



Magnolia Messenger

JUNE/JULY, 2007 -- VOLUME 29; NUMBER 3 -- Our 29th Year

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

MAGNOLIA MESSENGER
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"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, **thou art God.**" (Psalms 90:2) No matter where or how you travel, the evidence is abundant and clear. **God is!** Creation requires a Creator. (See page 19)
Several Christians Come Together For A Cruise to Alaska

The Magnolia Messenger is Supported by Interested Congregations and Individuals.
Thanks from the Franks



Are Gospel Meetings
Out of Style?
Not all brethren think they are!
See Pages 4,5,6 & 8

Christians
At Antioch
Have New
Church
Building



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Mack Lyon

Churches of Christ

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First in a Series of Four
Vital Studies

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More and more there are those of the church who are participating with others in preacher exchanges or other joint services. What do you think of this? (F. A.)

Biblical Response

by Cecil May, Jr.
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Cecil May, Jr.

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Magnolia Bible College

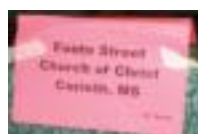
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speaker

Tom Holland

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The Kindest People**
(Is your name on page 13?)

She
Lived
to be
over
100
Died
3/10/07



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Alma Dee Towns
Lived Many Years in
Copiah County, Mississippi

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

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Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Thank you for such a nice picture and article in the MM. We appreciate being in the company of David Wade and his wife and the Iveys... Very good layout... We enjoyed getting to be with y'all so much and appreciate all the cheer you spread around as you travel. Do come again. Blessings, **Ann Smithson** (Chattanooga, TN.)

Bro. Franks,

Your article in the March/April MM really hit me. I will be 64 in a few days and up until March 12 of this year, had both of my parents still with me.

On that day my dad died. It was a blessing for him and his family. He was ready -- spiritually, physically, emotionally, to go on to his reward.

In the intervening weeks I have seen what widows go through when their mate dies. This, after 69 years of marriage, for my folks. My mother spent the whole time devoted to my father and his needs. She is now at a loss of her purpose in life. Fortunately I preach in the same town and she has temporarily (?) moved in with us. She is 95, but in good health.

For the last few weeks I have realized how I have neglected the many widows in this congregation. And I believe most Christians are in a similar situation. My wife does a great job of communicating and visiting and taking fruit salad or other treats to them. But I cannot ride on her apron strings. There will be a sermon on this soon and a public apology from me!

I enjoy reading the MM. **Don DeLukie**, who preaches for the Jackson Street church in Monroe, LA subscribed for me several years ago. (Name withheld by editor)

Hi, I have a prison ministry with which I offer Bible study to prisoners all over the U.S. One of the men has been working the studies for a couple of years, and occasionally writes an article for the leaflets I send out. He has really come to a crossroads recently where he took the right road. He is doing so great; praise the Lord!

I just received the MM and I would like to ask you to please send him the issue I just received (March/April) and put him on the mailing list. There are some articles in here I want him to be able to read. It has to be mailed from you, not me. There is a lot of Catholicism and other such teachings in the prisons and I want him to have this paper to read so I know he is getting biblical material. Thank you so much! **Charlene**

The Magnolia Messenger is the best regional publication in our entire brotherhood. You publish good news and sound Biblical teaching. You are making a great contribution to the strength of God's people. I pray that you can continue this good work for many, many years. Here's my donation to help make it so. Cordially, **Ken Joines** (Southaven, MS)

Thanks for reading and 'riting to the Magnolia Messenger

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

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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 or do. We do not (can not) have full knowledge of every person or church mentioned in the 'MM'; furthermore, we do not believe that our role before God is to be that of a judge. We pray, however, that we will never lend encouragement to anyone or anything in conflict with, or not in harmony with that which is plainly taught in Scripture. Your comments invited and encouraged. (A. L. Franks, Editor)

E-Mail: franksmm@aol.com

- 1949 -

Reader Remembers Pervie Nichols & The Old Union Church

I was baptized in August of 1949 after hearing 3 of Pervie Nichol's lessons. My neighbor, Bill Ferguson, and his wife, Hazel, provided a ride to Old Union to hear brother Nichols. Later that same year my family and I moved here to California, near my brother.

About 3 months ago, the Magnolia Messenger had an article about Old Union in Carroll County about Arvis Watson, who was a cousin of my husband. I've lost my copy. May I please have another copy. We now have 3 congregations here where there was one in 1949. We built a church in Davis, CA, 10 miles from here. Also one in Dixon. So you see, we have not been idle. I bless Bill and Hazle, though they have been gone many years ago to be with our Lord. Thanks again, **Lula Mae Carpenter** (Woodland, CA).



See ship. Who made it? A "big bang"? Only a fool would so answer. See sea? See mountains. Who made them? "A big bang"? Only a fool would so say. Study Psalms 14:1 -- "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God....' Read Genesis 1:1 -- "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Truth is: There is a "Big" God; not a "Big" Bang.

Never An Alcoholic!

It is possible to live to be old and never run the risk of becoming an alcoholic. The way to **never** become an alcoholic is amazingly simple, inexpensive, healthy and wise.

Never take that first drink.

Why should anyone take the chance? It is reported that one out of 10 persons who begin the practice of drinking alcoholic beverages will become addicted (an alcoholic). Why drink? What good reason? None, whatsoever!

An abundance of non-alcoholic beverages, including pure water, are readily available. This may not have always been the case. But, even way back in Bible times, Scripture declares, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and who-soever is deceived thereby, is not wise." (Prov. 20:1)

Addiction produces disease, divorce, disasters, destruction and death! Let's go a step further than the commercials which declare, "Don't drink and drive." Let's join together and plead earnestly: (b) **Don't drink and live. Really live!**

So, be wise. Never take that first drink. If this admonition has come too late, then, the next best thing is -- **Never take another drink!** (alf)

Read a Plea From A Prisoner on Page 2

Thank you so much for your great paper. (**Harold Krape**, Saint Charles, MO)

I recently picked up a copy of this paper while visiting in Pigeon Forge, TN. I enjoyed it and would like to receive it. Please send it to the above address. Thank you, (**George L. Teel**, Paducah, KY)

Mrs. Newman has a smile that just "radiates." She is always there to help even though she has had to deal with cancer and treatments this past year. She is "thankfully" cancer free at this time. I would love to see her recognized in some way. Both she and her husband, J. C. and daughter Carolyn are active Christians and certainly assets to our Aberdeen church family. They have been married for many years and are an example in their marriage as well. (**Emma Wheeler**, Aberdeen, MS)

I would sincerely appreciate a subscription to your "Magnolia Messenger." I am a Christian, and have been for almost 20 years. As you can see, I am currently incarcerated and have been since I was 18 years old (I am now 38 years old). I used to receive this newspaper, but have moved to other prisons and lost the address. (My friend found it a few months ago.) I hope that it is still being published. For I truly enjoyed the many Christian articles. Thanks a lot for your consideration. God Bless. (**Jeff Freeman**, Spruce Pine, NC)



A. L. Franks
EDITOR

Family

More Precious Than Ever!

A first cousin not seen in more than fifty years!

David Belvin
Visited
5/17/07



As we grow older, **family** becomes more and more precious. Perhaps, in part, because aging helps us to understand what or **who** really counts in life and, also because so many family members have and/or passing away. Fewer and fewer of the older ones remain; but, those who do, seem to become more precious with the passing of time.

On Thursday, May 17, 2007, my June and I were blessed, along with my sister (Ina Sadler) to see and to visit first cousins and an aunt (*our mother's brother's sons and wife*) that we had not seen in more than 50 years. It was a joyful reunion to see our Aunt **Charlotte** and two of her three sons -- **David** and **Mark**? We were richly blessed to spend a few hours together in beautiful Seattle, Washington (the state where they have lived for many, many years). This long over due reunion reminded us anew of the value of "family", our physical family.

We also were reminded of the great value of our spiritual family -- brothers and sisters in the Lord. We were richly blessed, my June and I, with the wonderful opportunity of spending seven days and nights with several spiritual family members who came from six different states to join together in a delightful cruise to Alaska. I am grateful for the reminders. How precious **family** is -- both physical and spiritual. (editor)

Bible Questions Answered

MM Reader Asks:

QUESTION: More and more there are those of the church who are participating with others in preacher exchanges or other joint services. What do you think of this? (F. A.)

RESPONSE: Thank you for your question and for your confidence in my opinion. As I am sure you know, what I think does not matter very much. There are some biblical principles to consider, however, and we should try to apply them reasonably.

Not Isolationism

While we are to be “not of the world,” Christ has sent us “into the world” just as the Father sent him into the world (John 17:16, 18). Christ ate with sinners, rebuked Pharisees and demonstrated in face-to-face discussion the error of Sadducees. Paul preached in Jewish synagogues and reasoned with Greek philosophers in their gathering place. We must interact with those who follow the religions of our day.

A preacher can study for sermons and lessons, visit the sick and bereaved of his congregation, socialize and plan with elders, deacons and members, attend and preside at members’ weddings and funerals—stay quite busy day and night—and never have meaningful association with most of the local population. That is not only possible, it is the way things often naturally go unless deliberate efforts are made to do otherwise.

There are many good ways of meeting a diversity of people. Active civic club membership, coaching children’s sports and providing leadership in scouting are good ways, though certainly not an exhaustive list. These put us in contact with active members of other religious groups and are desirable for just that reason.

Both the unchurched and those who are active religiously but need “someone to explain to (them) the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:26) can benefit from association with us and from what we have to teach them. (And, incidentally, we can learn from them as well.) We will not help everyone whom we get to know, but we are highly unlikely to convert anyone we do not know.

Not Participation in Sin

Or Encouragement of Error

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them” (Ephesians 5:11). Whoever encourages or supports someone as he brings something different than the teaching of Christ “takes part in his wicked works” (2 John 11).

Two Mormon “elders” came to our door and asked us to study with them. We had just prepared to sit down to soup and sandwiches for lunch and we invited them to eat with us. They accepted and we had a good study following the meal, contrasting the Book of Mormon with the Bible.

We were not encouraging their doctrine. We were friendly and kind to them, but we worked diligently to change their minds.

On the other hand, if we were to provide food for them regularly to support them in their door-to-door proselytizing for Mormonism, that would clearly violate 2 John 11 and other biblical admonitions.

The passages cited above do not forbid contact or association designed to correct or convert. The KJV of Ephesians 4:11 says “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.” The ESV (English Standard Version) quoted above says “take no part in” them. “Fellowship” is joint participation. The two translations forbid the same thing: participating with others in sin. The passage does not forbid having association with some who may be involved in sin.

Jesus associated with drunkards, gluttons and other sinners. As a result he was falsely accused of being one of them (Matthew 11:19). But of course he was not; association did not make him so. His justification of such association is as valid now as then: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick” (Matthew 9:12).

Judge By Their Fruits

A valid way to tell whether a given person’s associations are

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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for the purpose of endorsing and encouraging or for correcting and reproving is to consider the totality of that person’s teaching, actions and beliefs.

One man consistently teaches against religious division, emphasizes the importance of offering to God in worship only what God has indicated in Scripture he wants, and recognizes both the necessity of baptism for salvation and the implication that flows from it: that is, whoever has not been baptized is not saved. It can be safely assumed that in any association that person has with people of whatever religion, his purpose will be to change them.

Another man teaches that unbaptized people may still have God’s Spirit and should be accepted as brothers and sisters, that instrumental music in worship is solely a matter of opinion and we should be willing to participate in it for unity’s sake. He generally seeks the company and approval of preachers from other religious groups over that of his brothers in Christ. It may be safely assumed that his associations are for the purpose of encouraging and endorsing what they believe.

Not Where He Preaches But What He Preaches

In addition, what a person says and does in the process of his association matters. If he says or implies to unbaptized people that they are among the redeemed, he is there for the wrong reasons. If

he participates in worship with instrumental accompaniment, he is declaring that such unauthorized worship is acceptable.

One does not have to specifically condemn every error a group might share. He certainly does not have to set out to make them so mad they will never invite him back again. But if he is true to his charge as a preacher of truth, he will work to the best of his judgment and ability to move them from where they are closer to where they need to be.

Exercise Good Judgment

Even assuming right motivation, some types of association are more likely to be productive, some are more likely to be harmful.

Following is my judgment about some different kinds of association:

If invited to preach in a denominational setting, with no restrictions on what may be preached, it is good to accept and use the occasion to help them.

A lesson that may accomplish that might emphasize the need for unity, thus striking an agreeable cord. Then it could show that unity cannot be achieved based on your accepting all of my opinions or on my acquiescing to your opinions, but that we should be able to be unified based on what Scripture says.

A good approach usually starts with something on which there is agreement and moves on to challenge thinking on things that can be shown to be clear in Scripture. This is a biblical technique, used by Amos (Amos 1-3), by Paul on Mars Hill (Acts 17) and in his epistles, and by the apostles generally as they preached in synagogues.

I was given the opportunity once to present the five Jule Miller

filmstrips over the course of five monthly meetings to a “Methodist Men’s Club.” I did so gladly with good results.

On the other hand, it is a different thing altogether to invite a preacher from another religious group to speak at one of our assemblies. It obscures in members’ minds the important distinction between the church and denominationalism, and opens up the likelihood of erroneous things being taught.

Much good has been accomplished by cooperating with other religious people on moral issues. Gambling and liberalization of liquor sales are issues on which important battles have been fought and won by such cooperation.

Some of today’s important battles are on abortion, sexual promiscuity and homosexual activity. People of all religions have a stake in churches and preachers being allowed to continue to speak out against such things as sinful without being charged with “hate speech” or losing tax-exempt status.

On the other hand, to participate as a sponsor and equal participant in an evangelistic campaign in which a generic “faith only” message is preached and those who respond are encouraged to “join the church of your choice” involves too much of a compromise of truth.

Let’s be judicious in the kind of association we choose.

Conclusion

God has given his church the tasks of preaching the gospel to the lost, helping the members grow to maturity and, where necessary, reclaiming the lost.

May we be diligently about those tasks, in every feasible way, until the Lord returns. ■

PRECIOUS PROMISES: “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for *length of days, and long life, and peace*, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee... So shalt thou *find favour and good understanding* in the sight of God and man.”

At the Por Los Niños children's homes we believe in empowering children to face the future. This means feeding the children physically, mentally, and spiritually. We provide a loving home-style atmosphere with Christian house parents in a village setting. A good education is foremost and we are currently building a new school which will have a computer lab, library, and English language courses.

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Call us today and help give a child hope to face the future.

Sunnybrook Children's Home A Year of Change

- Joe Hodges -

On April 1st of 2006, a year of change began at Sunnybrook Children's Home and changes have become a part of our lives here since. Change is not new to Sunnybrook as it is an everyday event in the ministry of Christian Child Care as children come and go at an ever increasing rate and life changing events take place regularly. However, this past year has been full of significant changes that are outside of our everyday happenings.

The year began with the resignation of Sunnybrook's Executive Director Terry Moore on April 1, 2006. Mr. Moore cited a desire to return to Texas to be near family as his reason for resigning. His resignation came as an unexpected surprise to the Sunnybrook Board of Directors. The Board of Directors appointed Joe Hodges as Interim Executive Director on April 1st. In November of 2006 he was appointed Executive Director.

Mr. Hodges has been associated with Sunnybrook Children's Home since coming to serve as a House Parent with his wife, Laura, in 1978. Prior to being appointed Executive Director, Mr. Hodges served as Sunnybrook's Program Administrator/Director of Residential Services.

