

# MAGNOLIA Messenger

Volume 38; Number 4; WINTER, 2016

## "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)*



### **STUDY - ANSWER**

## **"The Question Box"** (Page 24)

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*Jesus answered,*  
**"My kingdom is not  
of this world."**

*John 18:36*

**Reserve April 24-27, 2017**

**20th Anniversary MM RV Rally**

**Michael Whitworth, Guest Speaker**

*For information, call Paul Franks, 662-792-2700*

**See page 5**

**Caution! Caution! Caution!**

**When You Open This Issue  
An envelope may fall out!**

**See page 24**



# Editor Responds To A Popular Radio/TV Preacher Who Exclaimed:

*“Don’t let anyone ever tell you that you have to be baptized to be saved.”*

What do you do when you wake up in the middle of the night and can’t go back to sleep? The problem of staying awake at night seems to grow more serious and become more noticeable as we grow older. At least, it has with me. What do we do when we can’t sleep? What can we do?

Waking up in the night and experiencing difficulty in going back to sleep, can bring great blessings. I am convinced that sleepless hours provide golden opportunities for spiritual growth. Staying awake during the night can be useful and productive. Sleeplessness is a good time for meditation, recalling scriptures committed to memory. It is a wonderful time to talk to your Heavenly Father, naming and counting your many blessings. Sleepless hours provide a wonderful opportunity to read or listen to the reading of God’s word. I have tried them all and found that sleepless night time hours can be very productive.

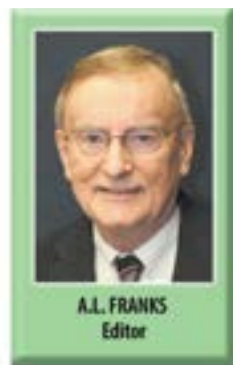
May I also share with you something else that I often do when I am unable to quickly go back to sleep. I **turn on the radio!** I seek to find the sound of someone preaching and start listening. And, believe or not, *often the preacher puts me to sleep!* (Cheaper than pills.) But on other occasions, the radio preacher keeps me awake; at least, for a while. When awake, I listen and learn. I have benefited greatly from radio sermons heard in the night, preached by men with whom, in some matters, I may strongly disagree.

**For example.** During the first week of December, very early in the morning, I was listening to a well-known radio/TV preacher. I liked his sermon. He was a talented speaker. His lesson was well prepared. Many things he said needed to be said. They were “right down the line”, strictly according to the Bible. His sermon that morning caught my attention. For several minutes I listened. I was impressed and blessed.

Toward the end of his sermon, however, he said some-

thing that disturbed me greatly. He told about a young man who came up to him one night after he had preached and asked a question about salvation. Specifically, he asked the preacher if baptism was really necessary for salvation.

The popular radio/TV preacher commented about the question and then concluded his response to the young man by stating emphatically, “*Baptism is not essential.*” He added, “*Don’t ever let anyone tell you that baptism is necessary for salvation.*”



Now, I had been drifting in and out of sleep; but, when I heard his statement, “*Don’t let anyone tell you....*” I woke up. Wide awake. The radio preacher had just said, “Don’t ever let anyone tell you that baptism is necessary for salvation.” As I pondered the Bible preacher’s *emphatic* and *dogmatic* declaration

that baptism is not necessary for salvation, I couldn’t help but to think about some preachers of the first century. I thought about the apostle Peter, the disciple Ananias and Jesus, Himself. What did they have to say about baptism? Did they teach baptism to be necessary?

**First: the Apostle Peter.** On the day of Pentecost, as Peter preached, he was interrupted by listeners, whose hearts were pricked, as they heard his sermon. They asked, “What shall we do?” The inspired apostle answered, “*Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:37,38). Two commands were clearly given by the apostle. (1) *Repent* and (2) *Be baptized*. Why repent; why be baptized? The answer is clear, “**for the remission of sins.**” If repentance is necessary for the remission of sins, so is baptism! Both acts are required for salvation. The apostle Peter also wrote in his first epistle, “*The like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 3:21). Consider the contrast in the message of preachers. The present day preacher said, “Don’t let anyone tell you that baptism is necessary for salvation.” The first

century preacher said, “Baptism doth also now save us....” It sure sounds like Peter is saying that baptism is necessary for salvation. There is a clear conflict in teaching. Who do you believe? Who will you follow? Will it be the inspired apostle Peter or the popular radio preacher?

**Second: the Disciple Ananias.** Ananias came to Saul after he had seen the Lord on the road to Damascus and was told to go into the city of Damascus where he would be given further instructions. After three days of praying and fasting, the preacher Ananias came to Saul, asked him

***I am convinced that sleepless hours provide golden opportunities for spiritual growth. Staying awake during the night can be useful and productive... Sleepless hours provide a wonderful opportunity to read or listen to the reading of God’s word.***

why he was waiting and then commanded, “*Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:10-16). Again, consider the contrast in the message of preachers. The popular preacher of our day said, “Don’t let anyone tell you you have to be baptized.” The first century preacher said, “Arise. Be baptized and wash away your sins.” It sure sounds like Ananias is saying that baptism is necessary for salvation. There is a clear conflict in teaching. Who do you believe? Who will you follow? Will it be Ananias or the popular radio preacher?

**Finally: the Lord Jesus Christ.** Jesus commanded his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Jesus clearly stated, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned*” (Mark 16:15,16). According to Jesus, two actions are required before salvation is promised. They are (1) Faith [*“he that believeth”*] and (2) Baptism [*“and is baptized”*]. Once again, consider the contrast in the message of preachers. The popular radio preacher in our day said, “Don’t let anyone tell you that baptism is necessary for salvation.” The first century preacher, Jesus, the Son of God, promised salvation to those who believe and are baptized. It sure sounds like Jesus is saying that baptism is necessary for salvation. There is a clear conflict in teaching! Who do you believe? Who will you follow. Will it be Jesus or the popular radio preacher?

*Al Franks, editor; 601-668-3344; franksmm@aol.com*



## Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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### Magnolia Messenger

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

(A. L. Franks, Editor)

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## Fulton Bible Institute

(65 Students From 22 Congregations)

Fulton Bible Institute started in the fall of 2005 and has continued offering two courses each year; one in the fall and one in the spring/winter. The school is under the oversight of the Fulton Church of Christ in Fulton, MS.

For the fall of 2016, we averaged 65 students per class during the twelve classes that met. Also, the students came from 22 congregations throughout Northeast Mississippi and Northwest Alabama. We studied the book of Jeremiah.

In-depth Bible study to help Christians grow in their faith is a goal of the school. Also, the school promotes genuine Christian fellowship among brethren of like precious faith. Our next course will be the book of Jeremiah (Part 2). It will begin Tuesday, January 24, and will meet for twelve weeks each Tuesday. The time is 7:00-8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to study the Bible with us. If you have any questions, you can contact Russ Crosswhite at gcross@nexband.com or call the church office at 662-862-4549.



# BIBLE

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### RESPONSE:

*The word "Paradise" is an Asian word signifying a beautiful, peaceful garden. The Greek word, paradeisos, is anglicized into "Paradise." Eden is called "Paradise" by the Septuagint translators (Genesis 2:8).*

### What the Bible Says about Paradise

The word is used three times in the New Testament.

- Jesus told the dying thief, while they were both still on the cross, "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

- Paul talked about a man he said he knew—most commentators think, I believe, correctly, that he was talking about himself—who in a "vision" or "revelation" was caught up into Paradise. "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he

heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter" (2 Corinthians 12:2-4). Likely, the three heavens referred to are, first, the atmosphere, where the birds fly; second, the heavens where the sun moon and stars are; and third, where God is, which Paul calls Paradise. Elsewhere in Scripture this "third heaven," "Paradise," is called Heaven or, often, "the new heavens and the new earth."

- In Revelation 2:7, Paradise

is used of the antitype of Eden, our ultimate heaven. Jesus promises, "The one who conquers" will "eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God."

So two of the three times it is used in the New Testament, Paradise is the name of what we call heaven. However, when Jesus told the thief he would that day be with Him in Paradise, He was evidently not speaking of the final destination of the redeemed, the heaven where God is said to dwell.

A few hours later Jesus told Mary Magdalene, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (John 20:17). A few days later, after His resurrection, Peter, in his sermon

on Pentecost, quoting from Psalm 16 and applying it to Jesus, said Jesus' soul was "not left in Hades." So the Paradise that Jesus and the thief visited the day of Jesus' crucifixion was not Paul's "the third heaven." It was part of "Hades."

Unfortunately, the King James Version translates both hades and gehenna as "hell," though they are different words with different meanings. All of the dead, whether wicked or righteous, go to hades. It is simply

### QUESTIONS:

*In Luke 23:43 Jesus told one of the criminals hanging on either side of him, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise." What does the Bible say about Paradise? Is this where the saved reside until Judgment Day? (N.I.)*

*Paradise, I believe, is in Hades across from Tartarus where the rich man is, with Lazarus at Abraham's side (awaiting resurrection and judgment). What do you think the spirits do there? Can they see across the great gulf? Can they speak to others in Abraham's bosom? Do they know others around them? Can they speak to those they may know where the rich man is? Do they sing praises to God? Do they receive blessings from God? Are they aware that their loved ones are back on earth, like family, wives and children? Can they anticipate their joining them sometime? Will my husband know me when I arrive there as his wife? Will he still have dementia? (B.S.)*

"the place of the dead," sometimes translated "the grave." Gehenna, is "hell," the final destination of the unredeemed, "the hell of fire" (Matthew 5:22).

Much of our information about Hades come from Jesus' account of Lazarus and the rich man as recorded in Luke 16:19-31:

*There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out. "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us." And he said, "Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this*

*place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."*

Some immediately say, "That is just a parable. It does not tell us anything about the reality of life after death." However, it is probably not a parable. If it is, it is the only one in which one of the characters is given a name. Even if it is a parable, though, Jesus told "parables," not "fables." Parables are consistent with reality. I believe Jesus' account of Lazarus and the rich man, whether a parable or not, gives a limited but accurate picture of life immediately after death and, apparently, before the resurrection. Resurrection to a new, glorious, incorruptible, immortal, spiritual body occurs at the second coming (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

### Is Paradise Where the Saved Reside until Judgment Day?

It seems so. Again, we are relying on Jesus' account of Lazarus and the rich man for most of our information about this. In that account, life on earth is continuing and the second coming, resurrection and judgment have not occurred, although the

characters obviously know their eternal destinies. They recognize one another and converse, but, presumably, do not yet have their spiritual, resurrection bodies.

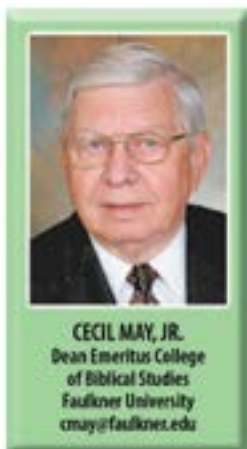
So when faithful Christians die, they go to Hades, the place of all the dead, and are in a state of bliss, Paradise. Some speak as if the place is called "Abraham's bosom," but Lazarus is simply reclining at a table with his head close to Abraham's chest. ESV correctly translates, "was carried by the angels to Abraham's side." When unredeemed wicked people, like the rich man, die, they also go to Hades, but they are "in torment."

Judgment, then, is not so much the revealing of people's final destiny as it is an announcement of it.

This scenario, at death going from earth to Hades and then, at the second coming and judgment, to Heaven or hell, is the announced view of many of the Bible students and preachers whom I most respect and trust, including **G.C. Brewer**, **Jack P. Lewis** and **Guy N. Woods**. It is what I have believed and preached for many years. However, I am beginning to have second thoughts. What if God operates in eternity, outside of time restraints? What if, then, the fact that one thing occurs before another in time, has no meaning or relevance to God or to how things are in eternity? I am still "just thinking." I may develop this further in a later column (CM,Jr.).

### Where Is Paradise?

As noted above, two of the three times "Paradise" appears in Scripture, it is referring to heaven, the final destiny of the redeemed. However, Christ told the dying thief, "Today you will



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### **Where the Church in Gatlinburg, TN Used to Assemble Destroyed by Recent Fires in Smoky Mountains**

This is a picture of the beautiful building used for many years by the Gatlinburg church of Christ. It was a landmark for the church in Gatlinburg. The congregation and the church building have provided a place of worship for thousands of Christians as they vacationed in the Great Smoky Mountains. Many of you have probably worshipped in this building.

We were saddened to learn that the building was completely destroyed as wildfires mixed with high winds raged in that area. The extreme drought in the area was also a factor causing the fires to do so much damage. Even though the building had a great history, it was, after all, just a building and can be replaced.

Rod Rutherford serves as the preacher for the Gatlinburg congregation. The following is part of a report given by Brother Rod, "I have learned that three members have lost their homes... We plan to worship with the Sevierville church Sunday (December 4) and then have a congregational meeting to discuss our future. Our building was fully insured. If anyone wants to help those who lost their homes, we ask them to send a contribution to the Gatlinburg church of Christ and mark it "For Fire Relief." We will use it to help our members first, then others, as funds permit. The address is: Gatlinburg church of Christ, P. O. Box 361, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Thanks for your interest, prayers and concern."

Let us continue to be in prayer for this area and especially the congregation that used to meet in the Great Smoky Mountains on Reagan Drive in beautiful Gatlinburg, Tennessee. *June Franks*

### **Tunica Congregation needs Carpenters (A Plea for Help)**

Our congregation is in need of a new kitchen/ fellowship area. The small kitchen we have at our building is sinking and falling away from our building. We have designed a new fellowship area, and have raised the needed funds to pay for the materials. Now we need a contractor to oversee the construction, and plumbers, electricians and carpenters to build the building.

We hope to do this in two phases over two or three weeks; first to lay the foundation, and the second to erect the building. We are trying to put together teams of volunteers to come help us get this 20x36 foot building built. Can you help? Can you volunteer two days or a week to help us out? If so email or call. We hope to break ground sometime in February or March.

**Dennis Doughty, Minister • Dennis1848@bellsouth.net  
901-267-3100**

# KW HAS A PK

By John Pigg

Six months ago the elders of the Kensington Woods church of Christ in Hattiesburg, MS graciously invited me to serve as their interim preacher until they were able to select a new evangelist. Beth and I thoroughly enjoyed our special time of fellowship with this wonderful congregation. I was especially blessed to be able to provide them a positive example of spiritual leadership during this time of transition and to bring them Biblical sermons to build them up in the most holy faith.

Over this period of time this congregation of over 200 faithful worshippers continued to grow both numerically and spiritually. Every single ministry including youth, Bible school, college, foreign missions, local evangelism, senior saints, and benevolence, etc., continued and increased to the glory of God.

The elders of the church took serious charge of shepherding and providing oversight in all of its affairs. Every Sunday they were in the pulpit communicating to the membership their desire to reach lost souls and to preach and teach the gospel throughout the city of Hattiesburg and South Mississippi. Each Lord's Day they were before the church leading prayers for God to send them a preacher with a passion for people to help them in their evangelistic outreach. A search committee led by one of the deacons was appointed, and they did their work with zeal and seriousness of purpose. After months of careful evaluation of resumes and interviews, they made their recommendation to the elders. The elders followed up with their own personal assessment, and finally presented him to the congregation for approval. As a result of the participation and cooperation by the entire church for over a year, God has now answered their prayers and blessed their efforts by bringing a PW (Preacher's Kid) to KW.

Robert Tipps is 31 years old and has served as the pulpit minister of the Capitol Hill church of Christ for the last three and one half years. He previously served for four years as the youth minister at the Estill Springs church of Christ, where he served as the deacon of the children's education ministry. In 2015 and 2016 he did mission work, serving on an evangelism team in Honduras. He has been a regular song leader for over 17 years.

At the same time he served the Lord's church in various capacities, he also worked the community for 12 years in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Winchester, TN. He was a S.W.A.T. and firearms instructor, and served seven years as an investigator. He routinely ministers to others and evangelizes those facing tragedy, death and addiction. He helps people from all walks of life and at all points in their lives. He has been married for 10 years to his wife, Courtney, and they have three awesome little boys that love the Lord, Carson, Coleman, and Case. No one is a stranger to him! He was raised in the church of Christ and came from a family of elders, preachers, and singers. If your family is ever passing through Hattiesburg on the weekend, I hope you will plan to worship with these good brethren of KW and hear this PK preach the good news of the gospel of Christ. (jpigg1@comcast.net)



*Kensington Woods Church Welcomes The Tipps Family Robert & Courtney with Carson, Coleman and Case*

## Thank God For Christian School Teachers

Readers of the MM readily agree that education is important. To be able to read the words of this article is a reminder of the often repeated admonition that each of us should heed, "Thank a teacher."

