



Magnolia Messenger

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Nov-DEC, 2008 -- VOLUME 30; NUMBER 5 -- Our 30th Year

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

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Photo by
Yvonne
Hughes

MM
1978
to
2008

30
Years

The Franks (Al & June) Say "Thanks"

MM: Still Going... Still Growing!

Thank the Good Lord. Thanks to all who receive and read the MM. Thanks also to everyone who writes, calls and/or sends e-mails. We are deeply indebted to **every** encourager and supporter. We fully realize that, without the fellowship of many churches and hundreds of Christians, the mission work of the Franks and the publication of the Magnolia Messenger would not be. We are truly, truly grateful. *May you have a very happy holiday season [Thanksgiving and Christmas] and a blessed new year.* "Beloved, I [we] pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." (3 John 2, NKJV)

Al & June Franks

"On Solid Ground"

a program for youth
Maywood Christian Camp
Hamilton, Alabama

December 27-29, 2008

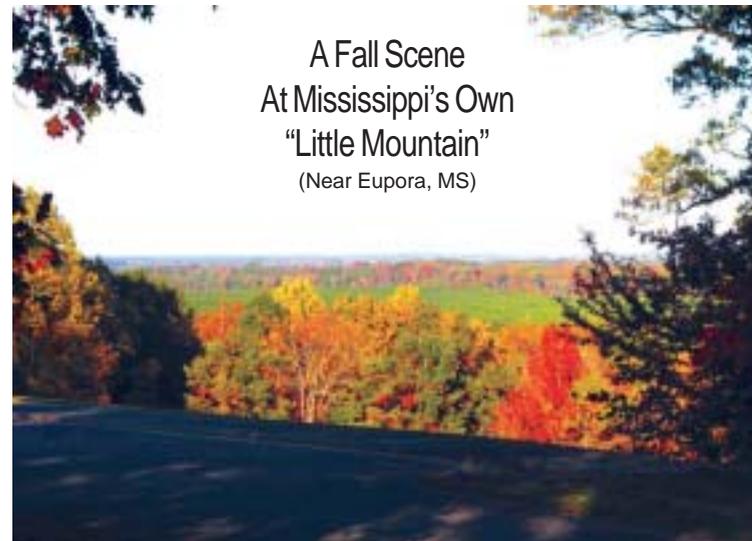
Sponsored by the Foote Street Church of Christ in conjunction with NE MS Churches of Christ and West TN Churches of Christ

(More Information: Please all the office of the Foote Street church: 662-287-3146

Over **3,000** Singers
Came Together
at the



(Details Found on Page 11)



A Fall Scene
At Mississippi's Own
"Little Mountain"
(Near Eupora, MS)

Read: **The Fall Season Is Wonderful!** Page 12

Was the name "Christian" the new name given by God as promised in Isaiah's prophecy, or was it given by enemies of Christianity in derision? I have heard it preached both ways.

(Study Cecil May's Response on page 3)



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

11th Annual MM RV Rally Set For April 29 - May 3, 2009

Location **changed** from
Morton to McComb
Guest Speakers
Rod & Mimi Tate
(Pascagoula, MS)
(Details on Page 6)



**Something Very Special
About a MM RV Rally**
(Read Report on Page 5)



This
Lady
Has A
Special
Reason
for
Smiling
(Page 5)

Reading The Magnolia Messenger is a good way of Studying the Scriptures

- Learn:** More About "The Other Side" (Page 2)
- Trust:** Not in "Uncertain Riches" (Page 4)
- Face:** "Real Changes and Issues" (Page 5)
- Ask:** Grape Juice or Alcoholic Wine? (Page 6)
- How to:** "Evangelize Someone Like Me?" (Page 7)
- Observe:** "While They Slept" (Page 8)
- Warning:** "Uncertainty of Riches" (Page 10)
- Consider:** "The Preacher's Wife" (Page 13)
- Plea:** "Get Me To Church on Time" (Page 15)
- Learn:** Big Lessons from a Small Book (Page 17)
- Stop:** "Take a Breath" ((Page 17)

Study
Miracles
of
Destruction

Answer
"The Question Box"
(Page 20)

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Story on Page 19

Distance Learning Courses at MBC

NEW

Beginning
In the Spring of 2009
MBC Will Offer Two
Distance Learning Courses:
(Details on Page 13)

MBC News

(Turn to Page 9)

Bible Lands Trip

Hosts
Al & Paul Franks
Date (God willing)
November 3, 2009
Cost: \$1998*
(From New York)
Classic 10-Day Tour
Jerusalem, Galilee,
Bethlehem, Jericho
and other important sites
(Depart from a city near you for
just a little more)
(*plus tax, tips, etc.)
for more information:
(See Page 7)

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Change Service
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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)

Mr. Franks,

I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger so much. I always consider it a blessing when I see it in my mailbox. I was afraid to open this issue when I saw that on page 4 the answer to "For Whom Shall I Vote" was to be found. After reading Mr. Gentry's words, I breathed a sigh of relief. His words spoke the truth and should be spread far and wide. Thank you very much for printing this. Once again, The Magnolia Messenger has proven itself to me and I very much appreciate it and the work you do. Thank you, (Millie Duke, Middleton, TN)

Thank you for allowing me to read and learn from your Magnolia Messenger. I really enjoy your paper. I would be very thankful if you could send me a subscription. (Jerry Crews, Atmore, AL)

Dear Brother Franks,

I am Nancy Isom Switzer, the oldest daughter of Burt and Mildred Isom. My father worked for many years with the church with mother at his side. I am writing to tell you that mother died on October 4, 2008 in Florence, Alabama. Her funeral was at the Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth where I attend. Mother went to church here as a child and was baptized here. She told me about your visit with her. She thought so much of you and your sweet June. Mother won the Bible after having answered the Question Box for 28 years. She was 92. This is one of the

things I want when we go through mothers things for I also answer the Question Box. Mother was a wonderful Christian lady, and we loved her so much. In Christian Love, (Nancy Isom Switzer, Corinth, MS)

(Note: We are saddened to learn about the death of sister Isom. Brother Isom preached for several places in Mississippi before his passing. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family. A special thanks to her daughter, Nancy Isom Switzer, and to Lois Wright for informing the Messenger about sister Isom's death.)

I was visiting at the Jackson St. church of Christ in Monroe, Louisiana, when (I believe) A. L. Franks, was introduced and, at the end of the service, he handed out copies of the "Magnolia Messenger". I would love to start receiving issues of the wonderful paper. (Robert & Lonnie Jefferson; Monroe, LA 71202)

Magnolia Messenger Staff,

I would like to have the MM sent to me at the above address. I pick up a copy when I visit the church in Clarksdale, Mississippi. I did not know an individual could request a copy until I read my last copy. I was sorry to read of two sons that had passed from this life. I lost one of my three daughters so I can empathize. Sincerely, In Christ, (Barbara Pitts, Mountain View, AR)

More Readers' Response on 11 & 14

The Other Side

Where There Is Light and Life!

- A. L. Franks -

Standing anxiously by her bedside, the loving husband and loyal companion for more than sixty years ("till death do we part") listened intently, trying to hear and understand her final words. With tears rolling down his face, he watched as his "better half" struggled to draw her last breath.

Looking at the attached monitor, the indication was clearly seen -- after 87 years of unceasing service, her heart had finally stopped beating. Death had succeeded in making yet another claim. The loss was incalculable. All seemed so dark.

Two days later, the aged husband accompanied the earthly remains of his faithful wife to the prepared burial site. After a brief service, he sadly watched as her body was gently lowered into the freshly dug grave. He then turned and slowly walked to an awaiting car.

After more than sixty years together, the final separation had taken place. She was gone... somewhere into the "great unknown". He was left behind. But, not for long. Having passed fourscore and ten years, the grieving husband knew that his own departure was "nigh at hand".

Returning to the now "empty house" which they had shared for the past 42 years, the man began his awkward efforts to adjust to a life of being alone. So many questions flooded his mind. "She's not here, but where is she? What really happens when one dies? And, is there something on the other side?"

As a faithful Christian, the lonely man knew that he was not really alone. Of course, he had his own personal storehouse of "precious memories", but he also had much more. He could know for certain that his heavenly Father would never leave nor forsake him (Heb. 13:5). The wifeless man recalled the words of



A. L. Franks
EDITOR

Jesus who said to his troubled disciples as they contemplated his departure from them. He said, "Let not your hearts be troubled."

The Lord added, "You believe in God. Believe also in me."

Faith/belief is the key to

overcoming sorrow. Jesus continued with his promise, "If I go away, I will come again." He said, "I will receive you unto myself." He promised, "I'm going to prepare a place for you." (See John 14:1-6.) The place is in the Father's house. On the other side.

How can we go from this world to the Father's house? Jesus assured his disciples then and He assures his disciples now.

He promised, I will come again -- for you! He then said, "I am the way, the truth, the life. No man comes to the Father except by me." There is no other way; no other plan. Life lies beyond the grave. Jesus made this a reality. He died, but He arose and He lives! And, because He lives, we know that we shall live. We shall be with Him and live with him -- in the Father's house. On the other side.

The inspired apostle Paul, when contemplating his own death, was firmly convinced that there truly was "the other side". That is why he could sincerely say, "I am ready to die" (Acts 21:13). His faith was solid; his hope was sure. His future, beyond this life, was based upon the "exceeding great and precious

promises" of his (and our) Lord (2 Peter 1:4).

The aging Paul could say with great hope, "I am now ready to be offered. The time of my departure is come... there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness" (I Tim. 4:6-8). He could also honestly say, "I have a desire to depart... to be with Christ... which is far better." Paul was confident; we can be confident and can say as he said, "We are willing rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (Phil. 1:21-23).

The beloved apostle John wrote as directed by the heavenly voice, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: Yes, saith the Spirit, they

shall rest from their labours"

(Rev. 14:13). An Old Testament prophet wrote, "Pre-

vious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psa. 116:15). And, may we always remember the promise of Jesus who said, "Where I am; there ye shall be also" (John 14). These are among the many reasons the beloved apostle John could write with confidence, "We know that we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:1,2).

"The Other Side." Yes, there is. Trust the Scriptures. Trust the Saviour. The only saviour. In no other is there salvation. Show your confidence in Him by obeying his commands. Place your confidence in Jesus. When hope is important, there is no other name under heaven...." (Read Acts 4:12.)

Trust not in man. Depend not upon "near death experiences" or dreams or visions. Place not your faith in the word of teachers and/or preachers who speak outside of the inspired revelation of God, the written word, the sacred scriptures -- the Holy Bible. Yes, you can be assured. There is "the other side", to which angels transport (Luke 16:19ff).

Your eternal home is being prepared. Jesus is coming. Are you prepared? Are you ready to go... to "the other side"? Are you a believer in Jesus? Have you obeyed Him? Are you following in the footsteps of Jesus? Are you? Yes, YOU. (601-668-3344; franksmm@aol.com)

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Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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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)

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Bible Questions Answered

Correction!

Mistake Made

I have a rule: check all familiar stories; do not rely on memory. In failing to follow this rule last issue I made a mistake. Elijah was not taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. There was a fiery chariot present (2 Kings 2:11, 12), but he was taken up in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1,11). Thanks to three careful Bible readers for calling this to my attention.

QUESTION

Was the name "Christian" the new name given by God as promised in Isaiah's prophecy, or was it given by enemies of Christianity in derision? I have heard it preached both ways.

RESPONSE

The name "Christian" is a name in which we are to glorify God (1 Peter 4:16). Luke says in Acts, "And in Antioch the disciples were first called (*chrematidzo*) Christians" (Acts 11:26)

Divinely Called Christians

Many Bible believing scholars state that "Christian" was a designation given by pagans or other enemies in derision, and there are some interesting evidences adduced for that position (F. F. Bruce, *Commentary on the Greek Text of Acts*, p. 238).

However, other equally astute scholars point out that "called" (*chrematidzo*) as used in Luke/Acts refers to a call that comes from God (Everett Ferguson, *Commentary on Acts*, vol. 1, p. 74, and Frazier Conley, *Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 118-19).

Luke 2:26 says it was "revealed" by the Holy Spirit to Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Acts 10:22 says Cornelius was "directed" by a holy angel to send for Peter. In each case the word in quotation marks is from the word translated "called" in Acts 11:26.

The word *chrematidzo* is used throughout the rest of the New Testament as well of warnings or revelations given by God.

For example, the wise men, after delivering their gifts to the infant Jesus were "warned" in a dream not to report back to Herod but to return by another way (Matthew 2:12).

In Romans 7:3-4, a woman is "called" an adulteress if she lives with another man while her hus-

band is alive.

In Hebrews 8:5 the English Standard Version translates the word by the phrase "instructed by God." "For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, 'See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.'"

Other places where the word has a similar signification are Hebrews 11:7, "Noah being warned by God concerning events yet unseen;" Hebrews 12:25, "if we reject him who warns from heaven;" Romans 11:4, "But what is God's reply to him?"

In the italicized phrases there is no word for God except that the translators recognize that *chrematidzo* has that significance.

"Christian," then, I believe, was not a name given by enemies in derision, but that they were called that by God is the significance of Acts 11:26.

"Christian" in Scripture

The name "Christian" is found only three times in Scripture. That comes as a surprise to some, but followers of Christ had many scriptural designations.

Saul was looking for "any belonging to the Way" (Acts 9:2) when he went to Damascus. "Disciples" is one of the most common designations in the Gospels and Acts but is not found at all in the Epistles. "Saints" is used four times in Acts and then is very common in the Epistles. "Brethren," or in modern parlance "brothers and sisters," and "children of God" or "sons of God" are also quite common.

In Antioch

It is "the disciples" who are called "Christians" in Antioch. Even if, as is likely, the name came to be used derisively by Christianity's enemies, those who wore it rejoiced "that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name" (Acts 5:41).

King Agrippa

The second time "Christian" is used in Scripture it is used by King Herod Agrippa II. Paul had already appealed to Caesar. Governor Festus nevertheless wanted him to make his case before Agrippa. Paul made an impassioned appeal, not seeking his own freedom, but seeking Agrippa's conversion, concluding, "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

Translators and others differ on the meaning of Agrippa's response. Many sermons and our

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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invitation song, "Almost Persuaded," are based on the KJV translators' understanding, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Most translators, from the 1901 ASV to the ESV, understand him to ask, probably sarcastically, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" (Acts 26:28).

Regardless of which of the two is correct, by comparing this incident to the other occasions where Paul successfully brought about the conversion of others, it is obvious that Paul's aim was to persuade Agrippa to believe in Christ, to repent of his sinful life style and to be baptized into Christ. It is also obvious that Agrippa understood that was his aim.

That was then, and remains to this day, how one becomes a Christian.

In 1 Peter

The First Epistle of Peter was written to "elect exiles" scattered throughout the Asia Minor peninsula (today, the country of Turkey) in a time of persecution. His basic message is pertinent to any today who may be suffering similarly: trust in Jesus, remember that he too suffered unjustly, live obedient holy lives whatever the circumstances, and keep your hope fixed on God's promise of ultimate deliverance.

In 1 Peter 4:15-16 he says, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name."

Peter reminds us that the name "Christian" is a blessed and holy name. Persecutors may burst into one's house and say, "We have heard there are Christians here." To acknowledge, "Yes, I am a Christian," may bring immediate death. To renounce his name may be the only way to continue to live.

At that point the words of Jesus should come to mind, "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38). "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"Christian" is a name in which to glorify God every day by a holy, loving, obedient life style, as well as by willingly suffering because of being a Christian if that end should come our way. "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good" (1 Peter 4:19).

The Isaiah Prophecy

While the name "Christian" is, I believe, divinely given, it is not, in my opinion, a direct fulfillment of the new name prophecy of Isaiah.

Isaiah prophesied, "The nations shall see your righteousness and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give" (Isaiah 62:2).

