices we make.

On a daily basis, we choose what or who we are going to serve. According to scriptures there is no middle ground. The Bible says, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)

In a letter written to the church of the Laodiceans Jesus said, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold or hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:15,16)

There is just one letter difference between the words *good* and *God*. Add an "o" to "God" and you have "good." Also, only one letter difference between *devil* and *evil*. Add a "d" to evil and you have "Devil." We need to consider when we choose good we are in effect choosing God. As Christians, this should always involve choosing the right thing or the right way. Jesus is our ultimate example of always choosing the right thing even when He was tempted by the devil. Jesus lived to obey His Father in every way. He was always doing good everywhere he went. As Christians and his followers, we should likewise seek to do the right thing in every circumstance. A beautiful description of Jesus' life is found in Acts 10:38; i.e., "He went about doing good."

When Jesus spoke about Mary, in contrast to Martha, He said, "But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from

her." (Matthew 10: 42) Joshua of old said, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, but as far as me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24: 15)

We may not even intend to do evil

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

but, when we do, we are choosing the devil. The Bible says, "For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:19) This verse describes our human condition as Christians. Our spirit wants to make the right decision, to do good; but our flesh is often weak. We are, on a daily basis, in a spiritual battle between good and evil or God and the devil. We may say sometimes that we do not have an enemy; but we can know for certain that the devil is our enemy.

It would be beneficial for each of us to read this portion of scripture every day. The Bible says, "**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**" (I Peter 5:8). This scripture reminds us to be watchful and vigilant. The devil doesn't want us to choose good. The devil may seem to leave us alone "for a season," but he never gives up in trying to get us to choose the evil way.

We may not even realize it, but one way the devil works is to blind us from seeing the truth. The Bible says, "He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their hearts; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them." (John 12: 40)

The devil and the majority of the world are trying to deceive us into thinking everyone is going to heaven. This sounds great, if it were true, but the Bible teaches right the opposite! We choose to believe this statement because it is most comforting to believe we can be saved even if we have made no effort to serve God in our life. We cannot serve God acceptably without being in His church, His bride and/or His body, the church.

The Bible says, "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7: 21)

The Devil also deceives us into thinking, "Just do it your way! Do whatever pleases you." Sadly, we see many falling away from the narrow way which leadeth to life as they choose the broad way which leadeth to destruction. The Bible says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereof. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 6: 13, 14)

God loves us so much. In these next verses we are warned about the devil, our greatest enemy. We are indeed in a battle. We must clothe ourselves with the proper armor. When we do so, depending upon the power of God's word and prayer, we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The Bible says, "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*"

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." (Ephesians 6: 10-18)

God is always there for us and, through His Word, encourages us to choose good. Doing good is not just a short run, but it is a life long marathon. Even though we are tempted by our own selfish desires, we should always choose to do good.

We will never regret choosing good over evil. When we choose good our consciences will be clear and we can look forward to our heavenly reward. If we have made the right choices in life, we will be able to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." (Matthew 25: 23). "... Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2: 10)

June Franks; P. O. Box 1578;
Kosciusko, MS 39090; franksmm@aol.com



JUNE FRANKS

Mid-Mississippi Ladies' Days

Kosciusko and Huntsville

Huntington St Church of Christ

Kosciusko, MS

September 15, 2018

9:00 a.m. - Lunch

Speakers

Dianne Ivery

(Henderson, Tennessee)

Moriah McCrary

(Ripley, Mississippi)

Theme

"Be Brave: Trust and Obey!"

Please mark your calendar For this Special Ladies Day!

Huntsville Church of Christ,

French Camp, MS

Ladies'

Hospitali "Tea"

Saturday, August 25, 2018

Speaker:

Teresa Hampton

Registration: 10 -10:30 a. m.

Program: 10:30 -11:30 a. m.

Lunch

(Speaker's husband, Gary, preaches for Siwell Road church in Jackson, MS)

"TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING" October 15 & 16, 2018

MAGNOLIA BIBLE CENTER
Kosciusko, Mississippi

(Sermons, Bible Classes, Personal Work)

As Taught (Since 1970) in the 'Training School for Better Service'

Instructor: **Robert Rawson**

MONDAY & TUESDAY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 A.M. Making the Decision: "Try to Preach"
<i>(Considering the cost involved)</i> | 3:00 P.M. Better Conversation Techniques |
| 10:30 A.M. Organizational Approaches: "For Better Work"
<i>(Preparing sermon outlines together)</i> | 3:30 P.M. OPEN FORUM
<i>(Questions, Answers and Discussion)</i> |
| 11:00 A.M. Methodology: "The Better Bible Class"
<i>(Regardless of the age group)</i> | 4:30 P.M. (Supper: in the area) |
| 11:30 A.M. OPEN FORUM
<i>(Questions, Answers and Discussion)</i> | 6:30 P.M. Lesson: "The Fields are White
Unto Harvest"
<i>(Kosciusko Church Building)</i> |
| NOON (Lunch: Area Restaurants) | |
| 2:30 P.M. Personal Biblical Studies
<i>(Discussion of previous experience)</i> | |

For more information and/or to make reservation,
please contact brother Rawson at 662-457-2468 or
email: rjrawson@panola.com

Doing Good to Those in Need

(Central Academy Church Sets Example)

(Gal. 6:10)

*"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
Especially unto them who are of the household of faith".*



An opportunity came to the members of the Central Academy church of Christ, located east of Batesville, MS, to assist men and women who were being released from the Region 4 Crisis Center. Most of these people come to the center with nothing; therefore, they have nothing when they leave.

