



Magnolia Messenger

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

Volume 37; Number 1; SPRING, 2015

Magnolia Messenger
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Will Anderson
(Kosciusko, MS)

17th Annual
Magnolia Messenger
RV Rally
April 20-24, 2015

Lake Tiak-O'Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

THEME

"What the Younger Generation Wants to Say to the Older Generation!"



Greg Ledbetter
(Brandon, MS)

Exciting Details
Found on Page 11

EVERY ONE INVITED

RV or No RV

*Come for an Hour,
Day or the Week*



James Malone
(Jonesboro, AR)

Instrumental Music in Christian Worship

- a) The Lord never authorized it.
- b) The apostles never sanctioned it.
- c) New Testament writers never commanded it.
- d) The early church never used it.
- e) It was first introduced by Pope Vitalian in 666 A.D. There was no general adoption of its use until the 13th century.

Simpson's Study Begins on Page 5

Soul. Spirit. Body.
A Reader Asks:

*What is the difference
between the soul of man
and the spirit of man?
The body, I presume, is
"the outward man." Is
our soul or our spirit or
both "the inward man"?*

May Responds
(See Page 3)

**Is YOUR Name
Published on Page 23?**

PLAN OF SALVATION

Respecting the Line That God has Drawn

"Here is the critical matter. *Does it really matter, in the long run, where you or I draw the lines?* What does matter is **respecting the line or lines God has already drawn and revealed to us in His Holy Book -- the Bible.**"

Editor's Challenge on Page 2

Answer "The Question Box"

PROVIDENCE:

"The Silent Sovereignty of God"

(Turn to Pages 23, 24)

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

Readers' Response

Comments & Suggestions Invited
Criticisms Considered

A Very Special
Thank You
for your
FELLOWSHIP
Prayers
E-mails
Phone calls
Letters
Personal comments
and
Contributions
All expenses were paid.
We're off to a good start in 2015.

WE THANK GOD! WE THANK YOU!

Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoy the Magnolia Messenger also the Question Box. We have been getting the Messenger for many years. Thanks a lot. In Christian Love, (James & Katie Houston, Olive Branch, MS)

MM Readers' Response

Can be found throughout this issue of the MM!

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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

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Respecting the Line that God Has Drawn

LOST

SAVED

- Editor -

Every **responsible** person on this earth is either "Lost" or "Saved." This includes me. It includes you. Am I (are you) lost or saved? Which? These are vital and urgent questions that deserve correct answers from God's word. Our eternal destiny is at stake!

According to Divine wisdom, God sent his "only begotten" from heaven to earth to save the lost. Jesus declared that He, "*the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost.*" (Luke 19:10)

Sin separates man from God. Isaiah wrote, "*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God....*" (Isaiah 59:2) There are two groups of responsible people: those who are still in sin; thus, *separated* from God (**lost!**) and those who have been forgiven; thus, *reconciled* to God (**saved!**). The continual practice of sin causes one to be "lost"; the forgiveness of sin causes one to be saved. Where are you?

God has drawn a line between the saved and the lost. Each is on one side or the other. People are either saved or lost. All are not saved, regardless of what some funeral preachers may proclaim. Sadly, some who preach funerals get the reputation of "*never losing a case*" by preaching everyone into heaven.

I invite you to go with me, back to the Bible, and let's review God's line of separation between the lost and the saved. A line drawn by God that must be respected!

Luke 19:10 states that Jesus came to "*seek and to save the lost.*" **Jesus** is the Saviour; the reason He was so named (Matt. 1:21). He is the "way"; besides Him there is no other way (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Jesus made the matter of who saves very clear when he said, "...*for if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins*" (John 8:24).

When it comes to who is saved and who is lost, serious Bible students realize that a line of separation has to be drawn somewhere. When pressed, most of those who profess faith in Jesus will draw a line. For example, a woman believer said to me, "*I believe that all who profess faith in Jesus are saved.*" But then, surprisingly she added, "*I do not believe that Roman Catholics are among the saved.*" She had drawn a line!

Another person, in a private conversation, said: "*As long as you wear the name 'Christian', you are saved.*" But, then he added, "*I do not believe that Mormons are included among the saved.*" Again, a line was drawn!

Then, there was another friend who commented, "*It doesn't really matter what you believe; however, I do not believe the Jehovah Witnesses' are true*

Christians." The friend drew a line! These three examples show that maybe, without even realizing it, many professing Christians **do** indeed **draw** lines between the "lost" and the "saved".

Here is the critical matter. **Does it really matter, in the long run, where you or I draw the lines?** What does matter is: **Respecting the line or lines God has already drawn and revealed to us in his Holy Book -- the Bible.**

Let us consider one of the many verses about salvation from God's word and prepare to answer the vital question: **"Where does/did God draw the line?"** That verse is Mark 16:16.

Jesus, the Saviour, commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He promised, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" Jesus clearly drew the line between the saved and the damned. To be saved Jesus said, "*believe and be baptized*". "*Being Saved*", according to Jesus, the Saviour, comes after faith and after baptism.

Jesus then said that anyone who does not believe "*shall be damned.*" Genuine belief requires *action; response* to the Lord is *evidence* of faith. And, without the *living* faith which is demonstrated in baptism, there is no promise of salvation. Jesus drew the line.

Someone may ask, "*Why didn't Jesus say, "He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be damned."*" The answer is simple. Baptism is of **no value** unless one believes. You can be baptized over and over, but if faith is not there, it accomplishes nothing. Being baptized is evidence of faith. Else why be baptized? What is it that we seek: *Salvation or Damnation?* Salvation requires *belief and baptism*. Damnation only requires a lack of faith.

An illustration. Consider this parallel statement, "*He that eateth and digesteth shall live; He that eateth not shall die.*" What if you eat but do not digest? Answer: You won't live. What if you do not eat? You cannot digest and you will die! Our desire to live requires both *eating and digesting*.

Our more earnest desire to be saved requires both *believing and being baptized*. That's what Jesus taught. And, that my friend, is where Jesus drew the line. Let's join together in prayer that we, and all others, respect the line He has drawn!



A. L. Franks, editor

Read more about baptism -- NOT being the "End, But the Beginning" on Page 6

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Bible Questions Answered

by Cecil May, Jr.

QUESTION: (1) *How does the soul (spiritual) relate to the body (physical)? (J.J.)* (2) *What is the difference between the soul of man and the spirit of man? The body, I presume, is "the outward man." Is our soul or our spirit or both "the inward man"? (C.Mc.)*

RESPONSE:

Human beings, male and female, are tripartite beings. We consist of spirit, soul and body. "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). All Scripture references are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise stated).

The passage the second questioner referenced is 2 Corinthians 4:16: "Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day."

The distinction between soul and spirit is notoriously difficult and has been in some quarters contentiously divisive. The writer of Hebrews speaks of the power and discernment of the word of God in these terms: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Since the word of God is noted for "piercing to the division of soul and of spirit", it is to the word of God that we shall go.

SOUL

In some biblical passages "soul" (Hebrew, *nephesh*; Greek, *psyche*) is the part of us that lives on after death. For example, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). In describing the death of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife, Scripture says, "And as her soul was departing (for she was dying)" (Genesis 35:18).

Often "soul" just means "life," referring to physical life. The good shepherd lays down his life (*psyche*) for the sheep (John 10:11). Jesus gives his life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). Peter promises to lay down his life for Jesus (John 13:37-38). Epaphroditus "nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me" (Philippians 2:30).

That usage raises an interesting question concerning Mark

8:35-37: "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life?" Does "forfeit his life (*psyche*)" refer to life in heaven or to physical life?

The "soul" is sometimes spoken of as the seat of emotions. "But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn" (Job 14:22). The bride in Song of Solomon speaks of "the one whom my soul loves" (four times in 3:1-4). Jesus said to His disciples in the garden, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me" (Matthew 26:38). Simeon prophesied to Mary in the temple, "And a sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Luke 2:35).

In many passages one's "soul" is what is "saved:" "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). We purify our souls by our obedience to the truth (1 Peter 1:22). "Whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:20).

However, "soul" most frequently just means "a person." "Eight souls were saved by water" (1 Peter 3:20, KJV) means there were eight persons on the ark. Newer versions translate "eight persons." Similarly, "All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six" (Genesis 46:26, KJV). "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20) means each person will die for his or her own sins, not as punishment for someone else's sins. Those who responded on Pentecost were 3000 souls, that is, 3000 persons. "Every soul that does good" in Romans 2:11 means "every person who does good."

"Soul" is used in place of the first person pronoun. Mary says, "My soul magnifies the Lord," meaning "I magnify the Lord" (Luke 1:40).



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Generally, then, rather than being described as having a soul, people are called souls.

The creation of man is described in these words, "Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul" (*chai nephesh*, Genesis 2:7).

The same expression, *chai nephesh*, is also found in Genesis 1:20, 21, 24 and elsewhere, and applied to animals generally. The fact that the King James Version translated *chai nephesh* as "living soul" for man in 1:26, and as "living creatures" in the other passages referring to animal life has led to the widely accepted view that human beings are "souls" and the lower animals are not; but the Hebrew text does not support that view.

SPIRIT

While, as we have seen, "soul" is sometimes used for the "inner man," the part of man that lives on after death, "spirit" (Hebrew, *ruach*; Greek *pneuma*) is by far the more usual word for that. At death, "The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). James tells us, "The body apart from the spirit is dead" (James 2:26). "And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'" Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, "And her spirit returned, and she got up at once" (Luke 8:55). Paul told the Corinthian church regarding the incestuous man, "You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 5:5).

Often "spirit" represents the mind or the attitude. Paul said, "My spirit was not at rest because

I did not find my brother Titus there (2 Corinthians 2:13). In describing the Holy Spirit as the One revealing the mind of God through the God-breathed speaking and writing of the apostles and prophets, Paul asks, "For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Mary's song of praise popularly called the Magnificat uses "soul" and "spirit" as parallel: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47). That further illustrates the difficulty of finding the difference in meaning between these two words. However, in other contexts they are distinguished from one another, as we have seen.

BODY

Human beings consist of three-parts, spirit and soul and body, not just two (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The body can be spoken of as a "tent" or temporary dwelling place. "For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1). And in 1 Corinthians 15, "the resurrection chapter," Paul refers to our physical (*phychikos*) bodies in contrast to our spiritual (*pneumatikos*) bodies. Our physical bodies are perishable, dishonorable and weak; our spiritual bodies will be imperishable, glorious and powerful (15:42-44).

Revelation represents "the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne, crying 'How long?' before they would be avenged (6:9-10). Paul says the Lord will bring with him those who are asleep in Jesus and the dead in Christ will be raised (1 Thessalonians 4:13), all of which assumes a reunion of body and soul.

While the body is the outer nature which is "wasting away," housing the inner nature, which is "being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16), the body is also an integral part of man. After death comes resurrection. It is our body that specifically defines us as distinct from someone else.

The Pharisees believed in a resurrection, but their concept was more one of revivification: Those resurrected were as when they died, young, old, one-legged, however. That is why they could not answer the Sadducees' question concerning the woman with seven

husbands. (It would not have presented a problem to the Jewish mind if it had been a man with seven wives, but a woman with seven husbands at the same time would have been inconceivable.)

Jesus disposed of that problem by asserting, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). Paul says, "I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 15:50). In other words, our spiritual, resurrection bodies will not know hunger or sexual desire. In our incorruptible and glorious spiritual bodies, every imperfection, defect and physical need will be gone.

Consider Jesus' argument with the Sadducees proving resurrection. "And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living" (Matthew 22:31-32).

Jesus' argument centers on two truths which the Sadducees would have understood and agreed to. One, God said, "I am," not "I was," the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and He said that to Moses at the burning bush in Midian, several hundred years after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had died. And two, they would not have disagreed in principle with His statement, "God is not the God of the dead but of the living." Those two things being true, the necessary conclusion is, "Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still living."

Jesus did not use the word "resurrection" in His syllogism refuting the Sadducees' view, but the point He made forces the conclusion that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob not only are still living but also that they are still Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Greek philosophy touted the idea of "the immortality of the soul," and many Christians still use that terminology, but "immortality of the soul" is very different from the Christian hope of resurrection. Greek philosophy, founded on dualism, saw the soul as the real essence of the person and the body as a prison house of the soul. At death the soul, being set free, merges into "cosmic life;" someone said, "like a drop of water falling into the ocean."

Obviously a drop of water falling in the ocean loses its separate identity. The distinction between the Greek concept of "immortality"

See MAY on Page 16

Soldiers of Christ

- Russ Vickers -

One of the most striking pictures of the church, as portrayed in the Scriptures, is that of an army. The church is the army and individual Christians are soldiers. We march under the banner of Christ to become more than conquerors over Satan and sin.

This is not a carnal warfare waged with bullets, cannons, bayonets, etc. (John 18:36; II Cor. 10:4; Matt. 10:16).

During the eleventh century the Roman Catholic Pope sent an army out in the name of the church to slaughter those who opposed the "Holy See". We shudder when we hear of such perversion of the truth, yet we are often guilty of a lack of spiritual warfare. Let us notice some features of the army of Christ.

First, it is a volunteer army (Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17; Acts 2:40). Nowhere in the Bible has God forced anyone to serve Him. *Ten serving voluntarily is better than ten thousand forced into service.* Many are pretending to serve who have not obeyed from the heart (Rom. 6:17).

Three hundred soldiers who wanted to fight the enemy were better than 32,000 indifferent ones under Gideon in Judges Chapter 7.

Garibaldi, military leader of Italy, summoned troops, in 1848, after the nation had surrendered to France. Garibaldi stated, "I offer you hunger, thirst, cold, no pay, no barracks, no rations, forced marches, battle, and death. Who-soever loves Italy in his heart and not with his lips only let him follow me. We leave immediately...." Four thousand men did indeed follow him.

Brethren, we need soldiers today with such



Russ Vickers

loyalty to Christ and His church. Jesus gives conditions for serving Him (Matt. 6:25; 31-34; Matt. 16:24).

Second, this army has the perfect Commander (Heb. 2:10; 4:15; 7:26; I Pet. 2:22). Yes, the Commander of our salvation is our perfect example whom we can follow confidently into battle.

Napoleon stated he was overawed at the spirit of Christ. How could a man command an army of thousands devoted to His memory? Contrasting such

Contrasting such leaders as Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and himself [Napoleon] with Jesus Christ, Napoleon concluded by saying, "We rested the creation of our genius on force; this Man has builded an empire on love – and at this moment millions would die for Him!"

leaders as Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and himself with Jesus Christ, Napoleon concluded by saying, "We rested the creation of our genius on force; this Man has builded an empire on love – and at this moment millions would die for Him!"

May we never desecrate the army of the Lord by lower our ideals as soldiers of Christ. Where He leads me I will follow; I'll go with Him all the way (II Tim. 1:12).

Third, there is only

one weapon to use (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; I Tim. 6:12). There is only one weapon to "fight the good fight of faith." But that one weapon is enough: God's holy word!" When used properly it completely demolishes the opposition. We have the soldier's armor and battle dress in Ephesians 6:10ff. Demons of Satan's forces tremble when soldiers of Christ are arrayed in this dress.

Fourth, this army never gets a furlough (Acts 2:42; I Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9). There is no shore leave or vacation for God's spiritual army. The enemy doesn't take vacation. We must serve God always.

We need to realize that absentees in the Lord's service are actually AWOL unless "providentially hindered" and Commander defines what this means. He sees all we do and He knows all our thoughts. An ex G.I. once said: "If the church of our Lord was actually treated like an army, most of us would be court-martialed within an hour."