Many Old Testament prophecies are cited in the New Testament and their fulfillment stated, as in, "This is what was uttered through the prophet," or, "This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet saying." In those cases one may with certainty say that this New Testament incident fulfills that Old Testament passage. It may be a secondary or typical fulfillment (as in Matthew 2:15 fulfilling Hosea 11:1), but it is definitely a fulfillment if the New Testament says that it is.

The New Testament nowhere cites or alludes to Isaiah 62:2 (the "new name" prophecy), and certainly does not do so at Acts 11:26; so that gives me some hesitancy about doing so as well.

Some who are certain that Isaiah 62:2 refers to the name "Christian" ask, "If not "Christian" then what else can the new name be?"

Isaiah, I believe, answers that in the context of the promise. Two verses further on, Isaiah 62:4 reads,

"You shall no more be termed Forsaken (*Azubah*) and your land shall no more be termed Desolate (*Shemamah*)

but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her (*Hephzibah*), and your land Married (*Beulah*);

for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married."

Isaiah speaks concerning a time when Israel would be forsaken and desolate, and named accordingly. She would be in exile in Babylon. But Isaiah, several hundred years before the time, is promising throughout this section that God will restore her to her land, rebuild her walls and temple, and ultimately bring her a Suffering Servant to be her Messiah and Redeemer.

She will no longer be called Forsaken and Desolate, but Beloved (*Hephzibah*) and Married (*Beulah*).

Conclusion

A little boy once asked his dad, "Daddy, What is A Christian?"

His dad was humbled by the question but sought to give a biblical answer, describing in detail what a Christian's life, attitudes, worship and Bible study habits, priorities, and such like ought to be. When he finished his son asked, "Have I ever seen one?"

We all must understand that every Christian's ultimate ability to be accepted by a holy God lies in the fact that his sins are being continually cleansed by the blood of Christ as he walks in faith and in the light. But we must also recognize the great difference between walking in the light and walking in darkness, between walking after the Spirit and walking after the flesh.

We have been divinely called Christians. Let us glorify God and his Son in that name by our holy lives and by remembering that what we do "to the least of these" we do to our Lord whose name we wear.

Please Remember to Pray for the *Magnolia Messenger*

News Notes

JACKSON

Al Williams, preacher for the Timberlawn Church of Christ in Jackson, Mississippi recently passed away. We extend our deepest sympathy to brother William's family and to the Timberlawn congregation.

GREENVILLE

Plans "Homecoming"

It was noted in the bulletin from the South Main Church of Christ, Greenville, Mississippi of their planned Homecoming Day. The special day is scheduled for March 29-30, 2009.

Wonderful Weekend

A Weekend With Al & June

My June and I realize that we are richly blessed. We continually thank the Good Lord for the special privilege we have of associating with some of the *very best* people on earth -- our brothers and sisters in the Lord who congregate as churches of Christ throughout Mississippi. In this issue, we are pleased to share with MM readers a sample of such wonderful blessings enjoyed on the first weekend of November, 2008.

By invitation, we were blessed to recently travel in our ten-year-old motorhome from Kosciusko -- up the Natchez Trace Parkway, to Fulton, Mississippi. Our Saturday afternoon journey was a pure delight. The sky was so clear, so blue -- not a cloud visible -- allowing the warm sunshine to penetrate the thick growth of trees which form a thick corridor on the Trace Parkway. The beautiful fall foliage was high lighted by the glistening rays of the afternoon sun which brought out the varying shades of color that seemed to increase in beauty with each traveled mile.

Thankfully, we arrived safely at the Clifton Street church building about five o'clock on Saturday afternoon and were pleased to find a very suitable place to park our RV where we could be out of the way, enabling us to spend the night on the church parking lot. Evening services were scheduled to begin at six o'clock. So, we quickly prepared a bite to eat (combining spaghetti, tomato sauce and weiners... hmmm... good!).

Then, after a satisfying meal, we did some "last minute" preparation and, at 5:45, stepped out of "home away from home" and immediately was in the presence of **Randy Holly**, father-in-law to **Allen Coker**, an MBC graduate and former staff member of the Bible college. This was just the beginning of *many* pleasant greetings and encouraging visits as we made our way into the beautiful facility which serves as home to the Fulton church of Christ.

It was a delight to be in the company of many devoted Christians -- some of whom had come from area congregations to enjoy the fellowship provided by a church gathering on a Saturday evening. Together, we worshipped the Father "in spirit and in truth" as we sang, prayed and studied from His word. I was richly blessed to speak, as an imperfect preacher, to an imperfect audience on the subject "The **Perfect Church**." This was followed by more time talking, visiting and going to Wendy's for a light snack. We were grateful to be in company with good folks, including Fulton's preacher

Busy But Blessed



Homecoming at Fulton, MS

(Russ Crosswhite) and also the preacher from Bean's Ferry (**Steve Shappley**) and his family.

Afterwards, we were blessed with a good night's rest in our comfortable motor home. The next morning we awoke on the church grounds where we were already "at church." Today was to be the "Big Day" -- a celebration of "Homecoming" and we were privileged to be a part of it.

In our morning Bible study, with combined adult classes assembled in the auditorium, I was given the opportunity to teach Romans chapter sixteen, showing the vital roles of the different members of the body of Christ.



Russ Crosswhite

The morning worship hour, provided all who were assembled, opportunities to praise God and edify one other in "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." As worshippers, we were brought closer together in our fellowship with Christ in the eating of "bread" and drink-

ing of the "cup."

It is my fervent prayer that many of the 224 worshippers gathered for

Gloster Street in Tupelo

Local preacher: **Chad Ramsey**
Evangelist: **Van Hutton**
(23 years at Double Springs, AL)

Sermon Topic
"Some Things That Are Set Before Us"
"Very good lesson"



Skyline, (Tupelo)

Local preacher: **Troy McNutt**
Evangelist **Wade Webster** and his son, Taylor, from the Southaven church, near Memphis

Sermon Topic,
"Jesus Wept"
Shortest Bible verse.
"Very meaningful presentation"



the morning service benefited from my sermon on the "Christian's Ultimate Home-Going" -- a study of Heaven. After the A.M. services were concluded, most, if not all, of the Sunday morning crowd chose to stay for a very special time of fellowship and feasting on some of the best food ever prepared. It was truly an exciting and enjoyable part of the "homecoming experience."

We were also blessed to visit with Fulton's preacher for the past 15 years or so -- **Russ Crosswhite**. It was encouraging to learn of his continued commitment to the Cause of Christ and his special love for the work of the Lord in that area of the state and especially in Itawamba county. We were also pleased to have opportunity to express personal appreciation to the elders of the Fulton church for their faithful financial assistance in our mission efforts over the years, including the publication of the MM. The three capable and dedicated elders are **Doug Smith, William Miles** and **Mackey Wade**.

Then, after lunch, we came back together for an afternoon service, during which time, I was grateful for yet another opportunity to challenge the congregation to develop and/or maintain the regular habit of daily Bible study. So soon the "homecoming" activities were completed for the day and for the year -- "until next year!"

After more visiting and fellowship, including a longer time for discussion with brother and sister Crosswhite, we departed Fulton and traveled about 20 miles west to Tupelo. That Sunday evening, my June and I were blessed, yet even more, with the opportunity to visit services of two gospel meetings in progress in the Tupelo area. The first visit was at Gloster Street and the second was at Skyline. [See pictures and notes below, on this page.]

By nine o'clock that night, we were finally back "at home" in our RV. As we prepared to spend the night in the beautiful "Barnes Crossing RV Park," June and I could say, with great gratitude, that our weekend had truly been "*Busy, but Blessed*." (Al Franks) □

\$\$\$ Uncertain Riches \$\$\$

John F. Gardner

"Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give,



John Gardner

willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6: 17 - 19 NKJV).

Notice in Paul's instruction to Timothy the words *rich*, *riches*, and *richly*. They get our attention, don't they? We are attracted to the idea of riches, even if the reality of such somehow eludes us. The

idea of opulence and wealth may not stir the hearts of everyone, but most know at least the enticement

brought on by a fleeting thought of what abundance might bring to a life.

But look again. While the instruction does speak of riches of "this present age," its main focus is on being "rich in good works" and "storing up... a foundation for the time to come." It echoes Jesus' message in Matthew 6: 19 - 24 about laying up treasure in heaven rather than riches on earth.

It also connects with the Savior's command to the rich young man who came looking for eternal life (Matthew 19: 16 - 22). He was told to use his wealth in service to the poor and he would have "treasure in heaven" (v. 21). The young ruler "had great possessions" (v. 22), but he treasured them in a way that was destructive. He was unwilling to part with them even for "eternal life." We are not told exactly the nature of the ruler's attachment to his wealth, but it would be strange indeed if it did not involve a trust in what wealth could do for him. Riches give the illusion of being permanent and powerful, something on which one can rely in times of trouble.

In the passage at the end of 1 Timothy, Paul recognizes the danger of the well-to-do brethren of his day putting their confidence in material possessions rather than in the living God who give us what we need. Some were in danger of

putting their trust in riches which, at best, are uncertain. Wealth and material possessions are uncertain because one never knows if they will be there when needed or if they will do what needs to be done to save the day.

Over the last few months, millions of Americans and others of the world have found out just how uncertain riches can be. In

Riches give the illusion of being permanent and powerful, something on which one can rely in times of trouble.

just a few days, the U.S. stock market and foreign markets lost trillions of dollars worth of value.

Retirement accounts suddenly shrunk to a fraction of their former size and savings for a "rainy day" dried up. The market collapse coincided with foreclosures involving thousands of individual and family houses across America because of unpaid mortgages. A new type of "homeless" American was suddenly looking at life from a different vantage point and the outlook was bleak. Layoffs in the workplace added to the financial collapse of formerly well-off people, and unemployment figures at present continue to rise.

Earthly gain cannot secure healthy, lasting marriages, families, or other important relationships (although it seems to have the ability to destroy them).

Riches are also uncertain because they may not do what needs to be done in the critical hour. Wealth cannot eliminate the possibility of

a devastating illness or accident.

It can perhaps impede the approach of death for a while in some cases because of advanced health care, but it cannot ultimately prevent it. Earthly gain cannot secure healthy, lasting marriages, families, or other important relationships (although it seems to have the ability to destroy them).

In contrast to the uncertain riches, Paul speaks of trust and

See **RICHES** on Page 16

Facing The Real Change and Issues

I am one of the few who can recall the bloodiest war ever that rocked the fragile foundations of society. It closed when it reached its spectacular climatic conclusion that lit the beautiful canopy of heaven with an ugly grayish, mushroom cloud. This seemed



Fenter Northern

as portentous as the angel who poured out the seventh bowl into the air in Rev. 16:17 which brought the sad, regretful utterance from the Temple of God saying with the finality of a divine gavel: "It is done!" When President Truman announced what had been done in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, men were astonished beyond belief, muttering in dreadful fear under their breaths, "What have we done?"

With that blast man created the possibility of his own Armageddon. Will it happen? Viewing man's historic record of being incapable of disciplining himself, his record of greed and selfishness at the expense of world brotherhood, — just like the crumbling of the stock market, it is not a question of will it happen, but when.

Why will it happen? — Because man is in chronic rebellion against the source of his problem. He rejects that the problem is a condition of the heart that must be changed before there can be any salvation from his self inflicted fate. Change the name of the problem, ignore it, the fact of sin is glaring man in his face. We have eyes to see it, bodies, hearts and souls that are suffering because of it. Becoming an atheist won't make it go away. Erase it from beautiful sermonic homilies and it will immediate meet you outside your comfortable church buildings.

Politicians are calling for a change and to confront the issues. That is staggering in its profundity if we mean real change — from party spirit to brotherhood in a great nation and confront the real issue — greed the principle sin!

Sin is as real as it was with our forefathers who were persecuted for preaching against it, and no matter what spin each generation places upon it, it never nullifies the fact that always in its wake is the destruction of individuals, marriages, children, nations, and now the fate of the world hangs woefully in the balance — and there is no one to blame but man himself. Oh! What man will do in the name of God and religion!

But will man get his act together, his past and present say no! So

there will be divine intervention at last and the One who made us, who has been long suffering toward us will have the last say: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was

opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev. 20:12). The day of scoffing at sin will be utterly terminated. Meanwhile, the bride and the Spirit say come!

Fenter Northern
6213 Bell grove Place
Montgomery, AL

Dean Emeritus, Magnolia Bible College; Retired professor of Bible, Faulkner University; Assoc. Minister, Redland Rd. church of Christ, Montgomery, AL.

**Note: On October 16th, 2008,
brother Northern celebrated his
80th birthday.
Happy Birthday, Fenter!**



Dan Manuel teaches at RV Rally

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Rally Participants Gather for Group Picture in front of Sunshine Inn at Grapeland, Texas (pictures by Cathy)

LA/TX RV Rally Built Around the Theme: "Picture Perfect"

- Report by June Franks -

The 10th annual "Louisiana RV Rally" was held in Grapeland, Texas at Salmon Lake Park on October 22-26, 2008. The theme for this year's rally was "Picture Perfect."

The rally began on Wednesday evening with a wonderful potluck meal. **Ray Franks** of DeQuincy, Louisiana presented a lesson entitled, "Picture Perfect Life." Ray was well prepared and did a good job presenting his lesson.

On Thursday, **Dan Manuel**, preacher for the Crockett Road Church of Christ in Palestine, Texas, spoke on "Picture Perfect Husband." **Audrey Manuel**, Dan's wife, spoke on "Picture Perfect Wife." Dan and Audrey are well qualified to speak on assigned subject. They continue to set a good example for everyone in their marriage.

On Friday, **Al Franks**, editor of the "Magnolia Messenger" spoke on the "Picture Perfect Church." Some said it was the best sermon they had heard on that particular subject.

There was a special Patriotic Program on Friday night. A very meaningful power point presentation was given. **Cathy Dickerson** from DeQuincy, Louisiana is the RV rally photographer and does all of the power point presentations. A special thanks to Cathy and her mom, **Elizabeth** for all they do for the rallies. (Almost all of the pictures about the rally were made by Cathy.)

Dan Manuel delivered a message on Friday night entitled, "Picture Perfect Country." It was a timely lesson and was very thought provoking.

Saturday morning found us engaged in a gospel singing. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning.

Each man in attendance was given the opportunity to lead a song. We were all blessed by little Morgan



Morgan Manuel

Manuel's ability to lead singing at such an early age. Morgan is the son of Scott and Gale Manuel and the grandson of Danny and Donna Manuel.

We are all thrilled this year to announce we have a new sister in Christ. **Thu Nelson** from Bossier City, Louisiana was baptized during the RV Rally. Thu was baptized in Salmon Lake located at the park. It was a cool October morning and the water was cold but Thu didn't seem to mind as her body was lowered in the cool water by Ray Franks. Thu was thankful she had learned the truth. We are so thankful she was obedient to the Gospel call by being baptized for the remission of her sins.

One of the highlights of the RV Rally is the singing of the beautiful hymns so ably led by our many good song leaders. It is a practice at each rally to sing "God's Family." Pictures taken from years gone by are flashed on the large screen as we are singing. It is sad to see those pictured who have already gone on into eternity.

The rally has brought those who have been blessed to attend closer to God and closer to one another. We come from all walks of life and from many parts of the country but we have one thing in common, we are a part of God's spiritual family here on earth.

Those who remain through Sunday attend church services at the Church of Christ in Palestine. The church not only provides a spiritual feast but they also provide a delicious meal for all those in attendance. **Bill Richards** from Madison, Mississippi spoke on Sunday evening. We were able to have services outside that beautiful Sunday evening.

Ray and Donna Franks, did a wonderful job coordinating the rally this year. Some comments heard from others about the rally were, "It was Wonderful!" "It was Great!"

Entertainment this year was provided by **Allen Nelson, Morris**

Tirpitz and Dan Manuel.