We are very grateful for all Christians who teach in our schools. Their good influence in an evil, adulterous and violent world is greatly needed and much appreciated. One such teacher, who has made an great impact in her community is Donna Manuel of Many, Louisiana.

Donna and her husband, Danny, are both active members of the Toledo Bend church of Christ, near Many, Louisiana where Danny serves as one of the elders. A few months ago, Donna was given special recognition for her exemplary work as a teacher in Sabine Parish, Louisiana. She was selected as a finalist for "Teacher of the Year, 2016."

We congratulate Donna for her accomplishments and for the love she has, not only for the children she teaches, but also for all others. As one who knows her as a first cousin and as a dedicated sister in Christ, I am thankful to say, "Donna is one of the sweetest, kindest persons you will ever get to know."

Donna's teaching philosophy may be summed up by the following words. "Success comes not by reducing expectations in order that every child succeeds, but by raising expectations in order that every child is challenged. It is challenge that springs each of us to greater heights". *Quote taken from "The Sabine Index"; Article by A. L. Franks*



*John White (LA State Superintendent of Education) Donna Manuel ("Candidate, Teacher of the Year" and Ben Heroman (Dream Teachers' Chairman)*





# Readers' Response

Comments & Suggestions Invited (Criticisms Considered)

Brother Paul: I just read your story about Clifford Hampton in the Summer MM, and thank you for sharing that with us. I have written a note of encouragement to Bro. Hampton and will continue to pray for his spiritual peace & growth - although I am not certain just what to pray for related to his physical situation, as I am his age, in failing health & recognize the extreme changes that have occurred in society since he was last a part of it. I hope that the Messenger will share other such personal faith "success" stories such as this and include contact info so that readers may offer our encouragement. I have long appreciated your family for your servant attitude and spiritual leadership.

(Claude Thompson)

"Just a note to tell you I enjoy MM very much. Thank you for all your hard work in getting this paper out to so many people. Would you please send MM to ...."

(Beaumont, TX)

"I have intended to write you for some time and just let you know how much we enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. Thanks for all your effort in providing this publication that is so encouraging to the brotherhood... Let me know when you plan the next 'preachers' retreat'... Maybe I can attend the next one."

(Mountain Home, AR)

NOTE: Our next Preachers' Retreat is planned for March 12-16, 2017.

We enjoy reading the good articles in your paper each time. Sound doctrine is what we need to follow and get to heaven."

(Nashville, TN)

I hope my little support will help with the cost of making the Magnolia Messenger. It is such an informative newspaper. I wish everyone could get it. I enjoy doing the Bible study questions... it keeps my 71 year-old brain working properly."

(Brunswick, GA)

I would like 25 copies of the Messenger sent to... When I get the Magnolia Messenger at my home, I feel like it's a breath of fresh air."

(Hemphill, TX)

(To Paul Franks) "Thank you for carrying on the wonderful work that your parents started 39 years ago. They are indeed a blessing for the Lord in spreading the gospel... We so enjoy the Magnolia Messenger."

(Milton, FL)

(To A. L. Franks) "Your editorial on the 'Value of a Soul' was priceless."

(Batesville, MS)

"Enjoy your paper very much; especially Cecil May, Jr.'s Questions Answered and all the other good articles."

(West Plains, MO)

"I am enjoying each Magnolia Messenger that you are sending my way. I deeply appreciate all of the hard work, time and outstanding information that you and your staff are sharing with your readers. I need to get you to start sending the Magnolia Messenger to... He is not a Christian. I want him to be exposed to as much truth as possible."

(Gulfport, MS)

This is a very good work. I enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger and learning from the articles you print.

(Ann Alford, Jackson, MS)

Thanks for the wonderful paper. Truthful and needed in this sinful world. In Christian Love,

(Randle & Joyce Gray, Amory, MS)

We enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. Thank you for all the hard work you do to get it together. Thank you and God bless! In Christian Love,

(W. E. & Nelma Chilton, McMinnville, TN)

I pray that you all are well. Received MM through the mail today and I'm always happy to get it. Keep up the good work. God bless you.

(Earline Huntley, Memphis, TN)

Thank you so much for the Messenger. I can't wait till it is time for it to be in my mail box. I love answering the questions.

(Middleton, TN)

## Learning to Adapt in Mission Work A Bible Camp in Lithuania

(By David Pryor)

It has been almost 20 years since a group of mainly Mississippi Christians traveled to a country they had never heard of before in an effort to conduct a youth camp. Nineteen ninety-eight was our first year for church camp in the former Soviet Union country of Lithuania. Neither the children nor the Lithuanian adults who attended knew quiet what to expect.

Danny Dodd, now of Arkansas and Bud Myer, now of Florida envisioned a camp modeled after Sardis Lake Christian Camp in north Mississippi. Danny met with his long time staff members of SLCC and invited them to go and embark on this wild plan to conduct a youth camp in Lithuania.

For several years the Waterview church in Dallas, Texas had traveled to Lithuania to conduct "door knocking" campaigns, a tool used by many churches here in America. The door knocking campaign did not go over as well in Lithuania and future efforts were not planned. That is when Bud Myer, whose sister attended the Waterview church shared the news with

devotional where you had to hug at least a certain number of people prior to going to bed. That first year the hugs were all one sided as the Lithuanian youth stood stiff not knowing what to do. This year, the last night, the rule was for 20 hugs and without exception, everyone violated that rule by more than doubling that number.

Now almost 20 years later, nearly every person there understands English quiet well and for the past couple of years three sessions of camp have taken place. Matt Bell of the Pensacola church in Florida directs a session primarily geared to young children. Paul Franks of Kosciusko directs a session for teen agers and Danny Dodd of Little Rock directs the last session geared to families and missionaries.

Campers for the first year are now returning as counselors and this time, bringing along their own children. Families are coming from England, the Netherlands, Russia, and even as far away as India to attend the Family Camp session.

Scores of Lithuanians have come to know the Lord

more through the efforts of the sessions at Camp Ruta. When the European Union came into effect some years ago, travel for the youth of Lithuania now was much easier and getting out of their home country was now their objective. The church suffered because of this, but we know that our efforts were now going all over the EU. One of the most difficult facts we were faced with was knowing that many of the cities and towns "our" youth were going to did not have churches in them. But we planted the seed and pray that someone will water them and then the harvest will be made later.

One of the reasons this work has been highly successful is that campers love the week, but their lives are changed and improved and their parents see that change when they come home. Parents have appreciated what we do for their children and some outreach is being made with them as well. Plans start taking place almost on the day camp ends. There is so much excitement for both Lithuanians and Americans in participating in the spreading of God's word in this effort. All glory is given to God for this wonderful work.

David Pryor's email address: [trophy3@bellsouth](mailto:trophy3@bellsouth)



Campers in Front of "A-Frame" Cabin at Camp Ruta in Lithuania

her brother. Bud and Danny traveled to Lithuania a couple of times to investigate and possibly set the plans in the works.

During our first year, confused and bewildered looks were all over the faces of the children as we tried to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in a language they were not very familiar with. "Get your elbows off the table" fell flat too as they children looked at us like we were crazy. But as each day and each year passed they grew more to trust us and began opening up to us.

Our first session, we had a rule for the late night

## Attention: All Preachers

If you preach or if you desire to preach, please honor us with your presence at our 2nd annual Preachers' Retreat. The date is **March 12-16, 2017**. The days are Sunday PM through Thursday AM.

Four very capable Gospel Preachers have agreed to serve as instructors. They are **Jody Apple, Kirk Brothers, Gary Hampton** and **Dan Winkler**. The theme for this year's retreat is "From Saul to Paul."

You are invited to stay in the MBC dormitory.

(Bring linens, towels, pillow, etc.) Meals will be provided. We ask, if possible, that you help share in costs by contributing **\$100.00**. (Scholarships are available!)

For more information, or to register, please contact **Paul Franks at 662-792-2700** or **Will Anderson at 662-832-0457**. We would love to have you join us for an unforgettable 4 days and 4 nights in which you can/will be Refocused, Recharged and Rejuvenated. (Editor)

## 20th Anniversary Magnolia Messenger RV Rally

Roosevelt State Park;  
Morton, MS

**April 24-27, 2017**  
(Monday through Thursday)

**RV Sites • Cabins • Motel**

For Information,  
Call Paul Franks

**662-792-2700**



Michael Whitworth, Speaker



# The Greatest of All time?

By Dennis Doughty

With the passing of boxing legend Muhammad Ali we were reminded of his claim to be "the greatest of all time!" He may have been the greatest heavyweight champion. He was an impressive boxer, and had some of the greatest fights ever. He was as controversial outside the ring as he was talented inside it. While maybe the greatest heavyweight boxer, it is the words, "of all time" that may be the most braggadocios.

All of us mortals must face the reality of the passing of the centuries. As well known as Muhammad Ali was around the world, in 500 years his name and the sport of boxing may have faded into obscurity. A thousand years from now his name will most likely rest alongside those of past world leaders, celebrities and famous athletes in the dusty decaying pages of history; unknown and forgotten.



Dennis Doughty

If the proof of real greatness exists in the passing of years then Jesus Christ and his kingdom are the true champions "of all time." Two thousand years have passed and the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth are still celebrated today and followed by tens of millions. The church he established continues to gather each Sunday in almost every nation of the world. The memorial meal we partake of proclaims his sacrifice "until he comes" (1 Co. 11:26).

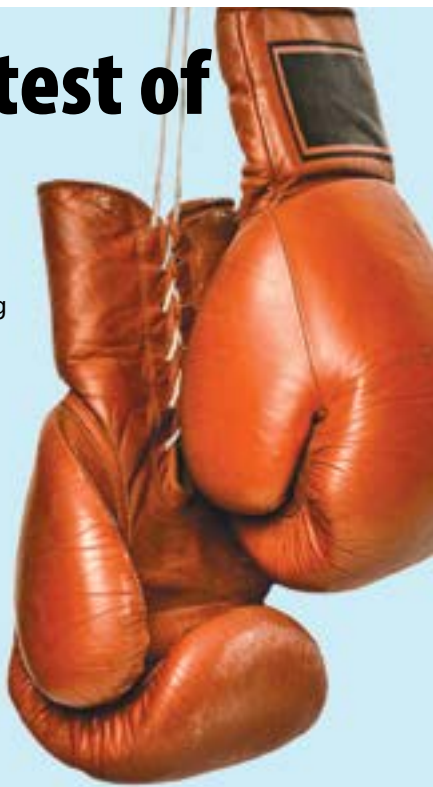
The greatness of Jesus was never better captured than in the essay by James Francis in 1926 when he wrote;

*"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself..."*

*"While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend."*

*"Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."*

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Timothy 1:17). Jesus the Christ; the greatest of all time! (dennis1848@bellsouth.net)



# Sojourners

## *A Call for Missionaries!*



A Group of "Sojourners" -- "Willing and Ready" Workers for the Lord

Many Christians, after they retire, decide to become missionaries. Some will decide even before they fully retire to use some of their time to work part time as missionaries. One way that many have done this for years is to become a "Sojourner."

This organization for many years has encouraged faithful members of the churches of Christ to be involved in national evangelism. Any mature member of the church that has an RV may apply for membership. All Sojourners are self-supporting. It is not their intent to be a financial burden to those they help.

They travel within the U.S. and Canada and go only to churches where they have been invited. Their main goal is to strengthen the brotherhood by helping small churches in need. They also go to disaster areas to help rebuild damaged church property. During 2016 they had **121 requests** to work with various churches and groups. 36 were evangelistic in nature. 84 were physical and maintenance type requests. Also during the year, around the country, Sojourners put on 5 workshops.

Sojourning is a '*servant*' thing. And we need

more willing Christians with servant hearts to participate.

During the month of October sojourners gather at Camp Bee in Marshall, TX. They come from all over the country, including Alaska. We come together with one mind and goal... *to serve*. We serve small congregations of the Lord's church, Christian youth camps and children's homes.

Some of the things Sojourners do: door-knocking, hold gospel meetings, teach classes, conduct VBS, ladies classes, clean, paint, build, repair, plumbing and electrical. We encourage each other each day with devotionals... praying, singing and sharing God's Word.

**It's the nearest thing to Heaven on earth!**

Please consider joining Sojourners. You will be blessed as a result of your service to others! You can contact Sojourners by email at [office@sojourning.org](mailto:office@sojourning.org).

**Church of Christ**  
**Sojourner Mission**  
**Camp Bee**  
**5554 Cooks Road**  
**Marshall, TX 75670-9130**  
**903-935-5742**

## 2nd Annual Preachers' Retreat

Kosciusko, Mississippi

(Using MBC Facilities • Dorm rooms are limited to 38)

**March 12-16, 2017**

(Sunday evening through Thursday morning)

Instructors:

**Jody Apple • Kirk Brothers**

**Gary Hampton • Dan Winkler**

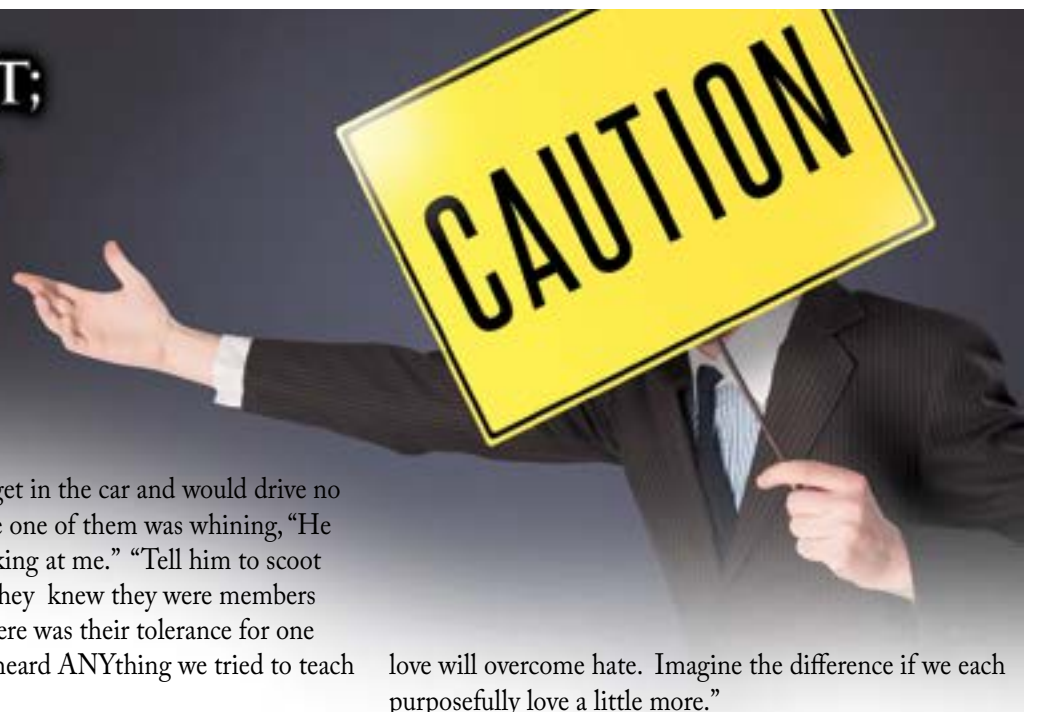
**Materials - Meals - Lodging**

**For more information or to register, Call/Email: Will Anderson: 662-832-0457; willmanderson@yahoo.com Paul Franks: 662-792-2700; apaulfranks@gmail.com**





# SEASONED WITH SALT; NOT SALTY LANGUAGE



By Ken Joines

Elections have always been marked by a certain amount of ugliness. It seems hard for two people to square off in a bid for political office without some name-calling and mud-slinging. It appears nearly impossible for candidates to deal solely with the issues at stake.

But by the same token, there is validity to asking the voters to consider the moral and spiritual life of the one they are about to put in office, making it very difficult to keep from offending supporters on one side or the other.

The foregoing facts have prompted me to put together a few thoughts that could be helpful to all of us, no matter your political preference or pedigree.

It is abundantly clear to all by now that the very fiber of our beloved America has undergone drastic changes in recent times. Our recent presidential race has brought things to light that have caught most of us off guard and resulted in needless injury to the feelings of patriotic Americans, good citizens, some of whom are our Christian family.

Please understand that I'm including myself here as I write. Only recently I posted a politics-related item on Facebook that to me seemed humorous. However, I failed to take into account that some good people in my acquaintance felt otherwise. I was soundly—and rightfully—chastised for it. I offered my sincere apology and have learned from the experience. It taught me that I still have not mastered the art of carefully weighing my words before turning them loose like pellets from a scatter gun. I learned that what may be humorous to me doesn't always come across that way to others. I learned that one careless statement can hurt my image among those I care about. Like many of you, I have struggled all my life to control my tone of voice and choose the right words—grace-filled, loving words of truth. Being graceful to others has always been a challenge, so please be patient with me for I do want to grow in this grace also.

