

MAGNOLIA Messenger

"Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper"

Serving Mississippi, Louisiana and Adjoining States

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

**2nd Annual
Preachers' Retreat**

Kosciusko, (MBC Facilities)

March 12-16, 2017

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NOT TOO LATE Visit Israel & Egypt

(Leaving November 29, 2016)

*Want to make a trip to the Holy Lands (Israel & Egypt) this fall, but you think it's too late to register? **It's not too late!***

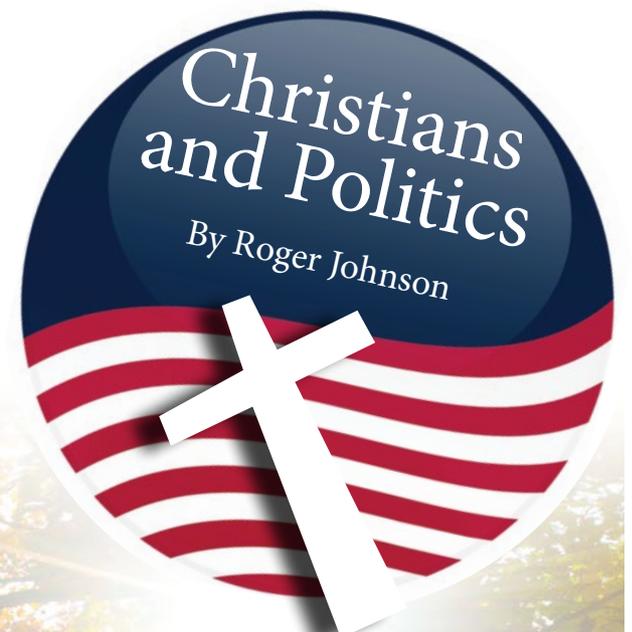
*Call Xavier Jarrell at 1-800-247-0017, extension 280, and he will help you get with our group. Franks' Group is scheduled to leave the USA on **November 29.***

*Mention our group number: **45403.** Any question, please call me personally at **662-792-2700.***

(Paul Franks)

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Cause me to hear Your loving kindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.

Psalm 143:8

Join Us for RV Rallies.

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■ **MS-TN-AL** (See pages 4, 9)

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Pd
Permit #142
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Magnolia Messenger
South Huntington Street
Church of Christ
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090

"He's GONE!" ...But Where?

By A. L. Franks

It was Saturday afternoon on May 1, 1971, when we landed in our small Cessna airplane on a private strip in Merryville, Louisiana. Coming out to meet us, as we walked from the plane, was Hubert Franks, an uncle, my Dad's youngest brother. After more than 46 years, as we greeted each other, I can still hear his voice as he sadly stated, "He's gone! He's gone!" "...Gone...."

Now, I understood the word; I knew its meaning; but, I did not want to believe what I had just heard. It was, however, all too clear what he meant. What was slowly sinking in was that while we were flying from Yazoo City, Mississippi to Merryville, my dad had died. Now, he was gone. Somewhere.

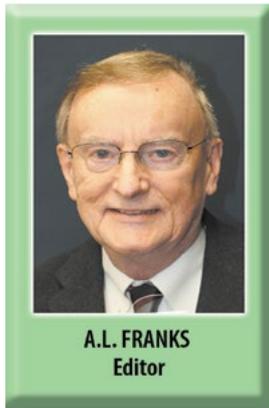
Understandably, our immediate family was shaken and saddened. My earthly father, Lovis Franks, had suddenly departed this earthly life. Way too early! I thought. At the young age of 59. But, God knows best! Death had never gotten so close to home, to my heart. This time, it was my daddy, the man responsible for my life, my upbringing, and who had blessed my life immeasurably for 32 years. Now, he was gone.

He had met his appointment with death, just like the Bible says, "It is appointed unto all men once to die..." (Heb. 9:27). Something within his physical frame, that had given him life, had departed. I know that his spirit had separated from his body; but, I didn't really understand. Still don't. But, as the Bible says, "...the body without the spirit is dead" (James 2:26). My father was dead; he was gone. But, where?

The Bible provides the needed and true answers to "Gone, But Where?" The Old Testament provides a few glimpses into what happens after death. For example, death is described in the writings of Solomon as "when man goes to his long home." After death, Ecclesiastes chapter 12

continues, "Then shall the dust [body] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Verses 5,7). Not much is revealed in the verse; however, I do find it comforting to read that the "spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

In contrast to the Old Testament, a careful study of New Testament teachings provides, in much greater detail, information on what follows death. For instance, an inspired historian, Luke, recorded the teaching of Jesus where He related what, I believe evidence indicates, is an actual event. Jesus told the story of two "certain" men [Jesus said there was a "certain rich man." He also said there was a "certain beggar..."]. Jesus even identified by name one of the men; i.e., Lazarus. (He was the beggar.) And, while the other man's



A.L. FRANKS
Editor

name is not given; yet, Jesus identified him as a "certain rich man." Our Lord said that these two men lived and died. And, then Jesus clearly told where they both went after they were gone.

For sure, we learn that the two men, in Jesus' story about life, death and the hereafter, did not cease to exist when they died physically. After they were gone from the earth, Jesus said they continued to exist, were conscious and aware of what was going on. But, where were they? Jesus provides the answers. Our Lord said that when the "beggar" died, he was "carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom." Jesus also spoke about the beggar, who had died, saying, "He is comforted" (Luke 16:22,25). Be assured, to His Jewish disciples, who looked upon Abraham as their physical and spiritual "father", for Jesus to say the used-to-be beggar was "carried by the angels," placed in the "bosom of Abraham" and was now "comforted" would be a glorious and wonderful state of being. Sorta sounds like "paradise", a delightful place.

But, let us not forget. Jesus spoke about two men who had lived and died. They did not both go to the same environment (place).

After the "rich man" was gone, where was he? Jesus said, "...in hell (hades) he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." He pleaded for mercy. He begged (the former rich man was now the beggar), "Send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:23,24).

According to Jesus, the two men who had lived and died went to two very different places. One went to a place of comfort; the other to a place of torment. This story, related by Jesus, is in complete harmony with other very clear New Testament teachings about where we go when we are gone. If this story was, as some believe, only a parable, would it not still teach the truth about what happens after death? And, ponder: "Would Jesus ever tell a story that would lead us to believe that which is not true?"

Jesus, in His sermon on the mount (Matthew 7:13,14), spoke about two ways (roads) to travel in life (narrow/broad) and two destinations after life on earth (destruction/life) (Matt. 7:13,14). Jesus frequently talked about "life eternal" (Heaven); but, He also taught the reality of "everlasting punishment" (Hell). See Matt. 25:46. A careful study of the gospel accounts clearly shows that Jesus taught repeatedly that eternity includes two destinations. It is either Heaven or Hell.

Jesus left heaven, came to earth and gave His life on Calvary so that all men could be saved. He built His church. He purchased it with his precious blood. He revealed God's plan for the salvation of all lost souls. Everyone is invited to come to Jesus. He invites, we invite, you to respond in faith to Jesus, the Son of God, to repent of your sins and be baptized into Christ (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Live for Him. Die in Him. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." (This "blessing," quoted from Revelation 14:13, is inscribed on the tombstone that marks my parents' graves. Both are gone. Daddy left us on May 1, 1971; Mama left us on February 28, 2002). Personally, I am so very grateful. I wouldn't trade my hope for them for all the money in the world. My goal, my hope is Heaven. At my present age, there can be little doubt -- soon, I'm going home. There should be no need to ask where we go when we are gone. Not if we are Christians and faithful. Are you ready? Are you a Christian? Faithful?

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Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

Published about every 3 months (as funds and time permit). Mailed without charge to all who ask to receive it and to others for whom it is requested. Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of more than 28,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your prayers and support are requested, needed and appreciated!

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

(A. L. Franks, Editor)

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FHU Bible Professor to Debate Renowned Atheist on September 26, 2016

Freed-Hardeman University Professor of Bible and Philosophy Ralph Gilmore, and Dr. Alexander Rosenberg, the R. Taylor Cole Professor of Philosophy at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, will debate the existence of God Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m. EDT. The event, will be on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The central question for the debate will be "Is God a Moral Monster?"

Both debaters have agreed to affirm and defend a precisely stated affirmative proposition. Rosenberg will affirm the following: "Since I know that there is vast

human and animal suffering, I know that a benevolent, omnipotent God does not exist." Gilmore will deny. Following the discussion of Rosenberg's affirmative proposition, Gilmore will affirm and defend his proposition: "The use of suffering as moral criticism against God implies the absolute moral law of God; therefore, God exists." Rosenberg will deny

No admission will be charged to attend the debate. For those unable to attend, it will be livestreamed at WarrenCenterLive.com. Additional information about the debate is available at warrenapologeticscenter.com.

B I B L E

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTIONS:

What and where are “the heavenly places”? Christ is there (Ephesians 1:20), we are raised in baptism to sit with Him there (Ephesians 2:6), but there is evil there (Ephesians 6:12). Can you unravel that puzzle, please? (F.R.)

RESPONSE: Jesus Christ is the creator of “all things . . . in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible” (Colossians 1:16). Michael Weed suggests “in heaven and on earth” is a Jewish concept (Genesis 1:1) and “visible and invisible” is a Greek one (Living Word Commentary Series, Austin TX: R. B. Sweet Inc, 1971, ad loc.) The two concepts are not mutually exclusive; the Bible posits three heavens (2 Corinthians 12:2), presumably 1) the atmosphere, where the birds fly; 2) the stratosphere, where the sun, moon and stars are; and 3) where the throne of God is. Earth and the first two heavens contain things both visible and invisible.

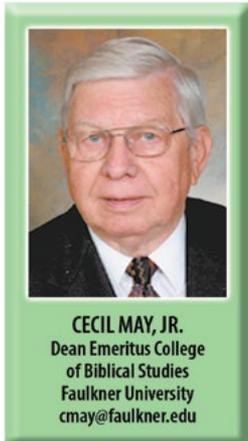
“Visible and invisible” speaks to the existence of a material world and a spiritual realm, both are realities. “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). God has angels, supernatural messengers, that do His bidding (Hebrews 1:14). The devil also has his angels (Matthew 25:41), unclean spirits (Mark 1:27) or demons (Mark 1:32). Spiritual beings in a spiritual realm are a reality, surely as the material realm which we inhabit and can see.

What are the Heavenly Places?

Heaven, where Christ sits at God’s right hand

David spoke of a time when the Father (YHVH) would invite the Christ, whom David calls “my Lord,” to sit at His right hand (Psalms 110:1). In Peter’s sermon on the Pentecost

following Christ’s resurrection and ascension, he quoted this verse and applied it to Jesus’ ascension into heaven. “Sitting at the right hand of God” signifies taking the place of highest honor and power in the universe second only to the Father Himself



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self on whose right hand He sits. Peter thus applied it to the time when Christ began His reign as King over the newly inaugurated Kingdom of God (Acts 2:33-36). The Apostle Paul also said when Christ thus ascended, God “seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:20).

When Jesus told His disciples He was departing, He told them He was going to His Father’s house to prepare a place for them, and for us. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:2-3). All of that suggests that the heaven in which all the redeemed will live with God, Christ, and the holy angels in eternity is included in “the heavenly places.”

The Church

After stating that God demonstrated “his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and

seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:20), the Apostle then added, “and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). He speaks in the past tense. The redeemed are raised from baptism and are seated with Christ in the heavenly places.” When we are saved, we are added by the Lord to the church (Acts 2:47; 5:11).

To be in the church is to be “in Christ” (Galatians 3:27). We are “not in the flesh but in the Spirit” (Romans 8:9). “We are children of God, and if children then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17). Jews who were under the old covenant had come to a mountain that could not be touched, “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel” (Hebrews 12:22-24). Notice, Christians “have come” to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem. The heavenly Jerusalem in this passage is the church, and it includes the redeemed, “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,” and also “the spirits of

the righteous made perfect,” along with God and Jesus.

Like Abraham and Sarah, we are strangers and exiles on the earth (Hebrews 11:13). We are in the world but not of the world (John 17:11,14), on a mission from our home country. We are sent into the world by our Lord, just as He was sent into the

That has relevance to today’s superstitions. Get and stay right with Jesus Christ and you need not worry about broken mirrors, black cats, whether or not you walk under a ladder, whether you are on the thirteenth floor of a hotel, or whether it is Friday the thirteenth.

world by the Father (John 17:18). “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). We sing truth, “This world is not my home;” “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20).

As Christians, redeemed members of His body, citizens of heaven, we walk with Christ in His church, in heavenly places. We are His body, completing His mission on earth, until He comes to take us to dwell with Him in our eternal home.

The present spiritual realm

The expression “in the heavenly places” occurs four times in Ephesians and only in Ephesians (at least in KJV and ESV). The first two times (1:3 and 2:6) it seems to refer to the church, as we have seen above. The third and fourth times (3:10 and 6:12) it is talking about a spiritual

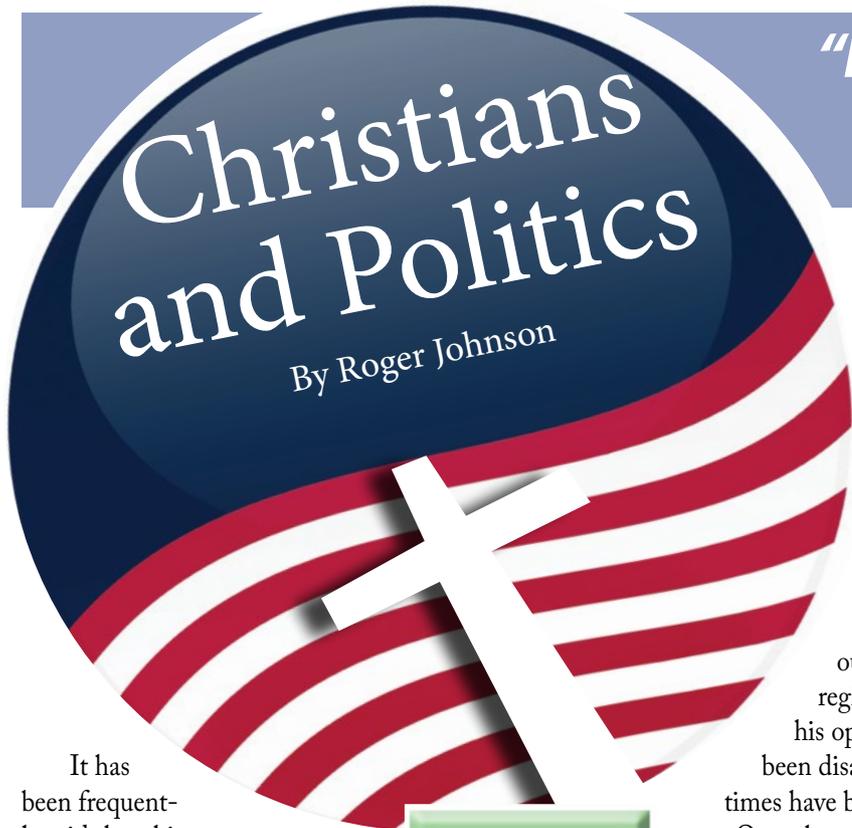
realm which angels and demons inhabit.

God’s plan from the beginning was for the church to send a message to the spiritual entities that inhabit the heavenly places, “that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:10-11). This passage has been used out of context to try to show that the wisdom of God was to be made known through the church, not through the missionary society, etc. While that may be shown to

be true from other Scriptures, this passage is saying that it is “the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” to whom the wisdom of God will be made known by the church.

Peter says, “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look” (1 Peter 1:10-12).

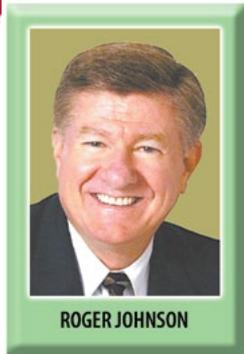
The Spirit of Christ was inspiring the prophets to write about the Servant of God who would suffer before entering into His glory, and even the prophets may not have fully understood what they were writing. Now that Christ has died for our sins, has been raised, has ascended



“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people”

(Proverbs 14:34)

It has been frequently said that this year’s election is one of the most critical in U.S. history. That may be accurate; I don’t know. Of course, I wasn’t alive during earlier years in our history, so I am not familiar with the political climate or many of the issues facing our young nation.



ROGER JOHNSON

In fact, I had not paid much attention to politics until my college years in the early sixties. I remember Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower as leaders of our nation, but don’t know from personal knowledge the issues that were considered critical during their presidencies. The first president to whom I paid much attention was John F. Kennedy. Since then I have tried to have at least a working knowledge of national and local issues and the people running for office so that I can be an informed voter.

During the past fifty years I have basically been conservative in my views and have voted accordingly. I have not always agreed with every stance of the person running for office or the one for whom I voted, but I have

economic, military, and foreign policy other considerations before making decision. I have tried to cast my vote for the person whom I feel would do the country, state, or local community the most good. I have not confined my voting to one political party, but have placed more emphasis on the person rather than the party.