Fifth, this army has the most dangerous enemy in Satan! (II Cor. 11:3; I Pet. 5:8). We must never underestimate the opposition; we must never let our guard down, not for even a minute. Let each of us resolve to so serve in this great warfare that one day we can lay our armor down at Jesus' feet and reign forever with the Captain of our salvation.

For the Challenge of the Cross, (Russ).

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

MARRIAGE

"A Gift of/from God"

God's Plan from the Beginning

(Matt. 19:4)

ONE
Husband
[MAN]
(for life)

ONE
Wife
[WOMAN]
(for life)

SEX

"...male and female made he them."
(Genesis 1:27)

Scripture Saith: (Matt. 19:5,6; Rom. 1:26,27)

"... they twain [two] shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh."

"... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men worketh that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet."

"Let marriage be HAD IN HONOR among all, and the bed undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers GOD WILL JUDGE." (Heb. 13:4) -- (Words in bold and CAPITALS by editor for emphasis.)

Nesbit Church Hosts Timely, Vital Lectureship



STANDING
IN THE
GAP

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL STANDING IN THE GAP LECTURESHP

Examining Islam

Friday, January 23, 2015 – Sunday, January 25, 2015

Jason Hilburn, Lectureship Director

A few weeks ago (January, 2015), a few of us from Kosciusko were privileged to attend part of the 16th annual "Standing in the Gap" lectureship hosted by the Nesbit, MS church, near Memphis. The theme for this year's series, directed by **Jason Hilburn**, preacher for the Nesbit church, was "*Examining Islam*." Among the 15 speakers scheduled was **Will Anderson**, preacher for the Huntington Street church in Kosciusko.

It was a blessing to attend. We are grateful to the Nesbit church for making available a great opportunity for learning more about a false system of religion that seems to be gaining strength in many parts of the world, including the USA. An examination of Islam helps us to appreciate even more the beauty of true New Testament Christianity.

The Bible says: "...There is none other name [Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)



"Extra copies of the Magnolia Messenger on a table in the foyer of a church building do little good as long as they are left on the table."

Optimal Usefulness For The Magnolia Messenger

- by Jim Howard -

I think we are all aware of how valuable a resource the Magnolia Messenger is for evangelism, church information, fellowship and Christian education. But are we all doing all we possibly can to be sure that this fine publication is fully useful?

My wife and I worship with the North Liberty congregation in Canton, MS. Like other churches we receive bulk shipments of the Magnolia Messenger. Because all of us also receive the paper in our home mail, we usually have excess copies. Recently we decided to begin a new ministry by taking extra copies to doctor office and hospital waiting rooms as well as nursing homes.

Recently (2/9/15) my wife and I were in a doctor's waiting room in Jackson, MS. When we arrived I placed a copy of the Messenger on a table next to all the magazines. After a few minutes a lady and her husband entered the waiting room. While waiting for her husband, the woman sat down and picked up the Messenger and started reading it. She was interrupted by her husband but in a couple of minutes she continued her reading. When we left the waiting room, she was still reading the Messenger.

Extra copies of the Magnolia Messenger on a table in the foyer of a church building do little good as long as they are left on the table. Why not share the contents of this fine newspaper in such a simple way! (Jim Howard; Email: jim.lois@comcast.net)

Thank You for Receiving and Reading the MM



Jim Howard

Mark Your Calendar!

August 14 - 15, 2015

3rd Annual

Men's Retreat Toledo Bend Church of Christ

(Many, Louisiana)

(More Information, Next Issue)

Music in Christian Worship

- John Simpson -

The kind of music acceptable to God in Christian worship has long been a matter of religious controversy. All who believe in the final authority of God Almighty should be agreeable in allowing His Word to be final in settling the matter.

Extra-biblical literature is useful in establishing the absence of mechanical instruments in early church worship, but does not furnish Divine instruction for the kind of music authorized; **only Scripture** can furnish the final word, and that must be from the New Testament.

The New Testament is positive on the subject, all the way through. There is not one negative statement in all the New Testament about music authorized in worship. All of the controversy on the subject has begun over the injection of negatives, completely unknown to the language and practice of Jesus, His apostles, inspired writers and the Church of the New Testament.

A prominent preacher among churches of Christ, speaking at a lectureship in Texas, is quoted as saying, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak: and where the Bible is silent, we have even more to say."

I contend that the Bible is **not** silent on the type of music in Christian worship. I present no argument on the silence of Scripture for the use of instrumental music, but on the propositional truth of Scripture excluding it, by **authorizing singing only**.

Why Do We Sing?

Because God has commanded it! But, if this is the **only** reason we do it, we should refrain until we can create within ourselves a spirit of jubilee to come before Him with joyful singing (Psalm 100:2). We should be in the spirit of "I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free; for His eyes are on the sparrow, and I know He watches me", as expressed in a song written by Charles H. Gabriel.

Unfortunately, we sometimes fail to receive the complete message of the text; "I



John Simpson

"will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also" (I Cor. 14:15).

Using this as a proof text for singing only, so much emphasis is placed upon "sing", that "spirit" and "mind" are often ignored.

I present no argument on the silence of Scripture for the use of instrumental music, but on the propositional truth of Scripture excluding it, by authorizing singing only.

Preparation for presenting ourselves before God in corporate worship is extremely important, and should begin before entering the assembly. Singing as a component part, is therapeutic and conditions one for acceptable worship. Lyrics set to music engage the mind in making melody with the heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:19).

Singing is an affirmation of faith and should be vigorously engaged in. The New Testament describes acceptable worship in song as spirited, joyful, gracious, praising, admonishing and cheerful. It is a means of getting the Word of Christ into the hearts of our fellow-worshippers (Col. 3:16). By speaking the lyrics, we teach and admonish one another; **the song is the vehicle** to convey the message, and should be engaged in enthusiastically.

We Sing A Cappella

Why do we sing a cappella (**without instruments of music**)? God has commanded it! But, an explanation with biblical citation is in order. All the New Testament instructs

about music in Christian worship is recorded in eight different verses:

"After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives" (Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26).

"And about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise" (Acts 16:25).

"I will sing unto your name" (Rom. 15:9).

"I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also" (I Cor. 14:15).

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19).

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom and teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).

"In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praises" (Heb. 2:12).

"Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises" (Jas. 5:13).

It is noteworthy that in every reference to music authorized in Christian worship, translators of the manuscript texts render it **sing**. A critical examination of all of these verses would be enlightening, but space will allow for only one, from which the same conclusion can be drawn for all eight.

An Analysis of Ephesians 5:19

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" - NASB. There are three nouns and three verbs used to describe our praise to God in music.

Nouns

(using the root word)
"Psalm" (PSALMOS)
"Hymn" (HYMNOS)
"Song" (ODE)

Verbs

(using the root word)
"Speaking" (LALEO)
"Singing" (ADO)
"Melody" (PSALLO)
All of these are vocal ac-

See MUSIC on page 8

The End or the *Beginning?*

- Mike Benson -

Try to imagine the following scene in your mind's eye.

Woman with nail polish. She's a young, attractive lady in her mid-twenties. She approaches you and others in the foyer of the church building Wednesday night just before Bible study. She immediately thrusts out her left hand, spreads her fingers, and displays the sparkling silver band on her third finger. With obvious enthusiasm she announces, "I got married today!"

While the group is still reeling from her initial announcement, she drops a second explosive. "Yes! We're married, and of course, we're done..."

"You're done?" you gingerly inquire.

She smiles back. "You know, silly, we're married now so we don't have to work so hard at our relationship, because we love each other."

Every reader understands this is fiction, but it hopefully illustrates a point.

No right-thinking, mature individual would dare say that just because a young lady has gotten married that she's done working on her marriage. The ceremony, including the exchange of rings and vows, is only the beginning of her relationship; it is the start of her marriage—not the totality of wedlock.

I can't help but wonder how many Christians essentially take this very position when it comes to their union with Christ?

So many brethren live under the impression that baptism is the ENTIRETY of the Christian walk and that all an individual has to do is be immersed (e.g., "get married").

Like the girl's wedding ceremony, it's as if water is the only thing that matters, and once that rite is accomplished, there's nothing left to do—no effort is required, no growth is expected, no devotion is to be displayed, and no fruit is to be borne.

Beloved, baptism is essentially the wedding ceremony; it is the time we take Christ's name(Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). And as important as that is (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:4; 11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27), the real work (1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 2:12) of spiritual commitment to Jesus only starts on that blessed occasion (2 Peter 3:18)! Immersion doesn't signal that we are finished; it says that we are just beginning to keep our vows to love, honor, and obey the Lord (Luke 14:26).

Are you still working since you got married, or are you done? Was the day of your baptism the end—or the beginning?

"Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God"(Romans 7:4). E-mail: mbensonkw@att.net



Mike Benson

Lessons That Stay With Us

As Recalled by
Gene Finley

I often think back through the years of those lessons that we get from our preachers. There is one that made such an impression on me that I think of it often. Maybe it really happened and maybe it didn't; but it teaches a great message anyway.

Our preacher related this once. He told of a great orator, one who was so polished and emphatic that people would come from miles around to hear him speak. At the end of every speech, he would read the Twenty-Third Psalm. Actually people would come just to hear him read it. He got to noticing how they eagerly looked forward to it. In time, people would cheer and applaud and even ask him to read it again. He became known for his power in reading the Twenty-Third Psalm.

One evening after reading it, he bowed over and over and really became enthralled with their applause. (It sounds a little like Acts 12:21-22, doesn't it?) He noticed an old man sitting on the front row. With tongue in cheek and a wink towards the audience, the orator said to the old man, "Old man come up and read the Twenty-Third Psalm for us."

The old man rose with difficulty and slowly made his way up the steps. He took the Bible and he began with an almost inaudible voice while the audience giggled and the orator stood proudly with hands behind his back.

The old man began, "*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*" When he said, "*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,*" his voice began to break. As he said; "*He restoreth my soul,*" tears were seen on his cheek. When he said, "*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever,*" he was weeping openly.

The audience was silent. It was mute. Not one hand clapped. The great orator was motionless. He could not even raise his head. Finally, he took a step forward and with head still bowed, he said barely above a whisper. "***I know the Twenty-Third Psalm, this man knows the Shepherd!***" ♦

WN
"Drop-in"
at
Okalona
MS
1-14-15



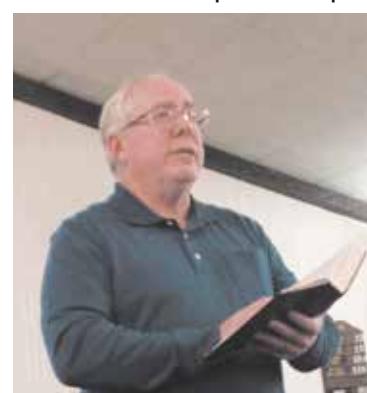
of years or so. It was a pleasure to renew our acquaintance with him.

Shortly thereafter several others arrived and services began.

Allen Lockhart, after having made careful preparation, welcomed everyone and passed along interesting information in the form of announcements. We were impressed with the effective way he did his job in informing and encouraging the church, including those of us who were visiting. Announcements can be very beneficial. (It was announced that the church in Verona was having a gospel meeting with **James Segars** as the visiting preacher. This encouraged us, two nights later, to visit the Verona church!)

It was a joy to join in the congregational singing very capably led by **Ken McVay**. We were also very blessed to sit at the feet of a teacher (the preacher, **Mickey Beam**) who was well prepared to effectively teach practical lessons based upon Jesus' conversation with Simon Peter as recorded in John 21:15-23.

Later, after services, my June was especially pleased to learn that one of her cousins and her family were active in the Okalona church. We both enjoyed visiting with **Octavia (Goff) McVay** and her husband (**Ken**) after services were concluded. This visit added to our reasons to give thanks for yet another good and profitable "drop-in Visit." (alf, editor)



Mickey Beam, preacher

We enjoy your paper so much. May God bless all of you and the work you do and the souls you reach and save as well. In Christian Love, (James & Sara Marquis, Quinton, AL)

It's a School!

- Dennis Doughty -

We put a lot of stock in this country on education. We encourage every child to graduate from High School. We recommend some form of "higher education" through various colleges. Parents spend great sums to get their kids educated. They know that a lack of education will greatly hinder their children's success in life.

But our families and our nation is neglecting a great area of education, neglecting a school that has been a foundation of this country. Classrooms sit empty across this land as children skip class, the text book gathers dust and adults no longer desire to further their education. The most neglected school in our land; Bible School.

Daniel Webster said, "Education is useless without the Bible." Yet parents that would never think of letting their child miss English or Math class, give no thought to the fact that their child is missing Bible Class. It is staggering to think of how many children today never attend Bible school.

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899) was a rowdy little boy when, while working at a shoe store, he was first invited to attend a bible school in his home town. He grew to become a great evangelistic preacher. He held large evangelistic meetings across the country which were attended by presidents from Grant to Lincoln.

Bible school was a large influence in his life as a young boy, so much so that he began a Bible school in Chicago to encourage young people to study the holy scriptures. The Moody Bible Institute continues to this day.

A man came to him once with a very difficult passage and said, "Mr. Moody, how do you explain that?" He replied,



Dennis Doughty

"I don't."

"But how do you interpret it?" he asked. "I don't interpret it." was the reply. "Well, how do you understand it?" "I don't understand it." Finally the man asked, "Well, what do you do with it?" Moody's reply, "I don't do anything with it."

Startled, the man exclaimed, "You don't believe it?" to which the old

preacher replied, "Yes, I believe it! I believe many things I don't understand." Then he said, "I'm glad there's a depth in the Bible I know nothing about, for it shows its divine authorship." As the Psalmist acknowledged; "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." (Psalms 139:6)

Mr. Moody discovered what all us old preachers discover after a life time of studying the scriptures. It's depth and wisdom, it's truths and knowledge, is so great that we can never fully learn it all. The Bible remains a constant challenge, a

Classrooms sit empty across this land as children skip class, the text book gathers dust and adults no longer desire to further their education. The most neglected school in our land; Bible School.

Let us not forget what David wrote, "Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments" (Ps. 119:72).

Bible School; **It is a school!** Are you and your children attending?

(dennis1848@bellsouth.net)



A Visit in Verona

"Uplifting"

In our recent "Drop-in Visit" with the church in Okalona, Mississippi, we learned that the Verona church, about 15 miles north, was to begin a meeting on Friday night with evangelist **James Segars** of the Gloster Street church in Tupelo.

As services began, **Wayne Cox**, long time preacher in Verona, warmly welcomed everyone. **Russ Vickers**, preacher from Hillcrest in Baldwyn, was asked to lead the opening prayer. It was a blessing to join in with the congregation in affirming our faith as we sang, "I Know My Redeemer Lives." Among other songs of the evening, we declared the wonderful and comforting truth, "God is Love."

The guest evangelist for the meeting, James Segars, "slowly but surely" made his way to the podium. In his opening remarks, he thanked the church for providing handrails to help him ascend the "mountain" (platform). He also expressed appreciation to the Verona church for their help in making possible the "**Day Spring**" television program featuring him as the speaker. *This popular program is now in its 14th year and is telecast for 30 minutes, six days a week on 10 stations in North Mississippi.*

It was a blessing to hear brother Segars preach. He proclaimed the "good news," based upon Paul's writings in the first chapter of his letter to the church at Rome. It was an excellent presentation, increasing our appreciation for the work of the apostle and the power of the gospel.

It was also a blessing to spend a little time with Wayne Cox who continues to serve effectively as the long-time preacher for the Verona church. Wayne also serves as one of the four elders. The others are **Bobby Case, Bobby Goff** and **George Willis**. According to their church bulletin, the church is blessed with three deacons: **David Elrod, Scott Davis** and **Michael Hayden**.

