

MAGNOLIA Messenger

Volume 40; Number 3; FALL, 2018

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

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



PAGE 10

**Magnolia
Bible
Institute**

(A School of Biblical Studies)

Kosciusko, Mississippi

**For the
ways**
of man are before the
eyes of the Lord,
**And He ponders
all his paths.**

Proverbs 5:21

Welcome to the New Magnolia Messenger Magazine

Forty years ago (October, 1978) the first issue of the "Magnolia Messenger" ("MM") was printed in Kosciusko, MS. Two thousand copies were printed, as a tabloid, and consisted of 12 pages. Now, after 4 full decades, the new "MMM" has, for the first time, been printed as a magazine, and contains 32 pages. Over 30,000 copies are now being mailed throughout the nation.

We are so very thankful. Thank the Good Lord and His people. We ask that you please pray for our expanding efforts to reach more and more people in our work to "teach the truth in love" and "provoke one another unto love and good works." (The Franks)

.....

Magnolia Bible Institute

(A School of Biblical Studies)

Has **Been Born In**

Kosciusko, Mississippi

Using the facilities of what was

Magnolia Bible College



Ray Paseur
Teaching Survey of Biblical Studies

The new school of Biblical studies, to be known as Magnolia Bible Institute (MBI), conducted its first class on September 13, 2018.

Over 20 students have already enrolled. Fourteen have signed up for serious study by taking the class for credit. Others, to increase their understanding of God's word are auditing classes. We are thankful. This is just the beginning. Small? Yes, but so was each of us, at birth!

M.B.I. Has Been Born!

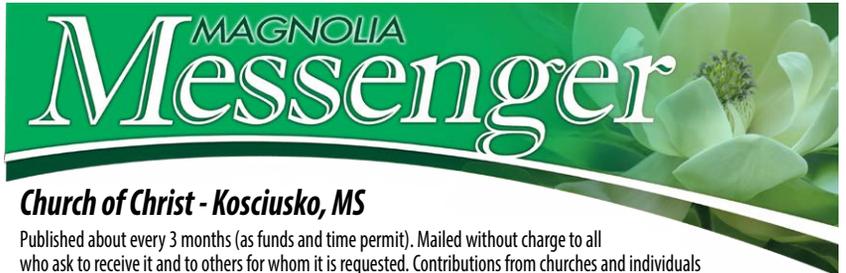
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Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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

(A. L. Franks, Editor)

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Your Enemy is a Liar!

"Be Not Deceived"

You have an enemy who is seeking to destroy you. Your enemy gives the impression that he is your friend. He may appear as an "angel of light"; or as a "minister of righteousness" (2 Corinthians. 11:13-15). He may come, cleverly disguised as a prophet or preacher adorned in sheep's clothing, but is, in reality, a "ravening wolf" (Matt. 7:15). His intent, his goal, is to "steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10). He is after you; he is your greatest enemy.

"As a roaring lion" your enemy walks about "seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). He is a liar. Jesus said that there is "no truth in him" (John 8:44). Your number one enemy is deceitful and crafty; he is subtle. The Bible repeatedly warns against his "wiles", his "devises." You must be on guard. Scripture admonishes, "Be sober. Be watchful." You have an enemy. He is called "Satan", "Devil" and/or "Evil One."

The deceitful and destructive work of your enemy (and mine and everyone else) began his evil work long ago in a paradise garden where lived the mother and father of us all -- Eve and Adam. The first and only perfect couple, made "in God's image", were without sin. Our great, great, great... grand mother was approached by Satan who, by asking questions, led Eve to doubt the word of God.

Satan deceived Eve into thinking that God's word should not be trusted; that the Creator didn't really mean what He said. In effect, the devil, the "father of lies", convinced the woman that God was the liar. Sadly, she believe the devil's lie rather than God's truth. Eve was deceived. She yielded

to the temptation to eat of the "forbidden fruit." And, as a result, sin accompanied with death entered the world. Eve's enemy, the devil, was the cause.

Since the beginning of time, the great enemy of us all continues his deceptive work. He is actively seeking to convince you and me to not respect the word/will of God. He wants you to believe that God didn't really mean what He said, as recorded in Holy Scripture. Satan is working night and day to deceive believers in God and His word that they should reject and/or neglect God's Word and rather listen to him if they want to find real meaning, joy and happiness in earthly life.

Satan says, "It doesn't really matter how you live. Heaven is for all regardless of your way of life." This is what the devil wants you to believe. But, please do not listen. Don't be like Eve. Trust God. He is your friend. Don't pay attention to Satan's lies. He is your enemy.

Since the beginning of time, the great enemy of us all continues his deceptive work. He is actively seeking to convince you and me to not respect the word/will of God.

Dear reader. Here is the main point of this little article. Read prayerfully the following words taken from I Corinthians 6:9,10. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.**"

The passage you have just read begins by declaring that the "unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God." This plain declaration follows Paul's appeal to the

Corinthian church to do what was right in response to the many sin problems which plagued the church. Instead of doing what was right, they had been doing that which was wrong! (1 Cor. 6:8.)

The inspired apostle Paul added the warning: "**Be not deceived!**" Paul was fearful that even as the great Deceiver influenced mother Eve to listen to him rather than God even so the devil would influence Corinthian Christians to yield to the Evil One who entices all to choose a wrong way of life. Everyone who is tempted to choose any of the lifestyles listed below are plainly warned to "**be not deceived.**" They who practice any such sinful behavior are clearly told they "*shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven.*" Read and ponder this list.

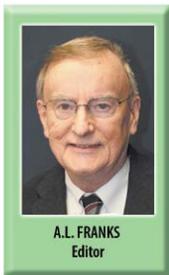
"Be not deceived:

neither fornicators, idolaters, adulterers effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, [homosexuals] thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Also, in the closing words of the last book of the New Testament, God gives a final warning to all who may choose to continue their sinful behavior. Their eternal destiny is certain. Read Revelation 21:8. Unrepentant sinners, identified as fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whore-mongers, sorcerers, idolaters and liars, we are told, shall have their part in the "lake that burns with fire and brimstone", said to be the "second death." Be not deceived.

A FINAL PLEA: God doesn't want you or any one else to perish. He desires that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Remember: "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son!" Jesus came from Heaven to earth "to seek and save the lost." Christ died for sinners. The continuing plea/cry of our Lord is, "Repent or perish" (Luke 13:3,5). Forgiveness is offered freely to all who come to Jesus in genuine faith. True faith is demonstrated through obedience to the gospel of Christ. Have you obeyed the gospel?

Dear reader, be not deceived. Sin can/ will keep you out of heaven and place you in Hell. Forever! Can we help you obey the gospel? Please feel free to call or text me at 601-668-3344. Email: franksmm@aol.com. (Al Franks, editor) **MM**



BIBLE

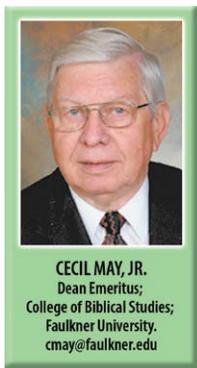
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

RESPONSE: Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” This question, in some form, is one of the most frequent questions this column receives.

The Bible uses “work” or “works” in several ways, to mean different things. Salvation is “not a result of works” (Ephesians 2:9) and “a person is justified by works” (James 2:24). That would be a direct contradiction, unless “works” had different meanings in the two passages. The context of each shows that to be true.

Jesus called “faith” or “believing in Jesus” a work: “Then they said to him, ‘What must we do, to be doing the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent’” (John 6:28-29).

A passage in Titus directly speaks to the issue our questioner addresses by helping us define one kind of works. Paul wrote to his young protégé, “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4-7).



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QUESTION: Doesn't Ephesians 2:8-9 exclude baptism, since baptism is a “work” and we aren't saved by works? (A. R.).

Being saved by “the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” is the same as being “born again . . . of water and Spirit” (John 3:3, 5), the same as “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26), and the same as “be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). All of these texts refer to baptism; mentioning water or washing or baptism itself, and most mention the Holy Spirit. Since the passage says salvation is not “a work done by us in righteousness” but it is “by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,” baptism is not “a work done by us in righteousness.”

Actually, baptism is not a work we do at all; it is done to us. Everywhere, “be baptized” is in the passive mood. The Ethiopian Treasurer requested it, but “Philip baptized him” (Acts 8:38).

Works, not only works of the Law of Moses but good works which Christ commands, do not, cannot, earn anything in the way of salvation. Christians are obligated to love everyone and to do good to them. “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Jesus said, “Love your neighbor” is the second greatest commandment (Matthew 22:39). In the

Sermon on the Mount He spoke the words that we have labeled “the Golden Rule,” “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”

(Matthew 7:12).

James said, “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17). Every good thing we can do we are obligated to do. So nothing we do carries any “extra brownie points” or excess merit to cancel out whatever sins we have committed.

A life of service to others is one part of

The difference between “saved by works” and “saved by grace through faith” is the difference between,

“Hey, look what I've done,” and, “Look what God has done for me!”

the lifestyle Christians are commanded to live. Jesus is the One who calls us to it. The lifestyle He calls us to live is one of honesty. It is working at our jobs, whatever they may be, as if Jesus Himself were our immediate supervisor. It is loving our wives as Christ loved the church or submitting to our husbands as the church submits to Christ. It is children obeying their parents. It is a life characterized by kindness, gentleness, forgiving, seeking peace and holiness (Ephesians 4—6; Colossians 3—4, etc.). When this kind of works is done because Jesus commands it, though not perfectly because of our weakness, we are

showing our faith in Jesus. Faith is “completed by (our) works” (James 2:23). “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:26).

The only merit there is in this whole scenario are the wages of sin. “For the

I hear the following,

“I know I’m not perfect, but I’ve never killed anybody, or cheated on my wife. I don’t get drunk. I don’t even smoke. On balance, I’m a pretty good guy, and God is surely not going to send any good folks to hell.”

wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a). We earn death, indeed the “second death,” with every sin we commit. There are no “works” that can earn deliverance from the wages we have earned. No good deed cancels out a single sin we have committed, “but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23b). The difference between “saved by works” and “saved by grace through faith” is the difference between, “Hey, look what I’ve done,” and, “Look what God has done for me!”

There are many who believe they can earn salvation by their good works. I hear the following, or some variation of it, often: “I know I’m not perfect, but I’ve never killed anybody, or cheated on my wife. I don’t get drunk. I don’t even smoke. On balance, I’m a pretty good guy, and God is surely not going to send any good folks to hell.” Have we not heard from childhood, “Good little girls and boys go to heaven, bad ones go to the other place”? That would only work for us, if all we did were good works. Unfortunately we all sin; not just some of us; all of us! And “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

Just as there are more than one kind of works, there are also different kinds of faith. There is an intellectual faith that believes certain facts to be true but does nothing as a result of that belief. For example, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and

shudder!” (James 2:19). Faith cannot be recognized as faith if it does not result in any action on the part of the believer. “But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works’” (James 2:18).

The great majority of those who self-identify as Evangelical Christians believe that salvation is by “faith alone.” The context in which “faith alone” is used shows that “faith alone” actually defines another kind of faith. Though Evangelicals say the faith they call for is not just intellectual faith, it is a trusting faith, the phrase “faith alone” defines it as a faith that does not have any act of obedience to “complete it” (James 2:22), to “show it” (James 2:18).

James says “faith apart from works,” which is the definition of “faith alone,” is useless, (2:20); “faith alone” does not justify (2:24).

The Bible hardly ever teaches about faith without using Abraham, “the father of all who believe,” as an example. “Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you’” (Genesis 12:1). This is followed by a series of blessings Abram is promised if he goes. The next words of the text are, “So Abram went, as the Lord had told him” (Genesis 12:4). So Abram began, slowly but surely, to receive the promised blessings. The Hebrews writer says, “By faith Abraham

Faith cannot be recognized as faith if it does not result in any action on the part of the believer.

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works’” (James 2:18).

obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8). Abraham was blessed “by faith,” when he “obeyed.”

