



# Magnolia Messenger

SEPT/OCT, 2007 -- VOLUME 29; NUMBER 4 -- Our 29th Year

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

MAGNOLIA MESSENGER  
P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090  
662-289-3559 (H/O)  
601-668-3344 (cell)  
franksmm@aol.com

## Something I Need

### Forgiveness

Read on Page 4  
"God Forgives Completely"



### Needed in Natchez

A Special Preacher for a Special Church With Special Needs  
(See ad on Page 14)



106 - Why It Never Gets "Too Hot" - page 12



As Seen On The  
"Street of Time"  
(Turn to Page 13)



MM RV Rally -- LA/TEX  
Grapeland, Texas  
October 24-28, 2007  
See Ad on Page 14

## A Note to MM Readers & Supporters

You've heard the statement, "Words cannot adequately express..." **So true.** Those of us who publish the MM are very grateful and deeply indebted to all who **read** and to all who **pray** and to all who **give** -- making possible the circulation of more than **25,000 copies** of each issue of "Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper." So, **once again**, we gladly say...

**A Very Special Thanks from the Franks!**

May God continue to bless our cooperative efforts to His glory. Please continue to read, pray and/or give. (Al & June Franks)



An Unusual Building and an Edifying Service (Details on Page 12)

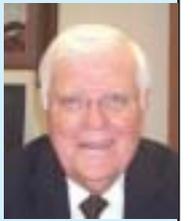
## Rich Man & Lazarus

Parable or Not?  
What is taught?

Read brother May's Response to a Reader of the MM on Page 3

Who Began the Church of Christ And When?

By  
Mack Lyon  
(Beginning on Page 4)



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

## Congregational Cooperation

SW LA & SE TX

I admit. I love to see churches of Christ doing things together. I wonder. How can it be otherwise, if we are *truly* the Lord's church?

Anyway, I noticed two separate announcements in the bulletin received from the Enterprise Boulevard church in Lake Charles, LA. The first had to do with a Special Summer series on Wednesday nights (June 27 - July 25). The announced theme to be discussed each night was "Resolved to be Involved". Visiting speakers included **Chris Mayer** (Sulphur), **Michael Potthoff** (DeQuincy), **Clayton Whalley** (Moss Bluff) **Ken Wright** (New Iberia) and **Jay Alexander** (DeRidder).

The second series involved the young people of area churches. Beginning on June 25 and going through August 13, the youth and their leaders from Texas and Louisiana churches were planning to meet at **Kountze, Maplewood, Westgate, Park Central, Lumberton, Ridgewood** and **Orange**. The theme for their summer series was "Transformed... *It's More Than Meets the Eye!*" "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalms 133:1)

"...I take this time to say to you all that God is indeed a good God by using you all to do such a great work for Him in the field of evangelizing His word in a very special way. There are so many things in your paper that I have read and it has blessed my heart and also encouraged me to keep on keeping on." (Dharmendra Ramgobin; Guyana, South America)

(Read Plea on Page 5)



Somewhere in Louisiana

## Preachers' Meetings

This Fall at **MBC** in Kosciusko  
**August 17 -- Neil Anderson**  
Editor, Gospel Advocate  
(Read Report on Page 9)  
**Sept 24 -- Eddie Lawson**  
Personal Evangelism  
**October 29 -- Milton Sewell**  
Retiring President of FHU  
**November 26 -- Allen Webster**  
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## Visiting Among Churches

during  
"Gospel Meeting Time"  
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Ackerman  
Tipton Street  
North Brandon  
Nile  
Crystal Springs  
(Please Turn to Pages 11,12)

Your Job  
is to  
Study Job  
This Issue

(See QB on Page 20)

## MM Travel Club

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## MBC

## Fall Lectures

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

## Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

As always, it was good to see you and June at Kosciusko last Friday night. I have attached our vacancy announcement and we would appreciate it very much if you would include it in the next MM. Please pray for us as we begin this search. By the way, the picture of the Gatlinburg church building was a familiar sight. In October, at the height of the leaf season, Wednesday evenings are devoted to singing. I don't know if it is the unusual architecture of the building but it is a magnificent sound. Thanks for your constant encour-agement and support. (Tom Fair; Meridian, MS)

We continue to enjoy reading the *Magnolia Messenger* and getting to learn of the good work that the church is doing in your part of the country. I have always maintained that all 50 states need a paper like yours to report on the work of the church all over the nation... I'm retired from full time work (as of 1-1-07) but keep busy practically every Sunday in preaching on a fill-in basis. Continue to give us the good news out of Mississippi & Louisiana. Brotherly, (Tom Adams Calera, OK)

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

Use this as you think best. The Messenger is great. (Robert E. Lowrey, Bartlett, TN)

Hi, brother Franks.

I was just checking to see how the Messenger was coming. Are you still looking at mailing it in mid-September? My eagerness is fueled by the very positive response we got from our last house parent ad with you. I know you were at Momma's funeral and heard the piece that Momma wrote as read by Bro. Les. It was part of a full page article printed in the MM in 1988. Your paper has blessed our lives in many ways over a number of years. Thank you for your continued support of the Gospel in Mississippi. (Rachel Carter Welborn; Ridgeland, MS)

I look forward to receiving the *Magnolia Messenger* for sometime now, and I am encouraged by each topic you address. Such as "About the Assembly" by Ken Joines. God bless you all, Yours in Christ, (Earline Huntley, Memphis, TN)

I want to thank you so much for sending the MM to me these many years. I will be 90 years old in September if I live till then. I do enjoy the MM so much and like to work the Question Box. Thank you so much. (Sarah M. Gunn, Marietta, 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.

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

### Supported By Contributions

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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](mailto:franksmm@aol.com)



Ruby Sweeney  
Re-born 20 Years Ago

### - We Wonder - Work Worthwhile?

Like many other Christians, during moments of weakness, we may pause to wonder, "Is our work truly worthwhile?" But then, along comes a vivid reminder, helping us to see that the answer is "absolutely, yes!"

While recently visiting worship services in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, we were very grateful to see Ruby Sweeney. As we hugged each other, she said, "It was twenty years ago today that you baptized me." So thankful to be reminded, that on August 12, 1987, Ruby was "born again."

Although sister Ruby is now suffering with serious illness, she was able to smile and express thanks to the Lord for the opportunity she had to learn and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ -- twenty years ago.

Her comment reminded my June and me that there is ample reason to erase all doubt and to exclaim thankfully, "Yes, our work is worthwhile." We are humbly grateful that, through the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ, God has richly blessed us with opportunities to help make a difference in the lives of many -- both in time and eternity. (editor)

thankful for the privilege of Preaching and Publishing



### Not My Will But Thy Will Be Done



A. L. Franks  
EDITOR

Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10) Jesus also said that only those who do "the will of my Father shall enter the kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 7:21). In the shadow of the cross, Jesus, manifesting his humanity, pleaded that His cup of suffering might "pass from me." But, not once, but three times he prayed, "...not what I will, but what thou wilt." (Mark 14:36)

Jesus is our model, our example and/or our leader. Christians are to be *like Christ*. "Not what I will, but what God wills." This must be my/your attitude. In thinking, living and teaching. *Not my will, but thine*.

Let me share with you my personal feelings, my desire or *my will*. Personally, *if it were left up to me*, I would have all sincere people to be saved eternally; I would consider all religious people to be right with God and that all would go to Heaven. But, then, I remember my Master -- the One who really wanted something to happen for His benefit; but, yet he prayed, "Not my will, but thine." Should this not also be my prayer and should it not become my desire, my will?

What about a person who is devout, who fears the Lord, who prays to God always and who gives much alms to the poor? Could he *possibly* be lost? Is there anyway you could imagine he would miss heaven? If it were strickly left up to me to pass judgement, I would be inclined to say "That man is surely okay. No doubt about it; he will go to Heaven." **But, wait a minute!**

There was such a person. His name was Cornelius. You read about him in Acts chapters 10 and 11. Note especially verse 14 of chapter eleven where an angel of God, in effect, declared Cornelius to be *lost*, and directed the apostle Peter to go to him and teach him "words", whereby he and his house "*shall be saved*."

This Biblical example may help us to begin to understand that it is not my will nor your will; not my words or your words that bring salvation; rather it is the will of God; it is the word of the Lord. *Not my will, but thine!*

If it were left up to me, I would grant salvation to any earnest hearted person who evidenced his faith in Jesus by being "baptized", whether it was by immersion, sprinkling or pouring. Yet, I know and, no doubt, you know that Bible baptism involves a "going down into the water" and a "coming up out of the water." (See Acts 8:38,39). The word "baptize" literally means immersion. That's why, when Paul spoke of baptism, he said that believers were "*buried*" with Christ in baptism, that they were "planted" with Christ in the likeness of His death" (Romans 6:4-6). I must accept the fact that it is *not my will but His will*.

If it were left up to me, I might just say that Christ-like behavior is not really necessary. And, in order to be considered "kind" and "caring", I might just teach that sexual immorality and other such sins which display a lack of love and respect for others, will not really keep one out of Heaven. But, then I recall the inspired words of God, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, not drunkards, nor revilers, nor exhortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:9,10). God is the judge. What He says, goes! And, we know what He said. It's in the Bible. Remember: it is "*not my will, but thine!*"

May God help us to respect his Word, His will. And, may each reader earnestly seek to both *learn* and *obey* the Will of God. If guilty of wrong doing, our Merciful Father is ready to forgive. (See I John 1:8-10). We can be assured: This life on earth will be blessed and the life to come will be bliss. Don't forget: "*Not my will, but thine!*"

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# Bible Questions Answered

## MM Reader Asks:

**QUESTION: At the time of our death, do angels attend and bear our spirits away to the next world? I cannot find any Scripture on this, but I may have overlooked it. (J. S.)**

**Is the story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) a parable or is Jesus there relating an actual incident? (B.J)**

### RESPONSE:

Jesus, in relating the story of the rich man and Lazarus, said of the beggar Lazarus, "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried" (Luke 16:22).

### Carried by Angels

Whether "carried by the angels" is literal or figurative, there is no reason not to presume that it remains true in the same sense for all of the redeemed who die. This is the basis for the song:

*"My latest sun is sinking fast,  
My race is nearly won;*

*.....  
The holy ones, behold, they come!*

*I hear the noise of wings.*

*.....*

*O come, angel band,*

*Come and around me stand;*

*O bear me away on your snowy wings*

*To my immortal home."* (Jefferson Hascall, 1860.)

Robert Ingersoll, the famous agnostic, expressed a wish at the grave of his brother for an after-life in which he had never believed and included a reference to the hope that angels assist in our passage: "But in the night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing."

### Angels and Wings?

However, references to the "rustle of wings" or "snowy wings" do not have a biblical basis. Most angels described in the Bible do not have wings. They appear as "men" (for example Gen. 18:2), often dressed in "white" (Matt. 28:3) or "dazzling" (Luke 24:4) apparel.

Exceptions would be the cherubim and seraphim (Ex. 25:20; Ezek. 1:6) and the living creatures (Rev. 4:8) which are generally supposed to be angelic figures, but they all have the appearance of animals and have multiple wings, not just two.

There are many modern anecdotes concerning dying people who just before death saw or seemed to see a vision of some heavenly being "coming for them." No present-day vision can

safely be said to teach us anything contrary to Scripture, but none of us is in a position to tell dying people what they did or did not see.

Jesus' primary intention in recording this incident, however, is to contrast the fate of the two men. Of the two, only the rich man could afford a funeral. Lazarus, however, was attended by angels. The rich man ended up in the afterlife "in torment" (16:23) and "in anguish in these flames" (16:25). Lazarus was carried "to Abraham's side," literally, "to Abraham's bosom" (16:22).

### Abraham's Bosom

There have been some interesting misunderstandings of the expression "Abraham's bosom." Some have spoken of it as if it were one of the compartments in Hades (Luke 16:23), the two being (1) "paradise" (Luke 23:43) or "Abraham's bosom" and (2) *tartarus* (not *ge'enna*, the usual word for "hell," but translated "hell" in 2 Peter 2:4).

The idea of compartments in Hades, paradise or a garden of delights on the one hand and *tartarus* or a place of torment and punishment on the other, may be correct, but "Abraham's bosom" is not the name of one of the compartments.

In those times feasts were enjoyed while reclining on couches, with the head of one person approximately even with the chest or bosom of the one nearest to him. Lazarus, who longed even for crumbs in his lifetime, is pictured here enjoying a feast, intimately very near to his spiritual father and physical ancestor Abraham.

The story effectively teaches several lessons, but a major one is that the rich and powerful who forget God and ignore the poor will be tormented in the life to come, while the righteous poor will enjoy the feasting and plenty they did not have on earth. The tables will be turned!

We know for sure that when we obeyed the gospel or returned to faithfulness after a period of rebellion, there was "joy before

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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the angels of God" (Luke 15:10). If we also look forward at our death to being carried by angels into the presence of the Lord, what a wonderful comfort that is!

### A Parable or Not?

There have been heated arguments over whether the story of the rich man and Lazarus is a record of a real incident or a parable. The issue is whether or not the picture of life after death as portrayed in the story is accurate. (It is correct to call it a "story" whether it is a parable or a real incident.)

The story of Lazarus and the rich man starts out exactly like another parable in the same chapter: "There was a rich man . . ." (Luke 16:19); "There was a rich man . . ." (Luke 16:1). It was not called a parable by Jesus or Luke, but that is also true of most of the acknowledged parables.

On the other hand, if it is a parable, it is the only one in which one of the characters is given a name.

In my opinion the question is without practical significance. Parables are not fables. They present a realistic picture of life. Even if it is a parable, the picture it presents of life after death is still an accurate picture.

### A Major Point of the Story

In addition to the point about the reversal of fortunes in the next life, there seems to be another important message in the story.

"And (Abraham) said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send (Lazarus)

to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" (Luke 16:27-31).

When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said they would be given no sign except the "sign of the Prophet Jonah" (Matt. 16:4). That referred, Jesus said on another occasion, to the sign of his resurrection from the dead (Matt. 12:39-40), a sign which much of the Jewish nation still did not accept or believe after it occurred.

Many seem to believe, even today, that a miracle or supernatural sign of some personal benefit would convince unbelievers of the truth. Abraham did not think so.

Many of those who heard this story were later to learn that the Son of God was raised from the dead, and yet they did not believe.

After Thomas "saw" and confessed, "My Lord and my God!," Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

Then John the gospel recorder said, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:30-31).

Jesus has been "declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

The apostle Paul said, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke' (quoting Psalm 116:10), we also

believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence . . . for we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 4:13-14; 5:7).

We know, because we confidently believe the proven reliable testimony of the apostles who said, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:32).

As the rich man's brothers had "Moses and the prophets," we have the inspired testimony of the "holy apostles and prophets" (Eph. 3:5). If we will not hear them, we would likely not believe, even if we saw a spectacular miracle.

## YOUR Questions Invited

**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  
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## News Note

### TUPELO

**Benefits of Bible Camp**  
Russell Smith, a minister with the West Main congregation in Tupelo, Mississippi reported that the third session of Maywood Christian camp brought together over 350 people with more than 50 public responses, including 15 baptisms. (6-28-07)

## Who Began the Church of Christ, and When?

Matthew 16:13-19

### Article # 2 in Series

**Editor's Note:** By special permission, we are pleased to publish the second in a series of lessons preached on nationwide television in March, 2006, by brother Mack Lyon of Edmond, Oklahoma. These studies were in response to a program aired on CNN-TV. All four sermons are available in a booklet by addressing:

**In Search of the Lord's Way**  
P. O. Box 371  
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083  
800-321-8633  
searchtv@aol.com



Mack Lyon

"Church." Whose idea was it anyway? Was it a good idea, or a bad one? Well, the answers we will get on that will be as many as the colors of the rainbow. Did you know that word "church" appears 114 times in the New Testament? So, it is a biblical subject. Let us see what the Bible says about it.

Thank you, my friend, for joining in our Bible study *In Search of the Lord's Way* to become and to be a Christian. We know all the choices of the programs you have at this time, and we are glad you chose ours...

Who are these people in churches of Christ? Do they form a "cult?" If you were watching the Nancy Grace segment of the CNN nightly news program on the evening of March 27, 2006, you may remember that the hostess of that one segment of the newscast interviewed a Baptist preacher in which she said was attempting to learn something about churches of Christ—who we are and what we believe.

I don't know why she asked a Baptist preacher. Would he know more about us, who we are and what we believe than one of us would? A-n-y-w-a-y, I asked one of my staff to download the interview so I would know what the man actually said. And he identified churches of Christ as "a cult-like sect," "a borderline cult," one of the youngest, begun about 150 years ago by Alexander Campbell.

Well, some good, honest people have been so misinformed that they believe that. However, because of the many requests received here, to the effect that since this program is the most widely received ministry of churches of Christ at this time, we are responding to that. We are honoring those requests with a series of four programs this month...

N-o-w let me make this clear: we are not trying to get that preacher—or anyone else "told off" or "set straight" or anything like that. I doubt he would hear us out. His mind is probably closed to anything we would say anyway. We are simply honoring those requests. And after all, don't you think we should be given an opportunity, as much as is possible, to respond to a falsehood like that?...

Our Bible reading today is that familiar passage in the gospel of Matthew, the 16th chapter. We will

begin reading at verse 13. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the Prophets. He said to them, but who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered and said to

him, blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

"And I also say to you, that you are

Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (We read through verse 19.)

Now, let us go to God in prayer. Our heavenly Father, we are so thankful indeed for the wonderful relationship we sustain, relationships that we sustain in the church, and we are thankful for our relationship with You as our heavenly Father and with our savior, Jesus Christ, as our redeemer, and with one another as the redeemed of God. And we pray, Father, that You will bless our study in these relationships today. In His name we pray, Amen.

In the event you didn't get to hear the message last week, I need to begin again by saying; no one can speak officially

for all churches of Christ. We are a closely knit fellowship of independent congregations, as those were in the days of the New Testament. We have no organization larger than the congregation. We subscribe to no one's creed by whatever name it might be called, no university or publication, no one person (certainly, not I) can speak officially to what all of us believe and teach.

