

MAGNOLIA Messenger

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"Mississippi's **GOOD NEWS** Newspaper"

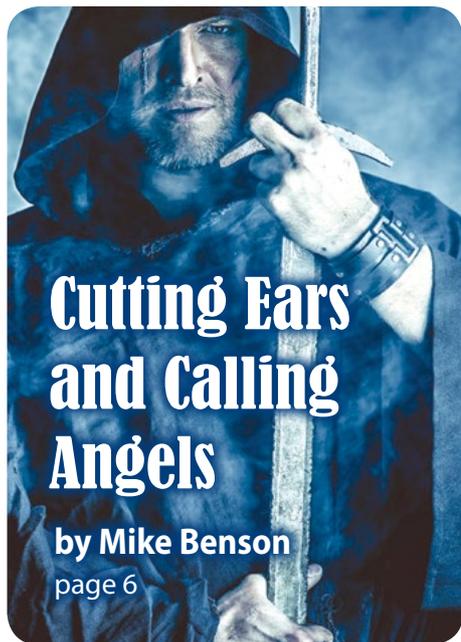
Serving Mississippi, Louisiana and Adjoining States

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

Q & A

"Music in Worship"

Page 3



Cutting Ears and Calling Angels

by Mike Benson
page 6

- 2 The Value of Your Soul**
(Franks uses Donald Trump to help make the point)
- 5 A Failed Retirement Plan**
(Gardner digs up a Bible example)
- 9 Why More People Do Not Obey the Gospel**
(Vickers explores the real reasons)
- 14 "What The World Needs Now"**
(Franks revisits the "Love Chapter")
- 18 Bridging the "Generation Gap"**
(Malone issues two challenges)
- 24 "Question Box" & "Politically Correct"**
(Join hundreds in sending in answers)

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THE GENERATION GAP

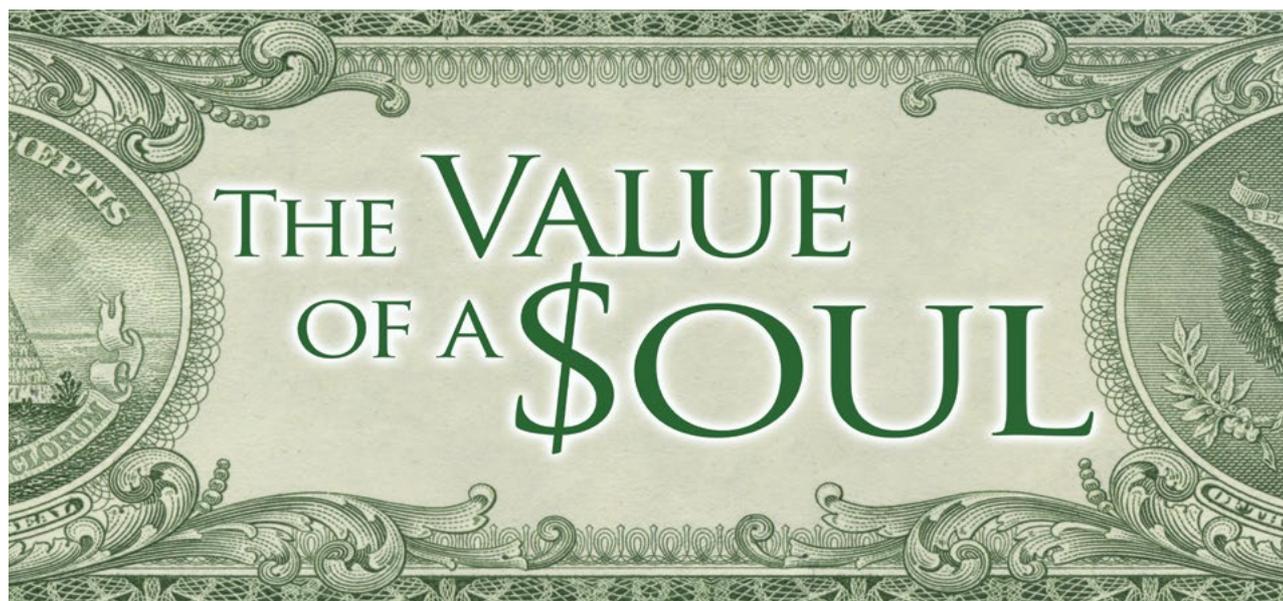
The grass
witheres, the
flower fades,
But the
word of
our God
stands
forever.

Isaiah 40:8

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THE VALUE OF A \$OUL

by A. L. Franks

The most famous rich man in America, at the present time, is Donald Trump. He is said to be worth billions (with a "B"). And, as you may have heard, he wants to be president of the United States!



Without question, Mr. Trump is very wealthy. So declares the media and the man himself! But that could all change -- **without a moment's notice**. You see, just *like you/me*, Donald Trump has an appointment. The date, the day and the hour is unknown. Only God knows when he will meet his appointment with **death**. When death comes, all earthly riches are left behind. The living rich can instantly become the dead poor. Holy Scripture declares, "*It is appointed unto man once to die...*" (Heb. 9:27).

My prayer is that Mr. Trump, along with each person who reads these words, take seriously the warning from God as recorded in James chapter four. Ponder prayerfully

the following inspired admonition.

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' -- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." (James 4:13-17, ESV)

A man's worth *while living* and his worth *when dead* may be world's apart. It is not **if**, but **when** my spirit departs my body, no earthly wealth can be taken. **All** is left behind! When death calls, dollars cannot answer. What is true of me/you is also true for Donald Trump. His worth? The *living* Trump; maybe, billions of dollars! The *dead* Trump, for certain, **no dollars!** Drastic changes come when death calls. May God help us to heed the admonition of our Lord Jesus who pleaded, "*Lay not up treasures on earth;*" instead, "*Lay up treasures in heaven.*" (Matt. 6:19-21)

Dollars, when contrasted with *life*, may help us see what is *really important*. Far more precious than dollars, even *billions*, is **life**. How much of his vast fortune would Mr. Trump give in exchange for his life? Would he gladly swap one million dollars for his life? Or would he, maybe, give... even a billion dollars to extend his life just a few more years? What about you? What about me?

Let's go a step further. Think about that which is far more important than earthly life. As valuable as your life is, something else is of much greater value. That right. It is the **soul**, your soul! So, what about *your soul*?

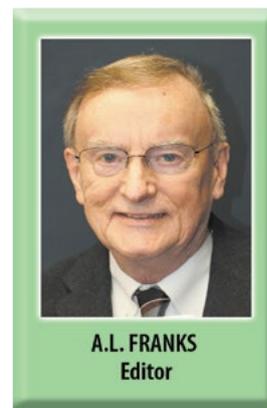
How much is your soul worth? Jesus asked, "*For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Matt. 16:24). Think soberly as you **contrast** the value of the whole world to the value of one soul, especially **yours**. Would you be

willing to exchange your soul for the world -- the whole world?

Life saving is important; especially if the life saved is mine or that of a dear loved one. We admire, praise and honor those involved in saving lives. Rightly so. But, there is a work far greater, more valuable. That work is **soul saving**. Scripture says, "*Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins*" (James 5:19,20). "**Saving a soul from death.**" There is no greater work. And, as a Christian, you are privileged to be involved in the greatest, most important, work in the world; that is, seeking to save lost souls!

Jesus mission in leaving heaven and coming to earth, is indicated by the name He was given -- the name JESUS. Joseph was told that the little baby boy was to be named "Jesus" because, "He shall **save** his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). Our Lord's purpose on earth in summed up in Luke 19:10, "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*"

In caring out His mission on earth, Jesus called twelve men whom He ordained and sent forth as apostles. Orders given to them by the Risen Lord include, "*Go ye into all the*



world and preach the gospel to every creature... to make disciples of all nations... Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit... promising, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned." (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15,16). That commission to "go", "preach/teach" and "baptize" has been handed down to those of us who have

been blessed with our own soul salvation ("*teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" - Matt. 28:20).

No work on earth is more "Christ-like" than seeking to save souls. No true disciple of Jesus can ignore the urgent need to seek the salvation of precious souls. Without any doubt, soul saving is the greatest work on earth; far exceeding life saving, even as valuable as it is. God is in the soul saving business. His love for the world caused Him to give His only begotten Son. Jesus is in the soul saving business. He freely gave His life on Calvary. We, who are God's children, are saved to save others. **Every** Christian, **not just the preacher**, is in the soul saving business. The Lord's church, which consists of all who are saved (the Lord adds the

saved to His church, Acts 2:47) is in the soul saving business. It is the mission of the church to "seek and save the lost."

As one saved by the grace of God, are you dedicated to seeking and saving other souls? Will you join me in prayer that God will help us to clearly grasp the

truth that each Christian is a privileged participant in the greatest of all missions. May we all come to appreciate, to a greater extent, the value of a single soul. And, may God help us truly understand that precious souls are saved only through faithful obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ who has freely extended his love, grace and mercy toward all. (Al Franks, editor; franksmm@aol.com; 601-668-3344)



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(A. L. Franks, Editor)

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B I B L E

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

RESPONSE:

NOTE: This column has dealt with instrumental music before, but questions about it keep coming in. Five in recent weeks asked the “salvation issue” question.

Silence Is Prohibitive When God Speaks.

It is not just the fact that the Bible is silent about a thing that puts it in the forbidden class. It is the fact that the Bible (God) has spoken, has specified something, and that makes other things of the same category forbidden.

The classic illustration of how God’s silence works is Noah building the ark. God told Noah to build the ark out of gopher wood (Genesis 6:14). He spoke! He specified the kind of wood to be used. It is the fact that He specified gopher wood which causes His silence on other kinds of wood to be prohibitive. And Noah obeyed. “Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him” (Genesis 6:22). Who doubts that, if Noah had decided, for whatever reason, to use a different kind of wood, that Noah would have thereby disobeyed God? (Some detractors comment at this point that we do not even know what gopher wood is, but obviously, God and Noah knew, and Noah used what God specified.)

The Bible illustrates the same principle relating the deaths of Nadab and Abihu. “Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord has said, “Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.” And Aaron held his peace”

QUESTIONS:

Are we really speaking where the Bible speaks and being silent where the Bible is silent in our opposition to instrumental music? Aren't we rather speaking where the Bible is silent by opposing something the Bible does not oppose? The Bible is silent about church kitchens, even church buildings themselves, and we do not oppose them. We seem to be quite arbitrary about which unauthorized things we approve and which ones we decide to oppose. (R.A.)

Why do we keep using Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 as if they were speaking of congregational worship? They are in a section of the epistles addressed to individuals. (J.L.)

Is instrumental music a salvation issue? (Several)

(Leviticus 10:1-3).

In that inspired illustration, “unauthorized fire” is defined, not as fire which the Lord had commanded them not to use. It was fire “which the Lord had not commanded them.” It is because God specified the fire to be used that His silence about any other fire forbids its use. God’s next words are, “Among those who are near me I will be sanctified.” “Sanctified” is “made holy.” “Unauthorized fire,” fire “which the Lord had not commanded them” is “unholy fire.”



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By analogy, because instrumental music in New Testament church worship is “unauthorized music” it is “unholy music.”

Instrumental music is not inherently evil. God does not hate instrumental music, as we are charged with saying. It is fine as secular entertainment. It is simply not authorized, not acceptable, as worship to God.

The most frequent rebuttal I hear to the use of the Nadab and Abihu incident as parallel to instrumental music in the worship of the church being unauthorized is something like, “Oh, that Nadab and Abihu story is just ‘so old hat!’”

How does that refute its validity? “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

The New Testament uses the “silence of God” in the same way we use it regarding instrumental music. The inspired writer of Hebrews, applied Psalm 110:4, “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek,” to Jesus. Then he said, “For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests” (Hebrews 7:12-14). God specified the tribe of Levi and the descendants of Aaron as priests. God’s law said nothing about priests from the tribe of Judah from which Jesus came; therefore for Jesus to be high priest, the law “necessarily” had to be changed) Heb. 7:13-14).

How Are We to “Be Silent Where the Bible Is Silent?”

Thomas Campbell, in his influential “Declaration and Address,” pointed out, “If one adopts the view that anything religious is acceptable to God as long as

it is offered sincerely and is not specifically prohibited, the door is opened for many other practices that the one urging that position to justify instrumental music may not want at all.” When he urged “that nothing be enjoined as a condition of communion that is not expressly stated in Scripture,” Alexander Campbell objected. “If that principle be followed, he said, infant baptism will have to be given up.” Thomas did not think so at that point, but said, “Of course, if infant baptism be not found in Scripture, we can have nothing to do with it” (Richardson, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 1,

The most frequent rebuttal I hear to the use of the Nadab and Abihu incident as parallel to instrumental music in the worship of the church being unauthorized is something like, “Oh, that Nadab and Abihu story is just ‘so old hat!’” How does that refute its validity?

pp. 236-238). After further study, both of the Campbells, as well as others, began to teach that biblical baptism was immersion in water of believing adults, and they themselves were immersed, though they had been sprinkled as infants.

Infant sprinkling for baptism, like instrumental music, is not expressly forbidden in Scripture and is widely practiced by many denominations. What basis of objection to infant sprinkling is left to one who accepts instrumental music on the grounds that it is not specifically forbidden?

We are often accused of “answering questions no one is

asking.” *Such criticism may well be justified in many instances, but it is also true that some questions not being asked ought to be asked.*

Most church members today are not greatly concerned with what the Bible says about church polity, i.e. how the local church is governed. The Bible, however, is quite clear.

At the conclusion of their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in every church (Acts 14:23). The Jerusalem church had elders (Acts 11:30). Elders both shepherd and oversee the flock (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-3). The church at Philippi had overseers and deacons (Philippians 1:1). Timothy and Titus were told to appoint elders and given the characteristics of the men to be appointed (! Timothy 1: 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

The Bible is silent about any hierarchical governing arrangement, with an overseer or elder overseeing more than one church. Since the Bible specifies overseers within each congregation and is silent concerning any other arrangement, we conclude that is God’s intended arrangement for local church government. Others, who believe silence is permissive, have overseers (bish-

ops, KJV) over more than one congregation and one group has one universal bishop (Pope) over the whole church. I suspect that if I appointed myself bishop of Montgomery and began to tell churches who they could have for preachers and to tell preachers where they could preach, there would be a renewed interest in what the Bible says about church polity.

Popes and territorial bishops come in under the same reasoning as instrumental music: the Bible does not expressly forbid it. Besides the episcopal model of

Continued on page 17

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION

“What good does it do to invite others to join us?”

By Gary C. Hampton

Each time the saints meet produces another opportunity to extend invitations to friends and loved ones. Some may wonder what good it does to invite others to join us.

Two disciples of John asked Jesus where he was staying. The Lord immediately said, “Come and see.” Andrew not only accepted the invitation, but also invited his brother, Simon, who was named Peter by the Master. Jesus invited Philip to follow him the next day. Philip went and invited Nathanael, who lived in the same city, Bethsaida (John 1 :35-51). These four, along with eight more, stood up on the Pentecost proclaiming the good news about the resurrected Messiah. About three thousand responded to their teaching (Acts 2:1-41).

Our invitations can similarly impact the lives of untold numbers. An example of this is found in an invitation extended by one Christian girl to her friend to come to a gospel meeting in Arkansas. The friend attended and obeyed the Lord by putting him on in baptism. She later moved to Texas, where she met a soldier and taught him the truth. He, too, was baptized into Christ. He and the young woman who taught him got married. They wrote letters to his parents in Salisbury, MD. The parents also learned and obeyed the truth. The young couple eventually settled in Salisbury where a church exists because of one invitation in Arkansas.

Have you ever picked a dandelion and blown on the fuzzy looking ball? The little white seeds float on the wind, eventually producing many more dandelions. It does not take long for an entire field to be covered.

The word of God is likewise a seed (Luke 8:11). Let us resolve to seize every opportunity to to invite friends and family to attend Bible classes, worship gatherings, Vacation Bible School and other activities in which the seed will be sown. The Lord can produce fruit when we sow and water (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Gary C. Hampton serves as pulpit minister for the Siwell Road church in Jackson, MS. This article was taken from the “Siwell Signature”, a weekly bulletin of the church. The Siwell Road church in southwest Jackson brings together about 300 each Lord’s day and is overseen by 7 elders and 14 deacons. Derek Broome serves as their youth and family life minister.



58 Years In Angola Prison

Clifford Hampton

By Paul Franks

In May of 1958, at the young age of 17, Clifford Hampton committed murder. To this day, he says he doesn’t understand why he committed such violent crime. At first, he felt very guilty and considered trying to hide. But, after only a few hours, his remorse for his terrible crime caused him to walk to the home of the deputy sheriff and turn himself in. He was put in jail and for the next nine months he waited for his time in court. In March of 1959, he was tried, found guilty and was transferred, the next day, to Angola State Prison in Louisiana. Everyday since then, Clifford Hampton has lived in Angola Prison.