Brother Cox, Verona preacher and elder, also edits "**Truth For Today**", a widely circulated gospel paper that probes rather deeply into vital topics. This excellent publication has been published by the Verona church for more than twenty years.

My June and I are grateful for the uplifting service enjoyed in our recent visit to Verona. (**Editor**)

(on left)
James Segars, visiting preacher &
Wayne Cox, local preacher

CURES

for

Murmuring, Complaining & Sowing Discord

- Wade Huddleston -

Who complains? Who murmurs? Who sows discord? Perhaps, most of us are guilty. Where do we find the cure? Elders and preachers, especially, would like to know the answer!

The Israelites murmured in the wilderness and were destroyed by the destroyer as the book of Exodus well expresses. The New Testament people did not remember the things that happened to their forefathers. Have we forgotten their plight today? We can find help from the scriptures.

Frequently, Ezekiel repeats that the word of the Lord came to him saying, "...and ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God." (34: 31) Chapter 34 of Ezekiel is one of those chapters with this clarion message.

Moreover, the Psalmist in Psalm 100:3 adds: "Know ye that the Lord He is God: It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture." David recognized that the Lord was his shepherd in Psalm 23.

God uses sheep to help his people understand a profound message. Sheep benefit greatly by being given pleasant pastures in which to graze, fresh water to drink and good protection from wild animals. In like manner humanity benefits by being cared for properly. As our Savior like a shepherd leads us by providing tender care, pleasant pastures and proper spiritual food so let us be thankful every day that He is the guardian of our way; that he defends, keeping us from going astray. Surely, our Savior has mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, save and power to free. Happy are we when the true shepherd and bishop of our souls guides us. (I Peter 2:25) We know that this earth is not our home, but do we know that Jesus points us to that heavenly home that is eternal? Do we know that we will see His face?

Who will look to Jesus?

*Who will look to Jesus though friends are few?
Discord cannot be found and all things are new.
Who will look to Jesus and see Him as He is?
For in the darkest night He will gently renew.*

Rest is near and our reward is in view.

And may we see Him as our King and Prince of Peace.

Look homeward saints; heaven is not far away.

Now our friends and songs are many.

At last we can say "home at last, home at last."

We shall see our God face to face, in heaven at last.

We shall see Him as He is!

May we suggest a song to sing when brothers and sisters murmur, complain and sow discord? When we visit the hospital, carry a song book and request that the patient join in as we sing -- if he or she chooses. Remember: "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*" (Matt. 7:12) Please do not complain, murmur and sow discord.

Wade Huddleston, an elder; Ripley Church of Christ
1300 Hall Drive
Ripley, Mississippi 38663



Wade Huddleston

MUSIC

(Continued from page 5)

tivities. Also, the Greek word which would be translated "play" (PAIZO), is **conspicuously absent** from the manuscript texts. The Greek verb, properly translated "sing" (ADO), is used always of praise to God, and always means **singing only** as does the verb (HYMNEO). We are told specifically what to use (psalms, hymns and songs), and exactly how to use them (*speaking to one another, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord*).

Translating PSALLO as "making melody" in Ephesians 5:19 is sound exegesis (a reading out). However, for those to whom this seems somewhat *threadbare*, one will do well to examine the word ADO as more concrete evidence for a cappella singing as the kind authorized for Christian worship.

ADO, translated "singing" in Ephesians 5:19 is a grammatical contraction of the word AEIDO, which correctly translates "always" (Arndt, Gingrich Greek English Lexicon, page 19). "AEI properly means perpetually, incessantly at any and every time, of successive occurrences" (W. E. Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, page 51). ADO is translated "sing" consistently in every textual citation for music to be used in Christian worship, as are the words PSALLO and HYMNEO.

Harps and Singing in Heaven

(Rev. 5:9; 14:2-3; 15:3)

Why are these verses not included with the eight previously mentioned? First, these do **not** describe worship in the Church, but are symbols of praise in Heaven. Secondly, John heard sounds of beauty, and likens their precision and melodious tones to that of an accomplished musician (harpist). Thirdly, and more importantly, the Greek word ADO (singing only) is used in all three passages to describe what was actually done. In (5:9) they sang (ADO) a song (ODE); in (14:3) they sang (ADO) a song (ODE), and in (15:3) they sang (ADO) a song (ODE).

Conclusion

All the New Testament records about music in Christian worship is found in eight

different passages. In these we are instructed **specifically what to use; psalms (PSALMOS), hymns (HYMNOS) and songs ((ODE); and exactly how to use them speaking (LALEO) to one another, singing (ADO) and making melody (PSALLO) in our hearts to the Lord.**

Were we commanded only to "Music" in Christian worship, we would be authorized to use a mechanical instrument for accompaniment. However, it is noteworthy: 1) The Lord never authorized it, 2) the apostles never sanctioned it, 3) New Testament writers never commanded it, 4) the early Church never used it, 5) it was first introduced by Pope Vitalian in 666 A.D. and there was no general adoption of its use until the 13th century.

Scriptural authorization of any practice is very clear. "*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ*" (Rom. 10:17) and "*Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son*" (II Jno. 9).

Singing only, fulfills God's purpose for music in Christian worship. So, **"Sing And Be Happy!"**

John P. Simpson
4073 Stillwood Drive
Memphis, TN 38128

*Brother Simpson asked if we would consider reprinting his article on "Music in Christian Worship" which was published in the *Gospel Advocate* (August, 2008). We are pleased to do so with the permission of the GA.*

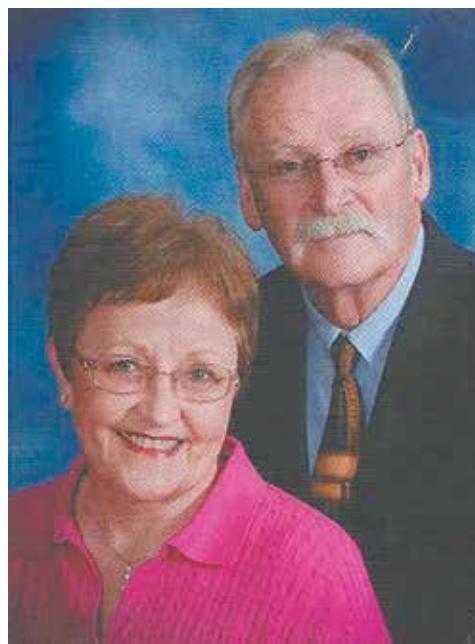
Readers' Response

Thanks so much for the work you do to spread the Gospel and thanks for the MM. We enjoy it so much. (Luke & Rosa Eubanks, Hurley, MS)

We find your MM enjoyable, uplifting and informative. Enclosed a small contribution toward MM and we thank you for your service. May God bless you. (Carl & Dena Rousaville, Southaven, MS)

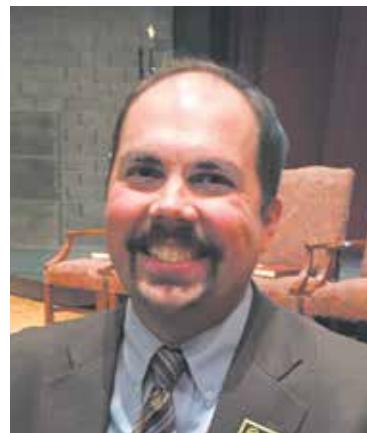
Love the MM! God bless... (Ruth Odom, Eupora, MS)

God bless you and your family and the great work you are doing with the Magnolia Messenger. (Billy Byrnes, Carlisle, MS)



Linda & David Lipe honored upon their retirement from FHU. (David was director of lectureship for 22 years.)

New Lectureship Director



Doug Burleson



Phil Sanders ("Search" TV Program) and Matthew Morine (preacher/writer from Colorado) -- representing just two in the large lectureship crowd

Maywood Christian Camp 2,006 Campers in 2014!



Jeff Goff, Administrator (Representing just one of many good works connected with the Lord's church.)

- A Report -

The 2015 Lectureship At Freed-Hardeman University

- Paul Franks -

I was privileged to attend the 79th annual Bible lectureship on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University in the small community of Henderson, TN about 30 miles north of the Mississippi line. My first experience goes back 50 years when our family moved to Henderson, TN due to my father enrolling in school there.



Freed-Hardeman has had a close relationship with many churches in North Mississippi. One reason we believe the church is stronger in North Mississippi is due to the influence of FHU. During the early years of Magnolia Bible College, it seemed that MBC was a training ground for many of the future professors of FHU including **David Lipe, Sammy Jones, Don Taylor, John Poore** and others!

My favorite thing to do at the lectureship is to visit with preachers, teachers, elders and church leaders from various parts of the country who converge at this location for the lectureship. Of course, listening to great preachers is fun too. I got to visit with an old friend, **Phil Sanders** who heads up the Search TV ministry and met a young preacher by the name of **Matthew Morine**. It was encouraging to visit with Matthew and learn about his new book entitled "A Mountain Moving Faith". Matthew preaches for the Castle Rock church of Christ in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Another fun exercise is to visit the exhibits representing various ministries of the church. I stopped by to visit **Jeff Goff** from Tupelo, MS, who is the administrator for the Maywood Christian Camp in Hamilton, AL. He told me that **2,006 young people attended the camps during 2014 at Maywood**. He told me of the plans that are underway as they prepare to continue to build and expand at this great camp. Several of weeks this summer have already filled up. Please go to their website; www.maywoodchristiancamp.com for more information.

For the past 22 years, **David Lipe** has been the director of this lectureship with the tremendous help and support from **Linda**, his wife. This was the last year for David to direct, so the University decided to honor David and Linda Lipe by dedicating the lectureship to them. A special dinner was conducted in their honor on Tuesday night.

David is from Pope, MS about five miles south of Batesville. His family was taught the gospel by **Ray and Belle Lipe**, relatives of the family. He was encouraged and supported to go to Freed-Hardeman by **Woody and Patsy Loden**. In David's list of guidelines for finding speakers for the lectureship, it was mentioned that Number six of his guidelines said something like, "Don't forget about the quality speakers from Mississippi."

The theme for this year's lectureship was "**Give Us a King, Faith, Failure and Forgiveness in Samuel**." Since the lectureship is held in February, weather seems to always be an issue. In the past, ice, snow and freezing weather have hampered this event. This year the weather was cold, but we had some beautiful days to attend the classes and events. Doug Burleson, who teaches at FHU, will assume the responsibilities of directing the lectureship in the future. If you haven't been to one of these lectureships, mark on your calendars to attend, **February 7-11, 2016**.

The Extra Mile (Mile) in Evangelism

John Gardner

"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9: 22 ESV).

Paul was willing to go further than expected, the “**extra mile**” if you will (Matthew 5: 41), to win the lost and to strengthen the weak. No doubt that commitment was a key to his success in bringing the lost to Jesus and in strengthening the churches.

The passage that elaborates on verse 22 above (1 Corinthians 9: 19 – 23) follows a section where the apostle demonstrates his unselfish and sacrificial approach to preaching the gospel (1 Corinthians 9: 1 – 18). He follows his discussion of his “extra mile” approach to winning the lost with a solid



John Gardner

of them,” he made himself a “servant to all.” The servant attitude is essential in following Jesus (John 13: 1 – 17; 2 Corinthians 4: 5). The one who is too concerned about personal desires and rights never makes a good servant. On the other hand, the disciple of Jesus who puts service to the Master and the accomplishment of his purpose first will do whatever is necessary within the will of Christ to save others.

An other quality of the follower of Jesus who is successful in “becoming all things to all people” is maturity in the faith. Only the

mature disciple really desires to go beyond the bounds of the comfortable and the normal for Jesus’ sake. The immature have no such desire.

Not only that, but maturity is needed to know in what ways one may become more like another in his lifestyle without compromising the truth. In all things one must remain “under law toward Christ” (1 Corinthians 9: 21) and remain loyal to “the gospel” (V. 23). So basic truths of the covenant of Christ cannot be changed or compromised (Galatians 1: 6 – 9). Even departing from the faith in what some would call minor matters (Cf. 1 Timothy 4: 1 – 4) is deadly.

On the other hand, changes can be made in one’s customs and behaviors if they do not violate the directives of Scripture or compromise the truth. In the passage under discussion, Paul mentions in verse 20 accommodating

himself to “the Jews” and those “under the law” (some think the two phrases refer to the same group of people). He declares that he reached out to those “without law” (V. 21) by becoming like them, but not in ways contrary to the will of God and Christ. Finally, Paul seems to focus on some who were already Christians, but in danger of losing their footing, when he discusses ministering to “the weak” (V. 22). **That is soul-saving, too** (James 5: 19, 20).

In all of the situations Paul probably had in mind when he penned the words of the text, he refers to social customs which had religious meanings for some. On a given occasion, the apostle might bring himself under dietary laws (Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 13) or endorse circumcision (Acts 16: 3) because of the Jews, or the weak. On the other hand, if they made a test of such matters, contrary to the gospel, the apostle would not yield because of the impact on the faith of the groups involved (1 Timothy 4: 3, 4; Galatians 2: 1 – 5).

In accommodating ourselves to those of different social or cultural practices, we must be absolutely sure such accommodations do not violate the truth. Not all customs involve matters of truth and error: some customs are matters of indifference (I Cor. 8:8). But we must be sure that we do not violate our

In all things one must remain “under law toward Christ” (1 Corinthians 9: 21) and remain loyal to “the gospel” (V. 23). So basic truths of the covenant of Christ cannot be changed or compromised (Galatians 1: 6 – 9).

personal conscience or the consciences of others in such matters (Romans 14: 23).

We must be ready to feel uncomfortable and even receive criticism for becoming all things to all men. Pe-

Turn to MILE on pg 16

WHO'S WHO Among Leaders In Churches of Christ?

(An Award Program)

The Bible teaches us to “weep with them that weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.” (Romans 12: 15) We need more rejoicing in the church. Don’t you agree?

We are also taught by example and teaching in Scripture to honor and recognize men and women of great faith (Romans 12:10). We believe that when deserving brethren are recognized and honored for their work of faith and labor of love, they serve as **worthy examples, providing encouragement to others!**

Jesus Himself recognized certain individuals for their faith. Jesus complimented a centurion for his faith by saying, “*I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel*” (Matt. 8:10). Jesus also bestowed honor upon a woman who anointed his head by saying, “*Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.*” (Matt. 26:6-13)

Because of the need for recognition and the benefits of giving honor to whom honor is due, the Magnolia Messenger is asking you to send in the name of someone who has made a difference in your life and has helped your faith to grow. Please, along with the name, include information about the person you are nominating and how he/she has helped you and/or others

Each time we print an issue of the “Messenger”, a committee of preachers and elders will select a name from among those sent in by readers. If and when possible, we will visit the congregation where the selected person attends and present to him/her a very special plaque with his/her name inscribed as an honored leader in the body of Christ. **This program is not just to honor preachers and/or elders.** Every faithful Christian man/woman/boy/girl is eligible to be nominated.

Please submit the name of the person you believe should be honored in this way, giving your reasons why. We will need your name and contact information if we have any questions. (*If you wish, we will keep your name confidential.*)

You are invited to send your nomination to:

MM Award Program
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

UPDATE: Thanks to each of you who has nominated some faithful brother/sister for our New Awards Program connected with the Magnolia Messenger. **Each person that is nominated will receive a certificate.** Our readers have been very enthusiastic about submitting names. Christians have been nominated from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi. We are still working on the details about the plaque and how and when we will award these. Please continue to send in names of people that you feel need to be recognized. Thank you again for your involvement in this program. **(Paul Franks)**

Magnolia Messenger
Our Dedicated Goal Continues
“Let us consider one another to provoke unto LOVE and GOOD works.” (Hebrews 10:24)



West Corinth Church of Christ (Preacher's Family)
Blake and Sami Nicholas; Children: Song & Job

North Mississippi on a Sunday Morning

On Sunday morning, February 1, 2015, my June and I were richly blessed to visit with the West Corinth Church in Corinth, Mississippi. We stopped by on our way to the annual Bible lectureship at FHU in Henderson, TN.