We are in perfect agreement on

this one thing, though: Acceptance of the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice. Just as it is about everything, everything nowadays—law and morals

**I need to begin again by saying; no one can speak officially for all churches of Christ.**

and—well, most everything else you can think of—we have those who give a more strict (or some would say "conservative") and some who are more loose (some would say more "liberal") in their interpretation of the Scriptures.

Then, there is the vast majority of congregations who are, for the most part, fitting the word we will say -- they are "moderate." They do as God told Moses in Deuteronomy chapter 5, verse 32, to "turn neither to the right hand or to the left." We try hard to avoid extremism. Of course you know, in our present-day atmosphere, anyone who adheres strictly to the Bible as his sole rule of faith and morals, is considered an "extremist." And this one fellow went so far as to use the word "cult-like."

Well, it isn't for us to question the honesty of his intent, although, his information is extremely limited and his choice of words was very poor. Now, let us move on to the message of the day, "Who Began the churches of Christ, and When?"

In the first part of the third chapter of his letter to the church at Ephesus, the apostle Paul affirmed his apostleship. Because he became the apostle of Christ, as he, himself, says in 1 Corinthians 15:8, "As one born again out of due time," he had to contend with that denial everywhere he went. He began his affirmation in verse one of this chapter, but for time's sake, I am going to pass over those first seven verses today and call your attention to what he wrote in verses eight to eleven.

"To me, who am less than the least of all the saints," he said, "this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from

the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Christ Jesus; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God

might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus..."

You see, my friend, that a way, way back before time was—before the events of Genesis chapter one—in eternity—God had the church in His mind and in His "Master Plan" for creation.

See Church on Page 15

## Something I Need -- "Forgiveness"

Forgiveness of sins is among the greatest blessings I've ever been given. I have stood; I stand in need of forgiveness. Even as a Christian, I have need of forgiveness from man and God! "For all have sinned...." (Rom. 3:23). "There is no man that sinneth not...." (Rom. 6:9,10) "If we say we have no sin, we lie...." (1 John 1:8-10).

One of life's greatest needs is forgiveness. One of life's greatest blessings is remission. It is so comforting to realize -- based on the authority of God's sacred Word, that God truly does forgive completely. He forgives those who meet His conditions (see 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-2; Acts 2:38; 3:19).

The following was taken from a bulletin of the Greenville church of Christ. Just who wrote the article is unknown to us. I hope, however, that this scriptural study means as much to you as it does to me -- a weak and frail man who stands in need of God's forgiveness.

## God Forgives Completely

### The East-West Promise

(Psalms 103:12)

"... as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us."

### The Stain-Remover Promise

(Isaiah 1:18)

"... though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow,  
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

### The Eraser Promise

(Isaiah 43:25)

"I, I am He who blots out your transgressions  
for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins."

### The Behind-The-Back Promise

(Isaiah 38:17)

"... for you have cast all my sins behind your back."

### The Amnesia Promise

(Jeremiah 31 :34)

"I, ... I will forgive their iniquity, and remember... sin no more."

### The Deep-Sea Promise

(Micah 7:19)

"He will again have compassion upon us...  
You will cast all our sin's into the depth of the sea."

Taken from the bulletin of the South Main Church of Christ;  
11700 South Main, Greenville, MS 38701; Number 27, July 4, 2007

## Itawamba Area-wide Campaign

### "A Tremendous Success"

Russ Crosswhite, preacher for the Fulton congregation, reported on their summer area-wide campaign by saying, "Our county-wide gospel meeting was a tremendous success. One precious soul was baptized into Christ the last night of the meeting. The cooperation, work and love expressed among the participating congregations are to be commended. Jerry Jenkins proclaimed God's word in such a fine way. It was a joy being around brother Jenkins throughout the week.

"Wasn't the singing wonderful? Several people mentioned to me how much they enjoyed it. Thanks to Bob Gilliland for the excellent job he did in leading our singing...

Most of all, God was glorified, the lost saved and the church edified. And that is what it's all about..."

Brother Crosswhite also commented about a goal that has been set by the Fulton church. He said, "We are striving to have 200 in attendance on Sunday..."

In the Pontotoc church bulletin (Church Street), we noted that Russ Crosswhite was scheduled to preach in a meeting for the congregaton August 12 - 15 where Jay Street serves as local preacher. We trust it was a great success.

**MM: Mississippi's  
GOOD NEWS  
Newspaper**

## Campaigners Needed in Guyana, South America

Letter Recently Received

“Dear Brethren,

“We, the members of the Cottontree, Bath Settlement, Blairmont and Kingkly Church of Christ have not had a crusade for Christ in about thirteen years now.

“We are located along the coast, where there are thousands of people, and are in great need of a crusade. We are kindly asking mission minded churches in the United States, to come and work along with us as, together, we seek to obey Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-16. We are asking you in the USA, because we believe you have the resources and money to help.

“We are very poor people, however, God has richly blessed America with many Gospel preachers and with great financial means. We thank God for you who are Christians in America and for your prosperity which enables you to bless the poorer ones here in Guyana, South America.

“We are looking mostly for a mixed, congregation with both black and white brethren. We would be very glad if some whites could team up with the blacks. This arrangement would help our people know that we are not all white or all black, or -- with the local church here, we are not all Indians.”

Brother Dharmendra ended his letter by saying, “Brother Al, if you could please pick out the main stuff from this letter and print it in your MM paper, that would be very good for us.

“May God richly bless you in every possible way and please help us out in this venture for the Lord and our God. God Bless.

“For the Cottontree Church of Christ; from your brother in Christ.”

Signed: Dharmendra Ramgobin; World Bible School Center  
188 Waterloo; Bath Settlement  
West Coast Berbice; Guyana, S. A.; Phone: 592-653-1028



The Ramgobins

### BOONEVILLE

Among the many good works of the Booneville church is their very active jail ministry. Several recent baptisms have been reported; also the church has been granted permission to have Sunday Morning worship services at the Justice Center.

The Booneville congregation is also planning a campaign for **October 20-24, 2007**. A group from Heritage Christian University plans to help canvas the entire community for Christ. **Stephen Guy** continues to serve effectively as preacher for the active church.

## Area-wide Singing Hosted by DeRidder Church

The Bilbo & Roberts Church of Christ in DeRidder, Louisiana was host for the area-wide singing held on August 17, 2007. Al and I were blessed with the opportunity to attend.



Meeting Place for the Bilbo Street Church in DeRidder, LA

(We were in the area due to the fact that Al was scheduled to preach at Jackson Chapel, near Leesville, on Sunday the 19th.)

**Jay Alexander**, the local preacher for the DeRidder church, welcomed everyone as we began an evening of singing praises to God. Selections of songs were made by the audience and were written on the board. Those participating could lead one of the

songs numbered on the board or choose a song of their choice.

Several area congregations were represented. The Enterprise Boulevard Church in Lake Charles brought 28 in their church bus. Refreshments were served after the singing, enabling those in attendance to enjoy a meaningful period of fellowship. It was a blessing for us to be a part of the special assembly. (June Franks)

## News Note

### MONROE, LA

We received answers to “The Question Box” (June/July, 07) from **James C. Guy** who preaches for the University church in Monroe, LA. Brother Guy wrote, “This is the first time I’ve filled in the Question Box in years. I’m glad to still get MM here in Louisiana.”

Brother James’ note encouraged me to call the University church and to learn that he was out of town for the weekend. I was pleased, however, to visit briefly with **Dennis Mitchell** who informed me that he served as one of the four elders of the congregation and also as “Involvement Minister.” Brother Mitchell reported attendance at the University church was running about 150 each Lord’s day. He also mentioned a family in their congregation named “Franks”. (We are trying to find out what kin, if any.) Our telephone visit also encouraged us to make plans, before long (God willing), to visit the University church of Christ in Monroe, LA.

## Birthday Girls Celebrate 80 Years

**Velma DeLancey**

(Yazoo City)

**Ouida Gentry**

(Florence)

On June 14, 2007, Tommy and Peggy Shull gave Velma DeLancey of Yazoo City, Mississippi a surprise birthday party in honor of her 80th birthday. The party was held at the Shull’s home in Southaven, MS. The party was a huge success and enjoyed by all in attendance. Sorry we were not able to be present.

Ouida Gentry from Florence, Mississippi also celebrated her 80th birthday this summer. Sister Ouida wrote, “Just a note to let you know I missed you at my birthday, ‘bash’. It was a great day, about 100 was there.” Sister Ouida gave everyone in attendance a bookmark with a special article inscribed entitled, *I’m Drinking From My Saucer*. Sister Ouida stated, “The verse sums up how I feel about my life.”

A special congratulation to both of these godly women who have reached this very special milestone in their lives. (Information was mailed to the MM by Peggy Shull and by Ouida Gentry. Report by June Franks)

Velma DeLancey Standing in front of the Shulls House in Southaven, Mississippi.

Sorry we do not have sister Gentry’s Picture.



## Now, You Take it from There!



by  
**John Simpson**

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

## Advice to Newlyweds and Those Considering Marriage

By John Simpson

1. Marry your BEST Christian friend, and lift them up as King/Queen of the Universe.
2. Delete from your vocabulary of communication with each other – angry words, separation or divorce.
3. Learn to always talk **TO** each other, rather than **AT** each other.
4. When more heat than light begins to emerge from conversation, take a walk – alone.
5. Resolve to never drink (alcoholic beverage) when you are sober.
6. Be able to laugh, cry and pray together; and learn to say: “I’m Sorry”!
7. Establish a Magna Carta for your home (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 5:25-27; 6:1-4).
8. Seek perfection, while recognizing your perpetual imperfection.
9. Begin and end each day with – “I LOVE YOU!”
10. Allow God to work the night shift!
11. Adopt the philosophy of a wise and happy couple who lived in Sheepskin Valley at the foot of Wolverton Mountain, north of Morrilton, AR. At their Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration, he said: “If I hadn’t gotten married when I did, I suppose I never would have, because I never have wanted to since”. She agreed as feeling the same way.

Philosophically said, this may sound more refined to some than to others, but it sounded like a morally solid foundation for longevity of marriage.

It worked for them and has worked for Dorothy and me for more than half a century, and counting. And it will work for anyone else committed to the same philosophy for a lasting marriage.

**Now, you take it from there!**

## Macon, MS Meeting

“Encouraging”

On July 28, 2007 some **21 people** from the Farley Church of Christ, Huntsville, Al. drove into Macon, MS. They came for the purpose of helping to encourage the Christians in Macon, to spread the Gospel of Christ and to invite the community to a series of “gospel meetings.” They came, young and old(er). For many it was the first time they had ever been involved with such an outreach for Christ, but they were eager.

On Saturday Morning they assembled with the Macon Christians for a devotional and assignments. They organized in to teams and divided the town into areas to work. By 10 o’clock they were out the door, inviting people to the services, enrolling students in Bible Correspondence Courses and passing out tracts. At noon the good ladies of the Macon Church provided sandwiches and desserts. Then the teams were back at work for the afternoon. *It was hot*. But they kept on knocking doors and inviting.

That evening it was barbecue at the church building and a little relaxation at the motel. Sunday morning brought **42** for Bible Class and Worship, then the good folks from Huntsville departed, except for **Paul Clements**, the preacher, who conducted the Gospel Meeting. Sunday thru Wednesday he preached great sermons of first principles and encouragement.

On Monday night **56** were in attendance, on Tuesday night **47** came and on Wednesday there were **18**. Some **twelve** local congregations came and supported this effort. (Thanks to brother Therman for the report.)



Therman Hodge,  
Preacher at Macon

## “The Toughest Job You’ll Ever Love”

- Travis Brown -

This slogan is widely known for describing the experiences that can be had through involvement in the Peace Corps. With the work that is done and the locations that are visited, I am sure that this description is valid. I thought of that slogan a few weeks ago while on a mission trip to a small village deep in the interior of Guyana, South America.

Surrounded by Venezuela, Brazil and Suriname, Guyana is around 80,000 square miles and has a population of 765,000. Over 90% of the population lives along the coastal areas. From 1803 until 1966 Guyana was a British colony. In 1966 it gained its independence. Due to the time-span of the British influence, Guyana is the only English speaking country in South America. Covered with rivers and a massive rain forest, it is a rugged, unspoiled country with many natural wonders and beauty. The climate is hot, and humid. The rainy seasons are May-June and November-January. Guyana is home to the famous Kaieteur Falls. This is the highest single drop waterfall in the world plunging 825 feet into the gorge below.

This was my 6th foreign mission trip and my 4th to Guyana. I went with a team from Amerindian Missions headed by **Jerry Davidson**. Jerry, currently of Summerdale, AL began visiting this beautiful country on mission efforts back in 1989. As he grew to love the people and saw opportunities unfolding to spread the Gospel, he realized that most of the evangelistic efforts were in the coastal areas and major cities. However, there were numerous tribes of Amerindians in the interior which had never had the opportunity to hear of God and His wonderful plan of salvation. There are around 150 Amerindian villages in Guyana ranging in population from a handful to several thousand. Jerry began going into these villages in 1999 and the Amerindian Missions project developed.

The Amerindian villages, with their own captains and councils, had kept their villages off-limits to foreigners for many years. However, with perseverance and God’s help Jerry began to see doors opening with the Amerindians. Since 1999 the work has grown. Jerry now takes teams in three times each year [during the dry seasons]. The average trip lasts from about 2 to 3 weeks. There are also three 40 foot containers packed with supplies for the people of Guyana which are shipped out of Summerdale, AL each year. These supplies come from Christians in several states, both from individuals and congregations. The Summerdale church of Christ is in oversight of this project.

With my position at Magnolia Bible College now, the only time I could go was during July. One of our students from Southaven, MS, **Ben Brownfield**, accompanied me on this trip. Several others wanted to go, but due to prior schedules and the time frame they could not make this trip.



Missionaries to Guyana (from left: Ben Brownfield and Travis Brown)

However, Lord willing they are planning on going next July. In Atlanta Ben and I joined **Jerry, Lloyd Beard** of Booneville, MS, **Gene Johnson** of Decatur, AL and **Patrick Swayne** of Morristown, TN. When we arrived in Guyana we met the rest of our team: several Guyanese brethren, four students from the Preaching School and an evangelist from Trinidad. Another team, mostly from around Elba, AL, was already working in the village of Moco Moco. They had come in a week earlier.

When we arrived we learned that the rains came a little later this year and were still in full-force. The team at Moco Moco had been facing some difficult situations. Staying in tents is hard enough but when you are battling the wind, driving rains and insects, things get interesting. For some of these young people it was their first time out of the U.S. Though it was not what they were expecting, they endured and grew from their experiences. They learned just how blessed they were to be Americans. They grew in understanding and appreciation for missionaries who sacrifice greatly to serve the Lord. They realized how wonderful it is to have a roof over your head, a comfortable bed on which to sleep and how refreshing a simple glass of cool water can be. The insect bites will heal. The memories of trying to attach tarps and stake down tents during the stormy nights will begin to fade as time rolls on. The heat, thirst and fatigue will slowly lose its vividness in their minds. However, the faces of the people they helped will remain in their hearts for years to come — the men and women with whom they studied God’s Word and gave hope of a better time and place, the elderly people who needed God’s message of love and salvation, and the young boys and girls who were taught Bible stories about God’s servants and songs like “Jesus Loves Me.” These memories are what make it all worth the effort

Our team had its own experiences when we arrived at the villages of Nappi and Parashiara, however time and space will not permit me to tell the whole story. I will say that 114 degree temperatures

are hot, South American ants do have a noticeable sting, 100% Deet insect spray does not completely deter Kobora flies, trudging along in a huge military truck in waste-deep water, hoping the road is still somewhere underneath you, can be a little unnerving, and sleeping in a tent — bathing from water in a bucket — and no electricity can take a little getting used to. However, the rewards are outstanding.

As I conclude this article let me share some of the results of our efforts of the July, 2007 trip to Guyana, South America: Bibles were distributed, reading glasses were given to those who cannot see without them, medicine was given to families in need, school supplies were donated to primary schools, genuine compassion was displayed and trust was established. We planted and watered and God truly gave the increase with: 5 Weddings, 9 Restorations and 41 Baptisms.

Many have already joined Jerry in this wonderful work and are helping him toward realizing his goal — **A Bible In Every Hut!** Where

See JOB, Pg 16

## We Went to a Wedding

A few weeks ago, my June and I were privileged to attend a wedding which included the singing of two “gospel songs” (the kind usually sung in worship services).

A small group of 8 or 9 very talented male and female singers joined their voices in breathtaking harmony as they sang in unison about the “Love of God” and the words of a prayer, “The Lord Bless You and Keep You.”

The singing was absolutely beautiful. Very meaningful. And, it was just singing. Voices harmonizing. No instruments and no attempt to imitate mechanical instruments of music.

I was encouraged to say and to write, “There is no need for, and no place for, mechanical instruments of music in our earnest efforts to worship God and edify one another in “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” Yes, “singing with grace”, making “melody in the heart”, is sufficient. All we need. Why anything else? No scripture. No reason. No need. (editor)

### Gospel Meeting Homecoming 20th Anniversary

Bypass Church of Christ Vicksburg, Mississippi

November 24-29, 2007

Speaker

**Daniel McCollum**

(Tupelo, MS)

**Saturday: 6:00 P.M.**  
“Saturday Night Live”  
preaching & singing

**Sunday:**

10:00 - Bible Study

11:00: Worship

12:30 - 2:30: Fellowship Meal

2:45: Fellowship

**Monday thru Thursday**

7:00 P.M.

Local Preacher: Willie Nettle

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# Abandoning the Restoration

- John F. Gardner -

During the last several years it has become apparent that some who once espoused the Restoration of New Testament Christianity are no longer doing so. Some individuals, local churches of Christ, and even an occasional brotherhood college or university may be observed taking steps in the pursuit of goals which are clearly inconsistent with the Restoration plea.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into details about what seems to be a clear abandonment of the ideal of restoring the pure faith and practice of the New Testament church by some. Rather, this article is offered to remind us that the abandonment of the Restoration principle by those who once pursued it in order to

advance ways more popular and contemporary is not a new experience among God's people.

The history of Judah during the period of the Divided Kingdom supplies the Bible reader with several examples of kingly leadership that pursued the restoration (some would say, reformation) of the way of God following periods of idolatrous abandon. Some like Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29 - 31) and Josiah (2 Chronicles 34 & 35) easily come to mind. But other kings also engaged in various aspects of restoring Judah's life in keeping with the Law of Moses, with varying degrees of success. Among them was Joash (2 Chronicles 24).