Cliff was born on February 12, 1941 in New Orleans, LA. His parents got a divorce when he was four years old. His father left and went to California. When Cliff was eleven his father came back to Louisiana and invited Cliff to join him in California. Cliff realizes that going to California was a big mistake. There he joined a gang and was involved in all kinds of bad things. After about three years, California had enough of Clifford Hampton and sent

him back to Louisiana. Two years and six months later, Cliff committed the crime that put him in Angola prison at the age of 17.

Imagine being in prison for the last 58 years. I was born in March of 1958 and have lived now for 58 years. Just think about how the world has changed during the last 58 years.



Life is filled with choices! When you decide to harbor hate in your heart for someone, what does the Bible say about you? The Word of God says, “Who-soever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (I John 3: 15). **How many times have you set next to a “murderer” at church? How many times have you committed “murder” by not forgiving your brother and having hate in your heart?**

It took many years, but Cliff finally became a Christian. Richard Feliz, a missionary to Angola Prison, taught and baptized him into Christ. Jesus changed his life. For many years

now, Cliff has been a faithful Christian and helps keep the prison church services going even when brother Richard is unable to come to the prison.

I meet Cliff went I went with Richard Feliz to Angola several months ago. At one of the Sunday services, Clifford got up in front of the men assembled and welcomed everyone. He quoted at least 12 to 15 different verses to help us prepare our minds for the Lord’s supper. To say the least, I was very impressed with what I heard come from Clifford’s mouth that day.

We have become friends now, since November of last year, and we are praying that somehow, someway that Clifford, now 75 years old, may have the opportunity to leave Angola prison before he dies and goes to his heavenly home. If you would like to write him you can send your letter to the following address.

**Clifford Hampton # 62167
Camp F, 3/L
LA State Prison
Angola, LA 70712**

NOTE: Cliff has written many poems and sermons. One poem that I really liked is the following. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Escape From the Lost World

*I was standing at the edge of a lost and dying world;
The destruction and the chaos really made my head swirl.
There was so much heartache, corruption, dissolution and pain;
I was really tired of all this and was ready for a dramatic change.
I looked across to the other side, where peace, joy, and love abide;
But I couldn’t figure a way across, the distance between was way too wide.
I couldn’t try to jump across, for in between was a deep, dark void;
And into the mysteries of the void, I didn’t have any desire to fall.
So I stood there in total dismay, as the world slowly caved in;
Knowing if I didn’t think of something quick, The world and me was coming to an end.
Then I thought of someone, my parents had once mentioned;
When I called out His name, JESUS, I must have gotten His attention.
For as Moses, with his staff, said, Stand back, and see the glory of the Lord;
Jesus stretched out Himself and formed a bridge for me to cross.
Christ became the redeeming bridge for me to cross over from the lost world;
He also offers Himself as a bridge, for every man, woman, boy and girl.
I am so glad that Jesus loved me, enough to serve as a bridge;
And I need to express my gratitude, From day to day, in the way I live!*

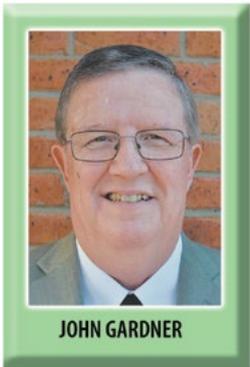
A FAILED

by John Gardner

retirement plan.

He had a plan. "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops, and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry'" (Luke 12: 18, 19 NKJV). A little while longer of prosperous work and he could retire, take life easy, and spend the rest of his days on Easy Street. But God called that man a fool and canceled his retirement plan with one stroke (Luke 12: 20). His plan failed because he failed.

He did not fail, as many do, because he had no plan for the future. Recent reports by investment institutions and estate planners indicate that most Americans do not have a solid plan for providing for themselves during the years of retirement. Many, we are told, underestimate the number of years they may live and the escalating costs of living out those years. The man in Jesus' parable had a plan that normally would have been realistic for him and one that would have adequately supported him in the lifestyle of a wealthy, pleasure-seeking man. But it was not to be.



JOHN GARDNER

The rich man failed to remember that no one "has a lock on life." No matter how "healthy, wealthy or wise" one may be, death may be close. It does not always come slowly, in measured degrees, full of warnings. It may arrive suddenly, without much warning. Devastating diseases or freak accidents or unpredictable acts of violence can hurl us from this life into the next in a brief moment (Ecclesiastes 9: 12). The uncertainty of life should cause us to live daily in the spirit of "if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that" (James 4: 15). Plan for the future? Of course, but realize that "this night" may be all of the future we have (Luke 12: 20).

The man God called a fool failed to realize that what he was calling his own was just a loan. It really was not his, although as the wealthy often do, he claimed it was his. When the loan time was over, the Loaner would give it to others. God asked the failure, "Then whose will those things be which you have provided?" (Luke 12: 20). He should have learned lessons along that line from the Preacher's book. "For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it" (Ecclesiastes 2: 21). "A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction" (Ecclesiastes 6: 2). Like many, however, he probably thought those matters applied to others, while he himself was exempt.

The tragic character of Jesus' parable failed to re-

member that one must prepare now for a permanent "retirement" that comes after the first temporary one is over (if indeed we have a temporal one). No matter how long or luxurious an earthly retirement may be, it will end. Then begins the eternal state of affairs of the soul which can never be changed. In another of Jesus'

Seeking first the kingdom of God and the righteous life he offers in Christ (Matthew 6:33), and laying up treasures in heaven with greater zeal and fervency that we have for earthly treasures (Matthew 6:19-21), is the key. That course of life will lead to a glorious "retirement" in the land of spiritual luxury and rest with the Lord (Revelation 14:13; 21:10-21).

parables, a rich man lived out his life, died, and "lifted up his eyes" in a place of utter torments from which there was no escape nor comfort to improve his lot (Luke 16: 23). The rich fool of the parable at hand, like the man in the parable just cited, laid up no riches in heaven for the day when he would meet God. "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12: 21).

The room the rich farmer thought he needed for his crops (Luke 12: 17) might well have been the empty shelves of the poor, if he had chosen to help them and lay

up treasure in heaven before God. Timothy was instructed by Paul to tell the rich brethren of his day to "do good that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6: 18, 19).

Some kind of earthly retirement plan, if possible, seems prudent if we are to be good stewards of the resources God has bountifully given us, so that we do not live selfishly and foolishly, then expect others to make up for our lack of stewardship when we approach the end of our life. But having said that, it is imperative that we not fail like the man in Jesus' parable. Seeking first the kingdom of God and the righteous life he offers in Christ (Matthew 6: 33), and laying up treasures in heaven with greater zeal and fervency that we have for earthly treasures (Matthew 6:19-21), is the key. That course of life will lead to a glorious "retirement" in the land of spiritual luxury and rest with the Lord (Revelation 14: 13; 21: 10 - 21).

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Cutting Ears and Calling Angels

by Mike Benson

Jesus had power (Colossians 1:16-17). “Wonder-working” power (Luke 5:17). He could walk on water. He could raise the dead. He could instantly heal those afflicted with horrible, life-long disease. He could cast out demons. He could feed thousands with but a few loaves and fish. He could transform water into wine. He could rebuke the storm and calm the sea. He had power (Acts 10:38).

And yet -- perhaps his most surprising manifestation of power was the intentional failure to employ it (1 Peter 2:21-23; cf. Isaiah 53:7; Mark 14:61). Despite the unlimited miraculous resources at his disposal -- when faced with Calvary and all that entailed -- Jesus restrained his own mighty hand. “Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.” Has it ever occurred to you that one of the Lord’s most significant displays of power was expressed in a non-miraculous way?

The chief priests, elders, and scribes [religious leaders!] levied a sordid array of attacks against Jesus. They brought false testimony against him (Mark 14:55-58). They accused him of blasphemy (Mark 14:64). They spat upon him, they blindfolded him, and they struck him (Mark 14:65). Pilate had him scourged (Mark 15:15). His own friends betrayed him and denied him (Mark 14:10-11; 66ff). Finally, he was thrust upon a cruel cross and forced to endure humiliation and torture (Mark 15:22ff; cf. Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus could have prevented it all!

Peter tried to (Mark 14:47); in fact, Peter vowed to (Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:31). When the enemies attempted to take the Lord away, Peter struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. In another one of his brash initiatives, this future leader -- apostle, preacher, leader of the first century church, tried to start a fight. Peter wanted the mob to know that he was ready to “come to blows” if necessary

and he drew blood in order to prove his point: But Jesus didn’t need Peter’s sword; he was the Son of God. He not only had power, he had all power at his disposal.

Then too, Jesus could have called angels. Mighty, super-human (Psalm 103:20; cf. Matthew 28:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:7) legions. A legion was anywhere from 3,000-6,000 thousand strong. We sometimes sing, “He could have called ten-thousand angels...” More accurately, he could have called between 36,000 and 72,000 angels PLUS (cf. Revelation 5:11; Daniel 7:10)! So why would he need Peter’s puny blade? The host of heaven could have been beckoned with but a word, and Jesus could have retaliated.

Let’s be honest, most of us have more in common with Peter than with the Lord. Right? When our mates hurt us with words, we want to show our superiority and exhibit our prowess -- “Where’s my sword?! Hey angels, comedown!” When our enemies try to hurt us, our inclination is to emulate Peter rather than Christ. We want to unsheathe our weapon and fight back; we want to call in our reinforcements and engage in battle.

But the Lord urges us not to use force (Romans 12:19). You see, we -- like Jesus (Matthew 26:54) -- have a mission (Matthew 5:43ff; 1 Peter 2:20); a mission to reconcile others to God (2 Corinthians 5:20). So, how can we bend our will to the Father’s and subdue our desire to use force, intimidation and/or power?

CONSIDER:

1. Remember that those who live by fighting eventually die in battle themselves. “... All who take the sword will perish by the sword”(Matthew 26:52). I know couples who are capable swordsmen. They are skilled in verbal engagement. They know how to “cut to the core” with their sharp tongues (Proverbs 12:18a). They mutilate their mates by hacking them to pieces with their words. By their malicious and caustic jabs, they bleed the life out of their relationships.

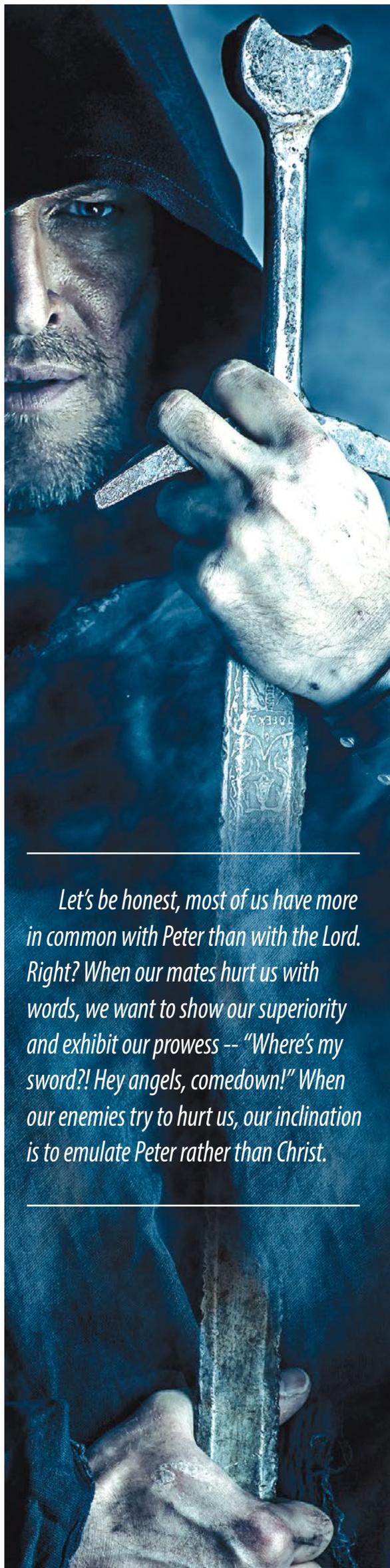
As a result, their marriages are “killed” and divorce ensues. Husbands/wives -- “swinging your sword” (Matthew 26:51) doesn’t produce peace; it only escalates hostilities (Proverbs 15:1). Be a lover (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a; Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4), not a fighter (Proverbs 17:14; 20:3; 1 Timothy 3:3). Be a peacemaker (James 3:14-18; cf. Matthew 5:9), not a warmonger (James 4:1; cf. Psalm 68:30b).

2. Remember that employing force nullifies your mission. “How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?” (Matthew 26:54). Had Peter been permitted to fight off the mob, had Jesus summoned his legions (Matthew 26:53) and prevented his own capture, Calvary might never have occurred and you and I would still be in our sins. Peter could have cut and Jesus could have called, but either alternative would have aborted the Father’s will for mankind (Matthew 26:54). Brethren, when we employ retaliatory force against others, we effectively severe any opportunity to win/reconcile them to Christ (cf. 1 Peter 3:1; 4:19). We have a mission to win souls (Proverbs 11:30b; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 12:17-21), not personal battles (1 Peter 2:20ff).

3. Remember that the greatest exercise of power is often the decision not to employ it. “Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”(1 Peter 2:23). Jesus didn’t dial 1-800-4ANGELS; instead he turned over his Shepherd’s rod and became a sheep himself (Isaiah 53:7). Real power backs away from a fight. Real power shows restraint and exercises self-control. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”(Galatians 5:22-23; cf. 2 Peter 1:5-9).

Mike Benson • P. O. Box 3071
Oxford, AL 36203
1mikemedia@gmail.comsonkw@att.net

Let’s be honest, most of us have more in common with Peter than with the Lord. Right? When our mates hurt us with words, we want to show our superiority and exhibit our prowess -- “Where’s my sword?! Hey angels, comedown!” When our enemies try to hurt us, our inclination is to emulate Peter rather than Christ.





Gospel Broadcasting Network

Launches New Nation-wide Program

The Gospel Broadcasting Network is pleased to announce the launching of another nationwide evangelistic program, "CounterPoint." The program features **B. J. Clarke** and **Mike Hixson** as they examine denominational teachings and compare them to the Word of God. The program has already converted several souls while it has aired on GBN and also on WTWV in the Memphis, TN area.

The nationwide broadcast began airing on **Tuesdays** (April 5th) at 7:00 P.M. Eastern / 6:00 P.M. Central on the CTN network. The CTN network is the same network that airs "Preaching the Gospel" on Sunday mornings at 7:30 A.M. Eastern / 6:30 A.M. Central. The CTN network is available on Dish Network (channel 267), DirecTV (channel 376), and Glorystar (channel 117). Counterpoint will now be available to over 50 million homes in the USA.

The news release from GBN also stated, "This expansion is just the beginning of our 2016 focus to bring GBN programming into even more homes. Please consider GBN in a special way as we look to expand and reach more souls with the saving Gospel message."

Sunnybrook Children's Home

presents

"Champions for Children"

HONORING

Bailey E. Howell

Elder, Starkville Church of Christ
 44 years, Board Member, Sunnybrook
 2 time, All American, MS State University
 6 time, NBA All-Star
 2 time, NBA Champion, Boston Celtics
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August 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

on the campus of
 Sunnybrook Children's Home
 222 Sunnybrook Road
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A Fund Raising Event

Tickets: \$100.00 per couple
Sponsorship Levels Offered

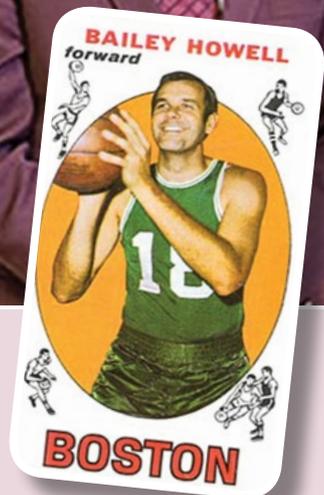
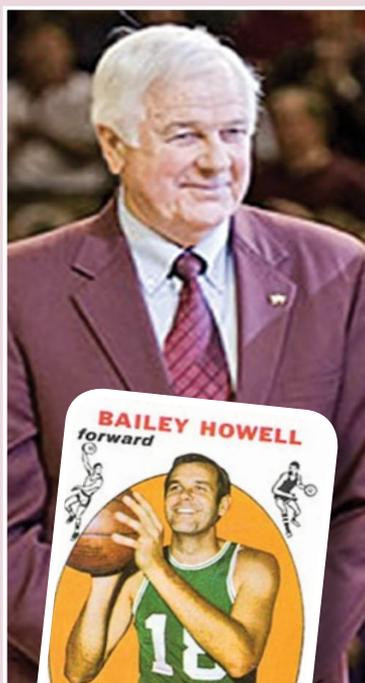
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P. O. Box 4871 • Jackson, MS 39296

601.856.6555

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RUTH PRITCHARD

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T. C. Nowell, Jr.
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WINFRED REIDHEAD

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 (Stockton, CA)

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 (Natchez, MS)

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MARY EYGABROAD

FRANCES JOY ASKEW

ALICE ANN ASKEW MADDOX

CRYSTAL ALLEN ASKEW

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DAYNA TRUMPS

MICKEY MCNAMARA

Larrie Askew
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M/M Robert Holcomb
 (Jackson, MS)

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RAY, KENNY, JOHNNY, TONY,

AND SID COLEMAN

Mary Coleman Freeman
 (Senatobia, MS)

DICK & JOANN ROOT

Nelma Hazlip
 (Natchez, MS)

WILBURN DELANCEY

ALLEN & JUANITA GRAY

JOEL & JEANETTE COLLINS

W. E. JUDY WALKER

Charles & Barbara Pritchard
 (Steele, MO)

SARA MCNAMARA

Larrie Askew
 (Starks, 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.

