



# Magnolia Messenger

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090

APRIL - JUNE, 2009 -- VOLUME 31; NUMBER 2 -- Our 31st Year

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

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INVITATION



**40th Anniversary  
Celebration Week  
June 8-13, 2009**

Tom Holland invites you to join thousands in Diana, TN.  
(See Ad on Page 4)

## Signs Say Something

"Wal\*mart"  
or  
"Cracker Barrel"  
or  
"Church of Christ"



(Turn to Page 2)

## MM Readers Ask About Church Discipline

**QUESTION:** I have never been a member of a congregation which disfellowshipped anyone; yet the Bible says a great deal about church discipline. Why do you suppose this command is so widely ignored? (F.R.)

**QUESTION:** Yesterday some friends of mine were kicked out of church because they drank and didn't always go to church regularly. Is the church allowed to do that? I thought God was the only one who could do that. (P.M.)



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Cecil May

## Shepherds Selected

**Union**

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**Vicksburg**

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## World's Tallest Man?

Robert or Goliath?

(Picture and story on page 13)

## Can Older Christians Have Fun?

(Answer on Page 23)

## INVITATION

from MM Editor

*Come, go with us to  
**Jerusalem.**  
This fall. God willing.*

(Open Letter on Page 9)

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

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## Reports About Churches of Christ in Mississippi

Union in Newton County  
Summit in Pike County  
Tupelo (Gloster St.)  
Tupelo (Lee Acres)  
Tupelo (East Main)  
Tupelo (West Main)  
Blue Springs (Antioch)  
McComb (Parklane)  
Pontotoc (Church St.)  
Gulfport (Orange Grove)  
Burnsville (Berea)  
Ellisville  
Yazoo City - Mexico  
Gautier on Gulf Coast  
Brookhaven (Brookway)  
Pascagoula (Central)  
Booneville (Oak Ridge)  
Ridgeland (Lake Harbour)  
Kosciusko (Huntington)  
New Albany (Hwy 15)



Simpson Suggests  
**Pause to Smell the Flowers**  
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President Presents  
Special Awards to Special People  
Including  
"Volunteer of the Year"  
Bobby Anderson (on right)  
(Details on Page 20)

## Scriptural Studies

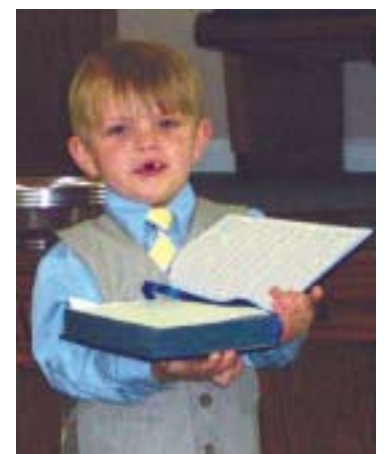
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**No Cigarettes  
No Beer  
No Sundays**

Old Country Store - Since 1907  
Sid Williams  
(one of the owners)  
An elder in the Philadelphia, MS  
Church of Christ. (See Page 8)



**Leadership Training  
Starting**  
With the Very Young  
at NE Mississippi's  
Oak Ridge Church  
(Story on Page 19)

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



## Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Dear Bro. Franks,

Just a note on behalf of our Madison family to express our deepest appreciation for your generous, informative article in the recent Messenger. We were thrilled to have you and June visit us in December. Your fine article will be invaluable to us as we try to get our message out state-wide. Thanks so much. God bless you in your excellent editorial work with the Messenger. Brotherly in Christ, **Jim Howard**

(Brother Jim preaches for the Madison Church of Christ in Madison, Mississippi.)

Thanks for the Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy it very much. I want to help in a small way. (**Maxine McCarley**)

Please put us on your mailing list. I recently attended church services in Natchez and picked up one of your Magnolia Messengers and enjoyed reading it. Thanks. (**Wynell Ardis**, Tusculumbia, AL)

Enclosed you will find my donation to your good work. May God be glorified through all that the Magnolia Messenger does. In Him, (**Maggie Craddock**, Springdale, AR)

Al & June,

I enjoyed filling this out. (Question Box) Paul didn't make me do it!! Love ya, (**Sandra Martin**, Lake Charles, LA)

**Readers' Response Welcomed!**

We enjoy keeping up with churches and their work and articles that are very uplifting through the Magnolia Messenger. Sending a small contribution to help wherever needed. God bless you in this great work. (**Charlene Williams**, Brookhaven, MS)

In this day of fiscal uncertainty and frugality I request that you no longer mail the Magnolia Messenger to my residence. This will save you at least my subscription cost. Any information I wish to gain can be done via internet for email. Thank you, (Name withheld by editor)

Al,

I can't believe the amount of emails and calls and notes I'm getting in response to the article about Song Leaders. The MM really has a wide readership and the readers are so kind to me. Thanks for running this article. I appreciate you and your work more than you will ever know...

I wish every region of our country had someone like you who published a paper like the MM. This work is so vital in keeping us together and informed. We need each other in this battle and you are doing a great job doing just that. (**Ken Joines**; Southaven, MS)

**Editor's Note:** Publishing the MM is a *cooperative* effort. Many are they who make our work possible. We daily thank God for His blessings and for the generosity of His children.



## Signs Say Something!

### Cracker Barrel

A sign on a building that proclaims "Cracker Barrel" says something to me. When needing or desiring the services of a restaurant, the words "Cracker Barrel" have special meaning. Yes, when it comes to eating, the sign out front says something.

Personal experience has taught me to expect certain things when visiting anyone of nearly 600 stores and/or restaurants. When my June and I visit Cracker Barrel, we expect friendly people, good home-style country cooking, an open fireplace, walls covered with antiques, rocking chairs, checker games, *no alcoholic drinks*, fair prices and the privilege of two people sharing just one order. We also have learned to appreciate the fact that Cracker Barrel is "RV friendly." Yes, their sign says something.

### Wal\*mart

A Walmart sign on a building says something to me. When needing or desiring groceries, clothing and/or household items the word "Walmart" has special meaning. Yes, the sign out front says something.

Personal experience has taught us, over several years, to expect certain things when visiting anyone of the more than 3,800 Walmart stores in the nation. We expect to find at Walmart's SuperCenters just about anything or everything we need for food, the house, the yard and the car. We have come to expect, maybe "not the best of services" but what may be considered a "fair price." We have also learned to appreciate the fact that Walmart is also "RV friendly."

### "Church of Christ"

When I see a sign on or near

a building which declares, "Church of Christ [Meets Here]", it says something to me. When my June and I decide to enter a building, where folks assemble under the banner "church of Christ", we have come to expect certain things. We expect to find people who are friendly, loving and caring -- who truly love the Lord and their "neighbors" (John 13:34,35; cf. Mark 12:28-31).

Over many years, we have come to expect to find worship services on the Lord's Day that are simple; yet, very scriptural and uplifting. We expect to see a people who give attention to the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-24; Acts 20:7). We expect to be given an opportunity to join in with the congregation in praising God and edifying one another in "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). And, inasmuch as the church of the first century used only vocal music in worship, we have come to expect the Lord's people in our century to sing praises without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music. (*No authority for the use of instrumental music in the worship of Christians to God can be found*



A. L. Franks  
EDITOR



in the New Testament.)

In choosing to worship with a people known as churches of Christ, we have come to expect fervent prayers led only by men and Bible studies in classes and sermons taught by qualified males (I Timothy 2:8-13). We expect the Bible is to be the basis and the very center of all instructional and educational matters in the church and we expect a "thus saith the Lord" to be gladly given in support of all doctrinal and moral issues.

In a world with many different offerings -- whether in places to *eat*, places to *shop* or places to *worship*, a sign seems to have a vital place. This is especially true when words of a sign are used to identify a place or a people of worship.

Back in the first century A.D., when followers of Christ were taught to respect the will of the Lord that "there be no divisions among you" (I Cor. 1:10), and reverence the prayer of Jesus that His disciples all "be one" (John 17:20-21), and when there was but "one body" [church] (Eph. 4:4; 1:22,23), and in a time when church buildings, as such, were unknown, signs were probably not considered that important.

While there is no specific "name" given to the church of the New Testament; yet, some means of identification seems almost necessary in a world filled with conflicting and confusing churches and teachings. So, even though it takes much more than a sign to represent those who make up Christ's true church; yet, can we not agree that a sign says *something*?

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**Comments Invited!**

## Magnolia Messenger

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

**QUESTION: I have never been a member of a congregation which disfellowshipped anyone; yet the Bible says a great deal about church discipline. Why do you suppose this command is so widely ignored? (F. R.)**

**Yesterday some friends of mine were kicked out of church because they drank and didn't always go to church regularly. Is the church allowed to do that? I thought God was the only one who could do that. (P. M.)**

**RESPONSE:** These two questions, which are representative of several received about this issue, illustrate the wide divergence of feelings about this biblical teaching.

No doubt one of the errors frequently associated with the biblical teaching of church discipline is that some congregations simply ignore it. However, the implication sometimes heard that there are blatant sinners in every congregation that need to be disfellowshipped is, in my opinion, a misunderstanding of the nature of church discipline as a whole and of the kind of person to whom withdrawal of fellowship needs to be applied.

In some cases it is applied too quickly or precipitously and in some cases inconsistently. In still other cases it may be unscrupulously used as a tool of an authoritarian preacher or eldership to keep people in line.

Phrases like "kicked out of church" betray a serious misunderstanding of what should be a patient, loving process designed to save a soul as well as to protect the good name and influence of a congregation.

## What Is Church Discipline?

Definition number one of "discipline" in the *Oxford Universal Dictionary* is "Instruction imparted to disciples or scholars; teaching; learning; education." It is only at definitions seven and eight that ideas related to punishment and ecclesiastical enforcement of church order are mentioned. Anytime a congregation is engaged in teaching, encouraging, correction, or admonishing, especially as it relates to behavior of individuals, it is practicing church discipline.

## Withdrawal of Fellowship

Only rarely does a situation reach a point where a person needs to be disfellowshipped.

A good starting place to see what the Bible says about that is in chapter 5 of Paul's apostolic letter, called 1 Corinthians.

Paul told the Corinthians, "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you" (1 Corinthians 5:1-3).

Throughout the rest of the chapter he uses several other expressions equivalent to "let him be removed from among you": "deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh" (5:5); "cleanse out the old leaven" (5:7); "not to associate with," twice (5:9 and 5:11); "not even to eat with" (5:11); and "Purge the evil person from among you" (5:13).

First, a further comment on two of the expressions.

The last one, "Purge the evil person from among you," is cited from Deuteronomy where it appears at least seven times, 13:5; 17:7; 17:12; 21:21; 22:21; 22:22; 22:24. In Deuteronomy the "purging" is done by capital punishment!

An expression similar to "deliver to Satan for the destruction of the flesh" is also used by Paul in his first letter to Timothy concerning some false teachers. "By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme" (1 Timothy 1:19-20).

"Deliver to Satan" in 1 Corinthians 5 is obviously parallel with the other expressions referring to withdrawing fellowship from and therefore certainly means the same thing, which in turn throws light on the meaning in 1 Timothy.

What is very clear from this chapter is that, in this case of an unrepentant, grossly immoral brother, the church was told to refuse to allow him continued acceptance and fellowship as a faithful brother.

## Why Not Done More Often?

The Corinthians, Paul said, "were arrogant" (v. 2) and "boasting" that they tolerated this sin in their fellowship (v. 6).

Perhaps in this day when tolerance seems to be the only virtue to be celebrated and intolerance the only sin to be condemned, except that intolerance of anything perceived to be intolerance is not only tolerated but encouraged, there may be a valuable lesson for us.

The grace of God is a great thing of which to boast. Indeed, Scripture suggests it is the only thing of which we have a right to boast. "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14).

However, there are warnings, too. "Where sin increased, grace

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20), but that does not mean that we are "to continue in sin that grace may abound" (Romans 6:1).

Jude says there are "people who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). KJV translates it "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness."

Note 1 Corinthians 5:6, "Your boasting is not good." Toleration of sin, whatever the excuse, is never something of which to be proud. God's grace is amazing! But grace must not be used to excuse continued rebellious participation in gross immorality, by us or by others.

## A Clear Command

In this case Paul uses his apostolic authority and firmly and clearly commands: "For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 5:3-5).

## Purposes of Withdrawal

The point of the exercise is "that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord." When the similar expression is used in 1 Timothy, it is "that (Hymenaeus and Alexander) may learn not to blaspheme."

To the Thessalonians Paul wrote, "If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing

to do with him, that he may be ashamed." Again the intended effect is to change the one toward whom the action is directed. The next verse speaks to the attitude with which the whole process is to be conducted. "Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother" (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15).

Throughout Scripture discipline is always designed for correction.

However, another purpose is to protect the church from the contamination of sin. "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened" (1 Corinthians 5:6b-7a). Unrestrained sin influences others to sin.

A third purpose relates to the influence of the church in the world. The world may ridicule the church for its stand against sin and will try very hard to entice Christians into sin, but when they succeed and Christians fall, the world loses respect for the church. The church must be "in the world but not of the world" for the sake of the world, as well as for the sake of the church.

## Misuses of Withdrawal

One obvious deviation from biblical teaching on this subject is a simple failure to apply it when it needs to be followed.

Others, however, seem to think of it as a tool of first resort wherever there is any disagreement of action, doctrine or opinion, and that is an equal deviation from biblical teaching on this subject.

There were many errors and serious sins prevalent in Corinth that Paul dealt with in 1 Corinthians. In addition to the immoral man sleeping with his father's wife, there was division based on carnal attitudes and preacheritis (chapters 1-3); there were brothers using pagan judges to defraud their brethren (6:1-8); there was additional rampant sexual immorality (6:9-20); some had desecrated the Lord's supper turning it into a drunken gluttonous feast (11); speakers in tongues and women were speaking out in unedifying and shameful ways in the assemblies (14); and some at Corinth were denying there was a resurrection from the dead (15).

Paul certainly wrote to correct all of these problems, but despite varying degrees of severity, the only sin for which he counseled withdrawal of fellowship at the time was the flagrant immorality in chapter 5.

"Church discipline" is faithfully practiced in a great number of congregations today that may never see an instance of withdrawal of fellowship. Withdrawal of fellowship is the end of a number of steps, all of which are designed to produce results and keep withdrawal of fellowship from having to occur.

Withdrawal of fellowship is not a cure for immaturity. Babes need

to be fed with milk and not with strong meat, slowly introduced to unfamiliar phrases and concepts, shielded from some things they are not yet able to bear.

Withdrawal of fellowship is not a cure for ignorance or for the honestly mistaken. They need to be taught, persuaded, and reasoned with from the Scripture.

Withdrawal of fellowship is not helpful in dealing with the discouraged. They need to be encouraged, exhorted and edified.

Withdrawal of fellowship is for those who "bear the name of brother" who are "guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolator, reviler, drunkard or swindler" (1 Corinthians 5:11).

It is not intended to be the initial reaction to the discovery of a brother's first infraction, but is something that occurs only at the end of a lengthy process designed to correct a continued course of sinful actions.

Jesus suggested several prior steps. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector" (Matthew 18:15-17).

In the beginning this deals with a private offence but by step two it has become more public.

(I remember telling a brother who held a grudge against another brother and had hardly spoken to him for years, though they worshipped together in the same congregation, that the Lord required him to follow this procedure. He said, "Oh, it wasn't important enough to go through all of that.")

Well, he was probably right in his assessment of it, but that certainly means it was not important enough to carry a grudge about for years either.)

Note that the third step is "tell it to the church." As is clear from what follows, that is not an announcement of withdrawal of fellowship. It is an attempt to enlist the whole church into the effort to get the offender to repent so that withdrawal will not be necessary.

Only after "he refuses to listen even to the church" does the church count him "as a Gentile and a tax collector."

Paul told Titus "As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him" (Titus 3:10).

Withdrawal of fellowship is not an immediate reaction to a brother's or sister's sin. It is the end of a long process of trying to get them to repent and return.

**See DISCIPLINE on Page 16**



Union Church in Newton Country Selects Elders



(From left) Sam Williamson, Rick Benson and Bill Koch

Rick Benson, a graduate of MBC, also serves as preacher for the church. Our congratulations to the Union church for their progress in recently becoming organized according to New Testament teachings. In a special event (campaign), attendance at Union climbed up to 70 on a Tuesday evening in April. This was very encouraging. May God continue to bless our *united and organized* brethren at Union.

Sunday Night at Summit

On Sunday evening (May 3rd), we were blessed with an opportunity to visit the services of the Lord's church in Summit, MS where we heard an excellent sermon delivered by a preacher/elder. **Randy Spring**, a recently appointed elder with the Johnson Grove church and **Jeff Frank**, a deacon with the McComb congregation, take turns in capably filling the pulpit at Summit.

It was a joy to be with all the friendly folks at Summit who evidenced their love for the Lord by being present for a Sunday evening service. May God's blessings continue. (alf)



Randy Spring: Elder/preacher

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**LEXINGTON**

We are pleased to report that **Ben Jackson**, a graduate of MBC, is presently preaching for the small church in Lexington. Attendance on Sunday, May 10, was up to twelve -- a noticeable increase over the usual number. We pray for his work and for the continued efforts of the Lexington church.

**BOONEVILLE**

The Booneville Church of Christ has planned to have different speakers on Wednesday nights beginning June 3, and ending on July 29, 2009. The series is called "Winning Wednesdays 2009" and the theme is "The Uniqueness of the Church." Alan Highers is scheduled to speak on Sunday, June 7th with lunch together and evening worship at 1:30.

"Homecoming"  
Celebrated Revival  
of Tupelo's  
Skyline Church



On February 22, 2009 we were richly blessed to be able to spend a very special Sunday with the Skyline church, near Tupelo, Mississippi. The day was set aside to celebrate and to give thanks for the progress being made by the church since it was "re-vived" in the mid-nineties. My June and I could not help but recall the former "glory days" of the Skyline church (back in the 1950's) when it was not unusual for Sunday attendance to exceed 150 and gospel meetings would literally "pack the building."

*Then cometh Satan.* Problems arose. Sin entered the "camp". Divison developed. And, over a period of several years, various difficulties became so pronounced that the doors of the meeting house were closed. The Skyline church no longer assembled.

*Thank the Lord.* And, thanks to such men as **Robert Willis**, an effort was taken to "re-establish" the Skyline church. With the special assistance of certain women, in particular, who were former members, progress was made. The old building was re-opened and attendance began to increase. Folks started coming "back home." Some were converted.

Along about this time, **Troy McNutt** accepted the challenge of assisting in the work and became the regular voice in the pulpit and has remained so to this day.

At this most recent "homecoming" service, it was my privilege to speak both morning and afternoon and to be just one among the many who expressed gratitude to God for his blessings upon the "revival" of the Skyline church.

Older representatives of several families, who were key members at Skyline during the later half of the 20th century, were present for the homecoming. These included **Estelle Golf** (Golf family), **Prentiss Pearson** (Pearson family) and **L. D. Willis** (Willis family).

My June and I were blessed to be a part of "Homecoming for 2009". It was exciting to see attendance reach 88 for the morning service and to experience the joy of reunions and to participate in thanksgiving. May God continue to richly bless the Skyline church. And, a very special thanks to brother McNutt for his continued concern and leadership ability. (editor)

**MM is in need of YOUR PRAYERS**

Thank you!



Shed Built for the Diana Singing held twice each year.

The **DIANA SINGING** is held in Diana, Tennessee on the second Friday and Saturday in June and second Friday and Saturday in September each year. The singing begins each night at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and lasts until the wee hours of the morning on Friday night and ends at 11:30 on Saturday night.

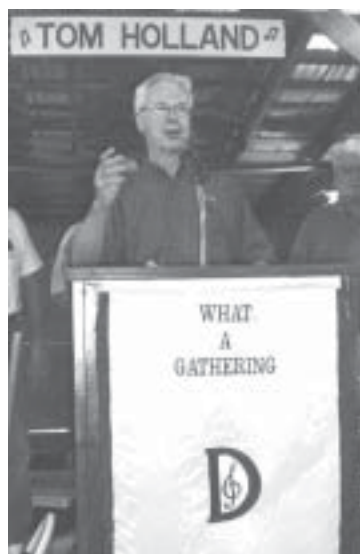


"Hurry. let's go get one of those good ham sandwiches made famous by the Diana Singing."