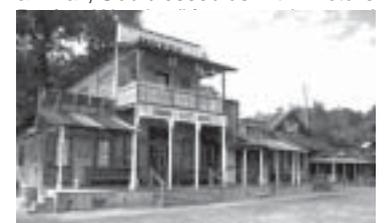
Dan Manuel does a special presentation called the "Dogwood Jamboree" on Saturday night at the Palestine Civic Center. Those who desired were able to attend this special event.



Dan Hawkins
One of several leaders

A special thanks to **David and Judy McGee** for furnishing and preparing fresh shrimp for everyone. Also, a special thanks to **Tom and Ann Welch** for providing and cooking fish (with the help of others) for everyone on Saturday afternoon.

It may have rained a little on Wednesday night during the rally but, all in all, God blessed us with "Picture



Typical Scene at Salmon RV Park



Thu Nelson baptized by Ray Franks at the Rally -- "O Happy Day!"

Church Bulletin Selections -- (1)

Editor's Note: Our present plans are to select and publish, in each issue of the MM, two or three of the many excellent articles we are blessed to read in church bulletins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.*

We appreciate receiving the bulletin from the church of our Lord in **Vidalia, Louisiana**. This church, which is just across the Mississippi River from Natchez, is served by **Don W. Tate**, as preacher. He is the author of the short article which we are pleased to reproduce. (alf, editor)



Grape Juice or Alcoholic Wine?

Ponder Proverbs 23:29-35

For years, some doctors have promoted the idea that alcoholic wine is good for you, but they often overlooked the fact that grape juice is better for you.



According to the results presented at the Wine Health Conference in Bordeaux, France, in 2007; grape juice produces a relaxation effect that red wine has not been cited as simulating. Researchers say that grape juice causes an effect by stimulating the production of nitric oxide, which is known to be important in maintaining health, flexible blood vessels and helps support healthy blood pressures. The effects of grape juice lasts up to six hours, significantly longer than effects noted from red wine. The research seems to point to the benefit coming from the grapes themselves, rather than the alcohol.

Concord grape juice is believed to have a blood-pressure-lowering effect, so this would be another good reason to leave alcoholic wine alone and choose regular grape juice.

11th Annual MM RV Rally Set for April 29 - May 3, 2009

Location changed from Morton to McComb, Mississippi

Our 11th annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally is moving to Percy Quin State Park in McComb, Mississippi. Make plans now to attend this rally. You don't have to have an RV.

A new feature planned for our rally will be our 1st annual MM golf tournament. Also, with a 700-acre lake available in the park, we plan to have our 4th annual Jimmy Bradshaw memorial-fishing tournament. And, of course, our annual auction and appreciation supper for the Magnolia Messenger is also planned.

Cost for RV sites range from \$22 for a premium site to \$14 for a regular site. All RV sites are full hook-ups. In addition to the RV sites, the park has a small hotel/

lodge where you can rent a room which includes a small kitchen. Several nice cabins are available at reasonable costs. You can go to www.mdwfp.com and make your reservations. You can also call the camp directly at 601-684-3938. **The RV sites where many of our group will be during the rally are sites 44-75.** There are no other costs except your travel and food.

Rod and Mimi Tate are to be our guest speakers. Rod preaches for the church in Pascagoula, MS. In 1976, Rod and others founded MBC in Kosciusko. If you have any questions, please contact **Paul Franks at 337-515-7314.**

Another Good Work In Mississippi

Assistance Needed & Deserved

Christian Student Center
Mississippi Delta
Community College
Moorhead, MS

Gene & Madolyn Gibson



Home of Christian Student Center at MDCC in Moorhead, MS

Thirteen years. Time passes so quickly. It was thirteen years ago when the Christian Student Center was begun in association with Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, MS. Gene and Madolyn Gibson have been there together in their "retirement" (Gene states "tired and unemployed").

The closest congregation around is the Indianola Church of Christ, about eight miles away, which has served as the sponsoring congregation.

During those years, somewhere between two and three thousand different students have walked through those doors. There have been snacks and, sometimes, full meals served. At least nine hundred thirty six (936) formal Bible lessons have been delivered with an innumerable number of impromptu one-on-one and small group studies having been conducted. It has been almost an unimaginable evangelistic work for the Lord. Members of churches of Christ would compose only about five percent of all those who have participated.

Active young Christians with their roots at the Student Center may now be found as close as the church in Indianola, throughout the Delta area churches and throughout the United States.

In an attempt to increase fellowship between congregations of the area, we have hosted an annual "Fish Fry and Auction". The one that was just held on September 26th hosted over eighty people from thirteen different congregations.

Over the years, groups from area churches have come together here for Bible classes, both for adults and youth. On several occasions, preachers from throughout the delta have gathered here for meetings of fellowship and encouragement.

We currently have that "GOOD" problem that only occurs a few times in such a work. The last several years, we have started the fall semester with around twenty to thirty in attendance and the number steadily grows to an average of thirty-five to fifty with highs as many as sixty five and seventy. Our facility comfortably

holds only about thirty. After a few weeks, the number begins to decrease and, so many -- we never see again.

When we first began in 1995, the congregation in Indianola, serving as our sponsor, was about ninety strong with two fine elders. However, that eldership dissolved and they have now been through a second eldership that has also dissolved.

We are seeking a faithfully strong, mission minded congregation with a solid eldership that would be desirous of taking the oversight of this great work for the Lord! We have talked to the men of the Indianola church and this is agreeable with them. For more information, please contact us -- Gene and Madolyn Gibson at,

**The Christian Student Center
MS Delta Community College
Moorhead, MS 38761
662-246-8284**

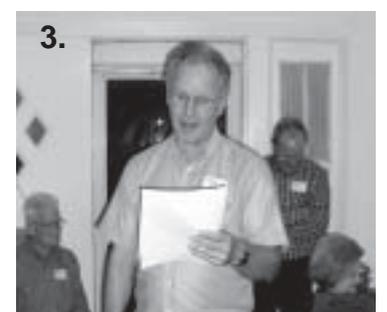
ggibson331@bellsouth.net

(Below) Pictures of supporters who gathered in Moorhead on 9/26/08



1. A fellowship meeting/meal at the Student Center was enjoyed by many Christians from several area congregations.

2. Madolyn shows an item to be auctioned at the September meeting in Moorhead as bidders watched and made their decisions.



3. **Jerry Hill**, preacher for the Indianola church, served as one of the "auctioneers" at the get-together held in Moorhead on Friday evening, September 26, 2008.

Good News from Gray, Georgia

Editor's Note: A few months ago, we received a very encouraging letter from **Glenn Schliebner** who preaches for the church in Gray, Georgia. Brother Glenn wrote:

"I was so honored to meet you and your beautiful wife at the EldersConnect at Faulkner this summer. Phyllis and I really enjoyed the lessons that you brought. I have read the Magnolia Messenger for several years and was glad to put a

face with your most informative articles.

"I know that you don't normally cover happenings in Georgia, but I was wondering if you might make an exception and tell about our work here in Gray." [Okay. We will make an exception. Below is pictured the beautiful new building occupied by the church and a brief report of their history and V.B.S. held this past summer. Good to hear good news from Gray. alf]



Meeting Place for the Lord's church in Gray, Georgia

"Up until five years ago there had never been a congregation of the Lord's people in the Gray/Jones County area. We began in April of 2003, with eight adults and a few children. We now have a membership of 35. We began meeting in a store front and now have our own beautiful building surrounded by pecan trees.

"Our most recent activity has been a fantastic Vacation Bible School. A wonderful group of mighty Christians came from the University church in Montgomery to help us. They knocked doors for three days in the hot July weather inviting young folks to our VBS/Gospel Meeting. Martel Pace brought the adults wonderful lessons from Hebrews.

"Our attendance was phenomenal. Tuesday was the night that we had the largest attendance with 111. Many of those were from the community.

"...We can never thank [enough] those who dedicated a week to be with us for the second straight year to help a struggling church in a mission area. They not only got out the word that there is a church of Christ in Gray, but they showed to our congregation 'Christianity in action.'

"Thank you for your good paper. I am praying for you and sister Franks to have many more years in the Lord's service."

Glenn Schliebner; Gray Church of Christ; P. O. Box 185; Gray, GA 31032

Are You a Daily Bible Reader? Why Not?

An Update

Alaskan Christian Cruise Planned for July, 2009

Alaskan Christian Cruise being organized by members of the *Lake Harbour Drive congregation* in Ridgeland, MS for July 17-24, 2009 on Holland American Cruise Line leaving out of Seattle, WA. We still have vacancies at a cost of \$2,506.36 per inside room **for two**, including all fees, taxes & insurance, but does *not* include air travel, excursions or gratuities. Deposit is \$350 per person, fully refundable until May 3rd, 2009. Each person is making their own air travel arrangements. Travelocity's present online price with American Airlines is about \$900 round trip for two. We presently have 20 reservations confirmed. For further info on cruise ship, itinerary & special bonuses, call John Pigg (601-842-7801) or Laura Eriksson, Cruisedirect agent handling Pigg's Party (1-888-407-2784).

"Holy Land" Trip

Nov. 3, 2009 -- Cost: \$1,998.00 from New York

We are planning, Lord willing, a trip of a lifetime to Israel with **Al and June Franks** and **Paul and Glenda Franks** serving as tour hosts. We have contracted with Educational Opportunities of Lakeland, Florida to assist us on this venture. They have been arranging trips to Bible Lands since 1974.

You can visit their website at www.eo.travelwithus.com and register to go with our group. **Our host number is 45403.** You are welcome to call Paul Franks at **337-515-7314** and request a brochure. This is a **10-Day** trip that will **change your life.** (See basic information on page 1.)

- Evangelism -

How Do You Reach Someone Like Me?

- Garvis Semore -

A few weeks ago I found myself in Nashville, Tennessee on one of my publicity and fundraising trips. I managed to stop at one of the Nashville malls for a quick walk (which I desperately need!). About half way through my walk I was stopped by one of those employees of the kiosks in the mall corridors.

Now understand that I had done nothing to indicate to this employee that I had the slightest interest in the product being sold. I had avoided eye contact. I had walked as far away from the kiosk as possible, but the employee still stopped me.

Let it be known that I do not like being stopped by employees of mall kiosks. I mumbled something akin to "no thank you" and kept walking. Had this been the greatest product known to mankind I would have missed out because I do not like having my "mall time" interrupted by sales staff – if I want their product I will go to them. That started my mind in motion.

I don't like another fairly recent development at malls. I don't appreciate going into the food court and being bombarded with "free sample." I know what I want to eat when I go to the food court and I don't have time for a "free sample".

Those who know my dietary habits know that most of those "free samples" aren't anything I would eat to start with. I usually become annoyed at the disturbance and continue forcefully to my chosen eatery. The "free sample" may be the greatest tasting, and most nutritious food of all time but I miss out because I do not like having my "eating time" interrupted by sales staff – if I want their food I will go to them. That started my mind in motion.

Several years ago I heard of a "Do Not Call" list. This list is intended to prevent telemarketers from calling your house. You place your phone number on the list indicated that you do not wish to receive solicitations at your house. Once I've finally made it to my house and eased back in my recliner (or while I'm still trying to finish an evening meal with the family) I do not wish to be interrupted by a salesperson who cannot begin to pronounce my name attempting to sell me something I do not want. The product, gadget or gizmo they are selling may be the best invention ever and I will have missed out because I do not like having my "relaxing time" interrupted by unsolicited sales calls – if I want their invention I will go looking for it. That started my mind in motion.

A year or so ago I learned that you could place your mailing address and your credit report on a similar list that is supposed to prevent you from getting unsolicited credit offers and other such mail. Between the mail at the Bible College and the house, that I really need to see, I really don't care to receive unsolicited offers for credit cards that I do not want. The credit card they are offering may have the best interest rate and promotional plan known to mankind and I will have missed out because I do not like having my "mail time" interrupted by unsolicited offers – if I want their credit card I'll contact them. That started my mind in motion.

While I appreciate the dedication and sincerity of religious groups who knock on my door I

usually don't appreciate the interruption. They could have something valuable to share and I will miss it. Those who stand on street corners in our larger cities preaching and distributing material are generally dedicated and sincere as well but I will likely miss anything valuable they have to say because I don't appreciate the interruption.

Religious messages flood us and I miss most of the messages because they interrupt my routine. Any of these attempts at evangelism just might have something I need to hear and I will have missed out because I don't like having my "me time" interrupted. All of these things have set my mind in motion.

Our Savior provided our "marching orders" in what we commonly call The Great Commission, "18And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20). But how do we "go" or "make disciples" of people like me?

I don't want to give you the impression that I'm mean-spirited or cold or indifferent. I'm really not. I think I'm like many in America today. We have our lives to live and we don't like many of the interruptions around us. So how do we reach someone like me? Paul would say, "21to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you." (1 Corinthians 9:21-23) At least one message I get from Paul is that we must try a number of evangelistic methods to reach a lost and dying world.

The next person walking through a mall in Nashville may well stop and purchase whatever product was being sold at that kiosk. It may have been just what she wanted. The next person walking into any food court might be enticed by the "free sample" and he may have found a new favorite food. That telephone solicitation or direct mail offer doesn't always work – but it works often enough for major corporations to keep using that method. Someone right now is answering a doorbell, stopping on a street corner or searching for the right message – the saving message – to come their way.

My mind was set in motion, but what does this have to do with evangelism? It's really simple. Some of those who are lost will listen to us when we approach them with one method while others will reject the message. The next person may reject



Garvis Semore

See Garvis on Page 16

A Year in Tunica!

Report by Dennis Doughty

The year of our Lord 2008 will be a year I will never forget. I began full time work with the congregation in Tunica on January 1st and what a year it has been! We can rejoice that God has done some wonderful things in this unique Mississippi County.

We all know what comes to mind when we think of Tunica. It is the third largest gambling center in the world. Fourteen million people come here every year to "enjoy" the casino atmosphere. I came here with the belief that the Lord's church needed to have a strong presence in the area. I felt we should not turn the area over to Satan and just move on.

I saw many reasons that would merit a full time preacher here; the small Tunica Church of Christ has a great standing in the community, the area is beginning to experience some housing growth, new business' are coming in, and 40,000 a day continue to come to the area for its golf, gambling and corporate events. Yes, in this place I like to call "The Cross-roads of the Delta," the fields are "ripe unto harvest" in more ways than one.

In a small congregation baptisms are rare, but we have rejoiced in six baptisms so far this year. This has encouraged us all and given us several new converts to work with. The Tunica congregation is a small but loving and joyous group of Christians. They recognize the challenge before them.

The Lord has given me opportunities to build relationships with many of the men and women of this area through events such as Rotary club, regular golf events, and serving as Chaplain of the North Tunica Fire Department. I have been invited to participate in a couple of community events, prayed with our mayor in her office, enjoyed coffee at the diner with "the men," and visited with farmers in their great Delta fields. I am pleased with what the Lord has done through me this first year. I am truly amazed at the doors He has opened!

We have taken steps, if very small ones so far, to reach out to the casino community. Through my work as Chaplain of the fire department I have been able to



meet and help some of the casino staff and visitors. We have also placed printed material at the front desks of all the casino hotels and RV parks. It has been my prayer that some day some one will come to Tunica to gamble and will be converted to the Lord instead!



Kathy & Dennis Doughty

Without the support of several churches and individuals our work in Tunica would not be possible. Thanks to all! Let me offer a special thanks to Kenneth Joines and the Goodman Okes congregation in Southaven. They have been very supportive of our work. Also, let me express my gratitude to Al Franks and The Magnolia Messenger for the support and encouragement they have given us. We are blessed in Tunica and are already looking forward to 2009!

Dennis Doughty
(901) 267.3100
dennis1848@bellsouth.net



Not Just a Filler ...

MM editor is holding his first great grand-daughter, Braylee Grace, born September 24, 2008. Parents: Russell & Ashley Lambert of Lake Charles, LA.

"While They Slept..."