The people for whom I have voted have not always been on the winning ticket, but that is the nature and beauty of our political system in which every legally registered voter has the opportunity of voicing his opinion at the ballot box. Sometimes I have been disappointed in the person elected and at other times have been pleasantly pleased.

Over the years, as I have matured both in age and as a Christian, the basis on which I have evaluated political candidates has changed, however. At one time, I paid more attention to their economic, military, and tax policies, etc. than anything else. I don’t mean to diminish these considerations as being unimportant. They are important. I think all of us are interested in the employment rate, economic growth, military supremacy, and entrepreneurship continuing in a positive direction in America. They have a profound impact on world peace, national security, and a general sense of optimism. We live in a nation that has been greatly blessed because these causes have been emphasized by our leaders. For that I am profoundly grateful.

The concerns I have just mentioned, however, are not the reasons for our national greatness. America’s greatness is not found in her economic might, her military strength, or her scientific achievements. I have come to realize more convincingly that the foundation for any nation’s greatness is based on her respect for God and the moral standards set forth in the Bible. God’s word declares, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). For that reason I have tried, in the past several years, to pay closer attention to a candidate’s moral

convictions and the tenor of his life.

What are his views about same sex marriage, homosexuality, abortion, and the sanctity of marriage as presented in the Bible? Is he or she an honest person or do they practice deception and self-justification? Do they respect civil law or circumvent it? Do they pay their taxes or do they look for questionable loopholes? Are they able to exercise self-control over their tempers and sexual urges? Are they “legal thieves” as they rob the general public in order to “line their own pockets”? By their example, are they able to lead us as a nation in the direction of righteous conduct?

A nation will deteriorate from within and eventually fall, if respect for God and his moral standards are not maintained. The noted historian, Edward Gibbon once stated that 19 of the 22 civilizations that have arisen collapsed when they reached the moral state that America is in now. That is what concerns me.

A nation will deteriorate from within and eventually fall, if respect for God and his moral standards are not maintained. The noted historian, Edward Gibbon once stated that 19 of the 22 civilizations that have arisen collapsed when they reached the moral state that America is in now. That is what concerns me. It seems to me that the voting public would be wise to examine the moral principles that guide the various candidates before entering the ballot box during this election year. It was once observed, “America is great because America is good. When she ceases to be good she will cease to be great.” It takes leaders who are good people to establish and maintain goodness in a nation. Give that some serious thought as you enter the voting booth this year.

Roger Johnson; 4974 Glacier Dr.; Columbus, GA 31907; rlj126@gmail.com



2nd Annual MS-TN-AL Magnolia Messenger RV Rally

November 2-5, 2016

**J. P. Coleman State Park
Iuka, Mississippi**

**Beautiful Season & Beautiful Scenery
Gospel Singing & Bible Study**

Plenty of Food - Lots of Fun - Warm Fellowship

(More Details on Page 9)



Ronnie Livingston Speaks to Last Year’s Campers

An Investment in the Future

("Back to the Bible" Campaign in Mobile)

From Russ Blackwell

(Cox Blvd Church of Christ; Sheffield, AL)

Brother Franks,

I wanted to let you know the results of the recent campaign we had with the Inner City church of Christ, Mobile, AL (July 15-22). Here is my written report. Feel free to edit as you deem necessary. We always get calls from congregations after they read the report in the Magnolia Messenger. Thanks.

There always has to be a last day. Twenty-one, July, 2016 was the last day for the 2016 campaign. With 26 baptized into Christ and one sweet sister restored, this was an extremely rewarding "Back to the Bible Campaign." We watched members of the Mobile Inner City church of Christ grow in ways that were humbling. We also saw the campaigners of the Cox Blvd church of Christ (Sheffield, AL) grow closer to Jesus and each other. The spiritual bond that developed between members of the Creekwood, University and Mobile Inner City congregations was an investment in the future which will reap dividends for the Lord.

A special thank you to the trustees, Mobile Inner City church of Christ, Chuck Griffis, the elders from Creekwood, University and Cox Blvd for allowing campaigners from their congregations, along with 16 campaigners from seven other congregations in four different states (OK, TX, TN and MS), to work their fields. May God continue to bless this work and the labor of love existing between members of the Inner City congregations like Creekwood and University.

Results of Back to the Bible Campaign: 15-22, July, 2016

There were 206 Bible Studies setup; 27 were scheduled to be taught after the campaign. This means 179 studies were scheduled between the 15th and 21st of July. The campaigners taught 61 studies. There were 27 public responses (26 baptized and 1 restored). Even though the no show/cancellation rate was 66%, among those who were taught, over 44% of the 61 Bible Studies taught resulted in a baptism (26) or restoration (1).

Over the past several years, the number of those who were taught the Gospel or plan of salvation and responded *has increased*. These numbers might depress some people, but if they read Isaiah 55:6-11 and remember what the prophet said about God's Word, "...it shall not return to me void, but it will accomplish what I please...", there is great comfort in these verses. May God gain the glory for the work He has allowed this campaign to do in His name.

The 206 studies set were put in perspective by Dale Ferrier, a campaigner from Garland, TX who gave a devotional talk about Gideon (Judges 6-7). It was *not the number of enemies but the zeal of God's soldiers* that made the difference when they faced those overwhelming odds. That same power was evident in Mobile. In 2015's campaign there were 98 campaigners; this year there were 42 campaigners, but they set up 80 more studies! Both fields were 'ripe unto harvest,' and God's warriors never stopped.

In every campaign there are people who are an inspiration to others. Shane Howard, Tom Gosser, Gina Bulman, John Alexander, Daniel Robertson, Chase Lawhead, JP Alexander and Terry Lenz were all new to their role in this campaign. Now, add to this list the invaluable campaigners who help train and teach the new campaigners how to knock doors, how to set up a Bible Study and how to teach it. They are the core for reaching more of the lost for Jesus. Two people who never seek recognition are our evangelistic ministers Larry Kilpatrick and Wade Hunt. They preach it, encourage it and do it.

One Campaigner's Comment

I think, for the magnitude of work we did with the few amount of workers, we should look at ourselves and realize like Gideon, with God's help all things are possible... and with no one hurt! I believe God is pleased and I thank Cox Blvd for letting me and my family share with you God's Work. Something else. I love coming to campaign with Cox Blvd because all the people are genuine. I look and listen and all I see are people who truly love those who are lost and want to rescue them by any means possible and will sometimes cry when they are not able to succeed. That demonstrates true love. When we are there we feel a part of the family. (Clifton Harper and Family, Mangum, OK)

The Campaign for 2017 Has Not Been Set!

If your congregation is in Alabama, Mississippi or Tennessee and you are interested in learning more about a campaign in your community, and please contact the Elders, Cox Blvd Church of Christ, 303 Cox Blvd, Sheffield, AL 35660. E-mail: judrus@gmail.com or telephone: 256-366-4226. (Report by Russ Blackwell)

Sharing our Faith

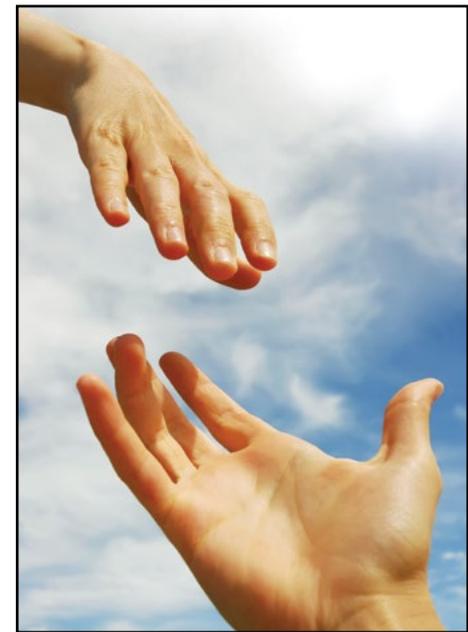
Editor's Note: *I confess. In times past I have hesitated to use the expression "Sharing our Faith" for fear that human testimony may, for some, become a substitute for God's Word. It can be exceedingly dangerous to trust the testimonies of people rather than the plain and simple teachings of God's holy word. But, be that as it may, the idea of a Christian "sharing his/her faith" can be of great value. Why shouldn't we share with others what God has done and is doing in our lives? If we give diligence to learning and doing the will of God, why not share with others what we have learned and why we have, personally, placed our trust in Jesus Christ and in His plan for the salvation of the world? (alf)*

Why are we afraid to share our faith? Why do we not share with others what God is doing in our lives and about what Jesus means to us? Rejection is probably the number one reason we hold back. When we invite someone into conversation about Jesus Christ and they resist, it *isn't* a personal rejection. God opens hearts to His message. If we will share our faith we will discover people with open hearts. We will also discover people with closed hearts. Don't let that keep you from sharing your faith. If God has answered prayer in your life, tell people about it. If God has done something good in your life, tell someone what He has done. If you have faith in Jesus Christ, speak His name out loud to others. God will work!

Many hold back because of a "lack of knowledge" of God's word. You need to notice that in Scripture people didn't always

have lots of knowledge of God's Word. The woman at the well in John 4 simply told neighbors that she met a man who knew all about her. These neighbors put their faith in Jesus based on her testimony. It can work the same way today. Chances are you will know more than the person you are sharing with. If you should discover someone who knows more of God's Word than you do, *allow them to encourage you with the Word of God.*

Many feel that they lack the time to study with people. If you read Acts, you will discover that many people responded after a brief encounter. There are people around us who are ready for the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are just waiting for someone to share their personal faith. Individuals realize their need for a Savior when they take time to do



a personal inventory. There are people around us looking for help.

You can share your faith. Ask God for the courage to tell others about His Son. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers

are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38). Let's all be workers in the Kingdom of God. Let's all make an attempt to share our faith.

(Above article was lifted from the weekly bulletin of the Rocky Creek Church of Christ in Lucedale, MS. For the past 8 years Stephen Grigler has effectively served as their preacher, although he does not claim credit for writing the article. The writer is unknown to us at the MM.)

18th Annual LA-TX RV Rally

October 12-15, 2016

Theme: "God and Country"

Salmon Lake Park (Grapeland, Texas)

Wednesday Night

5:30 PM - Pot Luck

6:30 PM - "God's Law for Country"

Speaker: Jay Alexander (DeRidder, LA)

** After services: Homemade Ice Cream

Entertainment by Morris Tirpitz (Shreveport, LA)

Thursday Morning

10:00 AM - Auction

Thursday Night

5:30 PM - Homemade Chili / Hot Dogs / Chili Pie

6:30 PM - "God's Grace for Country"

Speaker: Jay Alexander (DeRidder, LA)

7:45 PM - Newly Wed Game

Friday Morning

10:00 AM "Happy Hour";

MC - Jerry Jackson (Welch LA)

Friday Night

5:30 PM - Fish Fry

6:30 PM - Patriotic Program

7:30 PM - Entertainment

Dan Manuel & Joe Hancock

Saturday Morning

7:30 - 9:00 AM - Breakfast served

at the Sunshine Inn

(Michael Hony)

9:30 - 10:30 AM - Gospel Singing Sunshine Inn

MC: Danny Manuel

Saturday Night

7:00 PM - Dogwood Jamboree presents "Country Gold"

(Civic Center; Palestine Texas)

**Sunshine Inn Open & Available for Games/Fellowship

Sunday Morning

Crocket Road Church of Christ

9:30 AM - "You Shall Know the Truth

and the Truth Shall Set You Free."

Speaker: Ray Franks

10:30 AM - "Flames that Threaten America",

Speaker: Dan Manuel

Noon (Lunch provided by Crocket Road Church in Palestine)

If you have any questions contact one of your rally host listed below.

Ray & Donna Franks; 337-515-0866 or 337-842-5821

Glen & Ena Franks; 337-477-2660 or 337-842-7183

The Man and His Book calls attention to "God's Book"

David Conley (the man), preaches for the church of Christ known as "Liberty" in Dennis, MS. He has just published his first book which he describes as "A Guide to Reading the Bible in One Year and a Common Man's Commentary."

We appreciate David and his capable work in the Kingdom and believe you will find his new book of suggested daily Bible readings and comments to be of great value. It will assist you in fulfilling your desire to read the Bible from cover to cover in one year.

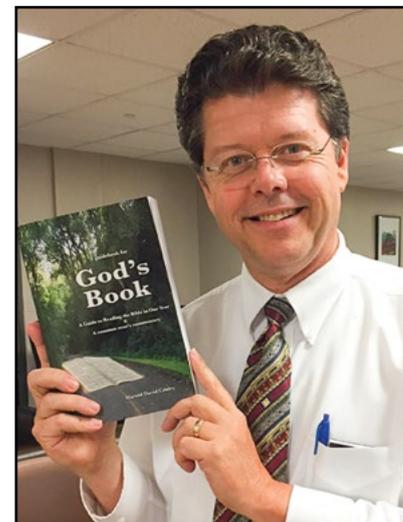
David Conley

P. O. Box 421

Dennis, MS 38838

hdconley0817@gmail.com

\$15.00 (book); \$5.00 (postage)



*Tommy Tidwell
(MBC Graduate: 1983)*

Tommy Preaches in Mableton, GA.

(MM editor snaps his picture when we met walking down the hall at PTP.)

Among the more than four thousand who attended the most recent Polishing the Pulpit convention in Sevierville, Tennessee, was Tommy Tidwell of Mableton, Georgia. My June and I enjoyed meeting up with brother Tommy and being reminded of his studies at Magnolia Bible College back in the early 80's.

We learned that after graduating from MBC, Tommy moved to his wife's home state, where he has worked with only three congregations over a period of 33 years. Since December of 1989, he has preached in Mableton, GA. (located a few miles northwest of Atlanta).

During his twenty-six years at Mableton he was involved in the merging of two congregations that now brings together about 150 each Lord's day.

He is thankful for his family (wife, 3 sons, 2 grandsons and 5 grand daughters). He remembers with appreciation his studies at MBC and is grateful for the many ways God has blessed his life as a preacher of the gospel. We, too, are grateful that through men like Tommy Tidwell, the influence of MBC lives on and on! (alf)

Ladies' Day

South Huntington Street
Church of Christ
Kosciusko, Mississippi

October 22, 2016

(Saturday)

8:30 - 12:00

8:30 A.M. -- Refreshments

9:00 -- Session 1; 10:00 -- Session 2

11:00 - 12:00 -- Lunch

Theme

"Your Walk Talks"

Speaker: Celia Grider

(Memphis, TN)

Contact:

Erika Anderson: 662-934-8495

2nd Annual

Preachers' Retreat

Kosciusko, Mississippi

(Using MBC Facilities)

March 12-16, 2017

(Sunday evening through Thursday morning)

Instructors:

**Jody Apple • Kirk Brothers
Gary Hampton • Dan Winkler
Materials - Meals - Lodging**

(Rooms in the MBC dorm are limited!)

For more information

Call/Email:

Will Anderson: 662-832-0457; willmanderson@yahoo.com

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

**GOOD
NEWS**

From Archibald, Louisiana

(Jail Ministry)

My good friend, Travis Arrant, let us know of his work with the prison near his home. One night, at the first of September 2016, they had 30 responses. Eleven requested Bible correspondence lessons, 10 had prayer requests, 2 asked for Bibles and 7 requested baptism!

Travis has also recently published his second book entitled, "A Few Things Against You". This book can be ordered by contacting True to Word Ministry; P. O. Box 211 West Monroe, LA 71294



Readers' Response

Comments & Suggestions Invited (Criticisms Considered)

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

(Jerry Jacques, West Plains, MO)

Having moved last year from the state of Mississippi to Texas, I appreciate continuing to receive the Magnolia Messenger. The publication is informative, educational and printed masterfully. I enjoy every article. Thank you,

(Betty Shackelford, Lucas, TX)

My daddy, L. R. Harris, from Haleyville, AL has received your paper for many years. He and my mother have both passed away. They were from Mississippi and were always interested in the work there. I would like to continue getting the paper. This contribution is to help others receive the paper also.

Thank you,

(Patricia Jent, Lewisburg, TN)

... I enjoy the Messenger so much. So much good it does to so many. Please keep me on the list. Enclosed is a small donation. Wish it could be more. Thank you.

(Peggy Harrison, Vernon, AL)

Thanks so much for the great Magnolia Messenger and God bless you in that work. We worship with the Ripon Church of Christ in Ripon, CA.

(Mrs. Patricia A. Kleveland, Tracy, CA)

Thank you for all your hard work putting the Lord's word out to the world. May God bless you in all your works. Your sister in Christ,

(M. A. Bailey, Lake Charles, LA)

May God bless you and this work.

(Vernal Lampley, Louisville, MS)

We enjoy the "Messenger" so much. May God continue to bless all of you in this great work. Christian Love,

(Barry & Ann Embrey)

May God continue to bless your efforts.

(Dale Terrebone)

I have enjoyed reading the Magnolia Messenger for several years now. I find it very uplifting.