Share the Excitement

Be a part of the  
**"Sweetest Singing  
This Side of Heaven"**

40th Anniversary  
**Diana Singing**  
June 12,13, 2009



Tom Holland, who helped begin the Diana Singing in 1969, continues to provide valuable leadership. [thomasholland1@bellsouth.net](mailto:thomasholland1@bellsouth.net)



Some of more than 3,000 in attendance during fall of 2008

The next **Diana Singing** of 2009 will be held June 12 and 13. Thousands of singers from all over the country will join voices under and around the great singing shed in Diana, TN. Bring your camper or stay in a local hotel or bed & breakfast. You will definitely not want to miss this grand gathering. There will be plenty of country ham sandwiches for all who attend.

This year we will be celebrating during the week with special meals and fun games. We will also be having a gospel meeting Monday - Thursday with Tom Holland speaking and Jack Parks leading singing.

**Free Campground with Hookups. See You There!**

Web: [dianasinging.com](http://dianasinging.com)

The **DIANA SINGING** began in 1969. Now over 3,000 visitors regularly attend the singing which is held in a shed built especially for this event. There is a camping area, museum and gift shop. Concessions are available including the **best country ham sandwiches** you've ever eaten.



Meeting House for Diana Church of Christ



## Be Strong & Courageous

- Seth Sullivan -

Webster's Dictionary defines courage as "the quality of being brave: the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear." I can remember back to my early high school football days when my coach told me as a freshman that if I was to succeed then I must accept the challenges ahead and face them with strength, courage, and endurance. I had to get stronger and become mentally awake. He said the best thing for me to do was to give it time and observe the upper classmen. To a small extent that was discouraging news.

At first I wasn't optimistic, however, in time I found encouragement in the seniors. They challenged me to go beyond my abilities and to exceed the expectation. In time, when the seniors had graduated I slowly began to realize that if I wanted to succeed then I had to give it all I had. My heart was anxious to get in the game. Through the test of time, I did.

Have you ever studied Joshua? He faced a daunting challenge. After the children of Israel had finally made it to the border of Canaan they were told some discouraging news. Their famous leader Moses wasn't going with them into the Promised Land. After Moses died the Lord spoke to Joshua, Moses' assistant, and said that he would lead the people into battle against the Canaanites (Joshua 1:2).

The Bible says that Joshua was told four times by the Lord to "be strong and courageous" (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9, 18). I remember the words of courageous Caleb who said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30). Through the test of time, Joshua and the Israelites succeeded (Joshua 21:43).

The story of young David is quiet telling! In I Samuel 17, the Bible tells of Israel's engagement with mighty Goliath. Goliath was

a man greatly feared. Who could face this awesome being? Young David, the shepherd boy, accepted the challenge (I Samuel 17:32)!

King Saul told David that he wasn't ready for such an awesome task (I Samuel 17:33). However, David exceeded the expectation! David courageously approached mighty Goliath and with a sling and stone he slew the giant (I Samuel 17:50). David found confidence within himself and

God. As a result, David succeeded (I Samuel 17:45, 46).

How did these men triumph over such odds? They put their trust in God and made the decision to take ACTION! They calculated the steps for success. They faced the uncertainty with courage, and the difficulties with strength. With God on their side, they succeeded (Romans 8:31).

Will you accept the challenges that come in your life? Are you facing difficulties with strength and courage? Do you contend for the faith (Jude 3)? If not, seek the kingdom first (Matthew 6:33),

stand fast in the Lord and work with the saints (Philippians 1:27). Faithfully follow Christ and meet persecution with endurance (Matthew 10:22; II Timothy 3:12).

Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17) and glorify Him through your efforts (I Peter 1:5-7). The KEY to success depends on YOU!

Brother Sullivan is an associate minister with the Kensington Woods church of Christ in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He can be reached at sethka63@hotmail.com or telephone: 601.264.2945 ext. 15



Seth Sullivan



**PRAYERS**  
for  
Magnolia Bible College  
are  
Solicited & Appreciated

## Eating Out

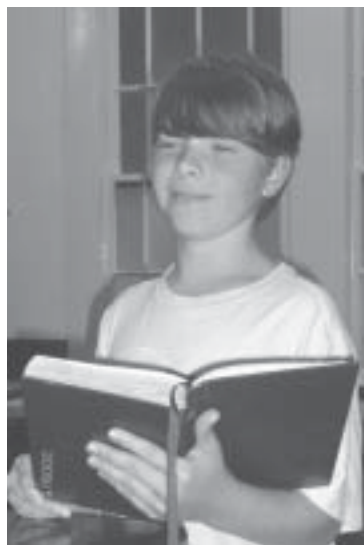
A Great Way to Meet and Eat With Fellow Christians

In March of 2009, my June and I spent a few days in the Tupelo area working on this issue of the MM. Over a period of several days, we chose to eat out a number of times. Within a span of only 3 or 4 days, we were blessed to meet up with several Christians from area churches of Christ. They, like us, had chosen to eat out in two of the more popular restaurants in Tupelo.

Our lives were blessed to enjoy fellowship with **Monte and Jan Key** (Gloster Street - Tupelo), **Jimmy and Billie McNutt** (East Main, Tupelo); also **Mike & Linda Stanford** (Mayfield, Sallito). Then one evening we ran into **Reggie Crawford, Jr.** from Memphis who was helping with the transportation of students from Harding Academy in Memphis, TN. On another evening, at Cracker Barrel, we were privileged to sit, eat and visit with **Calvin & Sudie Turner**; also **John & Sandi Tompkins** -- both couples from the West Main church in Tupelo. Finally, we were excited to sit with and eat with **Jim and Shirley Fortune**, members of the church on Eureka Street in Batesville.

It is unnecessary to say to MM readers that eating is enjoyable, especially when you are blessed to be in the company of fellow Christians. June and I recommend that when you visit a public restaurant, even if out of town -- look around and see if you see any of your brothers and sisters in the Lord. If so, take a moment to say "hello" and, if possible, sit and eat with them. It provides a *double* blessing. You'll be stronger, physically and spiritually!

Churches Serious About Training Leaders for Tomorrow



Brandon Moak

Song Leading at Summit, MS

In our recent travels, my June and I have noticed what *seems to be* an increase in emphasizes on training young people to be leaders in the Lord's church. This has especially been noted in opportunities given to young men to gain experience in song leading. Brandon (age 11) is pictured above leading singing on Sunday evening (5/3/09) at the Summit church. We commend church leaders for training young folks for tomorrow.

## Be Hospitable to One Another

"Use hospitality one to another without grudging." (1 Peter 4:9)

- Eddie Lewis -

In Scripture there are several verses that use the phrase "One another." These words describe special activities that would enable the body of Christ to function effectively and grow spiritually. The Greek word is "allelon." It is used some 58 times in the New Testament, 40 of these by Paul alone. If you took all these references and put them all together according to their meaning, they can be placed into twelve significant actions that Christians are to take toward "one another" in building the body of Christ. One of these actions is hospitality.

First, it is important to remember that Paul points out that we have a mutual obligation to each other in the church. He uses the illustration of the body to talk about it (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12). He plainly says we are one. No one is above the other. All are important (1 Corinthians 12:12-16, 25-27). We have different works and different gifts, but even the less important works are held in high esteem in the Body (v. 23). Our relationship is that we rejoice with those rejoicing and suffer with those that are suffering. We support each other because we are "member of one another" (Romans 12:4, 5).

Let's look at one of these relationships, "**Be hospitable to one another without complaint**" (1 Peter 4:9). The word "hospitable" is defined as: "Receiving and entertaining guests generously and kindly; liberally receptive." From this definition we understand that it is an attitude of the heart that Peter is talking about. It is being generous toward others. This generosity is of the liberal kind. In other words we give of ourselves to others beyond what is normally expected.

Consider some verses that support this definition and tell us why we are to practice it. First is Peter's statement in our text (1 Peter 4:9). He tells about Christ sacrifice for us and our sacrifice for Him. He tells us to "arm yourselves also with the same mind or purpose" (v.1). What was Christ attitude? In verses 8 and 9 Peter tells us two attitudes we are to have if we are

to be like Christ. **Love** each other and practice **hospitality**. We are to serve each other generously and without grumbling. Sometimes people try to excuse themselves from hospitality by saying, "My house is not nice enough to have guest over" or "My house is too small." Hospitality is an attitude; it's about the spirit of giving to others and not about the size of your house.



Eddie Lewis

Another passage is Paul's statement in Romans chapter twelve (Romans 12:13). In the beginning of the chapter Paul challenges us to give ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. He gives the qualities of that type of Christian in verses 9-21. Consider the list: "Love, hate evil, be affectionate to each other, zeal, serve the Lord, joyful, patient, prayer, distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality" (v. 13). From this verse we can see that hospitality means helping others with needs. We are concerned about others and help them with whatever need they have.

A soldier was telling of a serious wound he received in battle. Someone asked, "Did you fall?" He replied, "No, my buddies saw I was hurt and so they gathered so close around me that I couldn't fall." Now that is hospitality! Christians are those who care so much that they gather so close around a friend that they can't fall even though they have suffered a loss. Someone said, "A friend is someone who steps in when others step out." That is hospitality.

God gave instruction to Israel as to the reason they were to show hospitality (Leviticus 19:33-34). He said, "You be hospitable to strangers because you were strangers once." How were they to treat the stranger? They were to treat him like kinfolks. All of us have that unusual cousin, but we treat him with love, because he is family. Here Moses is telling them to do the same thing. It sounds like he is telling them to practice the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12).

The story is told of a rich man feeling that he was without friends. He said that at his death he would divide his fortune among his friends, if only he knew who they were. Years passed and he died. His death occurred in the middle

See Hospitable on Page 16



# G.P.S.

## God's Plan of Salvation

- Raymond Elliott -

I had thought that I might enjoy having one but I never dreamed that someone would give me a GPS, but they did.

Much to my surprise, some of my children gave me a GPS for a Christmas present. A son took charge of getting the thing ready for me to use in my car. He put the address of a local business into the GPS and this lady's voice instructed me when and where to turn in



order to get to my destination as I looked at a map where I was to travel.

In case you might not be familiar with this gadget, here is a brief definition: "The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based navigation system made up of a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit by the U.S. Department of Defense. GPS was originally intended for military applications, but in the 1980s, the government made the system available for civilian use. GPS works in any weather conditions, anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day." Theoretically I should never get lost while traveling when I use my GPS.

In the beginning of man's existence on earth he was in a safe place and in a perfect relationship with Jehovah God. In a sense man was not saved because he had never been in a lost condition. But he became estranged from his God and in a lost condition because of his disobedience to the commands given to him from God (Genesis 2:15-17; Isaiah 59:1,2; Romans 5:12).

However, in the darkest day of man's existence in the beautiful Garden of Eden, God's plan for man's salvation is found in Genesis 3:15 when the "seed of woman" was mentioned. The "seed" is also referred to as being the "seed" of Abraham. The apostle Paul defined that "seed" as being Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:19, 16). The fact is, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was referred to by John in Revelation 13:8 as being "slain from the foundation of the world."

The Lord God, in His infinite wisdom, foreknowledge and marvelous grace and love, planned aforetime to provide salvation for mankind through the death of His

beloved Son (Hebrews 2:9; Ephesians 2:5,8; John 3:16).

Throughout the Old Testament there is the theme that 'someone is coming' and that being the promised Messiah who would bring salvation to the human race. Isaiah, the messianic prophet,

prophesied hundreds of years before the coming of the Savior: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14); and His name was to be called Jesus "for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus, in answering Thomas who asked Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:5, 6). The roadmap that leads to salvation and to the Father is found in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the *only* way (Acts 4:12)! So He says to all who would be His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). The way that Jesus leads us is "narrow" and "difficult" but the reward is eternal life (NKJV, Matthew 7:13, 14). God has given perfect and complete directions in His Holy Word that will lead us to Jesus Christ and salvation (Psalms 119:105; John 6:44, 45; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:2-4).

God's plan of salvation certainly involves man's response. A person must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24); repent of sins (Acts 17:30) and based upon a confession of faith in Christ, be immersed in His name for the remission of sins (Romans 10:9, 10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Following in the steps of the Savior we will never stray from the way that is infallibly safe and secure and that leads to "the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10, 11). May our attitude always be as found in the song, "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow".

Brother Elliott, gospel preacher, can be reached at his email address which is:  
[raymondelliott@knology.net](mailto:raymondelliott@knology.net)

## As Seen In Philadelphia, MS No Smoking

Not all changes in America are bad. We are grateful to be able to eat in restaurants that are "smoke free." Many who used to smoke are among the first to agree that they now dislike being in rooms where smokers feel free to "light up". Second hand smoke is proven to be harmful. And, even among those who still smoke, they usually express a willingness to not irritate non-smokers. Our personal experience in "eating out" is that most people willing comply with "No Smoking" signs. We are grateful.



### Make Your Own Change

Honesty is still with us. Not all are "cheats" and/or "dead-beats." A few restaurants still trust their customers by allowing them to pay for their meals without supervision and to "make their own change." This practice may not be seen as often as it used to be; however, it was refreshing to see a basket filled with money openly setting in a "family restaurant" in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where my June and I recently enjoyed a delicious "home cooked country lunch." Maybe, it is still true that "most people are basically honest." I hope so. How wonderful life could/would be if everyone knew and practiced the teachings of our Lord as revealed in the New Testament! "Let him that stole steal no more...." (Ephesians 4:28).

17th Annual  
Mississippi State Youth Conference  
Hosted by Delta Area  
Churches of Christ  
(Billy C. Moore, Host minister)  
**May 29-31, 2009**

Theme  
"Christian Youth: Living Right  
in a World So Wrong"  
on the beautiful campus of  
**Delta State University**  
**Cleveland, Mississippi**  
(More information: 662-846-6075)



Grady and Dean Phillips of Steens MS

### 60th anniversary Celebrated March 30

We appreciate hearing from Brenda Carter of Columbus, Mississippi, who recently sent us a report concerning the 60th wedding anniversary of her beloved parents. Brenda stated that her mom and dad, both faithful members of the Caledonia Church of Christ, were married on March 30, 1949 at the home of Brice and Dot Allsup in Macon, Mississippi. Brenda was pleased to say that her dad had served as an elder of the church and that her mom "is a wonderful cook... everyone asks for her caramel cake... but it's the type she says you have to watch her make it to ensure the icing is done correctly! It's the old timey kind of icing, done in a skillet!" Our congratulations to the Phillips and commend them for their worthy example in a long lasting marriage. May God bless. (Thank you, Brenda, for the report. Al & June)

### NEW ALBANY Church Conducts Marriage Seminar

Glen & Cindy Colley recently conducted a Marriage Seminar at the New Albany Church of Christ. There were 74 in attendance with 42 being from other congregations. The other congregations represented were: Amory, Ashland, Booneville, Byhalia, Hwy 178, New Albany, Kosciusko, Pontotoc, Ripley, and Senatobia, Mississippi. Out of State were: Pulaski, Tennessee and Richmond Hill, Georgia. (Picture on page 12)

### RIENZI

The North Rienzi Church of Christ has a Gospel Meeting scheduled for May 31-June 3 at 7pm. Guest speaker will be **Adam Evans**.

## MARRIAGE

### "A Gift of/from God"

ONE  
Wife  
(woman)  
(for life)



ONE  
Husband  
(man)  
(for life)

"...male and female made he them."

(Genesis 1:27)

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

"... they twain [two] shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are NO MORE TWAIN, BUT ONE FLESH."

"... What therefore GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, let not man put asunder."

"For this cause God gave them up unto VILE AFFECTIONS: for even their women did change the NATURAL USE into that which is AGAINST NATURE:

"And likewise also the men, leaving the NATURAL use of the woman, burned in their LUST one toward another; MEN WITH MEN worketh that which is UNSEEMLY, and receiving in themselves that RECOMPENSE OF THEIR ERROR which was meet."

"Let marriage be had in honor among all, and the bed undefiled: for FORNICATORS AND ADULTERERS GOD WILL JUDGE."  
(Heb. 13:4) -- (Words capitalized by editor for emphasizes)





## Gloster Street Building and Church More Visible to the Community

Removal of two houses on the south side opened up the visibility of the church building. A very entergetic evangelistic program opens wider the outreach of the church to the community of Tupelo in North Mississippi.

Driving north on Gloster Street in Tupelo, Mississippi, we noticed that something looked different about the church building owned and used by the church of Christ. The building seemed to be more noticeable than ever before.

According to preacher Chad Ramsey, not only is the church building more noticeable (due to the removal of two houses on the south side), the church itself is becoming more visible to the city and county. We were excited to learn of their evangelistic efforts involving several means of outreach they are using in Lee County's largest city.

In addition to a schedule of weekly services, the Gloster Street congregation sends out approximately **15,000 copies** of "Heart to Heart/House to House" every two months -- reaching virtually every home in the city. Regular TV programs ("DaySpring") featuring one of the elders, **James Segars**, is telecast on several outlets, especially in NE Mississippi.

Radio spots are run daily, along with a 30 minute weekly program on Tupelo's "SuperTalk" station. Every Monday, a newspaper Bible teaching article reaches out to readers of the "Daily Journal." An active jail ministry has been responsible for thousands of Bible Correspondence Courses.

All of these efforts are designed to open doors for personal teaching. The local preacher stated, "We are seeking to hit every avenue we can to reach people with the gospel."

In addition to great emphases placed on local evangelism, the church is actively involved in foreign and stateside missions.

Estherville, Iowa benefits from the evangelistic efforts of the Gloster Street church. A campaign was held there last year and, again this year, 41 persons have made known their plans to travel to Iowa with the gospel message in a meeting scheduled for June 10 - 15.

Preacher Ramsey expressed gratitude to God for the financial ability and readiness to give liberally -- enabling the Gloster Street church to be heavily involved in mission efforts at home and away. He is well aware of the fact that ability increases responsibility.

The Gloster Street church of Christ in Tupelo is, in one respect, an "old church" -- soon to celebrate 100 years of service (established in 1914). There is another sense in which the church is, in reality, a "young congregation". True, there are many older, faithful members, but the church is made up largely of younger families. For instance, brother Chad said that a typical Wednesday night service of 180 would likely include 85 children.

Average attendance at Gloster Street in recent months shows 215 for Sunday mornings, 186 on Sunday nights and 171 on Wednesday evenings.

This more visible building and church which meets within its walls is presently served by four capable elders, **James Segars, Gary Martin, Monte Key** and **Wayne Washington**. Their pulpit preacher for the past 5 1/2 years is **Chad Ramsey**. **Brian Galloway** also serves as one of the ministers. **Andrea O'Rear** is secretary. Four deacons assist in the vital and visible work. (alf, editor)

## Christians at Antioch Conduct Gospel Meeting

The last Wednesday night in March found my June and me in NE Mississippi. We had heard that the church at Antioch was having a gospel meeting, so we decided we would attend. Driving just a few miles from our campground, we arrived at their beautiful "new" building (*the old building was destroyed by fire and was replaced with a new one about two years ago*).

We were soon to be reminded that **Darrell Beard**, long time preacher for the East Main church in Tupelo, had accepted the challenge of working with the country church following his "retirement" at Tupelo. He and his wife, **Betty**, now live most of each week in the Blue Springs (Antioch) community where they are seeking to build up the church that brings together about 100 each Lord's day.

Their Spring Meeting was concluding on the night of our visit. Evangelist **B. J. Clark**, who preached for the Southaven church (*in the edge of Memphis*) for more than 16 years, was their choice for a meeting preacher. (*Brother Clark is now Dean of Admissions, Memphis School of Preaching, and speaker on "The Everlasting Gospel" Telecast.*)

Brother Clark's well prepared lesson was on the *Conversion of Cornelius*. Using the Centurion of Caesarea as an example, B. J. effectively pointed out that it takes more than morality to be saved and that one can be devoutly religious and yet be in a lost condition. According to the scriptures (Acts 10 & 11) Cornelius was both very religious and highly moral; yet, he was lost and in need of salvation which could come only through knowledge of and faithful obedience to Christ.



B. J. Clarke

We were blessed on March 25th to hear the closing sermon of Antioch's Gospel Meeting and to be in the company of some of the friendliest folks around. We enjoyed spending a little time with both brethren Clark and Beard. Also, it was pleasure to visit briefly with the two elders of the Antioch church -- Donnie Hamblin and Alan "Buddy" Hitt. They were a source of encouragement. In fact, we were encouraged by all we were privileged to be with on the night we attended a gospel meeting with fellow Christians in Antioch.

Prayers for the MM are Much Appreciated!

