

# 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)*

## MESSENGER

Contact info:

franksmm@aol.com

662-289-3559 or 662-792-2700

P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090

Addresses: Changes and/or Additions:

glendafranks@yahoo.com



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*For Receiving and Reading  
The Magnolia Messenger*

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## SAVE THE DATE

**March 11-14, 2018**

**3rd Annual  
Preachers' Retreat  
Kosciusko, Mississippi**

**The harvest  
is plentiful  
but the workers  
are few!**

**Matthew 9:37**

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# What If... Hell is Real !

My, my. How times have changed! What a difference the passing of a generation or two can make... *has made!*

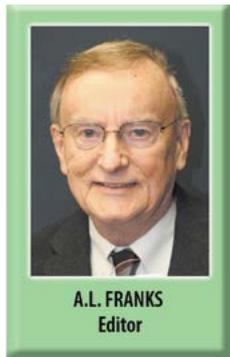
Remember back when you used to hear sermons proclaiming the reality of Hell? Recall the earnest cries of Bible preachers warning about the eternal "lake of fire"? Remember the closing of gospel sermons when God's man would plead for those out of Christ to "obey the gospel"? Such preachers would often quote 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9 which speaks of the Lord coming in "flaming fire", taking "vengeance" (punishing with "everlasting destruction") on those who know not God and **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Only a generation or so ago, "fire and brimstone preachers" were common, preaching everywhere as they stirred hearts and moved souls. But, alas, in many pulpits today, Hell is seldom mentioned. Now, there are plenty of men (*and women*) who continue to use the "H" word to get attention; however, pulpits are often quiet about the subject of Hell. It seems that fewer and fewer people believe Hell is a real place of suffering as punishment for sins not forgiven.

Why the difference? Has God's word changed? Is the message of Jesus any different today than it was fifty years ago? What does the Bible actually say about Hell? Together, let's review what Jesus taught about Hell.

In the greatest sermon ever recorded, our Master warned about the danger of "hell fire" (Matt. 5:22). Jesus spoke repeatedly about being "cast into hell" (Matt. 5:29,30). He also warned that His disciples fear not man, but rather "... fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). In addition, our Saviour, in Matthew 18:9, described Hell as "everlasting fire." Furthermore, Jesus

taught that eternal destinies for all, include, not only "eternal life" for the prepared, but also everlasting punishment for the unprepared (Matt. 25:46). One destiny is "life", the other is "punishment." Both, Jesus said, are eternal!



A.L. FRANKS  
Editor

Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ told about two men who once lived on earth, but, as is true with all, in time, both men died. After death, Jesus said that one was in "paradise"; the other was in "torment." (Read Luke 16:19-31.) The after-death circumstances of the man in torment is clearly stated. Jesus said that the man was "in torments" as he begged for mercy, asking only that a finger be dipped in water and "cool my tongue." Jesus plainly said the man was "tormented." No relief is promised or indicated!

Based upon clear Bible teachings, it is right to say that Jesus Christ believed in and taught the reality of hell. I believe it can be accurately stated that Jesus was a "fire and brimstone preacher." He had more to say about the reality of hell and its description than any other preacher whose words are quoted in the New Testament. Our Lord knew what he was speaking about. He spoke the truth about Hell. Hell is real! This truth needs to be spoken and/or

preached today. Don't you agree?

Yes, hell is real. But, don't despair. Take heart. Be encouraged. There is hope. Because hell is a real place for all who die in their sins, the Son of God came to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He provides the way to

heaven, the *only* way to eternal life. He is the Way, the Truth, the Life! (John 14:6). Jesus still pleads, as He did in the Sermon on the Mount, that all enter through the narrow gate that leads to life and avoid the broad way that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13,14). Because Jesus died for you (me), we can live with Him forever in Heaven. Make Heaven your

ultimate goal. Show your faith in Jesus as the Son of God; submit to His will; become and be a Christian so that, through the grace of the one and only Saviour, you will never experience the horrors of Hell

-- a **real** place.  
Just as real as Heaven!

**Note:** We would love an opportunity to assist you in becoming a Christian through faith in Jesus and obedience to the gospel of Christ. Genuine faith in Jesus, as Lord, will lead to repentance of sins and baptism into Christ. YOU are invited to contact me.  
A. L. Franks; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; franksmm@aol.com or call 601-668-3344.

MAGNOLIA  
**Messenger**

## Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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### Supported By Contributions

**A. L. Franks, Editor**

franksmm@aol.com; 601-668-3344

**Paul Franks, Associate Editor**

apaulfranks@gmail.com; 662-792-2700

**Cecil May, Jr., Bible Questions Answered**

**June & Glenda Franks, Special Assistants**

**Mark Bridges, Graphic Design**

### Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578 • Kosciusko, MS 39090

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

**E-Mail: franksmm@aol.com**

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# BIBLE

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### Three Persons

The Bible clearly makes a distinction between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father knew something the Son did not know (Mark 13:32). The eternal Word was “with God” (John 1:1); a person cannot be “with” himself.

At Jesus’ baptism, the Son was in the water, the Father spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit descended on the Son (Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22). Jesus said, “The Father is greater than I” (John 14:28); one cannot be greater than himself. We are to baptize and to be baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

The Apostle Paul says, “the head of Christ is God” (1 Corinthians 11:3); one cannot be the head of himself. Jesus is our paraclete [advocate] (1 John 2:2), and He told His disciples, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another paraclete to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17); Jesus is a paraclete, He asks the Father, and the Father sends “another” paraclete, the Holy Spirit. Paul’s benediction to the Corinthians was, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14). To blaspheme the Son is not the same as blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:32). There is . . . one Spirit . . . one Lord . . . one God (Ephesians 4:4).

### One God

Three distinct Persons! Each is God. The Father is God (Colossians 1:2-3), the Word is God (John 1:1), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). However, there are not three Gods; there is only one God! “Hear, O Israel: The LORD (LORD in small caps is JHVH) our God, the LORD is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god’” (Isaiah 44:6). “Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘an idol has no real existence,’ and that ‘there is no God but one’” (1 Corinthians 8:4). Throughout the Old and New Testaments, a clear distinction is made between the idols of the heathen and the LORD, the one true and living God. The Thessalonians, for example, “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Both *Oneness Holiness* folks and *Muslims* are monotheists, loudly proclaiming, “There is only one God.” Biblical Christians are also monotheists; *Oneness Holiness* folks and *Muslims* are mistaken when they accuse us of believing

## The Mystery of the Trinity

### QUESTION:

*A “Oneness Holiness” preacher said to me, “This Trinity thing is heresy.” He preaches, “There is just one God, and God is just one person; Jesus is the Father, Jesus is the Son and Jesus is the Holy Spirit.” What can you tell me about what the Bible says about that? (B.S.)*

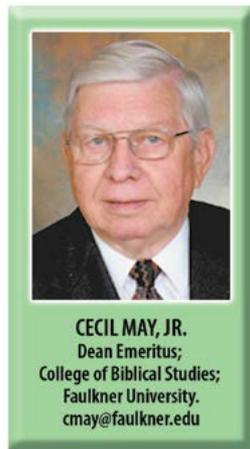
### RESPONSE:

*I have encountered that viewpoint before. The “Trinity” is an interesting biblical topic, though the word does not occur in Scripture. The trinity is what the Bible might call a “mystery.” “Mystery” in the Bible refers to something man would not have come up with or could not know by himself. Every time “mystery” is mentioned in the Bible, however, it is said to be “revealed” (Ephesians 3:3-6, for example.). Questions abound about what the Bible teaches concerning the triune nature of God. Probably it is time to write about it again.*

in three gods. Three distinct persons, one God!  $1+1+1=1$ . The math does not add up. No one fully understands it, much less adequately explains it. But we believe it because the Bible teaches it. Brother Gus Nichols has often been quoted as saying, “To fully explain God, I would have to be God.” Our minds are finite; we should not expect to understand the infinite.

### Our “One God” Is Plural, Triune

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). “God” is Elohim. The Hebrew for God is **EI**. Elohim is plural in form, but it is singular in usage. “Hear, O Israel: JHVH your Elohim is one JHVH” (Deuteronomy 6:4). Note that, though plural in form, **elohim**, when referring to JHVH, takes a singular verb; “God is,” not “gods are.”



CECIL MAY, JR.  
Dean Emeritus;  
College of Biblical Studies;  
Faulkner University.  
cmay@faulkner.edu

In our English Old Testaments “God” is usually a translation of “Elohim.” When God (Elohim) spoke to Moses from the burning bush that did not burn up, He said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord (JHVH), the God (elohim) of your fathers, the God (elohim) of Abraham, the God (elohim) of Isaac, and the God (elohim) of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This (JHVH) is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations” (Exodus 3:15). In verses 13 and 14, JHVH is defined as “I am who I am.” God told Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14). God (Elohim) describes His nature; “I am (JHVH),” the Eternal One, is His Name. Remember, Jesus said

of Himself, “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).

Many explanations have been suggested for the use of this plural word for the one God. Perhaps the most common is that it is the “plural of majesty,” as when kings, presidents, editors and sometimes, preachers say, “we” when it is really “I.” While I do not maintain that the triune nature of God is clearly taught in the Old Testament, it is my opinion that the Holy Spirit inspired Moses and the other writers of Scripture to use the plural to allow for what would later be more fully revealed about the triune God (2 Peter 1:20-21).

God is eternal in His nature and infinite in all his attributes. He has always been and always will be what He is, a singular plurality. While that phrase sounds like an impossible contradiction to finite minds like ours, it is a divine truth concerning the infinite God. A non-biblical word has been coined to express this humanly inexpressible entity. The word is “Trinity.”

God did not first become a trinity when Christ came into the world. Already, in the beginning, “God created the heavens and the earth” and “the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:1-2). The New Testament tells us God the Son was also involved in creation. “For by him (God’s beloved Son) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him” (Colossians 1:16). Christ is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8 KJV). Also, “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . chose us in him before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians. 1:3-4).

One of the Godhead’s attributes is love (1 John 4:16). To love there must be relationship. God is Father, Son and Spirit from Eternity, and each Person in the Godhead loves the others.

The Bible clearly shows that the Persons in the Godhead are distinguished from each other (see “Three Persons” above) and that the three divine Persons are just one God (see “One God” above). While we must maintain the distinctiveness of Father, Son and Spirit to be in harmony with Scripture, there is a greater Oneness than sometimes is acknowledged. It is often pointed out as an analogy that Jesus said Christians are to “all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21). And husband and wife are to be one (Gen. 2:24). While Christians and husbands-wives illustrate in some ways the

*Continued on page 14*

Matthew 14:19

# He distributed them to the Disciples

by Mike Benson

Philip was one of the twelve. He may have been the apostolic administrator (i.e., the guy responsible for pre-church fellowship meals), somewhat like Judas was the accountant (John 13:29)?<sup>(1)</sup> Ponder this for a moment and then step into the biblical story:

*“Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward them, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?’ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, ‘Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little’ (John 6:5-7 ESV).*

Call it an impromptu exam. Rabbi Jesus offered Philip a quick faith quiz. “How are we going to feed everybody since it’s so late in the day (Mat. 14:15; Mark 6:35; Luke 9:12)?”

It’s possible Philip may have already looked over the

***I sometimes hear brethren say, “Well, we don’t have enough money...” “Our city is much too big for us to evangelize...” “Times are tough—we obviously can’t afford to support a missionary...”***

***Really? Really?***

crowd and made a few estimates in his head. “Let’s see—five thousand men plus woman and children.” “Lord—we can’t feed this kind of massive crowd with what little money we’ve in our checking account. Two hundred denarii won’t near be enough.” Fortunately, Andrew then stepped into the scene and mentioned something about a lad’s lunch (John 6:9).

Now watch what happened next:

*“Then Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down...’ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, **He distributed them to the disciples**, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted” (vv. 10-11—emphasis mine, mb).*

I’ve got to tell you that I’ve read those verses time and time again, but until just recently I had missed the import of one particular phrase, “He distributed them to the disciples...” (cf. Mat. 14:19). Ya’ll catch that?

Jesus asked Philip a question, performed a miracle, and then got him involved in the answer. Let that rattle around in your skull for a minute. Just how many trips did it take from Jesus to the groups of fifty and hundred (Mark 6:40) before it dawned on Philip that this was yet another sign from heaven?<sup>(2)</sup> How many times did Philip reach out and grab an armful of bread before his brain kicked in and he thought, “Jesus is the One—He’s the Messiah!?” How many fish delivery runs did Philip make before he finally said to himself, “I can be so dense sometimes! I’ve watched Jesus perform miracle after miracle before this occasion, and yet all I can think about now is what can’t be done!?”

McArthur comments:

*“Philip was obsessed with mundane matters and therefore overwhelmed by the impossibility of the immediate problem. He knew too much arithmetic to be adventurous. The reality of the raw facts clouded his faith. He was so obsessed with the temporal predicament that he was oblivious to the transcendental possibilities that lay in Jesus’ power. He was so enthralled with common-sense calculations that he didn’t see the opportunity the situation presented. He should have said, “Lord, if You want to feed them, feed them. I’m just going to stand back and watch how You do it. I know You can do it, Lord. You made wine at Cana and fed Your children manna in the wilderness. Do it. We will tell everyone to get in line, and You just make the food.”<sup>(3)</sup>*

You see—every trip, every delivery, every act of bread and fish distribution was designed by the Lord to remind Philip that he was looking at the crowd by sight and not by faith! Every copious load of groceries he carried to a group of hungry Jews had to have screamed into his consciousness that the Son of God was not only present, but working yet again (John 6:14-15; 20:30-31)! The man in charge of

food distribution, who was asked, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”, was being trained by the Master Teacher to stop thinking about “can’t” and start thinking about “can” through Christ (cf. Phil. 4:13)!

I sometimes hear brethren say, “Well, we don’t have enough money...” “Our city is much too big for us to evangelize...” “Times are tough—we obviously can’t afford to support a missionary...” Really? Really? If we’re not very careful, we too can parrot Philip’s sentiment about what can’t be accomplished and fail the test just like he did (cf. Jer. 17:10; Job 23:10; 1 Pet. 1:6-9). Feeding everybody with the Bread from heaven has never about banking figures or the size of our communities, but the size of our faith in the risen Lord!

Let’s stop wringing our hands over ledgers and head-

***He should have said, “Lord, if You want to feed them, feed them.***

***I’m just going to stand back and watch how You do it. I know You can do it, Lord.***

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counts, and let’s start delivering the Bread of Life to those around us. Let’s stop deliberating the limitations of two hundred denarii, and instead focus on the Prophet who has come into the world and how He offers, and provides, real sustenance for all (John 6:26ff)! Let’s stop stumbling over the flesh and start feeding hungry souls!

Good reader, are you counting heads and denarii, or are you taking the feast to the masses (Mat. 28:19-20)? Are you Philip? Think about it.

<sup>1</sup> John McArthur, *Twelve Ordinary Men*, 125

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

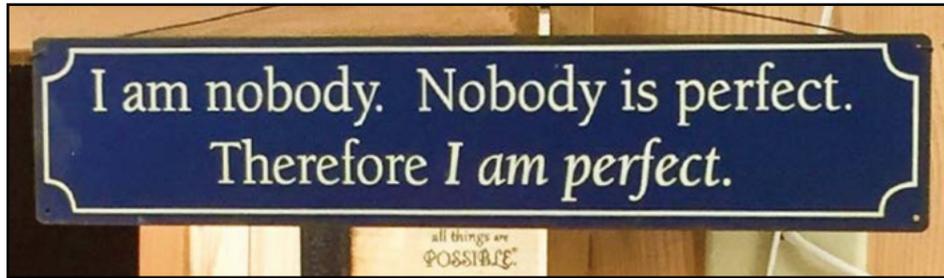
<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 127

Mike’s email: [imikemedia@gmail.com](mailto:imikemedia@gmail.com)



MIKE BENSON

# “Syllogism” or “Sillygism” ??



A “syllogism” is a form of reasoning in which two premises are stated, from which a conclusion is drawn. In the statements (pictured above), the premises and the conclusion are not, in my judgment, intended to be taken seriously. The author stated in a silly and attention getting way, his claim to perfection. Instead of a syllogism the sign seen in a restaurant in Sherman, Mississippi, should be considered a “sillygism.” The statements, however, may be worth considering.