Suppose he had not obeyed. What if, instead of “so Abraham went,” the next verse said, “but Abraham was comfortable in Haran and decided to stay”? Two questions:

1. Would Abraham have received the promised blessings?
2. Would Abraham have had faith?

The answer to both questions is certainly “No.” When a blessing is promised, conditioned on fulfilling a commandment, faith obeys the commandment. If the commandment is not obeyed, that is both unbelief and disobedience. “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him” (John 3:36).

Consider the following comparison:

Abraham: “Believe Me and leave this land and go to a place where I will show you and I will bless you and make you a blessing (Genesis 12:1),

Whoever: Believe and be baptized and you will be saved (Mark 16:16).

If Abraham does not leave, he does not receive a blessing, because he does not believe.

If whoever is not baptized, they are not saved, because they do not believe, and the rest of the promise says, “Whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Most evangelicals say, “Whoever believes will be saved and then should be baptized.”

Jesus says, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”

See the difference!

Baptism is not ruled out by Ephesians 2:8-9. It is ruled in by a number of passages, including Acts 22:16. Ananias, sent to Saul by Jesus, said to him, “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” Also 1 Peter 3:21, “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” And Galatians 3:26-27, “In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” **MM**

the JOURNEYS of PAUL



A Dentist Becomes a Preacher! (“From a Tooth to the Truth”)

Fourteen years ago, after much study and hard work, Brad Carr earned his degree in Dentistry and finally was able to begin his practice. However, during his years of dentistry, his real passion or desire was to be a Gospel Preacher. So, at every opportunity, he preached whenever and where ever he could. Eventually, our brother went back to school and, after finishing an advanced degree in Biblical studies at Freed-Hardeman University, in July, 2018, Brad left dentistry to devote full time to teaching and preaching.

Brad Carr is now teaching at Copiah Academy. Subjects include Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey and Biology. He also capably serves as the preacher for the Brookway church of Christ in Brookhaven, MS. A few

weeks ago, we were privileged to hear him preach. It was evident that he has a genuine passion for preaching. That Sunday morning at Brookway he did a great job in presenting his lesson from God’s word.

After services, Glenda and I enjoyed going out to eat with several from the church. We were blessed to run into **Doug Kimble**, preacher for the Johnson Grove church of Christ. Several others from his congregation, located a few miles south of Brookhaven, were also present for lunch. After having been fed, spiritually and physically, we can say “It was a good day.” And, we are grateful that brother Brad has found even a more fulfilling life where he no longer gives emphasizes to a tooth, but to The Truth. God bless. (PF)



The Brad Carr Family (From Dentistry to Ministry)

**Visit.
 Visit.
 Visit.
 Visit.**

■ Saucer Creek Church

We were blessed, several weeks ago, to visit with the Saucer Creek Church of Christ located north of Fulton, Mississippi. We enjoyed Brad Freeland’s teaching from the book of Romans. Brad was well prepared and did a great job. He also led singing and did a great job with that as well. I was asked to preach and was pleased to do so. I also was thankful to share information with the church about our work with the Magnolia Messenger. We really enjoyed our visit; especially, getting to know Paul Epler (the preacher) and his wife, Billie.



Paul Epler and Cliff Jarrell

■ Elliott Church

A few weeks ago, we learned that Les Ferguson, Sr. of Kosciusko was holding a gospel meeting for the Elliot church, a few miles south of Grenada. Glenda and I were privileged to ride with Les and Margie and go to the meeting. Ken Salley, the local preacher at Elliott, led the singing. Les did a great job with his lesson. We enjoyed visiting with a lot of people we have known for years.



Ken Salley Leads Singing

Booneville Senior Rally

The Booneville Senior Rally was conducted on August 25, 2018. "Over 21 churches were represented by more than 175 in attendance, making the rally a success." The theme for this year's annual rally was "Our Retirement Is Out of This World."

The speaker was Ted Bureson from Hamilton, Alabama. The singing was lead by Joe Garrett of the Booneville congregation. Both Ted and Joe did a very good job. The ladies and men of the Booneville church cooperated well in providing a delicious meal. Glenda and I were blessed to be among the number. (PF)



Joe Garrett and Ted Bureson



"Good Crowd" Enjoyed Feasting on Food and "The Word"

Reaching Young People Through Camping in Lithuania

All three sessions at Camp Ruta near Vilnius, Lithuania enjoyed record attendance this year. There were baptisms at each camp and the church was strengthened.

The "Teenage Week" was led by the folks from Benton, Arkansas, along with Paul Franks from Kosciusko, Mississippi. We are thankful to have had 137 campers participating in the teenage week. 2018 marked the 20th year we have been doing these camps in Lithuania.

We really enjoyed our week and are grateful for the talented people from Benton, Arkansas who are doing a great job with the teenage camp. (PF)



4th Annual MS-TN-AL • Magnolia Messenger RV Rally • November 7-10, 2018

The 4th annual MS-TN-AL Magnolia Messenger RV Rally will be held at J. P. Coleman State Park, north of Iuka, Mississippi, November 7-10, 2018. Cabins, lodge rooms and RV sites are available. You can go to www.mdwfp.com or www.reserveamerica.com or you can call the campground at 662-423-6515.

Rally masters are **Ronnie and Cathy Livingston**, 662-720-6015, cathy.livingston@norbord.com and **Carl and Cathy Powell**, 256-483-0422, carlpowell2@cp3.com

The rally will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday at 5:30 pm with a Hamburger and Hot-dog Supper, followed by a time of singing. The rally

will end with a special breakfast at 8:30 on Saturday morning.

We also have scheduled **Rodney Livingston** and **Tony Brown** to speak at this rally. During the rally, we will have an auction to raise funds for the Magnolia Messenger. Several other events are planned during the four day rally.

This will be a great time of spiritual growth, fellowship and fun. Please make plans to attend. Bring some friends with you! There is no cost to attend other than the cost of your lodging. If you have a question, please call one of the rally masters and they will be glad to help you. (PF)

Hills Chapel Church

Sometime ago, we had opportunity to once again visit with the Hills Chapel church of Christ, located a few miles east of Booneville, MS. We were blessed

to hear visiting evangelist Mark Neaves who serves as preacher for the Pine Grove congregation, near Fulton, Mississippi. Mark did an outstanding job with his sermon. We really enjoyed visiting at Hills Chapel and getting to hear brother Mark; also to meet Craig Chandler, the local preacher at Hills Chapel.



"Mark Neaves and his wife, Marti"

Clinton Church

John Allan, who preached several years for the church in Clinton, Mississippi, recently moved to Florida. Being without a full-time preacher, I enjoyed the opportunity of filling in for them one Sunday. Our visit was very pleasant. Again, I had the privilege, not only to preach, but also to give a report to the church about our work with the MM. During the afternoon, we especially enjoyed Joey Jamison and his family coming to our RV and visiting with us for a while.



This Sign Says Something Worth Considering (MM editor forgot where he saw the sign!)

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Scriptural Response

To a sermon in favor of using Instruments of Music in Worship

PART THREE

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

■ Are the Singing Passages In Ephesians and Colossians Congregational or Individual?

The Ephesian Church was commanded to "address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart" (5:19). The Colossians were to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (3:16). The speaker we are reviewing and others are saying that these passages refer to individual action and have no application to congregational activity. If that were true, it would still be true that every reference to musical praise and worship in the New Testament is to singing.

There is strong evidence, however, that the individual versus congregational distinction does not apply to these passages. The epistles of Paul, except for the ones addressed to individuals like Timothy, Titus and Philemon, were written to churches and were intended to be read to and heeded by the churches. The five earliest epistles mention the church or churches in the salutation. Galatians is written "To the churches of Galatia" (Galatians 1:1), which are the congregations in Antioch of Pisidia, Derbe, Lystra and Iconium which Paul and Barnabas established on their first missionary journey. Both 1 and 2 Thessalonians are addressed "To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1), and both 1 and 2 Corinthians are written to "The church of God that is at Corinth" (1 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1). The next three of Paul's epistles, Philippians, Colossians and Ephesians, were written from Rome during the imprisonment Luke describes at the close of Acts (Acts 28:31-32). Philippians is addressed "To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi with the overseers and deacons" (Philippians 1:1). Including the

congregational officers in the address clearly implies Paul has the congregation at Philippi in view.

The letter to Colossae is addressed "To the saints and faithful brothers at Colossae" (Colossians 1:2) and the Ephesian epistle is addressed "To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful" (Ephesians 1:1). Colossians makes it clear that Paul expects these epistles, when they are received, to be read aloud to the churches. "And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea" (Colossians 4:16). Obviously no single person alone in a kitchen can "teach and admonish one another." Some plurality of persons is assumed. Primary reference is to the congregation gathered for edification and worship, where it is expected they would hear these epistles read.

■ "Is There Is No Pattern for Worship?"

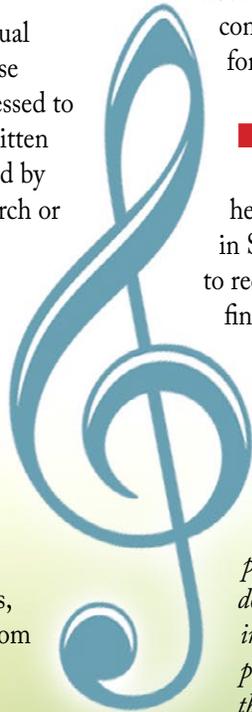
Even those who eschew patterns and denounce patternism acknowledge there are patterns to be followed in Scripture. It is almost universally understood that Christ is to be our pattern in conduct and attitudes. There are three prevailing mistakes regarding patterns: 1) attempts to bind patterns that Scripture does not require; 2) a virtually exclusive emphasis on a pattern for congregational assemblies; and 3) denial that there is a pattern for what takes place in assembly.

■ Inventing Patterns

Some see patterns where none are intended. The point here is that it is not necessary to deny that there are patterns in Scripture regarding acceptable work and worship in order to recognize that some claimed patterns are not binding. In the final analysis, a pattern is not binding because I think it is, and something else in Scripture is not incidental and non-binding because someone else thinks that way. What Scripture says is true whether we understand or believe it or not.

A well-known quote from the early days of the restoration movement reads,

Although inferences and deductions from Scripture premises, when fairly inferred, may be truly called the doctrine of God's holy word, yet they are not formally binding upon the consciences of Christians farther than they perceive the connection, and evidently see they are so; for their faith must not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power and veracity of God (Thomas Campbell, Declaration and Address).



That is necessarily so, unless one is willing to turn authority over his or her faith to a preacher, editor or other human being. We ought to persuade, warn and admonish those we perceive to be mistaken, but we have no power to force anyone to believe or to enforce conformity to our viewpoints.

■ A Pattern for Life

When an appeal to biblical patterns is almost exclusively related to patterns for assemblies and to such things as congregational organization and activity, it can cause hearers to mistakenly conclude that those are the only, or at least the primary, things about which the Lord is concerned.

Jesus' judgment scenes focus on how his disciples are to minister to the needy. The Sermon on the Mount gives primary emphasis to character, motivation and recognition of our dependence on the Lord more than on ourselves. His parables remind us that we are to be a neighbor to anyone in need and to be glad and rejoice when sinners respond and repent.

When the New Testament writers come to the "How Shall We Then Live" part of their epistles (see for example, Romans 12-14; Ephesians 4-6; Colossians 3-4), they do not focus primarily on assemblies and congregational programs. Their focus is on everyday life. They emphasize morality, integrity and a caring spirit. The setting of the patterns for our lives in Christ is home (husband/wife, parents/children) and workplace (master/servant or employer/employee). The pattern includes fidelity to one's spouse and fair treatment and honesty in the work place, working as if one were working for the Lord.

In congregational life the biblical pattern emphasizes acceptance of the weak because Christ accepted us when we were weak. It regulates our speech, forbidding lies, slander, obscene or corrupting talk and unsuitable jesting, calling instead for grace-filled conversation, words seasoned with salt that encourage and edify the hearers. It centers on attitudes, on putting away strife, bitterness and malice, and putting on kindness, tenderheartedness and a forgiving spirit. To neglect this aspect of the biblical pattern is to give ammunition to those who think patternism is irrelevant to life and ignores what the Bible primarily emphasizes.

