



MAGNOLIA MESSENGER

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

Our
26th
Year

Volume 26; Number 1

P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090

Jan/Feb, 2004



MM RV Rally

April 28 - May 2, 2004

Roosevelt State Park
Morton, Mississippi

Featuring
Charles Hodge
"A Daily Walk With God"



Load up your old
(or new) RV and
join us!



Call:
1-800-748-3122

See
Page
10

Inspirational... Faith Building. Fellowship, Fun, Food

A Reader Asks

QUESTION: *I am a Christian and I want to do what is right but, when temptation comes, I seem to succumb, even though I deeply regret it later. What can I do to overcome these strong temptations? (D. R.)*

Cecil May Responds on Page 3

Adult Retreat

February 20, 21, 2004

Tombigbee State Park

Tupelo, Mississippi

Hosted by Booneville Church of Christ

Speaker: Sam Hester (FHU)
662-728-5544 or 728-7195

"Shining in a Dark World"

Magnolia Bible College's

23rd Annual Benefit Dinner
and Silent Auction



Featuring:
Archie Manning

Saturday, April 17th, 2004

Private Reception - 4:00 - 5:30pm

Silent Auction - 5:00pm

Dinner - 6:00 - 8:00pm

— MBC News on Page 9 —

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

"Church ~~of Christ~~"

When a church (any church) decides to no longer teach the necessity of baptism in God's plan for salvation, it is appropriate to strike (remove) the phrase "of Christ" from its identification.

A church forfeits its right to be identified as a "church of Christ" when its teachings are not in agreement with or are contrary to the teachings of Christ -- the One who built His church and paid for it with His own precious blood! (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28)

And, there is absolutely no doubt. Jesus Christ, **the** Saviour, clearly taught the necessity of baptism. He tied it directly to salvation. Baptism comes before salvation. (See Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16. Study also Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21.)

So, if and when the leadership of a church decides to no longer teach what the Bible teaches about baptism *or anything else*, it is fitting to strike or remove the phrase "of Christ" as a mark of identification. (ALF)

Lot to Learn

by reading obituaries
(Page 2)

Let's Do More in 2004!

challenge on page 4

S. H. D.

Relating to the Roles of Women in the Church
(woman writes; page 5)

What is "Good Preaching"?

(need to read page 7)

Another "Drop-In Visit"

Details on page 13

He Died For Me!

Answer QB on page 20

Have You Been Tried in Heaven's Court?

Ponder Page 14

PEACE

That Passeth All Understanding

For Peace, see Page 16

Good Reading on Every Page

Answer Insults With Blessings

Look on page 17

Opportunities for the Young

Delta Daze Youth Rally

February 20-21, 2004

West President

Church of Christ

Greenwood, Mississippi

Which Direction Are

You Headed?

662-453-4555

Annual

Youth Day

Church of Christ

Highway 19

Meridian, Mississippi

February 28, 2004

Jesus: Your Core in 2004

Chris King, Speaker

601-482-5318

Thanks for Receiving and Reading the "Magnolia Messenger".

Published By
Magnolia Messenger
Church of Christ
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090
Change Service
Requested

Non-Profit Org.
Permit #143
Postage Paid
Kosciusko, MS 39090

"Put them in mind... to be ready unto every good work." (Titus 3:1)

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

MM PUBLISHING

25th Anniversary

Brother Al,

I cannot believe that it has been 25 years since I handed you a list of possible names for this publication, and you chose The Magnolia Messenger as its title. Annette and I moved back to Florida, June 1, and I am currently preaching for a very small congregation in Tarpon Springs, Florida, near the Gulf of Mexico. Both of us are looking for teaching positions in the area, and enjoying our first grandchild that was born in January. Give June & Paul my regards. In Him, John Poore (Florida)

Dear A.L.

I congratulate you and June on 25 years of work with the MM. It has been such a great asset to the church in Mississippi and Louisiana. I can't imagine not being able to read all the great articles and good information about all the good things that are happening in the state. It is because of you and your love of God that the paper has maintained a positive outlook through the years. I appreciate so much your positive vision for the paper. God bless you. In Christian love, Eddie & Judy Lewis (Memphis)

Brother Al and Sister June:

Congratulations on reaching the 25 year mark in publication of the Messenger. God is to be praised and you are to be thanked for the wonderful

work that you do, have done, and will do through the printing of this paper. We wish for you continued health and happiness as you publish Mississippi's Good News Newspaper. May God bless you richly everyday as you are used in His service! With Love, (Alan H. Judd; Meridian church of Christ)

Dear Al and June,

We appreciate your hard work! We hope you have at least 25 more wonderful and successful years publishing the Messenger! Hope this token will help you continue! (The Craddocks; Tyler, TX)

Al & June,

I noticed in the most recent issue of the Magnolia Messenger that you have completed 25 years producing the paper. I want to compliment you on your work. We spent 10 1/2 years in Mississippi (2 1/2 in Jackson and 8 in Southaven), and although we have been in Oklahoma for the past 14 years, we still like to keep up with the work there and we enjoy the good solid teaching articles that you include (especially Cecil's question and answer page). May the Lord bless you and give you many more years of service in His Kingdom and with the Magnolia Messenger. (John Curtis, Oklahoma)

Dear brother and sister Franks,

CONGRATULATIONS upon completing 25 years of the MM. You have done much good that will have lasting impact. May the Lord bless you and all your efforts. (Tom McLemore; AL)



Editor

A. L. Franks

Dear Al,
Congratulations on your 25th year publishing Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy reading your paper very much. I remember our days in the Mississippi delta when my family lived in Greenville and your family lived in Rolling Fork. I wish you much success as you begin year 26. Keep up the good work. You and June are rendering an excellent service... (Hoyt White, Long Beach, MS)

-- A Reader Reminds Us --

In Troublesome Times,
Thank Him and Trust Him!

— — —

I thank God that things are as well with me as they are. I am able to stay at home now. I have had a bad time for some weeks. Doctors say it is "bad arthritis." I'm taking Celebrex and Tylenol arthritis medicine for pain. It is a lot better... a long ways from well.

I still have many blessings. I can do very little, but I am surviving. I am on Home Health; nurses and aids come a lot. Uncle Jake is up and about. Uncle Pete comes to church on Sundays most of the time. Paula is doing some better. Virginia is in a nursing home in DeQuincy... Minnie Mae lives at home.

Our preacher is leaving us... He is a good man and is very deep in Bible. Guess we'll start looking for one again. I don't know. We'll just keep praying and trying to do His will. The Lord will help us. I'd better close, as I can't write. My hand just won't stay still. I love you both and my prayers are with you. In Christian love, Bob [Franks, a cousin, by marriage, in Louisiana]. (Excerpts from edited letter received in early December [03])

Our Daily Prayer

Help us, Lord, to publish a paper that will advance Your Cause, resulting in saving and strengthening precious souls. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

A Lot to Learn

MISSISSIPPI DEATHS

48 ■ THE CLARION-LEDGER ■ FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2004

OBITUARY ADVERTISING
The Clarion-Ledger publishes basic
deceased and service information and
Additional information, such as survivors
and hobbies and possibly a personal
obituary will cost \$4.25 per
ditional information will cost by 4 p.m. for
mitted by a funeral home by 4 p.m. for
ditions. Obituary photos also must
publication in all editions. For quest

By Reading the Obituary Section

- Editor -

"Thank the Lord! My name is not in the paper. At least, not today." Frequently this statement is uttered by those of us who regularly read the obituary section of a local newspaper.

I freely admit. Often I glance over the reports of deaths published in Kosciusko's weekly paper and in Jackson's daily newspaper.

The reports are quite revealing. 'Tis true. You can learn a lot by reading the obituary section. May I share with you some recent tidbits of information? Lessons learned? Helped me. Might help you. Let's see.

Increased Number of Deaths

I counted the number of deaths reported in the *Jackson Clarion Ledger* on January 16, 2004. It seemed higher than usual. A total of 55 deaths were detailed. Parts of three pages in the newspaper were devoted to "Mississippi Deaths." Maybe it's that time of the year. Winter. "Flu season".

Many homes affected. Many hearts broken. Sadness abounds all over the state. Houston, Jackson, Starkville, Charleston, Clinton, Vicksburg, Guntown, Meridian, Indianola, New Hebron, Saltillo, Mendenhall, Booneville, Winona, Ackerman, Ridgeland, Carthage, Oxford, Grenada, Batesville, Ocean Springs, Gulfport, Magee, Greenwood. No community is immune. Death goes everywhere and eventually calls everyone.

"It is appointed unto man once to die...." (Heb. 9:27) No place is safe. Can't hide. No escape.

No Age Exempt

A total of 55 death notices were published in the 1-16-04 obituary. All together, those now dead lived a total of 3,013 years. The average life span was a little less than 55 years.

The death of one infant was reported; on the other hand, Carrie Elizabeth Montgomery lived to be 101. Several died before reaching age 50. Larry Bacon was 47. Michael Collins of Guntown was 42. Lory Jarrell was just 23. Germain Dawson made it to age 30, dying with heart failure.

Some lived longer. Evelyn reached 90. Inez died at 91 in Winona. Hiram Woodruff of Jackson passed into eternity just two years short of 100.

No Respecter of persons

Male or female. Makes no difference. Both must die. Rich or poor. Death comes to all. Education doesn't appear to be factor. Even "doctors" die. Preachers are not exempt.

What really matters

Death is a great teacher. How much wealth? Doesn't really matter. How well known? Doesn't make a lot of difference. One's relationship with the Lord. That's what really counts. Prepared. Prepared to die. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." (Rev 14:13)

Are you ready to die? Are you a Christian? You can be. Today. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned." (Mark 16:16). Manifest your faith in Jesus. Your name may not be in the today's obituary section, but what about tomorrow?

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

Published every two months (as funds and time permit). Mailed without charge to all who ask to receive it and to others for whom it is requested.

Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of nearly 25,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your help is requested, needed and appreciated!

Supported By Contributions

A. L. Franks, Editor

Paul Franks, Managing Editor, LA

Cecil May, Jr., Bible Questions Answered

June & Glenda Franks, Special Assistants

Telephone Numbers

Office/Residence
(662) 289-3559
Cell Phone
(601) 668-3344

Mailing Address:

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 or do. We do not (can not) have full knowledge of every person or church mentioned in the MM; furthermore, we do not believe our role before God 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

Bible Questions Answered

By Cecil May, Jr.

QUESTION:
I am a Christian and I want to do what is right, but when temptation comes I seem to succumb, even though I deeply regret it later. What can I do to overcome these strong temptations? (D. R.)

RESPONSE:

You are to be commended for wanting to do right, for regretting it when you yield to temptation, and for desiring knowledge and strength to help you better overcome temptation. Please do not grow discouraged or despair.

Help to Overcome

First of all, settle the question firmly in your mind and heart, "To whom do I belong?" Jesus reminds us, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will love the one and hate the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). Paul spoke of God, "to whom I belong and whom I serve" (Acts 27:23).

Some temptations are stronger or more enticing for lack of a definitive decision on our part to serve the Lord always. Evil should be decisively rejected as soon as its first coaxings are recognized. It is unnecessary to decide how far down the road toward evil one can go, if he or she has already determined not to start.

To illustrate, one does not have to consider the weather and the activities taking place on Sunday in making a decision to assemble with the saints that morning, if the decision has already been made to always attend, barring of course some extreme extraordinary circumstances.

A comprehensive decision to follow a Spirit-directed life path, consciously made, keeps some temptations from even being considered.

It should go without saying, but unfortunately it does not: a "Spirit-directed life path" is one guided by the Holy Spirit inspired, God-breathed word, the Bible.

Use the Word

The Psalmist said, speaking to God, "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

Jesus demonstrated the practicality and power of knowing and using the word to resist temptation in his confrontation with the devil in the wilderness. For each temptation the devil presented,

Jesus quoted the exact Scripture that answered the temptation. As a result, "The devil left Him" (Matthew 4:11).

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). There is no stronger weapon with which to resist him than the word of God.

In order to store up the word and have it available for such use, it is necessary to read it, study it diligently, meditate on it, commit it to memory. The "blessed" man is one whose "delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

While a popular proverb says, "You are what you eat," it is much more pertinent to observe, "You are what you read." The constant reading of trash will result in a trashy mind, which in turn will lead to a trashy life. Read and think on things that are true and good and holy, and your life will be lifted up. The word of God is "able to build you up" (Acts 20:32).

Pray

When Jesus left his disciples in the Garden while He went apart to agonize, he told them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation" (Luke 22:40, 46).

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He included in His model for their prayer, "And do not lead us into temptation" (Luke 11:2-4). Prayer is a powerful weapon against the devil and his wiles.

The admonition, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you," is coupled with that to, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:7-8). Prayer is an effective way to draw close to God and to call on His power and resources.

Pray regularly for strength to overcome temptation. When faced with a specific temptation, ask to be delivered from it. Pray to see and be able to take the "way of escape" God has promised to provide (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Watch

While Luke records Jesus' admonition to his disciples to pray to avoid temptation, both Matthew and Mark note that Jesus added another admonition, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38).

The devil is a liar in the very essence of his being, so proficient in lying that he is called the father of lies (John 8:44). He de-



Cecil May, Jr.

ceived Eve by his craftiness (2 Corinthians 11:3). He can even twist scripture for his own purposes (Matthew 4:6). We are urged to be well armored to defeat his wiles (Ephesians 6:11).

"Walk circumspectly," the apostle commands (Ephesians 5:15). To walk "circumspectly" means "looking around" as you walk, being careful of what you may step in.

"The devil don't come to you ugly," one of my students used to say. He will look attractive. He will promise pleasure. He may be disguised as an angel of light and his ministers may appear to be ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

Sin is addictive. It has an enslaving power. Wisdom says, "Hell (*Sheol*) and Destruction (*Abaddon*) are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied" (Proverbs 27:20). Sins adds to sin, because sin never cries "Enough!"

All of Satan's apples have worms. His every promise is at least half a lie, the pleasures he holds out are only temporary and the life he promises is death, the lake of fire and brimstone.

Be alert. Be aware. Watch.

Replace With A Positive

Remember the unclean spirit the Lord told about, who leaves a man but finds no resting place? Returning, he finds his former place swept and in order, but empty. "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Matthew 13:43-45).

This story illustrates the point that getting rid of an evil or chasing away an enticement to evil is not enough. Something good must be put in its place. It is best not to dwell too long on temptations, even for the purpose of praying about them. Ask God for strength

and deliverance, then chase them away from your mind by thinking about something positive and good.

Quote a scripture. Think of a good deed and go do it. Recite the twelve apostles or the books of the Bible. Sing a hymn. "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are pure, whatever things are just, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, . . . meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Look for the Way of Escape

God has promised to provide a way of escape from every temptation with which we are faced (1 Corinthians 10:13). We need to look for it and take it!

Many, unfortunately, actively look instead for a way to yield to the temptation and get by with it. To them, the Bible says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

One way of escape is to flee, as Joseph did from Potiphar's wife. The Bible says, "Flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14), "flee also youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22), "flee fornication" (1 Corinthians 10:14), and, after mentioning the desire to be rich, the love of money and greediness, "O man of God, flee these things" (1 Timothy 6:11).

The best bus drivers to hire for a mountain school bus route are not the ones who can drive closest to the edge without going over; they are the ones who stay as far from the edge as they can.

Do not go to a bar for fun and companionship. Avoid the flirtatious coworker. Find something better to read or watch than the pornographic magazine or movie. Take your spouse or a trusted Christian friend when you must go to events or places that may present temptations.

Flee! Flee! Flee!

Not a Sin To Be Tempted

Jesus never sinned, but He was tempted just as we are (Hebrews 4:15).

Lust, hatred and covetousness are sins of thought, but they are more than a fleeting thought or temptation. They are desires harbored and savored, planned to be acted on if the opportunity should present itself. We cannot stop the birds of concupiscence from flying over our heads, but we can keep them from making a permanent nest in our hair.

Temptation is a universal fact of life. Being tempted does not mean you are evil; it simply means you are human.

"Yield not to temptation,
For yielding is sin;
Each victory will help you

Some other to win.
Fight manfully onward,
Dark passions subdue.
Look ever to Jesus;
He'll carry you through."

Horatio Palmer, 1868

God may sometimes test us in order to strengthen us, but He does not entice us to do evil (James 1:13). When such enticements come, they are from Satan (1 Thessalonians 3:5), who sometimes uses agents, even friends and coworkers who become his agents unwittingly (Peter, for example, Matthew 16:22-23). But no temptation brings the fruit of sin until it is welcomed and activated by sinful passions within ourselves.

Therefore, watch, resist temptation with the word and with prayer, and replace temptation with godly thoughts and actions.

Some Encouraging Facts

The devil has no coercive power, only persuasive power. The devil cannot make you do anything.

Any temptation you face, Christ has faced and overcome (Hebrews 4:15-16). Any temptation that can come your way is common to mankind, and many people, therefore, have also met it, and some have defeated it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

You are dead to sin. "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:2-4).

Christ died to free us from sin. Our burial demonstrates that we have died to sin. Why would Christ and we go through all of that, simply that we may return to sin? We are raised to live a new life.

Under Grace

Two practical applications are made in this chapter derived from the truth that "we are not under law but under grace."

1) "Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!" (Romans 6:16).

See **Reader Asks** on page 16

YOUR QUESTIONS INVITED

**Cecil May Jr., Dean
College of Biblical Studies
Faulkner University
5345 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109
334/386-7154
cmay@faulkner.edu**

Let's Do More in 2004!

Okay. Let's Start Today!

- Alan H. Judd -

The New Year has arrived and with it comes renewed excitement and anticipation about the unknown opportunities that lie before us in the next 365 days. (Actually this year has 366 due to Leap Year)

Not only is it exciting to think about the possibilities that this New Year holds; it is also profitable to consider the accomplishments of the previous twelve months. As I read carefully each copy of the *Magnolia Messenger* in 2003, I was continually impressed and encouraged about the good things that Christians and congregations in Mississippi and beyond were doing to lift the banner of Jesus Christ and spread the saving message of the glorious gospel throughout the South and throughout the world.