First, there is the statement, “*I am nobody.*” While it is commendable to humble your self before the Almighty; yet the statement, “I am nobody,” is false!

You are somebody. You are precious. Made in the image of God. Designed to honor and glorify your Maker. It has been repeatedly said, “God didn’t and don’t make junk!” In Him you “live, move and have your being. You “are also His offspring” (Acts 17:28). You are precious in His sight. You are loved. So much, in fact, that God gave His only begotten Son to die for you. You are important! Never say, never even think, “*I am nobody.*”

Then, there is the second statement, “*Nobody is perfect.*” Now, that’s true. The Bible teaches that no person, responsible before God, is perfect (sinless). “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:10-23.) Sin separates you from God. Sin deserves judgment, punishment. All responsible people are in need of salvation, all desperately need a Savior! You cannot save yourself. Enter Jesus. He left Heaven, came to earth to “seek and to save the lost” from sin and eternal damnation (Luke 19:10). Through God’s Son, forgiveness and salvation are freely offered. Jesus died for everybody. He died for you!

All who truly believe in Him, accepting His offer of salvation through faithful obedience to His plan for salvation, become the children of God. Everyone who follows in the footsteps of Jesus, showing respect for His Lordship, enjoys the promise of eternal life in heaven. You don’t have to be perfect to go to Heaven. You do have to be forgiven. You have to be in Christ where salvation and forgiveness is found. There is no salvation apart from and outside of Christ Jesus. “No other name....” (Acts 4:12).

Are you in Christ? Have you been baptized? The Bible says, “For as many of you as have been *baptized into Christ* have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). The apostle Peter commanded, “Repent and be baptized... for the remission of sins....” (Acts 2:38). Sins are remitted, forgiven, when a sincere believer expresses his faith in humble obedience to the Savior. His sins are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ as the faithful follower *walks in the light*, according to I John 1:7. You do not have to claim perfection; you do need to be cleansed by the saving power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Become and be a Christian!

*(If we can be of any help in your study of God’s word and your desire to be acceptable to the Lord, please don’t hesitate to contact us. Al Franks; 601-668-3344; franksmm@aol.com or P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090)*

## HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

### North Alabama Christian Children’s Home

(Florence, AL)

Here, at North Alabama Christian Children’s Home, we are looking for a dedicated Christian couple to help take care of one of our girls’ home.

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# Monday’s SUN-day!

*Did You Watch the Eclipse?*

(By Dennis Doughty)

“God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night” (Genesis 1:15).

Did you watch the eclipse? Back on Monday, August 21, 2017, many of us in North America were treated to an eclipse of the sun. Anyone within the path of totality was able to see one of nature’s most awe-inspiring sights: **a total solar eclipse!** This path, where the moon completely covered the sun, stretched from Oregon to South Carolina.

Getting a chance to see a total solar eclipse is rare. While this happens somewhere on earth once or twice a year, on average, the same spot on earth only gets to see a total solar eclipse every 375 years!

Watching here in Tunica, we only saw a 94% eclipse. As we watched, those in my group did note how amazing the sun must be that even at 6% it still gave off so much light. We also commented how exact the solar system runs that men were able to predict the eclipse to the very minute and track its path so accurately.

The sun certainly proclaims the intelligent design and creative power of God. As Dr. Cressy Morrison of the New York State Academy of Science pointed out, “We find that the sun is the one among thousands [of stars] which could make our sort of life possible on earth, its size, density, temperature and the character of its rays all must be right, and are right.”

The sun itself is truly a unique creation; it alone accounts for 99.86% of the mass in the solar system. It has a mass of around 330,000 times that of Earth. Over one million Earth’s could fit inside the Sun. If you were to fill a hollow Sun with spherical Earths, somewhere around 960,000 would fit inside. The energy created by the Sun’s core is nuclear fusion. This huge amount of energy is produced when four hydrogen nuclei are combined into one helium nucleus. The Sun is almost a perfect sphere. Considering the sheer size of the Sun, there is only a 10 km difference in its polar and equatorial diameters – this makes it the closest thing to a perfect sphere observed in nature.

The Psalmist praised the creative powers of God; “To Him who made the great lights, the Sun to rule the day, the moon and the stars to rule by night, For his lovingkindness is everlasting” (Psalms 139:7-9).

As amazing as this is, there will come a day when the sun is not just eclipsed, but extinguished! In speaking of the second coming of “the son of Man,” Jesus said, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven” (Mt.24: 27-29).

Our planet could not exist without the sun and its light and energy. So how will we survive in Heaven without it? Jesus let us know that the heavenly city “will have no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb (Rev. 21:23). As we think back let us be amazed by the “Monday SUN-day” and its solar eclipse, and be reminded of, and be ready for the day the sun is totally extinguished!

*(Dennis preaches for the church in Tunica, MS. His email: [dennis1848@bellsouth.net](mailto:dennis1848@bellsouth.net))*



Dennis Doughty

# You Won't Go To Heaven

## Just Being A Member of the 'Right Church'!

### Hugh Fulford

The church as set forth in the New Testament was the fulfillment and fruition of God's eternal purpose to redeem mankind (Ephesians 3:8-12). It was brought into existence by Christ, being purchased with His blood (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). All who have been cleansed of and saved from their sins by the blood of Christ are members of the church, having been added to it when they were saved (Acts 2:47).

To speak of being a saved person, yet not being a member of the church is to speak in ignorance of what the church is according to the New Testament. While one can be saved from sin and become a Christian without being a part of any denomination, it is biblically impossible to be saved from sin and a Christian without being a member of the church, the spiritual body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). Christ is the savior of the church, and in the gospel era only those accountable persons who are members of that blood-bought institution have the hope and promise of eternal life in heaven (Ephesians 5:23).

I have written often about the church and its place in God's grand scheme of redemption, of its undenominational nature, and of the necessity of being a member of the very church that Christ Himself established. I will continue to do this because the need for such is so pressing. At the same time,

*All who have been cleansed of and saved from their sins by the blood of Christ are members of the church, having been added to it when they were saved (Acts 2:47)*

it is imperative that members of the Lord's church recognize that they will not go to heaven just by being members of the right church! Christianity is a way of life, and if one who wears the name of Christ does not "walk the walk," his membership in the church will not be sufficient on the day of judgment for him to enter the eternal abode of the redeemed.

Those who hear and obey the gospel and are added to the church are to be taught to observe all things that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:20). They are to remember that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all of their heart, soul,

and mind (Matthew 22:37-38), and that to love the Lord means to keep His commandments (John 14:15). They are to remember that the second greatest commandment is to love their neighbor as they love themselves (Matthew 22:39), and that the badge of genuine discipleship is their love for one another (John 13:35). They are to understand that genuine love is not an emotion but an action (I Corinthians 13:4-7).

Christians, members of the body (church) of Christ, are to "walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). They are to "let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from [them], with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31). Instead, they are to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also has forgiven [them]" (Ephesians 4:32). Venomous words of wrath and anger are not part of a Christian's vocabulary.

God's people are to "approve the things that are excellent" (Philippians 1:10), and their conduct is to be "worthy of the gospel of Christ" (verse 27). They are to recognize that their citizenship "is in heaven, from which they eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

Members of the Lord's church, are to "set [their] mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). They are to remember that "whatever [they] do in word of deed, [they are to] do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

Christians are to recognize the importance of regularly and faithfully worshipping the Lord (John

4:24; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 10:25). They are to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

Religion is not something one "gets," but something one practices. "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). (Note: To "visit" orphans and widows involves much more than a social

*While one can be saved from sin and become a Christian without being a part of any denomination, it is biblically impossible to be saved from sin and a Christian without being a member of the church, the spiritual body of Christ*

*(Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).*

visit. "Visit" means to provide for their needs.)

Jesus spoke of a large crowd on the day of judgment who was going to be shocked when they learned of their eternal doom. They were lost because of their failure to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison. Their failure to minister to those in need was a failure to minister to Christ Himself, and resulted in their being sent away "into everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:26). (Note: This entire verbal picture of the final judgment painted by the Lord needs to be read and absorbed by all [Matthew 25:31-46]).

The Old Testament prophet Micah enunciated an eternal principle when he wrote, "He has shown you, O man, what is good: And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)?

Beyond question the Lord's church is important! Membership in it is absolutely essential to salvation! But we won't go to heaven just by being a member of the right church! Life in the church—a faithful Christian life—involves a daily walk with the Lord: in the home, at school, on the job, in the community, and in all phases and facets of life.

*(Note: Our thanks to brother Fulford for his article and permission to publish in the MM. Hugh Fulford: huford@comcast.net)*



*Christianity is a way of life, and if one who wears the name of Christ does not "walk the walk," his membership in the church will not be sufficient on the day of judgment for him to enter the eternal abode of the redeemed.*

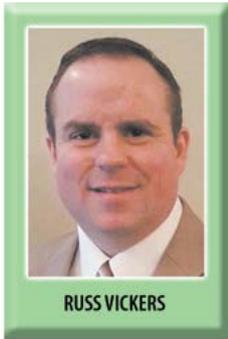
# The Power of Fellowship

By Russ Vickers

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

Through the *use* and *abuse* of words, there are many which have lost their meaning. People talk often of someone who is *dynamic* until there is nothing left that is dynamic about that person. We mention things that are "*fabulous, great, and wonderful*". All of these terms seek to reach a new peak, but all the while they are diminishing in value and meaning. One such word that has fallen on rough times is the word "*Fellowship*". The Greek word for fellowship is *Koinonia* and has been used to refer to all kinds of things, cults, bands, meetings, etc.

There are three ways this word is used in the New Testament, but used many times. The three ways are: (1) Fellowship of the Spirit (Phil. 2:1), (2) Fellowship in/of the Spirit (II Cor. 13:14), and (3) Fellowship by the unity of Spirit (Eph. 4:3).



RUSS VICKERS

Now, first of all, let's weed out some of the things that this fellowship does not mean. Fellowship does not mean a *superficial socialness*. Also, it does not mean a *mystical union* of all people everywhere who believe. That is not the way the word is used in the New Testament. To some, fellowship is a solemn assembly where we gather but don't talk. For others, fellowship is eating lunch together. Fellowship is, rather, a concrete physical relationship that can be seen when people are involved with each other. This fellowship comes from God and is expressed horizontally between people.

Another thing that fellowship is not is what we usually discuss when we talk about believers. *Who is in and who is out*. Who do we have something to do with and who do we not have something to do with. This concept is too shallow when talking about Scriptural fellowship. What are the bonds of fellowship? When we discuss the bonds of fellowship we miss something far greater when we do not discuss the basis of fellowship. So then the question becomes, "What is the center of fellowship?" or, "What do we have in common that forms fellowship?"

The word "*Koinonia*" has an interesting background. It meant, in its use a long time ago, simply a "shared life". In our English language, the closest we can come to its meaning is *the sharing of life*. It meant a contract in business and it meant a shared life in terms of a marriage contract. The Greeks used it to refer to the relationship they had to their gods. In the New Testament we are talking about shared life; but, there is far more than this for us.

In the New Testament concept, Jesus becomes Lord

of our lives, directions change, motives change, foundations change. People are brought by the Spirit, through obedience to the gospel message, into fellowship with God. As we are brought closer and closer into relationship to God and Christ, then we come into closer relationship to each other. We then, as the church, are the dwelling place of the Spirit. Paul teaches, in I Corinthians 6:13-19, that the Spirit dwells in the church and, according to verse 19, in the individual as well. The Holy Spirit binds us together in the church through each individual.

Take the word "*Koinonia*", couple it with the love and quality of the Holy Spirit, and you will have what the New Testament teaches. We will have a new center of life, a new kind of character, a new kind of loveliness, a new kind of peace, and a new kind of concern for each other. The real "*Koinonia*" is a shared life in Christ. There is one Spirit in many people; making them one body in Christ.

What the Lord's church needs today is *deeper* fellowship; an *increase in the quality* of our fellowship. If there is an issue with fellowship in the church, it is not the making of a list of who is in and who is out (some spend all their time in doing this); rather, it is the challenge of searching our own hearts and seeking to make our fellowship better. We should strive for full fellowship with each other and the enjoyment of an abundant life with God. At the same time, we should be showing Christ to those outside of the church. We must seek to mend broken lives and bring those outside of Jesus Christ to a saving knowledge of Him. Many will sit around and debate how many services one must attend or how much or little can one give and still be acceptable to God. Others seem to be asking, "How far can I get away from God and still be in fellowship with Him?"

Paul admonishes us to draw closer to God. We are told in I Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." We are also told in Philippians 2:1-4, "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

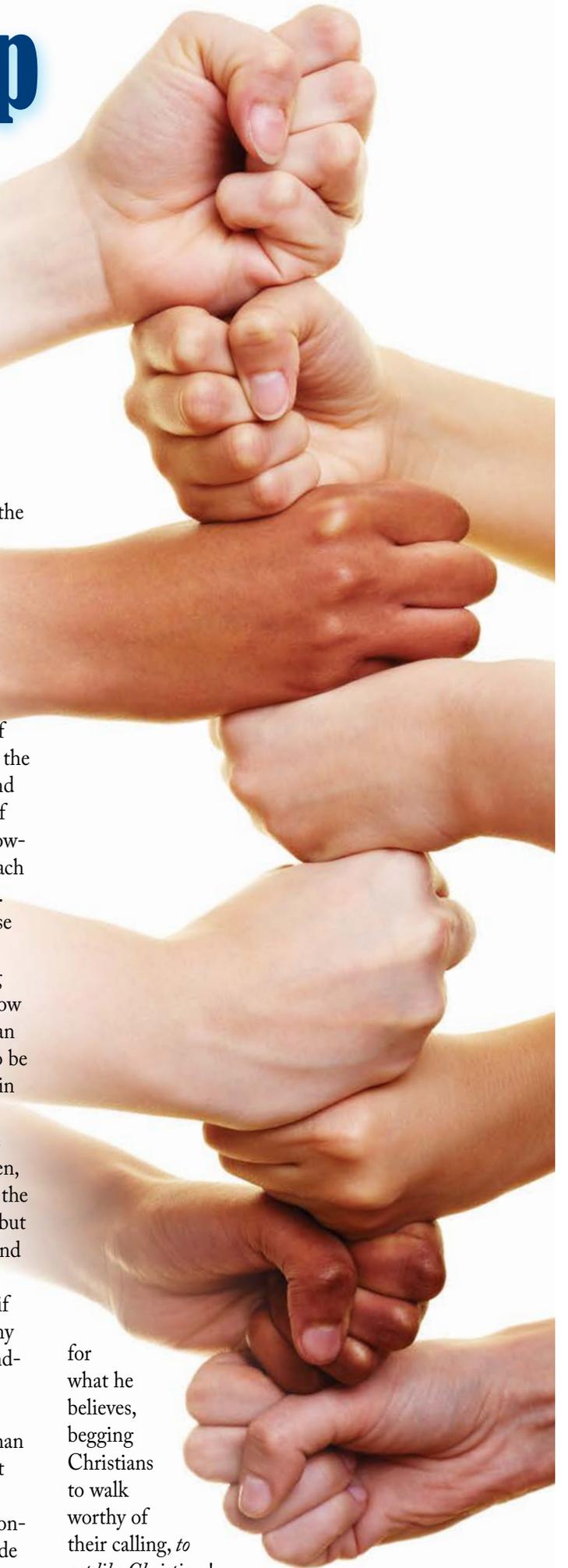
Consider the coach of a football team. He is not concerned about how many good football players are outside the stadium; rather, he is interested in the players on the field. We could speak all day long about who is on the field but we are really concerned with those in the heat of battle? Are we in the battle? Jesus wants us to have a closer walk with Him. We are to know Jesus better, according to Philippians 3:10. We are to be proclaimers, healers, and teachers to the world. We are to abide in the vine to bring forth fruit.

Divine fellowship must be back in the central issue – the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4, Paul pleads

for what he believes, begging Christians to walk worthy of their calling, *to act like Christians!*

How does He want us to live? Ephesians 4:2 tells us, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." True fellowship requires that we get our hearts right with God and let Christ be at the center of our lives.