It is worthy of note that it is said of Joash (or Jehoash as the name appears elsewhere) that he "did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoida the priest" (2 Chronicles 24: 2). The description hints at a certain time of obedience to God that ended when an influential priest left the scene. Indeed the text tells us that later in Joash's reign when the priest Jehoida died at the age of one hundred thirty years, the king who had done so much good turned away from God and brought wrath on Judah and Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 24: 17, 18).

Originally Joash had a restoration goal. Even though he inherited the throne from a corrupt father and a murderous grandmother, he no doubt learned from Jehoida the priest, his wife, and his nurse, the way of the true God (2 Chronicles 22: 10 - 12).

At age seven, Joash began to reign in Judah and when he reached maturity, he set his heart to repair the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem



John Gardner

as quickly as possible (2 Chronicles 24: 1, 5). Not only was he intent on restoring the house of God, but he insisted on funding it by following the pattern for the maintenance of

**Errors have been made in applying the Restoration principle, and will likely continue to be made; but to forsake an ongoing return to the Scriptures for authority and an examination of our faith and practice by those Scriptures would be a monumental mistake with enormous consequences.**

the tabernacle which Moses had revealed to Israel in the wilderness (V. 6). The money was collected and the workmen set about "to restore the house of the Lord" (V. 12, NKJV, Emphasis added). "So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it" (V. 13, Emphasis added). Faithful worship of God was restored and practiced all of the days that Jehoida lived.

Jehoida was such an outstanding spiritual leader in Judah that he was buried in the City of David among the kings. After his death, however, there was a tremendous void of spiritual leadership. Into that void came corrupt leaders of Judah who gained the king's ear and persuaded him to abandon the faithful service of God for idolatry.

They refused to hear the prophets God sent them, and even persuaded Joash to kill Zechariah the son of Jehoida who prophesied against their idolatry (2 Chronicles 24: 17 - 22).

The Syrian army was then used as the instrument of God's wrath on Joash and rebellious Judah. Even with a very small number, the Syrians put to flight "a very great army" of Judah "because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers" (V. 24). Joash was wounded and left behind, only to be executed later on his bed by his own servants.

A restoration was begun and succeeded for a while in Judah and Jerusalem under Joash. However, when the strong leadership of a

godly man ceased and the king was left alone to make hard choices about faithfulness to God, the restoration was forsaken. More importantly, God was abandoned. And all of that change from faithful service to God to blatant idolatry happened within a short forty year period.

As current leaders who accept various tenants of post-modernism find their places of influence in local churches, we can expect less emphasis on "back to the Bible" and "speaking where the Bible speaks" among those churches. The philosophy of the day denies objective truth which men and women can know with certainty, and that truth is universal and applies to all people (but see 1 Timothy 2: 4; John 8: 32; and other passages). It affirms that each person constructs his or her own truth out of sources which may in fact be contradictory.

According to the view, one should hold to biblical truth, not because it is rational and has the authority of Scripture behind it, but because that "truth" works for that individual and may affirm the heritage of the church to which one belongs. With such an approach, is it any wonder that some among us are denying a pattern or "form of doctrine" (Romans 6: 17) that must guide those who would please the Lord?

Errors have been made in applying the Restoration principle, and will likely continue to be made; but to forsake an ongoing return to the Scriptures for authority and an examination of our faith and practice by those Scriptures would be a monumental mistake with

enormous consequences. Having examined the Restoration plea and found it scriptural, let us not abandon the way of God for the siren voices of contemporary philosophy and theology which are sure to fail.

John Gardner, Academic Dean; Magnolia Bible College; P. O. Box 1189; Kosciusko, MS.

**Congratulations  
W. T. & Shelby Allison  
50th Anniversary  
Celebrated July 15, 2007  
Church of Christ  
Hamilton, Alabama**

The Allison's are well known and appreciated for their labors in the Kingdom of Christ, especially in Alabama and parts of Mississippi. Thank the good Lord for this fine couple and their good work over many years. God bless. (A/I & June)

## The Tunica Challenge - Editor's Note

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Tunica, the town, and Tunica, the county, has undergone dramatic changes within the past several years. Legalized gambling, with all its attendant evils, has changed this area in NW Mississippi. A good friend of ours, Dennis Doughty, a faithful gospel preacher, has

already accepted, *in part*, the "Tunica Challenge" about which he writes in the following report. He and his good wife, Kathy, want to *fully* accept the urgent challenge of evangelism in what is considered by some to be "Mississippi's most sinful county." Please consider his earnest request. (alf)

## The Tunica Challenge

By Dennis Doughty

The Sun is rising on a new era in Tunica County. Across vast cotton and rice fields and spreading from historic Main Street to the Mississippi river casinos is the challenge of unprecedented growth in the Delta. Increasing populations and an overwhelming number of yearly visitors present new opportunities to reach the lost with the gospel message. The church in this important Mississippi County has made a commitment to meet this challenge.

Tunica County has become the crossroads of the Delta. The farming of tens of thousands of acres continues to provide income, stability and employment for this old time Mississippi town. Meanwhile, the casinos in Robinsonville have become the third largest gambling center in America, now drawing over 12 million people a year (that's over 40,000 a day!) and employs 12,000 people from Tunica and the surrounding cities and towns. Large new apartment complexes provide housing for many of these workers and their families. How can the Lord's church sit back and do nothing to reach out to these people? I do not know how, but somehow we must find a way to evangelize and minister to this large number of lost souls.

Tunica County is on the verge of a housing boom. While once the poorest county in Mississippi, now its low taxes and growing amenities are attracting more and more retired couples and young families. The county is home to a new Olympic quality swim facility, a state of the art exercise center, three championship golf courses and a world-class indoor clay court tennis facility. The new spacious Battle Arena attracts over 40 equestrian

events a year. Corporate meetings now come in large numbers to casino convention facilities. Large retailers



Kathy & Dennis Doughty

are testing soil foundations at this very moment. The airport has the longest runway north of Jackson and has plans to expand it by years end.

I have been preaching for the Tunica church on Sundays since January. The congregation has an excellent reputation in the community, due in part to the **41 year ministry of R.V. Scott**. Now new challenges are arising almost daily. These fine Christians asked if I would consider coming to work for them full time to help them meet these challenges. I am ready to do so. While their contribution is excellent for a small group of 35, it is not enough to support a preacher full time. At this point additional funds are needed.

Who can deny the need for a strong church presence, with a full time minister, in this vital Mississippi County! Can your congregation help? If so contact: **Dennis Doughty** at phone number: 901.409.3782, or e-mail: d\_doughty@comcast.net



Tunica Church Getting Set For Growth! Help is Needed.



## Sunnybrook Children's Home

### Position Announcement: Social Worker II

**Employment Status:**  
Full-time

**Brief Description:**

Sunnybrook Children's Home is currently seeking a professional member of the Church of Christ to serve the Lord through His children in our residential group home setting. The successful candidate will be eager to contribute to an atmosphere that stresses teamwork and working as a Christian for the welfare of the children. We stress spirituality, education, social skills and responsibility in a family-style environment. Our residential campus provides homes for school age boys and girls. Sunnybrook Children's Home is affiliated with the Churches of Christ.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Must be a licensed MSW. LCSW certification would be helpful. If coming from out of state, must be willing and able to pass the Mississippi state licensing exam within the first six month(s) of employment.

**Benefits Package:**

Includes salary, insurance, 401K, vacation. Salary is commensurate to experience.

**Contact:**

For more information contact

**Joe D. Hodges,**

Executive Director at 601.856.6555.

Resumes may be sent to

P.O. Box 4871, Jackson, MS 39296-4871

or e-mailed to [jhodges@sunnybrookchildrenshome.org](mailto:jhodges@sunnybrookchildrenshome.org)

### Position Announcement: Houseparent Husband and Wife Team

**Employment Status:**  
Full-time

**Brief Description:**

Sunnybrook Children's Home is currently seeking a Christian husband and wife team to share their love, care and Lord with His children in our residential group home setting in Ridgeland, MS. A successful candidate will be eager to contribute to an atmosphere that stresses teamwork and working as a Christian for the welfare of the children. We promote spirituality, education, social skills and responsibility in a family-style environment. Our residential campus provides homes for school age boys and girls in cottages that house up to ten children. In addition, Sunnybrook serves families and children through Foster Care and Adoption Services. Sunnybrook Children's Home is affiliated with the churches of Christ.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Sunnybrook is seeking husband and wife teams who are faithful Christians. Both must be at least 23 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, be U.S. citizens, and possess a valid driver's license.

**Benefits Package:**

Houseparents work three weeks on duty, followed by one week off. Benefits package includes salary, insurance, housing, food while on duty, utilities, 401K, vacation, and wellness program.

**Contact:**

For more information, visit our website at [www.sunnybrookchildrenshome.org](http://www.sunnybrookchildrenshome.org) or contact Rachel Welborn, Program Administrator, (601) 856-6555, ext. 104.

**Rachel Welborn**

Program Administrator

Sunnybrook Children's Home

P.O. Box 4871; Jackson, MS 39296-4871

(601) 856-6555, ext. 104

[rwelborn@sunnybrookchildrenshome.org](mailto:rwelborn@sunnybrookchildrenshome.org)

### "Wonderful News"

From Madison, MS

We recently received a note from **Bill and Barbara Richards**, members of the Madison Church of Christ. Barbara wrote, "*Wonderful News*". We have secured eleven acres just out of Madison in our first step of a permanent location. Will send photos soon. Our average worship is over a 100 each Lord's Day. Last Sunday, 130. **Aaron [Foster]** is doing a great job. Just keep us in your daily prayers. I know God is watching and fulfilling our dream of Madison's work".

*(The Madison church is presently meeting in an old school building in Madison.)*

### BOONEVILLE Bulletin 131 Names Special Prayer Lists

Church bulletins are a vital source of information about what is going on among churches of Christ. We, at the offices of the MM, are grateful for each bulletin sent to us. We do make an effort to, at least, scan every publication that comes our way. Many bulletins contain a section on "Remember in Prayer", reminding us of the faith we have in a loving and all powerful God who does, indeed, hear the prayers of his children.

In a bulletin from the Booneville church we couldn't help but notice a rather lengthy prayer list which mentioned the names of 131 people. Sixteen (16) names were among those mentioned, perhaps some, for the first time. Then, there were 59 names among those said to be on the "Continuing Prayer List." Five (5) expectant mothers were named; also 17 persons were said to be "homebound" or in nursing homes or "assisted living" facilities. Prayers were requested for 24 folks "serving in the military".

After reading the lengthy list, we couldn't help but say, "*Thank God for caring churches*" and "*Thank God for the power of prayer.*" The Booneville church is served by 4 elders, 14 deacons and several other special servants including **Steven Guy** who preaches for the church that brings together near 400 each Lord's day. I need to add one other name -- that of **Jimmie Timbes**, the longtime secretary. I'm sure that, at least, partial credit should go to her for putting together the special prayer list. (alf/mjf)

### Pass the Baton

Garvis Semore



MBC President

Madelaine Manning Mims was an Olympic track star from the late sixties through the early eighties. Mims ran individual races as well as relay races. She once commented on the importance of the passing of the baton in relay races. "I've had

batons slip, drop, slide, and even bounce off the track back into my hand on the way to victory. But of all the crucial moments in an Olympic relay race, there is none so crucial as the pass. It is the approach, the timing, the grip, the exchange, the power, the pressure. It is the all-important transfer. It is where the race is won or lost. Period."

In many ways our religion is shared with others like the relay runner passes off the baton. Consider those who have gone before us at any local congregation. There was a time where some person was a strong, active leader in the congregation. By gentle persuasion and encouragement the leadership was passed to a new generation.

My earliest memories of Magnolia Bible College involved listening to **Cecil May, Jr.** speak of 2 Timothy 2:2. Brother May would remind us of Paul's words, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." I'd like to think that the baton has been successfully passed in the leadership at MBC.

I'd also like to think that we are helping to pass the baton through the lives of our students. We believe in the concept of entrusting reliable or faithful brethren with the Good News so they can in-turn pass it on to others. Our students study and grow and teach and pass the baton to a new generation who will be

entrusted to continue to pass the baton.

This baton passing is no where more true than it is in the family. While children won't go to heaven "on their mother's apron strings," children learn continually from their parents. As families we

must be diligent in passing the baton of faithfulness to the next generation. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

The family relationship is special because that baton of faith can even be passed from child to parent. "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

A girl named Jamie Jo wrote the following tribute to her dad: "If, before I was born, God would have let me pick a man whom I would love, respect, obey, and call Daddy for the rest of my life, I would have chosen the same one he gave me. Through every up and down there was never any doubt that Daddy loved me from the very deepest part of his heart!" Those are powerful words! With that relationship the baton of faith should easily pass from one generation to the next.

Baton passing can take place with the outstretched hand of a cup of cold water (Matthew 10:42) or by doing good to all men (Galatians 6:10). It can take place as a result of a warm meal carried to a lonely, elderly person. It just might take place because of relief effort after a storm of the magnitude of Katrina. We may even be in a position to pass the baton to someone grappling with problems or addictions or heartaches when we offer them a smile and a baton of hope in a world where they have only known hopelessness.

Regardless of where we fit in the family circle or in this world we can make a difference in the lives of others. We encourage, we pray, we even correct -- all in an effort to successfully "pass the baton."

How about you? Are you passing the baton in your family? Are you passing the baton in the circle of those you meet in life? Or has the baton been dropped? Is it slipping? The race is not yet over. "But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good" (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

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# MBC News

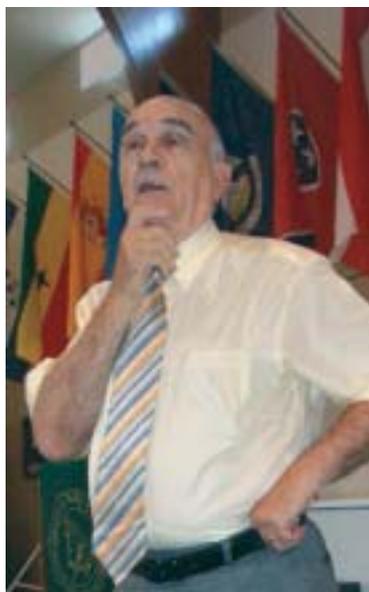
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## Gospel Advocate Editor Speaks to Preachers at MBC

Neil Anderson, editor of the Gospel Advocate, was a recent visitor to the campus of MBC. On Monday morning, August 27, brother Neil addressed a group of preachers in Kosciusko who had gathered from north and central Mississippi. His address illustrated the power of one person who, with the help of God, can make a real difference in the world.

Having a vast knowledge of gospel preachers who have served during the past 150 years or so, brother Anderson told about the life changing influence of such men as **Tolbert Fanning** and **David Lipscomb**. He spoke of their work in education and publishing. Brother Neil seemed especially pleased to mention the influence of both Fanning and Lipscomb back in the early days of the *Gospel Advocate* which was first published in 1855.

Later, during the MBC "Chapel Hour", in the presence of faculty, staff and students -- along with the



Editor Neil Anderson

visiting preachers, brother Anderson continued to relate the powerful influence of godly men and women who, often in spite of handicaps, were able to make a real dif-

ference in the world and in the church. Among them, he told about **T. B. Larimore** (*Mars Hill Bible School*, Florence, AL) **G. P. Bowser** (*Southwestern Christian College*, Terrell, TX) and **Jack Zorn** (*"Lads to Leaders"*, Montgomery, AL.)

After the informative and encouraging remarks from Neil Anderson, all were invited to participate in a noon meal provided by the college. This allowed time for considerable visiting and fellowship. Finally, as the meeting came to a close and everyone was leaving, there could be no doubt but that a time of enlightenment and encouragement had been enjoyed by all.

### Upcoming Preachers' Meetings & Speakers

On Campus - at MBC

Sept 24 - **Eddie Lawson**  
October 29 - **Milton Sewell**  
November 26 - **Alan Webster**

## "Friends of Magnolia" Enjoyed An Evening With Tom Holland

### Inspirational Singing Enjoyable Stories Encouraging Reasons

On Friday night, August 24, 2007, approximately 125 "Friends of Magnolia" came together to show their support of MBC and to enjoy an evening together. All who came were blessed to participate in about 30 minutes of congregational singing capably led by preacher/educator Tom Holland of Brentwood, Tennessee. (It was a *mini fund raising* event, not intended to take the place of the "big dinner" held each year in the Spring.)

Time to sing! Brother Holland's first selection enabled all participants to join together in joyful song exclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." The seasoned director paused after the first song and offered a suggestion, saying that *all* who lead singing should make a point to begin each service with songs that will "lift our hearts toward heaven."

As we thoroughly enjoyed singing such songs as "Day is Dying in the West", "Praise Him, Praise Him" and "Jesus is All the World to Me", brother Holland commented, "I love to sing." (It was apparent!) He then addressed those who were worshipping in song, saying, "You are singing really well. I believe God is well pleased."

After a number of other thought provoking songs, being encouraged by both word and example to really put our hearts into our singing, brother Tom led a final stirring song. We praised the Name of our precious Father in singing the hymn, "God is So Good". The words coming from the hearts of the worshippers -- expressed through the mouth, were filled with great emotion -- bring-



Tom Holland

ing us all closer to our God and to one another.

After the singing session, for a few minutes, Tom Holland, in his talented role as an "after dinner speaker", provided wonderful entertainment as he related several funny stories which

seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Then, before closing, for a few moments, brother Tom related three reasons "Friends of Magnolia" had for supporting the Bible College. He stated that, first of all, MBC provides a "safe environment" where students are **protected** from many of the evil influences prevalent in state universities where God and the Bible are often not respected. Secondly, he spoke of the blessing the school provides by **preparing** servants for the greatest of all missions -- resulting in the saving and strengthening of precious souls. And finally, he noted that schools like MBC **provides** a special bonding among the workers in the Kingdom of Christ.