Some brethren in a tight-knit circle of fellowship, including only those who agree completely with them on a particular set of issues, seem to overlook continued blatant dishonesty and immorality within their number as long as the perpetrators are "sound" on the issues. Surely no one actually teaches that it does not matter how people behave as long as their doctrine is correct, but hearers

can get that idea when the life-style aspect of the biblical pattern is not emphasized as well as other aspects deemed "doctrinal."

■ A Pattern for Assembly

Those who reject what they call patternism are usually rejecting specific aspects of a pattern for congregational assemblies that have been taught and practiced by churches of Christ through the years. The one whose sermon I am reviewing denies that the biblical pattern specifies singing and thereby rules out playing of instruments.

Is there a New Testament pattern for our assemblies? Is there anything in the Bible that indicates what God will be pleased with as we gather to worship him and edify one another, or is anything we choose to do that excites us and makes us feel good acceptable as an assembly activity? Is it ever important to ask concerning what we engage in as worship in our assemblies, "Is this biblical?" Our speaker says it is. Should we ever wonder whether what we are about to do can be demonstrated from Scripture to be acceptable to God? He says, "The most important thing to ask in determining a course of action is 'What does the Bible say?'"

Again, a quotation from a pioneer in the early days of the attempt in America to restore apostolic practices:

Those, then, who contend that there is no divinely authorized order of Christian worship in Christian assemblies, do at the same time, and must inevitably maintain, that there is no disorder, no error, no innovation, no transgression in the worship of the Christian church--no, nor ever can be (Alexander Campbell, "A Restoration of the Ancient Order of Things--V," Christian Baptist, Vol. 2, pp. 240-241, emphasizes his).

Nothing can be wrong unless something right is specified against which to evaluate it. **MM**

End of Part III.

Editor's Note: Part IV -- the final installment of brother May's response to a sermon preached in favor of using musical instruments in worship is to be included in our next issue. Look for the Winter edition to be published on/about the first of December, 2018. It will include the following points:

"The Biblical Doctrine of Assembly, Patternism and Legalism, History Speaks" and "Closing Thoughts About Christ's Church."



It's Time to Start!



MAGNOLIA BIBLE INSTITUTE

(A School of Biblical Studies)

In a recent meeting in regards to activating the School of Biblical Studies to be known as MBI (Magnolia Bible Institute), several points were made by the participants:

First, the old Magnolia Bible College, exists only in the lives of its graduates. Those graduates are preaching all over the world. Other graduates have become elders and church workers and a host of other positive things. But, the "entity" called Magnolia Bible College no longer exists.

Second, the need for biblical studies and training for leadership in the church, as well as spiritual growth still exists. So, as advertised in the *Magnolia Messenger*, MBI (a school of Biblical studies) is coming into being. Since all of us involved believe the need for the school is urgent, the elders of the church in Kosciusko, Mississippi, scheduled the first class for September 13, 2018. We have already had calls from several potential students. We are hopeful that our two preachers, who are also helping as fund-raisers and recruiters, can help in finding more and more students to fill each of our planned classes.

Third, in view of this reality, the participants of this support and planning committee recommends that the *Magnolia Messenger* put M.B.I. (Magnolia Bible Institute) at the top of the list in its advertising of all the things available in our Magnolia Bible Center. We are already having success with our workshops, youth



Ray Paseur
One of Several Qualified
Instructors
"Ready to Teach"

programs, encouragement seminars and lectureships. But the time has come to put our emphasis, prayers, and planning into action regarding the school of Biblical studies and *the time is now*. We need to start classes as soon as possible.

Fourth, there is a pool of teachers with both credentials and experience already available to teach the classes that are beginning in September.

Fifth, as our program develops, classes will be held in the facilities of the old Magnolia Bible College. These facilities are more than sufficient for the task at hand.

Sixth, these classes will be available to both men and women. Students completing thirty-six hours, that

is, the content of the program, will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Summarily, I am whole-heartedly behind the efforts to develop the School of Biblical Studies. I trust the leadership of the elders of the Huntington Street church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi. *I intend to help this school to be a success.* I also ask you to help us by supporting Christian education in Mississippi, in the form of the Magnolia Bible Institute, a school of Biblical studies.

Ray Paseur

*Former Professor of Magnolia Bible College
Presently, Preacher for the Forest church of Christ*

Magnolia Bible Institute (Kosciusko, Mississippi) Classes to be Offered

TOPICAL CLASSES (100)

TOP105 - Survey of Biblical Studies
TOP110 - Hermeneutics
TOP115 - Church History
TOP120 - NT Church
TOP125 - Christian Evidences
TOP130 - Systematic Theology
TOP135 - Preacher & His Work 1
TOP140 - Preacher & His Work 2
TOP145 - Preacher & His Work 3
TOP150 - Archaeology & Geography
TOP155 - Between the Testaments

OLD TESTAMENT CLASSES (200)

OT200 - OT Survey
OT205 - Pentateuch 1
OT210 - Pentateuch 2
OT215 - History of Israel 1
OT220 - History of Israel
OT225 - Wisdom Literature 1
OT230 - Wisdom Literature 2
OT235 - Major Prophets 1
OT240 - Major Prophets 2
OT250 - Minor Prophets

NEW TESTAMENT CLASSES (300)

NT300 - NT Survey
NT305 - The Synoptic Gospels
NT310 - John
NT315 - Acts
NT320 - Romans
NT325 - Pauline Epistles 1
NT330 - Pauline Epistles 2
NT335 - Hebrews
NT340 - General Epistles
NT350 - Revelation

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Ray Paseur (662-582-2017); Les Ferguson, Sr. (601-562-4226); A. L. Franks (601-668-3344)
Will Anderson (662-832-0457); Paul Franks (662-792-2700) and/or Don Woods (731-439-3772)**



Pine Vale

CHILDREN'S HOME

Where do struggling families turn for help, healing, and hope? Pine Vale Children's Home has been operating in Corinth since 1976. Over the years they have served hundreds of children passing through the foster care system. A lot of changes have taken place in the Mississippi Department of Human Services (which now operates as the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services) over the past forty years. These changes have slowly led Pine Vale away from its original focus and ultimately led to the decision for them to separate from the State, and return to their roots. Their focus is shifting away from children being forced into foster care and toward children and families that are actively seeking help, healing, and hope.

There are a variety of children and families who need the hope Pine Vale can offer. Among those is a growing number of grandparents and extended family members that have stepped in to raise children that are not theirs. Grandparents are often unable to keep up with the physical demands of raising a child. Extended family members have responsibilities of their own, and are not always able to absorb the cost of an extra child in their home. Pine Vale can offer hope for these families.

There is also a growing number of individuals that are struggling with addiction. While help can be found locally that permit participants to stay at home, there are other programs that require a long term stay in a facility a great distance away. The person that is responsible enough to commit to such a program may not go because they do not have anyone to care for their children in their absence. This need is not limited to those seeking rehabilitation from chemical dependency, but it could be a need of those requiring physical rehabilitation due to a surgery or accident. Pine Vale can offer hope for these families.

There is a growing number of families that are struggling to connect with their children. This may be due to the trouble or trauma in which they have been exposed. This is very common among families that have adopted children, and especially if the child was older or from overseas. However, this struggle is just as prevalent among biological families. Families are seldom equipped to uncover a suitable solution to the disruptive behavior of their child. Pine Vale can offer hope for these families.

Life can be overwhelming. People have their health

decline, they lose their jobs, they lose their houses, or they lose a spouse to death, divorce, or abandonment. Any number of things can derail the plan a family had to live a happily ever after. These traumatic times can drag a family down and keep them down if they cannot find the right help. What they often need is relief and time to regroup, but that is difficult to do while trying to raise a family. Pine Vale can offer hope for these families.

There are a number of other reasons a child may come to Pine Vale. The parent or guardian may be facing incarceration, the child may be a true orphan, or the child may be homeless. There is hope to be had for any of these children and their families. The fear of many parents or guardians is that if they place their children at Pine Vale they will never see them again. This is the farthest thing from the truth. Pine Vale believes that a child will naturally desire a connection with their family and that such a connection can be maintained and should be maintained while the child resides with us. The second obstacle parents or guardians face in making such a decision is the stigma they attach to "sending their child away." Every family is different but every family has the same obligation, to see to

the needs of one another in the best way possible. That is being responsible and loving your children.

Pine Vale is a beautiful fifty-two-acre campus in the Wenasoga area of Corinth. They have three cottages that are staffed by a set of full time, live-in, house-parents. Each cottage houses 6-8 children. The children attend Kossuth schools. They live together, play together, eat together, go on trips together, and worship together. Pine Vale is a work fully funded by the churches of Christ and members of the Church. It is also well supported by numerous individuals, businesses, and organizations in the community. For more information about how Pine Vale Children's Home can help provide hope for your family please visit their website www.pinevalechildrenshome.com, email pinevalech@pinevalech.com, or call 662-286-6555. **MM**

These changes have slowly led Pine Vale away from its original focus and ultimately led to the decision for them to separate from the State, and return to their roots.



Huntsville Ladies' Day

(At French Camp, MS, Aug. 25)

Report by Judy Lollar

This year the ladies of Huntsville church of Christ, French Camp, MS, hosted a Hospitality "Tea." Our day was Saturday, August 25, 2018, with the theme "Esteeming Each Other!"

It was a wonderful day beginning with a snack, followed by our program, and ending with a tea. Snack and tea food were prepared by ladies from the church. In addition, individual ladies volunteered to decorate the tables for the tea. Teresa Hampton from Clinton, MS was our keynote speaker.

The program consisted of a welcome by Holly Wright; a poem, "Drinking from my Saucer," read by Judy Tharp; singing led by Olene Boggan; Scripture reading by Chloe Tharp; opening prayer by Chellie Surrette; introduction of the speaker by Vicky Beardain; program presentation by Teresa Hampton; closing remarks by Judy Lollar and presentation of gift and closing prayer by Barbara Wright; registration by Vicky Beardain and Chellie Surrette.

The following scripture illustrated the theme "Esteeming Each Other" on which Teresa based her presentation.

Philippians 2:1-4

"If there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, make full my joy, that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; doing nothing through faction or through vainglory, but lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others."

Teresa began with the statement from a power point presentation: "Love is the foundation ingredient" to Christian service. She preceded this statement with a cooking analogy. "A lady prepared to bake a blueberry pie, only to discover she had no sugar. After much searching to find a pie recipe without sugar, she realized that all of them required sugar. You just cannot make a pie without sugar." Teresa concluded that analogy by comparing it to Christians. "What sugar is to pie, love is to Christian service. Love is the foundation ingredient." Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also have love one for another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

What kind of love was Jesus talking about? The word Jesus used for love was "agape," a committed love, devoted to the good of the other person. The church of Corinth had problems with

a lack of esteem for others, feeling a desire to be more important than others. I Corinthians 12:25 states: "...there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another." Paul described the church as the bride of Christ. The love for Jesus cannot be separated from the love for His bride, the church. Then, showing disregard for the church (those who make up the church) is showing disregard for Christ. John said, "This is the message you heard from the beginning; We should love one another...this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our



brothers." 1 John 3:11, 16

What does this kind of love for one another require? It requires that we return good for evil, go to the individual privately (Matthew 18:15), and try to lead the person closer to Christ. If we do not follow Jesus' plan, we are in danger of letting the strife hinder our worship to God. Matthew 5:23-24 If we want God to acknowledge any good that we try to accomplish, we must be guided by love! Teresa used several scripture references to emphasize her point:

1 Corinthians 13:1. Paul said, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal..."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7. The kind of love God desires is "patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs, it does not delight in evil, but rejoices in truth, it always hopes, and always perseveres."

Love is the foundation ingredient if we are serving as a true Christian! Esteeming each other must begin with love!

Teresa Hampton is from Clinton, MS. She has spoken to women across the U.S., Canada, and Scotland. She has written five study books for women: *Illuminating Shadows*, *Leading Ladies*, *Come to the Garden*, *Jesus and His Relationship to Women*, and *God's Girls*. She co-authored *Let the Little Children Come*, a three-year curriculum for Vacation Bible School. She also writes and sends a monthly devotional e-letter called *Wellspring*, which is now available in audio by Internet. Her articles are featured in Christian Woman Magazine and Think Magazine.