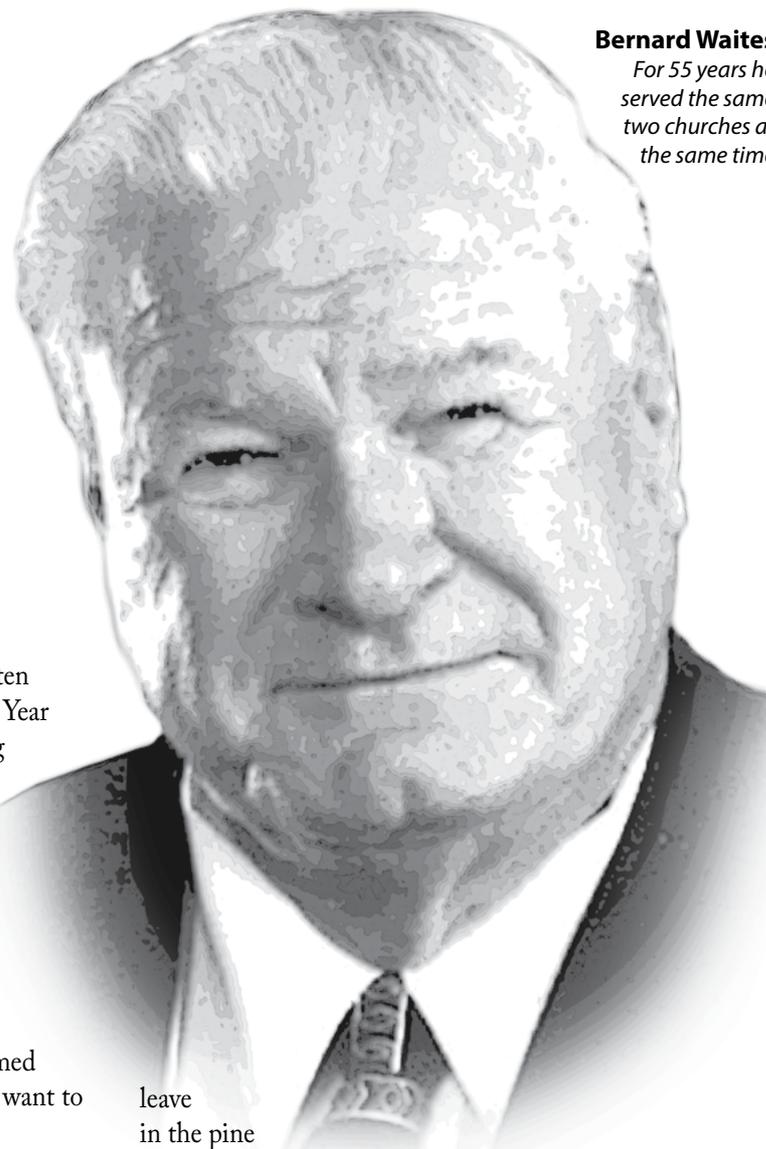
*Brother Vickers preaches for the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Baldwyn, Mississippi. His email address: hillcrestchurcho@bellsouth.net*



# Bernard Waites Retires AND John Bryant Arrives

*After 55 Years,  
Jan. 29, 1962 – Jan. 29, 2017*

**Bernard Waites**  
*For 55 years he  
served the same  
two churches at  
the same time*



**MM Editor's Note:** We are indebted to Andy J. Lewis, Publisher of the "Woodville Republican" (Woodville, MS), for sending and giving us permission to reprint the following article. (alf)

Honoring 55 years of service, the Corinth Church of Christ and the Perrytown Church of Christ invited their communities to a reception honoring brother and sister Bernard Waites, on Saturday, May 13, at the Corinth Church of Christ, located at 1754 Buffalo Road, near Woodville.

Bernard Waites, the fifth child and fourth son of Ola D. Hay Waites and William Martin Van Buren "Vander" Waites, was born on July 12, 1935, in Ringgold, Louisiana, where he grew up on a farm. He has always enjoyed hunting and fishing.

At the invitation of a neighbor, his family attended a "tent meeting" of the Church of Christ. At age fifteen Bernard was baptized into Christ. By the time he graduated from Ringgold High School in 1955, he was already practicing his decision to serve the Lord.

While attending Harding College, Bernard married Silvia Hager on January 26, 1959. In March he began his first preaching/minister service at the Judsonia, Arkansas, Church of Christ. In May, he graduated from Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas, with a major in history and a minor in Bible.

When Bernard decided he wanted to work at a different congregation, he contacted Harding College. This contact connected him with Charlie T. Netterville who was looking for a preacher for a small congregation in a rural area near Woodville, Mississippi.

On a cold, icy weekend in January, 1962, Bernard, Silvia and their infant daughter, Lourelia, visited the Corinth Church of Christ near Woodville. After arriving, he was informed that he would also serve the Perrytown Church of Christ. Bernard accepted the job and returned to Arkansas to prepare for his move to the Buffalo community, a rural area in Wilkinson County. He arrived in late January, 1962.

To supplement his income, he agreed to teach high school history at Woodville Attendance Center. In addition, he drove a school bus. In the late sixties, he was elected Wilkinson County Superintendent of Education, a position he held for eight years. Following this he was headmaster at Pine Hills Academy in Gloster, Mississippi, for two years. He returned to the classroom when he was hired by Wilkinson County Christian Academy to teach high school social studies. At WCCA Bernard initiated and coordinated an early spring trip each year for 11th and 12th graders. These trips were planned so that each class could visit the nation's capital. With the help of parents and many anonymous donors, these trips continued for

twenty years.

In 2003 he was initiated into the Mississippi Hall of Fame and recognized by the Mississippi Economic Council's M.B. Swayze Educational Foundation for his Star Teacher Designation for ten years. In 2007 he was elected the Alumnus of the Year for the College of Bible and Religion for Harding University.

Loving to travel, Bernard has visited all fifty states and many foreign countries. He has held gospel meetings in Louisiana, Arkansas, California, St. Vincent, West Indies, India and the Philippines.

In the fifty-five years of service at Perrytown and Corinth Churches of Christ, there are no written records of baptisms and weddings performed or funerals held at Brother Waites' request. If you want to know, just ask him.

On the last Sunday in January, 2017, the Waites' made fifty-five years of ministering to the people of Wilkinson County.

To quote him, "When the Lord calls me home, and I

leave in the pine box, it will be from Buffalo." Bernard, by the grace of God, was put in a place to serve that has been successful for him. He and Silvia are the parents of three children and five grandchildren.

## New Preacher Serves Two Churches

### Minister John Bryant Arrives

Two Wilkinson County churches have received a new minister and his wife to their folds as Brother John Bryant, and his wife, Tammy, have moved to this area for a new start in life. Brother Bryant is now the minister and holding services at both Corinth Church of Christ and Perrytown Church of Christ.

The couple and three daughters, Sidney, 16, and twins, Elizabeth and McKenzie, 12, moved to this area last month, and Bro. Bryant held his first services at the two new churches on Sunday, June 6. The couple, natives and lifelong residents of rural southwest Arkansas, lived in the tiny town of Willisville, which has a population of less than 150, until he attended Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas, and received his Bible Ministry degree. Upon completion of his studies, the congregations called him to preach and lead Bible study at the two county churches.



**Tammy and John Bryant**  
*(John is now preaching for both churches in SW Mississippi.)*

To welcome the new couple and their children, members of the two congregations, volunteers and contractors are in the midst of building a new parsonage on the Pat Leak Road in the Buffalo Community of this county.

"This is our first church to serve," Bro. Bryant said. "This is all new to us. We have met lots of really, really nice people, not only in the church, but all around the area. The people here have shown us extraordinary kindness during and following our move."

Bro. Bryant was quick to state, "I love the rural feeling of this county. I was raised out in the country, and love the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing."

"We welcome you to come to church with us," he said. He

is working with both churches after health reasons forced longtime minister, Brother Bernard Waites, to retire after 55 years of faithful service to the two local congregations.

*Andy J. Lewis, Publisher; The Woodville Republican; P.O. Box 696; Woodville, MS 39669*

# IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY

## WALK, TALK, AND LOVE LIKE JESUS

By Mark Neaves

As a child of the 80s I grew up watching Pete Rose play baseball. Charlie Hustle, as he was nicknamed, retired in 1986 with 4,256 career hits, the most in Major League history. The man who had previously held that record was Ty Cobb and he retired in 1928! The record has yet to be broken and will likely remain unbroken. Even though Rose played the game for a very long time, no one can argue that he was a superb hitter. As a matter of fact, I owned a book on hitting by non-other than Pete Rose. I studied that book, I studied his swing, and I watched him play. In other words, I wanted to imitate Pete Rose. No, I am not nor have I ever been a Major Leaguer.

Now that I have grown up and am a Christian and a minister of the Gospel, I understand the true importance of imitating the King of Kings

and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. Christians everywhere should strive to walk, talk, and love like Jesus. In his epistle to the church at Corinth the Apostle Paul writes, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Paul understood the importance of imitating Christ in his personal life and encouraging others to do so also. In this article, we want to explore what qualities a person should possess if they want to imitate Christ.

### OBEDIENT

When one reads of Christ in the Bible you can't help but notice His undying devotion and obedience to His Father in Heaven. Obedience in our society seems to be an ugly word. People today are disobedient to police, authority figures, politicians, and worst of all God. There is no guess work in what God wants for us because it has been revealed, not in part, but in the whole of His Holy Bible. The obedience of Jesus is never more evident than when we find Him praying in the Garden of Gethsemane as he says in Matthew 26:39, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will,

but as You will." Jesus didn't want to face the horror of the cross or the separation from God that taking the sins of the world on his shoulders would produce, but He stated that He would be obedient to whatever decision God saw fit. If we wish to be like Christ, we

about my Father's business." Later in life he forsakes His chances of having what we would consider a "normal" life, sets aside His profession, and goes about His ministry. He even goes as far to state in Matthew 8:20, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Christ even gave up the hope of having a home in which to live upon this earth. I don't believe that God requires us to give up our homes, our jobs, and all the other things that Christ gave up, but He does require our dedication. Ask yourself these questions. Am I dedicated to prayer? Am I dedicated to study? Am I dedicated to living the life that God requires of His children?

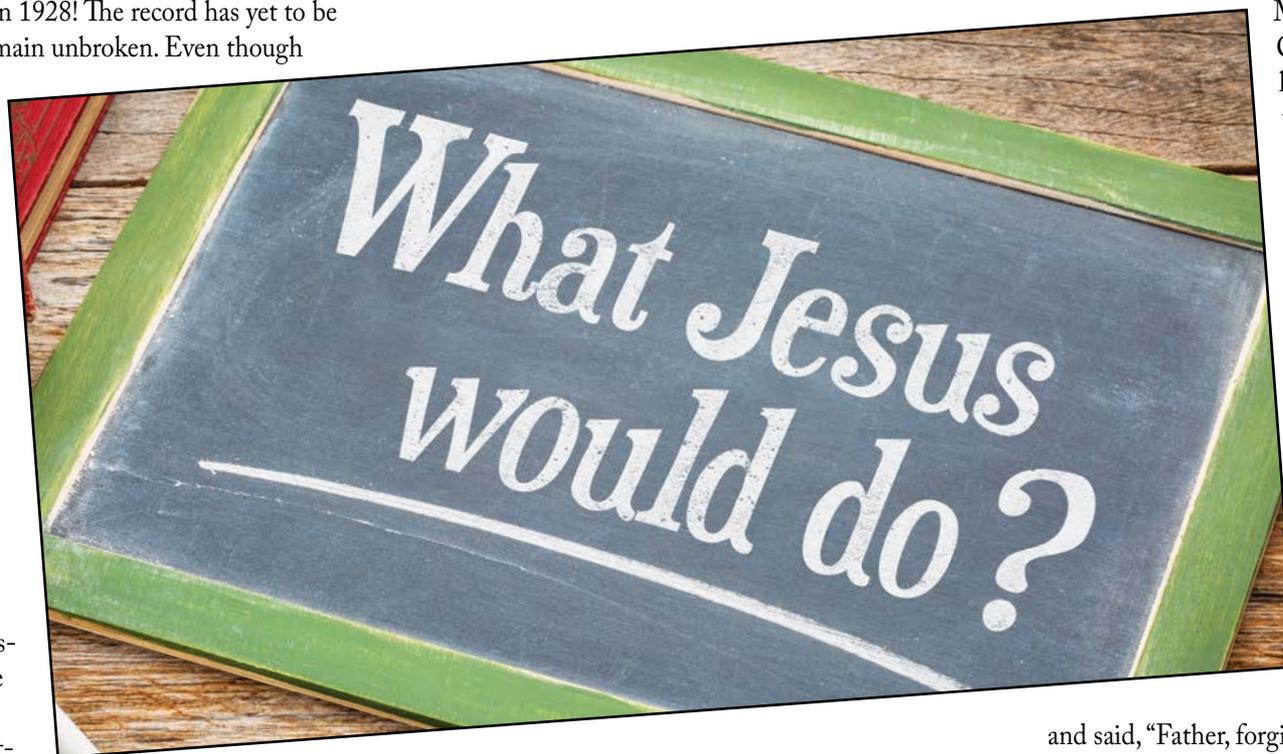
### FORGIVING

If we wish to imitate Christ we must be willing to forgive others. There has never been a greater example of forgiveness than when Christ, pierced, beaten, and bruised hung upon the cross, looked toward heaven,

and said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Forgiveness is a key characteristic of a person who is striving to be a Christian. It is not just a characteristic, but the Bible tells us it is essential in Matthew 6:15, "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." We see that if we don't forgive others then we will never receive the forgiveness that we so desperately need from God. Jesus never needed forgiving because He never wronged anyone, but He was always willing to forgive others, many times when they didn't even ask for forgiveness.

If we strive to imitate Christ we should grow stronger and stronger each day. The Apostle Paul understood what he needed to do in his own life and he encouraged the Corinthians to do the same. This principle still rings true today and no matter how much time passes, no matter what government we live under, and no matter what other phenomenon takes place in this world, being Christ-like is the goal that we should all strive for each day. Remember, if we remain faithful until death we will receive a crown of life.

Mark Neaves preaches for the Pine Grove Church of Christ; 216 Johnson Road North; Fulton, MS 38843  
(neaves.mark@yahoo.com)



must be obedient to God.

### COMPASSIONATE

How compassionate are Christians today? Jesus healed the sick, the blind, the lame, and fed the poor. Now we understand that we cannot perform miracles, but there are many things that we can do to show compassion to our fellow men and women. The second great commandment states that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. However, it seems that many people are cynical about the motives of people who are seeking help and refuse to help them because they doubt the person really needs help. We never see this attitude expressed by Christ or the Apostles. They were willing to help those who appeared to need help. To be more Christ like, we need to be more compassionate.

### FOCUSED

Christ was also a very focused person, even from a young age. When a frantic Mary and Joseph found their young son in the Jewish Temple Christ said, "I must be

## Results from the Cox Blvd's 11th Annual

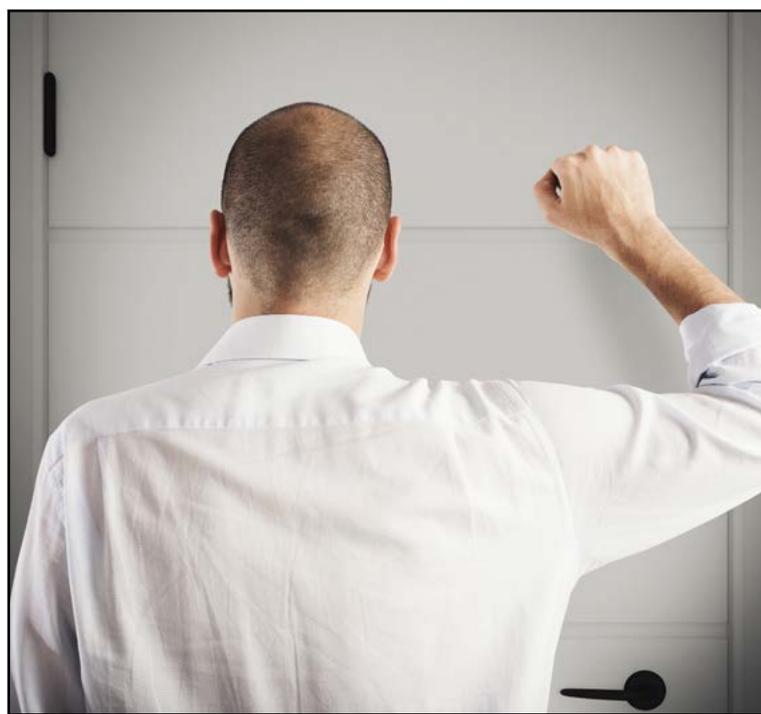
# "Back to the Bible Campaign"

For the first time in eleven campaigns, the focus was not on knocking cold doors, but on knocking the doors of previous visits, callbacks and baptisms in the Mobile Inner-City church of Christ (MICCC) area. There were 39 campaigners who labored in the fields of Mobile, AL. Twenty-seven campaigners were from Cox Blvd church, Sheffield, AL, and 12 were from other congregations in AL (1), MS (4), TX (3) and OK (4).