So soon, the activities came to an end. Upon our departure from the special meeting, all who were blessed to be present as "Friends of Magnolia", were privileged to leave the gathering with lasting memories of the good singing, the good food, the good fellowship and fun. It was truly a delightful evening! (alf)

### MBC Fall Lectures

Saturday, October 20, 2007  
On Campus - Kosciusko

"Rescue the Perishing"  
Speakers

**Harold Redd & Garvis Semore**  
Just for Ladies: **Sue Crabtree**

More Information: www.magnolia.edu  
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### Visiting Speaker at MBC's Annual Faculty & Staff Conference



Bill Richardson

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, the faculty and staff of Magnolia Bible College met together at beautiful Lake Tiakata in Louisville, Mississippi for their annual "Back to School" conference. Visiting as a "resource person" was Bill Richardson, Director of the School of Biblical Studies and the Master Ministry Program at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

It was a blessing for my June and me to be present at the evening

session which included a delicious meal and the privilege of hearing brother Richardson bring a final lesson for the day.

As to be expected, the educator/preacher spoke on the importance of preaching and the needed content of sermons. Basing his lesson on Romans 10:9-17, he said that the *right* kind of preaching should/must put Jesus at "center stage". He stressed that our emphasizes should **not** be on buildings, preachers and/or programs. He noted that "we, as Christians" are the "sent" and that our mission is to "proclaim the Word to the whole world".

A good meal; a good lesson; a good time. Pleased, as a board member of MBC, to have been included in the evening activities of what apparently proved to be a "profitable day" for the Bible college. We solicit your earnest prayers on behalf of MBC. (editor)

## Magnolia Bible College

### Memorials & Living Tributes

The following donars 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.

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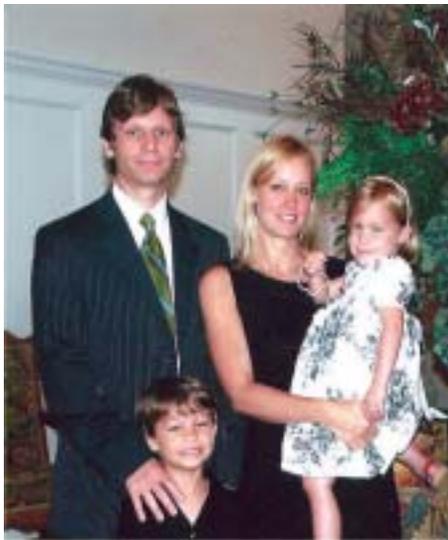
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## Nathan Comes Back Home to Greenwood

Nathan Segars has returned to his home in Greenwood to serve as the new preacher for the West President Street church. He began his full-time work with the Mississippi delta congregation on August 4, 2007.

Brother Nathan, his wife Amy, their son Elisha, and daughter Jessie have lived in Florence, Alabama since the beginning of 2001. For the last six and half years he has been involved in educating ministers and leaders for churches of Christ as a professor at Heritage Christian University. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he has held the title of Director of Graduate Studies at the university for the last two years.

While in Florence, Nathan has worked alongside the college, educational, and outreach ministries of the Highland Park congregation in Muscle Shoals, Alabama and the Eastwood congregation in Florence. He has also conducted meetings, spoken for youth rallies and retreats, and participated in lecture series in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. He has been an invited speaker at the Freed-Hardeman University annual Bible lectureship six times over the last ten years. Before moving to Florence, Nathan served on the ministry staff for the



The Nathan Segars Family (Nathan, Elisha, Amy and Jessie)

Gloster Street church in Tupelo, the Winfield church in Winfield, Alabama, and the South Main church in Greenville; Mississippi. This experience in ministry, coupled with an educational background in philosophy and religion from such institutions as Heritage Christian University, Memphis Theological Seminary, the University of Georgia, the University of Mississippi, and Freed-Hardeman University, allow Nathan and his family to be well prepared for energetic work in God's kingdom.

## "Drop in Visit"

Natchez; Highway 61 South

On a return trip to our Mississippi home in Kosciusko, my June and I, on August 22, 2007, were richly blessed with the opportunity of visiting our Natchez brethren who call the church meeting on Highway 61, South, their "home congregation."

Coleman Allmond, along with his wife, **Elsie**, have worked with the Natchez church for about 15 years. Each time we have been privileged to visit with brother Coleman, he has shared exciting information about the generous benevolent activities of the congregaton. Such efforts, hopefully, will remind us that a church doesn't have to be large or rich in order to do a great deal of good in serving those in need.



Coleman Allmond

We were warmly received by the congregation of about twenty who had come together for Bible Study in the middle of the week. I was very pleased to be invited to teach a lesson from the Word of God and was much encouraged by the kind response of those present.

After approximately fifteen years of dedicated work, although he is now in his upper seventies, brother Coleman Allmond continues to actively serve as preacher for the southwest Mississippi church in Natchez. We pray God's blessings to be with all as they continue to reach out with the gospel.

## Preachers: "An Early Start"

Josh Conn, 10 year old son of Brad and Mandy Conn, recently presented a lesson at his home congregation, the Jackson Chapel Church near Leesville, LA.. Josh's proud maternal grandparents are Travis and Sherry Murray.

Josh's lesson dealt with sin. He spoke of the consequences of sin and then he gave God's plan for salvation. (Read Romans 6:23 and Romans 6:3,4.)

Thank God for congregations who encourage their young men to preach. It was also a Louisiana church that, 60 years ago, encouraged a young boy named Alfred L. Franks to begin preaching.

Al and I will always be indebted to the Boxwood Church of Christ for their continued encouragement through the years. (JF)



Josh Conn (10 years old)

## 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)

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**VIRGINIA DAVIS STANLEY**

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(Kosciusko, MS)

**KIM TULLOS**

Claude & Alberta Houston  
(Southaven, MS)

**CONNER & PAXTON SMITH**

Bonnie Strickland  
(Brandon, MS)

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### DEQUINCY

**Aaron Fontaine** from Lake Charles, Louisiana has been working as youth minister with the DeQuincy Church of Christ during the summer. The DeQuincy church recently installed new elders and deacons. The new elders are **Don Jackson** and **Louis LaRocqe** and the new deacons are **Michael Boyle**, **Dewitt Green**, **Ed Istre** and **George Hodges**. **Michael Potthoff** is the local minister.



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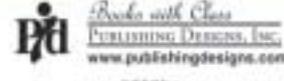
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Jackson, MS

Sunday Services At Siwell

July 8, 2007

After a busy week including July 4th, my June and I, arose early on Sunday morning with plans to visit with our brethren who are known as the "Siwell Road Church of Christ" in Jackson, MS.

A very pleasant drive down the Natchez Trace. Recent soaking rains had caused the trees and bushes to look very lush. Bits of blue sky were soon visible in the midst of a early morning cloud cover. Driving along side the beautiful Barnett Reservoir, where visibility was unlimited, was truly a delight.

A few fishing boats were already on the waters causing us to wonder if the fishermen ever gave much thought to the Lord Jesus who taught his disciples to be "fishers of men." After all, it was His (the Lord's day). "Forsake not the assembly", as commanded in Hebrews 10:25, probably had little influence on the fishers for fish.

At about 15 minutes past nine o'clock, we arrived at the Siwell church building. Several cars were already parked in the spacious area designed for the convenience of worshippers. Entering the building, we were immediately greeted by a kind sister who welcomed us and gave us, as visitors, a very special gift.

The first greeting was just the beginning. For the next 12 to 15 minutes we were blessed to meet and greet many of our brothers and sisters who make up the Siwell congregation. It was a delight. Handshakes, hugs, even a "holy kiss" or two, made us feel like we were a part of the Siwell family. Encouraging words spoken about the "Magnolia Messenger" thrilled our hearts and reminded us again that our efforts in publishing the MM, which goes out to every state in the nation and reaches more than 25,000 households, is all worthwhile.

So soon it was time to begin classes. We were directed to the adult class that was to be taught by **Ron Clemmons**. We soon learned that the morning study centered around Asa who was one of the good kings of Judah. Brother Ron presented Old Testament passages dealing with Asa in such a way as to encourage us to be faithful to God regardless of the evil influence of parents. The Bible says that Asa "did that which was right in the sight of the

Lord" (I Kings 15:11).

After class, there was another opportunity to visit with brethren in the foyer of their spacious meeting house. Our "fellowshipping", however, was interrupted by the sound of beautiful singing coming from the auditorium. It was a "call for worship."

The congregational singing was led by **Drew Dulaney**, son of one of the elders (Andy Dulaney, who is a very good dentist. I know. *He has been in my mouth!*). As Drew led us in singing songs such as, "Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing", "Be With Me, Lord" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", I could not help but agree with Siwell's preacher, **Mark Ray**, who later said that Drew "does a good job!"

Nine brethren participated in the serving of the Lord's Supper. One brother called attention to the fact that Jesus, in his human flesh, petitioned the Father that the cup of suffering (death by crucifixion) "pass from him." But, he noted that our Lord prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done."

Siwell's regular pulpit voice was soon heard as Mark Ray presented a lesson on the "ABC's of Following God." Using Isaiah 6:1-8 as his text, he spoke about Isaiah's example for us in (1) Adoring the Almighty, (2) Beginning of Belief and (3) Commitment to the Commission. Brother Mark's explanation of the text and application of the teachings were well done. Later, I recall telling my June "It was easy to listen to Mark." One precious brother responded publicly to the invitation.

I was thankful for the opportunity to publically express gratitude to the Siwell Church for their warm and loving attitude and for their fellowship with us in publishing "Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper."

Not the least of our blessings for the day was the invitation to meet with several families identified as "S.O.S." for a "pot luck meal". I learned that "SOS" means "Servants of Siwell". It soon became apparent that several special service projects are accomplished by such groups in the congregation. A major emphasizes of the group with whom we ate is their assistance given to the **Berean Children's Home** in Louisiana (near Hammond). The group leader for the day was the same brother who taught our Bible class -- Ron Clemmons. "A good teacher; a good 'SOS' leader."

As June and I departed the beautiful facilities of the Siwell road church we had deeply engrained within our minds the beautiful acts of kindness and love displayed to each other and to visitors. (alf)

## Visiting Among the Churches During Gospel Meeting Time

### Huntsville

(French Camp, MS)  
Monday, July 9, 2007

**Bobby Wade**, who lives in Minor Hill, Tennessee, held his first gospel meeting at Huntsville 49 years ago. He has been returning for meetings ever since. His most recent meeting found him preaching a series of lessons on "The Abundant Life".

On the night of our visit his topic was "Dealing with Resentment". He sadly commented, "Many church problems revolve around grudges and resentment." He called attention to the "Fruit of the Spirit" as detailed in Galatians chapter five and stressed that the "Spirit's fruit" would go a long way in preventing and solving problems involving resentment.

The preacher spoke about anger and its dangers. He said, "He who goes to bed angry, has the devil for his bed partner." In his preaching, brother Wade manifested a meek spirit, and evident knowledge coupled with kindness. It was a good sermon and a good service. **Nathan Wright** is the local and effective preacher for the Huntsville church in Montgomery County, Mississippi.

### Ackerman, Mississippi

Wednesday, July 20

**Bill and Helen Lambert** are two people who have had much influence on the church during the past fifty years or so. Bill assisted in the beginning of MBC and served as its first Academic Dean. I was reminded of his past work when my June and I visited a gospel meeting in Ackerman this past summer.

Bill spoke on "Things to Remember". Four things were specifically mentioned. (1) God is Speaking to You. He speaks through the written word and our need is to listen and



Bill Lambert

obey. "Take time to study the Scriptures", brother Bill pleaded. A second thing to remember is (2) "This life on earth is not all there is." He mentioned the writer of Ecclesiastes who learned that if one lives only for this life, for the "things under the sun", he will sadly discover that he was mistaken -- "it is vanity". He spoke of the "rich fool" in Luke chapter 12 who prepared to live, but *didn't prepare to die*.

A third reminder was, (3) "One of these days/nights you are going to die." He said, "Losing your life is bad, but losing your soul is the greatest of all tragedies."

Brother Bill Lambert concluded his sermon with a fourth reminder that



"Sound Biblical Preaching" -- Looks/Sounds Good!

(4) "Jesus is Coming Again". He pleaded that all seek to prepare.

A stirring sermon. An uplifting service with the Ackerman church and her visitors. **Ed Castill** continues to serve as local preacher for the congregation that brings together 75 to 100 each Lord's day.

### Kosciusko

(Tipton Street)

Tuesday, July 10

On a warm summer Tuesday evening my June and I enjoyed visiting with our Tipton Street brethren in Kosciusko where **Willie Nettle** of Vicksburg was the visiting preacher.

In his introductory remarks, brother Nettle expressed appreciation to the Tipton Street church and their preacher *at the time*, **Daniel McCollum** (now preaching in Tupelo), for helping him to get started as a preacher. He also spoke of his gratitude to **Les Ferguson, Sr.** (preacher now at Huntington St. in Kosciusko), for "crossing cultural lines to teach me the gospel."

Philippians 3:1 served as brother Willie's text for the evening sermon. Here, Paul commanded, "Finally, my brethren, *rejoice in the Lord...*" He asked, "*What enables us to live in a world of troubles and still be joyful?*"

The talented speaker talked about the daily trials and pressures associated with making a living -- being single or married, caring for the family, high gas prices and raising children. With all the struggles of life, brother Willie was quick to say that joy was possible and that "the short answer" as to the *source* of joy, is Jesus!"

Jesus brings joy not found in riches, possessions, circumstances or people. He stressed the command to "Rejoice **in the Lord**." He declared, "Jesus is dependable; He is constant -- the *same, yesterday, today and forever*."

The visiting preacher mentioned a few of the things which had helped him to rejoice. Calling attention to James 1:27, he noted that **keeping oneself unspotted from the world** contributes to joy. Then, from Jude 21, **keeping oneself in the kove of God,**

produces joy and also the **Lord's promise** in I Cor 10:13 that "*God is faithful*" was a source of strength producing joy. Yes, it was another uplifting, "good news", sermon very capably presented.

### North Brandon

(Brandon, Mississippi)

August 11

The North Brandon church, sensing the rapid rise of influence from the Islam religion, invited

### Keith Mosher

to present a series of lessons on "Islam vs. Christianity". This was done on the weekend of August 10-12, 2007. We were blessed to be present on Saturday evening.



Keith Mosher

The topic of the night was "Islam: Its Five Pillars". Brother Keith stated that Islam is a "religion of works" as evidence by their "five pillars of faith". The five pillars, respected by all faithful Muslims are: (1) Witnessing on behalf of Mohammed; (2) Praying five times a day; (3) Giving alms (in the form of taxation); (4) Fasting, and a (5) Pilgrimage to Mecca.

Brother Mosher pointed out conflicts between Holy Scripture (Bible) and the beliefs of Islam concerning God. Although they claim to accept Jesus as a "prophet"; yet, to Muslims, Mohammed is "the greatest prophet of God, ever."

The scholarly educator (Instructor and Dean of Academics in the Memphis School of Preaching) spoke kindly and yet frankly about the errors of Islam in contrasts to the truths of Christianity. It was a meaningful service. It was good to again meet with the Brandon church which brings together about 175 to 200 worshippers each Lord's day and is served well by preacher **Ray Penna**.

### Nile

(Carthage, Mississippi)

August 13

Not far to travel. From Kosciusko to Nile. Another meeting was going on which we were blessed to attend. The speaker was **Gary Hampton**, director of the East Tennessee School of Preaching, near Knoxville, Tennessee.

We were present on Monday night of the weekend meeting (Friday through Tuesday) and heard brother Gary speak on "Motivations to Faithfulness". He named four. They were (1)



Gary Hampton

See NILE on Page 16

Here We Celebrated Our 51st Anniversary

Sunday July 15, 2007

Worshipping in Magee, Mississippi



My June and I were married in Louisiana on a Sunday afternoon. The date was July 15, 1956. Exactly, fifty one years later, we decided to "drop in" on our brethren who worship in Magee, Mississippi. We are glad we did.

In the absence of **Jason Cox**, long time preacher at Magee, we were privileged to sit at the feet of visiting speaker, **Russ Wilson**, from Laurel, Mississippi. Brother Wilson based his sermon on I John 3:1-3. After reading the text, he emphasized the wonderful blessing of being children of God and our hope of "being like Him." He noted that our precious hope motivates us to "purify" ourselves -- to be pure "even as He is pure".

Brother Russ also related some of the ways Jesus demonstrated compassion and challenged those of us who wear His name ("Christian") to likewise be compassionate. His quality lesson, effectively delivered, bore evidence of careful preparation.

Not only was the sermon helpful, we also enjoyed and benefited by participating in the good song service. The Bible study hour was under the talented leadership of **Rick Venable**, who along with his wife, **Katherine**, have been members at Magee since the church was first organized, back in the mid eighties. (editor)

## TV-Free Week In Lake Charles, LA

For the second time in the past year or so, the Enterprise Boulevard church in Lake Charles encouraged all their members to go one week without watching television. According to Paul Franks, local preacher, the idea was to "fast" or "temporarily give up, for God's sake, something of lesser value in order to gain something of greater value."

Several suggestions were offered to the membership of the church to take the place of viewing television. A few are listed below.

1. Read your Bible together, as a family.
2. Write a letter to someone you love.
3. Have a conversation with your spouse.
4. Bake cookies for a shut-in.
5. Call an old friend on the phone.
6. Spend time in prayer.
7. Read a good book.

The suggestion list was concluded with an appeal to "use the extra time (and lack of distraction) that you will gain from turning off your television to do something out of the ordinary, something positive, for yourself -- for your spiritual growth -- for your family.

Crystal Springs Church Hosts Meeting in August

(left) **Keith Wilson**, preacher at Crystal Springs and **Rodney Livingston**, preacher at Hills Chapel (Booneville) **Both: MBC Grads**



It was Rodney Livingston's first Gospel Meeting. So, we were told. And, it was a good one. Well prepared. Very practical. The overall theme for brother Rodney's 4 day meeting was "Diseases of the Heart". We were blessed to hear 3 of his studies. Sermon on SM - "Fault-finding"; BS - "Ingratitude" and PM - "Worry". Comment? "Excellent!" Both material and presentation. Sorry we didn't get to hear the other three. MN - "Discouragement"; TN - "Hatred" and WN - "Impatience".