Staffing changes have been made and some positions realigned to be more reflective of duties being performed. **Laura Hodges** was moved into the position of Residential Services Coordinator where she serves to coordinate

Probably the biggest change in this past year is... that Sunnybrook would no longer accept Federal or State funds of any kind.

Volunteers, Sponsors, Food Services, Medical needs of the children and Non-monetary Donations. Mrs. Hodges has served in numerous positions at Sunnybrook over the years. However, most recently she was employed by the University of Mississippi Medical Center in the Child Development Center.

In May 2006, **Rachel Welborn** was hired as Program Director where she oversees campus life and supervises House Parents and numerous other functions that are inherent to this position. Mrs. Welborn and her husband **Jerry** have served as House Parents. Most recently, she worked with the Mississippi State University

Extension Service.

Jerry Welborn has joined our Maintenance staff and is our campus Spiritual Life Minister. Jerry is well qualified in both areas.

He has owned his own handyman/maintenance business, is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching and has served as the pulpit minister for congregations in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Mississippi.

Sunnybrook has also changed its course and is returning to its roots of providing Christian care to children in need of a home. We know that there are children needing a place of refuge and who, through no fault of their own, need a home where they are loved and can feel safe and wanted. Our mission is to give them that, and let them experience God's love and be taught about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is our foundation and we will not be moved from it. We are also looking to the future and searching for new and feasible ways to serve the Lord and remain faithful to our mission of serving His children.

Probably the biggest change in this past year is the Sunnybrook Children's Home Board of Directors' decision, in January 2007, that Sunnybrook would no longer accept Federal or State funds of any kind. We applaud them for this move and the faith that they exhibited in making this decision. This change in policy will result in an approximate loss of

\$200,000 per year or more in funding for Sunnybrook. It is our belief that the Lord will provide and that interested churches and individuals will step forth to help this good work in making up this deficit.

For the past 43 years Sunnybrook Children's Home has faithfully served the children of Mississippi. We have been blessed in our ministry to have good and faithful partners to help make the dream of a few affect the physical, emotional and spiritual lives of many. We want to thank those who have been supporters for years as well as those that are new supporters and welcome any and all to come visit and see the good work that is being done in the Lord's name at Sunnybrook Children's Home.

See Ad, to the right, this page

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Andy Duncan Serves Hillcrest Church in Baldwin



Andy Duncan
Baldwyn's Youth Minister

After a few months of "part-time" service, Andy has accepted the role of "full-time" Youth Minister with the Hillcrest congregation in Baldwin, MS. Although he is continuing, for the time being, his work with Walmart, Andy is devoting much of his time in helping the young people in the north-east Mississippi town of Baldwin.

As a former member of the Booneville church, brother Duncan has, over the years, proven his dedication to the Lord and his ability to work with young folks. We have, personally, observed his effective efforts in mission activities sponsored by the Booneville church in central and southwest Mississippi. We pray God's richest blessings to be with him and his dedicated wife, **Angela**, as they continue in their service to the Lord. (alf)

Reading the MM will bless your life!

RIDGELAND

The Lake Harbour congregation recently conducted a gospel meeting with evangelist **David Lipe**, instructor at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. According to **Rachel Welborn**, a local member, brother David did a "wonderful job." (not surprised!) Rachel said attendance was very good. In fact, her comment was, "It looked like a Sunday morning crowd every night." **John Pigg** is the local preacher for the church which recently changed its identification from "South Madison" to "Lake Harbour" Church of Christ.

Picayune Report

"Fruitful Gospel Meeting"

- Charlie Buckley -

We had a very fruitful gospel meeting last week with L.I.F.E. Ministries. **Willie Tolison** and **Mike Price** had excellent lessons on the authority of the scriptures, God's church, the church's role as the body of Christ, and the eternal dwelling place of the saved and lost.

We had 21 volunteers from Texas, Arkansas, Florida, and Tennessee, who came down and canvassed the area. They were able to set up and hold 30 Bible studies and were able to baptize seven. These brethren are very committed to the Lord's work; they are very knowledgeable in the scriptures and talented in their presentation of the gospel of Christ. They are influential in getting members of the local congregation involved in personal work. It was a blessing to see brothers and sisters in Christ with such a desire to share the gospel.

Our Lord is blessing us with spiritual and numerical growth, and along with this growth, comes growing pains. We have a new group of converts that are in the infant stages of their knowledge of the scriptures. We will undergo many trials and temptations from without and within as we nurture these new Christians in their faith. We need your prayers on a daily basis. Prayers for our new elders, prayers for the membership new and old, prayer for the teachers and preacher; that in all things we may grow into maturity to imitate our

Lord and live as Christians serving our Lord Jesus Christ. "And He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelist; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13).

We have experienced 7 marriages and 27 baptisms since Hurricane Katrina. Along with these new members come their everyday struggles and a new struggle defending their faith with friends and family. The Devil has a new playground furnished with new Christians and we have a great task and responsibility before us. *Growing pains*: if we didn't have them we would be dead! Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we labor together in the Lord's work. "Living for Him who died for us." (2 Corinthians 5:15).

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Sunnybrook Children's Home

"Providing Services for Children has been Our Mission Since 1963"

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Sunnybrook Children's Home has a warm bed ready and a loving family waiting to care for such a child. If you know of a child in need, please call and talk with our Social Worker at **601.856.6555**. Also, if you would like to have someone come speak to your congregation, please contact Joe Hodges, Executive Director at the above phone number or e-mail me at jhodges@sunnybrookchildrenshome.org.

Jail Ministry The Great Commission at Work

by **Jim Estes**,
Associate Minister,
Booneville church of Christ

The Booneville church of Christ has been involved in the "Jail Ministry" for about nine years. Our work is in the Prentiss County Criminal Justice Center, a county facility with a co-ed inmate population of about 65.

There are currently two congregations of churches of Christ teaching classes in this facility (Booneville and the Berea congregation from near Burnsville, MS). We compete with ten denominational groups for the available teaching opportunities.

The rotation gives the inmates the opportunity to be in classes taught by members of the church of Christ twice every three weeks. Even though the teaching opportunities are limited the Word is powerful.

During the past forty (40) months, this jail ministry effort has witnessed seventy-two (72) baptisms. The pictures with this article are of two baptisms in April of this year.

The Booneville congregation is blessed to have teaching resources with several years of jail ministry experience. The women's teaching team is composed of Jane Allen and Sue Mason. The men's team is composed of Milton Floyd, Chester Meeks, J. T. Beard, Lloyd Beard, and Jim Estes.

When we go to the Criminal Justice Center to teach, Sister Jane Allen and Sister Sue Mason have an opportunity to teach those women inmates that choose to come to class. Then the men's team has an opportunity to teach those male inmates that choose to come to class. Local authorities are usually willing to bring inmates to the Booneville church building for baptisms. For some high-risk inmates, bringing a portable baptistry to the jail has been required.

There is a need for better networking between jail ministry resources throughout the state. When inmates are transferred from one prison to another within the

state, sometimes their spiritual support is lost in the process.

Five members of the Booneville congregation attended a Jail Ministry Workshop in Madison, AL earlier this year. Congregations in Alabama have made excellent progress in tracking inmates, networking of prison ministry resources, and formalizing curriculums and correspondence course offerings. Applying the Alabama success model to Mississippi jail ministries is a logical next

step. (Thanks for the report! all)

Report dated: April 18, 2007



Jane Allen (right) with Recent Convert In Booneville's Effective Jail Ministry



Lloyd Beard (L) with Recent Convert

Carthage Church Hosts Tent Meeting

The week beginning with Sunday, May 13, 2007, was a very special time for the small church in Carthage, Mississippi. With the encouragement of the **Goodman Oaks** congregation in Southaven, MS, a tent meeting was conducted Sunday through Wednesday nights. Our brethren at Carthage moved from their church building on St Matthew Street to a beautiful parcel of land (8+ acres) on Highway 16, East, which the church has recently agreed to purchase with the intention of relocating their place of assembly.

Attendance for the 4 day meeting was said to be "encouraging" with several visitors coming from area congregations and a "handful" visiting each night from the local community. The average attendance was 43 with a high of 50. Even on one rainy night, 38 interested souls assembled under the tent.

The visiting evangelist was **Steve Reeves**, preacher for the Goodman Oaks church. Leading singing each service was Cole Baird. The local preacher at Carthage, **Eddie Neal**, summarized the results of the meeting by saying, "It was good for us."

We join with many others in praying God's blessings upon the renewed efforts to reach out to Carthage with its thousands and to Leake county with its many more thousands. My June and I were blessed to be among the attendees on the first night of the meeting and are grateful for the fellowship and the good preaching of our brother named "Steve". (editor)

Now, You Take it from There!



by
John Simpson
4073 Stillwood Dr
Memphis, TN 38128-3056
j38128sim@yahoo.com

Where Are You Going?

The subjects of Death, Resurrection, Judgment, Eternal Life or Eternal Destruction all point in the same direction, described in the biblical doctrines of Last Things!

Exxon Corporation has gotten our attention with their latest TV commercial: "It doesn't matter where you are going, we are all headed in the same direction". Obviously, their pitch is to increase travel and the purchase of more engine fuel, which is a legitimate pursuit in marketing.

The first amendment to the Constitution of our Republic, and equivalent statutes of other nations, allow Christians to seize upon this method in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and the assurance of eternal consequences before God Almighty! The doctrines of Last Things should have a prominent place, with balance, in our proclamation of The Word.

These doctrines are listed in their proper sequence of events in the "End-Time Drama" of Scripture, but Judgment seems to

be the most sobering that we may entertain. So, read these biblical citations about this unchangeable event, without recourse, that will determine your eternal destination:

"In as much as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10).

"For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God" (Romans 14:10)

Next, get your Bible and carefully read Matthew 25:31-46, for a detailed explanation of procedures at Eternal Judgment.

Now, may I infringe again upon the words of Exxon's paid commercial: "It doesn't matter where you are going, we are all headed in the same direction". Then answer the question: **Where Are You Going?**

Now, you take it from there!

Thank You for reading even the small print in this issue. Please Pray for the MM.



Excitement was in the air as folks began to gather under the tent on the first night of the meeting



Song Leader, **Cole Baird**, MBC Student



Steve Reeves (left)

Evangelist for the Meeting and local preacher for the Southaven, MS Goodman Oaks congregation

Eddie Neal (right)

local preacher for the Carthage church

The Carthage church conducted an old timey Gospel Tent Meeting on land recently purchased. The church plans to relocate on their new property when finances make it possible.

Among those present the first night were Gordon & Louise Schmittou.

Brother Gordon is one of the elders of the Goodman Oaks church in Southaven, Mississippi, a church which has taken a very special interest in the Carthage work.

They assist in many ways, including support for the preacher at Carthage and helping in the purchase of 8+ acres of land.



Gordon & Louise Schmittou
59 years Together in Marriage on May 15

Our congratulations to them. Our appreciation to the Goodman Oaks church for their worthy example in evangelism.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; He that believeth not shall be damned." So commanded our Saviour in Mark 16:15,16.



Recent Visitors at Enterprise Boulevard Church in Lake Charles

Por Los Ninos

Terry Rikard and Brad Abbot, (pictured above) Representing PLN

Terry and Brad went to the Enterprise Blvd. Church of Christ in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on Sunday evening (April 29, 2007) where they gave a presentation concerning Por Los Ninos (a children's home in Honduras). The church agreed to get involved in their coin bank campaign. 100 coin banks were placed among the members with plans to collect them at the end of the summer, hopefully, *filled with money*. This is a fun way to raise significant funds for children in a third world country. For more information you can contact:

Terry Rikard, Family Life Missions, P. O. Box 928; Starkville, MS

Bible Classes

"What Is My Excuse?"

If someone were to ask me to describe, in one word, the first few weeks of the new quarter, I would have to say, "Apathy".

It seems that we do not care about Sunday morning or Wednesday night class. Why is that? Is Bible class unimportant? Do we have something better to do? Is it

that difficult to get up an hour early on Sunday morning so we can be in class?

I wish I had the answer. The truth is... there is no answer or excuse (other

than sickness, death, etc.) for not being in class.

Here are some reasons why Bible class is important.

It is a place where the Bible is taught as God's message to man.

It provides a means to help us deal with the daily problems we all encounter.

It helps to build character in children, teens and adults.

Bible class is a wonderful environment in which to develop strong friendships and enjoy Christian fellowship.

It gives us a place to bring our friends and neighbors who need to hear the Gospel of Christ.

The list could go on and on.

I hope that all of us will take the time to reflect on our commitment to Bible class and ask ourselves the question, "What is my answer (or excuse)?"

John Bauer serves as an associate minister with the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS 39090. Article was taken, by permission, from the church bulletin. bauerjohnr@yahoo.com

**AMORY - CHRISTIAN CHAPEL
VBS - July 15-19**

We will be studying Heroes of Faith (Noah, Joseph, Samson) We will begin Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday night at 5:30 with a meal for everyone attending VBS. Classes are 6:30 until 7:30. Singing and closing remarks 7:30 until 8 each night. We will have a Pre registration Sunday afternoon from 1 until 5 pm. There will be fun activities for the children during this time. The adults will have a different speaker each night.

Parchman Prisoner Presents Prayerful Plea

It is sad that America is still struggling to educate and protect our youth from the debilitating issues related to substance abuse. "Every child in America is at risk of using drugs, regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status"-National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance.

Each year there are more deaths and disabilities from substance abuse than from any other preventable cause. Of all deaths in America each year, one in four is attributable to alcohol, illicit drugs, or tobacco use. Teens who smoke or drink heavily are far more likely to abuse other drugs.

In 2000, only 4.6 percent of non-smokers and 4.2 percent of non-drinkers reported using illicit drugs, compared to 42.7 percent of smokers and 65.5 percent of heavy drinkers.

A 2005 study conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, shows some minor decreases or stability in use patterns by our youth, but we have a very long way to go.

Every defeat and failure in my life can be directly linked to my alcohol addiction that began when I was a teen. I've heard this same statement made by my fellow prisoners.

Summer has arrived and school is out. We need to be reminded that children are looking for activities to be involved in. It's a perfect opportunity to have drug use discussions with them. It's important that we stop the abuse ... stop the use!

Let's spread the word about substance abuse and encourage the members of our communities to be a positive influence for our youth. Sincerely,

Phillip Carter, #04491
MSP Unit 28 (B-zone Bed 64)
Parchman, MS 38738

How Are You?

- Garvis Semore -

You've had one of those encounters. You meet someone on the street and with a nod you provide the standard greeting, "How are you?" It even happens in our church buildings as we assemble for worship. We'll greet our brothers and sisters kindly and with a warm hug or handshake. Then someone utters the words, "How are you today?" Do we really want to know the answer



Garvis Semore

to that question? Are we even listening enough to know what they have said. We expect to hear the standard, "I'm fine. How are you?" But did we slow down long enough to hear what they said?

Mark Twain once said, "Don't complain and talk about your problems - 80 percent of people don't care: the other 20 percent think you deserve them." Our society suggests that people just aren't interested. After all, shouldn't we deal with our own problems? Everyone has enough problems of their own without dealing with someone else's. Twain's thought on the sharing of complaints seems to sum up the way Americans have become accustomed to thinking.

Could it be that Christians have fallen into the same trap of not being concerned with the complaints, hurts, and feelings of others? We sometimes sing, "Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song, as the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long?" The chorus to that old song reminds us that "my Savior cares."

