



# Magnolia Messenger

OCT - DEC, 2009 -- VOLUME 31; NUMBER 4 -- Our 31st Year

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

Magnolia Messenger

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Mississippi: Place of Beauty and Home of "Magnolia Messenger"

**STILL GOING - Magnolia Messenger - After 31 Years - STILL GROWING**  
Circulation: 25,000 -- **Mississippi Emphasizes** -- Every State in USA

## MBC Presents "A Celebration of Life"

Dec. 11 & 12, 2009

(Details on Page 11)

### Preaching & Politics

A Reader Asks:

**QUESTION:** *Should a preacher be able to preach against political issues, such as abortion, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, gambling, drinking, smoking, etc., if God's word condemns them, and, if so, why don't they? As a Christian I feel we in the church have sat back for the last 50 years and let others dictate the laws while the church allowed it to happen without any resistance.* (C. W.)

**May's Response on Page 3**



**Another  
"Nationwide"  
Gospel TV Program  
Seen 5 nights a Week  
on  
"DirectTV" Satellite  
featuring  
Billy Lambert  
(Story on Page 7)**

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

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### Answer "The Question Box" Re-study "The Birth of Jesus"

**Sample:** *The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. (True or False)*

(See Page 24)

**12th Annual  
Magnolia  
Messenger  
Mississippi RV  
Rally  
April 28-May 2,  
2010  
Make plans to  
attend  
(See Page 5)**

### Recent Trip to Israel

The Franks - Tour Hosts Group picture was made on the Mount of Olives overlooking ancient Jerusalem.  
(Report on Page 14)

## MBC Closes MM Continues

With sadness we announce the closing of Magnolia Bible College. With gladness, however, we announce the *continuance* of the Magnolia Messenger.  
(Turn to Pages 11, 13)

## Mexico Missions

**Seven Churches  
Recently Planted;  
Another Planned for 2010.  
(Report on Page 11)**



Magnolia Messenger  
South Huntington St  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
P. O. Box 1578  
Kosciusko, MS 39090

**CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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

## Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

I got a copy of one of your publications when I visited my sister at Bethel church of Christ in Athens, AL and would like to have the Magnolia Messenger sent to me. (Kay Williams; Savannah TN) Thank you, and I look forward to receiving.

Hello June,

Your article on Searching for Happiness in the recent Magnolia Messenger was well written, informative and very interesting. Our founding fathers thought that we were endowed by God with the right to pursue happiness. This has been and continues to be a life long pursuit for me. Over the years I have collected everything I could find on this subject. When I read that list it immediately reminded me of a book I've had for about 30 years by Alan Bryan. I found it in my library and sure enough the list and more was there. The name of the book is Climb Happiness Hill and it was published by Success Dynamics, Inc. in Florence, Alabama. Just thought you would like to know. Wishing you success in your pursuit of happiness. (Tommy Mahan, Drew, MS)

Thank you so much for the Magnolia Messenger. I look forward to getting it each time. Its such a great paper with lots of info. about our Lord's Church and His people and His Word. Love, (Buddy Parsons, Henderson, TN)

Thanks for Responding to MM

Dear Brother Franks,

Please add to your mailing list... Thank you so much for the great work you are doing. My wife and I look forward to each issue reading them from cover to cover. They are always a source of encouragement to us and give us a bridge to the happenings with our dear brothers and sisters in Mississippi. Under separate cover is a small token of our appreciation. (Bob and Pat Coonfield)

Dear Publisher,

I would like to let you know that my wife... and I wish to discontinue receipt of "Magnolia Messenger". ...we realized that we never spend any time reading your publication, as good as it is. We feel bad about simply using it for newspaper recycling, so please redirect our copy to someone who might put it to good use. Thank you. (Name Withheld by editor)

I so love and enjoy your paper. You have been so very kind to send me a copy over the years. Our church is working hard on church growth. Enclosed a copy of our bulletin. Wishing you much Success!! Thank you, (Mr. Lyman B. York, Howe, TX)

### More Encouragement

Scattered throughout this issue

## Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

Published every 2-3 months (as funds and time permit). Mailed **without charge** to all who ask to receive it and to others for whom it is requested.

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

### Supported By Contributions

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

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## Preaching in Mississippi

Around 1900

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the summer of '09 my June and I were blessed to visit Sunday services of my "home church" in SW Louisiana. It was an honor and a privilege for me to be asked to preach that morning.

Now, please understand. I was certainly not expecting any pay for preaching. We had simply returned home for a family reunion and had stayed overnight for worship services the next day.

But, before we left one of the church leaders brought us some melons and tomatoes (see picture). A cousin, **Earl Franks**, had grown these in his garden and was pleased to share his fruit with us. We received his special gift with much gratitude. Now, I guess it could be said that we were paid for preaching the way it used to be done.

When I was growing up in SW Louisiana, most sermons were preached by men who expected **no pay** whatsoever. (They made their living in some other way.) During the early years of my life, I knew only one man who ever preached at my home congregation (Boxwood church of Christ) who was actually paid money for his work. And, he was paid very little, although brother **Sam Berryman** had to travel many miles from his East Texas home to SW Louisiana. (Later on, evangelists who came to "hold meetings" were paid a little.)

Things are different now. Most of us who have chosen to devote our lives to the "ministry of the word" are richly blessed. Congregations are, in our day, very generous in their support of preachers. And, I am among those who are so blessed and am exceedingly grateful. However, **it hasn't always been that way.**

### It is Scriptural to Pay Preachers

"...the labourer is worthy of his hire..." (Luke 10:7)

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." (I Cor. 9:14)

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." (Gal. 6:6)



### Pay for Preaching (?)

#### Preachers' Pay

##### The way it used to be

As an example of the way it used to be, we are pleased to share the following e-mail from **Tom Childers** in Henderson, Tennessee. Brother Tom wrote,

*I thought you might want to see a letter that was given to me last week about what preaching was like in Mississippi around 1900. Brother Howell was a member at New Hope [Tennessee] and buried in the church cemetery. He is the father of Bailey Howell of Starkville. You might want to change a few words and use it in the MM. If so, please feel free to do so. He added, the following is a letter from E. C. Fuqua in Fort Worth, Texas. [Written many years ago.]*

Dear Brother Howell:

Your interesting letter and check for \$5.00 just received, with sincere thanks for both. Especially my remembrance to Bro. Gus Dunn and his one visit to my cabin home in Mississippi. Bro. Dunn and I were both preaching the Gospel



A. L. Franks  
EDITOR

around **Water Valley, Mississippi**, and so far as I knew, I was alone—until Gus knocked on my cabin door.

A cabin had just one small room, one door, no window, and a "stick and dirt" chimney that we could never warm by—it would catch fire easily. My mother and my wife tried to live in such a cabin.

We had only one bed and Mother had to have that. Wife and I slept on the floor. Mother died a short time before Bro. Dunn visited us.

The cemetery was about 200 yards from my cabin door. I had no horse and no buggy. I preached at **Hatton, Mississippi** six months, to the small bunch that attended. From my cabin, it was eleven miles to Hatton. I walked the distance (22) miles never failing to show up for services. Some times it was raining. One time I remember, I became so sleepy that I pulled high broom sage and made me a bed and never waked up until the sun was up (my wife was frantic when I did not get home as I never failed before).

So far as I can now remember, I never received one penny for that six months preaching, but a Bro. Hughes came to see me and brought a dozen eggs. I was also given credit at a store to the extent of a small "side of bacon." The eggs and bacon were assembled just a few hours before Gus Dunn knocked on my door. (Was that Providential?) Anyhow, that is how Gus got dinner that day! Bro. Dunn stayed most of the night, and we counted our blessings and went to bed (and the floor). The bacon left from supper we put away carefully.

But that night, while we were sleeping, a mountain lion came in and tried to carry our bacon to his lair. He got the piece but could not get it through the half-door -- the rest he left for us, A couple of neighborhood boys, the next day, went hunting for that lion and treed it in a tall sweet-gum. From head to tail that lion measured 9 feet. In my walks, for 6 months, I feared contact with other beasts but was never actually attacked.

In "stickability" it cost a lot to hold a meeting under such  
See **PREACHER PAY** on Pg 16

# Bible Questions Answered

**QUESTION:** Should a preacher be able to preach against political issues, such as abortion, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, gambling, drinking, smoking, etc., if God's word condemns them, and, if so, why don't they? As a Christian I feel we in the church have sat back for the last 50 years and let others dictate the laws while the church allowed it to happen without any resistance. (C. W.)

**RESPONSE:** Yes, preachers certainly should preach against sin, including the ones you named to the extent that Scripture condemns them, and most of the preachers I hear regularly do so.

This question calls for two lines of response.

One, the great need for the church and its preachers to speak out against the moral evils of our day, even

those that are politically controversial, including the importance of saying some things about how it might best be done.

Two, the legitimate need for the church and her pulpits to stay clear of partisan political personalities.

## Condemning Immorality

While God is gracious and merciful to his faithful children and invites all freely to be his children, he clearly condemns those who persist in or give approval to immoral life styles. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

The list of the "works of the flesh" in Galatians reminds us that fleshly attitudes as well as fleshly actions constitute moral evils Christians are to avoid and faithful preachers are to warn against. "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned

you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (5:19-21).

In his letter to the Romans after a long list of unrighteous practices that grew out of a debased mind that refused to acknowledge God (1:28-29), Paul

added this: "Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them" (1:32).

## Selective Condemnation

All sin should be reprovved, but there seems to be a human tendency at work to cause many of us to be selective in the sins we most seriously warn against. Some focus specifically on sexual sins and lewd perversions. Others are more conscious of attitudes of anger, of grudges held, of bitterness and an unforgiving spirit.

Jesus strongly condemned pride and self-righteousness, those who made a show of religion while taking advantage of the unfortunate and cheating the poor. Much of his emphasis was on caring for the needy. Indeed, his pictures of the judgement said our destiny will be determined by whether we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and minister to the sick. Sins of omission are as damning as sins of commission.

Still others may focus on respect of persons, those who show partiality based on outward characteristics such as skin color, social status or wealth. Some forget Scripture unequivocally declares that attitude to be sin (James 2:9).

Preachers need to preach against sin, but the problem with

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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keying in on a few particular sins is that it lets some other sins just as heinous and odious to God go overlooked and the perpetrators of them become self-satisfied, because they are not guilty of the "sin of the day."

## Remedies for "Legal" Sins

Abortion in most instances, homosexual behavior, and sexual unions between consenting unmarried heterosexuals are sinful according to Scripture but are legal and therefore condoned by much of society.

In a democratic society such as ours, we are privileged to have a say in who will make our laws and sometimes directly on the laws themselves. It is appropriate, I believe, for Christians to

**At any rate, I learned a valuable lesson. Preach against evil. Stand up for principle. Do not compromise on truth or right. But do not put the weight of the church or the pulpit behind particular people or parties.**

avail themselves of opportunities to elect officials who seem to be more in tune with Christian ethics and principles and to work against laws that are contrary to the expressed commandments of God.

Perhaps the strident protests and angry name calling that fre-

quently characterizes attempts to effect such changes through partisan politics are occasionally effective, but they do not seem to reflect the methodology taught by the Master. They may sometimes do more harm in the long run by repelling the undecided, the very ones there is the most hope for reaching and persuading.

## Avoiding Partisan Politics

I once received a question that included the line, "I do not see how anyone who claims to be Christian could possibly vote for a \*\*\*\*\*," naming a political party.

Depending on who wrote it and on when and where it was written, and whether it was a national, state or local election, either party's name could have been there.

Both political parties stand for some things that are wrong; both stand for some things that are right.

At the time of a given election, one party may have a greater preponderance of wrong than the other, but even so, politicians and political parties are notorious for not living up to the values on which they run.

It is absolutely safe to say that God is neither a Democrat nor a Republican.

## A Lesson Learned The Hard Way

In my first place to live as a full-time preacher, the city and county were "dry." That is, both beer and whisky were illegal. But they were sold, quite openly and usually with no regard for the age of the purchaser.

After I had been there for a year or so, election time came around. I was a member of a local civic club, and a friend I had made in the club was a deacon in the largest church of any kind in town. He announced that he was going to run for sheriff and was going to stop the illegal selling of beer and whisky in the county.

His main opponent told me he "was not a crusader." It was obvious we could expect more of what we had if he were elected.

I campaigned against alcohol

and by name for the man who promised to clean up the county. I preached it from the pulpit, urged Christians to vote for him, and talked it up personally to all of the people with whom I thought I might have influence. He won, and by such a relatively small

**Preachers need to preach against sin, but the problem with keying in on a few particular sins is that it lets some other sins just as heinous and odious to God go overlooked and the perpetrators of them become self-satisfied, because they are not guilty of the "sin of the day."**

margin that I could legitimately feel I might have made the difference.

On December 31, all the places in the county that sold booze had a final party and closed at midnight. The new sheriff took office January 1. They stayed closed until the middle of February and then opened up wider than ever.

The sheriff more or less retired into his office in the court house and was hardly seen or heard. When his term was over, he moved to Florida.

Most people assumed he had either received a payoff too lucrative to turn down or threats he was afraid to ignore, or perhaps some combination of the two.

At any rate, I learned a valuable lesson. Preach against evil. Stand up for principle. Do not compromise on truth or right. But do not put the weight of the church or the pulpit behind particular people or parties. Right does not become wrong, but people can change and disappear.

**"Render To Caesar the Things That Are Caesar's, and To God the Things That Are God's."**

Christians are citizens of heaven (Philippians 2:20). We are aliens in this world on a mission for our King.

As we sing,  
"This world is not my home;  
I'm just a-passing through...  
And I can't feel at home in this world any more."

As the writer of Hebrews said concerning Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland... [T]hey desire a

See **POLITICS** on Page 16

## “I Was Offended”

Editor says,  
“I do not like to offend nor  
do I like to be offended.”

Late in the night, having been awakened and unable to go back to sleep immediately, I decided to turn on the radio and tune to a “Talk Radio” station. I found a program connected with the “American Family Association”. (*I have great respect for the moral stand taken by Don Wilmon of Tupelo, Mississippi and others who are a part of the AFA.*)

An interview was being broadcast involving the hosts and an author who had recently written a book exposing the dangerous teachings and practices of the Islam religion. One of the hosts of the program raised a question about the country from which the “anti-Christ”, mentioned in Scripture, should come.

The author who was being interviewed made known his belief that the “anti-Christ” would arise, not from somewhere in Europe, but from a country in the “middle east”. He went on to say that one or two prophetic verses of Scripture were frequently misunderstood by many teachers and preachers. Then, to illustrate his point about using a verse “out of context” to prove a “false doctrine”, he brought up the **subject of baptism**.