The members of the congregation started collecting and bagging up personal care items to give to these individuals as they leave. Many will be going to a homeless shelter either in Tupelo, MS, Jackson, MS or Memphis, TN.

Items in these care bags include, but are not limited to: tooth brush and tooth paste, comb, brush, shampoo, body wash, socks, deodorant, snacks, and tracts about the church and salvation.

Some of the recipients are reluctant at first to accept the bags, thinking they were going to have to pay for them, but when they were told they were a gift, a great joy came over them. They were now mindful that someone cared about them.

This project was started by the ladies of the congregation but has now grown to point that it is being supported by all the members of the congregation. In our bulletin we publish a list of needed items, just like we do for our pantry and the members help fulfill the needs.

An opportunity was presented to our congregation, one that we did not know existed beforehand, and we gladly accepted the challenge. Maybe you could do something similar in your area.

*Report sent to MM by Ed Casteel,
Preacher for the Central Academy Church of Christ*

MAGNOLIA Messenger

IN MEMORY OF

KAY ABERCROMBIE
HOMER MYERS
LAZAROS WATSON
Betty Butler
(Star, MS)

YVONNE FLOWERS
Nelma Hazlip
(Natchez, MS)

T. J. PEDIGO
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BERNARD (BEN) BOYD
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(DeRidder, LA)

EVIE G. SMITH
Rhenda Miltner
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Renee Akin Fortner
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MARY LOUISE HELMS
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MARY PAT SNYDER
LIZZIE WALKER
ROBERT GORDON
DIANA JONES
Charles Andrew Campbell
(Montgomery, AL)

VELMA DELANCEY
Wilburn DeLancey
and Susan DeLancey
(Delhi, LA)

JUANITA FULGHAM
HEATHER SPENCER
JAMES BRADSHAW
RUTH PRITCHARD
DOC WALKER
Wilburn DeLancey
(Delhi, LA)

ELIZABETH ANN HOLMES
William & Judy Walker
(Clinton, MS)

DON DOWNEY
Pat & Nona Harper
(Stockton, CA)
Lois Nielson
(Stockton, CA)

MRS. VERA RUSSELL
MR CLARENCE SMITH
Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

IN HONOR OF
DEAN & NELLIE CALDWELL
CHARLES & BARBARA
PRITCHARD
JAY & MARY HENLEY
RAY & DONNA FRANKS
W. E. & JUDY WALKER
DEANIE BRADSHAW
AL & JUNE FRANKS
Wilburn DeLancey
(Delhi, LA)

PATRICK & NONA HARPER
50th Wedding Anniversary
May 17, 2018
Lois Nielson
(Stockton, California)

TOMMY & NELL LAWSON
65th Wedding Anniversary
Jerry & Jean Lewis
Kathy Hollie
(Amory, MS)

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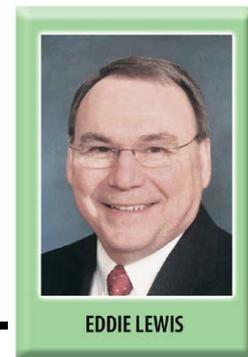
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Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

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



EDDIE LEWIS

By Eddie Lewis

This quarter I enjoyed visiting with several churches in North Mississippi. I had the privilege of helping three congregations as they look for a minister. I am always grateful for the opportunity to help congregations during this time of transition. The following is my report as I visit among the churches.

■ **JANUARY 7** I visited with the **SOUTH JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Craig Simon has been the minister there for a couple of years. He is a graduate of Heritage University. His father is a minister also. The church has no elders and about 50 in attendance. The church has a good mix of young and old. I received a warm welcome from the brethren there. After services I had the opportunity to eat lunch with Craig and his family. I appreciate the good work Craig is doing with the church there.



Craig and Linda Simon

In Bible class Craig presented a lesson from Isaiah 24-27. He had a good lesson on the prophecy of the fall and deliverance of Israel. God's promise was that the seed would come even through this sinful nation.

In the worship, his sermon was on Daniel 7, "The Vision Of The Four Beasts." He mentioned they have been studying God's providence in the rise and fall of the nations. Beginning with this lesson they would consider God's purpose in history. He looked at the four-beasts mentioned in this chapter. It was a very interesting study. I enjoyed meeting the brethren at South Jackson.

■ **JANUARY 21** I was asked to preach at the **COFFEEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Heath Lindley, their present minister, is moving to another work and they asked me to speak while he was out of town. They are looking for someone to come and work with the congregation. They have no elders and about 60 in attendance. They have a good mix of ages and are very friendly. The church has a rich history of supporting mission works and has an active Lads to Leaders program. John Wayne Purdy and his wife, Vivian, took me out to lunch. It was a joy to visit with them. I enjoyed my visit and look forward to helping the church during this time of transition.



John Wayne and Vivian Purdy

John taught the Adult Bible class. They are using a book, "Who Is On The Lord's Side?" written by Randy Pyle. John led them in a study of chapter 5, "Those Who Will Endure Hardness For Christ." Several passages were considered as they talked about Paul's trials and trials that we will face in our own lives. It was a good study.