Teresa is married to Gary C. Hampton, the pulpit minister at Siwell Road Church of Christ, in Jackson, Mississippi. She and Gary have two children, Nathan and Tabitha. Nathan lives in Clinton, MS. Tabitha and her husband, Carey McFarland, live in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Judy's email: lollarjudy@hotmail.com) **MM**



Teresa Hampton

Singing Group, Zomen, Perform in Kosciusko



(From left) Jon Mark Smith, Robbie McCafferty, Jeff Frank, Mike McCafferty and Todd Dunaway

On Saturday, July 28, 2018, a group of over 150 people attended a free concert featuring former members of "Zomen." For several years this talented singing group gladly used their musical skills as they traveled from place to place publicizing the work of Magnolia Bible College. The musicians seem to really enjoy their return to Kosciusko where they once again could sing together, surrounded by many who loved and appreciated their efforts in days gone by. It was a time for reunion and remembrances.

Jon Mark Smith (on left), one of the group, presently works with Eastern European Mission, a work that distributes Bibles in areas of the world where there is a continuing hunger for God's Word. The concert, held at Barrister Hall in Kosciusko, raised over \$7,000 to help with free distribution of Bibles in Eastern Europe. The Saturday evening concert was considered to be both enjoyable and profitable.

(NOTE: Jon Mark lives in Loxey, AL; Robbie in Kosciusko, MS, Jeff in McComb, MS, Mike in Searcy, AR, and Todd in Nashville, TN.)

MAGNOLIA Messenger

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By Dennis Doughty

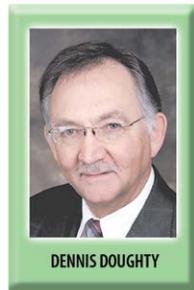
Summer officially ended on September 22nd (at the autumnal equinox, when the sun is at zenith, or directly above, the equator, to be exact). So, we bid it good-bye. Beach vacations have been lived and sunburns healed. College kids have loaded up their belongings and headed off to waiting dorm rooms. High school seniors have begun a year that will always be special in their memories. Moms have tearfully dropped off their five-year-old for their first day of kindergarten.

Here in the Delta, and across America, farmers are sizing up their crops while some combines are even now reaping the harvest. In baseball the "boys of Summer" are in the "7th inning stretch" of their season while football teams have had their first kickoffs. There is a ting of Fall in the air.

With summer coming to an end, only one issue remains for this year's hot and humid season; long ago a great prophet stated, "Harvest is past, summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jer. 8:20). Whatever this summer has been, if you have not been right with God, it is another

regretful season of lost opportunities.

We do not know when death will come. Do not be like the farmer Jesus spoke of who had a bumper crop, stored it away in his new bigger and better barns, and said, "Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry." But that man was a fool because he ignored God in his life, and that night he died, as God declared, "Your soul



is required of you." Jesus added, "so is the man who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:16-21.)

You and I are not promised another week, day or even hour on this earth. "You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:15). Do not put off doing today, what you may not be around to do tomorrow!

We also do not know when the Lord will return. Jesus taught us to "be on the alert, for you do not know which

day your Lord is coming." He spoke of a servant who said in his heart, "My master is not coming for a long time" and filled his days with food and drink. Jesus said of that servant, "the Master will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25: 42-51).

We must be ready, for death, or the Judgement, can come at any time.

There will be no excuses on Judgement day, for Christ died for all. Not a select few. He commanded his apostles to "go into all the world," and preach the gospel "To all creation" (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16). God's desire is "for all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). The Lord's invitation was extended to "all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

So no excuses, for Jesus "became to all those who obey Him, the source of eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:8). "All" means All, and all means: you too can obey the Lord and be saved!

So good-bye summer. Thanks for the memories. But hey, if your soul is not right with the Lord, it's not too late; "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). No matter the season, now is a great time to get your life right with God! **MM**

(Dennis lives in Tunica, Mississippi where he preaches for the church. His email address: dennis1848@bellsouth.net)

Living On



October 26-27, 2018

**Speaker:
Jimmie Timbes**

North Mississippi Ladies' Retreat

Tishomingo State Park

Registration begins Friday at 5:00 pm;

Supper at 6:00 pm; Retreat concludes after lunch on Saturday

Bring bed linens for bunk bed, etc.

Remember to bring your lawn chair for the bonfire

(if permission is granted)

\$40.00 per person

Dress is casual!!!

Each individual is asked to bring a door prize.

Each congregation is encouraged to bring a skit!

For additional information contact:

Robin Whitley @ 662-231-2367 or Jessica Vickers @ 662-681-5727)



When God Said “Do Not Pray”

By John Gardner

“So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them...” (Jeremiah 11:14) “Then the Lord said to me, Do not pray for this people for their good.” (Jeremiah 14:11).

The words to Jeremiah seem strange to us because they come from God, not man. If some man had demanded no more prayers to God on behalf of a nation or people, we would have recoiled. At the same time, we would have found that prohibition in keeping with the vindictive spirit of fallen man.

In our verses, it is God who commands Jeremiah not to pray for the “good” of Judah. As surely as the Bible records that God heard the prayers of some of his greatest servants

on behalf of a sinful people (Daniel 9), here he commands Jeremiah to cease praying for his brethren. When prayer is *strictly forbidden*, we know something is *extremely wrong*.

What was wrong with Judah was the



JOHN GARDNER

breakdown of basic morality, the obstinate pursuit of idolatry, and the complete rejection of God’s will. The opening words of Jeremiah 7 describe the dominant way of life in Jerusalem at the time. The people were oppressing the poor, stealing, murdering, committing adultery, swearing falsely and burning incense to idols (Vv. 5 - 9). They felt they were delivered from God’s wrath because the Temple was there (Vv. 4, 9, 10), but they were terribly mistaken.

God had sent the prophets to speak for Him, but the people refused His word (V. 13). Now God’s mind was set to bring a swift and effective punishment on them (Vv. 14, 15). “Therefore, do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you,” the Lord told his prophet (Jeremiah 7: 16).

God had ruled out sparing His hardened, rebellious people. They had to suffer



But let us never through weakness pray that the unrepentant be spared as they are. In our day of softness on sin and judgment, that may seem to be a harsh decision. But only when we take sin and God’s judgment of sin seriously can we effectively seek to save the lost and restore the erring.

and go into captivity. No amount of prayers would deliver them from reaping what they had sowed.

When Nebuchadnezzar brought his armies against the Jerusalem, Zedekiah, the rebellious puppet king, appealed to Jeremiah to pray for the nation (Jeremiah 37: 1 - 3). There is no evidence that the prophet offered that prayer. Zedekiah may have thought that he did because the Egyptians came up out of their land to the city and the troops of Nebuchadnezzar retreated (V. 5). God sent the prophet to Zedekiah to assure him that the relief was only temporary and not a real deliverance from the wrath God had promised to bring on rebellious Judah (Vv. 6 - 10).

When God forbade Jeremiah to pray, what was at stake was the futility of praying for committed, unrepentant sinners to escape

the wrath that their willful sin is bringing to them. The prohibition does not forbid praying that sinners might repent and find God’s mercy. The Lord of hosts was forbidding the prophet to pray that unrepentant sinners would somehow escape the just wrath of God while they continued in their willful rebellion.

We are taught to pray for one another regarding sins (James 5:16). John tells us that if we see a brother sinning in a way “not leading to death,” God will hear that prayer and give life to that one (1 John 5:16). But if we see a brother or sister sinning in a way that tells us the sin is “leading to death,” we are not to pray for that one. Based on what is said in 1 John 1: 9, when one repents of sin and confesses it, that sin will be forgiven and will not lead to the sure wages of unforgiven sin—eternal death (Romans 6:26). But sin—any sin—willfully pursued, without remorse or repentance, leads to death.

If we observe a brother or sister persistently sinning with no intention of giving up that sin in repentance, God tells us, through John, not to pray that his or her rebellious sin be forgiven as it stands. We should work and pray to see if we can turn that one from the error of his or her way and help save a soul from death (James 5:19, 20). But it is futile and contrary to God’s will to pray that the headstrong, unrepentant sinner be spared the wrath of God in his or her present state.

Let us continue to pray for what surely is God’s will that “all men everywhere... repent” (Acts 17: 30). It is our privilege and responsibility to pray for erring brothers and sisters who repent and want our prayers on their behalf (Acts 8: 18 - 24). But let us never through weakness pray that the unrepentant be spared as they are. In our day of softness on sin and judgment, that may seem to be a harsh decision. But only when we take sin and God’s judgment of sin seriously can we effectively seek to save the lost and restore the erring. **MM**

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

If We Want The Church To Truly Grow;

We Must STOP (JUST) Inviting People To Church!



By Douglas E. Dingley

It is no secret to any of us that the Lord's church is shrinking; that we are graying instead of growing. If we are 'growing' at all, it is only in the area of 'growing older' and getting smaller. The 2018 edition of "Churches of Christ in the United States" (© 2018 by 21st Century Christian, Inc.) reveals that as recently as 2000-2018, a whopping 1,047 congregations of the Lord's church in America have simply ceased to exist. That is a staggering loss of some 59 congregations per year, on average. During that same time period, they also report the loss of nearly 200,000 adherents (pg. 22).

This devastating decline is occurring despite the countless millions of dollars and hours worth of effort being poured into radio, T.V., D.V.D. and internet ministries, as well as V.B.S., gospel meetings, "bring a friend to church" events, and a vast variety of other well-conducted outreach projects annually. How is that even possible?

When we look into our Bibles however, we see that the first century church of Christ grew like wildfire! Despite massive governmental persecution, deadly opposition from other zealous religious groups, and without the benefit of any of the modern-day technological advances which we now enjoy and utilize for evangelistic purposes, within about three decades after the death of Christ and the establishment of His one, New Testament church, that generation had so successfully taken the gospel into the whole world (Colossians 1:23), that they were accused by their adversaries of having "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). How on earth did they do it?

You see, we today in the churches of Christ claim to be the same church as we see in the Scriptures. We profess to "Call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways" - and rightly so and well we should. But if that is truly the case, then we must be about doing what they did, in order to see what they saw. But alas, we apparently are not. And so, we must look deeply into the word, uncover the 'secret' to their vast evangelistic success, and then follow that divinely-documented pattern, if we are to see

that same incredible congregational and kingdom growth today.

One of the first and most obvious things which we discover when we look deeply into the pattern of that first-century, explosively church-growing generation, is that they never once 'invited someone to church' in order to convert them! No, not once. If so, where so? Where, in the Book of Acts, did anyone, ever, under any circumstances, invite a lost sinner to church, in order that the preacher might perhaps then convert him/her? They didn't. You won't find that phrase - 'invited them to church' - alluded to anywhere in the New Testament... So how did our first century brethren manage to carry out such successful evangelism then? Let's look and see.

Once the miracle of Acts 3:1-11 had gotten the crowd's attention and made them curious, what did Peter do? Did he then invite them all to church on Sunday so they could have explained to them all that had just happened? No. He took advantage of the opportunity right then and there to tell them about Jesus (Vss. 12-26)! No waiting or inviting whatsoever! (Therefore, they also did not enjoy the luxury of having several days' worth of time to come

up with a convenient excuse as to why they were sorry but could not go to church with him the next Lord's Day.) And what was the result? Church growth exploded (Acts 4:1-4).

In Acts 5:42, we see that people were being taught "daily, in the temple, and in every house" about Jesus - not just on Sundays, and not just in the assemblies. What happened as a result? Folks weren't just simply reported as being 'added' to the church; disciples were rapidly "multiplying" (Acts 6:1).

After the martyrdom of Stephen, the persecution of the brethren, and the scattering of the church, what did those normal, everyday saints (and not the apostles as Scripture clearly notes), abandoning their homes and 'running for their lives, do everywhere they went (Acts 7:54-8:4)? Did they invite those they came in contact with to go to church with them in their new towns on Sunday? No. They themselves - the everyday members - preached



Douglas E. Dingley

We, as grateful and Christ-clad individuals must stop simply and ever so occasionally just inviting someone to church and thinking we've done our Christian duty. Instead, we must start instantly and individually involving everyone we possibly can, in an in-depth, on the spot investigation of the scriptures with us personally – no matter who we are (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 2:13-16) - at each and every opportunity we have or can create!