(Vera Yerg)

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

Again Thank you,
(Helen Minton)

Dear Bro. Franks & family of Magnolia Messenger, Sending a contribution for the Magnolia Messenger paper again. So wonderful to get it and enjoy filling out and sending it in... I can count 20 or 30 people I have asked to add to the list and see so many of their names every week. What a joy to help others study God's word more and fill out the Questions on back page and mailing it in every time and see their names on the inside back of the Messenger and my name as well. Thank you and may God bless all of you who make this opportunity to further the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I love getting it and working the lesson as well I am 84 years old and a widow for 20 years and love to help out. Thanks again...

(Frances Harrell, Halls, TN)

Dear bro. Franks: I have received the "Messenger" for several years and have enjoyed knowing about the good work. One day before my 90th birthday, I preached in Grimsley, TN. This is in Fentress county, near Jamestown. Only two congregations are in this county. About 25 in attendance at Grimsley. I attend services at Sycamore and preach some in other counties close by. Enclosed is a small donation for the work in spreading "The Good News" through the "Messenger". Sincerely in Christ,

(O. L. Ransom)

Thank you for continuing to send the paper to me.

(Freddie Clayton, Dunlap, TN)



Ladies' Day

Bay Springs, Mississippi • Church of Christ

October 15, 2016

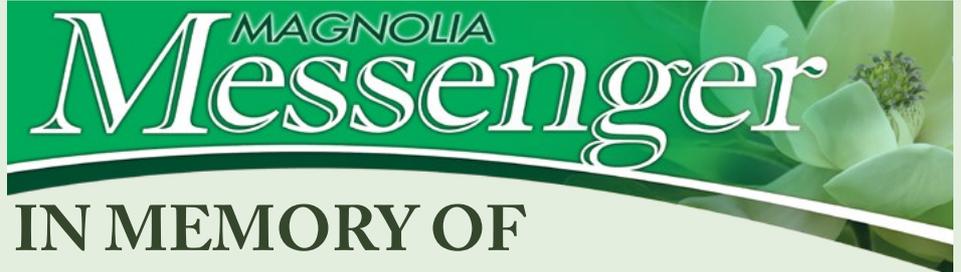
Speaker

Wanda Carter (Collins, MS)

Registration & Light Breakfast -- 8:30 A.M.

Program Begins at 9:00 A.M.

Lunch & Fellowship: 12:00 P.M. until ??



IN MEMORY OF

JOSEPH T. DRAKE

Dorothy K. Newell
(Daphne, AL.)

DONNY MACK ODOM

Virginia "Jenny" Sanders
(Carthage, MS)

KATIE CHRISTINE JONES

Ray Jones
(Hot Springs, AR)

WINNIE MAY

Randy & Jodie Duke
(The Gospel Advocate Company)
(Nashville, TN)

John T. & Ann Smithson
(Rossville, GA)

John & Linda Gardner
(Brandon, MS)

Mrs. Marie C. Smith
(Holly Springs, MS)

Pierce & Nell Flatt
(Pike Road, AL)

M/M Jesse O. Phillips
(Vernon, AL)

Eddie & Cathy Cassetty
(South Fulton, TN)

J. L. Eaton
(Dumas, MS)

Beth Wilbanks
(Ripley, MS)

ALMA MCCOY

John Sweeney
(Henderson, TN)

OSSIE MAE HEATON

Rea Cook
(Newton, AL)

DAN SPENCER

Enoch & Evan Parks
(Oxford, MS)

Ruby L. Dawson
(Clinton, MS)

JONATHAN SMITH

Ruby L. Dawson
(Clinton, MS.)

BILLY WAYNE WILLIAMS

Agnes W. Taylor
(Greenville, MS)

VELMA DELANCEY

Wilburn F. DeLancey
(Delhi, LA)

MR & MRS. W. A. BRYANT

Billy & Carol Joy Bryant Law
(Brentwood, TN)

LEON & GALA WEBSTER

FRANK & LUCY DUKE
Randy, Millie, and Casey
Duke
(Corinth, MS)

M. B. FRANKS

Earl & Dorothy Franks
(Merryville, LA)

MYRTLE DANIEL

Wanda Peterson
(Show Low, AZ)

BOBBIE HOLDER

Boxwood Church of Christ
(Merryville, LA)

BILLY TINDALL

Lamar & Lanell Kilpatrick
(Florence, MS)

BARBARA DONAHOE

BOB HOLCOMB
SUE MCADAMS

Betty Butler
(Star, MS)

MAZIE TURNER

Billye Wiygul
(Fulton, MS)

BILLY WILLIAMS

SUE McADAMS
BOB HOLCOMB
VINCE LUJAN
JONATHAN SMITH

BECKY RENFROE
DAN SPENCER
Carl & Vera Spencer
(Jackson, MS)

JULIA MARSH

Beatrice Cook
(Walnut Hill, FL)

FLOYCE ANDERSON

Bonnie Skates
(Natchez, MS)
Ellen Welsh
(Natchez, MS)

SUE MCADAMS

M. P. Busby
(Ackerman, MS)
Marie Oberhouser
(Raymond, MS)

JIMMY VAUGHN

Catherine Hollie
(Amory, MS)

NEEDHAM TIDWELL

BOBBIE SUE HOLDER

BILLIE COOK

INA DAVIDSON

M.B. FRANKS

BILLY TINDALL

Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

M.B. FRANKS

DELORES SANDERS

Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

DELORES SANDERS

Ray Hyatt
(DeQuincy, LA)

MY PARENTS

Ides & Mary Rutherford
(Jasper, AL)

In Honor of

DENNY & JANIE CALLOWAY

Nelma Hazlip
(Natchez, MS)

ZELMA E. MALONE

Terry & Rhenda Miltner
(Coldwater, MS)

LINETTE WALTERS

Mary C. Freeman
(Senatobia, MS)

DR. & MRS. ANDREW DELANEY

Harold & Bonnie Mobley
(Utica, MS)

RAY HYATT

SCOTT THIBODEAUX

(Ministers: Euna Butler's Funeral)
Rayburn & Johnnye
Blackman
(Merryville, LA)

IN APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE CARDS, LETTERS, CALLS AND PRAYERS:

New Albany
Church of Christ
Jerry & Eleta Grimmitt

Hemphill Church of Christ

North Brandon
Church of Christ

DeQuincy Church of Christ

Crockett Road
Church of Christ

Meridian Church of Christ

Boulevard Church of Christ

South Sulphur
Church of Christ

Toledo Bend
Church of Christ

Ghana Churches of Christ

By Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

In addition to the name of the person being memorialized or honored, please include your name and address and the address of a family member to whom a written acknowledgement may be sent.

MEMORIES **The Old Protracted Church Meeting**

Poem by Alma Mitchell.
Email: mitchells.hsv@gmail.com

*It was once again summer time;
The school year was in the past.
Now it was time for the protracted meeting;
For a whole week it would last.*

*Mama would make sure we all would be dressed up,
In new homemade dresses, patent leather shoes and lacy socks.
We were all decked out with fancy straw hats,
Smelling like roses from a flower patch.*

*Sunday, there would be preaching and dinner-on-the-ground.
And, when the food was all packed up, there was singing-all-around.
The women would clean for many a day,
'Cause the preachers were coming to eat and to stay.*

*When the preacher ate at our house, we kids ate in the kitchen.
The dining room was for the guests with fried chicken, finger licking!
Mama always killed three chickens, being sure to fry enough.
We had potato salad, rolls, banana pudding and other stuff.*



An Old Country Church; "Somewhere in Alabama?"

*When we got to church, the windows were all open.
To get a stiff breeze was what everyone was hoping.
But just in case the air was still and wan.
Everyone could reach for a funeral home hand-held fan.*

*Long cords hanged down with their large bulbs bare.
The lights were bombarded by bugs in the air.
People ducked their heads as wasps came flying over,
Dipping passed the folks below like grasshoppers landing in clover.*

*I really don't know how we could even sing;
After eating so much that our ears would ring.
But the song leader stood tall and everyone agreed,
That the dear, older songs were the best he could lead.*

*Before he could finish the songs, with his voice loud and deep,
Our little sister, Linda, quietly went to sleep.
Sweet Miss Ellie was not far behind, as her head began to nod.
But she always told the preacher what a good sermon that was.*

*We all bowed our heads as a brother led a kind word of prayer.
What a peaceful, special place for us to meet with God there.
The preacher broke the word of God to eager, listening ears.
His well-prepared lessons brought many kind souls to tears.*

*Sometimes a person repented, in an humble Godly way.
The Bible can work to change a heart even now-a-day.*

*We all went into the church as soon as we got that old;
The preacher baptized us in the creek down by the old wash hole.
The folks would sit beside the stream on a large fallen foot log.
And sing, "Oh Happy Day," as new Christians walked with God.*

*If I could only turn back the clock, I would like to go again,
To that old church house, down the road and just before the bend.
One day I want to be with God's family in that home beyond the sky.
At that great and glorious meeting, In the Sweet By and By.*

"A Trip of a Lifetime" Israel & Egypt

(With Paul Franks)

When I invite someone to go with us to the "Holy Lands", I am often asked, "Is it safe?" I tell them that it is. In February of 2016, Educational Opportunities sent over 2,000 people to the Lands of the Bible and not one person was injured; there was no incident of any kind. Educational Opportunities is dedicated to keeping their travelers safe. If they think, for a moment, that a trip is unsafe or a certain location is unsafe, they will not let us travel.

The other thing I like about this company is that they have been sending people to the Holy Lands since the 1970's. They hire the best drivers, guides and agents to take care of us while we are traveling there. These people make their living from tourists like us, spending our money, to make this journey and they want to protect their livelihood.

We plan to leave, God willing, on Tuesday, November 29,

2016. The cost is \$2,799 from New York to Israel. Additional airfare from your city, tips and your lunches will be the only additional costs. To secure your spot, you can go to the website of Educational Opportunities and register. Their web site is: www.eo.travelwithus.com. The tour is HL 16 and your departure date is 11/29/2016. It is important, when you register, to indicate that you are planning to go with my group. My (Paul Franks) group number is 45403.

You will need to pay a \$300.00 deposit per person for this ten day trip. Some of us are also planning to visit Egypt after going to Israel. This is an optional tour that cost \$828.00. This is a first class trip (not airfare) where everything will be done to



Where Jesus May Have Preached the "Sermon on the Mount" Overlooking the Beautiful Sea of Galilee in Israel

make sure you will have the finest travel experience possible. We will travel together in a private bus and have our own guide. If you would like a brochure, please send me an email with your address and I will send you one.

apaulfranks@gmail.com or 662-792-2700.
If you have questions, please call me!

Three Questions of a Traveling Treasurer

By John Gardner

Sometimes you can tell a lot about a person by the questions he or she asks. A well-worded, focused question reveals a disciplined mind. A rambling, vague question declares just the opposite. Questions often show what really counts and holds the attention of the questioners. Are they the big questions about the ultimate, important things of life, or are they inquiries about trivial, shallow matters? Good questions can lead to good things. Mediocre inquiries yield mediocre results.

In re-studying one of the best known cases of conversion to Christ in the New Testament, I found it helpful to focus on the three questions the convert asked prior to his salvation. The case is the conversion of the queen's treasurer in Acts 8: 26 – 40.

An unnamed official under Candace, queen of Ethiopia, was returning home from Jerusalem where he had worshipped the God of heaven according to the Law (Vv. 27, 28). Unknown to him, a preacher of the gospel of Christ named Philip had been directed by the angel of the Lord to leave a successful preaching ministry in the city of Samaria and go south (V. 26). His destination was not another great city, but a well-traveled deserted road between renowned Jerusalem and one of the five great cities of the ancient Philistines.

The official in his chariot and Philip running in haste meet on the wilderness road. Surely God's providence brought them to that exact spot at the same time. They meet so the preacher can help answer the treasurer's questions about the Scriptures, about God's plan revealed in the Prophets, and ultimately about the mysterious Messiah that Isaiah predicted (Vv. 30 – 39). Once his questions were answered and he learned the truth about Jesus, he was baptized into Him (V. 38) and found the joy of salvation he no doubt had long desired (V. 39).

According to the text, the treasurer asked three questions at different points in the interaction between Philip and himself. Each furthered the lesson he needed. They are also very relevant for us as we try to teach others about Christ so they can be saved.

Before we look at the eunuch's questions, consider ever so briefly some questions he did not ask, questions many of us might have been sorely tempted to ask. He did not ask Philip, "Who are you and where did you come from?" Nor did he ask, "Why should I believe your explanation of this deep prophecy of Isaiah?" The treasurer did not ask, "How long is this lesson going to take?" He did not question the need to be baptized (immersed in water in the name of Jesus) when he learned about it.

But enough diversion. What questions did he ask?

(1) "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

The first question is almost a rhetorical question. "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (V. 31). It was provoked by Philip's question about the traveling student's level of understanding. The question is a prelude to an invitation for Philip to join the treasurer in his chariot and become his teacher. There are many people out there who are stumped over portions of the Scriptures and they can use some help. Many have jumped into the study of the Bible without a reasonable plan or sound principles to guide them in their study. Many of those, like the man of our account, are open to receive help from someone who has advanced farther in the study of Scriptures than they have. We should see them as lost and searching. We should speak to their need, sometimes directly (like Philip's question) and sometimes indirectly, so they know we want to help. Never pass up an opportunity to guide a truth-seeker in his or her quest.



JOHN GARDNER

(2) "Of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

The second question asked by the man of Ethiopia comes in the midst of the Bible study. "Of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" (V. 34). They had found the passage that had confounded the treasurer—Isaiah 53: 7 & 8. It is the heart of the great Suffering Servant passage of Isaiah 53. No greater portrayal of the Messiah's sacrificial death can be found in the Old Testament. But for the eunuch it is obscure. No doubt part of the problem was the truth almost impossible to believe by Jews and proselytes that the Messiah had to die to set men free and reign victoriously. He speculated that maybe the prophecy was really about the prophet himself.

Philip opens the Scriptures at that place and from there develops a tremendous unifying, clarifying lesson about Jesus (V. 35). Jesus the key of God's plan

of redemption. Jesus the focus of Messianic prophecies. Jesus the one who came, lived, died, was raised, and rules. Jesus the Savior of all who will believe and obey his gospel. Jesus the one who commands baptism.

In all of our studies with others, as we answer their many questions no matter how obscure, we must lead them back to the Jesus of the Scriptures—his life, his death, his resurrection, his will, his church and his coming. Endless studies about disconnected, remote points of Scriptures will not do. The student must know that Christ is the heart of the Bible and submissive obedience to him is the clarion call of the Scriptures.

(3) "What hinders me from being baptized?"

The third question seems to be the one most often preached in sermons when the Ethiopian's salvation is considered. "What hinders me from being baptized?" (V. 36). In the wilderness where water was probably very scarce, in the outback where it would be inconvenient to stop and dip, he wants to be baptized. But the eunuch wants to know if there are legitimate reasons why he should not be immersed at that moment in the body of water before them. Following the text that produced the King James Version, Philip says that faith is the critical issue. (V.37). The text next says he confesses

a genuine faith that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Regardless of how one views the textual questions surrounding V. 37, it is evident that Philip found no reason to hinder this earnest traveler from completing his obedience to Christ. So Philip immerses him right then and there for the remission of sins (V. 38).

We must be willing to help students of the Bible who are at the point of wanting baptism to go ahead, assisting them in every way we can. If they understand how baptism fits into Christ's great plan (Mark 16: 15, 16; Acts 2: 38), if they have genuine faith in Christ, if they desire salvation by the blood of Christ which was given in his death (Romans 6:4), then by all means we need to work to remove hindrances both real and imagined that stand in their way.

The queen's treasurer had questions that not only led him to important answers, but they also provide us with insights into how people are won to the Lord. Because of that man's questions and the preacher's answers, we can better understand what we must do and what those we would lead to Christ must do to be a part of God's great plan of salvation.

John Gardner
P. O. Box 1465
Brandon, MS 39043
gardner.jobn43@gmail.com

2nd Annual MS-TN-AL
"Magnolia Messenger RV Rally"
J.P. Coleman State Park
(A few miles north of Iuka, MS)
November 2-5, 2016

An "RV Rally"? Yes, but you don't have to have an RV. Cabins and lodge rooms are readily available at the beautiful park. To reserve your room or site, 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 P.M. with a Hamburger and Hot-dog Supper, followed by Gospel Singing. The rally will end with a special breakfast on Saturday morning, November 5, at 8:30. During the rally an auction is planned to pay expenses with "left-overs" to assist in the publication of the Magnolia Messenger. Rodney Livingston and Tony Brown are scheduled to speak during the rally. We also have other events planned for each day.

This will be a great time of fellowship and fun. Please make your plans to attend and encourage your friends to come with you. There is no cost to attend this event other than the cost of your lodging. If you have a question, please call one of the rally masters. They are ready and anxious to help. (Paul Franks)

“Launch Out Into the Deep”

by Russ Vickers

There are two extremes followed by many. People are so careful they tend to do nothing. On the other hand, people can be so careless as to do anything and everything. The in-between ground is what God teaches us to occupy, doing the right thing in the right way -- *the Lord's way*.