While we take comfort in knowing that Jesus cares we also ought to be able to take comfort in knowing that our brethren care. The world may not even know our name, but our brethren should be different! The church has often been called a place for security.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another" (John 13:35). "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (Romans 15:1).

How are we doing? Better yet, how are you doing? It's easy to sit back and complain about this one too. In my nearly thirty years of preaching I've heard these phrases more than a few times: "This is a cold congregation." "No one cares

about me." "I could quit coming to services and no one would even notice." I can wallow in my own grief or I can begin to make a difference.

Like most of the problems in the world, the solution begins with me. Perhaps I should show my concern for my brethren (listen to their complaints and problems). Perhaps I can make a congregation warmer. Perhaps I should show more concern for my brethren. Perhaps I should notice more when others miss services.

We know and understand that Jesus cares, but do we care the way we should? I read bulletin after bulletin as well as journals, magazines, and newsletters where we seem to take great delight in tearing our brethren apart and tearing them down. This is done, of course, in the name of preserving the purity of the church, or ensuring the gospel is preached without perversion. It is true that those two things need doing. It is also true that we must love our brethren and bear their burdens. Our brethren need to know that Jesus cares and that we care as well.

Further, in the last few years I hear a lot of talk about "missional churches." I'm not sure of everything that users of that term mean, but from what I have read, it appears that much of the philosophy is simply to demonstrate to the world a clear message - that we care. It is a concept of going to the outcast (like Jesus did) or of going to the downtrodden (like Jesus did) or the obvious sinner (like Jesus did) and caring for them with the same compassion demonstrated by Christ.

How are you? Really...how are you? It's a question we ought to be asking. And then we ought to listen for the answers. We must allow people to know that we care about them. They may just let you know that they care about you in return.

P.O.Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS 39090

1st Annual
Gospel Explosion/Crusade For Christ
30 days
June 1 - July 1, 2007
One week in Leland, MS
One week in Lake Village, AR
Two weeks in Greenville, MS
Theme
"Recapturing the Vision of the 1st Century Church Through Evangelism"

Announcement from the Southside church of Christ, Greenville, MS. Abraham Jones, preacher

Magnolia Friends

Join us at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, August 24, 2007 at the J. B. Hayes Activity Building of Magnolia Bible College for an evening of,

Congregational Singing and Tremendous Fellowship.
Speaker:



Tom Holland

Tickets: \$25.00 per person
For tickets or more information: **662-289-3559**

www. magnolia.edu

All Contributions go directly to the teaching of Bible at MBC

Another Generation

- John Gardner -

One generation passes and another comes on the scene. So it has been and will continue to be until Jesus returns (Ecclesiastes 1: 4).

The church of Christ either makes progress or loses ground in serving the Lord as one generation of Christians is joined by a newer one, which in time replaces it. The "changing of the guard" in generations is gradual, but critical to the success or failure of God's people.

One of the most sobering verses in the Book of Judges, which is so full of stark realities about sin, is found in the second chapter. "When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel" (Judges 2: 10). Immediately the next verse launches the reader into the cycles of rebellion, punishment, repentance, and deliverance among the next generations of Israel that makes up the majority of the text of Judges. "Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals..." (V. 11).

Someone once said, "One generation loses the next." To some that may appear to be true, but in fact it is not correct since each generation has its own responsibility to seek after God and to find Him in Christ Jesus. A lost generation will not be excused because of the sins of the fathers (Ezekiel 18: 1 - 18).

It is true, however, that one generation can strongly influence the next to seek God and to do His will or to abandon God and turn to selfish sinfulness. The passage in Judges is a case in point. Because of the failure of Israel to follow God's plan for teaching their children the way of the Lord and encouraging them in faithfulness, it was easy for the new generation to choose the Baals of the land in which they lived.

The Book of Deuteronomy speaks of two generations of Israel. One was brought out of Egypt by the mighty hand of God under Moses and died in the wilderness during the forty year trek there because of rebellion. The second generation was hearing Moses review their history and a challenge to faithfulness when they entered the land of Canaan.

Two passages in Deuteronomy stand out as one looks for a plan to secure future generations of the people of God. The first is Deuteronomy 6: 1 - 25. While commanding the people to hear and carefully observe all of God's statutes and commandments, Moses links that present generation, with



John Gardner

the next generation, and the third generation in his instruction (v. 2). What he was saying to those present, he was also applying to the generations to come. Each would have the same option of following God with a whole heart and prospering (v. 18) or to rebelling and being destroyed (v. 15).

Of particular importance in this passage are verses 4 - 9. After giving "the greatest command" to love God with all of one's being (vv. 4, 5; Matthew 22: 36 -38), Moses, speaking for God, commands Israel to teach "these words which I command you today" to their children. They were to teach them *diligently* by word and example (vv. 6 -9). Later Judaism would take verses 8 and 9 literally and give more attention to little boxes containing copies of Scriptures than to hearts full of love and devotion to God.

The family was to incorporate the law of God and His service into all aspects of daily life. The parents were to initiate conversations with their children about the commandments and statutes of God's law. It was to be a daily enterprise tied to daily life, not divorced or secluded from it. It would involve day and night, indoor and outdoor life (v. 7). At some point the children would naturally ask about certain teachings they had constantly heard and about practices often observed (v. 20). At such times, "the story" of how they became God's people and what that meant would be told (vv. 21 - 25).

So, whether initiating conversations or responding to questions, parents were the primary "keepers of the faith" in seeking to save their own children. Ephesians 6: 4 teaches us that such a fundamental plan of family religious education similar to the one given by Moses continues today.

A second passage in Deuteronomy of importance in the matter of saving future generations of Israel is found in Chapter 31. The priests and the elders were to take written copies of the law of

God and read it to *all* Israel at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles every seven years (vv. 9 - 13). "Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words" of the law of Moses (v. 12). But it was not to end with that generation. The "children" who would fast become the next generation of adults would need to learn and keep the instruction of God (v. 13). So, to the primary, essential instruction of the children by their parents was added the instruction of corporate Israel by means of their leaders.

The sad account in Judges with which this article begins is almost certainly an indictment of Israel for not teaching their children diligently the Word of God at home and in assemblies. A generation grew up ignorant of God and of His mighty work to save His people. They turned to the gods of the culture and Israel dropped off into an abyss of spiritual apostasy and ruin.

Our fervent prayer is that the new generations among us in the church and their children will remain faithful to God, to His Word, to his church, and to His mission. However, we must do a better job of putting the primary work of godly instruction back into the home in the hands of Christian parents, grandparents, and others. We must utilize the powerful opportunities present in the church to help the home teach the true gospel. Both home and church must seriously work together to see that the next generation hears enough, sees enough, and experiences enough of the gospel to make a wise choice. Otherwise, they will choose a way that leads to death (Proverbs 14: 12).

Timothy had diligent instruction in the Scriptures in his home and powerful instruction in the gospel by Christians in the church (2 Timothy 1: 5; 2: 1, 2; 3: 10 - 17). He indeed made his own choice to follow Jesus Christ as Lord, but who would deny that it was much easier for him to become and remain a "good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2: 3) because of the combined efforts of home and church? Will our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren find it easier to make that same choice or will they be set up by default to hear the siren voices of nameless gods in our pagan world?

John Gardner,
Academic Dean, MBC
P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Waynesboro Church Hires New Preacher

The Waynesboro Church of Christ is pleased to announce that Randy Missildine has been selected as the new pulpit minister or preacher for the congregation.

"I'm very excited to be working with the church in Waynesboro. I believe God brought us to Waynesboro for a purpose and I hope that we can accomplish much good for God and for this community. Everyone here has been so friendly and welcoming. I'm looking forward to meeting more people and to working with the residents of the Waynesboro area."

Bro. Missildine is a 1994 graduate of Faulkner University in Montgomery,



Missildine Family
Randy, Cathy and Rylan

Alabama where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies. He has served as a Youth Minister, Associate Minister and Pulpit Minister for churches in Florida, Alabama and, Louisiana, most recently serving as the Pulpit Minister for the Brewton Church of Christ in

Brewton, Alabama.

He is married to Cathy of Houma, Louisiana and they have one son, Rylan, who will soon celebrate his first birthday.

Bro. Missildine began work with the Waynesboro church in April. (Report provided by the Waynesboro church.)

Drinking from the Saucer

The following little poem was sent to us, a few months ago, by **Stacy Carter**. Reading the poem touched our hearts, especially knowing that it was sent by a brother who has and continues to face many difficulties in life. His beloved wife, **Bobbie**, is confined to a medical facility in Columbus, Mississippi, suffering with Alzhiezer disease. Brother Stacy lives alone in an apartment in Starkville, about 25 miles from his wife.

For many years the Carters were involved in mission efforts on behalf of the Lord's church. However, advancing years and deteriorating health conditions have produced significant changes in their lives. I talked with him on May 3, 2007, and found him to be upbeat and humbly grateful for the blessings God has bestowed. Please take a moment to read the following and you will likely see why we were touched by the little poem sent to us by brother Carter. He did not write the poem; however, it has been in his collection of meaningful writings for a long time. And, we are pleased to share it with readers of the MM. (alf)

Drinking From The Saucer

Author Unknown to Us

I've never made a fortune,
And I'll never make one now.
But it really doesn't matter;
Cause I'm happy anyhow.
I go along my journey,
Reaping better than I've sowed.
I'm drinking from the saucer,
Cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have many riches,
And sometimes the going's tough—
But while my kids still love me,
I think I'm rich enough.
I'll thank God for His blessings.
His mercy bestowed;
I'm drinking from the saucer
Cause my cup has overflowed.

If He'll give me strength and courage,
When the road grows steep and rough;
I'll not ask for other blessings,
I'm already blest enough.
May I never be too busy,
To help bear another's load.
I'm drinking from the saucer—
Cause my cup has overflowed.

To Those Who "Stay With The Supplies"

- Travis Brown -

In 1 Samuel 27 we read of where David and those who had chosen to follow him fled from the presence of Saul to the land of the Philistines. After gaining favor with Achish, king of Gath, David and his followers were given



important. We readily remember Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon, but do not think about the 218,000 people working behind the scenes to make that moment possible.

There are those today who are doing

tremendous amounts of good for the Lord and His church. They are out in the forefront fighting the battle. Each one of those soldiers will tell you that they are there because of someone else's help. There was a parent, grandparent, spouse, child or good friend. There was someone who invested right alongside them. Some invested time, encouraging words, prayers and money. Each of these who helped behind the scenes were crucial to the outcome.

I have been blessed to have attended Magnolia Bible College and Freed-Hardeman University. I have been privileged to preach for two congregations of the Lord's church and currently serve in Admissions and as an instructor at Magnolia Bible College. I have been on foreign mission campaigns as well as stateside campaigns. Whatever good I may do – past, present or future – will be because there was someone else who was there behind the scenes. There were those who stayed with the supplies.

To those who are supporters of Magnolia Bible College, we thank you. Whether it is by the financial support, assistance for students, or any other role which you play in this good work, we truly appreciate you.

To those who may be trying to find a good work to be a part of, MBC invites you to team up with us and share in our successes, invest in our dreams and build for our future. Help us to locate potential students.

The future of the Lord's church will be impacted upon what we do now. Help us to equip those who enroll at MBC with what they need to be dedicated soldiers in the Lord's army. We need students. We need financial assistance. Most importantly, we need prayers [1 Thess. 5:25].

Please remember that whether you are out on the frontline in the heat of the battle or you are in the rear guarding the supplies, you are very special in the sight of God and you will be rewarded in due time!

Travis Brown
Director of Admissions
Magnolia Bible College
tbrown@magnolia.edu

... well, it used to be!
However,
Many Churches Are Still
Conducting & Benefiting

Spring, Summer, Fall Gospel Meeting Season

... well, it used to be!
However,

Many Churches Are Still
Conducting & Benefiting



Evangelist Ray Paseur Preaching

Union, Mississippi Church Conducted Meeting May 6 - 9

The Union Church of Christ, located a few miles NW of Meridian, MS hosted a gospel effort in their community a few weeks ago with very encouraging results. **Rick Benson**, local preacher, stated that 14 different congregations were represented in the attendance for the four day meeting. He also complimented Ray Paseur for doing a good job preaching the Word. Many readers of the MM will recall that brother Paseur was, for several years, Professor of the Old and New Testament and Biblical Languages at Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, MS. He is presently preaching for the West Ouachita congregation, near West Monroe, LA.

My June and I were privileged to be in the audience on the closing night of the meeting. We enjoyed a typical stirring Paseur sermon on the meaning of life as taught in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes.

Upcoming Meetings with MM Editor

(Lord willing)

INCLUDE

Batesville (Eureka St)

July 22 - 27, 2007

Michael Bates & Robert Rawson
- Ministers -

Brookhaven (Johnson Grove)

July 29 - August 1, 2007

Otis Bowman

- Minister -

ELLISVILLE

A very special 3 days for my June and me. A meeting (April 16-18) with the church in Ellisville, MS where **Jerry Morton** serves as the capable preacher. Very enjoyable. Encouraging. *Good people who love the Lord and one another.* Pleased, especially, to spend some special time with long time friends - **Talmadge and Rose Anderson.**

Travis Brown
Director of Admissions
Magnolia Bible College
tbrown@magnolia.edu

The
Magnolia Messenger
is in need of your
Fervent Prayers.
Thank You!

Magnolia Bible College

Memorials *Living Tributes*

The following is a list of those who recently made contributions to Magnolia Bible College in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones and/or friends. The names in **bold type** are memorialized or honored. The names following in lighter type are the donors.

Memorials

BOB REEVES

Ouida McCarter
Tim and Debbie Carter
Aaron Carter

V.P. BLACK

Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Pedigo

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Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maricelli

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Mr. and Mrs. Emmette Armstrong

TIM and DEBBIE MCCARTER

AARON MCCARTER

Ouida McCarter

Thank You

For Remembering MBC

Note: Gifts in memory or in honor which are sent to the **Magnolia Bible College** are listed above. Gifts to the **Magnolia Messenger** are handled separately from those given to MBC. (Please see page 10.) Thanks for including either or both MBC and the "MM" in your giving to the earthly work of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Please Send
MBC Memorials
And/or Tributes To:

**Magnolia
Bible College**
P.O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

MBC Fall Lectures

Saturday, October 20, 2007

"Rescue the Perishing"

Speakers

Harold Redd & Garvis Semore

Just for Ladies:

Sue Crabtree

More Information: www.magnolia.edu
662-289-2896

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Childcare Provided; Several Displays

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www.magnolia.edu

MBC News

P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090



MBC's Graduating Class of 2007

Bottom row (from left): Brad Adcock, Dorothy Guyton, Gregry Ledbetter,
Top row (from left): Rodney Livingston, Wayne Moore and Josh Allen

(April, 2007, report) Six Magnolia Bible College students will receive degrees in commencement exercises on Saturday, May 19th at 2:30 PM at the South Huntington Street church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS.

Rodney Livingston, Brad Adcock, Wayne Moore, Dorothy Guyton, Gregry Ledbetter and Josh Allen received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible.

Rodney Livingston is from Booneville, MS. He is the 2007 HEADWAE student honoree. The HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence) program is sponsored by the Mississippi Legislature, supported by our corporate community, and coordinated by the Mississippi Association of Colleges.

Rodney serves as the full time minister at the Hill's Chapel church of Christ in Booneville, MS. He has been named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and the President's List. Rodney plans to continue in full time ministry and pursue a master's at Freed-Hardeman University. He will graduate Summa Cum Laude.