-Travis Brown -

Most people recognize the importance of getting an adequate amount of sleep. However, actually getting the right amount of sleep is another story. Harvard Health Publications gave a press release which revealed some interesting insights on the importance of sleep. "A recent survey found that more people are sleeping less than six hours a night, and sleep difficulties visit 75% of us at least a few nights per week. A short-lived bout of insomnia is generally nothing to worry about. The bigger concern is chronic sleep loss, which can contribute to health problems such as weight gain, high blood pressure, and a decrease in the immune system's power." The article went on to give six reasons why we should strive to get enough sleep. They were: to assist learning and memory, to maintain weight and metabolism, to promote alertness and safety, to decrease moodiness and irritability, to promote cardiovascular health and to increase the immune system's effectiveness.¹

Based on what we have just considered, I believe that most would say that sleeping is a good thing. However, it is also true that sleeping at the wrong place and wrong time can be devastating. For example I travel the Natchez Trace often. I truly enjoy the drive, but admit it can cause the eyelids to get very heavy at times. Sleeping while driving is not a good thing. Gentlemen, it can also be hazardous to your health to sleep while your wife is in the middle of an in-depth conversation on something she feels strongly about sharing with you. Once again - sleeping at the wrong place and time can be devastating. (Just a little friendly advice there)

The Bible speaks of various things happening while people slept. Adam's beloved wife, Eve, the mother of all living was formed while he slept (Gen. 2:21-22). Peter, James and John missed out on one of the greatest opportunities afforded mortals - to be a source of strength and encouragement while the Son of God poured His heart out to His Father in prayer (Mt. 26:36-46). Samson broke his Nazarite vow and lost his blessing of great strength when the Philistines cut his hair while he slept (Judges 16:4-21). Eutychus, a young man who fell asleep while Paul preached, fell from a third floor window sill and died (Acts 20:7-9). These are just a few instances

An Earnest Plea to **some** among us today who are sleeping, including:

**Elders
Deacons
Teachers
Preachers
Parents
Members**



of what we see happening "while they slept."

Many things are still happening today while people sleep. Though we could talk about literal events taking place while people sleep, I want us to think figuratively for a moment what happens while we sleep.

Elders are entrusted to guard and guide souls (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17). How many congregations are suffering from members losing interest and finally leaving the church while elders sleep? Deacons are given the privilege and responsibility of ministering (Acts 6:1-7). How many good works are not done while deacons are asleep? Teachers take on a serious responsibility (James 3:1). How many students suffer from classes that are just thrown together and have no substance while their teachers sleep? Preaching is the method God ordained to bring about the salvation of souls (Rom. 1:15-16; 1 Cor. 1:18). How many pulpits are tragically lacking in distinctive Christianity being proclaimed and defended while their preachers sleep? Parents are given a tremendous gift and responsibility when they are blessed with children (Ps. 127:3-5; Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4). How many children are headed down that broad road leading to destruction while their parents sleep? God gave Christians a primary task while here on this earth. It is to save souls by evangelizing - teaching,

baptizing and teaching (Mt. 28:28-20). This isn't given to "professional soul-winners." It is given to each child of God. If we are a member of the body of Christ, our honor, privilege and duty is to convert sinners with the Gospel of Christ. How many congregations of the

Lord's church are drying up and closing their doors while the members sleep?

Brethren, I am generally an optimistic person, but I also am realistic. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that we have much room for improvement in our local congregations. If we are going to be the people God expects us to be then we cannot continue to sleep. Too much ground has already been lost while we've slept. With God's help and our determined zeal, we can fill our communities, country and world with God's message of salvation (Acts 5:17-28). I want to leave you with a thought from the apostle Paul in (Rom. 13:11) "...now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

(1) Harvard Health Publications.
http://www.health.harvard.edu/pressreleases_importance_of_sleep_and_health.htm

Travis Brown

Director of Admissions
Magnolia Bible College
P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090
tbrown@magnolia.edu

Tupelo (Skyline)

Homecoming

Sunday, February 22, 2009

9:00, 10:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

A. L. Franks, Speaker

Troy McNutt, Local Preacher



An Encouraging "Catch"

In Tennessee, a sister from Kentucky, is "caught" reading Mississippi MM

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

MBC News

P. O. Box 1109
Kosciusko, MS 39090

“A Great Partnership” MBC & CofC



Since the beginning of MBC, the South Huntington Church of Christ has been the on-campus church for students, staff and faculty. It has been, and continues to be a very rewarding relationship, for both the college and the church family. The church has blessed MBC by being one of its major church contributors. In turn, the college has blessed the church through staff and faculty serving at various times as elders, preachers and Bible class teachers.

The church has also benefited through the school's Christian Service Department. This relationship has allowed students the opportunity to complete their Christian Service requirements by participating in the local church ministries. Such helps the church in her work and helps the students fulfill meet the expectations of the Christian Service Program.

One of the things we have begun in recent years is to host an annual gospel meeting utilizing MBC senior students and recent MBC graduates to do the preaching. This year's gospel meeting took place this past November 2-5. The theme for this meeting was "Evangelism." Two MBC senior students, **Paul Tullos** and **Jake Brownfield** spoke, one on Sunday morning and the other on Wednesday night.

Recent MBC graduates also speaking were **Nathan Wright** (preacher for the Huntsville church near French Camp), **Rick Benson** (preacher for the Union church in Union, MS), **Brad Adcock** (preacher for the Oak Ridge church near Kosciusko), and **Wesley Thompson** (Youth Minister for the Starkville, MS church),

All of these young men did an excellent job. We heard many good comments reference the quality of their lessons. It was said more than once that this was one of the best gospel meetings South Huntington has had. Many comments expressed praise and thanks to MBC for its work of producing gospel preachers. Such comments as these help those of us connected to the church and the school to know that we are doing something right. This is a great partnership and we give God the glory and praise.

Should any of our readers want a group from MBC to come preach in a gospel meeting, just let me know. I will do my best to accommodate you. (Report by **Les Ferguson, Sr.**: Preacher for the S. Huntington church and Christian Service Director for MBC)

My name is...



Jake Brownfield

... and everyone on campus knows it!

Come, see the difference the personal touch can make.

E-mail: info@magnolia.edu
www.magnolia.edu
1-800-748-8655



New Degree and Certificate Announced by MBC

Beginning in January 2009, Magnolia Bible College will offer a new bachelor's degree and a certificate of achievement. These will be added to the B.A. in Bible and the B.Th. now already offered.

The Bachelor of Science in Bible degree will require the same 128 hours of credit that the Bachelor of Arts in Bible degree requires. The curriculum will include the same core of 39 hours of general education courses, 71 hours of core Bible and ministry courses, and 18 hours of elective courses as the B.A.

The difference will be the substitution of a 3 hour Bible textual course and a 3 hour ministry course for the 6 hours of biblical languages (Greek or Hebrew) required for the B.A. The B.S. is designed for those who do not expect to pursue a graduate degree in Bible or ministry.

The Certificate in Bible and Ministry is not a degree, but a certificate showing successful completion of 30 hours of credit in Bible and ministry courses at MBC. The courses taken for a certificate will have the same requirements in every way as those taken for a degree. When all of the prescribed courses of the Certificate curriculum have successfully been completed, the student will be awarded a certificate at the time of the next scheduled graduation.

More details of the Certificate in Bible and Ministry are planned for a future issue of the Magnolia Messenger. Further information about the Certificate and the B.S. in Bible degree can be obtained by contacting the college: Academic Office, Magnolia Bible College, P.O. Box 1109, Kosciusko, MS39090 (Phone 800-748-8655) or e-mail info@magnolia.edu.

Distance Learning Courses at MBC

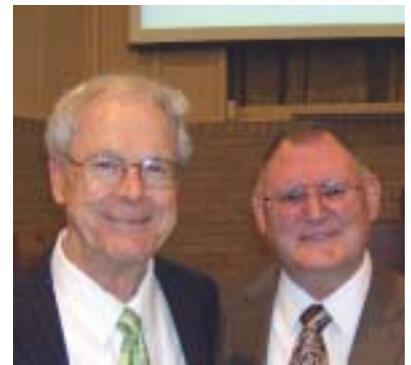
NEW

Beginning
In the Spring of 2009
MBC Will Offer Two
Distance Learning Courses:
(Details on Page 13)

Thanks Again, Again
For
Receiving and Reading
the
Magnolia Messenger

MBC Lectures Held on October 18

Third Saturday of October is the date for the annual Magnolia Bible College Lectures. The 2008 lectureship featured a return visit from Ray and Sharon Paseur. The Paseurs lived in Kosciusko and worked tirelessly for Magnolia Bible College for a number of years before Ray returned to the pulpit at the West Ouachita congregation in West Monroe, Louisiana. In addition to the Paseurs, we were fortunate to have Tom Holland back on our campus on October 18, 2008.



Tom Holland & Ray Paseur

Together we were privileged to study about Christ's Church in a Pagan World. Our guest speakers did a tremendous job. We had a larger number of displays than we have had in recent years. The fellowship (and food) was tremendous. We were



Sharon Paseur

excited to welcome several guests to our campus who had never been to Magnolia Bible College. We were equally excited to welcome home some who have had a tremendous impact on MBC but have not been able to be on campus for a number of years.

Our speakers this year reminded us time and again of the pagan, worldly culture we find surrounding us today. Perhaps more to the point, we were reminded that Christians often find themselves fighting the same worldly battles. Too often we have allowed our own "idols" to come before God. The text of Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth was explored as we were encouraged to work to keep both our lives and the Church pure.

See Lectures on Page 16

Magnolia Bible College

Memorials @ Living Tributes

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

Memorials

Jean Semore

Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Ivey
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Goad
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Chapman
Mr. Blair Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Grisham

Obera McBrayer

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Clemons
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ledbetter
Siwell Road Church of Christ
(Jackson, MS)

Norman Grisham

Pauline Ward
Beatrice Shackelford
Guyton Nunnally
Jane D. Roberson

Bonnie Haddock

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lowe

Moise "Bee" Blanchard

Lake Harbour Drive Church of Christ (Ridgeland, MS)

Mabel Franks

Lone Pine Church of Christ
(Merryville, LA)

Zetta Green

Ronald and Mary Davis
Annie P. Engle

In Honor of

Barbara Taylor

Mrs. Louis Strickland

Ellene Vaughan

Lorene Lindsey
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Howell

Note: MBC and MM memorials are handled separately.
(See also page 11). Thanks for helping!

Please Send
MBC Memorials
And/or Tributes To:

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



June Franks is standing in front of the New York Stock Exchange Building on Wall Street in New York City.

This picture was made while making our first visit ever to New York on October 8, 2008

The Bible and the Uncertainty of Riches

Yes, there is no doubt. We are living in "uncertain times." Consider the "ups and downs" of the stock market, the collapsing of giant cooperations and the down turn in the housing market in most parts of the nation. Also, who would have thought that the "Big Three" cars makers in America would be in such dire circumstances? More and more are unemployed. It makes us wonder. What's ahead? A recession? Is it here now? Maybe, soon -- a depression? Only God knows.

It seems appropriate to remind ourselves of Biblical teachings relating to money and other forms of material gain and/or possessions. Please continue this reading with prayer.

In I Timothy chapter 6, Paul instructed Timothy, as an evangelist to "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in *uncertain riches*, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." A choice must be made. Trust in the living God -- **not** in *uncertain riches*.

In contrast to that which Paul said was "uncertain", he spoke about something that was "certain". He wrote, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is **certain** we can carry nothing out." The inspired writer further issued a solemn warning when he stated, "For the *love of money* is the root of all evil..." (Study I Timothy chapter 6.)

Our Lord commanded, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal." *Lay up treasures in Heaven -- not on this earth.*" The loving Lord spoke truthfully when he said, "For *where* your treasure is, *there* will your heart be also." The teachings of the Master are clear. He said, "No man can serve two masters... You **cannot** serve God and mammon [**riches**]." (Matthew 6:24) Christians must "seek *first* His kingdom and his righteousness" in order to benefit from His promise in Matthew 6:33 -- "and all these things shall be added unto you."



Somewhere in Mississippi

An Ideal Candidate For President of USA

On October 26, 2008, my June and I were privileged to visit the morning worship services of the Crockett Road Church of Christ in Palestine, Texas.

The long time preacher for the church, **Dan Manuel**, spoke on "*Biblical Guidelines for Selecting National Leaders.*" He said that he was not endorsing any particular candidate or political party; rather, as a Christian and a gospel preacher, he was pleading that political candidates and voters give attention to **spiritual values** - values upon which this country was formed and established.

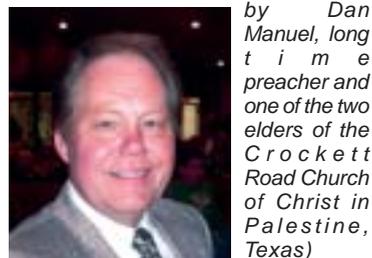
In his thought-provoking sermon, brother Dan expressed a desire. He said, "I wish that we had, perhaps, one running for president of the United States who could say, maybe these words:

"My fellow Americans. I seek the presidency only after much prayer and fasting and, being firmly convinced, that it is the will of God. I want you to know that I have given my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe the Bible to be the infallible word of God and that America's greatest need, as we approach this century, is a spiritual awakening.

"And, if I am elected president I pledge to conduct my private and public life by Biblical standards. My first consideration, as president, will be to seek the mind of Christ and do the will of God. I know that 'righteousness exalts a nation' and that 'sin is a reproach to any people.' So, as the leader of this nation, I will not only defend the constitution of the United States of America but I also will maintain a committed prayer life and a visible testimony of Jesus Christ. I will, I will, to the best of my ability.

"And, I will live in a way to provoke within others a hunger for the Lord Jesus and further I shall appoint people to the cabinet and government positions who have demonstrated the highest moral conduct with impeccable ethical standards. And finally, I as president, will seek to honor God in all that I do, for I am a Christian first and citizen and a president second. And, because of this, you can trust your government to me and I shall, in turn, ever trust it to Almighty God."

(Above statement is taken from a sermon preached on October 26, 2008,



by Dan Manuel, long time preacher and one of the two elders of the Crockett Road Church of Christ in Palestine, Texas)



Somewhere in the Mountains of East Tennessee

Another meeting place of a church of Christ

This small church has up to 15,000 visitors each year.

A favorite church to visit when we go to print the MM in East TN

Churches of Christ

Bringing Sinners and Jesus Together
Resulting in Changed Lives

Sign on church building in DeQuincy, Louisiana



My June and I thoroughly enjoyed a midweek service on October 1, 2008, with the church in DeQuincy. We were greatly encouraged to meet with several of our physical and spiritual relatives and to be given another opportunity to preach God's word.

The congregation which brings together about 100 or so each Lord's day, is presently overseen by three shepherds. The capable elders are: **Don Jackson, Joey Franks** and **Louis LaRocque**. Their preacher, **Michael Potthoff**, has recently moved to Texas; thus, they are beginning to search for a new preacher and family to occupy their beautiful "preacher's house" and to work full-time with the friendly, loving congregation in SW Louisiana. (See ad on page 14)

Merryville, Louisiana: *Town of Memories*

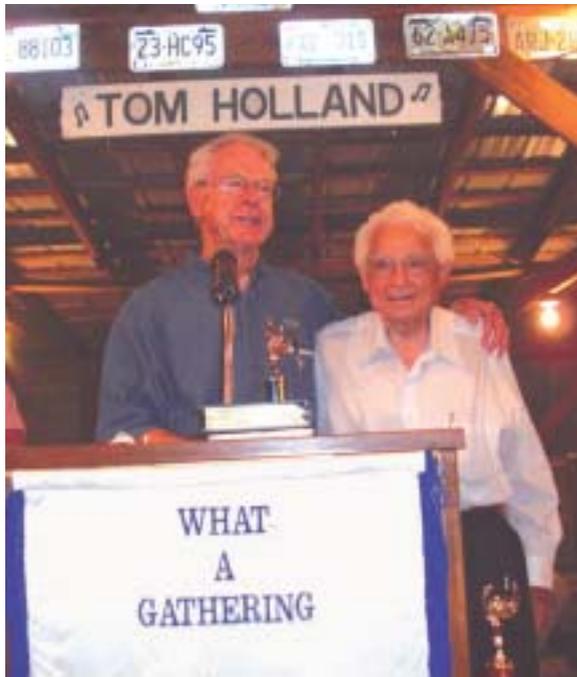


Where the Church of Christ Assembles in Merryville, Louisiana

Precious memories were rekindled a few weeks ago when my June and I dropped in for Sunday services in Merryville, LA., where an uncle, **R. C. Franks**, serves as preacher. He was kind enough to ask me to teach and preach that morning. His daughter,

Bobbie, was kind enough to ask us to eat lunch with her, her husband, son and dad.