There are some things we should keep in mind. Christianity is *an alert religion*. We are exhorted to being awake and watchful (Eph. 5:14; Acts 20:31; I Cor. 16:13). Christianity is also *a continuing religion* where progress must be made, or else we stagnate. We can either move forward or drop back. Progress does not mean “modernizing” the gospel (II John 9; John 8:31). Progress is made when the principles of the gospel message are applied. Christianity is *also militant*. Christians should be ashamed if they are afraid to present the truth. We are to “fight the good fight” (I Tim. 6:12).

In Luke 5:4-5, we read, “Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”

Jesus commanded, “Launch Out.” The disciples had already toiled all night and they were likely tired, weary, and discouraged at not catching anything all night. But they obeyed the Lord because He commanded it. Can we see a parallel between then and now? The heart pounds in anticipation of what may be ahead and be accomplished. Out there are the souls of men; lost, sick, and discouraged in life. Which of us would not feel the tingle of adventure when launching out into the depths of such responsibility? Plans should be made with calm deliberation. Christians must plan and prepare with study, prayer, and a zealous, sacrificial willing spirit.

Earlier, Jesus told the disciples, “Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). There is a challenge with all of this: we are to launch out into the deep and not the shallows. We must establish definite goals and make definite plans. Brethren, don't hesitate – God is on our side!

Each congregation has certain goals: **fill every seat, enlarge every good work, expand every service, do more away from home, and let people see what Christ has done for us and what He means to us.** We must trust Christ enough to try Him!

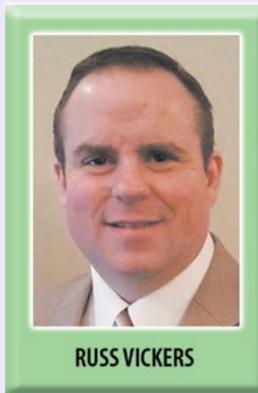
What rewards might we have with such an attitude? Every service attended encourages others. Every dollar contributed helps; and, we grow as a child of God when we obey His will.

Do we have faith that we can move mountains? Faith in God is the first necessity. “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (II Timothy 1:12). Also, in Hebrews 13:6 we are told, “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

We must also have faith in ourselves and our purpose. Those who sell for a living must believe in their product and in their ability to sell it. “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also” (Romans 1:15). Are we ready, willing, and able to do the work of the Lord?

Let us not become complacent and self-satisfied. There is so much to be done for the cause of Christ. The world, in general, is lost and people are dying spiritually. Let's be active and on fire for the Lord!

Russ Vickers, preacher, Hillcrest Church of Christ, Baldwin, MS.
E-mail: hillcrestchurch@bellsouth.net



RUSS VICKERS

Meet Patricia Dorsey who wrote

“Meet My Mississippi”

which *could* become

“Mississippi's State Poem” (How YOU Can Help)

We are privileged and honored to introduce to the readers of the Magnolia Mississippi **Patricia (Neely) Dorsey**. Patricia holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Boston University. She is an active member of the North Green Street Church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Patricia grew up in Mississippi and is very interested in promoting the Magnolia State through her poetry and books. She is the author of two books, “Reflections of a Mississippi Magnolia” and “My Magnolia Memories and Musings.” Patricia calls both books “a celebration of the south and things southern.”

In February 2015, Patricia was declared an Official Goodwill Ambassador for Mississippi by **Governor Phil Bryant**. She presents Mississippi in a positive way and, especially so, in her poem, “Meet My Mississippi.”

Patricia has a dream of her poem becoming the state poem for Mississippi. We are asking readers of the “Magnolia Messenger” to help in making this possible. Here is how you can help. Thanking you in advance. (June Franks)

Please read Patricia's poem “Meet My Mississippi” and the information on how to contact the individuals that could cause her poem to be chosen as the state poem.

Patricia reminds us that “Mississippi turns 200 in 2017!” She added, “We hope to make ‘Meet My Mississippi’ the state poem for our bi-centennial year! Once submitted as a bill, it would be assigned to a committee. Last session the poem was assigned to the Tourism Committee. More than likely, it would be assigned to the same in 2017. Becky Currie is the Chair of Tourism in the House. Lydia Graves Chassaniol is Tourism Chair in the Senate.” Patricia gave the following addresses:

Representative Becky Currie

House: Chair of Tourism

Email: bcurrie@house.ms.gov

Phone: 601-359-3131

P.O. Box 1018; Jackson, MS 39215

Senator Lydia Graves Chassaniol,

Senate: Tourism Committee Chair

Email: lchassaniol@senate.ms.gov

Telephone: 601-359-3246

P.O. Box 1018; Jackson, MS 39215

Patricia added: “Anything that you can do to help me get the word out to encourage people to contact their representatives in support of the poem would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.”



Meet My Mississippi

Faulkner's Sanctuary

Eudora's home state

Elvis' birthplace

The bulk of the Trace;

Sprawling beaches

Along the Gulf Coast shore

One blues man's crossroads

And inspiration for more;

An abundance of history

Tradition and folklore

Warm front porch welcomes

With a wide open door;

A ride down the mighty river

On the American Queen

And some of the most

Beautiful countryside

That you've ever seen

She's music and melodies

And the mockingbird's songs,

By valor and arms

And faith ever strong;

She's magnolias blooming

Around Jackson's capitol dome

And the sweet scent of honeysuckle

That forever says “home”

She's My Mississippi

She's “The Hospitality State”

“Go Mississippi”

You're a true State of Grace

(2013) Patricia Neely-Dorsey
magnoliagirl21@yahoo.com

Three Defining Terms for Biblical Elders

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We deeply appreciate the following article by Jim Howard and his willingness to share with readers of the MM. It deals with a very vital matter: Leadership in the local congregation; especially as it relates to those of us who serve as elders. As one who has served and is now serving as an elder in the Lord's church, I am well aware of the weaknesses often found among those of us who accept the responsibility of leading and feeding the flock of God. Brother Jim's article has been good for me. I trust it will be helpful to you.

by Jim Howard

The Apostle Paul's sermon to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-38) contains extremely valuable admonitions for both preachers and elders. Sometimes overlooked is the fact that these verses contain all three terms that define the function and office of elders. In verse 17 Paul uses the term "elders" (presbuteros), in verse 28, "overseers" (episcopos), and in verse 28, "to shepherd" (poimainein).

1 "Elder"

The term elder connotes maturity. No chronological age is designated in the New Testament but Paul in using this term implies that one who would serve as an elder should possess a certain level of maturity or wisdom, qualities that ordinarily characterize one of age. Obviously one man might be more mature at 40 than another at 60. But because guiding God's people is such a serious business, it stands to reason that one chosen probably does not need to be a young man. Or as the Apostle puts it in I Timothy 3:6, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (KJV). It seems that in the last thirty years, for whatever reason, those chosen to serve as elders have been younger and younger. Have elders in local churches failed to be visionary enough to keep a pipeline of potential candidates for the eldership through continuous mentoring and preparation of young men as they get older so they will be prepared to replace the present elders?

2 "Overseer"

This term which can also be rendered "bishop" refers to the oversight of the church. In the New Testament this function always involves a plurality of men. In various religious groups the office of bishop is held by one man, not a plurality. God in his wisdom recognized that the wisdom of a plurality would always be better than the wisdom of one man.

I have noticed in recent years a troubling trend. Among megachurches some elders apparently have delegated their oversight authority to the "senior minister," the current favored terminology for the preacher. I don't know if they have done this because of their age, because they are tired or for some other reason. But this practice is clearly unscriptural. Oversight in God's plan has to be hands on. The direction of the church must be

in the hands of men who, in the aggregate, possess wisdom from above, sound judgment, and a clear understanding of the shape of the church God desires.

3 "Shepherd"

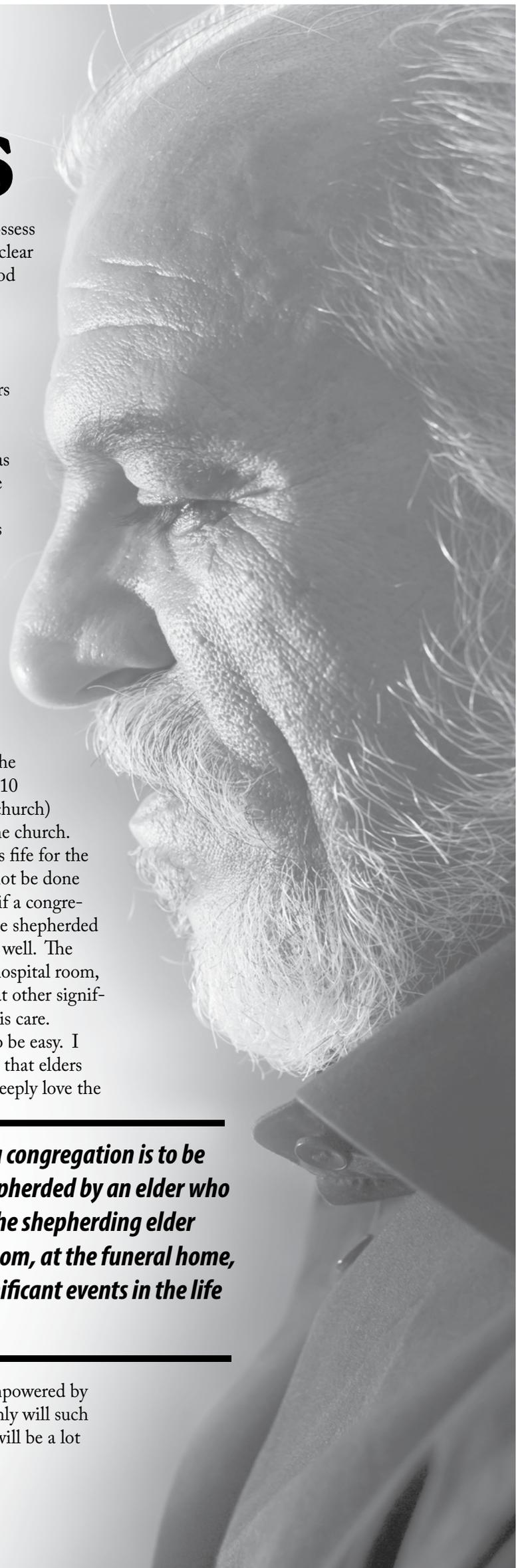
Some years ago it became more common to refer to leaders in churches of Christ as shepherds instead of elders. I think that at the time such change was healthy in restoring balance among the three defining terms we are discussing. But over time I think the leaders of our congregations have slipped back into the older pattern and are failing to shepherd God's flock as much as they should.

In John 10 Jesus makes it clear that the church should be thought of as a flock. Throughout scripture the shepherd is pictured as one having an intimate relation with his flock. Lynn Anderson in his writings has shown that the hands of the shepherd were the first thing felt when the lamb was born. Jesus makes it clear in John 10 that there are counterfeit shepherds (in the church) who as thieves, robbers, or hirelings injure the church. In contrast "the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Real shepherding cannot be done long distance. It is critically important that if a congregation is to be healthy every member must be shepherded by an elder who knows him or her very, very well. The shepherding elder should be present in the hospital room, at the funeral home, in every life crisis, and at other significant events in the life of the person under his care. No one ever said being an elder was going to be easy. I hope this article will remind every Christian that elders are to be highly dedicated individuals who deeply love the

It is critically important that if a congregation is to be healthy every member must be shepherded by an elder who knows him or her very, very well. The shepherding elder should be present in the hospital room, at the funeral home, in every life crisis, and at other significant events in the life of the person under his care.

Lord, who deeply love his people and are empowered by God's Holy Spirit. If such is the case, not only will such elders be worthy of double honor but there will be a lot more people in Heaven.

*Jim Howard
5276 Cherokee Rose Ln
Memphis, TN 38125
jim.lois@comcast.net*



FROM *Paul's Pen*

Paul "Preaching" On Mars Hill In Athens, Greece

By Paul Franks

On our way back from Lithuania this summer, Glenda and I had the opportunity to visit Athens, Greece for a few days. One day we went to Mars Hill



**Dino Roussos, Athens
Preacher**

or the Areopagus. This rock hill is just below the Acropolis and the Parthenon in central Athens. I asked Glenda to take my picture like I was preaching.

Today, Athens is still a city "full of idols" as the Apostle Paul stated in Acts chapter 17. Beside the ancient stairs going up to the top of Mars Hill are written the verses in Acts 17 that tell of the Apostle Paul preaching here.

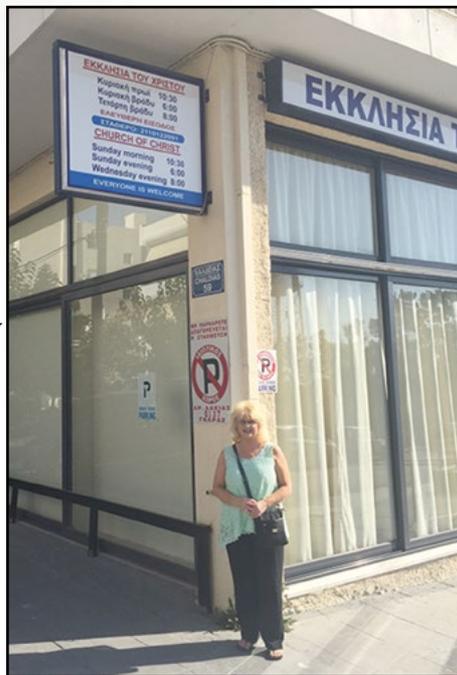
Another day we traveled to Corinth to visit that ancient city where the Apostle Paul had more success in teaching the gospel. On Sunday, back in Athens, we were not far from the meeting place of the church of Christ in Glyfada which is in the southern part of the city of Athens. This church has four services each Sunday in four different languages. The English service, we attended, was at 6:00 PM. The local preacher, **Dino Roussos**, helped to start this church in a city of six million. Living close around the church building are one million people. Since they started three years ago, over 60 have been baptized. Attendance runs about 100 attend every Sunday.

Many transients from the Middle East have obeyed the gospel since coming to Glyfada. This church is hosting a **Refugee Ministry Workshop** in November of 2016 and have invited Christians from around Europe and the United States to come together to discuss ways to help refugees. The church there has been renting their building, but now have an opportunity to purchase the facility.

The Prestoncrest church of Christ in Dallas, Texas has made an initial commitment of \$100,000 and will accept contributions to help with the purchase of this building. For more information you can go to <http://dinoroussos.com/home/>. We enjoyed our visit with this congregation in Athens and we pray that the church will continue to grow in country of Greece.



Paul Franks Preaching in front of the Acropolis on Mars Hill,



Glenda Franks, in front of church building in Athens

The Great Flood of 2016 - Louisiana -

A week before the great flood of August 2016, I took my parents and Glenda to Dequincy, LA to attend the funeral of my great uncle M.B. Franks who died at the age of 97. He was a great "Christian Gentleman." When I was there, one of the elders from the Enterprise Blvd church in Lake Charles, Louis Estes, told me about the ark like Noah's ark that had been constructed in Kentucky, suggesting that I go to see it when I can.

As we traveled back through Baton Rouge after the funeral visit, the only thing on my mind was hoping that the traffic would not be bad, so we could make it home easily. Just a few days later, several trillion gallons of water fell on/around Baton Rouge and Lafayette, Louisiana. Over 40,000 homes were flooded in this deluge. Thousands had to be rescued by boat because the water came up so quickly. Maybe some on South Louisiana thought they might need an ark; but, there is the rainbow, so the rain stopped.

Immediately, many churches went into their "disaster mode" of helping those who were hurting. The South Baton Rouge congregation provided a place where the "Churches of Christ, Disaster Relief Effort, Inc." could set up their work station. You soon could see these 18 wheelers going back and forth from the Nashville warehouses to churches of Christ all around Baton Rouge and Lafayette. The Goodwood Church of Christ in Baton Rouge is where Mike Baumgartner (Disaster Assistance) began working and preparing meals. Mike has been cooking food for the workers and sending plate lunches to 1000's of people around the Baton Rouge area. Various churches have received truck loads of supplies and buckets to help with the cleanup.

John Pigg, who preached several months for the Goodwood congregation before they hired their new preacher, Josh Fowler who got up a group from the Lake Harbor congregation and Glenda and I all went to help. We passed out hundreds of meals. One day we cleaned out a house for an elderly couple without insurance. I had opportunity to visit with the church secretary at Goodwood, Peggy Moragne and found her to be a remarkable lady who does a great job working at the church during such difficult times. I also got to see my friend, Don Hudson, from Petersburg, TN. He follows Mike Baumgartner and helps deliver the food and tries his best to study the Bible with as many people as he can. He is a great soul winner.

When we were leaving South Louisiana, several vans filled with people from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas were coming into the parking lot. A church in Searcy, AR had brought a trailer for showers. The people coming were going to stay in the church building at Goodwood and go out and help people. It will be months and even years before this area gets back to some kind of normal. There will be a continued need for volunteers and money to help those who are hurting.