## Touching Base at Lee Acres in Tupelo



Eight churches of Christ are listed for Tupelo, Mississippi in the latest edition of *Churches of Christ in the United States*. One of these churches, the Lee Acres church, is considered the newest congregation -- planted in 1969. (*It is in order to note that the Skyline church, on the southeast side of Tupelo, where my wife and I worked in the late 50's and early 60's, was "re-established" in 1995.*)

On a recent (3/30/09) Monday afternoon my June and I stopped by the spacious building of the Lee Acres church located on Woodlawn Drive and found secretary **Traci Thomas** present and busy at work. Traci was very kind as she greeted us and informed

us that **Phil MacLean** is now serving as preacher for their congregation of about 100. She said that preacher Phil has been "full-time" with the church for the past six months. We asked about **Jerry Grammar**, a former preacher at Lee Acres, and learned that he was still an active member of the local church, but that he was now working with and serving effectively as a chaplain for "Hospice Care" in Tupelo.

Sorry we missed seeing brother MacLean; although, we enjoyed visiting with sister Traci. Our plans are to become better acquainted with the work that is going on with brethren who call Lee Acres in SW Tupelo their "home congregation." (*editor*)

Will Anderson (left), preacher for the church in Courtland, was presented a Certificate of Completion by Robert Rawson, director of Batesville's "Training School for Better Service."



### A Report from Robert Rawson

The latest of those earning a Certificate of Completion from our "Training School For Better Service" here in Batesville is Will Anderson. Will teaches at Water Valley and is the local preacher at the Courtland Church of Christ. He is married to the former Erika Brewer and has a daughter as well. Robert Rawson handed the Certificate to Will at the latest gospel meeting at Charleston, March 11, 2009.

### Exciting News From West Main in Tupelo

We were privileged to stop by for a short visit at the church building of the West Main Street congregation in Tupelo. In doing so, we were much encouraged by comments made to us by **Russell Smith** who serves as Youth Minister for the church. He told us that their attendance the day before, on Sunday morning, March 30, was **395**. This was a sizeable increase, above the normal 350 to 375 each Lord's day.

We were pleased to hear brother Russell speak briefly about some of the activities of the young people of the church. This included their plans to go this summer to the Mississippi Delta town of **Rolling Fork** where, along with young folks from other congregations, they will devote sev-

eral days helping those in need by doing such work in the community as painting and repairing houses. We are grateful that Russell offered to send more details of the work being done by the youth, along with other activities planned for the young people.

We were thankful also to visit briefly with secretary **Leah Bridges** who serves the church. Leah was very kind to take a few minutes out of her busy schedule and answer our questions. She informed us that their preacher **Doug Greenway**, was out of the office at the time, in part, because of a funeral service, conducted in Corinth, MS, earlier in the day. We anticipate good reports from West Main in future issues of the MM.



## Williams Brothers' "Ole Country Store" Old Too, Since 1907 No Cigarettes, No Beer, No Sundays!

### Meet Sid Williams, an elder in the Philadelphia Church of Christ

Williams Brothers' Country Store at Williamsville, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, was established, in 1907, by brothers Amzie and Brown Williams. The old general store (business) is now more than 100 years old. We understand the present store building was built in 1923.

Over years, ownership and management of the "ole country store" has passed from one generation to the next -- but, still in the family! At the time of our visit, we were privileged to visit with present co-owners **Jane Crosswhite** and **Sid Williams**. (We understand that Jane and Sid are first cousins and that Jane's mother, **Peggy Dees**, is also still involved in the family business.) We were introduced to Sid's son, John; and, as you might guess, he too, works in the family store.

We enjoyed briefly visiting with Jane. We were especially pleased that Sid Williams was able to take out time to give us a tour of the sprawling business. And, to put it mildly, "It was an interesting adventure." We were greatly impressed with the friendliness of

the workers (upwards to 50 or more employees!).

We were also amazed with the vast variety of merchandise available for purchase in the store. At Williams Brothers you can buy most anything you want -- groceries, clothes, shoes, seed, feed, bales of hay, nails and barbed wire. The store still offers items like galvanized washboards, cowboy boots, horse collars and saddles. Planters can also purchase nursery stock plants or seeds measured from old fashioned bins.

Readers of the MM may be interested in knowing that **Sid Williams** and his family are members of the church of Christ in Philadelphia, where Sid serves as one of the church elders. Brother Sid informed us that even in the midst of these "hard times" their business is still very good. For example, it is common for the store to sell 1,000 pounds of sliced bacon every day. (It is sliced right before the eyes of the customer.) It is not unusual to sell 10 containers of "hoop cheese", each containing 20 to 25 pounds. (And, yes, they will slice the cheese for you while you watch!) Hams sell good. Fryers go fast. We were introduced to meat cutter Tommy

Lee Kelly who has worked in the store for the past 35 years.

We are thankful to report there are two things that you *cannot* buy at Williams Brothers' Store. We were told they *do not sell beer or cigarettes*. They have found to have a good business you do not have to sell either one. Also, the store is also not open on Sundays.

I did do some shopping at Williams Brothers. In addition to so many other items, the store has the cutest baby clothes. I purchased two little outfits for Braylee Grace, our little great-granddaughter. Williams Brothers also sells plants and flowers. Yes, I purchased three yellow Knockout Roses. "Good price too."

If you have never been to Williams Brothers "Ole Country Store" in Williamsville, you may enjoy going over to Philadelphia, Mississippi. And, I promise you, if you do visit the store, you will be amazed. There is nothing like it anywhere the area; and, if you stop by and go in, you will not likely come out empty handed. I didn't, couldn't! (Report by June Franks)

Useful Activity is a blessing of/from God!. Even in Paradise man had work to do!



Business Seems to be Booming at Williams Brothers in Williamsville



Tommy Lee Kelly

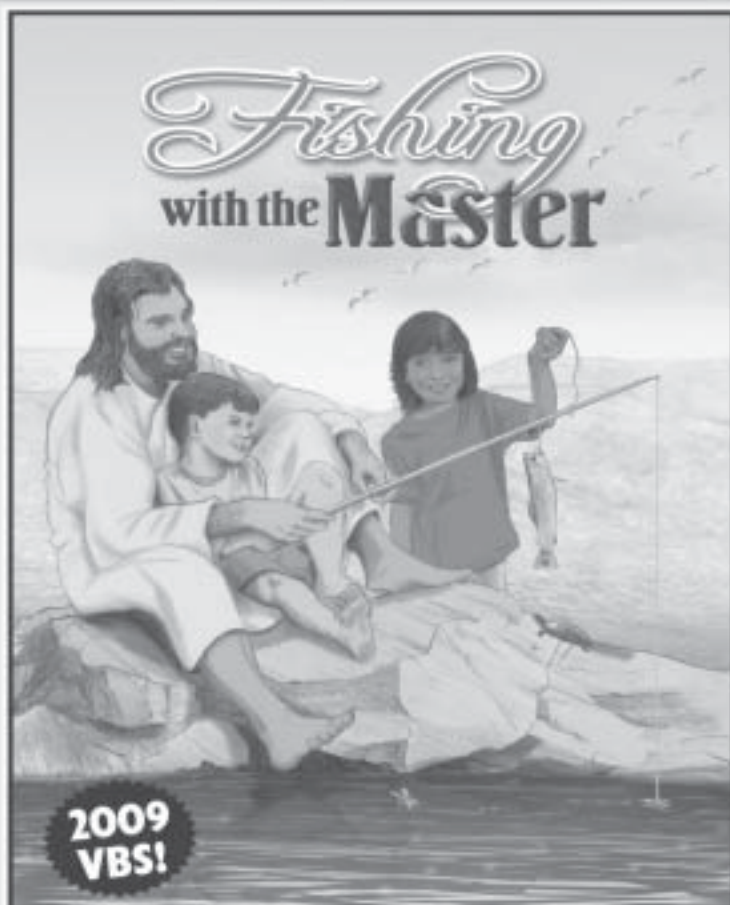
One of the meat cutters who seems to enjoy slicing the bacon -- as much as 1,000 pounds a day! Tommy is one of 50 full-time employees. An extra 10 or so work part-time for Williams Brothers' "Ole Country Store" in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



Jane Crosswhite & Sid Williams  
3rd Generation  
Share in Family Business

Sid serves as an elder in the  
Church of Christ at Philadelphia

Have YOU answered "The Question Box", Lately? (See Page 24)



## Fishing with the Master

When Jesus, the Master Teacher, said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," He made it easy for us to relate to our task here on earth. These words form the basis for our 2009 Vacation Bible School series. Your students will learn they must decide to fish for Jesus by sharing God's word, using the great power God has given them to reel in the catch, and that love will keep the catch in the safety of Jesus' net.

### Fishing with the Master

Be Fishers of Men (Luke 5:1-11)

Prepare to Share (John 6:1-14)

Go Fish the World! (Matthew 28:18-20)

Fish with Power (Acts 2:4-7)

Love the Fisher's Catch (John 21:9-15)



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## To Whom Shall We Go?

*"But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'"* (John 6: 68, NKJV).

**- John Gardner -**

John 6 is a great chapter in a great book. In it we have recorded two of Jesus' seven miracles (signs) chosen by John for the main part of his work (Vv. 1 – 21) and one of the seven powerful "I Am" statements of Christ (Vv. 35, 48) which reveal His divine nature and benevolent character. Also in the chapter is a powerful confession of faith in Christ (Vv. 68, 69) which rivals others found elsewhere in the Gospels.

From that marvelous confession, I want to lift up Peter's question: "To whom shall we go?" At the time it was

asked, it was a rhetorical question used by Peter to emphatically point out that there was indeed no other one to whom they could turn for the ultimate answers in life. If the Christ, the Son of the living God, had words of eternal life, where else could one turn?

The question "To whom shall we go?" can serve to cause the thoughtful to examine the true source to which they turn for ultimate answers in the important matters of life. Do we really turn to Christ's words for guidance and help in all areas of serious concern, or in the critical time, do we turn elsewhere?

Who decides what we believe and practice in matters of faith in religion? Is our authority from heaven or from men (Luke 20: 1 – 8)? Someone or something is the final authority for every doctrine and practice, whether recognized or not.

**Shall we turn to ourselves?** Will we decide about doctrines and practices based on inner feelings, intuition and experience? In spite of the warnings of Scriptures that "the way of man is not in himself" (Jeremiah 10: 23), and that the heart is disparately "deceitful" to the point of being unknowable (Jeremiah 17: 9), there are still so many whose final authority is human based.

Without reference to the words of Jesus in the Bible concerning his will, they pursue various aspects of religious service based on how they feel ("It just feels so spiritual"), their intuition ("I just know it's the right thing to do") and their own experience ("This is what I have seen and heard.")



John Gardner

Turning to self is inevitably faulty and leads to certain ruin.

**Shall we turn to others?** Can the wise men and women of the ages, both in and outside the church, become the ultimate source as we decide which doctrines to believe and practice, which positions to take, and which directions to go?

The wisdom of men is flawed and is contrary to the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 2: 5). Even where esteemed Christians are concerned, no matter how learned or pious they may be, their wisdom is hindered by humanity. They may point in the direction of serious study of the words of Christ, but their conclusions must stand the rigid test of Scriptures properly handled (2 Timothy 2: 15). Just because "Brother X" says it or even "the brethren have always

said" cannot not be the ultimate answer in our quest for faithfulness and eternal life.

**Shall we turn to the Christ?** Peter and the others knew the answer because they had come to "believe and know" that Jesus was indeed "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6: 69). The words of Christ are the words of God Himself (John 17: 8). His words are the words of One who has all authority (Matthew 28: 18 – 20) and who safe-guarded those words to his apostles (John 14: 26; 16: 13), who eventually wrote them down under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Selected writings of the apostles and other men were recognized as Spirit-given and were deemed worthy to be included in the New Testament canon of Scriptures. The apostles' doctrine (Acts 2: 42) guided the early church in all matters of faith and practice, and must do so today.

The more the world attacks the nature and authority of the New Testament documents and questions our ability to know what Jesus really said and did not say, the more men and women will turn to other sources for authority in religious faith. We, as disciples of our Lord, must reaffirm over and over that we have in fact the words of Christ faithfully recorded and that we can know His authoritative will for us.

**... how they feel ("It just feels so spiritual"), their intuition ("I just know it's the right thing to do") and their own experience ("This is what I have seen and heard.")**

John Gardner serves as Academic Dean at MBC. His address: P. O. Box 1109 Kosciusko, MS jgardner@magnolia.edu

### HATTIESBURG

(Kensington Woods)

Enjoyed a brief telephone visit this morning (4/13/09) with **Charles Johnson**, long time elder of the Kensington Woods church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Brother Johnson seemed very pleased to speak of the progress being made by the church, calling attention to the good influence of their two full-time ministers -- **Mike Benson** and **Seth Sullivan**. He said that their Sunday attendance is running between 215 and 240.

Brother Charles also mentioned continued efforts of the church to provide spiritual guidance through their "Christian Student Program" to students enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi. In addition to **Charles Johnson**, the Kensington Woods church is served by elders **Don Rake**, **Brian Anderson** and **Ken Upchurch**.

When opening up the internet

"Home Page" for Kensington at Hattiesburg, we found the following well written and meaningful statement.

*"The Kensington Woods Church of Christ is a group of dedicated Christians who wants to do nothing more than serve the Lord faithfully. When you visit, you will be greeted by warm friendly people who will make you feel welcome and glad that you stopped by to visit.*

*"Our goal is to live by what the Bible teaches, nothing more and nothing less. We want to help others to do the same. We have been in the Hattiesburg community since 1935. We are here to serve our friends and neighbors of this area. We are the ones who bring you Home to House, Heart to Heart."*

We appreciate the expressed goal of the Hattiesburg congregation and commend their example to others who wear the name of Christ. May God bless all. (editor)

From the Franks

## An Open Invitation to MM Readers

**Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Mount of Olives. Golgotha.**

May 8, 2009

Dear Friend and MM Reader,

The above names are all very special places because of the greatest of all earthy sojourners -- our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Have you ever thought, "What a blessing it would be to travel in the land where Jesus once lived on earth and forever changed the world?" Perhaps you are among the many who have thought that a trip to Bible lands would be truly "a life changing experience."

My June and I have often thought about going to what was once called the "Promised Land." About 30 years ago, we almost traveled to "Canaan's Land." Our plans were to go on a trip to Israel with brother Jack Lewis, professor at Harding in Memphis. To encourage us make the trip, a thoughtful and generous Christian couple in Yazoo City provided the necessary funds for our planned adventure. Regretfully, however, we were unable to go. But now, finally, after all these years, another door has opened and, God willing, we plan to walk through that door and go to that very special place which is often called "The Holy Land."

We have been assured that travel to/from and in Israel is "safe". Tourists are welcomed and greatly desired. All possible precautions are taken to ensure a safe and profitable experience. A tour host for ninety Americans spoke of their recent trip to Israel and said, "We never felt we were in any danger."

So, my June and I have decided, "Now is the time." We have committed ourselves to make this "trip of a lifetime". We are signing up and sending the required deposit to "Educational Opportunities" (the travel company handling our arrangements). And, we would love to have you go with us.

Our oldest son, Paul, has led traveling groups to several places throughout the world. He has also been to Israel on a journey designed to help him serve as a knowledgeable "tour host". Paul is anxious to help make your visit to this very special part of the world enjoyable, educational and inspirational. You are invited to call or e-mail him (telephone: **337-515-7314**; email: **apaulfranks@gmail.com**) He will be pleased to answer your questions and provide whatever information you may desire.

So, think about it. Pray about it. And, to you who have decided and/or will decide to go, June and I say with much anticipation, "God willing, in November, we will see you in Jerusalem."

Forward looking,

*All Franks*

### "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 June Franks** and **Paul/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](http://www.eo.travelwithus.com) and register to go with our group. **Our host number is 45403**. Please feel free to call Paul Franks at **337-515-7314** and request a brochure. This is a planned **10-Day** trip that will **change your life**. We would love for you to join us on our trip to Israel. (Al & Paul)



## — Recent Additions at MBC —

### Williams Recruits for MBC

Dwayne Williams has been added to the admissions staff at Magnolia Bible College. Dwayne is a freshman at MBC. He works at the Wal-Mart in Madison, Mississippi as well as preaching two Sundays each month for the church in DeKalb, Mississippi. He will be spending the remaining two Sundays visiting congregations to share the MBC story and attract new students. If you would like to schedule a visit or have questions about enrolling at Magnolia Bible College you may contact Dwayne by calling the Admissions Office at 662-289-2896.



Dwayne Williams  
Recruits for MBC



Prince Lewis  
Supervises MBC Library

### Lewis is MBC Library Supervisor

Prince Lewis has recently been named Library Supervisor at Magnolia Bible College. Prince serves as the youth minister for the Tipton Street congregation in Kosciusko and currently preaches twice each month for the congregation in DeKalb, Mississippi. Prince has earned a B.A. in history from Jackson State University, a B.Th. from Magnolia Bible College, and a M.L.S. from University of Southern Mississippi. Questions concerning the MBC library should be directed to Prince by calling 662-289-2896.

## Magnolia Bible College [MBC Graduates Serving Churches in Mississippi]

Johnny Beckwith	Pulpit Minister	Philadelphia	Leslie Grant	Class Teacher	Amory
James Evans	Pulpit Minister	Canton	Willie Nettle	Pulpit Minister	Vicksburg
Curtis Pittman	Pulpit Minister	Jackson	Stanley Williams	Prison Chaplain	Parchman
Danry Jackson	Class Teacher	Southaven	Lusky Green	Pulpit Minister	Houston
Tim West	Pulpit Minister	Senatobia	Charles Willis	Pulpit Minister	Grenada
Seth Sullivan	Youth Minister	Hattiesburg	Nathan Swanson	Class Teacher/ Minister	Tocopola
Keith Wilson	Pulpit Minister	Crystal	Ronnie Livingston	Pulpit Minister	Marietta
Otis Bowman	Pulpit Minister	Bogue Chitto	Les Ferguson, Sr.	Pulpit Minister/MBC Staff	Kosciusko
Jerry Graham	Pulpit Minister	Laurel	Les Ferguson, Jr.	Pulpit Minister/Elder	Gulfport
Tony Miller	Class Teacher	Philadelphia	Jeff Frank	Class Teacher/Deacon	McComb
Travis Brown	MBC Staff	Kosciusko	Eric Dawkins	Pulpit Minister	Kosciusko
Billy Ferguson	Pulpit Minister	Columbus	Prince Lewis	Youth Minister/MBC	Kosciusko
Pete Murff	Supply Preaching	Caledonia	Adam Pearson	Pulpit Minister	Aberdeen
Therman Hodge	Pulpit Minister	Macon	Steve Shappley	Pulpit Minister	Fulton
Pauline Dawkins	Minister's Wife/Teacher	Kosciusko	Shawn Hardin	Deacon/MBC Staff	Kosciusko
Shawn Nygard	Pulpit Minister	Maben	Natasha Thompson	Minister's Wife/Teacher	Starkville
Wesley Thompson	Youth Minister	Starkville	Tawana Bauer	Minister's Wife/Teacher	Kosciusko
Shane Meredith	Pulpit Minister	Caledonia	Paul Williams	Pulpit Minister	Jackson
Nathan Wright	Pulpit Minister/MBC	French Camp	John Bauer	Youth Minister	Kosciusko
Rick Benson	Pulpit Minister	Union	Michael Stegall	Pulpit Minister	West Point
Tamika Stegall	Minister's Wife/Teacher	West Point	Daniel Russel	Graduate Student	Starkville
Brad Adcock	Pulpit Minister	French Camp	Josh Allen	Supply Preaching	Caledonia
Greg Ledbetter	Pulpit Minister	Grenada	Wayne Moore	Pulpit Minister	Cleveland
Marshall Eubanks	Pulpit Minister	Amory	Shun Evans	Pulpit Minister	Tylertown
Karen Hines	Minister's Wife/Teacher	Canton	Ben Jackson	Jail Ministry/Supply Preaching	Kosciusko
James Johnson	Evangelism	Canton	David Paden	Pulpit Minister	Fulton
Don Roberson	Pulpit Minister	Coffeerville	Seth Sullivan	Youth Minister	Hattiesburg

### “Making a Difference in Mississippi”

Note: *Out of state* graduates in a future issue. (Information compiled by Garvis Semore)

### “A Loving Church/Christian Family”

According to  
**Mae & Pete**

Our attention was recently drawn to two “thank you” notes published in Tupelo’s East Main Church bulletin. The notes remind us of the tremendous value of demonstrating kindness toward brothers and sisters who are in need.

**Mae Bishop**, a member at East Main, wrote expressing her gratitude to the church for “acts of kindness” shown to her during her illness. She said, “It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a loving church family.”

Another member at East Main, **Pete Barber**, along with his family, expressed appreciation for all that had been done for them by the congregation in the recent loss of a dear loved one. The Bar-

bers commented about the church, “No one has a more loving Christian family.”