All in all, our return to Merryville not only stirred memories, but also brought much encouragement. Thanks "Uncle R.C." and cousin Bobbie.



Tom Holland, Co-founder & Director of Diana Singing Accompanied by Paul Dorris -- 95 year old singer

“The Diana Singing” -- “What a Gathering”



This Huge Shed in Diana, Tennessee Could Not Contain All Who Gathered on September 12, 2008

Over 3,000 Singers Gathered in September

The “Diana Singing.” In Tennessee. We had heard about it for years. “Twice annually,” we were told, “thousands come together in a small Tennessee community called ‘Diana.’” The multitudes gather under a huge “Singing Shed” and sing praises to God from early evening until after midnight! This, they do, two nights in a row (Friday and Saturday).

Yes, we had heard about it, and, it sounded interesting. We had often thought we would like to attend. Now, that we have, we came away with the conviction that to really appreciate the singing and the fellowship at Diana, you just *have to experience it!*

On Friday afternoon, September 12, 2008, my June and I drove south from Nashville on I-65 until we came to exit 22. There we left the Interstate and followed the signs until we came to that a unique community called “Diana.” There we saw a little church building -- very neat, and a huge shed, along with some smaller buildings. Scores of RV’s were already parked on the grass near the facilities. We noticed several people milling around while many others seemed very busy, like they were preparing for a special evening. They were.

“Special” it was! As the sun was setting, the crowd increased greatly as hundreds entered the spacious grounds in vans, buses, RVs and automobiles. Within a short time, more than 3,000 were gathered for the great attraction -- *Gospel Singing*. They had come from 19 different states and three foreign countries.

Yes, the attraction for the evening was worship. Worshipping by engaging in the singing of “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” All who came were invited to be participants. All the singing was *congregational*. More than

100 talented song leaders signed up to direct the service which lasted (with breaks) until after midnight. The dress was casual. The singing was inspirational; it was wonderful! No choruses, no special groups, no mechanical instruments of music. Just singing.

This very special activity, which has attracted many, many thou-

sands of worshippers, has been going on for almost 40 years. In fact, next year (2009), Lord willing, the “Diana Singing” will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Through all the years, much of the planning and activities has involved Tom Holland who has voluntarily served as “director”. Many know and respect brother Holland for

his abilities as a teacher, preacher and writer and song leader. All ages were invited to participate. The oldest singer present on Friday night was **Paul Dorris**, age 95, from Hendersonville, TN.

My June and I were richly blessed to be present for the entire weekend at Diana. This in-

cluded a Sunday worship service with the church that meets in the community. We ask that you make plans to attend. As the Diana folks say, “Come this year by our invitation; next year someone will come by yours.” They also believe that by coming, you can be a part of the “Sweetest Singing this Side of Heaven.” (alf)

Diana Singing -- 2009

[June 12-13 and September 11-12].

Readers Response

I have been enjoying the Magnolia Messenger for a number of years and have gained much information and inspiration from it. I am sending a small check to help support it. I am 91 years old and was baptized when I was eleven years old. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, (Evelyn Little, Utica, MS)

P.S. You ate lunch at my house years ago.

I recently received one of your magazines at the Diana Singing, Diana, Tennessee, in September. My husband and I enjoyed reading it very much and love to go the lectureships and singings. We especially like to camp and attend meetings and retreats. We would very much like to receive your Magnolia Messenger. Thank you. Yours Truly, (Melba & Jim Duty, Dexter, MO)

Thanks for sending us a few copies of your paper; they are greatly appreciated. Here is a small token of our appreciation. Your brothers and Sisters in Christ, (Zachary Church of Christ, Zachary, LA) (Note: Thanks Zachary for your recent contribution. No check too big or too small.)

Dear Bro. Al & Sis. June Franks,

We just want to say we always enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. This donation is in memory of my sister Linda Peterson who lost her life Easter morning due to a tragic fall in her home. She is really missed. Also she was a previous Bible winner as well as Ruth Gardner, our mother, several years back before she passed away three years ago... It is an honor to see a former single friend and brother in Christ, now married, a gospel preacher in Christian Chapel Church of Christ, and father. His name, Marshall Eubanks. We have not seen him in sixteen years and by reading and seeing his picture in the Magnolia Messenger was a nice surprise and makes us proud to honor him. (Eudell & Della Rhodes, Southaven, MS)

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY 2009 LECTURESHIP MARCH 2-5

HOPE

for a hopeless world

Our hope in Jesus is a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul Hebrews 6:19

More than 60 speakers will encourage and enlighten you as they share their source of Hope for a Hopeless World, March 2-5. Special tracks include Friends of the Restoration, youth and family ministry, women's topics and a new addition this year, prison ministry.

Faulkner University
— A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY —
www.faulkner.edu
Montgomery, Alabama

For more information, contact Cynthia Stinson or Cecil May at 334.386.7154 or cstinson@faulkner.edu.

Now, You Take it from There!



by
John Simpson

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

The Fall Season Is Wonderful!

Following the great flood, God declared: "I will never again curse the ground... while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:21,22). Thus, our Creator set seasons of climate for our self-preservation and enjoyment – think about it:

Fall brings the end of Daylight Saving Time and gives the longest Sunday morning of the year. Clocks are set back allowing for an extra hour of sleep, and Sunday morning church-goers are seldom late for worship. This was not set in time during creation week, but whoever arranged it for us was wise.

Fall brings crisp moderation of weather and harvest time. With a reprieve from sultry summer heat, come refreshing cooler temperatures with easterly winds across harvest fields. All of nature has come to fruition and storehouses are filled with fruit and grain for winter. The birds sing praises to their Creator – shouldn't we!

Fall brings the rapture of all colors in the rainbow. Plant life and trees of the forest speak to the beauty of nature. God did not restrict the revelation of nature to visions of black and white, but

created it in full multi-dimensional color. Nature speaks to us, shouldn't we speak to our Creator in thanksgiving! So we sing: "For the Beauty of the Earth".

Fall brings the season of Thanksgiving and a national holiday to celebrate it together. Christians must always be overflowing with thanksgiving for God's saving grace through Christ. Thanksgiving will continue throughout eternity. John explains it with a double "Amen": "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever, Amen" (Revelation 7:12).

Fall brings lower utility bills and puts more money into our pockets; especially welcomed in the midst of a declining economy. Who can successfully argue that this was not calculated in God's plan for moderate fall weather, regardless of the type fuel we use.

Our Creator set fall in the cycle of seasons for our pleasure and intends that it be enjoyed one day at a time. So remember: "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

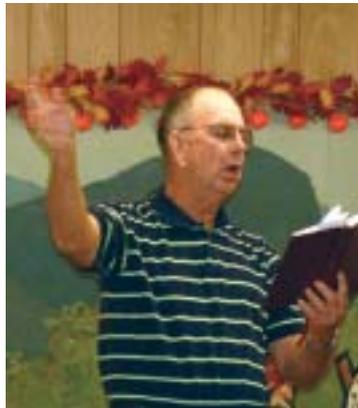
Now, you take it from there!



Fall Colors in the Magnolia State
Picture taken in Tupelo, Mississippi on 11.3.08

Spears Loves Singing

Gerald Spears, from DeQuincy, Louisiana, loves singing about as much as anyone I know. He also loves to lead singing, especially when we rally together in our RV's, whether in Mississippi, Louisiana or Texas. Gerald and his wife, **Geri**, have been dedicated workers in our RV rallies, especially assisting Ray and Donna Franks in the organization and work of the LA-TX rallies. Appreciate Gerald and pleased to say that that he is another *Spears who loves singing*. May all learn to love singing even more.



Gerald Spears Leading Singing



Morris Tirpitz

Morris Makes Music

Speaking of "loving singing", the above pictured brother also really stands out. He loves to sing and folks love to hear him sing.

Not only does Morris Tirpitz do a great job in leading congregational singing as we worship together in "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs", he also is very talented in voice and instruments as he sings and plays what may be called "country songs" and "folk music". He has endeared himself to all our campers with the singing of a song about a wagon. An RV rally would not be complete without Morris singing his "signature song" more than once!

If you should get the impression that our RV rallies are worth attending, that's good. We invite you to join with us in our next rally scheduled, Lord willing, for **April 29 - May 3, 2009** at Percy Quin State Park in **McComb**, Mississippi. It is a time for spiritual and emotional renewal. (**See ad on page 6.**) You do not have to have an RV to participate. Please consider coming to our next rally! (alf)



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! Please note that memorials and/or tributes given to Magnolia Bible College are handled separately. See page 9. (ALF, editor)

In Memory Of

LINDA PETERSON

Eudell & Della Rhodes
(Southaven, MS)

FRANCES JOY ASKEW
CRYSTAL ALLEEN ASKEW NORRIS
ALICE ANN ASKEW MADDOX
Larrie D. Askew and Grandchildren
(Starks, LA)

MABEL FRANKS

Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

M/M CLYDE GRAVES

MARY JO SIMPSON
Mareh & Maurice Graves
(Ashland, MS)

WINSTON SIMPSON

JAMES SIMPSON
JOHNNIE DICKERSON
Floy Simpson
(Ashland, MS)

ARCHIE BENNETT, JR.

Durant Church of Christ
Emmette & Beverly Armstrong
(Durant, MS)

ELEANOR ELKINS

Jim & Alice Dempsey
(Bradford, AR)

FRANCIS PRIDY

PAULINE JOHNSON
RICHARD BANKS
Dean & Nellie Caldwell
(Vicksburg, MS)

Correction from Aug/Sept. issue

TERRY INGLES

Jim & Alice Dempsey
(Bradford, AR)

CLARENCE ENGEL

Peggy Engel
(Tupelo, MS)

HOWARD & LYLE FULGHAM

Bonnie Strickland
(Brandon, MS)

CAROLYN HILL

Bobby & Alice Humphries
(Natchez, MS)
Glen & Becky Smith
(Natchez, MS)

In Honor Of

GORDON GENTRY

Millie Duke
(Middleton, TN)

AL & JUNE FRANKS

Frank & Rita Smith
(Utica, MS)

MARSHALL EUBANKS

Eudell & Della Rhodes
(Southaven, MS)

JIMMY & DOTSY DOWNS

50TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
Garnett & Betty Harris
(Brandon, MS)

Note: Gifts in memory or in honor which are sent to the *Magnolia Messenger* are listed above. Gifts to *Magnolia Bible College* are handled separately from those given to MM. (Please see page 9.)

PLEASE
Send MM Gifts to.....

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

The Preacher's Wife

- Steve Reeves -

I'd like to say a word about, "The Preacher's Wife." The "Preacher's Wife" to whom I am referring is the precious woman I have had as my life's partner for twenty-seven years (not including the three and one-half year courtship we had). As the daughter of a preacher, she already had some idea of the unique status she would have and the scrutiny under which ministers and their families sometimes live.

In the early years of our marriage, living in church owned parsonages, it was not unusual to return home and find that someone from the church had their own key to the house and had let themselves in. On more than one occasion, a well intentioned brother or sister would take it on themselves to remind us that an outside light had been left on or that we were keeping the place too cool in the summer or too warm in the winter.

While many people might have become bitter about this lack of privacy, she just laughed and helped me to laugh with her. Both of us were thrilled when we finally worked with a church that paid us a housing allowance and allowed us to buy our own place that we can keep as cool, warm and illuminated as we care to.

My "preacher's wife," has given birth to four children. For years she spent the majority of her time at church -- sitting in the nursery or attempting to make a squirming child sit still in a pew. Still, she nearly always managed to hear at least part of the sermon and tell me, "You had a good message today." It causes me pain to realize, as I look back upon our years together, that often she has practically raised the kids by herself.

Serving as a minister for a local church, in addition to being a volunteer chaplain for a large hospital and the state police, my job has not been limited to the 8:00 - 5:00 office routine. There have often been late-night and even middle-of-the-night calls. More than once family vacations have been postponed or even interrupted by a death or emergency situation in the congregation. Not once in all of this time have I ever heard a word of complaint.

This "Preacher's Wife" has taught Sunday School, Bible

Hour, written Puppet Skits, worked at summer Bible camp, entertained guests in our home and has done hundreds of other things in her service to the Lord.

After our children were old enough to go to school she resumed her career as a Speech Therapist and even went on to complete a Master's Degree in this field. She is held in high esteem by her professional peers.

She wears many hats -- counselor, teacher, friend, wife, mother, cook, housekeeper and bookkeeper -- to name just a few. She has brought aid and comfort to many who have been sick and is, herself, a breast-cancer survivor.

I would not have you think that there have never been difficult times in the life of our family. Like every married couple, we've had our share of ups and downs. We've worked our way through disagreements, we've suffered the heartache of loss, we've faced challenges raising our children and we've faced the constant juggling of a crowded family schedule.

Ours has been a life of growing together. The strong-willed, selfish tendencies of our youth have gradually mellowed into a rich togetherness and dependence upon one another. As we now find ourselves on the front end of what most would call "middle age" we face the years ahead with the prospect of even greater sweetness.

Don't let the media fool you. Though tragic situations do exist, there are still ministers' families who are intact, functional and still loving one another -- thanks in large part to the influence and love of that special woman known as, "The Preacher's Wife."

Steve Reeves, Minister, Goodman Oaks Church of Christ; 1700 Goodman Road, East; Southaven, Mississippi 38671-9550; gopreacher@hotmail.com



Steve Reeves (preacher at Goodman Oaks) & Tami Reeves ("The Preacher's Wife")

Good News for Today

Nationwide Television
One Full Hour Each Day

"Good News For Today" can be seen all over the nation via the Dish and Direct Satellite Systems. [DIRECTTV -- Ch 323 -- 7:00 AM; DISH NETWORK -- Ch 9407 -- 11:00 AM, Daily] Recently, while watching the program, we were pleased to see a long time friend and brother, **David Wade**, serving as moderator for a panel of preachers who answer questions submitted by the television audience. Seeing David, brought back memories.



David Wade was a very capable and dedicated associate in the early days of Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, MS (late 70's and early 80's). Brother David and his wife, **Helen**, have been working, for the past several years, with the Lord's church in Chickamauga, GA. It was good to see him on the TV program, and pleased, we are, to recommend "Good News For Today" and the Gospel Broadcasting Network. (alf)

News Notes

GREENVILLE

The South Main Church of Christ in Greenville, Mississippi recently raised over \$10,000.00 for Sunnybrook Children's Home, exceeding their goal which was \$8,000.00. Danny Holman is the minister for the South Main congregation. The elders are Darrell Blaylock, Henry Halliburton, and Bill Payne.

BOONEVILLE

In October, several from the Booneville Church of Christ went on a Campaign to Guyana. They were **Jane Allen, J.T. Beard, Lloyd and Barbara Beard**.

RIPLEY

The Beech Hill Church of Christ celebrated their 110th Anniversary and Homecoming on October 12, 2008. The speakers were **David Lipe, Bill Lambert, James Draper, Jerry Coats and King McCarver**. Brother King serves as the local minister.

GREENVILLE

It was noted in the bulletin from the South Main Church of Christ, Greenville, Mississippi that their planned "Homecoming Day" is scheduled for March 29-30, 2009.