In the worship I preached on "Our Love For One Another" based on John 13. It is a study of one of our "One Another" relationships that we have as Christians. I pray that what I said was a blessing to the brethren there.

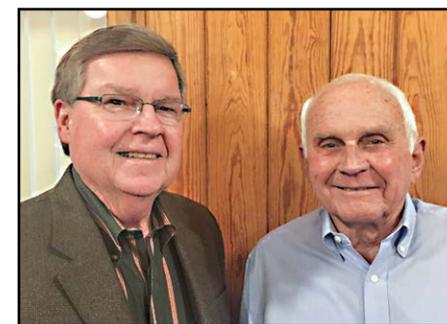
■ **FEBRUARY 11** I visited with the **CALHOUN CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Jarrod Davis is the minister there. The church has only 10 people in attendance, mainly from one family. Jarrod is a bi-vocational minister. He sells insurance, but when the former preacher left, he stepped forward to preach for the congregation. I think he is a wonderful example of service to the Lord's church. He has a family with three boys, but he wants to do what he can to help the church. They are trying to keep the church alive in their area, but it is very difficult. Jarrod's lesson was on the Bible as the Book of God. He did a good job of talking about why we can believe that our Bible is the true word of God. The foundation of our faith depends on the Bible being true. Jarrod led the singing, presided at the communion table, and preached the sermon. I did lead a prayer, but he did all the rest. I've worked at small churches like this in my college days. It can be very discouraging. Please remember the church in Calhoun City in your prayers.



Jarrod Davis

Sunday night I was invited to preach at the **FULTON CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Russ Crosswhite, their minister for 24 years, has left to move closer to his wife's parents. I am happy to help the congregation during the interim. The church has two elders and 160 in attendance. The congregation warmly received me. I last visited with the church in October, 2015.

My lesson was on "Serving One Another In Love" based on Galatians 5:13. It is very important that we understand that service of others is part of our body relationship. When we serve others, we are actually serving the Lord (Matthew 25:31-46). It is important that we evaluate our attitude toward each other in the church and community. Do we show the fruit of the Spirit in how we serve others?



Machey Wade and Doug Smith, elders

■ **FEBRUARY 18** I visited with the **WEST OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HERNANDO, MS**. Terry Wallace has been the minister there for 29 years. He is a graduate of Heritage University. The church has around 400 in attendance. This is my first visit with a predominately black congregation. I really enjoyed the spirited singing and the general spirit of love and worship to God. The brethren warmly welcomed me. Bro. Wallace welcomed the brethren and reminded all of us of how blessed we are as children of God. He mentioned the school shooting in Florida and how blessed we are that our children are safe.



Terry Wallace and Tom Hardaway

This Sunday they had a guest speaker, Bro.

Tom Hardaway from the Southside congregation in Little Rock, AR. Bro. Hardaway spoke at both services. In the worship he preached about "Another Look at the Book." He did a masterful job of emphasizing the importance of the church making God's will known to the world. In Bible class he spoke on "How to Get a Blessing" based on Ecclesiastes 11:6. He said, you sow your seed in the morning and open your hand to receive the blessing in the evening. It was a good lesson.

■ **FEBRUARY 25** I visited with the **SKYLINE CHURCH OF CHRIST** east of Tupelo, MS. Norman Maranto is the minister there. I have known Norman since my days in the Delta. He was an elder at Greenwood and I preached for the Cleveland church. It was good to see him and Joyce again. Norman spent many years working for the IRS. He retired and began his preaching ministry in Rolling Fork, MS. He recently moved to Amory to be close to his son. I know the church in Skyline is pleased to have him ministering with them. They have no elders and about 75 in attendance. They do have an active Lads to Leaders program. There are lots of wonderful folks there.

Mike Willis, one of the members, led the Bible class in a study of the book "Harmony Of The Gospels" by Willard Conchin. They answered the questions and had some discussion on Matthew 15. They talked about Jesus feeding the 4000 and His return to Galilee. It was a good class. In the worship, Norman preached on Judah's betrayal of God based on Isaiah 30. The lesson was a call to faithfulness to God and His word. He said when we get puffed up, lying, and turn our backs on God, we will be carried away by the enemy of God. It is important that we obey the whole counsel of God. It was a good sermon. I enjoyed my visit.



Mike Willis and Norman Maranto

■ **MARCH 4** I visited with the **PINE BLUFF CHURCH OF CHRIST** near Oxford, MS. Allen Drewrey is the bi-vocational minister there. He has worked with the church for a couple of years. Allen and his wife are Occupational Therapists. They have three small children. They both graduated from Ole Miss. It was a joy to meet them and visit. The church has around 60 in attendance and no elders.

Luc Michaud taught the Bible Class. It was good to see him. Luc is a pharmacist. He led the class in a study of John 17. He did a wonderful job of getting the class to think about the sacrifice of Jesus coming to this world to save us. He also got us to think about how Christians are to live in the world. It was a good lesson.

Allen preached in the worship. He has been preaching a series on Romans. He reviewed the message of Romans and then came to chapter 6. Paul said we were slaves of sin, but now we are slaves of righteousness. We are to live that righteous life. Paul asked the question what benefit we have as a slave of sin—death. What benefit do we have as a slave of righteousness—eternal life. That sums up the reason we should live for Christ. It was a good lesson.