In our trying and turbulent times, it is appropriate, we believe, to be reminded of the great value of Christians **showing** their care and concern for loved ones in Christ who are in the midst of difficult days.

Our Lord Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for the other” (John 13:35). *Loving one another* demonstrates discipleship to Jesus. The beloved apostle John wrote, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” Love is not simply in word. It must be “in **deed** and in **truth**.”

Love must be shown, not just professed.

Surely, all true Christians have a strong desire to manifest genuine love through doing good works. This can be done by helping brethren in need. Of course, some do a better job than others. But, may God help each one to constantly show by actions that love for one another is real indeed.

Our own very special “Thank You” to sister Mae and brother Pete, for their written expressions of thanks published in the East Main bulletin (3/10/09). Their thanksgiving reminds us -- not only to do unto others as others have done unto us, but also to do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12). *alf, editor*

### DISTANCE LEARNING at Magnolia Bible College

- DVD Based (no Internet required)
- Affordable Tuition
- College Credit
- Financial Aid (for those who qualify)

#### Courses Now Available:

DOC 123 Teachings of Jesus  
PRE 153 Methods of Evangelism  
NT 143 New Testament Survey  
OT 243 Pentateuch

(Each course is 3 credit hours)

#### Deadline for Fall Semester 2009:

All paperwork (Admissions Application, Financial Aid, etc.) must be received by July 6th.

For more information on cost and enrollment phone 662-289-2896 or email us at [info@magnolia.edu](mailto:info@magnolia.edu)



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

# MBC News

P. O. Box 1109  
Kosciusko, MS 39090

## MBC Involved Good News from Union, MS

On March 28 through April 1, the Union church of Christ, in Union, MS hosted a Door Knocking Campaign and Gospel Meeting. The theme of our Gospel Meeting was "The Promises of God."



Magnolia Spreading the Gospel Through Door Knocking in Union,

Bible College students and faculty were present to lead and assist during this event. We began Saturday morning with 18 folks from the congregation and about 12 from MBC. After breakfast and a devotion we divided into teams of 2 or 3 and proceeded into the community to proclaim the Good News!

Everyone returned back to the building for lunch and fellowship. On Sunday morning, **Garvis Semore**, President of MBC was our speaker during Bible Class and he also preached during our morning worship to a gathering of 50 souls. After our fellowship lunch Travis Brown, from MBC was our guest preacher.

On Monday morning about 15 from MBC returned to Union and we continued to knock doors both in the morning and afternoon. That evening John Gardner, Academic Dean was our guest preacher and our attendance was 58.

On Tuesday morning the door knocking activities were completed. During the afternoon a Home Bible Study was completed. That evening Tim McCarter, an MBC student and preacher from Cleveland, MS was

our guest preacher. Our attendance that evening was 70! This was the largest crowd this congregation has had in many years.

On Wednesday evening, Les Ferguson, was our guest preacher and our attendance was 50. During the Gospel Meeting we had 10 visitors from outside the church. We are thankful for the several area congregations that attended and demonstrated their support.

There were 20 Bible Correspondence Courses set up. Also we have 12 requests from people inviting us to come back and visit and pray. All in all it was a successful meeting.

On an average Sunday the Union congregation has about 41 in attendance. This number is up from 30 in 2007 and 18 in 2006. Much thanks and appreciation goes out to MBC for their help and support during this time of evangelism. All in all, just about 100% of the Union congregation participated in some way during this event.

*(Report by Rick Benson, preacher/elder with the Union congregation)*

### MBC'S CLASS OF 2009

Jacob M. Brownfield and Ronald Paul Tullos will receive the Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible in May 2009.

Jacob M. Brownfield is from Southaven, MS. He is the 2009 HEADWAE student honoree. The HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence) program is sponsored by the Mississippi Legislature, supported by our corporate community and coordinated by the Mississippi Association of Colleges. Jacob attended Northwest Community College and Crowley's Ridge College before coming to MBC. He served as a Youth Minister while attending Magnolia Bible College. Jacob is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, National Dean's List, Leadership Award, Sigma Chi Eta, President's List, Who's Who Among Students in Junior Colleges and Who's Who Among Students in America's Universities and Colleges. Jacob plans to pursue a master's degree in counseling at Harding University in Searcy, AR. He has been named Student of the Year and will graduate Summa Cum Laude



Jacob M. Brownfield and Ronald Paul Tullos

Ronald Paul Tullos is from Olive Branch, MS. He attended Northwest Community College before coming to MBC and worked as a Youth Minister at the Goodman Oaks church of Christ. He plans to continue his work in Outreach and Youth Ministry.



Workers in Campaign -- MBC and Union Congregation

## Magnolia Bible College

*Memorials @ Living Tributes*

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

### Memorials

(Feb. 1 - May 8, 2009)

**Jessie P. "Billy" Peeler**  
Jane D. Roberson

**Maxine Timbes**  
Little Chapel Sunday Class  
Booneville Church of Christ

**Harold Adams**  
**Ricky Mann**  
**Irene Edwards**  
Arlice Bridges

**Cliff Roden**  
Bobbie R. Roden

**Carlos Ingram**  
Mr. and Mrs. Billy O. Gaither

**David W. Johnson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Johnson  
Jim and Nancy McCord

**Merle Scrimshire**  
**Flora Tidwell**  
**Comer D. Hall, Jr.**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Johnson

**Lettie Britt**  
**Cleazeal Jones**  
**Maureen Gregory**  
**Debra Colburn**  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spencer

**Mrs. Jessie M. Wilson**  
Weyerhaeuser Maintenance  
Team 24/25  
Columbus, MS

*In Honor of*

**Lettie Britt**  
Kim Lindley  
Romia Palmer  
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman  
Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Chapman

**Cathy Hollie**  
Jerry and Jean Lewis

**Les and Margie Ferguson**  
Bob and Evonne Hudson

**Charles Campbell**  
John T. and Ann Smithson

**Thank you for thinking of MBC  
when you think of others!**

**Note:** MBC and MM memorials are handled separately.  
(See also page 13). Thanks for helping!

**Please Send  
MBC Memorials  
And/or Tributes To:**

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

### CORINTH-BATESVILLE

The Foote Street Church in Corinth, along with the Batesville congregation, conducted a campaign on March 13th-19th, 2009 in Amite County, Mississippi. **Billy Kirk**, a member of the Foote Street congregation, who went on the campaign, passed away just hours after he had arrived to begin working. **Michael Bates**, preacher for the Batesville congregation wrote in their church bulletin, "The passing of Billy Kirk, one of Foote Street's members, certainly shocked and saddened us all... But, as one of the elders said, 'He would want you to carry on.'" We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Billy Kirk and to his church family at Foote Street.

### My name is...

**Willie Bob Gates**



*... 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**



## Now, You Take it from There!



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

### Pause to Smell the Flowers

We live in the fast lane of this new century. Our mobile and electronic society will not allow time to pause and smell the flowers along the way. Automobiles take us away from home, television and computers consume most of our time when we are at home, and cell phones consume much of our walking time. We can seldom find time to quietly walk among the flowers, birds, trees, animals, mountains or streams.

Jesus grew up working as a carpenter (Mark 6:3), which is a noble trade, but surrendered to a higher calling; preaching the good news of salvation. He became an out-of-doors man who loved all of nature, and encouraged others to enjoy it. He loved open air, the fields, the water, the mountains, the trees, the birds, the animals, the heavens, etc.; and this was because God created all of them: "God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). He became more attached to the universe because He was co-creator with God: "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being" (John 1:3). This is why we can sing, "All things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all".



Philip Dale Franks, II

it is day; night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4). He was a busy traveling evangelist, but found occasion to pause and smell the flowers, and to enjoy all of nature. Do yourself a pleasant favor; like Jesus, pause often to smell the flowers and enjoy all of nature.

While enjoying the beauties of nature, Jesus invited audiences to view them, drawing compelling illustrations to understand spiritual truths. Some of them were; consider the lilies of the field, a man went forth sowing seed, the fig tree, the mustard seed – and the list continues.

There was an equal balance of time in the ministry of our Lord. Brevity was built into this ministry when He prayed, preached or engaged in social communication. His longest sermon is recorded with 107 verses (Matthew 5, 6 & 7) and can be read in 7 to 10 minutes by the average reader. His longest prayer is recorded in 26 verses (John 17), and can be read in 2 minutes by the average reader. He had no time to idle away, but a work ethic of: "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as

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it is day; night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

He was a busy traveling evangelist, but found occasion to pause and smell the flowers, and to enjoy all of nature. Do yourself a pleasant favor; like Jesus, pause often to smell the flowers and enjoy all of nature.

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

### Subject of Salvation

by Jesus Christ

**BELIEVE:** "... for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24b) **REPENT:** "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3,5) **BE BAPTIZED:** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

**MUST DO GOD'S WILL:** "Not everyone that saith unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21)

**KEEP COMMANDMENTS:** "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

## "Buck" Has Departed

Vancleave Preacher Died 2/14/09

- Report by Earl Kenny -

Comer D. (Buck) Hall, Jr. was born on May 20, 1935, in Myrtlewood, AL, and died peacefully in his home on February 14, 2009. Buck is pictured with his loving wife of 51 years, Sylvia Clearman Hall. He spent his youth in Meridian, MS, and then served his country in the Army. In 1957, he married Sylvia and moved to New Orleans, LA. His love for his wife, children and grandchildren was obvious to all who had the privilege of meeting him.

Buck was a gospel preacher for 38 years. He graduated from Whites Ferry Road School of Preaching in 1974, received a BA in Bible in 1976; an MA in 1979; and a Master of Divinity in 1990 from the Alabama Christian School of Religion in Montgomery, AL.

He served several churches of Christ throughout the Southeast, including Gatesville, TX; McCrory, AR; Hattiesburg, MS; and the Vancleave, MS church from 2003 until his passing.

Buck also spent five years as Academic Dean of Bible Studies at Bear Valley Bible institute in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Many who visited quickly learned of the reputation of Buck as he enabled

men in the Ukraine to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as preachers and teachers.

Buck became an evangelist after working in the music industry. Even in his later years, just give him an Oscar Peterson CD and leave him to study God's word in his office, and you had a happy man. Buck was outgoing and friendly. He loved the church and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was a Bible scholar, always ready with exact Scripture to discuss any Bible subject.

Buck had a zest for life. He played the piano, golfed, and fished for entertainment. He was always well dressed. As his time on earth drew to a close, Sylvia was trying to help him dress to attend what turned out to be his last worship assembly with the Vancleave church. He raised quite a fuss over the suit, shirt and tie she had, reminding her of his previous selection. Sylvia figured out his problem, despite his confusion from the pain and medication, and told him, "We're just going to worship, not to your

funeral." Assured that he would be buried in the "right" clothes, he dressed peaceably for the ride to the building. Buck had quite a sense of humor even in those final days. Within just days, we had lost an evangelist, a brother in Christ, a co-worker in the kingdom, and a real friend—a man who loved God and considered anyone he met as his neighbor. Buck's friends worldwide miss him sorely, but we are glad he is now in Paradise, past the pain.

The Vancleave, MS church is seeking a preacher. See page 14 for ad; also brother Kenny's address.



Sylvia and Buck Hall Were Married 51 Years

### Buildings Representing Two Hospitable Pike County Churches of Christ in Southwest MS



Parklane's Building in McComb, Mississippi

The week of April 27 - May 3, 2009 will long be remembered by those who were privileged to attend the 11th annual MM RV Rally which was held this year, for the first time, at McComb in the beautiful state park known as "Percy Quin."

One of the many blessings enjoyed during the week was to experience the hospitality extended by members of two nearby congregations. On Wednesday evening, following an early worship service at the McComb church building, campers were treated to a delightful meal of hamburgers and hotdogs with "all the trimmings."

A few days later, on Saturday morning, several members of the Summit church came out to the park and prepared a delicious pancake breakfast for all campers. Then, on the following day,

Sunday, the McComb church "out-did themselves" and spread a noon meal that was great both in quality and quantity.

On behalf of all who attended the MM RV Rally, we want to publicly thank our dear brethren at McComb and Summit for their generous hospitality. It was a blessing to worship with both con-



Summit's Building in Summit

gregations and to get better acquainted with them and their work for the Lord. (My June and I visited Summit services on Sunday evening.) May God richly bless. (alf)

**Read Rally Report  
On Page 23**

Glen & Cindy Colley conducted a Marriage Seminar, ("You're Singing My Song") on March 27 and 28, 2009 at the New Albany church (Hwy 15). Although we heard only two sessions, we were persuaded that the capable Colleys do an excellent job with the needed series.





## “World’s Tallest Man” ? Robert or Goliath ?

Guinness World Records reports that Robert Pershing Wadlow, (born in Alton, Illinois in 1918) was the “tallest man in medical history for whom there is irrefutable evidence.” Robert, when he was last measured, according to Guinness, was 8 feet and 11.1 inches tall.

The Bible tells about a man named Goliath who was six cubits and a span tall. A cubit is generally understood to be between 18 and 21 inches and a span is somewhere around 6 to 8 inches. If we take the smaller of the measurements, Goliath would stand 9 feet and six inches -- more than 7 inches taller than Robert.

For some, the Biblical record may not be considered “irrefutable evidence”; however, it is good enough for me! So, when you hear the claim that Robert was the “World’s Tallest Man”, I would suggest, *don’t believe it*. Rather, this distinction goes to Goliath of the Old Testament scriptures.

Of course, no matter how tall or how short we stand, what really

matters is how we stand with God. With God on our side and we on His side, He makes us stand tall. Tall enough! See Rom. 14:4. (alf)



MM editor stands amazed at the height (almost 9 feet!) of Robert Wadlow. He also questions the claim that Robert was the “World’s Tallest Man.”

## Church Street Church A Sunday Evening Visit in Pontotoc

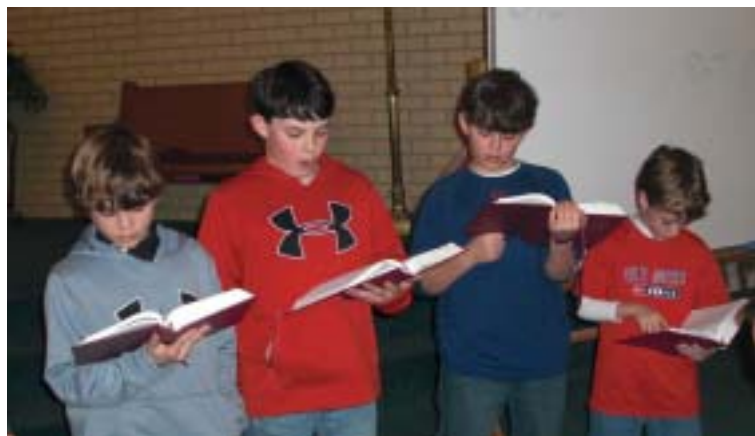
On the evening of February 22, 2009, my June and I were blessed to stop by for a visit with our brethren who assemble on Church Street in Pontotoc, Mississippi. We are glad we did.

We were grateful to learn of the **increasing attendance** for church services. Sunday morning gatherings now bring together upwards to 120. Based on records we noted, the church is also exceeding their budget by several hundred dollars each week. And, as those who know him would expect, **Jay Street**, assisted by his lovely wife, **Cindy**, is truly doing a good job serving as preacher for the friendly congregation.

Also serving as shepherds over the flock are two very capable men (**Paul Swanson** and **John Moore**). And, the number of special servants or “deacons” in the

Pontotoc church has now reached **seven**. (Sorta reminds us of the Jerusalem church, in Acts 6, that also selected seven men as special servants.)

It was a privilege to be given an opportunity to speak to the congregation about our special mission work, including the publication of the **Magnolia Messenger**. A real highlight of the evening service, however, was to witness four young men come before the church and participate in the leading of congregational singing. They did a great job and the church is doing a wonderful work by providing opportunities for young people to prepare themselves for service in the Kingdom of Christ. May God continue to bless His church on Church Street and all other congregations that earnestly seek to do His will. (alf)



(left to right) Peyton Moore, Ashton Waldrop, Ryne Franklin and Whit Franklin who are learning to lead congregational singing at Pontotoc



The Man (Age: 97)  
**Perry B. Cotham**

His New Book:  
“Beyond the Sunset”

At the age of 96 (in 2008), after having preached nearly 80 years, brother Cotham published a new book entitled “Beyond the Sunset”. This remarkable book provides scriptural answers to twenty-seven vital questions relating to life and life after death.

Brother Cotham stated, “Death waits for all the living. May this book cheer and encourage the Christian, console and comfort the bereaved, awaken and warn the thoughtless and convict and help bring sinners to God.”

It may be purchased from brotherhood book stores including Publishing Designs, Inc.; P. O. Box 3241; Huntsville, AL 35810. (888)662-1006; info@publishingdesigns.com



## Let’s Not Forget Christian Camps

Another good work going on among churches in Mississippi.

Nine (9) sessions are planned for the summer of 2009. According to the website, camp directors for this summer’s sessions beginning May 28th are:

Chris Martin / Clif Mims / Zac Williams; Grant Azbell / Robin Robison / Tim West; Billy Ferguson / Paul Bennett / John Bauer; Vern Schrimsher / Chris Buttler / Dave Leonard; Kenny Jackson / Bob Swain / Joey Jamison; Robert Rawson / Terry Smith / Bobby Rawson; Perry Jinkerson / Derrick Savage / Wesley Thompson; LaJohn McDonald Jr. / Stanley Jackson / Lonnie Smith; Kevin Jourdan / Paul Tullos; Michael Bates / Todd Sanderson

The cost for campers each full week is \$130.00. (A great investment!). A “mini-camp” is planned for May 28-30 which is only \$35.00.) For more information go to the website: [sardislakechristiancamp.org/2009-sessions](http://sardislakechristiancamp.org/2009-sessions)



## 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 11. (ALF, editor)

### In Memory Of

**NORM RHODES**

Hurley Church of Christ  
(Hurley, MS)

**KEVIN RICHARDS**

Burgess & Gay Jackson  
(Louisville, MS)  
Mrs. L. D. Hill  
(Louisville, MS)

**TOM MCEWEN**

Claude & Alberta Houston  
(Southaven, MS)

**TOMMY SWEARENGEN**

Jane Wright  
(Water Valley, MS)

**FLORA MAE FLOWERS**

Edith U. Tucker  
(Nashville, TN)

**DAVID W. JOHNSON**

Charles & Mary Johnson  
(Hattiesburg, MS)

**HUGH ALLEN**

Dean & Nellie Caldwell  
(Vicksburg, MS)  
Howard & Carolyn McCoy  
(Vicksburg, MS)

**LINDA MABREY  
VELMA BROCK**

Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

**VELMA BROCK**

Charles & Juanita Fulgham  
(Yazoo City, MS)

**RUTH PATTERSON**

Hazel Cook  
(Columbus, MS)

**CALVIN F. SEAGO  
JUNIOUS & RUTH CAMPBELL**

Audrey Seago  
(Senatobia, MS)

**FRANCES ASKEW  
ALICE MADDOX  
CRYSTAL NORRIS**

Larrie Askew  
(Starks, LA)

**MRS. JEAN BEAUMAN**

Vickie & Mike Tart  
(Bartlett, TN)

**MAGGIE BOHANNON**

Jerry & Gwen Jackson  
(Welsh, LA)

**JIMMY BRADSHAW  
RICHEY BOYER**

M/M Charles Boyer  
(Boyle, MS)

### In Honor of

**JOHN PIGG**

Rod & Mimi Tate  
(Pascagoula, MS)

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remember and/or honor  
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Sobering Question Asked by a Growing Church

## Orange Grove

Beautiful Name Retained by the Gulfport Church Now Meeting In their New Facilities on O'Neal Road

On Monday, March 9, 2009, my June and I followed directions spoken on our GPS and easily found the new church building of the Orange Grove Church of Christ in Gulfport, Mississippi. Located in a very nice community, on a spacious plot of ground, the newly located Orange Grove church building is, according to minister **Les Ferguson, Jr.**, beginning to effectively reach out to the local community with the message of the gospel.

We were pleased to spend several minutes with brother Les who graciously took time to give us a personal tour of their new facilities and talk about recent growth, including several baptisms. We were also privileged to visit briefly with church secretary, **Janet Chaplin**, and to be reminded of the valuable service provided by dedicated secretarial assistance in so many congregations.

[Yes, Les Ferguson, Jr. is one of the two sons of Les Ferguson, Sr., preacher for the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko. Brother Les and his wife, Marjorie, have another son, Billy, who preaches for the 7th Street congregation in Columbus, Mississippi.