4th Annual

Men's Leadership Retreat

Toledo Bend Church of Christ
 Many, Louisiana

Speakers & Facilitators:

**Dan Manuel, Scott Manuel; Paul Shandeville,
 Jan Dean, Jerry Hodge, James Tidwell, Ray Hyatt,
 Josh Manuel**

RSVP: Danny Manuel

318-256-0826 or dannymanuel21@yahoo.com

**August
 19-20, 2016**

Theme

**"Building Guardrails
 Around the Family"**

Notice

Motel (2 blocks from church building; special rates) Stay overnight in church building; hookups available for RV's

“Christ in You, the Hope of Glory”

By Jim Estes

The 61 South church of Christ in Natchez, MS recently completed a campaign focused on reaching out to people in the community who had been members of the Lord's Church there, but were now unfaithful. With the help of the Senior Mission Team of the Booneville church of Christ, a Gospel Meeting was conducted May 1, 2016 through May 4, 2016 built around the theme, “Christ in You, the Hope of Glory” from Colossians 1:27.

The Booneville congregation sent an eight person team to help with this effort. **Jim and Jeanita Estes, Billy and Virginia Moorman, Joel and Mary Ellen Johnson, J. T. Beard and Tommy Baragona** were there for the duration of the campaign. In addition to these eight, **Lynn Baragona** was there to help over the weekend. Jim Estes did the preaching, Billy Moorman and Joel Johnson, Jr. helped with the song leading and all participated in door knocking and visiting people on a targeted outreach list.

Enroute to Natchez, the Booneville Senior Mission Team stopped in Kosciusko, MS at the “Magnolia Messenger” headquarters. Paul Franks briefed us on his recent trip to Natchez and gave us a tour of

the facilities (previously used by Magnolia Bible College) that are now available for group meetings or retreats. The staff hosted a wonderful lunch for the group before sending us on our journey to Natchez.

The entire 61 South congregation, which has about 18 regularly attending members, devoted themselves to making this outreach effort a success. In preparation for the campaign, they developed a list of 25 families/individuals that once attended but were now inactive. Those on this list became the focus of visits during the campaign. Out of those on this list two could not be located and five had moved from the area; however, 18 were located, visited, and encouraged to return to active involvement with the church. In the spirit of Revelation 2:5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...” (NKJV) most were given a copy of Michael Shank's book, “Muscle and the Shovel.” Of the 18 that were visited, seven attended at least one night during the Gospel Meeting.

Six of the 61 South's eighteen members helped with the door knocking and visiting. These included **Paul McElroy** (61 South's minister), his wife **Darlene** and daughter, **Amanda** plus **Glen Smith,**



Going to Natchez, Booneville Mission Team Stopped Over in Kosciusko for a visit and a meal.

John Seyfarth, and Frances Patti. They partnered with the Senior Mission Team from Booneville to knock OVER 350 DOORS inviting people to the Gospel Meeting. Having local members partnered with “out-of-town” members made the reception within the community even better. Literature given during this phase of the campaign included an advertisement of the meeting with lesson topics, **Allen Webster's** tract “WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU VISIT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST,” and a copy of the latest “House to House, Heart to Heart” that also included information about the Gospel Meeting.

There were many visitors during this gospel meeting including visitors from the Corinth church of Christ in Woodville, MS, the Vidalia (LA) church of Christ, the Briarwood church of Christ (Natchez), and the Melrose Avenue church of Christ (Natchez). The excellent local member

attendance, the sister congregation support, plus the attendance of people contacted during door knocking and targeted visits resulted in the 61 South congregation seeing their normal attendance more than doubled during most of the meeting.

The 61 South congregation is to be commended for its faithfulness and hospitality. Of their eighteen members, fifteen were at every service. When the other three missed, it was because of sickness or working. Two of those three were able to attend part of the Gospel Meeting. They were great hosts for their guests, feeding them five meals, encouraging them with their comments, and partnering with them in the outreach to the community.

(Report written by Jim Estes, an elder and associate minister for the Booneville church. Brother Estes can be contacted through the Booneville church at P. O. Box 28; Booneville, MS.)

Almost 20,000 Assemble For “Lads to Leaders” Conventions in 2016

To be exact, 19,830 people gathered in six separate conventions in the United States on Easter weekend (March 25-27, 2016). The six host cities were Atlanta, Dallas, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville and Orlando. In addition to gatherings in the USA, the Romanian Convention, in its 4th year, had 150 participants. For their inaugural event, the Philippines convention had 500 in attendance, April 29-May 1st.



A Scene at the Nashville Convention on Sunday Morning

Several thousands came together to be led in worship by talented young men who had demonstrated their abilities during the course of the convention. My June and I were blessed to be a part of that great Sunday gathering. We were reminded that the Cause of Christ is still very much alive and that there are multitudes of young people who are intently interested in the work of the Lord.

We are grateful for the encouragement and training provided through the leadership of “Lads/Leaderettes” as hundreds of congregations and thousands of individuals participate in this productive program. Thanks to Jack Zorn who got the program off the ground and to Roy Johnson who provides capable leadership to the multitude of volunteers who all work together for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom on earth. (alf)

DIANA SINGING

Come This Year By Our Invitation
Next Year Someone Will Come By Yours!

June 10-11, 2016 7:30 - ?
Be There! I-65, Exit 22, Follow Signs

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FORTY-SEVEN YEARS OF SONG AND STILL SINGING!

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Why More People Do Not Obey the Gospel

By Russ Vickers

I have a great concern because people are not being added to the church as it was several decades ago. Turning to Romans 10:16 we find Paul stating, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" This was at a time when, not too long before Jesus had walked the earth, these people still refused to obey. Why? Romans 10:16 gives the answer: **unbelief**.

There must be belief—else the gospel has no saving power (Romans 1:16). Why was it so hard for them to believe; especially in view of all the **fulfilled** prophecies? They were slow to believe what the prophets had spoken (Luke 24:25). What were some of these fulfilled prophecies? There were many. For examples: the birth of Christ (Isaiah 7:14), the place of Christ's birth (Micah 5:2), the life of Christ (Isaiah 53) and the death of Christ (Isaiah 53). At his death he opened not His mouth, fulfilled in Matthew 26:61-63. He was willing to die a criminal's death upon the cross and be buried in the tomb. This is what Christ had taught (Matthew 12:40). This is exactly what Paul preached (I Cor. 15:1-4). Yet, in spite of all this, people *then* refused to heed the call of the gospel.

As we look back into the Biblical record, we find that the great majority of people have never been willing to obey and serve God. For examples, consider the record of the great flood, found in Genesis chapter 6. Only eight were righteous (I Peter 3:20). Not even ten righteous people could be found in the city of Sodom (Genesis 18:23-32). Many rejected the preaching of John the baptizer (Luke 7:27-30). Many rejected the preaching of Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:20-23; 23:37). Some scoffed at Paul on Mars' Hill; although some said they would hear him again of this matter (Acts 17:32).

So, why would anyone fail to obey the gospel?

First of all, some are *ignorant*. Ignorance keeps many in sin. Many do not know the truth (I

Timothy 1:13). Our responsibility is to help remove ignorance from the world (Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14).

Second, many *close their eyes* to keep from learning (Matthew 13:14-15). We are reminded of an incident from the Old Testament in Jeremiah 36:20-23. When the book containing all the words of the Lord were read to king Jehoiakim he was greatly displeased with some of the commands and took his knife and cut out those parts he didn't like and cast them into the fire. This is so true of many today that will refuse to read those parts contrary to their thinking. For instance, some believe in the false notion of "faith only" for salvation. Some of these would cut out James chapter two from their Bibles because it

contradicts what they believe.

Third, the *pleasures of sin* keep many from obeying the gospel. Notice what Paul says about pleasure, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (I Timothy 5:6). In the case of Moses, he could have lived a life of earthly pleasure as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but chose rather to suffer affliction with God's people (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Fourth, some have sinned and sinned until finally their *hearts are hardened* and their conscience seared as with a hot iron (Hebrews 3:3-7-8,13; I Tim. 4:2). Ephesians 4:19 states, "Who

being past feeling have given themselves over unto lascivious-

ness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." Many sin so much and so long that it is hard for them to repent, if they can at all. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light,

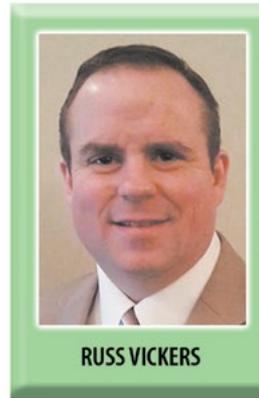
because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Fifth, some are *waiting for a convenient season*. Paul taught the word of God before Felix. We read in Acts 24:25, "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled,

and answered, 'Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.'" Some today are like Felix, lacking in convictions and waiting until everything is convenient. Obeying the gospel is never a matter of convenience. We must obey God even if it should cost us our lives (Matthew 16:25-26).

Many today claim to be followers of Christ who have never obeyed His commands. Remember what Christ said in Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Russ Vickers, minister and servant, Hillcrest Church of Christ, Baldwyn, MS. Email: hillcrestchurcho@bellsouth.net



RUSS VICKERS

Life Is Tough When You Don't Have Reverse

By Roger Johnson

Wendy Bagwell tells a story about picking up a new Volkswagen at the docks in one of our coastal cities in order to avoid paying the shipping charge. He drove his new car off the docks without receiving any instructions concerning the operation of the vehicle. He knew how to drive and that was all he figured he needed to know. At lunch-time, he pulled up to a restaurant, turned off the ignition and went inside to eat. When he came back from lunch he jumped into the car and discovered that he couldn't find reverse. Finally he had to push the car out into the street by hand in order to continue on his way.

Of course Wendy's Volkswagen did have a reverse gear. He just didn't know how to find it, but think how frustrating it would be to own a car that wouldn't back up. You wouldn't buy a car without reverse even if the manufacturer were willing to knock a thousand dollars off the sticker price.

Unfortunately many people who wouldn't think of owning a car without reverse try to conduct human relations without reverse. Marriages break up and friendships are severed simply because stubborn people won't back up. We dig our feet in the ground and just absolutely refuse to say things like, "I was wrong," or "I'm sorry," or "It's my fault, why don't we just back up and start over?" The Bible identifies the source of this destructive behavior trait and warns, "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). The passage implies that you need reverse in your relationships as much as you need it in your car.

Jesus had an opportunity to emphasize this lesson to the apostles. He talked about the importance of forgiving others who have wronged you. The apostle Peter asked him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." In other words, for the sake of maintaining good human relations you need a reverse. You must not allow pride and stubbornness to

stand in the way of a positive relationship with others.

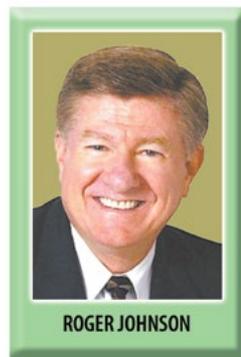
The apostle Paul demonstrated this great quality in his life. John Mark, who traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, for reasons unknown to us, left them in the middle of their work and returned home to Jerusalem. Later, when they were preparing to embark on their second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them. Paul adamantly refused to do so and there was such a sharp disagreement that these two servants of God separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him to the island of Cyprus; while Paul took Silas as his traveling companion. Evidently, Mark proved himself to be a wonderful servant of Christ in later years. So convincingly did he do so that, in his last letter, Paul instructed Timo-

Marriages break up and friendships are severed simply because stubborn people won't back up. We dig our feet in the ground and just absolutely refuse to say things like, "I was wrong," or "I'm sorry," or "It's my fault, why don't we just back up and start over?"

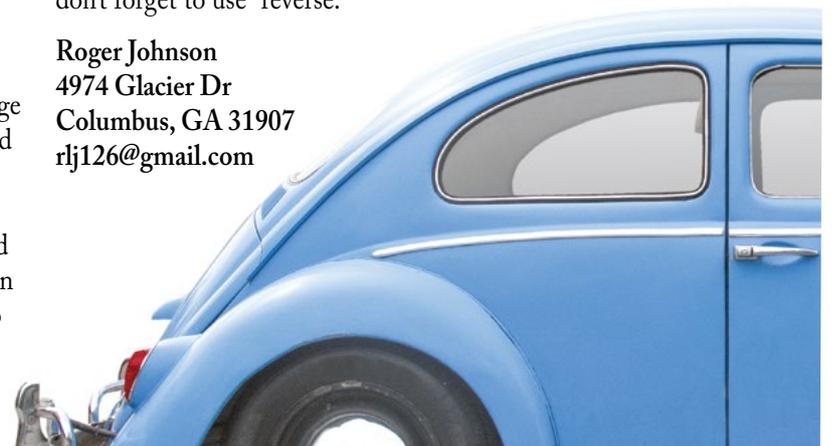
thy to bring Mark with him "for he is very useful to me for ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11). Paul did not hold Mark's past mistake against him forever, but was willing to forgive and reestablish a relationship that had been severed.

For the sake of maintaining good relations with others, don't forget to use "reverse."

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



ROGER JOHNSON



MEXICO MISSIONS What God Has/Is Accomplishing

By Les Ferguson, Sr

Since 2002, eleven churches have been planted in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico and one in the State of Michoacan. At the present time all of them have preachers trained in Schools of Preaching in Mexico. Two of these twelve churches have become the sponsoring responsibility of two stateside churches. Mexico Missions, under the oversight of the elders of the S. Huntington Street church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS, sees to the continuation of the work of the other ten and focuses on the continual effort to plant additional churches.



The title of this report/request is "What God has/is Accomplishing." And He has used people like you to bless this work. A number of churches and individuals across Mississippi and other states are contributing funds (some periodically and others monthly) to help make this mission effort possible. For all of those contributors, we are so very thankful.

We have a Mexican brother and his wife preparing to graduate this July from a School of Preaching. We want to put this brother to work in planting a church in the city of Villagran. According to the 2005 census, this city had a population of 45,941 people. It is a great opportunity and this brother is willing to take on the challenge. At this writing we need an additional \$600 per month to insure this new church plant gets up and running.

A New Church Planting Vilagran, Mexico

According to the 2005 census, this city had a population of 45,941 people. It is a great opportunity and this brother is willing to take on the challenge. At this writing we need an additional \$600.00 per month to insure this new church plant gets up and running.

I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you" (II Thess. 3:1). We are praying that God's word will "...run...and be glorified..." in the Mexican city of Villagran in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico. Will you please pray about that and help us to accomplish it?

Les Ferguson, Sr. • Director, Mexico Missions
P.O. Box 1399 • Kosciusko, MS 39090
601 562-4226

Minister Search • Greenville, MS

We are looking for a Pulpit Minister for the Southside church of Christ, Greenville, MS 38702. Presently accepting resumes, three professional references, a sample sermon, calls and correspondence related to the filling of a full-time minister position. We are a congregation between 50-100 faithful members.

Looking for someone who is excited to reach out to the community by sharing the Word. Primary duties include preaching, teaching Bible classes, promoting Christian fellowship and being evangelistic.

Please contact:

Lorenzo Carter, 662-378-6859; 713 Adams Drive, Greenville, MS 38703
lorenzocarter187@msn.com; Willie G. Carter, 662-931-5302

Attn: Search Committee

Who's Who Among Servant Leaders in Churches of Christ?

We continue to have nominations for this program. Thanks to all who have sent in nominations. If you have someone you would like to nominate, please submit the name of the person and the reasons why you believe he/she should be honored in this way. We will need your name and contact information, if we have questions. *(If you wish, we will keep your name confidential.)*

Each person who is nominated will receive a certificate. We would like for you, or someone else in the congregation where you worship, to present the certificate and take a picture so we can put it in the next issue of the Magnolia Messenger.