NEW

Distance Learning at Magnolia Bible College!

Ready to go the Distance?

Now you can ...

- * Gain knowledge of Scripture and ministry as the material is presented in real classes.
- * Earn valuable college credit while you study courses taught by MBC instructors.
- * Take a Magnolia Bible College course in the convenience of your own home.

Distance Learning Courses

Beginning in the spring of 2009,
MBC will offer two Distance Learning courses:

DOC 123: *Teachings of Jesus*

David McElwain, instructor
3 credit hours

PRE 153: *Methods of Evangelism*

Les Ferguson, instructor
3 credit hours

Delivery Method

Each course comes on a complete set of DVDs and is delivered right to your home.

Additional Materials

Besides the set of DVDs that presents the course as taught in an actual class, course materials include:

- * A course syllabus and set of class notes
- * Bible Explorer, an electronic religious library on CDs
- * Textbook(s)

Technical Requirements

Ability to view DVDs:

- * A DVD player and television OR
- * A computer with CD/DVD playing capability

Eligibility

Before one can take a Distance Learning course from MBC, one must:

- * Complete the Admissions forms and be admitted as a student of MBC
- * Pay all tuition and fees associated with the course(s)
- * Register for the course on time

Cost

\$720.00 tuition per 3 hour course
\$100.00 Distance Learning fee per course

Registration

Registration for the spring 2009 Distance Learning courses will be **December 1-19, 2008**.

Registration will be by phone during regular business hours—call **800-748-8655**

One must be admitted as a student of MBC before registering for any courses.

Call 662-289-2896 ext. 109 for further information about admissions and application forms. **Address:** Travis Brown, Director of Admissions; P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS 39090; **email:** tbrown@magnolia.edu
Call 662-289-2896 ext. 105 for further information about registration.

DEQUINCY, LA

Michael Potthoff (on right) recently resigned as pulpit minister for the DeQuincy Church of Christ. He and his wife, **Ruth**, have moved to Texas to assist his grandfather in caring for his grandmother in her illness. Michael expressed a strong desire to get back into full-time work. In the meantime, we commend his desire to assist those who cared for him in his early life. The church in DeQuincy is looking for a replacement for Michael. (See ad on page 14)



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

Inclusion of a church and/or preacher on this page or any other page in the MM is not to be considered an endorsement.

DeQuincy, LA

The church of Christ in DeQuincy, Louisiana is looking for a man of God to work with our congregation, which has a morning attendance of ninety to one hundred including three elders and four deacons. We are located about 20 miles northwest of Lake Charles.

We are seeking a doctrinally sound young family man with training from a Christian university or a reputable preaching school who is skilled in speaking, in teaching Bible classes, and in Power Point presentation. More importantly, however, we hope to find someone who has a loving desire to serve God by motivating the youth of our congregation, conducting home Bible studies, reaching out to the lost, and visiting members in their homes, in the hospital, or at the nursing home.

Our employment package value is approximately \$45,000, which includes a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car brick home, other expenses and salary.

If you are interested in helping us serve God in southwest Louisiana, please send us your resume, a complete list of churches you have been associated with including phone numbers and contact names, and a video (preferred) and/or audio tapes.

We look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you in your service to the Lord,

Minister Search Committee
Joey Franks ----- 337-7867742
joeyfranks020@centurytel.net
Don Jackson ----- 337-786-5982
dannyjack@centurytel.net
Louis LaRocque ---- 337-7254487
glarocque00@centurytel.net

"Preach the Word!"

STEENS

We received word on Thursday (9/2/08), that the church in Steens, Mississippi has just found a preacher to fill their pulpit and assist in the work of the church. The new preacher is Larry Montgomery. This good news came to us by telephone from Pete Bowen, one of two elders in the church at Steens, near Columbus. We pray God's blessings to be with brother Montgomery and the fine church with whom he is now working.

Ellisville

We received a call from Talmadge Anderson, informing us that the elders of the church in Ellisville, Mississippi, requested that we advertise their need to locate a full-time preacher to replace **Jerry Martin**, who recently moved to a new work in Tennessee.

Brother Talmadge stated that they were not all that particular about age and the amount of their support is negotiable. The Ellisville church, located in Jones County near Laurel, brings together about 100 (more or less) and is overseen by two elders. If interested in helping a loving and caring church to grow, you are asked to please contact **Paul Heathcock** at 601-649-7337 or 601-433-1174. Please send your resume to:

Church of Christ
5 Serenity Lane
Ellisville, MS 39437

Kentucky (Nicholasville)

The Nicholasville church of Christ is looking for a full time preaching minister to work with a countywide population of approximately 45,000. This congregation of 50+ members is eager to work and grow and is presently active in canvassing the city, spreading God's word for the growth of the church. "There is great growth potential here".

We are located just 6 miles south of Lexington KY, and are looking for someone who will preach sound new testament teaching and will challenge our congregation to grow. We believe that all members of the church should be active and working for the cause of Christ, not just the preacher.

Salary is negotiable and is based upon experience and education. Please provide a resume and tape/video if available. Address:

Nicholasville Church of Christ
701 South Main Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
 Contact: **Randy Grow**
 Email: rgrow@windstream.net
 Phone: 859-509-0427

(Rec. 7-30-08)

**The MM
 Requests
 Your Prayers
 and
 Your Suggestions**

Alexandria, LA

The Jackson Street church of Christ in Alexandria, Louisiana, is seeking a full time preacher to work with us in this area. We are a congregation of 100 people in central Louisiana. We are a diverse congregation with a well located building at 19th street and Jackson street. We pray for a married, middle-aged person who can relate to all ages and attitudes. We earnestly seek a person who is interested in seeking the Lost. Interested individuals should send a resume and a CD or tape to:

**Jackson Street
 Church of Christ**
1856 Jackson Street
Alexandria LA 71301
 Ph: (318) 442-3047
 E-mail: jscoc@bellsouth.net
 9-2-08

Pineville, LA

The Pineville church of Christ in Pineville, Louisiana is prayerfully searching for the man God has chosen to fill the pulpit in this faithful congregation. We are a devoted group of Christians whose focus is on God and spreading His word. The Pineville congregation has been meeting since the 1950s and we have a membership who is willing to work and explore fresh ideas for community outreach.

We consider a full time minister our partner in evangelism and would like to work with someone who is prayerful, loving, energetic, kind, humble, and faithful. We are searching for a man who is willing to be creative in reaching the lost and is doctrinally sound. The ideal candidate will edify this congregation and is praying as fervently as we are about this process.

If you are interested in providing information for us to review, please do so by sending a resume, reference list, and audio and/or video of a variety of sermons to the **Pineville church of Christ, 3605 Highway 28 East, Pineville, Louisiana 71360**. You may email -- pcoc@suddenlinkmail.com. Once information is received, you will receive a questionnaire about specific topics.

Ocean Springs, MS

The Eastside Church of Christ in Ocean Springs, MS is currently seeking a full-time preacher. We are a congregation of approximately 70 members w/o elders. We are in a great location and doing great work. We have an active evangelism program, youth (Lads to Leaders) program, satellite Bible Institute, leadership workshops, marriage enrichment programs and currently researching radio ministry. We are seeking a married man who loves God, loves people and loves winning souls for Christ. We would like man with at least a four year degree from a bible institution (preferably). Please send resume, three recent tapes and or videos. Salary is commensurate to local average cost of living.

Eastside Church of Christ
7701 Highway 90E.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
 Attn: Minister Search Committee
 228-875-5239

WANTED

The Clinton Church of Christ, Clinton, MS is seeking a full time evangelistic minded minister. We prefer that he be married with children. Attendance normally runs between 55 and 65 for Sunday worship. The congregation has 3 elders and 3 deacons. Please send resume with references to:



**CLINTON
 Church of Christ**
 155 Broadway Street,
 Clinton, Mississippi 39056
 or email to:
clintoncoc.org
 For more information you may call:
 601-924-5300

Ridgeland Church Seeks Youth Minister

Youth/Edu/family Minister opening with the Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS, located in NE Jackson, the capital and on the W side of the beautiful Barnett Reservoir in the corner of Hinds, Rankin & Madison counties, which is one the fastest growing population counties in MS. LHD has a diverse membership with 160 members, 10 deacons, pulpit minister & 9 deacons. Youth from k-1-12 composed of 40+, organized in 2 groups, with 4 yr old LL program. Must be married, self-motivated, experienced, evangelistic and have completed BA from Christian University or Bible College. For more info go to www.lakeharbourcoc.org, ymsearch@lakeharbourcoc.org, or call 601-856-2165.

Minister Hired

Memphis, TN

Associate Minister

The Berclair congregation in Memphis, Tennessee is looking for a retired minister to assist in preaching and teaching in our service to God. The church can provide a 3 bedroom, 2 bath residence, utilities and a small salary. This warm, friendly body of servants is served by elders, deacons, and dedicated Christians that want to reach the lost. Please contact the elders by phone at **901-685-9022** or email at www.berclaircofc@aol.com

Very, Very Encouraging from a reader

...May you have grace and peace and be prospering, as your souls prosper. The MM came and we were inspired by it, as usual; but this time, even more so.

An old Mississippi friend, **Steve Shappley**, was there front and center. We'll be writing him later. And brother **May**, great as always! We got to visit with him when he was up here to speak last May. He did an excellent job. But the excellent piece was "A Man out of Focus", pg.10, MM.

Our mid-week class is studying I Peter and our Sunday AM class is studying about, "What makes an atheist?" Bingo. I read the article aloud to the class, and told them that I knew you and I wished them to take a "little test" for me....

I made copies of the story in MM and passed them out to inspire. Thanks, Al!

The Personal Side: Six years have now passed since we left Mississippi. We miss it, ...the friendliness. Oh my, we do miss that. Barb and I are blessed. We just completed our 51st year. We are quite happy....

Oh my, before I forget. The MM is just such good quality. Brother May never wavers, and this month -- the short message of **Charles Hodge** was superb and full of wisdom/years.

Del & Barbara Elkins; Valley Road Church of Christ; 978 Valley Road; Warrington, PA 18976

More and More

Encouragement

To Whom It May Concern,

Would you please send me a subscription to your paper? I recently read a copy and was deeply impressed. We do not have any outside activities here and the prison system here is trying to cut out our churches that come in to minister. Please keep me in your prayers. May God bless and meet all of your needs. A Servant of Our Lord, **(Ronald D. Eppinett, Pearl, MS)**

Brother Al,

We enjoy receiving the Messenger. Please keep it coming. As former Sojourners, we appreciate very much the work you are doing as you and June travel about. Sincerely, **(Fred Shields, Smyrna, GA.)**

Bro. Franks,

Hodge here. Just got the new issue

of the best paper in our brotherhood. I am humbled! Scared! You were wondrously Kind! Humbling? Yes! Encouraging! More so. May God richly bless you, **(Charles Hodge, Duncanville, TX)**

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to start receiving your Magnolia Messenger paper. I found it very interesting and really enjoyed reading it also. I appreciate this very much. Yours Truly; **(Paul Howard, Angola, LA)**

Editor's Note: We greatly appreciate all the encouragement received from readers of the MM. We also realize that some comments may be a little too generous. Thanks to all who read and write. May God bless our joint efforts.

“Get Me To Church On Time”

- John Pigg -
 “Get Me to the Church on Time” is a song that was composed for the 1956 musical, *My Fair Lady*. It is sung by the cockney character Alfred P. Doolittle, a dustman, the father of the show’s main character, Eliza Doolittle.



John Pigg

He has received a surprise bequest of four thousand pounds a year from an American millionaire, raising him to middle-class respectability. Consequently, he feels he must marry Eliza’s “stepmother”, the woman with whom he has been “living in sin” for many years.

Doolittle and his friends have one last spree before the wedding; and, the song is a plea to his friends not to let his drunken merriment forget his good intentions and make sure he gets to his wedding. The song contains the memorable lines: “*I’m getting married in the morning! Ding dong! The bells are gonna chime. Pull out the stopper! Let’s have a whopper! But get me to the church on time!*”

Without condoning the “sins” communicated in this musical or the song, in most of our congregations, some of our members and particularly parents, need to heed the last line of this classical song and take it to heart spiritually!

Too many Christian families are not getting to “church” on time and others are not getting there at all! In fact, it seems to be epidemic in the brotherhood from the reports of elders, preachers and teachers all across the country! Leaders are seriously concerned about it, and teachers are desperately frustrated over it. Our Lord must be deeply disappointed that some of us have made a habit of consistently arriving late for Bible classes and worship, and others of us think nothing of forsaking the assembly.

Last Sunday our teenage class finally filled up at 10:00 a.m. -- after the class had started at 9:30. This is not acceptable, brethren! We can do better than that. It is regretful that many of our members are not attending Bible class at all and are forsaking the assembly for

worship; specifically, when the NT clearly commands us, “Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.” (Study Heb. 10:24)

“You should not stay away from church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming” (Hebrews 10:24-25, New Century Version). A faith that won’t take a Christian to their home church every service and *on time*, may not get you in time to enter Heaven either!

If it is true that “*absence makes the heart grow fonder*,” then some of the church members must really love their home church! Have you grown complacent and indifferent about your duty to worship God and your responsibility to grow spiritually and edify your brethren?

The learning process for you and your children is greatly hindered when you “hit and miss” class or show up for only half of the lesson. Aside from that, we are teaching our children by our example that worshipping God and our spiritual growth is not having first place on our family agenda. We’ve got to take to heart the admonition to “bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,” (Eph. 6:4) and to “seek first the kingdom of God” (Matt. 6:33).

John Pigg serves as preacher for the Lake Harbour Drive Church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS. Brother Pigg’s e-mail address is: jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org

“Preach the Word”

“Reprove, rebuke, exhort”
 (2 Tim. 4:2)

The
Magnolia Messenger
 is always in need of your
Encouragement and Fervent Prayers
 Thank You!



Austin Faires Speaks in Kosciusko

During the weekend of September 20 and 21, Austin Faires, Dean of Students at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, was guest speaker for the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko.

Brother Faires had been invited to come and share his knowledge of the dangers facing, especially, young people today. In his opening lesson he commented, “The biggest problem in our nation is pornography.” He spoke specifically about the internet and the wide use of “My Space” and “Facebook”. Saying that such sites provide opportunities for good things; yet, parents, he said, need to be aware of the dangers. He added, “it is unfair to label entire sites as “bad,” however, he called upon parents to take certain steps to help safeguard their precious children. He strongly recommended that filters be installed on computers.

Speaking of the internet he said, “And, while Satan uses it as a tool [for evil], we need to use it as a tool for that which is good, right, wholesome and pure.” The speaker from Alabama stressed scriptural teachings to help guide parents including Psa. 119:1-11; 1 John 2:15-17 and James 1:13-15. In addition to his talk on Saturday evening, brother Faires presented three other excellent lessons on Sunday. He spoke with a definite degree knowledge and with a sense of urgency. Every congregation could benefit from such lessons. And, the way it looks right now, **my space** is just about gone. Thanks for reading. (editor)

Additional Note: The picture of brother Faires (at top of this column) shows him holding a nail as he makes a point in one of his four lessons. His exact point, I have forgotten. I know that the nail was used to remind us of the voluntary suffering our Lord -- maybe, that’s all we need to remember.

Church Bulletin Selections -- (2)

Editor’s Note: Our present plans are to select and publish, in each issue of the MM, two or three of the many excellent articles we are blessed to read in church bulletins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.* (alf).

Editor’s Note: Our present plans are to select and publish, in each issue of the MM, two or three of the many excellent articles we are blessed to read in church bulletins. We pray you will enjoy and benefit from the great lessons taught by other brethren. *Please keep the bulletins coming! Thank you.* (alf).



What Can We Do To Help America?

Mike Hixson

Our country is in serious trouble. We are spinning out of control morally, economically, educationally, and judicially. How differently things are today compared to my youth. Unless something changes in the near future, our country appears to be on a collision course with disaster.