Les and Marjorie cannot help but to be pleased and thankful that both of their sons are serving as full-time preachers in Mississippi and that both of their daughters (Julie and Amy) are married to Christian husbands who are also active in the work of the Lord.]

*Back to Orange Grove.* The Gulfport church is overseen by elders **Rick Rogers, Doug Stone, Bill Collins** (Worship/Youth/Family minister) and **Les Ferguson, Jr.** (preaching minister/elder). The church is also served by eight deacons and is, according to their home page on the world wide web, "A community of believers dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus to the world."

### Next MM RV Rally Grapeland, Texas

Salmon Lake Park  
**Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2009**

For more information  
contact **Ray Franks**

337-786-3095 (home)  
337-515-0866 (cell)  
rdfranks@centurytel.net  
P. O. Drawer 218  
DeQuincy, LA 70633



## Fulton Bible Institute Concludes Another Bible Study Course

Russ Crosswhite, minister for the Clifton Street church in Fulton sent the above picture and stated, "We averaged 46 students from 16 congregations in the Northeast Mississippi area... We started in the fall of 2005 and some have participated in every course. The Bible studies and closeness we have developed with one another

is refreshing. Also, we usually have a few non-members of the church attend the class. Brother Russ announced that the next course planned is "Bible History 2" which promises a "rich and thorough study of the Old Testament from Joshua through Malachi. Classes to begin, Lord willing, August 25 and will meet each

Tuesday for twelve weeks. (Time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.) The only cost is \$10.00 for the Study Guide Workbook.

To enroll or to obtain more information, please feel free to call 662-862-4549 or email: grcross@nexband.com. Fulton Bible Institute is a work of the Fulton Church of Christ.

### ELLISVILLE



Sweets at a "Sweet Church"

Yes, June and I know that we are richly blessed; and, we thank God daily. We are also mindful of the fact that **many** are they who help make our work possible -- a work which includes the privilege of visiting with Christian brothers and sisters in many different congregations.

Among our recent visits, we were honored with the opportunity of visiting and preaching in Ellisville, MS, a church that generously supports our work.

Among the many things we can say about the Ellisville church may be well represented by a glass bowl seen in their church foyer. It was filled with sweets -- peppermint candy.

This church is truly a "sweet congregation" (note picture above) as evidenced in their interest in helping such good works such as children's Homes It is also demonstrated in their expressions of love for each other and for visitors. You don't have to be around some of the church members for long before learning that the "holy kiss" is not completely out of style. Truly, our recent visit left a "sweet taste" in our beings. (editor)

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

## Long Marriages -- "Worthy Examples"

For many years, our oldest son (Paul) has directed camps for young people in Mississippi, Texas and Lithawana. For more than ten years, he has directed a very special camp for a special group of "older folks". This "camp" has become known as the MM RV Rally and is held in Mississippi each Spring. His mother and I are very grateful for his willingness to do this work and are thankful to God for his abilities.

We were reminded again, a few days ago, that those who come to the MM RV rallies have grown older. Several faithful campers have already reached their 80's; yet, are very active in the annual programs. In our most recent rally, held in McComb, Mississippi (see report on page 23), we were pleased to find two couples who have been married for more than sixty years. We appreciate their

willingness to allow us to take pictures and write a few words in this issue of the MM about their "worthy example."

Wilburn and Velma DeLancey were married in Monroe, Louisiana on June 9, 1947 (married almost 62 years!). The DeLanceys now live at Benton, Mississippi (near Yazoo City). Wilfred and Elizabeth Waltman were married in Wesson, Mississippi on May 20, 1948 (61 years ago!) They presently live at Wesson.

We congratulate both couples and commend their examples. The Delanceys and the Waltmans realize they are blessed to have had each other for more than three score years. Our prayer is that God may continue to bless their lives together and that many others may have opportunity to be like them and also serve as worthy examples. (alf)



### Each Couple Married Over Sixty Years

(From left) Wilfred & Elizabeth Waltman; Velma & Wilburn DeLancey

**Saul and Samuel**  
The first of the Kings; the last of the Judges  
Answer "The Question Box". Turn to Page 24

## Berea Church Has a New Minister

Report by  
**Karen Strickland**

Berea church of Christ near Burnsville, Mississippi is proud to announce Bro. Aaron Foster of Booneville, MS as their new preacher. Aaron and his family have been worshipping with Berea since December, 2008.

Aaron started preaching the gospel while in college. One of his first sermons was preached at the Berea congregation in 1997. In 2002 he preached for the Gum church of Christ. He preached for the Madison church, near Jackson, from 2005-2007. In addition to his preaching responsibilities, he is currently an engineer with Toyota Motor Company.

Bro. Aaron has been married to the former **Cassie Davis** of Cleveland, MS., for almost 7 years. They have two boys,



**Aaron Foster**

**Gibson (4) and Turner (3).** He is the son of **Lance & Sandra Foster**, who have been working with the luka congregation for almost 20 years. Bro. Aaron's energy and heart filled leadership has been a blessing for this congregation. He & his family are a very welcome addition to the church.



**Yazoo City Ministers Minister in Mexico**

Danny Guy (associate) and John Dial, M.D. (Pulpit minister)



**Hungering and Thirsting After Righteousness**

- Daniel Guy -

What do we think when we read the words of Jesus, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Mt. 5:6)? How many of us really hunger and thirst after righteousness? How many people do we know who are that dedicated to Jesus?

Several weeks ago, John Dial (a medical doctor/preacher) and I had the privilege to be with a large group of Christians in San Christobal, Mexico, who truly seemed to hunger and thirst after righteousness. This was evident, first of all, in what they did to be present with fellow Christians who were coming together for a lectureship/gospel meeting.

Some drove 16 to 18 hours for fellowship with their Christian brothers and sisters and to be strengthened by the preaching of the word of God. Most could not afford a motel and, if they could have, most of the motels were full because of the holiday events that were taking place throughout the city. The brethren were not deterred by something so trite as this. They were determined to be there, so they slept in cars, in the back of trucks, on hard wooden benches, in the upper floor of the church building, etc.

Some walked. Some came in the beds of pickup trucks and one family of four came on a motorcycle. Their dedication to the Lord and concern for lost souls was evident in all they did and said.

I did not speak nor understand much of the language, but prayers prayed with sobs and concern evidenced the fervent prayers of righteous men. Some were dressed rather well, some were in common garb, and some didn't even have a pair of shoes; yet, their displays of affection to everyone showed that they were genuine Christians who did not let any differences in financial status cloud their love for Christ and His people. Hugs and kisses were commonplace and, when it was time to leave, tears were shed in abundance.

The church was established in the state of Chiapas, Mexico some eighteen years ago. A young man, David Aguillar, fresh out of preacher school, went there to preach the gospel and establish the church. He was asked such questions as: "Do you have any family there?" "Why do you want to go there?" He had no relatives living there. He was not even

married. His reason to go to Chiapas was that there were no known Christians there. He wanted to save souls. Today he is married and has three loving children, but he has not ceased in his desire to bring souls to Jesus.

There is no way of knowing how many have obeyed the gospel as a result of Brother David's work. The number has to be in the thousands. In fact, David has, himself, established more than forty different congregations and is baptizing people almost on a daily basis. Of course, most of those who are taught continue the enthusiasm and bring their friends, relatives, and acquaintances to hear the gospel as well.

Some of the men have been to preaching schools and are now teaching and preaching farther away. We can very astutely say, "The field is white unto harvest." As with any harvest, though, there are thieves poised to steal some of the fruit. That may be in the form of animals or even crafty grain elevator attendants with a physical harvest.

Spiritually, the theft has come in the form of divisive brethren in the United States who are Pharisaical in some of their ideas and have sought to divide the church and claim some of the fruit for themselves. Hopefully, our visit with these brethren gave them some ammunition with which to fight the devil away from the harvest of souls.

The church of Christ was the fastest growing religious group in the

Continued Next Column, (to the right)



Another Precious Soul Baptized!

**Shepherds Selected for the Bypass Church in Vicksburg**

**Elders of the Bypass Church of Christ in Vicksburg, Mississippi**



(From left) James Scott, Dean Caldwell and Willie Nettle

On March 1, 2009, the Bypass Church of Christ ordained her first set of shepherds to serve as spiritual leaders. Les Ferguson, Sr., former long-time resident of Vicksburg and current minister for the Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS, led the church in this joyful and momentous occasion.

About 150 people were present for the special afternoon shepherd ordination service. The new shepherds are James Scott (married 44 years to Mariea), Dean Caldwell (married 49 years to Nellie), and Willie Nettle (married 24 years to Robin).

Our shepherds were charged from Scripture to "keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God which he bought with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). "Be shepherds of God's

flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:1-3).

The Bible uses four different Greek terms to refer to this important leadership role in the local church. An elder or presbyter (Gk, presbyteros, Acts 20:17) is simply a mature, godly man whose character over time makes him a worthy example to other believers. A shepherd or pastor (Gk, poimen, Acts 20:28) is someone who feeds, nurtures, and otherwise tends to the needs of God's flock.

An overseer or bishop (Gk, episkopos, Acts 20:28) is one who pays attention to, supervises, and otherwise

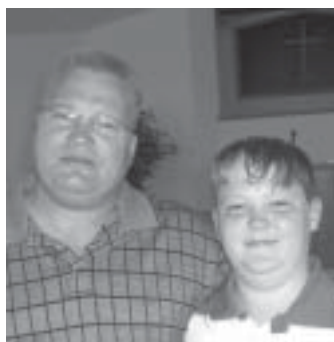
provides guidance for the activity of the larger group. Finally, a steward of God (Gk, oikonomos, Titus 1:7) is one who cares for and looks after the day-to-day needs of the local household of faith, which belongs not to him, but to God. Each term is to be thought of and applied in terms of humility and nurturing, guidance and empowering, love and equipping.

We are excited about our new shepherds and the Godly leadership that they will provide for the local Bypass Family. They are here as loving servants to lead us in the direction of God in the twenty-first century. Please come and meet them and the entire Bypass Family. There are no strangers here; just friends we have not met.

(Report submitted to MM by the Bypass church)

**O, Happy Day!**

What a joy to witness a loving father baptize his precious son into Christ. This we were privileged to do at Ellisville, Mississippi, on Sunday, April 26th. **Paul Heathcock** (one of the three church elders), was blessed to baptize into Christ his son, **Micah**. (The other two elders are **Jim Hale** and **John Sexton**.)



Seeing faith evidenced in a young person who made known his desire to be baptized, reminded us anew of the great work of the Lord's church. Our continuing "Good News" message is salvation through Jesus who guides through the Holy Scriptures and promises an eternal home with Him in Heaven. It's Happy Day, *now*, but a happier day, *then*.

**Hungering**

United States during the 1950's and I believe it is the fastest growing religious group in Chiapas, Mexico today. Let us pray that what has happened to us will not happen to them. Let us also pray that our people in this country will once again hunger and thirst for righteousness.

May the Bible, once again, become more important than the comfort of the recliner. May the soul of our next door neighbor, once again, become more important than his new Lexus. May Bible stories be on our minds more than the stories seen on television. And may our family's spiritual welfare become more important than their physical well-being.

In a culture that doesn't have much of the "stuff" that consumes all our

time and interests, God becomes more important than anything else. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" May we learn this before it is too late!

The fruits of the labors of our brothers and sisters in Chiapas revealed themselves in the attendance at the assemblies of that evangelistic effort and in the responses of those present. Daytime attendance was estimated to be 300 to 400. Nightly attendance was 500 to 600. It is estimated that at least twelve hundred different people made up the overall attendance.

Three meals were served every day by the ladies who cooked outside with an open fire under a tin shed and assembled the food in a room off the auditorium. Three times a day they

converted the auditorium into a dining hall and then into an auditorium and after the last service of the day, all the chairs were folded and the floors were swept and mopped. Many were there from seven o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock each night. Everyone did his part, even young children.

In response to the gospel message, eighteen precious souls were baptized into Christ and several more a day or two afterward. Twenty-two to twenty-four were restored to faithful fellowship in the Lord's church. We were truly blessed to have been in the presence of such a throng of dedicated brothers and sisters in the Lord. (Dan Guy is an associate preacher with the Yazoo City church. [dg.1234@live.com](mailto:dg.1234@live.com))



## Hospitable

(Continued from page 5)

of a winter blizzard. His last request was that his funeral be held at 4:00 a.m. and be a graveside service. During his life time many people claimed to be his friend, but when the funeral came only three men and one poor woman came to the service, to show their respects and love. When the rich man's will was read, it directed that his vast fortune be equally given to those who attended his funeral. Why? Because he knew his true friends would mourn his passing and be at the service. Christians mourn with those who are mourning (1 Corinthians 12). That is hospitality in the true sense of the word!

The classic example of hospitality is Abraham entertaining the three angels unaware (Genesis 18:1-8). He had three visitors to come. He washed their feet, killed the fatted calf, and had a great meal for these strangers. They were there to tell him about his promised son. The Hebrew writer tells us to practice hospitality because we might entertain angles unaware (Hebrews 13:2).

In Edwin Markham's lovely poem, "The Shoes of Happiness," Conrad, the old cobbler, dreamed one night that the Lord would sometime come to be his guest. When the dawn came he arose and decorated his little shop with bright and beautiful flowers in anticipation of the great event. "When the Lord comes," he said to himself, "I will wash His feet where the spikes have been and I will kiss the hands that have been punctured by the nails." But the Lord did not come. A beggar came, and Conrad gave him a pair of shoes. An old woman came bent with the weight of a heavy burden. He lifted the load from her back and gave her food. Finally, just before the day was about to fade into darkness, a little child came—her eyes wet with tears. In pity, Conrad led her back to her mother. But the divine guest never came. Then soft in the silence a voice he heard: "Lift up your heart, for I kept my word. Three times I came to your friendly door. Three times my shadow was on your floor. I was the beggar with bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the child in the homeless street" (Matthew 25:40). We must practice hospitality if we are to be like Jesus.

How can we practice hospitality? Very simply have the attitude of opening our home and our heart to the needs of others. For many years Clarence I Power of Marietta, Georgia had been confined to his bed, much of the time unable to move any part of his body. One day he conceived

the idea of a special "Shut-in's Day" and forthwith inaugurated plans to make it an international affair. The movement took hold quickly and now the first Sunday in June of each year is set aside to visit the sick and shut-ins, to send them cards and flowers and otherwise bring cheer to this great host of people. Mr. Powers, who is now able to sit up in bed, is usually surrounded by his tracts, greeting cards, magazines, telephone, computer, correspondence list, letters and his Bible and is a happy man despite his affliction.

Hospitality is an attitude of the heart. It is the attitude that we are ready at all time to give to others and serve their needs.

By Eddie Lewis, associate minister at the Germantown, Tennessee church of Christ.  
eddielewis@gtownchurch

## Considered?

(Cont. from page 18)

deep Bible knowledge and zeal for the Lord and His cause.

**Have you considered – what you may currently see as troubling times may actually be the beginning of the best of times.** Ask God to open more doors for you and then be ready to allow Him to use you to your fullest. Whether for yourself or someone you know who would be a good candidate for Magnolia Bible College, just consider it. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Hailey, Homer. **A Commentary On Job.** Religious Supply, Inc, 1994.

<sup>2</sup> All passages are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

**Travis Brown**

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**Thank YOU for  
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**Request Received  
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*I have been receiving your paper addressed to my deceased father, ... at my address... ever since my mom passed a couple of years ago. Please remove his name and my address from your mailing list.*

*I'm sure the paper is interesting to those who are alumni of the college, but I find it full of social news that does nothing for my spiritual growth. (Name withheld by editor)*

## DISCIPLINE

(Cont. from page 3)

### Nurture Every Spark

As a Boy Scout I was taught how to start a fire with a flint stone and some carefully protected shavings for tinder, even when rain had dampened whatever sticks and fallen timber might be available for fuel. A spark was struck into the dry shavings and then very carefully shielded from the rain and wind, tenderly blown upon until a tiny flame would glow. Then more shavings were gingerly pushed toward the flame so that they too would catch, until the fire grew large enough and hot enough to ignite the damp wood that could make the needed larger fire.

It was a tedious process. Impatience could result in the early spark dying, the fire's flame flickering out. The scant supply of dry tinder might be all used. Nothing could then be done with just a flint stone and wet sticks. Nurture that little early spark carefully!

So in dealing with those we would restore to repentance; we should accept every indication of turning and encourage and nurture it.

A person who had not been attending services for a number of years began attending again. She was told she could not be counted as a member again until she went forward and confessed sin. The little spark died out before it could burst into flame.

A person who had been in a congregation using instrumental music desired to leave it and worship with an a cappella congregation. He could only be accepted if he would come forward and confess sin, he was told. The flickering flame went out.

### A Worthwhile Goal

"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20).

Each person needs to be dealt with according to his or her level of maturity and what we may know of their heart and disposition. As Jude, the brother of James and perhaps of the Lord, said, "And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh" (Jude 22-23).

The commandments of the Lord relating to church discipline need to be obeyed, but like all of his commandments, they need to be obeyed in the way he commanded, for the reasons he commanded, and always in a spirit of love for all involved.

CM

**Your Prayers Requested  
Your Comments Appreciated**

## Sunday Night Gathering at Gautier

Sunday evening, March 8, 2009, was a memorable evening for my June and me. Just a little before six o'clock, we walked into the neat and functional meeting place of Christ's church in Gautier, Mississippi. (It sounds like the local folks pronounce the name "Gautier" as "Go-Shay").

As I recall, the very first person we met was a lady named Mitchell. She just happened to be the sweet wife of a great gentleman and dedicated preacher we have been privileged to know for many years -- **Dorice Mitchell**.

For decades, brother Mitchell has preached on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For many years, he served well as the preacher for the Central church in Pascagoula. His effective work continued until the years sorta "caught up with him" and he decided to "retire." However, not long after he "retired", he accepted the challenge of "filling in" at Gautier -- about ten miles west of Pascagoula. That was ten or eleven (or was it sixteen?) years ago. He is still "filling in."

As one might expect, singing was a major part of the evening service. Song leader **Allen Born** led us in challenging one another as we sang "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." Then, in another song, we were reminded of the affirmative answer to the vital question, "Does Jesus Care?"

Afterwards, an opening prayer to God, led by **Pete Hankins**, humbly expressed gratitude to God for the Gautier congregation where, as brother Pete said, "peace and harmony prevails."

Then, just before the evening sermon, brother Allen asked that we turn in our song books to number 722. Following our leader, we called upon each other to, "Let the Beauty of Jesus be Seen in You." For some reason, the words of the third verse of that song seemed to have a special meaning on the night of our visit. It says,

*"From the dawn of morning,  
To close of day;  
In example, in deeds,  
In all you say;  
Lay your gifts at his feet,  
Ever strive to keep sweet;  
Let the beauty of Jesus  
Be seen in you."*

After brother Born announced the invitational hymn, the not-so-young preacher named Mitchell stepped into the pulpit -- well prepared to present a thought provoking and stirring lesson. His sermon was entitled, "The Lost ['Bible'] Book" and was based on the account found in 2 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 34. Skillfully, the experienced preacher showed the power of the *written word* of God upon the life of a king and that of his kingdom.

The inspired record related how that God's written law for His people had been "lost" for a long time. When the law was found in the house of the Lord by Hilkiah the high priest, it's message was shared with Shaphan, the scribe, who then went into the presence of King Josiah and read the law to him.



Dorice Mitchell

When the king heard the words of the "Bible" [law to Israel] he was greatly disturbed. He realized that he and his people had not been living according to the will of God. The king then had the law read to "all of the people, both small and great." (23:2)

As a result of "Bible reading" the king led the nation in a great "restoration movement." This brought about repentance and a renewal, on the part of the people, to serve God as directed in His written word -- that written word which had been lost, but was found!

It was a forceful and practical lesson reminding us of the power of the **Word**, the *seed* of the kingdom, and how, though it be misplaced, when found and followed, the amazing results of restoration are accomplished. The sermon was effectively presented by a preacher who, although he is past eighty in years, has not lost his touch in the pulpit.