The following is an example of a letter we recently received from a reader of the MM in regard to this special program. I want to share it with you.

"Thank you so much for the nice picture and article about the award for our parents, Jimmy and Janice Vaughn! The works they do are certainly not for 'show,' but it is so nice of the Messenger to acknowledge those who have given so much for the Lord's work! This was such good timing also. Our father had surgery in April to remove another malignancy. He had one removed two years ago. Thank you for uplifting his spirits and we appreciate your prayers on his behalf. The Messenger is such a blessing and so needed! Thank you again so much!"

*In Christian love,
Kittie Vaugh Edwards*

Please send your nomination to MM Award Program P. O. Box 1578 Kosciusko, MS 39090
(Paul Franks)

4th Annual East MS Mission Forum (August 27, 2016)

The Fourth East/Central Mississippi Mission Forum will be Saturday, August 27th, 2016. The Union church of Christ, 2919 East Jackson Avenue, Union, MS will once again host this event. Some of this year's forum speakers and their topics will include:

Bro. L.T. Gurganus

A Lifetime of Mission Work (50+ years)

Bro. Kevin Moore

Freed Hardeman University Emphasis on Missions

Bro. Wayne Barrier

Mission to a Unique Culture

Bro. J. C. Enlow

21st Century Global Missions

This series of reports will enlighten us as to some of the work being done to carry out the Lord's command to "take the gospel into the whole world;" encourage us in how we can be an effective part in continuing and increasing the work that is being accomplished, and should excite us to know that the gospel remains "the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16)

The speakers begin at 9 a.m. and will continue each hour until 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided at the church building for all in attendance. The meeting location is 919 East Jackson, Union, MS. It is just west of the Highway 15/492 intersection in Union, Mississippi.

All are invited and encouraged to come and be informed, encouraged and uplifted by this day of singing, praying, hearing the speakers and enjoying the fellowship that we can be more effective and efficient sowers of the Word.

For more information call Rick Benson (662-582-1220) or Therman Hodge (601-580-7067).

Reason for Life with Christian Apologist Kyle Butt

Listen to host Kyle Butt on the new WJHF-LP 106.9FM

Broadcasting live Tuesdays from 12:30-1:00 p.m. CST

You can call us with questions during the program. You can also email inquires to reasonforlife@jhcc.org or Tweet Kyle @[reasonforlife15](https://twitter.com/reasonforlife15).

Reason for Life is brought to you by the Jackson Heights Church of Christ 1031 Hermitage Drive, Florence, Alabama 35630

Call 1-855-524-LIFE (5433)

David Lipe Preaching in New Albany

On Sunday evening, April 17, my June and I were blessed with the opportunity of visiting with the New Albany congregation during a gospel meeting with David Lipe. It was a enjoyable evening with spirited gospel singing, warm fellowship and a very meaningful lesson from God's word presented by David.

We thank God for the encouragement given to our work (Magnolia Messenger), over many years, by the New Albany church. So good to visit briefly with elders Richard Jennings and Troy Robertson. We are thankful to be reminded that, after six years, Mike King continues to serve effectively as their local preacher.



- A Note from Dan Guy -

The Death of Bill Beck

"Just thought you might like to know that Bill (William) Beck passed away Saturday night or early Sunday morning (June 5, 2016). He was missionary to Thailand for years and more recently preached in Waynesboro, MS and Linden, AL. I believe the funeral will be in Jasper, AL on Saturday. If I find out more or find an obituary, I will send it to you."

(Thanks to brother Danny for the information. We were blessed to have known Bill and his wife, Bettye, and to have gained much respect for them for their work's sake in the Lord's Kingdom. We also remember, with pleasure, Danny's work with the church in Yazoo City.)

Another "Drop-in Visit"

(Riverside) Lafayette, LA



New Home for Riverside Church

During the later part of June, Glenda and I traveled to Lake Charles to attend the funeral of Alice Cooper, wife of Vester Cooper. Vester and Alice were longtime members of the Enterprise Blvd congregation and loved by all. They had recently moved to Searcy, AR where their son and his family live. After leaving Lake Charles and seeing so many wonderful people that we love, we stopped in Lafayette to attend the Riverside Church of Christ for a "drop in visit."

The Riverside church had recently traded their church building and property for a much larger piece of property where they had constructed a new 1.2 million dollar building. As we walked into the building, we were greeted by Will Collins, youth and worship minister. Will's parents are Bill and Sabrina Collins of Meridian, MS. Will seemed excited to see us and began to introduce us to the elders of the church, Joe Phillips, Jack Thibodaux, Randy Davis and Johan Adendorff. In addition to the four elders just named, we didn't have to be introduced to their fifth elder, Rusty Roden. Rusty, whom we have known for many years, is from Tupelo, MS.

We were pleased to meet their preacher, Lance Bennett and his wife, Misty. (Danny Hebert serves as their outreach minister.) The Riverside church has an attendance of 250 to 275 and a weekly budget of over \$10,000. On the day of our visit, the church was honoring their high school seniors. We were encouraged by our visit and enjoyed the sermon preached by Lance on "Faith." Will also did a great job leading the congregation in singing. This church seems to be making an impact on this southern Louisiana city. (PF)



There is a place for you! Are you ready?

Nothing else... nothing else really matters!

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..." Rev. 14:13

Tipton St. (Kosciusko) Hosts "Men's Day," June 4th

From about a dozen congregations in central Mississippi, a sizeable group of spiritually minded men (both young and old) came together for the annual Men's Meeting hosted by the Tipton Street church in Kosciusko, Mississippi.

On Saturday morning, beginning at 8:30, physical nourishment was furnished (both breakfast and, at noon, lunch). Spiritual nourishment was provided with warm fellowship, singing, praying and teaching from God's word.

Guest speakers for the event were Dennis Hardaway of the Enterprise church, near Meridian and Andy Miller of the Starkville congregation. We were encouraged and motivated by both preachers. Don Woods preaches regularly for the Tipton Street church.



Andy Miller (Starkville)



Dennis Hardaway (Enterprise)

Wendell Fike Teaching SM Bible Class Tupelo - Gloster St

On Sunday morning, April 17, 2016, my June and I were privileged to attend a Bible class taught by Wendell Fike of the Gloster Street church in Tupelo. (This is where June was baptized into Christ, over 60 years ago.)

Listening to the effective teaching of brother Fike reminded me of the few days, back in the 1950's, when he and I sat together in classes in what was known as the "College of Evangelists", located just east of Tupelo.

After leaving Mississippi, Wendell spent much of his preaching life in California, but chose to come back close to his Fulton home and settled in Tupelo, after retirement. It was a good visit with the church and with Wendell and his family.

(Note: I am persuaded that I would have written this note about Wendell even if he had not invited us out for lunch. Thanks! alf)



Wendell Fike Teaching SM Bible Class Tupelo - Gloster St

Gospel Advocate Changes Owners

From Neil W. Anderson to Charles Randall (Randy) Duke.

(Effective April 1, 2016)

Randy Duke, a native of Ashland City, Tennessee, commented after purchasing the GA, "It's an honor to be a part of the Gospel Advocate. It is an awesome responsibility and I am excited about the future. I want the Gospel Advocate to remain committed to being the 'always reliable' source of support for Christians around the world while developing resources for multiple generations."

Randy currently serves as an elder of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee. Past association with churches of Christ include the Kensington Woods congregation in Hattiesburg, MS; the Ault Road church in Knoxville and the Old Hickory, TN congregation. Duke also works as director of development with the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver, CO. He is married to the former Jodie Galloway. They have two married children, Chet (Rachel) Duke and Hannah (David) Lee.

Well-known editors of the Gospel Advocate, over the past 160, years include Tolbert Fanning, William Lipscomb, David Lipscomb, B.C. Goodpasture, Ira North and Guy N. Woods. The current editor is Gregory Alan Tidwell.

The Gospel Advocate Company (publishers of magazines, Bible school curriculum and books), serves churches worldwide through its catalog, phone and internet operations. The Gospel Advocate has bookstores in Nashville and Dallas.



Randy Duke

FROM

Paul's Pen



Paul and Glenda Franks

Christians Respond to Flooding in Clarksdale

Extensive flooding took place near Clarksdale, Mississippi in late March of this year. Immediately, upon hearing of the disastrous flooding, Mike Baumgartner began to make plans to travel to Clarksdale with his portable kitchen and render help to those in need.

A few days afterward, Glenda and I traveled to Clarksdale and went to the fairgrounds where Mike and his group were camping. I was blessed to go out with Don Hudson, one of the elders and minister of the Howell Church of Christ near Petersburg, TN. We knocked doors in the flooded area and passed out hot meals and tracts concerning



Ardelia & Sam Wiggins, McKinley St. Preacher

the Lord and His church. Listening to Don and those we met, it was obvious that he had already had several Bible studies with the people in the disaster area. After ten days of work, Christians associated with the program, had prepared and delivered 6,047 meals. We learned that over 800 homes were flooded and about 80% of those affected had no flood insurance.

Many of these people lost just about everything they had.

The McKinley Street Church of Christ



Mike Baumgartner and His Portable Kitchen

in Clarksdale worked with Mike and his group, delivering meals and helping with the Bible Studies. On Sunday morning, we attended services of the McKinley Street church and listened to a great message from their preacher, Sam Wiggins. Over 70 were in attendance and, from all appearance, the church seems to be making progress. That afternoon many from the church traveled to Cleveland to enjoy fellowship with 12 other congregations in the area. This they do every 2nd Sunday in each month.

Mike Baumgartner is supported by individuals and churches around the country. You can go online to www.disasterassistancecoc.com and learn what you can do to help. Support may be sent to:

Disaster Assistance C of C
C/O Lake Jackson Church of Christ
402 Center Way St.
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

A Conversion Story

Carl and Alesia Dunlap were living in Nesbit, Mississippi. He had a great job and was enjoying his life. One day his children were invited to Vacation Bible School at the meeting place of the church of Christ in Nesbit. Carl and his wife went with their children and enjoyed meeting new friends. One of those friends was Mike Jones, preacher for the Nesbit congregation.



Carl & Alesia Dunlap 38 Years at Ozark Church

Mike asked the Dunlaps if he could come to their house the next Friday. They agreed and each Friday thereafter, for seven weeks, Mike would go their house and they would study the Bible together. On the seventh Friday, Mike told Carl this would be his last Friday to come over. Mike, being convinced that Carl now knew the truth, asked that they go into the dining room where Mike read several verses about hell. In doing so, he would put Carl's name in the verse and imply that Carl was headed there! Then, as Mike was about to leave, Carl said, "Let's go to the building!"

Carl and Alesia obeyed the gospel and became very active in the Nesbit church. After a while, when Mike decided to leave Nesbit to preach for another church, Carl said he had developed "preacheritis" and had stopped going to church after Mike left. Not too long after that; however, Mike called and told him to "get back in church." He did.



Carl became very active in the church and soon began to feel the tug of wanting to preach. He decided to attend the preaching school in Memphis and began to raise funds so that could happen. As he was doing so, the Nesbit congregation called him in one Sunday and told him to turn in his resignation at his job. They announced their decision to make up the difference in what he needed to attend school.

After graduation from MSOP, Carl was provided an opportunity to preach for the Ozark church of Christ, south of Booneville. Years ago, Carl said that Bill Jackson gave him some good words of advice telling him, as a preacher, his job was to "lead them; not to drive them." As a result, Carl has been with the Ozark congregation since 1978 (soon to be 40 years!). We rejoice that Mike Jones was determined to teach Carl Dunlap the truth. We were blessed to visit recently the Ozark congregation and see the growth that has taken place. (PF)

Church Attendance "A Worthy Example"

Glenda and I recently had the opportunity to visit with the Forest congregation in central Mississippi where we worked for seven years and came to love this church so much. Ray Paseur is the preacher. His wife, Sharon, comes with him from Kosciusko each service, as well as their daughter, Andrea. Andrea has a rare disease that all 3 of their children had. Two have died.

I was surprised somewhat to see Andrea at church. They have to bring her to church in a special designed wheel chair and roll her into the church building. Determination and faithfulness came to my mind when I saw her at church that morning. What is your excuse for not going to church? (PF)



Ray Paseur Family: Andrea, Ray & Sharon

JOURNEYS OF PAUL

Booneville The Booneville Church of Christ hosted a Creation/Evolution Seminar with Brad Harrub at the last of April. Glenda and I had the privilege to attend many of the sessions. There were people from various congregations and the attendance for Sunday morning got close to 500. Mike Timbes led the singing which was awesome! After the services, the Booneville church provided a great fellowship meal. After a 1:00 PM service, The Freed-Hardeman University Chorale sang making this day a wonderful and encouraging day. Brad is also the Executive Editor of Think magazine. You can go to www.focuspress.org to learn more.



Brad Harrub



Tommy Baragona & Randy Collum

Corinth The PineVale Children's Home recently had a Golf Tournament at the Corinth Country Club. Golfers from around the state and area came to play golf that day and raise money for the children's home. I had the opportunity to help Tommy, Randy and others prepare the meal for everyone after the tournament. Angie Strickland who works for the home worked so hard to make sure everything went well. Over \$11,000 was raised for the home that Saturday morning.

Ripley The Ripley Church of Christ hosted a youth day with Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press from Montgomery, AL in May. The theme was Creation/Evolution.

It was great to be in Ripley and see the encouraging growth of this congregation.

Josh and Moriah McCrary are doing a great job working with this church family. The church has four new elders, Bert Brown, David Cook, Barry Grisham and Mark Martindale. Glenda and I really enjoyed our visit that day in Ripley.



Some of the young people present for the Youth Day in Ripley, MS



Eric Lyons Speaks; Young Men Listen



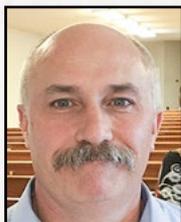
Jimmy and Dotsy Downs.

One couple that we saw that has helped in the past with our RV Rallies is Jimmy and Dotsy Downs. This great Christian couple live in DeRidder and health issues have kept them from being involved in the rallies for the last few years.

Booneville (Hills Chapel)

Ray Wilson is the new preacher for the Hills Chapel Church of Christ. Glenda and I have had the opportunity to visit with this great church a couple of times in the last few months. One Sunday night we heard Ray bring an outstanding lesson. On our next visit, I was privileged to speak.

While visiting, I was told about some of their older members who are hard workers in this congregation and I asked to take a picture of them. As you can tell by this picture, they could use all kinds of excuses to not do this or that, but when the doors open at Hills Chapel and when there is something to be done, you can count on this group to be involved. It seems like the verse that says "Be faithful until you have retired" is not in their Bible. (It isn't in yours either!)



Ray Wilson, New Preacher Hills Chapel Church



(Back row; Left to right) Helen and Travis Long, (Front row) Inez Cole, Novie Grimes and EvaNell Brown.

Louisiana Preacher and His Wife Celebrate 75th Wedding Anniversary

Recently, we had opportunity to visit the Lone Pine Church of Christ near Merryville, LA, where, on the first Sunday in April, my great uncle and great aunt were honored for 75 years of marriage. (Try finding a card to honor a 75 year marriage!) By the way, we deeply appreciate the long time support of the Lone Pine church to the mission work of the Magnolia Messenger.



Martin Benjamin & Rena Franks Married 75 Years!

Assembled that Sunday was a large group of worshippers and well-wishers, probably a record for this country church.

Over 110 came together to worship the Lord and to honor the Franks. My great-uncle, brother M. B. Franks taught the class. He didn't use any notes as he quoted many scriptures and took us through a inspirational journey of the Bible. Later, during the worship hour, Ben Treme, his grandson, preached an excellent sermon. Benjamin Treme, named after his grandfather and mentor, has been preaching since he was 16. He has also been involved in mission work, including Mexico and Lithuania as well as many locations in the U.S. He is a recent Harding Graduate and is a recruiter for Harding University. After services, a bountiful feast was served. This was followed by a program put on by their children, honoring their parents, my "Uncle B" and "Aunt Rena," for their great Christian example.



Ben Treme Preached at Lone Pine

Uncle B's daughter, Renee Treme, sent the following about her dad:

Martin Benjamin Franks was born 10/9/1918. He is 97 years old. He married Rena Mae Dubon on March 29, 1941. She was born 4/14/1926. They have been married 75 years. In 1936 he preached his first sermon at the Boxwood church of Christ near Merryville, LA.