Someone once observed, “If there is anything we have ever learned from history, it is that we have not learned from history.” God’s people were literally brought to their knees by the Babylonians centuries ago. Why you ask? The prophet said, “For the LORD has afflicted her because of the multitude of her transgressions. Her children have gone into captivity before the enemy... Jerusalem has sinned grievously” (Lam. 1:5,8).

In light of the sad state of our country, we would do well to consider what we can do to help turn things around.

Number one. We can pray for the leaders of our country. Paul wrote, “Therefore I exhort, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks

be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (2 Tim. 2: 1-2). We must pray that our leaders will recognize God’s way is the best way. It is not just the best way, it is the only way!

Number two. We can plead with our fellow citizens and lawmakers to awaken to the principles of the Bible. We need to hold up the word of God as the standard for daily living (Jer. 10:23; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Our neighbors and lawmakers in Washington need to know that greed, gambling, abortion and homosexuality are destroying the foundation that our country rests upon.

May we do what we can to help our ailing nation before it is too late!

Brother Hixson preaches for the Olive Branch church. This church, located near Memphis, brings together about 150 worshippers each Lords day. The church is served by three elders. His address: Mike Dixson; 9100 East Sandidge Road; Olive Branch, MS 38654

The Bible Still Says,

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:25)

Encouragement

From Millie in Middleton

Millie Duke of Middleton, Tennessee wrote to us several weeks ago, saying:

“...I enjoy your paper so much and like all of the pictures you print so I decided to send these in. Thank you for your good work in publishing the Magnolia Messenger. I so appreciate that you stick to Biblical truths and stay focused on the Word.



The Meeting Place For The Rogers Springs Church of Christ in Middleton, Tennessee



Marjorie Ferguson (left) and Carolyn Upkins: Speakers at Retreat

“O Sister, Where Art Thou?”

The 13th Annual Sardis Lake Ladies' Retreat was held September 19th and 20th. The number of Ladies in attendance was a record 220. We had to turn some away and some chose to stay at the local Motel. The Ladies from Vicksburg did a wonderful job hosting our event. We had one mishap with **Nellie Caldwell** falling and tearing her rotator cuff but she managed to attend the Saturday morning session with arm in sling.

We had a great session with **Carolyn Upkins** from the Hanging Moss congregation in Jackson. She brought 40 ladies from her home congregation. They used two vans plus pulling a U-haul trailer.

Anyway back to our sessions. Carolyn spoke to us and introduced us to the different “Tater Sisters” of our congregations, such as sister Aji-tater, sister Procrasti-tater and sister Instig-tater

The night closed with a wonderful meal and singing session led by the one and only -- **Jane Maynard**, from Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Up at 7:00 A.M. for breakfast and more singing. Then, we split up into small groups. That gave us time to get to know one another better.

Then it was time for South Huntington's own **Marjorie Ferguson**. At the end of her lesson, Margie closed with the reading of this poem [see at the end of this article] and a prayer for us all to be like this very special sister. We then had a wonderful lunch and departed to our homes.

Report by **Janie A. Wallace**; South. Huntington Street Church of Christ; Kosciusko, MM 39090; mklady5@yahoo.com

The following was written by **Marnece Moore** of Kosciusko, especially for the retreat, and was read by Marjorie Ferguson in her closing remarks.

“O Sister, Where Art Thou?”

Where is my sister?

I'll tell you where.

She's out caring for those in need.
For she is a wonderful friend indeed!
She makes many calls and writes a lot of notes,
Not only to those in need, but also to the old folks.
Children know she will show love for them,
Kindness fills her days; like a “cup to the brim.”
Her family is always grateful to have her around,
Her good name is well known all over town.
Yes, my sister in Christ, she will always be,
That wonderful blessing God gave to me.

Marnece Moore (09/20/2008)

One of Over 3,000

Gordon Banks

Like so many others (including June and myself), brother Banks was a **first time visitor** to the Diana Singing in Tennessee. We were pleased to meet him and thankful he allowed me to take his picture. Gordon lives in Brooksville, MS and worships with the 7th Street congregation in Columbus where **Billy Ferguson** preaches. He and his wife were present at Diana, along with other relatives who live in TN.

Have you read the story about “The Singing” on page 11?



Garvis

(Cont. from page 7)

the first method while listening to the third or fourth approach.

We've been exposed to the Visualized Bible Study Series (Jule Miller films); Open Bible Study; Fishers of Men; correspondence courses of every kind; direct mail campaigns; door knocking campaigns; Gospel Meetings and Revivals; Vacation Bible School; summer camp, and mass media efforts (including the one you are reading right now). We've tried booths at the World's Fair and at the county fair. We have invited, we have prayed, we have cried, and we have begged.

Not long ago I found myself listening to a sermon rather than delivering a sermon. The speaker that day said something that I can't completely agree with. He said, “door knocking

doesn't work anymore.” While it is true that many will simply refuse to come to their doors and others will slam the door in your face, behind the next door you knock may well be the soul waiting for you to come share the good news of Jesus with them.

So what are we to do? Go...and teach. Become all things to all men. Use whatever methods we have at our disposal to reach every soul we possibly can. No method of man is perfect. Still, God's saving grace must be shared. The next time I turn my back on the teenager working at a mall kiosk maybe, just maybe I'll pause to think...what if this is my only opportunity to finally hear this great message.

Brother Garvis serves as president of MBC. His address: P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS 39090; email: gsmore@magnolia.edu

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized

Examples in the Book of Acts

Jews on Pentecost

“...they that gladly received his word were **baptized**... about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:41)

Corinthians

“Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were **baptized**.” (Acts 18:8)

Samaritans

“But when they believed Philip preaching... they were **baptized**, both men and women.” (Acts 8:13)

Simon

“Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was **baptized**...” (Acts 8:13)

Ethiopian Eunuch

“...And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he **baptized** him.” (Acts 8: 38)

Saul

He “arose and was **baptized**.” (Acts 9:18)

Cornelius

“And he commanded them to be **baptized**...” (Acts 10:48)

Lydia

“...she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was **baptized**...” (Acts 16:14,15)

Jailor

“And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes: and was **baptized**...” (Acts 16:33)

Ephesians

“When they heard this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:5)

First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized!

Wonder Why? Could it be?

1. Because Jesus, the Son of God and Saviour of man, clearly said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

2. Because an inspired apostle commanded thousands of Jewish believers to, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38)

3. Because a teacher of God asked and then commanded a fasting, praying,

penitent believer, “And now, why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins...” (Acts 22:16)

4. Because a man of God wrote, “There is also an antitype which now saves us -- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21)

Note: Scriptures quoted are from the KJV and the New King James Version.

Have YOU Been Baptized?

“To be saved”? (Mark 16:16)

“For the remission of sins”? (Acts 2:38)

“To wash away sins”? (Acts 22:16)

“And now, why are you waiting?”

Arise and be baptized and wash your sins.” (Acts 22:16)

RICHES

(Cont. from page 4)

security in the living God who is going to take care of his children every step of the way (Philippians 4: 19; Hebrews 13: 5, 6). It is He who shows us the way to enjoy all things richly given to us from His hand.

From 1 Timothy 6: 18 & 19, we can learn some key ingredients to “living large” God's way. First, we must be “ready to give,” which means being “willing to share.” Second, our resources must be put to good use so that we “do good” and are actively involved in “good works.” Third, our true goal will be to lay up treasure in heaven and lay hold on eternal life by living out the life of grace and gratitude to God who saves us in Christ. The instruction sounds simple enough, and it is, but it is also hard to do.

If hard economic times continue in our country and around the world, the children of God who yet have enough, and perhaps more than enough of this world's goods, will have ample opportunity to find the true riches of life by sharing with the needy and taking on a bigger share of funding for evangelism so that good works to proclaim the word of God do not falter for lack of support.

The essential matter is to “trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5) in these uncertain times and do not “trust in uncertain riches.”

Brother Gardner serves as Academic Dean for MBC. He can be reached at P. O. Box 1109; Kosciusko, MS 39090 or jgardner@magnolia.edu

Thank You
Receiving & Reading
Magnolia Messenger

Prayers for the MM
are
Much Appreciated!

Lectureship

(Cont. from page 9)

We are working to make the Magnolia Bible College Lectureship an event that annually brings together brethren from all parts of the country as we strive together to find even more effective ways to share God's Good News to our neighbors. We are hoping that brethren will begin reserving the third Saturday of October every year to be on our campus in Kosciusko, Mississippi. We're already making plans for the 2009 lectureship. Some of our speakers have already been confirmed. We hope you will mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17, 2009 for the annual Magnolia Bible College Lectureship.

BIG Lessons From A small Book

- Mark Ray -

With only twenty-five verses, Philemon is the shortest book of the New Testament. However, this small book contains big lessons that all of us need to live the Christian life.

The book of Philemon was written by Paul, a prisoner of Rome, to his beloved friend, Philemon, concerning Onesimus, Philemon's runaway slave. It seems that Onesimus had run away from Philemon and escaped to Rome. While in Rome, Onesimus met Paul and was converted to Christ. The letter we now know as Philemon is the letter Onesimus brought back to Philemon when he returned home. This short book gives us several lessons for today.

The first lesson this book teaches is righteous living produces true happiness (v. 4-7, 20).

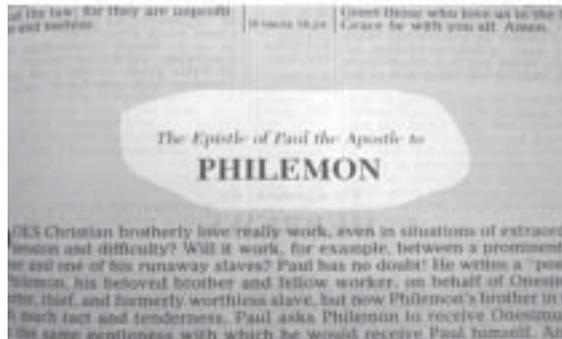
Philemon's faith and love genuinely encouraged Paul. When we live as Christians our lives will refresh others and we will be a blessing rather than a hindrance to others. The Bible tells us even the angels in heaven

rejoice when we repent and stay faithful to God (Luke 15:10). When Jesus referred to his disciples as "lights to the world" and "salt of the earth" he was not referring just to our effect on the world, he also knew that we would encourage one another as Christians.

Another lesson from this book is the power of authority (v. 8-9).

As an apostle, Paul could have *ordered* Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother instead of punishing him. Yet Paul knew that *forcing* Philemon to accept Onesimus might end up causing harm to the body of Christ because of resentment. Therefore Paul *pleaded* with Philemon to accept Onesimus back as a brother.

We are told in God's Word that we must be submissive to our elders (Hebrews 13:17). But leaders in the church should remember that the best leadership style is one of example, appeal and persuasion (1 Peter 5:2-3). An elder is not merely the "boss" of the church, instead



he is the shepherd doing everything he can to lead his flock to the heavenly fold.

The third lesson from this book is the power of Christ to transform people (v. 15-16).

Prior to his conversion, Onesimus was nothing more than a disobedient slave. But by the power of Christ he changed from what many considered to be nothing more than a piece of property into a beloved brother in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Judging from the tone of this book, Philemon probably did accept Onesimus back and they probably even worshipped together every Lord's Day. In fact, Ignatius (a church writer from the early Second Century A.D.) refers to an Onesimus as one of the bishops of the church in Ephesus. Whether or not this man is the same as is found in the book we cannot know for certain.

A final lesson is that spiritual things are more important than physical matters (v. 18-19).

Onesimus had wronged Philemon. Paul pleaded with Philemon to put aside the material injustice he endured and to focus on the spiritual birth of his new brother. Times come when we must be willing to forgive others and focus on the spiritual good of all involved (Matthew 6:12, Matthew 18:21-35). Even someone as special as Paul suffered often for the cause of Christ (Philippians 1:12). The Apostles created a stir when they rejoiced that they were worthy of suffering for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). We too should be willing to endure slights in our lives to advance the cause of Christ.

Philemon may be a short book, but it contains big lessons that every Christian will do well to learn and put into practice. Mark preaches for the Siwell Road church in Jackson, MS. Email: marksiwell@gmail.com



Mark Ray

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Kosciusko Church's
Newest Deacon

Deacons Are Special Servants With a "Good Degree"

The apostle Paul instructed Timothy about the selection and/or appointment of men to serve the body of Christ as elders and deacons. Concerning deacons he wrote, "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:13, KJV)

It is apparent from the scriptures that deacons are indeed **special servants**. They represent the church of Christ and are required to meet certain qualifications as set forth in the epistle to Timothy, chapter 3. Among those qualifications are: "...be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre." Furthermore, it is required that deacons be "the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well." (verses 8-12).

When faithful men prepare themselves and are "proved"; that is, "found blameless", then they are ready to "use the office of a deacon". And, those who do so "well", purchase to themselves a "good degree."

We commend those dedicated men who are willing to accept the challenge of being special servants in the church of our Lord. May God bless. This prayer applies especially to our dear brother **Larry Wallace**, who has just accepted the challenge. (alf)

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Note: The following is from the hand and heart of Phil Sanders, who -- several years ago, preached for the church in Senatobia, Mississippi and is now preaching for the Lord's church in Brentwood, TN. His timely article was written on Thursday, November 6, 2008, just two days after the recent presidential election. (editor)

Take a Breath

- Phil Sanders -

Last Wednesday night several came into midweek worship and Bible classes with overwhelming disappointment over the election. Those of us who believe partial-birth abortion is infanticide and same-sex marriage is wrong felt deserted by a blind country who would allow such an advocate of evil rule over them.

Some friends have suggested that the America we have known and loved will disappear in days to come. No doubt, the election will make advocates of evil, who love to silence the truth, even more bold. I admit it... I too am heartsick and a bit angry.

Take a breath.... this too shall pass.

History is a wonderful reminder that evil doesn't last forever, no matter how powerful. Good will win out in the end, even if the devil deceives the nations and enslaves them for his evil agenda. The Lord of lords and the King of kings sees and knows it all. He will destroy evil with the sword of his mouth.

This is not a time to hide in caves; it is a time to stand strong. God has equipped us with a panoply (a suit of full armor). Read about it in Ephesians 6:10-20. Having done everything in this battle with the devil, we are to stand firm. This is not a time for retreat; it is a time to go to war for our souls!

Instead of throwing our hands up in failure, let us redouble our efforts! We have the weapons to win EVERY time! God has given us faith! God has given us love! God has given us TRUTH! God has given us the hope the world needs so badly. We are not puny and poor; we are God's heirs, God's holy nation, God's royal priesthood, a people for God's own possession! In God's eyes we are holy, beloved, and chosen! For us God is preparing an eternal home.

Let us not be surprised that the world is worldly; it always has been. The whole world, after all, lies in the power of the evil one; but we are not of the world. The LORD watches over us. *Take a breath*, say a prayer, recall the promises, and get to work.

God gave us the Word, a powerful and unstoppable weapon. The world can't burn it up, delete it, or resist it. It stands written! Preach it! Proclaim it to a lost and dying world with love and conviction. The world may hate us for it, but they will not shut us up. The Bible has survived as the seed of the kingdom. Hide it in your heart, and it will produce life eternal for you and for those who will hear you.

Don't quit! Don't give up! Don't give out! We have not yet begun to do all that we can do to light a dark and dreary world with the eternal gospel of Jesus Christ.

Redouble your efforts, love the Lord, love people, let your light shine, and give thanks. Throw aside discouragement and be men. We not only can win souls, we can change lives and lands with the power of love and the word. Preach, love, and stay the course! The Kingdom of heaven needs you!