He spoke about his past contacts with a movement in Boston, Massachusetts where a “cult” was teaching “baptism is essential for salvation.” The author said that the **only** verse this so called “cult” had for their proof text was I Peter 3:21. This verse states, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

The author, being interviewed on the “talk radio” program, further commented, “Those who believe baptism to be essential for salvation depend upon this one verse and, at the same time, ignore many other Bible references which teach that salvation is by faith.”

Now, I must say that *I was offended* by what he asserted. Not because he stressed the errors of the Islam religion or the “cultish practices” of the Boston movement, but because he flatly denied or, at

least, willfully ignored the God-given requirement that sincere believers in God’s Son evidence their faith in and humility before Jesus by submitting to water baptism. The author was incorrect in saying that the necessity of baptism was taught *only in one verse*. I found his attitude and his statement to be “offensive”.

What if there were only one verse in the Bible which plainly taught baptism to be essential? Does that, within itself, mean that baptism is not essential? Is that one verse false?

The truth is, there are *many* Bible verses which teach that, to be saved, baptism is required.

Please read carefully and study prayerfully such passages as Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16. The need for baptism is clearly seen in the numerous ex-

amples of conversion recorded in the fifth book of the New Testament. In **every case** of conversion detailed in Acts, baptism is the final step taken by the believer that saves the unsaved, that removes sin, that results in remission and that places one in Christ where he is a “new creature” -- having been “born again.”

And, by the way, baptism according to the New Testament involves a “going down into the water” and a “coming up out of the water” (Acts 8:38,39) and is said to be a “burial” in Romans 6:3,4. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that the faith that **saves** is a faith that **obeys!** (Read James 2:14-26.)

Much of what is said on “talk radio” is good -- it is true! And, where ever and when ever truth is taught and defended, I am thankful and pleased. But when error is taught and not refuted, then, for whatever it is worth, “*I am offended.*” (Editor)

### More Encouragement

*Thank you for the Magnolia Messenger. It's filled with so much information. Please send a copy to my sister...Sincerely, (Bernita Booker, Oxford, MS)*

*Good Morning,*

*Would you please put me on your mailing list. Last Saturday I was at Southaven and picked up one of your papers and enjoyed it. Thanks, (Evalyn Tolbert, Jonesboro, AR)*

THANKS



**Jerry Davidson**  
Missionary to Guyana

In a recent visit (Oct., '09) with the Summerdale, Alabama church, we were pleased to spend a little time with Jerry Davidson. Brother Jerry devotes much of his life to mission work, especially in the country of Guyana.

Jerry is holding in his hand a \$20.00 bill in Guyana currency which, I understood him to say, was worth “about two cents”. Printed on the bill is information about one of their successful mission trips to this South America country.

Amerindian Missions  
- Guyana -  
**69 baptisms**  
**29 Restorations**  
**9 Weddings**  
July 30 -- July 16, 2008

Then follows the names of the missionary team: **J. T. Beard, Lloyd Beard, Jerry O. Davidson, Jason Floyd, Jonathan Hagar, Carolyn Johnson, Gene Johnson, John Langham, Jonathan Page, Howard Pitts, Ray Robinson, Joan Tobas and Gwynne Weaver.** *Encouraging!*



MM in “Good Company”

Answer  
“The Question Box”  
re-study  
“The Birth of Jesus”

**Sample:** Mary visited with Elizabeth for six months before either of their babies was born. **(True or False)**

(See Page 24)

At the Age of  
**96**

**T. N. Lollar**

faithfully attends  
services of the Huntsville  
church of Christ,  
near French Camp,  
Mississippi.

His example is an  
encouragement and  
an inspiration to all  
who know him.

May God richly bless  
him with additional  
years of useful activity  
as a member of the  
body of Christ.

(Picture was made by  
editor when visiting the  
Huntsville church on  
Sunday morning,  
October 25, 2009.)



**T. N. Lollar.** At age 96, brother Lollar is still able to attend church services with the aid of his two walking sticks.

### Huntsville Ministers

**John Bauer**  
(Youth)  
&  
**Nathan  
Wright**  
(Pulpit)



### Two Preachers Who Have Much In Common

John and Nathan are both married with precious children. (John and **Tawana** have two children. Nathan and **Holly** have three children.) Both ministers serve the same congregation. Both are teachers at French Camp Academy; both serve as coaches for the Academy and both men are graduates of MBC. We pray that their team ministry may bring forth much fruit as they serve with a loving and faithful congregation of the Lord’s people.

The Huntsville church in central Mississippi is pretty far out in the country; thus, it would be correct to speak of it as a “country congregation.” Each Lord’s day, about 70 to 80, or more, worshippers come together to worship “in spirit and truth.” The meeting place of the church is located about 6 miles to the west of French Camp, Mississippi. The congregation is presently overseen by two very capable shepherds -- **Okley Tharp** and **Roger Beardain**. Those who know the history of the Huntsville church will recall that **Dan Beardain** served as their preacher for about 40 years. Nathan Wright, the present preacher, is Dan’s grand son-in-law. (The pulpit is still “in the family.”)

My June and I were blessed to visit with them in October and were pleased to be reminded of their friendliness to visitors and their love for each other. I was thankful for the opportunity to teach the adult auditorium Bible class and then to “sit at the feet” of their pulpit minister for the past eight years. His good lesson, based on Acts 12:1-11, emphasized God’s care for His people -- in death and in life. As stated earlier, our visit was a blessing. (ALF)



“Almost Saved is Totally Lost!”

## Ackerman Visit Reminded Us of the Value of Church Attendance

Ackerman, Mississippi is located 35 miles east of Kosciusko; thus, it is an easy drive to visit our brethren who call Ackerman "home." So, on Sunday, September 13, my June and I drove to the church building on Seward Street in Ackerman -- a congregation that can trace its spiritual influence in the community back to about 1920.

As is our usual custom, we arrived at the place for assembly several minutes before the beginning of services. This provides us an opportunity to meet and to greet our brothers and sisters who love the Lord and truly believe in His Cause as evidenced by their faithful attendance.

Over the past many years, we had opportunity to get to know several of the Ackerman brethren. It is a temptation, when meeting a brother or sister in that town and, if unable to think of his/her name, to just say, "Hi, brother/sister Hunt." There are several Hunts at Ackerman, including two of the elders -- **Charlie** and **Coyt**. But, of course, there are other names, such as **Ford**, **Sanders**, **Steadman**, **Clark**, **Dilling**, **Ellington**, **Logan**, **Stirewalt**, **Threadgill** and **Taylor** who, along with others and the families they represent, help to make up the congregation of about 100 members.

The preacher for the past nine or ten years is **Ed**

**Casteel**. Up until September 14, 2009, brother Ed served under the oversight of three elders including, as already mentioned, the two Hunts -- Charlie and Coyt. We received sad news the day following our visit, that the third elder -- **Don Threadgill** had died suddenly following open heart surgery. (See "In Memory" at the end of this article.) Also, the active Ackerman church is served by five deacons -- **Reagan Ford**, **Rob Logan**, **Therrell**, **Keith** and **Warren Hunt**. We were richly blessed to be a part of the Sunday morning services. After Bible classes, one of the talented young men led us in the singing of several gospel songs. Morning announcements were very effectively presented by one of the deacons, Reagan Ford. I was honored to be asked to lead the opening prayer.

**Ed Casteel**, preacher, stepped into the pulpit and presented a lesson on "Two Customs." His powerful sermon called attention to the *custom* of Jesus, according to Luke 4:16, who "went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for the read." As a faithful Jew, Jesus followed the custom



Place of Assembly for the Church at Ackerman

of going to worship on the Sabbath.

The next custom mentioned by brother Ed called attention to the text of Hebrews 10:25 where Scripture commands, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner [*custom*] of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

The two contrasting "customs", according to the preacher were (1) Jesus' custom of *going to worship* and (2) Others who had the custom of *forsaking the assembly*.

Very ably, brother Casteel called upon us to follow the example of Jesus instead of following the example of the Hebrews. He stressed several scriptural reasons for making it a practice or *custom* to regularly assemble for worship with fellow Christians. According to my notes, seven reasons for the custom of assembling were given by the seasoned preacher.

1. One cannot "seek first the Kingdom" and forsake the assembly. (Matthew 6:33)
2. To "redeem the time" one must take advantage of every opportunity to worship with God's people (Eph. 5:16). How could one spend time any better? Assembling with the saints is using time wisely.
3. Assembling together for worship indicates that we are "zealous of good works" as commanded in Titus 2:14.
4. And, if a follower of Jesus is "ready unto every good work", he will not forsake the assembly (see Titus 3:1)
5. Worship services provide an opportunity to "teach and admonish" one another as commanded in Colossians 3:16.
6. Worshipping regularly as a church/body provides wonderful opportunities to "grow in grace and knowledge" as commanded in 2 Peter 3:18. Spiritual maturity is certainly aided by regular "church attendance."

7. Finally, if we really want to be with Jesus, we will make every effort to assemble where Jesus has promised to be. (See Matt. 18:20).

Seven excellent points. All scriptural. All well presented. We were reminded anew of the great importance of faithfully attending all services of the local church. Grateful to brother Ed for his lesson. Good for us and, hopefully, good for readers of the MM. Glad we were privileged to visit the Ackerman church. (alf/mjf)

### *In Memory Of* **Don Threadgill** An Elder at Ackerman

I'm sure, over the years, that I had met and visited with Don Threadgill of Ackerman, Mississippi. However, it was Sunday, September 13, 2009, that I remember him most vividly. It was to be the last full day of Don's life on earth.

Before morning services began, I spoke to him. However, during the announcements Reagan Ford told of plans for Don to have surgery the next day. So, during the break between Bible classes and the preaching service, I sought out Don and talked to him about his physical condition and upcoming surgery.

Don said that he was "somewhat nervous" about the planned surgery to replace a faulty valve in his heart; however, he was "ready." The very next day, following what seemed to be "successful surgery" brother Don suddenly departed this life.

While we join in sorrow with his physical and spiritual family in Ackerman, we also rejoice with them in hope of that eternal life promised by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"... Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."

(Revelation 14:13)

## 12th Annual Magnolia Messenger Mississippi RV Rally April 28-May 2, 2010

Our next MM MS RV Rally is planned for Wednesday through Sunday at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, Mississippi.

You can go to [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) and reserve a RV site, cabin or hotel room. You can call 601-684-3938 and make your reservations. (*The camp usually fills up on the weekend.*) You can reserve something and if you cancel two weeks prior to the event, you will only have to pay \$10. If they are already out of cabins or hotel rooms, you can call **Paul Franks at 337-515-7314** to see if he has something left.

### Make plans to attend

### More Encouragement

#### A Prisoner Writes:

*I am blessed to be able to receive the Messenger. I enjoy reading the stories in it. It's a great Bible study for me. I have written to a few people who have asked questions in it. I am not saying I'm 100% right from my answer, but the answer given comes plainly from the Scriptures.*

*God has opened doors, by allowing me to be able to correspond with Bob & Mary McCafferty, whom are very loving people. I was taught by brother Bob at the county jail. That's where I first began to get an understanding of the Word of God. I strive each day to stay in the race. Sister McCafferty has been a great help to me. I thank God for her and Mr. McCafferty.*

*Mr. Franks I want to ask of you to pray that God will open up doors for me to see my kids... Keep me on your prayer list. I am also seeking a good footnote study Bible and would greatly appreciate any help you could be in this matter. I am looking forward to growing from reading the Messenger. I realized a few days ago, that even though we begin to eat on the meat, we sometimes have to fall back to the milk of the Word. Amen. I've grown to know without a shadow of a doubt, that without God in your life there is no success.*

*I'm going to close this letter praying that God will bless all of you at MBC and the South Huntington Street Church of Christ. I pray that support will grow toward the MM. I would like to thank you and the staff of the MM. and all who send in stories that are published in it. May God continue to supply all of your needs in the Miraculous name of Jesus. Amen. Sincerely, (Mark Williams, Greenwood, MS)*

## Thank God

for all who  
receive and read  
Magnolia Messenger

### North Brandon "A Change in the Making"

Our attention has recently been drawn to the North Brandon church (Brandon, MS) due to the death of **Terry Bailey**. Terry, age 57, was the son of **Agnes** and the late **Duane Bailey**. (Funeral services for Terry were conducted in Brandon on Tuesday, October 7, 2009. I was asked to conduct the service.)

Sister Bailey, a member of the North Brandon church, is a dear friend we have known for nearly forty years. She and her family used to live near Kosciusko where we were privileged to be encouraged by their faith and works in the Kingdom of Christ.

The next day, after Terry's funeral service, my June and I chose to visit the mid-week services of the church where sister Bailey regularly worships. It was a great blessing to see numerous brothers and sisters we have come to know through the years -- many of them who once worshipped with other congregations in the area but now are pleased to call NB their "home church."

The North Brandon church has recently begun a search to find a replacement for their long-time preacher **Ray Penna** who has announced his upcoming "retirement". Brother Ray and his wife, **Melba**, plan to move (Lord willing) to Holiday, Tennessee the latter part of 2010, after having given about eleven or twelve years to the growing work in Brandon.

The North Brandon congregation presently brings together about 150 or so worshippers each Lord's day and is overseen by two capable and concerned elders -- **Rob Allen** and **David Dees**. In a church bulletin dated October 4, a "note from the elders" stated the following which, we think, is indicative of their concern for the flock which they oversee.

*"Anyone desiring to be identified with this congregation is asked to please fill out a visitor's card and mark the appropriate place at the bottom of the card. After you have done this, the elders would like to visit you so that we can know you and you know us. This will assist us in our responsibility given in the scriptures (Acts 20:28-31)."*

You may wish to remember the North Brandon church in prayer as they seek to find a suitable replacement for their preacher. Pray for the Pennas as they move into a different phase in their lives. May God bless the "change in the making". (alf, mjf)

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

## A "Cup" Became a "Flood"

Thanks to a 9 year-old boy!

For the past five years the church in Somerville, Tennessee has been an active supporter of mission efforts in the country of Guyana – a work overseen by the Summerdale, Alabama Church of Christ.

Earlier this year, in March, **Lloyd Beard** of the Booneville, Mississippi congregation came and gave a power point presentation to the church in Somerville updating the brethren on his most recent trip to Guyana.

Sitting in the audience, watching and listening intently, was a nine year old lad by the name of **Ivan Coil**. Ivan's heart was touched by the abject and obvious poverty of the people portrayed in many of the slides. Particularly moving for Ivan was the fact that many of the people had no shoes to wear.