After service they had their monthly fellowship meal. I was happy that I made it for that. It was a joy for me to get to see all the folks at Pine Bluff.

■ Sunday night I traveled to Fulton to preach at the **FULTON CHURCH OF CHRIST**. I was there a few weeks ago preaching for the church as they select a new minister. They have selected a new man. He will be coming in the next three months. It was good to see everyone again. They plan to have me back on a Sunday morning, so I can meet the rest of the congregation.



Allen Drewrey and Luc Michaud

I preached on "True Christian Fellowship" based on Philippians 1:3-11. It's a wonderful study on what we have in common as Christians. Paul tells us to keep each other in our hearts, minds, and prayers. It is important that we express our love for each other. I enjoyed our visit with the folks there.

■ **MARCH 11** The **WEST OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Hernando and the **GOODMAN OAKS CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Southaven had a combined worship service to promote goodwill and fellowship between the races in Desoto County. I pray that the service will be the beginning of a long relationship between the white and black churches.

■ **MARCH 11** I was invited to preach for the **PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST** north of Burnsville, MS. They are looking for a minister. They have about 40 in attendance and no elders. They asked me to help them during the interim. Other preachers in the area are also helping them during this time. It was a joy for me to visit with the congregation again. I visited with the church in April of 2014. Craig Chandler was the minister there at that time.

In Bible class I led them in a study of the Bible word—Righteousness. We considered Romans chapters 3 and 4. It is a great study of how God makes us righteous. In the worship I looked at two "One Another" passages that talk about our relationship in the body. I talked about "Loving One Another" based on John 13:34. At the evening service I talked about "Serving One Another In Love" based on Galatians 5:13. After the morning service we had a wonderful fellowship meal. It was good to visit with many of the brethren there. I hope you will join me in praying for the church as they seek to find a new minister.

■ Three Sundays this quarter I preached for the **ANTIOCH CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Independence, MS. I always enjoy visiting with the folks at Antioch. They have around 40 in attendance. They have a good mix of ages. They are very supportive of my ministry.

In the Bible class I led them in a study of two Bible Words - Sanctification and Righteousness. Sanctification means to be "set apart" for the things of God. By our response to the gospel we are set apart by God for a life of service in His kingdom. It's a challenge to live a life for God in a world filled with darkness. In our second class we talked about Righteousness. It is a good study of how God makes us righteous in his sight. His righteousness is imputed to us by our faith in Christ (Romans 4:24). In our third class, I began a new study of "Images Of The Church." This Sunday we talked about the church as the "Salt Of The Earth" based on Matthew 5:13. We considered some characteristics of salt that apply to the ministry of the church.

In the worship I talked about three relationships we have as Christians. I talked about being devoted to one another (Romans 12:10). Paul uses the family image to help us understand our relationship to each other in the family of God. We are to be devoted to one another in brotherly love. This image helps us understand our love as Christians. In the second worship service I preached on "Serving One Another" based on Galatians 5:13. Paul tells us not to use our freedom in Christ to practice sin. Our freedom enables us to serve one another in love. It is a very challenging lesson about why we serve. In the third worship I preached on "Admonishing One Another" based on Romans 15:14. Paul list some qualification that enable us to admonish others. We need to be a person of goodness and full of knowledge of the scripture. There are other qualifications that Paul gives, but these are key. I'm thankful that I have the opportunity to encourage the brethren at Antioch.



Sam and Carolyn Ware, members at Antioch

PREACHER SEARCH



Seeking Youth Minister

(Ripley, MS)

The Hall Street Church of Christ in Ripley, MS is currently seeking a youth minister. The congregation, with an average of 275 in attendance for Sunday worship, has a very active youth group with wonderful parent support. "Lads to Leaders" is an integral part of the Ripley Church. Contact Kenny Schmitz at 662-882-1958 for more information.

Youth Minister Wanted

(Ruston, LA)

The Ruston Church of Christ in Ruston, Louisiana is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Youth Minister. The candidate must be a faithful member of the church of Christ and hold a degree from a sound college or university or a certificate from a school of preaching associated with churches of Christ. We prefer a married man, but not a requirement if the right candidate can be found. Send Resume and contact information to: <jameswdavisjr1947@gmail.com>.

Searching for Preacher

(Hamilton, MS)

The church of Christ at Hamilton MS is searching for a preacher. We are open to discussion for either a full-time, part-time or bi-vocational preacher. Ken Burleson, the former preacher, is now working with the church at Mantachie MS. The church at Hamilton has two elders and is looking for a faithful gospel preacher to show the love of God in the community. The church is located in a good growing community with a good school system. If you are interested, please contact James Nevins at 662-436-9948 or Ronnie West at 662-640-3260.

Looking for Preacher

(Steens, MS)

The Steens church of Christ, (attendance 65-70), located about six miles from Columbus, Mississippi is searching for a "full-time, sound-in-doctrine, pulpit minister." He will preach and teach Bible classes and is expected to be active in the community. He is to have a degree in Bible or related field and at least four years' experience. A nice four bedroom house is furnished with utilities paid. Compensation will be based on education and experience. Interested candidates should forward a resume and two recorded sermons to:

Steens Church of Christ

P. O. Box 10 • Steens, Mississippi 39766

(Contact: 662-328-3327; Elders: Jim Crownover & Pete Bowen)

Bobby Bell Awaiting Lung Transplant Funds Are Needed!