The MICCC area was divided into three teams of campaigners which were equally balanced with experienced campaigners, new campaigners and teenagers. The most effective pairing for setting up Bible Studies is an older campaigner and a teenager; the least effective two men or two women. The rule is: never pair two inexperienced campaigners together. The average two campaigner team knocks about 18-20 doors in an hour, but in a subsidized housing area, the number is 6-8 doors, because more people are at home and are willing to study.

The 2016 campaign setup 207 studies. Sixty-one agreed to a Bible Study, 24 were baptized and one restored. During the past year eight (mostly teenagers) have remained faithful. Each of the 207 were visited at least twice, 38 agreed to a Bible Study and three were baptized. **Chuck Griffis**, due to his health problems, was not able to minister to the new Christians like he wanted to and asked Cox Blvd to come back and help with the follow-up. When he unexpectedly died, the need only became greater. What was found was 12 had moved during the past year and eight of the 13 were attending. Each of the five families was contacted and encouraged to attend.

There were 112 new Bible Studies set up. Forty-four agreed to study and 17 of those studies were left for MICCC, Creekwood and University congregations to teach. There have been three baptisms and four studies reset so far. There were 95 Bible Studies scheduled to be taught



**When people tell you door knocking doesn't work or is not effective, remember the 13 who were baptized and the one restored! There are people in every community who know something is missing in their lives; when their door is knocked they are shown the answer.**

**Read Matthew 28:18-20.**

between July 23-27. Forty-four were taught, ten were baptized and one restored. The members at MICCC are committed to following up on each baptism and contact. They are also determined to find a new evangelist, who is married, to continue the work. They need our prayers and support. This past Sunday the congregation was rejoicing over the increase in attendance and two baptisms. Isaiah

55:9-11 tells us to sow, water and God will give the increase. His Word does what He wants it to do.

The 11th Annual Campaign was led by **Terry Lenz** (256-810-9348) Campaign Coordinator. Due to the experience of the campaigners, there was a wealth of biblical knowledge and experience. Two of Mobile's ministers, **David Sargent** and **Jeremy Sigle**, Creekwood church of Christ and University church of Christ, respectfully, helped knock doors and conduct studies. University provided a walk off mini-bus, along with **Dorsey and Margie Burton** who have helped MICCC for the past two years. Their help and support was greatly appreciated during the campaign.

The bonding with the local congregation and with each other is a side benefit of campaigns. Campaigns are emotionally draining and hard work but are so spiritually rewarding, individually and as a congregation. Bible Studies were being taught some nights until 9:00 PM. Studies began at 8:30 AM in the morning. Each day six and half hours were spent knocking doors. When people tell you door knocking doesn't work or is not effective, remember the 13 who were baptized and the one restored! There are people in every community who know something is missing in their lives; when their door is knocked they are shown the answer. Read Matthew 28:18-20. It is clear. Cox Blvd is blessed by having so many members who are dedicated to sharing the Gospel.

If you or your congregations are interested in hosting or learning more about a "Back to the Bible Campaign" in 2018, please contact the Cox Blvd church of Christ, Sheffield, AL, 256-383-1905, or call **Terry Lenz**, 256-810-9348 (twlenc@comcast.net) or **Russ Blackwell**, 256-366-4226 (judrus@gmail.com). We will be glad to send you information and talk to you about sharing God's Word with your neighbors, friends and your community. (Report from Russ Blackwell)

## Upcoming RV Rallies

### Be Making your plans

■ **LA-TX • The 19th annual Louisiana-Texas RV Rally at Salmon Lake Park, Grapeland, Texas on October 18-21, 2017.**

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: Jerry Hodge of Shreveport, LA.

■ **MS-TN-AL • The 3rd annual North MS/TN/AL Magnolia Messenger Rally**

at J. P. Coleman State Park, north of luka, MS, on November 8-11, 2017.

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. No RV? No problem! Cabins/rooms available.



# MAKING ROOM FOR HIS 2nd COMING

By John Gardner

Preachers sometimes find themselves a little uncertain about what to do when preaching on the second coming of Jesus. It is not a question of whether we believe that Christ will come a second time. "So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (Hebrews 9: 28 ESV). There are too many declarations about Jesus' final return before and after he died for those who believe the Bible to doubt it.

Jesus himself declared unequivocally that he would personally return at a time known only to the Father (Matthew 24: 36-44). One of the Savior's most familiar parables is built on the truth that he will return to deal with all mankind (Matthew 25:31ff). The angels who saw Jesus ascend back into heaven spoke to certain disciples present saying, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Much in 1 and 2 Thessalonians, as well as in many other epistles, boldly and clearly proclaims the fact of Jesus' 2nd coming (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19,20; 3:13; 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17).

We know that Jesus most certainly is coming back, but not when. So what is the difficulty facing preachers who proclaim this wonderful truth? The answer is in the last half of the Hebrews passage above and other places.

Christ is coming back in glorious splendor "to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:28). "Eagerly waiting for him." Does that describe most of the people who will hear the preacher's lesson about the Lord's return? How many of those counted faithful in so many ways are truly longing for Jesus to come back today or at least very soon? How many among us, when we hear the stirring words about Christ's coming in an unexpected hour, inwardly cry out with the words of John—"come Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20)?

Many in the early church were expectant about the Lord's return, if they were anything. Even the church at Corinth that had so many problems of division, immorality, and false doctrine were "eagerly awaiting the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7). That longing and expectancy motivated the early saints to a readiness not widely seen among God's people today. True, some carried that hope to an extreme, as in the case of a number at Thessalonica who apparently abandoned necessary temporal work as irrelevant if Christ's coming was imminent (2 Thessalonians 3: 6-12).

Although the Savior did not return in their day, they were right in "eagerly waiting for him." Their hope was lively and they lived better lives.

Some shadows of doubt have apparently crept into the church of our day about the return of the Lord because "it has been so, so long since he ascended back into heaven." Two thousand years sounds like a long time. But doesn't that reasoning sound a lot like those Peter exposes in 2 Peter 3:1-10? The passing of decades, centuries, and millennia does not weaken the certainty that "the day of the Lord will come" right on time to usher in God's judgment. If the last 2000 years could be reduced down to appear as 2 days (2 Peter 3:8), would we discount the impact of Jesus' promise to come and save his own and

punish the wicked like so many do today? Would not that promise make a daily difference in the way we plan and work and worship God?

In our daily lives, Christians must make room for the coming of Jesus our Lord. That is, in our thinking and planning, the hope of Christ's coming should play a prominent role. Sadly, for some there is no serious thought in daily lives about his return in any way that makes a difference. Yes, if asked in a Bible class if they believe in their Lord's return, most would answer in the affirmative without hesitation. And if asked if Christ could come today, the majority would answer with a yes. But if that group was asked what decisions and plans made that day were formulated with a conscious awareness that Jesus might return before evening, what would the answer be?

If we relegate the great and wonderful promise of our Lord to return for his people to some mere academic debate point or study, we deprive ourselves of a powerful hope that can encourage us, motivate us, and guide us (1 John 3:2,3). If we rarely think of the promise of the Lord's return, can we eagerly look forward to it in any real sense? If we affirm that Jesus will return as promised and do marvelous final things at the end of time, but then live like we know he is not coming today or any time soon, is that not a kind of hypocrisy?

If you are reading this article, then obviously Christ did not come back in glory on the day I finished writing it. But it was right to live that day desiring his coming and every day since, doing the work of a faithful servant longing to see his Lord come in glory.



JOHN GARDNER

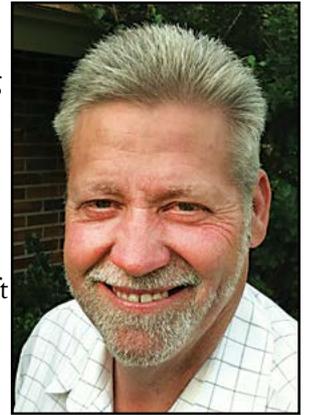
John Gardner; P.O. Box 1465; Brandon, MS 39043. E-mail: gardner.john43@gmail.com

## Tunica Loses a Great Christian

One of our main leaders in the Tunica congregation, Tommy Swindoll, died suddenly on Friday, August 18th, of a heart attack. He was well known and respected in the community and a great servant in the Lord's church. The funeral home said it was the largest turnout of any funeral they had ever done in Tunica.

Tommy was just 64 years old, our song leader and treasurer, and a real leader among our men. His death has been a shock to all of us. He leaves a big void in his family and in our congregation.

As James wrote, "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers." Tommy was a true doer of the word. He left this world too soon, but he is now where he always wanted to be. Our prayers go out to his wife, Pat, and children, Tommy II and Kim. (Report by Dennis Doughty, Minister, Tunica church of Christ.)



Tommy Swindoll  
1952-2017

## Darrell Beard Died August 24th

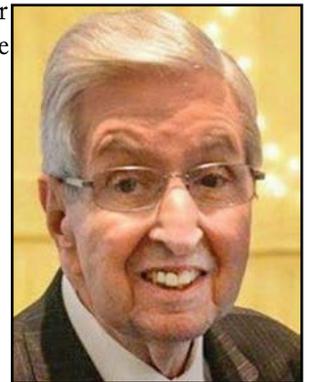
LONG TIME NE MISSISSIPPI PREACHER

Note: The weekly bulletin from the church in Booneville, Mississippi, recently included a announcement written by Tony Brown, preacher for the Zion Rest Church of Christ. Tony reported the departure of brother Darrell Beard of Tupelo, Mississippi. He wrote the following.

The Lord's church lost another preacher last week. Brother Darrell Beard, a long time preacher for the East Main congregation of Tupelo, passed away last Thursday [August 24, 2017].

Brother Beard was a regular on the TV program "Give Me The Bible", which aired on WTVA each Sunday morning. He was a very humble man who loved the Lord and loved preaching the gospel!

We are losing a generation of strong ministers. I wonder, "Who's going to fill their shoes?" Stats reveal an alarming trend for the church of Christ: We are losing 600 preachers per year to death or burn-out, and we are only gaining 300 per year. Brethren, these are not good odds.



Darrell Beard

### Who's Who Among Leaders in Churches of Christ

We are looking for influential leaders in the church who deserve recognition, but who are not seeking it. Please contact us and let us know of someone you would like to nominate as a proven and effective leader. You can send an email to apaulfranks@gmail.com or call me at 662-792-2700. You may also send your nomination or request to:

Magnolia Messenger  
P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Fill in the blanks:

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_, because of his/her outstanding merit and service, to be recognized by the Magnolia Messenger (2017) as "Who's Who Among Leaders in Churches of Christ".

YourName: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# the JOURNEYS of PAUL



*Summer Bible Camps in Lithuania*

## Serve the Cause of Christ

*(A Personal Report by Drew Broussard)*

I spent three weeks out in Lithuania this summer and wanted to share some of my experiences. First, I went to the younger camp with the 8-12 year olds. One of the best parts of this camp was seeing three of the boys that used to be among the campers (Augustas, Augustinas and Dominykas) working as counselors, teachers, and translators.

Augustas was my translator and co-teacher and did a great job. Dominykas was my co-counselor and did an awesome job helping with the kids. Please take time to add these guys to your prayer list because they are doing great things with the youth out there and we want to be sure to support them.

During our break between camps we visited different congregations in the country. The churches in Klaipeda and Vilnius have been here for quite a few years and it was great to see our old friends as well as some new faces that have started attending. We also made a trip to Kaunas, which is the newest of the congregations there. Vladimir Rancev has been working with the church there and has been doing a great job. During the past few years he has helped grow the church and has been a great encouragement to the members there.

At the older kids camp we had a wonderful week. We had about 120 people at the camp (with kids and counselors). Two of the members from the Kaunas church work with "at risk" youth. We were able to bring a group of these kids with us to camp. At first they were a little shy, but once they started to open up and get more involved, it was a blast! Another great part of the camp is that we had four baptisms! That is the most that I have ever seen in one week of camp. Praise God!

I'd ask that you please put the church in Lithuania on your prayer list. Just like camps here in the USA, we have a week where we are on a spiritual high, we go home, and there is danger that the fire may fizzle out. They need encouragement and prayer so that the things they've learned can take hold and be a part of their lives year round. The ministers (Ilia, Kestutis, Juozas, Vladimir, Rimas, and Tomas) are working hard as well. There are great things going on in Lithuania and I'm so glad I was able to give you a glimpse into that. God Bless.



*(Drew Broussard serves as a youth minister for the Enterprise Boulevard church of Christ in Lake Charles, LA)*



*"They went down into the water... baptized"*



*"Christian Camping" Is Changing Lives in Lithuania and eternal destinies.*



■ **Natchez, MS:** Glenda and I were in Natchez, MS, a few weeks ago, and visited with the 61 South Church of Christ on a Wednesday night. The attendance was good and the fellowship delightful. We enjoyed the class taught by their preacher, **Paul McElroy**.

■ **Philadelphia, MS:** Johnny and Sandra Beckwith have been with the Ivy Street Church of Christ since 1980. Johnny is teaching school and preaching for this congregation. The church has grown significantly over the years. They recently purchased a house across from the church building to be used for their members who need a short term place to live.

Johnny also serves as an elder of the church, along with Sayles Johnson and M.D. Cameron. The church runs around 60 to 90 in attendance.

Johnny graduated from Magnolia Bible College in 1982 and Harding Graduate in 1985. The influence of MBC still continues through the preaching and teaching of Johnny and others like him.

■ **Old Union, Carrollton, MS:** Glenda and I enjoyed our visit with the Old Union congregation for their summer gospel meeting, held August 6-9. I was blessed



**Sandra & Johnny Beckwith**  
Serving Philadelphia Church Since 1980



**Old Union; Old Church Building (1910)**

to be their visiting evangelist this year. They also had a homecoming that was well attended. We were amazed at the number of congregations represented by the attendance for each of the services. We really enjoyed getting better acquainted with **Mike and Bonnie Schmitz** during this meeting. Mike has been preaching at Old Union for 17 years.

■ **Skyway Hills, Jackson, MS:** Glenda and I had an enjoyable visit on a Wednesday evening at



**Andrew Rogers, Teaching Class**

Skyway Hills church. We had a class taught by **Andrew Rogers**. After the class, we all went into the auditorium and sang songs and prayed for the sick. (*When we go to Wednesday evening services and don't get to assembly with the entire body, there seems to be something missing.*)



**Paul with Josh McCrary & Glen Fann**

■ **Ripley, MS:** **James Pilgrim** has, after 55 years, retired from full-time preaching and has moved into the preacher's house at the Chapman Church of Christ. James has written many tracts and is also available for speaking appointments. You can reach him at 205-266-5247 or the Chapman church at 662-837-7012. You can call him and ask for a copy of the tracts he has printed and he will make them available to you at a very reasonable cost. We were also privileged to visit with **Glen Fann** who was, for many years, the preacher at the Hall Drive church in Ripley. **Josh McCrary** (middle) is the present preacher for the Ripley congregation.

■ **Magee, MS:** **Rick Venable**, a long time friend, preaches for the Magee congregation. He was going to be gone and invited me to preach. We had several guests the Sunday I preached with over 30 people in attendance. We really enjoyed our visit with the Magee congregation.



**Washington St. Church in Grenada Continues to Grow**

■ **Grenada, MS:** **Charles and Mozelle Willis** have been working with the Washington Street Church of Christ for the last 36 years. They have a beautiful church building and between 100 and 150 in attendance. Charles preached a great lesson the morning of our visit. Charles Willis graduated from Magnolia Bible College back in 1984 and has, since that time, been working hard to build up the Lord's church in Grenada, MS. Glenda and I really enjoyed our visit with them.