Owning a pair of shoes – most of us has several pairs of shoes – is something perhaps that we might take for granted. But the people of Guyana would be thrilled to own that pair of supposedly worn-out shoes that we, without giving it a second thought, threw away.

Some in the slides had on their feet only one shoe, sandal, or flip-flop, demonstrating the fact that they valued or appreciated the one shoe that they had. Being more blessed than we realize as Americans, if most of us, were we to tear up or lose a shoe

we would automatically discard its mate. Not the people of Guyana. To own only one shoe is counted a blessing.

That night, after brother Beard's presentation, Ivan went home, went through his closet, and filled a bag full of shoes and toys for the children, the precious people of Guyana. He also took twenty-six dollars out of his piggy

bank and presented it all to his father to give to the Guyana mission work.

Impressed with Ivan's example of generosity and compassion, the church at Somerville set a goal of collecting 10,000 pairs of shoes for the people of Guyana. Word quickly spread throughout the community and among sister congregations of what the Somerville church set out to accomplish.

In a matter of days shoes, and funds to purchase shoes, came pouring in from Mississippi, Alabama, west, middle and east Tennessee. In less than four months the goal was met and exceeded by 2,220 pair for a grand total of 12,002.

These shoes were carried from Somerville to Booneville, where they were crated and carried to Summerdale, Alabama. From Summerdale they were taken to Mobile, Alabama where they were put on a barge headed for Georgetown, Guyana. They safely arrived in Guyana and were distributed to various villages. During the July '09 campaign brother Beard was honored to be able to distribute many to the people of the village of Morakabai.

Galatians 6:7 says, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

**That night, after brother Beard's presentation, Ivan went home, went through his closet, and filled a bag full of shoes and toys for the children, the precious people of Guyana. He also took twenty-six dollars out of his piggy bank and presented it all to his father to give to the Guyana mission work.**

Generally speaking, this anxious passage is cited in conjunction with a discussion of sinful behavior and the inviolable law of attendant consequences. However, Paul says that this law or principle works not only in a negative sense but in a positive one as well. "He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life" and if we faint not in well doing, "in due season we shall reap" (8-9).

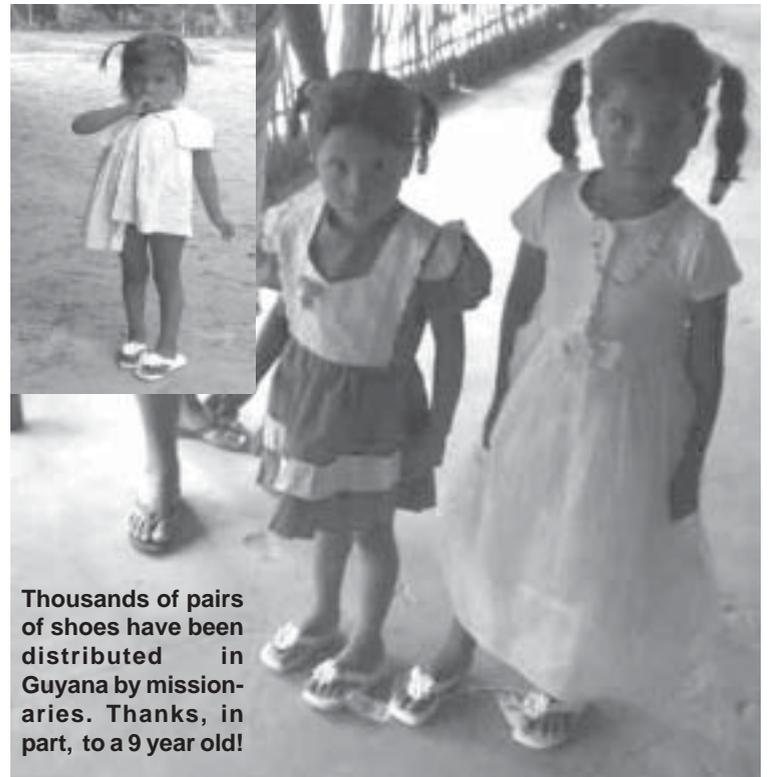
Yet on occasion, vastly out of proportion to what we have sown, we "reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7). A nine-year-old boy extended a "cup of cold water" to the people of Guyana and the "cup" unleashed a flood.

(This touching article was sent to the MM by **Jimmie Timbes**, secretary for the church in Booneville. *She did not state the name of the writer.* **Lloyd Beard**, a missionary to Guyana, is also a member of the Booneville congregation.)

You may also find the article on the page 7 to be of special interest. **Jerry Davidson**, mentioned in this article, also a missionary to Guyana, works under the oversight of the Summerdale, Alabama church.)



Nine-year-old Ivan Coil



Thousands of pairs of shoes have been distributed in Guyana by missionaries. Thanks, in part, to a 9 year old!

## Sunday

FUN Day or SON Day?

Seven days. One week. Given to us by God. We are responsible, before our Creator, for how we use each day.

Take time for family, for friends and for others. Take time to work and to rest. Vital needs. Take time for recreation, for fun. But, don't forget to take time for God and worship and service.

Our world is like a pressure cooker. So much to do. So little time! Taking time for God, for His will, is often put on the "back burner." How is it with you?

Sunday should be viewed as "SONday" by every Christian. The first day of the week, the Lord's day, has long been important in the church of our Lord.

On the first day of the week, our Lord was resurrected (Mark 16: 2,9) A study of the Scriptures, including Leviticus 23 and Acts 2, indicates that it was upon the first day of the week that the Lord's church was established.

According to Acts 20, it was upon the first day of the week, the Lord's day, that Christians in Troas

met together to "break bread"; i. e. observe the Lord's Supper. Upon the first day of the week, the Lord's

day, the apostle Paul commanded Christians to "lay by in store" or to "give as prospered." (I Corinthians 16: 1,2) Jesus

taught us to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). What better way to start the week, on the very first day, than by giving emphasizes to our Lord's resurrection, the establishment of His church, the assembly of his disciples and worshiping in spirit and in truth?

The first day of the week, the Lord's day, should be a day of honor and reverence shown to the

Lord. Why not make every first day of the week truly the Lord's day . . . SONday?

Sports. Shopping. Recreation.

All receive much emphases on the first day of the week. Sunday has, for multitudes -- even "Christians", become "FUNday" instead of "SONday." It doesn't have to be so. Little or no regard is given to

See SUNDAY on Page 16

### The Seventh Day -- "The Sabbath"

Christians are under the New Covenant. The law of "Keeping the Sabbath" was a part of the Old Covenant. Under the Law, the "Sabbath" was given to man as a day of rest -- no work to be done. The Old Testament "Rest day" was the 7th day of the week -- our Saturday.

### The First Day -- The "Lord's Day"

#### Why?

1. Day our Lord was resurrected.
2. Day the church was established
3. Day the church assembled
4. Day the church was instructed to give. The New Testament "Lord's day" was the first day -- our Sunday.

Now Scheduling Meetings & Workshops

- **Robert Rawson** -

Robert Rawson, longtime minister at Batesville Church of Christ, (32 years) is now scheduling gospel meetings and workshops for 2010 and 2011. Phone: 662-563-4941. Address: 138 Faith Drive; Batesville, MS 38606-9377.

Church Growth Seminars

**Nile & Durant**

(Information came to the MM too late to publish before the events. Sorry.)

If all went as planned, two churches of Christ in Central Mississippi served as hosts for seminars on "Church Growth". According to Robert Rawson of Batesville, the special series were planned "back to back" beginning Thursday (November 12) and ending on Wednesday (November 18, 2009).

Several sessions were planned for each church, each covering a period of four days. Speakers at Nile were to have included **Hal Johnson** (Sardis), **Michael Bates**, **Robert Rawson**, (Batesville) **Steve Hentz**, **Larry Walker**, **John Hester** (Oxford) and **Greg Ledbetter** (Elliott).

Speakers for the Durant series were **Robert Shelton** (Clinton), **Greg Ledbetter** (Elliott), **Walter Williams** and **Robert Rawson** (Batesville). Recordings of the special series can be obtained by address **Robert Rawson; Box 349; Batesville, MS 38606**. For more information, you may call **662-457-2468**.

Answer on Page 24  
"The Question Box"  
"The Birth of Jesus"

Magnolia Messenger -- Serving Mississippi and Adjoining States

Alabama

Thank the Lord for Yet  
Another "Daily" Nationally Televised Gospel Program

Summerdale

In this issue and in previous issues of the MM, we have called attention to the Gospel Broadcasting Network and its daily TV program called "Good News For Today." (see page 13). We have also given emphasis in the "Messenger" to the program entitled, "In Search of the Lord's Way" which is seen throughout much of the nation. This telecast has long featured Mack Lyon and is now also utilizing the special abilities of Phil Sanders (a former preacher in Senatobia, MS).

We are grateful for all such efforts to reach homes and hearts with the gospel message of salvation, calling men and women "back to the Bible"; asking that we all "speak as the oracles of God" and to "call Bible things by Bible names" and to "do Bible things in Bible ways".

In a recent visit to South Alabama, we were made more keenly aware of the great influence of another program that is seen daily throughout the nation. It is called "Getting to Know Your Bible" with **Billy Lambert**. This very special telecast is seen every night on the DirectTV satellite system from 9:30 - 10:00 P.M. (Channel 377) It is a thirty minute program and aired Monday through Friday nights. In addition to DirectTV the program is also broadcast on GBN, many cable systems and individual TV stations. We are grateful.

My June and I were blessed to visit with the church in Summerdale, Alabama, where Billy Lambert serves as preacher and one of four elders. I was pleased to be asked to preach to the congregation on Sunday evening (October 11, 2009) and then to address a preachers' meeting in Summerdale the next morning. We were privileged to spend several hours with the Lamberts (**Billy and Louise**) and with other church members

in the area and were excited to learn of the growing influence of the good work they have been doing for the past three years with national telecasts.

One of the most exciting things about the daily telecast with brother Lambert is the **live "Call in"** feature. Throughout the nightly TV program a telephone number is shown on the screen, 1-877-711-5214. The number is accompanied with an invitation to "Call for the FREE Bible Correspondence Course". While the gospel program is on the air, there are three or four volunteers standing by every night, answering the phones and talking with viewers from all over the nation.

My June and I were present on Monday night (10/12/09) and were excited (really!) to see how busy the operators were -- answering calls from viewers who were seeing and hearing at that very moment the gospel message being clearly and effectively taught by the seasoned and sound preacher of the gospel. In fact, anyone can call this number, 1-877-711-5214, anytime, 24/7.

I just did. A recorded voice of a lady invited me to enroll in a Bible Correspondence Course. However, the answering voice will be live from 9:30 - 10:00 P.M.

The quality nationwide TV program with Billy Lambert is made possible, in part, through the generosity of one family whom God has richly blessed financially. However, due to the present national economic downturn, which has greatly influenced financial "returns" on investments, there has arisen a need to ask that other interested Christians and/or congregations



Volunteers Answer the Live Call in TV Program

consider stepping in and helping supply needed funds.

For more information or to assist, please contact,  
**Summerdale Church of Christ**  
P. O. Box 314  
Summerdale, AL 36580  
Phone: (251) 989-7748  
Fax: (251) 989-6253

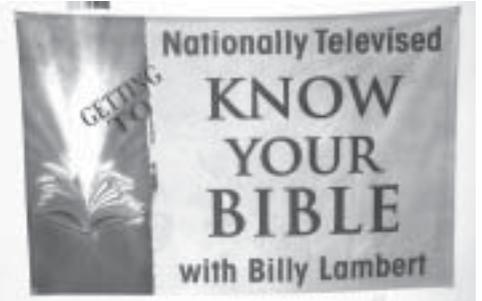
More Encouragement

*We thank God for you and the great work that you are doing through the Magnolia Messenger. We look forward to each issue and can't hardly wait to receive it. We appreciate your efforts to inform, enlighten and to unite our great brotherhood. May God bless you and your good wife, June in your work and keep you safe in your travel. In HIS love, (Larry & Janie Echols, Benton, MS)*

*Thank you for sending Magnolia Messenger my way. I know that your messages are for the glory of God. I am sending a small donation. I would appreciate so much your sending the Messenger to my friend. (Ms. Mary G. Guthery, Cullman, AL)*

Results & Responses

(Since 2006)



**RESULTS:** (Facts taken from a letter written by Billy Lambert, September 29, 2009)

1. In the fall of 2006 "Getting to Know Your Bible" went nationwide and into 170 foreign countries.
2. Thousands have enrolled in Bible Correspondence Courses
3. Estimated 500 have been baptized
3. BCC students are presently studying in all 50 states.
4. BCC Students in other countries include: Africa, India and the Philippines
5. Potential audience: Millions of households in the USA and other millions worldwide.

**SAMPLE:** Viewers' Response

(a) *"Thank you for delivering the uncompromising word of God. We enjoy watching 'Getting to know the Bible.' It has been a real blessing...." (JH)*

(b) *"...As I studied with WBS I found out I had to turn my mind and life around. I was reading the Bible and listening to the teacher. I was confused. I pray [thank] God for letting me find WBS and watching this program on the TV channel 367.... (MK, Virginia)*

(c) *"I love your program: 'Getting to Know Your Bible.' It's a powerful program; it helps me understand more about God's word and to apply it in my everyday life... I would also like to request your "free Bible Study Course...." (PB, Mississippi)*

(d) *"... I love your straightforward untwisted style of preaching God's word. Getting to view your program each day has been the main highlight of my days...." (FS, Louisiana)*

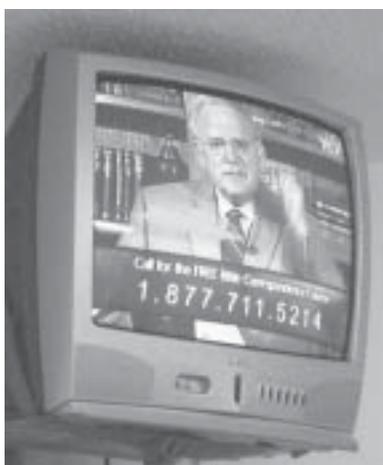
Congratulations!

James & Mae Smith

Married 67 Years

Oct. 24, 2009

Faithful Members of the Summerdale Church of Christ



Billy Lambert, As Seen on TV



October 12, 2009 -- Preachers' Meeting in Summerdale, Alabama

(Right, then counter clockwise around the table) Jeremy Brown (Gulf Shores); Jerry Davidson (Summerdale); Ray Reynolds (Gulf Shores); David Meyers (Semmes); Marshall Underwood (Mobile-University); Billy Lambert (Summerdale); Tony Black (Pensacola); Ulysses Johnson (Mobile-Southside); Tom Neal (Summerdale); Nathan Kidwell (Saraland-Central). MM Editor was privileged to address the group.