It became apparent during this last election that people in general have become super-sensitive. It would be difficult to isolate the cause or causes of this. Some of what I saw reminded me of our children when they were

growing up. We would get in the car and would drive no more than 5 miles before one of them was whining, "He touched me." "She's looking at me." "Tell him to scoot over." You wondered if they knew they were members of the same family! Where was their tolerance for one another? Had they not heard ANYthing we tried to teach them?

But having said that, it still remains that as fellow Americans—to say nothing about being Christians—we must "Consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24), or "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt..." (Colossians 4:6) It calls for great tact when asking another to consider certain things in a political platform that may run counter to Christian principles, without leaving the impression that he has to be a member of a certain political party before he can be, or remain, a Christian.

It has become painfully apparent that in some quarters damage has been done to Christian relationships and between neighbors because of words carelessly or thoughtlessly spoken. Let us resolve to do all we can to promote good will. Feelings about this election will continue to be raw for some time to come. There is no doubt that our beloved country is

reeling in the wake cutting words and hate-filled crimes. We have a lot of work to do in rebuilding the moral fiber of our culture. But there is still so much good in this land that needs to be highlighted. We can still live in peace with nearly all of our neighbors.

I want to pass on to our readers some words of wisdom by Dr. Ben Carson: "While much of America seems to be getting more and more divisive, I'm going to be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, greeting all I meet, exercising patience with others, and smiling at strangers. I'll do this as often as I have the opportunity. I will not stand idly by and let children live in a world where unconditional love is invisible and being rude is acceptable. Join me in showing love and respect to others. Find your way to swing the pendulum in the direction of love. Because today, sadly, hate is gaining ground. Love must begin somewhere and

love will overcome hate. Imagine the difference if we each purposefully love a little more."

## A few suggestions on implementing these measures:

1. Be extremely careful what you post on Facebook or in other social media. There's simply no need to unnecessarily hurt others by "rubbing it in" on any level.
2. Think twice before speaking too frankly within hearing distance of strangers; they may totally misinterpret your words.
3. Watch for opportunities to open a conversation with those of other races; expressing the hope that you can do your little bit toward eliminating hatred and bitterness, and promoting unity.
4. Go the second mile to show others the spirit of Christ.
5. Anonymously pay for someone's coffee or sandwich in the car behind you at McDonalds or Starbucks (ok, so you might want to make sure they don't have six kids in the car!).

You get the idea. As Christian people, let's start a movement to see just how much good will we can build in our communities. God has listed for us the fruit of the Spirit and it is so simple: "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." (Galatians 5:22). These are the qualities that can make peace and they are the very qualities that are in such short supply. He also said, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18)

It has to start somewhere.

**If not here, where? • If not now, when?  
If not us, who?**

Ken Joines • 4449 Terrace Stone Dr  
Olive Branch, MS 38654 • Kjoines35@hotmail.com



## Notes on the Restoration Movement In East Mississippi

(Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston Counties)

The story of non-denominational Christianity in ten Mississippi counties beginning with Tolbert Fanning's 1842 visit to Columbus through the creation of each congregation of the Christian churches and churches of Christ. Information on national and local men and women associated with the restoration movement in this region is a significant part of this 215 page publication. Over 200 pictures included.

Copies are available by contacting:

James Murphy • 1954 Alderpoint Drive • Montgomery, Alabama 36106 • Jmurphy2@knology.net • 334-328-7979





# "HEART EXAM!"

## at Huntsville Ladies' Day Assembly

By Judy Lollar

The ladies of Huntsville church of Christ, French Camp, MS, hosted Ladies' Day September 17, 2016. Our theme for the day was "Heart Exam!"

It was a wonderful day, beginning with a light breakfast, followed by our Ladies' Day program, and ending with lunch. Our keynote speaker, Celine Sparks, explained that the scriptures should be our guide when we examine our hearts to determine if we are spiritually healthy.

Celine chose several scriptures which illustrated the theme; however, 1 Samuel 16:7 said it best:

*"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart"*

(1 Samuel 16:7).

Celine began her presentation with an effective illustration showing that, when compared to the number of U.S. war casualties, the number of deaths by abortions is astounding. She pointed out that people do not call "sin" "sin" any more. We change the names of the sins that Jesus condemned in the scriptures to make them sound more appealing, by using such words as a "choice" and "mature" audience. Changing the name does not lessen the sin; it weakens our hearts.

In her presentation, Celine discussed many characteristics of a spiritually healthy heart, including commitment (Romans 6:17), determination (Philippians 4:13), compassion (Colossians 3:12), forgiving (Ephesians 4:32), and loving (1 Peter 3:8). When the LORD looks on our hearts, He expects to see these and other characteristics.

A person with a spiritually healthy heart, committed foremost to God and to His teachings, will study the scriptures daily for His instructions. Someone with a forgiving, determined, and compassionate heart, who serves the LORD, knows that compassion should include everyone -- not only our close friends, but also

acquaintances, and others in our number who may be sick or hindered to the point of being unable to attend services.

Jesus said, when asked what the greatest commandment is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:36-40).

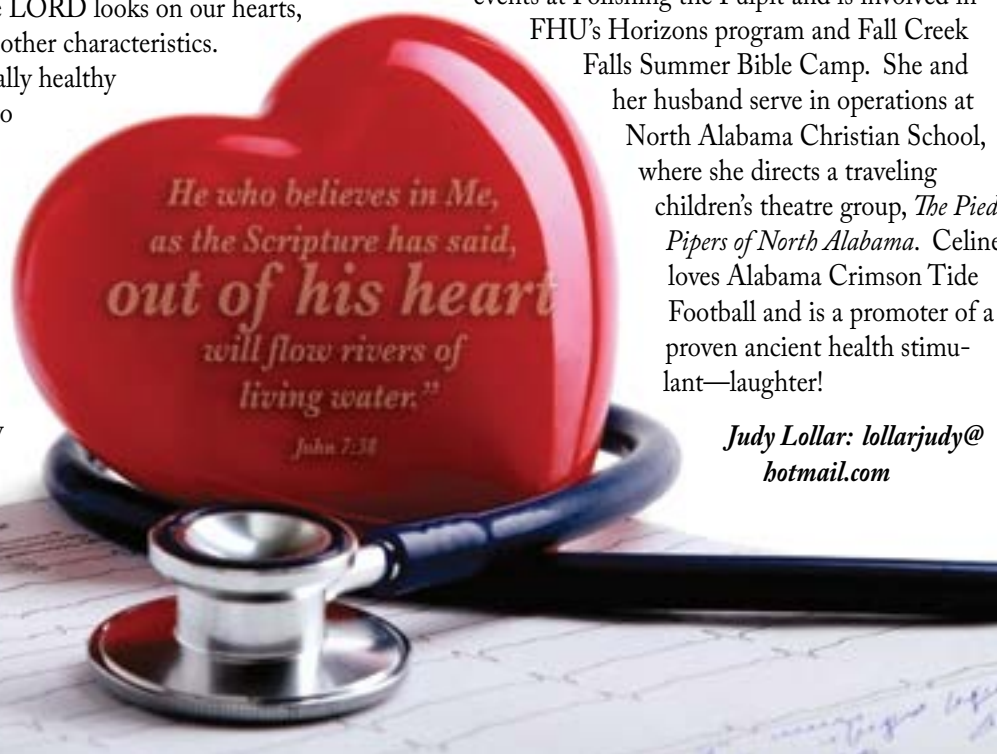


Celine Sparks

A loving heart is a forgiving heart. To be a strong faithful follower of Christ, Celine showed that we should have a heart exam daily to be sure we are committed, determined, compassionate, forgiving, and loving. Solomon said, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Jesus added to this by saying, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). Therefore, a person's speech is a good indicator of his or her heart condition. Does our speech reveal a good spiritual heart? One's spiritual heart is as important to a spiritual life as is one's physical heart to one's physical life.

Celine Sparks is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University with a B.A. in Communications/Theatre and a Master's in Education. She is the author of *Because I Said So* and *Whatever Happened to Fried Chicken?* and is the humorist for *Christian Woman* magazine. She is married to Scotty Sparks, minister for the Mastin Lake Road Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama. They have four children, three of whom are in college and one in high school. Celine loves to make friendships with ladies as she speaks throughout the country, and she loves teaching children's and teen girls' classes at home. She is coordinator of youth special events at Polishing the Pulpit and is involved in FHU's Horizons program and Fall Creek Falls Summer Bible Camp. She and her husband serve in operations at North Alabama Christian School, where she directs a traveling children's theatre group, *The Pied Pipers of North Alabama*. Celine loves Alabama Crimson Tide Football and is a promoter of a proven ancient health stimulant—laughter!

Judy Lollar: [lollarjudy@hotmail.com](mailto:lollarjudy@hotmail.com)



## Homecoming, 2016

60 Years of Service

### Siwell Road Church of Christ

Jackson, Mississippi

Al and I were privileged to attend church services on Sunday, November 13, 2016 with the Siwell Road church of Christ, Jackson, Mississippi. The day was their special Homecoming service celebrating sixty years of service for the Lord's church in Jackson (especially in the south and west Jackson area).

On November 11, 1956 the Belvedere (now Siwell Road) congregation held its first service. The elders of the Central Church of Christ had, for years, envisioned a new congregation to serve the growing city of Jackson in the area south of Highway 80. Property was purchased and construction soon began on a completely air conditioned church plant. The ground breaking was held May 19, 1956.

The Belvedere congregation began with 131 members. Of those original members Virgil and Sylvia Parrish are the only remaining members at Siwell Road. On September 7, 1988 a ground breaking ceremony was held on a piece of property on the corner of McCluer and Siwell Road. The Belvedere church moved and met as the Siwell Road church of Christ on March 25, 1990 with a record attendance of 350 in Bible class, 468 in worship, and 290 in evening worship.

Over the years Belvedere/Siwell Road has been very active in the work of the Lord. The church bulletin stated, "We want to thank everyone who has been a part of the work at Belvedere and Siwell Road and invite you all to be a part of the work here now and into the future."

The present pulpit minister at Siwell Road is Gary Hampton with Derek Broome serving as the Youth Minister. The elders are Bob Allen, Chris Bates, Andy Dulaney, Dale Ledbetter, Paul Leggett, Darrell Cockroft and James Leggett.

Brother Gary's sermon topic on Homecoming Sunday was "Coming Home." It was a very good service with great singing led by Drew Dulaney. We especially enjoyed seeing so many of our friends and spiritual family that we had not seen in a while. At the conclusion of the service, we enjoyed a bountiful feast prepared by the Siwell congregation.

It is our prayer that the Siwell Road church of Christ will be able to celebrate many more years of faithful service to our Lord. As usual, the visitors were asked to fill out an attendance card. Even though we didn't feel like visitors, I filled out a card. Within the next few days, we received a letter from the congregation thanking us for coming; also received several cards and letters from some of the members. This gesture meant a lot to Al and me. We say "thanks" to the church for allowing us to be a part of your 60th year anniversary and making us feel so welcome. *Report by June Franks*



Virgil & Sylvia Parrish

The only remaining members at Siwell who were among the original members when Belvedere started in 1956. The Parrishes celebrated their 68th anniversary on December 4, 2016. They were married at Freed-Hardeman College. He is 90; she is 88. Congratulations! God bless.



## 21st Annual Ladies' Retreat at Sardis Lake (Sept. 23-24, 2016)

(Report by Lottie Frank)

The designated time arrived! Almost 100 women of God made their way to 'that rustic camp' in North Mississippi for about 18 hours of fellowship, fun and communing with God and one another. This included lots of uplifting singing, prayer and heartfelt expressions of love. This is a trip many of us have made for the past 21 years; about 16 years for me.

This year's theme was "Women of God; Slaying Giants: Prepared to Fight." One of our speakers was Ann Nunnally, formerly of Vicksburg, Mississippi, now residing in Texas. Ann is an animated Christian sister, full of the love of God and the church, willing and very able to impart His Word plainly and in truth.

Ann began with Ephesians 6:11-18, emphasizing verse 12. "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."

What are the giants in our lives? Each of us has different giants, a different times, in our lives to slay. To name a few: Selfishness (as mentioned in James 3:14-16), envy and jealousy (Ecclesiastes 4:4, Proverbs 6:34). What about bullying, to which Christ refers in Matthew 25:40? Proverbs 8:13 states, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride, and arrogancy; the evil way and the froward mouth, do I hate." Other giants some of us face everyday are: timidity, peer pressure, submissiveness, temptation, faithlessness, insecurity and worry. More than conquerors? Yes! In Romans 8:37, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

"Turning Fear into Faith" was the topic discussed by Kari Martin of Mountain Home, Arkansas, a kind, loving sister, willing and able to share with others her love of God and His Word. Kari took us back to David, in I Samuel 17. Goliath bullied and derided God's people

to the point that they were afraid to meet him in battle. David, "a man after God's own heart" stepped up to accept the challenge. In verse 37, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." I John 5:4 states, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Song leaders, young and "not-so", led us in glorious accapella praise to our Lord and Master. It was so wonderful to blend our voices joyfully, renewing old friendships and making new bonds.

Jane Maynard! Jane Maynard! A true woman of God whose goal in this life, on this terrestrial plane, is to share the Word of God, simply and to the point, without pulling any punches. Quoting scripture, leading songs, answering questions; this is the culmination

of our SLLR, normally.

August 10, 2016, Baton Rouge, Louisiana was inundated with 30 inches of rain in 24 hours! So many lost so much. My husband and I lost our home, salvaging very little. We are, however, most blessed! Things are just things, mostly replaceable. Unbeknownst to me, my dear sisters took up a love offering for us to help us get back on our feet. After a 7 year battle with ovarian cancer, last 2 cat scans, cafree, ...flood, was almost too much. Praise God for our brothers and sisters and all for the aid, prayers and love. To receive those hugs and blessings at the end of the retreat was the most humbling experience of my life. Thank God for the generous loving nature of my sisters. This is something we could do every year. Help either the camp, a hurting sister; whatever is the most needful Glory to God for a most successful, rewarding time together. **Report by Lottie Frank; 400 Oakbrook Circle; McComb, MS 39648**



## Windle "Buster" Davis Celebrates 90th; Planning 100th (God Willing)

The children of Windle "Buster" Davis fettered him, on October 25, 2016, with a Surprise 90th Birthday celebration at the Davis Event Center on the campus of Itawamba Community College in Fulton, MS. His daughters, Pam Davis Horton (Michael) and Patti Davis Bennett, organized the event.

Buster was a successful basketball coach, with champion teams at IJC 1962-1975. High schools champion teams, included Thrasher, Kossuth, Grand Slam Champions 1952 and 1961 Cardinals State Champions Belmont. Six North Half titles and he carried his teams to state finales eight times. Team member, Leiman Wilbanks, represented the Grand Slam team of Kossuth. The 1961 Cardinals championship team of Belmont was represented by five of the six living team members.

And Danny Bishop spoke for the IJC teams.

Buster began his career as a successful automobile dealer (Davis Ford Sales, Inc.) in 1964. He left IJC and his coaching career to devote his time to his Fulton dealership. From 1976-1980 Buster served as director of the Appalachian Regional Commission, under the direction of Governor Cliff Finch, for the main purpose of bringing monies to the Fulton and Tupelo campuses of IJC. Under his directorship he brought more than \$15 million into IJC. In addition, he has been involved in the leadership team of every major development in Itawamba County since 1962. Including the 1968 location of Muller Copper Tube to Fulton, the preservation of the Mississippi Railway and the opening of the Fulton Port on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. His community involvement includes the management and production of consecutive bluegrass and gospel events for St. Jude Children's Hospital and the Regional Rehabilitation Center and a loyal member of

the Fulton Church of Christ. Buster was inducted into the MS Association of Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame, April 2008. He was inducted into ICC's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992.

Buster's four grandchildren welcomed the guest and spoke of the memories of their Daddy Buster, the example he had been in each of their lives. Grandchildren Wendi Bennett Stone (Justin) Micah Horton Yeck (Paul) Tab Bennett and Davis Horton Five great grand children, which are the loves of his life! Tab, with the help of the Davis Ford loyal employees, will strive to continue the legacy of customer service of 53 years this year. In 1965 Buster's older brother Hollis Davis joined him as Warranty Administrator and Parts Manager, after his

death in 2006, Willard Faye Mock (Arlis), Buster's baby sister, became Warranty Administrator and Accounts Receivable Clerk and is still going strong.