**36 Years: Same Preacher; Same Church**

■ **Dequincy, LA:** We visited the DeQuincy church on a Sunday night and were thankful to get to know better their preacher, **Gary Silby**. We also got to visit with several of my relatives, including **Ray and Donna Franks**. On behalf of MM we presented Ray Hyatt a plaque recognizing him as a servant leader among members of the church of Christ. (Picture and story found in this issue of the MM on page 22.)

Catherine Wilcoxson, a dedicated member of the Dequincy church who is battling cancer, has a new book, **Don't Forget Maude: The Tale of Two Sisters**. She also has two other books she has written. If you would like to purchase her new book or any of the other two, please go to their website. <http://www.theladycatherinecompany.com/> Paul and Catherine Wilcoxson; 404 LeBlanc Street Dequincy, LA 70633; Cell: 337-802-2212

■ **Lake Charles, LA:** We parked our motorhome at the church building on Enterprise Blvd. As we did so, we were reminded of how great it is to have full hook ups provided by churches. We really enjoyed our visit with this church for which I preached over nine years. Staying on the church grounds, I was blessed to visit with the coffee club each morning and was able also to do some writing for the Magnolia Messenger. We also were pleased to visit their Wednesday night services where I was invited to lead the singing. This is a great church and we love everyone there.

■ **Fulton, MS:** "Fulton Bible Institute" continues to offer college level classes in their church facilities. Classes studying First and Second Timothy began August 22. The studies take place every Tuesday night and continue for 12 weeks. Time: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 for the Study Guide Workbook. Address: 500 South Clifton Street, P.O. Box 251; Fulton, MS 38843. Ph. 662-862-4549; e-mail: [fultoncoc@nexband.com](mailto:fultoncoc@nexband.com) Overseen by the Fulton Church of Christ. Fundamental Bible Instruction. "Going Forward by Going Back to the Bible" Contact: **Russ Crosswhite**, director.

■ **Grenada, Southside:** We recently attended the Southside church of Christ in Grenada. We were able to meet **Joey and Tina Gafford**. (picture) Joey has been preaching for this church since 2009. Joey went to Faulkner and Freed-Hardeman. We got to visit with several people we have known for many years. The church has three elders, **Malcom Grant, Lee Holly, and Raleigh Wood**. Attendance usually runs over 100 on Sunday mornings. It was great also to see **David Taylor**, son of **Don and Virginia Taylor** and also **Carl Bevell**.

## PREACHER WANTED

**Hemphill, TX**

The Hemphill church of Christ with a dedicated membership of about 40 is seeking a full-time gospel preacher. Hemphill is located in deep East Texas, 10 miles from Toledo Bend Reservoir, on the east, and 30 miles from Sam Rayburn Lake, on the west.

A three bedroom, two and one half bath brick home, located about one mile from the church building, with a very nice office for the preacher, is provided. Salary is negotiable and competitive. Applicants are asked to send detailed resume, along with picture.

**Hemphill Church of Christ**

**P. O. Box 1923**

**Hemphill, Texas 75948**

Questions or information?

E-mail: [hemphillchurchsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:hemphillchurchsecretary@yahoo.com).

Call 409-787-2625 and leave message.

# Tylertown, MS Campaign Produces Encouraging Results

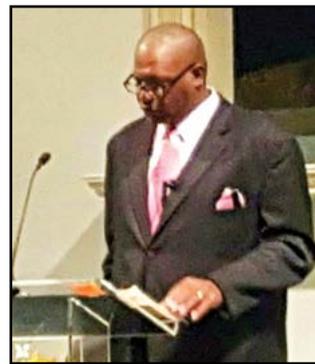
The Tylertown Church of Christ conducted a Gospel Meeting August 06 through 09 with the theme, “*There is Something Good in the Pot*” (II Kings 4:38-41). Shun Evans, who has served the congregation as preacher for 13 years, presided over the meeting. The Booneville Church of Christ assisted greatly in the special effort by knocking doors and teaching classes.

The church is grateful to report that seven souls were baptized and one was restored. Brother Evans commented, “We may be small in number but not in heart.” Shun, in addition to preaching, also teaches Bible lessons on two radio programs weekly. He leads a weekly telephone conference call; the men and women have a separate prayer line, beginning at 9:00 P.M. each night, 7 days a week. Over eight congregations pray together each night.  
*(From information provided by Shun Evans)*



**Brethren Present to Encourage and/or to Assist at the Beginning of the Tylertown Meeting**

**Lloyd Beard (Booneville church) baptizing a new disciple at Tylertown. Her husband was baptized earlier.**



## Bobby Bell

**Preaching at Skyway Hills (Pearl, MS)**

Bobby is one of six men who rotate preaching responsibilities each Sunday at the Skyway Hills church of Christ in Pearl, MS. According to Danny Dendy, a member at Skyway, the church usually has “about 70” in attendance each Lord’s day. Danny sent the picture to us and asked that we share with MM readers. (Our thanks to Danny who grew up in the Kosciusko area.)



## Robert Rone

**Teaching Bible Class (Crystal Springs)**

On a recent Wednesday evening in August, my June and I were again blessed to drop in for a visit with our brothers and sisters who regularly assemble as the Lord’s church in Crystal Springs, MS.

I appreciated the invitation to preach/teach; however, we were pleased to sit at the feet of Robert Rone, a young (?) man we have known for more than thirty years. Robert is a bachelor and a respected dentist in Crystal Springs. After hearing him teach from the book of Psalms, I am pleased to say he has become a “respected Bible teacher.”

Keith Wilson continues, after many years, to serve the church as an effective minister of the gospel. My wife and I agree that our visit at Crystal Springs was both enjoyable and encouraging. (alf)

## Bible Questions & Answers

*Continued from page 3*

oneness of the Trinity, they by no means exhaust that oneness. Father, Son and Spirit are one in being God, Deity, the Godhood.

JHVH is sometimes distinguished from Christ, the Messiah. “The LORD (JHVH) says to my Lord (the Christ, Matthew 22:41-45): ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool’” (Psalm 110:1). In another place, however, Scripture quotes Old Testament passages about JHVH and applies them to Jesus Christ. “But of the Son he says . . . ‘You, Lord (JHVH), laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands’” (Hebrews 1:8-10). Isaiah prophesied. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Normally, “Mighty God” and “Everlasting Father” are titles that would be ascribed to God the Father but here they are ascribed to God the Son (Isaiah 9:6-7).

What one divine Person does, they all do. What one is, they all are.

### Who Dwells in Christians?

Ask a typical Bible class, “Which Person of the Godhead indwells Christians?” Likely “the Holy Spirit” would be the answer given. There is Bible for that. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?” (1 Cor. 6:19). Among the spiritual blessings we have in Christ is: we “were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our

inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory” (Eph. 1:13-14). “Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you” (1 Thess. 4:8).

Our God is Lord of heaven and earth, but all three persons of the Godhead dwell in us at the same time. Scripture says (emphasis CMJr.),

However, the mystery that has been revealed to the Gentiles “is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if **Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you” (Rom. 8:9-11).

“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, **God abides in us** and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:12).

### Who Inspired the Writers of Scripture?

In a typical class of Christians, ask, “Of Father, Son and Spirit, which one inspired the writers of Scripture?” Most will likely answer, “The Holy Spirit.” And, of course, there is Bible for that. “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). However,

speaking of the prophecies concerning Christ and His suffering for our sins, Peter says, it was “the Spirit of Christ in them” who “predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories” (1 Peter 1:11). Then Paul told Timothy, “All Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Father, Son and Spirit! Each is God. Father, Son and Spirit is one God, the Trinity.

### The Trinity in Restoration History

The pioneers of the 19th century restoration movement were rejecting authoritative human creeds as divisive and, being aware that the word “Trinity” is in the early creeds and not in the Bible, they, in the early days, were hesitant to use it. The song, “Holy, Holy, Holy” as originally written contains the line, “God in three persons, Blessed Trinity.” Some of our song books, influenced by that hesitation, read instead, “God over all and blessed eternally.”

Eventually, however, as they were pressed to confront two errors: that there is only one person in the Godhood, and that there are three gods, they came to the same conclusion as the rest of Evangelical Christianity: there is one God, and He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Now we joyously and scripturally sing,

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!*

(Thomas Ken, “Doxology” in Songs of Faith and Praise, #66)

## Booneville

### “Our Biggest Rally Yet”

A Special Thank You

*As published in Booneville church bulletin, Aug. 20*

This year marked the 10th anniversary of Booneville hosting our Senior Adult Rally. We had 55 members of the Booneville congregation participate in this year's event. Over 40 of those were on the volunteer team that worked to make **our biggest Rally yet** such a success. Willing workers brought food, signed people in, set up, cleaned up, greeted our visitors, and also participated in this Rally. We thank you for letting your light shine this past Saturday.

**Joe Garrett** did a great job leading our singing. **Paul and Al Franks** gave the members of the 14 congregations present a spiritual feast as they taught us about “Continuing to bear fruit in old age.” Isn't it great to be part of the Lord's Army.

## 5th Sunday Night

# October 29, 2017

(5:30 PM)

# SINGING

## at Madison

(All singers and song leaders are invited to join us.)

**Singers and song leaders from area congregations**

## COME - ENJOY

### *Singing hymns and*

### *praises to God*

### *Great fellowship*

### *Eating together*

(We will furnish hot dogs, chips and drinks)  
For additional information

# 601-853-9558

## Madison Church of Christ

(Madison, Mississippi)

## Pine Bluff Announces

# LADIES' DAY

### Saturday - October 7, 2017

Speaker:

**June Franks**

Theme:

**“She Hath Done What She Could”**

**Registration begins at 9:00 A.M.**

**Program begins at 9:30 A.M.**

*Lunch will be served*

**Pine Bluff Church of Christ**

311 County Road 431

Oxford, Mississippi 38655

*For information, call:*

**Lana Drewrey: 662-617-4001**

## A WN Visit

In Belmont, MS

A few weeks ago, my June and I thoroughly enjoyed a Wednesday night “drop in visit” with the Second Street congregation in Belmont, Mississippi. They were, at the time, without a preacher but were in the “Search” mode. I really appreciated the opportunity of teaching their adult class.



Of special interest was their attractive sign with the message, “*Today is a gift from God. That is why it is called ‘The Present.’*” A meaningful message on the sign and a delightful visit with our brothers and sisters who assemble on Second Street in Belmont. (alf)

## A Church That Is Never Satisfied

### “Just One More”

On a recent Sunday in August my June and I were privileged to visit the morning services of the Bypass Church of Christ in Vicksburg. It was a very pleasant visit.

The adult auditorium class was capably taught by **Joel Dimmette, Sr**, who serves as an evangelist and deacon. **Willie Nettle**, long time preacher, delivered a very meaningful morning sermon. Our brother Willie called attention to the promise of the Lord who said, “*I will be with you always....*” (Matt. 28:20). He proceeded to show, by the Scriptures, that Jesus is **still with us**. He stressed that the Son of God continues to provide much needed help for all his disciples.

Using “power point” very effectively, the long time Vicksburg preacher made three powerful points.

(1) Jesus refreshes us in worship every Lord's day.

(2) Jesus represents us before Almighty God in Heaven.

(3) Jesus rejuvenates (strengthens) us to do His work. The preacher challenged us, as a part of His body, to earnestly pray, “*Lord, help us to be your hands and your feet.*”

In our Vicksburg visit we found a church that, apparently, is **never satisfied**. A sign up front, placed behind and over the pulpit area, proclaims what appears to be a motto for the congregation. The sign states, “**Just One More.**” *Just one more.* I assume that the phrase means, “One more soul taught the gospel. One more soul obedient to Christ. One more person prepared for eternity.... **Never enough!** Thank God.

The Bypass church is, according to their website, overseen by four elders (shepherds) and served by four deacons. One of the deacons, Joel Dimmette, Sr., also serves as one of the evangelists. Willie Nettle, preacher, also serves as one of the shepherds (elders). May God continue to bless Bypass, another church that “is never satisfied.” *Just one more.* May God give us more such churches! (alf)

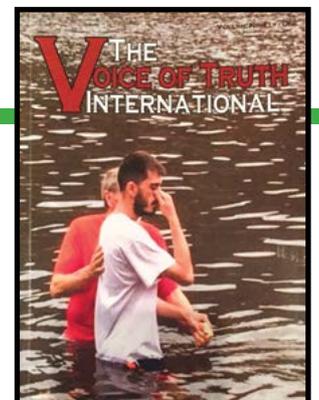


**Home of the “Never Satisfied Church”**  
**“Just one more”**

## The Voice of Truth International

is a quarterly magazine resembling the format of the Readers' Digest. A minimum of 20,000 copies of each edition are printed in English for distribution in the USA and in dozens of foreign countries. (Other language editions are printed in some overseas countries.)

The publication was begun in 1993 by the late **J. C. Choate** and later edited by **Byron Nichols**, until he retired at the end of 2016. Presently, **Louis Rushmore** is the Editor and **Jerry Bates** is the Associate Editor. *For more information or to subscribe, call 662.283.1192.* Single subscriptions and bundle rates are available.





Group at Jerusalem, Israel in 2016 with Paul Franks as the bus captain

## “A Trip of a Lifetime to” **ISRAEL**

with Paul and Glenda Franks

When I invite someone to go with us to the Holy Lands, often the question is asked, “Is it safe?” I answer, “Yes, it is.” *Educational Opportunities*, the company that manages our trip, sends thousands of people throughout the year to the lands of the Bible. You can be sure that they are very interested in keeping their travelers safe. If Educational Opportunities think for a moment that a trip is unsafe or, that 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. Also, keep in mind that many people in Bible lands make their living from tourists, like us, spending our money to make this journey. They want to protect their livelihood!

We plan to leave, God willing, on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. The cost is \$3,298 from New York to Israel. This is a 10 day trip. 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](http://www.eo.travelwithus.com). **The tour is HL 18/A** and your departure date is **06/12/2018**. 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. This is a first class trip (everything but airfare). Everything possible will be done to make sure you will have the finest trip. We will travel together in a private bus and have our own guide. If you have questions, please call. I will be glad to send you a brochure.

**Paul Franks; 662-792-2700 or email: [apaulfranks@gmail.com](mailto:apaulfranks@gmail.com)**

## Ridgeland Church Experiences Increased Attendance (Almost 400 on SM)

From a humble beginning, meeting in a double-wide trailer back in the 80’s, the Lake Harbour church in Ridgeland has recently experienced greatly increased attendance. On a recent Sunday (August 27), attendance was just four short of 400.

The Lake Harbour church (formerly known as the “South Madison church”) is blessed with several capable elders. As listed on their website, the elders are: Morris Houston, L. C. Reese, Greg Palmer, Dusty Reynolds, Trayon George, Richard Brooks and Bill Underwood.

They are blessed with 10 deacons. John Pigg, now “retired,” (soon to become director of Mexico Missions) served as their preacher for many years. Les Ferguson, Jr. has been their pulpit minister for the past few years.



Home of the Lake Harbour Church of Christ; Ridgeland, MS

The Lake Harbour church has just accepted the challenge of overseeing the Mexico

**Just 4 short of 400 (August 27, 2017)**

Mission work which has been under the oversight of the Kosciusko church for the past 15 years. This change took place primarily due to the “retirement” of Les Ferguson, Sr. as director of the Mexico work. Les plans to continue his service to the Lord in various ways, including his dedicated work as an elder of the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko.

We pray God’s blessings to be with the Lake Harbour church as they seek to meet the challenges of greatly increased attendance and also their oversight and leadership of the mission work in Mexico. (alf)



### Readers’ Response Reasons Why We Continue Publishing the Magnolia Messenger

We enjoy the ‘Messenger’ so much. May God continue to bless all of you in this “great work.”  
(**Barry & Ann Embrey**, Coldwater, MS)

Love the Messenger and I use it sometimes in my class. Thanks, (**Wm. Foster**; Toto, KY)

Great Paper, Enjoy it very much! God bless,  
(**M. Mitchell**)

Please continue your good work with the Messenger. (**Jerry A. Wages**, Vanclave, MS)

I give thanks for you and your devotion to the Word and your love for the Living Word. In Christ,  
(**Bill & Sherlyn Cartwright**, Houston, TX)

Thank you for all you do to spread the gospel. My family enjoys your paper. Thank you, (**Corina Johnson**)

## Mississippi Ministers’ Wives Conference

# October 20-22, 2019

**Hilton Jackson • 1001 E County Line Rd; • Jackson, MS**

For more information contact: Marilyn Graham at 601-433-5228;  
LaWanda Wallace at 662-429-3330 or Gloria Williams at 662-231-9806

## Ladies’ Day

**October 14, 2017**  
(Saturday)

**Speaker: Lisa Newell**

**8:30 A.M. -- Register & Breakfast**

**9:00 - 12:00 -- Program**

**12:00 -- Luncheon/Fellowship**

**Bay Springs  
Church of Christ**  
Bay Springs, Mississippi

## Searching for Preacher Lucedale, MS

Congregation of forty plus members in Lucedale, Mississippi is looking for a full time preacher of the gospel to come work with them. Support and home are provided.