We are very grateful for the opportunity provided for me to teach the adult SM Bible class and to preach at the morning worship hour. The encouraging response of the congregation to our visit and lessons stirred thanksgiving within our hearts.

Two elders (**Jim Blalock, Michael Mann**) presently oversee the church with a Sunday attendance that averages about 150. The church bulletin lists 8 men who serve as deacons. Blake and his family came over nearly two years ago to West Corinth from the Foote Street church in Corinth where Blake had served as preacher for about 7 years. May God continue to bless. (alf)



Home of the West Corinth Church of Christ in Corinth, MS

PONDER

Some Admit, "*It Is Wrong!*"

But Then Declare: "*It is Not a Salvation Issue!*"

- Alvin Jennings -

What about failure to pray regularly (I Thes 5:17), or to contribute to the church each Sunday (I Cor 16:1-2), or to attend the Christian assembly on the Lord's day (Heb 10:25), or to add mechanical music to singing praises (Eph 5:19)? Is a Christian's soul in jeopardy by disobedience, or should we expect God to make no "issue" on the Day of Judgment (read Heb 9:27; 10:27; I Pet 4:17; Jn 5:27; Rom 2:2-3; Jude 6; Rev 22:18f)?

One author lists over 20 reasons why it is unbiblical to add mechanical music to Christian worship, but yet he concludes "*it is not a salvation issue.*" He acknowledged that great theologians agree that acappella worship is the biblical way... including Wycliffe, Zwingli, John Knox, Calvin, Martin Luther, Wesley and Charles Spurgeon.

A Prayer in a Donut Shop

A Little Background About The Article Under Picture

Eva Joy (Black) Wade was born and reared in the Huntsville community in central Mississippi and graduated from French Camp Academy. Several of her siblings and their families still live in the area and worship and serve with the Huntsville church of Christ.

Eva Joy and I met at Freed-Hardeman College (now University) and married shortly after I graduated in 1958. (Enclosed is a picture from our 50th anniversary in 2008.) I was a full-time preacher for almost 50 years and continue to preach by appointment, gospel meetings, etc. Eva Joy was my faithful help-meet all those years until her illness incapacitated her.

Eva Joy was stricken with Alzheimer's disease some time ago. I took care of her at home as long as possible. She has been in a nursing home for 18 months and is now completely bed-ridden, unable to communicate or do anything for herself. She is on "comfort meds" only. She is often sleeping, but when she is not, is often crying. That is the context out of which this article arose.

Some readers may not fully understand but any who have seen their loved ones struggle with this, or similar diseases, certainly will. I hope it will encourage some who are going through similar experiences -- both the care-givers and the patients.

You may have detected from the article that the gentleman who prayed such an insightful prayer has some intellectual deficits. To me, that makes it all the more remarkable. (*Bobby Wade*)



Eva Joy [Black] and Bobby Wade

(50th Wedding Anniversary Picture; 2008)

Eva Joy has Alzheimer's disease and is now in a nursing home

- Bobby Wade -

Harris is a tall, middle-aged man. I first noticed him as he walked along a busy stretch of highway in the west end of Pulaski, TN. He often carries a broom and one of those trash collectors on a handle. He also frequents the Daylight Donut Shop, the same location where I stop from time to time to get a cup of coffee and read the paper, before I visit Eva Joy in the Meadowbrook Nursing Home.

This particular morning the air was brisk and I felt a cool rush as he opened the door and entered. He approached a table of "Regulars" at the donut shop and excitedly showed them his newest treasure, a Santa Clause figure with a "real" beard and hair.

He then came over to my table, partially removed it from a small sack, and exclaimed, "I gave \$3.00 for it. They tried to take it but they didn't get it!" [He never explained who 'they' were.] The waitress informed him that it was one of those "dancing Santa's" and might work again if it had a new battery.

"How's your wife?" he asked. Harris often inquired about my wife, Eva Joy. He related because his mother had died a few years ago with Alzheimer's. "Is she better?" "No," I replied. "I'm afraid she is not likely to get better."

Disappointment was clearly mirrored on his face as he lowered his eyes and was quiet for a moment. He then looked up and asked, "Is she ready for heaven?" I answered, "She is ready when God is ready for her." He then asked, "Can I pray?" "Sure," I replied. We bowed our heads.

"Heavenly Father:

I'm coming to you for this man and his wife. She's been sick a long time, Lord. I ask you to take her home! I know how's she's hurting. You took my momma away from me two years ago. This lady has suffered long enough. Lord, I'm begging you, please take her! She's ready to go to heaven, Lord. Please take her home.

And God, I'm asking you, help this man. He's struggling. He's tired. He needs you to lift him up. Please God, I'm begging you -- please help these people. Please take her home! In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen

I hope God heard this prayer from the donut shop. He is all-wise, merciful and caring. **May His will be done.**

Bobby Wade
10595 Minor Hill Hwy
Goodsprings, TN 38460

Hey, I just finished reading a friend's Winter 2014 Magnolia Messenger and like it very much. I would like to start getting my own. So please put me on your mailing list. Sincerely, (Kevin Scott, Parchman, MS)

An Open Invitation

From Paul Franks to all Readers of the
Magnolia Messenger

February 10, 2015

Greetings:

Our 17th annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally is quickly approaching. The dates are April 20-24, 2015. The rally will be held again at Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata in Louisville, Mississippi. When I talked to the resort this week, our RV club has the RV sites, several hotel rooms and some cabins reserved for Monday night through Thursday night. When you call the resort tell them you are with the MM RV Rally. There is a limited number, so please call today and make your reservations. Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata's phone number is 662-773-7853 and their web site is www.ltok.com.

The rally kicks off Monday evening, April 20 at the Resort in Louisville. We plan to provide a meal that Monday night for everyone. Tuesday night we are planning a potluck. Wednesday, Garnett and friends are planning a catfish dinner and Thursday, Stephen and Philip Franks of Franks Chevrolet are planning to cook hamburgers and hot dogs. Thursday evening, we plan to have our annual auction with Ray and Donna Franks running the auction.

There is no cost to attend this rally other than your own lodging, transportation and your own meals. The only thing we ask is for you to bring an auction item(s).

This year we have invited four young men to share with us from the Bible: James Malone, Greg Ledbetter, Will Anderson and Wesley Thompson to be our speakers for the rally. Our theme will be "**The Generational Gap, What the younger generation wants to say to the older generation.**"

Quality fellowship, wonderful lessons from God's word, being able to support a great work like the Messenger and super food are all good reasons why you need to make plans to attend this year's rally. Remember, you don't have to have an RV to attend. We have several who come every year who have never owned any kind of RV and we have all ages who attend the rallies.

This year, **Betty and Garnett Harris** have agreed to serve as the Rally Masters for this rally. You can contact them at bettyharris1003@yahoo.com and their number is 662-571-2854. You can reach me at apaulfranks@gmail.com and my number is 662-792-2700.

See you, God willing, in Louisville, Mississippi at the end of April, 2015.

Paul Franks, Associate Editor, Magnolia Messenger

"What the Younger Generation Wants to Say to the Older Generation!"



James Malone
(Jonesboro, Arkansas)



Greg Ledbetter
(Brandon, Mississippi)



Wesley Thompson
(Starkville, Mississippi)



Will Anderson
(Kosciusko, Mississippi)

17th Annual

Magnolia Messenger RV Rally

(Tentative Schedule)

April 20-24, 2015

Monday through Friday

Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata, Louisville, Mississippi

Monday—April 20

4:00 PM—Arrive at Park
5:00 PM—Dinner Provided
6:00 PM—Singing

Tuesday—April 21

9:30 AM—Get acquainted devotional
11:00 – Lesson # 1

James Malone: "Bridging the Generation Gap!"

12:00—Lunch on your own
1:00—Free time (games, activities, etc.)
5:00—Potluck (finger foods)
6:00 PM --Singing & Lesson #2

Greg Ledbetter: "The Young are the Church Today!"

Wednesday—April 22

9:30 AM—Lesson # 3

James Malone: "Reliving the Glory Days"

10:30 -- Break
10:45 AM—Lesson # 4

Greg Ledbetter: "Technology is Our friend"

12:00—Lunch on your own
1:00 PM – Free time (Games, activities, etc)
5:00 – Catfish Dinner (**Garnett Harris & friends**)
6:00 PM – Singing and Prayer service!

Thursday, April 23

9:30 AM—Lesson # 5

Wesley Thompson: "Traditions and Doctrine" #1

10:30 -- Break
10:45 AM—Lesson # 6

Will Anderson: "Traditions and Doctrine" #2

12:00—Lunch on your own
1:00 PM – Free time (Games, activities, etc)
5:00 PM—Hamburger/Hotdog Cookout
(Sponsored by Franks' Chevy)
6:00 PM – MM Auction
Ray Franks and helpers

Friday—April 24

9:30 AM --Devotional
10:00 AM—Lesson # 7

Will Anderson: "We Need You."

11:00 AM -- Closing remarks. End of rally
12:00 Lunch on your own

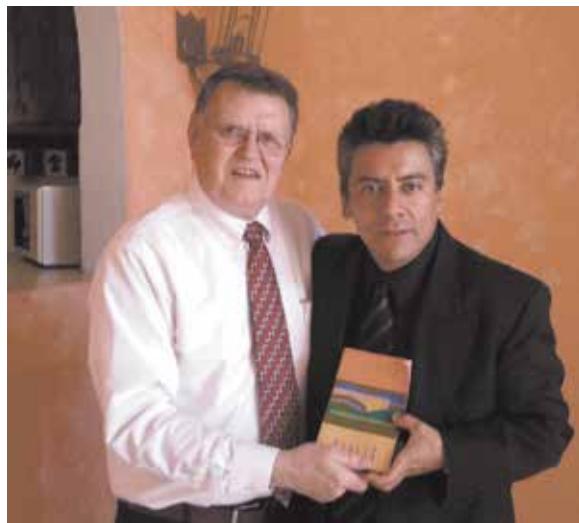
YOU Are Invited

(RV Not Required; Cabins, Motel Available)
For More information: 662-792-2700 (Paul Franks)

“BIBLES, BIBLES, BIBLES” (A Great Need in Mexico)

- Les Ferguson, Sr. -

On a recent trip to the State of Guanajuato in central Mexico (February 19-March 1, 2015), I asked eight preachers of the eight churches Mexico Missions has helped to plant over the last twelve years this question: **“What is your greatest need at this present time?”** Seven of the preachers said, “Bibles.” Fernando Arroyo, the eighth one and preacher of the San Miguel church and the one to whom I am presenting this Bible said, “BIBLES, BIBLES, BIBLES.”



Right now when visitors or people with whom they

are studying come to church, they provide a Bible but ask them to leave it at the church when the service is over. *I believe we can help them do better than that, don't you?* Would you make a contribution to the S. Huntington Church of Christ or to Mexico Missions to help provide Bibles for Mexico? A case of Bibles from the American Bible Society costs around \$92.00. The cost of mailing a case to Mexico is \$100. **So for about \$200** you can have a part in sending Bibles to be given to people who want to study but do not have a Bible. The address is: **P.O. Box 1399, Kosciusko, MS 39090.**

If you have questions or comments feel free to call me at **601 562-4226**, or email me: lergusonmm@hotmail.com. (Les Ferguson, Sr.; Director, Mexico Missions)

In Memory Of

MR. CHARLES BASS
Bobby & Sherry Johnson
(Crosby, MS)

CECIL COOK
Beatrice Cook
(Walnut Hill, FL)

CHRISTOPHER COLE
Barry & Diane Cole
(Mathiston, MS)

RUTHY. DAVIS
Wanda & Gerald Pace
Sader Goodin

LAWANTA SYLVESTER
Mr. Henry Sylvester
(Olive Branch, MS)

JESKER MILES
Beulah Davis
(Fulton, MS)

FORMER ELDERS AT THE THYATIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
J. B. HOUSE

WINFRED OGLESBY
ED DANDRIDGE

LEADERS OF THE COFFEEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
HERSHELL HELM & RICHARD PITTMAN
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Varner, Jr.
(Coffeeville, MS)

WILLIAM (Doc) WALKER
Terril & Virginia Morris
(Crystal Springs, MS)

ROGER HUBBERT
Patricia Hubbert
(Winfield, AL)

In Honor Of

WILLIAM & KATIE SPILLERS
Tina Gaunt
(Tipton, Iowa)

MRS. BLANCHE WILLCUTT
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy McNees
(Vernon, AL)

BILL & MARGARET KING
Jamie & Cathy McCartney
(Ferriday, LA)

JAMES & MARGARET GOODE
Kathryn G. Floyd
(Booneville, MS)

BONNIE STRICKLAND
REGGIE CRAWFORD
Reginal & Susan Crawford
(Eads, TN)

Magnolia Messenger In Memory Of

FLORA GURGANUS WOLFE

Gary T. Wolfe
(Cottonwood, AL)

JEFF & BOBBIE BYRD

WAYNE VAN NEST
BENNETT WALKER
DIXIE RAVERNELL MCNEES

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(Hohenwald, TN)

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VELMA DELANCEY
DOC WALKER
Charles & Juanita Fulgham
(Yazoo City, MS)

MRS. CASSIE MURPHY
Marie Colston Smith
(Holly Springs, MS)

VELMA DeLANCEY
Wilburn DeLancey
(Benton, MS)

NOTICE

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

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

THANK YOU
For Sending
Gifts In
Memory or in Honor

“52 Years And Still Growing”

Maywood Christian Camp

Hamilton, Alabama

(Note: We recently received a note from **David Bruce** of Tupelo in which he recalled the story of Maywood Christian Camp, near Hamilton, Alabama. We are pleased to publish David's report. His father, **E. R. Bruce**, was very active in the beginning of the camp which has blessed thousands of lives over its long history.)

- Report by David Bruce -

Back in the early part of 1959 or 1960, Bro. E. R. Bruce, while teaching at Mars Hill Bible school in Florence, Alabama, talked with another teacher, Bro. **Richard Taylor**, about finding some land on which to start a youth camp. One day in the fall of 1962 Bro. Taylor called Bro. Bruce and told him of a member of the church in Hamilton, AL that might have land to use for a Christian youth camp. Bro. Bruce called Bro. **Howard Mays** (who was a deacon at that time) the next day and set up a time to meet and talk. I think the first visit or two was used only for talking.

March of 1963 will always be known as THE BIRTH month of Maywood Christian Camp. On this date Bro. Mays, Bro. Bruce, Bro. **Jerry Jenkins**, along with some young boys under the leadership of Bro. **Billy Joe Fredricks** (Bro. Mays' son-in-law), began to clear and cut the road and walking paths back into the camp grounds. I remember **Dennis Hallmark**, **Gary Dickerson**, **DeWayne Pearson** and several other young boys from around the camp, working together on this project. I have pictures and papers to verify these first few weeks and months in the early part of 1963.