Close family friends, Brother Cecil May, Brother

James Leo Segars and Brother Jimmy Moffett were in attendance.

Buster biggest surprise was dear friend and Queen of Blue-grass, Rhonda Vincent and husband Herb Sandker. Rhonda sang a special song to Buster and led the guests in Happy Birthday.

Buster's closing remarks were for Pam and Patti to start planning for his 100th celebration in 10 years. Buster was married (August 22, 1948) to the love of his life, Billie South Davis for 63 years. Buster told his family, after the evening was over, the identity of four individuals who had the most influence on his life of 90 years. Their names: His parents, Hubert and Jessie Davis, Billie (his beloved wife) and Cecil May, Jr.

**Report sent to MM by brother Davis' daughters**



"Buster" Davis (right) Congratulated by Cecil May, Jr.

### Free Financial Management/Retirement Seminar

A free financial management and retirement seminar is being offered for churches of Christ. If you are interested in this free 8-hour seminar that covers such topics as ways to save money, money management mistakes, retirement planning, investing, and savings plans, please contact Jerry Miller, 1-20 Vicksburg Church of Christ at 601-529-2951 or email: actmiller@cablelynx.com.



# “Women in the Church”

## DOES GOD GIVE THE SAME ROLE TO WOMEN THAT HE GIVES TO MEN?

*Editor's Note: The following lesson, by Phil Sanders, was presented on "In Search of the Lord's Way" TV program. It was seen in central Mississippi on Sunday, July 12, 2015. We are very grateful for the excellent scriptural presentation and for permission given to us to publish in the MM. (alf)*

**By Phil Sanders**

In the beginning God created us male and female. He made us in His image and in His likeness. But does God give the same role to women that He gives to men? Let's explore the role of women in the church.

God said in Isaiah 55 verses 8 to 9, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." God's ways are not always our ways, but God's ways are always right. We may not understand God's ways or even agree with them, but God's wisdom far exceeds our own and, through time, God's wisdom proves right every time. So we follow the One who is utterly trustworthy. Psalm 19 verse 9 says, "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether."

Where in the world would any of us be without the women in our lives? They are indeed precious in so many ways and a blessing to the church. I've been blessed with a godly mother who has passed and has gone to be



with the Lord, I now have a faithful and loving wife for more than forty years, with four precious daughters who are all well-educated and very talented. I also have eleven delightful granddaughters. Well, do I care about all the females in my life? Of course I do! I want every good thing for them and want them to serve God and to go to heaven.

The best thing that you can do is to love and serve God faithfully and to help others to love and serve God. Obeying God is an act of love. The Lord Jesus said in John 14 verse 15, that "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." If you want to bless your family, lead them in loving the Lord. Lead them to love the Lord in every way. Don't pick which laws you like and ignore the others. We are to "observe all things" that Jesus commands us. And this touches every aspect of our lives.

Our reading comes from 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 33 to 37. "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment."

When God created Adam and Eve, He created the male first and the female later. God created her to be a "helper fit for him" (Genesis 2 and verse 18). 1 Corinthians 11 and verse 9 says, "for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake." Now the distinctive roles the Scriptures place on men and women are not cultural traditions of bygone eras but God's plan for humans made in His image.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God said to the woman in Genesis 3 and verse 16, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, and in pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." This declaration from the beginning applies to God's order in the home and in the church. This is God's declaration for all time.

Now God's word, thousands of years later, says in 1 Corinthians 11 and verse 3, "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

Now some have assumed that because man is the head of woman, that this makes women inferior to men. The relationship, however, between Christ and the Father is like the relationship of woman to man; consequently, being in subjection

does not mean being less than equal. Paul said the Lord Jesus was equal with the Father but took the form of a servant in the book of Philippians chapter 2 verses 5 to 8. Just because a woman is to be in subjection to a man does not make her less than him. Any man who treats women with disrespect is failing as a Christian.

When the Lord chose people to lead and teach the church, Christ chose men. The twelve apostles were all men, not six men and six women. The seven servants chosen to feed the Grecian widows in Acts 6 were all men. When the Scripture lays down the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3 verses 1 to 14, they are required to be husbands. Now the absence of females in this matter is no accident.

The Scripture gives women in the New Testament various, praiseworthy roles of teaching and service. Women may evangelize privately as Priscilla and Aquilla did with Apollos in Acts 18:26.

Philippians 4:2 to 3 describes Euodia and Syntyche as fellow-laborers with Paul in the gospel. Paul instructed older women in Titus 2 verses 3 to 4 to teach and to train the younger women to love their husbands and their children.

Acts 9 and verse 36 describes Dorcas as a woman "full of good works and acts of charity (or kindness)." Some

***When the Scripture lays down the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3 verses 1 to 14, they are required to be husbands.***

women had spiritual gifts. Acts 21 verse 9 says that Philip, the evangelist, had four daughters who prophesied. Women were the first at the tomb of Jesus, and the Lord sent them to tell the apostles of His resurrection. Women often traveled with Jesus and His disciples and supported His ministry.

Faithful Christian men should treat their wives with honor and respect. 1 Peter 3 and verse 7 says, that "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." When men treat women with disrespect, it's clear that this behavior hinders their prayers to God. Godly men honor women; ungodly men mistreat them.

The New Testament, however, limits the roles women may play in the assembled church and in the leadership of the church. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14 verses 33 to 37, "as in all the churches of the saints. The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their



own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment." It is clear women are not to speak to the whole church to impart teaching.

### *Paul gives four reasons for this restriction on women.*

**1** **First**, the Law says this. It may refer to Genesis 3:16, as noted earlier, or it could be that the female's subordination is due to the sin in the garden. It possibly could come from man's priority in the creation. The Bible says, "Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man" (Genesis 2 and verse 22). Numbers 30 verses 3 to 12 also notes that a woman's vow must be approved either by her father or by her husband; and, if he opposes the vow, then her pledge will not stand.

**2** **Second**, "it is shameful for women (not just wives) to speak in church" (1 Corinthians 14 and verse 35). "Church" here refers to the assembled body as in 1 Corinthians 11 and verse 18. Paul calls the act of a woman speaking in church "shameful" or "disgraceful." While some hold that culture is the source of the shame, it likely means this shame, instead, arises from "God" and his Law. In fact, the pagan cults of both Corinth and Ephesus had women as their high priestesses and teachers, according to Bruce Morton in his book, *Deceiving Winds*. The Lord's commandment was actually counter to the pagan culture of Corinth! God's teaching came to change the world; and we must not let the world change the church.

**3** **Third**, "Let your women keep silent in the churches." Mmm, plural. This practice was not merely to be kept in Corinth, but in all of the churches of Christ across the way. They were to "keep silent." And this phrase "keep silent" is from the Greek word *sigao*, which means to hold one's peace and say nothing. The instruction to "keep silent" is given three times in this chapter. First, a tongue speaker (even if he was a male) is to "keep silent" when no interpreter is present (verse 28). Second, if one prophet is speaking and another receives a revelation, "the first one must keep silent" (verses 29 to 30). And third, he says "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak" (verse 34). Now "speaking" here is a general term which would apply to public talk: that is leading prayer, and preaching, and prophesying, tongue-speaking or interpreting, they were not to do that.

**4** **Fourth**, Paul says this is "the commandment of the Lord" (chapter 14 verse 37). Some gifted Christians likely objected to Paul's instructions, so Paul boldly declares the source of this "commandment" is the Lord himself. There's nothing cultural or temporary about the Lord's command to the churches. Some object, "Well what about the women who were praying and prophesying in 1 Corinthians 11 verses 4 to 7?" Well the primary subject of chapter 11 has to do with wearing veils and not the speaking in church. The "custom" or practice of the day was for women to have long hair and wear a veil. Breaking this custom was, in that day, "disgraceful" and against nature. Now some gifted women may have thought that their spiritual gifts gave them

the right to speak in the assembled church. If the women were speaking in the assembled church in chapter 11, Paul eventually tells them to stop it in chapter 14. Women likely spoke in other settings than the assembled church, such as gatherings of women or in private. Whatever the case, the command of the Lord was to end the practice of women speaking in the assembled churches as a whole.

Now we have this teaching confirmed in 1 Timothy chapter 2. Paul said in 1 Timothy 2 and verse 8, "I desire then that in every place, (that is in every place of worship), the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling." Now Paul chose "men (that is adult males) in every place to pray."

The phrase "in every place" is a specific term, a technical term speaking of the place where congregations assembled to worship. 1 Corinthians 1 and verse 2 uses the term to describe the place where the church assembled. Clearly, God wanted males to take the lead in prayer and worship.

If women are not permitted to lead prayer, surely they are also forbidden to preach. Women are to learn in quietness, and not teach! 1 Timothy 2 verses 11 to 12 says, "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man,

*Now the theological basis for saying women cannot preach arises from the beginning with Adam and Eve, not a cultural bias from Paul himself. "For Adam was formed first, 1 Timothy 2 says, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." (1 Timothy 2 verses 13 to 14). You see, this teaching reveals God's order of life, God's way.*

but to be in silence." Now asserting his apostolic authority, Paul did not permit women to be public teachers of men or to exercise authority over a man at church. She cannot rule or subjugate men to her will at church. Paul does not permit her to take these roles, even if elders, preachers, and other men allow it, God does not. No person has a right to ask or to permit any female to do what is contrary to God's instructions.

To be quiet or silent (it's the Greek word *hesuchia*) here means to be at rest, a spirit and an attitude of tranquility arising from within so that she causes no disturbance. They were to focus on learning not teaching and to remain quiet, to say nothing. This learning was to take place with "entire submissiveness." Now "entire submissiveness," is a complete, voluntary surrender of one's rights or will. It is to give precedence to others; she is to "subordinate herself in every respect." This is not speaking merely of subjection to her husband; this is speaking broadly of women subjecting themselves to the leadership of men in the functions of the church. "Submission" does not mean that one is inferior, or has inferior value or worth but rather that one recognizes one's role in a relationship. As we noted, Jesus was not inferior to God according to Philippians 2 verse 5 to 8, but he willfully subjected himself to his Father.

Now the theological basis for saying women cannot preach arises from the beginning with Adam and Eve, not a cultural bias from Paul himself. "For Adam was formed first, 1 Timothy 2 says, then Eve. Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." (1 Timothy 2 verses 13 to 14). You see, this teaching reveals God's order of life, God's way.

According to historian Everett Ferguson, the writers in the early church history gave evidence that "Women were not appointed as elders, nor did they take public speaking roles in the assembly as prophets, teachers, or leaders in the assembly. Where women did take these roles in some of the heretical and schismatic groups, this practice was a basis for objection to these groups." While times change and cultures change, God's word, God's Bible does not change.

We should use our talents for the Lord, but we shouldn't assume that talents permit us to engage in activities and roles that God never meant for us. Now King Saul was not a priest and he sinned when he presumptuously made a burnt offering at Gilgal, rather than waiting for the high priest Samuel to come (and that's found in 1 Samuel 13 verses 8 to 14). And even though he was king, Saul had no right to make this sacrifice. By presuming that he could act without authority, Saul lost his place with God. You remember King Uzziah also became proud and transgressed against the LORD by "entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense" (2 Chronicles 26 and verse 16). Now Uzziah was not a Levite, so Azariah the priest and eighty others rightly withstood him. God punished Uzziah for his sin. God will not let an unmarried or childless man be an elder either. So it's not a matter of gender, it's a matter of qualifications.

Even Jesus, as the Son of God, could not serve as a Levitical priest in the temple because He was from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7 and verse 14). You see, Jesus didn't feel cheated because he couldn't function as a Levitical priest in the temple. You see, giftedness does not grant the right to overrule God's laws. The Scriptures demand that anyone who leads must meet the qualifications. And so, rather than feeling cheated over what we aren't permitted to do, we should focus on the things that we can and should do to serve God. And so with joy and thanksgiving let's follow His will and not our own.

Someone objects, "Well isn't being limited unfair to women?" The answer to that question is no. God has given women marvelous roles in virtually every other area than in the leadership of the church. God has given women some roles that men will never be able to fill. Should men object and feel cheated? Well the answer is no. Our task is to pursue the work that God has given us to the best of our ability rather than envy what God has given to someone else. In God's eyes, every member of the body, that is the church, is valuable though they have different functions.

1 Corinthians 12 verses 14 to 19 says, "For the body {that is the church} is not one member, but many. And if the foot says, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it's not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it's not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be?" Yes, God has a place and a purpose for every single one!

Please let Jesus be Lord of your life. Trust His ways; they are higher than our ways. Believe in the Lord Jesus, turn from sin and selfishness to serve Him, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And when you're baptized, God washes away your sins and makes you His child. Oh become a Christian today!



# FROM PAUL'S PEN

## Long Beach Church

### Celebrates 50th Anniversary



On September 9, 1977, Glenda and I were married. We spent our honeymoon at the Broad Water Beach Hotel in Biloxi, MS. While we were on the coast, we visited the Long Beach Church of Christ in Long Beach, Mississippi and attended our first church service as "Mr. & Mrs."

This past October, Glenda and I were on the coast again. We went back to the church on Cleveland Avenue to join with them in their 50th anniversary celebration. The church has over 100 members and has a contribution of around \$5,000 a week. **Mark Hodges**, minister and **Conor Fox**, as associate minister, take turns preaching for this church. Also, **Glenn Laubmeier** works with the youth program and **Brenda Chapman** is the office manager.

The elders of the church are **George Eyrick**, **George**

**Moore**, **John Tate**, **Jeff Tipton** and **Mark Hodges**. One of the major outreaches of this church, over the years, is their involvement with the Panama Medical Mission work. On the big day of the celebration, a breakfast buffet was prepared by the congregation, headed up by **Sue Eyrick** and **Suzanne Bramlett**. The meeting room where the lunch was served was beautifully decorated.

**Jeff Tipton** led the singing which was some of the best I have heard in a long time. **Mark Hodges** made a few comments to open the day. **Allen Welford**, one of the first members of the congregation, came back from his home in Tupelo, MS and made a talk about the beginnings of the church. *It was mentioned that, at one time, the small, struggling congregation had almost given up when they received a call from the Cleveland Church of Christ in Cleveland, MS. The Cleveland church made known their willingness to send a preacher and also help with the building of a new meeting house.*

One of the past preachers who was able to attend the celebration was **Gerald Bennett** and his wife, **Judy**. Gerald was their preacher in the late 70's. Afterwards, he moved to



**Asher Anderson**

Houston, Texas where he spent the rest of his preaching career preaching there. Gerald mentioned his love for this church and the great work he enjoyed while being on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Also, **Conor Fox** did a great job in concluding the morning lessons as he challenged the church with the topic, "Moving Forward".

Over the past 50 years, the Long Beach church has gone through some difficult times, including two major hurricanes; *Camille* in 1969 and *Katrina* in 2005. The church has a beautiful facility and several young people including **Asher Anderson**, who walked up to me and told me how much he loved reading the *Magnolia Messenger*. From my perspective, the church at Long beach has a bright future. Let's continue to pray for the growth of this congregation and the Cause of Christ on the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast. (PF)



**Elders of the Long Beach, Mississippi Church of Christ**



**Judy and Gerald Bennett**



**Conner Fox & Mark Hodges, Preachers**

## A Great Rally At J.P. Coleman State Park

We had our 2nd Annual North MS/TN/AL Magnolia Messenger Rally at J.P. Coleman State Park the first week of November of 2016 with over 50 people in attendance. The weather was beautiful! **Lional McKee** received the Best Camper Award.

**Ronnie and Cathy Livingston** and **Carl and Cathy Powell** did a great job of leading the rally. We heard some great messages from **Rodney Livingston** and **Tony Brown**. Great fellowship, great food, in a beautiful place are the reasons why you need to make plans to attend the 3rd Annual Rally at J.P. Coleman State Park in November on the 8th-11th, 2017.

Several people came in their RV's while others stayed in the lodge and the cabins. This rally provides a wonderful time and opportunity to make new friends and to encourage the work of the *Magnolia Messenger*. These rallies serve as a pep rally for this ministry. A special thanks to **Ronnie and Cathy** in helping us to raise almost \$2,000 to assist in the work of the MM.



**Tony Brown**



**Rodney Livingston**



**Lional McKee (right) given Best Camper award by Ronnie Livingston**

**Next MM Rally - April 24-27, 2017**  
Roosevelt State Park; Morton, MS  
Information: 662-792-2700



## JOURNEYS OF PAUL

### ■ Biloxi, MS (Rodenberg Ave Church)

Bill Denton is the preacher for the Biloxi church. On a recent Sunday night we were privileged to visit this congregation. They had a very good class on prayer. Afterward, one of the members, Dwain Jones prayed one of the most encouraging prayers I have ever heard. Since the 2005 hurricane blew away most of the buildings on Hwy 90, you can now see the gulf from the Biloxi church building. If you are on the coast, go by and visit this congregation. They would love to have you.