Preached at Boulevard (Lake Charles), 1941-1943; Maplewood, 1942 (Sulphur); DeQuincy, 1944-1947; DeRidder, 1947-1951; Leesville, 1951-1952; Kinder, 1952 -- for 27 years; Eunice, 1957; Leesville, 1987-1990 and LonePine, 1990 until just recently. He also preached for many other congregations as needed; sometimes preaching in 2 locations each Sunday. For 42 years, he did not accept any pay and traveled many miles. He had 2 grocery stores in DeQuincy and one in Oakdale then a White Auto Store and Franks Furniture. He owned businesses from 1943-1986. They have 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. Daddy often said he wished he would have spent all of the time in business on the Lord's work.

Brother Franks recently has fallen ill and is confined to his home. We pray for him and his wonderful wife, Rena. If you would like to send a card, please write to them at this address. (PF)

M.B. and Rena Franks • 175 B Franks Rd
Singer, LA 70660

from a Woman's Viewpoint

What the World Needs Now

June Franks

A song, written in 1965, is entitled: "*What the World Needs Now is Love!*" This song written by Hal David and music composed by Burt Bacharach became very popular. It was first recorded and made popular by Jackie DeShannon. The following words are of the chorus:

*What the world needs
now is love, sweet love;
It's the only thing that there's just too
little of What the world needs now is
love, sweet love; No, not just
for some, but for everyone.*

When we think of this song, "What the World Needs Now is Love," I Corinthians 13 comes to mind. This section is known as the "Love Chapter" of the Bible. Along it is a very familiar section of scripture, it is one that needs to be heard and/or read over and over. We need to be reminded just how important **love** really is in our life. It is just NOT enough just saying "I love you"; it is putting into practice the qualities found in the *love chapter*.

Love is just not an idea; it is an **action** on our part. If each one would live each day by evidencing the qualities found in this chapter, there would be far less conflict and strife -- not only out there in the world, but also in our homes and in the church. Focusing on the qualities of love as given in this chapter should help us on a daily basis in our contacts with and interactions with others. I am wondering: Have we heard this scripture so often that we no longer really consider what the words mean? Again, the kind of love Paul is talking about in this chapter is seen by our actions and not in just saying "I love you."

The last verse of I Corinthians 13 says, "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. We recognize the importance of FAITH. The Bible says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11: 6)

We also know the importance of HOPE. The Bible says, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1: 2). Hope is also described as an anchor of the soul. "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil" (Hebrews 6: 19). The

Bible teaches that faith and hope are important; but, the scripture states that the greatest of these three is LOVE! I Corinthians 13: 4-7 are the qualities of how our LOVE should be when it is put into action.

1. LOVE SUFFERETH LONG!

To suffer long means to hold your temper. Bearing injuries or provocation for a long time; patient; not easily provoked. Long-suffering should be a quality in every Christian. Long-suffering is a fruit of the spirit. (Galatians 5: 22) Paul prayed for the Colossian brethren to be long-suffering. (Colossians 1: 11) Are you long-suffering with your neighbors, your family or even your brothers and sisters in Christ?

2. LOVE is KIND!

Kindness means disposed to do good to others... having tenderness or goodness of nature, benevolent. The Bible says, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering" (Colossians 3: 1). We are to add unto godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love" (II Peter 1: 7).

Do we want others to be kind to us? The Bible says, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 6: 12). If we want others to be kind to us then we, likewise, must be kind to others. Do you like to be around people who are unkind? We should think about how we may be treating other people. When we love as the Bible teaches we will be kind to others. We should always remember that a person is known by his speech.

3. LOVE ENVIETH NOT!

Envy and jealousy mean, basically, the same thing. Jealousy implies being displeased with the success of others. Yet true love desires the success of others. Being jealous was common in Bible times, as well as it is today. It is a very serious problem in all walks of life, but when we as Christians allow jealousy to take over our lives it really becomes serious. We see somebody receiving recognition or receiving an award for an accomplishment in their life and we may begin to feel slighted ourselves. If someone else is blessed then we wish we were too. Sometimes we can even hate people who may have something that we wish that we had ourselves.

We might even start imagining or questioning how they were able to afford such an item. The Bible says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that do weep" (Romans 12:15). It seems that we ignore the first part of this verse and the last part is emphasized. If we truly love as we should, we should weep with those that



JUNE FRANKS

weep. It seems we don't have trouble doing this. But on the other hand, we should rejoice with those who rejoice. Oftentimes jealousy will keep us from rejoicing with others.

The Bible says, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3: 14-16). "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speaking." (I Peter 2: 1)

4. LOVE VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP!

"Vaunteth not itself" means simply to not boast or brag about one's self. We are not to boast or brag or speak excessively about ourselves. "Puffed up" means feeling self important or arrogant. This type of attitude often makes us appear to feel like we are better than other people. The Bible says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16: 18). Being arrogant shows disrespect for others and carries a disdain for others. We are called to serve others and be kind and gracious toward them.

5. LOVE DOTH NOT BEHAVE UNSEEMLY!

Unseemly means not proper or appropriate for the situation. It means to conduct oneself improperly and disgracefully or just to be rude to others. Being a Christian means we are to have a Christ-like attitude and to have the qualities of Christ. There are some Christians who will brag about being blunt in their speech to others. But we should be thoughtful and not always say, "Well I'm just telling you like it is." We should be about building others up instead of tearing them down.

6. SEEKETH NOT HER OWN!

This is probably one of the qualities of love that we, as Christians, have the most difficulty applying to our lives. The Bible says, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:4,5). It is just not enough to say, "I love you"; we need to put into practice these qualities of love.

7. IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED!

This statement shows how we should respond to others. "Provoked" means to be incited or made angry. Love shouldn't allow us to fly into a temper tantrum. A scriptural love will influence us to not lose our head when others around us are losing theirs and blaming it on us. A true mark of love is, when we are hated; we don't give way to hating ourselves. The Bible says, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." (Ephesians 4: 26)

8. THINKETH NO EVIL!

How often do we do this? Thinking evil of others when we really don't know the circumstance or the situation. If we did know the situation, we just may not be so quick to judge someone. Those who truly grasp Biblical love do not suppose that actions of others always come from bad motives. There are negative things and faults in the best of us, but our love for the other person will help us see the good. Sometimes there are those who mis-judge our motives for even doing good. The Bible says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." (Matthew 7: 1,2)

9. REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH!

Love, from a Biblical standpoint, causes one to love the truth. It does not love evil; it does not rejoice at wrong doing. The Bible offers the proper attitude concerning truth. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2). To "not delight in evil" carries the idea that we shouldn't be happy over someone else's guilt. It is tempting at times to rejoice when an enemy is found guilty of a sin. This is not love. Sin is an occasion of sorrow; not an occasion for us to rejoice.

In conclusion, the Bible says,

10. LOVE BEARETH ALL THINGS!

Beareth means to forbear, bear with, or endure. The Bible says that love covers a multitude of sin. (I Peter 4: 8). Love doesn't broadcast bad news. Love doesn't point out every flaw in the lives of the ones you love.

11. BELIEVETH ALL THINGS!

We are to give the other person the benefit of the doubt; to believe the best about people. We are often more concerned about hearing the bad and believing the worst about people. Do you see the potential of others through the eyes of love or do you look on them through the eyes of criticism?

12. HOPETH ALL THINGS!

Hope is the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best. Love causes us to have a positive forward look. The proper kind of love teaches us to never give up on people. Love never gives up on other people in spite of their shortcomings.

13. ENDURETH ALL THINGS!

Endure means to stand no matter what hardships come our way, or what pains we undergo; it is to hold up under pain or

pressure; to be firm under suffering; to endure great pain or misfortune, no matter how difficult it may get. Paul encouraged Timothy in II Timothy 2: 3, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." James wrote, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (James 1: 12). Jesus said, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Matthew 24: 13) This verse makes all that we might have to endure worth while. It does take a lot of love, on our part, to be able to endure all things --

especially if others excel in criticism.

These thirteen qualities, found in chapter 13 of I Corinthians, certainly give us something to think about and to work on in our lives. Let us endeavor to put into practice the excellent qualities found in this chapter. We should always remember that this type of love is love put into **action** and not just a flippant statement of saying, "I love you!"

(Mrs. A. L. Franks; P. O. Box 1578;
Kosciusko, MS 39090; franksmm@aol.com)



2016 POWER LECTURESHIP
JULY 24 - 28, 2016
SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS
SOUTHAVEN CHURCH OF CHRIST
1483 Brookhaven Drive; Southaven, MS 38671 • Telephone (662) 393-2690

<p>Sunday, July 24</p> <p>9:30 am - 10:30 am Am I a Soldier of the Cross?.....Robert Jefferies</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am Fear: The Great Enemy of Soldiers.....Don Blackwell</p> <p>6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Our Enemy, the Devil.....John DeBerry</p> <p>Monday, July 25</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am The Soldier's Handbook: The Inspired WordMike Hixson</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am AWOL Soldiers and How to Get Them BackGreg Dismuke</p> <p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm GREAT BATTLES - David and GoliathChris Perry</p> <p>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm SPECIAL FORCES - Elders: Leaders in the Lord's ArmyPaul Sain</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - AdulteryTodd Crayton</p> <p>Ladies — 2:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION Media: Music, Movies, EntertainmentRose Crayton</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm KEYNOTE - Faithful Unto Death: Christianity is Not for the Faint of Heart.....Eric Owens</p> <p>Tuesday, July 26</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am Recruiting Soldiers: Effective EvangelismRob Whitacre</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am Wounded Warriors: Help for Struggling ChristiansJack Honeycutt</p> <p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm GREAT BATTLES - The Walls of JerichoScott Cain</p> <p>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm SPECIAL FORCES - Deacons: Elite ForcesNathan Franson</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - AtheismMatt Vega</p> <p>Ladies — 2:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - HypocrisyCourtney Ruiz</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm KEYNOTE - Hills Not Worth Dying For: Matters of Opinion.....Cliff Goodwin</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 27</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am Basic Training: Training New Converts and Teaching First Principles.....Will Anderson</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am Blessed is the Nation Whose God is the LordDon Walker</p> <p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm GREAT BATTLES - The Battle of AiDan Manuel</p> <p>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm SPECIAL FORCES - Preachers: The Front LineGary Hampton</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - HomosexualityJohn Grubb</p> <p>Ladies — 2:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - MaterialismTeresa Hampton</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm KEYNOTE - The Christian and Civil Government: His Role and Responsibility.....B.J. Clarke</p> <p>Thursday, July 28</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am Military Intelligence: Knowing our Enemy and His Devices.....Ronnie Scherffius</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am War Stories: Learning from Battles of the PastGarland Elkins</p> <p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm GREAT BATTLES - ArmageddonWesley Simons</p> <p>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm SPECIAL FORCES - Parents: The Home FrontKevin Ruiz</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - The TongueCharles Cochran</p> <p>Ladies — 2:00 pm WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - ImmodestyJanis Dearman</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm KEYNOTE - Heaven: The Victory if OursRobert Taylor, Jr.</p> <p><i>Ladies' Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall</i></p>
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SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH OF CHRIST



Courtney Ruiz Kevin Ruiz Paul Sain Ronnie Scherffius Wesley Simons Robert Taylor, Jr. Matt A. Vega Don Walker Rob Whitacre

A DREAM COMING TRUE

Lifting Lives Family Shelter Opening in Vicksburg

Report by Dean Caldwell

Almost four years ago several members of the Bypass Church of Christ in Vicksburg, Mississippi established *Lifting Lives Ministries*. LLM is dedicated to providing physical and spiritual needs of homeless families in the Vicksburg area. For many years Vicksburg has been served by shelters for women, shelters for men, and shelters for children. But there was no place for homeless families to go as a family unit. Homeless families needing help had no choice but to separate the family and seek individual help in men's shelters, women's shelters or children's shelters. To avoid separation, many homeless families choose to stay in hiding, living in cars, sleeping in wooded areas, or abiding in other makeshift shelters in unsafe and inadequate environments.

In 2012, LLM was organized with Willie Nettle, Nellie Caldwell and Bobbie Heads all of the Bypass congregation as the Board of Directors. Willie has his Doctorate of Ministry Degree and serves as preaching minister. Nellie is a homemaker and is active in a number of activities serving the church and the Vicksburg Community. Bobbie is a retired educator for the Vicksburg Warren School District. Joel Dimmette Serves as Executive Director of LLM. Joel is Associate Minister and Deacon in the Bypass Church, attended Magnolia Bible College, received his undergraduate degree from Amridge University in Montgomery, Alabama, and is working on his master's degree at Harding Graduate School in Memphis, Tennessee.

The first year was spent preparing all the necessary documentations and obtaining necessary legal approvals to establish and operate LLM as a charitable organization, including incorporation as a non-profit entity eligible for tax exempt contributions under Section 501c3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. During 2013 many churches, businesses, and individuals contributed over \$2,000 each to renovate the rooms and prepare the shelter for occupancy. Each room has two full size beds, and ample space for cots to be moved in for larger families.

The motel had an existing, yet small, kitchen and dining area, and the initial plan was to use those facilities to prepare and provide food for families occupying the facility. As the renovations were nearing completion in 2013, local entities who establish and enforce building codes determined that a new kitchen to meet current commercial codes would be required before the facility could be opened for opera-



"Lifting Lives Shelter" -- Home for the Homeless in Vicksburg, MS



LLM Board of Directors (Front): Bobbie Heads, Nellie Caldwell, Willie Nettle. (Back): Ron Green, Joel Dimmette and Stan Woodson

tion. That would require a new kitchen to be built from ground up at a cost of near \$60,000.

In the years from 2013 to 2016, efforts were underway to raise funding for the new kitchen. During that time, LLM began providing assistance to homeless families and, in cooperation with other charities, has provided temporary housing in local motels, food boxes, and other services to more than 100 homeless and needy families.

In 2014 LLM established an up-scale thrift store known as "The Warehouse." The Warehouse is a large facility in a warehouse located at 185 Highway 27 in Vicksburg, about 2 blocks south of the shelter.



Joel Dimmette, Executive Director.

The Warehouse features new and used clothing, appliances, furniture and household goods at discount prices. It offers a wide variety of products for everyone, regardless of income level or style. The goods are donated by businesses and individuals, or purchased in truckload quantities. All proceeds over costs of operation are used for funding the family shelter and LLM. The Warehouse also maintains a food pantry and serves as an outlet for food for homeless and needy families.

As a flood on the Mississippi River displaced several Vicksburg families early in the spring of 2016, the city of Vicksburg began to receive requests for housing for people displaced by flooding. The LLM shelter could have met some of that need, except for the delay in opening because of the need for a new commercial grade kitchen. As a result, the decision was made to allow the facility to be opened for occupancy, with the kitchen to be built in the future as funds are available.

During the delay in opening, some rooms previously renovated suffered some vandalism, and some work had to be done over again. In March of 2016, a group of seven loving and benevolent people came to Vicksburg from Peoria, Illinois, brought \$35,000, and spent an entire week with several people from the Vicksburg community repairing and completing room renovations. In April, Entergy of Mississippi provided 17 employees from the Baxter Wilson Plant on three separate days to finalize work and clean the facilities.

Also in the spring of 2016, two individuals were added to the Board of Directors: Ron Green and Stan Woodson, both of the Vicksburg Church of Christ on I-20. Ron recently retired from the nuclear generating plant in Port Gibson operated by Entergy, and is active in a number of volunteer works. Stan has his Doctorate in Civil Engineering and is retired from the Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg.

So the dream of Lifting Lives Family

Shelter is coming true. The LLM Family Shelter will provide a safe and structured environment to homeless families in Vicksburg by physically providing: (1) shelter to families without homes; (2) clothing to participating families; (3) access to tools for success, such as education and work training through partner agencies. Additionally, knowing that Jesus addressed physical and spiritual needs, LLM will provide spiritual nourishment to every program participant through prayer, gospel tracts, and daily group Bible studies.

Initial program participation will begin with a three-night admission into the family shelter. At the end of this initial admission, families that comply with policies and procedures will be invited to stay. The evaluation process will be conducted on a weekly basis. As a principle, families should be ready to move to permanent housing within 30 days. The organization has created this program plan to provide more help to more people. Those who do not show progress will be required to leave until such time that they make the commitment to the program's procedures. In sum, it is the purpose of the LLM Family Shelter to create physical independence for families, while also creating spiritual dependence on Jesus Christ.

Roughly 20 families (potentially 75 men, women, and children) will receive daily physical and spiritual guidance towards independence, while keeping the family unit intact. Each family will be taught how to serve themselves and how to navigate through the process of attaining employment, better permanent housing, and submission to Jesus Christ.

The shelter will initially have one family who will serve as resident managers, and one person who will be responsible for staffing the business office. Much of the operational work will be accomplished by volunteers from the Vicksburg area.