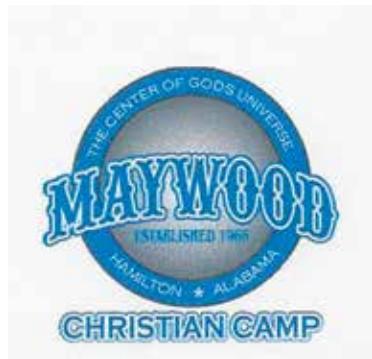
In October or November of 1963 the elders from the Church in Hamilton accepted the oversight of the camp. Also a board of directors was set up at that time. My grandson (**Adam Cox**), who also is the great grandson of Bro. Bruce, has the copy of those by-laws and names of the first board members from that meeting in 1963.

I guess you know that the name "**Maywood**" came from the Mays' family name and "**woods**" in the name from Bro. Bruce and Bro. Jenkins. Bros. Mays, Bruce and Jenkins laid out the first few buildings on paper, of which my grandson has copies.

I do remember, in 1964, that Bro. **Sonny James (Loden)**, the country singer, told dad that he would give him a check to buy material to build the first girls' cabin. Everything started to fall into place, along with a lot of hard work and lots of prayers.

There have been around **4,000 baptisms, many restorations and many marriages** from meeting at Maywood Christian Camp. If you would like to have your pictures used in an upcoming handout, send them to **The Elders at the Verona Church of Christ, P.O. Box 216 Verona, MS 38879**. If you want your pictures or papers returned, please send a stamped envelope.

Bro. **Jeff Goff** lives on campus now and is doing a great job at Maywood Christian Camp. Pray for Jeff and the future of the work at Maywood. We have some old DVD's made from old VHS tapes and pictures if you like to have some. We also want to thank Bro A. L. Franks and Magnolia Messenger for their help and support in the past 52 years. (**David Bruce; P. O Box 1293; Tupelo, MS 38802**)



Does Jesus Care?

**Written in April, 2014,
during the week following
the death of brother
Thompson's wife.**

- Claude Thompson -

“Does Jesus Care?” Even the most faithful Christian can become discouraged and question if Jesus really cares about their daily problems. Although all-knowing and all-powerful, can the sustainer of the universe really be concerned for the small, everyday aspects in the lives of each of His children?!

Such was the case of Frank Graeff, a preacher in Pennsylvania who was known as the “Sunshine Minister” because of his positive attitude. Yet even while cheerfully counseling despondent parishioners, Graeff found himself depressed and questioning God’s care for him.

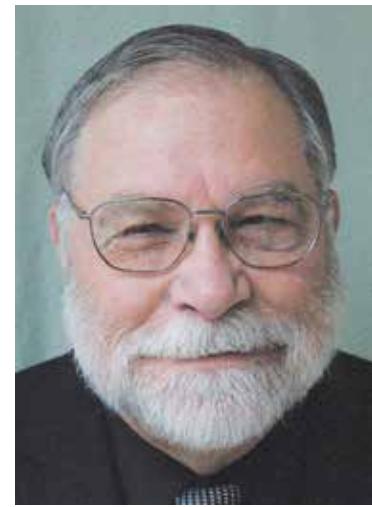
Through prayerful Bible study, he became convinced that his worry meant that he was depending too much on his own abilities and too little on God.

Finally, Graeff gave up and gave over his worries to the Lord Jesus. In healing response, he wrote the hymn **DOES JESUS CARE?** This great song looks at several common concerns in the life of every Christian, questioning whether Jesus cares about such.

“As the burdens press and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long”, Jesus cares. Many people become overwhelmed by life’s daily pressures, and these worries often turn into *“deep night shades”* of depression. Some *“nameless dread and fear”* may go completely unnoticed by those around us, but Jesus knows and He cares.

Extraordinary financial and health problems often add to these normal concerns. Mankind is *“full of troubles”* (Job 14:1), but these troubles are not caused by God nor was such His original plan (Genesis 1:31). Rather, man’s own sin is the true cause of much of his daily struggles (Genesis 3:17-19).

God cares for and comforts His children through the temporary turmoil of this life and has a better, care-free life prepared for us in the future (Ro-



Claude Thompson

mans 8:16-23, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 4:16-17).

“When I’ve tried and failed to resist some temptation” and this sin causes *“deep grief with no relief”*, Jesus cares. God is not the source of temptation, but each of us is tempted toward sin by our own evil desires (James 1:12-15).

Jesus became human so that He could know personally the spiritual struggles of man. He was tempted in every way common to man but He never gave in to sin (Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16). God provides His strengthening grace to man so that we can resist temptation (James 4:6-7). He provides a way of escape from every temptation that Satan puts in man’s way so that we need not sin (1 Corinthians 10:13).

“When I’ve said goodbye to the dearest on earth”, Jesus cares. Death is the ultimate *“goodbye”* in this life, and all will both grieve the death of loved ones and face death ourselves at some time (Ecclesiastes 3:2, Hebrews 9:27). Jesus shared both the sadness of losing a loved one (John 11:35-36) and the uncertainties of His own physical death (Matthew 26:30).

Spiritual death is worse and is far sadder than physical death (Matthew 10:28). But there need be no grief for those who die physically while spiritually in Christ, because they will live with Him always (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). So, for the Christian who lives daily in Christ, to die is positive (Romans 6:4-11, Philippians 1:21). The dead in Christ are at rest from the concerns of this life (Revelation 14:13).

“Oh yes, He cares, I know He

cares”. Jesus does indeed care, and His people can and must know assuredly that He cares. The chorus strongly affirms the clear message of God’s care from both the Old (Psalm 55:22) and New Testaments (1 Peter 5:7).

We are commanded to turn over all of our anxieties to Him, and worry, therefore, is not only worthless but is disobedience of God’s will. We may not be able to eliminate the troubles of this life, but we can pass on to God all of our care and worry about them. Even while facing the trials of this world, God’s people have a measure of peace that the world can never claim nor understand (Isaiah 26:3, Matthew 6:31-34, Philippians 4:6-7).

Claude Thompson grew up in Vicksburg and now lives in Dallas, Texas, and can be reached at claudethompson67@yahoo.com

MM Welcomes Teaching & News Articles

More Readers’ Response

Dear Brethren,

Thank you so much for *Magnolia Messenger*. It’s a fine paper. All the writers stand on the truth of God’s Word. Thank you for that. I pray that will never change. Here’s twenty five dollars to help send it to someone else. God bless. Yours in Christ, (**Brenda Choninard**, Bonifay, FL)

Thank you our brethren, for all your years and dedication and sincere love for the Lord and His Church. We love and pray for all men of God who teach “His Word” (**Hurley Church of Christ**, Hurley, MS)

I trust and pray that the Lord will richly bless you in your great work. Please add any of the following that are not on your mailing list. (**Dianne M. Roberts**, Pope, MS)

I look forward to reading the *Messenger* every time I receive it. May God continue to bless its influence. (**Thelma Atwater**, Indianapolis, IN)

I have been receiving the MM for quite some time, enjoy it very much. I am on a fixed income and can’t contribute monthly but am sending a small donation. Keep up the good work. Love, (**Jeanie Tolbert**, Athens, TX)

Wrong Is ALWAYS Wrong

Wrong is Wrong, even if you don't get caught. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place."

Wrong is Wrong, even if you do it for a good cause. The end never justifies the means. The honorable purpose does not justify a dishonorable deed or action.

Wrong is Wrong, even if it doesn't bother the conscience. The conscience can be trained or educated to accept wrong doing; even an honest sin or an evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of God. "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

Wrong is Wrong, even if it is commonly considered acceptable. The Bible says "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil."

Wrong is always Wrong despite our efforts to excuse our actions. Remember, there is never a right way to do wrong! (Author unknown to us)

(Above article copied from the bulletin of the DeQuincy, LA Church of Christ. Bill Collins preaches for this church that brings together about 80 to 100 each Lord's day. The congregation is overseen by three elders (Don Jackson, Ray Franks and Paul Wilkerson) and is served by 4 deacons (Michael Boyle, Ed Istre, Randy Henry and Stephen Franks)

The following note appeared in the DeQuincy church bulletin published September 21, 2014.

"The latest issue of the Magnolia Messenger has arrived. If you don't get it delivered at your home and would like a copy, they are on the table in the foyer. If you would like home delivery, please let Elizabeth Dickerson know. There is no cost involved. The paper is mailed free." (Thanks Elizabeth and church! MM editor)

New Orleans
Crowder Blvd Church of Christ
 7301 Crowder Blvd.
Ladies' Day Program
 Theme: "Sisters Under Construction"
Saturday, April 11, 2015
 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon



Diana Terry- Keynoter

Continental Breakfast
 Breakout Sessions
 Youth Session (5-16yrs)
 Panel Discussion
 Lunch

RSVP by March 29, 2015

Secretary@crowdercoc.org
 504-246-6236

Singing in Jail

1954 A.D. & 1,950 Years Ago

(Little Rock, Arkansas & Philippi, Macedonia)

- W. K. Mosher -

During the spring of 1954, when the roses were in full bloom along the Arkansas River in Little Rock, two young men were thrown into the county jail. During each day, from twenty to thirty men were put into what was called the "tank", with steel tables, playing cards and dominoes.

Also lying around, in the "tank," were some hymn books a gracious church had left behind. I don't know if the church had left the books on purpose or if the prisoners had hidden them.

Car thieves, dope peddlers, farmers who had sold mortaged goods, and jail breakers were among those assembled in this custodial assembly. Dirty jokes without end, vulgar songs and tales about lawless escapades made up nearly all of the conversation.

Then these two young men picked up a couple of song books and began singing some old familiar hymns. One of the young men, from Greenbrier, has now gone to meet his maker. That big jail room, with concrete floor and steel tables and bars, resounded with the singing. Afterwards, the room became as quiet and solemn as if one were in a funeral home.

Some of the men looked up in surprise, some looked down at their deck of cards and others stared into space -- perhaps recollecting times in their lives they had heard these verses before. It is most likely, during a three-verse song, many miles in memory were covered. Perhaps the queen on the cards reminded men of their mothers, as an old western song said, over a hundred years ago.

Days passed, and these two young men kept singing each day and some times several times per day, before they were put into smaller cells for the night. Ere long, other prisoners picked up song books and asked the number and sang along. Some, without a book, knew songs like "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder". Soon nearly every man in the tank was singing. We wonder,

even yet, what the jailers must have thought about the different sounds coming from upstairs.

The two boys stayed in Little Rock for two weeks before they were shipped out. We have often wondered if

You never know the power of a song!

the song books were ever used again when no preacher came from the outside.

More than 1,950 years ago, two men of unknown age were cast into one of the world's most famous prisons, located in the midst of a Roman colony on the continent of Europe in a town named after the father of Alexander the Great. In this town the lives of men were cheap and prejudice ruled the courts. The two men were likely tied to a whipping post and beaten almost to death. Their feet were then made fast in the stocks of a *dark* cell. "*Dark*"... as this was before electric lights or even matches.

These two men were preachers of the gospel who had been thrown into jail by the very people they were trying to bless with the message of salvation. The mind set of these two is hard to figure as they sang hymns and prayed aloud to God, as the others prisoners were listening to

them. "Men do not pray when they are enraged," J.W. McGarvey wrote over a hundred years ago, or "sing when they are in deep distress." Yet here were two beaten prisoners doing just that.

This story is in the 16th chapter of Acts. The jailer, of all hearers, responded to the *singing* and *praying* by requesting to hear what to do to be saved. You never know the power of a song!

W. K. Moser
 112 Charles Thomas Blvd
 Searcy, Arkansas 72143

MM Welcomes Articles, News, etc.

Magnolia Messenger Readers' Response

Dear Magnolia Messenger,

Thank you for the wonderful articles in your paper. We enjoy it so much. Please add the below individual to your mailing list... Thank you and may God continue to bless the work you do. (Harris, Columbus, MS)

We just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate the good work y'all are doing with the Messenger. We look forward to each issue as so many others do. God bless each of you. (Harry & Betty Barkley, Jackson, MS)

Sorry I cannot send a donation to help you with this GREAT WORK. Will continue to keep you in my prayers. Keep up this fine paper as it is a great teaching tool for the Lord. In Christian Love, (Shelia Hall)

Good job, Great paper! Thanks! (Curtis & Joan McLellan, Vernon, AL)

I enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. Pray you will be able to continue printing it. Hope this donation will help. I'm a member of the Leonard Street Church of Christ in Pensacola, FL. In Christian Love, (Vera Yerg, Molino, FL)

We appreciate all your fine and dedicated work. (M/M Marvin J. Franklin, Gulfport, MS)

Did not receive an envelope in paper, however, I've been wanting to help and the photo of one reminded me that I've never gotten around to it. Wish it could be more but I am 73 and can't make it on Social Security so still work at Walmart. Sorry for the small amount but hope it will still help. In Christ's love, (Lucia Sparks, Holbrook, AZ)

Sending a check for... do hope it will help you all out. I do enjoy the Magnolia Messenger. Keep up the good work you all are doing. (Mable Redd, Mobile, AL)

Thank you for defending the truth with your publication. Enclosed is a small contribution. Best wishes and God's blessings in 2015. (George & Roberta Folk, Crossville, TN)

Keep up the fine work you have been doing. The paper is so informing. I can't think of anything to add. If I think of anything to add or subtract, I'll let you know. May God bless you and keep your desire high to continue the Magnolia Messenger. Thank you, (Jim Hurlbut, Brunswick, GA)

Wonder Why These Records Were Written?

Old Testament Examples

Nadab & Abihu

(Leviticus 10:1-2)

Disobeyed: "...offered strange fire before the Lord which he commanded them not."

Destroyed: "And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

Korah

(Numbers 16: 31-33)

Disobeyed: Led a rebellion against the authority of God and Moses. (Num. 16:1-22)
Destroyed: "...and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up... went down alive into the pit and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation." (Num. 16:32,33)

Uzzah

(2 Samuel 6: 6-9)

Disobeyed: "Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it...." (verse 6)
Destroyed: "...and God smote him there for his error and he died by the ark of God." (verse 7)

People Disobeyed God; God Destroyed People

Consider the above records of disobedience and destruction and ask, **Why Were They Written?**

The Inspired answer given to New Testament Christians: I Cor. 10:6 -- "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted... Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come."

New Testament Teachings (Book of Jude)

(a) Israelites

Disobeyed: "They believed not." (verse 5)

Destroyed: "...The Lord having saved the people out of the land of Egypt afterward destroyed them...." (verse 5)

(b) Angels

Disobeyed: "...kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation...." (verse 6)

Destroyed: "...reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day." (verse 6)

(c) Sodom & Gomorrha

Disobeyed: "...giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh...." (verse 7)

Destroyed: "...suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (verse 7)

Why were the Old Testament Examples written in the New Testament?

Inspired answer (Jude 7):
"Set forth for an example."



Wonder Why These Records Were Written?

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Yes, God is good. God is love. But, sin is terrible. Sin brings suffering and, if not repented of, sin brings destruction.

Jesus warned, "...and fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell." (Matthew 10:28)

Be not deceived. Heaven is wonderful but hell is horrible!

(Editor)

"Behold therefore the GOODNESS and the SEVERITY of God...." (Romans 11:22)

Visiting Among Churches in North Mississippi

By Eddie Lewis

It was a great joy for me to visit among the churches during the months of October to December. I was able to help one church as they looked for a minister and visited with another as they celebrated their Homecoming and meeting. I got to visit with several other congregations and enjoyed meeting the brethren. I was encouraged to see all the good works being done to the glory of God. The following is my report as I visited among the churches.

He asked the question can we rely on each other. He emphasized the importance of us serving each other and being able to count on each other. It was a very good lesson.