Brad Adcock is from Kosciusko, MS. Brad is the full time minister for the Oak Ridge church of Christ. He has been named to the President's List, Dean's List and to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. After graduation, Brad plans to pursue a master's in counseling. He will graduate Magna Cum Laude.

Wayne Moore is from Raleigh, NC. He is the full time minister for the Cleveland church of Christ in Cleveland, MS. He has been named to the President's List each semester and is listed in Who's Who Among Students in American

Universities and Colleges. He plans to pursue a master's and will graduate Magna Cum Laude.

Dorothy Guyton is from Hesterville, MS. She is retired from the Army having served in the first Gulf War. She is the recipient of several military achievement awards and State Fair Awards for her roses. Dorothy has also been named to the Dean's List and plans to pursue a Master of Divinity with a concentration in counseling at Wesley Biblical Seminary. She will graduate Cum Laude.

Gregry Ledbetter is from Pearl, MS. He has been the full time minister for the Durant church of Christ for four years. Gregry plans to pursue a master's in ministry after graduation.

Josh Allen is from Rockport, MS. He has been the full time minister for the Morton church of Christ for two and a half years. He was named to the President's List in fall 2005. (Report by *Mamie Taves, secretary to Academic Dean, MBC*)

McElwain Added to MBC Faculty

On June 1, David B. McElwain of Malden, MO was added to Magnolia Bible College's faculty. He came to the college as Assistant Professor of Bible to work alongside Dr. Roger Hines, Professor of Bible, in teaching men and women the Word of God.

McElwain comes to his new assignment with academic preparation and years of practical ministry gained in local work. He has a B.S. in Bible from Harding University, a M.A.R. from Harding University Graduate School of Religion, a M.Div. from Southern Christian University (now Regions University), and is See Faculty on Page 16



David B. McElwain



Some of the hundreds present for MBC's Annual Benefit Dinner

Special People Honored at MBC Benefit Dinner - 2007

Comments by MBC President
Garvis Semore

Each year we pause to recognize and honor some special people in the Magnolia Bible College family. Each year MBC recognizes the outstanding achievements of one student, one alumnus and one volunteer. These individuals embody the qualities of Christ-like character and exemplary Christian service. At this time I would like to make these award presentations to tonight's winners.

First, tonight's **Student of the Year**. This year's Student of the Year comes to MBC from Marietta, MS. He is following in the footsteps of his father who also graduated from Magnolia Bible College. While at MBC, he served as the minister for the Gum Church of Christ in Itawamba County and currently serves as the minister for the Hill's Chapel Church of Christ in Prentiss County. He was honored in February as the HEADWAE student by the Mississippi Legislature and is graduating Summa Cum Laude from MBC in May. He and his wife Chasity have a new-born daughter, Macie Kate. It pleases me tonight to present this award to Rodney Livingston, our Student of the Year.



Rodney Livingston
"Student of the Year"

Each year we also take time to honor an Alumnus of the Year. The Alumnus of the Year is chosen, not by Magnolia Bible College, but by fellow alumni. Our alumni nominate and vote for one person they feel embodies the principles of MBC. Each year we honor an alumnus of MBC for their service to the church and to the college.

The nomination for this year's recipient stated, "He has transformed his ministry and the ministry of the Central Church of Christ in Pascagoula since Katrina to be one of the most effective relief ministries in our brotherhood.

Thousands journey from all over to Central to assist and hundreds of homes and lives have been rebuilt as a result. The work done there through the guidance of God's Spirit has been nothing short of remarkable!" We are very proud of the service of this alumnus and so, I present to you, our Alumnus of the Year, John Dobbs.

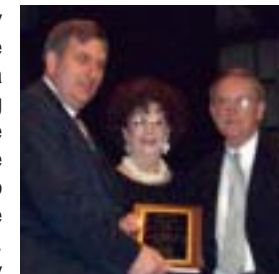
Unfortunately, John was not able to be with us this evening. **Steve Shappley**, president of the Alumni Association, will accept the award on his behalf.

Our final award for the evening is the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Volunteer of the Year is presented to individuals who go above and beyond in their service to MBC and her mission. The recipients of tonight's award, a husband and wife team, have served MBC from the very beginning. He was one of the founders of the college and an original Board Member. Through their travels and production of the Magnolia Messenger, they have continued to promote MBC in a great way throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, and other parts of the country.



Steve Shappley
Accepted award on behalf of
John Dobbs,
"Alumnus of the Year"

They have been a blessing to the college and to the church. It is my honor tonight to name A.L. and June Franks as the Volunteers of the Year!



"Volunteers of the Year"

tonight to name A.L. and June Franks as the Volunteers of the Year!

Please Turn to Page 10
**Former MBC Trustee
Also Honored**

Anthony Johnson's Ministry in McComb is now in the 20th Year



Margaret and Anthony Johnson

When a student at MBC, back in 1987, Anthony Johnson was invited to visit and to preach for the Denwiddie church in McComb. When he arrived, and *before* he had preached, he learned that the decision to hire him as their preacher had already been made! This was done primarily on the recommendation of **Sammy Jones**, instructor at MBC in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Anthony and his wife, Margaret, accepted the invitation and have now continued their ministry into the 20th year. The growing (another baptism on the Sunday previous to our visit) and loving Denwiddie congregation presently brings together about 125 worshippers each Lord's day.

My June and I were privileged to visit with them on Sunday, April 15, 2007, and were greatly impressed with the friendliness of the church and the spirituality of their worship services. The congregational singing, under the leadership of **Mark Gilmore**, was absolutely beautiful. The adult Bible class studied the subject of "Worry", based on Philippians 4:5-8, under the skilled and knowledgeable guidance of their long time preacher -- brother Johnson. I was blessed with the opportunity of preaching for both the morning and afternoon services, with a scheduled "fellowship meal" in between.

To say that our visit was "delightful" would be an understatement. We were encouraged greatly and are looking forward to an opportunity to return to McComb and the group of faithful disciples who call "Denwiddie" their home congregation. May God continue to bless! (*Al & June Franks*)



Meeting Place of the Denwiddie Church of Christ in McComb, MS

Christians at Antioch Are Now Meeting in Their New Building

In July, 2006, the Antioch church building (near Blue Springs, MS) was burned down. According to **Ferrell Hester**, Antioch's preacher for the past 17 years, they were blessed to move into their new building on the 2nd Sunday in May, 2007. A formal opening is presently scheduled for **July 15, 2007**. Brother Hester reports that attendance is running between 90 and 100 each Lord's day. On that first Sunday in their new building, the church set a new attendance record of 152. May God bless.



Newly Rebuilt Auditorium of the Antioch Church of Christ, near Tupelo, MS

TUPELO

Grayson Holt will be working as a summer youth intern with the West Main Church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi. **Doug Greenway** and **Russell Smith** are the ministers for the West Main congregation.

SOUTHAVEN

The 15th Annual Power Lectureship is scheduled for July 29th - August 2nd, 2007. The theme is "*The Greatest of These is Love*." The lectureship is conducted by the Southaven church of Christ, Southaven, Mississippi. **B. J. Clarke**, editor of "Power" is the minister for the Southaven congregation.

GREENVILLE

Bill Bryan and his wife, **Cheryl**, recently moved from Greenville, Mississippi to Imperial, Nebraska where he will be preaching for the congregations in Imperial and Holyoke, Colorado.

Former MBC Trustee Also Honored at Benefit Dinner

(Cont. from page 9)



Marlin Ivey (right) Congratulates Woody Loden (left)

At the benefit dinner, President Semore stated, "I have asked J. Marlin Ivey, one of the founding Board members of Magnolia Bible College to help with this presentation." Brother Marlin then addressed brother Woody and said,

Because you have been a diligent leader on the Board of Trustees of Magnolia Bible College for more than 26 years;

Because you have given your life in faithful service to the church as an elder for the Batesville Church of Christ;

Because you have been a constant encouragement of Christian education and preacher training;

Because you love the truth and have an unending desire to know more about God and His Word, the Holy Bible;

Because you have made generous sacrifices to many good works and mission efforts around the world;

Because your life has been a demonstration of true Christian love for the brotherhood and people in need in so many places;

Therefore, on this the 21st day of April 2007, the Board of Trustees of Magnolia Bible College hereby honors F.W. "Woody" Loden for his faithfulness to God, his devotion to Magnolia Bible College, and his example of servant leadership in the Kingdom.



MAGNOLIA MESSENGER

Memorials & Tributes

The person whose name is in **CAPS** is memorialized or honored by the person(s) whose name is in lower case letters. Thank you. God bless! (ALF, editor)

In Memory Of

V. P. BLACK

George & Nell Barber
(Mantachie, MS)

GLADYS ALDRIDGE

MIKE ALDRIDGE

RAY ALDRIDGE

Charles Aldridge
(Magnolia, MS)

In Honor Of

LOUIS (Memory) & BONNIE (Honor) STRICKLAND REGGIE & DEWELL CRAWFORD

Reginal & Susan S. Crawford
(Eads, TN)

VELMA DELANCEY (80th Birthday!)

Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

Please Send MM Gifts to

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

NOTICE!

Memorials and/or honorariums given to **Magnolia Bible College** are handled separately from those given to the *Magnolia Messenger*. (See Page 8) Thanks for each gift, whether MM or MBC.

TUPELO

A project for the youth of the East Main church in Tupelo, Mississippi is the purchasing of "Bibles for India." A Bible can be purchased in India for only two U.S. dollars. The Bible class teachers will be asking the children to bring change or dollars with them to Bible classes. Each time a child brings two dollars, he/she will put a sticker on the wall to show another Bible has been purchased for India. Sounds like a wonderful way for the youth to be involved. Another way they have involved their young people is to encourage them to bring as many visitors to Bible Class as possible. It is a summer outreach they have

called, "*Just One More...To Praise Our Lord*." **Gary Williams** is the local minister.

KNOXVILLE, TN

The East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions plans to open three satellites in August, 2007. They will be located in Carlisle, PA, Cleveland, TN and Flatwoods, Ky. Instructors from the main campus at Karns will be available to help teach these programs.

I enjoy every issue of the Magnolia Messenger. Hope this helps a little in your expenses. Keep up the good work. In Christian love, (Barbara Yates, Pace, FL)

Personally owned. Used seven years in MM Travel. Replaced by a slightly newer and larger motorhome. 35 feet in length. Wide body; Loaded; 133,000 miles. Rebuilt transmission; low time generator; See to appreciate. **Make offer to buy!**

Serious about Selling

1996 Pace Arrow Vision

Price Reduced! 601-668-3344



"a beautiful coach"



Dennis Jones, AL President and MS Preacher

A Visit With Dennis Jones and Changes at Christian Chapel

We enjoyed a brief visit with Dennis Jones while attending the "Lads to Leaders Convention" in Nashville, Tennessee (April, 2007). It was encouraging to hear him speak about his work with Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama, and the continued good they are doing in preparing workers for the Kingdom of Christ. Also, we were pleased to learn about his love for the Christian Chapel congregation, near Amory, Mississippi, where he has been "filling in while the church has been seeking a full time preacher."

In a more recent conversation with Linda Worthey, secretary at Christian Chapel (Monday, June 4), we learned of changes at "the chapel", some already have taken place and others soon.. Marshall Eubanks is the new full-time preacher for the church, to become effective July 15. Bobby Cleveland, who has been helping out, has accepted the challenge of being "Involvement Minister" on a part time basis. Chase Surrell has been secured as the "Associate Minister." Brother Jones is to continue filling in, Lord willing, until mid July.



Welcome bulletin at Forest church building prepared by Gloria Nielson. "RV" can mean such things as Recharge Voyage, Rosy Visions, Randown Views, Recreational Visit and Rarely Vacant. Thanks Gloria!

10th Annual MM RV Rally was held April 25-29, 2007 at Morton, MS. More Than 100 attended and were spiritually uplifted.



Bill Watkins, Gospel Preacher From Nashville - Keynote Speaker Brought powerful lessons



Bill Watkins and wife, Beverly (right), visit with June Franks (left). Beverly spoke to the ladies.

Make Plans to Join With Us In Our Next RV Rally



Jimmy Bradshaw Memorial Fishing Tournament produced two winners -- Caleb Bradshaw (middle, 1st place) and Vincent Franks (right, 2nd place). James Bradshaw, (left) Jimmy's dad, presented trophies.

FHU President Milton Sewell Plans Retirement

(4/07) In a personal conversation with FHU president, Milton Sewell, we were told that his pre-determined plans to retire at 65, had sorta "slipped up" on him. Although he is retiring from the presidency, yet, he intends to continue limited service to FHU as "Chancellor".



Milton Sewell

he was looking forward to turning over the "day by day" operation of the school to a new president to be selected by the university's Board of Trustees.

Our special appreciation to brother Milton and his wife, Laurel, for their past services. We pray God's richest blessings upon their future efforts as they move into their "retirement mode".

Brother Sewell spoke of his hopes to continue promoting FHU through student recruitment and fund raising. He said that

Have You Answered "The Question Box" on Page 19?



Joshua, Casey, Adam and Caleb

Millers Moving to Mayfield (Salttilo, MS)

The Mayfield Church of Christ in Salttilo, MS is very pleased to announce that we have a new evangelist, arriving June 24th, 2007.

Adam Miller is a native of Plain Dealing, LA. He attended LA Tech University and Regions University. He has been preaching since Jan 1, 2000, full-time since 2001. He has previously served congregations in Oil City, Cotton Valley and Arcadia, LA. More recently he worked with the church in Indianola, MS. Adam is 25 years old and has been married to Casey Frost Miller of Rayville, LA for five and a half years. Casey is a

Registered Nurse. They have two sons, Caleb (4 yrs old) and Joshua (2 yrs old). They have been active in youth activities, camps, retreats, and with the Christian Youth Center on LA Tech's campus in Ruston, LA. He has traveled to Tanzania on a mission trip, and plans to return in 2008.

(Our special thanks to Donald Fox for sending the MM this report. I might add that Mayfield's gain is Indianola's loss. Adam replaces Larry Lott who is now preaching for the church in Mantachie, Mississippi. May God bless all as they seek to do His will. Editor)



Johnny Sullivan, from Magee, and his band entertained Saturday afternoon crowd with old timey country singing.

October 24-28, 2007



When it's TIME TO EAT, it takes, "ONE CALL; THAT'S ALL." At least twice daily - "breaking bread together."



Deanie and Morris enjoy singing at campfire



On the final morning, Ladies enjoyed breakfast before departing the camp. The men folks were not far away!



James and Dottie Tidwell Were among the new participants in our MS rally. Brother Tidwell preaches for the North Toledo Bend Church of Christ, near Many, LA.



Nightly Campfires; Lasting Memories



Not all attendees came in RVs

Next MM RV Rally
Planned for **October 24-28, 2007**
Grapeland, Texas (Details: Next issue of MM)

Churches of Christ Who Are We?

(Editor's Note) By special permission, we are pleased to run the first in a series of 4 articles on a very vital subject, relating to the identity of the Lord's church as revealed in the New Testament. These articles are sermons that were preached by brother **Mack Lyon** of Edmond, Oklahoma in response to a program aired on CNN television in March of 2006. All four sermons are available by addressing:

In Search of the Lord's Way

P. O. Box 371

Edmond, Oklahoma 73083

800-321-8633

searchtv@aol.com; www.searchtv.org

- Mack Lyon -

I must begin by telling you that neither I nor any other one person or congregation or group of persons or congregations or a university or a publication can speak "officially" for all churches of Christ. We are a group of something near 9,000 independent congregations in the United States consisting of about 1,400,000 to 1,500,000 adherents in the United States and its territories. And world-wide, who can say? There may be some we know nothing about. Several years ago, it was reported by some Americans traveling in India that they came upon some people who taught, believed and worshiped as we do in churches of Christ right here in the United States. Until then, none of us knew anything about them. But certainly the Lord did.