Additional Note: Phil Sanders has recently announced his plans to accept an invitation from the church in Edmond, Oklahoma to "come and work with them and, in time, be the speaker on the television ministry, 'In Search of the Lord's Way.'" He commented, "They believe, and I believe, that it is the Lord's will that I pursue that great and crucial work at this point in time." **"In Search of the Lord's Way"** is the nationally known TV program which features the "not so young" **Mack Lyon**. May God bless all. (Phil Sanders; C/o Concord Church of Christ; 8221 Concord Road; Brentwood, TN 37027; Phil@God-answers.org)



(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

1. Dorothy Laws
2. Alice Green
3. Charles McMinn
4. Penny Clanton
5. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
6. Betty A. Skinner
7. Mary Jo Purdon
8. Paul & Marcella Black
9. Lawrence Horn
10. Carol Bonner
11. Cheri G. Moore
12. Jeff & Debbie Shull
13. Paul & Debbie Bryson
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17. Betty Jo Stewart
18. Modean Edwards
19. Lisa Dettor
20. Patricia Connaway
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23. Nola H. Balentine
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32. Doyce Britt
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34. Carolyn Harvill
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55. Greg Mullinicks
56. Charlane Stanfield
57. Rosie M. Felton
58. Charlene Williams
59. Doris Darnell
60. Kim Wallace
61. Miriam Styers
62. Frances Harrell
63. Dee Kepler
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66. Melba Ogg
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68. Doris Carroll
69. Ann Sims
70. Angie Mask
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72. Shirley Pearce
73. Dwight E. Hester
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75. Beulah Rupert
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78. Coy Daily
79. RayAnn Woodruff
80. Barbara A. Beard
81. Glenda Jefcoat
82. Ella Darnell
83. Sharon Huckaba
84. Hattie Hooper
85. Ima Jean Fogus
86. Robert Blackburn
87. Garry Gooch
88. Louise H. Butler
89. Mrs. D. J. Jenkins
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91. Sue Miller
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95. Sue Mason
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99. Christine Holliday
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386. Betty Standard
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388. Euna Gilreath Wheeler
389. Ruby Matejka
390. Bodean Collum
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392. Magdalene Tillman
393. Danny Feazell
394. Billie Boyd
395. Carolyn Kimball
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404. Billie Jane Davis
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429. Stephanie Slaydon
430. Jessica Slaydon
431. Wes & Rhoda Jeans
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433. Earl Franks
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435. Mariah Wallace
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449. Mary Jacobs
450. Imogene Grayson
451. Emma L. Cleveland
452. Amy Pchlvanian
453. Mary Dennis
454. Marcus D. Nunnally
455. Alice Marie Amos

NOTICE

All answers received before Nov. 21, 2008, have been included. Thanks to all who read the MM and answer "The QB".
(see page 20)

456. Cortez Bron
457. James Hudley
458. Idna Eddington
459. Rosa Lee Johnson
460. Alice Green
461. Veronica Norton
462. Hattie Johnson
463. Ina Sadler
YOUR NAME
Next time... Okay?

Indianola Ladies' Day

Church of Christ

Highway 82 East & Grand Ave
Indianola, Mississippi 38751

Theme

"A Wise Woman Builds..."

(Prov. 14:1)

Speaker:

Sonya West

(Spring, Texas)

**Saturday,
February 7, 2009**

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Brunch & Lunch

Provided

All Ladies Are Invited

Editor's Note: Over the past several years Avis Porter, a sister in Christ, has diligently sought to use her writing talents to teach and to encourage others. We are pleased to share with you a small sample of her work which was written about two years ago. We trust that you, too, may be encouraged.

This Little Light of Mine

Today, no bad memories will come into my head,
I will not relive deeds done, nor words said.

The Lord has blessed me with this special day,
Happiness, joy and peace shall come my way.

To family and friends, I will a blessing be,
I want my life for Christ, the world to see.

My life should be salt, light and leaven,
Obedience and faithfulness reward me with heaven.



Avis C. Porter
9803 Highway 336
Thaxton, MS 38871

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

Larrie Don Askew

"An Inspiration"

Larrie Don Askew was born on December 25, 1940, (Christmas Day) in a small Texas town called Center. Almost nineteen years later, on September 26, 1959, Larrie married Frances Joy Ellison Hines Askew. On that happy day, they established their home and began their married life together.

Eventually, into the Askew home, came five precious children. Larrie and Frances were blessed to raise Lisa Joy, Donnal Wayne, Alice Ann, and the twins -- Chris Allen and Crystal Allene. They were also blessed with seventeen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Larrie, jokingly, says that his children and grandchildren really took seriously the commandment, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

Early in his married life, Larrie indicated that he didn't "have time for that church stuff." Speaking of himself, at the time, he said, "I was a heathen." His thinking was if he just made a living for his family, then everything was okay!

Larrie's step-mother was a member of the church of Christ and, through her influence, Larrie's dad was converted. Other family members, who were also members of the church, had a positive influence on Larrie and his family.

Larrie's mom was responsible for encouraging the twins, Chris and Crystal, to begin attending church services with her. This step eventually led to the twins decision to be "baptized into Christ" when they were fourteen years old.

Larrie said that he did not oppose the twins being "dunked", as he put it. He even attended the baptismal ceremony; however his thoughts at the time were, "Church is not for me."

After the twins were baptized, the preacher from Deweyville, Texas, **Richard Triumph**, knocked on Larrie and Frances' door. Following Bible studies in his home, Larrie saw the error of his way and, in 1983, he gladly became a Christian. He said



June Franks

Richard gave him his first Bible.

Larrie said that they continued to have Bible studies in their home and invited others to study with them. Frances was baptized shortly after Larrie. Larrie was also able to help convert **Elton and Barbara Barks**. He was pleased and grateful to say, "I baptized both of them."

In 1982 Larrie came down with a crippling disease known as "M.S.". Larrie said he prayed that God would grant him a few more years, because as he said, "I wanted to live for my family."

Afterwards, through the passing of years, Larrie and Frances were able to count their many blessings, but they also faced many difficulties and deaths in their immediate family.

The Askews lost two of their daughters to Cervical Cancer. Alice died in 2002, at the age of 36. Then, Crystal died in 2004, at the age of 32 also from the same disease. Larrie commented about the deaths of his two daughters, saying, "It is hard to understand. You just don't expect to bury your children."

Larrie and Frances kept busy. They were always thinking about and caring for others, even taking into their home those who had special needs. Larrie mentioned his elderly parents and his mother-in-law, all of whom lived with them before their deaths. He also said that only one month after their daughter Crystal's death, her husband apparently took his own life.

Through the years Larrie and Frances had taken care of grandchildren for various reasons. He said that

once he made the statement, "We have raised our children and have helped with some of our grandchildren; we don't plan to help raise any others."

Larrie did not realize at the time he made that statement that his daughter, Crystal, would die at a young age and that, only a month later, her husband also would be dead. This left three precious children without parents.

During the time Crystal was so sick and not expected to live, Larrie promised her that he and Frances would do what he could to help raise her three children.

All who knew the Askews couldn't help but admire Larrie and Frances for taking on this great responsibility at this stage in their life, especially since both he and Frances were not in good health.

Then, death visited again. This time on April 30, 2008. After attending Adrian's birthday, (the oldest granddaughter) -- on their way home, Frances quietly and peacefully slipped into eternity. Larrie rushed her to the hospital but she was already dead. As Larrie said she died an easy and quick death. So Larrie's helpmeet and his "Sweetie", as he called her, departed this life, leaving behind Larrie to care for the three teenage grandchildren.

Larrie said, "I want to see the kids get an education." Larrie, also, expresses his dependency upon God and acknowledges just how much he need God's help in raising these precious grandchildren.

When asked how all these deaths in his family, over such a short time period, had affected him, he responded, "I want to meet my loved ones in heaven." He then made a comment about a book on "Heaven" written by Dennis Doughty which he had recently read. He said, "I really enjoyed brother Dennis Doughty's book."

The three children, now being cared for grand-dad Larrie, are **Adrian** (17), **Devin** (age 15) and **Icie** (soon to be 14 on December 9, 2008). Larrie says all the children help around the house. Adrian is planning to attend college and desires to become a hair-dresser.

Larrie and his grand-children are faithful to attend the services of the DeQuincy Church of Christ. He spoke very highly his fellow Christians and expressed special appreciation for Ray Hyatt, Joey, Ray and J. D. Franks -- all members of the DeQuincy church.

Larrie also made arrangements for Devin and Icie to miss school so they, along with him, could attend a recent RV Rally held in Grapeland, Texas. Devin and Icie are always so helpful in doing what they can to help others at the rally.

We are thankful we have been blessed to meet the Askews. Although many family members are now gone, Larrie continues to be an inspiration to all who know him. His attitude may be summed up by his statement, "The children are really not a burden. They help me and I help them."

(June Franks; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090; e-mail: franksmm@aol.com)



Larrie Askew and two of his precious grandchildren: Icie (left) & Devin (right)

By

Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray

BCagleRay@Aol.Com



Thank You, Lord, I Need...

When I begin my prayers each day
And ask your blessings to receive,
I try to say a "thank you, Lord,"
Before you hear the words, "I need."
Sometimes my prayer list gets so long
As I pray for myself and others, too,
That I become ashamed to even ask
For one more blessing I need from you.
Be patient with me when I forget-
There are other prayers you must receive,
And help me always to thank you first,
Before you hear the words, "I need."

When I Am Old

Blessed are those who see my faltering steps
And reach out to steady me when I sway.
Blessed are those who speak loudly to me,
Knowing I strain to catch each word they say.
Blessed are those who listen when I speak,
Who aren't in a hurry to go on their way.
Blessed are those who neglect to mention-
"You've told that story several times today."
Blessed are those who take time to read to me
When they realize my eyes are growing dim.
Blessed are those who see my thinking is slow,
Who don't mind saying things again and again.
Blessed are those who simply stop by to talk,
Who listen to my stories of days long gone.
Blessed are those who always keep in mind
That I need to be loved, not left alone.

Sister Ray also may be reached by addressing, Barbara Cagle Ray, 520 Vinson Dr., Nashville, TN 37217

Recent Bible Winner



Courtney Woods (on right) was presented a beautiful study Bible by Shirley (left), wife of Arthur Burnett, preacher for the North Hillcrest Church of Christ in Aberdeen where Courtney is a member. Our congratulations to Courtney. We appreciate her good example as a young lady who loves to study the Bible. May God bless.

Use of the
King James Version
may be helpful

The Question Box

Is your
name found
on page 18?

Miracles of Destruction

Our God is *the Almighty*. "Nothing is impossible with God." This is clearly shown in the Biblical account of creation. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." "And God said..." **And, there was!** The mighty works of God included the creation of man. "God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life... man became a living creature." (Genesis chapter 1).

God's power is not only *creative* or constructive. On occasions, His power has been *negative* or destructive. This month's lesson calls attention to some of the many instances where God demonstrated his mighty

power in destructive ways -- usually for the purpose of "taking vengeance" against evil and/or evil doers.

Ponder prayerfully each point in the following lesson as you answer each section. Upon completion, please send your answers to us. By so doing, you will encourage others (see page 18) and you also may become our Next Bible Winner. (Each issue, by random selection, we award a beautiful study Bible to one student who sends in answers to "The Question Box"). You *may* be our next Bible winner. You *will* benefit from answering the "QB". Thank you for your interest in Bible study and for answering the "QB". (alf)

Old Testament Examples of Destructive Miracles

Match the destructive miracle with the reason for each. These references will assist in your study. (Lev. 10:1-5; Exo. 7 - 11; Num. 16:1-35; 21:4-9; [Gen. 6:1-8; 7:21-23]; 19:26; [Num. 25:1-9; 1 Cor. 10:1-8])

Destruction	Reason Why
1. An evil world drowned in a flood	___ Speaking against God and Moses
2. A woman "became a pillar of salt"	___ Rebelling against God's leader.
3. Ten plagues ravaged and humbled a nation	___ Rejecting God and worshipping idols
4. One plague killed more than 23,000	___ Offering "strange fire" in worship to God
5. Devoured by fire when "worshipping"	___ Following a "Hard-hearted" national leader
6. Earth "opened mouth" & "swallowed them"	___ Disobeying God by "looking back"
7. "Fiery serpents" bit and killed "much people"	___ Corruption, violence and evil imaginations

New Testament Examples of Destructive Miracles

Match the person(s) or thing in column one affected by miracle described in column two. These references will aid in your study. (Matt. 21:17-19; Acts 5:5-11; 9:1-9; 12:20-24; 13:6-13)

Describe the Destruction	Who/What was Destroyed?
1. Blinded "for a season"	___ Fig Tree
2. "Three days without sight"	___ Couple
3. "Dried up from the roots"	___ Saul
4. Angel smote, he died and worms ate	___ Herod
5. Struck dead... three hours apart	___ Elymas

The Ultimate Example of Destruction

Fill Blanks with Missing Words

- "And _____ not them which _____ the _____, but are _____ able to _____ the _____: but rather _____ him which is _____ to destroy both _____ and _____ in Hell." (Matthew 10: _____)
- "In flaming _____ taking _____ on them that _____ not _____, and that _____ not the _____ of our _____ Jesus _____: who shall be _____ with _____ destruction..." (2 Thess. 1: _____ & _____)
- "But the _____ of the _____ will come as a _____ in the _____, in the which the _____ shall _____ away with a great _____, and the _____ shall _____ with _____ heat, the _____ also and the _____ that are therein shall be _____ up." (2 Peter 3: _____)

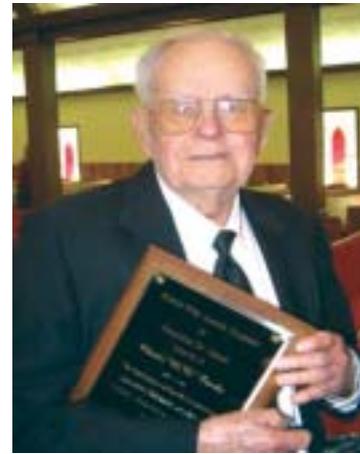
Thank you for answering "The Question Box"

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, by random drawing, the name of one student will be selected to receive 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



Martin Benjamin Franks
Still Preaching at Age 90
Lone Pine Church of Christ

Happy 90th Birthday

"Uncle B"

An uncle of mine, M. B. Franks, along with family and friends, celebrated his 90th birthday on October 11, 2008 [Born: 10/9/18]. The joyous event took place at the meeting place of the Lone Pine Church of Christ, near Merryville, Louisiana, where "Uncle B" continues to actively serve as the preacher.

M. B. Franks has been married to his beloved wife and faithful helpmeet, Rena, for nearly 70 years. He is a brother

of my late father, Lovis Franks, and is one of six sons born to Jesse and Lydia Franks -- *all six of whom have served as preachers of the gospel.*

May God continue to bless you, "Uncle B", with many more years of good health and useful service in his kingdom. Sorry June and I were unable to attend your special party. We love you and appreciate your example of faithfulness to the Lord. (alf)

New Bible Winner

Juanita LeBouef

(Eupora, MS)

Congratulations!

Good Suggestion
Answer "The Question Box"
Send in your answers
(See page 18)

Christian Travel Reports

New England - Canada

A few weeks ago, in October, two separate groups, including about 60 Christians, traveled to the Northeast. One, a **bus** trip, led by Ray Franks, traveled to/from New England. Two, a **cruise**, led by Paul Franks, traveled to parts of Canada, including Nova Scotia. A report on these special trips is planned for our next MM. (editor)

Scripture: A believer in Jesus Christ asked, "See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" **Lesson:** A **true** believer is ready and willing to manifest his faith by doing what Jesus commanded; that is, "**Be baptized.**" (Read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16)



"See here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

Scripture: A gospel teacher responded, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." **Lesson:** Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? If so, follow the example of the believer in Acts chapter 8. "...they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he

baptized him." Scripture then states that the baptized believer "went on his way rejoicing."

Closing Question: Have you shown your faith in Jesus? Have you been baptized... really baptized? (If you have questions: please feel free to call or write: A. L. Franks (601-668-3344) P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; email: franksmm@aol.com