Those interested can contact **Paul Tipton** at 601-947-5045 or e-mail [rntipton@att.net](mailto:rntipton@att.net). Also see our web page at [Lucedalecofc.com](http://Lucedalecofc.com).

# “Do Not Enter”

(Sounds like something Jesus said)

In the greatest sermon ever preached, the greatest preacher who ever lived, pleaded: “Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Sermon on the Mount, preached by Jesus. Matthew 7:13,14)

Jesus preached that the gate opening to destruction is *wide* and the way leading to eternal damnation is *broad*. He warned and still warns, “Do not enter!”

Without any doubt, the wide gate which opens to the broad way, has its attractions. It is enticing. Pleasures are promised. And, because of Satan’s lies and the deception of his temptations, MANY “go in” by the wide gate and travel the broad way. But beware. Remember the admonition of Jesus, “Do not enter!”

Instead of entering the wide gate and traveling the broad way to destruction, heed the plea of the Master who admonished, “Enter by the narrow gate.” And, even though that gate is “narrow” and that way is “difficult” [strait]; yet, it is **the** way, the only way, that leads to eternal life in Heaven. The Teacher of all teachers declared that the gate you enter and the way you travel will determine your destiny. **It is a matter of Heaven or Hell!** Please listen to the plea of God’s Son. “Enter by the narrow gate.”

Remember, Jesus taught that only a “few” will find the narrow gate and travel the difficult way that leads to life. Have you found it? Are you traveling in it? Are you a Christian? Have you obeyed the gospel, showing your faith in Jesus by repentance of sins and baptism into Christ? (Read Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38.)

Are you *presently* traveling the way to Heaven? Do you need to get back on the right road through repentance and prayer? (Study Acts 8: 22.) Remember the pleading words of the greatest preacher who ever lived, “Enter in by the *narrow* gate!” And, concerning the wide gate, He is still warning, “Do Not Enter!” (By editor; franksmm@aol.com; 601-668-3344)



As Seen in a Restaurant in Red Bay, AL



“The Broad Way” is the Wrong Way!  
**DO NOT ENTER!**

## Toledo Bend Church (Many, LA)

# Holds 5th Annual Men’s Retreat

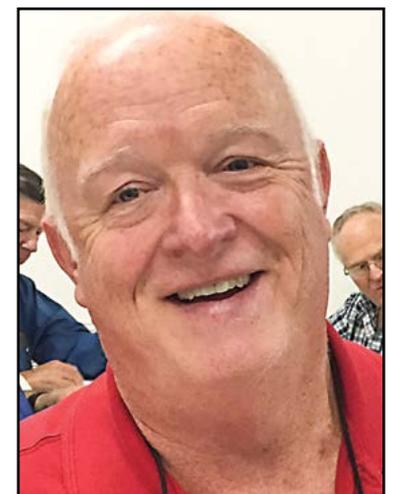
The Toledo Bend Church of Christ held their 5th Annual Men’s Leadership Retreat on August 18-19, 2017, with over 100 men attending from 20 churches. One of my cousins, Malcolm Franks, along with Chuck Bardin and others, helped with cooking the fish. We had Dan Manuel from Palestine, Texas to kick off the retreat with an inspiring message Friday night. Ray Franks was the facilitator for the Questions and Answers session which followed Dan’s speech.

Saturday started with a great breakfast. Gary Selby, preacher for the DeQuincy, LA church, presented an outstanding lesson entitled, “A Balanced Congregation.” Jay Alexander from the Deridder, LA congregation spoke later that morning. Stewart Freeman spoke after a great luncheon on the question, “What is God getting from my congregation”. Rod Hyatt, James Tidwell and Scott Nugent were the facilitators for the Questions and Answers periods after each speech.

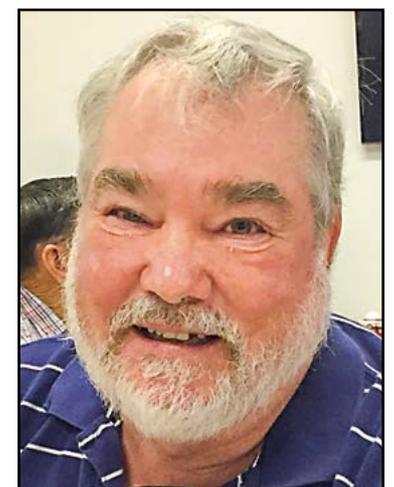
Two preachers that I especially enjoyed visiting with at this retreat were Richard Hale from Natchitoches, LA and J. B. Brown from Verda, LA. Danny Manuel from the Toledo Bend congregation had just recently had surgery and needed a special chair. The retreat was wonderful. The Toledo Bend congregation needs to be commended for their hard work in making these annual events such a great success.



Over 100 men from twenty churches attended retreat



Richard Hale from Natchitoches, LA



J. B. Brown from Verda, LA

# from a Woman's Viewpoint

# Blessed Assurance

By June Franks

"Blessed Assurance" is a beautiful well-known hymn believers have been singing for over 140 years. The lyrics to the beloved song were written in 1873 by Fanny Crosby, a blind hymn writer, who was born March 24, 1820 and died on February 12, 1915. "Blessed Assurance" is not only a beautiful hymn; it has a wonderful message for each one. Please read and meditate on the following words taken from "Blessed Assurance."

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight:  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest!  
I, in my Savior, am happy and blessed,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

The chorus reminds us of reasons for praising our Savior every day. Like the song, the Bible encourages praise. The Psalmist wrote, "Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever." (Psalms 145: 2)

The words of "Blessed Assurance" should have a special meaning to every Christian. The words give us comfort as we express the assurance we can have as Christians. We need to be reminded, however, this song teaches, even as the Bible teaches, there is *something to be done* to have this blessed assurance.

Assurance means "a positive declaration intended to give confidence, a strong and definite statement that something will happen or that something is true." Before we can ever have this assurance, we must have faith, we must believe. And, if we *truly* believe we are going to obey the One in whom we believe. The Bible says, "That if thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10: 9)

The Bible also records the words of Jesus, our Savior, who said, "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark

16: 15,16). Believing and being baptized are definitely in God's plan for salvation. When or wherever the gospel is preached, the true gospel message will always include faith and baptism. Not faith alone; not baptism alone. It doesn't do any good to be baptized if one doesn't truly believe in Jesus, God's son, as the only Savior of the world. Baptism without genuine faith is nothing more than just going down into the water and getting wet.

The Bible also says, "Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3). Since Christ shed His blood in His death, when a believer is baptized into the Lord's death, it is then that he comes in contact with the blood of Christ. It is not until one connects with the blood of Christ that he is saved. Scripture also says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). The Bible also says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). To have that "blessed assurance" of salvation, it is necessary to be in and remain in Christ.

As thousands listened to the Gospel on Pentecost, hearts were pricked and the cry was made, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The inspired apostle answered clearly, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:37,38). Repentance was commanded. It was/is necessary, according to the inspired apostle, for believers in Jesus to repent -- to change their thinking and their living. And, of course, as the scripture also plainly states, after the command *to repent* followed the command *to be baptized*. Can we not correctly conclude that **both repentance and baptism are required** of all believers who desire remission of sins (salvation) followed by that "Blessed Assurance."

The deceptive devil has a way of distorting the truth and misleading lost souls. Many have been influenced by Satan to think and to say that baptism has nothing to do

with our salvation. This is sad. It is also sad for one to be misled in believing that he has that "blessed assurance" if he has not *truly* believed or *genuinely* repented. May I also add that, the so-called "sinner's prayer" is not even mentioned in the Bible. Why then, oh why do so many preachers keep telling folks all they have to do to have "Blessed assurance" is to repeat the "sinner's prayer?" Why would you want to accept what a preacher may say/write without going to the Bible and reading for yourself?

Listening to funeral preachers, it may appear that just about everyone who dies goes to heaven. According to the Bible, however, far too many "assurances" of eternal salvation are false. The truth is, every responsible person who lives out of fellowship with Christ and who dies out of Christ is lost and is not going to heaven. The Bible says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," (I John 1: 7)

The Bible also states, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..." (Rev. 14:13). We must live and die in the Lord! This brings blessed assurance. As we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. These promises are very comforting and re-assuring to those who are in Christ. "These

things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (I John 5: 13).

"Blessed Assurance" is a song that we can sing with full assurance that all who live and die in Christ will be blessed with a eternal home in heaven. Thank God for this blessed assurance; this great hope. Are you relying on the blessed assurance given in God's word, or on false assurance given by man's word? The most important thing in your life -- your eternal destiny is at stake. Are you in Christ? Are you in fellowship with Christ? Remember: You can't live wrong and die right!

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



JUNE FRANKS

*"These things I have written unto  
you that believe... that ye may  
know that ye have eternal life...."*

(I John 5:13)

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# “Becoming all things to all men”



**Greg Ledbetter, (“Super Hero”)**  
Leading Youth V.B.S. at North Brandon

The apostle Paul, expressing his strong desire to save souls, made the following statement. He wrote, “I am become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some” (I Cor. 9:21).

Greg Ledbetter, youth minister for the North Brandon church in Brandon, Mississippi, recently reminded me of Paul’s statement. A few weeks ago the Brandon church conducted a VBS for all ages, with special emphases on the youth.

The theme of their VBS was “Super Heroes” featuring Bible characters. In keeping with their theme, young folks wore special T-shirts and Greg himself dressed up as a “Super Hero.” I understand the youth enjoyed their time together as they studied together each evening. It was a privilege for my June and me to visit the friendly church on Wednesday night and teach an adult class. (alf)

## Now You Take It From There

*John Simpson*

4073 Stillwod Dr • Memphis, TN 38128-3056

j38128sim@yahoo.com

# ADVICE

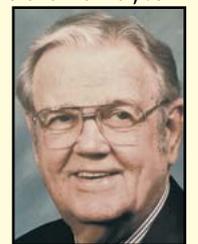
## To Parents and Grandparents

By John Simpson

David, Solomon and Paul are three of Heaven’s penmen for instruction on principles of child-rearing. One of the greatest responsibilities assigned to parents is home management of physical and spiritual provision for all in the household.

David leads with a reminder that parenthood, like marriage, is a covenant entered into by three parties; God, husband and wife: “Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward, Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth” (Psa. 127:3,4).

Solomon provides the principle of constancy in daily training for molding moral and social character of children: “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). The word from which “train” is translated, literally means to inculcate within so as to be indelible upon the heart or mind.



Paul gives practical application of quality Christian parental leadership that produces proper family relationships for acceptable moral and social behavior in children: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother. . . Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:1-4).

What children will become is from learned behavior. They are born illiterate and learn to read and write. They are born physically weak and learn to become strong. They are born immature but learn to become mature. A couple asked their pediatrician if their new-born would be a bad child. He replied: “We deliver no bad babies; this child will become what you teach it.”

Attention Parents!

Be honest, fair, but gently firm with your children – but know this. If you sneak home tools and supplies from where you work, and motel towels from where you travel – your children will steal! If you lie to your children, they will lie to you and to others! A child who is slapped and punched, will slap and punch others – even your grandchildren! A child who sees no laughter and feels no love, will have extreme difficulty in laughing and loving! If you bring children into the world, you owe them something! If you give them their just dues, they will have something more precious than gold to give to your grandchildren!

## Attention Grandparents!

Know who you are and enjoy it. A grandparent is a simple thing that even a small child can operate. Share your wisdom about child-rearing gently and sparingly. Establish early on that you are not a built in babysitter that comes with the package. Babysit when you want to and all you want to, but keep your independence; this will help to keep your sanity. Love and play with your grandchildren all day and deliver them back home by bedtime – unless they beg to spend the night.

*Now, you take it from there!*

### SAVE THE DATE

**March 11-14, 2018**

**3rd Annual  
Preachers' Retreat  
Kosciusko, Mississippi**



# MAGNOLIA Messenger

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**CHARLES & BARBARA PRITCHARD SHIRLEY SHIVE SELMA MCBETH OTIS BOWMAN**  
Wilburn DeLancey  
(Delhi, LA)

*Thank you for thinking about the work of the MM as you remember and/or honor loved ones/friends.*  
(alf, editor)

# Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

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



EDDIE LEWIS

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

## ■ April 2 (Randolph)

I visited with the Randolph church of Christ near Pontotoc, MS. Larry Cobb has been the minister there for 14 years. They have no elders and about 30 in attendance. Larry and Janice live in New Albany and travel to Randolph each Sunday. Larry was a deacon at New Albany and was encouraged to get into preaching by the minister there at the time. He has helped several churches around the area. I enjoyed meeting him and visiting with the folks at Randolph.



Larry and Janice Cobb

In Bible class they were studying Job 9. Larry led the class in an interesting discussion about God's power in this world and His love for man. It was a good class. In the worship Larry preached on "Wisdom from Above" based on James 3:13-18. He looked at the words that describe worldly wisdom. He then considered the wisdom that is from above. It was a good lesson.

## ■ April 9 (Hernando)

I visited with the Hernando church of Christ. Andy Scott has been the minister there for several years. They have around 100 in attendance and three elders. Chris Keeton is the youth minister. I enjoyed meeting Andy and his wife Catherine. She is a school teacher. They invited me to eat with them after services. It was a joy to visit with them in their home and have a good home cooked meal.



Kirk Smith, deacon/teacher &amp; Andy Scott, preacher

One of the deacons, Kirk Smith, taught the Bible Class. They were looking at a video series by John Clayton. The lesson for the day was "Anticipation of Objections." He talked about the arguments that atheists make about the creation of the universe. It was a very interesting presentation. In the worship Andy presented a lesson on Jesus as the "Foundation Rock." He used Luke 6:47-48 as the bases of the lesson. He made some very good points about Jesus as our foundation for the church and our lives. Jesus is faithful, secure, and stable. We must put our lives in Jesus' hands.

## ■ April 16 (Germantown)

I taught a Bible Class at the Germantown church of Christ. Germantown is my sponsoring congregation. One of the elders, Glenn Daily asked me to teach his class while he attended the L2L convention in Nashville. Glenn is the director of our program and does a wonderful job of organizing our trip. I was glad to help out. They are studying the Gospel of Luke. I looked at chapter 18 which begins with two parables about prayer. We talked about the widow who bothered a judge until he gave in to her request, and the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector praying in the Temple. One is talking about persistence in prayer and the other humility. I enjoyed seeing old friends and teaching the class. In the worship Dave Phillips taught a lesson on Luke 24, the Resurrection of Christ. He made some good points about the different responses people have to the news of the resurrection. It was a great sermon.

## ■ April 23 (Southaven)

I visited with the Southaven church of Christ. Don Blackwell and Robert Jefferies are co-ministers

there. They share the pulpit. Robert has been there several years and Don came there a couple of years ago. Don was out of town in a meeting, so Robert was speaking that Sunday. The church has six elders and around 300 in attendance. The church sponsors many works across the world. They are the sponsoring congregation for the Gospel Broadcast Network. The studio is located in Olive Branch. One of the elders, Mark Teske is the director of GBN. I understand that several churches in north Mississippi use their studio to tape their local cable programs. I was warmly received by the church there.

I attended the auditorium class. Mark Teske was the teacher that morning. He talked about "Classes of Evil." He mentioned that atheists have a problem because they think their best argument against God is that evil exist. He spent some time explaining intrinsic and instrumental evil and intrinsic and instrumental good. He mentioned the old statement, "Right is right and wrong is wrong and it's never right to do wrong." It was a very good lesson.

In the worship Robert presented a lesson on "What Did A Blind Man See" based on Acts 9. He looked at the conversion of Saul and some of the things we learn from his conversion. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed my visit with the folks there.