Cost of operations will likely be near \$120,000 per year, including utilities, rental, salaries, and other operating costs. LLM will be depending on contributions from churches, businesses, and individuals to meet these costs. LLM can assist anyone who might wish to set up automatic monthly contributions from checking or credit card accounts.

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:
Lifting Lives Ministries, Inc.
P. O. Box 820538
Vicksburg, MS 39182
 Call: 601-529-6140 or email: info@lifting-livesministries.com

Bible Questions & Answers

Continued from page 3

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

“Singing” Passages in Ephesians and Colossians to Individuals, Not Churches

Throughout the New Testament, “singing” is given apostolic approval, and consequently God’s approval. Every reference to Christians worshipping and praising God musically specifies they were singing. In no instance were musical instruments mentioned as being present or used.

Sometimes reference is to individual Christians singing praises, as Paul and Silas in a Philippian prison (Acts 16:25). Sometimes it is speaking of Christians edifying one another in corporate assembly (1 Corinthians 14:15).

The Ephesian Church was commanded to “address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart” (5:19). The Colossians were to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (3:16). It is now being said by some that these passages refer to individual action and have no application to congregational activity. If that were true, it would still be true that every reference to musical praise and worship in the New Testament is to singing. There is strong evidence, however, that the individual versus congregational distinction does not apply to these passages.

The epistles of Paul, except for the ones addressed to individuals like Timothy, Titus and Philemon, were written to churches and were intended to be read to and heeded by the churches.

The five earliest epistles mention the church or churches in the salutation. Galatians is written “To the churches of Galatia” (Galatians 1:1), which are the congregations in Antioch of Pisidia, Derbe, Lystra and Iconium which Paul and Barnabas established on their first missionary journey. Both 1 and 2 Thessalonians are addressed “To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1), and both 1 and 2 Corinthians are written to “The church of God that is at Corinth” (1 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1).

The next three of Paul’s epistles, Philippians, Colossians and Ephesians, were written from Rome during the imprisonment Luke describes at the close of Acts (Acts 28:31-32). Philippians is addressed “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi with the overseers and deacons” (Philippians 1:1). Including the congregational officers in the address clearly implies Paul has the congregation at Philippi in view.

The letter to Colossae is addressed “To the saints and faithful brothers at Colossae” (Colossians 1:2) and the Ephesian epistle is addressed “To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful” (Ephesians 1:1). Colossians makes it clear that Paul expects these epistles, when they are received, to be read aloud to the churches. “And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea” (Colossians 4:16).

Obviously no single person alone in a kitchen can “teach and admonish one another.” Some plurality of persons is assumed. Primary reference is to the congregation gathered for edification and worship, where it is expected they would hear these epistles read.

A Salvation Issue?

“Is instrumental music a ‘salvation issue?’” is a prejudicial question. “Do you mean God would condemn a person to hell just for singing praises to Him with organ accompaniment?” The question presupposes a person who is right and sinless in everything else, except that he worships with instrumental music. Would that keep him from being saved? There is, of course, no such person.

While it is our prerogative to judge whether a person’s teachings are true or false (Matthew 7:15-16) and whether a particular action is right or wrong (Galatians 5:21), it is not our prerogative to decide who is and who is not saved (Romans 14:4).

The question, “Is it a salvation Issue?”

We are to teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. I can do that with my voice. I cannot do that with a piano, a guitar or a drum-set.

seems to misunderstand the nature of salvation. Lost people are not lost because of one particular sin they commit or one particular duty they fail to do. Men and women are saved, first of all, because they are in Christ, and then because they are “walking in the light” (1 John 1:7), because “they are walk-

ing not after the flesh but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1,4) because they are “faithful” (Romans 4:12). Walking in the light does not mean never sinning (1 John 1:7). God will judge Christians, not by one individual action, but by our overall faithfulness, our life style, our mind set (Colossians 3:1-2). God alone can make that judgment. We cannot.

I like the way G. C. Brewer expressed it.

“We do not use instrumental music in worship because there is no authority for it in the New Testament. This is the position we take and this is the issue between us and those who use the instruments. Anything else that may be brought into the discussion is irrelevant and confusing. This is the issue.

“It is not a question of who will be damned or who will not be damned. It is not a question of how good and sincere some people are who use instrumental music in worship--good and sincere people by the millions sprinkle babies, confess to the priest and count beads in prayer, etc. It is not a question of how far wrong a man may be and still be saved, or of how many things that we may do that God has not authorized and still be Christians. It is a question of what the New Testament authorizes us to do in worship and what it does not authorize.

“When we obey God’s word we have God’s promises--including eternal salvation. When we refuse or fail or fall short of God’s will, God will judge us. We are told not to judge one another.” (*A Medley on the Music Question or a Potpourri of Philology, Gospel Advocate Company, 1948, pp. 12-13*).

The person who says, “I do not believe it is a salvation issue,” presumably means, “I believe it is a non-issue. Instrumental music does not matter at all to God.”

Some say, “If God did not want instrumental music in the church’s worship, He certainly knew how to say so.” Rather, the Bible clearly shows that, when God wanted instrumental music used in the worship His people offer to Him, He knew how to ask for it.

Old Testament worship was regulated, and instruction regarding the use of musical instruments was included. God commanded instruments to be used both in Tabernacle and Temple worship and, in each case, He specified the instruments to be used.

In the wilderness, while the tabernacle was the place of worship, the priests were commanded to blow trumpets as a call to assembly. “On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the Lord your God” (Numbers 10:1-2, 10).

Instrumental music was also used for worship in the temple because God commanded it. When Hezekiah restored worship at the temple after the book of the Law had been lost for a time, we read, “And he stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king’s seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the Lord through his prophets. The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel” (2 Chronicles 29:25-27).

There are many such commandments in the Old Testament Scriptures. Consider, notably, Psalm 150 which specifies that “in the sanctuary,” which would be in the temple, eight different instruments, plus “dance,” are named to be used in praising God.

Two things are noted from this fact:

1. Instruments are a required act of Old Testament worship, like burning incense, offering animal sacrifices and dancing. They are not, therefore, just an aid to singing. It is not a correct hermeneutical principle to pick one to use and leave the others unused.

2. When God wanted instruments as praise, he knew exactly how to ask for them, and did so. The frequent call to sing, when combined with absolute silence regarding instrumental praise from the inspired New Testament writers, shows that silence about instruments was intentional and prohibitive.

The New Testament writers often contrast the carnal aspects of Old Testament worship with the spiritual worship of the New. “For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3). Fleshly circumcision is contrasted with spiritual circumcision which is the cutting off of the practice of sin (Colossians 2:18). The writer of Hebrews contrasts the assault on the senses that strikes one entering the temple: the bleating of animals, the smell of fresh blood, the sweet aroma of incense and the noise of the trumpets and cymbals, with the simplicity of spiritual worship. “Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:15-16).

We are to teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. I can do that with my voice. I cannot do that with a piano, a guitar or a drum-set. (CM)

Bridging the “Generation Gap”

by James Malone

We all know at least something about the challenges of growing older. One of the most obvious realizations that we come to as we mature is that there are people who are younger than we are. Then, if we are wise, we understand that we face some potentially serious challenges in communicating with generations other than our own. This has come to be known in our society as the “generation gap.” The “generation gap” refers to the idea that there is sometimes tension between people of different age groups.

Most sources will tell us that we are living in a society of at least six generations: The

“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.”

1 Timothy 5:1-2
NKJV

“Greatest Generation,” the “Silent Generation,” the “Baby Boomers,” “Generation X,” the “Millennials,” and the “Net Generation.” Depending on the source, different age ranges are given for each of these groups. But the point is that we are now living among a people of at least six generations! As you can imagine, there is a tremendous potential for conflict among all of these different generations. And what has come to be known as the “Generation Gap” continues. We continue to struggle when it comes to interacting with people in generations other than our own.

Some, though, have taken this generation gap and tried to use it to their advantage. This is true in the church as well. Perhaps we have a senior Bible study

during the week, special activities exclusive to the youth, and, of course, we know that Bible classes are typically divided by age group. Sometimes the age groups are very strictly enforced. Certainly there is value in learning and studying the Bible among peers, but there is also potential for conflict.

As we consider this subject of bridging the generation gap, we could focus on all of the latest scientific research, but we are not going to do that. You see, our authority is the Bible and so it makes sense that we should focus our attention on the Scriptures. We want to know what God’s word has to say about this problem.

In numerous passages of scripture we find that the Lord’s church is pictured as a family. One such passage is 1 Timothy 5:1-2 where Paul writes, “Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity” (NKJV).

As we consider this passage, we find that it is not necessary to determine whether someone is part of the “Greatest Generation” or if someone is a “Millennial.” It is only necessary that we know if someone is older than we are or if they are younger than we are. After we make that determination, we then follow the advice of Paul and treat people accordingly.

So What is Paul Saying?

First of all, he tells Timothy (and us) that we are to appeal to those who are older than we as if they are our parents. Paul is not saying that we should ignore the differences. Paul is not saying that we should deny that there is a generation gap. Instead, Paul is saying that we need to treat those

who are older with respect—even when we disagree. Consider passages like Ephesians 6:2, Proverbs 16:31, Job 12:12 & Leviticus 19:32.

Generally speaking, the older generation doesn’t want to hold back the younger generation. The older don’t want to dampen the enthusiasm of the younger. But they do want to be respected. They want to be valued. They want to be consulted. They want to contribute. (Cf. Psalm 71:9, 17-18)

Now For a Challenge.

Put yourself in the “older” category and fill in the blank: “*I wish that those who are younger than me in the church would _____.*” Think about that with the realization that you are (more than likely) younger than someone in your congregation. As you realize that, and as you fill in this blank, challenge yourself as the younger member to practice this quality in your own life as you deal with those who are older.

I think we can say with near certainty that those who are older want to be included, they want the church to be strong in the future, and they are looking for the respect of those who are younger. Those of us who are younger, therefore (as Paul says), are to appeal to those who are older as if they were our own parents.

Secondly, Paul tells Timothy (and us) to appeal to those who are younger than us as brothers or sisters. Sometimes older people are tempted to be suspicious of the younger generations. Some who are older have the potential to be overly critical of those who are younger. These attitudes are nothing new. But we need to understand the importance of patiently teaching and working with those who are younger.

Notice though, Paul doesn’t

tell Timothy to look down on them as if they were his children. Logically, we might think that if Timothy was to treat those who are older as his parents, then he should treat those who are younger as his children. But that is not the case! He is to treat them as brothers and sisters.

Now For Another Challenge.

Put yourself in the “YOUNGER” category and fill in the blank: “*I wish those who are older than me in the church would _____.*” Now, think

about that with the realization that you are (more than likely) older than someone in your church family. As you realize that, and as you fill in this blank, challenge yourself as the older member to practice this quality in your own life as you deal with those who are younger.

I think we can safely say that those who are younger are looking for the older generations to pull them aside and to appeal to them as brothers and sisters, to correct



James Malone presenting this study at our MM RV rally in the Spring of 2015.

them, to include them in the work of the congregation.

In the church, the wisdom of the older comes together with the energy and enthusiasm of the younger. We close the generation gap by treating the older with respect and by treating the younger as brothers and sisters. May God help us to treat each other as we would like to be treated.

James Malone
212 County Rd
Bono, AR 72146



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Sabine River Flooding Brought a Flood of Relief

March, 2016 South Louisiana and South Texas

By Larrie Askew

A flooding disaster is not a good thing, considering its effect upon families that lose so much -- homes, furniture, bedding, clothing and personal items damaged or destroyed that can never be recovered or restored. In spite of the bad, good can come from a flood. A flood disaster can bring a flood of relief!

The Bible, in Genesis chapter six, tells the story of Noah and the "Great Flood." Well, I want to tell another story; about the "Great Sabine River Flood", that may go down in the South Texas and South Louisiana history book as a monumental event because of the way Christians, neighbors and families came together to help each other.

Matthew 22:39, records the *second* great commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

I personally witnessed many obeying this command in the after affects of the Sabine River Flood. Many religious groups (churches of Christ, along with many denominational churches) worked diligently to help people meet their personal needs. The Sheriff's Department was a tremendous help, along with the Volunteer Fire Department, the National Guard and the VFW -- giving out food & hot meals.

I was so proud of my little Starks, Louisiana community where, as the waters were rising, many worked together, sand-bagging graves, homes and businesses. The Red Cross, the Starks VFW, the Salvation Army -- all joined in the effort, providing hot meals. Lots of good Christian volunteers from my home church, the DeQuincy church of Christ, along with other churches of Christ, including Maplewood, Merryville and Lone Pine.

Retired Christian volunteers, like the "Sojourners," gladly left their

This team, associated with churches of Christ, set up headquarters under their Big Top Tent at Deweyville, Texas where they immediately opened for business and gave to needy victims, food boxes, shoes, boots, bibles, pillows, blankets, cleaning supplies, washing power, baby diapers and bottled water. Workers were very busy, helping clean up, pulling out wet carpet, mil-dewed sheet-rock, wet mold-ed furniture, flooring, or whatever. Volunteer relief workers were glad to help those in need. My grand-daughter, Icie, worked one day; she was

wore out! FEMA was also there to help. This team was well organized; they knew how to help and were very efficient in getting their job done in a timely manner showing love and care for the affected people.

The little building of Deweyville Church of Christ,

where my family and I were baptized by ministers Richard Trumps and Elton Barks, was left, after the flood, in real bad shape. I'm not sure if it will make a come back. Brother Barks said it needed much work for the very few members still going there.

Written by, Larrie Askew of Starks, Louisiana, the "Biscuit & Sausage Man", as known by those of us who attend the MM RV rallies. (Editor)



Just A Few of the Flood of Relief Workers Greg & Karen (Mesquite, TX); Carl & Debby (Buna, TX) Lanny Clark (Portland, TN); Charles & Joann (Rowlett, TX)

nice, dry, soft beds at home and came to the disaster area on a mission to help those in need. Christ's disciples from Dallas, Mesquite, Tyler, Rowlett Texas and Portland TN were among those who came to help. Members of churches of Christ in Orange and Buna, Texas were also among the relief workers.

Another team of Christians workers I got to meet and work with was the Disaster Flood Victims Team.

"A Trip of a Lifetime" Israel & Egypt

(With Paul and Al 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 make sure you will have the finest travel experience possible.

Public Discussion Conducted in Lafayette, TN

NEWS REPORT: On May 27th and 28th in Lafayette, Tennessee, Brother Jack Honeycutt had a "public discussion" with Michael Brawner, a prominent Missionary Baptist preacher in the Macon County Junior High School auditorium. The essence of the discussion was whether or not baptism is essential for the remission of sins or not.

Approximately 550 people attended the debate in person, with a good representation of both Missionary Baptists and members of the church of Christ. Thousands more watched through GBN on cable, over the internet, or through the various GBN apps in their homes and church buildings. Mike Hixson and Bart Warren hosted GBN's coverage of the event.

During the discussion, both men handled themselves as gentlemen and presented their case with passion. Michael Brawner argued that there are many "faiths" in the Bible and ended the first night showing a chart detailing the different faiths that he saw in Scripture. Michael also argued that while he didn't consider faith to be a "work", he clearly saw baptism as a "work".

Jack Honeycutt countered the argument of there being many faiths with Ephesians 4:5 that states that there is "one faith". He used the grammar of Acts 2:38 to show that while repentance is an active voice verb (and therefore a work), "be baptized" is a passive voice verb that implies something is being done to the person. He also used Colossians 2:12 to show that the One who works in baptism is God. Jack Honeycutt relied heavily upon Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38 as the basis for his arguments. Michael Brawner countered with the thief on the cross (Luke 23) and the conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10) as examples of people who he believes were saved without baptism.

After the debate was over, as a result of the discussion, Michael White, who had been a Missionary Baptist, asked to be baptized for the remission of his sins. Additionally, several others have asked for further Bible studies to learn more of what the Bible teaches about baptism.

The video of the debate was available online immediately and has been very popular. DVDs of the event will be made available to the general public. Only eternity will tell the final impact of this debate. (Report by Mark Teske, Director of Operations; GBN; mteske7@gmail.com)



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

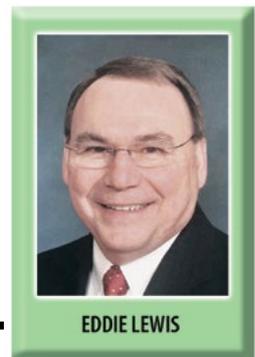
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Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

By Eddie Lewis
 Missionary to North Mississippi,
 9423 Laurel Hill,
 Olive Branch, MS 38654.
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It was a great joy for me to visit among the churches. I got to visit with several congregations. I was encouraged to see all the good works being done to God's glory. I had the opportunity to not only visit but speak at some of these churches. The following is my report as I visited among the churches.