Keith Wilson continues to serve effectively as preacher for the Crystal Springs church which brings together 30 to 40 worshippers each Lord's day. We have a special place in our hearts for the Crystal Springs church, inasmuch as we were blessed to assist in the beginning of the congregation, back in 1985. (alf/mjf)

### Next MM RV Rally

Planned for **October 24-28, 2007**  
Grapeland, Texas (Details: See Page 14)

## More... Readers' Response...More

*I used to receive your paper when I was in prison, at Pearl, MS. I thank you so much of sending it to me. If you will, I would love to continue receiving the MM at my home. I saw your article on the Jail Ministry at the Booneville jail. Jane Allen and Sue Mason came to see us girls every time the jail would allow. They were so dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ, and still are today. Mr Beard is also. They brought us prisoners hope. Sincerely, (Angie B. Robinson, Booneville, MS)*

*pecially the Question Box. Enjoy reading about faithful congregations in other parts of the country. In Christian Love, (Wayne Crum, Caledonia, OH)*

*I have recently received a copy of the Magnolia Messenger from a friend. I had seen your paper before but only glanced thru it. This time I read every word and want you to know how much I appreciate the good work you brethren are doing in Mississippi. I would like to receive your paper on a regular basis, if you will. I am enclosing a little gift to help with your work. I have preached in meetings in various places in Mississippi -Rocky Creek, Waynesboro, Louisville, Gum, Dennis, Etc...(Barry L. Anderson, Florence, AL)*

*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)*

*I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy the Messenger. Keep up the good work. My prayers are with you. Es-*

Read More  
**Readers' Response**  
On Page 2

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Hoyt Hathcock visits with Bill Lambert at Ackerman Meeting  
**Instruction; Encouragement; Fellowship**  
*You Never Know Who You May See at Gospel Meetings*

## What/Who Limits The Temperature?

106 106



It seems like an understatement to say that "the summer of 2007 was hot!" We wonder, when temperatures kept going up and up, why did they stop rising before reaching 130 or 140 degrees? And, in winter, why do they not drop far, far below "normal"?

Too hot, we die. Too cold, we cannot long survive. But, something or someone keeps temperatures within certain limits. Is it accidental?

Believers think not. Bible believers know **the Creator** is in control. The *Almighty* God who created all things, by His same *unlimited* power, sustains (keeps in working order) all things. (Study Genesis 1 and Hebrews 1.)

So, our suggestion is -- when it gets hot or cold, don't worry. Trust Him. The Creator cares and controls. (alf)

### LAKE CHARLES, LA EVENTS

Gospel Meeting:  
**Loyd Harris**  
Family Seminar:  
**Eddie and Judy Lewis**

The Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ plans a Gospel Meeting for September 16-19, 2007 with **Loyd Harris** doing the preaching. The church also has scheduled a Family Enrichment Seminar on October 12-14 with **Eddie & Judy Lewis**. **Paul Franks** is the local preacher for the Boulevard congregation. The youth minister is **Jacob Hance** and the campus minister is **Kasey Crowell**.

### Durant, Mississippi Men's Day

September 29, 2007  
Registration & Breakfast  
9:00 a.m.

Speaker

**Travis Brown**

Lunch provided at noon

### Gospel Meeting

October 14-17

Sunday:

10:00 -- Bible Classes

11:00 - Worship

Lunch at Noon

2:30 -- PM Service

preacher

**Travis Brown**

Monday & Tuesday -- 7:00 P.M.

**Winfred Frazier**, preaching

Wednesday -- 7:00 - **Travis Brown**

Theme

*"Victory in Jesus"*

601-214-9060

Armand Willey, local preacher

### Pine Vale Children's Home 1872 CR 700 Corinth, MS 38834

#### Relief House Parents Needed

Applicants preferably have had some experience in rearing children, like to be involved in church activities, special activities and traveling. Applicants should be well organized and flexible. For those interested in doing mission work, this is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child. Position involves caring for children during staff breaks and vacations and maintaining grounds and pantry areas.

Pine Vale is located 50 miles from the campus of Freed Hardeman University and 55 miles from Heritage Christian University.

Paid medical insurance, vacation, paid housing and utilities are just a portion of the benefit package offered to employees.

Interested couples should contact:

**Bonnie Vansandt, Director**

Pine Vale Children's Home 1872 CR 700 - Corinth, MS 38834

662-286-6555 or e-mail: PineValeCH@comcast.net

*"Helping Children Grow"*

## How Do People Sleep At Night?

- Jeremy McFarlan -

We all know the feeling of having a sleepless night. We all know what it is like to toss and turn, not getting a moment of relaxation, not feeling the ease of sleep coming on. For whatever reason, there are nights in which sleep seems to flee away.

The thing is, there are people out there who should feel this every night. They should feel the remorse of sin in their lives. They should feel the agony of being separated from God. They should feel the pain of knowing that their next breath could be their last. They should feel the horror of knowing their eternal destination.

We as Christians will have sleepless nights, but it shouldn't be concerning our spiritual health. David says in Psalm 4 that, "in peace I will lie down and sleep, for Thou alone, O Lord, doest make me to dwell in safety." Can you say that tonight? Can you say that you know God makes you dwell in safety? Can you say that you have nothing to worry about?

Here are some tricks that can help you sleep at night.

1. Know where you stand with God. Pray for forgiveness. Pray for peace. Pray that God will help you where you need help. The main point is that you need to pray.

2. Don't worry about tomorrow. Jesus says in Matthew 6:34- "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care for itself." Jesus tells us that he will take care of us; being anxious for tomorrow is a waste of precious sleep time.

3. Make sure you are in the right relationship with your friends and family. Family problems can cause sleep-less nights faster than any other issue this side of money. Make sure you have a good relationship with your family. If there is something standing between you and a family member, get that settled so you can sleep soundly tonight.

God's presence in our lives can help us sleep the sleep of peace. Give your worries to God. Don't let anything stand between you and peace. If you doubt your relationship with God, do something about

— See SLEEP on Page 16 —

## A Street of Time

Centuries 20 & 21

- editor -

Sober reflections come from early morning walk on Nicholas Street as we observed address numbers on mail boxes.



Boy Baby Born

For exercise and relaxation, my June and I enjoy walking every morning (she, for exercise; me, for relaxation. She walks fast; I walk slow.) Not many weeks ago, in a town out of state, we were blessed to walk a couple of mornings on a Street called "Nicholas" which I renamed "The Street of Time." June walked off and left me behind; and, as I strolled along, the mail boxes and the numbers on each one seemed to really stand out. Got me to thinking. At the beginning of the short street, the numbers were all in the nineteen hundreds; toward the end of the street, the numbers were in the two thousands.

Walking along and slowly passing each number from the early 1900's into the 2000s, it seemed fitting to think of our walk on that street as a journey through time. Even though, as I walked along and alone slowly, it became apparent that I was passing very quickly from one end to the other, reminding me that "time", as suggested by the numbers on the mail boxes, was rapidly going by. Such is life.

Holy Scripture asks, "What is your life?" The inspired answer returns, "It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14). Also, there are the words of the prophet Job who said that man is, "of few days.... He added that man cometh forth as a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (John 14:1,2). The apostle Peter wrote, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away" (1 Pet. 1:24). Job stated, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle...." He also commented, "Now my days are swifter than a post; they flee away...." (Job 7:6; 9:25)

Someone has said that life is a book and its pages are "swiftly turning". "Here today; gone tomorrow." So true!

The distance and the time -- from the womb to the tomb -- is so very short and is traveled quickly.

Normally in life, we first experience the departure of our grandparents; then, all too soon, our parents die. We are left behind, parent-less, but not left for long! Soon, we die!

The "Street of Time" where my June and I walked, on a couple of hot sum-

mer mornings, served as a powerful reminder of how rapidly the "years of our lives" pass. Quickly, from the early 1900's on into the twenty-first century. Looking ahead, many of us will not live to 2017. If the Lord delays his coming, many will have departed; hopefully, "gone to be with the Lord."

The greatest need of the hour is to get and to be ready -- at all times. Death could come at any time. The Lord could return any day or night. Eternity -- starting us in the face, deserves a constant state of readiness. Jesus said, "Watch and pray, for you know not what hour your Lord doth come." The need is to "BE READY."

Are you ready? The answer depends upon an honest response to two questions. (1) Are you a Christian and (2) Are you a faithful Christian?

So soon, so very soon, earthly life will all be over. Can you say as did the apostle Paul, "I am ready to die...." (Acts 21:13). May the words of Paul, as recorded in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 be your words. He wrote, "...the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Because Paul could truthfully say these words, he could look forward to the future by saying, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me in that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

The "street of time". My June and I walked it. You and I are traveling/living it. The years are quickly passing (1911 - 1929 - 1935 - 2007). Live for the Lord so you may die in the Lord and go to be forever with the Lord. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, sayeth the Spirit, they shall rest from their labors and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

**What is your life?**

A VAPOR.  
Appeareth for a LITTLE time.  
**Vanisheth** Away.  
(See James 4:13,14)

**Wanted**

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**Central Church of Christ**

**305 Chinquepin**

**Port Gibson, MS 39150**

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The "Roaring 20s"



Will We  
See It?



Stock Market  
Crashed



Young Couple  
Married



Shelby (age 11)

## Simple Things

Shelby Ingram

Come to the cross, He will save you.  
Simple things to do, if this come true.  
Be baptized, sins washed away,  
Read your Bible every day,  
Believe in Him, He is the key,  
To that door that will set you free.  
Follow Him, where is no night,  
You will see that heavenly light.  
Come to the cross, He will save you.  
Such simple things we all have to do!

## Corinth Area-Wide Work Camp A Report -12th Year

- Sarah Day -

While thinking about writing this article, I thought about the scriptures in Matthew 25:31-46, Galatians 5:13 and Ephesians 6:7.

During the week of June 10-15, 2007, we completed our 12th year of Area Wide Workcamp and it was a great success. This year our youth were able to paint 14 homes for the elderly and disabled. (Corinth Area)

Not only did they learn to Serve Others, but had a week of fun, food and fellowship with other Christian youth their own ages. Friendships are formed that last for a lifetime. This wonderful work is done thru the Foote Street Church of Christ elders, and Terry Smith, our youth minister, as director.

We had about 110 youth and 60 adults involved. The workers not only accomplished the task of painting the houses, but each one paid \$35, plus furnish their own paint brush. Repairing of the homes starts 2 weeks prior by adults and youth helping. This truly is a labor of love to endure the heat while completing the job.

Each morning everyone assembled at the Foote Street annex for a few songs and a short devotional, led by one of the youth from different congregations. Those participating were: West Corinth, Meigg Street, Acton, Theo, Booneville, Snowdown, Strickland, Fraley's Chapel, Northside, New Hope, Jacinto, Rosemark, Pickwick, East Main, Foote Street, Hillcrest, New Albany, Pleasant Grove and Iuka.

About 40 youth were housed by Cindy Butler, Fraley's Chapel and West Corinth Churches and Josh James.

Noon lunches were provided by Strickland, Acton, Fraley's Chapel, Meigg Street and West Corinth churches and were coordinated by Andrea Hardin and Lesley Marlar. During this time another short devo was held at the work site by another youth. At night they returned to Foote Street for singing, devo and meals.

Wednesday evening the Booneville church was gracious host, with assistance of serving by the Freed-Hardeman Associates. We fed as many as 250 at night.

Our area merchants were very wonderful and willing to donate to

this worthy cause. What a great and fulfilling week we were blessed to have been a part of for the past 12 years. I am grateful to have been able to cook and coordinate night meals, along with Eunice Poindexter. Kim Smith headed the night serving and clean up with lots of help from Foote Street members.

We're looking forward to next year -- but only after having time to re-coop. Pray for this good work that we will continue to SERVE OTHERS and be a Christian influence that will lead many souls to Christ. These workers truly did as Joshua 24:15 states, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".

With thanks and much Christian love, Sarah Day, Foote Street Church of Christ, Corinth, MS.

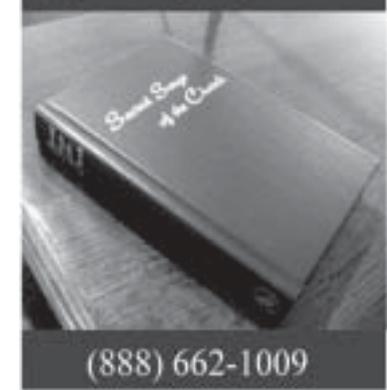
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## Churches Seeking Preachers

**Notice:** We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. 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](mailto: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 a preacher. **Thank you for asking!**

**There is no charge for this service.**



Covington Road Church Building In Natchez, MS.

**A Special Preacher Is Needed To Serve A Special Church With Special Needs**

About 30+ years ago, the Natchez church (4th Street) seemed to be doing really well. The need for new a new building in a new location was determined. As a result, the above pictured facilities were constructed on Covington Road in Natchez. (The larger auditorium will probably seat 400+.)

Over the years, however, the congregation has undergone great losses due to deaths, relocations and other departures. Attendance now runs about 70. A special preacher is needed to help rebuild the church. If you think you may be the one, or if you know of someone who may be able to help, please respond to the ad below. For more information, you are invited to call me, A. L. Franks, editor of the MM. (We visited and preached for the church on Sunday, September 2, 2007.) **Call: 601-668-3344 or e-mail: [franksmm@aol.com](mailto:franksmm@aol.com).**

### 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)

### South Main Church of Christ, 1700 South Main St. Greenville, MS 38701

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

### Zachary, La.

Church of Christ; P.O. Box 97; Zachary, La. 70791 Congregation of 90 - 95, located in the growing City of Zachary, LA, is seeking a Full Time Minister to work with us.

Attractive benefit package with home.

Contact **Terry Wall** at (225) 654-9724 e-mail address [livinwell50@yahoo.com](mailto:livinwell50@yahoo.com) or **Josh McCartney** at (225) 654-2245 e-mail address [joshuamccartney@cox.net](mailto:joshuamccartney@cox.net).

### Laurel, MS Seeking a Preacher

For more information, please call the church office at 601-426-6209 (leave message) or send resume and/or make inquiry via e-mail, please use the following address: [email@laurelchurchofchrist.net](mailto:email@laurelchurchofchrist.net) or simply write to the church:

**Church of Christ  
2830 Audubon Drive  
Laurel, MS 39440**

(8-13-07)

### Preacher Wanted

#### Tipton in Kosciusko

The Tipton Street church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi is seeking a minister to work with a congregation of 50 to 70 members. We are seeking a married preacher, with at least ten years experience, who is able to preach, teach and encourage a congregation. He must be a lover of people. The church owns a home for the minister and salary is negotiable. Anyone interested may send a letter to: **Tipton St. church of Christ, ATTN: Contact Members, P. O. Box 762, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0762** or contact one of the following individuals:

**J. R. Clark (662)289-5810  
Paul Greer (662)289-6220  
Prince Lewis (662)289-9263  
Leroy Watson (662)289-1450**

Must have references and a resume will be helpful. (1 of 3)

### Archibald Has Hired A New Preacher

In a recent phone visit with Ed Free of the Archibald church, near Rayville, LA, we were pleased to learn that they have recently secured a full-time preacher. He is **Travis Arrant** from West Monroe who had been staying very busy "filling in" for churches in the area. Brother Free stated that the Archibald church is "doing well" and their new preacher is doing a good job. He said, "I mean, he is a **minister**." Attendance is "picking up" with about 80 present each Lord's day. Brother Travis and his wife, **Karen**, began their work with the Archibald church the first of July, 2007. May God richly bless.

### 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)

## "Backing in for a Good Time"

Our 9th Annual LA (TX) MM RV Rally

Beginning Wednesday (October 24); Going through Sunday (28th)  
**Salmon Lake Park; Grapeland, Texas**

Uplifting Messages  
theme

"Wherein Lies Your Great Strength"

Speakers include:

**Bill Oakley, Dan & Audrey Manuel; Ray Franks, James Tidwell, Al Franks and Charles Fulgham**

**RV Sites Already Reserved**

(Please let Ray Franks know of your plans to attend)

(home) 337-786-3095 or (cell) 337-515-0866 or E-mail: [rdfranks@centurytel.net](mailto:rdfranks@centurytel.net) or Mail: P. O. Drawer 218; DeQuincy, LA 70633

**Cabins Available**

Call park office at 936-687-2594 for information & reservations  
*An unforgettable and uplifting good time!*

### News Note

#### LAUREL

After 3 and 1/2 years of service as preacher for the Audubon Drive church in Laurel, Mississippi, **Chris Moore** has moved to Texas where he began his work of preaching in August of this year. The Laurel church is presently seeking a replacement. Until a suitable preacher is located, men of the congregation are filling the pulpit. Speakers include: **Ben Graham, Scott and Randy Lewis, Mike Brumley and Harold McGee.** (See *ad, this page*)

### Minor Hill, TN

(Near Pulaski)

The Minor Hill church of Christ is seeking a preacher. The congregation is 112 years old with an attractive and functional older building. Attendance 30-40. House provided. Can currently provide \$300.00 a week. No elders.

This would be a great opportunity to attend a Christian university while serving as a minister. Heritage Christian University, located in Florence, AL, is only 45 minutes away. This would also be a good work for a semi-retired person, or someone willing to work in the secular realm to supplement their support. Please contact **John Wall** (931-363-9696) or send your resume to **Minor Hill Church of Christ; P. O. Box 74; Minor Hill, TN 38473**

### Yazoo City

seeks

#### Minister/Preacher

\*House Provided  
\*Full-time Work  
\*Attendance: 60-80

Contact

**Yazoo City Church Of Christ**

1230 E Broadway Street  
Yazoo City, MS 39194-9055 or  
**Charles Fulgham**  
123 Fulgham Rd  
Yazoo City, MS 39194  
**662-746-5865**

### Meridian Seeks Minister

Meridian Church of Christ, located in east central Mississippi, is presently seeking to fill the pulpit with a sound preacher of the gospel, beginning in January, 2008.

The population of Meridian is approximately 40,000 within the city limits. We have approximately 85-100 present for Sunday morning worship and 50-60 present on Sunday and Wednesday nights. The congregation is served by three elders and three deacons. We are poised for growth with a number of active families. Currently we support the following mission activities: Robert Martin and Stacy Ferguson in the South Pacific missions, Magnolia Bible College, Pine Vale Children's Home, and Magnolia Messenger.