The following are Louisiana churches you can contact, plus Mike Baumgartner's Disaster Assistance (Lake Jackson, TX) and the Nashville Disaster Relief Effort. Each can provide you with information on how you can help those in need. Other places affected by this flood, I am sure are in need of help as well.

(Report by Paul Franks)

JOURNEYS OF PAUL



Disaster Assistance Church of Christ

C/O Lake Jackson church of Christ
402 Center Way St.
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
www.disasterassistancecoc.com

NOTE: When you make a contribution to this ministry, the Texas church puts the funds into their bank account so that Mike and his team, wherever they are, can get to the funds by the next day to purchase needed supplies.

Goodwood Church of Christ

10715 Goodwood Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
225-272-8936

South Baton Rouge Church of Christ

8725 Jefferson Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Memo: "Flood relief"
225-927-4673 (HOPE)

Riverside Church of Christ

200 South City Parkway
Lafayette, LA 70503
337-984-2035

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.

410 Allied Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211
615-833-0888

Volunteer workers from Lake Harbour in Jackson



Working with joy. Seeking to help those in need



To help others, it is a pleasure to man a shovel



Peggy Moragne Secretary at Goodwood Church



Destruction Affected Thousands

A "Drop In Visit" at West Point Who's Who Presentation

Glenda and I recently traveled to West Point, MS to do a "drop in" visit at the Old Aberdeen Road (O.A.R.) Church of Christ and to present a certificate of award to one of their members. Having arrived a little early, we were blessed to enjoy a visit with Robert Craig, one of the elders of the church with whom I have visited at different times over the last 35 years. Doug Thompson also serves as one of their elders.

After listening to a great lesson taught by Danny Bailey, we assembled in their beautiful auditorium where Lynn Davis did an outstanding job leading the singing. John Bauer, who is their preacher, encouraged the church in his meaningful sermon on "Fellowship." John said, "Even in our worst, we still benefit from being together. We grow as we develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives."

After services, I had the opportunity of presenting a certificate, in our "Who's Who Among Servant Leaders" in churches of Christ, to Wanda Holley. Information shared with us stated, "Wanda serves as the church secretary on a volunteer basis. She has experienced trials in her life and has received the love and support of the church through these trials. She genuinely understands that aspect of the church and, especially since her retirement, she has made every effort to go above and beyond in returning love and support to others. From helping raise money for the young ladies to attend a retreat to seeing to the needs of the elderly. She is always willing to serve where she is needed."

We enjoyed our visit with this church and continue to pray that this church family will grow and be a shining light in the West Point area. Also, if you know of someone you would like to nominate in our Who's Who program, please let us know and we will try to come and present a certificate or plaque to that person. Please send your nominations to MM Award Program P. O. Box 1578 Kosciusko, MS 39090. (Report by Paul Franks)



Wanda Holley, recognized for her dedicated service, and John Bauer, preacher for the OAR church in West Point, MS.

THE PROCESS OF Baptism

As most bible students know the New Testament was written in the Greek language. The first popular translation from Greek into English was the King James Version of 1611. However, they did not translate the Greek word "baptisma" into English. The process of "baptisma" had become so corrupted by the state church that it would have caused confusion and serious problems had they translated the word.



Dennis Doughty

So in an effort to protect the popular practice of the day, they simply dropped the tense and left the Greek word "baptism" in the KJV. According to every Greek scholar the word means; "to dip, to immerge, submerge [Thayer], "To put or go under water" [Mounce]. The command, as in Acts 2:38, is in the passive tense, meaning "to allow one's self to receive baptism" [Thayer]. It is an act of submission to God's teachings and a humble admission of our sins and a recognition of the salvation of Christ.

Vine's Dictionary of Greek words says about "baptisma"; "It is the process of Immersion, Submersion, and Emergence." This is seen in the baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch by Phillip in Acts 8:38,39; "They both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water...he went on his way rejoicing." This is a perfect model for Christian baptism.

Baptism is a going down into the water (immersion) by faith in Christ, a going under the water (submersion) in sub-

"buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead"

(Colossians 2:12).

mission to Christ, and a coming up out of the water (emergence) to walk a new life in Christ.

In so doing you were "buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12). We were raised up out of the waters of baptism "in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4). (dennis1848@bellsouth.net)

In Loving Memory

A Tribute to Winnie May

(1934 - 2016)

We are very saddened to announce to readers of the Magnolia Messenger the passing of Winnie Agnes (Williamson) May. Sister Winnie passed away peacefully early on a Sunday morning, July 17, 2016 at her home in Montgomery, Alabama. She was born October 12, 1934 in Panola County Mississippi. She was married Cecil Richard May, Jr. on April 15, 1954 in West Memphis, Arkansas.

Several words have been spoken/written to describe Winnie, but a word that keeps coming to my mind when thinking of Winnie May is the word "devoted." Being devoted to something means being focused on that particular thing almost exclusively. When you are devoted to a cause, you work to achieve its goals. When you are devoted to a person, you place their needs above your own. Devoted means extreme loving and loyal to something or someone.

Winnie May was devoted to her husband, Cecil May.

Al and I were blessed with the privilege of knowing Winnie and Cecil May for more than fifty years. Both have been an inspiration to us and served as a great example through their devotion to each other. Winnie was truly devoted to her Cecil or "Cese" as she would say. Most all of the statements written or spoken after Winnie's passing have indicated the fact that Winnie was a devoted wife. A quote from their daughter, Roslyn, after the passing of her mom: "The example of husband and wife loving each other first before even their children is only one way of countless valuable lessons they taught us together."



Winnie May was devoted to her family.

Through the years, we witnessed the great devotion that Winnie had for her family. She was very thankful that her two sons, Cecil III and Richard, were Gospel preachers and that her daughter, Roslyn, was married to Andy Miller, who is also a preacher of the Gospel. Although not married to a preacher, she also was devoted to her daughter, Betty and her husband, Ivan. It was very evident from family members, who spoke at her funeral service, that they recognized the great devotion that their mom or grand mom had for them. Winnie is survived

by her four children, Betty Lozada and her husband, Ivan, from Sugar Land, TX, Cecil III and his wife, Patti, of Fulton, KY, Roslyn Miller and her husband, Andy, of Starkville, MS and Richard and his wife, JeannaLynn, from Yokon, OK. Winnie was also survived by five precious grandchildren and one great grandson.

Winnie May was devoted to the Church!

Winnie was very thankful for the church of the Lord; grateful she was given the opportunity, many years ago, to obey the Gospel. She stood by Cecil when he was preaching in local congregations and was very supportive of their time spent at Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, MS and at Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL. Roslyn spoke of her mom and dad saying, "Mama and daddy were partners in everything." She added, "Mother spent her days all the way to the end at my dad's side as his helper in his work. They were partners in service to the Lord and people."

A memorial service was conducted on Tuesday July 19th at 10 A.M. at the University Church of Christ in Montgomery, AL. Winnie's body was returned to the state of Mississippi for visitation and funeral services at the Fulton Church of Christ, Fulton, Mississippi. Al Franks was asked to speak at the funeral in honor of our dear friend and sister in Christ, Winnie May. She was laid to rest at the Pine Grove cemetery located adjacent to the Pine Grove Church of Christ near Fulton, Mississippi.

We are very thankful for the devotion expressed by Winnie especially to her husband, children and the church. She was not all about Winnie, but was more interested in serving others and making preparation for the day of her death. We thank God for the life lived by Winnie May and extend our deepest sympathy to the entire May family. We love each of you.

These verses, taken from God's word, seem so applicable to the life of Winnie. "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." (Proverbs 31: 28-30)
(Report by June Franks)

Bible Questions & Answers

Continued from page 3

into heaven, and His precious blood has purchased the church, even the angels were surprised: "So this is what God has had in mind all along!"

The fourth time "heavenly places" occurs in Ephesians is at 6:12: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

The listing of "rulers" and "authorities" as some of the "cosmic powers" and "spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" points us to Colossians.

The Epistles to the Ephesians and to the Colossians were written about the same time. Paul was a prisoner (Ephesians 3:1; Colossians 4:18) and both epistles were carried from Paul to their destinations by Tychicus (Ephesians 6:2; Colossians 4:7). The theme of Ephesians is the uniting of all things, in heaven and on earth, in Christ (Ephesians 1:10), or, to put it another way, the one glorious body of Christ, the church (Ephesians 1:20-21; 2:16; 4:4; 5:32). Christ's preeminence is also emphasized, however, in that God "raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come" (Ephesians 1:20-21). The preeminence of Christ is the theme of Colossians, especially his superiority above all other spiritual forces, whether good or evil: "For by him all things

were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

Christ being above all spiritual forces, including "thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities," is frequently emphasized in Colossians (1:13; 2:10; 3:15). The context indicates these entities were a part of the "philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ" that Paul is refuting in the Colossian epistle. A heresy called "Gnosticism" understood spiritual entities such as these to stand between God and fleshly human beings, needing to be placated if humans were to live happily, unmolested by the spiritual forces of evil. Paul reminds them that Christ created all such entities, whatever they are; they were made by Him and for Him and He controls them. Get right with Christ and you will not have to worry about any other spiritual forces.

That has relevance to today's superstitions. Get and stay right with Jesus Christ and you need not worry about broken mirrors, black cats, whether or not you walk under a ladder, whether you are on the thirteenth floor of a hotel, or whether it is Friday the thirteenth.

The battle in which we are engaged is a spiritual warfare, not a fleshly one. It is a battle of ideas and world-views, designed to capture minds and affections, rather than a carnal warfare fought with fists, or

horses and chariots, or guns and nuclear weapons. "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Conclusion

Christ was raised from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God "in the heavenly places." "The heavenly places" include the heaven of heavens, where God dwells and where Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.

We are made alive in Christ and raised from our burial with Him to sit with Him in "the heavenly places." "Our citizenship is in heaven." "The heavenly places" include the body of Christ, the church.

Spiritual forces both of good and of evil are real. A spiritual battle of truth versus error, of the gospel versus the lies of the devil, is being fought in a spiritual realm, in "the heavenly places." The outcome of that battle is not in doubt. "He (Christ) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him" by His resurrection from the dead (Colossians 2:15).

Rejoice in the heavenly places, in the rock bottom, Christ built, hell-proof victorious church (Matthew 16:18).

Cecil and Winnie May

Only Death Could Separate!

Reflections by Cecil

Sunday morning, July 17, 2016, I woke up as usual about 5:15 a.m. Winnie smiled at me and said, also as usual, "I think I will sleep a little while longer."

I drank a cup of coffee in the den as I read the Sunday morning paper. At 6:45 I realized that Winnie had not come down to join me. I went in to see about her and she was unresponsive. The light of my life, the wind beneath my wings, my best friend and constant companion for more than 62 years, was gone.

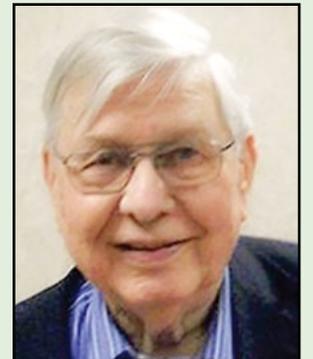
We had prayed about it together. She was not in good health and we both knew she really needed to go first. Neither of us dreaded death for ourselves or for the other, but we both prayed not to go through long drawn-out pain or mental incapacity. God answered our prayers, though I devoutly wish He would have waited a few years longer. As I write this, it has just been a few weeks, but, oh, how I miss her!

I am now primarily a writer. She was my proofreader. She corrected my grammar and punctuation, helped me say things with greater clarity, and kept me from saying things that would have been hurtful instead of helpful.

God gave me a wife who was truly a helper suited to me for 62 plus wonderful years. He gave us excellent health for most of those years. We have been too greatly blessed to complain now.

Starting about three years ago she began having days where she barely had the energy to get out of bed until up in the day. At first it was two or three days a month; it increased to more often than not. Recently, walking from the car to inside a Cracker Barrel, she had to stop and sit in one of the rockers on the porch before she could go on inside. Through it all she insisted on going wherever I went. Friday before she died Sunday, I was giving a devotional at a prayer breakfast downtown. She was urged to stay home and rest. She said, "I can stay home and lie on the couch, or I can go downtown and hear Cecil May preach? I'll go hear Cese speak."

If there is an earthly love anywhere greater than my love for her, it was her love for me. Thank you, God, for giving me Winnie and for the promise of eternal reunion. (Cecil May, Jr., Copied from "Preacher Talk", Summer, 2016)



Union Church Hosts Mission Forum IV

The Fourth East/Central Mississippi Mission Forum was held in Union, MS on August 27th, 2016. A large group of Christians from about 20 congregations came together to discuss mission work throughout the world. Speakers for this special day were **J. C. Enlow, Ken Gardner, Joey Barrier, Gordon Hogan, Kevin Moore** and **L. T. Gurganus**.

It was encouraging to hear of so many good works going on around the world. The Union church has three elders, **Rick Benson, Bill Koch** and **Sam Williamson**. This church has two preachers, **Rick Benson** and **Therman Hodge**. Brother Hodge served as the MC for this special day. The ladies of the Union congregation provided a delicious meal for everyone.

As Brother Hodge began the forum, he said that we were there for two reasons, "to enlighten and to encourage." No doubt, for those who attended, those two reasons were accomplished. I am already looking forward to the 5th Annual Forum for next year. We encourage you to make plans to attend. (Report by Paul Franks)



Missionaries at this year's mission forum hosted by church at Union, MS (From left) J. C. Enlow, Ken Gardner, Joey Barrier, Gordon Hogan, Kevin Moore and L.T. Gurganus

Church Growth: Doing What I Can!

By Don Hudson

No doubt you have entertained the thought, "If I could only go to some foreign country or some place far off to do mission work." Now while we certainly want to evangelize other countries, there is plenty I can do right here at home. There are opportunities right here that can make a big difference in peoples' lives and make a big difference in the kingdom.

A few opportunities that we have and some ideas as to how to use them!

First of all we want to talk to God and tell Him we want to reach people for His Son, Jesus Christ. We want to ask His help. Let's improve our Bible Study! Remember the Bible is the revealed will of a revealing God.

Some of these opportunities we have in reaching others with the message of Jesus would include:

1. New people in the neighborhood. They don't know anyone and the first friendly face, the first friendly word and, of course, a special dish will long be remembered and has opened many doors for teaching.

2. People with children are interested in their development. Tell them about your Bible school for children. Develop learning activities for children. A cook-out and devotional has encouraged many children to "like this church" and want to come back. Parents come with them.

3. Nursing homes and other places of confinement. Many people really appreciate your interest in their loved ones. "So that's the kind of church you go to? That's the kind of church I'm interested in." Another door opened.

While our discussion is not all encompass-

ing, it's a start and we are honored to be asked to bring future lessons on personal evangelism. You can contact me at donhudsonchoch@gmail.com.

Remember people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

We can bring others to Christ, we can build the church. We can because it is God who works in us, both to will and to do His good pleasure. (Phil. 2: 13)

P.S. by Paul Franks:

*I have witnessed firsthand the love for evangelism that Don and his wife, Rosemary, have for lost people. They were planning a trip recently to Yellowstone National Park; however, the floods happened in the Baton Rouge area. Rosemary told Don that Yellowstone "will be there next year" and they needed to go to Baton Rouge. Don follows Mike Baumgartner who operates Disaster Assistance for Churches of Christ out of Lake Jackson, Texas, and studies the Bible with people that are hurting. Also, Don told me that, at the Howell church where he ministers, one Saturday recently they had a food give away and, through his efforts and others, thirteen studies were set up that day. **The devil has convinced many of us that no one wants to study the Bible anymore and so very little is being done. That needs to change.***



Don Hudson, Minister Howell Church of Christ 323 Old Petersburg Pike Petersburg, TN 37144

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Visiting in Lincoln County, Mississippi

Johnson Grove Church

One of the largest churches of Christ, south of Jackson, Mississippi, is the Johnson Grove church of Christ near Brookhaven. Doug Kimble is the pulpit minister and Ben Huey is the youth minister. The church has six elders: Roger Easley, Andrew Redd, Barto Laird, W. M. Redd, Randy Spring and Bryron Redd. They also have 10 deacons.



Doug Kimble Teaching Sunday Evening Class at Johnson Grove

The country church recently added a beautiful multi-purpose room that is used by the church in their service to the community. Attendance runs close to 200 on Sundays with a budget of \$4,700 per week. The congregation stays very busy with many different activities to promote church growth. One such event to which we were invited is their annual "50 Plus Banquet" scheduled for October 22, 2016.

Glenda and I spent an enjoyable Sunday afternoon in the home of Dickie and Gloria Rayborn. While visiting with them, we had opportunity to visit the **Berean Children's Home** near Brookhaven. Tim White, who is a board member of the children's home, invited me to take a tour, along with Wendell Davis, who is the director. Sixteen children presently live in the home. They are getting ready to build a new multi-purpose building. Brother Davis would love to have you come and visit the beautiful campus when you are in the area.