Praise is due to so many who worked diligently in the Master's vineyard in 2003. However, I hope that we will not allow the successes of the past to satisfy or stifle our resolve in the coming year. Therefore, my challenge to you and to myself is this: **Let's Do More in 2004!**

We must not allow ourselves to be satisfied or complacent in our work for the Lord. It is easy to look at our efforts and achievements and note how they appear much greater than the works of others.

As individual Christians we may succumb to this type thinking, and even when thinking of our congregation as opposed to others we may employ this same fallacious reasoning.

This seems to be the very folly that Paul rebukes in 2 Corinthians 10:12, "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

William Barclay correctly comments on this passage: "It is easy enough to say, 'I am as good as the next man,' and doubt it is true. But the point is, are we as good as Jesus Christ? He is our true rod of measurement and our proper standard of comparison and when we measure ourselves by Him there is no room left for pride. 'Self-praise,' says Paul, 'is no honor.' It is not his own but Christ's 'Well Done!' for which a man must seek" (Daily Study Bible 244).

Jesus set the example of never resting on past triumphs, but constantly looking for ways to do more. He recognized that the grave is never satisfied (Proverbs 30:16), and that His mission was to seek and save every lost one (Luke 19:10). No wonder we hear the Savior utter such words as: "Let us go into the next towns, that I may

preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth" (Mark 1:38) and "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

How can we do more in 2004? Start by setting goals. One of my favorite axioms states simply: "If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time!" Set simple goals and see the dramatic difference that they can make this year.

Daily Bible study and not just reading, specific petitions for people and situations in everyday prayer, and resolving to be not only present but early for every assembly of the church would be a good place to start.

Not only should we set individual goals, but we should also set goals for the congregation to cooperatively accomplish. Although probably not the most accurate translation, the King James Version still provides a truism when it translates Proverbs 29:18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish".

In Meridian, we call these **challenges** and they have helped motivate the congregation to meet goals relative to attendance, contribution, and other things that we do in serving God.

In 2004, we plan on doing more by increasing our goals; our worship attendance by **ten percent**, Bible study attendance by **fifteen percent**, our contribution by **three hundred dollars** weekly, and other goals will be presented to the congregation as challenges to meet in 2004. With hard work, prayer, and participation we can meet and exceed these goals. Do we set and meet them to boast? NO! Rather, we try to "let our lights shine so the Father will be glorified."

Someone has said that preachers are never satisfied and so you may dismiss my words. Regardless of the accuracy of that statement, we know that God has entrusted to us a great mission and He will never be satisfied as long as there is one person who needs to hear of His love and grace. Many people in Mississippi, in America, and around the globe have yet to hear the "Good News" about Jesus.

Let's keep working for the Lord trying to do more, remembering, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2) Start today and resolve to the Lord that you will **do more in 2004!**

Reader Responds

I am happy to send the enclosed check to help with the continued publication of the Magnolia Messenger. Each issue is filled with "good reading" that is enjoyed by thousands -- this writer included. Keep up the good work! **(Miriam Styers, New Albany, MS)**

Your Invitation

to attend a

Ladies' Day

at the

Brookway Church of Christ

Brookhaven, Mississippi

Saturday

February 28, 2004

Speaker:

Helen Lambert

Searcy, Arkansas

Topic:

True Happiness

9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Lunch provided

Ladies' Day

Teenage to Elderly

Saturday

March 27, 2004

Speaker

Jane Maynard

(Mountain Home, AR)

9:15 a.m. -- 2:30 p.m.

AM and PM Sessions; Topics:

"Women's Role in the Church"

"Women's Role in the Home"

(Lunch Provided)

Clinton Church of Christ

155 Broadway

Clinton, Mississippi

To get your name in the "pot" for lunch or for more information, please RSVP

Judy Cook at 601-824-7755 or

Johnnie Gardner at 601-924-2983

realize the weather is about to get colder thus making it even harder for Blake to attend regular services. Also the college students meet a couple of times a week for dinner and a devotional at the church which Blake rarely gets to attend.

A van fund has been setup by the men of the Clinton Church of Christ for the purpose of providing transportation so that Blake can worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and fellowship with other Christians. We are requesting the help of other sister churches by the way of a special contribution, providing an item in your budget, special individual donations or anything else that can provide funds for this purpose. The goal is approximately \$20,000.00.

We pray that our brethren will consider this a worthy cause and assist this fine young man in furthering his cause for Christ. For tax deductibility, donations may be made to Clinton Church of Christ. Be sure to note on the face of your check "Watson Van Fund". Send donations to:

Clinton Church of Christ
155 Broadway
Clinton, MS 39056

Additional Note

Brother Gardner informed us that the van has been purchased and should be in operation by now. Assistance is needed to help pay the balance owed. He also stated, "By the way, Blake preached his first sermon recently at Clinton. He did a great job." For more information, please contact **Ken Gardner** at **601-924-2983** or email **kennethlgardner@yahoo.com**



Clinton Church of Christ ■ 155 Broadway ■ Clinton, Ms 39056 ■ 601-924-5300

The Watson Van Fund



Blake Watson



Matt Watson

Blake Watson was born with a condition, known as intermediate spinal muscular atrophy. It is a genetic disease that causes severe muscle weakness. Blake is non-ambulatory and has no functional movement in his arms or legs. He requires total assistance with all areas of daily living such as toileting, bathing, dressing, brushing his teeth and hair, shaving, putting on deodorant, trimming his nails and etc. He can feed himself most of the time as long as someone puts his arms on the table and cuts his food up. To prevent pressure sores he must have someone turn him two to four times a night. Even though he has these seemingly insurmountable physical limitations, he has a phenomenal sense of humor.

Blake's younger brother Matt, which is 15 years old, also suffers from the same condition. The only difference at this time is Matt has a bit more functional movement in his arms than Blake.

... From A Mother's Viewpoint ...

The Move Of Our Oldest Son

From the Magnolia State
to the Pelican State

After living most of his life in Mississippi, our oldest son, Paul and his family, recently moved from the Magnolia State to Louisiana. On October 1, 2003, he began full-time work as the pulpit minister for the Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Paul was our firstborn. He was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, and at the time of his birth, Al preached for the Skyline congregation. When Paul was thirteen, we moved from Yazoo City, Mississippi to Kosciusko. In 1971, Al began preaching for the South Huntington Street Church of Christ, serving in that capacity for seven years, or until 1978. Since that time, Al's association with the Kosciusko church has continued in various roles, including serving as an elder, missionary and editor/publisher of the MM.

It was not until after he graduated from high school that Paul made the decision to become a preacher of the gospel. Therefore, in the fall of 1976, he enrolled in the very first class of a brand new school in Kosciusko, Magnolia Bible College. After four years, in 1980, he was blessed to be in Magnolia's first graduating class.

In 1977, Paul moved from Kosciusko to Mendenhall, Mississippi, where he preached for the next three years while attending school at Magnolia Bible College. Shortly thereafter, on September 9, 1977, Paul and the former Glenda Black of Ethel, MS were married. Paul and Glenda continued their work with the Mendenhall congre-



June Franks

gation and commuted to Kosciusko on a weekly basis to continue their studies at Magnolia Bible College.

After Paul's graduation from the Bible College, Cecil May Jr., who was then president of MBC, invited him to work with the college. He accepted and spent the next twelve years working for MBC. During the last several years of his work, under the capable leadership of brother May, he served as Director of Development.

Paul also worked as a fund raiser and in public relations with Sunnybrook Children's Home in Jackson, Mississippi. On a limited basis, he has been involved in several fund raising efforts for other good works.

Paul worked with Sardis Lake Christian Camp in north Mississippi for more than 10 years. He also has been very involved for the past 6 years as a staff member of Lithuania Christian Camp in central Europe. Paul hopes to continue with this very rewarding mission effort.

Through the years, Paul has been both interested and involved in the work of the "Magnolia Messenger" and its related mission efforts. He hopes to be able to extend the outreach and influence of the "Messenger" in the Pelican state.

For several years, Paul also owned an insurance agency in Kosciusko, but he always indicated his first love was to be directly involved in the Lord's work.

In 1996, even though Paul and his family continued to live in Kosciusko, he started preaching regularly for the church in Forest, Mississippi, where only a few months prior to the beginning of his work with

the Forest congregation, the church building was put up for sale. However, with the financial help and encouragement of interested individuals and congregations, the small number which made up the Forest congregation decided to take the building off the market and renew their efforts to build a strong church in Scott County's largest town.

With God's blessings, the Forest congregation began to grow spiritually and numerically with Paul serving as their preacher. During this time, Paul was able to work closely with his dad, Al Franks, and to benefit from the experience of an older and seasoned preacher.

We believe the chain of events and the experiences of life have helped develop and prepare Paul for a challenging work such as that offered by the Boulevard congregation in Lake Charles.

In leaving his home state of Mississippi Paul moved to an area of Louisiana not far from where his father was raised. Al's birthplace and early home is only about fifty miles from Lake Charles.

Paul and his family have been blessed to meet so many new people but they also have been blessed to get acquainted with several relatives who help make up the Boulevard congregation.

The Lake Charles church has received Paul and his family with open arms, making his move from the Magnolia state to the Pelican state so much easier.

The Boulevard congregation brings together between 220 and 250 on Sundays. The church is served by three elders, **Loren Elkins, Louis Estes and Jerry Jackson.**

Paul and Glenda have been blessed with three children. **Ashley** is a Junior at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. **Megan** is a college freshman and has transferred this semester from Northeast Community College in Booneville, Mississippi to McNeese State University in Lake Charles. **Vincent**, their eleven year old son, is being home-schooled.

In an article published in a newspaper from Lake Charles, the "American Press", Paul stated, "We all have different talents and things that we are good at. What we need to do is find our talent and use it to glorify God. I enjoy people, I love people, and I love trying to communicate God's Word to people."

Paul continued, "Boulevard is a loving church, and it's full of caring people. My family and I have been so impressed with the Boulevard congregation and their love for the Lord and the truth. We are thankful to be a part of such a wonderful family of God's people."

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



Paul & Glenda Franks, Megan, Ashley, and Vincent

Jane's Corner

Jane Maynard
179 Stan Lewis Road
Clarkridge, Arkansas 72623



S. H. D. (Selective Hearing Disorder)

Relating to the Roles of Women in the Church

As teenagers, some of my children developed a hearing deficiency known as SHD (Selective Hearing Disorder). The disorder is rather strange, but it is easy to detect. You simply yell out "chore" words like "trash" or "dishes" and when you find these chores not taken care of sometime later; you then proceed with the rest of the test. That is done by catching your children tucked away in their rooms and softly saying "fun" words like "pizza" or "movies" and if you suddenly find your children in your face wanting to know when and where, then you know your children definitely have SHD.

Children aren't the only ones with SHD. It is rampant from a spiritual perspective in the Lord's church, and especially now as it relates to women and their role in the public functioning of the church. As I travel this country speaking at various ladies events, more and more women are asking me questions about the women of old and in particular those who were known as a "prophetess." Many of these women inquire out of sincere, seeking hearts; but I fear some of them are afflicted with SHD, because they seem to be seeking some justification, by way of the examples of the prophetesses to allow women today to do leading things in the public worship.

It certainly is a noble thing and in keeping with God's will to look to our sisters of old for example, for instruction and to learn (Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:11). However, we need to be sure we hear all God has to say about the lives of those sisters and not just carefully selected parts upon which we might build an incorrect assumption. While a Scripture search on the work of a prophetess may not tell us every minute detail about them and their work, God has given us a picture of how He used them in His service.

Miriam was a prophetess. She was also a leader in Israel; God says so (Micah 6:4). But God also tells us whom she led (Exodus 15:20). And in Numbers 12:1ff, God clearly displays His displeasure with Miriam when she tried to assume equal footing with the man in his male spiritual leadership role. God vindicated Moses, rebuked Aaron and punished Miriam and God never let Israel forget how He dealt with Miriam over that incident (Deuteronomy 24:9). Nothing in these texts indicates that Miriam was a "preacher" (which is the claim of the world of preaching women about us). All we do see is a very wise God

providing a mature woman of God to minister to the needs of other women on their journey out of Egypt.

Deborah was both a judge and a prophetess (Judges 4,5). Deborah's situation was unique because God's men as spiritual leaders in Israel had utterly failed (Judges 1,2). As Deborah is introduced she had been instructed to send for the best military man Israel had to offer at the time—Barak. Even though he was a military leader he would not even go into battle unless Deborah committed to go with him. Barak took the ten thousand men and Deborah and went where he had been instructed (Judges 4:6,10). But God tells us who led the campaign (Judges 4:14,22, 5:12,15).

Those with SHD claim Deborah led this military campaign; if so, what did she need Barak for? Deborah clearly shows where she worked for God, not leading an army, as the other judges did, but sitting under her palm tree giving counsel (4:5) and she defines herself as a mother in Israel (5:7), nurturing and encouraging the people, just like she did Barak by riding in his company. Nothing in the text allows us to assume she was a great, public military leader like the other judges were.

Huldah was a prophetess (2 Kings 22:12-20). She was the wife of the keeper of the king's wardrobe and they dwelt in their own residence. When the lost book of the Law was found and presented to young king Josiah, he sent scribes to inquire of the Lord concerning the Law found in the Temple. Those scribes went to Huldah in her home for information. There is not one word anywhere to indicate a public, leading and proclaiming work on the part of this woman.

Isaiah's wife was a prophetess (Isaiah 8:1-3). The only picture we have of this woman is certainly not on the streets prophesying beside her prophet husband, but rather conceiving a child in the privacy of her own bedroom. That is about as non-public as you can get.

Anna was a prophetess (Luke 2:36-38). She was a widowed woman, who did not leave the temple area but served God with fasting and prayer looking for the redemption of Israel night and day. As with the others who wore the name prophetess, you have to have a serious case of SHD to make this woman any more than a quiet servant of God. There is no way

See S.H.D. on page 16



Poems that Prick

by
Barbara Cagle Ray

520 Vinson Drive
 Nashville, TN 37217

BCagleRay@Aol.Com

Would You Still Be Called a Christian?

Would you still be called a Christian,
 If others could hear every word you say?
 What if they read your inner thoughts,
 And saw the places you go every day?

If others saw how you treat your parents,
 Would the word "honor" come to mind?
 And if they looked at the books you read,
 Would you be ashamed of what they'd find?

How about the movies that you attend,
 Could you ask the preacher to go along?
 What about the kind of tunes you sing,
 Is your character echoed in the songs?

Could the world see Christ in your life,
 When with misfortune it was overrun?
 If others could see inside your hearts,
 Would you still be called a Christian?

Our Heavenly Home

Avis Corley Porter

When we think of Heaven,
 And the beauty that awaits us there;
 'tis wonderful to be going,
 To a place so fair.



It's hard to imagine
 That we will never be sad;
 That all will be good,
 Not a tiny particle of bad.

Avis Porter
 9803 Hwy 336
 Thaxton, MS
 38871

There will be no reason for tears,
 For all heartache is left behind;
 That alone,
 Would be reward so fine.

We will live eternally with God,
 With Jesus and the saints who once lived on earth;
 Forever and ever,
 Enjoying such rapture and mirth.

Spring Homecoming at Brazil

Mississippi's Brazil!- Tallahatchie County

APRIL 25, 2004, Lord willing.

The theme will be: "Better Marriages/Families".

Bible School -- 10:00 a.m.; Preaching Service -- 10:45 a.m.
 Dinner on the Grounds -- Noon; Afternoon Preaching. -- 1:00 p.m.
 (Program and Invitation via Robert Rawson)

North MS Ladies' Retreat

"Largest Ever"

- Opal B. Melvin -

The ladies of the Booneville Church of Christ hosted the North Mississippi Ladies' Retreat on October 10-11 at Tishomingo State Park. This year marked the largest attendance yet with 100 ladies registering from various congregations in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee (89 of these spent the night in the group cabins). There was even one lady present from Texas.

The Booneville ladies reserve the facilities each year for the next year before leaving the retreat and many of them schedule the dates on their calendars before leaving the park. This retreat provides the ladies an evening, night, and morning of relaxation, rejuvenation, and revival of spiritual values without the responsibilities of home and children. For some of the attendees this is the only time of the year, they are away from their spouses and children overnight.

In addition to inspirational messages, everyone enjoys fun, food, renewing of friendships, and more food. We laugh, eat, sing, eat, pray, eat, meditate on thought-provoking messages, and eat some more.

Although everyone does have a bed in one of the group cabins, very little sleep takes place that one night. (We do reserve one cabin, however, for those who do want to sleep.) Everyone is so excited about seeing old friends, and making new ones. Friendships made at this retreat linger long and dear!

This year **Jeanetta Watkins**, a well-known speaker at ladies days and retreats from Jasper, Alabama, was our guest presenter. She presented three moving and inspirational messages that were applicable to all of us. Our theme for this retreat was "*Turn My Heart So my Light Will Shine*."

After we all registered, beginning at 5:00 on Friday, we opened the meeting with a fantastic dinner prepared by the Tishomingo State Park staff. Door prizes were awarded and, then, we adjourned to the Lodge for the after dinner activities. Our singing was led by Beth Greenway Geno. She led the group in a get acquainted activity where we all had to find another person who shared a number of fun characteristics, have that person sign our sheet, and see who could get the most blanks signed in the designated time. It was amazing how much noise a group of ladies could make when we're having fun!

Jeanetta Watkins presented an appropriate message entitled "*Turn My Heart So My Light Will Shine: What does This Mean?*" After her message, Holly Sellers presented a

chalk art demonstration using the ocean, ships, and lighthouses while her mother, Prissy Sellers, narrated a biblical story about light.