## Christian Interaction

- Tim Childs -

Everyday there are people who do others wrong whether by word or deed. Unfortunately, the doing of wrong to others is often committed by those of us who claim to be God-fearing Christians.

Why do Christians mistreat others knowing full-well God is highly offended when we cause unnecessary hurt, and further, will execute judgment and wrath upon us?

Isn't it past time we truly learn "the more excellent way" of which Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:31ff?

In the first three verses of 1 Corinthians chapter 13 we note that without love: 1) Our speech is a noisy gong; 2) In spite of what gifts with which we have been endowed, we are nothing; 3) Any sacrificial acts we make profit us nothing.

Friend, what is the value, then, in professing with our mouths to be a Christian, if our behavior toward others is no better (and sometimes even worse) than that of the world? Jesus teaches that what we do unto the brethren is what we do unto him (Matthew 25:40; cf. Acts 9:1-4). Do we realize we abuse the Lord and wound his heart through injuring even "the least of these"?



Tim Childs

In John's first epistle we observe indicators of our identity: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,

neither he that loveth not his brother" (1 John 3:10). "The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the

name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Timothy 2:19). The love of God within the heart does not produce ugliness and hatefulness.

Jesus, the Son of God "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), daily blessing the lives of everyone he met. The Apostle Paul instructs the followers of God: "As we have therefore

opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

In conclusion, our behavior toward all others is not to be determined arbitrarily by a reckoning of who they are, but rather we deliberately choose to do good unto all because of who we are. Since we are Christians and begotten of the Father whose essence is love, it is incumbent upon each of us to treat everyone we come in contact, with kindness, honor and deference. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Christian, never forget the rule of Matthew 7:12.

(Tim Childs preaches for the Hillcrest Church of Christ; 956 S Fourth St; Baldwin, MS 38824-9201)

### More Encouragement

Dear Bro. Franks:

I read a friend's copy of the Magnolia Messenger and enjoyed it very much. Please start sending me copies of it with the next issue. I am a member of the Church of Christ located at Hurley, MS...Thanks again for your good work. (Luke H. Eubanks, Moss Point, MS)

We worship at the Fulton Church of Christ in Fulton, MS. We enjoy the Magnolia Messenger and hope you and June have many more years to do this good work. Sincerely, (Etta Umfress, Fulton, MS)

Thanks for sending me the Magnolia Messenger for so many years. (Roger Bickman, Purvis, MS)

Enclosed please find check for-to help with publication of the paper. I enjoy reading every word and doing the Question Box. Thank you, (Myra D. Reeves, Elkmont, AL)

Dear Bro. Al,

I hope all is well there with you, I'm sending a gift to you for the Messenger. You are doing a wonderful work. You and sister June are two very special people. Things are looking great here. Norman is doing a wonderful job. We wish we could send you guys more and we will as we can. Thinking of you both in prayer and in love. (Ricky Harden, Rolling Fork Church of Christ, Rolling Fork, MS)

Bro. Al,

Thank you so much for all the hard work you and your staff do to get this wonderful paper out to so many people. I hope everyone enjoys it as much as I do. May God Bless! (Bonnie Skates, McComb, MS)

**Friend, what is the value, then, in professing with our mouths to be a Christian, if our behavior toward others is no better (and sometimes even worse) than that of the world?**

## Wonder Why These Records Were Written

**Nadab & Abihu**

(Leviticus 10:1-2)

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

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

**Korah**

(Numbers 16:31-33)

**Disobeyed:** Led a rebellion against the authority of God and Moses. (Num. 16:1-22)

**Destroyed:** "...and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up... went down alive into the pit and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation." (Num. 16:32,33)

**Uzzah**

(2 Samuel 6:6-9)

**Disobeyed:** "Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it..." (verse 6)

**Destroyed:** "...and God smote him there for his error and he died by the ark of God." (verse 7)

**Examples: Book of Jude**

**(a) Israelites**

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

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

**(b) Angels**

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

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

**(c) Sodom & Gomorra**

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

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

Consider the disobedience and destruction detailed in the book of Jude. **Why written?**

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

Other Old Testament records of disobedience and destruction. **Why Written?**

Inspired answer: 1 Cor. 10:6-- "Now these things were **our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted... Now all these things happened unto them for **ensamples** and they are written for our **admonition** upon whom the ends of the world are come."

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

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

Be not deceived. Heaven is delightful; hell is horrible!

"Behold therefore the **goodness** and the **severity** of God..." (Romans 11:22) [compiled by alf]

Have you answered the QB?

Study  
"The Birth of the Saviour"  
(See Page 24)

We Do Welcome Reports from Churches Especially in Mississippi and adjoining states



RV Rally: Time to relax, visit, encourage & grow spiritually - Page 20)

### Lake Harbour Drive Church of Christ

Ridgeland, Mississippi

Invites Your Indication of Interest In

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First Mortgage Bonds

EARN UP TO

**7.45%**

Issue Date: December 30, 2009

Interest Rates Range  
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Bonds are available in multiples of \$250. These bonds may be placed in self-directed retirement accounts in most cases.

This announcement is neither an offer nor a solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any State in which such offer, solicitation, or sale is not authorized. The offer is made by prospectus only. For more information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus, which describes all the particulars of this undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to prior sale.

For Additional Information Contact

Rives Leavell & Co

1430 Lelia Drive  
Jackson, MS 39216

P.O. Box 4900  
Jackson, MS 39296  
601-948-4500

**Ben Kern**  
**800.748.8877**

[bkern@rivesleavell.com](mailto:bkern@rivesleavell.com)  
[www.rivesleavell.com](http://www.rivesleavell.com)

## Work Through the Problem

- Ken Joines -

To say that things are changing rapidly is to grossly understate the case. This nation's political, moral and spiritual landscape is undergoing revolutionary change. Everywhere you look.

I travel quite a lot and am seeing things take place in our congregations that I never would have dreamed possible. Perhaps I was just naïve, but for years I had thought surely we had settled the instrumental music and baptism issues. I had read most of the debates. Hadn't everyone? Not quite! Some have never heard that these things had been debated.

Now I am seeing and hearing of congregations whose elders and preachers no longer respect the biblical limitations on the role of women in the assembly. Baptism is not seen as necessary by some. Weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is optional at best and in a few cases is being combined with a "pot luck" meal!

Consider this. I recently preached to a congregation where the members are in a fuss over preacher preferences. It appears that a lawsuit is going to be necessary to settle a dispute between two members. And to cap it off, not only does the congregation's leadership wink at immorality, there is open toleration for at least one outlandish practice.

Get this: One man's mother died, and then his Dad remarried.

Well, this guy became a little too friendly with his stepmother, which resulted in the breakup of the marriage and now she has moved in with the step-son. But—perish the thought—I probably don't even know the half of it. And don't care to. One thing I am sure of is that I would not recommend that you or anyone else become affiliated with that church. I would tell my children: "Don't even think about placing membership there!"

But wait! I didn't preach for that church. **I read about it in the New Testament!!** I have in fact just described the church at



Ken Joines

Corinth. They were divided (1:1; 3:3). They tolerated sexual immorality (5:1f) and settled their differences in court (6:7). They became drunk with wine at communion (11:21) and some even denied the resurrection of Jesus (15:12). What a total mess!

The amazing thing is that in spite of all this, apostle Paul still addressed them as "the church of God which is at Corinth," and said they would be confirmed by Jesus Christ in the end (1:8). In his second letter to them he tenderly said, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (13:14)

This does not imply, however, that the apostle just looked the other way and pretended that all was well. Rather, **he met these issues head-on and tried to correct the problem.** He desperately wanted to salvage that church because all of these serious problems not

with-standing, that church was all God had in that city.

He did not write them off as hopeless nor did he

initiate proceedings to sever relations with them. He did not ask area churches to boycott the Corinthians and refuse to attend a service there. He didn't single out the preacher and warn others to have nothing to do with him. And he certainly did not call a group aside and start the Southside Corinthian Church of Christ and spread the word that "We now have a sound congregation in Corinth." Perhaps we could all learn some lessons here.

Now, lest I be misunderstood, let me be clear that I am **not** saying that there is never a time for one to leave a congregation when doctrinal problems exist. Indeed there are such times and I have, in fact, sometimes counseled people to remove themselves from situations where the church's leaders are bent on doing what is popular regardless of what Scripture says.

A case in point is a very large congregation where the preachers and a large percentage of its elders are intent on leading that church down the wrong road. I have dear friends there who exhausted every possible means to try and salvage that church, but things had gone too far. They asked my advice and I told them they needed to leave. There was nothing to do but to leave.

So when you find yourself in a similar situation you may have to break with people who are dear to you. But pray earnestly and often about it. Talk with your elders. Talk with them again and again. Beg them to return to the Word. Plead with your preacher to respect the Word of God in spite of what culture says. Do everything you possibly can.

Then when it becomes clear that the congregation's leaders have an agenda to move away from the authority of Scripture and take that church out of the mainstream of what you know to be right then it is time to remove yourself and worship elsewhere—but only after exhausting every possible means to correct the problem. This must be done gently. Make sure that you reflect the spirit of Christ in both word and attitude or you may do even more harm.

Move slowly, prayerfully and carefully, bearing in mind that once a division takes place and fellowship is broken, we seem seldom able to reconcile. Division among God's people displeases Him. Division is worldly. Division does lasting damage to the Kingdom of God. Does this sound like division is the **worst thing** that can happen? Well, it isn't. There is **one thing worse** than division. And that is **apostasy.**

Ken Joines, 7154 Golden Oaks E., Southaven, MS 38671 (901-212-1601) Email: kjoines35@hotmail.com



### "Four Great Preachers"\*

Tommy and Peggy Shull, who are members of the Southaven church (near Memphis) and who participate regularly in our MM RV Rallies, sent the above picture with the following comments.

"The picture was made by Bill Pierce at the **Power Lectures** in 2009 at the Southaven Church of Christ. (From left to right) **Robert Taylor, Tom Holland, Garland Elkins, and Clarence Sparks** -- all graduates of Freed-Hardeman University."

\*"Four Great Preachers". So stated Tommy and Peggy Shull whose opinion I respect. (alf)

### Vicksburg (I-20) Church Conducts Meeting

Eric Welch (left), preacher for the Vicksburg church is shown with Garvis Semore, evangelist in the Gospel Meeting held Sept. 13-16, 2009.



### Overnight in Vicksburg

My June and I were blessed to visit two services of Vicksburg's meeting held September 13 through the 16. This visit included a night service and an early morning service where we found the warm fellowship and the scriptural lessons to be very uplifting.

The visiting preacher was **Garvis Semore**, former president of MBC (now an Instructor at FHU). His sermon on Tuesday night was entitled, "Maybe I Will, Maybe I Won't." Brother Garvis emphasized the need to always be truthful and to keep one's commitments. The effective communicator stressed that even as God keeps His word/promises so should we, as His children.

A special feature of the meeting was their early morning service each day -- Monday through Wednesday. All who came were

asked to bring a "brown bag" with their own breakfast food and eat together. Then, after breakfast, to enjoy another lesson from God's word to help get the day started off right.

It was a delightful overnight visit. Thankful, we are, that the brethren permitted us to camp on their parking lot in our RV.

After the encouraging evening and morning services, we departed for Natchez

where we were scheduled to visit the Covington Road church and to preach at their mid-week service.



## == Elders Installed at Madison Church ==



**Madison Elders and Their Wives**

(from left): Bob and Nancy Brown; Trina and Kyle Smith

The Madison Church is happy to announce the installation of its first elders Sunday September 13. Bob Brown and Kyle Smith have committed themselves to shepherd God's flock.

Bob was raised in North Mississippi and was baptized in 1953. A long-time Jackson area resident, he has worshipped with congregations in Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. He formerly served as a deacon and elder with the Siwell Road Church. He was sales manager for Hunt-Wesson Foods (now Con-Agra Foods) for 31 years. He served as president of the South Jackson Rotary Club. He has been married to the former Nancy McDivitt for forty-eight years and they have two children: a son Cliff of Madison and a daughter Leigh Anne King of Birmingham. They also have a grandson Hayden Brown. Bob has a special interest in evangelism, at home and abroad.

Kyle was raised in Little Rock where his grandfather Faye Wallace was one of the founding elders of the old Pulaski Heights

Church of Christ (now Pleasant Valley). Kyle has worshipped with congregations in Raleigh, North Carolina and Nashville, Chattanooga, and Kingsport, Tennessee.

Before helping found the Madison Church he served as a deacon with the Lake Harbour Church in Ridgeland, Mississippi. After fifteen years service with Office Depot where he rose to the position of District Manager he purchased and continues to operate Reservoir Stationers in Ridgeland.

Kyle is the great-great grandson of T. B. Larimore, the highly esteemed gospel preacher following the Civil War. He and his wife Trina have three children: Nathan, Nick and Ashlyn.

The Madison Church is blessed to have as elders two men so completely dedicated to the cause of Christ. The Church requests your prayers for these men as well as the whole congregation as we attempt to be the hands, feet, heart and voice of Jesus to our community and the world.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions

**J. C. Enlow**

His Health and his Work

### - Report by Linda Enlow -

Earlier this year, an article appeared in the Magnolia Messenger concerning J.C. Enlow and his hunting accident that happened in Dothan, Alabama in December 2008. On December 22, 2009, it will be a year since his life-threatening experience.

Since that time, J.C. has continually improved in health and is almost completely recovered from his injuries. Only by the grace of God are we in this position today. Words cannot express all the heartfelt thanks that we owe for the many, many prayers offered in his behalf. For every act of kindness demonstrated by so many we are eternally grateful.

J.C. started working again full-time for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions in late April of 2009 after

a long recuperative period. He continues to travel to supporting churches in the U.S. to report on the progress of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions in the Ukraine, Belarus, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

In June of this year, he traveled to San Cristobal, Mexico, to attend the first graduating class of our school there. John Gibbs, the preacher for the County Line Church of Christ in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, accompanied him on this trip.

The graduation took place on June 27, 2009, with 35 students graduating. Of these students, 30 are preaching and teaching on a full-time basis. From July 2008 – June 2009, these students had baptized 57 individuals and started 12 new congregations in Mexico.