We think we know of some 27,000 churches of Christ around the world. That would include those within the United States of course. Those congregations that we know about consist of more than two million adherents—including those within the United States. And just as they were in the days of the New Testament, these churches are completely autonomous. They are truly self-determining. I mean, they are not bound together by any acceptance of a common human creed or catechism, or confession of faith— or by any kind of ecclesiastical hierarchy such as a convention or conference. Yet they share a common faith. They worship alike; and preach the same gospel.

Yes, there are divisions among us, as there were among some of the New Testament congregations. And for that, we stand rebuked by the New Testament teachings, as those churches were rebuked. We should be striving much harder than we are for greater unity among ourselves as we read in Ephesians 4:1 to 6. In spite of those divisions we are generally bound together as "churches of Christ," by three important factors:



Mack Lyon

* First, is a common love for God and His Son Jesus Christ. God is Father of us all and Jesus Christ who redeemed all of us is our only and everyone's Savior— He is also the elder brother to all of us who are Christians.

* Two, we are drawn together by our love for one another.

* And number three, we have a strong commitment to being Biblical in our faith, in our work, in our worship and teaching.

In view of the disbelief and disrespect for anything called "church" nowadays, I think it is necessary that I define the word in the beginning of our study.

One of the definitions my dictionary has for "church" is "a building for public, especially Christian worship." It gives as a synonym for "church" the word "denomination." Well, we all know our dictionaries of English or American words define words according to their common usage. And the word translated "church" in most of the English versions of the Bible doesn't mean either a building or a denomination.

"Denomination" means to name and to divide. For example, we name and divide our coins into "nickels," and "dimes" and "quarters." The church of the Bible is not divided into denominations and named accordingly. It doesn't consist of denominations. Neither is it one of many denominations.

What do you think Jesus meant when he said in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church?" Was He saying, "I will build My denomination?" Do you think when the Bible says in Acts chapter 20, verse 28, "...the church of God which He (that is Christ) purchased with His own blood," do you believe that it is saying or do you get the idea that it is saying, "the denomination which He purchased with His own blood?" N-o-o-o, no,

friend, you don't get that idea from the Scripture. Even so, the church belonging to Christ is not a denomination or a blending of man-made denominational churches, each fashioned to conform to some one person's charm— or opinion.

Well, do you think it is possible for a church right here in town, who is dedicated to being Christ's church, just as it is described in the New Testament, can possibly do that? I don't see why they can't, personally. Would that make them a cult? No. Or a sect? No.

Well, if these more than two million people around the world today are striving to be what they read in their Bibles, can they do that? Oh, yes. I say, "Let's you and me do it, too!" Whatta ya say? I can get excited about that! I want to be a part of that! And, if that isn't what the Bible is all about, I don't know what use it is to anybody. That is who and what we try hard to be, my friend.

Now, what do churches of Christ believe? One way we can know a person— or a group of persons, is by knowing what he— or they— believe. It is as I explained earlier, I can't speak for all churches of Christ, but I get around among us pretty well and the churches with whom I have been and am presently associated—believe the following:

First: We believe in One God (I Corinthians 8 and 5), the God of the Bible, manifested in three ways: God, the Father (Matthew 6:9); God the Son (John 1:1 and 14) and God the Holy Spirit, and these three are one (I John 5 and 7). God knew the need and planned the scheme for human redemption. Christ procured it. And the Holy Spirit revealed it.

Next, we believe the Bible is the inspired (meaning, the God-breathed) Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). That it is absolutely authoritative, and that it completely supplies the child of God with everything he needs for the direction of his life with his God in this world, and to direct him in his work for the Lord, too and in his worship, and in his relationships, well, as the Scripture says, it furnishes him to every good work. We believe that any human creed, if it contains more than the Bible, contains too much. If it contains less than the Bible, it contains too little, and if it contains the same as the Bible, it is superfluous, useless and it is dispensable.

Not only that, but human creeds are divisive, by whatever form they take, by whatever name they are called or who wrote them, or with

See **Churches** on Page 16



Here the
Church
of
Christ
Assembles
in
Gatlinburg,
Tennessee

One of the most interesting cities my June and I have ever visited is located in the Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee. Known as "Gatlinburg", the city and the area is visited by millions every year from throughout the nation. It is not an ordinary town, and appropriately, the meeting place for the Gatlinburg church of Christ is no ordinary building.

We rejoice to write that the Gatlinburg church building is entered by thousands of visiting worshippers each year; yet, we are saddened to state that the local membership is very small (less than 20). This little group, however, continues to unselfishly provide a meeting place, not only for themselves, their local friends and neighbors, but also for the many thousands of Christians who annually visit Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

In a recent visit (April 1, 2007), my June and I were pleased to learn that **Ron Rutherford** and his wife, **Brenda**, who live in the Knoxville area, drive over each weekend to assist the struggling church. Brother Ron has been serving as their regular preacher for the past few months.

On the Lord's day morning of our visit, we were blessed to hear the capable teaching and preaching of Brother Rutherford. Both lessons (Bible class and preaching) were well prepared and effectively presented. When visiting the Gatlinburg area, I believe you will also be warmly received by the small group of "locals" and you just might be in the presence of hundreds of visitors.

Other congregations of the Lord's church in the area also offer warm welcomes, including the churches in **Pigeon Forge** and **Sevierville**. Over the past several years, we have developed a very special relationship with the loving Great Smoky Mountain church in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee where **Al Behel**, also from Knoxville, continues to serve as a caring and talented preacher. And, on occasions, we have been blessed to worship with the church in Sevierville, a congregation with more local members but, perhaps, fewer visitors. This good church is served by **John Daniel**, another very capable preacher of the gospel. All three congregations are pleased to welcome visitors to any or all of their services. Keep these churches in mind when you visit the Tennessee Smoky Mountains. (alf)



Ron Rutherford and Wife, Brenda

"Before the mountains were brought forth or ever thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting, thou art God."

(Psa. 90:2)



The Smoky Mountains at Gatlinburg, TN

Free... BOOK ...Free*

A free copy of John Waddey's latest book, **Sacred Principles on Which We Stand**, is available to any brother who is still within his *first two years* of preaching the gospel. This book contains 52 lessons on the fundamentals of New Testament Christianity. It is well suited for sermon material. It can also be used for Bible class material. This valuable book retails for \$10.00. To receive your free copy, send your name and address and a note stating how long you have been preaching. Send to **Church of Christ Foundation**, c/o John Waddey, 12630 W. Foxfire Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375.

*Please include \$2.50 to cover postage and handling.

kindest Person

(Cont. from bottom of this page)

Josalyn Akeia Sullivan	Evelyn Sigmund
Dee	Grandparents
Shalyn	Randall Gandy
Hershel Bearden	Jeanine Harris
Son	Bethany Landry
husband	John Ortego
Bonnie Skates	My Husband
Helen Hedglin	Colin Hyatt
Flora Mae Flowers	Peggy Alecede
Gary Lee Darnell	Jean Smith
Paul Franks	Janet Thibodaux
Bro. H. Thomas	Mildred Tucker
Grady Ward	Bud Wranosky
Dot, my wife	June Franks
Shelly McDonald	Al & June Franks
My Dad	Who they said!

Alma D. Towns, Departed At 100



Alma D. Towns

(Former Mississippian)

We received a death notice from Rachel C. Speed who lives in San Mateo, Florida, in regard to her mom and a former Mississippian who recently passed away.

Alma Dee Towns, 100, passed from this life on March 10, 2007 at the Putman Community Medical Center in Palatka, Florida. Sister Towns had lived in **Copiah County, Mississippi** before moving to San Mateo, in 1994, to be near her daughter.

In addition to her daughter, Rachel C. (James) Speed, she leaves behind a son, Robert Lee (Bernice) Conn of Wesson, Mississippi, brother, T. W. Phillips of Niceville, Florida; daughter-in-law, Novema Conn of Austin, Texas, 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted on March 16 in **Hazlehurst, Mississippi** with burial in the Antioch Cemetery in Barlow, Mississippi. Sister Towns was a member of the church of Christ.

In her letter to the Messenger, Rachel wrote this about her mom.

"My mother, Alma Dee Towns, was an avid supporter of the Magnolia Messenger and used it to spread the word of God to all her friends and acquaintances... She was the most regular one in atten-

dance at church and served as an inspiration to the other members. Once when she was hospitalized, our preacher came to visit her. She was groggy and did not recognize him but she told him about our church and invited him to come hear her wonderful preacher. He takes great delight in telling the congregation that even though she was ill and groggy, she was still spreading the word."

Thank you Rachel for your nice letter and the contribution to the Magnolia Messenger. We thank God for your mom and for the long life she lived. It was so encouraging to hear of her dedication and faithfulness to the Lord. May God bless each of you in your great loss. (June Franks)

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Brings
Together
Over
200



Area Churches in SW Louisiana Come Together to Sing at South Sulphur

"One of the Kindest People"

In the most recent issue of the MM, the "Question Box" studied the subject of "Kindness". Students were asked to write in the blank a name for "One of the kindest people I've ever known in my life is _____."

The following people (names) were given by readers of the Magnolia Messenger. **Thanks from the Franks!**

Paul Hughey	Carl Finney	Estelle Pharr	Ray Williford
Arthur Burnett	Hal Woodward	Nancy Lee	Merle Missildine
Ken Peterson	Bobbie Street	Nesby Sharp	Sis. Latch
Pat Arnold	B. H. Darby	Elsie A. Ralond	Gracie Young
Howard H. Meeks	David Powell	Anna B. Angel	Epsie Davis
Mamie Jeans	Earstine Skiffer	Sadie Hodge	Luc Michaud
Kay Perkins	Mary Sparks	Joey & J. D. Franks	James Vermillion
Julius Lee Morris	Pam	Ray Hyatt	Jan Sprouse
Kathryn Floyd	My Minister	Louella Nerren	Barbara Moore
Clyde Mize	Betty Skinner	Steve Sherman	Ida Cannon
Juanita Pounds	Mother & father-in-law	Beulah Way	Delma
Jauniece Floyd	Aunt Connie	"William II 'Bud' &	McKinney
Frances Newman	Annette Kelley	Cindy Lambert	Hugh Blackwell
Pearl Cole	Docia Haire	Frances Harrell	Jessie Ridey
Jane Kinnin	Roy Brown	E. G. Hood	Mabel Franks
Doris Lowery	Angie Slate	W. D. &	Betha Jeans
Audrey Thompson	Aunt Emma	Rebecca Coleman	Webb Burks
Jim Lucas	Nezzie Adams	Sister	Robert Whiddon
Ora Stennet	Frankie Hamilton	Daughter	Ethel Franks
Norma Brown	Riley Hogan	Mother	Stella Franks
Nola H Balentine	Thelma Fowler	Father	Grandma Franks
Margaret McCullough	Pat Ducholm	Burl Yelverton	Alison Davis
Edmon Wheeler	John & Beth Pigg	Betty Elam	Mary McNees
Pauline King	Patricia	Jerry Johnson	Jimmy G. Davis
Susie Burns	Jim & Brenda McCreary	Shagville Jackson	Rebecca Alexander
Jerry	Uncle Joe	Fletcher Singleton	Charles Kretzer
Herbert Vaughan	Dr. James Moore	Bernard Waites	Gid Walters
Shirley Williams	Eliza Hearn	Derek Bolts	Epsie Davis
Mattie Gooch	Alice Gordon	Joan Palmer	Granny
Adrian McCall	Eunie Turner	Tommy Shull	Nell Gray
Mrs. Perry	David Johnson	Sha'Dericka Barker	Bro. Keeble
Mildred McGuire	Jane Maynard	Mrycale Johnson	Mrs. Augusta
Levi Sides	Charlie Hosey	Michelle Whitefield	Gillespie Yates
L. C. Stewart	Polly Tarwater	Diamond Mastin	Cecil Howell
Bill Thomas	Joanne	Matthew Evans	Shelia Woodard
Laura White	Joe Spivey	Martha Irvin	Earl C. Woodard
Mamie Jeans	Alice Michael	Melba Grisham	
Betty Dobbs	Mrs. Rebecca Bringle	MawMaw Young	
Debbie A. Davis	Charlotte Stokes	Virginia Young Fowler	

Continued On
Top of Page

The South Sulphur Church of Christ (April, 2007), served as host of the quarterly singing for the area churches of Christ in SW Louisiana. Over 200 people attended this singing. **Chris Mayer** serves as the preacher for the South Sulphur congregation. One of the several song leaders, that night, was **Rocky Cooper** who is a member of the Jennings church. Chris reminded us that such joint gatherings of praise and unification gives us strength and courage.

Lake Charles and Maplewood Hire New Youth Ministers

The Maplewood Church of Christ recently hired **Dale Sheehy** as a youth minister. Dale and his wife, **Kim**, will be moving to Sulphur, Louisiana in June. The Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ recently hired **Jacob Hance** to serve as a Youth and Family Minister. Jacob and his wife, **Jessica**, moved to Lake Charles in May and have already begun their work there. Both youth directors and the young people from these congregations and area churches are all working together to have a great week of Christian camping at Camp Red Oak Springs near Newton, Texas. **Paul Franks** and **Bobby Welsh** will serve as directors of the third week which will be June 17-23, 2007. (above reports by Paul Franks)

Porter Publishes Her New Book, "Art Of My Heart"



Avis Porter

Avis Corley Porter has recently published a new book which is a collection of her writings over the past 40 years. Her paper back book of 212 pages includes Bible poems, articles and what she calls a "Family Chapter" with several pictures. Her dream to publish has become a reality. She hopes her readers "...will see a small glimpse into my heart and a good look into the Lord's." Sister Porter's new book can be ordered for \$10.00, plus \$2.00 (postage).

662-489-4099
Avis Corley Porter
9803 Highway 336
Thaxton, MS 38871

Question Box - Answers - Last Issue

Find the Missing Part

- (1) Luke 6:35 -- Our Father is: "**kind** to the unthankful and evil."
- (2) I Cor. 13:4 -- Charity [love] is said to "Suffer long and is **kind**..."
- (3) Eph. 4:32 -- Comanded: "Be ye **kind** one to another, tenderhearted..."
- (4) 2 Cor. 6:6 -- God's ministers are to show: "longsuffering and **kindness**."
- (5) Col. 3:12 -- God's elect are to be clothed with: "... **kindness** and humbleness of mind."
- (6) Eph. 2:7 -- God made known his **kindness** to us by giving His Son.
- (7) 2 Peter 1:7 -- Add to faith: godliness, brotherly **kindness** and charity.