The evening gathering in Gautier also included a special time of fellowship following the services. After a rather lengthy time together, as we departed to our motor home (in a park, about 2 miles away), we were much encouraged as we reflected on the good services and the great sermon. It was another one of those memorable evenings with [spiritual] family. We are grateful. (alf/mjf)

**Do you have a friend or relative you would like to receive each issue of the MM? Just let us know. E-mail:franksmm@aol.com**



## A Mission Opportunity in Bogalusa, LA

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Evangelist Mike Price asked that the MM publish the following letter. After talking with representatives of the church in Hattiesburg and having visited with Mike, we are pleased to honor brother Mike's request. Like so many other struggling congregations, Bogalusa is in need of capable and dependable assistance. Through many years of personal experience, we have come to appreciate the willingness of talented people who are ready to assist churches that may be on the verge of closing their doors. (alf)

### Bogalusa CHURCH OF CHRIST Freedom In Christ

Love-Involvement-Fellowship-Evangelism

03/24/09

Dear Brethren,

Nancy and I, since 1989, have been involved in local work on the Gulf coast of Mississippi and Louisiana, as well as holding Evangelism Seminars, Gospel Campaigns and Marriage Seminars. The Church of Christ in Bogalusa, Louisiana found themselves without a preacher for over three years and prayed that someone would come and work with them. Due to three factories moving out of town, the congregation suffered a sizable exodus. There were around 12 brethren when we started preaching on Sunday mornings and holding bible class on Wednesday nights. We started working with them full time March 1st of 2008. Bogalusa is now averaging around 31 in attendance. They want to be evangelistic and are willing to carry the gospel to family and friends but need encouragement and direction along with your support.

The Bogalusa Church of Christ owns it's building and has no debt. The real concern was that they were only a funeral or two away from closing their doors. We have had some converts and it is breathing life back into the work here in Bogalusa. We believe this is a golden opportunity for the church to grow once again in Bogalusa. Also this would be a great state side mission work for someone to be involved in and share with us in the preaching of the gospel.

Of course we will need your help in this effort. Kensington Woods Church of Christ, will have to back out of their major commitment to the work by April 1st of 2009. Commitment to their Tanzania mission work in Africa and the fact that some of their major contributors have moved, they have decided at this time not to continue their support for the work in Bogalusa. This was a hard decision for them as Nancy and I have been so involved with Kensington Woods over the past two years and eight months and the elders are my close personal friends.

This leaves us looking for help to support this work. We need only a few congregations to help with a monthly contribution of \$100.00 or more. We have a short fall of \$1,000.00 a month to finalize and complete our monthly support. Would you please consider helping.

The town is 13,500 in population and 40,000 in surrounding area, with the demographics being 50% black and 50% white. What is interesting is that the Bogalusa congregation has the same demographic make up as the community.

Please help us with this wonderful opportunity for the next 5 to 8 years. We believe that we could be self-supporting or very close by the end of 5 years. Please, we are asking for your help. Please consider having Nancy and I come and visit with you concerning this work. Your monthly support is greatly needed.

Please make checks payable to the "Bogalusa Church of Christ."

Please send your contributions to the following address:

Attention: Stewart Parker, Treasurer  
Bogalusa Church of Christ  
1516 North Columbia Ave.  
Bogalusa, LA 70427

Phone: 601-798-9542; Cell: 601-467-0775; mhsp68@gmail.com

Yours truly,

Mike Price

#### References:

Elders at  
Kensington Woods  
Church of Christ:  
Brian Anderson,  
Charles Johnson,  
Don Rake,  
Ken Upchurch  
Contact Elder: Don Rake  
Phone: 601-264-2945



Mike & Nancy Price

## Brookway in Brookhaven Conducts Gospel Meeting

**Ken Joines** of Southaven, Mississippi was guest evangelist for the Brookway church in a gospel meeting held April 26 - 29th. **Wendell Davis** serves as the local minister.

My June and I were blessed to be in attendance on Monday evening where we were much encouraged by the fellowship of brethren and by the excellent sermon preached by Ken Joines.

Brother Joines retired a "couple (?) of years ago" as the pulpit minister of the Goodman Oaks church in Southaven; however, he is staying busy with meetings, "fill-ins" and serving as an interim preacher for at least two churches -- one in Florida and another in Mississippi. We appreciate his work, his encouragement and especially his writings -- some of which we have shared with readers of the MM.

It is always a blessing to be in the presence of Wendell Davis who has served churches of Christ in Lincoln county for many, many years. Brother Davis is truly "an encourager of good works", including one of his special projects -- the **Berean Children's home** in Louisiana.

## Magnolia Messenger 25,000

Circulation (Each Issue)  
We are Thankful!

### PICKENSVILLE, AL via BOGALUSA, LA

(A News Note From Mike Price)

We were in Pickensville, Alabama March 14th through the 18th and held a gospel meeting. This meeting followed a Seminar that I held with the Pickensville Church of Christ this last January to help each member take ownership of their own personal evangelism.

The congregation has 45 members and, to our pleasant surprise, just over 50% of them took part in the canvassing and door knocking that took place from the 14th through the 18th of this month. **Nancy**, my wife, and a member of the Bogalusa congregation, **Joyce Buie**, went with me to conduct the gospel meeting and help out.

We had **three baptisms** from door knocking and contacting family and friends. There were **four** who had not darkened the doors of the congregation for over two years that were restored and **five** members responded to the invitation from Sunday to Wednesday. This was a wonderful week and God blessed our efforts for Christ sake in a wonderful way. (**Mike and Nancy Price**, See letter from Mike on this same page.)



Central Church Building in Pascagoula



**Rod Tate,**  
Excited About The  
Challenge at Central,  
Preaches the Word

The year was 2005. The month was August. The date was the 28th. That's when the hurricane hit. **Katrina** was the "worst storm in modern history" to slam the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The devastation was unbelievable. Many died. Multitudes of houses were demolished; many business were destroyed "forever". The city of Pascagoula, in the midst of all the destruction, suffered immensely from the terrific winds and powerful waves.

Almost immediately, Christians joined with multitudes of other caring people and began an extensive effort to assist those who had suffered such great loss. The Central church of Christ in Pascagoula provided leadership and a base for operations in this long term effort. The name of **John Dobbs**, preacher for the church, became widely known for his leadership role in coordinating valuable assistance. He, along with other members of the Central church, devoted *weeks... months... yes, even years*, seeking to meet the needs of the hurting thousands. Much love was demonstrated. Much good was accomplished.

About a year ago, John Dobbs left the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and accepted the challenge of full-time work as preacher with the Forsythe church of Christ in Monroe, LA.

Over the past several years, like so many other congregations, the Central church has decreased in size. However, on the occasion of our visit in early March of 2009, it is apparent that the brethren are determined to do what they can

## Pascagoula Visit In 2009, Stirred Memories Of Katrina's Destruction In 2005

as they renew their efforts to build up the body of Christ in Pascagoula. To assist them in this needed effort they have brought in a very capable couple to work with them, **Rod and Mimi Tate**. (Many MM readers may recall that Rod was the first president of Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko back when the school was established in 1976.) The Tates bring to Pascagoula their many years of experience, knowledge and determination to do the will of the Lord and to provide leadership in faithfully teaching His word.

My June and I were blessed with the privilege of visiting the Central church on Sunday morning (March 8, 2009). The fellowship was very enjoyable. It was wonderful to be able to join in the beautiful singing, capably led by long time elder **Jim Ingram**. It was also a privilege to personally speak to the congregation about our work with the MM and then to listen to a meaningful sermon preached by brother Rod.

As we remember the past (Katrina), we also look forward to the future, anticipating good things from the Central church as they work together under the leadership of Jesus Christ in their renewed efforts to build up the body of Christ. May God bless. (editor)

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## Churches Seeking Preachers

**Notice:** We are pleased to run ads for congregations seeking to find preachers to work with them. Please call or mail your request to: 662-289-3559 or 601-668-3344; "Magnolia Messenger"; P.O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090. You may e-mail us by addressing: [franksmm@aol.com](mailto:franksmm@aol.com). We will plan to run each 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!**

### Lucedale

#### Rocky Creek

The Rocky Creek Church of Christ is looking for a full time minister. We are an established country church with a membership of approximately 160 with an average attendance of 100/110 for Sunday morning worship. Salary negotiable; house available or you may live away from the property. We have three (3) elders and (3) deacons. We are looking for someone with a strong doctrine base, would prefer someone with prior full time experience but not mandatory, married with good people skills. We are located six (6) miles north of Lucedale at Hwy 63 and Rocky Creek Road. Contact **Ben Harrison** at (601) 947-3776.

(RR-1/15/09)

### Vanceleave, MS Seeks Evangelist

3-09

Buck Hall, evangelist of the Vanceleave church of Christ lost his battle with cancer on Feb 14, 2009. The Vanceleave elders desire to make our need known for a full-time evangelist for both the pulpit and the community. We would prefer a married man with school-age children because of the great opportunities available through those contacts.

Our typical Sunday morning attendance is just under 100, and our facilities are at a choice location on MS Hwy 57. We have three elders, three deacons, and many well-qualified teachers.

The Vanceleave church believes in the power of the gospel rather than the wisdom of man, has a loving and unselfish spirit, willing workers, a good rapport with the community, and heavy involvement in evangelistic outreach at home and abroad.

We are known for our benevolent efforts and our love for one another. We

### Editor's Note

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

### Note Also

There is no charge to churches for this service. Thanks for asking!

### Maud, AL Church Seeks Minister

Elders  
House Provided  
Attendance: About 90  
Desire a married couple

More Information?  
Call Sammy Johnson at  
256-360-2601

Send Resume' to  
**Maud Church of Christ**  
2775 Maud Rd  
Cherokee, AL 35616  
2/09

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

### "Preach the Word"

"Reprove, rebuke, exhort"  
(2 Tim. 4:2)

### Lafayette, LA Youth/Worship Minister

Riverside church of Christ in Lafayette, Louisiana is seeking a full-time Youth/Worship minister. He should have a minimum of two to three years experience and be married. He should possess a strong knowledge of God's Word, with the ability to relate to young minds. A desire and willingness to work with youth in various family situations in a predominately Catholic community is a must.

The primary responsibility is to work with an ongoing youth ministry to encourage spiritual growth and faith formation. The Youth/Worship minister will help develop a program that will enhance a stronger relationship with the Lord and one another. His secondary responsibility will be to assist in planning and leading worship.

Competitive salary, benefits, and a house will be provided. You may send your resume to:

**Youth Minister Search**  
C/o Riverside church of Christ  
111 E. Camellia Blvd.  
Lafayette, LA. 70503  
Ph 337-984-2035  
Fax 337-984-3383  
E-mail & Website

[kmitchell@riversidechurchofchrist.org](mailto:kmitchell@riversidechurchofchrist.org)  
[www.riversidechurchofchrist.org](http://www.riversidechurchofchrist.org)

**"Preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season."** 2 Timothy 4:2)

### BATESVILLE

On March 13-19, 2009, about 20 members from the Batesville Church of Christ were part of a "Campaign For Christ" in Amite county, Mississippi. The towns they worked were Gloster, Liberty, Centerville and Woodville. A vacation Bible School and a Gospel Meeting were also conducted during this week. A Gospel Meeting is planned for the Batesville Church with **Tom Holland** doing the preaching. The dates are August 2nd-5th, 2009.

### MOORHEAD

#### Mission Needs Help

**Gene & Madolyn Gibson**, who work with the Christian Student Center at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, Mississippi are in need of funds help them continue in their much needed work. They are in need of a congregation, led by sound mission minded elders, to help as their sponsoring congregation. It is requested that this work be remembered in your prayers; and if anyone knows of a congregation that might be interested please contact the Gibsons at **P.O. Box 651, Moorhead, MS 38761.**

## "Have You Considered...?"

### -Travis Brown -

The title for this article comes from a question that God, Himself asked Satan long ago. It is found in Job 1:8. In the previous verse God had asked Satan where he had come from. It



Travis Brown

wasn't that He did not know, but it was to begin a conversation<sup>1</sup>. Satan replied that he had been walking back and forth on the earth.

God then brought His servant, Job, to Satan's attention. After God's high regard for Job is voiced, Satan attacks his integrity suggesting that Job only serves God because God has blessed him richly. So begins the "testing" of Job's faith in God.

Since this article is not intended to be an in-depth study of the events of Job, we will conclude here by referring to two verses. The first is Job 1:22, "In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong."<sup>2</sup> The second is Job 42:12, "Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning ..."

As I said, this article isn't so much a discourse on Job as it is some thoughts on the phrase "Have you considered...?" Perhaps it will do us good to slow down for a moment and consider some things.

**Have you considered – God is still in control.** Man has demonstrated a tendency to forget this very important fact. Just asking Nebuchadnezzar of Daniel chapter 4 about God's dominion. In verse 17 we read, "This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men." This was proclaimed with an announcement that the king would live as a beast until he knew "that the Most High rules in the Kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." (vs. 25). Though there is much discussion today about those in places of authority over us, let us consider the fact that God is still in control.

**Have you considered – the providence of God.** Possibly one of the most vivid displays of God's providence is seen in the life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). With the twists and turns and unexpected events, his life was like a rollercoaster ride. However, there was one thing that stayed

constant – Joseph never left God and God never left Joseph. Twice in Genesis chapter 39 it says that "the LORD was with Joseph" (vs. 2 and 21). In the midst of the uncertainty around us, Christians find

great comfort in knowing that God is with us working in ways we cannot see nor understand.

**Have you considered – God opens doors.** The Lord told the church at Philadelphia that He had set before them an "open door, and no one can shut it." (Revelation 3:8). This was encouraging to the brethren of the first century and should be for us as well today. God is the one in control of opening doors. It is up to us to step through them when He opens them.

**Have you considered – Magnolia Bible College is still preparing preachers and training teachers.** For over 30 years MBC has helped men and women step through the doors that God has opened to allow them to be better servants in His church. Over 15 years ago, God opened a door for me. Through His providence and care I was able to enroll at MBC and begin preaching the Gospel of Christ. I have not regretted that decision one moment. Though at times I did not know exactly how the story was going to unfold, I took it on faith that as long as I was serving God to the best of my ability, I would be blessed richly. I assure you that I have witnessed that very fact in my life over and over again.

It may be that you know of someone who is currently in uncertain territory. Maybe it is you, yourself. A lost job or cutback in hours has brought an unexpected change. Perhaps you have thought in times past about the possibility of preaching or getting a sound Bible education but your situation would not allow you to do so.

What if our God, who is in control of all things, is opening a door for you now? It may be that for the first time, you could seriously consider enrolling at Magnolia Bible College. We would be happy to talk with you about the possibilities of making that dream become a reality. There is always a need for dedicated servants in the church. Congregations desperately need preachers, teachers, youth ministers and others who have a

Turn to **Considered** on page 16



Vanceleave Church Building





One of three "Oak Ridge Churches of Christ" in Mississippi

The Oak tree is pretty popular among churches of Christ in Mississippi. At least the word "Oak" is found in several "names" used to identify church meeting places. There is a "Lone Oak", an "Oak Grove", a "West Oak Grove" and, at least, three "Oak Ridges".

Near Vicksburg there is an Oak Ridge church where **Paul Gaunt** has faithfully preached for many years. Then, there is an Oak Ridge at French Camp where **Brad Adcock** (an MBC graduate) has preached for the past couple of years. Then, out from Booneville, on a Baldwin rural route, is another Oak Ridge church of Christ where **William J. Coats** has preached for the past few years.

It was our privilege to recently (March 29th) visit and preach for NE Mississippi's Oak Ridge church. This church, located in the Blackland community, decided to conduct a "Special 5th Sunday" service and was kind enough to ask me to come and preach.

My June and I thoroughly enjoyed being with the Oak Ridge brethren where we participated in some of the "best congregational singing ever" and found some of the friendliest people ever. Maybe that is just characteristic of churches of Christ known as "Oak Ridge".

This church, established a little more than 100 years ago, put forth a special effort to invite neighbors, friends and nearby congregations to attend the services of the special day. As a result, attendance which usually runs between 50 and 60 reached upwards to 134. Following the morning services, the ladies spread an unbelievable array of dishes filled with delicious food.

After lunch, an hour was devoted to congregational singing. Several of the talented men, including visitors, led songs. A number of young men (boys



Garrison Coats

gladly participated in the song leading. **One very special young boy** (looked to be 4 or 5 years old), ac-

companied by a young friend, came forward and led the church in singing "Jesus Loves Me." He did a marvelous job. Afterwards, we were told that his name was **Garrison Coats** and that he has been undergoing treatment for cancer.

Several folks from the area signed up to receive regularly the "Magnolia Messenger." We are thankful. We were also blessed with the opportunity of getting to know their preacher at Oak Ridge, **Jerry Coats**. Appreciated so very much his capable teaching and singing abilities. We are grateful for his leadership in what may be correctly called a "thriving country church" known as "Oak Ridge." (alf/editor)



Jerry Coats

Reader Comments Invited. Really!

### Bible Literature for China Available through Alabama Church

The church in Spanish Fort, Alabama has been involved in reaching out to Chinese speaking people—both in the USA and in mainland China—for the past 14 years. One of the main thrusts of this ministry has been to provide bilingual [English & simplified Chinese] Bible lessons as well as religious and science articles to those who are searching for truth.

Written materials come from many different sources including: Edward Short & Edward Ho from World Christian Broadcasting in Franklin, TN; David Finch in Baton Rouge, LA; George & Martha Tien from Ohio; Daniel Hung at the Westside church in San Francisco; Eddie Cloer with Truth for Today in Searcy, AR; the Westbury church in Houston; John Grubb with Truth for the World in Duluth, GA and many more.

If you, or someone you know in your congregation, have plans to go to China and would like to have any of these materials, please let us know. Also, if you would like to receive a catalog of available materials please contact us at the address below.

Likewise, if members of your congregation are involved in reaching out to Chinese people who are studying or working in the USA, please let us know. We will send once a month, free of charge, to anyone living in the USA or Canada 6-7 lessons or studies. All materials are bilingual—both Chinese and English—which makes it easy for non-Chinese speakers to share them with Chinese friends. God has brought the nation of China to our doorstep—so please, for more information, contact:

**Spanish Fort Church of Christ**  
P. O. Box 7305  
Spanish Fort, AL 36577  
chinaliterature@bellsouth.net

### Brazil Church Building Receives A New Roof

Robert Rawson, preacher in Batesville, Mississippi expressed appreciation to all who helped with funds to re-roof the church building in Brazil, Mississippi. He said, "Thanks to all for your help. The job is done and the building is preserved for use. We had the necessary funds." Brother Robert identified the workers pictured above.



He wrote, "The workers are **Don Roberson**, preacher at Coffeerville, **John BeShears**, member at Coffeerville; **Tom Boyd**, high man pulling up the metal roof and **Neal Bennett**, the ground man, delivering sheets to the roofline."

### Lake Harbour Visit in Ridgeland "Very Enjoyable"

On Sunday, April 12, 2009, my June and I were blessed with the opportunity of visiting the Lake Harbour church in Ridgeland, MS. Thier long time preacher, John Pigg, asked me to fill in while he and about 60 other members were in Nashville attending the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Convention.

Our recent visit reminded us that Lake Harbour is a church where every earnest follower of Christ Jesus can feel "at home." The congregation is, as should be expected, actively involved in local evangelism -- resulting in several conversions each year. They also provide support for both stateside and foreign mission works, including a new work in Mexico.

The growing church, which brings together an average of 175

worshippers each Lord's day and operates on a weekly budget of \$5,000, is capably overseen by four elders -- **Marion Freeman**, **Morris Houston**, **L. C. Reese** and **Tony Wilburn**. (Thank you, brother Freeman, for the very kind comments made as you introduced me before each of three lessons.)

Eight deacons have been assigned specific responsibilities over the many different areas of congregational activities. **John Pigg** is the long time pulpit and outreach minister. **Dustin Abbot** is the youth minister and **Jauna Hall** is the church secretary. A very special thanks to **Marlin and Nelma Ivey** for their hospitality in taking us out to lunch. (alf)

THANKS for reading the MM

The MM is always in need of your Encouragement and Fervent Prayers

## MARRIAGE

God's Plan for Mankind

ONE man (for life)



ONE woman (for life)

"...male and female made he them."

(Genesis 1:27)

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground...."

And the Lord God said,

"It is not good that man should be alone."

"I will make him an help meet for him."

"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

(Gen. 2:7,18,22,24)

"Let marriage be had in honor among all, and the bed undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Heb. 13:4)

### Answers -- Question Box -- Last Issue

#### "Fools and/or Foolish" (Jesus)

The above words are used to describe people with certain undesirable characteristics. Jesus spoke of some as "fools" or as "foolish". Match the phrase in column one with the most appropriate statement in column two. (Chapters to help in your study are: Matthew chapters 7, 25, and 23; also Luke chapters 12 and 24)

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Foolish Builder    | 1 Foundation was sand            |
| 2. Foolish Hinges     | 3 Left God out of his plans      |
| 3. Foolish Farmer     | 5 Blinded to the truth           |
| 4. Foolish Disciples  | 4 Slow to believe prophets       |
| 5. Foolish Hypocrites | 2 Waited until it was "too late" |

#### How to Identify a Fool (Proverbs)

According to the book of Proverbs, fools have certain characteristics. Read each of the following chapters and find the verse which lists one of the qualities of a fool. Match the reference in column one with the characteristic in column two.