■ **(January 3)** I visited with the **Ashland church of Christ**. **Don Roberson** is the new preacher there. He is a hometown boy, so the church is very happy to have him back home. I wanted to visit the church and see what they were doing in helping the victims of the tornado that hit parts of Ashland at the end of December.

They have a disaster relief center and have received donations of all kinds from many places. The Disaster Relief Center in Nashville helped the churches in Ashland and Holly Springs with supplies. The church is doing a wonderful work. They have been taking supplies directly to each of the families affected by the storm. They are known in the community as the place to go for help and supplies. Groups from several different churches have come to help them in the disaster relief effort. **Germantown**, through the help of **Bryan Turner**, has come several times and will continue to help the church in this relief effort.



Lynn and Don Roberson



Germantown Group At Distribution center

Thurman and Sadie Hodge came up to visit and help Don with the services that day. Don has been busy doing relief work and was glad for his former teacher and friend to come. Since I was there, they asked me to teach the adult Bible class. I was happy to help out and taught a lesson from Philippians chapter one on the true nature of Christian fellowship. What a great example the church in Ashland is of Christian love and care. Surely God has helped the church open doors of opportunity to the people of the community to show them the love of Christ.



Thurman and Sadie Hodge

Thurman preached from Joel 3:14, "Day of the Lord in the Valley of Decision." It was a great lesson on decisions we all need to make. He gave several illustrations of Bible characters that made good decisions. I enjoyed my visit and pray that the church there will continue to be a wonderful servant of Christ in the community.

■ **(January 17)** I was asked to teach the Hope of Glory Bible class at the **Germantown church of Christ**. **Ron Roberson** is the teacher of the class. They are using my book, "Finding the Heart of Christ" as their study text. Ron was out of town, so he thought I would be a good substitute. I appreciate the opportunity to visit with my supporting congregation and get to see so many old friends. My lesson was on forgiveness, "The Second Chance." We discussed the questions at the end of the chapter. There was lots of great discussion on this important subject. I thank Ron for asking me to come.

■ **(January 31)** I visited with the **Holly Springs church of Christ**. **Todd Sanderson** and **Kerry Reid** are the bi-vocational ministers there. In December a tornado hit the area and they established a Disaster Relief Center at their building. **Jerry Moore**, one of the elders, gave a short report about the work the church has done in the community. They

have handed out over \$130,000.00 dollars worth of supplies and money in the area. They have over \$12,000.00 left to help families as they rebuild their homes. Jerry is a school principal in the town so he has many contacts and knew lots of people in need of assistance. They have had a great response from the community.

Another ministry they began four months ago was "Living Branches of Christ" which is an addiction recovery group. **Doug Simmons** is the leader of this ministry and has several attending the classes.



Jerry Moore-elder, Doug Simmons-"Living Branches", Todd Sanderson-minister

Todd taught the Bible class. They are studying the book of James. They were in chapter 4:13-17. He gave four points about how life is short and we need to rely on God to help us. It was a great lesson. In worship Todd taught a lesson on Philippians 1:3-11, "Imagine the Possibilities." He asked us to think about what we could change to make a difference in our community. He said if we would pray for one another, let God work through us, share others joys and sorrows, love one another, and be sincere without offence, we could make a big difference for Christ. It was a great lesson.

■ **(February 14)** I visited with the **Marlow church of Christ**. In December the church building was damaged by a tornado that hit the Walnut area. The preacher's home, that was next to the building, was completely destroyed. **Rodney Hilliard** is the minister there. To compound things, Rodney has been suffering from a form of leukemia. His cousin, **Josh James**, has been preaching in his place while Rodney recovers from his treatment. Josh was living in the preacher's home that was destroyed by the tornado. He and his family were not at home at the time. The church hopes to be back in their building in a couple of months. They are temporarily meeting at the community center in Walnut. We are thankful that no one in the congregation was hurt. There was loss of life in the community.



Josh James and Rodney Hilliard

Rodney was able to be at church that morning and taught the Bible class. He did a wonderful job of teaching the lesson from the Gospel Advocate Foundations Series. The lesson was on "Samuel Reproves Saul" based on 1 Samuel 15:17-28. It was a good study.

Josh spoke in the worship service. His lesson was from Romans 6. He talked about how God's gift of grace doesn't mean that all are saved. Obedience is required. He emphasized that anything that controls my life is something that I have given myself to. God wants me to be a servant of righteousness. He wants me to give my heart to Him. It was a good lesson.



Marlow building

■ **(February 21)** I was invited to speak for "Family Day" at the **Crockett church of Christ** west of Senatobia, MS. **Robert Rawson** is the minister there. They have around 40 in attendance. It was great to visit with the congregation there. In Bible

class we discussed the theme, "The Family as God Wants It." We considered some pictures of the family seen in scripture. The purpose of the family is to give a child a balanced and stable environment in which to learn and grow to maturity.

In worship, I presented a lesson on, "The Blessing." The blessing is words and actions that provide an indelible picture of affirmation in a person's mind. It is giving another person your honor, your praise, and your love to empower them to success that will last a lifetime. I enjoyed my visit with the church and getting to eat a meal and visit with Robert and Jane after services.



Robert Rawson

■ **(February 28)** I visited with the **Como church of Christ**. **Taylor Francis** is the new preacher there. He has been there a little over a year. Taylor is working on his Doctorate of Ministry degree at HST. His wife, Cindy, is working on her Masters degree in counseling. They have one son and their daughter-in-law is working on her counseling degree also. They are a wonderful Christian couple and I enjoyed meeting them. The church has around 55 in attendance. They have three elders.



Taylor and Cindy Francis

In Bible class, Taylor has been teaching a series on church history. He talked about the present day church and some of the differences between churches of Christ. He also talked about two models of interpretation. It was an interesting study.

In worship, Taylor is preaching a series on Ephesians. He was in chapter four. He mentioned that, beginning with chapter four, Paul makes application to the doctrine he had presented. His emphasis was on unity. If your life doesn't look like the teaching in chapter four, you have to ask the question, do you really believe. We should never use our gifts to tear down the church. We must be people of compassion. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed meeting Taylor and visiting again with the brethren in Como.

■ **(March 6)** I visited with the **Courtland church of Christ**. The church has two bi-vocational preachers: **Jesse Childers** and **Daniel Manning**. Both are graduates of MSP and work as personal trainers in the Memphis area. Jesse is moving to a new work in Idaho. I wish him success in his new ministry. The church in Courtland has no elders and around 29 in attendance. Daniel comes from a large family of preachers. I really enjoyed meeting him. He has a lot of enthusiasm for the work of the Lord.



Wayne Thompson and Daniel Manning

One of the men of the congregation, **Wayne Thompson**, taught the Bible class. They were studying Ecclesiastes, chapter nine. They started with verse fourteen and talked about the importance of wisdom. The passage says that a wise man can help his city win a war, but the people will not remember him or honor him for what he has done. One evil person can destroy a lot of good things. It was a good lesson.

Daniel presented a lesson on "Biblical Authority." He had an interesting discussion about why we are under the New Testament. He said Christ died so His will would be in force. He died so we could be saved of our sins. We must listen to Him. It was a good lesson. After service the church had a fellowship meal. I enjoyed eating with the brethren and visiting. It was an enjoyable day.

■ **(March 13)** I was invited to preach at the **Tiplersville church of Christ**. Their former minister, **Garry Martin**, is moving and they have asked me to help them during the interim. They have two elders and around 60 in attendance. It's a wonderful group of Christians. They have all ages in attendance. I enjoyed getting to eat and visit with some of the members after services. They are a well educated and caring congregation.



Randle Miskelly and Donnie Greene, elders

In Bible class I considered Joshua 3. I entitled the lesson, "How to Travel in Virgin Territory." Israel made preparation to do war; they followed the Lord's instructions; and they committed the hard spots to God.

In the worship I talked about Christian Fellowship based on Philippians 1:1-11. In the p.m. worship I talked about prayers. We considered the contrast of the prayers of the Pharisee and the tax collector based on Luke 8:9-14. It was a good day.

■ **(March 27)** I was invited to preach at the **Batesville church of Christ**. **Michael Bates** is the minister there. He and **Chase Surrell**, the youth minister, were away to the L2L convention in Memphis. I enjoyed visiting with the members there and seeing old friends. **Jim Dickerson**, one of the elders, taught the auditorium class. They looked at Matthew 28:16-20, and discussed Jesus' commission for all disciples. There was lots of discussion. I presented the lesson "Esteem Others" from Philippians 2:1-11. We considered Paul's teaching on the mind of Christ. Paul said, "Have this attitude in you which was also in Christ Jesus." It's a great challenge for all Christians to humble obedience.



Jim Dickerson and Eddie Lewis

■ **(January 10, 24, February 7 and March 20)** I was invited to preach at the **Antioch church of Christ** in Independence, MS. It's always good to see the folks at Antioch. They are a very kind and loving group of Christians. **Howard Scruggs** and **Bob Chambers** are the song leaders. **Chris Keeton**, **Ken Joines**, and I rotate preaching each week for the church. I have enjoyed working and worshipping with the brethren there.

This year at Antioch I will be studying Joshua and Ephesians. Joshua is a great study of faith and courage as Israel enters the Promise Land. Ephesians is a wonderful study of all the blessings found in Christ. I pray that both studies will be an encouragement to the brethren there.



"Somewhere in Mississippi"

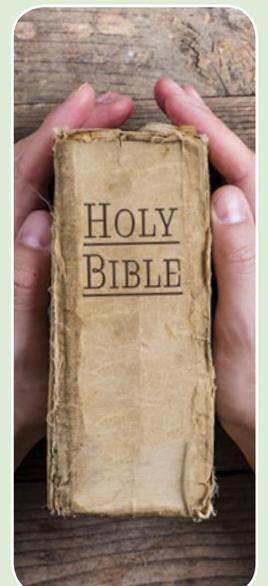
NE MISSISSIPPI AREA GOSPEL MEETINGS

Our thanks to Jimmie Timbes, secretary for the Booneville church, for sending information to the MM about Gospel Meetings planned for this summer/fall in the northeast section of Mississippi.

Date/Congregation/Speaker(s)/Time

- June 12-14** Danville - Mark Lindley - 7:00pm
- July 17-20** Marietta - Mike Jones - 7:00
- July 24-2** Berea - Ed White, David Conley, Carl Dunlap & Adam Miller - 7:00
- August 14-19** Snowdown - 7:00
- August 21-24** Hillcrest - Chad Ramsey
- August 28-31** Sherman - Doug Burleson
- September 25-27** .. Campaign for Christ (Booneville)
Lonnie Jones - 7:00
- October 2-5** Oakridge - Tom House - 7:00

(Not available: speaker for Snowdown; times for Hillcrest and Sherman)



RV Rallies are Encouraging and Uplifting

You Are Invited to Join Us in our Next Rally

A very successful Magnolia Messenger RV Rally was recently held in Morton, MS with over 80 people attending. We are thankful to report that over \$6,000 was raised in the auction. A special thanks goes to Garnett and Betty Harris who served as rally masters and paid much of the expenses of the rally. As a result, over \$5,000 was made available for the work of the Magnolia Messenger.

We had people stay in tents, RV's, cabins and the beautiful lodge at the park. We had people drive over daily from Jackson and other towns nearby. My mother heard someone comment about the rally, saying, "It was the best one that we have ever had."

Lord willing, we will have our **20th Anniversary Rally** at Roosevelt State Park on April 24-27, 2017. Please call the park at 601-732-6316. You can also reserve everything by going online at www.reserveamerica.com or www.mdwfp.com.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING RALLIES:

18th Annual Louisiana-Texas RV Rally at Salmon Lake Park, Grapeland, Texas on October 12-15, 2016 Contact: Ray and Donna Franks at rayfranks74@gmail.com or Glen and Ena Franks at 337-842-7183 or gefranks@att.net. Call Salmon Lake Park at 936-687-2594. Featured speaker: Jay Alexander of DeRidder, LA

2nd Annual North MS/TN/AL Magnolia Messenger Rally at J. P. Coleman State Park north of Iuka, MS on November 2-5, 2016. 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. You can call J. P. Coleman State Park at 662-423-6515 or go to their website, www.mdwfp.com to make your reservations. We are expecting a big crowd.

The 20th annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally to be held at Roosevelt State Park on April 24-27, 2017. Betty and Garnett Harris are the Rally Masters for this rally. You can contact them at bettyharris1003@yahoo.com and their number is 662-571-2854. Make your reservations as soon as you can.

We have found these rallies to be encouraging and uplifting to all who attend. One lady, who came for the first time, made a remark to me that she had heard of these rallies for years and had never attended until this year. She said she had a wonderful time and plans to return. Hope to see you at one of these rallies. (Paul Franks)



Garnett & Betty Harris
Diligent Working Rally Masters



Not all campers had RVs. The Malone family from Arkansas enjoyed their tent!



Campers enjoyed excellent Bible teaching, meaningful worship, great fellowship and delicious food!

Yazoo City, MS Special Servant Search

The Yazoo City Church of Christ is searching for a sound dedicated preacher of the gospel to aid them in building up the Cause of Christ. They are looking for a man with pulpit experience, who is willing to teach both publicly and privately. A nice three bedroom house is provided with a good salary and an expense allowance. Please send resume, along with referenes to