Turn to Enlow on Page 16

## Answer "The Question Box" re-study "The Birth of Jesus"

**Sample:** The journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem required more than 50 miles of travel.

(See a map of Bible lands) **(True or False)**

(See Page 24)

## News Notes

### CORINTH

The Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth celebrated their 103rd anniversary on October 25, 2009. **Alan Highers** was the speaker for the special occasion. **Blake Nichols**, preacher for the Foote Street congregation stated in the church bulletin, "Lots of words could be used to describe Sunday's gatherings, but the one that seems to keep circling in my mind is "Fantastic!"

### CHARLESTON

The Charleston Church of Christ will host their Winter '09 Lectureship on Friday, December 4. Those speaking include **Adam Miller** and **Don Fox** of Saultillo, MS and **Dan Beardain** of Winona. Please RSVP for salad lunch by calling 662-563-0523.

### BATESVILLE

**Josh James** has accepted the opportunity to work with the Batesville Church of Christ as one of their ministers. The Church bulletins states, " We welcome his family, **Tonya, B.J., Montana,** and **Dallas** as they come to help us serve the Lord." Josh and his family plan to begin their work by the first of December. **Michael Bates** and **Robert Rawson** serve as the evangelists for the Batesville congregation.

### LUCEDALE

The Rocky Creek Church of Christ near Lucedale, Mississippi recently hired a new minister. **Stephen Crigler** and his wife **Blair** are now working with the Rocky Creek congregation.

### LAFAYETTE, LA.

**Will Collins** has accepted the position of Youth/Worship minister with the Riverside Church of Christ in Lafayette, LA. Will and his wife **Brittany** moved to Lafayette during the summer.

## 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.

### In Memory Of

**Montz Colman**

**Jimmy Robertson**

(Romia Palmer)

(Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman)

(Mr. and Mrs. Starrett Chapman)

(Blair Chapman)

**Kenneth Brown**

(Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman)

(Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Chapman)

**Shirley Graves**

(Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman)

**Cliff Roden**

(Bobbie Roden)

**Helen Dunn Gilbert**

(Reicy Sanders & Family)

**Sam Braham, Sr.**

**Ron Smith**

(Mattie L. Brister)

**Ozella Hughey**

(Mrs. Patsy Morrison)

**Harvey Elder**

(Mr. and Mrs. Leo Steen)

**William J. Robertson**

(Carol B. Robertson)

**Sam Braham, Sr.**

**Ron Smith**

(Mrs. Mattie L. Brister)

**James Randall Porter**

(Avis Porter)

**Shelton M. Blythe**

(Betty M. Blythe)

**Steven Huddleston**

(Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Chapman)

(Mr. and Mrs. Jason Grisham)

(Blair Chapman)

Please Send

MBC Memorials

And/or Tributes To:

**Magnolia Bible College**

**P.O. Box 1109**

**Kosciusko, MS 39090**

**Mrs. Erma Perkins**

(Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maricelli)

(Lone Pine church of Christ)

Merryville, LA

**Roland & Juanita**

**Coleman**

(Mary Coleman Freeman &

Family)

**Mike Martin**

(Marilyn Gatlin)

**Don Threadgill**

(Jerry and Shirley Sanders)

**Janice Zackrison**

(Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Gattis)

**Stella Helen Sampley**

Kay Coke

Tommy Hoffman, II

### In Honor of

**James and Helen White**

Mrs. Louis G. Strickland

**Dee D. Hughey**

(Mrs. Patsy Morrison)

**Cecil May, Jr.**

Mary Coleman Freeman &

Family

### Notice:

MBC and MM memorials

are handled separately.

(See also page 13).

Thanks for helping

MBC and/or MM

### TUPELO

**Chad Ramsey** has begun his seventh year as of September 13, 2009 as preacher for the Gloster Street Church of Christ in Tupelo, MS.

### OKOLONA

The West Main Street Church of Christ in Okolona celebrated their 13th year anniversary with special services Oct 25, 2009.

## "Search" TV Program Begins 30th Year

### EDMOND, OK

September 6th, 2009 marks the beginning of SEARCH'S 30th continuous year. **Mack Lyon** and **Phil Sanders** are the speakers on this program. Brother Mack states, "...We're planning for it another 30 years."

# Magnolia Bible College

## “A Celebration of Life”

December 11 & 12, 2009

It was with great sadness that we received the decision of the Board of Trustees to close Magnolia Bible College at the conclusion of the fall semester of classes in December of this year. In the passing of time since receiving that shocking announcement, it has been decided that we needed a great celebration to close out MBC's final days. Rather than calling it a “closing celebration,” we decided to call it a “Celebration of Life.” In the 33 years of the school's existence, over 1,000 people have taken some classes. With the end of this semester, MBC will have granted 103 graduates with a BA degree in Bible and 21 graduates with a BTh degree in Bible. There has been one certificate awarded. Three of those graduates are deceased. It is a “Celebration of Life” because the majority of those receiving degrees and those taking classes continue to be faithful in living, teaching and preaching God's Word. So, even with the school's closing, Magnolia Bible College lives on in the lives and ministries of those who have walked the hallways and sat in the classes.

With that said, we want to use this means as one of the ways to invite all former administrators, teachers, graduates, alumni, supporters, and friends to come to the campus one last time for a great “Celebration of Life!” As stated above it will be held on Friday night and Saturday morning, December 11 and 12, 2009. The Friday night gathering will be held in the gym of the J. B. Hayes Activity Building. It will be an informal gathering – a time of renewal, a time of sharing memories, a time of great fellowship. The Saturday morning session will be a bit more formal. It will be held in the auditorium of the S. Huntington church building. The schedules for both times are as follows:

### Friday, December 11, 2009

**6:00 - 7:00 P.M.**  
Reception (catered, no charge but donations welcomed)

**7:00 - 8:00**  
Visiting among one and all

**8:00 - 9:00**  
Sharing of special memories (Everyone is welcomed to participate – 5 minute limit)

**9:00 - 10:00**  
Special Zomen Presentation

### Saturday, December 12, 2009

**8:30 - 9:30 A.M.** – Continental Breakfast at the Church Building

**9:30 - 10:00**  
Congregational Singing

**10:00 - 10:15**  
Address by the Board Chairman

**10:15 - Break**

**10:30- 11:15** – Dr. Cecil May, Jr. The Past, The Present, The Future

**11:15 - 11:30**  
Elders Response

**11:30 - 11:45**  
Closing Songs & Prayer

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order for proper preparation to be made for the Friday night gathering, please RSVP to Miriam Dendy at 662 289-3791. You also may fax your response to 662 289-3764, or email at [miriamdendy@hotmail.com](mailto:miriamdendy@hotmail.com). You may also respond to me at 601 562-4226, email [lesfergusonSr@hotmail.com](mailto:lesfergusonSr@hotmail.com). We must have a count by December 1 so the caterer will know how much food to prepare. Your assistance in this will be greatly appreciated. (Les Ferguson, Sr.)

## Why is MBC Closing?

With sadness MBC's board of Trustees reluctantly reached the decision that it was needful to close Magnolia Bible College. Two main reasons were cited: **(1) Too little money and (2) Too few students.**

Words cannot be found to adequately express the appreciation felt by the board for all who have given freely to the support of training gospel preachers at MBC. Please, be assured: **It has not been in vain.** (See figures noted above by Les Ferguson.)

The board is very grateful to John Gardner, Academic Dean, for also accepting the responsibilities of Acting President during the closing process. His dedicated service is much appreciated.

It is earnestly hoped that future work on behalf of the Lord's church can utilize very effectively the buildings used by the college. Suggestions and ideas and, most of all, your prayers are solicited on behalf of those who will make final decisions on the use of the properties. (Alf/editor)



Gathering in San Miguel de Guanajuato, Mexico Missionaries and Their Families  
(Picture includes Les Ferguson and Bill Grymes from Kosciusko; back row, 2nd and 3rd from left)

## Seven Churches Recently Planted; Another Planned for 2010

### Mexico Mission

report by

**Les Ferguson, Sr**

One of our deacons, Bill Grymes, and I traveled to Mexico on Thursday, October 1. We returned home on October 10. While in Mexico we were privileged to represent the S. Huntington congregation in Kosciusko, MS in the work of the Lord in that country. The S. Huntington church is currently involved in seven church plants in Mexico with an eighth one in the plans for January 2010.

We were able to meet with all of the preachers and their wives. Part of our purpose was simply to be an encouragement and to listen to any problems/needs and try to find a way to answer those. We feel we accomplished that in a good way.

The work in Mexico continues to go well for most of the churches. We were able to visit five of the cities where we are involved or soon will be involved. From the reports received via e-mail and in our meetings, we were greatly impressed with the work being done.

Three of the churches – San Miguel, Commonfort and Celaya – are fast outgrowing their facilities. They will soon need to consider some kind of expansion. These, of course, are good problems to have.

Of the other four churches, one is just two months old – the church in Irapuato. We were able to visit this city and the young couple who are laboring there – Rodolfo and Erica Valenzuela. They are making

contacts and even had a couple with whom they had become friends over for lunch with us on the day we were there. They are studying the Bible with this couple.

Since our return home, they report that they have baptized their first convert. The churches in Guanajuato and Dolores have experienced a little difficulty, but nothing that cannot be solved.

We encourage you to consider the mission work in Mexico. If you would like more information, please give me a call – **662 289-3791**. I would be glad to come and talk with you personally about this great work. (Les Ferguson, Sr.)

We feel that they are on the way to solving their problems and will continue to reach out into their communities.

The church in San Luis de la Paz is only two years old and they are doing great. They have not yet outgrown their facility, but they are on the way. This church is looking at property that they want to try to purchase in order to build their own building at the appropriate time. Due mostly to Bill Grymes's influence, Martin, the preacher, now has two new Bible studies he is conducting. These came about from some of the contacts Bill had with employees who were from the San Luis de la Paz area.

We have agreed to take one half of the support of a new preacher – Jonathan Mojica – when he finishes his studies at the Central School of Preaching in Queretaro in December. Jonathan will start a brand new church in the twin cities of Santa Ana/La Piedad. Santa Ana is

in the state of Guanajuato. La Piedad is in the state of Michoacan. A small river with a small bridge separates the two cities. It is almost just like you cross the street from one to the other.

In this area there are a 100,000 plus people. There is not a church of Christ meeting anywhere in this area. Bill and I worked with Jonathan from Monday – Saturday. He was a great blessing to us (he has excellent English skills), and we got to know him better. We feel he is an excellent addition to our work.

We encourage you to consider the mission work in Mexico. If you would like more information, please give me a call – 662 289-3791. I would be glad to come and talk with you personally about this great work.

Les Ferguson, Sr. preacher  
South Huntington Street  
**Church of Christ**  
P. O. Box 1399  
Kosciusko, MS 39090  
662-289-3791  
[lesfergusonSr@hotmail.com](mailto:lesfergusonSr@hotmail.com)



Somewhere in Mississippi



### Greenwood

Where West President Street Church Meets



### Indianola

Meeting Place for the Highway 82 Congregation



### Greenville

House of Worship for the South Main Church

On Wednesday evening, September 2, 2009, my June and I were blessed to be a part of the mid-week assembly of the Greenville church of Christ. After the singing of one song, the "devotional" was ably conducted by Danny Holman, preacher for the church. Later, the auditorium class was taught by long time elder -- Henry Halliburton. In between, I was blessed to be given an opportunity to speak words of encouragement and to share information about the disturbing plans to close MBC and about the exciting plans to continue, God willing, the work of the Magnolia Messenger.

Brother Henry certainly did an excellent job teaching the adult class using I Corinthians chapter ten as his text. Although he was soon to celebrate his **80th birthday** (on September 13), he spoke very effectively, evidencing his great knowledge of the Sacred Text. We were blessed to spend precious time with several of the brethren after dismissal of the service, including brief conversations with the three elders -- **Henry Halliburton, Bill Payne** and **Darrell Blaylock**.

Then, the next morning we were thankful to visit a couple of hours with Danny Holman, the preacher, as we gathered around the breakfast table for a delicious morning meal prepared by my June in our motorhome which had been parked overnight on the church grounds. We were privileged to get to know Danny better and to be favorably impressed with his evident abilities as a local preacher and his apparent dedication to the Lord. May God continue to bless. (alf)

## Three Days Three+ Churches

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (August 31 - September 2) were good days for us. Leaving Kosciusko on Monday afternoon, as we traveled north on Highway 35, we were blessed to visit two dear families from the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko (the **Rigbys** and the **Grays**). We then set our sights on the West President church in Greenwood.

Arriving at the church building about five o'clock, we were pleased to visit briefly with Greenwood's preacher for the past two years -- **Nathan Segars**. He was about to leave his office; however, he kindly took time to tell us a little about the work of the church which is overseen by elders **Gene Barrett, Bill Daves** and **Doug Segars** and served by six deacons.

He spoke briefly about the continued progress of their efforts to reach Hispanics in their area, including the special ministry of **Joe Ruiz**, one of the preachers of the Greenwood church. Nathan also seemed pleased to talk about the good relationship between West President and the Sycamore Street congregation, which reaches out in a special way to the black community. Brother Nathan also provided access to electrical outlets of their church building so we could "plug in" for the night in our motorhome.

After a good night's rest in our RV parked on the church lot, my June and I arose fairly early, had our devotional, went walking, cooked and ate a good breakfast. (*Motorhome travel is a great blessing in our lives!*) Afterwards we entered the church building and were privileged to visit for about an hour with three young women of the church. They were: **Amy Segars** (wife of the preacher), **LeeLee Logan** and **Cindy Floyd**. They were working on some wedding invitations as they prepared for a wedding involving Cindy's daughter. We enjoyed hearing them tell about the activities of the congregation.

For lunch, someone suggested that we visit the "Crystal Grill" in downtown Greenwood. This we did. Gladly. The food was excellent and was served in a relaxing atmosphere.

After lunch we began trying to contact **Norman Spann**, preacher for the Sycamore Street church in Greenwood. About two o'clock we caught up with him as he was leaving his house. He graciously invited us in and brought us up-to-date on what was going on in the congregation where he is grateful to be known as their preacher. We enjoyed catching up on the progress being made by the Sycamore Street church which



Gene and Madelyn Gibson -- Two "Faithful Workers"

Brother and sister Gibson started a student center outreach in Madelyn's parent's old home place, located just across the street from Mississippi Delta Community College. They continue to devote their "retirement years" to reaching out with the gospel to the students who study at the college. Church sponsorship and replacement help is being sought. Contact the Gibsons in care of, **Christian Student Center; PO Box 651; Moorhead, MS 38761-0651**

brings together about 100 or so each Lord's day.

After our visit with brother Spann, we departed for Indianola -- about 30 miles to the west. As we pulled onto the parking lot of the church on Highway 82 we were met by a young brother named Jason who introduced himself as a member of the church and also an assistant with the Student Center at Moorhead Community College. Jason was very helpful in opening the church building so we could "plug in" our RV for the night.