Examples of Kindness

(Acts chapters 28 & 27; Acts 18; 2 Tim. 1; Acts 9; Philemon; Rom. 16; Ruth 2; Acts 28; I Sam. 25; Matt. 27; Acts 9; Phil. 4

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| (1) Barbarians | 1. Kindled a fire for 276 wet, cold people. |
| (5) Onesiphorus | 2. Let fall "handfuls of purpose" |
| (8) Barnabas | 3. Gadly gave his new tomb to another. |
| (10) Phebe | 4. Privately corrected a public speaker |
| (2) Boaz | 5. He often refreshed Paul |
| (6) Abigail | 6. A kind wife whose husband was very unkind, |
| (3) Joseph | 7. A very kind slave owner |
| (9) Dorcas | 8. He stood up for a new convert |
| (4) Aquila & Priscilla | 9. She was "full of good works and almsdeeds." |
| (12) Philippian church | 10. A woman servant who assisted Paul and others |
| (11) Publius | 11. Provided lodging for shipwreck victims. |
| (7) Philemon | 12. Only ones who "communicated" with Paul |

Churches Seeking Preachers

Notice: We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. **There is no charge for this service.** Please call or mail your request to: 662-289-3559 or 601-668-3344; "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us by addressing: franksmm@aol.com. We will plan to run each add **not more than two times** unless a specific request for extension is received from the congregation looking for preacher. **Thank you.** (ALF, Editor)

Archibald, LA

(Near Rayville)

The Archibald Church of Christ is seeking a full time minister. Attendance: 70-80 House provided. No elders at this time. Mail resume to: Archibald Church of Christ; P.O. Box 8; Archibald, Louisiana 71218
Contact: **Ed Free**
318-248-2374
cell: **267-2884**
(Rec. 3/29/07)

Natchez

Pulpit Minister Needed

*Full-time
*Attendance 60 - 70
Please send resume, DVD or tape, and salary requirements to:
Covington Road
Church of Christ
8 Covington Road
Natchez, MS 39120
Church phone: (601) 445-4290

Pineville, LA

The Pineville Church of Christ is seeking a spiritually minded minister that will serve an assembly ranging from 85 to 115 people and an eldership. Congregation has a TV program, radio sponsorship, with an immediate need. Please send resume, three tapes and/or DVD indicating your experience and availability to:

Pineville Church of Christ
P. O. Box 3434
Pineville, LA 71361-3434
(Salary range: 35 - 50 K)
(Request received 5/1/07)

"Fill in" Preacher Available

(From Eddie Ray in Natchez)

Brother Al,

A brother would like to post an ad in the Magnolia Messenger. His name is Charlie Reeves. He is available to preach on a rotating basis within a 100 mile radius of Centreville, Mississippi which is located in southwest Mississippi. His cell phone # is 318-235-4422. He has served us for almost two years now, and does a good job. Thanks, and may God bless you in your work. (Eddie)

South Main Church of Christ, Greenville, MS 38701

SEEKING
to fill the position of
PULPIT MINISTER
"We are a congregation of about 150, with three elders and seven deacons. Please forward resumes to the above address,
Attention: Elders"

Forsythe Avenue Church of Christ 2101 Forsythe Ave Monroe, La 71201

(318) 387-4467
facoc@comcast.net

The Forsythe Ave Church of Christ in Monroe, La, with a membership of 200 people, is currently accepting applications for the position of pulpit minister. Monroe is located in the northeast corner of our state, and is the center of commerce, banking, government and medical services for a parish of over 148,000. Monroe is also the home of University of Louisiana at Monroe. Forsythe is also very involved with Ouachita Christian School. OCS is a fully accredited school with an enrollment of over 700.

The church at Forsythe is seeking an experienced, scripturally sound minister who can work effectively and cooperatively with a church directed by 4 elders. The successful applicant will demonstrate strong abilities both in and out of the pulpit.

Our compensation package will be competitive with churches of the same size. For an application packet and detailed job description please contact the church office.

DENNIS

The Liberty Church of Christ plans a Gospel Meeting for August 5-8, 2007 with **W. T. Allison** from Hamilton, Alabama doing the preaching. **Ron Deaton** is the local minister.

Gainesville, GA

Full Time Preacher Needed:

The Atlanta Road Church of Christ is in Gainesville, GA. We're located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains on Historic Lake Lanier 45 minutes from Atlanta. Our congregation is currently looking for a full time preacher. We are looking for an experienced and mature individual with at least 5 years in the ministry F/T.

We also have an Hispanic congregation that meets in our fellowship hall, so someone that is bilingual and could preach to both congregations would be a plus. The ideal candidate would be family oriented and socially grounded.

Their preaching/lessons would be encouraging, spiritually uplifting, and evangelistically driven. A formal bible education or equivalent professional experience is required. Package should include cover letter, resume, 3 recent sermons/lessons in video format (a URL address is acceptable). Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please send materials to Search Committee, Atlanta Road Church of Christ, 902 Atlanta Highway, Gainesville, GA 30501, 770-536-4284, or preachersearch@atlantaroad.org (please no video files to email address). We will be accepting applications through Mid-July but we will be starting interviews and visits immediately.

"We have Found Our Man"

Please remove the ad for a preacher for the Ramona OK congregation, we have found our man. Keep up the good work with the Magnolia Messenger. (David Provence; Bartlesville OK)

1st Annual Family Life Missions Golf Classic

August 3

Starkville, MS

For more information call
Terry Rikard or Brad Abbott
Family Life Missions

662-324-8472

or email

terry@familylifemissions.org
brad@familylifemissions.org
PO Box 928; Starkville, MS 39760

3rd Annual Gospel Singing

Hosted by the Northside Church of Christ
4217 Hwy. 39, North Meridian, Mississippi

Saturday, July 28, 2007
Beginning at 1:30

Watermelon Cutting at 3:15

Information/Directions
Call **Guyton Montgomery** at
601-483-2726/ 601-934-8090

Missionaries Meet at Maywood

Report by J. Randal Matheny

HAMILTON, ALAMBA. - The Lord's work got a boost when 87 people involved or interested in missions converged on Maywood Christian Camp May 10-12, 2007.

Hosted by the World Evangelism School of Missions and the Double Springs, AL church, the Missionary Retreat brought together Christian servants with experience on all continents.

Wayne Barrier, of Florence, Ala., event organizer and missionary to the Philippines, India, and Myanmar, stated that the three objectives of the retreat had been met: *relaxation, exchange of ideas, information and education.*

In spite of his battle with cancer, **J. C. Choate** was present for the event. Choate and his wife Betty provided the initiative behind then retreat.

One participant said, "The things that happened at the retreat put us nearer our Lord's 'body of believers' (brotherhood) than I have felt in a long time. It seemed we were really of basically 'one accord.'"

Speakers included **Glover Shipp** who addressed the topic of Islam. Shipp served 18 years in Brazil and also served as Managing Editor of *The Christian Chronicle*.

Colin McKee, missionary to Indonesia, described "The Effect of Animism on Today's Religious World," noting its pervasive influence even in the U.S.

John Reese, director of World Bible School, used the name of Christ as an acrostic to answer the question, "How Shall We Reach a World of Over 6 Billion?"

Don Petty of Farmer's Branch, Texas, creator of the Mission Learning Center, addressed the reasons for the decline of growth in U.S. churches and shared his research.

Gordon Hogan, missionary to Singapore, and professor at Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas, spoke on "Paul's Methods Worked in the First Century and Will Work Now." He encouraged the listeners to follow Paul's approach in Acts 19.

Ken Wilkey, missionary to the Philippines, shared insights into the growth of national churches through "Extension Training for Church Leaders."

National preacher from India, **Sunny David**, reminded all that God's blessings on American churches brought world responsibilities.

Randal Matheny, missionary in Brazil, cited Jesus and Paul as examples of becoming "All Things to All People," stating that identification or incarnation is essential to redemption.

Stan Mitchell, missionary to Zimbabwe and professor at Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, TN, shared ideas for "Inspiring and Developing Missionaries for Future Generations."

Loy Mitchell, missionary to Zimbabwe and missionary-in-residence at Freed-Hardeman University, urged progress in one's relationship to God and caring for one's mate and children, in "The Missionary and His Family."

Workers such as

Don Norwood (India), **Dale Sellers** (Philippines), **Jon Galloway** (Scotland), **Barry Baggott** (French-speaking world) and **Michael Brooks** (Nepal, Bangladesh) also shared news of their efforts.

The event was enriched by the presence of **George and Gertrude Achard** (Myanmar), **Sunny David and his wife** (India), and **Iban Halder** (Bangladesh).

Dennis Larson served as master of ceremonies. Larson was a vocational missionary in Jakarta

and teaches each year at a leadership training school in Myanmar.

Children from the Double Springs congregation provided goody bags for the participants.

During the retreat, Shipp's thirty-fifth book, on retirement, was released by Forthright Press. Shipp also presented a copy of his book, *Militant Jihad*, to Choate in appreciation for his encouragement to write for J.C. Choate Publishing.

From his publishing efforts, Choate offered free books on missions to the participants, as well as copies of the magazine, *The Voice of Truth International*.

Most of the messages were recorded by Larry Murdock of Heritage Christian University, Florence, AL.

Missionaries also staffed the kitchen. **Ruth Orr**, **Barbara Oliver**, and **Michal Swain** provided meals. Orr is a World Bible School teacher. Oliver and Swain work with Gospel Opportunities ministry in Winona.

The Missionary Retreat will become an annual event. Plans are to hold next year's retreat at Maywood Christian Camp in late April or early May.

The World Evangelism School of Missions is an initiative of World Evangelism Foundation in Winona, Miss., with activities scheduled to begin in 2008. (21., May 2007)

Contact:

J. Randal Matheny

Email: jas@randalmatheny.com
Website: <http://forthrightpress.com>

HOUMA, LA

Attendance for the church of Christ in Houma, Louisiana runs about 120 on Sundays. The congregation is racially mixed and is served by five elders. **Carla Cadden**, one of the members, reports that this arrangement has worked out great. **John Grantham** is the local minister.

MORTON

Cole Baird, a student at Magnolia Bible College, recently moved to Morton, Mississippi to begin his work as preacher for the Morton Church of Christ. Cole and his wife are the parents of one small son.

CORINTH

On April 20, 2007, the Freed-Hardeman Associates held their annual benefit dinner in the annex of the Foote Street Church of Christ. This year's event was dedicated in honor of **Jewel Rainey**. Sister Jewell was the wife of **Marvin Rainey** who preached in the North Mississippi area. **Milton Sewell**, President of Freed-Hardeman, was to be the guest speaker.

BATON ROUGE

David Foster, one of the young men from the Capital City Church of Christ in Baton Rouge, Louisiana has a summer youth internship with the Ventura Church in San Antonio, Texas.

FULTON

The next County-Wide Gospel meeting is **July 22-25, 2007** at ICC Fine Arts building in Fulton, Mississippi. **Jerry Jenkins** from Birmingham, Alabama will be preaching in the meeting. The Fulton church is seeking to reach 200 in attendance each Sunday. The elders have challenged the members to be more involved in reaching out to the lost. **Russ Crosswhite** is the local minister.

Reader Responds

We recently were at the Faulkner lectures in Montgomery, AL, and saw the display you had. We would like to receive your paper if possible. We were impressed with all of it and received answers to things we have discussed. Sincerely, **(Paul & Patricia Anthony, Tallassee, AL)**

**Alice Reed Michael
Died at Age 90**

MM Bible Winner in 2000

Alice Reed Michael passed away February 5, 2007 at the age of 90. She was the daughter of the late Robert Reed and Mattie McKinney Reed of Tylertown, MS. The Reeds were known for establishing the first Church of Christ in Tylertown. Alice was a school teacher for 59 years. She became a member of the Church of Christ when she was 13 and she served the Lord faithfully until her passing at the age of 90.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband Doyle Michael, Twin sons, Ronnie and Bobbie Michael, and two brothers, Richard and R. C. Reed, Jr. She is survived by her sister, Frances Stogner, daughters, Debra Michael and Linda Sharp, 4 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Burial was February 10, 2007 at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Tylertown, Mississippi. James Hill, minister of the Lumberton Church of Christ conducted the services.

Debra Michael wrote regarding her mom, "For as long as I can remember, she sent in answers to the "Question Box." She won a bible on 2/27/00 and she was so proud of it. I now do the "Question Box" and hope one day to win a bible. Several people have mentioned her always sending in her Question Box each time."

We extend our deepest sympathy to sister Michel's family. We appreciate all who send in answers to the "Question Box."

**SOUTHAVEN
July 7
20th
Anniversary**

The Goodman Oaks Church of Christ has a special Homecoming service planned for July 7th and 8th celebrating their 20th anniversary. They plan a Bar-B-Q on Saturday the 7th and the fellowship meal (box lunch) on Sunday, July 8th following the morning service. A video presentation on the past twenty years at Goodman Oaks will be shown and Ken Joines, former minister will speak. Steve Reeves is the pulpit minister.

More... Readers' Response ...More

What a wonderful way to help us to want to search and study God's Word more! **(Mrs. Frances Harrell, Halls, TN)**

...I love the MM. Always read all articles. I think it is the best. **(Dorothy Laws, Huntingdon, TN)**

Thank you so much for sending your paper. I really enjoy the Question Box and always send mine in. **(Wayne Crum, Caledonia, OH)**

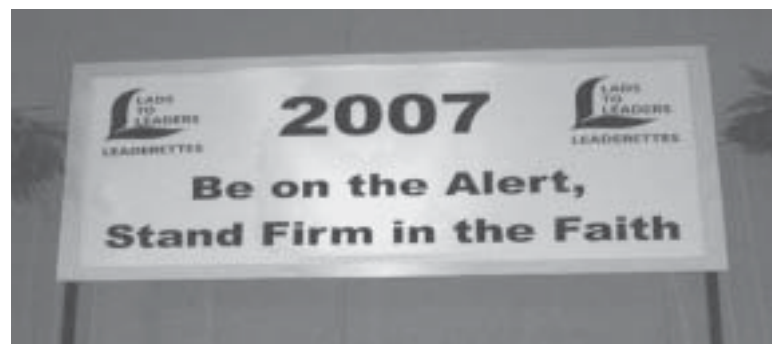
I have been receiving your paper for years. I enjoy it very much. This year, I haven't received any issues. I got this issue from a friend. Please tell me what I need to do to get back on your mailing list. Thank you, **(Kay Shiers, Mangham, LA)**

Thanks for the Magnolia Messenger. I have received - enjoyed - benefitted from it. I look forward to getting it and answering the Question Box. Thank you. Donation enclosed. Please add two brothers in Christ to your mailing list. **(Mr. Jim Nowell, De Valls Blf, AR)**

We really enjoy the Magnolia Messenger very much. It is a great publication. Our family lived in Brandon, MS, for a year and worshipped at Skyway Hills in Pearl. The Messenger allows us to hear news about some Christians we learned to love in our short stay in Mississippi and read articles written by so many fine men and women in the church... Keep up the good work. In Christian love, **(Bobbie Hatton, Haleyville, AL)**

We were in on vacation in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. on Easter this year. We attended the Smokey Mountain Church of Christ. I picked up a copy of Magnolia Messenger. I enjoyed reading it very much. I would love to have the Magnolia Messenger sent to me at the following address. Thank you so much. **(Janie Green, Manchester, TN)**

I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger and read it every time it comes. We lived in Natchez from '44 to '48. My husband held many meetings in Mississippi after that. Mississippi is in my prayers for continued church growth. **(Mrs. Edith Tucker, Nashville, TN)**



Theme for "Lads to Leaders" Convention, 2007

**(Goodman Oaks Congregation)
Southaven Plans to Plant New Church**

Ken Joines of the Goodman Oaks church sent the following newsnote to the MM. (5-8-07)

Goodman Oaks last week bought 16.5 acres of prime land on Getwell Road just east of Hernando. It is a quarter mile south of Byhalia Road and less than a mile from the proposed interchange of I-69 and Getwell Road. Growth in the area is already mushrooming and this will be one the busiest traffic corridors in the county in a short time. Already, nine families are moving into this county EVERY DAY. Goodman Oaks is **not** relocating, but will, Lord willing, plant a new congregation there.