THAT'S how THEY did it!

the word everywhere they went (8:4). What happened when Philip did that in Samaria? Both men and women were being baptized (Acts 8:12). In other words, the number of souls converted continued to climb rapidly.

In Acts 8:26-34, we read of Philip's encountering the pious, religious, and inquisitive (but as of that point still unconverted) Ethiopian eunuch as he was reading from the scroll of Isaiah. When the eunuch posed a religious question to him, what did Philip automatically do? Did he hesitantly invite the eunuch to join him for church on Sunday so as to possibly get his scriptural question answered by another or the preacher? No; not hardly! Instead, "Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him" (Acts 8:35). What happened as a result? Another baptism and new brother in Christ (Vss. 36-39).

Whether we turn to the story of Cornelius and his entire household's conversion as recorded in Acts 10; or we take a look at the biblical account of how church growth exploded as "a great number believed and turned to the Lord" in Acts 11:19-21; if we explore the austere beginnings of that great and faithful first-century congregation in Philippi by examining the conversion accounts of both Lydia and the jailer which we read about in Acts 16:10-34; or, should we examine such events as we see resulted in the fact that "all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus" in Acts 19:8-10, we would note the same exact pattern of effective evangelism always in evidence. And never once did it involve any saint 'inviting anyone to church' so that the preacher or some other 'professional' teacher might somehow perhaps help convert them to Christ – no, not once.

What we discover instead, is every saved and grateful saint, explaining to everyone they ever encountered, everywhere they ever traveled, all about the infinite love, grace, and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ – instantly and on the spot! This they did in the streets, the marketplaces, and the prisons; in private homes, from house to house, and on a daily basis; and even on the banks of a river – indeed "everywhere" they ever went" (Acts 8:4, 21:28)! God's precise and divinely-documented pattern of infinitely powerful, productive, and effective evangelism, always was, is, and shall forevermore be, exactly that.

Therefore, if we would grow today like they did in the first century, then we must do today what they did then to achieve it. As individual Christians we must stop neglecting our God-given duty by insisting on instituting a process that is Biblically non-existent. In other words, we, as grateful and Christ-clad individuals must stop simply and ever so occasionally just inviting someone to church and thinking we've done our Christian duty. Instead, we

must start instantly and individually involving everyone we possibly can, in an in-depth, on the spot investigation of the scriptures with us personally – no matter who we are (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 2:13-16) – at each and every opportunity we have or can create! THAT'S how THEY did it!

We must get away from this man-made and self-justifying reasoning that we pay the preacher and/or the elders or other 'professionals' to do the congregation's evangelizing. We must study and retrain ourselves to understand that biblically speaking, evangelism is every, single, individual saint's responsibility – no matter their age, gender, or church status.

Yes, the preacher and the elders do have the same responsibility to evangelize as everyone else – but no more and no less than any other saved and grateful member of the Lord's church to be sure! They also have the added and God-given responsibility of making sure they are providing the proper biblical tools and training to the rest of the congregation, so as to most effectively equip the everyday saints in the pews to do so. This is precisely what Christ gave those leaders to His church for. We see this providentially proven in Ephesians 4:11-16:

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

My beloved brethren; it's time to do what God told Moses (Exodus 14:13-15). God has provided us with His perfect plan for explosive church growth. It's time to stop complaining to God because we're shrinking and going backwards, and to start following His commandment and get growing forward (Matthew 28:18-20). Will you join me now in implementing the Lord's infinitely powerful instructions for initiating effective everyday evangelism today? **MM**

(Brother Doug preaches for the church of Christ; 209 W Delaware St, Cleveland, doug.dingley@gmail.com

from a Woman's Viewpoint

How Will You Be Remembered?

By: June Franks

The phrase “*She hath done what she could*” is a very familiar phrase taken from Mark 14:8. Here is found a very interesting story about an event that happened to Jesus right before His death. (Mark 14:1-9)

Many articles and books have been written about the phrase, “She hath done what she could.” It has also been used, through the centuries, as an epitaph on tombstones of those who believed the phrase applied to them.

“She hath done what she could” is a remarkable statement Jesus made about a woman with whom He had come in contact. Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper when this event occurred. The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by trickery and put Him to death. But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people” (Mark 14:1,2). It is so sad that Jewish leaders were looking for every opportunity to kill Jesus.

The Bible says “*as Jesus sat at the table.*” Another version says “*as He sat at meat.*” Jesus was eating at Simon the Leper’s table in Bethany. As Jesus sat eating, a woman came, having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. The Bible says, “Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head” (Mark 14:3). The woman’s act displeased some. Scripture states, “But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.”

A denarius or penny was what an agricultural worker typically was paid for one day’s labor. Therefore, 300 denarii would have been someone’s annual salary. In ancient times, spikenard was regarded as



JUNE FRANKS

one of the most precious oils. It has been used across a wide territory from India to Europe as a perfume, a medicine and in religious contexts.

Does this incident remind you of people today? Some complain about everything. They find fault even when others are doing a good work. It is such a shame that some would complain when something good was being done for Jesus. Their reasoning was that it should have been sold and given to the poor. But really? Were they interested in the poor?

The Bible says they criticized her sharply. One translation says, “And they murmured against her.” This also reminds me of people today, Those who murmur and complain bring harm to individuals and to congregations. Such can be very hurtful, even to those who are earnestly trying to do good.

How did Jesus answer those who complained about not giving the value of the spikenard to the poor? Jesus said, “Let her alone, Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do good: but Me you do not have always” (Mark 14:6,7).

Jesus defended the woman saying, “She has done a good work for Me.” Jesus added, “For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do then good; but Me you do not have always.” Again, do you think those who complained were really interested in the poor?

This woman, who was not named in Mark’s account, demonstrated the true spirit of worship in humility. She took advantage of the opportunity to serve and honored Jesus by doing all that she could. As the scripture indicates, the ointment was expensive oil -- not cheap toilet water. She gave her best to Jesus. It was also a time when religious leaders were seeking Jesus in order to kill Him. This woman showed courage in that she worshipped our Lord in

spite of criticism and did it in the presence of those who were trying to kill Jesus.

Jesus said in Mark 14:9, “Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be told as a memorial to her.” What she did was forever connected to the gospel story. She was criticized for what she did. She may have been criticized even by some of the disciples. But Jesus praised her.

Does this incident make you think of situations that we see today? Even when we do right and that which is good, we are often criticized by others. But if what we do is pleasing to Jesus, what really matters? We should be seeking to please God and not man.

As women, let us be about doing what we can. The unidentified woman was praised by Jesus when He said, “She hath done what she could!” Regrettably, some are content to just occupy a pew each Lord’s Day. They feel no responsibility to do what they can! When you pass into eternity, for what will you be remembered? Will your loved ones be able to correctly place on your tombstone, “*She hath done what she could?*”

This unidentified woman mentioned in Mark 14 definitely had the attitude of a servant. She serves as an example and a role model for each of us. Are you doing what you can? Do you have a servant’s heart?

Please read carefully the words of this thoughtful song. Are you able to sing this song and mean it? **MM**

***“Lord, make me a servant,
Lord, make me like you;
For you are a servant,
Make me one, too.
Lord make me a servant,
Do what you must do;
To make me a servant,
Make me like you.”***

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Ladies' Day (Report)

Kosciusko Church of Christ

On September 15, 2018, the ladies of the South Huntington Street church of Christ, Kosciusko, Mississippi hosted their 4th annual Ladies Day. The theme was "Be Brave: Trust and Obey." The keynote speakers were Dianne Ivery, Henderson, Tennessee and Moriah McCrary from Ripley, Mississippi. In addition to South Huntington, ladies from several area congregations were in attendance.

God truly blessed us with a beautiful day for our gathering. The activities of the day began with a light breakfast served in the fellowship room of the church building. At 9:30 the program began with Erika Anderson welcoming everyone. June Woods and Laura Adcock led the singing. Betty Nickerson led the opening prayer and Kayla Anderson read Proverbs 3: 5-6. Afterward, Arissa Olive read, "Trust and Obey", a poem written by Esther Hall. Then, Amiyah Greer read John 14: 23-24., During the break, Semone Olive led the ladies in a period of fellowship in which gifts were given. Kierra Nickerson led the closing prayer.

June Woods introduced the first speaker, Dianne Ivery. Dianne's topic was, "Be Brave: Trust in the Lord." Dianne used an acrostic to illustrate her points on TRUST:

T: Turning over every aspect of my life to God.

R: Realizing that He already has a perfect plan for me.

U: Understanding that I may not always

understand!

S: Seeking His will every step of the way.

T: Thanking Him even when things don't turn out as expected.

One of the quotes Dianne shared with us was "Be Brave and remember that bravery is not the lack of fear but the ability to move forward in spite of fear."

June Franks introduced the next speaker, Moriah McCrary. Moriah also used an acrostic to help illustrate her lesson on OBEY.

O: Opportunities. God will provide opportunities and will give us opportunities to help us to grow. (James 1:27, Matt. 5:14-16)

B: Blessings (James 1:17). She reminded us of all the blessing we have -- family, husband, health, happiness, peace, creation and church family.

E: Encouragement (John 14:23).

Moriah shared with us the loss of her mom due to cancer. She expressed how God loved and carried her through the darkest days and helped her put broken pieces back together. She also emphasized the encouragement and love that she received from others.

Y: Yield. Have you yielded completely to Christ. (Romans 12:1,2; Romans 6:17). In closing was a good question for each of us to ask ourselves? *Have you yielded yourself completely to Christ?*

The ladies of the church had prepared a delicious meal which was served in the J. B. Hayes building. The meal was served to the ladies seated at beautifully decorated tables which carried out the theme and also the color scheme of the program. To show our appreciation, a small bag of Trail-mix and Dream Catcher was prepared by some of the ladies and given to all who were present.

It was a great day of Christian fellowship, Biblically based messages and delicious food served in a beautiful atmosphere. (Report by June Franks) **MM**



Moriah McCrary



Dianne Ivery

"Trust and Obey"

The song says "Trust and obey,
There is no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey."

We are to trust in Him who will not leave us.
And all His commands we are to obey.
A charge to keep without spot or blame,
The light of His presence has brightened our way.

We once were foolish and disobedient,
Hated and hating each day;
But the love and kindness of the Lord shows,
There is a way to be happy in Jesus.

While on earth we stay,
We work hard to serve the Lord;
Going - trying to be so brave,
Turning to the Lord in time of need.

Knowing only with Him we can be saved,
Jesus said come to Him for rest,
He will abide with us each day.
Give to God our hearts, our souls, our trouble;
In Him we are to trust and obey.

By Esther Hall
South Huntington Street
Church of Christ
Kosciusko, MS

"Read during Ladies' Day program"

Ladies' Day

Saturday,

October 20, 2018

8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Bay Springs
Church of Christ

Speaker:

Breanne Sullivan

Registration and Breakfast: **8:30 A.M.**

Program and Events:

9:00 A. M.

Lunch and Fellowship:

12:00 noon



Magnolia Messenger's News

■ Congratulations to the Thompsons 65 Years (Husband and Wife)

In our most recent visit back home to SW Louisiana (July, 2018) my June and I were blessed to join the celebration activities honoring Reid and Frieda Thompson on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Their special party was held in the fellowship building of the Boxwood church of Christ, near Merryville, Louisiana.

The long-married couple live in DeRidder, Louisiana and are faithful members of the Bilbo Street church of Christ. Reid and Frieda have, over the years, continually demonstrated their love for the Lord and His church. They have also given much encouragement to us in our work with the "Magnolia Messenger." We thank God for their good example in marriage and in faithfulness to the church of the living God. (alf)



Frieda and Reid Thompson

■ A Summer Visit "Back Home" to Boxwood

Near the end of June, 2018, my June and I made our way back to SW Louisiana to visit with family -- the descendants of J. R. and Lydia Franks, my dad's parents. It was a joyous occasion. So thankful to see family members and to drink in the precious memories of times gone by and loved ones who have gone on.

I was blessed, once again, with the opportunity of preaching for my home congregation, the "Boxwood church." This church is where I made my first Bible talk on a Wednesday night in June, 1948, five days after I was baptized into Christ. I am grateful now, and will be eternally grateful for the 70 years of encouragement given to me by my home church.