After eating a bite, my June and I traveled back over to Moorhead where we had been informed a Bible study was to be held that Tuesday evening. Along with about a dozen students from the college, we were blessed to sit at the feet of Gene Gibson and hear him teach, very capably, a meaningful lesson from God's word.

The next day (Wednesday) we were privileged to spend some time with **Gene Hill**, preacher for the Indianola church. Brother Hill spoke with gratitude for the privilege he and his wife were enjoying of working with the brethren at Indianola. He expressed concern for the number of church members who had

**Christian Student Center at MDCC in Moorhead Continues to Progress**

Up to Sixty (60) Attend Bible Studies on Wednesday Evenings

moved away and also for the lack of spiritual interest manifested by so many in the Mississippi Delta. Brother Gene, however, seemed optimistic as he talked about the future of the church and the continuing need for the church to "preach/teach the Word" and for individual members to live godly lives as "salt" and "light" in the community.

Before leaving Indianola, it was a joy to visit with **Deanie Bradshaw** in her home and to be reminded of the faithful work she and her family continue to do in the Lord's Kingdom. Her husband, James, was "way out West" hunting big game for a few days. The Bradshaws have long been great encouragers in our work with the MM. We are grateful.

Turn to **Three Churches** - Pg. 16



The Holmans: Mary and Danny

Danny preaches for the South Main Church in Greenville. After 20 years of ministry in Arkansas and West Tennessee, Danny and his family moved to Greenville in October of 2007. He said that his decision to come to Mississippi was based on his desire to find a congregation that "wanted to work and not just keep the doors open."

He expressed gratitude for the leadership at South Main and stated that he was enjoying his work with the congregation that brings together about 140 each Lord's day. We bid him, his Mary and their four children God's speed in their continued efforts to assist in building up the Lord's body in the Mississippi delta city of Greenville.



*Magnolia Messenger*  
**Memorials & Tributes**

The person whose name is in **CAPS** is memorialized or honored by the person(s) whose name is in lower case letters. Thank you. God bless! Please note that memorials and/or tributes given to Magnolia Bible College are handled separately. See page 9. (ALF, editor)

*In Memory Of*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>STEPHEN ALDRIDGE</b><br>Carole Milner<br>(Brandon, MS)<br>Garnett & Betty Harris<br>(Brandon, MS)       | <b>NANCY ROSS</b><br>Bob & Polly Templeton<br>(Utica, MS)   |
| <b>FRED DODSON</b><br>Hazel Cook<br>(Columbus, MS)   | <b>JAMES W. ANDERSON</b><br>Bob & Polly Templeton<br>(Utica, MS)<br>Bonnie Skates<br>(McComb, MS)<br>Irene M. Wright<br>(Raymond, MS)<br>Bobby & Alice Humphries<br>(Natchez, MS) |
| <b>ALLEN NELSON</b><br>Garnett & Betty Harris<br>(Brandon, MS)<br>Wilburn & Velma DeLancey<br>(Benton, MS) | <b>RUBY WALSH</b><br>Bonnie Skates<br>(McComb, MS)  |
| <b>R. V. BURT</b><br>Pierce Flatt<br>(Pike Road, AL)   | <b>PHILLIP MAURICE HARRIS</b><br>Lucia Vanderpool<br>(Memphis, TN)  |
| <b>DON THREADGILL</b><br>T. C. Nowell<br>(Starkville, MS)  |   |

*In Honor: Of*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>STELLA PERKINS</b><br>Sydalia Palmer<br>(Corinth, MS)  | <b>GLADYS ROGERS</b><br><b>100TH BIRTHDAY</b><br>Mary Edith Sandlin<br>(Saltillo, MS) |
| <b>SHIRLEY GRAVES</b><br>Sharon Simmons<br>(Hernando, MS) |   |

*Please Send Gifts to:*

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

*(An appropriate acknowledgment will be sent by MM to the designated relative of person memorialized.)*

**MBC Closes  
but  
MM Continues**

The Magnolia Messenger and Magnolia Bible College are two separate works. The college, as an educational institution, has operated under the direction of a board of directors. The "Messenger", however, is a mission work of Kosciusko's South Huntington Street congregation and, as such, is under the oversight of the elders of the church.

We are thankful to report that the work of the Magnolia Messenger is to continue, **God and brethren willing**. There has never been a time when the need to "Provoke one another unto LOVE and GOOD Works" is greater than now. And, to continue to encourage each other to be "Ready unto every good work" is a vital AND pressing need. (See Heb. 10:24 and Tit. 3:1.)

Circulation of each issue of the MM is approximately 25,000 copies. We are grateful to report that the MM is mailed into every state in the nation; although the concentration of circulation is in Mississippi and adjoining states.

We earnestly request the continued support of all congregations and individuals who have helped to make the MM a widely recognized and respected influence among Christians and non-Christians. We also solicit your continued prayers that the paper may **expand circulation and increase frequency of publication**. As always, your suggestions and ideas are invited and welcomed. (Al Franks, editor)

**"Good News For Today"**

and  
**EVERY DAY on TV**

Never before, in my remembrance, has there been available a daily ONE hour nation-wide telecast, supported by churches of Christ in America.

Thanks to satellite technology, this is now a reality. Gospel teaching programs are available daily for those with satellite receivers. They are also available on many local cable systems scattered throughout the nation. And, the Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN) can be viewed 24 hours each day by way of the internet.

On Saturday morning, September 5, 2009, I tuned in our DISH receiver to the COLRS network and watched a full hour of Bible teaching featuring several gospel preachers. As I listened and watched I thought it would interesting to share with MM readers pictures of teachers/preachers who were on the program that particular Saturday.



Flavil Nichols and Glenn Colley



Chad Dollahite and Jeff Archey



Jim Dearman serves as host of "Good News For Today"



Dan Manuel



James Boyd

**See... Hear  
Bible Teaching/Preaching  
on GBN**

For more information, please go online by typing into your internet server:

**Gospel Broadcasting  
Network**



The Sign and Some of the Saints -- Going into Tunica, Mississippi

Dennis Doughty, preacher at Tunica, sent picture and wrote, "We have two signs up now and are looking for a third location. The picture shows some of our members as we assembled one Sunday evening after services. We had a song and a prayer and dedicated these two signs to the Lord. I hope they will raise awareness of the Lord's church to all who come our way. I estimate that about 15-20,000 people a day will pass by them."

News and reports from churches are always welcomed.

Thank you for reading the Magnolia Messenger



**Stirring Short Sermon: Each day is a gift; not a given"**

## An Unforgettable Trip of a Lifetime Israel -- "The Holy Land"

- Paul Franks -

My father has had a powerful impact on my life. I wanted very much to see him experience what

communities in Israel. Everywhere we went; people were very friendly to us and made us feel welcome.



Sun Rising over the Beautiful Sea of Galilee

I was able to experience on a trip to the "Holy Lands" in 2000.

For eight years I wondered if I would ever get him to go with me. Finally in 2008, he agreed to let me start making plans to take a group in November of 2009 to Israel.

Over 100 people called or wrote about going on this trip with us. There were different reasons why some didn't go. One reason I kept hearing up to the last minute was, "We are afraid to go!" Or, "Our children are afraid for us to go."

Finally a group of 21 brave souls made all of the necessary arrangements and we all met at the airport in Atlanta. We had been given a T-shirt with *Magnolia Messenger* printed on it. We didn't all know each other, but were able to find each other very easily in the airport since we were asked to wear our shirts.

Over 2 million people from around the world visit Israel each year! Since 1974 the company that we used to help us with our tour has assisted over 400,000 Americans to visit the "Holy Lands" without one person being hurt by anyone else.

Yes, this region has had more of its share of conflicts, but no one on our tour ever felt in any danger. We are considered guests in this country and tourism is the life blood of many of the cities and

My favorite place in 2000 was in the area of the Sea of Galilee. As soon as we landed in Tel-Aviv, we all got on a luxurious bus headed to that area. Our tour guide, Mike, immediately began to share his knowledge

and passion for Israel. Mike is an Arab-Palestinian who grew up in Jerusalem, moved to California and lived for 14 years and then moved back to Israel. Mike really made the trip special for us, because you could tell that he had a great passion for the places we visited and also appreciates and loves

America. Three major things stand out in my mind about the trip! Gene Cloer, a retired gospel preacher and his wife, Betty, went with us on this trip. When we got to the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee, an area where tradition tells us that Jesus preached His famous "Sermon on the Mount", we all set around a beautiful old tree and Gene recited the entire Sermon on the Mount from memory. It was extremely moving.

We were able to take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We got on a boat with 2 other groups, bringing our number on the boat to over 100 people. When we got to the

middle of the lake, the boat stopped and the engines were silenced. Then I was privileged to lead singing and my father preached a powerful message from the Word of God concerning the Sea of Galilee. It was awesome to hear and see this and, especially, to see the impact this was having on my father.

Sunday morning, we woke up in a beautiful hotel in downtown Jerusalem. Early, we boarded our bus and drove up to the Mount of Olives. Our tour guide found us a secluded site. Here we had worship services for about an hour. We had prepared a special song book for everyone assisting us in singing songs that reminded us of some of the places we visited. Observing the Lord's Supper on the Mount of Olives and hearing my father preach at this very special place was inspiring.

I have taken vacations with my parents before. They were fun, but this trip with my mother and father was far more than a vacation.



"Sermon on the Mount" Recited by Gene Cloer

It is a trip that will strengthen and even increase your faith! I could tell that this experience was having a powerful impact on my dad and mom. I was so thankful to be sharing it with them. My goal continues to be able to take the ultimate journey with them to the "New Jerusalem" and to encourage as many as I can to also make preparations to go to the ultimate land of promise, Heaven -- a land of indescribable beauty that our Heavenly Father has promised to all who follow His Son Jesus Christ.

Paul Franks; 337-515-7314; apaulfranks@gmail.com

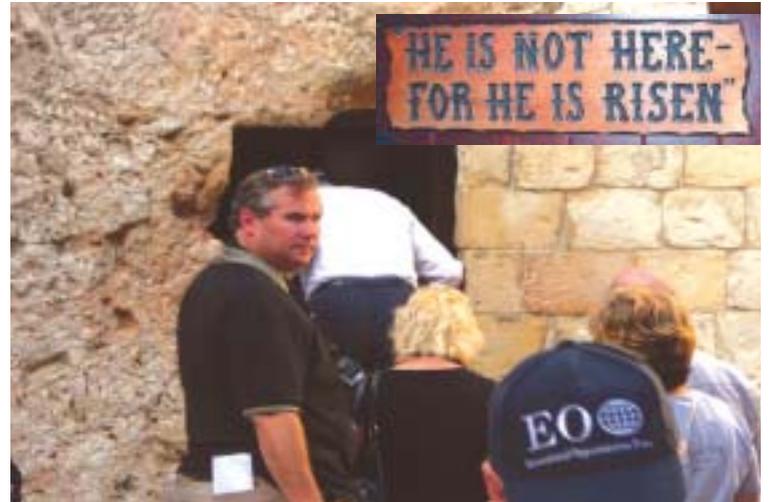
The Trip to the True Holy Land is Free. Jesus Paid the Fare.  
Are you Ready to Go? Are you a Christian? Are you Faithful?



A Special Sunday Worship Service Conducted on the Mount of Olives



Many Still Come to the Jordan to be Baptized (Immersed)



The Garden Tomb: Thought to be Where Jesus was Buried.  
The Strengthening Sign: "He is Not Here - for He is Risen"



Above site is said to be the "Garden of Gethsemane"  
It is believed that some of the old olive trees date back 2,000 years



One of Several Ships on Galilee; Not Ours.

## Exhorting One Another

- Eddie Lewis -

"Exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13). "I am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge, and competent to admonish one another" (Romans 15:14).

When I think of the command that Paul gives us in these verses to exhort or admonish each other, I suddenly realize that some of the most significant relationships that I've developed over the years have come from experiences in which I've exhorted someone about sin.

It has never been an easy task, I dreaded to do it every time. Yet, in the end, usually, not always, it has been a time of emotion, tears, and spiritual growth. It has provided me an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. I always end up evaluating my own spiritual life and discovering that there are changes that I need to make.

I believe that there is no greater sign of love than for someone to be willing to risk rejection, or a broken relationship with another. Also, I believe that if we admonish or exhort someone in the right spirit, with the right motive, and using an appropriate method, the person is going to sense that risk and love you for the courage and love you have shown them.

First, let's define our words. The Greek word in Hebrews 3:13 for "exhort" is "paraino" which means, "to call near." You are calling that person near to God. You don't want them harden by sin's deceitfulness.

The Greek word in Romans 14:15 for "admonish" is "noutheteo" which means, "to put in mind of the Scripture." It doesn't refer to casual communication or the normal type of teaching. It implies a definite exhortation, correction, or warning.

Paul had told the Christians in Rome to "Stop passing judgment on one another" (Romans 14:13). Then in this passage he tells them to admonish one another. This may seem like a contradiction at first, but the answer is seen in the text. He says, "You are competent to admonish one another" and he tells them why!

• They are "full of goodness." Paul expresses his confidence in them that they are growing spiritually. They have developed



Eddie Lewis

spiritually and are living righteous lives. In other words, they can admonish others because they are living a spiritual life. To use the words of Jesus, they have removed the plank out of their own eye, so now they can help other brethren remove the speck out of their eye (Matthew 7:3-5).

When a person is sensitive about his own walk with God, he is capable and responsible enough to admonish others. When you admonish according to the Bible guidelines you are not judging, you are admonishing.

• They are "complete in knowledge." Paul commended the Roman's for their growing knowledge of God's word. When you admonish, it must be based on God's word and not on what we think others should or should not do. We have to be very careful on this point. Sometimes we tend to confuse absolutes and non-absolutes. If we exhort in areas where the Bible doesn't specifically spell out a teaching, we are in danger of imposing standards contrary to scripture. For example, the Bible doesn't forbid reading modern literature, but it does warn against exposing our minds to impure and unrighteous things (Philippians 4:8). So we have to make a judgment, but we can't make it a law.

### Other Guidelines to Exhort

There are some other guidelines we must follow to learn to exhort in the spirit of love. These are found in other verses that deal with this subject.

• Admonition must be done with a deep concern and love for the other person. Paul is a great example of this. He met with the Ephesians elders on his way to Jerusalem and he exhorted them to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20). He reminded them of their past relationship. "Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day

with tears" (v. 31). There was no doubt in the minds of these men that Paul loved them. They cried together about sin and the work they had done in Ephesus. Paul's tears were a reflection of his deep concern for them in Christ. They could not interpret his exhortation as judging them.