October 12: I preached at the **Antioch church of Christ**. This week **Derek Graham**, the deacon who is my liaison with the Mission Committee at Germantown, went with me. We had a wonderful visit



Don Green



Bob Chambers, Eddie Lewis & Derek Graham

with the church. On the second Sunday the church has a fellowship meal after services. We enjoyed the fellowship and food.

Every other week in October through December I preached for the church at Antioch serving as an interim. I presented several lessons on the parables of Jesus. Also, I studied the second and fourth chapters of Philippians and presented some lessons from my book, "Finding the Heart of Christ."

Chris Keeton is the other minister that serves Antioch. He is the youth minister at Hernando. It is a wonderful congregation. They have around 30 in attendance.



Loretta & Craig Shackleford

Loretta. He is a former minister at Thyatira, and now works with the church in Glen Rose, Texas. **Tim West** is the current preacher at Thyatira. He has been there for many years.



Tim & Jennifer West

Their normal attendance is 106, but on this special Sunday they had 137. It was a wonderful occasion and I enjoyed seeing many home folks.

In Bible class Craig spoke on, "What is True Friendship and What it Takes to have a Friend?" He used the example of David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18). He talked about the importance of love.

In the worship Craig spoke on, "Two are Better Than One" based on Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

They support several mission works and have an active Lads to Leaders program. I received a warm welcome by the church and enjoyed my visit.

Don taught the adult Bible class. They are using the study book, "Harmony of the Gospels, vol. 1" by Willard Conchin. They discussed Matthew chapter 7 in the Sermon on the Mount. There was lots of good discussion.

In the worship, Don's lesson was, "Redemption Only in Christ," based on Ephesians 1:1-14. It was a wonderful lesson on the love of God. God bought us back from sin and the price was the death of His son. Paul prayed that the brethren would be enlightened by his message to them.

It was a wonderful visit.

November 9: I visited with the **Friendship church of Christ** outside of Olive Branch, MS. They recently hired a new preacher, **Adam Mayfield** from Texas. He came in December



to begin his work with the church. He is a HST graduate. Sunday they had **Garrett Best** preach, he is from the Olive Creek church of Christ in Bartlett, TN. It was good to meet Garrett and his wife. He is a graduate of HST.

The church has five new elders. Their attendance is See VISITING on page 16



Elders at Friendship Church: David Alexander, Danny Green, Gary Willoughby, Mark Colvert & Keith Honeycutt

Visiting With Lewis

(Continued from page 15)

around 200. They have lots of young people. It was good to see some old friends.

In Bible class one of the elders, **Keith Honeycutt**, taught the class. There was lots of good discussion. He taught about "Connecting My Life to the Church" based on Ephesians 4:11-16.

In the worship **Garrett Best** taught a lesson on 1 Corinthians 10:14-22. It was a very interesting lesson on the relationships we have with God in the Lord's Supper. Christ is present with us in the Lord's Supper. He emphasized that we also have a horizontal relationship in the supper too. Good lesson.

November 16: I visited with the **Jumpertown church of Christ** west of Booneville, MS. **Terry Roberts** is the minister there. He has served the church for about 8 years. He is a graduate of the MSP. They have no



Renee & Terry Roberts

elders and have around 22 in attendance. I enjoyed meeting the brethren. They have lots of small children.

In the worship Terry taught a lesson on "Whosoever will" based on Revelations 22:17. He talked about the freedom we have to choose in our lives without divine interference. It was a good lesson on free will as a gift from God.

December 7: I visited with the **Oakleigh Drive church of Christ** in Booneville, MS. **Louie Dearman** is the minister there. He has served the church part-time for several years. **Elmo Wilson** also works



Charlotte & Louie Dearman

with the congregation. He has been there for many years and is retired. They have no elders and have around 45 in attendance.

E r n e s t Jobe taught the Bible class. He used

a book by Wilson Adams entitled "Courageous Living." The lesson was on admonishment. They talked about two qualifications for admonishment and the proper process for admonishment. It was a good lesson.

In the worship ser-
vice, **Louie** preached. His lesson was on the story of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:18-28). He considered the attitude of the older brother. He made some good points about forgiveness. He made the comment that "The more you pray for others, the more you are willing to forgive." That's a good thought.

I enjoyed my visit with the congregation at Oakleigh Drive.

December 21: I visited with the **Oak Ridge church of Christ** outside of Baldwyn, MS. **Nathan Hale** is the new preacher there. He is a MSP



Nathan & Kate Hale

graduate and attended FHU also. He has been in ministry for seven years. It was good to meet him and his wife, **Kate**. The church has no elders and their attendance is around 60. They have a good mix of ages and have a wonderful spirit. I enjoyed their singing. They have lots of good singers.

Nathan taught the adult Bible class. They have been studying the "Fruit of the Spirit" in

Galatians 5:22-23. They talked about gentleness and self-control. He mentioned that Christ is the perfect example. They had some good discussion.

In the worship his lesson was entitled, "Why did my Savior come to Earth?" based on Philippians 2:5-8. He mentioned that Jesus came to earth to save, to serve, and to sacrifice. It was a good lesson. I enjoyed my visit and appreciate so much **Myron Coats** taking me out to lunch. He is a brother to **Jerry Coats** who preaches at Potts Camp.

I consider it at great honor to be able to visit and meet brethren throughout the northern part of Mississippi. Many wonderful Christians are doing some great works. I hope you will keep everyone in your prayers.

By Eddie Lewis,
Missionary to North MS
9423 Laurel Hill
Olive Branch, MS 38654
lewis7946@gmail.com

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Gospel Meeting

April 12-15, 2015

Sunday at 6:00 PM

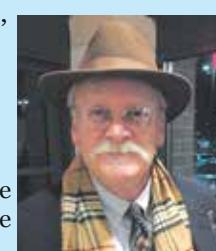
M-T-W at 7:00 PM

Evangelist

David Lipe

West President Street
Church of Christ
Greenwood, MS
(Mark Shiers, local preacher)

David Lipe,
prepared
for the cold
weather, as
seen at the
FHU lec-
tureship. He
will ALSO be
prepared
to effectively
preach the gospel in Greenwood.



MILE

(Continued from page 9)

ter and those Jews with him probably felt a considerable measure of personal discomfort the first time they went into a Gentile's house to teach him and his household the gospel (Acts 10: 1 – 48). And they were criticized for it (Acts 11: 1 – 18). Likewise some may accuse us of spiritual compromise when we violate some customs in order to observe other customs (we need to be sure they are not correct).

In our day when there is so much diversity in every setting, the servant of Christ who would be most effective must not retreat into a life that is bound by comfort. The bounds of our faith and practice must always be the

**In accommodat-
ing ourselves to
those of different
social or cultural
practices, we must
be absolutely sure
such accommoda-
tions do not violate
the truth.**

Brother
Gardner is an
elder and preacher for the
North Brandon church. His
address: John Gardner; P. O.
Box 251; Brandon, MS 39043
gardner.john43@gmail.com

MM Solicits Your Prayers

sus Christ Himself. Resurrection means you yourself and I myself can enjoy eternity with God and the Lord Jesus Christ Themselves!

(I am indebted to Dr. Jack Lewis in an unpublished manuscript, "The Nature of Man," for much of the information on soul and spirit in this response. However, he is not responsible for the conclusions reached. CM, Jr)

Wishing each of you a Healthy New Year! Know God will bless your work, dedication and love for people. Sincerely, (Bonnie Jueschke, Tulsa, OK)

Gospel Meeting

April 12 - 15, 2015

Sunday: 9 & 10 AM; 6 PM

Mon - Wed: 7:00 PM

Theme:

"Feed My Sheep"

Evangelist

A. L. Franks

Clinton

Church of Christ

155 Broadway

Clinton, MS

601.924.5300

(John Allan, local preacher)

When Paul was defending himself before the Jewish Council, he said, "It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial" (Acts 23:6). "The hope and the resurrection of the dead" remains every faithful Christian's hope, guaranteed by the resurrection of Je-

Seeking the Lost

- Eddie Lewis -

Luke 15:1-32

"Most Priceless Chapter in the Bible"

The 15th chapter of Luke is perhaps the most priceless chapter in the Bible. I say that because no chapter is more tender and loving. Some call it the "Gospel of the Gospel" and the parable of the Prodigal Son is known as the "Pearl of the Parables."

The original audience was the indignant Scribes and Pharisees. They are not interested in the Kingdom themselves, but they are mad that Jesus is welcoming into the Kingdom of God all the moral outcast of Jewish society. They criticize Him, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15: 2). In defense of His actions Jesus tells them three parables that present one point—the compassion of God for the lost.

Let's consider the parables. **First** is the story of the lost sheep. Sheep were always considered valuable because they were the main source of food, clothing, income and sacrifice. The shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to go and find the one that is lost. When he finds the sheep he rejoices because that which was lost is found.

The **second** parable is of a woman who lost a coin from her wedding dairy. The coin is not priceless. It is a denarius, only worth a day's wage, but it is priceless to her. When she finds it she rejoices because that which was lost is found.

The **third** parable is of the prodigal son. The son receives a third of the father's wealth. He thinks only of himself and goes to a foreign country. He loses all of his wealth and has to feed pigs to stay alive. He repents of his deed and goes home in humiliation to be a day laborer in his father's house. The father receives him home and rejoices that his son has returned.



Eddie Lewis

What are some of the lessons intended in these parables?

- **FIRST**, Jesus taught that men are lost. Some are like the sheep and just wander off through their own carelessness. They don't revolt against God or fight against the church, they just gradually slip away.

Some are like the coin and through the actions of others they are lost. Of course, people do have the responsibility to choose right or wrong.

Some are like the prodigal son and have a set purpose as they leave. Self-will is the root of many sins. Deliberately, with their eyes open, many forsake God and the church. They want to live to please self.

- **SECOND**, what is God's attitude toward the lost? This is the main point of the parables. God receives sinners. The Jews thought that God is merciful to the righteous, but has nothing to do with sinners. These parables show that God not only receives sinners, but diligently searches for them. Once they come to Him there is great joy.

This attitude is seen in two things. The diligent search of the shepherd and the woman show that God wants sinners to be saved. When someone is lost, God seeks the sinner. He doesn't force the sinner to return, but God still wants him to come home.

Also, the joy expressed when the sinner is found. This is one of the basic points of the parables. The shepherd,

the woman, and the father all have uncontrollable joy when that which was lost was found. The Jews felt that God rejoices when the sinner is punished.

- **THIRD**, how the lost are saved? In the story of the prodigal son Jesus tells how a young man, who threw his life away, reclaimed it.

1. What did he lose by his journey? The consequence of self-pleasing is always the same. He lost the fellowship of his father. He lost his self-respect. He lost all that he had—independence, pride, fortune.

2. The young man comes home. First is self-evolution—he came to himself. He was out of his mind when he left. It is a wonderful thing when a person sees their true self.

Second is the decision. He decided to go home and face his father.

Third, he acts on his decision. He didn't delay. He would not allow anything to turn him aside from his decision.

Fourth is the confession. He did not make excuses but told his father the truth. "Father I have sinned against Heaven and you and am no longer worth to be called your son."

Finally the father receives him with love and forgiveness. "My son who was dead is alive again." He had been looking for him all through those sad years. He runs to him. Why didn't he preserve his dignity and wait for the son to confess wrong? He couldn't because he loved his son.

God will receive you in the same way. Make a self-evaluation, have the courage to decide on what you must do, and act on that decision.

By Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North MS, 9423 Laurel Hill, Olive Branch, MS 38654.

We enjoy the MM from cover to cover. Thank you, Keep up the good work. (Havard Blazer, Elmore, AL)



Freddie Lawrence (Kosciusko/Nile) and His Chair

A Man And His Chair

*There is a man that would ride,
The roads in his wheel chair.
He visited his friends often,
To let them know he cared.*

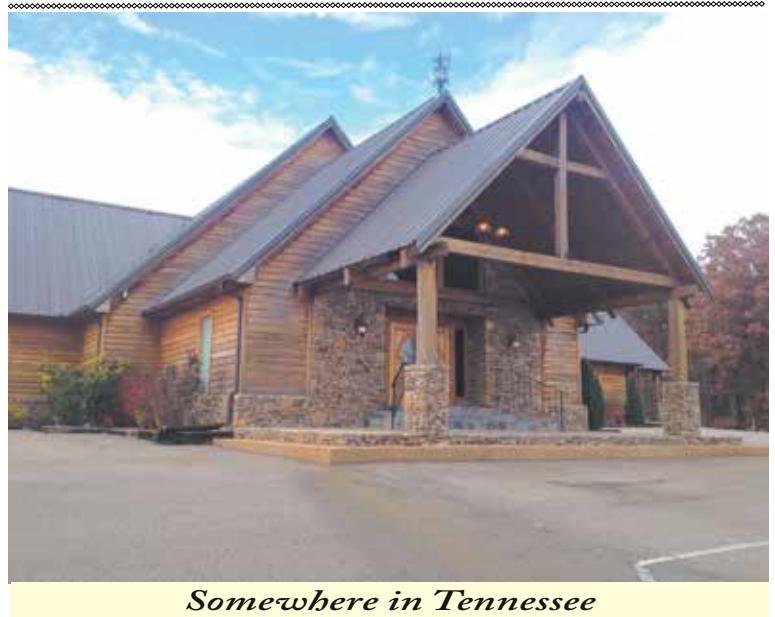
*He rode to worship every Sunday,
Until he lost his sight.
You never hear him complain because he knows,
God is taking care of him day and night.*

*Some may wonder why he rides,
In his chair rain or shine.
He might have done more than you and I,
and we are not blind.*

*He is in bed now most of the time,
So we no longer see his chair on the roads.
He doesn't worry, because he believes,
God will help him carry his load.*

*We don't know what tomorrow will bring,
Or if we will be able to show others we care.
He did all he could,
While riding the road in just a chair.*

by: Nina Thorn
(a sister to the man in the chair)
1135 Ratliff Ferry Rd.
Canton, MS. 39046-9688



Somewhere in Tennessee

Churches Looking For Preachers

NOTICE: We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. The inclusion of a congregation and/or preacher on this page or anywhere else in the MM is not be understood as an endorsement. Please check out!

We will plan to run each ad not more than one or two times unless a specific request for extension is received from the congregation looking for a preacher. **There is no charge for this service.** Thank you for asking!

BATON ROUGE

Goodwood Blvd

The Goodwood Blvd. church of Christ in Baton Rouge, LA is seeking a full-time, faithful minister to preach, teach, and build up the Lord's church. This church located NE of I-12 & Hwy 61 has about 200 members and is served by three elders. They desire a biblically sound, experienced preacher who boldly teaches the Word of God with love, the husband of one wife, and educationally qualified.

If you would like to know more about this congregation, contact John Pigg, presently the interim preacher (601-842-7801 or jpigg1@comcast.net). The church address is **10715 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815**. The web site is www.goodwoodchurch.org. Send resumes to preachersearch@goodwoodchurch.org. Church Office: Phone: 225-272-8936.

Reader Responds

Greetings,

In the Fall issue, **Dennis Doughty** quoted an e-mail he received from **Larry Pennington**. I submitted his name and was pleased to see how much he is impressed with MM. So are many others, judging from comments from new readers.

When our family lived in Warner Robins 1962-1971, we were good friends with the Penningtons, and my husband **Roy** had the privilege of baptizing Larry. Roy was the grandson of **Perry Gorddon Wright**, pioneer preacher in the Booneville area. Roy observed how effective he was in training young men for service.

He and **Jack Zorn** started a class to encourage that, so the **Lads to Leaders** program had a start there. June's article in the Winter issue was excellent, as all of hers are, and I pray that many will be motivated to help financially to continue the expansion of your outstanding publication. Only eternity will measure the good works you are doing. May God continue to bless all of you.