- |                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Proverbs 01: 7  | 1 Despises wisdom and instruction    |
| 2. Proverbs 10: 18 | 7 Trusteth in his own heart          |
| 3. Proverbs 12: 15 | 3 Always right in his own eyes       |
| 4. Proverbs 14: 9  | 5 Despises his father's instructions |
| 5. Proverbs 15: 5  | 6 Has no delight in understanding    |
| 6. Proverbs 18: 2  | 4 Makes mockery of sin               |
| 7. Proverbs 25: 26 | 2 Hides hatred and stirs slander     |

#### "No God!" (Who said that? Answer: "The Fool")

Please find the two chapters in the book of Psalms which are almost identical. One chapter is divided into six verses; the other into seven. You are asked to locate the chapters and fill in the missing words. Both chapters begin with the following and words.

(Psalms 14:1 and Psalm 53:1)

"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God..."

#### Faithful Parents and Foolish Children

According to the wisdom writings in Proverbs, how do foolish children affect their loving and caring parents? Write the missing words in the following quotations selected from Proverbs chapters 15, 17 and 19.

- "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother." (Proverbs 15: 20)
- "He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow and the father of a fool hath no joy." (Proverbs 17: 21)
- "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him." (Proverbs 17: 25)
- "A foolish son is the calamity of his father..." (Proverbs 19: 13)

Thank you for answering "The Question Box"



## At MBC's Annual Benefit Dinner Special Awards Were Presented to Special People

**NOTE: On the occasion of MBC's 28th Annual Benefit dinner held April 18, 2009, special awards were presented to three special people. Garvis Semore, president of MBC, spoke to the crowd of supporters. He said:**

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

First, tonight's **Student of the Year**. This year's Student of the Year comes to MBC from Southaven, MS. While at MBC, he served as a summer intern for the Hendersonville church of Christ in Hendersonville, TN. He has



**Jake Brownfield**  
"Student of the Year"

already gone on short term mission trips and came to us after two years at Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Arkansas. This year's Student of the Year hopes to attend graduate school at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. He was honored in February as the HEADWAE student by the Mississippi Legislature and is graduating Magna Cum Laude from MBC in May. He has been named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and to the



**Steve Shappley** (Shane Meredith, right)  
"Alumnus of the Year"

Dean's and President's List. It pleases me tonight to present this award to **Jake Brownfield**, our Student of the Year.

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

At this time I would like to invite Shane Meredith, President of the MBC Alumni Association to come present the award for this year's "Alumnus of the Year".

Shane Meredith came forward and said, "Magnolia Bible College now has 125 graduates and a host of other alumni who took classes but did not graduate. Of that 125, there are scores who are preaching full-time in the state of Mississippi. That is amazing! But there are alumni who are living and working in other states as well. Our alumni are preachers, elders, deacons, missionaries, youth workers, teachers, social workers, campaign workers, etc. The list could go on and on. We are making an impact in the kingdom of our Lord every single day.

"It has been said many times that you can judge the quality of a school by the quality of its graduates. MBC graduates are making a real difference.

"Every year we honor one of our alumni as the *Alumnus of the Year*. The honoree is nominated and voted on by the MBC alumni association. As the new alumni association president it is my honor to present tonight's recipient.

"This year's honoree is from Columbus, MS. He is a member of the graduating class of 1999 and is currently enrolled in graduate classes at Freed-Hardeman University. He has been a faithful friend to MBC, having been actively involved in the alumni association as well as volunteering to help in any way possible. He currently serves as the minister for the Beans Ferry congregation in Fulton, MS. He, and his wife, Beth, have two children.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present unto you the 2009 Alumnus of the Year – **Mr. Steve Shappley.**"

P r e s i d e n t

Semore continued, "Our final award for the evening is the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Volunteer of the Year is presented to individuals who go above and



**Bobby Anderson**  
"Volunteer of the Year"

beyond in their service to MBC and her mission. The recipient of tonight's award has been a friend to the College from the beginning. He has served the Bible College at varying times as an instructor, a fund-raiser, and a tremendous encourager. He currently serves on our President's Council and organizes an annual regional scholarship dinner for MBC. He, and his wife Sandra, have two children and three grandchildren. It is my honor tonight to name **Bobby Anderson** as the Volunteer of the Year!"

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## A Christian Woman Faces Dilemma About Christmas

- Judith Dial -

The winter holiday season (December 25, *Christmas*) has passed. And, as in every Christmas season since I became a Christian, I face the same dilemma. Should I celebrate the "Christmas Holiday"?

Midwinter celebrations had their beginning before the birth of Christ. Ancient pagan festivals and many human traditions, reflected in the modern celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th, did not become widely accepted or popular until more recent times. Diligent Bible students know that the Holy Scriptures do not mention the day called "Christmas" and are aware that first century Christians did not observe or celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th -- or any other specific day of the year.

The celebration of Christmas has been controversial since its inception. Numerous festivities associated with Christmas have their roots in pagan practices and have often been frowned upon by conservatives within the church. The modern practice of feasting, gift-giving and frequent *excesses* seem to present a drastic contrast with the simplicity of the birth of our Lord. Many frown upon such practices, believing them to be contrary to the *true spirit of Christmas*. It comes at no surprise that believers in Jesus are often upset that the Christmas Season, to them, is not "*as religious as it was meant to be.*" However, many seem to forget that Christmas was not celebrated by the earliest of Christians and is, in reality, not mentioned even once in the New Testament.

Early churches had not annually celebrated the birth of Christ until Telesphorus, who was said to be "the second Bishop of Rome" (from 125 to 136 A.D), declared that church services should be held to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour. However, since no one was quite sure in which month Christ was born, the nativity celebration was often held in September. In fact, for many years, people observed the birth of Jesus on *various* dates, however, in 320 A.D. the man called "Pope Julius" specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Among churches of Christ, special worship services celebrating Christmas are usually not conducted. Many even forgo the singing of "Christmas carols" in December. The celebration of Christmas among members of the New Testament church is considered to be more of a *tradition* or "*family thing*" and is not looked upon as a spiritual *holy day*. Their



Judith Dial

desire to not be confused with the denominational world is shown in efforts to refuse the religious practice of anything which is not taught in the word of God. Yet, we usually exchange gifts with family and friends and often hold "Christmas parties" in our homes, offices and church fellowship halls. I often wonder how the denominational world views our "partial" celebration of the holiday tradition.

Should we celebrate this holiday called "*Christ-mass*"? Admittedly, the season is a time of kindness to others, sharing blessings, and enjoying fellowship with family and friends. But, should not these things, along with the celebration of the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior, be *all year long*? Would it be more appropriate, maybe, to call this traditional holiday (December 25) "Winter Solstice" or something similar? Is talking about the Nativity and singing carols during December wrong in the sight of God? By the way, when was the last time you heard a Bible class lesson or sermon on the birth of Jesus the Christ?

Judith Dial  
105 Sawmill Cove  
Madison, MS 39110  
[jdial2@medicine.umsmed.edu](mailto:jdial2@medicine.umsmed.edu)

### VERONA

Wayne Cox has been preaching for the Verona Church of Christ going on seventeen years.

### Seeking Ship Servants Christian Couple

Seeking a Christian couple to serve on the Ship of Life in Cambodia. He should be a maintenance man familiar with diesel engines, generators, electrical and hydraulic systems; she should be willing to help out in the medical clinic. For additional information regarding the Ship, visit our website: [www.partnersinprogress.org](http://www.partnersinprogress.org). Send resumes and letters of inquiry to Ship of Life, P.O. Box 13989, Maumelle, AR 72113.



## MBC Students Invited to Conduct Meeting in Millport

The first week of April four men, along with Magnolia Bible College president Garvis Semore, conducted a Gospel Meeting at the Millport church of Christ in Millport, AL. Curtis (Sonny) McLellan, Millport's minister, contacted me last year regarding the possibility of having MBC students conduct their spring meeting. That would give the brethren at Millport, long-time supporters and friends of MBC, an opportunity to meet some current students and foster a deeper friendship with them.

The speakers were: Blake Rushing, a freshman and Youth Minister in Brookhaven, MS. Tim McCarter, a senior and preacher in Cleveland, MS. Norman Spann, a freshman and preacher in Greenwood, MS. Armand Willey, a senior and preacher in Durant, MS. Garvis Semore spoke at both the Sunday morning and Sunday evening services. It was good for the fine brethren in Lamar County and surrounding area to get acquainted with MBC's current president. Students taught the Sunday morning class and preached in the Monday through Wednesday evening services. Each of the speakers did a wonderful job of presenting sound, applicable lessons which encouraged and challenged the hearers.



Blake Rushing



Tim McCarter



Norman Spann



Armand Willey

The meeting was supported well by both the members at Millport and sister congregations from AL and MS. The hosting congregation is to be commended for their efforts in leading up to the meeting and throughout each night of it. The students were made to feel right at home by the warm reception and friendliness of the brethren. Of course, that is what one would expect from family.

In addition to the smiles and encouraging words was an abundance of food. The Sunday lunch kicked the week off with a tremendous amount of excellent food from every type and variety one can imagine. The tradition continued with those providing the evening meals from Monday through Wednesday. From the main courses to side-items to desserts, no one left hungry. Then, to top off those meals, we feasted on God's word. Once again, no one left hungry. Our plates were filled by each speaker. For two students, this was their first "official" meeting to participate in.

MBC wants to express a debt of gratitude once more to the Millport church of Christ for allowing us to be a part of this successful effort. May God continue to bless every effort for good. (Reported by Travis Brown, Director of Admissions at Magnolia Bible College.)

### Please Remember to Pray for the Magnolia Messenger

#### SOUTHAVEN

The Power Lectures are scheduled for July 26-30, 2009 at the Southaven Church of Christ, Southaven, Mississippi. The Theme is "Simon Peter: Who Walked On Water With Feet Of Clay."

#### HARTSVILLE, AL - Bob Spurlin

Bob Spurlin, a faithful Gospel Preacher in the Hartsville, AL area, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1995. In spite of brother Bob's illness he has, with the assistance of specialized equipment, written several books and made several videotapes designed to encourage others who have endured adversity. Brother Bob's books are: "Don't Ever Give Up", "Tackling Life's Troubles", "Dial 911" (Published after the September 11 terrorist attacks). His videos are: "Coping With a Debilitating Disease", "Coping with Drug or Alcohol Abuse", "A Visit in the Spurlins Home", and "Don't Ever Give Up". You may contact brother Bob at the following address: Bob Spurlin, 2101 Glenwood Drive, Hartselle, AL 35640

## Kosciusko Church Celebrates 75 Years of Service

A LITTLE HISTORY

### South Huntington Street Church

The Church of Christ had its beginning in Kosciusko in 1934. After using various places to meet for services, a house on North Madison Street was secured for the church's use. In 1947 this building was sold and a lot was purchased and a tent meeting was held. During time of the construction of a building the church met in the high school. In January of 1949, the building was complete enough for the church to begin meeting there. It was located on Jackson Street.

In January of 1970, the current building was completed and services were begun on S. Huntington Street and the Kosciusko church became known as the S. Huntington Church of Christ. A major expansion of these facilities was begun in the late 90's and we began to use the new addition in 2000.

The first elders were **W. A. Bryant, George Wallace, and T. A. Davis**. The first deacons were **Dallas Champion, Denver Bell and Roland Nash**. A number of good spiritual men have served this church as elders and deacons over the years. One of the most significant accomplishments of the S. Huntington church was the establishment of Magnolia Bible College. The men serving as elders spearheading that effort were **J. B. Hayes, Al Franks, and Marlin Ivey**. Our current elders are **Jim Dendy, John Gardner and Dewey Lawrence**.

As near as we can tell, over the last 75 years this church has been served by 22 preachers. We list them here for your information. They may or may not be in order. We do know that **Paul D. Murphy** was the first full-time preacher. He was followed by **George Long, Joe Tucker, Howard Wooldrige, Bill Rogers, J. R. Collins, Carlos Gunter, Breland Collier, Wayne Mitchell, Stacy Carter, Paul Sparks, Charles Curtis, Charles Cash, Hoyt Hathcock, Everette Day, Sr., Rod Tate, Al Franks, John Pigg, Don Jackson, Greg Beachamp, Les Ferguson, Sr., Ken Salley, and Les Ferguson, Sr.** All of these men have played a significant role in the growth and development of this congregation. We are so very thankful for each one. If you count them, there are 23, but I am blessed to be this church's preacher for the second time around.

**Les Ferguson, Sr.**  
lesfergusonr@hotmail.com

### Reflections & Thanksgiving

Report by  
**Les Ferguson, Sr**

What a wonderful 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Homecoming/Family and Friends Day celebration! March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> will long be a time that we will remember. The catered reception on Saturday night was so very good. And the Zomen reunion was just great! Lots of people were present for the Saturday night activities who could not be here for the Sunday services. It was so good to see old friends, brothers and sisters, and to meet and make new friends.

We know that there were at least 167 present for the Sunday morning worship assembly. Jim Dendy did the counting and he said that he could have very well missed several people. With just a little more effort we could have had 200 plus. But we are so very grateful for all who were present.

Our two speakers, Joe Ivey and Cecil May, Jr. did an outstanding job in the Bible class and the sermon. And the singing was some of the best, if not the best, ever! Our thanks to **Rob McCafferty** for working the service schedule so **Allen Coker, Mike McCafferty and Jon Mark Smith** could all have a part in leading us in singing hymns of praise and glory to our God. Our thanks also to Rob for coordinating the Sunday afternoon service.

Our thanks to **Shawn Hardin** and all the rest of the deacons in their work to put all of this together to make for a very wonderful time. Our thanks also to **Anita Wofford** and all who helped her decorate the bulletin

boards. And our thanks to **Larry and Janie Wallace** and all who helped them in getting lunch ready. The food was delicious and the fellowship was again so very good. And weren't the flowers on the tables beautiful! Our thanks to **Tommy & Nell Rigby** for their donation of all the beautiful Begonia Plants.

We also extend a "thank you" to all who brought pictures/posters of people and days past. We include **Miriam Dendy** and **Mary McCafferty** for working on addresses and all that was involved in getting the postcards addressed and mailed. Our thanks also to **John Gardner** for video taping the Sunday morning services. Copies will be available a little later on.



**Joe Ivey & Les Ferguson**  
(Former member/deacon & Present preacher)

It was said to me by a former member: "This was a first class effort." And it was. I know I can speak for the elders in saying that



**Cecil (former elder in Kosciusko) & Winnie May**

your effort for a great occasion was very much appreciated.

Thanks, church, for a great weekend and great memories! May our Father receive all the glory!



Zomen Singing at Reunion on Saturday evening



**Wayne Mitchell**, (one of 22 former preachers) was in attendance.



(See Question Box)