The minister's responsibilities will include preaching and teaching the gospel, visiting newcomers, members, and local hospitals on a regular basis. The minister will also supervise the church office/secretary. These activities will include editing the weekly bulletin, maintaining the church calendar, maintaining the church directory, writing newcomer's letters, etc.

Liberties will include two week's paid vacation per year, one gospel meeting per year with pay. Minister may attend two lectureships per year with pay and normal expenses.

Compensation is negotiable in accordance with experience and ability and will include all pay and allowances for services. Please send resumes to:

The Elders

Meridian Church of Christ  
2229 Hwy 19 North  
Meridian, MS 39307

Or call:

**Dwight Callens** - 601-483-6086  
[callensdw@bellsouth.net](mailto:callensdw@bellsouth.net)  
**Tom Fair** - 601-681-8293  
[henrytfair@wmconnect.com](mailto:henrytfair@wmconnect.com)  
**Jesse Simpson**: 601-513-4135  
[simpsj1@labcorp.com](mailto:simpsj1@labcorp.com)

### FERRIDAY, LA

**Ryan Manning** is the new preacher for the church in Ferriday. Brother Ryan and his wife, **Candice**, moved to their new work about the middle of May. The church is said to be doing "real well", averaging between 80 and 85.

## Sardis Lake Christian Camp Has Record Year!

By John Pigg

Sardis Lake Christian Camp experienced the largest summer camp attendance in its history with 966 campers coming from all across Mississippi and from Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Louisiana. In addition the Booneville church of Christ held their church camp at SLCC this year, adding over 100 more. We were fortunate also that the Goodman Oaks congregation in Southaven, MS, accepted responsibility for staffing an additional session, and several new congregations sent their kids that had never participated with us.

Our present total capacity for each session is 120 with 39 staff, and for all eight sessions, 1,400; so we are nearing a point where we will soon have to make some decisions about expanding facilities—a great problem to have! God blessed us with 32 baptisms and numerous restorations!

We are now conducting a Mini Camp for pre-schoolers, eight regular sessions, a Back-to-School session, twelve retreats for youth groups, a women's retreat and three family reunions. Scores of congregations contribute annually to our financial needs, and provide the Directors, counselors, nursing, and crafts volunteers. Our annual budget requires \$153,880. The camp owns 42 beautiful acres nestled in a small hollow two miles south of Sardis Lake and adjacent to the Corp of Engineer's property line.

Today's market value of SLCC's total assets would probably be in excess of a million dollars! Our only paid employees are our Caretaker, cooks and lifeguards. Our caretaker is **Danny Jones**, who lives at the camp site in a house we furnish. If you are interested in information about renting the camp facilities, you may contact him at 622-609-0912, the camp number, 662-563-9647 and/or visit our website at [www.SL-CC.com](http://www.SL-CC.com).

We have 27 board members that oversee the camp operations -- all of whom are faithful Christians and members of churches of Christ. They are dedicated to making sure that SLCC functions in full accord with the Sacred Scriptures. All our Directors are committed to Christ and the Word of God. All our staff serve God faithfully. Our Board of Directors are responsible for establishing by-laws, making sure we are in accord with state laws, setting the annual budget, fund-raising, advance planning, maintaining upkeep and problem solving policy making. Some of us have been working with SLCC since its beginning in the 60's. Over the years we've been blessed with many benefactors who have donated money, time, equipment, building supplies, furnishing in a labor of love to help us have one of the finest Christian camps in the deep South.

This year we are hosting our first Hall of Fame Benefit Dinner on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Batesville, MS, to honor the **Roy Sawyer** family of Sardis, MS, who donated the first twelve acres and much of the lumber for the first facilities. We are also honoring **Woody Loden, III**, who went through SLCC as a youth, served as staff and who has used his financial resources to provide tons of concrete and blocks, needed monies and furnishings.

We are fortunate today to have thousands of alumni who volunteer their time, talent and treasure to insure SLCC continues to grow and to serve the spiritual, physical, social and mental needs of our young people in the Lord's church. We want to thank all of you have supported us in anyway and especially with your prayers!

Brother Pigg's addresses:

**John Pigg; 297 Woodrun Dr.; Ridgeland, MS 39157-2526; e-mail: [japigg@cocsm.org](mailto:japigg@cocsm.org)**

## Church

(Continued from page 4)

Philosophers have long said the church was a good thing until Paul organized it into a church, or Christianity was a good thing until Paul organized it into a church. Well, I would not dare to disparage the church by calling it a mere human arrangement, Paul's or anyone else's.

The church you read about in your Bible is a vital part of God's eternal plan—even before the creation. Eight times in the Scriptures it is called "the church of God." And three times congregations are called "churches of God." It is no wonder the man of God wrote in verse 21 of Ephesians chapter three: "To Him (that is, to God) be glory—in the church—by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

A-n-d, as God always acts with purpose, He did so with the church. He created it with a purpose. It was His intention for the church to be the agency to tell the true story of salvation to all people everywhere in every generation. So now you know the mission of the church of God.

Yes, yes, yes, members of the church are to "love one another", of course so. And they are to be good people in a world of evil, and they are to live in families, and support good works. All that and more. And that is who we are. We are the children of God! But the church's business, the church's mission, is to preach and teach the gospel to every creature in the whole world!

S-o-o-o, God the Creator planned the church even before the events of Genesis 1:1. A-n-d, in the passage we read for our text, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, announced to the apostles and subsequently to the whole world, "I will build my church." ...But, anyway Christ also assured the apostles that "the gates of Hades" would not prevail against it."

By that, He was not saying the church would always thrive and prosper because Satan and all his devils would never have sufficient power to prevail against His church. Neither the grammatical construction of the sentence nor the context demands that interpretation. Besides being wrong, *that* teaching in churches of Christ has been extremely unfortunate—destructive, and besides that, it is false. It has lulled many of us into a deep sleep, from which we have yet to awaken!

Well, what was Jesus saying, then? He was saying "the gates of Hades" will not prevail against it or my building it. My friend, *death* is the only entrance, or it is "the gates of Hades," the only entrance into the hadean world. Jesus knew the time was swiftly approaching when He was to suffer death. And in substance, He was saying, "Evil men will soon crucify Me, but you apostles can be comforted in this: I will build my church. I will do it! Even death can not prevent it! I will build My church."

And in spite of the crucifixion at the hands of wicked men, He did it,

friend! Because only about two months later, in Acts 2:47, He is found adding to the church daily those who were being saved. That is the first time we read about the church in actual existence. But, it is mentioned some 109 times after that, in the King James New Testament, as a reality.

Furthermore, it is referenced in many different types and figures, such as His body (1 Corinthians 12:27); the kingdom of Christ (Ephesians 5:5); the bride of Christ (Revelation 22 and 17), oh, in other ways, too.

Church of Christ" is not the "name." That terminology is possessive. The church of the Bible belongs to Christ. First, because He built it. He said He would (Matthew 16:18). Two, it is His because it is built upon the foundation of His proven Deity (Matthew 16:18). Number 3, because He "purchased" it, member by member, with His own blood (Acts 20:28). And number 4, because He is the head of it (Ephesians 1:22 and 23). And, number 5, because He is its Savior (Ephesians 5:23), its Redeemer (1 Peter 1:18). It is His church, my friend! And, God is glorified in it, when it is as He designed it.

Of course, Bible students know the church began on the day of Pentecost (AD 30 or 33, depending on the way you measure time). It was when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles as Jesus had promised them in John 16:5 to 15; and Acts 1 and 5, and Peter preached, and "about three thousand souls were added to them," (verses 38 to 42). Well, you need to read the whole second chapter of Acts, as a matter of fact.

It began in Jerusalem, the church did. But it spread rapidly, just as the Lord had planned it, in "Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:7 and 8). And the apostle Paul said, only about thirty years later, that it had spread to every creature under heaven (Colossians 1:23). Reliable historians tell us that with a-half-billion people in the world, by the end of the first century, only about seven decades after

the most, there were, well, already more than one million Christians! They also tell us that that church in the first century, without our modern means of communication and transportation, was the fastest growing movement of any kind in the history of the world to this present day! It is amazing, isn't it! It is exciting!

And that was during one of those periods when the Lord's church was persecuted most — and more severely than any time in its near two-thousand-year history! Much of that time, Christians were forced to remain anonymous and to assemble for worship in secret places. The Jews had rejected Jesus as the Messiah of the Old Testament prophecies. They had crucified Him. And, they were no less friendly toward His church. In fact Jesus warned the apostles, "You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved... It is enough for a disciple that

See Church on Page 16

## Please Remember to Pray for the Magnolia Messenger

### "Recovery Classes" Offered by the Central Church in Pascagoula

Two Bible classes designed to help people recover from different crises in their lives have been made available by the Central Church of Christ. According to preacher **John Dobbs**, classes on "Addiction Recovery" and "Divorce Recovery" have been taught during the summer months for the past several weeks.

One of the church elders, **Jim Ingram**, served as class leader on Tuesday nights in the study of "Divorce Recovery". John Dobbs, long time preacher for the central church taught and continues to teach "Addiction Recovery" each Monday night.

According to brother John, the classes have gone quiet well. As a result of the special meetings on Monday and Tuesday nights, some attendees have started visiting the regular services of the church.

In an advertisement, the Central church said, "Substance abuse and divorce are two big life issues that are found in almost every family. We offer these classes because we want to show anyone, who desires to

*know, that the Bible has the answers as we seek to deal with these crises. These are not offered to replace counseling, therapy, or other addiction group ... but as an additional help in the fight to escape the bondage of addiction... and the loneliness of divorce."*

We commend the Pascagoula church for their efforts to reach out to those who have special needs. The Central church has demonstrated, over the past two years, outstanding leadership in efforts to serve the needs of hurricane victims on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In late August, John informed the MM that work from outside volunteer groups has slowed down; however, he mentioned that two groups were planning to come in November and January to assist those still in need.

For more information about the Bible classes and/or how to help in the continuing need to rebuild the coastal area, please call **John Dobbs** at:

**228-324-0576**

or email:

**[john.dobbs@yahoo.com](mailto:john.dobbs@yahoo.com)**.

### Fred House Belmont Preacher Retires

After 46 years of preaching, **Fred House** and his wife, **Joy**, are "retiring". They were recently honored with a special reception for their long service to the Lord's church, according to a report in the "Belmont and Tishomingo Journal". Brother House has preached, over the years, for churches in TN, AL and MS. For the past five years he has preached for the Second Street church of Christ in Belmont, Mississippi.

We understand that they plan to continue worshipping and working as members of the Belmont church where brother Fred serves as an elder. The Houses presently live in Fulton, Mississippi. (We appreciate **Wayne and Catherine Mitchell** for placing, in their weekly newspaper, the news article from which this newsnote was obtained.)

Filling Cans With Coins is just One Way To Help needy Children



## Church

(Continued from page 15)

he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub (the prince of devils), how much more will they call those of his household!" Well, that is Matthew 10:22,24 and 25.

So, it is, as Peter said in 1 Peter 4 and 12, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as through some strange thing happened to you;

but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings..." That is applicable to the

**We are not even trying to be the only right denomination. We are not trying to be a denomination at all, my friend. We are trying to be all the church you read about in the New Testament in this twenty-first century. Doesn't that excite you? It does me!**

21st century churches of Christ, too. Beloved, don't think it strange that unlearned and evil men speak evil of you. They called our Savior and Leader "the prince of the devils." So, we shouldn't be all that surprised that they say things about us— His followers—that are not true. Just don't be persuaded and defeated by such things.

Why do you suppose the church of the New Testament grew so mightily? Why do you think they were sometimes dubbed "those men who turned the world upside down" in Acts 17 and 6? Could it have been because they believed and taught something extremely different from the cultures into which they took the gospel? Or, might it have been because they were willing to compromise their doctrine and conform to, conform their Christian life-style and become like the world around them?

Would they desert the Lord to get more "joiners" and maintain a popular stance in the community of the lost? Only the spiritually blind can't see that? They were—and they taught something that was new and different and fresh! They certainly could have avoided a lot of that persecution because, well Jesus said they would experience some of that, had they not been so different, so unassuming, and so unyielding, and so demanding.

It may be— perhaps— could it be that is one reason they were dubbed a "sect." I am saying, the Lord's church today might be called a "cult-like-sect" because it is different, and it teaches a different doctrine than people can hear down the street or up the street or across the street in other religious groups. I am simply running out of time now, so please go to your Bible and read 1 Peter, the second chapter, verse nine and forward, and Titus chapter 2, verse 14.

Pray with me now. Father, we are thankful to You for your word and for the distinctiveness of Christianity that is to be the light of the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We have shown from the Bible that the church was planned by God, and begun in Jerusalem by the risen Christ on the first Jewish Day of Pentecost following the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Christ. Churches (not denominations, now, but congregations of that one church begun by Christ in Jerusalem) sprang up in Antioch and Syria and Islands of Cyprus, then in Antioch of Pisidia and

later over in Asia, in Ephesus, and the regions of Galatia,— and on and on and on, as the gospel was preached churches sprang up all over the known world— in Europe, in Corinth, and Athens and Thessalonica and Smyrna and Pergamus and Thyatira and Rome and the British Isles and to North and South America and on and on to the end of the world.

You see, the gospel of Christ produces churches of Christ wherever it is preached, and believed and obeyed. Neither in the first century or the twenty-first century, are the churches of Christ even trying to be just another denomination. We are not even trying to be the only right denomination. We are not trying to be a denomination at all, my friend. We are trying to be all the church you read about in the New Testament in this twenty-first century. Doesn't that excite you? It does me!

None of us has ever become a perfect Christian, but we keep trying. Just so, no church that I ever knew anything about was a perfectly developed church of Christ, but, we are still working at it! By now you may be thinking, "W-e-l-l, that all sounds good. But I don't know. I, I, well I just need to get one of those books I guess and read it, and I hope you will, that you will know about it, and that you can know who we are and what we really believe.... Be with us again next week. God bless you. We love you.

**Article # 3**, Lord willing, To be published in future issue For addresses, see beginning of this article on pg. 4



Marantos: Joyce & Norman

### Rolling Fork Church Welcomes the Marantos new preacher

The Rolling Fork Church of Christ has secured the services of Norman Maranto as their local minister. Norman and his wife, Joyce, previously lived in Greenwood, MS where Norman served as one of the elders. Norman and Joyce are both from the Rolling Fork area.

The church is so very thankful and truly blessed to have the Marantos living in their midst and to have brother Norman doing the preaching. Former preacher, **Eugene Springer** and wife, have moved to work with a church in Tennessee.

### Dewey Sampson Medlin (Age 77) Died August 20, 2007

Brother Dewey is survived by his loving wife and helpmate of 57 years, Dot Medlin. He is also survived by one son, Randy Medlin and wife, Mia, (Randy preaches for the University Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL.) two daughters, June Moss and her husband, Tim of Knox City, TX and Alisa McMullen and her husband, T. J., from Columbus, MS. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, four great grandchildren and a sister, Eunice Gilley of McDonough, GA.

The Medlins served many congregations of the Church of Christ in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama. They also helped spread the truth of the Lord in Guyana and Honduras.

The Medlins also provided a loving Christian home for their children. Granddaddy Dewey was an inspiration to his grandchildren. He was also, a positive, uplifting support to his many friends and relatives.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at the Lemley Funeral Chapel in Oneonta, AL. Officiating at his celebration service was his son, **Randy Medlin** and good friend, **Charles Balcom** of Hartselle, AL.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Association of America. (Report sent to the MM by Reid and Frieda Thompson of DeRidder, Louisiana -- good friends of the Medlins.)

#### LAFAYETTE

The Riverside Church of Christ will host lessons on "Does God Exist?" with **John Clayton** doing the speaking. The dates are October 4-7, 2007 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. The ministers are **Lance Bennett** and **Danny Hebert**. **Rusty Roden** is the Worship minister.

#### KOSCIUSKO

The Kosciusko Church of Christ plans a Fall Gospel Meeting featuring selected MBC students. The dates are October 28-30, 2007. A *Friend Day* is planned for Sunday, November 18th. **Les Ferguson** is local minister and **John Bauer** is the youth minister.

#### SOUTHAVEN

It was noted in the paper, "Power" that **B. J. Clark** has announced that the recent Power Lectureship, conducted July 29th - August 2nd, 2007, was his last one to direct and the August issue of *Power* was his last to edit. He also announced he will be attending services at the Southaven congregation but will be teaching at the Memphis School of Preaching, also helping to spread the Gospel via the Gospel Broadcasting Network and preaching by appointment and in Gospel Meetings. The Power Magazine and Power Lectureship will continue and will be under the direction of **Wade Webster**, who will begin his duties as the preacher for the Southaven church of Christ, in September, 2007.

## Gulf Coast Bible Camp Plans Benefit Dinner October 27, 2007

Where: Azalea City Church of Christ (Mobile, AL)  
Goal: \$50,000.00

### - Byron Smith -

The time for our Benefit Dinner is fast approaching. This will be the first year that Gulf Coast Bible Camp has put together a Benefit Dinner. To make sure we have a great first year, we need support from all the congregations involved with this work.

We've had a great year. Lives are being changed. People are being encouraged. Twenty-five souls have been added to the Lord's church. God has truly blessed our efforts.

To keep this ministry moving forward, our goal this year is to raise \$50,000.00. This will help cover the costs of further expansions and the operational costs of running the ministry. I am asking you to keep this in your announcements at services and in your bulletins.

The dinner will be held at the Azalea City Church of Christ at 6:00 PM on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be Mobile County Juvenile Judge, **Edmond Naman**. We will have a nice meal together, prepared by board member and camp cook, **Johnny Waldroup**.

The dinner has several purposes. It is an opportunity to express our appreciation and to give an annual report to all who support us. Also, it serves as an opportunity to expose others to our work and where it's going. Of course, the main purpose of the dinner is to raise funds for the ministry. The cost for an individual is **\$35.00**. We are also looking for Table Hosts. If you are interested in knowing more about tables, please contact Byron Smith at number below.

If you have any questions, please contact one of these board members. Mississippi area churches contact **Bill Collins: Billcollins@sunherald.com**. Alabama area churches contact **George Spurlock** at **Ogigeorges@yahoo.com**. Florida area churches will contact **Johnny Waldroup** at **hoppiefan1952@bellsouth.net**. If you need to do so, feel free to call me at (251) 660-7056 or (251) 753-0962 or e-mail at **Chachi7056@comcast.net**.