(Bobby is a deacon at Skyway Hills Church)

Two churches of Christ (Skyway Hills in Pearl and College in Meridian, Mississippi); along with two Baptist churches (Mt. Sinai in Meridian and New Rock in Silas, Alabama) are raising money on behalf of Skyway Hills' deacon Bobby Bell who is in need of a lung transplant. Additional help is needed. If you would like to contribute toward the costs of brother Bell's double lung transplant, please send your check to:

"Bobby Bell Fund"

Skyway Hills Church of Christ

P. O. Box 3800 • Pearl, MS. 39288

Sent to MM by Jerry Mitchell, a member of the Skyway Hills congregation



A Tennessee Church Sign Proclaims:
"Great Faith Does Great Things"



Somewhere in **Tennessee**
The church where this picture was taken is served by one of the most encouraging preaching brothers I have ever met.
Thank you, brother Edgar!
(alf)



Readers' Response

Reasons Why We Continue Publishing the Magnolia Messenger

We really appreciate the Magnolia Messenger. We love reading the paper, also getting the answers. We pray this contribution will help. Christian Love, P.S. We are members at Olive Branch Church of Christ, Olive Branch, MS. (James & Katie Houston, Olive Branch, MS)

Please let me take this opportunity to say, personally, I really like your paper. We thank God for your paper. You and your staff are very able people and, obviously, through your heart's desire and hard efforts, are publishing one of the best papers in the church—by the grace and help you are receiving from God and your host of readers and writers. I appreciate the variety of the content of your paper and, also, your noticeable and highly commendable desire to abide in the Word of God. It is full of news. The quality of your composition and printing is outstanding. May God continue to bless you with many years of service in the church. (Albert E. Farley, Salem, WV)

I would like to keep receiving the Magnolia Messenger. It has helped me to receive the Lord as my Savior. I have used it to spread the Lord daily. I love doing the Bible lesson you put on the back page and I help others with it. Here is a donation to help you spread the Word of God to others. Your brother in Christ, I used to be in prison and y'all helped me to turn my life around. Thank you very much. I am praying for y'all every day. (John H. Hazel, Thomasville, N.C.)

(It is so good to hear from you and we are thankful to hear of you turning your life around. We are also thankful to know that

the Magnolia Messenger had a part in helping you to decide to change your life. Thank you for your generous contribution to the Messenger. May God richly bless. MJF)

... Even though I've been receiving a copy (MM) for several years, I didn't start reading it until just a few years ago and now I'm hooked. I really enjoy the articles/poems that you published regarding Clifford Hampton, the prisoner in the Angola prison in Louisiana. Thanks again for publishing your paper. Hope to be reading it for years to come. (Shane Sutherland, Florence, AL)

Thank you so much for your hard work, but most of all, your stand for the truth. (Frances Hawkins, Huntsville, AL)

Thank you for the Spring issue of the Magnolia Messenger. It fills my heart with joy to read it and have the wonderfully informative article bring to us the truth of such as "Are We Baptizing Children Too Soon" by Ken Joines. May more such truths be brought to light of the gospel! Hallelujah!!! Thanks Ken! God speed! Many may read and heed to be saved! Love in Christ, (Helen Boyd, Eugene, OR)

Just to let you know that I have been released from prison and my new address is at the bottom of the page. Without the Magnolia Messenger to help me get through the time I was in prison I wouldn't have turned my life around. Now though I ask the Messenger to help turn others to Christ and I am still doing it since I got out. Your brother in Christ, (John Hazel, Thomasville, N. C.)

JESSE TUBBS

(Former preacher at Skyway Hills in Pearl, MS)

Brother, I have been meaning to touch base with you for some time. I was scanning Cecil May's little paper and saw a reference to you and I had to read a few pages. The years have gotten away from me but I was thankful to learn that you and your family are still at it and going strong. Thank you for your efforts for God.

Mainly, I wanted to thank you for the mention of Homer Myers death. It was a blessing to me just to reflect for a moment on the names of Homer and Neva. I got to know and love these fine people while at Skyway Hills. They were always a ray of sunshine in our lives. I have had many meals with them. Neva was one of the best cooks ever. Her fried chicken livers as well as her famous peanut brittle were the best. Anyway, I just wanted to thank you for this.

I am in terrible health and in the last term of my life. The issues are many and have taken their terrible toll. But my hope is in the Lord Jesus and I am ready. It was a blessing to have known you and in some small way worked with you.

Keep up the good work. Your brother in the Lord,

Jesse Tubbs; 101 Interlaken Dr. ; Madison, AL 35758
256-520-0179; jtcsales@knology.net