No evening with ladies is complete without more food and door prizes, so we were again treated to finger foods -- many of



Jeanetta Watkins, Speaker



Group in the dining room sharing a meal

which had been prepared by Booneville ladies. Skits presented by various congregations followed. These could have serious or funny themes. Perhaps the highlight (for laughs) of the evening was the fashion show presented by the Snowdown ladies. No one could keep from laughing at their styles and their commentator. After the skits, many of the ladies stayed for more singing while others felt they had to get some rest, so they retired to their cabins.

Morning came quickly, and everyone was ready for breakfast and coffee at 8:00 a.m. After breakfast, more singing, and more door prizes, Jeanetta presented our second message on "Shining our Lights on Our Families." We all needed this lesson because often we seem harsher with those we love the most!

After a rest break, more food, and door prizes we were ready for our last session in which Jeanetta spoke on "Influencing Others in the Workplace and the Church." This lesson, too, was quite appropriate and motivating. So often we forget that others are watching our every word, action, and behavior.

After a delicious lunch prepared by the park staff and more door



One of the Models in Fashion Show

prizes, we all adjourned to our respective homes with our hearts recharged and determined to let our lights shine brighter for Christ in the coming days and months.

Already we're looking forward to our next retreat -- **October 9-10, 2004**, Tishomingo State Park. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. You'll receive a blessing, be glad you came, and never want to miss another North Mississippi Ladies' Retreat!

(Report prepared by Opal B. Melvin, a Member of the Booneville Church of Christ)

Readers' Response

I really enjoy reading all of your paper and working the questions. You are doing a great job! (Peggy Cooper, Cookeville, TN)

I am sending a small check to help with expenses on MM. Will send some along as I can. I do enjoy the paper and have enjoyed it since the beginning. Enjoy it all and always look forward to Cecil May's piece. Cecil and Winnie have been good friends since they were young people... (Minnie Lee Gunter, Hickory Flat, MS)

Thank you for the Magnolia Messenger. Wish this check could be for much

more. May 2004 be a good year for you and your family. (Lora Joy Box, Cleveland, MS)

Thanks again for the Messenger. It is a very good work and God is with you. (Robert Blackburn, Florence, AL)

I hope this small amount will help further the work of the MM. My wife and I sincerely enjoy reading it every time it comes. You do a wonderful work for the brotherhood. We worship at the Amory congregation. I also do fill-in work for area churches. Come see us in Amory! In His service, (Bobby A. Cleveland, Amory, MS)

Fall Religious Seminar Conducted at Louisiana State Penitentiary

50 + Baptized Last Year!

Report by
Richard L. Felix, Sr.

We hosted our 2003 Fall Religious Seminar on September 15-17. It was a great success. Louisiana State Penitentiary continues to show rich soil for the gospel of Christ. As of October, (51) souls have put Christ on in baptism to walk in newness of life.

We invite you to join us in this joy and remember these new babes in your prayers. We continue to have Bible studies each workday with men who have expressed their desire to be baptized, either as a result of attending one of our four regular Sunday Worship Services or through our free (mail-in) Bible correspondence courses.

The theme of our seminar was "THE VALUE OF A SOUL". We were richly blessed with

September Seminar Participants



(L/R) Troy Stuart, Eddie Payne, III, Coleman Allmond, David Finch, Winfred Frazier, Paul Settles and James Daniels



(L/R) Eddie Payne, III, Bill Northam, George Brill, Paul Settles, James Daniels and Coleman Allmond



(L/R) Front: Patrick Peck, Jimmy Carter, James Daniels; (Rear) William Easley, Paul Settles, Pascal Mitchell, Eddie White and Eddie Payne, III

Just a small check to help in the publishing of the next paper. Your dedication to this wonderful work is an inspiration to us. You are in our prayers daily. Thanks to you and June for all you do. We love you. (Billy & Barbara Richard, Madison, MS)

We enjoy "The Messenger" so much. We look forward to receiving it each time. May the good Lord continue to bless you in this good work. Christian Love, (Barry & Ann Embry, Coldwater, MS)

Church of Christ

When a church openly acknowledges that they are "just another denomination" and that "one church is just as good as another", then it is time to drop (remove) the phrase "of Christ" from its identification.

Why? Because the Lord's church -- the church you read about in the New Testament, was not a denomination. It was, rather, the body of Christ, the saved, the family of God, the kingdom. It was the church of Christ. And, when a church ceases to be the "church of Christ", it is fitting that it no longer be called "Christ's church." (Editor)

News Notes

STARKVILLE

The Starkville Church of Christ is planning a Marriage Enrichment Workshop. **Sam Jones** from Freed-Hardeman will conduct the workshop. It will run from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21; brother Jones will also teach a combined Bible class on Sunday.

BALDWYN

Two new elders have been added to the leadership of the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Baldwyn. The two new elders, recently selected, are **Grady Wiggington** and **Larry Long**. They will serve with **Bob Pace** and **Jerry Turner**, the present elders. The preacher for the Hillcrest congregation is **Daniel Whitworth**.

GREENVILLE

The South Main Spring Meeting is planned for April 12-14, 2004. **Roger Johnson** from Northport, AL is scheduled to be the speaker. **Bill Bryan** is the Pulpit Minister and **Jason Killins** is the Youth Minister.

TUPELO

Rex Harsin and **Anderson Llewellyn**, members of the West Main Church of Christ in Tupelo, recently made a mission trip to China. They report a very profitable and safe trip.

LAUREL

Chris Moore is the new preacher for the Laurel Church of Christ. Chris graduated from Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, Texas on December 21, 2003. We are pleased and thankful to have Chris and his family back in the Magnolia State.

KNOXVILLE

The 30th annual East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions Lectureship is planned for March 7-10, 2004. The theme is "JESUS, That I May Know Him! Philippians 3:10"

BATON ROUGE

Eddie Boggess has worked with the Capital City Church of Christ in Baton Rouge as their preacher for four years. It is encouraging to read of their church growth. Thanks for sending us your church bulletin.

HATTIESBURG

A Youth Rally is planned for the Kensington Woods Church of Christ on February 6 & 7.

Churches of Christ

Panama Mission Report

- Hoyt White -

Another "Christmas Joy" activity for Panama children rolled around in December to close out our 2003 year.

Seventeen Panama Mission workers (9 from **Geneva**, Alabama; 3 from **Senatobia**, Mississippi, one from **Memphis**, Tennessee, and 4 from **Long Beach**, Mississippi) came together to visit children at the Tocumen public schools, hold a "Preacher and Wives Workshop" for brethren from 13 congregations throughout Panama, hold worship services in the Ipeti Cuna Indian Village, strengthen churches in the Darien Province of western Panama and distribute Christmas gifts and packages to Christian families and school children.

Tocumen teachers and pupils greeted Christians from Senatobia who held a summer week-long VBS program and excitedly invited their teens back in 2004. Bible teaching is welcomed in Panama schools. The **Senatobia church of Christ** has developed a five-year program for the Tocumen church. Seven elders from Senatobia plan to make individual trips in 2004. **Bonita Koph** and **Paula Aldridge** made the Christmas trip to teach a class for teenage girls on such topics as dressing properly, the consequences of immoral behavior, and the importance of a good reputation and self respect. Over 40 young girls participated in this class. Another class is scheduled for July, 2004.

Mark White from Memphis continues to add school children to the Panama Mission Children's Scholarship Fund. From the 49 young people who were honored as participants in the Scholarship Program in Panama public schools, one has already been accepted at Faulkner University, Montgomery, Alabama. Donnelle Cardenas was honored during the Scholarship Banquet for her academic achievements. Her visa clearance was granted for her to begin classes in January, 2004.

A two-day *Preachers and their Wives Workshop* was held at the Riande Hotel near Panama City. **Diane Edrington** conducted the women's seminar. **Larry Brady** conducted the men's discussion. Long range plans are being developed for future growth.

After twenty years of effort in Panama among the Cuna Indians by Larry Brady, a major breakthrough developed in December when the tribe's chiefs made land available for the church of Christ to build a church building at the front of the Village on the

Pan American Highway. Effort is being made to begin construction as soon as possible in 2004. David Campos, minister in Tocumen, is currently checking on material and a builder.

This writer was privileged to preach in our December worship service at Ipeti Cuna with two interpreters, one in Spanish and one in the Cuna language. There are over 70,000 Cuna Indians in Panama inhabiting the San Blas Islands and the Panamanian mainland. They belong to the Macro-Chibchan language family. Cuna church leaders in a Saturday meeting during our December mission trip requested a special series of basic Bible lessons regarding Christ and His Church. A Spring trip to honor this request is planned.

We thank God for opening this door for us to work among the Cuna people. To help with the church building program, Spanish Bible materials and tracts, please contact

Panama Missions Director:

Larry Brady
605 West Camellia Ave.
Geneva, Alabama 36340
(1-334-286-4150) or
Hoyt White
5006 Live Oaks Dr.
Long Beach, MS 39560
(1-228-864-4639).

PASCAGOULA

An Area Wide Worship Service is planned for Sunday evening, February 29th at 5:00 p.m. at the Ocean Springs Civic Center. The speaker for the night will be **Cornell Johnson** of the Meridian Street Church of Christ. Song leaders from area congregations will be leading singing. What a great time to fellowship with Christians throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast area. (Taken from "Coastline Christian" the bulletin from the Pascagoula Church of Christ. John Dobbs preaches for the Pascagoula congregation and is editor of the church bulletin.)

News Reports Are Always Welcomed

BOONEVILLE
J. A. Thornton
Preacher, 65 Years!

The Booneville Church of Christ recently honored **J. A. Thornton** with a luncheon and presented him a plaque on his 65th preaching anniversary.

BOONEVILLE

The Booneville Church of Christ collected money for Bibles to distribute in Guyana. At the time of the writing in the Church bulletin, they had collected enough to purchase 3,353 Bibles.

Read/Study
the "Question Box" on
Page 20

Central Ozark Christian Retreat

Shell Knob, Missouri

April 20-22, 2004

**Directed by Fenter Northern,
(former Academic Dean of MBC)**

Selected Speakers

from MS & LA include:

Therman Hodge, Meridian, MS
Ken Joines, Southaven, MS
John T. Smithson, Starkville, MS
Gordon Gentry, Jugfork, MS
Jo Ann Mills, DeRidder, LA

PLUS

Cecil May, Jr., Montgomery, AL
 (Regular columnist for MM)
Charles Hodge, Duncanville, TX.
 (Keynote speaker for
 MM RV Rally at Morton, MS -
 April 28- May 2, 2004)

For more information, please contact:

Fenter Northern, (e-mail: fnorth@mo-net.com)
 HCR1 Box 4079, Shell Knob, MO 65747
 Phone 417-858-0461

More & More Readers Response

For a number of years I have been receiving the Magnolia Messenger. It seems, during the recent months, that I have not received my copy. Would you please check the mailing list to make sure that I am in it, with the correct address? If not, please add my name again. I really enjoy the articles, particularly those of Cecil May and, when included, those of Hugo McCord. Yours in Christ, (Ronald C. Brewer, Jackson, TN)

This will help some. I wish others I know would help-just any amount will help. This is my way to help others to know the Lord like I know Him... (Lois Cleo Wright, Fulton, MS)

I do love you and June and appreciate the good work you do with the Messenger... Yours in Christ, (Stella Perkins, Corinth, MS)

Randle and I are very thankful for the good work all of you do. The "Messenger" is a wonderful paper to read. Sound and truthful. So many are leaving the Bible. (Joyce Gray, Amory, MS)

Enjoy the publication. Bro. May spoke here probably in the 70's. He was a friend of our minister, Bro. Jerry Joseph. (Mrs Paul Lewis, Brownsville, TN)

Thank you... Thank you!

Berean Family Home

**Albany
Louisiana**



**Established
1979**

**Mt Olive Church of Christ
Berean Family Home
P.O. Box 1009
Brookhaven, Mississippi 39602**

**For information or a FREE video
about the home,
Call (601) 833-1335 or 833-4376
or write the above address**

**Children's Home supported by
tax deductible donations**

What is "Good Preaching"?

- John Gardner -

How would you define "good preaching?" How are we to understand what someone is saying when he or she affirms that their preacher is a "good preacher"?

Probably "good preaching" for many people has as much to do, if not more, with the manner and skill of the presenter than it does with the quality of the lesson presented.

Especially does this seem true in our day when so much value is attached to engaging and entertaining styles of speaking. We want polished, clever, and witty (if not humorous) speakers to deliver our sports, news, and documentaries on TV. We expect animated, articulate and easy-to-follow presenters in conferences and workshops. Television and other professional presentations have exposed us to some of the most accomplished speakers in the world.

But is pleasantness, cleverness, wittiness, or even eloquent profundity the measure of "good preaching?" Are there not many preachers of the gospel among us whose preaching skills might be considered just average, yet who nevertheless preach good sermons week after week? Their delivery style may not be as exciting or engaging as that of others, but if they are judged by the most important standards, they are indeed "good preachers."

Apparently many at Corinth considered Paul's preaching among them as anything but good. They said of him, "His speech is contemptible" (2 Corinthians 10: 10, New American Standard Version). He confessed that when he came to them proclaiming Christ, he "did not come with superiority of speech or wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2: 1).

Obviously he had the ability to deliver God's message of Christ clearly and convincingly, but by the standards of eloquence and human cleverness imposed by the Corinthians, his preaching was not "good preaching." Who among us, however, would want to take the position that Paul's preaching was inferior? Far from that, we instead use his recorded sermons as well as his letters as models of how to present God's Word.

The facts just presented should not be seen as license for the preacher to be content with poor delivery skills or quit growing as an effective presenter of the gospel.

It is just a reminder that while



John Gardner
MBC Academic Dean

style and substance are both important in preaching, substance must never be made inferior to style when we evaluate preaching.

So what are some marks of "good preaching?" First, it is *Bible-centered*. The Word of God, not human opinions or human wisdom, must be faithfully presented. In instructing Timothy how to preach, Paul made it clear that Timothy was to "preach the word (of God)" when it was easy to do so and when it was not (2 Timothy 4: 1, 2).

He was to beware of those who would pressure him to preach soothing things to appeal to their lusts (2 Timothy 4: 3,4). He was to handle God's Word carefully so as to not distort its message (2 Timothy 2: 15). Paul said of his own preaching, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2: 2).

He preached "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20: 27). Whenever a man accurately preaches God's Word in the proper spirit, that is "good preaching."

A second quality of good preaching hinges on the two words "proper spirit" in the sentence above. Preaching that is good is *delivered in a spirit of love and humility*. Paul practiced what he wrote to the Ephesians about "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). He spoke clearly, decisively, but always in love to his hearers.

He modeled for Timothy what he wrote to him about the servant of the Lord in 2 Timothy 2:24-26, where he instructs his son in the faith to be kind, patient, and gentle in his work as a preacher. He reminded the Thessalonians that he had preached the gospel to them in the gentle, patient manner of a nursing mother and a kind father (1 Thessalonians 2: 5 -12).

To be faithful one does not

have to be harsh and unkind. Fighting the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6: 12) does not mean being belligerent. Preaching that pleases God and builds up the kingdom is presented in the highest spiritual manner.

Third, good preaching *reveals the terribleness of sin and the beauty of holiness*. It was good preaching that made Felix tremble as Paul fearlessly proclaimed to him "righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come" (Acts 24: 25) in an effort to lead him to Christ.

Other great preachers of the Bible like Elijah, Jonah, Nathan, John the Baptist, and Jesus the Son of God did the same kind of preaching. They spoke of sin's terribleness, but of the joy and blessedness of righteousness.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) exposes some of the most grievous sins that plague humanity, but in a framework extolling the glory of godliness and a righteousness that exceeds all expectations.

*To be continued,
next issue,
Lord Willing.*

"WorthWhile Words"

Service

(Cont. from page 9)

Jail visits - 61;
 Campaigns - 2 with 74 students, staff, and faculty participating;
 Gospel meetings and lectures held - 30.

Every ministry student is required to take CS 131 - Introduction to Christian Service. It is a one-hour academic class designed to acquaint students with Christian Service and to give them insight into the study skills necessary to do college level work.

A number of questions are emphasized in this class. Two of those questions are:

1. Am I saved?
2. Am I useful?

Both questions are discussed.

If I can answer positively to "Am I saved?" that leads directly to "Am I useful?" How can one be saved and not be useful in the Kingdom? So, the question, "Am I useful?" has to do with being a servant. Am I serving? Am I useful?

I am grateful for MBC's Christian Service Program. Your support is vital to its success. If we can help you through our Christian Service Program, please do not hesitate to call us. (Les Ferguson)

LF

1-800-748-8655
www.magnolia.edu

MBC News

P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

MBC's Christian Service Program

One of the defining characteristics of a Bible College is its emphasis on Christian service. The primary function of MBC's *Christian Service Program* is to give students the very best instruction possible in how to effectively serve God in the local church.

MBC believes that it is important that the student's education include Bible training and practical experience in Christian ministry. The purpose of the Christian Service Program is to provide the "hands-on" training that will enable the student to put into practice that which is learned in the classroom. The student has the opportunity to experience practical training in educational ministry, youth ministry, campus ministry, and local congregational ministries. Every ministry student is required to participate in this program.

MBC's Christian Service Program has four broad objectives:

1. To develop within the student the love of serving others by putting faith into action.

2. To give the student the skills to serve in ministry.

3. To develop the student's ability to formulate and implement local ministry objectives.

4. To give MBC an opportunity to serve churches in a very direct way.

This past semester, through the Christian Service Program, MBC students were involved in preaching, in teaching, in educational programs, working with the youth, general church visitation, nursing home visitation, jail ministry, campaigns, and Bible studies. Staff and faculty are encouraged to participate also.