Thanks for your willingness to help with this special effort. In Him, **Byron Smith**; Gulf Coast Bible Camp

## Job

(Continued from page 7)

God's Word has already gone, changes for the better have come about. Twelve Amerindian villages currently have an established congregation of the Lord's church, some with hundreds in attendance. Buildings are built, local preachers are trained and supplies are brought in, but *most importantly* – **souls are saved**.

### NILE

(Cont. from page 11)

Powerful Word of God, (2) Pervasive Eye of God, (3) Perfection of God's Son and (4) Privilege of Approaching God.

The skilled speaker effectively developed each of the four points, resulting in a powerful sermon that was easy to listen to and brought needed encouragement for greater faithfulness.

The preacher for the past year or so at Nile has been "retired" minister **Robert Shelton** of Clinton. It is our understanding that the Nile church has invited **Jim Mordecai**, who lives nearby, to serve as a replacement for brother Shelton. Our prayer is that God may richly bless our brethren who live a few miles south of Kosciusko, and who consider Nile to be their "home church".

## Sleep at Night

(Cont. from page 13)

it. If you have a worry in your life, give it to God. If you have family problems, settle them. These tricks, and many more that we could talk about, can help us get the sleep we need each night.

**Jeremy McFarlin**  
305 North Rd, NW  
Aliceville, AL 35442-1034

Lord willing, I plan on going back next July. I hope that more students from MBC will get to make that trip. Keep this and all efforts to spread the borders of the kingdom in your prayers. If you or your congregation want to find out more about Amerindian Missions, contact **Jerry Davidson** at *Summerdale, AL*. 251-989-7748.

Whether in a foreign country or in your own home land, serving God will always be... *The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love!* It will also be the only thing that truly matters in life.

Travis Brown  
Director of Admissions  
Magnolia Bible College  
662-289-2896

## Eunice Mission Work

(Cont. from page 17)

1. Pay the rent and utilities for a suitable rental preacher's home.
2. Pay all utilities, upkeep and insurance on the church building.
3. Oversee (within the bounds of God's word) the work.

We are seeking one or more congregations that can pay the salary of a preacher for 1 year. The preacher can be an older retired person or a young preacher fresh from preachers' school...

...We are very confident, that in one year, the church at Eunice can show significant growth. "Lift up your eyes"; the fields are really white in Eunice.

If you would like additional information please call any of the elders at DeQuincy.

Ray Hyatt (337) 786-2083  
Joey Franks (337) 786-7742  
J.D. Franks (337) 786-2827

## Mississippi News Notes

### BATESVILLE

The Batesville Church of Christ recently conducted a Gospel Meeting with Al Franks, editor of MM, doing the preaching. From all accounts, interest was high and the meeting was well attended. **Robert Rawson** and **Michael Bates** serve the Batesville congregation as preachers. **James McKinney**, a preacher student from Freed-Hardeman, served as the youth minister for the summer. On a personal note, Al and I enjoyed our association with the Batesville church. We especially enjoyed being neighbors for about a week with **Woody and Patsy Loden**. We parked our motorhome in their yard and our lives were blessed beyond measure because of our association. Thanks to all who had a part in making the week of July 22 - 27, 2007 a very memorable week.

### BROOKHAVEN

The Johnson Grove Church of Christ, near Brookhaven, scheduled a Gospel Meeting for July 29 - August 1, 2007. Al Franks, editor of the MM, did the preaching each night. **Otis Bowman** is the preacher for the Johnson Grove congregation and **Doug Kimble** works with the young people. The church had made arrangements for us to park our motorhome on the church grounds. We enjoyed the week we lived in the Johnson Grove community. A special note of thanks to all who provided meals. A very special thanks to 89-year-old **R. J. Redd** who prepared breakfast each morning at the church building -- not only for us, but for eight to ten others. God is truly blessing the work at Johnson Grove.

### STARKVILLE

The Starkville Church of Christ has installed new elders. The church bulletin stated, "After careful consideration, input from the congregation and much prayer, the elders recommend the addition of **Roger King, Terry Kiser** and **Dean Stewart** to the eldership." The installation ceremony was planned for Sunday, August 19th, 2007.

### BOONEVILLE

Among the many good works of the Booneville Church of Christ is their active jail ministry. The church bulletin reported several baptisms and also that they have been granted permission to have Sunday Morning worship service at the Justice Center. They will meet with the inmates each Sunday from 8-9.

The Booneville congregation is also planning a campaign for October 20-24, 2007 with a group coming from Heritage Christian University to help canvas the entire community for Christ.

### SOUTHAVEN

The Goodman Oaks Church of Christ hosted a very special Homecoming weekend in July -- celebrating their 20th year. During the Bible Class hour a DVD produced by **Calvin Dean** was shown to tell the history of what was the Whitehaven congregation

that became the Goodman Oaks church. Over 900 were in attendance for the special occasion. **Steve Reeves**, pulpit minister for the Goodman Oaks congregation wrote about the occasion, "May this past weekend serve as a reminder of how richly blessed we are at Goodman Oaks. For twenty years God has faithfully guided our way and poured His blessings out upon us. May our response be one of continued faithfulness to Him in the future". The Goodman Oaks congregation recently suffered the loss of one of their elders. **Kim Tullos**, 1954-2007, who passed away after a brief, but valiant, struggle against Leukemia. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Tullos family as well as the Goodman Oaks church in the loss of one of their shepherds.

### CORINTH

**Brandon Day** from the Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth, MS. has been serving as youth minister this summer with the Morristown Church of Christ in Morristown, TN.

### VICKSBURG

**Mike Milligan** from the Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth, MS. is now serving as youth minister with the I-20 Church of Christ in Vicksburg,

## Reader Responds

*I found a copy of the Magnolia Messenger and enjoyed reading every page. I wish I could send you something for the forwarding of Christ Gospel. I'm in prison have been for over 32 years. I've been saved since December, 2001. Should my answers to the Question Box get chosen as a winner, would you give the Bible as a gift to my friend who's name and address is on the Questioner? Thank you, Love in Christ, May God bless you is my prayer for you. (Terrance W. Upshaw, Wiggins, MS)*

### Clinton, MS

**September Singing**  
Saturday, 29th of September  
6:00 until 8:00 P.M.

**Clinton Church of Christ**  
155 Broadway  
Clinton, MS 39056

For more information, please call **Robert Berch**, preacher for the Clinton church at 601-924-5300

News Notes Welcomed!

## "Old Paths" Moving

According to **Dalton Key**, editor of the "Old Paths", his family and the paper he publishes are moving from Amarillo, Texas to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Brother Key's paper is small but it has consistently been filled with quality articles, written by very capable writers. He gives thanks to "the faithful support of a few congregations and individuals" which, said he, "has kept us going from the beginning." The new address for the paper and its editor is: **Old Paths; 829 South Rockford Avenue; Tulsa, OK 74120-4696**



Jerry Graham, Laurel Preacher (center), Surrounded by Church Members, Cuts Ribbon Opening New Building

## Laurel Church "Dedicates and Celebrates" The Opening of Their New Church Building

Psalms 122:1 states, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord."

We, the members of East Laurel Church of Christ (formerly Southside Church of Christ) were very glad to go into our new *house of the Lord*, located at 1901 East Mississippi Avenue in Laurel, Mississippi. Our new house includes 14 acres of land with plans for a future addition of a family life center.

### The Celebration

Friday, August 10th at 3:00 P.M. brother **Jerry Graham**, preacher for the church, cut the ribbon in the presence of the mayor and other city officials.

Saturday, August 11th, from 3:00 until 5:00 P. M. was fun time with a food festival which included the neighborhood children and parents -- all under a big tent. East Laurel members wore T-shirts with a picture of the church building, the address and the preacher's name.

5:00 P.M. until... **A Gospel Explosion.** "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and exalt him also in the congregation of the people." (Psalms 107:31-32). Singing groups came from Hernando, Mound Bayou, Metro East in Jackson and Hattiesburg, Mississippi. A group came also from Dothan, Alabama, along with singers from Texas and Georgia. On Saturday night, there was standing room only. "I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 104:33).

### Sunday, August 12th, 11:00 A.M.

Brother N. L. Evans of Texarkana, Texas dedicated the building "for the service of the Lord." Brother Evans had also preached the first sermon on the vacant land under a tent. He stated that there is "Only one church with no division. Christ is the Head; we are the body; the body

and the church mean the same (Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18). Brother Evans uses a key phrase in his sermons. Whenever he makes a point he wants us to remember he says, "O, you can see that!" He is a dynamic speaker.

The church was happy to have guests from the Capitol Street Church of Christ in Jackson, MS -- brother Kennon Lesure and family and from the Enterprise Church of Christ in Enterprise, MS -- brother Dennis and Gwendolyn Hardaway. After morning services, the church continued to fellowship with lunch in the fellowship hall.

At 2:00 P.M. the church reassembled and paid tribute, through song and a slide presentation, to the foot soldiers who did the ground work in establishing and continuing the development of the church from the fifties to the present time. A special "thank you" to brother **Les Jones** (a deceased elder) and other faithful members.

A final sermon from brother Evans and a number of songs from the Dothanaires of Dothan, Alabama closed the day of worship. At the conclusion of the 3-day celebration, the following words from a song symbolizes our dedication services: "When all of God's children get together -- what a time, what a time, what a time!"

Brother and sister Graham, the elders, deacons and the membership of the East Laurel Church of Christ thank everyone who came out to celebrate with us. Your presence made our entrance into our new house a great success. We have, indeed, come a long way!

East Laurel Church of Christ  
1901 East Mississippi Avenue  
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

(601) 428-1466 or (601) 577-1341

(Report sent to MM by Laurel church. Editing by alf)

## Eunice: A Mission Opportunity in SW Louisiana

When we see or hear the words "mission work" we usually think of a far-off foreign land. While we certainly advocate "going into all the world", we may sometimes overlook "mission fields" right here in our enlightened "Christianized" America.

Let us tell you about Eunice, Louisiana. This is a small Southwest LA city with a population of 23,000 precious souls. It is a thriving and progressive community that depends primarily upon agriculture and oil/gas revenues. The LA "Cajun" culture is strongly evident in the inhabitants.

The Lord's church has existed in Eunice for many years. They have a small but adequate building that is well located (see picture). In recent years, however, this small congregation has fallen on hard times. The last preacher left about four years ago. Since then, several of the members have moved or died. Today, there are only two families left. They watch video sermons for their lessons.

Over the years several congregations have assisted in the work. The DeQuincy church, which is located about sixty-five miles west of Eunice, constructed their building for them about forty years



Meeting Place for Mission Church in Eunice, LA

ago, and has since maintained an interest in the work there. The size and financial limitations of the congregations in this area restrict the extent of the help they can offer. However, the DeQuincy Church of Christ has committed to the following assistance for one more year:

**See Eunice Mission Work, Page 16**

(See Question Box)

## These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

1. Millie A. Goode
2. Virginia Hayes
3. William Pyron
4. Blanche Meeks
5. Wilda Pounds
6. Grace Potts
7. Marie Sykes
8. Garry Gooch
9. Julius Lee Morris
10. Bea Estes
11. Barbara Beard
12. Genie Henning
13. Velva Dykes
14. Margaret Googe
15. Ray Ann Woodruff
16. Brenda Thrower
17. Lorene Lindsey
18. Ellene Vaughan
19. Mrs. J. W. Cooper
20. Lexie C. Ivy
21. Paul Gaunt
22. Vera Spencer
23. Myra D. Reaves
24. Billy Willingham
25. Patrilla Maddox
26. Gene Turner
27. Elsie M. Moore
28. Cheri G. Moore
29. Dezarie Ashby
30. Patricia Wright
31. Sidney Robinson
32. Linda Joyce Laird
33. Robert Blackburn
34. Ruby Gideon
35. Sandra A. Sertin
36. Leonard Young
37. Sam Long
38. Louella Whithead
39. Kay Shiers
40. Roger King
41. Marilyn Howell
42. Cecil Perdue
43. Louise McLeod
44. Travis Hamilton
45. Wilma Branch
46. Annie Ruth Perry
47. Alma Maddox
48. Mary & Claude Ray
49. Erma Dees
50. Dwight E. Hester
51. Ruth Christian
52. Kimberl Pearce
53. Shirley Pearce
54. Floyd Brisbine
55. Geneva Brooks
56. Jeff & Debbie Shull
57. Carole Shelby
58. Elledith Harris
59. Carol Bonner
60. Brenda Burlison
61. Admiral Tidwell
62. Irene M. Edwards
63. Thomas A. Tucker
64. Willa Fox
65. Ann Kimble
66. Opal Chittom
67. Janice Vaughan
68. Linda F. Anderson
69. Hazel Cook
70. Kerry Deaton
71. Shelia Hall
72. Emily Hall
73. Geraldine Frederick
74. Ron Webb
75. Bernice Townsel
76. Mrs. Cecil Smith
77. M/M Arthur Burnett
78. Gladys Wiser
79. Edward Pearson
80. Alice Gibbs
81. Myrle Turman
82. James Breckenridge
83. Margaret Gaskin
84. Cade Walsh
85. Virginia Provence
86. Jane Walker
87. Ima Jean Fogus
88. Verna Spake
89. Olen Roden, Jr.
90. Rosie Mae Felton
91. Charlene Williams
92. Silas L. Netteville
93. Willie M. Netteville
94. Montrelle Netteville
95. Eileen Ferrebee
96. Bernice L. Geter
97. Ouida Gentry
98. Dorothy Ford
99. Inez & Laura Brannon
100. Otis & Linda Baker
101. Dorothy Brunson
102. Betty A. Skinner
103. Alice Humphries
104. Mrs. Dean Howe
105. Opal Sappington
106. George Tindall
107. Shirley Meche
108. Ed Istre
109. Elizabeth Dickerson
110. Dorothy Banks
111. Linda Peterson
112. Alice Dempsey
113. Sue Glenn
114. Bernice Mills
115. Mary Lois Moore
116. Olen Moore
117. Kittie Edwards
118. Ms. Lois Wright
119. Evelyn Stanford
120. Dorsa Sparks
121. Minnie Gwyne
122. Coy & Martha Daily
123. Gladys Bryant
124. Emily Sweeney
125. Kathie Stacks
126. Danny C. Stacks
127. Mrs Anna Merle Barmer
128. Gladys Martin
129. Betty Standard
130. Doyle Varner
131. Lawrence Horn
132. Debra Michael
133. Sherry Townsend
134. Sue McDaniel
135. Marion S. Graves
136. Irene M. Wright
137. Evelyn Faulkenburry
138. Charlane Stanfield
139. Rebecca Alexander
140. Doralynn Felton
141. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
142. Mildred Isom
143. Larry Gallaher
144. Debra Gallaher
145. JoAnn Glenn
146. Aron Nielsen
147. Gloria Nielsen
148. Nathan Nielsen
149. Caleb Nielsen
150. Melba Ogg
151. Osteen & Era Hinson
152. Guyla J. Hubble
153. Edith Winters
154. Greg Mullinicks
155. Mamie Guinn
156. Wynell Thompson
157. Nell Golden
158. Paul & Marcella Black
159. Exie Motes
160. Deborah Brannon
161. Gala Webster
162. Natalie Grisham
163. Billie J. McCurdy
164. Christine Holliday
165. Lizzie Mae Gibbons
166. Irma Lucas
167. Juanita LeBouef
168. Modean Edwards
169. Elizabeth Hines
170. Bronwen Pollard
171. Adrienne A. Harris
172. Doris Darnell
173. Glen Brady
174. Pauline Craft
175. Millie Duke
176. Hattie Hooper
177. Mr. Thomas Forrest, Sr.
178. Pearl Hitt
179. Eileen Williford
180. Ella Darnell
181. Evelyn Page
182. Esther Williams
183. Carolyn Harvill
184. Lorenzo Carter
185. Helen Hopkins
186. Don & Jan Fitzgerald
187. Jerry Hawkins
188. Kathy Wheeler
189. Edmon Wheeler
190. Betty Stewart
191. Donna Guley
192. Mrs. Ambrose Ramsey, Jr.
193. Louis Boucher
194. Tashaa Brown
195. Roy Hall
196. Derrick Marcus
197. Kristin Shafer
198. Peggy Alcede
199. Jimmy Anderson
200. Kellye Anderson
201. Kyle Anderson
202. Douglas Baggett
203. Doug Berry & Ila Berry
204. Sarah Boudreaux
205. Doreen Brittain
206. Drew Broussard
207. Dortha Carlile
208. Joe Carlile
209. Joe Cash
210. Karen Cash
211. Patricia Cole
212. Tommy Cole, Sr.
213. Kara Crowell
214. Kasey Crowell
215. Korey Crowell
216. Jackie Decareaux
217. Suzan Dubrock
218. Bill Edwards
219. Terri Edwards
220. Judith Elkins
221. Vanessa Elkins
222. Walter Elkins
223. Vicky Estes
224. Chris Franks
225. Ena Franks
226. Glen Franks
227. Glenda Franks
228. Paul Franks
229. Randall Gandy
230. Barbara Gayle
231. Christopher Green
232. Craig Green
233. Crystal Green
234. Cynthia Green
235. Dell Griffin
236. Margaret Griffin
237. Steve Griffin
238. Jessica Hance
239. Tina Harris
240. Donna Hawkins
241. Kenny Hewitt
242. Otha Lee Hewitt
243. Colin Hyatt
244. Sarah Jones
245. Ashley Kebodeaux
246. Dave Kineman
247. Tammy Kineman
248. Bethany Landry
249. Lauren Landry
250. Brandi LeJeune
251. Ashley Marler
252. Sandra Martin
253. Patricia McArthur
254. Cary McCartney
255. Marlene McCartney
256. Janet McReynolds
257. Lydia McReynolds
258. B.A. Newby
259. Ancilla Nolan
260. Kordell Nolan
261. Missy Nugent
262. Christine Poynter
263. Jason Poynter
264. Linda Reed
265. David Sigmund
266. Debra Sigmund
267. Evelyn Sigmund
268. John Sigmund
269. Molly Smith
270. Steve Smith
271. Joe Spain
272. Ashley Teasdale
273. Darrell Treme
274. Dustin Treme
275. Lauren Treme
276. Renee' Treme
277. Grady Ward
278. Wanda Ward
279. Gloria Watson
280. Leora White
281. Louise H. Butler
282. Faye Cottrell
283. Zena Western
284. Dorothy Alexander
285. Katie Wyrick
286. Jerry & Norma Inman
287. Dathol Camp
288. Neeta A. Hart
289. Shellie Hancock
290. Hattie Johnson
291. M/M Bowden Grisham
292. Annie Mae Pipkin
293. Dorothy Winslett
294. Norma Timmerman
295. William & Atlean Snow
296. Patricia D. McClure
297. Ava Cleveland
298. Carolyn T. Taylor
299. Margaret Burnett
300. Linda Hogue
301. Bill & Miriam Moore
302. Betty VanBuren
303. Barbara Yates
304. Jewell Phillips
305. Brenda Wilson
306. Linda T. Shirley
307. Ora Stennett
308. Linda Paden
309. Annie L. Cummings
310. Paul & Elsie Bryson
311. Mima R. Vines
312. Ray Parham
313. Velda Carter
314. Dee Kepler
315. Melba Sewell
316. Jessie Baker
317. Bobbie Loggins
318. Christine Gray
319. Mae Carol Bradley
320. Daphne Stephens
321. Jane S. Bell
322. Mary Ella Webster
323. Lisa Dettor
324. Debbie Clark
325. Mrs. B. H. Darby
326. Bonnie B. Glass
327. Weida Pyron
328. Oscar F. Yates
329. Jim Nowell
330. Lorene Sanderson
331. Nancy L. Taylor
332. Taylor S. McCullough
333. Betty Lynd
334. Linda Crochet
335. Michael Coleman
336. Janie Green
337. Jo Masters
338. Kristy Pipes
339. Susie Malone
340. Keith Neese
341. Jack L. Falls, Sr.
342. Minnie Davis
343. Frederick Jones
344. Ruby Matejka
345. Mary Faulconer
346. Victor O. Farrar
347. Mary Lena Broom
348. Joe Arnold
349. Melvin & Kay Linton
350. Beatrice C. Altazin
351. Lois Gray
352. Lynette Peoples
353. Dorothy Whitten
354. Marie Green
355. Sommer Burnett
356. Paige Wiggs
357. Akyra McNairy
358. Dennis McNairy, Jr.
359. Carolyn Olson
360. Fay Bullitt
361. Tommy & Frankie Moore
362. Frances Harrell
363. Susan Thompson
364. Mattie Ann Owens
365. Diamond Mancrief
366. Courtney Woods
367. Daniel Mastin
368. Bettye Orem
369. Beulah Rupert
370. Harold & Bonnie Mobley
371. Charlotte Ritter
372. M/M Jerry Lewis
373. Sandra Green
374. Elvis Dilmore
375. Judi Byrnes
376. Johnny & Princess Watson
377. Billy & Lucille Smith
378. Polly Templeton
379. Neeta A. Hart
380. Jerry L. Hart
381. Olye Rush
382. Billie Jane Davis
383. Judi Byrnes
384. Velma B. DeLancey
385. Patricia Connaway
386. Pierce Flatt
387. Peggy E. Cooper
388. Faye Stanford
389. Sarah Hill
390. Sue Calloway
391. Jim Vermillion
392. Eddie Vermillion
393. Fran Williford
394. Buddy Parsons
395. Vera Winfrey
396. Gladys Jackson
397. Debbie Lindsey
398. Mattie Luster
399. Lisa Dearman
400. Loretta Luster
401. Mrs. T. N. Lollar
402. Juanita M. Tynes
403. Martha Cooper
404. Charles & Alberta Houston
405. Betty Chattman
406. Angela B. Robinson
407. Paul & Diana Schneid
408. Natalie Stewart
409. Rubye S. Miller
410. Rosa Lee Johnson
411. Carla McKinney
412. Kay Bramlett
413. Billie Boyd
414. Linda B. Keirn
415. Annie R. Copeland
416. Michelle Simpson
417. Clyde Neaves
418. Diane Dunaway
419. Shirley Meeks
420. Bonnie Howell
421. Mrs. Rosa Lee Thurman
422. Ms. Carol Pipes
423. Ben Hightower
424. J. L. Eaton
425. Imogene Kirk
426. Mrs. Dorothy L. Thornton
427. Myrtle Rogers
428. Betty Clark
429. Marjorie French
430. Bea Hunt
431. Lenola Valentine
432. Eunice Kirkwood
433. Paul McElroy
434. Mary Feist
435. John Mayher
436. Arva L. Fisher
437. Wayne Crum
438. Rick Bishop
439. Tommy & Peggy Shull
440. Madge Beal
441. Phillip & Shelia Lansdell
442. Earlene Quarles
443. Bea Basford
444. Margaret N. Freeman
445. Karen Sue Britt
446. Dorothy Laws
447. Ruby L. Johnson
448. Emma G. Wheeler
449. Lozell Milligan
450. Brenda Redd
451. Richard L. Odom
452. Mildred Carroll
453. Sandra Welch
454. Lucille Jackson
455. Marie Lively
456. Barbara A. Beard
457. Shirley Waggener
458. Kaye Wise
459. Jean Clemmer
460. Trillie Strickland
461. Nelson Joseph Greene, Jr.
462. Della M. Rhodes
463. Josie Isaacs
464. Pinky Hawes
465. Glenda Jefcoat
466. June Brents
467. Karen Bolts
468. Mary L. Harp
469. Betty Shackelford
470. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
471. Helen Franks
472. Angie Mask
473. Shirley Bostick
474. Hazel P. Perkins
475. William Pyron
476. I. Grayson
477. Mary Jacobs
478. James Abston
479. Minnie James
480. Mary Dennis
481. Mattie Gregory
482. Barbara Johnson
483. Earl Johnson
484. James Hudley
485. Virginia Hayes
486. Evelyn M. Doss
487. Kathey James
488. Betty Brawley
489. Wayne & Carol Rigdon
490. Queen O. Nettles
491. Clifford Crowder
492. Joan Harris Palmer
493. Rubye Davis
494. Mary M. McDonald
495. Vic & Ruth Hawn
496. Bodean Collum
497. Evelyn Little
498. Mrs. Maurice Graves
499. Marie Scott
500. Dotsy Downs
501. Payge Jackson
502. Cayley Rodrigue
503. Jennifer Rodrigue
504. Lara Cooley
505. Phillip Smith
506. Patsy McClung
507. Lisa Frazer
508. Sherry Gordon
509. Rufus Alston Cross
510. M/M Ken Sullins
511. Lavore Nesbitt
512. Mrs. Elizabeth Grow
513. Silas Tolliver
514. Millie A. Goode
515. Joan Loftis
516. Mildred Herrington
517. Millie Johnson
518. Shawn Jackson
519. Milton Simpson
520. Damion Stokes
521. Sandy Dean
522. Ruby Pounds
523. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr.
524. Patrick Woodard
525. Jeremiah Woodard
526. Ma'Nia Womack
527. Shelia Woodard
528. Earl C. Woodard
529. Wayne Goode
530. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins & Rodney Gayles
531. James C. Guy
532. YOUR NAME,
533. Next time! Okay?