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

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Lillie McCullum | 65. Charlotte Jones | 129. Danny Stacks | 193. Nadine Patton | 257. Catherine Allen | 321. Jean Parson | 386. Clifford Hampton |
| 2. Nell Rigby | 66. Merlene Scott | 130. Dorothy Brunson | 194. Laverne Coker | 258. Jane Stowe | 322. Betty Standard | 387. William Hinton |
| 3. Rayma Cook | 67. Bonnie Lipsey | 131. Mary Ellen Hammack | 195. Kerry Deaton | 259. Louise Hensley | 323. Patrilla Maddox | 388. Steven Arthur Franklin |
| 4. Alice Dempsey | 68. Twyanna Wallace | 132. Inez & Laura Brannon | 196. Linda Kennamore | 260. Martha Magee | 324. Juanita Brown | 389. Marcella Moore |
| 5. Charlotte Vandiver | 69. Janice Galloway | 133. Herschel Ford | 197. Doris Townsend Britt | 261. Corliss Yolanda Jones | 325. Bobbie Loggins | 390. Jeremiah & |
| 6. Tom McLemore | 70. Betty VanBuren | 134. Gail Saxon | 198. Brenda Redd | 262. Mary Mann | 326. Nettie Doss | Shelia Woodard |
| 7. Stan Neuenschwander | 71. Pat Shadle | 135. Verna Jones | 199. Ellen Welsh | 263. Laverne Corley Becker | 327. Ethelene Tees | 391. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. |
| 8. Bobbie Sindle | 72. Linda Gentry | 136. Lisa Dearman | 200. Glenda Wooldridge | 264. Dorsey & Margie Burton | 328. Reagan Hall | 392. Benris & Nicole Womack |
| 9. Linda Bonner | 73. James & Judy Hill | 137. Mary Brannan | 201. James Bricker | 265. Jo Ann Mayer | 329. Lynn Grisham | 393. Ma'Nia & Bralan |
| 10. Nancy Floyd | 74. Fern Land | 138. Frank Winding, Jr. | 202. Sonja Shelley | 266. Cary Mayer | 330. Sandra Grisham | Womack |
| 11. Kathy Perry | 75. Dillie Horton | 139. Blaise Fernandez | 203. Claude Williams | 267. Jack Mayer | 331. Madonna Michael | 394. Velma Isom |
| 12. Rachel Pruitt | 76. Evelyn Netterville | 140. Ruby McCrory | 204. Shirley Bostick | 268. Emma Mayer | 332. Sara Davis | 395. Arvel Miles |
| 13. Rick Bishop | 77. Lloyd & Barbara Beard | 141. Elizabeth Henderson | 205. Mary Grigsby | 269. Michael Harvill | 333. James Hudley | 396. Betty Miles |
| 14. Maggie Edmonds | 78. Vera Spencer | 142. Jane Kuykendall | 206. Eddie & Luccile Clark | 270. Natalie Stewart | 334. Dorothy Bonker | 397. Brenda Collums |
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| 18. Carolyn Harvill | 82. Gwendolyn Bryant | 146. Carolyn Ware | 210. Mary Salinas | 274. Raleigh Hammons | 338. Donne Brewer | 401. Michael Coleman |
| 19. Janice Griffin | 83. Alice Humphries | 147. Don "Ug" Lee | 211. Pamela Luna | 275. Barry Cole | 339. Ollie Wooten | 402. Alice Dempsey |
| 20. Amy Hutson | 84. Tommy Muirhead | 148. Shellie Hancock | 212. Sherron Dixon | 276. Grace Wright | 340. Katheryn Lee | 403. Geri Spears |
| 21. Grace Lyon | 85. Elizabeth Dickerson | 149. Peggy Engel | 213. Charlotte Ritter | 277. Della Henry | 341. Josephine Carter | 404. Rebekah Gough |
| 22. Mary Jo Adams | 86. Billy Willingham | 150. Ed Lyon | 214. Frances Harrell | 278. Gerald Worthey | 342. Lonance Kimble | 405. Carl Trimm |
| 23. Carolyn Stanford | 87. Mary Jane Hollis | 151. Sarah Hill | 215. Jim Hurlbut | 279. Ruby Worthey | 343. Garfield Moss | 406. Betty Chattman |
| 24. Jean Lewis | 88. Doris Darnell | 152. Mary King | 216. Daryl Byrum | 280. Jean Clemmer | 344. Wade Hardy | 407. Beulah Rupert |
| 25. Bill Moore | 89. Jim Henry Foster | 153. Brailey Bryan | 217. Sandy Dean | 281. Linda Swan | 345. Curly Hay | 408. John Hazel |
| 26. Fannie Johnson | 90. Charles Beal | 154. Dale Brennan | 218. Michelle Simpson | 282. Anne Shelton | 346. Addie Brown | 409. Tekita Shelton |
| 27. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 91. Mary Dyer & | 155. Pierce Flatt | 219. Ruby Nell Parham | 283. M/M Lloyd Beard | 347. Burlean Leatherwood | 410. Dorothy Franks |
| 28. Jerry Fleming | Calleigh Stacy | 156. Frances McCune | 220. Julius Lee Wales | 284. Ella Darnell | 348. Sherry Ross | 411. Missy Blackmon |
| 29. Dantzler | 92. Roy Gambrell | 157. Irene Rogers | 221. Mary Johnson | 285. Johnnie Mobley | 349. Willie Stancil | 412. Johnnye Blackmon |
| 30. Donna Gulley | 93. Foster Owens | 158. Wanda Robinson | 222. Shelia Ganier Williams | 286. Linda Shadrix | 350. Ida Wells | 413. Malcolm & Keitha Hare |
| 31. Peggy Wroten | 94. Mattie Ann Owens | 159. Jan Wiese | 223. L. Nielson | 287. Wanda Orman | 351. Doris Strickland | 414. Earl Franks |
| 32. Gay Null | 95. Melvin & Kay Linton | 160. William Free | 224. James T. Whitaker, Sr. | 288. Oliva Pounders | 352. Christine Holliday | 415. Wes & Rhoda Jeans |
| 33. Pat Moore | 96. Jane Barnett | 161. Kenneth Harmon | 225. Joe Pybas | 289. Peyton Shappley | 353. Tommy & Nell Lawson | 416. Betty Harris |