Earl Franks, a retired school teacher/principal, presently does a good job teaching and preaching for the country church, located about 10 miles south of Merryville, in SW Louisiana. (Several years ago, they installed "hook-ups" so we could visit in our RV and make ourselves at home.) I shall never forget the loving/caring people of the Boxwood church of Christ.



■ Skyline Church Installed Elders

(Tupelo, Mississippi)

A continuing and difficult challenge for the church of Christ in Century 21 is to "go back to the Bible" and earnestly seek to be like the church of Century One. Now, it is pretty easy to duplicate the human side of the early church with its flawed membership; however, our sincere goal should be to duplicate the divine side of the church of Jesus Christ, as described in Scripture.

In an effort to "Restore the New Testament Church" it is needful, among other things, to study NT teachings about early church leadership and seek to follow the example of the church you read about in the Bible. By studying Acts 20, Philippians 1, I Timothy 3 and Titus 1, we learn of God's plan for each congregation to develop and appoint (ordain) elders to oversee and shepherd each local church.

We are thankful when we hear of churches in our century who go back to the Bible and seek to duplicate the organization of the early first century church. This is done, in part, when elders are developed, selected and installed as special leaders in the church. Such was recently accomplished by the Skyline church, near Tupelo, MS.

A few days ago, we rejoiced to hear from Norman Maranto, preacher for the Skyline church. He informed us that he and Mike Willis had recently been selected and installed as elders of the church.

(The Skyline church meets on Old Highway 78, east of Tupelo, and brings together about 80 worshipers each Lord's day.) In his comments, brother Maranto said, "Everything going good up here; however, do miss the small group in Rolling Fork... Keep up the great work." (Note: Before moving to Amory a year or so ago, Norman preached several years for the church in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Back in the 1960's I also preached for the Skyline and Rolling Fork churches. Remember in prayer both congregations and the two elders now serving the Skyline church. May God bless! ALF, editor)



Mike Willis and Norman Maranto, Elders

■ A Godly Woman Remembered "Aunt Mittie"

During our summer visit back home to SW Louisiana, I visited the grave of a very special woman. I knew her as "Aunt Mittie." She was married to my Dad's uncle Carl. They lived only about a mile from where I grew up.

Notes & Information



Aunt Mittie was a very special Christian woman. She was mother to only one child who was paralyzed from birth and never able to talk or walk. It was necessary that her parents care for her "like a baby" even after she was grown. In spite of her handicaps, her parents brought her with them to church services on a regular basis. For years, even after physically mature, her mom would get her ready and her dad would pick her up in his arms and carry her into the church building. What an example in dedication, showing faith in and love for the Lord and His church.



At a relatively young age, Aunt Mittie was diagnosed with cancer. She underwent surgeries, received patiently medical treatments available, but finally, after a long battle, she died being less than 60 years old. I recall, as a young Christian, often praying for her and wondering why she did not get well. I was to learn, in time, that God knows best and that He never promised to heal every disease.

We need to trust Him. Life, hereafter, is far better than life here! So, may His will be done. After all, it is "appointed unto man once to die" (Heb. 9:27). About four days after my June and I were married in 1956, "Aunt Mittie" died. By faith, we believe she departed "to be with the Lord." That was her faith; that is our faith. I trust it is yours.

As the tombstone shows, her husband believed it was important to put the some special words on the tombstone of his precious wife. He inscribed, "She was a member of church of Christ." This fact brought comfort and hope to him. This hope can also be for you if you, like "Aunt Mittie", die "in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13). May all who die, "die in the Lord." Are you in Christ? Remember: You can't die in the Lord unless you live in the Lord! (alf)

■ DeQuincy, LA Church welcomes a new Preacher

Al Woodard is the new preacher for the DeQuincy Church of Christ. He and his family moved in July to DeQuincy from Florida. Thanks to Elizabeth Dickerson for providing the Messenger with this information.

■ Nell and Tommy Lawson Married 65 Years

On Saturday, June 23, 2018, Tommy and Nell Lawson were honored on their 65th wedding anniversary at the meeting place of the Wren Church of Christ (Wren, Mississippi). We have known the Lawsons for many of those years and have admired them for the great example they have set in their long marriage. Brother Tommy has served the Wren congregation as preacher for many, many years. Congratulations to the Lawsons for their long and honorable marriage. (mjf)



■ Red Bay, Alabama

Another pleasant visit with our brethren just across the state line.

On July 18, 2018, my June and I were privileged to enjoy a pleasant mid-week service with our brethren who assemble for worship on 4th Street in Red Bay, Alabama. Scott Webster, who serves as their preacher, taught the adult Bible class. We were blessed to sit at his feet and benefit from his Bible knowledge and teaching skills.



Scott Webster
(Teaching WN Bible Class)

We found the Red Bay congregation to be very friendly in their expression of genuine love for visitors. According to their bulletin, the church is overseen by two elders -- Ralph Duren and Herbert Trulove. Three deacons who also serve are Alan Nichols, Kenny Sparks and Jeremy West. The cordial reception of the Alabama church, so close to Mississippi, influences us to look forward to a return visit! (alf)

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Soaring on the Wings of Eagles

A REPORT ON THE 19TH ANNUAL LOUISIANA/TEXAS RV RALLY

The scheduled program for the 19th annual Louisiana/Texas RV Rally began on Wednesday, October 18th, 2017 but Christians arrived at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland, TX several days early in anticipation of a great time “Soaring on the Wings of Eagles”, the theme of the 2017 Rally.

By Sunday night on October 15th, 30 people gathered together for evening worship at the Sunshine Inn, the gathering place for the Rally. On Monday evening, 38 people enjoyed a dinner of smoked brisket, prepared by James Tidwell from Many, Louisiana. David McGee from Wesson, MS, with help from the other men, prepared a shrimp feast for 54 people on Tuesday evening. The dinner was followed by a bonfire where Phil Hatten from Lewisville Texas, led the group in singing spiritual hymns. Morris Tirpitz, from Shreveport, LA sang a medley of entertaining songs with his mandolin, and folks roasted marshmallows as they visited around the campfire.

On Wednesday evening Jerry Hodge of Shreveport, LA delivered a moving and entertaining lesson entitled “You Too Can Soar Upward Like an Eagle” to about 75 people. The lesson followed a pot luck meal featuring Shrimp Etouffet prepared by Danny and Donna Manuel from Many, LA. After the lesson all enjoyed homemade ice cream of all flavors.

The annual auction was on Thursday morning, where a wide range of items donated by the attendees were purchased by people attending the Rally. Funds raised were used to pay the cost of the Rally and other great Christian works.

Jerry Hodge spoke again on Thursday evening on “Above the World and it’s Stress” following a delicious meal featuring 1st place award winning Chili, made by Randy Henry from DeQuincy, LA with hot dogs and chili pie.

Jerry and Eleta Grimmitt from New Albany, MS were honored and presented a plaque recognizing their faithful service and attendance at the RV Rally over the years, often when Eleta was suffering with severe health problems.

Thursday evening was complete with several people telling humorous stories and jokes, featuring especially Margaret Deal



Robin Clark & Betty Harris
(daughter and mother)

from DeQuincy, LA.

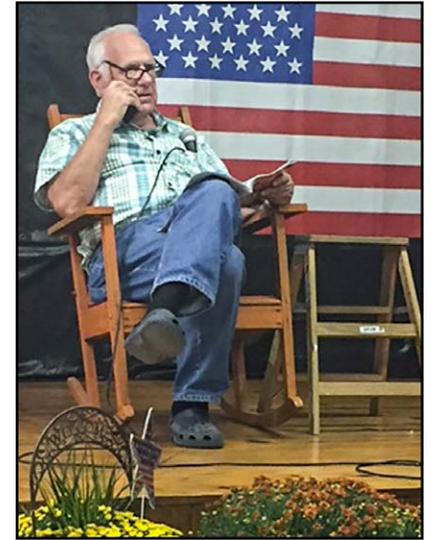
Friday evening at the Rally always includes a fish fry and moving Patriotic Program. The fish dinner was prepared by Glen Franks from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and David McGee, with the help from lots of the other men “tasting” to insure quality. The fish was furnished by Glen and included some of an 86 pound catfish landed by Glen and David several months ago.

Dinner was followed by an inspirational Patriotic Program especially honoring the veterans. Glen and Ena Franks developed the program, and Ena served as Emcee. Reid Thompson from DeRidder, LA was honored as the oldest veteran in attendance, and was awarded a really nice writing pen designed and made by



Randy Henry, stirring his chili





Phil Hatten Leading Singing



Jerry Grimmitt and David McGee Cooking Fish

Randy Henry.

Dan Manuel, minister of the Crocket Road Church in Palestine, LA presented an inspiring and patriotic lesson on “We Shall Run and not Grow Weary”. After

the lesson, Dan and his wife Audrey entertained by pickin’ and grinnin’. With several visiting from the Crocket Road Church, over 100 people were present for Friday evening activities.

Breakfast Saturday morning was prepared by Michael and Candy Honey and Janie Tindall from Greenwood, MS and Elaine Byrd from Centreville, MS and included bacon, eggs, sausages, pancakes, gravy and all the “fixin’s”. After breakfast Danny Manuel and several other men led a period of Gospel Singing.

Every afternoon, and after scheduled activities every evening, there was plenty of time for fun, games, arts and fellowship. There were several choices of games, including many different card games. Ladies enjoyed arts and crafts every day under leadership and direction of Nellie Caldwell from Vicksburg, MS and Connie Henry from DeQuincy, LA.

On Sunday morning the rally moved to the Crocket Road Church in Palestine where Ray Franks from DeQuincy, LA provided a lesson at the 9:30 Bible Study Hour entitled “Above the Storms of Illness”. Dan Manuel presented a lesson in keeping with

(Above, right) Dean Caldwell made us think: “A Telephone Call From God”

the Rally theme on “The Eagle, the Emblem of Renewal” at the 10:30 worship hour. A great pot luck lunch was hosted by members of The Crocket Road Church following the morning services.

All the folks who attend the Louisiana/Texas RV Rally’s sincerely appreciate the efforts of Ray and Donna Franks and Glen and Ena Franks in planning, conducting, and coordinating the Rally every year. Every year we always hear several people say “This was the Best Rally yet”. And so it is.

All are looking forward to the Rally this year set for October 17-21, 2018. For more information please contact Ray or Donna at (337)515-0866 or (337)842-5821, email rayfranks74@gmail.com, or Glen or Ena at (337)477-2660 or cell (337)842-7183, email gefranks@app.net. **MM**

Dean Caldwell Our “Rally Reporter,” Vicksburg, Mississippi

5,000+ Gathered Together For

“Polishing the Pulpit”

In August of 2018, the Convention Center in Sevierville, Tennessee overflowed with Christians from many states and several countries. It was a “week to be remembered; for some, “an event of a lifetime.”

Words fall short when trying to describe the experience of being with thousands of fellow believers, all worshipping, studying and enjoying fellowship. Our special thanks to the Jacksonville, Alabama church for their leadership in making possible this annual event. The next PTP dates are August 16-22, 2019. Consider attending. You will not regret the time, effort and expense involved. (editor)



Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi



EDDIE LEWIS

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

This quarter I enjoyed visiting among the churches. I was able to help the church in Coffeeville as they searched and found a new minister. Also, I helped the church in Cleveland while their minister was away on a mission trip. I preached almost every Sunday. For that, I'm thankful that I have been given the opportunity to speak and health to do so. The following is my report.

■ **April 1:** I was invited to preach for the **BATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Michael Bates, their minister, was attending the Lads to Leaders conference in Memphis and he asked me to sub for him. It was good to see the folks there. They had several visitors to make up



Eddie Lewis and Jim Dickerson at Batesville

for the 90 people attending the conference. Their attendance is around 200 and they have three elders. Batesville is a good congregation and they have a good mix of all ages. I enjoyed my visit.

One of the elders, Jim Dickerson, taught the auditorium Bible class. They were beginning a study of the parables of Jesus. He considered four that morning: "The Patch And The Wine Skins" (Matthew 9:6-11); "You Are The Light Of

The World" (Matthew 5:14); and "The Wise And Foolish Builders" (Luke 6:16). Jim presented a wonderful lesson as he illustrated and discussed each parable.