• Admonition, to be effective, must be personal. This doesn't mean that there can't be general admonitions. Paul told Timothy in his preaching to, "Correct, rebuke and admonish with patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). But, Scripture also tells us to exhort each other privately (Matthew 18:15). When there is a problem with a Christian, it is much better to go to that person privately and work out the problem.

• Admonition must be persistent if it is to be effective. Paul said he exhorted the Ephesian elders "day and night, with tears." How long? He was there three years. Mutual exhortation has to be done continually. Scripture is filled with many exhortation and instructions, so it takes a long time to communicate all of them and a lifetime to apply them.

• Admonition must be done with pure motives. Paul serves as an example. He wrote the Corinthians, "I am not writing this to shame you, but to admonish you, as my dear children" (1 Corinthians 4:14). We have to be on guard to not embarrass others, even those who are guilty of some sin. This is why personal, private admonition is the scriptural way to solve problems.

• Admonition must be done with a proper goal. There is only one goal that is acceptable to the Lord. We admonish to help others become more mature in Christ. Paul said, "We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me" (Colossians 1:28-29).

• Admonition must be a natural outgrowth of proper body function. Because of our relationship in the Body of Christ, we admonish each other and teach each other (Colossians 3:16). Consider the example of Barnabas. He was one that encouraged and exhorted his brethren. His name meant, "Son of Encouragement." He encourages his brethren by

Turn to EXHORT on Page 16



### Meeting Place for the Church in Welsh, Louisiana

I always count it a blessing to return to my home state of Louisiana. In a recent trip, we were grateful for the opportunity to visit, for the first time, the small church that meets in the town of Welsh -- in southwest Louisiana.

Welsh is said to be home to over 3,000 souls; yet, the church of Christ brings together only about 20 to 30 on "a good Sunday". This is a reminder of the mission opportunities provided in the state of Louisiana. Although the state boasts a population of more than 4,000,000, there are probably less than 25,000 who claim membership or affiliation among the churches of Christ.

For several years a small group of 5 or 6 women kept the congregation going. They were assisted by men who came in from area congregations. Thanks, however, to some families retiring and returning to Welsh, there are now enough men to lead in teaching and preaching. Among them are **Jerry Jackson**, who served for years as an elder in the Enterprise Boulevard church in Lake Charles and **Doug Boyles** who had previously served as a minister in Jennings, LA. These two men, along with a couple of others,



gladly take their turns in preaching and teaching.

Our recent Sunday evening visit was enjoyable and encouraging. After services, my June and I, along with others, were blessed to go to the home of **Jerry and Gwen Jackson** for a delicious evening meal and meaningful fellowship.

The Welsh church is just one of many small congregations in SW Louisiana that stands in need of your prayers and your encouragement. Let's be thankful for our brethren everywhere who seek not only to keep the church doors open, but who **actively teach the Word** in a prayerful effort to bring others to Christ and His church.

### Parkview Preacher Proclaims God's Love in Durant

In a day when gospel meetings are fewer, some churches continue such efforts with encouraging results. The Durant church hosted a short GM October 25-28 with evangelists **David McElwain** from Kosciusko (MBC) and **Richard Wiggins** of the Parkview church in Jackson.



Richard Wiggins

My June and I were privileged to be a part of the gathering on Monday evening and were blessed to hear a powerful sermon by brother Wiggins.

The theme of the 4 day series was "Sharing God's Love." The gifted preacher used as his text Mark 5:25-34 as he spoke on the subject, "The Woman with an Is-

sue of Blood." Brother Richard noted that the answer to the woman's "issue" was Jesus. He further stressed that the answer to all our "issues" is Jesus Christ!

In a personal visit with brother Wiggins, I learned that he has been preacher for the Parkview church on

Clinton Road in Jackson for the past eight years and that the church is now bringing together over 200 worshippers each Lord's day. On a recent Sunday, attendance was 231. Very encouraging!

Attendance for the Durant meeting was very good. I was told that More than 100 were present on Sunday afternoon with many area churches represented. □

## PREACHER PAY

(Continued from page 2)

circumstances. No money was exchanged, for there wasn't any; it was dire suffering most of the time.

Before moving to this cabin we rented (?) another cabin, at **Paris, Mississippi**. It was, to be accurate, a cow shed. Mother was then living but in very poor health. She was given our only bed and wife and I slept on the floor, or shreds of corn stalks for a mattress.

Hunger again stalked us until I remembered a sister some ten miles away who had asked if we needed any food. I kissed my wife and mother and marched into the darkness. It was raining. After midnight I reached that sister's home and knocked on the door. When she and her husband heard my voice they dressed and came out. I told my story and they took me to the smokehouse and took down a small side of bacon to take home to a hungry wife and mother in the cow-shed. But when I got home with the bacon, there was nothing in the way of food to go with it. So we three ate bacon (minus). I was preaching every

night, some 5 or 6 miles from my cow-shed home, and walking as usual.

This account of some of my struggles haunted me for three whole years, and I suspect that Bro. Dunn had like *success*—if that word truly expresses the situation. I baptized many people and I am quite sure it was not without suffering that attended those baptisms. God knows.

Brother Howell, I am thankful that you are not suffering so much, and that you will soon be well again. Your checks are deeply appreciated and while I am not preaching any more, I do all the more, appreciate the spirit of your letter. I would like to hear from brother Dunn.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
E. C. Fuqua

**P.S.** I may miss in figures to a small extent, but of facts I am sure. I daily pray for those who, in face of adversity, have sacrificed for Christ and His wonderful Gospel. Utterly unworthy of praise or even thanks, I look forward in love. (E. C. F.)

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## SUNDAY

(Cont. from page 6)

church and the usual schedule for worship services -- not when sports and entertainment are being planned. May we, as citizens of the "Heavenly Kingdom", never forget, Scripture admonishes, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (Heb. 10:25).

Let's remember the words of the old song, "**Take Time to be Holy.**" Don't neglect to pray, to worship, to study God's word. Use the Lord's day to accomplish His purpose for our lives -- visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (James 1:27), "seek and save the lost" (cf. Luke 19:10). Be a minister to others, as was our Lord (Matthew 20:28). Provide leadership to your family in spending "quality time" together accomplishing spiritual activities. **Put the Lord first!** In what better ways can you use the first day of the week?

Let's seek to make Sunday "SONday" ("the LORD'S day" and not "FUNday." Don't ever forget: God gave you six extra days for all the other needed and/or desired activities. *Isn't God good?* (Editor)

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"Somewhere in Mississippi"

## Answer

**"The Question Box"**  
re-study  
**"The Birth of Jesus"**

**Sample:** The name "Jesus" was given by an angel before he was ever conceived. **(True or False)**  
(See Page 24)

## Three Churches

(Cont. from page 12)

When we left Deanie's house, we hooked up our little car to the RV and drove over to Greenville in time for the midweek services. [See report on page 12, under picture, of our Wednesday night visit at the South Main church in Greenville.]

Next morning, June cooked breakfast for us and for Greenville's preacher, **Danny Holman**. Following a two hour visit with Danny, we departed from Greenville and made our way back to Kosciusko. We had been richly blessed. Three days. Three+ churches. Good visits; good weather. Thank the good Lord.

## Enlow

(Cont. from page 10)

Of the directors and teachers in the school at San Cristobal and the various Saturday schools in the state of Chiapas -- there were 89 baptisms and 15 congregations started from July 2008 -- June 2009. This brings a total of 146 baptisms in this period and a total of 27 new congregations started. Each student, each director, and each teacher received a new Spanish concordance that had been purchased with donations by individuals in the U.S. at the graduation.

God truly has blessed the work of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Eph. 3:20). We want everyone to know how special each one of you are to our family. Our prayer is that God will bless you and keep you from harm. We can assure you that God answers prayer because He has answered ours. (In His service, **Linda Enlow**)

*I enjoy the Messenger very much. You all do such great work and I appreciate you both so much. When are you all coming to visit down here at Jackson's Chapel again? Would love to see you all. Sending a small donation to help out. Again thanks for all the Lord's work you do. (Billie Boyd, Leesville, LA)*

**Thanks, Readers for Responding**

## Exhort

(Continued from page 15)

selling a field and giving the money to the church to help the disciples that are in need (Acts 4:36). The church is begun in Antioch and the Apostles send Barnabas to check it out (Acts 11:22). When he saw the grace of God evidenced in the church, he was glad and encouraged them to remain faithful to the Lord. What a tremendous description of a man! He as a man of goodness and full of the Spirit of God.

How can we learn to admonish others? What can we do to learn how to properly admonish others? Let me suggest two things.

- First, we must evaluate our spiritual status. Can I say of my life that I am "full of goodness?" I know most of us try diligently to live a good life and have a heart that is humble before God. Goodness will be seen in how we treat others (1 John 1:11).

- Do I really know what the Bible teaches about godly and righteous living? I don't have to know everything, but I have to have a spirit of learning and study.

I would encourage you to seek setting in the church to practice exhortation. First, you must build relationships with others so that

when you do exhort them they will know your love and concern. Also, when others exhort you don't reject their words of love and concern, because they are showing you the same love.

Daniel Webster left his country home and went to Boston to study law. He entered, without an invitation, the office of Christopher Gore, who was the head of the Massachusetts Bar. There he was looked upon as an intruder and nobody paid any attention to him.

One day Rufus King saw the lonely solitary boy sitting by himself. He warmly shook his hand and said, "I know your father well. Be studious and you will win. If you need any assistance or advice, come to me."

Years later, after he had achieved greatness, Webster said, "I can still feel the warm pressure of that hand, and hear those challenging words of encouragement."

Love and exhort each other out of love for Christ.

*Article by Eddie Lewis, Associate Minister, Germantown church of Christ, Germantown, Tennessee. Eddie Lewis; 9423 Laurel Hills S.; Olive Branch, MS 38654*

eddielewis@gtownchurchofchrist.org.

## POLITICS

(Continued from page 3)

better country, that is, a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:13-15).

The mission on which we have been sent into the world is a serious one, as serious as the one on which the Father sent Jesus. "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you'" (John 20:21).

We have been sent into all the world to preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).

We are to be salt (Matthew 5:13), light (Matthew 5:14-16) and leaven (Matthew 13:33). Each of these figures suggests influence working from within. Our good works are to cause people to glorify the Father. Our obligation is to be "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). What matters is "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6).

When people are attracted by Christ but are turned off by Christian, it is time for us to look at

ourselves. We must oppose sin but we must not be ugly or vicious. We must work for what is right, but that must include helping the helpless and feeding the hungry, even when they are our enemies (Romans 10:19-21).

Working as Christians to help change the laws of the land can help fulfill the prayer we are to pray for our rulers, "that we may

lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2). Ultimately, however, real change can only come when the hearts of men and

women are changed.

The only power to effect that change is the gospel of the love of God, which must be both preached and modeled by those of us who have received it.

**It is absolutely safe to say that God is neither a Democrat nor a Republican.**

**The Question Box**  
Last Issue  
**Answers and Apology**  
(Please See Page 19)

## Durant Church Hosts "Men's Day" - Sept. 12

Durant, a small town Mississippi church that reaches out in a special way to the black community, recently hosted their 3rd annual **Men's Day Program** on September 12, 2009. An estimated thirty men gathered together in Durant to hear two Bible lessons from minister **Herbert Goodman** of Collierville, TN.

In addition to the brothers from Durant, several other congregations were represented -- including **Belzoni, Moorhead, Lexington, DeKalb, Clinton** and **Kosciusko** (South Huntington and Tipton).

Participating in the well planned program were **Armand Willey**, local preacher, who served as "MC", **Claude Edwards, Daunta Doods, Emmette Armstrong, Calvin Davis** and **Matt Anderson**.

The guest speaker for the Saturday morning services was **Herbert Goodman** who lives in Collierville, Tennessee, and has, for the past seven years, served as preacher for the church in Water Valley, Mississippi.

I was blessed to be present for the second of the two lessons presented by the



Herbert Goodman, keynote speaker, visits with Oscar McDougal, church leader from Lexington.

talented keynote speaker. Brother Goodman called attention to the required scriptural qualifications of elders, citing I Timothy chapter 3. He also stressed the responsibility of elders to "take care of the church of God."

He commented, "A preacher can't do all the work himself." He spoke about preachers who think they have to have their "own way" and suggested that they will likely bring about "serious problems" within the church.

Brother Goodman talked about the need for each church to strive to become scripturally organized. He said, "A preacher who has been preaching for the same congregation for thirty-five years; yet, that church has no elders -- something is wrong with the preacher."

Among other meaningful observations, the keynote speaker commented, "A church is not at its full potential without elders." He added, "Without leadership a church will die." He also made a comment about the need for elders and preachers to work together "as one".

After the Scriptural studies of the morning were concluded, ev-

eryone was invited to stay for a little while and enjoy a delicious meal which had been prepared by several of the ladies (probably assisted by a few of the men). I accepted the invitation and, afterwards, was glad that I did.

Upon leaving the building and the brethren, I was pleased to conclude that my Saturday morning had been well spent -- enjoying Bible teaching, fellowship and delicious food.

**Armand Willey**, a student at MBC, presently does most of the preaching at Durant. However, because of the announced closing of MBC, Armand will be leaving the area in December; at which time **Emmette Armstrong**, a long time member at Durant, plans to begin yet another term of serving as the local preacher for the small church which normally brings together 25 to 35 each Lord's day.

**Thank you for thinking of the Magnolia Messenger when you remember and/or honor Friends and Relatives (See Page 13)**

### More Encouragement

Dear Bro. Franks & June,  
I have enjoyed the Magnolia Messenger since the first issue and thank you and June for the wonderful news... (Mrs. Lois Griffin, Statesboro, GA)

The Magnolia Messenger is the only Church of Christ paper we receive other than our Sunday morning bulletin. We attend services 14 miles away... We are blessed to have a Church of Christ nearby! In Christ, P. S. Love this issue! (Terry & Ken Kiel, Sparta, WI)

Thank you for continuing the Magnolia Messenger. May God continue to bless us all. (Larue T, Stocker, Miami, FL)

I attend the Kirbyville, Texas Church of Christ and was given a Magnolia Messenger. This is a very good newspaper and I would love to receive it at my home address. Thank you so much and I am looking forward for the next issue. Thanks and God Bless. (Dolly "Angela" Jernigan, Kirbyville, TX)

## 396

### Bible Students

Sent in Answers to "The Question Box"

Is your name found on page 21?