### ■ Old Union (Carrollton, MS)

Mike Schmitz is the preacher at this country congregation. Bob and Sonya Mims, who have been our friends for many years, are members of this congregation. Bob runs a business in Holcomb, MS that builds all kinds of small storage buildings. There was a good crowd the morning we visited and heard brother Mike preach a great lesson.



### ■ Houston, MS (South Jackson Church)

We attended a fall gospel meeting in Houston in October. We



got to the building for the delicious fellowship meal and were blessed to visit with old friends, Darrell and Elizabeth Simon. Their son, Craig is the preacher for this congregation. We really enjoyed our visit and heard great things about Craig from the members of the Houston church.

### ■ Tupelo (The Mall at Barnes Crossing)

When you are in Tupelo, you have to go to the mall. One of the stores that I went into was Barnes and Noble Book Store. It was interesting to see what I saw in this store!



### ■ Sherman (Church of Christ)

Since we were in the Tupelo area and having heard that the company for which the preacher of the Sherman congregation works, had recently purchased the printing shop in Hattiesburg where the Magnolia Messenger is printed, we decided to visit this church. The two elders are both retired preachers, Gene Shocklee and Joe Connell. I have known brother Joe and sister Pat for many years and it was great to visit with them. Clay Foster is the preacher at Sherman and is also the Publisher and CEO of the Tupelo Daily Journal.



Preacher Clay Foster & Wife, Lana

singing that was going to take place at the last of October. Keith Lancaster who we have known for many years is the worship leader for this church. We love good singing and decided to attend this service. Several churches came from other places around Alabama to this event. Keith got up and made a comment that we need to sing songs that are Biblical based and strive to sing with all of our hearts. He has been conducting a cappella seminars across this nation and the world trying to help churches with a cappella singing! During this service we didn't hear one hand to clap, no praise team, just a hour and half of wonderful gospel singing. Cori Lewis a graduate of Faulkner University is the preaching minister.



Where the Cullman Church of Christ Assembles

### ■ Cullman, AL (Church of Christ)

Glenda and I were near Cullman, AL and had heard about a

### ■ Philadelphia, MS

I have been a friend with Kenny Bush for over 35 years. Kenny was recently given recognition for his many years of service with Yates Construction Company based in Philadelphia. A large write up about him appeared in a magazine called U.S. Business Executive. Kenny is the General Counsel and Vice President of Human Resources and Risk Management in the company that employs over 8,500 people. The article mentions that Kenny asks each manager who is thinking of firing someone a question. Kenny explained by saying, "My first question to the manager is always, 'Is this person salvageable?' because if they are, we need to figure out how to put them in the right position; and if not, we need to figure out how to treat the person with dignity and respect while we let them go." Kenny is a member of the 7th Street Church of Christ in Columbus, MS.

### ■ Kosciusko, MS (Tipton Street Church)

On November 15th, I had the opportunity to hear Jesse Davis from Meridian speak on the need for commitment. It was a great message. Jesse attended MBC in the early 1980's. James Evans of Canton, Johnny Beckwith of Philadelphia and Prince Lewis, who preaches for the church in DeKalb, came to hear Brother Davis as well. Don Woods is the local preacher.



Preachers Present at Tipton Included Johnny Beckwith(Philadelphia), Prince Lewis (DeKalb), James Evans (Canton), Don Woods (Tipton) and Jesse Davis (Meridian)

### ■ Tuscumbia, AL (4th Street Church of Christ)

The 4th Street congregation in Tuscumbia provides a meal before Wednesday night services. Recently, we were blessed to go with Carl and Cathy Powell to visit, eat and worship with this congregation. The first person we met was Larry Davenport, one of the elders. Larry serves as director of the Challenge Youth Conference held in Gatlinburg each February where over 12,000 young people attend. Also, I met Jeff Abrams, the pulpit minister. When Jeff got up to make announcements, he mentioned that if anyone in the audience had a bad attitude that night, they could get up and leave. He was kidding, of course, but he knew we were there and would likely say something in the Magnolia Messenger about our visit with the friendly church. Carl and Cathy, a few months ago, had sent many of the addresses of the members so most are receiving the MM. It was a very encouraging visit with this church of 400. The elders of this congregation are Larry Davenport, Steve Grissom, Herbert Norris, Doug Walker and Grant Wright.



Jeff Abrams (preacher) and Larry Davenport (one of 5 elders). Larry also serves as director of the Challenge Youth Conference held each winter in Gatlinburg, TN.

## Iuka and Pleasant Grove Churches

During the time we were in NE Mississippi, we were privileged to visit the congregation in Iuka where Lance and Sandra Foster have worked for many years. Dwight Pharr and Mikey Shea are the elders and Carolyn Wilbanks is the church secretary.

We also visited the Pleasant Grove church, located to the north of J. P. Coleman State Park. We learned this church celebrated its 100th anniversary during 2016. Craig Chandler, who works in Corinth, also serves as preacher for this congregation. We had opportunity to talk about the Magnolia Messenger and were also blessed to visit with James and Barbara Austin, active members of the church.

We were treated so well by both Iuka and the Pleasant Grove churches that we are looking forward to a return visit soon.



Craig Chandler Family Craig Preaches for Pleasant Grove Church



# Garland Elkins Is Gone

*(Reflections by Will Anderson)*

Garland Elkins lived a life that touched countless other lives and made an incredible impact on the Lord's church. There are many characteristics that come to mind when his name is mentioned. Many might think of his almost perfect recall of large portions of the Bible.

Others bring to mind his soft demeanor and the care with which he dealt with others. His students will probably remember lining up along the wall to practice memory work. Just ask any of his former students to quote Matthew 1:18-25.

Personally, the attribute that endeared Brother Elkins (along with Sister Corinne) to myself and my family more than any other was his encouraging nature. He believed in the abilities of others and did what he could to encourage excellence. Possibly the greatest compliment I have ever received came from him after my final chapel talk as a student at the Memphis School of Preaching. It was a moment that I knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that he believed in me. He always had a word of encouragement. He would even usually have a dollar ready when he came across a little child.

Brother Elkins will be missed. His contributions to the Lord's cause are easily seen. When I received news of his passing, a particular verse came to my mind, and likely came to the minds of many who knew him well; 2 Samuel 3:38. It was a verse he regularly quoted when a brother in Christ passed from this life, and now it can be applied to him. "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"



**Garland Elkins Age 90  
1926 - 2016**

## "Delta Enrichment" At Greenwood

**January 28, 2017**

**Brad Harrub, Speaker**

The annual Delta Enrichment meeting will be held in Greenwood, MS at the West President Ave. Church of Christ at 1002 West President Avenue. The speaker for this event will be Brad Harrub of Franklin, TN. His presentation will be focused on "Creation vs Evolution."

Dr. Harrub is well qualified to speak on this subject having authored or co-authored numerous scientific publications in science journals as well as several books, tracts, and articles. He is the executive director and co-founder of Focus Press and co-editor of Think Magazine. He and his wife, Melinda, and their three children attend the Southern Hills church of Christ in Franklin, Tennessee.

The date of this seminar will be on Saturday, January 28, 2017 with registration from 9:00 to 9:30 A.M. The first lesson will begin at 9:30. **Lunch will be served.** (For more information, call 662-515-8238.)



## Two Churches in SW MS Searching For One Preacher

(Woodville, MS)

Bernard Waites, who preached for two congregations in SW Mississippi for more than fifty years has elected to retire from preaching. As a result, the Corinth and Perrytown congregations are now in search of a preacher to follow in his footsteps.

For more information, contact:

**Elliott Hammack • 225-776-2946  
drhammack@hotmail.com.**

## Bible Questions & Answers

# What the Bible Says about Paradise

*Continued from page 3*

be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43), and Peter, a few days later, said, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption" (Acts 2:31). So the Paradise Jesus mentioned on the cross is part of Hades, with the other part involving "torment" and "flames."

The word "Tartarus" occurs just once in Scripture and some versions, including the ESV, translate it "hell." "for if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment" (2 Peter 2:4). Many have applied that term to where the rich man was in Hades, "in torment." In that case, Hades is seen as divided into two compartments, "Paradise" and "Tartarus."

## The Rest of the Questions

Some of these questions, but not all, are specifically addressed in the account of Lazarus and the Rich Man.

***"What do you think the spirits do there? Can they see across the great gulf? Can they speak to others in Abraham's bosom? Can they speak to those they may know where the rich man is?"***

Unlike heaven, where the redeemed are portrayed as singing, serving and praising God, nothing is said about how the spirits in Hades spend their time. That is true, just because it is not germane to the point Jesus is making. Abraham and the rich man could see each other and converse across the great gulf or huge chasm. However, Abraham said there could be no passing from one place to the other. It is an unanswered question whether the rich man talking to Abraham was a special case or whether they could converse generally across the chasm to just anyone.

***"Do they sing praises to God? Do they receive blessings from God?"***

Jesus does not address that in Luke. Paul does say, "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (Philippians 1:23). Somehow the Christian's situation right after death is "far better" than here on earth. To depart and be with Christ seems to imply an immediate "being with Christ" and blessings received at death. Christ, of course, like God, is omnipresent, everywhere at the same time. We will receive blessings and sing God's praises in heaven. That may be true as well in Hades.

***"Do they know others around them? Are they aware that their loved ones are back on earth, like family, wives and children? Can they anticipate their joining them sometime?"***

Both Lazarus and the rich man knew Abra-

ham, so, yes. The rich man remembered his brothers back on earth and was concerned about them. However, there is no indication he could communicate with them or that he could know what they are doing while he is in Hades. One of our fondest hopes is rejoining our redeemed loved ones in heaven. Do those who have gone on have the same expectation for those still behind? As far as I know, the Bible does not address that, but it seems likely. A spiritual song says, "If you get there before I do, tell all my friends I'm coming too."

***Will my husband know me when I arrive there as his wife?***

I am certain we will know each other in heaven, and apparently the same is true in this intermediate Hades stage. David said concerning his dead child, "I can go to him, but he cannot return to me" (2 Samuel 23). That makes no sense unless David would know the child. Jesus said, "I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11). Again, that surely means we will recognize Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The conversation Jesus had with the Sadducees not only implies that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are "living," it also implies the resurrection, not just the continuance of the soul or life principal. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will have a "spiritual" but still recognizable "body." They are not only still alive; they are still Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Matthew 22:29-32).

Jesus says, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). Our spiritual bodies, no longer "flesh and blood" (1 Corinthians 15:50), will not have carnal appetites; we will have no capacity or desire for sex or food. We will still know, and love, our life-long companions, but the exclusive "one flesh" relationship we have with them on earth will not be in heaven. We will know them, and we will not love them less; we will just love others in heaven more.

***Will he still have dementia?***

No. Dementia is a terrible disease, especially for the loved ones and caregivers of the one afflicted. For certain, nothing like that will be in heaven and, presumably, not in the Paradise of Hades! Our "incorruptible," "immortal," "glorious" resurrection bodies will not be subject to death or any kind of disease or deterioration. We are not told what the resurrection bodies will look like. To me "spirit" and "body" are opposite things; so I cannot mentally grasp "spiritual body." But I do not have to understand it to believe it. I believe it "for the Bible tells me so."

## Conclusion

Not, I presume, today, but one day, I pray that Jesus will say to all of us, "You will be with me in Paradise."



# God's KINGDOM STILL GROWS!

By John Gardner

Many who read these words may experience God's kingdom/church as a local body of believers that is *small in number and on a track that offers limited prospects for real growth*. In fact, many local churches are looking at *declining numbers* and *diminishing resources* in the future unless matters change. Such a realistic view is necessary if God's people are to do all they can to be faithful and to work for a reversal of trends. But focusing only on the local church's apparent decline can be very discouraging and cause even the faithful to become discouraged.

We need to remember that no matter how small or plagued with problems, if we are a church that truly belongs to Christ, we are serving a great God and King



whose kingdom grows! In one sense, because God rules over all the earth (Psalm 103: 19), his kingdom is complete and cannot be expanded. But in the sense

of God's redemptive kingdom on earth (Matthew 16: 18, 19), where he rules in the hearts of men and women as he saves them, that kingdom is ever growing! Three of Jesus' short parables help put that growth in perspective for us.

## The Seed Growing of Itself.

The Seed Growing of Itself. The first parable we want to consider is largely overlooked by many Christians, unless they are making an extensive study of Jesus' parables or of the Gospel of Mark. Tucked away in Mark Chapter 4 is a

brief, but encouraging parable that clearly teaches us that God makes his kingdom grow. "And He said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

***But let us also know that  
the kingdom is much, much  
larger than a local church.  
It is much, much larger than all  
of the American churches  
of Christ. God's kingdom  
reaching into  
all the world continues  
to spread and grow wherever  
his gospel has gone.  
Its growth is certain.***

For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, after that the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come" (Vv. 26 – 29 New King James Version).

Men and women of God must do their part, for sure, sowing the seed of the kingdom which is the word of God (here as in the Parable of the Sower – Luke 8: 11). But God makes the seed grow and ultimately brings a harvest (1 Corinthians 3: 6, 7). Much of God's powerful work in

lives is unseen until near time for harvest, but the kingdom is still growing while it moves to visible expression in souls saved, added, and changed. There is a lot more to kingdom growth than the day of harvest which is, of course, its goal.

## The Hidden Leaven.

The Hidden Leaven. "Another parable He spoke to them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened'" (Matthew 13: 33). Among other lessons from this short teaching is the truth that God's kingdom grows as those transferred into the kingdom (Colossians 1: 13) and transformed by it (Ephesians 4: 22 – 24) contact all around them. Wherever disciples alive in Christ are in all parts of the world, there the transforming work of God goes on.

A lot of the growth is unseen for a while (hidden in the meal or buried underground as in the previous parable), but it is reaching in every direction shaping the world. To focus only on the immediate visible progress of some is to miss the larger picture of a world being changed from the inside out by the power of our God. Those we touch with authentic faith will touch others we will never see, and they will touch others. Live the life, be the influence in word and deed, and know that kingdom growth is underway. The transformation of many we influence may not be fully evident for a long time and in circumstances where we no longer will see them. The here and now is not the full picture of kingdom growth.

## The Mustard Seed.

The Mustard Seed. Matthew 13: 31, 32 says, "Another parable He put forth to them, saying, 'The kingdom of heav-

en is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that birds of the air come and nest in its branches.'" The main point of the parable is to assure believers that the growth of God's kingdom will ultimately be majestic and great, far greater than its meager beginnings would indicate. From microscopic seed to majestic tree (bush) several feet tall!

What an image of the growing kingdom of God! We are a part of God's work that has a marvelous future. The kingdom of God keeps going and growing, spreading and reaching upward in the sight of God. At the end of God's great work, voices in heaven will say, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11: 15 ESV). Amen!

When it seems that our enemy Satan is thwarting the growth of God's kingdom where we live and serve, let us work hard to overcome that. But let us also know that the kingdom is much, much larger than a local church. It is much, much larger than all of the American churches of Christ. God's kingdom reaching into all the world continues to spread and grow wherever his gospel has gone. Its growth is certain.

As the beloved song urges us, let us keep on "sowing the seed of the kingdom, brother" because we know at the end of the way, at the end of the day, there is "a harvest pure and bright". I want to see that astounding harvest and be a part of it. How about you?

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# How Far Should Shepherd Go?

## Covetousness: Serious Sin?

By Jim Howard

An elder of the church went to visit a member well known for his stinginess. Being the bold sort, the elder thought facing the miser would be the only right thing to do.

He sat down with the fellow and told him straight out that covetousness was idolatry and that the elders were worried about his soul. "I know you are not giving as you should," said the elder, "and I want us to study about it for your own soul's sake,"

Coldly the miser answered, "If you know that I haven't been giving as I should, you probably know about my brother, too, huh?" "No," answered the elder. "I don't." "Well, sir, my brother was wounded in Viet Nam and has been confined in a hospital for the past 15 years at exorbitant cost." "Oh my," answered the embarrassed elder. "I didn't know. I'm sorry!"

"And I guess you know that my mother is in a nursing home. She's been there for the past five years and that



Dropping his head, the red-faced elder apologized and said, "Brother, you have shown me today that it is wrong to judge someone from afar. I hope you will forgive me for my harsh attitude. I understand completely."