AVAILABLE



**Ken Joines
7154 Golden Oaks East
Southaven, MS 38671**

- * Gospel Meetings
- * Substitute Preaching
- * Interim Work
- * No Church too Small
- * Sound Biblical Preaching
- * Available on Short Notice

Contact
662-349-3400
901-212-1601
kjoines35@hotmail.com

*Retired after 29 years with
Goodman Oaks Church in
Southaven, Mississippi*

Churches of Christ (Cont. from page 12)

whatever good intent they were written. I don't believe the Bible, and just the Bible, makes a congregation a cult, do you? One of the earmarks of a cult is that it is founded by some charismatic character, who is supposed to have had some special communication from God. And he has written that communication in a book which he (or she) claims to be inspired of God, and as authoritative, if not even more so, than the Bible itself. Although occasionally one of us comes along and acts like he thinks he's that person, churches of Christ have no such person.

Number 3: We believe that some behavior is sinful. That isn't being judgmental; that is just one of the facts of life. And, because God says it in the Bible (Romans 5:12), we believe that all people who have grown to the state of mental accountability have sinned against God.

We don't believe that we are born totally depraved, unable to think a good thought or do a good deed, and guilty of Adam's sin. We are not held accountable for the sins of our foreparents. Read Ezekiel 18 if you disagree. We went that way soon after we were born read Psalm 58 and 3. Our iniquities have separated us from God and hidden His face from us. And, seeing that a person is unable to save himself or any scheme or plan or work of his own, or any other human, for that matter, he must appeal to the grace of our offended God in heaven for his forgiveness (Ephesians 2:8 to 10). We believe God was so gracious that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that through faith in Him, any sinner can be forgiven and reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Number 4: We believe, because the Bible teaches it, that God does require the sinner, that he believe in His Son in order to be forgiven (John 3:16) It isn't a request or a helpful suggestion; it is an absolutely necessary requirement, a command, if you please. So, while He has opened the door wide open enough to include, "whosoever will," (Revelation 22:17), He does exclude many, many, many more people who will not believe in Christ as His Son. Is that being cult-like?

Number 5: We also believe, because the Bible quotes Jesus as saying "to those Jews who believed Him" (mind you now, they were believers in Jesus), "if (if he says) if you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:32). He once asked His apostles: "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord and do not

do the things which I say" (Luke 6:46) —we're not asked that today. We believe therefore, that faith that saves is not the "dead faith" James describes in James 2:26, but faith that does what the Lord says. Surely, surely no one seriously thinks that a person, who just will not do what the Lord says, is going to be saved by Him. If so, he needs to read Matthew 16:24 again.

Jesus preached "repentance" more than any other Bible preacher, my friend. To some He said, "Unless you repent you will perish" (Luke 13:3 and 5). And after His resurrection, He charged His apostles saying, "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations." Luke 24:46 and 47. And He commissioned them to begin that work in Jerusalem, as we said awhile ago, which they did. And when they did—the very first time one of them preached it— Peter was the speaker and he said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). We in churches of Christ tell people who want to be saved those same words today.

Then those that gladly received the word, were baptized and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them. (Acts 2:41) And verse 47 says they were "praising God and having favor with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily, those who were being saved."

Let us pray. Father, we thank You for the church, and all that it means to us. And all that it means to Your Son who purchased it with His blood. In His name we pray. Amen.

As I said, when those people who gladly received Peter's word when he preached on the day of Pentecost, when they believed and were baptized that day about 3,000 souls were added to them. (Acts 2:41). In verse 47 says "they were praising God and having favor with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Then just as we said in the beginning the church is people—they are saved people, they are called people. Called by God himself out of the world to form His body of the redeemed. The Lord saved them so the Lord knew who to add to the church. Therefore, the church and the saved are the same people. Hey, that clears up this question we create when we say, "I am saved in Jesus but I don't want anything to do with the church." Had they had a membership roster kept by one of the apostles or someone chosen by them it might have been different, but the Lord

added their names to His book of life that we read about in Revelation 3:5. Did that make them a "cult?" If so, it must be that those people who were the early Christians formed the first cult. I don't believe it, my friend, not for a moment and you don't either, do you?

The word "church" appears 114 times in the King James New Testament; 77 times in the singular number and 37 times in the plural. Even when it is plural it doesn't mean "denominations." In the plural form it references congregations of the same faith in a general locality such as in Galatians 1:2: "the churches of Galatia." And in Acts 9:31 there is the reference to the "churches throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria." However, there are times it is used to denote the membership of a church—such as "the churches of the Gentiles" (Romans 16:4). In that same chapter verse 16, the Scripture says, "The churches of Christ greet you," indicating the congregations were the possessions of Christ. He "purchased the church with His own blood," Acts 20:28 one soul at a time, as each one was saved, 1 Peter 1:18 and He added them to His church, Acts 2:47. Therefore, the church is as a blood-purchased possession. Why anybody would not want to be a part of it puzzles me.

Well, it is obvious there is a lot of misunderstanding about what the Lord's church is all about, isn't there? That is one reason I am devoting all these programs this month to the subject. Well, we are glad you were with us today. We just pray that you have been blessed by our study... I hope you'll be back again next week. God bless you now. We love you.

Mack Lyon
P. O. Box 371
Edmond, OK 73083
800-321-8633
searchty@aol.com

To Be Continued

(Next Issue, Lord willing)

Comments and Criticisms Invited by MM

Ladies' Day at Laurel
East Laurel Church of Christ
(was Southside Church of Christ)
June 16, 2007
Theme
**When Life Gives You
Lemons, Make Lemonade"**
Speaker
LaWanda Wallace
(Hernando, MS)

Amory Ladies' Day October 6, 2007

Speaker

Cindy Guy

Topic

**"When at the End of Your
Rope, Tie Another Knot"**

Registration: 9:00

Program: 9:30 - Noon

Luncheon Served

Information: please call Cindy
Hathcock at 662-256-2382

**Church of Christ
North Boulevard Drive
Amory, Mississippi**

Thanks for Reading the MM

Faculty

(Cont. from page 9)

currently working on a Ph.D. in New Testament from Regions University. His preaching includes work in Maryland, Illinois, Michigan, and now Missouri. He served as adjunct faculty with Freed-Hardeman University in the early 80's and currently is teaching undergraduate courses as adjunct faculty with Regions University.

The new assistant professor is married to Pat and they have two adult children living in St. Louis, MO.

For the present, he and Dr. Hines will share responsibilities in teaching both Old and New Testament courses, as well as Doctrinal courses. His coming will strengthen an already solid Bible degree program which is at the heart of Magnolia Bible College.

Alaska

(Cont. from page 19)

The next day, Sunday, was the Lord's Day, and even though we were sailing and were scheduled to arrive in Juneau, Alaska at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, arrangements had been made for us to assemble and have our worship service at 9:00 A.M.

It was a very meaningful experience as we worshipped together. As I recall, Paul Franks led singing, Don McWhorter from Fayette, Alabama led us in prayer and Al Franks delivered the sermon on "Bible Ships, Sailors, Sin and Storms." Jeff Archey from Cleveland, Tennessee directed our thoughts and minds as we partook of the Lord's Supper.

The sights and scenery were beautiful beyond description as we entered each port of call (Juneau, Skagway, AK and Prince Rupert, Canada.) Even the pictures, made in abundance, do not really describe the true story.

Another highlight of our trip was another assembly on the ship for Bible study and prayer on Tuesday evening. The subject, as we sailed along, was on "Heaven." Everyone seemed to really enjoy these periods of worship together.

The Alaskan Cruise was truly a spectacular journey. It provided a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great Christian fellowship as, together, we viewed the spectacular sights reminding us of an all wise and all powerful Creator.

Those of us who were privileged to make the trip are very, very thankful we were able to do so and that God blessed us with safe travelling. (JF)

WORDING ON T-SHIRT: "Dear God: Why do you allow so much violence in our public schools?" (Signed: A concerned student)

"Dear Concerned Student: Because I am not allowed in your schools?" (Signed: God)

How Can I Give to Magnolia Bible College?

Cash (or check) contributions are tax deductible in the year you make your donation, up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Matching Gifts- Many companies offer to match gifts made by their employees.

Electronic Funds Transfer - Several contributors choose to have money drafted directly from their personal accounts.

Stock - The best method of giving shares is to simply transfer ownership of the stock to MBC.

Life Insurance - Several have chosen to name MBC as the owner of a life insurance policy or to name MBC as the beneficiary.

Wills - Wills determine who controls your assets and who will receive funds from your estate at your death. A will is the only way to ensure that your estate will be distributed as you wish. MBC may be named as a beneficiary in your will.

Trusts - A trust can take several forms. Trusts are designed to allow MBC to receive benefits from your estate while you still live; and at the same time, allow you to live comfortably for the remainder of your life.

Gifts to Magnolia Bible College should be mailed to

Magnolia Bible College
P.O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Have a question about making a contribution to MBC?

Contact Garvis Semore, President,
at gsemore@magnolia.edu or 662-289-2896.

Contributions to MBC are generally tax deductible. You should always consult a tax professional for specific questions about tax deductions.



A Return to Grenada and the Southside Church of Christ June 4, 2007

Attendance:
"About 140"

The Dentons
Linda & Bill

It had been a long time. We used to go fairly often. On Sunday, June 4, 2007, we decided it was time to return to Grenada and the Southside Church of Christ. Checking their website (www.sschurchofchrist.net), we learned that Bible classes were conducted at 10:00 a.m.

Arriving several minutes early, my June and I were pleased to visit for a while with early-arrival **Lloyd McGonagill**, one of the two elders. We also were grateful for the opportunity to visit briefly with the other elder, **Carl Bevell**, who came in a little later. Soon, appearing on the scene was **Bill Denton**, Southside's preacher for the past five years or so.

We were also blessed to greet several other members just prior to class time, including **Enos Moore**, an older brother who was featured in the MM, several years ago, as the "Old Road Runner" -- one who believed in the value of running as his daily physical exercise. And, having now reached the age of 94 years, it appears that his exercise routine has value! He continues to "work out" 3 times a week.

10:00 o'clock. Class time. The preacher, Bill Denton, was the Bible teacher. After introductory remarks, he began the discussion of a vital Bible topic/person -- the Holy Spirit. With encouraging response from the 40 or so students in the auditorium, he stressed the fact that the Holy Spirit is a person and although we cannot fully comprehend the nature of God ("one God; 3 Persons");

yet, we can know that the Holy Spirit is vital to followers of Jesus Christ as He reveals Himself and the Will of God through the written Word.

The morning worship hour included several songs led by three different leaders (**Stephen Blythe**, **Mark Williams** and **Stan**

Ferguson) and a good sermon on "Why Singing Ought to be More Important".

Observance of the Lord's Supper was accomplished with an emphasis on "family unity" in partaking. Local member **David Taylor**, who led in the Communion Service, asked that each worshipper, after being served the bread, and then later, the cup, wait until the entire congregation had received each of the emblems before eating and drinking. This enabled the entire church to eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine at the same time.

In his morning sermon, brother Denton stressed from both Old and New Testaments that singing was/is worship and should not be entered into lightly. Using several scriptural passages, the gifted speaker showed how that singing is not only worship, but that it also is a **faith builder** as worshippers teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

The closing remarks in the morning sermon gave emphasis to the invitation of our Lord as we again joined our thoughts and voices in singing, "What Can Wash Away My Sins?" with the emphatic

answer: "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus."

An encouraging visit. An uplifting service. Another blessing added to the lives of this writer and his June. Maybe, next time; not so long between visits. We hope. (editor)



Fulton Bible Institute: Class Studied "The Sacrificial System" During the Spring Term of 2007

The class averaged 40 students per class from 14 different congregations in the Northeast Mississippi area. Also, 57 people attended at least one class. In addition, 5 people who are not Christians attended the course. At the end of the course banquet Barbara Perry received the Star Student award and the Westside Church in Houston, MS received the Church Participation award.

Included in the picture listed alphabetically are: Kathy Baroni, Phillip Baroni, Barbara Baskin, Brenda Byrne, Patsy Carr, Ronnie Clayton, Jimmie Faye Cooper, Linda Crosswhite, Russ Crosswhite, Frankie Doss, Marie Doss, Linda Enlow, Carl Gaddy, Dianne Gaddy, Willa Dean Gibson, Bob Gilliland, Jim Gilliland, DeDe Hayden, Tyron Hayden, James Huggins, Liz Huggins, Johnnie Holley, Yvonne Hughes, Annie Johnson, Amos Jones, Nate Jones, Robert Logan, Gwenda Martin, Herman Martin, Janet McMillen, Barbary Perry, Betty Reich, Tony Rhodes, Charlotte Ritter, Beth

Shappley, Jessica Shappley, Steve Shappley, Ken Shields, Ruby Shields, Brittany Smalley, Jackie Smalley, Evelyn Stanford, Matthew Standford, Tommy Standford, Taisheivya Smith, Jimmy Tucker, Delbert Turner, Mary Ann Turner, Tiffany Wofford, Carolyn Wren.

Not pictured are: Jeremy Bowden, Michael Crawford, Mikea Ezell, Joan Fikes, Gordon Gentry, Satoria Martin, Jaslyn Williams.

The next course is a twelve-week study of *The History of the Church in Acts*. It will meet Tuesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. beginning August 21, 2007.

Fulton Bible Institute is located at 500 South Clifton Street in Fulton, MS. For more information or if interested in taking a course, please contact **Russ Crosswhite**, the school administrator, at 662-862-4549. Mailing address: **P.O. Box 251, Fulton, MS 38843** E-mail: grcross@network-one.com

Time For God?

I knelt to pray, but not for long,
I had too much to do;
I had to hurry and get to work,
For bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,
And jumped up off my knees;
My Christian duty was now done,
My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time,
To spread a word of cheer;
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time!, No time! too much to do,
That was my constant cry;
No time to give to souls in need,
But at last the time, the time to die.

I went before the Lord,
I came, I stood with downcast eyes;
For in his hands God held a book;
It was the book of life.

God looked into his book and said,
"Your name I cannot find;
I once was going to write it down,
But never found the time."

Taken, by permission, from the bulletin of the church of Christ in Springfield, CO 81073, where **Neal Michael** serves as preacher. nmichael@rural-com.com

Do you know any Christian students who plan to attend Mississippi State / Ole Miss / Southern / or another college in Mississippi?

The campus ministries of Mississippi need your help. Specifically, we need your assistance in contacting Christian students who will be (or are) attending MSU / Ole Miss / Southern / Delta State / Jackson State / MUW / MDCC / NEMCC / or another college or university in our state.

We want to welcome these students, encourage them, teach them, feed them... We want their college years to be a time of spiritual growth and enrichment. However, *federal confidentiality restrictions have made it difficult for us to find members of the Lord's body who come our way.*

Please help us in locating these students by providing as much of the information below as you can. We will pass this information on the appropriate campus ministry / congregation.