| 34. Earlean Williams | 97. Exie Lee Motes | 162. Wayne Crum | 226. Waymond Hales | 290. Alex Green | 354. Lucille Anders | 417. Magdalene Tillman |
| 35. Margaret Parker | 98. Pearlie Hurst | 163. Eddie Vermillion | 227. Elnorsh Duckworth | 291. Katie Grisham | 355. Charlie Goff | 418. Theresa Henderson |
| 36. Lou Thomas | 99. Sharon Dantzler | 164. Jim Vermillion | 228. Charles Coffey | 292. Kira Smith | 356. Sherry Townsend | 419. Susan Boyd |
| 37. Melba Ogg | 100. Dorothy Winslett | 165. Juanita Slaughther | 229. John L. Gates, Jr. | 293. Isabella Thompson | 357. Joe Arnold | 420. Shane & Lindsey Cardwell |
| 38. Dorothy Booker | 101. Wm & Atlean Snow | 166. Emily Overton | 230. Faye Stanford | 294. Regina Morton | 358. Barbara Loden | 421. Gavin Newman |
| 39. Carol Bonner | 102. Kay Shiers | 167. Jimmie & Anita Taft | 231. Keith Wilson | 295. Kittie Edwards | 359. Arva Fisher | 422. Bobby Garrett |
| 40. Sylvester & Linda Burton | 103. Jeff Ennies | 168. Stacey, Melinda & | 232. Olivia Wilson | 296. Ann Holeman | 360. Michael Euer | 423. Thelma Talbert |
| 41. Charlane Stanfield | 104. Willa Fox | Gregory Hawkins | 233. Brantley Ford Hopper | 297. Greg Ward | 361. Tommy & Peggy Shull | 424. Marvin England |
| 42. Kimberly Easterling | 105. Ann Kimble | 169. Dorothy Banks | 234. Sue Fisher | 298. Diane Dunaway | 362. Dannie Davis | 425. Idna Eddington |
| 43. Fredrick Alan Jones | 106. Patricia Glover | 170. Claude Edwards | 235. Carolyn Perry | 299. Jimmy Dillinger | 363. Betty Shackelford | 426. Jane Walker |
| 44. Geneva Baird | 107. Ann Hulsey | 171. Eva Almon | 236. Glenda Jefcoat | 300. LaRane Dillinger | 364. Elsie Brock | 427. Patricia McClure |
| 45. Nell Millsaps | 108. Charlene Jent | 172. Tishia Williams | 237. Doris Fletcher | 301. Chad Blackburn | 365. Judy Willis | 428. Lucy McKeown |
| 46. June Faulkner | 109. Ann Sims | 173. Ira & Florine Riley | 238. Gloria Wilburn | 302. Judy Julian | 366. Sharon Huckaba | 429. Bonnie Howell |
| 47. Ray Parham | 110. Sharon Praytor | 174. Henry Norris | 239. Doyce Britt | 303. Rosie Lee Odoms | 367. Barbara Baker | 430. Dannie Davis |
| 48. Sue Glenn | 111. Darlene Gray | 175. Bethany Stephens | 240. Paul & Elsie Bryson | 304. Shirley Ray & | 368. Jennifer Gray | 431. Lessie Tanson |
| 49. Wilda Pounds | 112. Judy Walker | 176. Wanda Cochran | 241. Carolyn Garrett | Bernice Richardson | 369. Charlotte Langley | 432. Sue Foster |
| 50. Billye Wiygul | 113. Betty Skinner | 177. Perkins Cochran | 242. Mary Lois Moore | 305. Gary Willis | 370. Brenda Burlison | 433. Claude Edwards |
| 51. Carole Shelby | 114. Doralynn Felton | 178. Hilda Laster | 243. Geraldine Wilbanks | 306. Princess Watson | 371. Connie Fountain | 434. Della Rhodes |
| 52. Audrey Bowling | 115. William Peron | 179. Althea House | 244. Peggy Hartman | 307. Lillian Humphrey | 372. Barbara Yates | 435. Sherry Gordon |
| 53. Coy & Martha Daily | 116. Rosie Felton | 180. Peggy Havard | 245. Mary Shumpert | 308. India Blackburn | 373. Annie Mae Pipkin | 436. Wiliam Grant Sutherland |
| 54. James & Katie Houston | 117. Dorothy Mallett | 181. Cheri Moore | Faulconer | 309. Mildred Carroll | 374. Jaylen Johnson | 437. Ronald Lee Wilson |
| 55. Garry Gooch | 118. Ima Jean Fogus | 182. Lawrence Horn | 246. Edmon Wheeler | 310. Clyde Ray Bradford, Jr | 375. Joshua Metcalfe | 438. Sherian Martin |
| 56. Faye Stamps | 119. George Brazelton | 183. Brenda Taylor | 247. Joyce Talbert | 311. Betty Spears | 376. Jamia Brandon | 439. Mary Turner |
| 57. James & Gloria | 120. Marilyn Howell | 184. Vera Mae Winfrey | 248. Flossie Hernandez | 312. Bonnie Dixon | 377. Robyn Johnson | |
| Breckenridge, Sr. | 121. Carrie McGrone | 185. Rhenda Miltner | 249. Maricus Ivy | 313. Foy Smith | 378. Josh Williams | |
| 58. Jack Falls, Sr. | 122. Joyce King | 186. Terry Miltner | 250. Charles Alexander | 314. Lena Barber | 379. Kalib Smith | |
| 59. Sidney Robinson | 123. M/M Arthur Burnett | 187. Johnny Ivy | 251. Artis Hinton | 315. Lady Garth | 380. Sanaya Metcalfe | |
| 60. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell | 124. Linda Cook | 188. Thelma Tucker | 252. Mary Lewis | 316. Fran Williford | 381. Keneley Wofford | |
| 61. Victor Frank Boone | 125. Bernita Booker | 189. Bonnie Brown Glass | 253. Sue Mason | 317. Lucille Jackson | 382. Caiden Holliday | |
| 62. Larry Cross | 126. Michael Barnes | 190. Jimmie Brown | 254. Edmon Wheeler | 318. Melody Woodruff | 383. Alex Williams | |
| 63. Edward Yancey | 127. Joseph Bolden | 191. Judy Gurley | 255. Bonnie Skates | 319. Grace Childers | 384. Leora White | |
| 64. Velva Dykes | 128. Ruby Wright | 192. Mitchell Gurley | 256. Elizabeth Smith | 320. Ginny Luther | 385. Darryl James Sterling | |