## These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 20)

1. Mrs. Dean Howe
2. Carolyn T. Taylor
3. Billy Willingham
4. Linda McKay
5. Sidney Robinson
6. James Coleman
7. Ruth Christian
8. Wilda Pounds
9. Coy Daily
10. Victor O. Farrar
11. Elledith Harris
12. Sandra Grisham
13. **Carole Shelby**
14. Ruby Ann Jacobson
15. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
16. Patrilla Maddox
17. Peggy S. Walker
18. Dewight E. Hester
19. Garry Gooch
20. Admiral Tidwell
21. Linda Hogue
22. Sibyl Goodman
23. Ken Harris
24. Willa Fox
25. Thomas A. Tucker
26. James R. Brooks
27. Weida Pyron
28. Fran Williford
29. Barbara Loden
30. Pearl Hitt
31. Janice Vaughan
32. Vickie Weatherbee
33. Kay Shiers
34. Gladys Bryant
35. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
36. Betty A. Skinner
37. Dorothy Alexander
38. Wilma Branch
39. Shan Grisham
40. Mary Montgomery
41. Kenneth R. Edgar
42. Brenda Redd
43. Ruby Gideon
44. Minnie Gwyne
45. Lois Cleo Wright
46. Shelia Hall
47. Emily Hall
48. Dorothy Brunson
49. Charlane Stanfield
50. Warren Scott Gallaher
51. Lynn Maples
52. Mrs. Mary Faulconer
53. Nellie Caldwell
54. Olye Rush
55. Betty VanBuren
56. Linda Barnes
57. Sandra Martin
58. Mrs. L. C. Stewart
59. Ina Sadler
60. James Hill
61. Judy Redd
62. Rachel Hughes
63. Helen Hopkins
64. Bronwen Pollard
65. Mattie Cole Gregory
66. Burlean Leatherwood
67. Mary Jacobs
68. Alice M. Amos
69. James Abston, Jr.
70. Bettie Brown
71. James Hudley
72. Janie Green
73. Denise Williams
74. Frederick Alan Jone
75. Mrs. Cecil Perdue
76. Dotsy Downs
77. JoAnn C. Mills
78. Wanda Eaves
79. Mary Lou Mirante
80. Kelly Rudy
81. Evelyn Faulkenbury
82. Era Hinson
83. Margaret Burnett
84. Joseph & Bobbie Priddy
85. Rosie Felton
86. Kaye Wise
87. Louella Whitehead
88. Melba Ogg
89. Roy Gambrell
90. Faye Stanford
91. Margaret A. Bailey
92. Ms. Jeannie Jewell
93. Frances I. Harrell
94. Michelle Simpson
95. Sarah R. Day
96. Carolyn Garrett
97. Pearly Hawes
98. Betty Standard
99. Sue Bunch
100. Evelyn M. Doss
101. Brenda Carter
102. Katie L. Houston
103. Ruth M. Blazer
104. Gaynell Doughty
105. Mary Brannan
106. Glenda Jefcoat
107. Betty Jo Stewart
108. Florene Ashmore
109. Johnny & Princess Watson
110. Ora Stennett
111. William McCormick
112. Melvin & Kay Linton
113. Ruby McCory
114. Danny C. Stacks
115. Katie A. Stacks
116. Don "Ug" Lee
117. Claude Edwards
118. Mrs. Eunice M. Kirkwood
119. Bonnie Skates
120. Mrs. Dorothy L. Thornton
121. Sidney Clemmer
122. Ellene Vaughan
123. Paul & Elsie Bryson
124. Sue Calloway
125. Cathey Roberson
126. Bea Basford
127. Ruby Matejka
128. Jessie Baker
129. Peggy E. Cooper
130. Sherry Townsend
131. Jean S. Brenneman
132. Janice C. Orr
133. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins
134. Tommy Murihead
135. Linda Joyce Laird
136. Mamie Guinn
137. Myrtle Rogers
138. Edward Pearson
139. Trillie Strickland
140. Mike Sullivan
141. Ed Istre
142. Leora White
143. Frances Griffin
144. R. C. Hibbler
145. Lawrence Horn
146. Peggy Hartman
147. Linda F. Anderson
148. Patricia Thornton
149. Tammy Bullard
150. Paul D. Gaunt
151. Clifford Crowder
152. Annie Burgess Ballard
153. Dee Kepler
154. Jeff & Debbie Shull
155. Sharon Huckaba
156. Evelyn Young
157. Pierce Flatt
158. Floyce Y. Ramsey
159. Marcella Black
160. Minnie Young
161. Millie Duke
162. Mrs. Sharon Freeman
163. Mary Ella Webster
164. Ella Darnell
165. Lucy Ross
166. Annie Mae Pipkin
167. Vera Spencer
168. Allan & Ann Kelley
169. Patricia D. McClure
170. Ray Parham
171. Grace Childers
172. Carolyn Harvill
173. Leonard Young
174. Anna Catherine Gann
175. Nell Gordon
176. Sue Gurley
177. Sarah Ann Gough
178. J. C. & Frances Newman
179. Opal Chittom
180. A. J. Horton
181. Lorene Sanderson
182. Morma Chaffin
183. Margaret Googe
184. Sandra Gordon
185. Jerry & Norma Inman
186. Kathryn Floyd
187. Exie Motes
188. Vic & Ruth Hawn
189. Mary M. McDonald
190. Bill & Miriam Moore
191. Glen Brady
192. Connie Fountain
193. Gloria R. Ronayne
194. Otis & Linda Baker
195. Carolyn Perry
196. Bernice Townsel
197. Mary Jo Purdon
198. Dorothy Means
199. Jim Nowell
200. Dahlia McAfee
201. Cheri G. Moore
202. Velda Carter
203. Joyce A. King
204. Juanita LeBouef
205. William Pyron
206. Bobbie Loggins
207. Carol Bonner
208. Vera Ashmore
209. Doyle & Charlotte Varner
210. Michael Hony
211. June Faulkner
212. Lisa Dettor
213. Modean Edwards
214. Mildred Herrington
215. Nancy I. Switzer
216. Karen Britt
217. Gladys Wiser
218. Mrs. Bertie Wilson
219. Shirley Waggener
220. Margaret Ratliff
221. Bonnie Brown Glass
222. Buddy Parsons
223. Ima Jean Fogus
224. Mrs. W. C. Wells
225. Hattie Hooper
226. Libby Williams
227. Jennifer F. Gray
228. Dorsa Sparks
229. Barbara Markham
230. Brenda Burlison
231. Grace Cooley
232. Lester Cooley
233. Phyllis K. Spiers
234. Lou Smith
235. Sue McDaniel
236. Barbara A. Beard
237. Ruby Wright
238. Audrey Bowling
239. Debra Michael
240. Jewell Phillips
241. Kimberly Pearce
242. Shirley Peace
243. Dathol Camp
244. Lorene Lindsey
245. Mary Lois Moore
246. Olen Moore
247. Eileen Williford
248. Oscar F. Yates
249. Vera Winfrey
250. Sandy Reynolds
251. Millie Goode
252. Annie R. Copeland
253. Pat Morris
254. Jack L. Falls, Sr.
255. Shellie Hancock
256. Billie McCurdy
257. Mattie Ann Owens
258. Dot Winslett
259. Robert Blackburn
260. Willie Agee
261. Patricia A. Wright
262. Dezarie Ashby
263. Myra D. Reaves
264. M/M Jerry Lewis
265. Linda T. Shirley
266. Nadine Patton
267. Willa Dean Gaddy
268. Wynell Thompson
269. Kerry Deaton
270. Madonna Michal
271. Peggy Wroten
272. Bea Estes
273. RayAnn Woodruff
274. Pat Moore
275. Lene Lindsey
276. Beulah Rupert
277. Doyce Britt
278. Claude & Brenda Faught
279. Donna Gulley
280. Natalie Grisham
281. Mrs. B. H. Darby
282. Bowden & Melba Grisham
283. Linda Swain
284. Mr. Thomas Forrest, Sr.
285. Doris Darnell
286. Ms. Doris Laird
287. Linda B. Keirn
288. Grace Potts
289. Mrs. Clea Burnett
290. John L. Gates, Jr.
291. Roger Thorson
292. Merlene Scott
293. Jane Walker
294. Iva Hill
295. R. C. Cobb
296. Freida Sanders
297. Peggy Lane
298. Lessie M. Tanson
299. Mima. R. Vines
300. Debbie Eubanks
301. Frank Winding, Jr.
302. Martha West
303. Alma Maddox
304. Annie Ruth Perry
305. Mrs. Katie Barmer
306. Jo Ann Mayer
307. Mrs. Cecil Smith
308. Benita Burge
309. Ann McDonald
310. Steve & Shirley Kelly
311. Peggy Engel
312. Genie Henning
313. Marie Sykes
314. Esther Williams
315. Elizabeth Hines
316. Ann Kimble
317. Wm. & Atlean Snow
318. Betty Clark
319. M/M Arthur Burnett
320. Jeanette Bennett
321. Charlotte White
322. Greg Mullinicks
323. Joe & Pat Arnold
324. Anita R. Price
325. Marie Harrell
326. Penny Clanton
327. Marvis Edwards Lee
328. Gail Magee
329. Bonnie Howell
330. Melvin Easley
331. Mariah Wallace
332. Aslaeen Dean
333. Marcella A. Moore
334. Foy C. Smith
335. Rosie Lee Odoms
336. Mary Margaret Smith
337. Beulah Davis
338. Irma Lucas
339. Mary Wise
340. Linda Crochet
341. Patsy McClung
342. Kittie Edwards
343. Brenda Harvill
344. Glenda Wilson
345. Juanita Wilson
346. Courtney Woods
347. Paige Wiggs
348. Diamond Mastin
349. Sommer Burnett
350. Daniel Mastin
351. Denise McNairy
352. Dennis McNairy
353. Wanda Carter
354. Brittany Logan
355. Steve Carter
356. Shelia Woodard
357. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr.
358. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.
359. B. J. Womack
360. Nicole Womack
361. Ma'Nia Womack
362. Bralan Womack
363. Verna Spake
364. Patricia Connaway
365. Dorothy Laws
366. Sherron Dixon
367. Wes & Rhoda Jeans
368. Georgia Carr
369. Alice Dempsey
370. Johnnye Blackmon
371. Stephanie Slaydon
372. Jessica Slaydon
373. Carter Blackmon
374. Missy Blackmon
375. Nicholas Slaydon
376. Lucy Franks
377. Earl Franks
378. Vernie Carnes
379. Deborah Brannon
380. Danny Feazell
381. Ms. Lucille Jackson
382. Barbara Beard
383. Steve & Lana Todd
384. June Brents
385. Travis Hamilton
386. Olen Roberts
387. Maurice Graves
388. Diane Dunaway
389. Magdalene Tillman
390. Shirley Dewett
391. Maxine McCarley
392. Joyce & Sandy Key
393. Ruby Pounds
394. Louise McLeod
395. Thelma Talbert
396. Paul & Deana Schmiep
397. Kay Bramlett
398. Louisa W. Ganier
399. Carol Bradley
400. Phillip Bradley
401. Gloria O. Seabury
402. Josie Isaacs
403. Bernice Mills
404. Silas Netterville
405. Willie M. Netterville
406. Lois Ginn
407. Irene M. Wright
408. Ann Mixon
409. Lozell Milligan
410. M/M Ken Sullins
411. Sandra Welch
412. Ginny Luther
413. Rubye S. Miller
414. Hazel P. Perkins
415. Bobby Brown
416. Everett Boyd
417. M/M Dennis R. McNairy
418. Daphne Stephens
419. Mary Adams Warren
420. Tommy & Peggy Shull
421. Imogene Kirk
422. Doris Carroll
423. Elsie M. Moore
424. Nicole Womack
425. Alberta Houston
426. Artis W. Hinton
427. Hattie Johnson
428. Bonnie Dixon
429. Gwendolyn Bryant
430. Maggie R Edmonds
431. Rubye Davis
432. Joan Palmer
433. Connie Tice
434. Joann Milsap (Wilson)
435. Frieda Thompson
436. Billie Boyd
437. Edmon & Kathy Wheeler
438. Betty Harris
439. Ruby Dilmore
440. Elvis Dilmore
441. Roger King
442. Laura & Inez Brannon
443. Audrey McCarver
444. Dorothy Dean
445. Bobby J. Lively
446. Shirley Bostick
447. Sandy Dean
448. Hazel Cook
449. Christine Holliday
450. Jo Masters
451. Mary Ireland
452. Sherry Johnson
453. C. W. Jackson
454. Althea House
455. Wayne Crum
456. Bobbie Saxton
457. Marilyn Howell
458. Eddie Vermillion
459. Jim Vermillion
460. Mrs. Clarence Langford
461. Gail Winter
462. Betty Shackelford
463. Barbara Yates
464. Anna Lee Pruitt
465. Chestley & Helen Nash
466. Darolyn Felton
467. Dan Hawkins
468. Dot Carlile
469. Joe Carlile
470. Elizabeth Dickerson
471. Linda Paden
472. Marie Lively
473. Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson
474. Billie Jane Davis
475. Riece Hulett
476. Blake Hulett
477. Kade Hulett
478. Annie Jean McGill
479. Mrs. H. A. Murray
480. Dorothy Ford
481. Helen Franks
482. Bodean Collum
483. Debra Wilson
484. Patricia Brown
485. Rick Bishop
486. Nellie St. Clair
487. Louise Gavin
488. Idna Eddington
489. Charlene Williams
490. Willie Thames
491. Velma DeLancey
492. Ollie Ezell
493. Lisa Dearman
494. Beth Cleveland
495. Jaquita Jordan
496. Billy & Lucille Smith
497. Evelyn Page
498. Sherry Gordon
499. Gail Gurganus
500. YOUR NAME



Glenda Franks presents Bible to **Jerry Jones** in Memphis (Jerry worships with a congregation in Memphis which is served by James Hudley, as preacher.) Our congratulations and thanks to brother Jones for sending in answers to "The Question Box". *Have you answered the QB this issue.* Please see page 24.

457. Marilyn Howell
  458. Eddie Vermillion
  459. Jim Vermillion
  460. Mrs. Clarence Langford
  461. Gail Winter
  462. Betty Shackelford
  463. Barbara Yates
  464. Anna Lee Pruitt
  465. Chestley & Helen Nash
  466. Darolyn Felton
  467. Dan Hawkins
  468. Dot Carlile
  469. Joe Carlile
  470. Elizabeth Dickerson
  471. Linda Paden
  472. Marie Lively
  473. Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson
  474. Billie Jane Davis
  475. Riece Hulett
  476. Blake Hulett
  477. Kade Hulett
  478. Annie Jean McGill
  479. Mrs. H. A. Murray
  480. Dorothy Ford
  481. Helen Franks
  482. Bodean Collum
  483. Debra Wilson
  484. Patricia Brown
  485. Rick Bishop
  486. Nellie St. Clair
  487. Louise Gavin
  488. Idna Eddington
  489. Charlene Williams
  490. Willie Thames
  491. Velma DeLancey
  492. Ollie Ezell
  493. Lisa Dearman
  494. Beth Cleveland
  495. Jaquita Jordan
  496. Billy & Lucille Smith
  497. Evelyn Page
  498. Sherry Gordon
  499. Gail Gurganus
  500. YOUR NAME
- HOW ABOUT NEXT TIME?  
OKAY.

## NOTICE

All answers received before May 14, 2009, have been included. Thanks to all who read the MM and answer "The Question Box".  
(see page 20)

**Good Suggestion  
Answer**

"The Question Box"

**Send in your answers**



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

### Yes, Indeed Older Christians Can Have Fun!

Report by June Franks

The 11th Annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally was held on April 28 - May 3th, 2009 at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, Mississippi.

For several months we had looked forward to this scheduled event but it is now history. However, the ties that were made and the friendships that were established will never be forgotten.

It is always exciting to meet and greet those as they arrive to the rally, whether by car or by RV.

We are thankful to report several new people were able to attend for the first time this year. There was between 90 and 100 in attendance. Prayers had been answered in that some who had been very ill were able to be back.

For eleven years many of the same people have participated in the RV Rallies. Those of us who have been blessed to attend from year to year have become extremely close.

When the rallies were begun, we never dreamed the impact it would have on so many people. One of the main reasons in coming together is to receive spiritual food.



Mimi and Rod Tate  
"How Secure Are Your Investments?"

Rod and Mimi Tate were the resource people this year. Rod preaches in Pascagoula, Mississippi just recently moving there from Chatsworth, Georgia. Rod spoke to a combined audience and then to the men in a class setting.

Mimi conducted classes for the women. Rod and Mimi both spoke on the subject, "How Secure Are Your Investments?" which was the theme of this year's rally.

Rod and Mimi both stressed the importance of studying the Bible, not just as a daily Bible reader but really digging deep into God's Word. We appreciate their willingness to come and speak without receiving any remuneration.

Another reason for coming together is the good Christian fellowship that we enjoy. The rallies proves over and over that Christians can have fun. We do have a lot of fun.

We eat together. The potlucks are



June Franks

wonderful. There are really some good cooks who attend the rallies and there is always an abundance of food when we have a potluck.



Ila & Doug Berry  
Delicious Steak Supper

This year at the rally, we had a special treat. Doug Berry and his wife came from Lake Charles, Louisiana. They prepared Taco Salad for everyone on Friday at lunch. Friday night at the Magnolia Messenger Appreciation Dinner, they prepared Ribeye steaks with all the trimmings. Everyone commented on what a delicious meal it was.

Rod Tate spoke on Wednesday night at the Parklane Church of Christ in McComb. Then following services the McComb church had prepared hamburgers and hotdogs with homemade desserts for everyone.

Something new this year was the Golf Tournament. Steve Griffin from Lake Charles and Dennis Doughty from Tunica coordinated this event. A Fishing Tournament was conducted on Saturday morning with several participating. James Bradshaw, Indianola, MS, co-ordinated this event.

On Saturday morning, several from the Summit Church of Christ came out to the park and cooked pancakes. Following the pancake breakfast we had an auction. The Wingfields from Jackson have been doing the auction for several years.

Those who come to the rally bring items to be auctioned. The auction not only helps to raise funds to pay expenses for the rally but, also to help support the Messenger. The auction is always a lot of fun.

Tommy Sullivan and his band came and performed on Thursday night. They are a country music band who do a good job performing.

At the campfire, around nine o'clock at night, Morris Tirpitz from Shreveport, Louisiana entertained with

his picking and singing. We all love to hear him sing his rendition of "The Ole Rusty Wagon." Irby Perkins from Leesville, Louisiana also joined in at the campfires with his singing and picking.

On Sunday, we were richly blessed to hear Jim Talbert, preacher for the Parklane church teach the adult class. Al Franks delivered the message of the hour. His subject was "Contending For The Faith" a sermon based on the little book of Jude.

The McComb church prepared lunch for everyone on Sunday. It was a wonderful meal and a wonderful time of fellowship.

We owe a special thanks to so many people who helped make this years rally a great success. Paul and Glenda Franks from Lake Charles, Louisiana did an outstanding job organizing the 11th annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally.

There were two in attendance at the rally who had health issues while they were at the rally. Grace Sandifer from Wesson, Mississippi spent one night in the hospital with heart problems and Harry Lane from Ocean Springs, Mississippi was also taken to the hospital with heart problems. It is our prayer that Grace and Harry will continue to improve.

As Dotsy Downs from DeRidder, Louisiana said at the close of the rally, "It is sad when we all have to start leaving." But we can all look forward to the Fall when the Louisiana Rally will once again be conducted at Grapeland, Texas.

Let us emphasize you do not have to have an RV to come to the rallies. Many come and stay in the cabins or the lodge. Several can stay together which reduces their expenses.

It is truly a blessing to be able to participate in these rallies. You know we have camps for young people; well, someone described our rally as "a camp for old folks." The rallies are open to anyone and everyone who would like to attend. (June Franks)

P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; franksmm@aol.com

(Read on Page 20)

### A Christian Woman's Dilemma About Christmas



A group gathering for annual auction after breakfast on Saturday morning. A delicious pancake breakfast was provided by members of the church in Summit, MS.



### Older and Younger Christians Can Have Fun

Would you believe the man on the left (Charles Fulgham) is over 80?

Each year Wingfield Auctions gladly give of their time to conduct a small auction of donated items from rally attendees which is used to defray the costs of our Mississippi rally. Any extra money is then donated to the Magnolia Messenger. We greatly appreciate Randall Wingfield, Sr. and his two auctioneer sons -- Randall, Jr. (pictured above) and Casey for their valuable services.



A lot of visiting going on. "Catching up on the news!"

### Joyous Time For Reunions

The Talberts (Jim and Pat, on left) enjoyed visiting with Eleanor Townsend. Brother Jim, who preaches for the Parklane church in McComb, used to preach for the Riverside church in Lafayette, LA, where sister Eleanor was/is a member. Brother Talbert spoke at one of our morning devotionals in the park and taught the adult class on Sunday morning at the church building in McComb. Thanks, brother!





Use of the  
King James Version  
may be helpful

## The Question Box

Is your  
name found  
on page 18?

### Samuel and Saul

The Last of the Judges  
The First of the Kings

Recently I've enjoyed a very interesting study based on chapters 8-12 in the book of First Samuel. It is the intriguing history of the prophet/judge named Samuel who was the last of the many judges of Israel. It deals with the "rejection" of God's leadership over the nation of Israel as they made known their determined desire to be "like the nations around them". They wanted a human king to rule over them. Under protest, God allowed them to have their way, but warned them that their decision would have serious consequences. Afterwards, however, through the leadership of Samuel, God provided guidance in the selection of the first earthly king ever to rule over the "people of God."

You are invited to prayerfully spend some time going over the details recorded in First Samuel chapters 8 through 12. As you study, please complete each of the following sections. We ask, if possible, that you send your answered "Question Box" to us. By so doing, you will *encourage others* in Bible study (see page 22) and *you may be the next person* selected to receive a beautiful Bible, absolutely free of charge. (Each issue, by random selection, we choose the name of one student who has sent in answers to receive a valuable Study Bible.) Thank you for your interest in the Word of God as expressed through your answers to the "Question Box." (alf, author of "MM QB")

#### Match the Person and the Phrase (I Samuel 8-12)

Match the person in column one with the most appropriate phrase in column two.

___ Jephthah	1. Abihah's older brother (8:___)
___ Sisera	2. A seer or a prophet (___:9)
___ Samuel	3. "Mighty man of power" (9:___)
___ Kish	4. King of Ammon (___:12)
___ Joel	5. Captain of the host of Hazor (12:___)
___ Nahash	6. Deliverer sent by God to Israel (___:12)

#### About Whom Was it Said? (I Samuel 8-12)

1. "...turned aside after lucre, and took bribes and perverted judgement." \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Behold, thou art old and thy sons walk not in thy ways...." \_\_\_\_\_

#### Who Said...? (I Samuel 8-12)

Write in the name of the one who made the statement in First Samuel and supply the chapter and verse where the quote is found. **The answers are: Saul, People, Samuel and God.**

1. "...They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_)
2. "...Nay, but we will have a king over us; that we may also be like all the nations." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_, \_\_\_)
3. "...but stand thou still for a while, that I may shew thee the word of the Lord." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_)
4. "... There shall not a man be put to death this day...." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_)
5. "...and I am old and grayheaded." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_)
6. "... for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_)
7. "...but I will teach you the good and the right way." (\_\_\_:\_\_\_)

#### Samuel: "A man of prayer".

Find 3 references in I Samuel chapters 8-12 where prayer is closely associated with Samuel.

- (1) "...And Samuel prayed unto the Lord." (I Sam. 8:\_\_\_)
- (2) [To Samuel] "...Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, that we die not...." (I Sam. \_\_\_:\_\_\_)
- (3) "...God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you...." (I Sam. 12:\_\_\_)

#### Saul: "Got off to a good start".

Find 3 references in I Samuel chapters 8-12 which indicate that Saul, as the new king, got off to a good start with the following qualities.

- (1) He was tall and handsome [goodly] (I Samuel 9:\_\_\_)
- (2) He was humble. (I Sam. \_\_\_:21)
- (3) He was merciful (I Sam. 11:\_\_\_,\_\_\_)

#### 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 22). 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

## Life

a short study of

What is life? A teacher asked the question in class and a sleepy boy awoke to say, "I did know, but I have forgotten." The teacher responded, "Isn't that a pity! The only person who ever knew what life is, and he has forgotten!" In truth man, in all his science and knowledge, has never been able to discover the secret to life.

What causes the apple seed to spring to life and produce limbs and leaves and then a delicious fruit? Man examines the tiny seed's chemical elements but cannot find life. A tiny maggot can only wiggle; yet, is transformed into a skillful flying machine. Helpless scientists can no more explain the change from pupa to adult than they can explain the fly's aeronautical abilities. Man does not know what it is, and cannot find the secret to "life!"

God asked of Job, "Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? (Job 38:28) The father of life is God. He breathed into man's lifeless organs, and from that breath came life (Gen. 2:7). What is life? It is God. He is the father of; the giver of; and the sustainer of "life." (Dennis Doughty preaches for the church in Tunica, MS. His address: P. O. Box 155; Tunica, MS 38676; dennis1848@bellsouth.net)

**Note:** Brother Dennis' writings are especially suitable for church bulletins and newspaper articles. Request that he e-mail his weekly writings to you! FREE.

### New Minister at New Albany



Adam and Magan Evans

Just a few months ago, Adam Evans and his wife, Magan, along with their three daughters (Emma, Mary Kate and Lilly), accepted an cordial invitation to move from Arkansas

to Mississippi and to make New Albany their new home and place of work. The MM is pleased to welcome the Evans to our state.

Our prayer is that God may continue to richly bless their work with the New Albany congregation which is capably overseen by two elders -- **Richard Jennings** and **Troy Robertson**, and served by six deacons. My June and I were privileged to visit a special Friday night service on March 27th and benefit from a marriage seminar conducted by **Glen and Cindy Colley**. It was an informative and encouraging evening for all in attendance at New Albany.

### New Bible Winner

**13. Carole Shelby**  
(Ripley, MS)  
Congratulations!

**Correct Answers:**  
Last Issue  
(See Page 19)

### Next MM RV Rally

Grapeland, Texas  
Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2009

contact **Ray Franks**

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DeQuincy, LA 70633



Somewhere in Mississippi