"I knew you would," answered the man. "After all, if I'm not going to give to them, I'm surely not going to give to you."

This church bulletin article from the Cawson Street Church of Christ, Hopewell, VA (No date, no author's name given) serves as the perfect introduction to some thoughts on elders and stewardship. Some elders of the church are hesitant to want to know what members of their church family (their sheep) are giving to the Lord and His church. And yet inspired scripture admonishes "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give account" (Heb. 13:17). After more than forty years in ministry (and never having observed any church discipline for failure in giving) it is my firm opinion that far more will be lost eternally because of covetousness than any other sin one might name. It was Jesus who said, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Lk. 12:15). In fact it will surprise many to realize that Jesus had more to say about wealth and its dangers than any other subject.

In ancient times the good shepherd provided complete awareness of and total care for every aspect of the sheep's

life. How can godly elders watch over the souls of members under their care without knowing their attitudes and practices reflected in their giving and lifestyles? At a congregation where my older son worshiped some years ago, the elders asked him to assist in counting money. After several months he went to the elders and resigned the

***It is my firm opinion that far more will be lost eternally because of covetousness than any other sin one might name.***

job. He explained that watching families who lived in four-hundred-thousand dollar homes and driving fifty-thousand-dollar automobiles drop a twenty-dollar check in the collection basket was threatening his faith.

Your shepherds, watching over your souls, have the right and responsibility to know whether your giving reflects your lifestyle. If you are a member of a local church and give by check, someone in that church knows what you give. Perhaps this is a matter of sufficient significance that your elders should be the ones who count the contribution.

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

## Preacher Being Sought Hamilton, MS

The church of Christ at Hamilton MS is searching for a minister to work with their congregation in Monroe County MS. Salary and house provided. Do you know of anyone that might be interested? Are you interested? If you know anyone that might be interested please give them our contact numbers. If you are interested, please contact the elders:

**James A Nevins: 662-436-9948**  
**Ronnie West: 662-889-7801**

## Weekend Parents Needed Berean Childrens' Home

A home for needy children operated by Christians, near Brookhaven, Mississippi, is presently searching for weekend parents to care for both boys and girls. If you are interested, please contact the home for information about job requirements, hours, and pay.

**Phone: 601-823-5776**  
**email: [bereanchildrenshome@cablone.net](mailto:bereanchildrenshome@cablone.net)**  
**1180 Berea Trail SE • Bogue Chitto, MS 39629**

## "Voice of Truth, International"

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# from a Woman's Viewpoint

For the most part we, as a people, don't like to lose. We can see this in many areas of life. It is seen in sports, whether we participate or just watch. We certainly see this in the political arena of our country. It is a fact of life that not everyone can win; someone has to lose!

We know this but, often times, we are sore losers. We should set the proper example before our children in the matter of losing and teach them the proper attitude we should have toward those who may win. As parents, we should help our children overcome setbacks but also help them to see the importance of congratulating those who win. We should always remember

-- not everybody gets a trophy but, according to the Bible, we can all receive a crown. The apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and **not to me only**, but to **all of them** also that love his appearing." (II Timothy 4: 7,8)



Winning is so much more fun. It is human nature to want to win. We should make it our goal to win in this life and to eventually win that crown that is made available for everyone. We can all be winners. God made us free moral agents. It is up to us to decide if we want to put forth the effort required to win the race of life. Paul said in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." There is a prize to be won. The greatest prize is an eternal home in heaven.

Our question is, "**What do you have to lose?**" We mean, "**What would you lose by living the Christian life?**" Even if one doesn't believe in God, scriptural principles still work and bring benefits. For instance, if we all would love our neighbors, just think what a better world it would be. Living a "Christian life" is profitable in this life. We have much to gain; nothing really to lose. We are really better off, even in this life, when live according to the principles set forth in God's Word.

Just take a look at all the people you know who are now living miserable lives because of the way they have conducted themselves. The Bible says, "By faith Moses, when he was he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to *enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*" (Hebrews 11: 24,25). Of course, sin would not be nearly as popular or practiced if there were no pleasures connected with it. The devil has convinced many to live thinking that the only way to be happy is to engage in sin behavior. As to be expected, our Enemy (Satan) never shows the *downside* of sin or the *end results*.

# What Do You Have To Lose?

## Example No. 1

## ALCOHOL

Take, for example, the person who becomes an alcoholic. He/she never thought, when taking that first drink, they would become an alcoholic. A well known politician recently was heard to say, "*Don't ever touch alcohol or drugs; then you won't ever become addicted.*" Isn't that true? Now, you may think you would never become addicted, but you could very well be. The stakes are high!

We also need to consider our influence on when engaging in the use of alcohol. You may not be become addicted yourself; but, your *example* could influence someone else to become enslaved. Today's social media gives the impression that to be accepted, drinking is a necessity. This is a lie of the devil. Numerous are the recipes for mixed drinks and margaritas that are constantly posted on Facebook. Don't forget: the Bible says, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is **deceived thereby** is **NOT wise***" (Proverbs 20: 1). The Bible also calls upon followers of Christ, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil*" (I Thessalonians 5: 22).

Just think of all the lives that have been ruined by the use of alcohol, the marriages that have been broken up, the crimes that have been committed and the lives that have been lost due to the influence of alcohol. Remember, our question is, "**What do you have to lose by not ever touching it?**" You certainly would not have to face so many of the difficulties associated with the use of alcohol. You would have much to gain by not ever touching or tasting alcohol.

## Example No. 2

## ILLICIT SEX

The devil is deceitful in convincing the multitudes that one of the main ways to enjoy life is by engaging in illicit sexual conduct (fornication and adultery). We see example after example of great heartache suffered because of bad decisions to go outside the boundaries set by God. The Bible states: "*Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled, but **fornicators and adulterers God will judge***" (Heb. 13:4). God's rules/laws are not designed to hurt us. They are for our benefit. When we obey God, we are not only a *better people*, we are a *happier people!* Even if God's Word were not God's word; (but, of course, we know that it is); we would still be a much better and happier people by following Bible teachings.

Now it is true, that even faithful Christians sin at times and experience difficulties, but they don't have the problems of those who continue the practice of sin. The Bible teaches that, for those who repent and *walk in the light*, God forgives **all sin**. "*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" (I John 1: 7) Think about it: What do you have to lose by living a good moral life? No doubt, you enjoy a better life *now*; but,

remember: This earthly life is not all there is to it. The Bible says, "*It is appointed unto men once to die but **after this the judgment...***" (Hebrews 9: 27).

In addition to living a good moral life, there are definite steps that must be taken in preparation for the Judgment and/or death. As the apostle Peter was preaching the first gospel sermon (on the day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2), many were pricked in their hearts and cried out, "What must we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and baptized everyone one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins: and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:37,38). Those who evidenced their faith, through obedience, were added to the Lord's church. Holy Scripture teaches that Jesus is the Saviour of the church which is his body" (See Ephesians 5:23). By becoming a Christian and living a Christ-like life, you have everything to gain. Have you obeyed the gospel plan of salvation? Are you in Christ, His church, His body? Are you living a good moral life? You have nothing of real value to lose by living and dying in Christ; instead you have everything of real and lasting value to gain.

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## Recipes For Our Readers

We have had several requests through the years to make recipes available through the pages of the Magnolia Messenger. We have included a recipe in this issue that many have requested. Since I cannot remember who gave me the recipe and it has no name on it, I cannot give proper credit for it. It is one of my favorite dessert recipes and is my most requested recipe. We sure hope that you will enjoy this new feature and will benefit by making some of the recipes that will be featured in future issues.

### White Chocolate Bread Pudding

16 slices of White bread  
(you can use hot dog buns)  
3 large beaten eggs  
2 cups of sugar  
1 quart milk or 4 cups  
1 stick margarine, melted  
1 tsp. vanilla

Sauce:  
1 stick margarine  
1- 6 oz. bag white  
chocolate chips  
1 cup confectioner sugar  
½ tsp vanilla  
6 tsp water

Break bread into pieces and put in a greased 9 by 13 baking dish. Mix eggs, sugar, milk, melted margarine and vanilla. Pour over bread pieces. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Melt 1 stick of margarine and white chocolate chips in microwave. Stir until creamy. Add confectioner sugar, vanilla and water. Mix well until smooth. Pour over the pudding about 5-10 minutes before done and place back in oven. This can be garnished with 1 Tablespoon of Cool whip on top of each serving.

(Note: I like lots of sauce on top so I double the sauce recipe. mjf)



# MAGNOLIA Messenger

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of Christ**

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## Seeking Full-time Pulpit Minister

# Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ

Lake Charles, LA <http://www.blvdchurchofchrist.org/>

### Minister Qualifications:

The primary role includes preaching and teaching, with secondary role of visitation and counseling. College educated person must hold strictly to biblical authority and be at least 30 years of age with a minimum of five years of previous Church of Christ evangelistic experience. He needs to have a strong marriage, good family relationship, and a wife that is actively participating in church ministries. Salary depends upon experience and resume.

### Minister Skills:

He must be a strong pulpit minister and an effective teacher that has strong organizational and planning skills. Using technology is required during office hours and worship services. He needs to have the ability and desire to teach Bible classes. Strong interpersonal and counseling skills are a must. Qualified person will have the ability to interact with members of all ages.

### Our Ministries:

Camp Red Oak Springs, Magnolia Messenger, Give Me the Bible and In Search of the Lord's Way Television Ministries, Kenya, India, Lithuania

and Tunica, Mississippi Missions.

### Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ:

Our congregation is 75 years old, situated in an economically growing community, with an average attendance of about 230 souls per week. We have 6 elders, 5 deacons, full time secretary, youth minister, college campus minister, numerous teachers and volunteers.

Our facility is located in the center of the city of Lake Charles close to Interstate 10. The building has a large auditorium, large minister's office, youth room, fellowship hall, many classrooms, and surrounded by neighborhoods, schools, and shopping. Lake Charles is in the southwest corner of Louisiana and offers many attractive amenities.

Initial letter of interest and resume should be sent to <http://www.blvdchurchofchrist.org/>, Attn: Minister Search in subject line. We will attempt to answer initial requests within 72 hours. Church number: 337-439-9761. We pray for God's direction and blessings. Thank you!

## 2017 Faulkner Lectures March 5-9

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profit of ALL THE ONE HOLY Spirit  
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Melvin Otey, "Born of Water and the Spirit"  
David Shannon, "Holy Men of God Spoke as They Were Moved by the Holy Spirit"  
Clark Sims, "Be Filled with the Spirit"  
Allen Webster, "The Spirit and the Bride Say, 'Come'"

### Morning Keynote Speakers:

David Shannon, "Who Is the Holy Spirit?"  
Clark Sims, "What Does the Holy Spirit Do?"  
Allen Webster, "When Does the Holy Spirit Work?"  
Mike Whisenant, "Why Does the Holy Spirit Matter?"

### Women Sessions Keynotes:

Lisa Williams, "The Conquering Spirit"  
Clydetta Fulmer, "Lessons from the Lives and Words of the Prophetesses"  
Melissa Lester, "Where the Spirit Leads"

### Two-Day and Three-Day Sessions:

Cecil May Jr., "The Spirit's Work in the World"  
Alan Highers, "1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14"  
Tim Mahler, "Christian Leadership"  
Chris Coil, "The Silence of the Scriptures"  
Gary Hampton, "The Providence of God"  
Bruce Morton, "The Holy Spirit, Tongues, and Ancient Mystery Religions"

### Youth and Family Ministry Summit:

David Shannon, Eric Gray, Mark Butts, Jeremy Hinote, Andrew Kingsley, Jason Campbell, Phil Baus, Jon Podein, Paul Spurlin, and Ryan Gallagher

A Church and Business Workshop will be conducted on Thursday, March 9, from 9 to 4.

For more information contact David W. Hester by phone at (334) 386-7154 or by email at [dhester@faulkner.edu](mailto:dhester@faulkner.edu).

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# Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

By Eddie Lewis  
Missionary to North Mississippi,  
9423 Laurel Hill,  
Olive Branch, MS 38654.  
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*It was a great joy for me to visit among the churches. This quarter I have been serving as an interim for the church in Tiptersville on the Sundays I have been free to visit with them. I also, have helped the church in Cleveland while their minister was gone on a mission trip. The following is my report as I visited among the churches.*

By Eddie Lewis

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

**July 3:** I was invited to preach at the **Antioch church of Christ** in Independence, MS. Once a month I preach for the church there. The church has no elders and about 30 in attendance. I feel blessed to help the church there. In Bible class I presented the lesson, "Rejoice in the Lord" based on Joshua 8:30-35. It talks about the importance of taking a spiritual time out. In the worship, I considered Ephesians 3:1-13, "Decoding the Mystery." It is a look at the mystery of how God reconciled the Jews and the Gentiles and how He reconciled man to Himself. This mystery is a tremendous blessing for our lives.

**July 10:** I visited with the **Enid church of Christ**. Mike Briscoe is the minister there. He has worked with the church for a little over a year. Mike's story is a good one. He was baptized in 2005 and encouraged by different preachers in the area to preach. He really did not want to do it, but through the encouragement of many people, he now preaches for the church in Enid. In addition, I had the privilege of meeting Don and Katie Wood who have worked with several churches in the area and now retired from full time ministry. I know they are a great encouragement to the church in Enid. I was able to visit with them as we shared a meal together.



Mike Briscoe and Jimmy Roland

In Bible class, they are using the Gospel Advocate Annual Lessons Commentary 2015-16. One of the members, Jimmy Roland, was the teacher. He did a good job of leading the class in a study of the life and work of John Mark. There were many good discussions. In worship, Mike preached on a passage in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5). He talked about each of the beatitudes and then he emphasized that we are to be the salt of the earth. He mentioned some characteristics of salt and how it applies to us as Christians. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed my visit with the folks there.



Don and Katie Wood

**July 17:** I was invited to be part of a Gospel Meeting at **Potts Camp church of Christ**. Jerry Coats is the minister there. He has served the church for several years. This is my third year to be one of the speakers for the meeting. I really appreciate the invitation. They have around 50 in attendance, but on this special Sunday 109 came. As always, they had a wonderful time of fellowship.

I spoke in the Bible class. The theme for the meeting was Marriage and Family Relations. I spoke on "God's View of the Family." Tony Farese, an attorney from a law firm in Ashland, MS and

a member of the Beech Hill church, delivered the sermon. His theme was, "Trouble We Face When We Exclude God From The Home." He did a wonderful job. It was good to meet Tony. I spoke for the afternoon service. We had a period of singing and then I presented my lesson on "The Blessing." It was a good day for all.



Eddie Lewis, Jerry Coats, and Tony Farese

**July 24:** I visited with the **Water Valley church of Christ**. David Floyd has been the minister there for 14 years. He moved to Water Valley to help care for his parents who worked with the church. They asked David to take his father's place when his father resigned. David just retired from teaching school. The church has no elders and around 30 in attendance. It was a joy to meet the folks in Water Valley. It is a good congregation.



David and Cynthia Floyd

David's lesson was from Acts 14. He gave out some extensive notes on his lesson. It was very good and he asked some important question from the chapter. One point he made about Paul and Barnabas, as they faced persecution in Iconium, was "they spoke boldly with reliance upon the Lord." The Lord supported them with signs and wonders to testify to God's grace. What a powerful reality that God supports us if we rely on Him.



Lyndell and Virginia Fikes

**July 31:** I was invited to preach for the **Plainview church of Christ**. Tom House is the minister there. Tom was on vacation and asked me to sub for him. It was wonderful to see the folks at Plainview. I had visited with the church before, so it was good to see everyone and renew friendships. I had lunch with Lyndell and Virginia Fikes. It was good to learn about them and their ministry over the years. In addition, it was good to see Milton Barlow again. He led the singing for the service.

In Bible class, I led the class in a study of Ephesians 3:14-21, "Rooted in Love." It is Paul's second prayer for the brethren. He prays for their enablement. In the worship we studied "True Christian Fellowship," Philippians 1:3-11. It's a great study about our fellowship in Christ. I enjoyed my visit with the church.

**August 7:** I was invited to be part of Mission Sunday at **Germantown church of Christ**, which is my sponsoring congregation. It was good to see everyone. Leslie Williams, Germantown's missionary to Canada, presented his report in the Bible class hour and preached in the morning worship. It was good to see all the great work that he is doing in Canada. In the worship, he talked about the importance of our submission to Christ. It was a good lesson.