In the worship, I presented a lesson on the Bible word, "Righteousness." They have been following a series from the book "One Word" and Michael asked me to preach on that theme. During the week they have daily studies on each week's theme. I was happy to consider righteousness. We looked at Romans 3 and 4 as Paul talks about Abraham as an example of righteousness. God imputed righteousness to Abraham because of his faith and submission to God's will (Romans 4:3). We are considered righteous as we have faith in Christ and submit to His will. What a very important study for all Christians.

■ **April 8 and 15:** I was invited to preach for the **COFFEEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**. They were in the process of finding a new minister and asked me to fill in for them. I'm happy to help when I can. They have around 60 in attendance and no elders. It's a wonderful congregation of caring people. They have an active Lads to Leaders program. They have a good mix of all ages. I pray that God will bless them with a good preacher.

John Purdy taught the Bible class. They are using the book "Who Is On The Lord's Side?" The lesson was on the Bible as God's Word. Brother Purdy made some great points about how people respond to the Bible and how we are to regard the word of God.

It was a good lesson.

In the worship services on April 8, I presented two lessons on our One Another relationships in the body. I talked about "Serving One Another In Love" (Galatians 5:13) and "Confessing And Praying For One Another" (James 5:16). It's so important that we grow in our love for each other in the body.

■ **April 15:** I presented two lessons from Philippians 2. I focused on developing a submissive mind. I considered



Kellie, Ben, and Allie McRee at Coffeeville

the example of Jesus in the morning and the example of Paul in the evening service. Both lessons were well

received. I enjoyed my visit with the folks in Coffeeville.

The church has chosen Ben McRee to be their new minister. I had the privilege to meet Ben and his family. They are a wonderful couple. He will continue to work on his degree from FHU as he ministers to the congregation.

Four Sundays I preached for the **ANTIOCH CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Independence, MS. The folks there are a wonderful group of Christians. I always enjoy visiting with them.

In Bible class I am presenting a series of lessons on “Images Of The Church.” We looked at the church as “A Letter from Christ” based on 2 Corinthians 3:2-3. Paul tells them that the word he received came from Christ through the Holy Spirit and that it is written on their hearts. We looked at the church as “The Fish And Fish-Net” based on Matthew 4:18-19 and Mark 1:17. Jesus calls the church to be fishers of men. We looked at the image of the Holy



Rhenda and Terry Milter at Antioch

Communion. Each of the elements are important to the Christians. They tell us about the sacrifice that Jesus made. We proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes again (1 Corinthians 11:26). It is a beautiful image of what the church offers to the world—salvation. We considered the prophecy of Matthew 16: 18-19 where Jesus says “Upon This Rock I will Build My Church.” Christ is the builder. Peter holds the keys to open the church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Lots of rich images of the church that Jesus built.

In worship we are looking at our “One Another” relationships in the church. I talked about “Accepting One Another” based on Romans 15: 7. Paul tells us to accept each other and stop judging each other and showing favoritism or prejudice. We considered Paul’s teaching in Romans 14 about judging others that eat meat offered to idols and James 2 where he talks about showing prejudice toward others. Both are considered sin and should not be practiced.

I considered “Submitting To One Another” based on Ephesians 5:21. We normally think of the marriage relationship when we think of submission, but there are several relationships that call for submission. Leadership in the home and in the church calls for a

servant/leader. The leader becomes the greatest servant. Another Sunday we considered the importance of unity. “May the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus” (Romans 15:5). In Jesus’ prayer for unity in John 17, he asked God to help us be one as he and the Father are one. Paul tells us to make the effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians. 4:3). It is very important to the Lord that we be unified in our love and work for Him.

Finally, I began a new series of lessons from 2 Corinthians “You Don’t Have to Fail” based on Paul’s statements in 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:17. Paul outlines the trials he faced in Corinth and three spiritual resources he uses to overcome these trials. Circumstances may discourage us, people may oppose us and misunderstand us, but in Christ we have the spiritual resources to win the victory. A clear conscience as we do God’s will; a compassionate heart as we put others first and love them; and a conquering faith as we trust in God.

■ **May 6:** I visited with the **WEST SANDIDGE RD. CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Olive Branch, MS. Jackie Rogers has served the congregation as its minister for 15 years. He is a graduate of the MSOP. They have no elders and around 140 in attendance. It was a joy for me to meet Jackie and his lovely wife Anne. I



Anne and Jackie Rogers at West Sandidge; Olive Branch

was warmly received by the congregation. It was a joy to meet so many friendly and loving Christians. I enjoyed our study and worship together. Jackie did ask me to preach, but I told him I wanted to hear him preach and he had a powerful lesson.

Jackie taught the adult Bible class. After he welcomed everyone and made

a few announcements he led the class in a discussion of “Standing In Awe Of The Lord,” based on Psalms 33:1-6. It was a good study. He talked about the importance of us rejoicing in the Lord. He mentioned that God’s word is upright and powerful. It is important that we stand in His word.

In the worship, Jackie continued his study of Psalms 33. He considered verses 6-15 “Oh Lord, We Stand In Awe Of You.” We rejoice in the Lord because he is the forgiver of sin. He mentioned that everything we see around us was spoken into existence by God (v.6-9). The Old Testament patriarchs teach us to stand in awe of God (v.10-12). Our nation will be blessed if we make God our God (v.12). It was a great study and I enjoyed visiting with the brethren.

■ **May 13:** I visited with the **PONTOTOC CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Evan Kirby is the minister there. He and his wife Kristen and their three children have worked with the church for six years. Gordon Gentry is the associate minister. Gordon has worked for the church for around 20 years. It was great to visit with both these families and the church family. I first visited with the church in 2013. I was glad to see that the church has increased in number from 100 to 125. They don’t have any elders, but have seven ministry leaders that help organize the church for action.

In the worship, Evan preached a lesson on “Mary, the Mother of Jesus” based on Luke 1:46-56. It was a wonderful lesson on the life of Mary and how she is an example to us of humility, growth in our faith, and strength in facing trials.

Gordon taught the auditorium



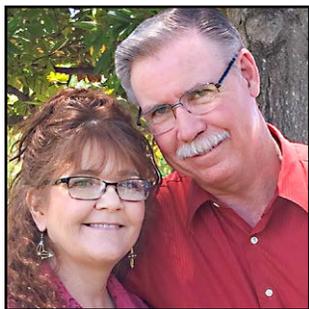
Gordon Gentry and Evan Kirby at Pontotoc

Bible class. They are using the book "One Word" published by the Mt. Juliet church of Christ. The book has several contributors. The word for that day was "Crucify" written by Garrett Best. He looked at Psalms 22:10-21. This passage foretells the crucifixion of Jesus. He looked at John 19 where the crowd is calling for Jesus to be crucified. He asked that we remember our baptism because we unite with Jesus' death and are raised to walk in newness of life. It was a good lesson and I enjoyed hearing Gordon teach.

■ **May 27 and June 3:** I preached for the **CLEVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Tim McCarter is their preacher and serves as one of the elders. He was away on a mission trip to Fiji. He was teaching a class for preachers at the Pacific Island Bible College. I appreciate his invitation to come and preach for him. It was good to see all the folks at Cleveland. Judy and I worked with the church back in the 1980's.

In Bible class I presented a lesson on the church being, "The Salt Of The Earth" based on Matthew 5:13. We discussed the characteristics of salt that apply to Christians and some warning signs of us losing our saltiness.

On June 3rd I talked about "Images Of The Church" and considered the im-



Debbie and Tim McCarter at Cleveland

age of the communion. The body and blood of Christ are remembered in this supper. It's a great image and

we proclaim the Lord and his sacrifice as we partake of the emblems.

In the morning worship I presented a lesson on one of the one another relationships that we have as Christians. I talked about "Hospitality One to Another" based on Romans 12:13. There are several example in scripture of the

importance of Christians practicing generosity to others.

■ **June 3rd:** I continued my study of "One Another Relationships" in the church. In the morning service I preached on "Serving One Another in Love" based on Galatians 5:13. One of the major themes in Galatians is service to each other. We are walking and living by the Spirit when we serve one another in love.

In the evening worship I talked about "Honoring One Another" based on Romans 12:10. Every Christian should rejoice with other's achievements. This attitude shows maturity on the part of the Christian.

■ **June 3rd:** We had an afternoon service and I preached about "Being Devoted to One Another" based on Romans 12:10. Brotherly love is part of our family relationship. The word "brother" means "from the same womb" and as Christians we are born in the water and spirit into the family of God.

■ **June 17:** I was invited to speak at my home congregation **GERMANTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Our regular minister, Dave Phillips, was out of town conducting a wedding. I appreciate the



Eddie Lewis and Lucas Suddreth

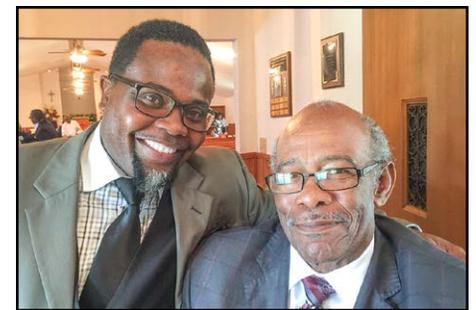
opportunity to speak at Germantown especially on Father's Day. It was good to see everyone. I was able to eat lunch with my family which was wonderful.

I preached at both worship services on Sunday morning. My theme was "Pictures of the Family" based on Ephesians 5:24-6:4. I tried to make my lesson as practical as I could to encourage all the families present for the service. I talked about pictures we need to hang on the walls of our hearts and minds to help our families become healthy places

to raise our children.

On Sunday night our young adult intern, Lucas Suddreth, spoke on "Jesus Is The Good Shepherd" based on John 10:11-18. He did a wonderful job. I enjoyed his lesson and it was good to be at Germantown.

■ **June 24:** I visited with the **TYRO ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Thyatira, MS. The church is a predominately black congregation. Gary Young has been the minister there for two years. He also preaches for a church plant at the Raleigh Community Center in the Memphis area. It was good to meet him and visit



Gary Young and Winford Cooper

with the brethren there. They normally have around 90 in attendance and no elders. Also, I enjoyed meeting Brother Winford Cooper, who is a long time preacher for the church. He was raised in the congregation and preached many years for the church.

Quinton Davis led the adult Bible class in a study of the Gospel Advocate Foundations Series. The lesson for the day was from Galatians 2:11-21. Quinton lead the class in a discussion of Paul's confrontation with Peter about his hypocrisy in eating with the gentiles. He talked about Peter's blunder and how we are justified in Christ. It was a good lesson.

Gary Young preached in the worship service. His lesson was from John 15: 15-17. He pointed out that we are now friends of Jesus. As a friend we can now see what God is doing in our life. God, as the gardener, prunes us so we can bear more fruit. The pruning is hard, but God is preparing us to live for Him. It was a very powerful lesson and I enjoyed my visit with the church. **MM**

PREACHER SEARCH



Meridian Church of Christ

Meridian, Mississippi

The Meridian Church of Christ (Highway 19, North) is looking for a full-time pulpit minister. They are looking for a preacher that is "Sound in the gospel, responsive to congregational needs, and active in the community."

The candidate should be "Capable of teaching both topical and textual lessons. He will be expected to preach most Sunday morning and evening services, teach Bible classes and participate in congregational activities."



The candidate should be "Capable of teaching both topical and textual lessons. He will be expected to preach most Sunday morning and evening services, teach Bible classes and participate in congregational activities."

The Meridian church is a conservative congregation, presently served by two elders, four deacons, and a part-time secretary. Their outreach programs support missions around the world as well as local and regional benevolence opportunities.

They request qualified candidates to submit a resume which includes personal contact information, family information, education, work history and references. They also request that each candidate provide two recorded sermons.

Please submit your information to the following address:

THE ELDERS

Meridian Church of Christ
P.O. Box 3476
Meridian, Mississippi 39303

175TH ANNIVERSARY

Thyatira Church of Christ

26059 Highway 4 E
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668
662-562-8490

October 21, 2018

Sunday Services

10:00 A.M. - Bible Class (*Craig Shackelford*)

11:00 A.M. - Worship - (*"Heritage of Faith"*)

Speaker: **Derek Williams**

Song Leader: **Mark Williams**

12:00 P.M. - (noon) - Meal

All Are Welcome



Demopolis, AL Church

Searching for Full-time Preacher

The Canal Heights Church of Christ, 1118 S. Walnut, Demopolis, Alabama, located at confluence of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior river in west central Alabama, is seeking a full-time dedicated sound doctrinal minister to work with a group of dedicated men in seeking the lost.