We keep records of our Christian Service activity under the heading of "Magnolia Ministries."

Magnolia Ministries reports the following for the current school year to date (August 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003):

Sermons preached - 961;
Classes taught - 1513;
Restorations - 98;
Baptisms - 55;
Evangelistic Bible studies and visits - 323;
General visits - 1748;
Hospital visits - 282;
Nursing Home visits - 326;

See Page 8; Column 5

President's Request

- Les Ferguson, Sr.-

The heart of Magnolia Bible College is its faculty. We have four full-time faculty members and eleven adjunct faculty members who have strong biblical knowledge, training, and practical ministry experience.

Following is a listing of the faculty and the courses they are teaching this semester:

Dr. Roger Hines - *Restoration Theology, Romans, New Testament Survey, Elementary Greek II*

Dr. Ray Paseur - *Hermeneutics, Prophets of the Assyrian Period, Biblical Backgrounds, Critical Introduction to Old Testament, Physical Education II*

Dean John Gardner - *Introduction to Psychology*

President Les Ferguson - *Biblical Doctrine of Marriage and Family*

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Therman Hodge - *Acts, Bible Basis for Missions*. Therman is an elder serving the Meridian, MS church (Highway 19).

Darren Hunt - *Fundamentals of Church Music*. Darren is a member of the Ackerman, MS church.

Suzanne J. O'Brian - *Computer Literacy I*. Suzanne is a member of the Grenada, MS church.

John C. McArthur - *American Literature, English Composition II*. John is a deacon and member of the Aberdeen, MS church.

John T. Smithson - *Speech Communication*. John is a



Magnolia Bible College



Les Ferguson, Sr.
MBC President

preacher and an elder for the Starkville, MS church.

The title of this article is "*The President's Request*." I am humbly requesting the participation of churches of Christ in a "Special 5th Sunday" on Sunday,

Contribution

February 29, or Sunday, May 30, 2004.

I am asking that you designate your 5th Sunday contribution on one of these Sundays to *faculty salaries*. If your budgeting process will not allow that, I humbly ask that you plan to take up a "special contribution" on one of those Sundays. Please help us to raise the monies needed to fund faculty salaries.

Thanks
for
Writing
to the
MM

CAUTION

Please do not think you HAVE to contribute to the MM in order to be on our mailing list and to receive each issue. Such is NOT REQUIRED! (A. L. Franks)

MBC Spring Semester Facts

1. Fall 2003

Student Honors

President's List - 3.85 - 4.00

Brad Adcock
John Bauer
Rodney Livingston
Wayne Moore
Daniel Russell
Don Roberson

Dean's List - 3.50 - 3.85

Dustin Abbott
Keith Denton
Larry Gallaher
Don Green
Karen Hines
Shane Meredith
Phillip Phiri

3. HEADWAE Honorees

February 17, 2004
Student - Shane Meredith
Teacher - John Gardner

This is a very nice function held in Jackson, hosted by the State Legislature. HEADWAE stands for "Higher Education Appreciation Day - Working for Academic Excellence."

4. Spring Break

March 8 -12

5. Spring Mission Trip -

March 9 -31.

(Dr. Ray Paseur and Mike Ray, a 1983 graduate, will be working in Samoa)

6. Annual Benefit Dinner

Saturday, April 17
Featuring Archie Manning
(Facts by Ferguson)

MBC ...

"No Better Place to Prepare to Preach"

Magnolia Bible College's 23rd Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction



Featuring:
Archie Manning

Saturday, April 17th, 2004

Private Reception - 4:00 - 5:30pm

Silent Auction - 5:00pm

Dinner - 6:00 - 8:00pm



Congratulations!

50 Years Husband/Wife

The JACKSONS

Clinton & Lucille
1954-2004

Aberdeen
Mississippi

Report by
- Michael Stegall -

I would like for you to meet Clinton and Lucille Jackson of Aberdeen MS. Lord willing, they will be celebrating their golden anniversary on February 28, 2004.

They were happily married in 1954. She was already a Christian and soon after they were married, he became a Christian. They attended Wallace Chapel Church of Christ in Smithville MS, but soon after moved their membership to West Amory Church of Christ.

Bro. Jackson worked at American Colloid for twenty years. There, by hand, he loaded bentonite on railroad cars. It took a full day just to load one car. He retired in 1977. Sis. Jackson worked at South Monroe, a garment factory for twenty years. She retired in 1995.

Sis. Jackson says one reason their marriage has lasted for so many years is because God is the

head of their lives. She knew and understood God's word which teaches, "one woman for one man and one man for one woman." She believes the key to staying with one person is definitely patience. She holds patience in a marriage almost as important as God's word. Bro. Jackson says they have gotten along with each other; no doubt this came through patience.

Finally, the Jacksons would tell all the young couples, "Whatever problem you are experiencing, allow God to work it out. God has told the men how to be godly husbands and the women how to be godly wives. If you love God enough to do what He says, that is the answer to a long and prosperous marriage." Young couples would be really blessed to take the advice of Bro. and Sis Jackson.

MS

BOSSIER CITY 41 Baptisms

In an e-mail recently received, a brother wrote, "Good morning brother Franks! My name is Jerry Harris and I am an elder at the Airline Church of Christ in Bossier City, LA. I am deeply interested in personal evangelism and helping others to do the work the Lord has called us to do. In 2003, the Airline congregation has baptized 41 people into Christ...."

CLEVELAND

Scotty Sparks began his work as preacher for church of Christ in Cleveland, Mississippi in January, 2004. Kelby Smith reported a very good meeting with the Cleveland brethren in December. Kelby is one of the ministers for the North Jackson Church of Christ in Jackson, Tennessee.

MM Comments, Ideas
And Suggestions
Are Invited and
Truly Encouraged

15th Annual Lectureship

Feb. 24-29

(Tuesday - Sunday)

Nightly 7:00 p.m.

Extra Services on Sat & Sun

East Roxie

Church of Christ

P. O. Box 142

Roxie, Mississippi

Isaac Tenner, preacher

601-322-7850

CAUTION

Please do not think you HAVE to contribute to the MM in order to be on our mailing list and to receive each issue. Such is not REQUIRED!

(A. L. Franks, editor)



Charles Hodge

was born on the banks
of Onion Creek
at Byrd, Texas

A Gospel Preacher; Writer;
After Dinner Speaker; Humorist

Author of over 20 books;
Back-page writer for the
Gospel Advocate

Brother Hodge is to be the
featured speaker
at our next

MM RV Rally

April 28 - May 2, 2004
Morton, Mississippi
Roosevelt State Park

For more information and/or to
reserve a pad, please contact

Paul Franks
at
1-800-748-3122



Tammie and Bill Faulk Present New Song Books to Arthur Massey

Morton Church of Christ Sings!

Small Church Great Singing!

Paul Walden

"Sing and make melody in your hearts to the Lord". The Morton church in Scott County, Mississippi, loves to sing the praises to the Savior.

On December 28, 2003, Bill and Tammie Faulk presented the church with new song books. Arthur Massey, song leader, received the new books on behalf of the congregation.

Singing praises to the Lord is a joyful experience as the church meets from time to time. The new song books, presented by the Faulks, enhances the selection of

songs available to the congregation.

The Morton church is known for its devotion to New Testament Christianity and its hospitality to travelers and campers. The church building is located in Morton, only two or three miles from Roosevelt State Park. Visitors are especially welcome to worship and fellowship with the Morton church of Christ. For directions or additional information, please call 601-732-6057, 601-732-6094, or 601-732-6000.

Paul Walden, who submitted this article, is the interim preacher for the Morton congregation. The church is looking for a permanent full time preacher. See ad on page 12. Thanks, Paul, for the report.

Faulkner University's

60th Annual Directed by V. P. Black

Bible Lectureship



Faulkner University
A Christian University

Special Area
Hotel Rates
Available



For More Information Contact:

Cecil May Jr.
334-396-7154
cmay@faulkner.edu
www.faulkner.edu

Faulkner University
6345 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36108

66 Different Class Sessions
Special Sessions for Youth Ministers - Monday afternoon
Special Classes for Ladies Only
A Variety of Classes Throughout Each Day

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Morning Keynote (Tuesday-Thursday):
Jim McGwigan "Greater Is He That Is In You
Than He That Is In The World"

Chapel Speakers:

Frank McElveen "Blessing in the Church"
V.P. Black "How I Will Greet This Day"
Elijah Bush "I Will Not Leave You-Nor
Forsake You"

Evening Speakers:

John Simpson "Providence of God"
Jim Chamblee "I Will Build My Church"
Fenter Northern "Amen! Alleluia!
Prerequisites to His Promises"
George Bailey "There Is a Crown For Me"

Special Dinners:

Honoring Elders
Monday March 1

Honoring Neil
Anderson
Thursday March 4



Vicksburg Chooses MM Memorials Instead of Poinsettia Plants

A Note to Al and June

"Instead of live poinsettia plants this holiday season, we decided to send the money that we would have spent on that to you for the Magnolia Messenger. We appreciate the work you do and the influence you have on the people who read the paper. Thank you for your work. Sincerely, (Nellie Caldwell)

In Memory

CHARLES WILKERSON

Carol Wilkerson

JEWELL McDOWELL

LOTTIE PRIDDY

Joan & Francis Priddy

HERSCHEL & BONNIE HADDOCK

Mary Jane Haddock

T. W. "BUD" MCBEE

HELEN HEARN

MARY RUTLAND

MICHAEL BEAUMAN

Nina & David McBee

BILL WOLFE

MAE WOLFE ENGLISH

Carl & Neve Finney

ODES FOSTER

Phyllis & Leo Foster

EPHERM JACKSON

Mary Jackson

Mattie Hill

HOWARD ZACHERY

Patsy Zachery

J. D. IRWIN

Ruth Irwin

Deby & Bert Caraway

EDGAR MORRIS

VANCE CALDWELL

Dean & Nellie Caldwell

In Honor

DOUG & KATHY SEGARS

Yvonne & J. W. Carter

Thank You For
Receiving, Reading and Supporting the MM.

What's the Matter With Kids Today?

20

Will you work with the children of the church? "No," he said at **twenty**. "I don't have any children. It's not my responsibility. Let their parents do it."

30

"You'll have to excuse me," she said at **thirty**. "I have spent all day with pre-schoolers. They're driving me crazy. I need a vacation from child care on Sunday. Let someone else teach the children."

40

"I really can't," he said at **forty**. "Our children are finally away from home. My wife and I agreed to leave our weekends free for whatever we want to do so. I'm sure you can find more reliable people to teach."

50

"It's out of the question," she said at **fifty**. I'm a grandparent, you know. Small children make me nervous. I really think teaching is the responsibility of those who have children in the church. Let them do it!"

60

"What's the matter with kids today!" they ask in bewilderment at **sixty**. "The children seem wild and untaught. Why doesn't someone in the church do something about them?"

(Picked up from the "Coastline Christian", published 1-18-99 by the Central congregation in Pascagoula, MS where John Dobbs preaches. Thanks!)

MAGNOLIA MESSENGER

Memorials & Tributes

The person whose name is in **CAPS** is memorialized or honored by the person(s) whose name is in lower case letters. Thank you for remembering and/or honoring your loved ones and/or friends by giving to the missionary efforts of the "Messenger". God bless. (ALF, editor)

In Memory Of

EDGAR MORGAN

Gerald & Geri Spears
(Singer, LA)

Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

GLEN & ENA FRANKS

(Lake Charles, LA)

Tom & Ann Welch
(Many, LA)

LUCILLE FRANKS

Gerald & Geri Spears
(Singer, LA)

CURTIS "BUCK" WHITTINGTON

Gerald & Geri Spears
(Singer, LA)

Dean & Nellie Caldwell
(Vicksburg, MS)

Bill & Barbara Richard
(Madison, MS)

Maxine Lay
(Zachary, LA)

Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

Jay & Mary Henley
(Brandon, MS)

Ina Jay Sadler
(Vidor, TX)

Jim & Kaaren Gammel
(Slaughter, LA)

Elizabeth McCutchen
(Zachary, LA)

Wayne, Della & Sarah Van Nest
(Brandon, MS)

Wal-Mart Associates
(Flowood, MS)

Tommy R. Walker
(Greenwell Springs, LA)

Glen & Ena Franks
(Lake Charles, LA)

Tom & Ann Welch
(Many, LA)

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Gerald & Geri Spears
(Singer, LA)

JIMMY BRADSHAW

Gerald & Geri Spears
(Singer, LA)

Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

NESBY & EULA MAE SHARP

Gordon & Ellen Stalcup
(Memphis, TN)

HOYLE PEARSON

Calvin & Sudie Turner
(Tupelo, MS)

Yazoo City Church of Christ
(Yazoo City, MS)

Phil & Jean Harris
(Forest, MS)

Ina Jay Sadler
(Vidor, TX)

Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

Neighbors, Magnolia Terrace
(Kosciusko, MS)

EVERETT KNIGHT

J. W. & Floyce Anderson
(Hermanville, MS)

Bob & Polly Templeton
(Utica, MS)

The Everett Knight Family
(Utica, MS)

Midway Church of Christ
(Utica, MS)

PEARL GREER

J. W. & Floyce Anderson
(Hermanville, MS)

Bob & Polly Templeton
(Utica, MS)

Midway Church of Christ
(Utica, MS)

Frank & Rita Smith
(Utica, MS)

ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSON

JOHN CLARE

FAYE SIPES

Harry & Betty Barkley
(Jackson, MS)

SAM & BROWNIE PEARSON

S. Dale Pearson
(Winona, MS)

X. L. & MERTIE MAVIS LOVE

Betty Love Pearson
(Winona, MS)

GENE BOXX

Claude & Alberta Houston
(Southaven, MS)

ALMA LANDES

KATHERINE MCBRIDE
Mattie Brister
(Gulfport, MS)

M/M CLARENCE FULGHAM

HOWARD FULGHAM

LEWIS G. STRICKLAND

GEORGIA MULLINS

HAROLD KOPF
Bonnie Strickland
(Brandon, MS)

GEORGE & SUSIE ALLEN

Hugh Allen
(Edwards, MS)

GRADY ASHLEY

61 South Church of Christ
(Natchez, MS)

BOBBY ROBINSON

J. T. BEARD

PAUL GRAY

CARY HILL

Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

STEVE KIRBY

The Gullo's
(Magnolia, TX)

PLEASE SEND

Memorials & Tributes to

MAGNOLIA MESSENGER

P. O. Box 1578

Kosciusko, MS 39090

DR. TIM WRIGHT

Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Wright
(Booneville, MS)

Bonnie Strickland
(Brandon, MS)

Marie Wright's SS Class
(Booneville, MS)

MRS MARIE MORGAN

Billy & Eloise Purvis
(Florence, MS)

ROY MORRIS

Vella Morris & Family
(Grenada, MS)

T. J. BREWER

Hazel J. Cook
(Columbus, MS)

MRS LOUISE CARRAWAY

Frank & Rita Smith
(Utica, MS)

BETSY HILL

Marce & Joe Kellum
(Tupelo, MS)

GLORIA LEBLANC

Glen & Ena Franks
(Lake Charles, LA)

ELICK & PAULINE WALDEN

Gerald M. Walden
(Ripley, MS)

CHARLES WILKERSON

TROY TRIMM

Earl W. Sain
(Collierville, TN)

KATE METZ

Carol Wilkerson

Mary Jane & Phil Solomon
Steven Solomon
(Vicksburg, MS)

EULA RUTHERFORD

Bobby & Alice Humphries
(Natchez, MS)

In Honor Of

MRS. MATTIE COFER

Mrs. L. C. Stewart
(Water Valley, MS)

TOMMY & PEGGY SHULL

Earl W. Sain
(Collierville, TN)

OUIDA McCARTER

Sonya Hopkins
(Booneville, MS)

NOTICE!

Memorials and/or honorariums given to **Magnolia Bible College** are handled separately from those given to the **Magnolia Messenger**. (See Page 16) Thanks. MM or MBC.

*Thank you for your support of the "Magnolia Messenger".
It is very much appreciated and is greatly needed.*

Churches Seeking Preachers

Notice: We are pleased to run ads for congregations that are seeking to find preachers to work with them. **There is no charge for this service.** Call or mail your request to: 662-289-3559 or 601-668-3344; "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us: franksmm@aol.com. Thank you. (ALF, Editor)

Alaska Pulpit Available

A congregation meeting in Wasilla, Alaska is seeking a preacher. According to member **Ed Maxwell**, the church would love to have a preacher who can bring some support with him.

The congregation is small (10 to 20 members); thus, local support would be limited at first. This challenging work may be suitable for an older "retired" preacher or perhaps an adventurous younger person. Wasilla is located about 45 miles from Anchorage and is said to be "the fastest growing community in Alaska."

For more information, please check out the website for the church which is (churchofchristwasilla.com). You may contact brother Ed Maxwell at 2630 Jasper Drive; Wasilla, Alaska 99654-3400. His phone number is 907-373-5583.

(Dec.18, 2003)

Coffeeville, MS Preacher Needed

The Coffeeville, Mississippi, Church of Christ is looking for a full-time Pulpit Minister. Candidate should have an excellent knowledge of God's Word. A good communicator. Capable of

Preacher Found

Don Roberson has accepted the invitation to preach for the Coffeeville congregation. Don, a student at MBC, and his family are from Ashland, Mississippi. Lord willing, their work with the church is to begin February 1, 2004. May God bless!

If you are interested, please mail a copy of your resume to Search Committee Member, **Ernest D. St. John**, 17230 Highway 330; Coffeeville, MS 38922-2664. Tel. 662-675-8598.

(August 17, 2003 3:46 PM)

The Ellisville, MS Church Of Christ

is looking for a Full time Preacher. We are on highway 588, one mile west of interstate 59. We have just moved into a new building.

We have about 75 to 85 in regular attendance.