In the P.M. service, Jody Whitfield gave a report on several short-term mission trips by members of the Germantown congregation. I enjoyed hearing about these trips. He mentioned that they would give a full report later in the month. After Jody, I gave a short report about my work in north Mississippi. I have been involved in this ministry for three and a half years. I have been blessed to visit with 98 congregations in North Mississippi and meet the ministers and elders working in those congregations. My goal has been to encourage the preachers and elders in their ministry to these churches. It has been a challenge because so many are difficult works. I appreciate the commitment and faithfulness of these men to keeping the church alive in North Mississippi. I then presented a short lesson on Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. I was hoping to encourage the congregation about the power God gives us in Christ. We can only do His work as He empowers us. It was an encouraging day.

**August 14:** I preached at the **Antioch church of Christ** in Independence, MS. I always enjoy visiting with the folks there. This Sunday was fellowship Sunday. I enjoyed eating some good home cooking. In Bible class, I continued our study of Joshua. We discussed the ninth chapter, which talks about the deception of the Gibeonites. The most important lesson in this chapter is the importance of asking God for His guidance in any decision we make. In worship, we looked at Paul's second prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. He makes four petitions for the brethren. First that they grow in their spiritual strength, which will lead to a deeper relationship to Christ, and will enable them to comprehend God's great love, which would result in them being filled with the fullness of God. It is a powerful prayer.

**August 21:** This Sunday I visited with the **Ford Wells church of Christ** outside of Water Valley, MS. Marcus Teske is the minister there. Marcus is in school at NWCC studying electrical engineering. He is a graduate of Brown's Ferry School of Preaching. It was a pleasure to meet him and visit over lunch. I found out that he lives with his parents in the same neighborhood where I live in Olive Branch. How about that! We are neighbors and did not know that. The congregation has about 13 in attendance. According to their history, area members re-established the church in 1985. I enjoyed my visit with the church.

Marcus taught the Bible class. His lesson was taken from Ephesians 3:14-21. This is Paul's second prayer for the brethren in Ephesus. Marcus made the statement that we represent God to our communities, so we need to ask, "Is He proud of us?"

In the worship, Marcus preached from Titus 2:11-14. It was a good lesson on the grace of God. One question he asked was, "What have we done for God for Him to make this sacrifice for us?" The answer is nothing. That is what grace is all about. God's love is so great that He wants us to be saved. It was good to visit with the church at Ford Wells. I enjoyed eating lunch with Marcus and two other members.



Marcus Teske

**August 28:** I visited with the **Marlow church of Christ**. They were having a meeting with Blake Nicholas from the West Corinth congregation. Their theme was "Meeting Your Family's Needs." They were celebrating the opening of their building and their new fellowship hall. Their building was damaged in a tornado in December of 2015. It was good to see the joy in everyone's face. Rodney Hilliard is the minister there. He has a great story of his own about endurance and faith in the face of trials. They normally have around 50 in attendance, but on this special day, they had 73.

In Bible class, Blake spoke on "Fathers That Lead." In the worship, he spoke on "Don't Miss the Train." He used Proverbs 22:6 that say "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." He mentioned what God means by "Train." God means for the parents to give a child direction, discipline, duty, and it will affect his destiny. It was a good lesson. After worship, the church gathered for a fellowship meal in their new building. It was very nice. I enjoyed the time of fellowship and visiting with everyone.

**September 4:** I preached at the **Antioch church of Christ** in Independence, MS. It was good to visit with all the folks at Antioch. I appreciate so much their love and support of my



Blake Nicholas, Josh James, Rodney Hilliard

ministry. In Bible class, we discussed Ephesians 4:1-16, "Walking in Unity." Paul talks about the grace, grounds, gifts and growth of unity. It is a good study. In worship I preached on Joshua 10, "Crushed for Our Iniquities." We looked at some of the characteristics of the ungodly. It is an interesting story about Israel's victory over the five kings of the Amorites. It tells us that righteousness always is victorious over evil.

**September 11:** I visited with the **Charleston church of Christ**. Raymond Jones is the minister there. He has been there for five years. He is a graduate of Heritage University in Florence, AL. He is retired and lives in Water Valley. I really enjoyed meeting the brethren at Charleston. They have about 20 in attendance and no elders. Like many churches in north Mississippi, they have an aging congregation.

Raymond taught the Bible class. They are studying Revelation 3:7-13, about the church at Philadelphia. Raymond said he was using a class book on Revelation by Robert Ogelsby. The church received praise from the Lord for their willingness to walk through the open door of opportunity and stay faithful to God. It was a good study.

In worship, Raymond preached on "The Change Movement: Church Music." He considered all the verses in the New Testament that deal with music. He said that God tells us what He wants and that nullifies using anything else. It was a good lesson on an important theme.



Sara and Raymond Jones



Christina and Heath Lindley

**September 18:** I visited with the **Coffeerville church of Christ**. Heath Lindley is the minister there. He has served the church for just over a year. He is married and has three children. It was good to see Heath again. I first met him as he served as youth minister at the Hwy. 15 church in Pontotoc, MS. He is a graduate of the MSOP. The church has no elders and around 61 in attendance. The church is a very friendly congregation. I enjoyed my visit with them.

John Purdy led the Bible class in a study of the class book, "The Inspired Bible" by Bill Smith. John discussed the lesson on the "Canon of the Old Testament." It was an interesting study about how the Old Testament books were chosen to be part of the Bible. Heath preached in the worship service. His lesson was entitled, "Why I Don't Want to Go to Hell." He had some good thoughts about why Hell would be a terrible place to go. He spent some time talking about all the different groups of people that will be there. It was a good lesson.

**September 25:** I was invited to preach at the **Clear Creek church of Christ** just outside of Corinth, MS. Charles Curtis is the preacher there. He retired from preaching at Foote Street and has been working with the Clear Creek church. He was attending the Homecoming at Foote Street. They have around 40 in attendance. It is a good group of Christians and I enjoyed my visit. Shawn Lillie, one of the mission deacons at Germantown, went with me. I appreciate so much his support of my ministry. He is a good traveling companion.

In the worship, I presented the lesson, "The Incarnation of Jesus," from Philippians 2:1-11. It is a good lesson on how to develop the mind of Christ. In the Bible class we discussed, "True Christian Fellowship," from Philippians 1:3-11. Paul talks about his fellowship with the Philippians. He said he had them in his mind, in his heart, and in his prayers.

What a wonderful blessing it's been to me to visit with all these churches.



Vivian and John Purdy



*A Report by Dean Caldwell*

# 2016 Louisiana - Texas RV Rally

The 18th Annual Louisiana-Texas RV Rally was held at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland Texas beginning on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, and extended through Sunday, October 17. But, as usual, several people arrived early. On Monday, October 10, over 30 people came together to enjoy a dinner of beef brisket with all the trimmings prepared by George Strickland. After arrivals on Tuesday, over 40 people were present for a sea food feast prepared by Dave McGee.

*The theme of the 18th annual rally*

## "God and Country"

At the official beginning of the rally on Wednesday evening more than 60 people enjoyed a great lesson presented by Jay Alexander, minister for the DeRidder, Louisiana Church of

Christ. The lesson was entitled, "God's Law for Country", and followed a delicious pot luck dinner and homemade ice cream. Following the lesson, Glen Franks presented a plaque to Gloria Alford to honor the memory of her late husband, Jerry Alford. Ray Franks presented a plaque to Janie Tindall in memory of her late husband, Billy

Tindall. Ray also presented a plaque to Floyd and Minnie Salmon, owners of Salmon Lake Park, to recognize their outstanding service in hosting the rally for the past 12 years.

Entertainment on Wednesday evening was provided by a

comedy routine by T. D. Deal from DeQuincy, Louisiana, and assisted by Ray Franks, and "picking and grinning" by Morris Tirpitz of Shreveport, beginning with a rally favorite, "When the Old Wagon Was New".

Jerry Jackson hosted a "Happy Hour" on Thursday morning, consisting of hilarious jokes and stories told by Jerry and several other people. More than 80 people came

together on Thursday evening to enjoy a dinner of "award winning" homemade chili, hot dogs, and chili pie, with chili provided by Randy Henry of DeQuincy. Jay Alexander presented another great lesson entitled "God's Grace for Country". Al Franks, editor of The Magnolia Messenger presented a history of the Messenger and reviewed several articles which are a part of every issue of the Messenger.

On Friday morning items contributed by rally attendees were sold at the annual auction. Prices paid for the items were often more than the retail value, but all who purchased items felt they got a real bargain, considering that all the funds were to be used for rally expenses and other good works.

On Friday evening everyone enjoyed the annual Friday night fish fry. The fish were caught and provided by Glen Franks. Several "cooks and tasters" assisted in cooking the fish and more than 100 people attended.

The Friday night Patriotic Program was planned and conducted by Glen and Ena Franks, and consisted of a moving and emotional program to recognize and honor those who have served in U S Military Service. Veterans of the U S Army, U S Air Force, and U S Navy were awarded beautiful medals and participated in a candle

Crockett Road leading the group in patriotic songs, and singing several old favorite country songs.

Michael and Candy Hony, from Greenwood, MS, assisted by several other people, prepared a complete breakfast for all the rally attendees on Saturday morning. Danny Manuel, from Many Louisiana, served as MC and he and several men led a number of gospel songs and hymns on Saturday morning.

On Saturday evening several people enjoyed The Dogwood Jamboree, a Branson Style music show produced by Dan Manuel at the Civic Center in Palestine.

Ray Franks gave a tremendous lesson during the Bible study hour at the Crockett Road Church on the subject, "You Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Set You Free." During the worship hour, Dan Manuel preached a great lesson on "The Flames that Threaten America". Following the morning services, all were treated to a pot luck lunch provided by members of the Crockett Road Church. After lunch an accapella singing group of six men from the Dallas area, known as "His Harmony", provided entertainment by singing several songs. The group appears all over the southwest US, including often in Branson Missouri, and were a part of the Dogwood Jamboree on Saturday evening.

During the entire week there was ample time every afternoon and often after evening activities into late night or early morning hours for other activities. There were many games of cards and dominoes and jig saw puzzles to occupy and entertain. A lot of time was spent just relaxing, visiting, and enjoying the company of Christians who have really grown to love each other and just being together from all over the south. The ladies particularly enjoyed doing craft work, making charm bracelets for themselves and to take home as gifts for others.

As the week ended, many left saying that this was the best rally ever, as they always do after every rally. All were looking forward to next year. Although billed as an RV Rally, many people who do not have an RV attend regularly. There are always cabins at Salmon Lake RV Park or motels available nearby for anyone, and plenty to do for everybody. The next Louisiana Rally will be October 18 through 21, 2017. We all hope to see you there.

*Dean Caldwell; Vicksburg MS, Rally Reporter*



**Jay Alexander, (DeRidder, LA) Presented two powerful lessons**



**Rallies Encourage Us To Study the Scriptures**



**Ray and Donna Franks Given Special Recognition for their Many Years of Service**



**RV's Welcomed. Big or small. Many stay in nearby cabins and motels. (You don't have to have an RV to attend an RV rally!)**

lighting service to honor and memorialize their service to our country.

Ray and Donna Franks were given a plaque by Dan Manuel, minister of the Crockett Road Church, in honor of the many years they have served to plan and host the Louisiana-Texas Rally. Ray and Donna were also given a beautiful quilt made by Eleta Grimmer of New Albany, Mississippi. The Quilt was hand signed by people attending the rally, with a note expressing love and appreciation for the great work Ray and Donna have done for the rally over the years.

Evening entertainment on Friday was provided by Dan Manuel, Phillip Hatton and several other people from

## Searching for Minister

(Tomball, Texas)

The Spring Creek Church of Christ in Tomball, TX is seeking a youth minister. Tomball, TX is a rapidly growing suburb of Houston, TX. We are committed to helping people look like Jesus.

Requirements: A degree in Bible or youth ministry from a Christian university or equivalent, thorough Bible knowledge, passion for youth, and ability to coordinate and build a thriving youth group.

Please send resume, references, and salary expectations to [youthteam@springcreekchurchofchrist.org](mailto:youthteam@springcreekchurchofchrist.org)