Student's Name _____
College or University they will be attending _____
Address _____
Phone Number: _____ **Email** _____
Home Congregation _____

YOUR Name _____

Please send to either:

Perry Jinkerson / UCSC; P. O. Box 745; Starkville, MS 39760; (662) 323-9535; perry@ra.msstate.edu
Casey Coston / UCSC; 409 West Jackson Ave. **Oxford, MS 38655**
 Office: 662-234-5966; casey@ococ.orgm

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(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

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2. Rosa Lee Johnson
3. Akyra D. McNairy
4. Dennis McNairy
5. Paige Wiggs
6. Diamond Moncrief
7. Sommer Burnett
8. Daniel Mastin
9. M/M Arthur Burnett
10. Marie Green
11. Betty Jo Stewart
12. Mary Ella Webster
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33. Linda Peterson
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38. Opal Melvin
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174. Joe Carlile
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511. Dotsy Downs
512. Jennifer Rodrigue
513. Cayley Rodrigue
514. Rani Abuzeide
515. Lara Cooley
516. Cheyenne LaJune
517. Savannah LaJune
518. Michelle Simpson
519. Imogene Kirk
520. Pat Nettles
521. Cheri G. Moore
522. Lisa Dearman
523. Annie Ruth Perry
524. **YOUR NAME**

Answers received after June 7, will be recognized in our next issue, Lord willing. Thank you for reading the Magnolia Messenger and for answering "The Question Box". (alf, editor)

Prayers for the MM are Much Appreciated!

Recent Bible Winners



Vernie Cornes

Sister Cornes is a member of the Boxwood Church of Christ, near Merryville, LA. She and other members of the congregation send in answers to the *Question Box* as a "class project".

Thank you, sister Vernie and thanks to the Boxwood church for continued interest in studying and teaching the Word of God.

Glen is a relative (1st cousin) who lives in Lake Charles, LA, where he serves the Enterprise Boulevard Church as one of their four elders. Our congratulations to cousin Glen who was selected at random (really!) as our Bible winner for a recent issue



Glen Franks

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

- Joyce -

An Example of Kindness

In the March/April, 2007 issue of the Magnolia Messenger, the "Question Box" dealt with the "Power of Kindness." The last section in the "Question Box" required a *fill-in-the-blank*. You were to name the kindest person you had ever met.

Most students of the "QB" did fill in the blank. Many answered *mother, daddy or grandmother*. Several others named a specific individual as the kindest person they had ever met.

Through the years, I have met many kind people, however, this lesson on *kindness* reminded me of one particular person that I would like to introduce to you, at this time, as one who was truly an example of kindness.

I first met her when I was only four years old. It was when she married my oldest brother, William Hoyle Pearson.

Her name was **Joyce Buse**. At first, I didn't think she was very kind. As a child, it seemed to me that she had taken my big-brother away from me.

However, it didn't take long until I realized she was like a big sister to me. She gave me of her time and would play games with me. She was a very good "Jack" player. We would sit in the floor for hours and play "Jacks". She was very kind to me as a little girl.

Then when I became a little older, she tried to teach me to crochet, knit and to sew. I turned to her when I had a project to do in 4-H or in Home Economics.

Through the years, Joyce was *always* there for me. Even though she had many problems of her own, she still had time to listen to me.

In addition to her two sons, she raised a granddaughter. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother. Joyce was always putting her children and grandchildren before herself.

Tragedy struck. On August 31, 1993, her youngest son was on his way home from work and was hit head on by another driver as they traveled the Natchez Trace Parkway, just a few miles from her son's new house that he and his wife had built. Her beloved son, Ricky, was dead by the time they reached the hospital in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Even though it was tragic accident and the other person, so we were told, admitted he was at fault; yet, Joyce was willing for the young man who caused the accident to come to her house for a visit. Because of her kind nature, Joyce was willing to forgive the young man.

As further indication of her kind spirit, when her own parents became too old and sickly to care for them-



June Franks

selves, she took them in and cared for them until they both passed away.

Shortly after my brother retired as a travelling salesman, he suffered a stroke which left him paralyzed and an invalid for the rest of his life. This sickness came at a time when they had hoped and planned to travel and do some things they had longed desired, but he now was an invalid and she was his patient and kind caregiver for the next ten years!

Even though she was small in stature she was very strong and through those next ten years, she cared for her beloved husband with very little outside help. She did every thing she could to make her husband comfortable and was always preparing whatever he desired to eat.

While caring for her invalid husband, she also cared for a little great-grandson when he would come home from day-care. Being with their great grandson brought much joy to both Joyce and Hoyle.

During this time, she continued to do for others. Almost on a daily basis, even though she was a shut-in and was caring for her husband, she found time to bake cakes and pies and take to others in need.

Joyce was a good and faithful wife. She never forgot her wedding vows -- in *sickness* and in health. She also did her best to do what she could for others. It can be said of her, "She truly went about doing good." Sounds like Jesus. (See Acts 10:38)

After my own parents died, my sister-in-law "took me in." It was her house we learned to call home. She always welcomed us with open arms and did her best to always see that we had delicious food to eat when we would visit. She especially enjoyed preparing breakfast for us.

On one occasion, when we were visiting her, after she was confined to a nursing home with alzheimers, the very minute we walked into her room, she expressed a strong desire to get out of bed and prepare breakfast for us. Of course, she was not able to do so; but, she was willing -- still kind!

She was also a person who always wanted to pay her own way. She wanted to pay her part, whatever it might would be. As long as she was

physically and mentally able, she was always faithful to the Lord's church even though, at times, it was very difficult.

Joyce loved the "Magnolia Messenger" and would often tell us that she would go to bed at night and would read the Messenger until she fell asleep. She was faithful to answer the "Question Box" in each issue as long as she was able.

Even though they were on a fixed income, she made regular and generous contributions to the work of the Messenger. She truly believed the scripture, where our Lord said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

When her husband passed away in November, 2003, everyone thought that maybe, now Joyce would be able to get out and visit family and do some things for herself; however, that was not to be.

Shortly after her husband's death, she developed alzheimers and very soon could not care for herself. It became necessary to put her into a nursing home where she could receive constant care.

I am so thankful that I had the opportunity of knowing Joyce Buse Pearson. She was truly an inspiration, not only to me, but to many others who knew her. And, I personally, will always remember her as one of the kindest people that I ever met.

Joyce was born May 11, 1927, and departed this life on April 24, 2007. Her funeral was conducted in Tupelo on April 26, 2007 with ministers Gary Williams and Darrell Beard officiating at the memorial service. Her family and those in her church family, the East Main Church of Christ (Tupelo, MS), will long remember her kind and gentle spirit.

She leaves behind one son, **Ken**, several grandchildren and great-grand children and two brothers.

It is my prayer that each one reading this report can learn from the life of Joyce Buse Pearson and to be encouraged, by her example, to always be kind -- whatever the circumstances might be.

We thank God for Joyce and for the legacy she leaves behind. She truly serves as an example of kindness.

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A READER WRITES: *My mother was the kindest person in my life. She was left a widow when she was 36, left with 4 young daughters, ages 3 yrs. to 10 yrs. We always had to be kind to everyone especially ones older than we were... I'm a member of the Stony Point Church of Christ. I grew up knowing Charles Williams that Sister June talked about in an article several months ago. He is blind and still lives in our area. I enjoy filling in the Question Box. Thank You. (Mrs. Marie Sykes, Florence, AL)*

Several Christians Come Together For A Cruise to Alaska

Report by June Franks

On Friday, May 18, 2007, thirty eight people from several parts of the country and from different walks of life departed Seattle, Washington on the ship, "Vision of the Seas" for a seven day cruise to Alaska. We traveled under the name "Magnolia Messenger Travel Club" with Paul and Glenda Franks as our tour hosts.

As we all began arriving in Seattle from our various homes, it was a wonderful experience just to meet those who were to be a part of our group.

On Thursday night a special meeting was held in our hotel where instructions were shared and name tags given to those present. The next morning (Friday) we boarded shuttle buses that took us from the hotel to the ship.

Upon boarding the ship, we found our cabins and quickly participated in

a drill just in case of an emergency while we were sailing. Then it was off to inspect the beautiful ship and find something to eat. (Which you can do, almost 24/7, if you so desire!)

Seating at dinner was at six o'clock each evening. Our group had four tables with ten persons at three of the tables and eight at the fourth. Being able to eat *together* every night was truly a highlight of the trip. We were able to share our day time experiences. We also looked forward to seeing what each other ordered and trying new dishes which were so beautifully prepared.

The ocean was pretty rough on Saturday, which was a day for cruising. Several of our number became sick as the ship rocked and rolled along. But, by dinner time, the sea was calm and everyone seemed to be back up to par.

See Alaska on Page 16

Cruisers Came From Six States

Wendell and June Agee (Knoxville, TN); Ron & Kay Alexander (Marshall, MO); Sarah Anthony, (Pearl, MS); Jeff and Renita Archey (Cleveland, TN); Dennis and Peggy Drake (Doniphan, MO); Stella Burcham (Booneville, MS); Carlos & Faye Dubois (Lake Charles, LA); Walter & Judith Elkins (Lakes Charles, LA); Carroll & Amy Foote (Utica, MS); Al & June Franks (Kosciusko, MS); Megan & Vincent Franks (Lake Charles, LA); Paul & Glenda Franks (Lake Charles, LA); Geraldine Frazier (Pearl, MS); Cheryl Grubbs (Brandon, MS); Barney & Alice Hofer (Doniphan, MO); Tina Holmes (Vicksburg, MS); Rachel Hughes (Kountze, TX); Lori Ivey (Brandon, MS); Amanda LeBeouf (Vidor, TX); Don & Jane McWhorter (Fayette, AL); Sandra Oliver (Brandon, MS); Ina Sadler (Vidor, TX); Eleanor Townsend (Lafayette, LA); Tommy & Carrie Wall (Amory, MS) *Not present for picture*; Rayann Woodruff (Booneville, MS).



The Question Box

NOTE: You may find it helpful to use the King James Version.

“Hard Sayings” of a Loving Saviour

The standards are high, but, not impossible! With the Lord’s help, we *can* be obedient. “I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13). Jesus did no sin. He was perfect. He was/is righteous. Through Him, we obtain righteousness. Holy Scripture calls upon us to, “Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:48).

Living the Christian life or being “Christ-like” is not as easy as “falling off a log.” While His “yoke is easy” and His “burden is light” (compared to the yoke and burden of sin); yet, earnest and diligent effort is required in living as Jesus lived. He is our example. He practiced what He preached. We should seek to be like the One whose name we thankfully wear -- “Christ-ian”.

On a certain occasion, followers responding to the teachings of Jesus, declared, “It is a **hard saying**; who can hear him?” (John 6:60). A little later, many of his disciples “went back and walked no more with him” (vs. 66). This prompted Jesus to ask the twelve, “Will you also go away?” Simon wisely responded, “Lord, to whom

shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life.” He then added, “And we believe and know that thou art that Christ, the Son of the Living God” (John 6:68,69). When we come face to face with “Hard sayings” of Jesus, let us not turn away, but speak as did Peter. We certainly have no other person to whom we can turn for salvation. But, with the help of our Lord, we can be obedient, yes, even to His *challenging commands* and/or “hard sayings”.

Study carefully some of the more difficult commands and/or “hard sayings” of our Lord selected for this study from the book of Matthew. Please fill in each blank and send your answers to us. By so doing, you will **encourage others** (see page 18) and **you** may become our **next Bible winner**. (Each issue we award a beautiful study Bible to one student, selected at random, who has sent in answers to the “Question Box”. You must be the one!) Thank you for your interest in studying and obeying even the “Hard Sayings” of our blessed Lord. We really do appreciate you sending in your answers. God bless. (alf, editor)

Locate & Fill In

Locate the scriptural references which include some of the “hard sayings” spoken by Jesus. **Fill in** the missing words. (Several passages are found in the sermon on the mount; all others in this section are found elsewhere in **Matthew**.)

1. “And if thy _____ eye _____ thee, _____ it out... and if thy _____ hand _____ thee, _____ it off...” (5:____)
2. “... whosoever shall _____ thee on thy right _____, turn to _____ the other also.” (____:39)
3. “... take no _____ for your _____, what ye shall eat or _____ ye shall _____; nor _____ for your _____, what ye shall _____ on...” (____:____)
4. “... whatsoever _____ would that _____ should _____ to _____, do _____ even so to _____.” (____:____)
5. “Seek ye _____ the kingdom of _____ and _____ righteousness...” (6:____)
6. “...Love your _____, bless _____ that _____ you...” (____:44)
7. “... Follow _____ and let the _____ bury their _____.” (8:____)
8. “It is _____ for a _____ to go through the _____ of a _____ than for a _____ man to _____ into the _____ of God.” (____:24)
9. “Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy _____ with _____ thy _____, and with _____ thy _____, and with _____ thy _____.” (____:____)
10. _____ ye therefore, and _____ all _____, baptizing them...” (____:____)

“Difficult” Commands & Great Promises

Match the “hard” commands of Jesus in Column 1 with the promises in column 2. (Answers are found in Matthew chapters 6,19,20)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Seek first the kingdom | _____ Become great |
| 2. Sell, give to the poor | _____ All things added |
| 3. Be a minister | _____ Treasures in heaven |

More Matching

Study each statement in left column; match with the best in right column. References in Matthew include chapters 5, 6, 7,10, 15, 16, 18,19, 26

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. No. Treasures upon earth | _____ Exception: “Fornication” |
| 2. Man: Kill only the body | _____ “Perish with the sword” |
| 3. Makes worship vain | _____ Take up cross, follow Jesus |
| 4. Deny self | _____ Yes. Treasures in Heaven |
| 5. “Take the sword” | _____ God: Destroy soul & body |
| 6. No. “Seven times?” | _____ Commandments of men |
| 7. Rule: Divorce + Remarriage = Adultery | _____ Yes. “Seventy times seven!” |

Please Send Your Answers to Us.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Notice: Each person who sends in answers will be recognized in the next issue of the “MM” (see page 18). Also the name of one student will be selected, at random, to be awarded a beautiful New Study Bible. **You may be the one.** Please send your answers to:

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



An Older and Attractive Place of Assembly
 “Somewhere in Mississippi”

New Bible Winner
293. Elsie M. Moore
 Etowah, TN
Congratulations!

Kenneth C. Ward Dies at Age 96

Kenneth Charles Ward was born in Kansas and lived in California, North Dakota and Colorado. In 1950, he and his wife, Lena, to whom he was married 63 years, settled in DeRidder, LA. Brother Ward was a diligent Bible student who taught and preached for many years. Funeral services were conducted by M. B. Franks (an uncle of mine) on June 13th. He was a man who influenced my life in a very significant way. Our love to his beloved son, Merlen. God bless. (alf)

What is Your Name?

The Indians used to give their children the name they earned. Thus, some girl would be called “Laughing Water”, “Sunshine” or “Timid One.” A boy might be named “Running Feet”, “Wise Owl” or “Black Hawk”.

Suppose God gave His children the name they earned. Some would be “Helping Hand”, “Faithful Teacher”, “Lively Stone” or “Generous Heart.” But on the other hand, there would be many wearing names such as “Unreliable”, “Worldly Minded”, “Never Attend”, “Evil Tongue”, “Luke-Warm” or “Stingy Giver.” If God named you according to your Christianity or lack of it, what name would you have?

(Author unknown to us. Copied by MM from Springfield, Colorado church bulletin.)

Serious Questions

Are you prepared to die? Are You a Christian? Are You a Faithful Christian? May God bless you richly as you consider His will and prepare to meet your Maker. “Blessed are the dead who **die in the Lord...**” (Rev. 14:13). Are YOU “in the Lord”?



An Unforgettable Vision

The Sun Setting at 10:00 PM off the Coast of Alaska

My June and I were onboard a cruise ship (“*Vision of the Seas*”) in the company of Carroll and Amy Foote, members of the Lord’s church at Midway, near Utica, Mississippi. Together, we watched and wondered!