Please contact **Ray Kemp @ 1-601-729-4362** or **John Sexton @ 1-877-553-9425**

The church provides a house allowance for the preacher and his family.

(12/18)

Dear Brother Franks,

I just wanted to let you know that the Lord has blessed us with a preacher at Grand Ecore Rd. Church of Christ in Natchitoches, LA and I also wanted to thank you again for posting our ad in the Magnolia Messenger. Thanks Again! In His Service, (Tim Page)

PT Preacher Available

Jim Mordecai has requested that we publish his desire to serve as a part-time preacher somewhere in central Mississippi. To contact brother Jim, please call 601-267-5258.

We are in need of a full time preacher. Would you please advertise this for us?

Thank you,

Ch
C
C
(loc
Batt
bet
Batt
Att
Nic
large
yard for the preacher and family.

Preacher Secured

Paul Meacham is now serving as preacher for the Central Academy 106 Nic Congregation.

Contact one of the elders:
Jimmy Carr - 662-563-4398
B.H. Darby - 662-563-9068
or
Charles Means
662-563-4297

11/3(2)

Rolling Fork, MS Looking for a Preacher

Beautiful Church Building
Very Nice Preacher's House
A Small Church in the MS Delta

Contact

**Rolling Fork
Church of Christ
520 E Race St
Rolling Fork, MS 39159**

Call

**Sammy Price
662-873-2442
Chuck Henderson
662-873-2320**

12-23-03



Yazoo City, MS Church Building



House for Preacher's Family

Church Seeks
Full-time Preacher
Attendance: 60
House Provided

Contact:
Charles Fulgham
662-746-5865
or Allen Gray
662-746-5021

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

Thanks for running our "preacher wanted" ad. Altho, as of today, we have not hired a preacher, we believe we have enough resumes to make a choice, so would request that the ad be discontinued. (Ken Gardner; Clinton, MS Church of Christ)

Vicksburg Church Has Hired New Youth Minister

Kirt Hunt has accepted work with the I-20 church in Vicksburg where he now serves as Youth Minister. He replaces Ben Thompson who has accepted the challenge of foreign mission work in Tanzania, Africa. May God bless all.

"Preach the word."

(2 Tim. 4:2)

Aliceville, Alabama Church of Christ Seeks Full time Minister

Nice home provided

Attendance: 45-50

The Aliceville church is a loving congregation and is looking for a long time relationship with the right preacher and his family. for more information, please contact:

Jim Presley
205-373-3821
e-mail:
jpresley@pickens.net
Dale Moore
205-373-2684
Donald Moore
205-373-2807
(9-18)

"How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things."

**Morton, Mississippi
Looking For
A Preacher**
Attendance: about 50
Population: about 3,500
One of two churches of Christ in a county of nearly 30,000.
"A Mission Opportunity"
For more information, contact Arthur Massey at **601-732-6752** or Louie Rector at **601-732-6094**

Thank You For Reading
Magnolia Messenger

Be A Friend of Jesus

By Jimmy W. Cox

In the Christian age, any person can be a friend of Jesus if he is willing to obey the commands of Christ.

Jesus had many disciples (those who follow to learn), but Jesus chose 12 of those disciples to be His apostles; to help teach in the last months of his earthly ministry, and to preach the Gospel after Jesus established His church, and went back to heaven, to reign over his spiritual "church-kingdom".

To them He said: "No longer do I call you servants; for the servant does not know what his Master is doing: but I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from My Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15). Though we are not apostles, we can still be considered friends of Jesus.

A FRIEND TRULY CARES. We see His compassion for all of us because He came down from heaven to shed his blood and become a sin offering for us, so that we could be saved. *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*" That is a true friend.

A FRIEND WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU, so He commands us what to do, and not to do. We choose to

be His friends by following His will. "You are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14).

A FRIEND IS LOYAL. Jesus said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb. 13:5). That's the promise of a true friend.

JESUS IS THE BEST FRIEND OF ALL. He can and will do for us the things we can't do ourselves. Because of Jesus' blood shed on the cross, He gives us the ability to overcome Satan and life's trials. His death for us makes possible the forgive-ness of our own sins, and fellowship with God. Power to overcome death was assured unto us, by His resurrection, and the fact He is now reigning over us, and will do so until all of His and our enemies are overcome.

WHAT KIND OF FRIEND HAVE YOU BEEN TO JESUS? Become a friend to Jesus by believing, (Heb. 11:6), repenting of sins, (Acts 2:38); confessing Christ, (Rom. 10:9-10), and being baptized into Christ. (Acts 2:38 and Rom. 6:3-5).

— — —
Brother Cox is a member and a minister with the Columbia congregation in South MS. His address is Jimmy Cox; 54 Cox Ln; Sandy Hook, MS 39478-9435

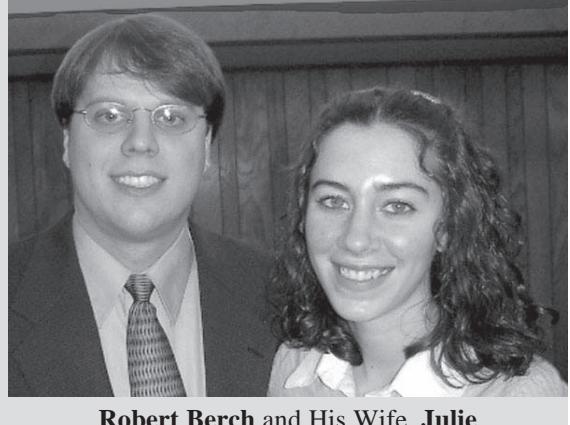


Judith and John Dial (*Medicine & Missions*)

John Dial is presently preaching for the Yazoo City congregation as they continue their search for a full-time preacher. (See ad on adjacent page) The Dials are multi-talented. Sister Judith is a Family Nurse Practitioner (and, is still working). John, as a doctor, is semi-retired; however, as a preacher, he seems to be getting more active and involved. He enjoys preaching and, from all reports, is doing a very good job in Yazoo City.

New
Preacher
for
Clinton, MS
Church of
Christ

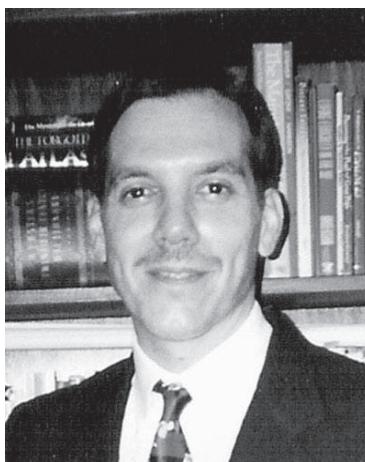
May
God richly
bless!



Robert Berch and His Wife, Julie

MM and MBC Are Separate Works

The "Messenger" and Magnolia Bible College work closely together and are supportive of each other; however, the *Messenger* is not a publication of MBC.



Danny Dodd

After a couple of years of mission work in Lithuania, Danny has returned to the United States and has accepted the challenge of working with the Gateway congregation in Pensacola, Florida. Danny previously served the Skyway Hills church in Pearl, Mississippi and Magnolia Bible College. We pray God's blessings to be with Danny, Terri and their little daughter, Taylor.

GRENADA

Will Collins, a student at Magnolia Bible College is the Youth Minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Grenada, MS. **Bill Denton** preaches for the Southside congregation.

WALLS

It was recently noted that **David Fisher** has been serving the Lake Forest Church of Christ as preacher for the past 12 years.

Someone Has Said:

*"A dog is loved
by old and young;
he wags his tail
and not his tongue."*

BRANSON, Missouri Vacation in the Beautiful Ozark Mountains

Condominium Available

(Sleeps Six)

(1 mile west of Silver Dollar City)

Stay 3 nights
(4th night - FREE)
Stay 5 nights
(6th & 7th nights - FREE!)

Only \$100.00 per night

*Owned and Operated
By the Fulgham Family
in Yazoo City, Mississippi*

**Information or Reservation
662-746-5865**

"Drop-In Visit"

Maynie Avenue in Yazoo City



Meeting Place of Maynie Ave Church in Yazoo City

On December 14, 2003, we had the opportunity to drop-in for a visit with the Maynie Avenue Church of Christ in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Upon our early arrival at the church building, there was one car already in the church parking lot. We assumed it must be the preacher.

We were mistaken. Soon, we found out that the local preacher, Charles Ray, was away for the day and the guest speaker for the worship hour would be a visiting preacher from Jackson.

We learned that the car we had seen upon our arrival belonged to



"JESUS" - "John 3:16" ... Writings of Cheronda

one of the ladies of the church who had come early to help prepare the building for morning services.

It wasn't long until other members of the congregation began coming in and soon it was time for services to begin.

The singing was ably led by **Rommie Horton**. We all joined in the singing of some of the beautiful old hymns such as "I Love My Savior", "Have Thine Own Way" and "He's A Wonderful Savior To Me."

The scripture was read by **Bobby**

Perkins and the text was James 5:10,11. **Raymond Pearson** led the congregation in prayer.

The sermon was delivered by **Ivan Wilson** from the Hanging Moss congregation in Jackson. His lesson was based on James 5 and entitled "Happy Is He That Endureth."

In brother Ivan's well presented lesson, he said, "We all have storms; how we respond to the storms is so important. They can either make us better or bitter." (I liked that!-alf)



Ivan Wilson, Guest Speaker

We enjoyed worshipping with our brethren at Maynie Avenue. We were disappointed, however, because **Clara Johnson**, who is, to our knowledge, the oldest member of the church of Christ in Mississippi, was unable to attend that Sunday due to a fall. Sister Clara has always amazed us with her zeal and enthusiasm for the Lord and His Church. You can rest assured when she is not in services, she is not physically able to come. Sister Clara is 106 years young.

The Maynie Avenue congregation meets in a very nice building. The inside of the building is especially attractive and conducive to a meaningful worship service.

The West Main Church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi provides support for the Maynie Avenue Church to help them reach out with the gospel of Christ to their neighbors and friends in Yazoo County.

It is our prayer that God will bless all efforts being made to spread the borders of Christ's church in Yazoo County. We pray that the next time we are able to "drop-in" for a visit with the Church on Maynie Avenue that we will find that they have grown spiritually and numerically. (Visit & Report by Al & June Franks)

TUPELO

A Ladies Day is planned for the West Main Church of Christ in Tupelo. The date is March 27, 2004.

Have You Been Tried in Heaven's Court?

Romans 2:17-29

- Derek Williams -

One of the most popular types of television programs today are courtroom dramas. Judge Judy and Judge Joe Brown are household names. Real people with real problems walk into those courtrooms to have their cases settled before a judge, a studio audience and all of America watches on television.

Why is this type of program so popular in America? A courtroom drama gives a person who watches television the opportunity to play the role of a judge. We can listen to the testimony of both the defendant and the plaintiff and then make our own decision about who is right or wrong. It gives us an opportunity to make a judgement and it doesn't matter if we make a mistake. There is something within all of us that enjoys playing the role of a judge.

It is wrong to judge? The Bible says in Matthew 7:1, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. Yet, it also says in Matthew 7: 16, "By their fruit you will recognize them." Jesus has taught us that it is not wrong to judge. The sin we commit is when we judge our own sins through a telescope and other peoples' sins through a microscope.

The kings of criticism in the New Testament were the Pharisees. They were the religious crowd who prided themselves in being model citizens. The word Pharisee literally means, "separated one." They separated themselves from the ways of the world and kept the Law of Moses as strictly as any human could.

If there was anyone who understood the life of a Pharisee, it was the apostle Paul. Consider what he wrote of himself in Philippians 3:4-6. "If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless."

If you went to the leaders of the Pharisees back in the days of the early church and asked them who was the rising star that everyone should keep an eye on,

the name that was sure to get mentioned was "Saul of Tarsus." Saul had all the credentials. He was circumcised right. He was from the right tribe or we could say he was from the right side of the tracks. He was a Pharisee. And when they graded his legalistic righteousness, Saul got a perfect score in the Pharisee Academy.

Saul had it all. Yet, something happened on the Road to Damascus that changed Saul forever. Saul became a Christian. Later, Saul became Paul and he was the greatest defender of Jesus Christ this world had ever known. When Paul turned to Jesus the Savior, he turned from the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.

In this article, we are going to watch Paul put an *imaginary* Pharisee on trial. The charge that Paul is going to bring against him is the sin of hypocrisy. Paul will be the prosecuting attorney and God's Word given by the Holy Spirit will be the jury that makes the final decision. God the Father will be the judge that presides over the court.

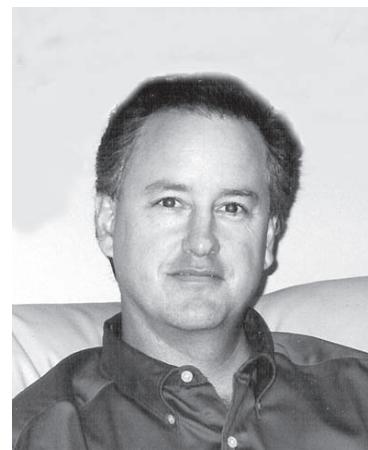
Let's begin with an opening statement from the Pharisee, the pride of the Jews. He looks to the judge, the God of Heaven and says, For even if I've sinned, I am yours O Lord, knowing your holiness; but I have not sinned, because you know that we Jews are accounted as yours since the days of our forefather Abraham."

Then Paul stands up and says, "Your honor, it is important that everyone in this courtroom understands the mind set of the Jews. They believe that since they have

been given the Law of Moses, that God has favored them above all other peoples. The Jews believe that the mere possession of the Law is equal to being justified by the Law. They believe they are right with God simply because you O Lord have been so kind to give them your unique revelation."

That would be same for us today if I said, "Because I attend a church that says "Church of Christ" on the sign outside, that means I am right with God and on my way to Heaven." We know that's not true because it takes

?? "Because I attend a church that says "Church of Christ" on the sign outside, that means I am right with God and on my way to Heaven." ??



Derek Williams

more than a sign to make a saint. It takes a Savior and His name is Jesus.

Let's begin our court case. Imagine that Paul calls this Jewish man on the stand. Notice how well Paul speaks of the defendant in vv. 17-20. Paul paints a rosy picture of this Pharisee as being "The Model Citizen." Rom. 2:17-20, "Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth."

What's Paul saying about this Pharisee in vv. 17-20? He's saying, "Mister, it's obvious that you are the model citizen. You are a Pharisee and you are quite proud of your good deeds before God. You know His will and approve of that which is superior

which is taught in the law. Sir, you are such a good citizen that you could serve as a guide

for the blind

and as instructor of the foolish. You are so versatile, you could even teach little children. If we looked at the definition of the law in the dictionary, we would see your picture there with this caption, 'see also knowledge and truth.' Paul stops and asks, "Do you believe that you are the model citizen?" The Pharisee says with pride, "Yes, I do." Yet, this wasn't only true for the Pharisees. It was the mind set of nearly all Jewish people of that day.

I wonder if it is not my mind set on this day. So often I look at my life and compare it with the

criminals on the six o'clock news and I'll think, "Lord, I sure am glad that I'm not like those men." Or I'll look at my neighbor working in his yard on Sunday as I am leaving for church and I'll say, "Lord, I attend church three times a week." Then when the plate is passed and I drop in my contribution, I'll think, "What a good boy am I because I tithe and then the fellow next to me drops in a dollar." It is so easy for me to pat myself on the back and criticize others. It is so easy for me to think of myself as a model citizen in the kingdom of God and sub-consciously believe those "good deeds" will get me to Heaven.

I believe what Paul is teaching us that the purity of my religion can not get me to Heaven. It doesn't matter how moral or how marvelous I am. I can never be good enough in Heaven's court to be judged as righteous by the works of my hands. I believe Paul wants the court and all of us to see that this proud Pharisee is sitting on a mountain of self-righteousness and Paul is about to move that mountain.

Next we will see Paul ask five penetrating questions of this Pharisee. These questions are asked to determine if this Jewish man is as righteous as he thinks he is. Imagine a prosecuting attorney asking these questions of the man on the stand in vv. 21-24. "You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? As it is written: 'God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.'

There is an old proverb that could sum up all that Paul asks in these verses and it is, "Do you practice what you preach?" This is a question that I have to ask myself as a preacher? Derek, you who teach others, do you teach yourself? "You who preach against stealing, do you steal?" "You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?" "You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?" "You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?"

Will you take the stand and let Paul cross examine you? You

The only parts of the Bible we truly believe are the parts we are obeying.

you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." A man or a woman who

is going to teach others has a higher standard of judgment. Why? People are watching you and they are watching me. When I preach about bringing the lost to Jesus, people want to see me leading souls to the Lord. When I preach about controlling the tongue, people want to see if I have got a good grip on my speech. They want to see if I practice what I preach. The only parts of the Bible we truly believe are the parts we are obeying. The word believe comes from two old English words "by" and "live" What I truly believe is what I live by.

Next Paul asks us, "Do you steal?" Most of us would say, "No, I surely don't steal. What about all those computer programs that you "borrowed" from a friend that are copyrighted? Each person who uses them by law is supposed to pay the purchase price. Do you ever steal tips from a waitress? Do you ever steal tax money from Uncle Sam? Do you ever steal tithes from the Lord? There is more than one way to be thief.

Then Paul asks, "Do you commit adultery?" Most of us would say, "Of course not. I have always been true to my wife. I have never touched another woman in a way that might be deemed inappropriate." Yet Jesus reminds us in Mat 5:27-28, "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

We live in a culture that is saturated with sex. There is sex on television, the movies, in advertising and it seems that everywhere you turn, sex is being used to corrupt the minds of millions. Jesus said, "Sex doesn't begin in the flesh. It begins in the mind." Friend, we must beware of the battle for our minds. I am asking you to take the covenant of the book of Psalms 101:3 with me. It says, "I will set before my eyes no vile thing."