Because of a Cross, (**Mary Warren**, Memphis, TN) (Thank you Mary for your interesting and encouraging letter.)

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THANK YOU!

Coffeeville Church Seeks New Preacher

The Coffeeville Church of Christ in North MS is currently looking for a full time preacher. We have a Sunday AM attendance in the mid seventies. We offer adequate salary, a three bedroom, two bath house adjacent to the church building and partial utilities paid.

If interested, please contact **John W. Purdy**, phone 662-675-2681



Seeking Houseparents

We are searching once again for Christian houseparents to go into one of our girls' homes. The opening is immediate and we would love to talk to faithful Christian people who desire to join us in helping to make a difference in the lives of children.

Thank you for your willingness to get the word out. Prospective houseparents can learn more at nacch.com or call us at 256-757-4212 or 256-366-3327. Thank you so much. **Don Williams**, Executive Director

More Response

I receive the Magnolia Messenger and enjoy it so much. I always do the "Question Box." It helps me study. Wish I could do more and will if I can. Thanks, (Peggy Hartman)

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Carthage, Mississippi Church Would Like a Full-time Preacher

Eddie Neal and family, who preached for the Carthage church in central Mississippi for the past several years, has recently moved to Arkansas. At the present time, Emmette Armstrong of Kosciusko is willingly and freely filling the pulpit. While the Carthage church appreciates brother Emmette's help, they would like very much to enlist the assistance of a preacher who could live and work in their community of about 5,000 souls.

The Carthage church (about 20 in attendance) is planning to move their present church building to a new and more visible location on the southeast side of the city. The church is willing, but unable, to pay a full-time salary. They would especially like to discuss possibilities with a preacher who is "semi-retired" or one who can bring most of his support with him. For more information, please feel free to call one the church leaders -- **Bobby Clark** at 601-654-3527.

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things." (Rom. 10:15)

More Response

Enjoy the MM especially Bro. John Simpson's article. (**Lou Smith**, Arlington, TN)

Keep up the good work. We love and appreciate what all of you do for the Lord. In Christian Love, (Coy & Martha Daily, Iuka, MS)

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"A Wonderful Opportunity
For A Mission Minded Couple"

“Five Loaves and Two Fish” Plenty Enough!

Tom Moore

When Jesus fed the five-thousand, his disciples proposed what seemed to be logical plan. "Should we send the people into the towns to buy food?" They inquired of Jesus. His answer must have shocked his apostles! Jesus answered simply, "You feed them."

Two years ago, the Eastwood church of Christ in Haughton, Louisiana with a membership of fifty souls was wondering what a church so small could possibly do to impact a dying world that was so much in need. In the face of that overwhelming need, our "five barley loaves and two fish" seemed a meager inventory indeed. Yet after an intense period of congregational prayer and discernment, it seemed that Jesus answered us in exactly the way He answered his disciples long ago: What you have is enough—just start passing it out!"

So we did. Today we have two out-reach ministries that are providing needs to people in our community in the name of Jesus. We have accepted oversight of a cross-cultural mission to the Datoga Tribe in Kenya, East Africa. We are beginning to see the Lord work-

ing through us in so many ways—but the vision that He cast for us two years ago has not yet come to full fruition!

We continue to prayerfully search for a couple that have long-term plans to enter the mission field and who are in search of an oversight congregation. We desire that the couple be willing to come work with our congregation for eighteen months to two years to bond with us and help us build our outreach ministries.

In the meantime, while we would assist our couple in raising support for their mission and help them prepare to enter the field. When they are ready, we would launch them into their chosen mission field as their oversight congregation.

During our couple's bonding time with us, we are offering a salary, housing, and other benefits. When the couple is ready to enter the field, we are offering a generous mission start-up fund. We ask your readers to pray that the Lord will bless us with such a couple! We also ask that you direct anyone who may be interested in working with us to go to www.ewcoc.org for more information or to make application for the position.

Tom Moore's phone number:
318-347-4980
Ken Nichols--work # 318-212-4252 or cell: 422-3926



Housing Provided for Mission Minded Couple

Why We Have Family Home Devotionals

- Paul G. Dixon -

Solomon expressed long ago the importance of training and bringing up children. He admonished parents in Proverbs 22:6 to "Train up the child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

So, when Cindy and I were married, it was our desire to have children who would grow up to become faithful Christians. We wanted them to be active members of the Lord's body, the church. Our prayer was that one day they would select Christian mates.

We knew they would need a lot of help in accomplishing these goals. In Deuteronomy 6:7, the Jewish children were to be diligently taught by their parents. Parents were instructed to talk of the commandments of the Lord with their children when they sat in their houses, when they walked by the way, when they lay down and when they rose up from sleep.

This admonition points out four distinct parts of a day in which it was important to remember to talk about the Lord. We wanted to be parents like this, but knew once our children began school it would become very difficult to accomplish this same level of diligence. After both our son and daughter were born and old enough to be able to remember short sayings and sentences, we began to teach them to memorize scripture. Each night before going to bed we asked them to remember to say their Bible verses. At age five, they could recite ten to twenty verses each evening. We would also remind them to pray.

About that same time we began having nightly devotionals. Sometimes these were very brief,

depending on the kind of day we and our children had experienced, but we always managed to have them. Now that our children are grown, we can see how this quality time together benefitted all of us.

Our devotionals usually began about fifteen to twenty minutes before our children's bedtime. At the end of the day, we wanted them to take something more valuable with them to bed than a television show or video game.

We discovered that we had

As an elder, I understand the importance of training up children in the Lord and feel we need vast improvement in this area if we ever hope to save our youth.

found something quite enjoyable. We began to look forward to our family time together. These get-togethers at the end of the day not only fulfilled the desire to grow closer to God but also brought us closer to one another. I usually led the devotionals though everyone participated. We felt it was important that their mother and I were both present.

Sometimes we read a story from the Bible and ended our discussion with a moral or good deed we could emulate. Other times, we read and explained a passage of scripture. But, most often, we just began with inquiring about their day, something that one of their friends had said or some current event. Usually, our children had a question about something. And we would explore with them whatever it was. It was our goal to take any comment or statement and fit it into our study, making the application as simple as possible.

An excellent way to begin a home devotional is simply to explore an idea based on your child's

interests. For example, we asked, "Where did the dinosaurs come from?" or "Why do you suppose some people speak one language and some another?" Another popular feature we incorporated into our devotionals was time for questions and answers. We would ask Bible questions and wait for our children's responses. It is important to begin first with questions your children are already familiar with and then work up to those a little more difficult. Most children love to sing camp songs or children's Bible songs. Singing is an excellent way to encourage their participation.

As the years continued to go by, their questions became increasingly more intense and difficult. But we did our best to answer every one with, "Here is what the Bible says about it."

Some of the most difficult times occurred when our children were thinking more maturely about becoming Christians, and then later when discussions centered on dating and marriage.

One of the most challenging but beautiful lessons we taught our children is the importance of having their own personal devotionals each day. The time they set aside for reading the scriptures and for prayer remains today a powerful blessing in their lives!

Now our children are faithful Christians with homes of their own. We still frequently have family devotionals in one of our homes, where nieces, nephews, and friends all gather to study, sing, and pray.

We certainly never felt that we had all the answers, but here are some things that might help you when you have a family devotional in your own home.

BE CONSISTENT

Consistency is a key to success in every worthwhile project "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..." (Deuteronomy 6:7). The noble Bereans searched the scriptures daily in Acts 17:11. We usually had our devotionals on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Try not to skip, ever!

MAKE IT FUN

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). Make it enjoyable but brief, usually no more than 20 minutes! Choose quality time.

BE PREPARED FOR DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

Here are some that begin with (D): Demon possession, Drugs, Dancing, Divorce, Dress, Dipping (tobacco), Drinking.

REINFORCE THE BASICS

"Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Our children must learn that honoring parents, loving their neighbors, and respecting church leadership is essential. They also should be taught about the importance of church attendance, worship, helping people, and other basics of the Christian life.

SING A SONG

"Is any merry? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13). Children's songs such as "Jesus Loves Me" and "This Little Light of Mine" carry powerful and meaningful messages for our children and are easily remembered.

ADD SOME MEMORY WORK

Solomon stated: "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments." (Proverbs 3:1). It is easy to forget! We began teaching our children to memorize scripture at a very early age. The shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35), was their first memory verse. Then we kept rehearsing and learning new ones.

TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL TIME:

After years of family home de-

votionals, older children should be weaned to begin their own personal daily devotionals. Then the family can be supplemental and less frequent, maybe only once a week. Again, consistency is important; parents should monitor to be sure children are actually studying on their own.

These are just a few suggestions for planning your own family home devotionals. It could be that you need more help than what this brief tract can offer. Talk with those in your congregation who may have benefitted from this kind of training, or you might seek assistance from someone who would agree to come to your home and show you how to conduct an in-home devotional. In any event, please consider beginning these as soon as possible. Our children need every advantage available for them to fight for what is right in the midst of worldly influences. Let us remember to be "Redeeming the time for the days or evil"

Paul Gregory Dixon, 12689 Lakeland Hills Drive. Northport, Alabama, 35475. E-mail: gregory-2006usa@bellsouth.net.

Readers' Response

I truly want to thank all for the Magnolia Messenger, I received one awhile back and truly enjoyed it. Not knowing who sent it to me. Then I got this one recently. I am an inmate minister here. I shared y'all's articles to many in my Thursday Bible Study. Also our chaplain is Mr. Roy Anderson. He is also with the Church of Christ. He read y'all's last paper you sent. I want to thank you and all for the Magnolia Messenger... Also I have the Question Box... Thanks I truly enjoyed it. Will be looking for the next Magnolia Messenger. We also have a prayer circle in our chapel each day at 4:45 pm. We do a word of encouragement and bring petitions up in prayers. Y'all are in our prayers daily. Thanks a lot. Hebrews 12:2 (Michael Blanc II, Homer, LA)

A Reader Prays

Thank you for all your good work. Pray that you will continue to grow and give God all the glory." (Memphis, TN)

EDITOR'S RESPONSE

"Grow... Give God all the glory."

THANKS.

A needed admonition!

Detailed Schedule for April Rally on Page 11 Magnolia Messenger RV Rallies 2015

April 20-24, 2015

Lake Tiak-O'Khata
Louisville, MS

Call the resort at 1-662-773-7853 for reservations. Cabins, hotel rooms and RV sites are available! The earlier you call and reserve the better! (Paul Franks)

Rally Masters:
Garnett and Betty Harris
662-571-2854
bettyharris1003@yahoo.com

1st Annual AL-MS-TN Rally

November 4-7, 2015

J. P. Coleman State Park; Iuka, MS
Cabins, lodge rooms and RV sites available! Call the park early for reservations at 662-423-6515
Rally Masters:
Ronnie and Cathy Livingston
662-720-6015 -- cathy.livingston@norbord.com
Carl and Cathy Powell;
256-483-0422 -- carlpowell2@cp3.com

Fellowship Meals and Visiting Churches

- Report by Paul Franks -

I have been preaching some in Ripley, Mississippi. We are really enjoying getting to know the people in Tippah County and surrounding area. Brother **Cecil May**, when he was president of Magnolia Bible College would always compliment the generous spirit and faithfulness of Christians in this area.

After preaching in Ripley at 5:00 P.M. one Sunday, Glenda and I traveled 10 miles north on Hwy 15 to a community called Tiplersville to visit with the **Tiplersville church of Christ**. This building is one of the prettiest country buildings I have



Home of the Tiplersville Church

ever visited. The elders gave me the opportunity to talk about the *Magnolia Messenger* and, since it was singing night, they allowed me to lead most of the songs, which I enjoyed doing.

After the services, there was a housewarming finger food fellowship for **John and Jessica Meeks**. **Garry Martin** has been the preacher for the congregation for over 13 years. The elders are **Donnie Greene** and **Randle Miskelly**. The deacons are **Connie Alberson** and **Buddy Bell**. The church averages about 50 in attendance. This is a very friendly congregation and we enjoyed our visit very much. Thanks for the warm hospitality.

One Sunday recently, I was given the opportunity to teach the adult Bible Class and preach for the **Theo church of Christ**. This church is about 10 miles west of Corinth, MS, on Hwy 72 toward Memphis. When I think of Theo, I am reminded of the late **Marvin and Jewell Raney**. Brother Marvin was a gospel preacher and a successful business man who worked with the Theo congregation. Many years ago, when I would travel in the area, I knew that I was always welcome at their home near Theo, Mississippi.

Today, the church has a beautiful building on this major highway in North Mississippi. **Ron Adams** is the preacher. On the Sunday I was able to



Where the Theo Church of Christ Assembles

visit, there was also a fellowship meal after the morning worship service. We had a great time of fellowship and enjoyed getting to know the wonderful brethren in Theo.

We received an updated copy of their mailing list, because the leaders of the church told me that they love the *Messenger* and wanted to make sure that everyone in the church received it. Thanks for the warm reception we received from the Theo congregation.

That Sunday night we traveled to the **Strickland Church** on the east side of Corinth, MS on Hwy 72. We enjoyed worshiping with (Ripley) Terry Street Church Leaders Raymond Elliott (deacon) Taj Colom (elder) and (on right) Matthew Myles, Sr., preacher

has around 200 in attendance. **Brad Dillingham** has been the preacher for this church for over 33 years. **Terry Smith** just recently began to work as the youth minister for this "large country" congregation.

The church is served by three elders, **Mike Coln**, **David Nowell** and **Gary Walden**. The church has also two deacons, **Randy Beaty** and **Randy Wood**. David Nowell, who is the son of **Lennis**



Strickland: Lawrence Okoth Njoge & Lawrence Barr

Nowell, a long time preacher in Mississippi, made several encouraging remarks concerning our work with the *Messenger*.

That night, long time missionary for Kenya who is living in the Corinth area and worships with the Strickland church, **Lawrence Barr** arranged to have a missionary from Kenya speak. His name is **Lawrence Okoth Njoge**. Brother Njoge did an outstanding job preaching the gospel of Christ and informing us of the good work that is going on in Kenya in Africa.

After services, Terry invited us to stay for a fellowship meal with the youth. We had a delightful time getting to visit with a great group of young Christians.

After preaching in Ripley one Sunday morning we drove by the **Terry Street church** in Ripley to check on a time when we could attend their services. There were many cars in the parking lot, so we decided to stop and



go in. (*Yes, I thought they might be having a fellowship meal.*) They were just concluding their services for that day and we got to visit with some of the leaders of the church.

Their preacher or evangelist is **Matthew Myles, Sr.** He has been with this church for over three years. This church, which is about 80 years old has over 80 in attendance and is blessed to also have a beautiful building.

The church is served by two elders, **Taj Colom** and **Kevin Simmons**. They have two deacons, **Raymond Elliott** and **Brandon Sphight**. We were encouraged to come back and visit again and we are making plans to do just that. Maybe on a Sunday when they are planning to have a fellowship meal. We love visiting churches and enjoying fellowship meals with brethren. (apaulfranks@gmail.com. **662-792-2700**)



Home of the Highway 15 Church of Christ in Biloxi

The Story Of A Resilient Biloxi Congregation

- Report by Carlus Page -

In the lingering hours following Hurricane Katrina, in August of 2005, stood an entire coastline stricken by disaster. Amongst those affected were several congregations of the Lord's people. The once named, Division Street congregation in Biloxi, Mississippi was amongst those affected and now had some uncertain days ahead.