Wendell Davis

Brookway Church

Sunday morning we were privileged to visit the Brookway church of Christ. We learned that, the day before, this church had fed over 50 "First Responders" in the Brookhaven area to show their respect



Preacher at Brookway in Brookhaven, Joshua & Brittany Holloway & Children.

for their service. During the morning services a great Bible class was taught by Mark Smith. And, since their regular song leader was out of town, Mark also led the singing and did a good job. Scott Russell began the worship service by welcoming all. Joshua Holloway, who presently serves as the local preacher, delivered the morning sermon. He and his wife, Brittany and their two children, have been at Brookway since July, 2015.

It was great to see several old friends, including **Linda Battles** and her children. Linda, who is from Kosciusko, now lives in Brookhaven and attends the Brookway church. Attendance for the friendly congregation runs in the 80's on Sundays. We are grateful we could visit Brookway in Brookhaven. In fact, we really enjoyed spending the whole day in Lincoln, County Mississippi. (Paul Franks)

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Reliving the "Glory Days"

Nehemiah 8:1-18

By James Malone

Remember when you were in high school? You were young. You were full of energy. Maybe you were the star athlete or the model student. Your future was bright and *nothing was going to stand in your way*. We look back on these good times and we tell our children. We tell our grandchildren. Through our stories, we are trying to relive our glory days.

What about the glory days of the church? Remember those 7 day tent meetings that we wished would last even longer? Remember when debates were held and people actually changed their minds? Remember when members of the church of Christ were known as "walking Bibles?" Do you wish that we could go back? Do you wish that things could be like they used to be? Why can't they be?

Should we be content to sit around and talk about how good things used to be or should we seek to discover how we can get there again? I would suggest to you that we should not be content to simply long for days gone by; that we shouldn't just be content to relive the glory days through our stories. Instead, I would suggest that we should be actively working and seeking to restore the church to its glory days so that we can relive the glory days right now—not just imagine them!

In Nehemiah chapter 8, we see a problem identified. The problem is that an entire nation had drifted away from God. In Nehemiah 8, we also see a solution to the problem. We see a pattern for reliving the glory days. We see a recipe for restoration.

1. *The people had a desire to hear (8:1-4).*
2. *They treated God's law with respect (8:5,6).*
3. *The people understood because it was explained clearly (8:7,8).*
4. *The people were convicted by the Word (8:9-12).*
5. *The people applied God's message by reacting with faithful obedience (8:13-18).*

If we want to relive the glory days we must do the same things! We must develop an eagerness to learn. We must treat the Word of God with reverence and respect. We must study the Scriptures to come to a deeper understanding. We must allow ourselves to be deeply touched and convicted by God's Word. We must quickly do whatever it takes to make things right with God.

Oh, how we long for the glory days! We want to relive the glory days here on this earth. We want to restore the church. We want things to be like they were 40 or 50 or 60 years ago. Oh, how we long for the glory days. But, we don't need to look back 40 or 50 or 60 or even 70 years.

If the Jews in Nehemiah's day had just looked back 70 years, they wouldn't have done any good! 70 years earlier, they were getting ready to go into Babylonian captivity because of their disobedience! They didn't just go back 70 years. They went back to the beginning; **they went back to the Law.**

That's what we need to do! We need to look back *to the beginning*. We need to look back *to the church in the first century*. We need to follow the pattern of the apostles; the pattern of the church we read about in the New Testament.

The apostle Paul tells us, in Philippians 3:13-14, that we need to keep pressing forward and strive for faithfulness, not just so we can relive the glory days in this life, but so we can *live in glory for endless days* with our Heavenly Father.

James Malone, gospel preacher, can be reached by addressing:
James Malone; 212 County Road; Bono, AR 72146 or
e-mail: jamesmalone1@gmail.com



Polishing the Pulpit

"PTP." What is it?

In a booklet, published by the Jacksonville, Alabama church of Christ, brethren seek to define "Polishing the Pulpit," held each August in Sevierville, Tennessee. After saying that PTP is "like a lectureship," they say, "But it is not a lectureship." Saying it is "like a gospel meeting, summer camp, preachers' luncheon, Bible class, church fellowship, elders' retreat, ladies' day, youth rally, etc.," they conclude by saying, "It is none of these things," adding, "You just have to be there!"

You just have to be there! Thank the Good Lord. My June and I were blessed to be there this past August. In Sevierville, Tennessee, near Gatlinburg. Up there in the Great Smoky Mountains for seven days of uplifting, faith strengthening, courage building and sweet fellowship with more than 4,000 souls who chose to make "Polishing the Pulpit" a part of their lives in 2016.

4,171
People Registered For
Polishing the Pulpit 2016

Huge numbers of families came with their children, knowing that classes were available for all ages, along with special programs for teenagers. A large number of elders, with a desire to be better shepherds, were in the crowded rooms and hallways. Many deacons, with a desire to serve more effectively, came to learn and be encouraged. A whole bunch of preachers were in attendance, ready and anxious to "polish their pulpits." Two hundred speakers were scheduled to cover 700 topics in twelve concurrent classes during the 7 day event. Worship services were truly "out of this world" as thousands joined together in singing praises to God and "teaching and admonishing one another."

The Jacksonville folks are right. Words fail to describe, to explain, "Polishing the Pulpit." You just have to be there. So, plan ahead. Come next year, God willing. Save the date for 2017: August 18 -24.

(Report by Al Franks)



Allen Webster, preacher for the Jacksonville church and editor of "House to House", is one of PTP directors.



Homer Smith, one of the three elders of the Jacksonville, AL Church of Christ, who oversee PTP. (He just happened to be present at time picture was taken by MM editor)



from a Woman's Viewpoint

What If... Every Member of Your Congregation Were Just Like You?

The question, "What if every member of the congregation were just like you?" is a very thought provoking question. It is a question we should consider when we look at our own life in regard to our individual responsibility to our congregation. We often go to the doctor for our yearly checkup. We also need occasionally to do a spiritual checkup. What we do or don't do affects our entire congregation. This question should challenge us to check our faith and help us to put in practice those things we know. We must deny ourselves. The Bible says, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16: 24)

We should be reminded that every person in the congregation is important. By our actions we can either encourage others or discourage them. Which are you doing at this time? We may not realize it but our example is so powerful -- whether good or bad. People are watching us. It is sobering to think of the influence we have. Let each of us take a self examination and truly consider this question. "What if all the members of my congregation were just like me?"

We should feel a responsibility to our own congregation and not leave it up to others. If we see a need let us step up to the plate and not sit back and wait on others. Our attitude goes a long way in making this happen.

The Bible says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continued therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1: 22-25)

What If Every Member of the church Attended Services Just Like YOU?

Would the church services be for just one hour on Sunday Morning? This is a serious matter! A congregation is made up of people. The church cannot function like God wants it to without the people. The elders or leaders have set certain times for services. I, as a member, should have enough love for God and respect for our elders or leaders that we do not forsake the assemblies. There is a comment made by some and thought by many which says, "I go so I can just punch my ticket for Sunday morning worship services." Then they can go home feeling good about themselves. How many worship services would we have if everyone attended like you do?

Are you present for the Bible classes? Just put yourself in place of the teacher for a moment. It is very discouraging to the teacher who has prepared a Bible lesson when so many of the members choose not to be present. Bible classes

also give us an opportunity to learn more about the Bible. It is through the study of God's word that we gain more faith. Your absence can be discouraging to everyone who tries to be faithful. The Bible says, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22: 37) The Bible makes it clear that those who fail to put Christ first have put something else in that place. What could be more important than studying God's word? How often would we have Bible classes if others attended only when I do?

It seems that some just take it for granted that the church will do alright without them. First of all, you need the church because of the importance of the church. The Bible says, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." (Ephesians 1:22-23)

The church is so important because it was purchased by the blood of Christ, The Bible says, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers. To feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28)

When we willfully forsake the assembly we miss out on worshipping God and are not showing our appreciation for Jesus shedding his blood for the church. It is truly an honor to be able to worship such an Almighty God who is the Creator of the universe. We also miss out on the teaching of God's word and the knowledge and the strength we receive from being present with other Christians. The encouragement and the association with other Christians is so very valuable. We may not realize it, or may even not even care about it, but we play a vital role in the life of our church family.

The members who just attend a church service occasionally need to realize that because your name may be on a church roll doesn't assure you a home in heaven. We know the church is made up of people and without people the congregation would soon die. This would be a very sad commentary if I, as an individual member of the church, would be involved in letting this happen to the Lord's Church in our community.

What If Every Member of the Church Participated in the Singing Just Like YOU?

It doesn't mean, before we can sing, we have to have a beautiful voice. The Bible says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands." (Psalms 100:1) Many of us have not



JUNE FRANKS

been blessed with a beautiful voice but we are still commanded to sing. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart." (Ephesians 5: 19) The Bible says, "...I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." (I Corinthians 14: 15) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3: 16)

Singing is a vital part of our worship service. It is noted, with sorrow, that in many congregations some just do not sing. It is a privilege and a blessing to be able to sing praises to God. Those who refuse to sing are missing out and are a discouragement force to the song leader and the congregation. We could improve our acappella singing if each one of us would sing as the Bible has commanded us.

What If Every Member of the Church Served Just Like YOU?

Jesus is certainly our example of being a servant. The Bible says, "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." (Philippians 2:7) Jesus went about doing good. (Acts 10:38)

Many congregations have trouble in finding those who are willing to teach. Leaders often have to beg for teachers! We can do everything else that we want to do, but -- ? *don't ask me to teach a class!* Because of the lack of teachers, those who do teach often become burned out. Our Bible classes need teachers. In a desire to serve, this is good place to start -- agree to teach! It is a privilege to know, that in teaching, you are aiding in the spiritual growth of someone -- especially children.

We know there are many other ways to serve. There is always a need to prepare food for those who are sick or who may have lost a loved one. It has been said, "Eighty per cent of the members are willing to let the other twenty per cent do the work." What if every member served as you serve?

Let us live our life so every member of the church could say about us, "He/She sets a good example for us to follow." We are going to look up to someone, so let us live our life worthy of being imitated. We should always endeavor to be Christ-like. Let our actions be worthy of imitating. The apostle Paul said, "Be ye followers (imitators) of me, even as I also am of Christ." (I Corinthians 11: 1) [Mrs. A. L. Franks; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; franksmm@aol.com]

PLEASE ANSWER
What If Every Member of the Church Was Just Like ME?

A Mid-week Visit in Tupelo

My June and I were privileged to drop in for a visit with the North Green Street Church of Christ on Wednesday evening, August 31, 2016. It was a very pleasant visit -- getting to see brethren we have known for many years plus a lot of "new ones". We were privileged to meet their new preacher who just recently replaced brother Daniel McCollum who, after many, many years with the Tupelo church, has retired. (Brother Daniel still lives in Tupelo and, when not preaching elsewhere, serves as a member of the N. Green St. church.) We pray God's blessings upon the new preacher, the "old" preacher and the friendly congregation of color ("Green") in my wife's home town -- Tupelo. (alf, editor)



Richard & Ja'Mes Price in Tupelo, MS New Preacher and Wife at N. Green St. Church

Gospel Meeting (Revival)

December 4-7, 2016

(Sunday - Wednesday)

David Lipe

South Huntington St Church of Christ
Kosciusko, MS 39090



Christian Student Center (MDCC)

An Earnest/DESPERATE Plea by Gene Gibson

Needed: Sponsoring Church & Mission Couple

After Madolyn (my wife) inherited the house in Moorhead, MS, which is located directly across the street from Mississippi Delta Community College, we decided it was time for us to begin our *second lives* of working for the Lord *full time*. We closed our very successful retail Pharmacy in Winona, MS and began working towards establishing the Christian Student Center, serving students at MS Delta Community College.



40 to 50 non-Christian college students come together for a Bible study on Wednesday evenings

The year was 1995. I was 55 years old and Madolyn would have been 51. We averaged only 6 students in regular attendance the first semester. The spring semester following we increased greatly. In the fall year, 1996, we had profile cards printed for the students to provide us with personal information. Over 300 students registered for various functions during the year.

Due to age and health issues, we are now unable to function as we did 21 years ago. The property, which is owned by Madolyn, has been greatly renovated recently. We have very solid financial supporters who have been loyal for years and desire to see the work continue. We have worked under the Indianola church eldership, but because of age and relocation of members they no longer have elders. **We have been seeking a new sponsoring congregation.**

The property is located directly across the street from Mississippi Delta Community College which registers approximately **three thousand students** each year. We are praying for a sound in the faith, dedicated, **mission minded couple to take our place as directors.** This is a work that is ready made for someone interested in a stateside mission field. The opportunities are endless. The retirement plan is HEAVENLY.

Prayerfully with love,

Gene & Madolyn Gibson

P.O. Box 651; Moorhead, MS 38761

662-303-0169

mjdgibson@yahoo.com; ggibson331@bellsouth.net • www.facebook.com/CSC.MDCC



**September
25th – 27th
7:00 PM**

(Singing starts at 6:30 pm)

Speaker:

Lonnie Jones



Theme:

***The Church of Christ is a
Great Place for Families"***

Sponsored by churches of Christ in

Northeast Mississippi and Southwestern Tennessee

Location: Booneville Church of Christ

406 North Second Street

Booneville, Mississippi

Preacher Wanted

(Adrian, Michigan)

We are seeking a Full-time Minister. The Adrian Church of Christ with a membership of approximately 85-100, is located in the southeast region of Michigan. Adrian is the county seat of Lenawee County and home to Adrian College, Siena Heights University and Jackson College. We are located within convenient driving distance of Detroit, Ann Arbor and Toledo.

We are seeking God's guidance in finding a full-time minister. We are a Bible focused congregation that desires a dynamic preacher/ teacher who can preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, possesses a deep and personal prayer life, has a strong focus on evangelism and can minister to a diverse congregation.

A profile of our congregation may be provided upon request. Interested candidates or referrals should submit a cover letter, resume and DVD of a sermon and Bible Class to (email address) or mail to **Adrian Church of Christ, 719 W Maumee St, Adrian, MI 49221**. Review of resumes and cover letters will begin immediately. For further information, call 517-263-2912. (Ad received 9/9/16)

Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

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



It was a great joy for me to visit among the churches. This quarter I have been serving as an interim for the church in Tiplersville on the Sundays I have been free to visit with them. I also, have helped the church in Cleveland while their minister was gone on a mission trip. The following is my report as I visited among the churches.

April 3: I was invited to preach for **Cleveland church of Christ**. Tim McCarter is the minister and one of the elders for the church. He was away speaking at a homecoming for his home church, Zion's Rest, near Booneville, MS. It was good to see so many of the folks in Cleveland. Judy and I worked with the church here back in the 80's. They have two elders and around 70 in attendance. They hosted a noon fellowship meal which I enjoyed. I really enjoyed my visit with the church.

In Bible class we discussed Joshua 3, "The Sovereign Crossing." It's a great lesson on how to look at the future. In the morning worship I preached on "The Hope of Your Calling" based on Ephesians 1:15-23. It's a wonderful study on the spiritual blessings we have in Christ. At the 1:00 pm service I considered Joshua 4:1-18, "The Significance of These Stones." It talks about how we remember God. It's always good to visit with the brethren in Cleveland.

April 10: I was invited to speak at the **Tiplersville church of Christ**. They are searching for a new minister and have asked me to help them when I have a free Sunday. The church has about 60 in attendance and two elders. Lots of good folks attend. I'm happy to help them during this time of change for the church.

In Bible class I presented a lesson from Joshua 4:1-18, "The Significance of These Stones." This lesson talks about how we remember God. In worship I spoke on, "The Abundance of the Heart." It's a lesson on how our words reveal our heart. In the pm service I spoke on, "The Hope of Your Calling" based on Ephesians 1:15-23. It's a wonderful study of all the spiritual blessing we have in Christ.

April 17: I was invited to speak at the **Antioch church of Christ** in Independence, MS. I always enjoy visiting with the folks there. Bob Chambers and Howard Scruggs are the song leaders there. In Bible Class we discussed a lesson from Joshua 4: 1-18, "The Significance of These Stones." In worship I presented a lesson from Ephesians 1:15-23, The Hope of Your Calling."



*Antioch Song Leaders
 Bob Chambers and Howard Scruggs*

April 24: I visited with the **Jackson Grove church of Christ**. Michael Clarke is the minister there. He is a student at the MSP. He was gone and his associate Houston Welch, also a student at MSP, taught the Bible class and preached in the service. Houston did a good job. He said this was the tenth time he had presented a lesson. It was great meeting Houston and the brethren there. The church has two elders and about 20 in attendance.

In Bible class Houston presented a lesson from 2 Timothy 1:3-10. There was



Jackson Grove: Houston Welch-minister, Buddy Kihnl and John Deaton-elders

lots of good discussion. In worship he presented a lesson on stewardship from Philippians 2. He asked the questions of "What, how, and why" of stewardship. It was a good lesson.

May 1 and 8: I returned to preach for the **Tiplersville church of Christ**. They are currently looking for a minister. I got to eat with the elders and their wives at lunch and enjoyed visiting with them in the afternoon. It's a very friendly congregation. They have a great love and unity. I pray God will lead them to a minister that can help them grow.