To Be Continued,
Lord willing, In Our Next Issue
Derek Williams; 100445 Moose
Road; Millington, TN 38053

An Opportunity

To Review Text of
The 21st Century
Revised King James Version

In partnership with several churches, **Africa International Missions** is continuing the development of the *21st Century Revised King James Version*. We are in the process of doing another printing of the New Testament.

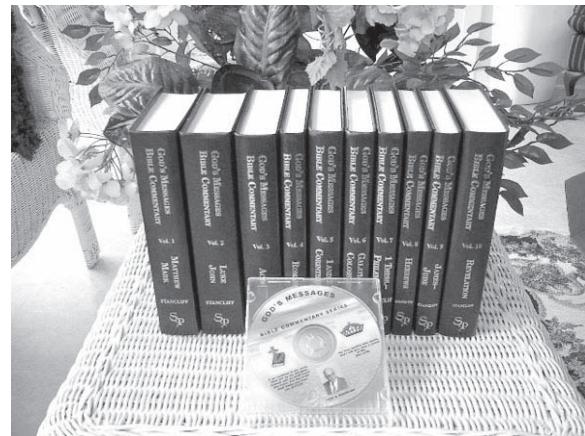
We are requesting that interested brethren who would like to review the text for any possible revisions should write Roger E. Dickson, **Africa International Missions** for a copy of the text.

We will be printing 100,000 copies for the **AfriBible** project, an evangelistic outreach to the continent of Africa. The printing of this allotment of New Testaments will take place the middle of 2004.

If you would like to review the text for possible revisions, please send \$10.00 to the Eastwood church of Christ, 2500 N. Plum, Hutchinson, KS 67502. Please notify brother Dickson at rdickson@mweb.co.za that you have requested a copy of the volume and he will send a copy by airmail from Cape Town, South Africa.

The Magnolia Messenger Welcomes Church Reports

A Correction About Commentaries



In the Nov/Dec, 2003 issue of the MM we included a statement about the commentaries written by brother James Burton Coffman. We stated, "No other person in modern times has written a commentary on every book of the Bible."

We stand corrected. Our dear brother **Gynnath Ford**, who is himself a gifted writer and publisher, kindly called to our attention something he had only recently learned. And, that is...

We have another Christian brother who has also written and published a commentary on the entire Bible. He is **Leon D. Stancliff**. His commentaries on the entire New Testament comes in ten beautifully bound volumes with over 4,000 pages (see picture above). The text is clearly written and to the point with large print. The price is \$15.00 per volume or \$150.00 for the entire set.

A complete commentary of 12,000 pages which covers the entire Bible, both Old and New Testaments, has been written and compiled on a CD which is available for only \$20.00. Books and/or CD may be ordered from brother Stancliff at 926 Kirkwood Dr., Murfreesboro, TN. (*Thanks brother Ford for the information, books and for the good news!* ALF, Editor)

One Day Gospel Meeting
at Liberty Church of Christ
Dennis, MS
February 29, 2004
Paul Sparks, preaching
9:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.
Lunch Together
6:00 p.m.
Ron Deaton, local minister

GERMANTOWN, TN
According to associate minister **Eddie Lewis** of the Germantown congregation (Memphis, TN area), the **Brecheen-Faulkner** "Marriage Enrichment" Seminar held at Germantown brought together **122 couples** from all over Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas. Brother Eddie commented, "What a great blessing to all our couples."

Thanks for the Messenger! Enjoy each one and look forward to doing "The Question Box". I read and often pass the paper to others. God Bless (Ava Cleveland, Arcadia, LA)

We appreciate your efforts in spreading the gospel. Likewise we anticipate the arrival of each issue of the Messenger. In Christian Love, (Lloyd & Barbara Beard, Booneville, MS)

S
T
U
D
Y
T
O
S
H
O
W
T
H
Y
S
E
L
F
A
P
P
R
O
V
E
D
Unto God

A Son Writes About The Death of His Dad

Thomas Lee Stanford, Jr.
1916 - 2003

Dear Al & June Franks,
Dad passed away on November 12, after a very tough year. Mother, is being taken care of by Hermitage Gardens in Southaven, MS. It is an Alzheimer's home. I don't know what an Alzheimer's patient knows, but I know it was real tough on dad having to spend his last few months without her, but there was no other way, and he made the decision.

I am not a letter writer, as was my dad. He loved to put his feelings on paper, and he did such a great job of that. You could read his letter and it would be like he was standing there talking to you. I asked him one time how he perfected his craft and he stated: "I don't ever read them before I mail it." To re-read and change the letter took away from the original meaning of what you were trying to say.

Daddy did not take friends lightly, and he valued his character. He was close to his family and his friends. He was a "Christian" and a "Southern Gentleman". He treated all with respect. I miss him greatly.

I would appreciate greatly if you would publish his passing to a better life.

Thomas Lee Stanford Jr. was born September 8th, 1916 in Ripley, MS, named after his father. He was a member of the Charleston Church of Christ. He was laid to rest beside his father in Jacobs Chapel Cemetery, Ripley, MS on November 13th. This was one of his wishes. Between the two of them (Thomas Sr. & Thomas Jr.) they were upon this earth one hundred eighty six (186) years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above letter came to us from **Richard H. (Dicky) Stanford** of Charleston, MS. We are pleased to state that we, at the "Messenger" have received encouraging notes from his dad, including contributions to our mission efforts. We are very sorry to learn about his departure, and extend our sympathy to his son and all the family. May God richly bless. (Al & June Franks)

91st Birthday Enos Moore

Congratulations to Enos Moore of the Southside church in Grenada. Brother Moore recently turned 91. A special celebration was held at the Southside church building on January 10.
...Many More!... brother Moore.

(Note: The following was written by an 87 year old Christian lady who has, no doubt, experienced a great deal of pain in her life time. Her observations about "a little pill" are both interesting and amusing. And... you know... a little humor might do us all good. Editor)

A Little Pill

Little pill, here in hand,
I wonder how you understand;
What to do and where to go,
To stop the ache that hurts me so.

Your work is beyond belief,
You sink in regions far below,
As down my throat you quickly go;
How do you know where I am ill?
And just how do you really know,
Where you are suppose to go?

I've a headache, that is true;
My arthritis needs help too.
How can anything so small,
End my pain in no time at all?

Do you work alone or have a crew,
To do all the things you have to do?
I'm counting on you mighty strong,
To get there where you belong.
Don't make the wrong turn,
That's my plea;
I can't take another till after three.

Wildflowers

There is beauty in wildflowers,
That no other flower knows.
Their beauty and their color,
As they stand there by the road.
They have no special care,
As other flowers do,
But God's tender mercy's working
The whole night through;
And people on the highway,
Love their beauty, too!

Mollie Hollabaugh
2601 S Olive St; Apt 8
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

**You Can Receive and Read
Every Issue of the "Magnolia Messenger"
Mailed Directly to Your Home or Business
No Charge to You
(See Page 19 for Details)**



"Somewhere in Mississippi"

Gene Brack Tackles New Ministry in Texas

Former Public Relations Director for Sunnybrook Children's Home



We recently received a note from William E. "Gene" Brack who was associated with Sunnybrook Children's Home in Ridgeland, Mississippi as Public Relations Director. He informed us of a new ministry in which he is involved.

Brother Brack is presently serving as a Chaplain of the Sheriff's Department in the county where the city of Kerrville is located in southwest Texas. He noted that "most all organizations such as hospitals, homes for the elderly and inmates in prison have a Chaplain for spiritual guidance, for counseling and to boost morale."

Because this is a new work for the Kerrville church, brother Gene is seeking funds to *temporarily* provide support for the special outreach missionary effort until the congregation can work it into their budget. For more information, please contact William E. Brack; C/o Kerrville Church of Christ; 505 Sidney Baker Street; Kerrville, TX 78028. Telephone Numbers: 830-257-8148 or 830-792-3922.

ASAP

When we see the letters ASAP together we usually think of the abbreviation that stands for "As Soon As Possible". I want to alter that slightly and hope that we become Christians who ASAP-- "Always Say A Prayer."

(via Meridian church bulletin)

The PEACE That Passeth All Understanding

Afflicted With Crohn's Disease

Michael Stegall

I know the storms of life may come crashing down on you unexpectedly. You may even think you will never see sunny days again.

Paul, one of the greatest apostles, also experienced stormy days. Paul told us how to have peace in our lives even during discouraging times. I have even learned how to have this peace.

You can have this same peace because it is not designated for one class of people, or one skin color. The only way to obtain this peace is to understand where this peace comes from.

During Paul's Roman imprisonment, he wrote four epistles Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. While writing to the Philippians he talked about *a peace that passeth all understanding* (Philippians 4:7). Paul was in prison while writing this letter, but he still had peace in his life. He also talked about joy and rejoicing, but how could Paul continue to talk about peace, joy, and rejoicing while he was in jail?

Paul knew that real peace came from having the right relationship with God. He knew his peace did not come from the situation that he was presently in, but it came from having that right relationship with God.

Paul encountered many obstacles that would have made many men give up while proclaiming the Gospel. One day he told the Ephesians that he served the Lord with many tears and temptations (Acts 20:19). He was almost stoned to death in Lystra, (Acts 14:19). He and Silas were beat and thrown in jail in Philippi, (Acts 16). He gave the Corinthians a list of the things he had suffered to prove his apostleship, (II Corinthians 11). Paul never allowed his trials and tribulations to discourage him nor turn him away from his mission. Whatever he was going through, he was content in it. Paul had learned how to live and find happiness in numerous circumstances.

Not only did Paul have to deal with men violently attacking him, but he also had some type of weakness (II Corinthians 12). We know he went to the Lord in prayer at least three times asking Him to take his weakness away, but the Lord's answer was "No."

Instead He told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." When the Lord would not take away his weakness, Paul said he would rather have the infirmities than to be without the presence of the Lord in his life.



Michael Stegall

Every Christian should live by this statement.

I can understand what Paul was going through with a weakness he had to endure with no relief. I have been battling Crohn's Disease for the last sixteen years. The first few years of dealing with it really took its toll on me--physically, mentally and spiritually.

Many times I found myself angry with God and asking Him why me? Why would He strike me with an illness that can ravish my body internally and with no cure?

I tried to deal with my illness on my own without the Lord's help. I did not understand the Lord's comforting words, "My grace is sufficient for thee: My strength is made perfect in weakness." At the time, I was in the world, separated from the Lord's love, mercy and grace.

After many years of being lost in my sins, I came back to the Lord and got my relationship right with Him. Then, and only then, did I begin to understand His very comforting words. It was the first time in my life that I experienced that *peace that passeth all understanding*. I could finally accept my condition. I agree with Paul when he said he would rather live with his infirmities than to be without the presence of the Lord his life (II Corinthians 12).

Even if you are a Christian, you are still going to have some discouraging days. Discouraging situations can overtake you just like that, unannounced, unexpected, and you will never be prepared for them. Discouragement, if allowed, can drain all the life out of you slowly. I know when you are discouraged it is hard to carry on. You might even feel like giving up, but remember happiness does not come from the situation you are in, but rather from having the right relationship with God. It does not matter about the circumstances. You will still have joy in your life.

Despite whatever Paul encountered, he never allowed it to still his joy and happiness. When he and Silas were beat and thrown

into jail he still prayed and sang praises to the Lord (Acts 16). Paul knew his happiness was internal not external.

It took me years to understand this, but it was worth the wait. Discouraging trials can hit hard, fast, and consume every fiber of your being if you allow it. Just remember you can also have this peace that passeth all understanding. This state of peace only comes by accepting the Lord through obedience to Him as your Savior. This peace comes when you can turn all your troubles over to the Lord and forget about them.

Michael is a student at MBC and can be reached at P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Reader Asks

(Cont. from page 3)

Often Scripture describes sin using a Greek tense that denotes a continuing practice, a life-style. Here in Romans 6 it warns against continuing in sin (verse 1), living in sin (verse 2). John says, "Whoever has been born of God does not (continually) sin" (1 John 3:9).

Here in Romans 6:16 however, the Greek tense suggests a one time occurrence of sin. The sense is, "Don't ever sin even one time because you are under grace." Grace is never to be used at all as an excuse for sin.

The grace of God is to be appreciated and rejoiced in. It is not to be presumed upon. Jude warns against turning the grace of God into lewdness (Jude 4).

2) "Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

Under "the law of sin and death," any sin results in spiritual death. Those whose relationship to God is based solely on such a law, when they once sin, are forever enslaved to sin with no available remedy. All they can do is despair. Because Christians are not under law but under grace, we do not have to despair, we are forgiven. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).

However, the result of our death to sin is not, "Therefore sin cannot reign over you." The promised result is, "Therefore do not let sin reign over you" (Romans 6:12). We can still choose a life of slavery to sin if we wish but because of grace we do not have to.

It is encouraging to know, "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

Keep right on "wanting to do right," "regretting it when you yield to temptation" and continuing to "seek knowledge and strength to help better overcome temptation."

May God bless!

S.H.D.

(Continued from page 5)

to put her in the temple publicly officiating, teaching or leading.

Philip's daughters were never called prophetesses (Acts 21:8,9). The text says these young virgin ladies prophesied in some way, which has not been revealed to us, and we are never given anything they said, but in their own womanly way they had been given the ability to prophesy. However, we want to be sure we note what they were not doing. We see nothing of them being out publicly preaching with their evangelist father--Philip. They evidently could not do the work of a male prophet because it was Agabus, not the girls, who came and prophesied about the future of Paul. (21:10). Therefore, again this example sets no leading, public role participation model for the woman.

Other than these examples, the only other mention of those known as a prophetess are those

mentioned in a condemning way in the Scriptures: **Noadiah**, (Nehemiah 6:14), **certain women of Judah**, (Ezekiel 13: 17) and the self designated **prophetess** of Revelation 2:20. I have yet to hear any woman champion any of these as examples.

It is indeed a very foolish thing to go into the lives of our sisters of old with the attitude that we have the authority to hear what we select to hear and disregard the rest, a classic example of SHD. Teenagers may get away with a certain amount of that from a physical perspective despite our best efforts, because of our human frailties as parents. However, God does not allow us the liberty to take what we want from any of His commands and leave the rest. God repeatedly says throughout Scripture, "he that hath ears to hear let him hear" and that includes **all** He has to say on any given topic. Spiritual SHD is inexcusable with God.

JM

Magnolia Bible College

Memorials and Living Tributes

The following is a list of those who recently made contributions to Magnolia Bible College in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. The names of those so honored, and the names of the donors, will also be inscribed in a book in the library. The names in **bold type** are memorialized or honored. The names following are the donors.

In Memory Of

SUDIE M. HAYES

Mr. and Mrs. James Mahoney
Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Livingston
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Hartness, Jr.

Annis G. Dickerson

Sybil K. Garner

Mr. and Mrs. Les Ferguson, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. George Hester
Mr. and Mrs. James Gregory

Gloria G. Hayes

ROBERT HUTCHERSON
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stalcup

CODY LEAVER

Mr. Jim Bill McInteer
PEARL GREER

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Foote

EVERETT KNIGHT

The Everett Knight Family
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Foote

Mr. Wiley Greer, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Smith

MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE FULGHAM

Mrs. Louis G. Strickland

HOWARD FULGHAM

LOUIS G. STRICKLAND

OLEAN FULGHAM COBB

Mrs. Louis G. Strickland

C. H. MORRISON

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Smith

CHRISTINE HOLTSFORD

Mr. and Mrs. Lyonel Wade

GEAN McMASTERS

Charles McMasters

CURTIS WHITTINGTON, SR.

United Way of St. Charles
Mr. and Mrs. James L. McCartney
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Roux

Mr. and Mrs. George Williamson
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Swann

VESTER SMITH

LEONARD PICKLE

NANCY VEDRENE

Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Cobb

BONNIE HADDOCK

Mary Jane Haddock

BOBBY ROBINSON

Mr. and Mrs. Buford Atkinson

DELMA PENNINGTON

JOHN CLARE

FAYE SIPES

Mrs. Arlice Bridges

KATHERINE McBRIDE

Mattie L. Brister

JAMES RANDALL PORTER

Avis Porter

HELEN HEARN

Mary Ann Weast

EARNESTINE "TINA" RAYNER

W.E. and Judy Walker

RUBY TAYLOR

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Smithson, III

In Honor of:

JOHN HAROLD & MARY KELLUM

Carl and Becky Kellum

MR. & MRS. DELBERT TURNER, JR.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Reeves

Please Send

MBC Memorials

And/or Tributes To:

Magnolia

Bible College

P.O. Box 1109

Kosciusko, MS 39090

Note: Gifts in memory or in honor which are sent to the "Magnolia Messenger" are handled separately from those given to MBC. (Please see page 11.) Thanks for including either or both MBC and the "MM" in your giving to the earthly work of the heavenly kingdom.

Answer Insults With Blessings

1 Peter 3:8-12

- Eddie Lewis -

Duane Warden tells about attending the Western Europe Lectureship in Gemunden, West Germany. He was impressed with their enthusiasm for Christ and love for one another. He said, "I suspected that these feelings were born of struggle. I have seen such a pattern in other places. When the numbers are small and the obstacles great, Christians must depend on the Lord and lean on one another for strength."

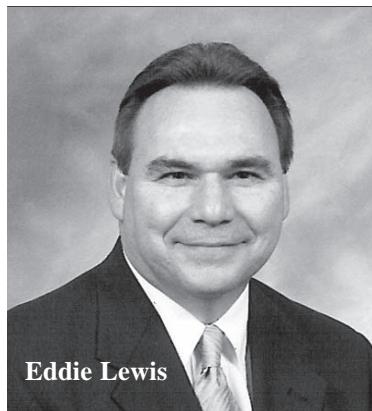
The Christians that Peter is writing to are facing that same kind of struggle. He is advising them that the Christian way was to answer insults with blessings (v.9), maliciousness with zeal for the right (v.13), and accusations with the message of the cross (v.18).