"All answers received by June 20 have been included. If your answers came to us later, you will be recognized in our next issue of the MM. Thank you for answering "The Question Box."

“Christian Unity”

In 2000 I was able to go to the “Holy Lands”. One of the side trips, involving 50 ministers representing several denominational churches, was to Amman, Jordan. A tour guide got on our bus and made a statement I will never forget. He said, “*You Christians will never have much of an impact on the Moslem world, because you can’t get along or agree on much of anything.*” A disturbing thought; yet, a fact! There is a great need for Christian unity in our world. The Moslem faith, which is growing by leaps and bounds, is having a huge impact in Europe right now. It looks like their influence will be increasing in this country.

The primary “virtue” of this postmodern age is *tolerance*, but with a new definition. The modern definition of tolerance is considering *all views equally valid*. Any suggestion that one view is better than another, or especially, that one view is true and the other is false is labeled “intolerance.” This modern thinking has influenced many “evangelicals” to equivocate [straddle the fence] when asked whether Jesus Christ is **the only way** to salvation and heaven. Of course, Jesus said He was! May God help us to humbly seek and obey the truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

(Find chapter and/or verse. FILL IN THE BLANKS. It will be helpful to use the KJV.)

1. (John 17: ___) “For I have given unto them the _____ which thou _____ me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have _____ that thou didst send me.”
2. (John ___: 68) “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we _____? Thou hast the _____ of _____ life.”
3. (John ___: 6) “Jesus saith unto them, I am the _____, the _____ and the _____: no man cometh unto the _____, but by _____.”
4. (John 17: ___) “Sanctify them through thy _____: thy _____ is _____.”
5. (I Corinthians ___:13) “Which things also we _____, not in the words which _____ wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost _____; comparing _____ things with spiritual.”
6. (II Corinthians 4: ___) “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in _____, nor handling the _____ of God _____; but by the manifestation of the _____ commending ourselves to every man’s _____ in the _____ of God.”
7. (II Timothy ___:15) “_____ to shew thyself _____ unto God, a _____ that needeth not to be _____, handling _____ the _____ of truth.”
8. (II Timothy ___:16) “All _____ is given by _____ of God, and is _____ for doctrine, for _____, for correction, for _____ in righteousness:”
9. Hebrews 4: ___) “For the _____ of God is _____, and powerful, and _____ than any _____ edged _____, piercing even to the _____ asunder of _____ and _____, and of the _____ and marrow, and is a _____ of the thoughts and _____ of the heart.”
10. (James ___:22) “But be ye _____ of the _____, and not _____ only, _____ your own selves.”
11. (Acts ___:11) “These were more _____ than those in _____, in that they _____ the word with all _____ of mind, and _____ the scriptures _____, whether those _____ were so.”

I would like to encourage you to do four things: **1)** To bring an open mind to the study. **2)** Study each passage as though you have never seen it before. **3)** Be honest with the text! **4)** Don’t hold to a view on a particular subject of scripture just because your family, your preacher or your denomination holds to that view. **Thank you.** (Paul Franks)

Please Send Your Answers To Us

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

“The Question Box”

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601-668-3344 (Al Franks)

662-792-2700 (Paul Franks)

franksmm@aol.com

New Bible Winner
NETTIE DOSS
 (Kosciusko, Mississippi) Congratulations!



Recent Bible Winner

Mary Cathie Grigsby

(Gatesville, Texas)

After learning she was a Bible winner, Mary Grigsby recently wrote to us, saying: “I am serving life without parole at the Mt. View Unit for a crime I did not commit. I am 69 years old, have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. I attend church here at Mt. View where different volunteers come every week to do our services. I do a lot of Bible studies to help pass my time... I am still trying to fight my case...”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thank you, Mary, for your desire to learn and do God’s will. May God richly bless, according as He knows best. (alf)