Tiplersville: Randle Miskelly and Donnie Greene, elders

In Bible class I continued my study of Joshua by looking at 4:19-5:12 and chapter 6. It's a study of the importance of Gilgal and the restoration that took place there. In chapter six is the story of the defeat of Jericho and how Israel trusted God to bless them. In worship I presented a lesson on "Esteeming Others" based on Philippians 2:1-11. It emphasizes the importance of us having the attitude of Christ. On May 8 we celebrated Mother's Day. I spoke on "The Blessing." In the pm worship I looked at "God Working in Us!" based on Ephesians 2:1-10 and "God's Great Peace Mission" based on 2:11-22. It looks at our life in sin and how God works for, in, and through us to free us from sin. God's peace mission was to send Jesus to reconcile man to God.

May 15, 29, and June 5: I returned to preach for the **Antioch church of Christ** in Independence, MS. I always enjoy visiting with the brethren there. On the 29th I was substituting for Ken Joines, who preaches there once a month. What a wonderful group of Christians.

In Bible class I continued my study of Joshua by looking at 4:19-5:12 and chapter 6. It's a study of the importance of Gilgal and the restoration that took place there. In chapter six is the story of the defeat of Jericho and how Israel trusted God to bless them. On the 5th we continued in chapter 7 and discussed the secret sin of Achan. In worship I presented a lesson entitled "The Blessing," that tells us how to bless our families. On May 29 I presented a lesson on "God Working in Us!" based on Ephesians 2:1-10. It looks at our life in sin and how God works for, in, and through us to free us from sin. On June 5th I preached on "The Great Peace Mission of Christ" based on verses 11-22. Both are good studies.

June 12, 19, and 28: I was invited by the elders to preach for the **Cleveland church of Christ**. Their ministers and one of the elders, Tim McCarter, were away on a mission trip to Fiji. It's always a pleasure to visit with the brethren in Cleveland. Judy and I have many great memories of our ministry there.

In the Bible class I presented a study on the book of Joshua. We looked at Israel's conquest of Jericho and Ai. In the worship I talked about "The Family as God Wants It" in honor of Father's Day. I also talked about chapter two in Ephesians and the wonderful lessons Paul gives on what Christ did for us. I also considered some of the great parables of Jesus. It was great to visit with the church there.

Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North Mississippi,
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Now You Take It From There

John Simpson

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Bible Translations

Editor's Note: Sadly, we are living at a time in which fewer and fewer people are taking the time to read and study the Holy Bible. (*It is not that we don't have time. We take time for things we consider important!*) There are translations of Scripture which are preferable in conveying the message as originally written; yet, far too many "faithful" members of the Lord's church simply are not regularly reading the Word of God *in any translation*.

It is not the purpose of this publication, or that of brother Simpson's article which follows, to say that "the translation doesn't make any difference." It is our purpose to encourage *serious* reading and *prayerful* study of the "World's Greatest Book." And, the truth is -- a more up-to-date version (written in language that we commonly use today) may be of great help in learning more about the will of God as revealed in the written word of God. Personally, over the past several weeks, I have been reading through the Bible using the **New King James Version** and find it very helpful. In recent months, I have studied the **English Standard Version** with great profit. Our plea is: Brethren, let's get back to reading God's word and encourage others to do so -- *daily and diligently!* God bless. (alf)

By John Simpson

When I first became a serious student of Scripture, there was little access within my reach for reference sources to assist in pursuit of personal study. Tools at hand were simple; my office furniture consisted of a 36 inch cube wooden box, laid on its side for a desk, a wooden nail keg for a chair, with a pull-chain electrical socket hanging from the ceiling, sporting a 60-watt bulb.

My library contained a Bible, a *Cruden's* Concordance, a *Smith's* Bible Dictionary, a *Webster's* English Dictionary and a two-volume set of *Johnson's* Commentary on the New Testament. Office supplies were simple, but adequate; an empty coffee can as a caddy for pencils and pen, and a dime school tablet for stationery. This furnished office was in our food pantry, off the kitchen.

No debates were in session in our area, about "which Bible translation should I use?" Our Bible, the King James Version of 1611, had been the only one recognized in the religious arena as reliable, for over 250 years. Then revised modern English translations came and brought suspicion upon all who would dare to own one.

Since this limited beginning, I have been blessed to formally study and graduate from an accredited Christian college and complete all graduate levels of biblical studies, having access to some of the largest religious libraries in America. I would not exchange this for any other course of education.

Time and study have settled a lot of misgivings about revisions and later translations. We have begun to come to grips with accepting that there are two options for understanding Scripture; (1) teach everyone Greek and Hebrew, or (2) translate the Greek and Hebrew into the language of the people. The latter has been chosen and we now have

multiple modern language translations.

Often I am asked, "Which translation should I use?" First, I must offer a disclaimer; I am not a linguist. If any scholarship is to be acclaimed from my advanced biblical studies, it would not be in this discipline.

Respectfully, I refer you to the works of one who is a linguist in both Old and New Testament languages, and has worked on reputable translating committees. Jack P. Lewis holds Ph.D. degrees from both Harvard Divinity School and Hebrew Union University, and has published works on this subject. These are: *The English Bible / From KJV to NIV*, and *Questions You've Asked About Bible Translations*. When asked which one is the best translation, Dr. Lewis answers, "the one you will read." I once asked Dr. Lewis which translation is nearest to the original languages of the Old and New Testaments. He said, "I don't know, I have never conducted a study in verse by verse comparison of either."

Remember, we are addressing, "which translation should I use". There are two key words to be satisfied, "translation" and "use". Select a reliable translation, some where between old and modern English, that you can read and understand – then USE it! Also, supplement with commentaries and other biblical helps by conservative scholarship. That is what I have done.

Dr. Lewis wrote in *Questions You've Asked About Translations*: "The Lord never said one word about which translation of his Word was to be read by his people. He revealed himself in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, not in any particular English translation. He built one church, but he never implied that men should read only one or even only two translations."

Remember, we are addressing, "which translation should I use". There are two key words to be satisfied, "translation" and "use". Select a *reliable* translation, some where between old and modern English, that you can read and understand – then USE it! Also, supplement with commentaries and other biblical helps by conservative scholarship. That is what I have done.

Several translations from King James Version to New International Version are in my personal library, and I have read from all of them for comparison in critical study. One of them in particular is, *The New Testament in 26 Translations*.

Obviously, the choice is yours, but be sure to study the one you select. Merely owning a translation does not seal your salvation; seek out and obey heaven's plan: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16), NASB.

Now, you take it from there!



Seen in Mississippi

Notice the Words in Red

"Pastor: Jesus"

Consider 1 Peter 5:4

"And when the chief Shepherd appears...."



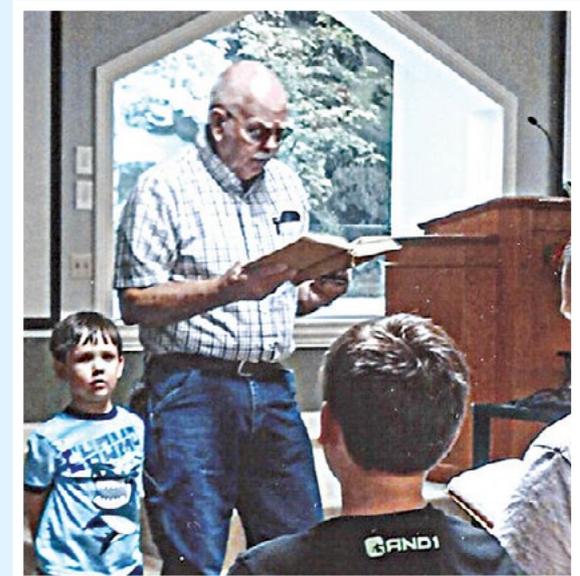
Seen in Tennessee

A Tag on Car at "Polishing the Pulpit"

MM Editor stated:

I like that tag. A warm invitation.

To be a part of something associated with "Pleasant", the "Church of Christ" and "God's Family"



Standing By His PawPaw

Mason Davis (age 3) likes to help his granddad (Danny Stephenson, an elder at the Smithville church of Christ) lead singing.

Thanks to Kimberly Pearce for sharing this "sweet photo" with readers of the MM.

Zion Rest Church of Christ

Celebrates Centennial (100 Years!)

“Zion.” Something very special about that word. It is used over 150 times in the Old Testament. Originally referring to one of the hills of Jerusalem; it was later extended to include the temple area and, sometimes, the whole city of Jerusalem. In the New Testament (KJV) the word “Sion” (different spelling to Zion) is used eight times; two or three times in reference, not to earthly Sion [Zion], but to heaven itself. Don’t we all love the old song, “*We Are Marching to Zion... the beautiful city of God.*”

In Mississippi, more than one of the churches of Christ use the word “Zion” to identify themselves; that is, in reference to their community or location. For example, a few years ago, I was privileged to preach in a revival meeting for the Mt. Zion Church of Christ, near Brookhaven. Then, up near Booneville, there is the “Zion Rest Church of Christ.” This church, just north of Marietta, recently celebrated 100 years of service to their community. My June and I were blessed to be present and be a part of the joyous celebration which took place on Sunday, July 24, 2016.

In a bulletin published by the Zion Rest church we have selected the following comments.

“Just think about the church being planted in this community for 100 years. Think about the sacrifice that was made by a group of men and women who had an interest in restoring new Testament Christianity in our community, giving birth to the Zion Rest Church of Christ. How blessed we have been to benefit from their vision! We owe them a debt we cannot repay; but we can continue to go forward with the seed of the gospel of Jesus. It is my prayer that we have done our part to be a lighthouse for Jesus within our community and pray we will continue to be! May the next 100 years be as blessed as the past 100 years! May we have the vision to continue doing God’s work.”

On the day of their centennial celebration, the church began a 4 day gospel meeting with guest speaker and evangelist **Mike Eaton**. Scores of visitors from the community and area swelled their anniversary attendance to 214. (The previous Sunday 125 were present.) My June and I benefited greatly from the Bible class and sermon taught by brother Eaton. We were also blessed to join with our



Mike Eaton, visiting evangelist, teaching SM Bible class



Tony Brown, Zion Rest's preacher since 1989, welcoming SM crowd

brothers and sisters for delightful fellowship and a delicious meal at noon.

Tony Brown began his service as preacher for the church on February 5, 1989. He is nearing the end of 28 years of dedicated work with a friendly and loving congregation. The Zion Rest church is presently served by five elders. They are: **Bill Belamy, Calvin Barber, Don Sweeney, Bill Whitley and Tony Brown**. Previous preachers in the 20 years before Tony included **Calvin Barber, Richard Gooch, Grady Wigginton and Lee Cole**.

We are very grateful for 100 years of spiritual service rendered by our brethren who have chosen to be identified as the Zion Rest Church of Christ. May they continue



REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING	
ATTENDANCE TODAY	214
OFFERING TODAY	3772.00
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	125
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	3584.70
HELLURU ATTENDANCE	

Attendance Swelled to 214 Centennial Celebration

to serve until His return. Thanks for the kind reception given to us, just

two of the many who visited on that very special day for a special occasion. May God continue to richly bless. (Al Franks)

Searching for Preacher Lucedale, MS

Congregation of forty plus members in Lucedale, Mississippi is looking for a full time preacher of the gospel to come work with them. Support and home are provided. Those interested can contact **Paul Tipton at 601-947-5045** or e-mail rntipton@att.net. Also see our web page at Lucedalecofc.com.

You are invited to subscribe to “Voice of Truth, International”

Each issue of The Voice of Truth International quarterly magazine is a library of brief religious articles, edited by Louis Rushmore of Winona, Mississippi. Each of these perfect bound 114-page, little books is full color within and without, and is suitable for personal enrichment, devotionals and classes. Subscriptions are \$15 annually or \$25 for two years; bundle rates are available. Call, email or order online: 662-283-1192; rushmore@gospelgazette.com; www.WorldEvangelismMedia.com.