During Katrina, the Division Street building was flooded with approximately 8 feet of standing water, along with numerous additional aliments. This congregation immediately began trying to put the pieces back together. With the aid of many congregations and the churches of Christ Disaster Relief, the Division Street members assisted by aiding the community while trying to figure out the congregation's next move.

Shortly after Katrina, the congregation began meeting under a tent located on the Division Street property. After enduring the winter months worshiping under the tent, it was not until May of 2006 that the congregation was able to replace the tent with a trailer. Throughout much adversity and discouragement this resilient congregation remained steadfast and in 2009 purchased the building in North Biloxi where the congregation meets today, thus becoming the Highway 15 church of Christ.

This congregation began to meet back in the 60's with the foresight of late Bro. **Jim Henry Warren** seeking to expand the borders of God's Kingdom along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Present day, this body of believers continue to hold to the old path of the first century church, seeking to be that beacon of light that will guide the lost to Christ along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

In August of this year, the church of Christ Highway 15 hired Bro. **Carlus D. Page**, as their new minister. Brother Carlus is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and has been preaching the gospel for

approximately 10 years. Brother Carlus is the former minister of the church of Christ in Lumberton, MS and has labored with several congregations on an interim basis along South Mississippi.

Brother Page relocated to Mississippi in 2007 after spending some time with the church of Christ Westside in Pensacola, Florida. There he labored with and assisted Bro. **Michael Shepherd** while also working with the youth there. In addition, Brother Page's farther, Bro. **Curtis Page**, is the minister of the Williamson Avenue church of Christ in Jackson, Mississippi.

This congregation being small in number, after years of rebuilding and continuing to rebuild, are confident and faithful that this is the beginning of a new day for this congregation in Biloxi, Mississippi. They are in dire need of prayer and support as they can not effectively support their new minister as they desire.

If your elders or congregation would like to render support to this work, please contact Bro. **Charles Mitchell** at (228)235-6118 or Bro. **Richard Saulsberry** at (228)217-2262. The congregation's address is 13181 Reece Bergeron Road Biloxi, Mississippi 39532 or email at highway15coc@gmail.com. Please be in prayer with/for this congregation. *"But now are they many members, yet but one body."* I Corinthians 12:20



Carlus D. Page
Preacher at Biloxi (Hwy 15)

Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat

- Report by Betty Moss-

September 25 and 26, 2015

"Plan Ahead; Time Flies!"

Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat (*Twenty Years of Celebrating Christ*) is scheduled for September 25 and 26, 2015. We are planning two days of lessons that will bring our minds and hearts closer to Christ. The camp is a heart-warming place to learn and make new friends that will last for a lifetime.

The ladies are working very hard to make our twentieth meeting a wonderful learning experience and an uplifting program for all ages of women. (*We have special classes for the younger women.*)

Make your plans as soon as possible. We would love to see three and four generations of ladies. We have had as many as 20 congregations represented from 3-4 states.

You will never spend a more uplifting time. For more information and to put your name on the mailing list, please call **Kari Martin at 870-404-3658**. God bless you. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of new faces and all the old ones. So plan ahead. Time flies! (*Betty Moss, Kosciusko, MS*)



Somewhere in Mississippi

Answers - - Last Issue THE QUESTION BOX Does Doctrine Matter?

Paul told Timothy, "Take HEED unto THYSELF and unto the DOCTRINE; continue in THEM: for in doing this thou shalt both SAVE thyself and them that HEAR thee." (I Timothy 4:16)

Combine Into One Verse

(Match the left half with the right half. Give chapter or verse)

1. "...If ye continue in my word then ye..."
2. "... mark them which cause divisions and..."
3. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you..."
4. "... Ye do err..."
5. "But in vain they do worship me..."
6. "Also of your own selves shall men arise..."
- (6) speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20: 30)
- (5) teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9)
- (4) not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." (Matt. 22:29)
- (3) in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15)
- (1) are my disciples indeed" (John 8: 31)
- (2) offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." (Rom. 16: 17)

True or False (Please study references)

1. **TRUE** Respect for the authority of the Bible may require actions that are contrary to our human nature. (Rom. 7:18-25)
2. **TRUE** When God's will conflicts with our will, God's will must always be done! (Matt. 26:39)
3. **TRUE** Religious confusion and division often comes because of a lack of respect for Bible authority. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; I Cor. 1:10; I Cor. 14:33)
4. **TRUE** If you are truly "spiritual," you are willing to heed the Word of God (the Spirit's sword). (Eph. 6:14-17)
5. **FALSE** God wants us to be happy; thus, God is pleased when we please ourselves. (2 Tim. 4:2-4; Rom. 15:1-3)
6. **TRUE** Truth mixed with anything else is not truth.
7. **TRUE** We can be sure we know Him if we are obedient to his commands. (I John 2:3)

Remember This Verse

(Fill in missing words) "Not everyone that SAITH unto me, Lord, Lord, shall ENTER into the kingdom of GOD; but he that DOETH the will of my FATHER which is in heaven." (Matt 7: 21)

Wisconsin Churches of Christ Few & Far Between

Wisconsin Reader Writes

Bless all of you for printing such a wonderful Christian-newspaper. We want to tell you about our small congregation...

We are one of few churches of Christ in Wisconsin, the only one in the county. Probably 52 Churches of Christ in Wisconsin in all. We travel 14 miles to our Tomah congregation... Two couples live in Tomah, everyone else out of 40 of us total, travel as much as 50 some miles through Amish Country side, many hills and curvy country roads to worship Sunday mornings and teach or take part in Bible Study.

We have just past 12 months been self-supporting... There are many German, Swiss and especially Norwegians. I am a transplant myself, was a Roman Catholic from Canada. My mother was French so am originally from Province of Quebec.

I married my husband, Ken, who was from an all Christian family. Read the Bible first time and realized a middle-man was not needed. One can go directly to Him for forgiveness or any other reason we want to pray for...

Thank you for all the workers that help to print your newspaper "Magnolia Messenger." Sincerely, (Terry Kiel, Sparta, WI)

(Thanks Terry for your nice letter and encouragement. We are grateful that the Magnolia Messenger reaches you in Wisconsin. Your letter also reminds us that there are far too many places where the Lord's church is not well known. MJF)

MM Goes Into Every State

MM
Circulation: 26,000+
We Are Thankful!

Answer
"The Question Box"
on page 24
It may help
to strengthen &
Save YOUR Soul!

The Silent Killers

- Roger Johnson -

In the medical field some diseases have been designated as the "silent killers" because they gradually consume you without causing any serious symptoms in the early stages. Imperceptibly, they do their damage before the problem is even diagnosed.



Roger Johnson

Some of these "silent killers" are hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, lung cancer, and colon cancer. Because of their "silent" nature, it is important to have regular medical examinations in order to diagnose a problem before it is too late.

Just as there are some "silent killers" of our physical body there are silent killers of our spiritual life as well. They do their insidious work almost imperceptibly until they destroy a meaningful relationship with God and our fellow man. They ruin our happiness and joy as Christians and render us ineffective in our service to God. They generate a cynical and critical attitude of just about everyone and everything around us, our family included.

SPIRITUAL

Envy

Jealousy

Lukewarmness

Materialism

Among these "silent killers" of our spirituality is ENVY. Solomon described envy as the "rotteness of the bones" (Prov. 14:30). This insidious killer of the spiritual life eats away at the heart and makes it impossible to have good will toward your fellow man.

Another is JEALOUSY. This killer is closely akin to envy. Paul said, "For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only

in a human way?" (1 Cor. 3:3, ESV). James declared, "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice" (Jas. 3:16).

L U K E - WARMNESS

is so despicable before God that he will spit out of his mouth those who are afflicted with this dreaded

killer (Rev. 3:16). Silently, almost imperceptibly, it does its disastrous work. It creeps into a person's life in such a way that he doesn't even realize he has drifted away from God and is blinded by his indifference. He thinks he is "on fire for God" and doesn't realize he is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked (Rev. 3:17).

MATERIALISM

ISM is so insidious that it convinces man that in his pursuit for earthly gain, he is serving God. He thinks that his wealth is evidence of his good standing before God when, in reality, it may be indicative of evil that is lurking in his heart (1 Tim. 6:20). Jesus called a man a "fool" for laying up treasure for himself and was not rich toward God (Lk. 12:16-21).

We would be wise to turn to the Great Physician and examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5) lest we let these "silent killers" of the soul destroy us now and in eternity.

Roger Johnson
Edgewood Church of Christ
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There is no substitute for the truth of God's Word. (Read John 8:32)

... From A Woman's Viewpoint ...

A Night At The ER

A few months ago we were waiting in an ***Emergency Waiting Room*** at the local hospital along with a family member who was very sick. She was in a lot of pain and had gone to the ER to find out why she was hurting and to get some relief from the intense pain.

We are thankful that we were not there because of our own illness; however, when a loved one is hurting you want be with them to show your care and to pray with them that they be relieved from the severe pain.

When you experience a few hours in an ER waiting room, you are reminded of how many are suffering -- day and night, everywhere. You see first hand there is a lot of suffering in this "ole" world.

We were also reminded that God has never promised any of us that we would be free of sickness or related problems in our life.

Job is certainly an example of one that experienced human sufferings. We learn from Job that severe afflictions are not always caused from some great sin that one may have committed. The Bible says, "... Job was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1).

After all the loss suffered by Job, the Bible says, "Then Job rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job 1:20-22)

That night in the ER waiting room, we noticed that everyone seemed to be in the same situation. The waiting room was very crowded. You just had to wait your turn to see the nurse or doctor. This included the young and the old, rich and the poor, and those of different races.

This reminded us that sickness shows no partiality. Whatever our status may be in life, we are not immune to sickness.

Being in the ER that night also reminded us that, if we have good health, we should be so very thankful and not take our health for granted.



June Franks

The Bible says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5: 20) "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5: 18)

Even as we were definitely reminded of ***physical*** illnesses that night in the ER, we were also reminded of ***spiritual*** sickness that is so prevalent in the world today. While physical sickness is certainly bad -- especially if we are the one sick, spiritual sickness is even much worse because it could influence where we even spend eternity.

If we are sick physically, it is understandable that we will spend all we might have in order to be free of pain or so we may be able to live longer. Satan even said, "...Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life." (Job 2:4)

Let each of us consider our spiritual situation. You may be one who has never become a Christian. Becoming and being a Christian is the most important decision that you will ever make in their life. You may have become a Christian, but find yourself putting everything else before your God and His Church.

A story is told of a man who had quit attending church services. Someone from the local congregation came to visit and found a fire burning in the fireplace. The visitor took a red hot coal from the fire and laid it aside.

In silence, the visitor and the man who had stopped attending worship services, watched as the once red hot coal changed colors, changing from hot to warm to cold.

This is the way it is with us if we continually forsake the assembly. We are like that coal of fire. We become cold and our

hearts often become hardened. We are no longer on fire for the Lord. One's spirituality might rightly be questioned. Of course, one can sit on a pew in a church building week after week and still not be very spiritual. Church attendance is very important and is a great blessing, but it certainly takes a lot more.

The Bible says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12: 1, 2)

One thing that stood out in the ER waiting room were the noises heard from those who were suffering. The pain was so intense from some of those waiting to see the doctor, that there were sounds of moaning, crying and, at times, it sounded almost like the "gnashing of teeth." Reminds us of Bible warnings about Hell. "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13: 41, 42)

We may not have control over the physical pain that sometimes overtakes our bodies, but we do have control over the choices we make in life, resulting either in Heaven or Hell.

We should make it our aim in life to go to Heaven. Looking at the description of heaven compared to hell, we definitely should make heaven our goal. "... And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21: 4)

We trust that we have learned some lessons from our "Night at the ER." Together, let us thank the Good Lord that ***there will be no need for an ER in Heaven.***

Mrs. A. L. Franks
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*Comments Are Invited
and Welcomed by MM*

POEMS

By
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray
bcagleray@comcast.net



EDITOR'S NOTE: Several weeks ago, we received a note from Barbara in which she said, *"It is with much regret that I write this note. Due to illness, I will not be submitting poems this coming year as I usually do... I hope you will continue to use the ones you have on hand. Thank you again, and God bless."* (signed, Barbara)

Morning Walk

*Amidst the dew of early dawn,
I took a morning walk,
And along with me I took a friend,
For I felt a need to talk.*

*I unburdened both my heart and soul,
And spoke of many things:
Of plans gone wrong, of failure's pain,
And how to live with shattered dreams.*

*My friend just listened quietly,
And uttered not a word,
For it was his time to listen,
And my time to be heard.*

*His sympathetic ear brought peace
As we walked this earthly sod,
And I learned to trust in life again
On my morning walk with God.*

Silver-White Memories

Deep within my memory lives an image
Of a winter morning many years ago.
I went dashing to the frosted windowpane
To admire the swirling flakes of snow.

The creek's surface was solidly frozen,
Icicles glittered in the morning light.
Oh, what a picturesque scene I recall—
Majestic memories of silver-laced white.

In the distance stood a lofty mountaintop
With evergreens robed in pearl-tipped gowns.
They stood so stately and reached so high,
Surely they touched Heaven with their crowns.

All the uphill trails were snowed over,
I could see the eagles sailing high.
If God had given me their mighty wings,
I would have soared upward to the sky.

As a child, I loved frosted mountain tops;
A marshmallow world was a pure delight.
Thru the years I've come to love them more—
God has also crowned me silver-white.

"The Question Box"**These Sent In Answers****(See page 24)**

1. Riley Hogue
 2. Donna Schmitz
 3. Paul Franks
 4. Dianne Peeler
 5. Nathan Robertson
 6. Lynsey Robertson
 7. Justin Luster
 8. Anna Luster
 9. David Cook
 10. Bruce Wallis
 11. Peggy Wallis
 12. Grace Floyd
 13. Betty Henry
 14. Wendy Roberson
 15. Kathy Hill
 16. Olivia Griffin
 17. Mike Griffin
 18. Edna Griffin
 19. Wade Huddleston
 20. Sue Huddleston
 21. David Hudson
 22. Linda Hudson
 23. Michelle Shapley
 24. Nick Shapley
 25. Nathan Stanford
 26. Jon Stanford
 27. Jennifer Stanford
 28. James D. Nunnally
 29. Jo Nunnally
 30. Doris Farrow
 31. Cole Chapman
 32. Donna McMillin
 33. Judy Wright
 34. Tammy Chapman
 35. Patrick Chapman
 36. Peyton Shapley
 37. Karson Meeks
 38. Sonny Meeks
 39. Karen Meeks
 40. Robert Elliott
 41. Lauren Elliott
 42. Michele Elliott
 43. Rob Elliott
 44. Grey Roberson
 45. Rodney Chapman
 46. Dana Chapman
 47. Brenda Chapman
 48. Wand McCollum
 49. Darlene Starns
 50. Charles Ellis
 51. Dr. Bert Brown
 52. Helen Brown
 53. Daniel McMillin
54. Caleb McMillin
 55. Tim McMillin
 56. Mary Jo Lence
 57. Latie Willingham
 58. Diana Sanders
 59. Carolyn Medlin
 60. Ramonia McAlister
 61. Roger McAlister
 62. Bonnie S. Jordan
 63. Charles Shelton
 64. Carole Shelby
 65. Bob Simpson
 66. James Wilburn
 67. Marcia Meeks
 68. Eddy Meeks
 69. Bailey Reese
 70. Mary Lou Elder
 71. Wanda Orman
 72. Regina Morton
 73. Billy R. Morton
 74. Phyllis Gay
 75. Charlotte White
 76. Alex Green
 77. Kelsi Fournier
 78. Sam Green
 79. Eli Carter
 80. Laura Green
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 82. Glenda Franks
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