Church of Christ • 1230 E Broadway
Yazoo City, MS 39194

Contact: Charles Fulham at 662-746-5865

POLISHING THE PULPIT

AUG 19-25

SEVIERVILLE, TN

A WEEK OF RENEWAL
FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

WWW.POLISHINGTHEPULPIT.COM

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

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Linda Kennamore | 63. Nadine Patton | 124. Lawrence Horn | 185. Elizabeth Dickerson | 246. Christine Holliday | 307. Dorothy Franks | 369. Mary L. Williams | 430. Linda Boone |
| 2. Sandy Dean | 64. Wilda Pounds | 125. Betty Clark | 186. Gloria Wilborn | 247. Charlotte Ritter | 308. Elissa Franks | 370. Dora Lynn Felton | 431. Grace Childers |
| 3. Margaret Parker | 65. June Faulkner | 126. Dan Hawkins | 187. James Hester | 248. Darryl James Sterling | 309. Earl Franks | 371. Kittie Edwards | 432. Esther Briggs |
| 4. Geneva Brooks | 66. Sharon Rachels | 127. Kristy Pipes | 188. Robert Blackburn | 249. June Brents | 310. Keitha Hare | 372. Gerald Worthey | 433. Linda Shadrix |
| 5. Pat Shadle | 67. Jolene Dale | 128. Mary Jane Hollis | 189. Paul & Darlene McElroy | 250. Irene Wright | 311. Malcolm Hare, Jr. | 373. Martha Harrell | 434. Trey Williams |
| 6. Pierce Flatt | 68. Peggy Engel | 129. Kay Shiers | 190. Jerry Fleming | 251. Trillie Strickland | 312. Johnnye Blackmon | 374. Donna Singley | 435. Alex Williams |
| 7. Mary Prosser | 69. Althea House | 130. Ken Harris | 191. Charlene Jent | 252. Patty Henson | 313. Wes & Rhoda Jeans | 375. Kathy Perry | 436. Zayrton Danner |
| 8. Katheryn Lee | 70. Ron & Phyllis Alexander | 131. Gail Saxon | 192. Dorothy Winslett | 253. Ann Sims | 314. Lisa Dearman | 376. Johnny Ivy | 437. Chris Holliday, Jr |
| 9. Ella Darnell | 71. Barbara White | 132. Ann Cockroft | 193. Ann Hulsey | 254. Rachel Pruitt | 315. Donna Guley | 377. Madonna Michael | 438. Caiden Holliday |
| 10. Madonna Langford | 72. Pat Moore | 133. Linda Bonner | 194. Carol Jean Bonner | 255. Pamela Luna | 316. Pam Nichols | 378. Linda Harrell | 439. Samuel Eckford |
| 11. Sue Hamrick | 73. Billye Wiygul | 134. Scotty Balentine | 195. Perkins Cochran | 256. Margie McKinney | 317. Dawn Weatherly | 379. Rosie Lee Odoms | 440. Joshua Williams |
| 12. Mary Salinas | 74. Lloyd & Barbara Beard | 135. Ann Whetstone | 196. Wanda Cochran | 257. Melba Ogg | 318. Steven Arthur Franklin | 380. Imogene Grayson | 441. Faith Eckford |
| 13. Sylvester & Georgia Taylor | 75. Betty Standard | 136. James Katie Houston | 197. Sherron Dixon | 258. Tracey Bryant | 319. Linda Swan | 381. Lawrence Horn | 442. Kalib Smith |
| 14. Irene Rogers | 76. Joanna Hayes | 137. Ray Parham | 198. Bernita Booker | 259. Jack Stillman | 320. Peggy Hartman | 382. Mervin Green | 443. Martha Leggett |
| 15. Doris Fletcher | 77. Sandra Grisham | 138. Dorothy Brunson | 199. Sybil Smith | 260. Sherry Townsend | 321. Della Rhodes | 383. Charlotte Langley | 444. Dorothy Laws |
| 16. Jean Girdmer | 78. Jennifer Gray | 139. Marilyn Howell | Thornton | 261. Glen Brady | 322. Peyton Shappley | 384. Linda McKinney | 445. Dorsey & Margie Burton |
| 17. Fran Williford | 79. Ima Jean Fogus | 140. Bobbie Loggins | 200. Bud & Linda Wranosky | 262. Eva Almon | 323. Emily Beth Chapman | 385. Blaise Fernandez | 446. Laura Dixon |
| 18. Carol Bradley | 80. Shelia Grant | 141. William Pyron | 201. Mary McDonald | 263. Eric Alan Joosepson | 324. Katie Grisham | 386. Jean Clemmer | 447. Bonnie Dixon |
| 19. Elsie Moore | 81. Michael Euer | 142. Rosie Felton | 202. Alice Brown | 264. Jane Walker | 325. Alex Green | 387. Sidney Clemmer | 448. Mary King |
| 20. Juanita Slaughter | 82. Phyllis Spiers | 143. James & Judy Hill | 203. Melvin & Kay Linton | 265. Tommy & Peggy Shull | 326. Katie Alsup | 388. Rosie Drewery | 449. Marie Lively |
| 21. Bonnie Holcomb | 83. Roger King | 144. Emile & Peggy Rollins | 204. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell | 266. Mary Adams | 327. Isabella Thomason | 389. Deloris Detherage | 450. Halley Holtzlander |
| 22. Betty Clark | 84. Bonnie Skates | 145. Wm & Atlean Snow | 205. Mildred Carroll | 267. Elizabeth Smith | 328. Regina Morton | 390. Taisheivya Smith | 451. John Conner Miller |
| 23. Edmon Wheeler | 85. Charles Beal | 146. Mary Brannan | 206. Cathy Powell | 268. Brenda Collums | 329. Alma Maddox | 391. Bonnie Glass | 452. Judy Gurley |
| 24. Ann Holeman | 86. Nelia Chapman | 147. Ina Ruth Harris | 207. Marcella Moore | 269. Steven Taylor | 330. Jerry Barnes | 392. Lisa Dettor | 453. Cary Mayer |
| 25. Doris Townsend Britt | 87. Bobbie Sindle | 148. Sue Fisher | 208. Gary Gooch | 270. Fred & Evelyn Doss | 331. Wayne Crum | 393. Naomi Jahneke | 454. Emma Beth Mayer |
| 26. James Heckard Sr | 88. Arvis Midkiff | 149. Rick Bishop | 209. Billy Willingham | 271. Rebecca Alexander | 332. Jason Bennett | 394. Karen Bush | 455. Jackson Mayer |
| 27. J. L. Eaton | 89. Lois Nielson | 150. Tommy Muirhead | 210. Linda Clark | 272. Sue Foster | 333. Mary Faulconer | 395. Pam Deslatte | 456. Barney King |
| 28. Lynn Sasser | 90. Jeremiah & Shelia Woodard | 151. Travis Hamilton | 211. Mary Townsend | 273. Brenda Redd | 334. Everjean Parson | 396. Mary Mullins | 457. Betty King |
| 29. Shirley Bostick | 91. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 152. Charlotte Vandiver | 212. Jerry Miltner | 274. Carrie McGrone | 335. Charlane Stanfield | 397. Alberta Craft | 458. Martin Hernandez |
| 30. Vera Winfrey | 92. Benrus & Nicole Womack | 153. Flossie Hernandez | 213. Rhenda Miltner | 275. Beverly Miles | 336. Steve Gooch | 398. Janie Green | 459. Shane & Lindsey |
| 31. John Hazel | 93. Ma'Nia & Bralan Womack | 154. Debra Michael | 214. Dee Kepler | 276. Barbara Yates | 337. Michael Deaton | 399. Billie Noles | Cardwell |
| 32. Buddy Parsons | 94. Walt & Peggy Walker | 155. Bernice Townsel | 215. Cathie Grigsby | 277. Randy Graves | 338. Tom Kelly | 400. Willie Thames | 460. Carolyn Simmons |
| 33. David Delatte | 95. Earlean Williams | 156. Dorothy Banks | 216. Richard Goode | 278. Josephine Carter | 339. Marion Crelia | 401. Betty & Lyman York | 461. Susan Boyd |
| 34. Frances Harrell | 96. Carolyn Ware | 157. Johnny McCullough | 217. Pearlite Hurst | 279. Mary Jacobs | 340. Doyle & Charlotte Varner | 402. Alma Lee Heard | 462. Kevin & Haley Winter |
| 35. Margie Andrews | 97. Julius Lee Wales | 158. Mark Williams | 218. Patricia Glover | 280. Burlean Leatherwood | 341. John Downs | 403. Sue Glenn | 463. Gay Null |
| 36. Robert Benard | 98. Betty Ohrem | 159. Alice Humphries | 219. Jeffrey Wilson | 281. Sherry Ross | 342. Sylvester & Linda Burton | 404. Shirley Shive | 464. Bobby Garrett |
| 37. Eddie Vermillion | 99. Evelyn Laney | 160. Dee Collier | 220. Don Lee | 282. James Hudley | 343. Jo Ann Mayer | 405. Peggy Havard | 465. Mitchell Gurley |
| 38. Jim Vermillion | 100. James & Gloria | 161. Sherian Martin | 221. Janice Galloway | 283. Willie Stancil | 344. Louise Gavin | 406. Christy Pounds | 466. Casey Mayer |
| 39. Shirley Waggner | Breckenridge | 162. Carole Shelby | 222. Jimmy & Flora Kilgore | 284. Bastell Booker | 345. Gwendolyn Bryant | 407. Floy Smith | 467. Julie Elliott |
| 40. Jack Falls, Sr. | 101. Shirley Styers | 163. Natalie Stewart | 223. Arvel Miles | 285. Garfield Moss | 346. Gwyn Ray | 408. Sylvia Birt | 468. Tyler & Courtney Mayer |
| 41. Jim Hurlbut | 102. Doris Darnell | 164. Dianne Wiley | 224. Betty Miles | 286. Edwin Williams | 347. Lozell Milligan | 409. Catherine Allen | 469. Easton Joel Mayer |
| 42. Betty Shackelford | 103. Shelia Williams | 165. Sharon Dantzler | 225. Doyce Britt | 287. Ollie Wooten | 348. Cynthia Bozeman | 410. Jean Lewis | 470. Caleb Fallon |
| 43. Wanda Robinson | 104. Linda Padon | 166. Exie Motes | 226. Glenda Jefcoat | 288. Cathy Brooks | 349. Eva Sue Mason | 411. Bonnie Howell | 471. Teresa Goff |
| 44. Mary Robison | 105. James Flanagan | 167. Annie Mae Pipkin | 227. Faye Stanford | 289. Mary Dennis | 350. Paul & Elsie Bryson | 412. Bertie Wilson | 472. Charles Goff |
| 45. Sharon Huckaba | 106. Foy C. Smith | 168. Nancy Akers | 228. Carolyn Stanford | 290. Bettie | 351. Nan Wiley | 413. Grace Whitley | 473. Morgan Fallon |
| 46. Nan Conley | 107. Richard Odom | 169. Marvin England | 229. Dorsa Sparks | 291. Dorothy Booker | 352. Kim Pearce | 414. Joyce McKee | 474. Sydney Fallon |
| 47. Janice Griffin | 108. Foster Owens | 170. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Burnett | 230. Joanne Burroughs | 292. Mary Williams | 353. Shirley Pearce | 415. Karen Howard | 475. Hattie Johnson |
| 48. Ann Kelley | 109. Mattie Ann Owens | 171. Annie Ruth Perry | 231. Toni Burnett | 293. Samuel Fletcher | 354. Connie Fountain | 416. Mary Whitehead Lewis | 476. Geri Spears |
| 49. Judy Poyner | 110. James Brooks | 172. Ann Kimble | 232. Elledith Harris | 294. Ruby Wright | 355. Jan Wiese | 417. Shirley Rag & | 477. Bobbie Saxton |
| 50. Margaret Freeman | 111. Diane Dunaway | 173. Patrilla Maddox | 233. Mary King | 295. Virginia Kissell | 356. Victor Boone | Bernice Richardson | 478. Artis Hinton |
| 51. Mack Moore | 112. Leora White | 174. Martha Williams | 234. Dannie Davis | 296. Linda Miller | 357. Lois Hands | 418. Clifford Hampton | 479. Michael Harvill |
| 52. Carrie Wall | 113. Ann Rector | 175. Amy Hutson | 235. Frederick Alan Jones | 297. Melissa Nugent | 358. Robert David Huffar | 419. Nettie Duck | 480. Mr. & Mrs. John Ose |
| 53. Carolyn Perry | 114. Tommy Rigby | 176. Aaron Horis | 236. Michael Coleman | 298. Bobby Marques | 359. Wayne & Carol Ridgon | 420. Elnorsh Duckworth | 481. Richard & Millie Goode |
| 54. Ginny Luther | 115. Prince Lewis | 177. Patsy McClung | 237. Merlene Scott | 299. Jane Kuykendall | 360. Thelma Talbert | 421. Shellie Hancock | 482. Evelyn Netterville |
| 55. Michelle Simpson | 116. Dick Green | 178. Anita & Jimmie Taft | 238. Waymond Hales | 300. Kerry Deaton | 361. Bill Moore | 422. Velma Isom | 483. Nell Lawson |
| 56. Dwight Hester | 117. Sarah Dantzler | 179. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 239. Judy Willis | 301. Shelia & Emily Hall | 362. Lucille Anders | 423. Sarah Hill | 484. Tommy Lawson |
| 57. Danny Stacks | 118. Joyce King | 180. Debbie Scroggins | 240. Willa Fox | 302. Patricia McClure | 363. Claude Edwards | 424. Iris Casteel | 485. Reginald Davis |
| 58. Mary Jo Hoffman | 119. Linda Keirn | 181. Tom McLemore | 241. Vera Ashmore | 303. Stacey, Melinda | 364. Beulah Rupert | 425. Arva Fisher | 486. Idea Eddington |
| 59. Stan Neuenschwander | 120. Vera Spencer | 182. Theresa Henderson | 242. Nell Millsaps | & Gregory Hawkins | 365. Summer Jingley | 426. Sue Walker | 487. Lestine Rogers |
| 60. Audrey Bowling | 121. Inez & Laura Brannon | 183. Betty Van Buren | 243. Bethany Stephens | 304. Kenny Young, Jr. | 366. Kenneth Lee Harmon | 427. James Thornton | 488. Flossie Bernadez |
| 61. Carolyn Harvill | 122. Maggie Edmonds | 184. Johnny & Princess | 244. Betty Skinner | 305. Yogie & Betty Spears | 367. Rosa Sanders | 428. Judy A. Spencer | YOUR NAME Next time! |
| 62. Carolyn Garrett | 123. Herschel Ford | Watson | 245. Lucille Jackson | 306. Kaye Wise | 368. Ruby Worthey | 429. Betty Chattman | Okay? |

North Mississippi Retreat

Sardis Lake Christian Camp

Sept. 23-24, 2016

We have been asked to announce the Fall Retreat for Ladies of all ages at Sardis Lake. Betty Moss wrote, "This is the time to plan. Time goes fast and you must plan ahead. Mark your calendar. If you would like to be on the mailing list, email: klmo401@centurytel.net. Or you may call (after 6:00 PM)

Kari Martin at 870-404-3658 after 6 p.m.

Retreat for Ladies

Tishomingo State Park

October 21-22, 2016

Betty Moss asked that we share a special invitation with readers of the MM. She said, "Make your plans now. Bring your family. Our speaker is **Sandra Foster** from luka, MS. Her husband preaches for the luka church of Christ. The theme is, "He Loves Me; He Loves Me Not; HE LOVES ME!"

For information, call Robin Whitley at 662-231-2367 after 6:00 P.M.

Email: robinwhitley@gmail.com

THE QUESTION BOX

Politically Correct?

(Use KJV for wording and spelling)

I have a friend who wants to be politically correct. He believes that being politically correct is "avoiding rhetoric or actions that demean others, especially those who are oppressed." Jesus taught in Matthew 25: _____ "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the _____ of these my brethren, ye have done it unto _____." That sounds right!

A Christian believes that **Jesus is the one** to define appropriate behavior. Many people today do not believe in absolute truth. Many believe that right and wrong are determined by the individual. The attitude is "Whatever is truth for you is fine, just don't try to impose your values on me." So when someone points out what the Bible says about something, we often hear the cry, "**Who are you to judge?**" Since Jesus was God in the flesh, His Word should determine what is appropriate terminology and what is loving behavior. Hopefully, this study will create discussions that will encourage someone to come know Jesus Christ as revealed in His Word, the Bible, and to experience the life that only He can give.

Jesus Taught Absolute Truth!

True or False

- _____ (1) Jesus taught there is only one way to God. Jesus said, "I am the _____, the _____ and the life." (John ____:6)
- _____ (2) If you are interested in truth, then you will listen to Jesus. "Everyone that is of the _____ heareth my _____." (John 18: ____)
- _____ (3) God's word is truth! "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy _____ is _____." (John ____:17)
- _____ (4) Jesus said there were many ways to God. (John 14:6)
- _____ (5) Jesus said God created us in the beginning as _____ and _____." (Matt. 19:____)
- _____ (6) Jesus said marriage is to be between a man and a woman or between two men or two women. (Matt. 19:5)
- _____ (7) Jesus said, "What therefore God hath _____ together, let not man put _____." (Matt 19: ____)
- _____ (8) Jesus said, If thy brother sins against you, you should just grin and bear it or just talk about him to everyone you meet. (Luke 17:3)
- _____ (9) Jesus commanded his followers to "...go _____ therefore, and _____ all nations, _____ them..." (Matt. ____: 19)
- _____ (10) Jesus invites us to follow His principles voluntarily. Jesus didn't force the rich man to redistribute his wealth. (Matt. 19:16-21)

As Christians, we need to be liberal in love, giving, forgiveness, kindness and patience with everyone we meet. Those who profess political correctness seem to be using force to impose their values on others. We should respect and "strive to understand others' different perspectives, viewpoints, feelings, and life experiences." We should never try to force truth down someone's throat. The thoughts of men; however, do not replace the truth of God. (Prepared by Paul Franks)

Please Send Your Answers To Us

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

"The Question Box"

P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Our New Bible Winner

Linda Bonner

(Nauvoo, AL)

Congratulations

June Faulkner

Recent Bible Winner

(Sister Faulkner is a very active member of the Forest Hill church of Christ in Memphis, TN, home of the Memphis School of Preaching. It was a pleasure to visit with her and the congregation on a Wednesday night and present her Bible.)



Readers' Response

Comments & Suggestions Invited (Criticisms Considered)

Thank you for sending us the paper for so many years! After reading it I pass it on. My brother-in-law would really like to receive it Will you please send it to him? Enclosed is a small contribution to help with the expenses for such a fine newspaper. Sincerely, (Verba L. Ray, Hope Hull, AL)

Dear June,

It was a pleasure to talk to you! Thank you so much for the back issues of MM. I can barely put them down to do my work. lol. May the Lord bless this wonderful and inspirational effort! In Christ, (Amy Hubbad, Ringling, OK)

My 97 year-old mother had gotten a copy and I got your number and had it sent to us. We've really enjoyed it. Thank you, (Suzy Samsel, Ridgedale, MO)

I am so excited and happy to be the latest Bible winner. I was told by family and friends before I received my Magnolia Messenger. The first to tell me was Robert Rawson who ministered at Batesville congregation for many years and is now at the Crockett congregation. I am most appreciative. Thank you, (June Faulkner, Memphis, TN)

Thanks so much for the Magnolia Messenger. It is a great paper. I read it from cover to cover. I wish it came out monthly. I have moved. (John Stacy, Newbern, TN)

Dear South Huntington Street Church of Christ, I don't know how my name was put on your mailing list, still working on that one -- but I was thrilled with this paper. It has so many great articles and warms my heart to see such a paper. I have never seen one like this in the Church of Christ and I've always wondered why we all (churches) couldn't be more connected. What a blessing to me and uplifting and I love the Bible study questions which I did and sent in. Thanks for doing such a paper and so happy I am on the mailing list. I look forward to the next issues. Thank you and God bless for this fine paper. (Cynthia Bozeman, Pace, FL)

Thank You For Receiving and Reading
The Magnolia Messenger