Mark Teske, an elder and Robert Jefferies, a minister

## ■ April 30 (Antioch)

I preached at the Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. It's always fun to visit with all the folks there. In Bible class I continued my study of the Fruit of the Spirit. We discussed the fruit of joy. The joy of the Christian is a deep seeded joy that helps us over come in times of trial. What a blessing we have in the Holy Spirit.

In worship I preached on "Positive Christian Living." We considered what it means to live a positive Christian life. I talked about eight qualities of positive Christian living.

## ■ May 7 (Senatobia)

I was invited to preach at the Senatobia church of Christ. Mike Jones is the minister there. He has been there for many years and is a good friend. Mike was gone all week on a trip and wanted someone to sub for him on Sunday, so he and the elders asked me to come. I was very pleased to come and speak at my hometown church. The church there has been a great encouragement to me over the years. It was good to see so many old friends and family. The church has four elders and three ministers. They have around 300 in attendance and are involved in many mission works and local outreach programs. While I was there, they talked about their Panama Mission Trip in June and SLCC.

In Bible class, Mike asked me to talk about leadership. I presented a lesson on the importance of our relationships in the church. I talked about Paul's relationship to the church at Philippi. It was based on Philippians 1:3-11, "Wired for Connection." As a leader Paul gives us a wonderful example of his connection to the church at Philippi.

In the worship I preached on "Overwhelmed and Grateful" based on the story of an unnamed woman who washed the feet of Jesus at the house of Simon the Pharisee, Luke 7:36-50. It's a good lesson on God's love for us and the importance of love in our lives. It was good to visit with the folks in Senatobia.



Mike Jones

■ **May 14 (Oak Grove)**

I was invited to preach for the Oak Grove church of Christ in Harmontown, MS. Stefan Dickerson is the preacher there. He is a bi-vocation minister and has worked with the church there for several years. Stefan asked me to sub for him while he and Mary Helen, his wife, attended church in Senatobia for Mother's Day. Mary Helen's mother has been sick with cancer. Sunday was her first time to attend church in several weeks. I was happy to help them support their family. I encourage everyone to remember Mary Helen and her mother in your prayers.

The Oak Grove church has no elders and 14 in attendance. In Bible class I continued Stefan's study of Joshua. They were in chapter 8. I talked about the importance of taking time to renew our spirits, as Joshua and Israel took time after the battle at Ai to worship God. In worship I presented a lesson entitled "The Blessing." It's about five steps we can take to give a blessing to the significant people in our lives. All it takes is a knowledge of how to impart a blessing and the commitment to do so on a daily basis. I enjoyed my visit with the Oak Grove church.



*Stefan & Mary Helen Dickerson*

■ **May 21 (Antioch, again!)**

I preached at the Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. I always enjoy my visit with the folks there. They are very receptive to the lessons I present. In Bible class we continued our study of the fruit of the Spirit. We discussed peace. Many scriptures deal with peace in the Christians life. It is a gift from Christ.

In the worship I preached on "Being the Best You Can Be for God." We looked at two extremes and why some people don't do their best for God. Then we talked about why we should do our best. We don't serve others to be saved, but because we are saved of our sins. We can do our best because God is working in us to help us excel in our ministry for Him.

■ **May 28 (Ripley)**

I visited with the Ripley church of Christ. Josh McCrary is the minister there. He and his wife, Moriah, have four children. He is a graduate of MSOP and has done some graduate work at Amridge University. I had not met Josh, so I wanted to visit with the church and hear him preach. The church has four elders and around 280 in attendance. It was a pleasure to see old friends and visit with Josh and his family. I appreciate the good work Josh is doing.

In Bible class they are studying a book by Mike Winkler, "Attitudes: The Heart of God's Child." They talked about the attitude of a mature child of God. His title for the lesson was "Leaving Sin" based on Romans 12:9. He talked about a definition of sin, the deception of sin and destruction of sin. It was a good lesson. In worship Josh preached on Bible Memorials in honor of Memorial Day. He talked about some bad memorials in scripture. He then talked about the memorials of the flood, the firstborn (Passover), freedom, and forgiveness. It was a very good lesson and a good reminder of all that God has done for us. I enjoyed my visit.



*Moriah and Josh McCrary*

■ **June 4 (Antioch, again!!)**

I preached at the Antioch church of Christ in Independence, MS. It's always good to visit with the folks there. A few were out of town, so the numbers were down, but the fellowship was wonderful.

In Bible class I continued a study of the Fruit of the Spirit and considered Patience. I defined patience as "endurance." There are many passages that talk about endurance. God wants us to have endurance to face the trials that come our way as children of God.

In worship I preached on "Balancing Life's Wheel" which is part on a series on Positive Christian Living. We looked at six major areas of life and considered how we can make these areas balanced. Of course, the spiritual area effects all the other areas so it's important for us to develop our spiritual life. It's always good to visit Antioch.

■ **June 11 (Ford's Well)**

I was invited to preach at the Ford's Well church of Christ near Water Valley, MS. Nathan Swanson

is the preacher there. He had knee surgery during the week and was unable to be there. The church only had five in attendance. I've visited with the church before and pray for the brethren there. In Bible class I presented the lesson "Wired for Connection" based on Philippians 1:3-11. It's a great lesson on relationships.

In the worship I presented a lesson on the Fruit of the Spirit—Long-suffering. There are lots of passages that talk about our endurance. Trials come to discipline, develop, and direct us to a greater trust in God. I enjoyed my visit with the folks there.

**(Back to Ripley for PM Service)**

Sunday night I preached for the church of Christ in Ripley, MS. Josh McCrary is the preacher there and was out of town. He called and I was happy to speak at the service. Lots of good folks at Ripley. One good thing about preaching at different places is that you can use the same sermon. So, I preached on "The Fruit of Longsuffering." The brethren at Ripley are always very grateful. It was good to be there.



*Nathan Swanson*

■ **June 18 (Ashland)**

I visited with the Ashland church of Christ. Don Roberson is the minister there. Ashland is his hometown. The church has grown under his leadership. They have around 75 in attendance. I enjoyed visiting and eating lunch with him and Lynn. They are a great couple and have a heart for the ministry in Ashland. I have visited with the church before and it was good to see the brethren again.

Jim Lakey taught the adult Bible Class. They are studying the book of Acts and were in chapter nine. Jim lead the class in a good discussion on Paul's conversion and the role of the Holy Spirit. Saul was God's chosen vessel to the gentiles. I appreciate Jim's good lesson.

In worship Don presented a lesson on "A Response of Love" based on 1 John 4:7-5:3. He emphasized that real love can prove we are part of the family of God and we are in fellowship with Him. He said the example of Jesus' sacrifice shows us the essence of love. We must respond to His love to receive salvation. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed my visit with the Ashland church.



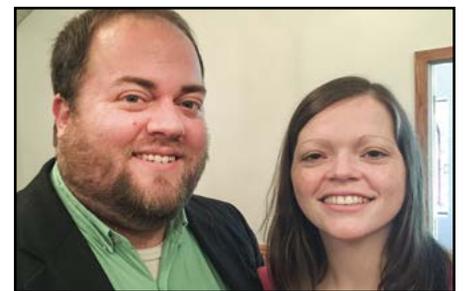
*Don Roberson and Jim Lakey*

■ **June 25 (Marlow)**

I visited with the Marlow church of Christ near Walnut, MS. Josh James is the minister there. He is a graduate of FHU and had worked as an associate/youth minister with the church until the untimely death of their minister Rodney Hilliard this year. Josh is a bi-vocational minister. He is married to Tonya and they have two boys with one on the way. It was good to visit with them and see the folks at Marlow. They have around 55 in attendance. The forth Sunday is fellowship Sunday, so I got to enjoy a homecooked meal by the ladies of the congregation.

Josh taught the Bible class. They are studying the book of James. They were in chapter two. It was a very good lesson on showing partiality toward people and the law of God. He made some very good points about the importance of showing love to everyone. Also, he talked about the importance of us following the royal law of God, "Love your neighbor as yourself." If we show no mercy, we receive no mercy.

In the worship, Josh presented the lesson, "There's A Great Day Coming" based on Matthew 25: 31-46. He used the song, "There's a Great Day Coming" to emphasize three points. There is a great day coming, there is a bright day coming, and there is a sad day coming. He made some good points about us being the light of God to help others in the darkness find their way to Christ. I enjoyed my visit.



*Josh and Tonya James*

# Judy Lewis, Wife of Eddie Lewis

Departed July 9, 2017

“Eddie and Judy Lewis loved the Lord and dedicated their lives to His kingdom. They looked forward to that special day when God would take them Home to be with Him. As all of us, they were in no particular rush, because they wanted to influence thousands of others to look forward to that day too. It just so happened for Judy, God chose Sunday, July 9th.

After Eddie posted he was praying that God would take her peacefully with no more suffering, many of us prayed that prayer and God answered. God answered, not on just any day, but on Eddie’s birthday. You may be tempted to say, ‘How Sad!’ But, I say, ‘Thank you Jesus!’

The greatest Birthday gift of all time has to be God providing the escape for Judy’s suffering and sending His angels to escort Judy to paradise. I believe her life long ambition of living eternally with God was realized this past Sunday.

It provides Eddie, his family and us, as friends, the sweet peace of knowing God cares, God provides and God answers prayer. Every July 9th as we celebrate the birthday of Eddie, we will also celebrate the Victory of the angelic escort of Judy to Paradise. I say, PRAISE GOD!

*(This was written by their good friend,  
Lou Butterfield and was the first thing said  
at Judy’s funeral!)*

May 6, 1946 - July 9, 2017

Judy Harriett Smart Lewis was born May 6, 1946 in Holly Springs, MS to the late Robert



Judy Lewis

W. Smart and the late Gladys Freeman Smart of Wyatte, MS. She passed from this life July 9, 2017 in Olive Branch, MS. She is survived by her husband, Eddie C. Lewis of Olive Branch and two daughters, Angelia Weeks (Mickey) of Collierville, TN and Christy Dye of Olive Branch. She has three grandchildren, Autumn and Nolan Weeks, and Lance Dye. She has one sister, Beth Smart Ashford of Cleveland, MS. She was a member of the Germantown church of Christ.

Judy attended Senatobia High School, Harding University, and Delta State University. She earned a MEd in counseling from Delta State. She was a License Professional Counselor. She worked with the Community Counseling Center in Cleveland, MS; Quinco in Selma, TN; Community Counseling Center in Greenville, MS. She had a private practice in Olive Branch and was on retainer with a couple of local churches.

She helped hundreds of clients with all kinds of mental health issues. She especially worked with couples on marriage issues, those who suffered from all kinds of abuse, and depression. She conducted several workshops and classes on personal development. She spoke at many women’s retreats, workshops, and classes. Also, she co-hosted, with her husband, a “Marriage Enrichment Seminar.” She was actively involved in the Olive Branch community and her church.

*(Eddie Lewis writes regularly for this publication. We will all miss Judy! PF)*

## Who’s Who Among Servant Leaders in Churches of Christ?

George Brazelton, a former elder of the Graymere Church of Christ in Dickson, TN, is pictured presenting a special certificate to John Vaughan, former preacher for the Graymere church. He is recognized for his life of dedicated service to the world’s greatest Cause.

Among many notable accomplishments, John Vaughan served as preacher/minister for the Graymere congregation in Dickson for about 26 years. Thanks to readers of the Magnolia Messenger, brother Vaughan is among those who have been nominated and selected for special recognition as “Who’s Who Among Servant Leaders in Churches of Christ.”



John Vaughan (on left), Lebanon, TN Presented Certificate by George Brazelton

## WHO’S WHO

### Among Leaders in Churches of Christ

Ray Hyatt of DeQuincy, LA



Ray Hyatt (center) recognized for his leadership service. Paul Franks presented the award. Ray Franks (right) nominated 91 year old Ray Hyatt.

Ray Hyatt, born on June 9, 1926, is 91 years old and still going strong. He was physically born in DeQuincy, LA and, at the age of 12, Ray was born again when he obeyed the gospel. He started preaching when he was about 15 years old. After graduating from High School, he joined the Navy and served in the Pacific theater during WWII for 2 years and 6 months. After coming home, he went to Lafayette, LA where he went to college. Ray was married to Patsy Perkins for 62 years, until her death in 2010. He and Patsy were blessed with three sons.

Ray started out in the manufacturing industry, but soon joined his brother in a retail grocery business that spanned 25 years. My grandfather, Lovis Franks, owned a slaughter house and regularly delivered beef to Ray’s grocery stores. After retiring from the grocery store business, he became City Planner for the city of DeQuincy.

During all of this time, Ray was a faithful member of the DeQuincy congregation, serving as a deacon for 12 years and an elder for 37 years. His favorite job in life has been to preach and teach the gospel. He has preached for over 60 congregations in south Louisiana and east Texas. He refuses to be paid as a preacher.

Ray’s health appears to be good. We are hoping that he will continue for many more years to be blessed with opportunities to preach. One thing more. Ray said that he would like to leave this world preaching the gospel. He said he would be happy to finish a sermon and die right in the pulpit area. Such dedication and love for the Lord and His church, is without doubt, one reason why Ray Hyatt is respected and loved by churches of Christ throughout the the area.

## Another Who’s Who Among Servant Leaders in Churches of Christ



Terry Mabery (On right, Collinsville, IL)  
(An elder and associate minister, Collinsville church)  
Certificate presented by Kelvin Pugh, preacher at Collinsville. Terry Mabery was nominated by a man in prison who had been baptized by brother Mabery. Our Congratulations!