Some answers need no verbalizing. They are provided implicitly in the way Christians behave. Instead of providing his readers with words and arguments, Peter simply began by urging a way of life. I believe, in a summary form, Peter is giving the great qualities of Christian living. We must possess these qualities if we are to have any impact on our world and answer its criticism. Consider the five points he makes about answering insults with blessings.

1. "Live in harmony with one another." Unity is one of the great themes of the New Testament. Jesus prayed that His disciples, as well as those who would believe on Him through their word, would be one (John 17:21-23). Luke said that the disciples in Jerusalem were "one in heart and mind" (Acts 4:32). Paul called the brethren to unity (Romans 12:4, 16, 1 Corinthians 12). This does not mean that we will agree on every thought, but we will "be of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, and intent on one purpose" (Philippians 2:2).

I must say that this unity is not a plea but a command. Some of the problems we face in the church today are produced by a lack of humility and an emphasis on selfish interest instead of Christians being concerned about others.

C.B. Cranfield said, "Such unity will only come when Christians are humble and bold



Eddie Lewis

enough to lay hold on the unity already given them in Christ and to take it more seriously than their own self-importance and sin." We can have unity and harmony with one another, but it will take some of the other qualities Peter mentions.

2. "Compassion or sympathy." This means to feel the same pain and suffering that another person feels and thus to do everything possible to ease it (Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26). Obviously, selfishness and compassion can't co-exist. Compassion depends on our ability to forget about self, to step out of self and identify with the needs of others.

3. "Brotherly love." Jesus gave this attitude as the second great command (John 13:34, 35). John is very clear about what Jesus expects from us. Love for God and love for others go hand in hand (1 John 4:20). If in this life we have no love for others, it is certain that in that person there is no love for God. The simplest test of the truthfulness of our religion is whether or not it makes us love others.

4. "Tenderhearted." I believe that this quality is becoming an endangered species today, partly because we have conditioned ourselves to not be shocked by sin and violent behavior. We sit at the breakfast table eating our food and watching

people being killed in war. We eat supper and watch the news about children starving to death and simply say, "Oh my, isn't that bad."

death and simply say, "Oh my, isn't that bad." The horrors of sin and the abuses of our world have lost their cutting edge.

Tender-heartedness is the very essence of Jesus' attitude as He looked at suffering humanity and had compassion on the state of man. He had pity on man to the

point that He died to set us free from sin.

A newspaper editorial told this story of a truck driver that would not free a CB channel so that an emergency call could be made. They wanted to direct a doctor to the scene of a serious accident. An automobile had driven into the rear of a flat bed trailer carrying metal tubing. A piece of pipe had gone through the car's windshield, pinning a woman in the wreckage.

The trucker continued to tie up the channel, frustrating all attempts to obtain help. Finally he came upon the scene of the accident himself. To his utter dismay, he discovered that the critically injured woman was his own wife. When a doctor did arrive, he said that if he had been notified even 10 minutes earlier, the woman's chances for survival would have been much greater. That trucker's mischief did indeed "return upon his own head" (Psalm 7:16).

5. "Humility." Humility comes from two realizations. One is that we are creatures created by a living God. When we are constantly aware of our utter dependence on God it produces in us the feeling of humility.

Second is the fact that the Christian has a new standard of comparison. We no longer compare ourselves to our neighbors but to Christ. We may think we are something special when we compare ourselves to our neighbors, but when compared to Christ we realize our sinful state and see our many faults and sins.

6. "Forgiveness." Jesus tells us that if we are to receive forgiveness we must practice forgiveness (Matthew 6:11-15). We can't hold a grudge and be forgiven. We can't receive forgiveness from God and not be willing to forgive others. Paul tells us that one of the marks of a Christian is to forgive others as God has forgiven us.

Richard Wurmbrand tells this story about his captivity in a Rumanian prison. He said that he and 30 other Christians were in prison. One day the door was opened and a new prisoner was pushed in. It took a little time but they finally recognized him as a well-known Captain of the Secret Police at whose hands they had been arrested and tortured. They asked him why he had been put in prison. He told them that one day a soldier reported to him that a 12-year-old boy, carrying a pot of flowers, was asking to see him.

The Captain was curious and allowed the boy to enter. The boy was very shy. "Comrade Captain," he said, "you are the one who arrested my father and mother, and today is my mother's birthday."

A newspaper editorial told this story of a truck driver that would not free a CB channel so that an emergency call could be made. They wanted to direct a doctor to the scene of a serious accident. An automobile had driven into the rear of a flat bed trailer carrying metal tubing. A piece of pipe had gone through the car's windshield, pinning a woman in the wreckage.

The trucker continued to tie up the channel, frustrating all attempts to obtain help. Finally he came upon the scene of the accident himself. To his utter dismay, he discovered that the critically injured woman was his own wife. When a doctor did arrive, he said that if he had been notified even 10 minutes earlier, the woman's chances for survival would have been much greater. That trucker's mischief did indeed "return upon his own head" (Psalm 7:16).

5. "Humility." Humility comes from two realizations. One is that we are creatures created by a living God. When we are constantly aware of our utter dependence on God it produces in us the feeling of humility.

Second is the fact that the Christian has a new standard of comparison. We no longer compare ourselves to our neighbors but to Christ. We may think we are something special when we compare ourselves to our neighbors, but when compared to Christ we realize our sinful state and see our many faults and sins.

6. "Forgiveness." Jesus tells us that if we are to receive forgiveness we must practice forgiveness (Matthew 6:11-15). We can't hold a grudge and be forgiven. We can't receive forgiveness from God and not be willing to forgive others. Paul tells us that one of the marks of a Christian is to forgive others as God has forgiven us.

Richard Wurmbrand tells this story about his captivity in a Rumanian prison. He said that he and 30 other Christians were in prison. One day the door was opened and a new prisoner was pushed in. It took a little time but they finally recognized him as a well-known Captain of the Secret Police at whose hands they had been arrested and tortured. They asked him why he had been put in prison. He told them that one day a soldier reported to him that a 12-year-old boy, carrying a pot of flowers, was asking to see him.

We may think we are something special when we compare ourselves to our neighbors, but when compared to Christ we realize our sinful state and see our many faults and sins.

What a tremendous example of a heart touched by forgiveness.

The Christian life is summed up in these qualities. As we develop these qualities we are able to answer insults with blessings.

Associate minister, Church of Christ, 8723 Poplar Pike; Germantown, TN 38138

LA News Notes

BATON ROUGE

The South Baton Rouge Church of Christ is hosting their annual Renewal Youth Rally March 12-14, 2004. Acappella will be performing Saturday, March 13. The theme will be "Meant to Live". Fred McClure will be the speaker. For more information call 225-927-6954.

HOUMA

The Hollywood Church of Christ in Houma, Louisiana will be hosting an area-wide Bible Bowl Saturday, May 8th. For more information call the church office at 985-872-3778.

JENNINGS

The Jennings Church of Christ will be hosting a youth rally February 7-8, 2004. The theme for this year is "What's Got Your Heart?" The speaker will be Jason Barnard. For more information call 337-824-2527.

SULPHUR (MAPLEWOOD)

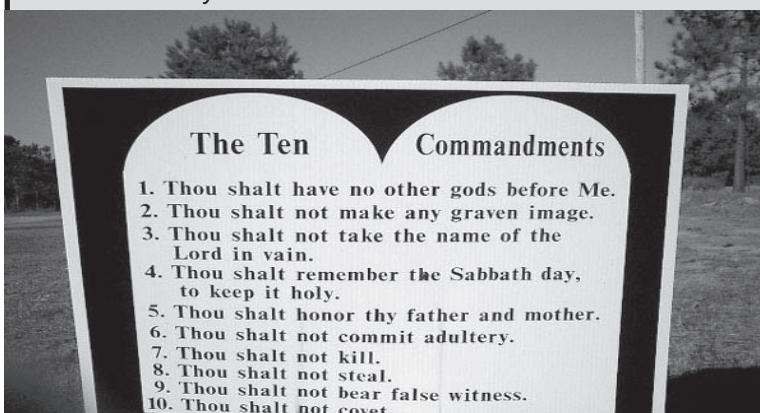
There will be an Area-wide Youth Rally February 27-29, 2004 sponsored by the Southwest Louisiana Churches of Christ at the Maplewood Church of Christ building. The theme will be "Know Truth". A group from the Adventures in Missions (AIM) program from Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas will be conducting the youth rally. For more information call 337-625-5733.

MM Welcomes

Teaching Articles, News Reports, Announcements, Ideas and/or Suggestions.
Please Address:
Magnolia Messenger
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

(Romans 6:16) *Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

(1 Peter 1:22) *Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently:*



Obedience Required Then and Now

Easy to Display in One's Yard; Harder to Demonstrate in One's Life

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

1. Victor O. Farrar
 2. Polly Templeton
 3. Elvis Dilmore
 4. Ann Rector
 5. Pauline King
 6. Paul & Philip Gaunt
 7. Mildred Herrington
 8. Linda Baker
 9. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Burnett
 10. Linda Peterson
 11. Shelia Hall
 12. Emily Hall
 13. Bettye Ohrem
 14. Gene Brooks
 15. Roger King
 16. Annette Kimbro
 17. Juanita LeBouef
 18. Mrs. J.W. Cooper
 19. Billy Willingham
 20. Louise McCaskiel
 21. Linda T. Shirley
 22. Catherine Green
 23. Lloyd Lambright
 24. Cindy Simmons
 25. Alma Maddox
 26. Billy F. Alford
 27. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
 28. Jennie M. Netterville
 29. Evelyn Little
 30. Gladys M. Vines
 31. Kristy Pipes
 32. Janice Vaughan
 33. Betty Chatman
 34. Betty A. Skinner
 35. Don Castle
 36. Maurice Graves
 37. Pauline Craft
 38. Genie Henning
 39. Kerry Deaton
 40. Mary Ella Webster
 41. Ava Cleveland
 42. Carolyn T. Taylor
 43. Virginia Provence
 44. Barbara Beard
 45. Ruth Christian
 46. Marie Thorn
 47. Dwight E. Hester
 48. Crissy Thorn
 49. Mrs. Cassi Pirani
 50. Olen Moore
 51. Wilda Pounds
 52. Bobbie Walker
 53. Imogene Blair
 54. Rutha Eastman
 55. Leora White
 56. Bobbie Saxton
 57. Lois Wright
 58. Lisa Dettor
 59. Ms. Sandra Morris
 60. Barbara A. Beard
 61. Katie Stacks
 62. Dan Stacks
 63. Mildred Carroll
 64. Betty Jo Stewart
 65. Mike Sullivan
 66. Mrs. Emmett LaGrone
 67. Sue Evans
 68. Paul & Elsie Bryson
 69. Nola Valentine
 70. Mrs. Grace Thomas
 71. Betty Standard
 72. Rae S. Fedric
 73. Elsie M. Moore
 74. Kim Schmelzer
 75. Melba Sewell
 76. Dorothy Brunson
 77. Alice Humphries
 78. Elizabeth Hines
 79. Belva Siebenthal
 80. Dick Green
 81. Christie Holliday
 82. Mrs. L.C. Stewart
 83. Cheri G. Moore
 84. Betty J. Moore
 85. Betty VanBuren
 86. Kim Wallace
 87. Cleta Harville
 88. Lee Harber
 89. Bowden & Melba Grisham
 90. Ralph and Doris Gillespie
91. Earlene Parsons
 92. Emily Kendrick
 93. Alpha M. Little
 94. Ruby McCrory
 95. Olen Roden Jr.
 96. Mrs. Cecil Smith
 97. Sue McDaniel
 98. Lyndon Beard
 99. Vera Spencer
 100. Sidney Clemmer
 101. Johnnie Mae Richmond
 102. Fred Chambers
103. Pat Kellum
 104. Carole Shelby
 105. Opal Sappington
 106. F. M. Evans
 107. Kevin Kinkeade
 108. Ruth Gardner
 109. Chestley & Helen Nash
 110. Sidney Robinson
 111. Gilbert Dellinger
 112. Syble Dellinger
 113. Nelia A. Chapman
 114. Peggy Wroten
 115. Marie Sykes
 116. Ima Jean Fugus
 117. Billie Jane Davis
 118. Louie E. Day Sr.
 119. Millie Duke
 120. June Faulkner
 121. Claude & Alberta Houston
 122. Shannon Adams
 123. Sherry Gordon
 124. Jewel Lyle
 125. Sandra Welch
 126. RayAnn Woodruff
 127. Mildred A. Doss
 128. Sandra Grisham
 129. Nannie Fay Wilson
 130. Brenda Wilson
 131. Marie Green
 132. Lorene Lindsey
 133. Dathol Camp
 134. Ellene Vaughan
 135. Patricia Wright
 136. Dezarie Ashby
 137. Buddy Parsons
 138. Irene M. Wright
 139. Mr. Michael Coleman
 140. Mary Franks
 141. Sue M. Bowen
 142. Marce & Joe Kellum
 143. Margaret Googe
 144. Trillie Strickland
 145. Mamie Guinn
 146. Karen Sue Britt
 147. Helen Franks
 148. Carolyn Olson
 149. Mrs. Mary Faulconer
 150. Charlotte Vandever
 151. Kay Shiers
 152. Donna Gulley
 153. Faye Cottrell
 154. Charlene Williams
 155. Willa Fox
 156. William Snow
 157. Nadine Gray
 158. Freeman Gray
 159. Annie L. Cummings
 160. Gala Webster
 161. Miriam Styers
 162. Ray Parham
 163. Marcella Black
 164. Dee Kepler
 165. Charlane Stanfield
 166. Ardella Newman
 167. Dorothy Alexander
 168. Mrs. T. N. Lollar
 169. Exie Lee Motes
 170. Fran Williford
 171. Lora Joy Box
 172. Gerneal Latch
 173. Norma Inman
 174. Gretchen Grimes
 175. Garry Gooch
 176. Myra Reaves
 177. Elizabeth Dickerson
 178. Zena Western
 179. Mrs. B. H. Darby
 180. Margaret Gaskin
181. Ron Webb
 182. Mima R. Vines
 183. Mary M. McDonald
 184. Ann Kimble
 185. Brenda Thrower
 186. Betty Shackelford
 187. Marie Harrell
 188. Doris Durr
 189. Rayma Cook
 190. Jess Taylor
 191. Pierce Flatt
 192. Francile Davis
 193. Sue Mason
 194. Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Mann
 195. Billie J. McCurdy
 196. Loney Sykes
 197. Lula M. Williams
 198. Katie Wyrick
 199. Jerry W. Hart
 200. Neeta A. Hart
 201. Betty Ellington
 202. Atlean Snow
 203. Bill & Miriam Moore
 204. Bea Stelmach
 205. Mrs. Dorothy Thornton
 206. Eileen Williford
 207. Esther Williams
 208. Patsy Pounders
 209. Ruby Wright
 210. Evelyn Faulkenberry
 211. Mary Scarth
 212. Annie R. Copeland
 213. Ruby Gideon
 214. Vera Winfrey
 215. Mary Ruth Goff
 216. Jean Johnson
 217. Mae Lewis
 218. Robert Blackburn
 219. Carolyn Harvill
 220. James Bennett
 221. Marie Lively
 222. Sue Tyner
 223. Gaynell Doughty
 224. Peggy Hartman
 225. Ollye M. Rush
 226. Joel Brown
 227. Althea House
 228. June Brents
 229. Bonnie B. Glass
 230. LaShanda Stringfield
 231. Lavra Nagle
 232. Taldena Facharias
 233. Grace Childers
 234. Anne Litchford
 235. Mrs. C. A. Franks
 236. Leigh-Annah Simmons
 237. Mary Bailey
 238. Joyce Morgan
 239. Randolph Moten
 240. Mrs. Maxine S. McCarley
 241. Vic & Ruth Hawn
 242. Tommy & Peggy Shull
 243. Joey & Dianna Alcede
 244. Debbie Anderson
 245. Jimmy Anderson
 246. Kellye Anderson
 247. Kyle Anderson
 248. Kelly Beard
 249. Patti Beard
 250. Walter Bellard
 251. Maggie Bohannon
 252. Jeffrey Bordelon
 253. Kathie Bordelon
 254. Paulethe Boudreaux
 255. Gloria Watson
 256. Dortha Carlile
 257. Jan Carlile
 258. Vester & Alice Cooper
 259. Janice Crowell
 260. Kasey Crowell
 261. Judith Elkins
 262. Walter L. Elkins
 263. Louis Estes
 264. Marilyn Estes
 265. Vicki Estes
 266. Ashley Franks
 267. Ena Franks
 268. Glen Franks
 269. Glenda Franks
 270. Megan Franks
271. Paul Franks
 272. Barbara Gayle
 273. Natalie Gerber
 274. Sharon Gomez
 275. Dell Griffin
 276. Jack H Griffin
 277. Margaret Griffin
 278. Shannon Griffin
 279. Steve Griffin
 280. Jeannine Harris
 281. Hollie Hewitt
 282. Hunter Hewitt
 283. Melinda Hewitt
 284. Otha Hewitt
 285. Gwen Jackson
 286. Jerry Jackson
 287. Elaina Jones
 288. David Kineman
 289. David Kineman Sr.
 290. Debbie Kineman
 291. Tammy Kineman
 292. Gerry Lambert
 293. Lauren Landry
 294. John M. LeBlanc
 295. Sandra Martin
 296. Cary McCartney
 297. Marlene McCartney
 298. Ancilla Nolan
 299. George Nolan
 300. Clifford A. Redmond
 301. Veta L. Redmond
 302. Debra Sigmund
 303. Evelyn Sigmund
 304. John Sigmund
 305. Imogene Smith
 306. Kathleen Smith
 307. Lauren Smith
 308. Janet Thibodaux
 309. Dody Treme
 310. Dustin Treme
 311. Renee Treme
 312. Leigh Ward
 313. Idell Crow
 314. Faye Stanford
 315. Jim Vermillion
 316. Eddie Vermillion
 317. Luella Nelson
 318. Mary Adams Warren
 319. Verna Spake
 320. Clara Davis
 321. Louise Holcomb
 322. Carolyn Garrett
 323. Earline Reeves
 324. Annie Ruth Perry
 325. Mary F. Swain
 326. Morgan Wilson
 327. Dorothy Laws
 328. Mary Evelyn Barnes
 329. Norma Barnes
 330. Sarah Hill
 331. James Kepler
 332. Sarah Troutt
 333. Mrs. Mary Smith
 334. Jim Nowell
 335. Betty Clark
 336. Rubye S. Miller
 337. Grace Delashmit
 338. Christine Gray
 339. Emma J. Chambee
 340. Bonnie Mobley
 341. Lois Greer
 342. Kimberly Raner
 343. Crystal Raner
 344. Brittney Byrnes
 345. Brandi Byrnes
 346. Samantha Hawkins
 347. Mandy Welch
 348. Bertha Johnson
 349. Rosco Johnson
 350. James Armstrong
 351. Fredna Eubanks
 352. Arthrine Collins
 353. Janice Armstrong
 354. Janelle Blount
 355. Mandrez Berry
 356. Tyricus Brooks
 357. Tayla B.
 358. Angela Banks
 359. Bodean Collum
 360. Della M. Rhodes
361. Beulah Rupert
 362. Sandy Dean
 363. Willma Martin
 364. Florence Burnett
 365. Peggy E. Cooper
 366. Alice Dempsey
 367. Admiral Tidwell
 368. Rosa Lee Johnson
 369. Audrey Seago
 370. Doyle Britt
 371. Judy Walker
 372. W. E. Walker
 373. Irma Lucas
 374. Margaret Freeman
 375. Alice Brown
 376. Patricia Troutt
 377. Elethia Garrett
 378. Shelby Garrett
 379. Jane S. Bell
 380. Lois Gray
 381. William T. Long
 382. Helen Long
 383. Glen Brady
 384. Gay Null
 385. Peggy S. Walker
 386. Maxine Timbes
 387. Irene M. Edwards
 388. Ms. Corine R. Ross
 389. Ruby Matejka
 390. Marilyn Farquhar
 391. Jessie Baker
 392. Mrs. Dean House
 393. Joe Dougherty
 394. Dora M. Burdue
 395. Billy & Lucille Smith
 396. Carol Bonner
 397. Sherrill Stroud
 398. Diane Dunaway
 399. Evelyn Jack
 400. Kimberly Pearce
 401. Shirley Pearce
 402. Maxine McCarley
 403. Wayne Crum
 404. Hattie M. Hooper
 405. Virginia Hayes
 406. Joe Randal Potts
 407. Charlotte Vandever
 408. Doris Mack
 409. Konstance, Jasmine & Kristoff Smith
 410. Naomi R. Hill
 411. Geri Spears
 412. Gwendolyn Bryant
 413. Myrtle Turman
 414. Mary A. Jacobs
 415. Nicole Woodard
 416. Jeremiah Woodard
 417. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.
 418. Betty Woodard
 419. Jasmine
 420. Joe Buckley
 421. Initra Buckley
 422. Darren Buckley
 423. Shelia Woodard
 424. DeAsia Funchess
 425. Earl C. Woodard
 426. Inez Buckley
 427. Patrick Woodard
 428. Erica Hall
 429. Larry Hall
 430. Rita Hall
 431. Dorothy Higgins
 432. Ann Snow
 433. Rita Moody
 434. Richard Dana
 435. Sybil Dana
 436. Janice Richardson
 437. William Richardson
 438. Phi Harris
 439. JoAnn Glenn
 440. Junior Dunn
 441. Otis Whitehurst
 442. Gloria R. Nielsen
 443. Aron Nielsen
 444. Debra Gallaher
 445. Gera Bynum
 446. Floy Smith
 447. John G. Patterson
 448. Joe N. Spain
 449. Doreen Brittain