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

- |                          |                          |                          |                           |                          |                         |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Sherry Gordon         | 64. Ann Sims             | 125. Joe Arnold          | 188. Kenny Young, Jr.     | 255. June Brents         | McElroy                 | 380. Neil King           | 442. Jackson Mayer               |
| 2. Fran Westmoreland     | 65. Wm. & Atlean Snow    | 126. Patricia Glover     | 189. Judy Willis          | 256. Sue Hammrick        | 318. Chery Boudreaux    | 381. Lisa Meeks          | 443. Cary Mayer                  |
| 3. Magdalene Tillman     | 66. Patricia McClure     | 127. Velda Dykes         | 190. Bobbie Sindle        | 257. Dee Kepler          | 319. Danny Stacks       | 382. Ryder Hughes        | 444. Barney King                 |
| 4. Marie Lively          | 67. Ima Jean Fogus       | 128. Jerry Fleming       | 191. Mary Salinas         | 258. Nell Millsaps       | 320. Lessie Tanson      | 383. Landon Meeks        | 445. Betty King                  |
| 5. Anne Shelton          | 68. Rachel Pruitt        | 129. Admiral & Ruth      | 192. Ruby Wright          | 259. Sylvester & Linda   | 321. Lynsey Robertson   | 384. Danny Meeks         | 446. Jonathan Garrison           |
| 6. Mervin Green          | 69. June Faulkner        | Tidwell                  | 193. Kalaysia Hinton      | Burton                   | 322. Billye Wiygul      | 385. Jean Clemmer        | 447. Ralph Shaw                  |
| 7. Mary Jane Hollis      | 70. Sherian Martin       | 130. Cheri Moore         | 194. Alex William         | 260. Nan Conley          | 323. Michael Euer       | 386. Sidney Clemmer      | 448. Amy Chapman                 |
| 8. Dorothy Banks         | 71. Ken Harris           | 131. Peggy Engel         | 195. Jazaria Porter       | 261. Stacey, Melinda &   | 324. James Flanagan     | 387. Christy Pounds      | Shaw                             |
| 9. Bettye McCool         | 72. Ray Parham           | 132. Linda Bonner        | 196. Kabreyis Garth       | Gregory Hawkins          | 325. Andie Allen        | 388. Kittie Edwards      | 449. Shelly Clayton              |
| 10. Shirley Waggener     | 73. Patrilla Maddox      | 133. Ann Whetstone       | 197. Kalib Smith          | 262. Margie McKinney     | 326. Quincy Allen       | 389. Leora White         | 450. Ralph Clayton               |
| 11. Willa Fox            | 74. Wilda Pounds         | 134. Sherry Townsend     | 198. Trey Williams        | 263. Frances Patti       | 327. Ella Darnell       | 390. Claude Williams     | 451. William Coats               |
| 12. Carolyn Perry        | 75. Lloyd & Barbara      | 135. Foy C. Smith        | 199. Josh Williams        | 264. Joyce Talbert       | 328. Mary Turner        | 391. Theresa Henderson   | 452. Kay Clayton                 |
| 13. Gail B. Saxon        | Beard                    | 136. Sandra Grisham      | 200. Chris Holliday       | 265. Faye Stanford       | 329. Ann Holeman        | 392. Mary Patrick        | 453. Linda Swan                  |
| 14. William Pyron        | 76. Carole Shelby        | 137. Amy Hutson          | 201. Caiden Holliday      | 266. Sandy Dean          | 330. Jane Barnett       | 393. Dillie Horton       | 454. Jane Phillips               |
| 15. Joe & Barbara        | 77. Mary King            | 138. Peggy Wroten        | 202. Arthur & Shirley     | 267. Lois Hands          | 331. Linda Sue          | 394. Marcella Moore      | 455. Melanie Hulsey              |
| Brewer                   | 78. Doris Darnell        | 139. Shelia Ganier       | Burnett                   | 268. Mary Prosser        | Kennamore               | 395. Lena Barber         | 456. Maddie Palmer               |
| 16. Emile & Peggy        | 79. Pearlie Hurst        | Williams                 | 203. Nadine Patton        | 269. Waymond Hales       | 332. Sue Fisher         | 396. Jennifer Gray       | 457. Caleb Rippee                |
| Rollins                  | 80. Charlotte Vandiver   | 140. Sharon Huckaba      | 204. Don Lee              | 270. Marian Crelia       | 333. Fred Davis         | 397. Michael Harvill     | 458. Justin Rippee               |
| 17. Janice Galloway      | 81. Lawrence Horn        | 141. Shelia & Emily Hall | 205. Sherron Dixon        | 271. Vera Winfrey        | 334. Geneva Baird       | 398. Noah Crider         | 459. Lane Lawler                 |
| 18. Paul Pounds          | 82. Joyce King           | 142. Bobby Lively        | 206. Frederick Alan Jones | 272. Nell Tipton         | 335. Irene Rogers       | 399. Raymond Sheppard    | 460. Judy Pickard                |
| 19. Ginny Luther         | 83. Thelma Tucker        | 143. Wanda Cochran       | 207. Ann Kelley           | 273. EverJean Parson     | 336. Annie Mae Pipkin   | 400. Bonnie Howell       | 461. Marie Palmer                |
| 20. Garry Gooch          | 84. Jane Walker          | 144. Perkins Cochran     | 208. Ida Tuggle Walls     | 274. Nellie Lester       | 337. Tom McLemore       | 401. Barbara Loden       | 462. Janice Palmer               |
| 21. Scotty Balentine     | 85. Michael Coleman      | 145. Blaise Fernandez    | 209. Dorothy Brunson      | 275. Elmon Wheeler       | 338. Carrie McGrone     | 402. Shirley Ray &       | 463. Cynthia Lawler              |
| 22. Marvin England       | 86. Margie Andrews       | 146. Foster Owens        | 210. Bonnie Jordan        | 276. Karen Bush          | 339. Pamela Shepherd    | Bernice Richardson       | 464. Patricia Earnest            |
| 23. Richard Odom         | 87. Karen Britt          | 147. Mattie Ann Owens    | 211. Michelle Simpson     | 277. Ida Wells           | 340. Nettie Doss        | 403. A. W. Hinton        | 465. Eva Alman                   |
| 24. Stan                 | 88. Charlotte Ritter     | 148. Bettye Ohrem        | 212. Jimmie Brown         | 278. Bettie Brown        | 341. Mildred Carroll    | 404. Doris Gillespie     | 466. Magdalene Tillman           |
| Neuenschwander           | 89. Kimberly Pearce      | 149. Darryl James        | 213. Travis Hamilton      | 279. Willie Stancil      | 342. James & Gloria     | 405. Claude Edwards      | 467. James Heckard               |
| 25. Linda Gentry         | 90. Shirley Pearce       | Sterling                 | 214. Carolyn Ware         | 280. James Hudley        | Breckenridge            | 406. Jim Huribut         | 468. Gwendolyn Bryant            |
| 26. Bill Moore           | 91. Bernita Booker       | 150. Pat Shadle          | 215. Velma Isom           | 281. Mary Dennis         | 343. Mosey Charles      | 407. John Hazel          | 469. Bobby Garrett               |
| 27. Kathy Perry          | 92. Terry Miltner        | 151. Earlean Williams    | 216. Judy Poyner          | 282. Addie Brown         | Brown                   | 408. Ruby Silvers        | 470. Connie Adams                |
| 28. Onngaleah Huff       | 93. Rhenda Miltner       | 152. Brenda Taylor       | 217. Mary McDonald        | 283. Josephine Carter    | 344. Marie Barnes       | 409. Trillie Strickland  | 471. Gay Null                    |
| 29. Kay Shiers           | 94. James & Katie        | 153. Magaret Parker      | 218. Beulah Rupert        | 284. Mary Williams       | 345. Steve Austin Kelly | 410. West Rhoda Jeans    | 472. Winston Hodum               |
| 30. Rebecca Alexander    | Houston                  | 154. Mary Brannan        | 219. Julius Lee Wales     | 285. Mary Jacobs         | 346. Beverly Miles      | 411. Alex Green          | 473. Susan Boyd                  |
| 31. Betty A. Skinner     | 95. Gloria Wilborn       | 155. Sarah C Hayes       | 220. Linda Cook           | 286. Sherry Ross         | 347. Sarah Hill         | 412. Emily Beth Chap-    | 474. Haley Winter                |
| 32. Dick Green           | 96. Audrey Bowling       | 156. Melba Ogg           | 221. Dannie Davis         | 287. Cathy Brooks        | 348. Doris Townsend     | man                      | 475. Ronald Adams                |
| 33. Billy Alford         | 97. Bet Tucker           | 157. Judy Walker         | 222. Carolyn Garrett      | 288. Cortez Brown        | Britt                   | 413. Peyton Shappley     | 476. Lane & Lynn Bell            |
| 34. Kimberly Easterling  | 98. Carloyn Stanford     | 158. Jo Jones            | 223. Paul & Elsie Bryson  | 289. Curly Haley         | 349. Elnorsh Duckworth  | 414. Isabella Thompson   | 477. Geri Spears                 |
| 35. Tommy Muirhead       | 99. Mary Adams           | 159. Dee Collier         | 224. Doyce Britt          | 290. Ada Wilburn         | 350. Linda Boone        | 415. Katie Grisham       | 478. Doris Aultman               |
| 36. Ann Kimble           | 100. Doris Jean Fletcher | 160. Jim & Judy Hill     | 225. Mary Robinson        | 291. Geraldine Wilbern   | 351. Walt & Peggy       | 416. Autumn Griffin      | 479. Chloe Lynn Sasser           |
| 37. Julia Flippin        | 101. Jeremiah & Shelia   | 161. Maggie Edmonds      | 226. Madonna Michael      | 292. E. Williams         | Walker                  | 417. Olivia Ponders      | 480. Flossie Lee                 |
| 38. Irene Wright         | Woodard                  | 162. Bonnie Skates       | 227. Wanda Robinson       | 293. Wade Hardy          | 352. Helen DePriest     | 418. Wanda Orman         | Hernandez                        |
| 39. Diane Dunaway        | 102. Jeremiah Woodard,   | 163. Vera Spencer        | 228. Della Rhodes         | 294. Lloyd Lambright     | 353. Carl Trimm         | 419. Rosie Lee Odoms     | 481. Lois Cleo Wright            |
| 40. Billy Willingham     | Jr.                      | 164. Evelyn Netterville  | 229. Sharon Rachels       | 295. Steven Arthur       | 354. Dorothy Franks     | 420. Lucille Jackson     | 482. Mary Jo Hoffman             |
| 41. Nancy Floyd          | 103. Benrus & Nicole     | 165. Alma Maddox         | 230. Bethany Stephens     | Franklin                 | 355. Earl Franks        | 421. Annie Jean McGill   | 483. Mr. & Mrs.                  |
| 42. Charlotte Jones      | Womack                   | 166. Rosa Sanders        | 231. Janice Griffin       | 296. Glenda Jefcoat      | 356. Wanda Petersen     | 422. Tommy & Peggy       | Jerry Lewis                      |
| 43. Rosie Felton         | 104. Ma'Nia & Bralan     | 167. Ellen Welsh         | 232. Jane Kuykendall      | 297. Jack Falls, Sr.     | 357. Theresa Prentiss   | Shull                    | 484. Martha Leggett              |
| 44. Bobbie Loggins       | Womack                   | 168. Marilyn Howell      | 233. Carolyn Harvill      | 298. Jimmie & Anita Taft | 358. Madonna Langford   | 423. Evelyn Curtis       | 485. Floy Smith                  |
| 45. Mildred Herrington   | 105. Fran Williford      | 169. Exie Motes          | 234. Bobbie Saxton        | 299. April, Rebekah &    | 359. Lisa Dearman       | 424. Clifford Hampton    | 486. John Downs                  |
| 46. Linda Keirn          | 106. Melvin & Kay Linton | 170. Sharon Dantzler     | 235. Curtis Johnson       | Rachel Gough             | 360. Gerald Worthey     | 425. James & Patricia    | 487. Betty Shackelford           |
| 47. Charlane Stanfield   | 107. Barbara White       | 171. Sarah Dantzler      | 236. Jack Stillman        | 300. Herman Herren       | 361. Frankie Moore      | Thornton                 | 488. Altha McKinney              |
| 48. Donna Gulley         | 108. Pat Moore           | 172. Ann Rector          | 237. Charles Coffey       | 301. Natalie Stewart     | 362. Evelyn Laney       | 426. Elizabeth Dickerson | 489. Thelma Talbert              |
| 49. Geraldine "Dee" Hitt | 109. Mary Shumpert       | 173. Cindy Heathcock     | 238. John Gates, Jr.      | 302. Beulah Davis        | 363. Larry Wallace      | 427. Janie Green         | 490. Carla Owen                  |
| 50. Glenda Wooldridge    | Faulconer                | 174. Prince Lewis        | 239. Lois Nielson         | 303. Shirley Bostick     | 364. Charles Beal       | 428. Betty & Lyman York  | 491. Reginald Davis              |
| 51. Princess & Johnny    | 110. Betty VanBuren      | 175. Ruby McCrory        | 240. Jan Wiese            | 304. Steve & Lara Todd   | 365. Ruby Worthey       | 429. Catherine Allen     | 492. Arvel Miles                 |
| Watson                   | 111. Carol Bonner        | 176. Flossie Hernandez   | 241. Katheryn Lee         | 305. Joyce McKee         | 366. Fred & Evelyn Doss | 430. Carlos & LaShanda   | 493. Betty Miles                 |
| 52. Tracey Bryant        | 112. Frances Harrell     | 177. Elizabeth           | 242. Imogene Grayson      | 306. Nell & Tommy        | 367. Anissa Yancey      | Stringfield              | 494. Johnnye Blackmon            |
| 53. Mrs. Oreatha         | 113. Dorothy Winslett    | Henderson                | 243. Joanna Hayes         | Lawson                   | 368. Michael Deaton     | 431. Bonnie Brown Glass  | 495. Margaret Johnson            |
| Johnson                  | 114. Peggy Hartman       | 178. Merlene Scott       | 244. Robert Huffar        | 307. Linda Leech         | 369. Tom Kelly          | 432. James Houston       | 496. James Horton                |
| 54. Rick Bishop          | 115. Christine Holliday  | 179. Bobby Brown         | 245. Althea House         | 308. Maricus Ivy         | 370. Johnny Ivy         | 433. Billy & Barbara     | 497. Wayne Crum                  |
| 55. Patsy McClung        | 116. James Brooks        | 180. Inez & Laura        | 246. Doris Wiley          | 309. Sue Mason           | 371. Shellie Hancock    | Smith                    | <i>Note: If your answers</i>     |
| 56. Debra Michael        | 117. Eva Brooks          | Brannon                  | 247. Mary Harris          | 310. Kerry Deaton        | 372. Connie Fountain    | 434. Angela Smith        | <i>reached us after Decem-</i>   |
| 57. Emma Walker          | 118. Nancy Akers         | 181. Herschel Ford       | 248. Betty Standard       | 311. Barbara Yates       | 373. <b>LISA DETTOR</b> | 435. Halley Holtzlander  | <i>ber 8, your name should</i>   |
| 58. Mary Webster         | 119. Ruby King           | 182. Thelma Talbert      | 249. Jolene Dale          | 312. Jim Vermillion      | 374. Faye Garrett       | 436. Mitchell Gurley     | <i>appear in our next issue</i>  |
| 59. Sharon Praytor       | 120. Jerry Barnes        | 183. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 250. Margaret Freeman     | 313. Eddie Vermillion    | 375. Linda Shadrix      | 437. Judy Gurley         | <i>to be published on/about</i>  |
| 60. Charlene Jent        | 121. Alice Humphries     | 184. Linda McKay         | 251. Doralynn Felton      | 314. Elsie Moore         | 376. Lucille Anders     | 438. Easton Joel Mayer   | <i>the first of March, 2017.</i> |
| 61. Sue Foster           | 122. Mary Grigsby        | 185. Joe Holmes          | 252. Lucretia McNees      | 315. Shirley Shive       | 377. Minnie Williams    | 439. Casey Mayer         | <i>Thanks for answering the</i>  |
| 62. Sidney Robinson      | 123. Betty Spears        | 186. Cathy Powell        | 253. Charlotte Langley    | 316. Jewel Lyle          | 378. Charlotte Rauchle  | 440. Jo Ann Mayer        | <i>QB and for sending in</i>     |
| 63. Ann Hulsey           | 124. Glen Brady          | 187. Juanita Slaughter   | 254. LaVerne Becker       | 317. Paul & Darlene      | 379. Bernice Townsel    | 441. Emma Mayer          | <i>your answers!</i>             |



## THE QUESTION BOX

# The Restoration Plea

Seeking to restore New Testament Christianity is still important! I recently visited with a brother who said that where he serves as an "associate minister," he never hears sermons on/about the "Restoration Plea." His comment reminded me of a sermon I heard from one of my college instructors who said, "The greatest need in the church today is to restore the New Testament church." I still believe that is true.

What is involved in restoring the NT church? There are those who want to "restore" by not using modern technology. Others want to "restore" by saying you must speak in tongues and perform miracles. Then, there are those who think "restoring" is not important at all.

God has given us a choice. We can choose to be a member of the church Jesus said He was going to build (Matthew 16:18). We also have a choice to be lukewarm or hot or cold in our involvement in the body of Christ. "To speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent" seems to be difficult for many people. In the following study, please mark each statement as true or false. For wording and spelling, we suggest using the KJV.

(Prepared by Paul Franks)

### True or False

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) The church belongs to Christ. It is "Christ's church." Jesus promised, "Upon this \_\_\_\_\_ I will build \_\_\_\_\_ church." (Matt. 16:\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) The church is the body of Christ. "Even as Christ is the head of the \_\_\_\_\_, and he is the saviour of the \_\_\_\_\_." (Eph. \_\_\_\_:23)

\_\_\_\_\_ (3) The church is the saved. "And the Lord added to the \_\_\_\_\_ daily such as should be \_\_\_\_\_." (Acts \_\_\_\_:47)

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) We are baptized into that one body, the church. "For by one Spirit are we all \_\_\_\_\_ into one \_\_\_\_\_." (I Cor. 12: \_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (5) You can be saved and not be in the body of Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) Your faithfulness to Christ is determined by your faithfulness to His body, the church.

\_\_\_\_\_ (7) Acts 2:42-27 teaches that the early Jerusalem church enjoyed unity as they worshipped together and demonstrated their love for one another. An effort to be like the early Jerusalem church is an effort to restore N.T. Christianity.

\_\_\_\_\_ (8) When you restore the spirit of fellowship, love and joy, as depicted in Acts 2, you will help solve the common problems of poor attendance and stingy giving in the church of today. (Read Heb. 10:25 and 2 Cor. 8 and 9.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (9) We must study the Bible for ourselves and not rely on some preacher, school, creed or church paper to tell us what to believe and/or practice. "...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and \_\_\_\_\_ the scriptures \_\_\_\_\_, whether those things were \_\_\_\_\_." (Acts 17: \_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (10) Our continuing goal is to restore in our day the first century church. This is done by going back to the Bible; back to the first century and not fixing our eyes upon the church of the 16th, the 19th or the 20th century.

### Please Send Your Answers To Us

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### "The Question Box"

P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090

## Our Newest Bible Winner

**Lisa Dettor**

(Sardis, MS)

***Congratulations!***

*Notice: We plan to have pictures of two most recent Bible winners in our next issue, God willing.*

### Ladies' Day in Meridian, MS

*Church of Christ (Hwy 19, North)*

**Saturday (Feb. 18, 2017)**

**9:30 - Noon** (Lunch Provided)

*Speaker: Betty Steward*

**RSVP: 601-527-7222**

## 2nd Annual Preachers' Retreat

**Kosciusko, Mississippi**

*(Using MBC Facilities)*

**March 12-16, 2017**

**(Sunday evening - Thursday morning)**

**See Pages 5 & 6**

## Help the MM to Continue and to Expand

**Our Goal: 30,000 Circulation**

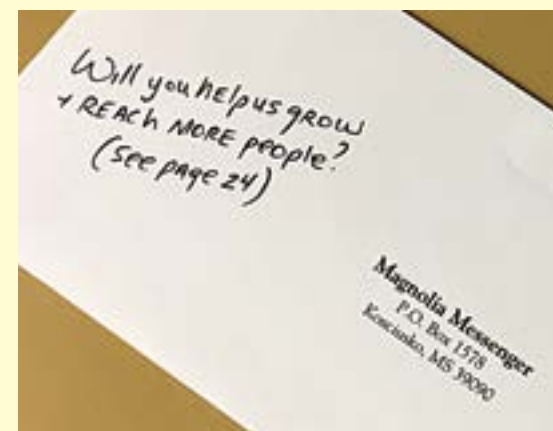
*From 2,000 in 1978 to 28,500 in 2016*

**Please Return the Enclosed  
Envelope and include:**

- (1) New Addresses (friends and family),
- (2) Your Answers to "The Question Box",
- (3) Your Suggestions, Ideas and Comments, and, If Possible,
- (4) A Contribution to Help **Expand** the Influence of the MM

*Your Prayers are Requested and Appreciated.*

**Thank you. Thank God!**



## Look for an Envelope in this Issue!

**Please RETURN**

*with Answers, Addresses, Suggestions, Ideas  
and, if possible, a Contribution*