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

- |                           |                            |                            |                           |                          |                          |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dorothy Mallett        | 64. Marvin England         | 127. Stan                  | 188. Annie Mae Pipkin     | 252. Glenda Wooldridge   | 316. Karmen Paine        | 381. Bonnie Poor           |
| 2. Lori Smith             | 65. Melvin & Kay Linton    | Neuwnschwander             | 189. Sharon Huckaba       | 253. Dillie Horton       | 317. Tapanga Gates       | 382. Kerry Deaton          |
| 3. Prince Lewis           | 66. Pat Moore              | 128. Wayne Crum            | 190. Paul Briley          | 254. Sve Foster          | 318. Billy Alford        | 383. James King            |
| 4. Ruby Nell Rigby        | 67. Sandy Dean             | 129. Perkins Cochran       | 191. Joyce King           | 255. James Flanagan      | 319. Natalie Stewart     | 384. Mary King             |
| 5. Thomas Rigby           | 68. Sylvester & Linda      | 130. Wanda Cochran         | 192. Nodine Patton        | 256. Ann Sims            | 320. Reagan Hall         | 385. Juanita Brown         |
| 6. Nancy Floyd            | Burton                     | 131. Patsy Conquest        | 193. Christene Holliday   | 257. Ellen Welsh         | 321. Sandra Grisham      | 386. Gerald Worthey        |
| 7. Betty Skinner          | 69. Patsy McClung          | 132. Barbara Baker         | 194. Evelyn Laney         | 258. Kenneth Lee Harmon  | 322. Lynn Grisham        | 387. Ruby Worthey          |
| 8. Margie McKinney        | 70. Richard Reel           | 133. Steven Arthur         | 195. Bobbie Loggins       | 259. Geri Spears         | 323. Doralynn Felton     | 388. Fran Williford        |
| 9. Jim & Judy Hill        | 71. Brenda Green           | Franklin                   | 196. Charlotte Langley    | 260. Lucretia McNees     | 324. Lucille Anders      | 389. Lisa Dearman          |
| 10. Tommy Muirhead        | 72. Janie Green            | 134. Princess Watson       | 197. Lessie Tanson        | 261. Myra Dozler         | 325. Tommy & Peggy       | 390. Patricia McClure      |
| 11. Irene Wright          | 73. Carolyn Perry          | 135. Marcella Moore        | 198. Barbara Yates        | 262. Mary Cathie Grigsby | Shull                    | 391. Thelma Talbert        |
| 12. Paul & Darlene        | 74. Sidney Clemmer         | 136. Roy Gambrell          | 199. Peggy Engel          | 263. Rick Bishop         | 326. Kathy Perry         | 392. Charlotte Vandiver    |
| McElroy                   | 75. Jean Clemmer           | 137. Ima Jean Fogus        | <b>200. Beverly Miles</b> | 264. Idna Eddington      | 327. Jack Fall, Sr.      | 393. Joe Holmes            |
| 13. Charlene Stanfield    | 76. Wilda Pounds           | 138. Rachel Pruitt         | 201. Shirley Hurley       | 265. Admiral & Ruth      | 328. Autumn Griffin      | 394. Bonnie Skates         |
| 14. Donna Gulley          | 77. Gracie Stroud          | 139. Glen Brady            | 202. James & Gloria       | Tidwell                  | 329. Emily Beth Chapman  | 395. Artis Hinton          |
| 15. Billy Willingham      | 78. Masey Brown            | 140. Waymond Hales         | Breckeridge               | 266. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 330. Alex Green          | 396. Charlotte Ritter      |
| 16. Richard Odom          | 79. Doyce Britt            | 141. Linda Dalton          | 203. Michael Euer         | 267. Altha McKinney      | 331. Katie Grisham       | 397. Lena Mae Barber       |
| 17. William Pyror         | 80. Carole Shelby          | 142. Darryl James Sterling | 204. Mary Jacobs          | 268. Charles Beal        | 332. Peyton Shappley     | 398. Della M. Rhodes       |
| 18. Pearlie Hurst         | 81. Sue Mason              | 143. Pat Shadle            | 205. WM. & Atlean Snow    | 269. Gwendolyn           | 333. Cheyenne Harrison   | 399. Betty Shackelford     |
| 19. Vera Spencer          | 82. Ray Mason              | 144. Nan Corley            | 206. Martha Stevens       | Gray Bryant              | 334. Natalie Gentry      | 400. Lori Smith            |
| 20. Sherian Martin        | 83. Ray Parham             | 145. June Brents           | 207. Jolene Dale          | 270. Connie Fountain     | 335. Isabella Thompson   | 401. Maricus Ivy           |
| 21. Rosa Sanders          | 84. Ken Harris             | 146. Shelia Williams       | 208. Mildred Carroll      | 271. Brenda Burlison     | 336. Victoria Santiago   | 402. Johnny Ivy            |
| 22. Scotty Balentine      | 85. June Faulkner          | 147. Sherry Townsend       | 209. Wade Hardy           | 272. Vera Winfrey        | 337. Olivia Pounders     | 403. Rayma Cook            |
| 23. Donna Stevens         | 86. Margaret Parker        | 148. Emile & Peggy Rollins | 210. Ida Wells            | 273. Betty VanBuren      | 338. Wanda Orman         | 404. Linda Swan            |
| 24. Anne Shelton          | 87. Frances Harrell        | 149. Sarah Dantzler        | 211. Josephine Carter     | 274. Sue Fisher          | 339. Danny Meeks         | 405. Rosie Lee Odoms       |
| 25. Dannie Davis          | 88. Barbara Beard          | 150. Danny Stacks          | 212. Mary Williams        | 275. Kittie Edwards      | 340. Ryder Hughes        | 406. Jerry Neighbors, Jr.  |
| 26. Peggy Hartman         | 89. Toni Burnett           | 151. Carolyn Ware          | 213. E. Jean Brown        | 276. Shelia Hall         | 341. Landen Meeks        | 407. Carla Owen            |
| 27. Irene Rogers          | 90. Taylor Wilson          | 152. Stacey, Melinda &     | Harmon                    | 277. Sherron Dixon       | 342. Lisa Meeks          | 408. Flossie Hernandez     |
| 28. Bet Tucker            | 91. Mary Katherine         | Gregory Hawkins            | 214. Cathy Brooks         | 278. Linda Kennamore     | 343. Zack Roberson       | 409. Elizabeth Henderson   |
| 29. Glenda Jefcoat        | Stratton                   | 153. Velva Dykes           | 215. Addie Brown          | 279. Sue Glenn           | 344. Karley Matthews     | 410. Shane & Lindsey       |
| 30. Linda Miller          | 92. Dale Stratton          | 154. George Lowrey         | 216. James Hudley         | 280. Bethany Stephens    | 345. Charlotte Rauchle   | Cardwell                   |
| 31. Mr. & Mrs.            | 93. Keith Wilson           | 155. Ann Hulsey            | 217. Sherry Ross          | 281. Jennifer Gray       | 346. Arvel Miles         | 411. Haley Winter          |
| Timothy Holliday          | 94. Gail Saxon             | 156. Carol Bonner          | 218. Ollie Wooten         | 282. Mary Salinas        | 347. Betty Miles         | 412. Bo, Meridith & Gavin  |
| 32. Linda Bonner          | 95. Maggie Edmonds         | 157. Theresa Henderson     | 219. Katheryn Lee         | 283. Bobbie Clayborn     | 348. Ruby Nell Parham    | Newman                     |
| 33. Kim Easterley         | 96. Arthur & Shirley       | 158. Doris Darnell         | 220. Geraldine Ford       | 284. Althea House        | 349. Peggy Jackson       | 413. Susan Boyd            |
| 34. John Downs            | Burnett                    | 159. Willa Fox             | 221. Mattie Cole Gregory  | 285. Rhenda Miltner      | 350. Edmon Wheeler       | 414. Gay R. Null           |
| 35. Lawrence Horn         | 97. Sharon Dantzler        | 160. Kathey Coopwood       | 222. Curley Haley         | 286. Terry Miltner       | 351. Jean Parson         | 415. Bobby Garrett         |
| 36. Cheri Moore           | 98. Mary Dyer              | James                      | 223. Batsell Booker       | 287. Brenda Harvill      | 352. Doris Britt         | 416. Natalie Simmons       |
| 37. Meredith Peek         | 99. Rosie Roosevelt Felton | 161. Herschel Ford         | 224. Danny Rucker         | 288. Karen Sue Britt     | 353. Sarah Hill          | 417. Elnorsh Duckworth     |
| 38. Kevin & Dianne Culley | 100. Exie Motes            | 162. Inez & Laura          | 225. Ginny Luther         | 289. Judy Willis         | 354. Joyce McKee         | 418. Linda Boone           |
| 39. Mary Robinson         | 101. Linda Keirn           | Brannon                    | 226. Bonnie Brown Glass   | 290. Carrie McGrone      | 355. Bonnie Dixon        | 419. Patricia & James      |
| 40. Joyce Talbert         | 102. Roger King            | 163. Bertha Johnson        | 227. Velma Isom           | 291. John Gates, Jr.     | 356. Sue Hamrick         | Thornton                   |
| 41. Carl Trimm            | 103. Don Lee               | 164. Ann Cockroft          | 228. Madonna Langford     | 292. Charles Ray Coffey  | 357. Claude Williams     | 420. Patsy Howard          |
| 42. Judy Poyner           | 104. Patricia Glover       | 165. Eva Almon             | 229. Amy Hutson           | 293. Jim Vermillion      | 358. Mary Jane Hollis    | 421. Jamie Michelle Turner |
| 43. Nell Millsaps         | 105. Sidney Robinson       | 166. Bobby Lively          | 230. Doris Fletcher       | 294. Eddie Vermillion    | 359. Beulah Rupert       | 422. Carlos & LaShanda     |
| 44. Mary McDonald         | 106. Mack Moore            | 167. Marie Lively          | 231. Ida Tuggle Walls     | 295. Lois Nielson        | 360. Bettie Brown        | Stringfield                |
| 45. Michelle Simpson      | 107. Kay Shiers            | 168. Brenda Collums        | 232. Ruby Wright          | 296. Jimmie & Anita Taft | 361. Tomas Hare          | 423. Jerry L. Neighbors    |
| 46. Shanon Rachels        | 108. Bonnie Linsey         | 169. Gloria Wilborn        | 233. Ann Holeman          | 297. Foy Smith           | 362. Wes & Rhoda Jeans   | 424. Catherine A. Allen    |
| 47. Frederick Alan Jones  | 109. Michael Coleman       | 170. Carolyn Stanford      | 234. Dwight Hester        | 298. Elsie Moore         | 363. Earl Franks         | 425. Vivian M. Covington   |
| 48. James & Katie         | 110. Merlene Scott         | 171. Earlean Williams      | 235. Geraldine Wilbanks   | 299. Alice Humphries     | 364. Keitha Hare         | 426. Millie Goode          |
| Houston                   | 111. Elizabeth Dickerson   | 172. Vickie Comer          | 236. Frank Hurt           | 300. John Boyd, Sr.      | 365. Geraldine Lagarde   | 427. Peggy Harvard         |
| 49. Peggy Wroten          | 112. Brenda Redd           | 173. Barbara Loden         | 237. Melba Ogg            | 301. Bobbie Saxton       | 366. Purnell Lagarde     | 428. Diane Dunaway         |
| 50. Betty Spears          | 113. Faye Stanford         | 174. Carolyn Garrett       | 238. Lady Garth           | 302. Betty Standard      | 367. Arva Fisher         | 429. Sylvia Birt           |
| 51. Dee Kepler            | 114. Billye Wiygul         | 175. Carolyn Harvill       | 239. Dorothy Banks        | 303. Lucille Jackson     | 368. Linda Shadrix       | 430. Bonnie Howell         |
| 52. Audrey Bowling        | 115. Bernita Booker        | 176. Jan Wiese             | 240. Pamela Shepherd      | 304. Oreatha Johnson     | 369. Scottie Dendy       | 431. Tommy & Nell Lawson   |
| 53. Victor Boone          | 116. Dorothy Brunson       | 177. Blaise Fernandez      | 241. Betty Harris         | 305. Wanza Gray          | 370. Michael Harvill     | 432. Magdalene Tillman     |
| 54. Carolyn Jackson       | 117. Ann Whetstone         | 178. Martha Freeman        | 242. Mary Adams           | 306. Lisa Dettor         | 371. Mary Johnson        | 433. Betty York            |
| 55. Gary Gooch            | 118. Emily Overton         | 179. Flossie Hernandez     | 243. Onngaleah Huff       | 307. Linda Cook          | 372. Jo Ann Mayer        | 434. Sherry Gordon         |
| 56. Jean Girdner          | 119. Dorothy Winslett      | 180. Edward Yancey         | 244. Bobbie Sindle        | 308. Margaret Freeman    | 373. Jackson Mayer       |                            |
| 57. Foster Owens          | 120. Sharon Praytor        | 181. Charlene Jent         | 245. Jane Kuykendall      | 309. Keneley Wofford     | 374. Cary Mayer          |                            |
| 58. Mattie Ann Owens      | 121. Ed Lyon               | 182. Jerry Fleming         | 246. Joe Arnold           | 310. Kalib Smith         | 375. Jane Walker         |                            |
| 59. Mary Bonnette         | 122. Ruby McCrory          | 183. Bill Moore            | 247. Jean Lewis           | 311. Caiden Holliday     | 376. Paul & Elsie Bryson |                            |
| 60. Bernice Townsel       | 123. LaVerne Corley Becker | 184. Mary Brannan          | 248. Janice Griffin       | 312. Sahaya Metcalfe     | 377. Trillie Strickland  |                            |
| 61. Billy & Lucille Smith | 124. Tom Kelly             | 185. Bobbi Page            | 249. Paul Pounds          | 313. Alex Williams       | 378. Esther Hall         |                            |
| 62. Janice Galloway       | 125. Elizabeth Henderson   | 186. Mil Herrington        | 250. Shellie Hancock      | 314. Josh Williams       | 379. James Hurlbut       |                            |
| 63. Ann Kimble            | 126. Faye Stamps           | 187. Kathryn Jarrett       | 251. Nettie Doss          | 315. Kayla Paine         | 380. Alice Dempsey       |                            |

*NOTE: The names of all who sent in answers, received after September 11, will be recognized, God willing, in our next issue. Thanks for answering "The Question Box."*

## THE QUESTION BOX

# Guilt and Freedom

The Bible teaches that sin has the terrible ability to *dominate* our lives; to drag us down... to destroy us! Titus 2:3 states, "For we ourselves also were sometimes \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and hating one another." Or, as Romans 6:2 puts it, "Ye were the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin." You were... (in the past). Something changed; something was different. But what? Jesus said, "... if the Son therefore shall make you \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ indeed." John 8:12. This is the promise of Christ.

Instead of feeling free, many Christians still struggle with guilt and shame. Why? Have we, as Christians, bought into this idea of "Karma" (Hinduism, Buddhism)? *Karma* is the belief that you get what you deserve: If you've done good things, then you'll be rewarded with good things, but if you've done bad things... you're going to pay! Now, there is a sense in which the Bible teaches you do reap what you sow. Galatians 6:7 states, "Be not \_\_\_\_\_; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man \_\_\_\_\_, that shall he also \_\_\_\_\_."

Karma doesn't work. It can't really solve the pain of our guilt and shame, because it doesn't deal with the root cause! There is a distinct difference between the concept of Karma and what Jesus taught. World religions teach that you can work off your "bad Karma". They teach that you can do enough good to outweigh the bad. This is not Christianity! Christianity requires a Savior; that Savior is Jesus. He came to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

**Please study and answer this issue of the "QB" and send your answers to us.** (Adapted for the Question Box by Paul Franks as taken from sermon notes.) **Please use the KJV version!**

**True or False Statements.** Please fill in blanks with scriptural words.

\_\_\_\_ 1. God is ready to forgive us because He loves us. (Study Romans 8:1 and fill in blanks): "But God commendeth his \_\_\_\_\_ toward us, in that, while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us." (Read Romans 8:3): "He that spared not his own \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ him up for \_\_\_\_\_ all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

\_\_\_\_ 2. Christianity, unlike false world religions, teaches you can know you are saved and on your way to heaven. (Look up I John 5:1 and complete): "These things have I written unto you that \_\_\_\_\_ on the name of the Son of God; that ye may \_\_\_\_\_ that ye have \_\_\_\_\_ life..."

\_\_\_\_ 3. You can do enough good works to earn your way to heaven. (Turn to Ephesians 2:8,9 and fill in blanks.) "For by \_\_\_\_\_ are you \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_; and that \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Not of \_\_\_\_\_. lest any \_\_\_\_\_ should \_\_\_\_\_."

\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus said to the Gentiles who believed on him, "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." (John 8:31)

\_\_\_\_ 5. To "continue in the words of Christ" requires obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. When I read my Bible, spend time in intimate prayer and become actively involved in the work of the body/church of Christ, I am continuing in the words of Christ.

\_\_\_\_ 6. If you truly love Jesus, you will love His body, His church, and will be an active member.

\_\_\_\_ 7. When we become mature Christians, we stop sinning altogether. (I John 1:8)

\_\_\_\_ 8. When I confess my sins, I am admitting I've fallen below God's standards and am in need of a Savior. (I John 1:9)

\_\_\_\_ 9. Holding to the teachings of Jesus will cause me to search the scriptures to check if a teacher is teaching what Jesus taught or if he is teaching what "itching ears" want to hear. (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 4:3)

\_\_\_\_ 10. By confessing and forsaking our sins, we are set free from the shackles of shame and guilt that come from living a life of sin (I John 1:7).

### 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

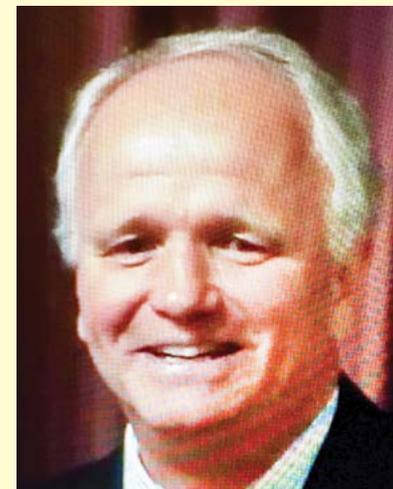
**New Bible Winner**  
**BEVERLY MILES**

Como, Mississippi

**Congratulations!**

**Our Apologies to Edmond Wheeler,** a recent Bible winner. Your picture was received by us and, as we were going to press with this issue, we were unable to find the picture. So sorry; yet, thankful you received your bible.

## Gospel Meeting "REVIVAL"



**Keith Parker**  
(Hendersonville, TN)

## South Huntington Street Church of Christ

Kosciusko, Mississippi

**October 8-11, 2017**

**Sunday**

**9:30 A.M. • 10:30 A.M.**

**Noon: Lunch Provided**

**6:00 P.M.**

*(Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)*

**7:00 P.M.**

*Keith Parker served as pulpit minister for the Central church of Christ in Hendersonville, Tennessee for about 25 years, during which time the congregation nearly doubled in size.*

*Brother Keith was born in 1956 and began preaching at age 15. He now devotes his life to meetings and special events. We are blessed to have him coming to central Mississippi for a few days/nights.*