A 3-bedroom 2-bath church home is furnished as part of minister's salary. Interested individuals should contact selection committee by email to wdstephens49@gmail.com or jesse.edwards11@yahoo.com for more information on position duties. Send resume and one DVD to

Elders:

Canal Heights Church of Christ
P. O. Box 100 • Demopolis, AL 36732

Pontotoc, MS Church

Pontotoc Church Looking for Preacher

The Pontotoc, Mississippi church of Christ is searching for a preacher. This northeast Mississippi congregation is a group of just over 100 members with a large youth group. Their current preacher has been at Pontotoc for about six years and is leaving on good terms to accept a work closer to family.

This is a stable congregation that is looking for a preacher who will help them connect with God and others and help others connect with God. We are looking for someone who can help us grow in our understanding of God's word, exhort us spiritually and encourage us on our earthly journey.

The successful person will have at least five years' pulpit experience. A married man with older children is desired, but not required. The congregation will provide a 3 bedroom house and compensation will be in accord with experience and need. Interested individuals can contact Kyle Eubank at kyle.eubank@gmail.com, phone: 662-306-1962 or Gordon Gentry gentry@wildblue.net, phone: 662-231-3967.

Ruston Church Hires New Minister

We received a note from James Davis of Ruston, LA, informing us that they had recently hired D. J. Stucky to serve as both Campus Minister and Youth Minister. Brother D. J. is a graduate of the Southwest School of Bible in Austin, Texas. He also holds a degree in Music Education from the University of North Texas at Denton. His work with the Ruston congregation began in September. Brother Davis stated, "Thanks for advertising our search for a youth minister."

Backpacks & Bounce Houses

Serving with Simplicity

Enterprise Blvd
Church of Christ

Lake Charles, LA

By: Sarah Gandy and Dusti Randall

A member of our church, Debbie Anderson, works with a local non-profit called DeWanna's Closet. This non-profit seeks to supply the needs of students and teachers in Calcasieu Parish. In a quiet conversation among a small group of church members, Mrs Debbie told us the heartbreaking stories of children that do without basic necessities when they attend school. These children do not have clean underwear, socks, shoes, notebooks, or pens...

Our hearts were broken.

We often pondered the Enterprise Boulevard Mission Statement, "To be widely recognized in our community as a light shining brightly for Christ." Many churches have mission statements, but we began to ask ourselves, "How can we really, in a practical way, be a light shining brightly? What need can we meet? How do we pro-actively bring people to Jesus?" We wanted to know how we could be of help in a tangible way. The *Journey Back to School Event* was the answer.

In order to pursue the goal of sharing the love of Jesus by being of service and showing that we care about what their families need, the Journey Back to School Event was conceived. This was an event that sought to identify and fulfill an immediate need in the community that surrounds the church building. It was simple: many parents couldn't afford all the supplies all at one time when their children go back to school.

It is something that so many of us take for granted: buying a backpack for your children. We got to work. People searched ads and clipped coupons. Others organized and created flyers. Still, others made calls and got volunteers. When we all came back for a planning meeting, an event began to take shape that was far bigger



One of fifty-three haircuts

in scope than we had originally planned. We had face-painting, bounce houses, booths about health and wellness, medical physicals, haircuts, family photos, backpacks, crafts and other activities all rolled up into one event. To be honest, we were a little scared that we, a small group, would even be able to pull off such an event. But, we moved forward, trusting that God would see it through.

At the event itself, we gave away 465 backpacks, ate 720 hot-dogs, gave 53 haircuts, and emptied the entirety of Lake Charles of ice for the snow cone

machine. Dozens of kids were running around with pink/purple/blue lips from enjoying their favorite snacks. Their little fingers still had glue on them from the craft tables. Their hair was mussed from the sweat and fun they had had in the bounce houses. Everyone there was touched by the light of God's love simply because we wanted to supply a need. Over 540 students and 190 families came through our church doors that day and everyone involved in the event, including people from the local community, were just in awe at the turn out; in awe of knowing that you are seeing God work.

We walked away that day with a lot of emotions: ecstatic to have been able to put our arms around these strangers that could become friends, tired from the busyness of a long day, sad to see such a day of wonders ending. But most of all, humbled to know that the answer of how to be a light was really right in front of us all along. Simply showing love is enough to be the hands and feet of Jesus. He wasn't joking when he said that loving your neighbor as yourself is the second greatest command. Love: that is what impacts people. It's what binds communities together and allows us to see past all the barriers to the person created in the image of God.

Journey Back to School was just one event. But, its' impact on us cannot be measured. We will be planning



more community events, more ways to show love. We will continue to walk in the footsteps of Jesus until the whole of our community can't help but know that we are a light shining brightly for Christ. **MM**

(Thanks to James Malone for sending this report to the MM. James serves as preacher for the Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ in Lake Charles, LA. His email: jamesmalone1@gmail.com)

RESERVE THE DATE

March 10-14, 2019

4rd Annual Preachers' Retreat RECHARGE

Magnolia Bible Center
Kosciusko, Mississippi



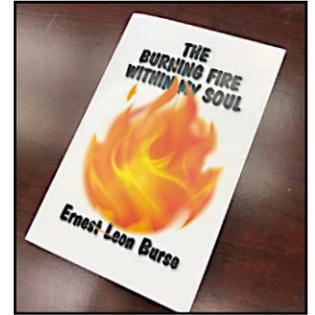
A Request from Ernest Burse

(Author of a new book)

I am Ernest Burse, and I have written a book entitled, "The Burning Fire Within My Soul". I preached for the Grambling Church of Christ in Grambling, Louisiana, for 24 years before retiring in 2016. I presently attend the Northside Church of Christ in Ruston, Louisiana.

The world has changed, our society has changed and even the church is going through some changes. Both Christians and non-Christians are scared and unsure of what to do about such problems as unfaithfulness, abortion, homosexuality, pornography, violence, prejudice and more.

My book addresses these problems in a way in which both sinners and saints can resist evil. It consists of fiery sermons that need to be taught or preached with boldness and courage (Joshua 1:9). I believe that God has led me to write this book at this time. We need to stand up for righteousness (Proverbs 14:34)... I pray that my book will encourage the hearts and minds of those who read it. This book is available by contacting me at (318) 251-8321 or ebjtb@suddenlink.net.



Readers' Response

Reasons Why We Continue Publishing the Magnolia Messenger

I really appreciate the Magnolia Messenger. I love reading the paper and I love answering the Bible Questions. (Lila Wilson, Paris, TN)

Wish I could do more. I love this paper. But I am having a lot of health problems now. But that is all OK. Keep up the good work. My wife and I love the Question Box also. In Christ, (E. R. Rollins, Greenville, MS)

Hey my brothers and sisters, Wish I could send more to help in your good work. But I have and will keep on praying for you and your good works. (Dot Medlin, Montgomery, AL)

May God bless you. We enjoy the Magnolia Messenger very much! (Alice Humphries, Natchez, MS)

Glad to support your good work. I enjoy reading the MM. In Christian Unity, (Shari Tipton)

Thank you for a fine publication. It has helped me to grow in the faith. (Tommie Pruitt, Montgomery, AL)

Every little bit helps. My family has been on the mailing list since 1988. Great Work! God bless! (William and Clarice Kite, Semmes, AL)

I'm so glad to be able to send a little support to Magnolia Messenger. It's a great paper with so much good and loving words. A brother in the Lord, (Jim Hurlbut, Brunswick, GA)

Dear June, I especially enjoyed and benefited from your article in the Summer 18 MM. Sincerely, (Jo Carolyn Potts, Burnsville, MS)

P. S. I met you at the Memphis Lad to Leaders several years ago. It was a pleasure.

Thank you for mailing me the Magnolia Messenger! I enjoy reading the great articles! Thank you, God bless! (Barbara Bailey, Harrison, AR)

THE MESSENGER'S SUMMER QUESTION BOX

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| 49. Deborah L. Gatson | 118. Kavan Young | 189. Kerry Deaton | 260. Dorothy Mallett |
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| | | | 343. Amy Hutson |
| | | | 344. Wanda Yancey |
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| | | | 347. Ann Gilliland |
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| | | | 350. Madonna Michael |
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| 387. Patricia Glover | 428. Mary Jacobs | 470. Bobbie Childs | 512. Cary Mayer | (Next time!?) |
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| 389. John Lilley | 430. E. Jean Brown-Harmon | 472. Mildred Carroll | 514. Loreth Widger | and send your answers to us. |
| 390. Marilyn Howell | 431. Willie Stancil | 473. Wes & Rhoda Jeans | 515. Floyd Goode | Thanks to all who sent in |
| 391. Vivian Pyron | 432. James Hudley | 474. Johnnye Blackmon | 516. Jackson Mayer | answers |
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THE QUESTION BOX

Giving Under the New Covenant

In August of this year I attended a meeting of preachers in Clinton, Mississippi. Along with several other ministers, I was blessed to hear Willie Nettle of the Bypass church in Vicksburg present a very good lesson on "Giving Under the New Covenant."

Admittedly, teaching about giving is a touchy matter. The reason? Many of us don't give as we should. Brother Willie stated, "Lukewarm people give money to charity and to the church as long

as it doesn't have influence on their standard of living. If they have a little extra and it is easy and safe to give, they do so. After all, 'God loves a cheerful giver,' right?"

My great Aunt, Doc Hewitt, told me about a lady who wanted to make sure she gave at least enough money to pay for the 'cracker and juice' she ate and drank during communion. It seems that many "go to church" and "punch their ticket" by giving up one hour and, maybe, ten dollars.

Surely God wants and expects more than that. This issue of the "QB" deals with some principles brother Nettle talked about in his lesson. Please study carefully with care as you fill in each of the blanks. *NOTE: The correct words to fill in each blank which are not part of a scriptural quotation are found at the end of this lesson. It will be helpful if you use the KJV. (Paul Franks)*



Willie Nettle

Fill in blanks with words taken from Scripture and those found at the end of this study.

- (a) Giving is about _____ to be like God, who is _____. (Rom. 8:32, John 3:16). (b) "Every good _____ and every perfect _____ is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..." (James ____: 17). (c) "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was _____, yet for your sakes he became _____, that ye through his _____ might be _____." (2 Corinthians 8: ____)
- (a) Giving is to be done _____ rather than as an _____. "Every man according as he purposeth in his _____, so let him _____; not _____, or of _____: for God loveth a _____ giver." (2 Corinthians ____:7)
- Giving is not to be done for public _____ or _____. "Take heed that ye do not your _____ before _____ to be seen of them: other wise ye have no _____ of your Father which is in heaven." (Matt ____: 1-4)
- Giving is to be done as God _____ us (I Cor. 16:1,2) with an understanding of how God has taught His people to give throughout both the O _____ and N _____ C _____. (Gen. 4:1-8; Heb. 11:4; Gen. 14:17-20; 28:20-22; Lev. 27: 30-33; Num. 18:21-28; Deut. 26:12-13)
- Generous giving is an acknowledgment that _____ we have is a _____ of God and is to be used in his _____. Acts ____:35 "It is more blessed to _____ than to _____." (Luke 16: ____)"He that is faithful in that which is _____ is faithful also in _____: and he that is _____ in the least is unjust also in _____." (Philippians ____:17) "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire _____ that may abound your _____."
- God wants something _____ you more than _____ you. (Philippians ____:19) "My my God shall _____ all your need according to his _____ in glory by Christ Jesus."
- Giving is a _____, not a _____. (2 Cor. ____:7 "Therefore, as ye _____ in everything in _____, and _____ and _____ and in all diligence and in your _____ to us, see that ye _____ in this _____ also."

1. changing, generous, giver; 2. cheerfully, obligation; 3. recognition or honor; 4. prospers, old and new covenant; 5. everything, gift, service; 6. for, from; 7. journey, destination;