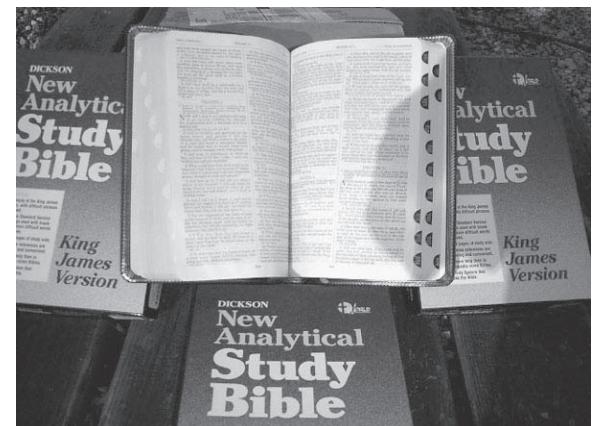
450. Wanda Ward
 451. Grady Ward
 452. Stephanie Spain
 453. Bud Wranosky
454. Lina Wranosky
 455. Linda Crotwell
 456. Bonnie Howell
 457. YOUR Name

All answers received by us through 1/27/04 have been reported. If your answers reach us at a later time, we will include your name in our next issue which is to be published on/about March 25, Lord willing. Thank you for answering "The Question Box".

Our New Bible Winner

Pat Kellum

Vicksburg, MS



A Picture of Our
Bible Winner
for the Nov/Dec issue
is not available at this time.

(The Bible has not yet been delivered.)
We hope to have pictures of the winners
from both this issue and last issue in the
March/April edition.
Thanks for your patience.

Church or "Church of Christ"

When a church (any church) determines to start using instrumental music in congregational worship, it seems appropriate to drop (remove) the phrase "of Christ" from its identification.

Why? Because that church ceases to be like the church you read about in the New Testament. Christ's church, according to the inspired scriptures of the New Covenant, was instructed to sing... "making melody with your heart unto the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19) Again, to sing "...with grace in your hearts unto God." (Colossians 3:16). The use of instrumental music in the Christian's worship to/of God is not authorized in the New Testament.

So, when a church decides to abandon New Testament teachings in order to be "more pleasing to man" and "more attractive to the world", perhaps it is time to strike (remove) "of Christ" from its identification.



Just Two *Ordinary Christian Women

The
"Cotton Patch Girls"
and the
"Quilting Girls"

**Ordinary* Christian women form the "backbone" of many congregations. We thank God for the "ordinary" Christian ladies who may, after all, not be that ordinary.

Mildred Burden and Helen Hopkins (pictured above) are the oldest members of the Oak Ridge Church of Christ located in Attala County, Mississippi. They have attended the Oak Ridge congregation together for 71 years.

Sister Helen stated, "Mildred and I have always been neighbors and always like sisters. Back in the 30's and 40's we could have been called the 'Cotton Patch Girls'."

She said, "Our families were farmers. When it came to hoeing time we would swap work. She would help me one day, then I would help her."

Sister Helen continued by saying, "Later on in years, Mildred and I could have been called the 'Quilting Girls'. We always help each other; we still love to piece quilts and quilt them."

She added, "Over the years, at Oak Ridge, we have heard some good preachers preach and hold meetings like Brother V. P. Black, Brother Paul D. Murphy, and Brother Dan Beardian who preached for us 20 years."

(Thanks to Sister Helen Hopkins for sending us this information. Brother Ray Paseur, Professor at Magnolia Bible College is presently preaching for the Oak Ridge congregation. MJF)

SOUTHAVEN

729

The Goodman Oaks Church of Christ recently reported having a "Super Sunday" even before Super Bowl Day. There were 729 present for the Sunday morning attendance. **Steve Reeves** is the pulpit minister. **Ken Joines** recently retired as preacher for the Goodman Oaks congregation. Brother Ken plans to continue preaching in Gospel Meetings, interim preaching, substitute preaching and the like.

A Physician's Prayer

O Lord, in your wisdom and power and love, you heal the sick when all other help has failed, and restore men to life after life itself is done...

I pray that you will light my mind with thorough knowledge of remedies for my patients' ills and touch my heart with deep compassion for their sufferings...

When I stretch out my hand to minister to the sick, let me heal them with a portion of your wisdom and your power...

And when they are not to be healed, let me help them to a deeper faith and resignation in your love.

In Jesus Name;
Amen

The above was sent to us by a physician who is a member of the Lord's church in Ripley, Mississippi. He is **Gerald M. Walden**. We appreciate the prayer and the physician. (Editor)

WHO

IS A CHRISTIAN?

1. One who **believes** Jesus is the Son of God. (Acts 8:37)
2. One who has and continues to **repent** of his sins. (Acts 2:38)
3. One who has been **baptized** into Christ. (Gal.3:27)
4. One who is "**Christ-like**".

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

News Note

PEARL

Jail Ministry - 140 Baptisms

The Skyway Hills Church of Christ in Pearl report having baptized over 140 men and women as a result of their jail ministry at the Rankin County Jail. According to the church bulletin, they started out teaching around 50 on Monday nights, but by the end of the year, the number increased to over 200. The ladies of the church have also become involved and have been teaching the women prisoners. Bibles have been bought and given to those in need. A statement taken from the church bulletin states, "Not only is this ministry changing lives behind bars, but it is also changing the lives of the volunteers that teach."

Remember Robinson and his partner, Mark Andrew?

V. Gene Robinson. You recall. He is the openly "gay" Episcopal "Bishop" in the state of New Hampshire whose life-style and his "church office" was approved a few months ago by the Episcopal church. This church has seen fit to bless "same sex families", declaring that "God is in the midst of this."

Hard to believe, isn't it? The leadership of a "church" *approving* that which God has repeatedly declared to be "an abomination" and labeled a SIN. And, then for the church leaders to say that "God is in the midst of this", when the Bible teaches that such sinful behavior separates the sinner from God (See Isaiah 59:1,2). Yes, it's hard to believe.

Something else to consider. What about "One church being as good as another"? And, what about the idea that "It doesn't make any difference what one teaches or believes, religiously"?

Let's go back to the Bible and show respect the authority of God's word as we are reminded that those who practice *such things* (fornication, adultery, effeminate, abusers of themselves with men [*homosexuals*], thieves, covetousness, drunkards, revilers and extortioners) shall not inherit the kingdom of Heaven. (I Cor. 6:9-11) (ALF, editor)



Three Great Reasons For Thanksgiving in Forest, MS

Kasey, Macy and Kaitlyn are just three of the precious children who are growing up under the influence of the Forest church of Christ. This congregation, which almost died a few years ago, is alive and doing well. Forty-six (46) were present this past Sunday (1/25/04). Contribution exceeded a thousand by one dollar. An evangelistic program is being developed under the capable leadership of **Otis Whitehurst**. **Larry Gallaher** is making excellent progress as he continues his education at MBC and gains experience as an associate minister. **Paul Franks** is greatly missed; however, he is doing a good work with the Boulevard congregation in Lake Charles, LA. (See report on page 5.) We are grateful. God is blessing. (ALF)

Readers Respond

Had my first look at the MM today and would appreciate receiving copies in the future. Your wide variety of articles was interesting. I am a member of the Winder Church of Christ, Winder, GA. C.A. Riemenschneider (Auburn, GA)

Keep up the good work. You are a blessing to our church and Mississippi. (Aron & Gloria Nielsen, Forest, MS)

I appreciate the Magnolia Messenger so very much. Thank you and your staff for the wonderful lessons presented and mailed to us... (Alpha Little, Amory, MS)

FULTON

The Fulton Church of Christ will have a Grief Seminar on February 21-22. The Church also is beginning a new program called, "Monday Night For The Master." **Russ Crosswhite** is the local preacher.

DENNIS

A Gospel Meeting is planned for the Liberty Church of Christ on March 28-31. **Jeff Jenkins** is to be the speaker. **Ron Deaton** is the local minister.

STARKVILLE

On April 2-4, 2004, a retreat is planned at Holmes County State Park in Durant, MS. If you are a college student and would like to attend this retreat, please contact the Starkville Church of Christ. Their goal is to build Christian relationships throughout Mississippi and beyond.

Receive Regularly Magnolia Messenger

You may be reading the "MM!" for the first time. You may have picked up a copy at a church building. Or, you may be reading a copy that was sent to someone else. If desired, **you can receive each issue -- mailed directly to you.**

No charge. No obligation. None, whatsoever!

Call, write or e-mail. Let us know of your desire to regularly receive each issue of the **Magnolia Messenger**. We will gladly add your name to our mailing list of over 22,000 individual "subscribers" throughout the nation. (Additionally, we also send bundles of the MM to hundreds of congregations scattered throughout MS, LA and adjoining states.)

CALL: 662-289-3559

E-MAIL: franksmm@aol.com

**ADDRESS: Magnolia Messenger;
P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090.**

*Please use KJV
due to wording
and spelling.*

The Question Box

*Please use KJV
due to wording
and spelling.*

He Died For Me!

Please read reverently the crucifixion stories related by the gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They tell about the "earth's darkest day" (literally and symbolically) when Jesus was nailed to a cross. From all indications, on the day our Lord was crucified, it *appears* that Satan won. Hope faded. Doom, gloom and despair. He is dead. Killed.

But, that's not the end of the story. We are blessed to view the cross through the *open* tomb. Just three days after He "gave up the ghost", His spirit returned and He came forth from the grave... Alive. Forever more! The devil thought he had won. Maybe a battle, but not the war! The heel that was bruised was now empowered, not only to bruise Satan's head, but eventually to destroy Him and all his cohorts in an everlasting, ever burning place of punishment called "Hell".

In the plan of the Almighty, the death of Jesus was essential. God's divine justice required punishment for sinners. Forgiveness was the only way, the only hope for lost mankind. "God so loved... He gave." (John 3:16) Jesus loved. He gave. The greatest demonstration of love, ever, was manifested when Jesus willingly gave up his life, not for friends, but for enemies. He "tasted of death for every man." This includes you. It includes me. What a wonderful thought. *He died for me!*

Please answer each section and send your answers to us. By so doing, you will **encourage others** (see page 18) and you *may be* our next Bible winner. By random selection, we award a beautiful New Analytical Dickson Study Bible to one student who sends in answers. **You may be the one.** Thank you for answering "The Question Box". ALF

Important

Unless otherwise noted, ALL answers are found in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23 and/or John 19.

Seven Sayings

While dying on the cross Jesus uttered the seven following statements. In the blank provided, write the name of the book (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) where each quotation is found.

- (1) "Father, forgive them...." _____ ; (2) "Woman, behold thy son!" "Behold thy mother." _____
- (3) "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." _____ ; (4) "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani" _____
- (5) "I thirst" _____ ; (6) "It is finished" _____ ; (7) "Father... I commend my spirit...." _____

Testimony of "Unfriendly" Witnesses

Match the statement (column 2) made about Jesus by the person named in column one.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Pilate | _____ "This man hath done nothing amiss." |
| 2. Judas | _____ "Certainly this was a righteous man." |
| 3. Pilate | _____ "Truly this was the Son of God." |
| 4. Centurion | _____ "I find no fault in this man." |
| 5. Centurion & Watchers | _____ "I am innocent of the blood of this just person...." |
| 6. Pilate | _____ "Have thou nothing to do with that just man...." |
| 7. Thief | _____ "I have found no cause of death in him." |
| 8. Governor's wife | _____ "I have betrayed the innocent blood." |

Associated with Christ's Death

(Match the name of the person in column one with the action taken in column two)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. A Cyrenian | _____ Made a short term loan |
| 2. Joseph & Nicodemus | _____ A murderer set free |
| 3. Barabbas | _____ Carried Christ's Cross. |
| 4. Joseph of Arimathaea | _____ Served as Undertakers |

Scriptural Definitions

Match the names in column one with the appropriate Biblical definition quoted in column two. (See also Acts chapter one.)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Golgotha | _____ "field of blood" |
| 2. Gabbatha | _____ "a place of a skull" |
| 3. Aceldama | _____ "pavement" |

What is the Number?

(In the blank provided, write in the correct number (2,3,4) which applies. How many?)

- (1) Soldiers who crucified ____;
- (2) Malefactors crucified ____;
- (3) Languages of Inscription ____;
- (4) Hours of darkness ____;
- (5) Legs broken by soldiers ____

SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO US

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

The Question Box
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

A Simple Question: Why?

**the kingdom of Christ
the body of Christ
the church of Christ
THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**

- Jim Mullican -

If a married woman registered at a hotel under the name of a man other than her husband, it would certainly arouse our suspicions concerning her faithfulness to her husband, wouldn't it? We would naturally believe she was trying to hide her whereabouts from her husband and quite possibly from another man who might not be aware that she was married to someone else.

In the last few years, it has become fashionable in the religious world around us for various denominations to hide their identity. Where once you could drive through a town and see signs identifying different religious bodies plainly... it has become common today to see signs reading simply, "Worship Center," "House of Praise," "House of Prayer," and "Community Chapel." They may or may not be further identified with a specific denomination in small print at the bottom of the

The "churches of Christ" is Biblical (Romans 16:16). Let us not see how far we can get from the Bible but how close we can stay to it in all things.

Biblical (Romans 16:16). Let us not see how far we can get from the Bible but how close we can stay to it in all things.

Note: We are grateful to brother Jim Mullican for this article which we have adapted to the MM. Many years ago, he preached in Mississippi, but now preaches for the Channelview church of Christ; 1301 Sheldon Road; Channelview, TX 77530.

**Our New Bible
Winner
Pat Kellum
Vicksburg, MS**

**You Can
Receive and Read
Every Issue of the
"Magnolia Messenger"
Mailed Directly to Your Home or Business
No Charge to You**
(See Page 19 for Details)



Our Prayer for YOU. (2 Thessalonians 3:16) ¶Now the Lord of PEACE himself give you PEACE at all times in all ways. The Lord be with you all.