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

1. Willene Gipson	88. Dick Green	174. Kim Wallace	261. Michael A. Euer	347. Wayne & Carol Rigdon	434. Caiden Holliday	521. Shelby Martin	608. Debbie Stephens
2. Betty Harris	89. Judy Walker	175. Carol Bradley	262. Edmon Wheeler	348. Lucille Jackson	435. Alex Williams	522. Joyce McKee	609. Wanda McColum
3. Evon Jarrett	90. Mack Moore	176. Julius Lee Wales	263. Jerry Barnes	349. Idna Eddington	436. Josh Williams	523. James Savage	610. John Child
4. Doris Aultman	91. Doris Darnell	177. Thomas Logan	264. Billy & Lucille Smith	350. Iris Casteel	437. Samuel Eckford	524. Edward Pearson	611. Bobbie Child
5. Patsy McClung	92. Wm. & Atlean Snow	178. Ken Harris	265. Arvel L. Miles	351. Mary King	438. Faith Eckford	525. Everjean Parson	612. Bradley Child
6. Sandra Jones	93. Ann Kimble	179. Sandra Morris	266. Betty E. Miles	352. Brailey Bryan	439. Kalib Smith	526. Wanda Orman	613. Ann Akins
7. Andie Allen	94. Marion Crelia	180. Carolyn Ware	267. Vickie Weatherbee	353. Pat Moore	440. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Burnett	527. Ida Tuggle Walls	614. Benny Akins
8. Quincy Allen	95. Jean Clemmer	181. Wanda Cochran	268. Dillie Horton	354. Althea House	441. Jeremiah & Shelia Woodard	528. James & Patricia Thornton	615. Sarah Hall
9. Foy C. Smith	96. Sidney Clemmer	182. Perkins Cochran	269. Bernice Richardson	355. Nell Holloway	442. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.	529. Dorothy Clover	616. Evelyn Jamieson
10. Rosa Sanders	97. Geneva Brooks	183. Margaret Parker	& Shirley Ray	356. Fran Williford	443. Benus & Nicole Womack	530. Kim Anderson	617. Regina Coats
11. Jerrie Whitten	98. Doris Russell	184. Verline Faulkner	270. Bonnie Poore	357. Jennifer F. Gray	444. Ma'Nia & Bralan Womack	531. Mary L. Smith	618. Rob Cagle
12. Judy Smith	99. Victor Boone	185. Rhenda Miltner	271. Rosie Drewery	358. Bet Tucker	445. Prince Lewis	532. Lisa Dearman	619. Lori Cagle
13. Sue Fisher	100. Mary Jane Hollis	186. Terry Miltner	272. Marie Lively	359. Johnny & Princess Watson	446. Dannie Davis	533. Masey Brown	620. Blake Alsup
14. June Faulkner	101. Sherry Townsend	187. Carolyn Stanford	273. Paul & Darlene McElroy	360. Evelyn Laney	447. Kimberly Pearce	534. Mary Turner	621. Johnnie Jumper
15. Carole Shelby	102. Jack Falls, Sr.	188. June Brents	274. Vivian M. Covington	361. Nellie Lester	448. Shirley Pearce	535. Mary Brannan	622. Anissa Yancey
16. Vera Ashmore	103. Mary Jo Hoffman	189. CJ Frazier	275. Michael Harvill	362. Carolyn P. Olson	449. Chery Boudreaux	536. Onugaleah Huff	623. Katie Alsup
17. Edwin Cooper	104. Dorothy Booker	190. Mattie Ann Owens	276. Floy Smith	363. Wayne Crum	450. Judy Willis	537. Meredith Peek	624. Liz Alsup
18. Sidney Robinson	105. Wanda Robinson	191. Foster Cowens	277. Pamela Shepherd	364. Elnorsh Duckworth	451. Herschel Ford	538. Jan Wiese	625. Sherry Henderson
19. Garry Gooch	106. Mary Robinson	192. Dorothy Brunson	278. Tyler Foster	365. Geraldine "Dee" Hitt	452. Inez & Laura Brannon	539. Carolyn Garrett	626. Helen Brown
20. Scotty Balentine	107. Toni Burnett	193. Sandra Grisham	279. Gwendolyn Bryant	366. William A. Smith	453. Jean Girdner	540. Rebecca Alexander	627. Bert Brown
21. Ann Hulsey	108. Ann Holeman	194. Linda Cook	280. Gerald Worthey	367. John Hazel	454. Mary Salinas	541. John E. Downs	628. Betty Henry
22. Sharon Praytor	109. Anne Shelton	195. Paul Pounds	281. Ben Worthey	368. Mildred Carroll	455. Sue Hamrick	542. Alma Lee Heard	629. Wendy Roberson
23. Willa Fox	110. Sherian Martin	196. Shane & Lindsey Cardwell	282. Ruby Worthey	369. Vera Winfrey	456. Karen Bush	543. Lyman & Betty York	630. Kathy Hill
24. Bill Moore	111. Margie McKinney	197. Haley Winter	283. Gene Turner	370. Mary Prosser	457. Minnie Fairley	544. Mary Faulconer	631. Grace Floyd
25. Bonnie Lipsey	112. Martha West	198. Bobby Garrett	284. Betty Shackelford	371. Barbara Loden	458. Kathy Perry	545. Margaret N. Freeman	632. Martha Sue Carter
26. Stan Neuenschwander	113. Ruby King	199. Gay R. Null	285. Leora white	372. Karen Britt	459. Carolyn Perry	546. Elsie Moore	633. Avis Moody
27. Margie Andrews	114. Melba Ogg	200. Susan Boyd	286. Doris Wiley	373. Sherron Dixon	460. Linda Swain	547. Barbara Baker	634. Tim Moody
28. Barbara White	115. Shelia Ganier Williams	201. Lane & Lynn Bell	287. Booker T. Williams III	374. Alice Humphries	461. Jessie Ridley	548. Etta Mark	635. Peggy Wallis
29. Amy Hutson	116. Linda Paden	202. Laura Nanney	288. Esther Hall	375. Jean Lewis	462. Shelia Jackson Grant	549. Lisa Dettor	636. Cole Chapman
30. Patrilla Maddox	117. Jean Cravens	203. Randy Graves	289. Kittie Vaughn Edwards	376. Nettie Doss	463. Louise Gavin	550. Shane Green	637. Alex Jones
31. Wilda Pounds	118. April & Rebekah Gough	204. Patty Henson	290. Lady B. Garth	377. Judy Franks	464. Betty A. Skinner	551. Linda Harrison	638. Caleb McMillin
32. Peggy Wroten	119. Billie Freeland Epler	205. Hattie Johnson	291. Martha Leggett	378. Melvin & Kay Linton	465. Lloyd & Barbara Beard	552. Mike Harrison	639. Emily Beth Chapman
33. Melonie Kignt	120. Linda Bonner	206. Charles Goff	292. Jamie Cannon	379. Claude Edwards	466. Imogene Grayson	553. Hunter Harrison	640. Alex Green
34. Nell Millsaps	121. Beulah Rupert	207. Shirley Shive	293. Shaunda Freeman	380. Steven Arthur Franklin	467. Elnora Mack	554. Mark Harrison	641. Jacob Johnston
35. Michelle Simpson	122. Elledith Harris	208. Frankie Moore	294. Michael Deaton	381. Pauline Jones	468. Sharon Huckaba	555. Amy Harrison	642. Hazel Ross
36. Doyce Britt	123. Ima Jean Fogus	209. Modean Edwards	295. Tommy & Nell Lawson	382. Lynn Sasser	469. Elizabeth Smith	556. Jane Chapman	643. Mary Brady
37. Bettye Ohrem	124. Bernita Booker	210. Joe B. Holmes	296. Tom Kelly	383. Mary Dyer	470. Charlotte Vandiver	557. Jackie Bryant	644. Lynsey Robertson
38. Mrs. Willie Huckabee	125. Irene Rogers	211. Doris Townsend Britt	297. Joann Milsap	384. James Flanagan	471. Mary Laurent	558. Joey Bryant	645. Dianne Peeler
39. Kay Shiers	126. Bethany Stephens	212. Nettie Brooks	298. Kerry Deaton	385. Nancy Akers	472. Travis Hamilton	559. Ronald Chapman	646. Lynnette Johnston
40. Ann Cockroft	127. Rachel Pruitt	213. Linda Matheny	299. Dorothy Banks	386. Sherry West Murff	473. Delores Rhodes	560. Zoe Green	647. Mary Alice Cross
41. Bobbie Loggins	128. Glen Brady	214. Preston Wallace	300. Tommy & Peggy Shull	387. Barbara Skrobak	474. Charlotte Langley	561. Sam Green	648. Jenny Thompson
42. Sylvester & Linda Burton	129. Joanna Hayes	215. Landon Meeks	301. Ann Sims	388. Michael Coleman	475. Sue Foster	562. Laura Green	649. David Cook
43. Linda Sullivan Hathcock	130. Paul & Elsie Bryson	216. Danny Meeks	302. Artis W. Hinton	389. James Breckenridge	476. Admral & Ruth Tidwell	563. Charlotte White	650. Kenny Schmitz
44. Juanita Slaughter	131. Sharon Rachels	217. Lisa Meeks	303. Sandy Dean	390. France Harrell	477. Mervin Green	564. Dan Shappley	651. Riley Hogue
45. Blaise Fernandez	132. Betty Clark	218. Ryder Hudges	304. Doyle & Charlotte Varner	391. Linda Gentry	478. Pat Shadle	565. James Johnston	652. Charles Ellis
46. Annie Mae Pipkin	133. Mildred Herrington	219. Libby Meeks	305. Madonna Langford	392. Ann Rector	479. Linda McKinney	566. Donna Johnston	653. Darlene Starnes
47. Joyce Talbert	134. Marcella Moore	220. Aslaean Dean	306. Sue Glenn	393. John Gates Jr.	480. Alma Maddox	567. Mia Caviness	654. Jon Hall
48. Mary Adams	135. Tracey Bryant	221. Deanie Bradshaw	307. Doris Carroll	394. Charles Coffey	481. Bobby, Shirley & Ashley Howell	568. Leslie Caviness	655. Linda Willingham
49. Faye Stanford	136. Jack Stillman	222. Catherine Hollie	308. Patricia McClure	395. Eva Almon	482. Carlos & LaShanda Stringfield	569. Will Caviness	656. Edward Willingham
50. Ms. Jessie McDonald	137. William Pylor	223. James & Janice Armstrong	309. Carrie Wall	396. Bettie Jones	483. Ruby Wright	570. Dean Caviness	657. Catherine Allen
51. James & Katie Houston	138. Oreaatha Johnson	224. Danny Stacks	310. Barbara Yates	397. Rick Bishop	484. Lozell Milligan	571. Mary Mann	658. Charles Beal
52. Ray Parham	139. Christene Holliday	225. Bobbie B. Sindle	311. David J. Delatte	398. Fred & Evelyn Doss	485. Elizabeth Todd	572. Tim McMillin	659. Jimmy Coggins
53. Denice Agee	140. Joyce King	226. Linda Shadrix	312. Ella Darnell	399. Penny Clanton	486. Beverly Miles	573. Donna McMillin	660. Ashley Howell
54. Velma Isom	141. Stacey, Melinda & Gregory Hawkins	227. Lucille Anders	313. Jerry Lowery	400. Gail B. Saxon	487. Bonnie Brown Glass	574. Sandra Graves	661. Steve & Lana Todd
55. Nancy Floyd	142. Charlene Jent	228. J.L. Eaton	314. Linda Cailouet	401. Betty Standard	488. Trillie Strickland	575. Ramonia McAlister	662. Clifford Hampton
56. Emile & Peggy Rollins	143. Jerry Fleming	229. Rosie Lee Odoms	315. Jane Walker	402. Phyllis Spiers	489. Janice Griffin	576. Mary Jo Lence	663. Christine Colwell
57. Geri Spears	144. Velva Dykes	230. Daralynn Felton	316. Charlotte Rauchle	403. Mary McDonald	490. Irene M. Wright	577. Barry Grisham	664. Carla Owen
58. Alice Dempsey	145. Patricia Glover	231. Robert David Huffar	317. Anita & Jimmie Taft	404. Waymond E. Hales	491. Kenny W. Young, Jr.	578. Chris Grisham	665. Peggy Jackson
59. Destany Green	146. Alice Brown	232. Doris Jean Fletcher	318. Carolyn Jackson	405. Mattie Hoy	492. Brenda Redd	579. Jennifer Stanford	666. Susan Ainsworth
60. Alice Green	147. Dorothy Winslett	233. Mary Mullins	319. Carolyn Harvill	406. Walt & Peggy Walker	493. Darryl James Sterling	580. Robert Farrow	667. Patsy McClung
61. Jazz Green	148. Ann Whetstone	234. Shelia Hall	320. Terry Lowery	407. Ginny Luther	494. Mary L. Williams	581. Karson Meeks	668. Dana Holtzlander
62. Brayden Hanna	149. Billy Willingham	235. Barbara Livingston	321. Shellie Hancock	408. Lois Hands	495. Lois Cleo Wright	582. Sonny Meeks	669. Halley Holtzlander
63. Sarah Dantzler	150. Pat Petrowski	236. Kaye Wise	322. Sarah Hill	409. James Brooks	496. Audrey Bowling	583. Rob Elliott	670. Barney King
64. Weida Pyron	151. Betty VanBuren	237. Yogie & Betty Spears	323. Caunr Gregory	410. Eva Brooks	497. Brenda Taylor	584. Michele Elliott	671. Betty King
65. Willie Netterville	152. Cathy Powell	238. Joe Arnold	324. Faye Stamps	411. Cheri Moore	498. Lena Mae Barber	585. Karen Meeks	672. Ralph Shaw
66. Lawrence Horn	153. Don Lee	239. Amy Miles	325. Thomas Forrest, Sr.	412. Earlean Williams	499. Geraldine Wilbanks	586. Rodney Chapman	673. Jo Ann Mayer
67. Kimberly Easterling	154. Dorsey & Margie Burton	240. Elijah Durham	326. Ed Sevigne	413. Linda Swan	500. Doris W. Gillespie	587. Dana Chapman	674. Cary Mayer
68. Buddy Parsons	155. Robert Blackburn	241. Earnestine Britnell	327. Carolyn Loyd	414. Linda Sue Kennamore	501. Della M. Rhodes	588. Caroline Chapman	675. Mitchell Gurley
69. Dee Collier	156. Sue Mason	242. Ruby McCrory	328. Cathie Grigsby	415. Bonnie Holcomb	502. Kenneth Harmon	589. Tucker Shappley	676. Judy Gurley
70. Charlare Stanfield	157. Pierce Flatt	243. Jim Hurlbut	329. Lois Nielson	416. Linda Miller	503. Bettie Brown	590. Michelle Shappley	677. Jackson Mayer
71. Julia Flippin	158. Merlene Scott	244. Donna Singley	330. Peggy Hartman	417. Reid Thompson	504. Mary Williams	591. Peyton Shappley	678. Emma Beth Mayer
72. Jim & Judy Hill	159. Tom McLemore	245. Wilma Lakey	331. Dwight E. Hester	418. Frieda Thompson	505. Burlean Leatherwood	592. Nick Shappley	679. Billy & Barbara Smith
73. Exie Motes	160. Tom McArthur	246. Shirley Smith	332. Jimmie Brown	419. Keitha Hare	506. Bonnie C. Johnson	593. Nathan Stanford	680. Kurt & Shelly Clayton
74. Evelyn McArthur	161. Richard Odom	247. Janie Green	333. Janice Galloway	420. Johnnye Blackmon	507. Sherry Ross	594. David Hudson	681. Kay Clayton
75. Sharon Dantzler	162. Jerry & Norm Inman	248. Bobbie Clayborn	334. Bruce Blakemore	421. Wes & Rhonda Jeans	508. Mary Jacobs	595. Linda Hudson	682. Ralph Clayton
76. Steven Tutor	163. Billye Wiygul	249. Shirley Bostick	335. LaVerne C. Becker	422. Earl Franks	509. Josephine Carter	596. Mike Hudson	683. Angela Smith
77. Vera Spencer	164. Frederick Alan Jones	250. Diane Dunaway	336. Eddie Vermillion	423. Dorothy Franks	510. Katheryn Lee	597. Nancy Hudson	684. Reginald Davis
78. Rosie Mae Felton	165. Steve Austin Kelly	251. Karen Howard	337. Jim Vermillion	424. Marvin England	511. Dorothy Booker	598. Daniel McMillin	685. Phyllis Adams
79. Bettye McCool	166. Charlotte Ritter	252. Nell Tipton	338. Ina Sadler	425. Charlotte Trigg	512. Ida wells	599. Alec Barnes	686. Laura Dixon
80. Bernice Townsel	167. Mary Ella Webster	253. Brenda J. Alford	339. Jolene Dale	426. Carl Trimm	513. Cathy Brooks	600. Mary Lou Elder	687. Bonnie Dixon
81. Luke McKenzie	168. Dee Kepler	254. Jane Kuykendall	340. Lexie Ivy	427. Minnie Garner	514. James Hudley	601. James Wilburn	688. Janie Wallace
82. Monique Hinton	169. Glenda Jefcoat	255. Connie Fountain	341. Sylvester & Georgia Taylor	428. Linda B. Keirn	515. Batsell B. Booker, Sr.	602. Marjorie Wilburn	689. Rosie Taylor
83. Tommy Muirhead	170. Evon Jarrett	256. Christy Pounds	342. Bayley L. Maddox	429. Theresa Henderson	516. Garfield Moss	603. Charles Shelton	690. Sarah Ann Morton
84. Roger King	171. Carol Bonner	257. Maricus Ivy	343. Elsie Brock	430. Janerius Ewing	517. Carrie McGrone	604. Kathie Grisham	
85. Marilyn Howell	172. Debra Michael	258. Bonnie Skates	344. Margaret Mabnke	431. Terry Williams III	518. Nan Conley	605. Jimmy Willingham	
86. Yvonne Davis	173. Rocer Bickham	259. Sue Walker	345. Natalie Stewart	432. Jamia Brandon	519. Nadine Patton	606. Lutie Willingham	
87. Maggie Edmonds		260. Wilma Branch	346. Thelma Talbert	433. Chris Holliday Jr.	520. Deloris Detherage	607. Ty Grisham	

Note: If your answers reached us after 9/15, your name should be in our next issue. Thanks!

THE QUESTION BOX

"God Bless America"

I enjoy singing the song, "God Bless America." Our prayer should be that God will continue to bless this great country we are privileged to call "our earthly home."

God has blessed me with the opportunity to visit many other countries throughout the world. The people who live in those countries, if they believe in God, believe that God has blessed their country as well. We have many problems in our country, but I wouldn't want to trade passports with anyone else in the world. Our country is the "land of the free." We, far too often, take for granted the great sacrifices that have been made for us to live in America.

The apostle Paul had to deal with some unsavory characters who were the governmental authorities of his day. He told Titus to do three things -- that if we would practice today, it will help to **bless our country**. (By Paul Franks)

(Fill in Missing Words)

(1) "Put them in mind to be _____ to principalities and _____, to _____ magistrates..." (Titus __:1)

(2) The apostle Paul also commanded, "Be ready to every good _____." (Titus __:1)

(3) Paul said that we should "Speak _____ of _____ man, to be _____ brawlers, but _____, shewing all _____ unto all _____." (Titus __: 2)

Now, wasn't that easy?

Maybe... more difficult to practice. Obey the word of the Lord and bless our country!

(True or False)

____ 1. The Bible teaches that God's name, wisdom, glory and power is to be made known in all the world through the work and influence of the _____ which is God's spiritual kingdom on earth. (Eph. 3: __ & __)

____ 2. God is God over every nation on this earth. "He [God] is no _____ of persons." (Acts 10: __)

____ 3. Your true citizenship [conversation] is not really with/in America; rather it's in _____, "from whence we look for the Saviour..." (Phil. 3: __)

____ 4. As a Christian, you should celebrate American values, you should vote and, according to the apostle Paul, we should _____ for our leaders. (I Tim. 2:1-2)

____ 5. We can be disrespectful to our leaders if we disagree with them. (I Pet. 2:13-14)

____ 6. Peter teaches us to "Study to be _____, and to do your own _____, and to _____ with you own _____". He added, "That ye may walk _____ toward them that are _____, and that ye may have _____ of _____" (I Thess. __:11-12)

____ 7. It is okay for our "American ideals" to shape our faith more than God's ideals.

____ 8. If we are going to be involved in blessing America, we must "Do _____ unto _____ men." (Gal. 6: __).

____ 9. If we are going to bless America, heed the admonition: "As much as lieth in you, live _____ with _____ men." (Rom. 12: __)

____ 10. As a Christian, I can be God's instrument in blessing America by being respectful of government authorities, being diligent in my work and considerate of all people.

Please Send Your Answers To Us

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

"The Question Box"

P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Our Newest Bible Winner Herschel Ford

(Florence, Mississippi)

Congratulations!

The Franks Give Thanks to YOU

For Receiving and Reading the MM

Answering "The Question Box"

Sending New Addresses

Praying and Supporting the MM

2nd Annual

Preachers' Retreat

Kosciusko, Mississippi

(Using MBC Facilities)

March 12-16, 2017

(Sunday evening - Thursday morning)

See Page 6



Mary Carr

Poet from Sevierville, TN

"For Such a Time As This"

by Mary Carr

*There is a famine in this great land;
That's not the way America began.
It's not a famine for food or drink,
But the way some people began to think.*

*There are those taking the word of God away;
No one in public is allowed to pray.
Soon God's word may only be known,
By those who are taught in the home.*

*We must keep God's word alive,
Or this free nation will not survive.
For such a time as this it is hard to find,
Very many who have real peace of mind.*

*We must remember who is in command;
The nation forgetting God can not stand.
America stand up, bless God, to him praises sing;
God bless America, forever let freedom ring!*

(Sister Carr is a member of the church in Sevierville, TN. Her address: Mary Carr; C/o Sevierville Church of Christ; P. O. Box 4125; Sevierville, TN 37862)