Answers received after Sept.10 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!

**Dennis, MS  
Ladies' Day  
October 13, Saturday  
Speaker Lisa Beene (FHU)  
Topic  
"Keeping it Simple"  
Registration:9:30-10:00  
Program:10:00-12:00  
Liberty Church of Christ  
Dennis, Mississippi  
662-454-7362**

**FAMILY**

Are you aware that  
if you died tomorrow,  
the company for whom you are working,  
could easily replace you in a matter of  
days;  
But the family you leave behind  
will feel the loss  
for the rest of their lives.

Via The Internet

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

**Tried and Tested**

- June Franks -

It is very alarming and sad to hear all the bad news on television and to read in the newspapers about the condition of our nation.

Our present world is pretty much described in Genesis 6:5. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

The devil has so many under his control and we often find ourselves thinking sin is really not all that bad. The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". (Romans 6:23) Sin is bad. Sins' wages are death, meaning spiritual death -- if we *continue* in that sin.

The Bible also says, "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness...." (Isaiah 5:20).

Sin is defined in the Bible, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law". (I John 3:4) "All unrighteousness is sin". (I John 5:17)

It is very difficult to live a Christ-like life and to be bom-



June Franks

barded on every side with all kinds of evil. The devil is very convincing and, often times, sin is presented to us in a very enticing way, without showing us the consequences. When faced with any temptation, we should ask ourselves, "What will be the consequence of this?"

As adults we are faced with many temptations; but, our young people -- it seems, are tempted in so many more ways. We should pray daily for our teenagers and do our best to set a good example before them.

Just a generation or two ago, there was no television. But today, you cannot watch a news broadcast without seeing things promoted that violate the Word of God.

Many of the television programs and/or movies are not fit for us as Christians to watch.

Computers are such an important part of our world, but *with the good comes the bad*. The internet is a wonderful way of communicating and is used frequently in gathering news and articles for the MM. However, if not used properly, it can become a serious liability to us in our Christian walk.

Pornography is an evil culprit to which some have become addicted. It is no won-

der, when so much of our attention is given to doing those things which are carnal, that we have little or no interest in those things that are spiritual.

Many of the sins which are prevalent today are described in scripture. The Bible says, "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:29-32).

In order to resist temptation we should associate with those who would help us to live a better life. The Bible says, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good morals" (Rom 15:33)

We hear the statement made by many, "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time". We should avoid those places where we know there will be activity in which we should not participate.

The Bible says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22).

God has provided us with a way of escape. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

We are protected by the divine armor. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6).

God has promised to forgive us of all sins if we will only meet the requirements for forgiveness.

The Bible says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).

**The Tongue**

*"A Powerful Force for Good or Evil"*

Marlene Rushing

Have you ever spoken words that brought sorrow or embarrassment afterwards? I certainly have. Many times, no later than they left my lips, I felt sorry and ashamed. I have asked myself, "Why in the world did I say that?"

Unkind and hurtful words, once uttered, can never be taken back. We need to ask God's forgiveness and apologize to the one we have hurt.

The tongue is mentioned more than one hundred and fifty times in the Bible. We are warned about using it in a manner that is displeasing to God. Let us study some scripture references pertaining to the tongue. Many are written in the masculine gender, but are also applicable to women.

"If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26). "Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (James 3:5-6).

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we man, which are made after the similitude (likeness) of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:8-10). Thy tongue deviseth (plans) mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully" (Psalm 52:2). "A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin." (Proverbs 26:28).

Sins of the tongue include cursing, lying, backbiting, talebearing, whispering, meddling, sowing discord, nagging, flattering and boasting. It is always wise to **think** before we *speak*.

Let us now consider the proper use of the tongue, as we study other scripture references. It should be used in a positive way that is pleasing to God.

"For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (I Peter 3:10). "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172). "The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is

little worth" (Proverbs 10:20). "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23).

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11). "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11). "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of

edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

The tongue is meant to be used for good instead of evil. We can confess our sins, read the Bible, pray for others, ask for wisdom, patience, guidance, blessings and forgiveness for ourselves. We can encourage those in need of encouragement, sympathize with those who are hurting, sing praises and voice our thanks for health, food, clothing, shelter and the love of family and friends. Last, but certainly not least, let us always remember to thank God for the gift of his precious Son.

Much more could be written about the tongue. It is a subject we need to study and apply to our lives. I sincerely hope that, as Christian women, we will strive to use our tongues for building up instead of tearing down. We **must**, if we want to please our Heavenly Father.

"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." (Matthew 12:36-37)

May God help us in our quest to better understand His Word and live according to His commandments.

Marlene Rushing  
687 Auburn Drive, SW  
Bogue Chitto, MS 39629

**Our Most Recent Bible Winner  
Elsie M. Moore (left)  
Otawah, Tennessee**



Elsie Moore (on left) is presented her new Study Bible by Betty Harris (on right). Betty and her husband, Garnett, were traveling with us when we delivered the Bible to Elsie. Sister Moore attends the Gateway church at Etawah, Tennessee where Bill Corn serves as preacher. The Harris attend the North Brandon church in Brandon, Mississippi which is served by preacher Ray Penna.

New Iberia, LA  
**Ladies' Day**  
Saturday, October 20  
Topic  
*"Shine Like Stars"*  
speaker  
**Nancy Harrington**  
(Anniston, AL)  
**8:30 - 2:30**  
More information,  
Call: 337-364-2662

## The Question Box

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

### JOB: THE BOOK; THE MAN

**"Why do good people suffer?"** This is a sobering question which has been asked through the ages. God knows of our inquiring minds (*why we wonder*) and has provided a Biblical answer. Our Father provides great assistance in understanding the human problem of suffering, as we prayerfully and carefully study the remarkable book known as Job.

It is the story of a man -- a *good* man, who experienced much pain and suffering. Yet, it was not his fault! Job did nothing to deserve the affliction he was called upon to endure. God was **not** the cause. Rather, it was **Satan!** The loving Father did not forsake his servant, Job. The Lord was with him all the way; and, in the end, the pa-

tient Job was blessed beyond measure by Almighty God who shows he truly cares for his own.

You will benefit from a restudy of what may be the oldest of the Old Testament books, as you search for answers to the problems you encounter in your life. Please review the book of Job and respond to each of the sections in this little quiz. Upon completion, **send your answers to us.** By so doing, your "Sent in Answers" will encourage others (see page 18), and you may become our **next Bible winner.** (Each issue we select, at random, the name of one student who sends in answers and, to him/her, award a beautiful new study Bible.) Thank you for your interest in the sacred text and for answering "The Question Box". (alf)

#### Quotes from Job, the Man

(Find the verse in the book which includes the statement made by the man)

1. "... The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:\_\_\_)
2. "... I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day." (7:\_\_\_)
3. [God] "which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number." (9:\_\_\_)
4. [the Lord] "In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." (12:\_\_\_)
5. "... I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (23:\_\_\_)
6. "He [God] stretcheth out the north over the empty space, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." (26:\_\_\_)
7. "...Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." (28:\_\_\_)

#### Who Said What?

Match the person with his/her statement; Supply the missing reference numbers.

The answers are: 1. Job's wife; 2. Elihu; 3. Eliphaz; 4. Job; 5. Bildad; 6. Satan, and 7. Zophar

- \_\_\_ 1. "Naked came I out of my mother's womb..." (1:\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 2. "... Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life." (2:\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 3. "... Curse God, and die." (2:\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 4. "... They that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." (4:\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 5. "For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow." (8:\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 6. "That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment." (20:\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 7. "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment." (32:\_\_\_)

#### More Matching

Match the name (left) with the description (right).

The number in parenthesis is the chapter where answer is found)

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| ___ Behemoth (40)  | 1. Sea Creature      |
| ___ Jemima (42)    | 2. Land Animal       |
| ___ Leviathan (41) | 3. Beautiful Woman   |
| ___ Sabeans (1)    | 4. Murdering Thieves |
| ___ Eliphaz (1)    | 5. Temanite          |

#### Final Fill-ins

1. **Question:** "Can that which is \_\_\_\_\_ be eaten \_\_\_\_\_ salt? or is there any \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an egg?" (6:\_\_\_)
2. **Observation:** "Man that is \_\_\_\_\_ of a woman is of \_\_\_\_\_ days and full of \_\_\_\_\_. He cometh forth like a \_\_\_\_\_, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a \_\_\_\_\_ and continueth not." (\_\_\_:1,2)

**Thank you for answering "The Question Box"**

#### 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**

The  
**WATSONS**  
 Mom,  
 (Clarissa)  
 &  
 Sons,  
 (Blake &  
 Matt)  
 Christians  
 & College  
 Students



Both young men are severely handicapped due to life long debilitating disease. Their mobility requires wheel chairs and a specially equipped van. Not discouraged, not feeling sorry for themselves, both young men are very determined. They evidence a strong desire to live life to the fullest extent possible and to be faithful as Christians.

Both young men are students at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS where they share an apartment. Blake, age 22, is a graduate student, majoring in business. His younger brother, Matt, age 19, is a junior and is studying Journalism and Spanish.

Recently we ran into them as visitors at a gospel meeting in Crystal Springs, MS. Their mom brought them to church services in their van equipped to carry two motorized wheel chairs. "Determined." "Faithful." The Watsons are an inspiration and source of encouragement to many.

**New Bible Winners**  
**Vic & Ruth Haw**  
*Salttillo, MS*  
**Congratulations!**

**September 16, 2007**  
**A Winning Day in Tunica**  
*(for the church; not the casinos)*

Tunica County, Mississippi is home to several casinos. I know not who won or how much was won (or lost!) at the nine gambling places; however, I am thankful to report that September 16 was a truly a "winning day" for the church of Christ, meeting on Highway 61 in Tunica.

For the first time since Dennis Doughty and his wife, Kathy, began working "part-time" with the church, they hosted a special "Family and Friend" Day. The congregation worked hard and invited many. God blessed their efforts with a winning day. Attendance increased from the usual mid-40s to **over 70!**

The Doughtys are hoping that by January 1, 2008, they can begin FULL-TIME work with the church in Tunica. Please read "The Tunica Challenge" in this issue of the MM, on page 7. (*My June and I were blessed to be with the church on their "Winning Sunday" .alf.*)

North Mississippi  
**Ladies Retreat**  
 October 12-13  
 Tishomingo State Park  
 theme:  
*"Travelin' Lite"*  
 speaker:  
**Rosemary McKnight**  
 To Register, Contact:  
 Booneville church of Christ  
 662-728-5544 or  
 662-416-5544

**Forecast**  
 Greenville  
 Mississippi

**"God Reigns  
 and  
 The Son  
 Shines"**

As Seen on  
 August 26



On a warm summer Sunday in August, my June and I really enjoyed our visit with the South Main church in Greenville, MS, where I was privileged to preach both morning and evening. This friendly congregation, which brings together about 140 - 150 worshippers each Lord's day is overseen by elders **Darrell Blaylock, Henry Halliburton,** and **Bill Payne.** The church seemed excited about the coming of their new preacher and his wife, **Danny and Mary Holman,** who are scheduled to be moved in on/by the first week of October. We pray God's blessings to be with our brethren who call South Main their "home church." (alf)