Suggestions for MM Invited

Please Remember to Pray for the Magnolia Messenger

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## Forty Years of Leadership From One Central Alabama Couple



(From left, viewing picture) Roy Johnson, Frances & Jack Zorn

### - Jack & Frances Zorn - "Lads to Leaders-Leaderettes"

Recently, at Faulkner University, in Montgomery, Alabama, a large gathering of well wishers were on hand to honor Jack Zorn and his lovely wife, Frances, for their achievements in the development of youth. The Zorns are now retirees who reside in Sylacauga, Alabama where they participate in church and community activities.

Probably their most remarkable achievements are that the Zorns have influenced over 200,000 youth to be leaders in the church, home, school and community since 1968. Jack Zorn had humble beginnings, being born a share cropper's son in Florida. He was a high school drop-out who later re-entered school and educated himself to the level of PhD through hard work and determination.

In 1968, brother Zorn began training young men at the Warner Robins Church of Christ in Warner Robins, Georgia. This training involved public speaking and other Christian graces. From that humble beginning forty years ago, Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes has grown to a participant total of over 20,000 youth, nationwide, and will add a sixth convention site in 2011 when the Gaylord Texan in Dallas, Texas will host a convention site.

Presently on Easter weekend, there are five Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes conventions going on at the same time in Atlanta, Georgia; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; Memphis,

Tennessee; and Orlando, Florida. At convention, participants hone their skills in public speaking, song leading, debate, Bible bowl and puppets, as well as many other events.

The current Executive Director of Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes,

**R o y Johnson**, stated at the dinner, that Jack Zorn was the founder and Frances Zorn was

From that humble beginning forty years ago, Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes has grown to a participant total of over 20,000 youth, nationwide

the funder. She worked sometimes three jobs so that Jack could fulfill his dream of training youth to be leaders.

During the evening of appreciation, many speakers told of their travels and experiences with the Zorns. Kyle Wadley from Vance, Alabama, entertained the audience with his renditions of God Bless the USA and Thank God for Kids.

A portrait of the Zorns was unveiled and will hang in the Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes National Service Center located on the Faulkner University campus in Montgomery, AL.

the Zorns have influenced over 200,000 youth to be leaders in the church, home, school and community since 1968.

Elaine Fulbright, a well known Central Alabama artist, painted the oil portrait which depicts Zorn in his famous red coat, known by many as his convention coat.

In the portrait, the Zorns are holding hands, as those who know them will tell you is a very natural pose for them.

The Zorns expressed their thanks for the evening and for the warm wishes and prayers for them during their recent injuries sustained in a car accident. While they are healing, Frances, especially still has many health issues related to the accident. □

MM Welcomes Reports

## Churches Looking For 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!**

### Hernando Locates Preacher

A few weeks ago, **Steve Gooch** called and asked for help in locating a preacher for the Hernando church. Before running an ad in this issue of the MM, we were pleased to learn, in a phone call to brother Steve, that they have already found a minister. The new preacher, beginning November 8, is **Andy Scott**. He and his wife are moving from Texas to Mississippi where he will serve the Hernando congregation of 75 to 100 in attendance. May God bless.

### Ripley, MS

(6/15/09)

The Ripley Church of Christ in Ripley, MS is seeking a new pulpit preacher. (Glen Fann is retiring after 21 years with the church.) Ripley is a congregation of approximately 300 members with an 86 year history. The congregation has three Elders and ten Deacons. Ripley, MS is a town of 6,000 people located in north Mississippi 80 miles southeast of Memphis and 45 miles north of Tupelo. The congregation owns a 3,000+ square foot brick preacher's home next door to the church building. The home is set for complete renovation during the summer/fall of 2009. A competitive salary is negotiable based on education and experience with a benefits package. The applicant must demonstrate Biblical soundness and competence as Preacher of the Gospel; some experience is preferred. Interested preachers should send a resume, a sermon tape/CD, and color picture with five contact references to:

The Elders  
Ripley Church of Christ  
1300 Hall Drive  
Ripley, MS 38663

Ripley (Hall Drive)  
Church Building



### 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!

### Rock Springs, WY

Hello Brother Franks,

Hope you remember me, Dave Jackson from Rock Springs, Wyoming. You stopped in to our congregation and conducted a wonderful Wednesday night study while you and your wife, June and another couple were vacationing in the state about a year ago. We now have a brand new home next to our church building for a new preacher. We are getting some furniture put in it now.

What I am writing for is to ask if you would please place an ad in your paper for our search for a preacher. Any help in looking for a preacher would be greatly appreciated. Please see the ad below.

Thanks for everything you do and may God bless you, (Signed: Dave)

**MINISTER NEEDED**—The Rock Springs church of Christ, a congregation of 30-35 people, located in southwest Wyoming, is seeking a pulpit minister. We desire a family man who is self-motivated, outgoing and lives the Bible. His family must be supportive and be active in the church.

We can provide a new 3 bedroom 2 bath house located on the church property to live in and we will pay for all utilities. We can offer a \$1,500.00 monthly salary. Responsibilities include full time preaching, teaching and being active in the church. This should be considered a mission field. Rock Springs is located in a High Desert area with plentiful big game hunting and fishing opportunities.

For further information or to submit a resume and references, contact the **Rock Springs church of Christ, 100 Clearview Drive, PO Box 854, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902**, 307-382-9426 or David Jackson, home phone 307-362-5499 or E Mail [aviator6659x@msn.com](mailto:aviator6659x@msn.com).

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

### Pearlington, LA

10-09

The Pearlington Church of Christ, located in southwestern Mississippi near the Louisiana border, is seeking a full-time preacher. The church and community needs a hard working, highly motivated man of God. In addition to preaching, other responsibilities will include teaching Sunday school classes, hold individual Bible studies, visit new members, and reach out to a community that is severely affected from hurricane Katrina.

The church attendance averages approximately 22 each Sunday and was built after hurricane Katrina by loving Christians from Tennessee which continue to help and support the congregation.

To apply, mail a resume and sermon video to:

**Pearlington Church of Christ**  
P.O. Box 912  
Pearlington, MS 39872

Or for more information contact **Quitman Cates** - 228-467-9180 [lafrancemarina@bellsouth.net](mailto:lafrancemarina@bellsouth.net)

### Waynesboro, MS

(7-21-09)

The Waynesboro church of Christ located in southeastern Mississippi is seeking to fill the pulpit with a sound New Testament minister starting in August, 2009. Our congregation was established by only a few faithful Christians in 1952. The Sunday morning assembly averages about 55-60 each week with a budget of \$1,700. The population of Waynesboro is approximately 6,500. The church building is located on Hwy 145 north. Presently, the Waynesboro church has no elders or deacons.

**Salary:** Commensurate with experience  
**Home Provided:** 3 bedroom house in nice location

Those applying for this position should be well-rounded in all areas, a leader, and exhibit a desire to help the congregation to grow. The responsibilities of the minister should be considered traditional -- preaching and teaching the whole truth, greeting and following up on newcomers, working to restore the unfaithful and visiting the sick and shut-ins.

Contact:

**Terry Heathcock** after 6:00 pm 601-735-2288; [cbheathcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cbheathcock@yahoo.com)  
**Jim Bowen:** 601-671-0987 [www.sufinta@bellsouth.net](http://www.sufinta@bellsouth.net)  
**Jamie Heathcock**  
601-735-3014 or 601-410-0894; [snookiejam@hotmail.com](mailto:snookiejam@hotmail.com)

Mail Your Resume to:  
**Waynesboro Church of Christ**  
Preacher Search  
P. O. Box 94  
Waynesboro, MS 39367

### Leesville, LA

Offers

### A Great Challenge

11-15-09

Being few in number and very discouraged, the small group of disciples in Leesville recently deeded their property to the nearby Jackson Chapel church of Christ in hopes that they, under better leadership, could re-establish a lively congregation in Leesville -- home to 60,000 to 70,000 souls, including nearby Fort Polk.

**Travis Murray**, one of the elders at Jackson Chapel stated, "We are looking for a mature sound gospel preacher, well grounded in the faith, who is willing to work." He further stated, "We have a building, preacher's house... everything... money in the bank... We are looking for a good man."

For more information, please contact **Irby Perkins:**

E-mail: [mperkins@cebridge.net](mailto:mperkins@cebridge.net)

Address:

148 Deerhunter Ln  
Leesville, LA 71446-5666

**Jackson Chapel**  
**Church of Christ**  
Leesville, Louisiana

### Van Needed

15 passenger

"Late model"

(for use with youth programs)  
**Sherman Church of Christ**

**Sherman, Mississippi**

Contact:

**Frank Anderson**

662-844-0402

### Need a Preacher?

Run an Ad. -- No Charge

### Waynesboro

On Sunday, 10/11/09, we were blessed with the opportunity to visit the caring and loving people who make up the Waynesboro congregation in southeast Mississippi. We were also blessed to hear **Doug Cook**, visiting minister, bring two good lessons. (*Doug is filling in while the church seeks a full-time preacher. See ad to the left of this newsnote.*) Brother Cook's sermon was based on the beautiful words about the **Word of God** written in Psalms 119:103-105. He challenged all to (a) **Read**, (b) **Study**, (c) **Practice** and (d) **Teach** the Word of God which is both spiritual medicine and food.

## "Preach the Word"

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

Natchez, MS

### Preacher Needed

Highway 61, South

Following the rather sudden death of **Coleman Allmond**, long time (16 years) preacher for the 61 South Church in Natchez, the congregation continues their search for a suitable preacher and family to work with them.

The church, only a few miles south of Natchez, brings together about 30 worshippers each Lord's day. A nice preacher's house (3 BR; 2 B) is available and is located next to the church building. Salary and other benefits are provided. For more information and/or to submit a resume, please write:

**61 South Church of Christ**  
c/o Mr. John Seyfarth, Jr.  
139 Upper Kingston Rd  
Natchez, MS 39120-9523

or call

**John Seyfarth**  
at 601-442-6503

### Arcadia, FL

Small congregation of the Lord's church is in need of a full time minister. Must be sound in doctrine and willing to work hard at reaching out to our community with the gospel. We believe there is great potential here. Salary negotiable. Please send resume and taped sermon to:

**Hickory St. Church of Christ,**  
P.O. box 1206,  
Arcadia, Florida 34265.

Phone: **Sam Stidham** at 863-491-0113 or **Duane Seaverns** at 863-444-0303 or **Keith Shine** at 863-993-2259,  
e-mail [stidhams@strato.net](mailto:stidhams@strato.net)

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

A Challenge to Parents  
Encourage Your Talented  
Son to Dedicate His Life to  
Preaching the Word

Waynesboro Church Building



# “The Watch Dogs”

## Grandson Remembers Grandfather

- by SPC Jonathan Timbes -

I was really close to my mom's dad, my grandfather, Jim Archer. I admired this man since the day I was born. As I reflect on some of the things that stand out to me, I remember that he left a young wife and a two week old baby girl, to go fight and protect our nation during WW-II. He could have been exempted from the draft because he was a preacher student at a Christian College, but his love for his country tugged at him.

After he got back from the war, he attended and graduated from MSU (“Go Dawgs”), worked full time for the Extension Service and 4-H Club to support a family that had grown to include two more daughters. To top all of this; and to me, this is his most

amazing trait -- while holding down that full time job, he was also a full time G o s p e l

preacher. (Forty-six years at the same congregation!)

He made so many friends during his lifetime that, in Prentiss County, MS I'm not known as Mike's son or Jimmie's son -- I'm Jim Archer's grandson. And that's OK by me! I remember him always asking everyone he talked to, “You still top dog around here?” That always made me smile.

Back in 2002 he passed from this life to “a home that's better than this”. It was right after Thanksgiving. During that holiday, my mom's side of the family gather at J.P. Coleman State Park in luka, MS for a few days of relaxing, fellowship, catching up, and of course -- amazing food!

After it had been all said and done and we had all gone our separate ways, Jim went back to his house in Booneville and laid down on his couch, which I had never seen or known him to do. My aunt and uncle made an unexpected stop at his house on their way back home to Jackson. My aunt saw him on the couch and was stunned! She asked him if he was feeling all right and he expressed that he had some pain in his chest (he had had some slight heart problems just a few weeks before this).

So my aunt and uncle took



Remembering Jim Archer  
Died 12/1/02

him to the Booneville hospital where they stabilized him and quickly airlifted him to the Tupelo hospital. He was having a massive heart attack.

Thankfully all the extended family, that lived so far away, (some as far as NY state) were all still pretty close to the

Tupelo area. (An amazing side note: While he was in the ER at the Booneville Hospital, all he could talk about was the Snowdown congregation, and being sure my mom got **Jean Thornton** to “Cover for me tomorrow, because I might not be there!” He and brother

Thornton had been best friends for about a hundred years).

In Tupelo the doctors got Jim stable and admitted him to Intensive Care and finally allowed us to visit and sit with him. But they put a two person limit on how many people could be with him at a time. My cousin, Kelly, a med student at the time, and I were the last ones to see him that night. By then it was a little after nine PM. The last thing he said to me was, “See ya later, Jon.”

When I came out from talking with granddaddy, my dad told me that he and I and my other aunt were going back to the house to get some rest. About 4:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 3, Dad woke me up and told me that something had happened at the hospital and we needed to get there fast. We got

my aunt up and took off to Tupelo. When we arrived at the ICU family room, I saw my mother and her sister sitting there holding each others' hands. Mom looked at me and said “Jon, Granddaddy got to go to heaven!”

I wanted to say all that to get to this point: As we walked out of the hospital that Sunday morning the sun was just barely coming up. The moon was still out, but the sun was coming up. It was the most beautiful sunrise I had ever seen. I looked up and saw the moon in a “thumbnail” shape with a lone star off the bottom right corner. I got my mom's attention and pointed to the moon and star, and said to her, “I bet that's Jim tryin' to tell the angels to hurry up!”

So now... here I am in Iraq. The same pay-grade Jim was during WW-II, being an MP like Jim was. I'm standing outside my trailer looking up at the night sky, and I see the moon with a bright star off to the bottom right. When the writer of Hebrews talked about the “great cloud of witnesses” in chapters 11 and 12, he mentions all these great people of faith. Even one's that did the smallest thing, but still had awesome faith. I also like to think that the great men and women of faith, since that time, are also witnesses to us, as well, right now. Sometimes, even to the point that they might, just

possibly, be watching us and watching out for us.

In this case I like to think that General Yewhe and

Commander Christ have put CPL Jim Archer in charge of keeping me safe during this deployment. (Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009 at 3:14 PM)

SPC Timbes, Jonathan  
217 MP Co TF 91st MP BN  
APO AE 09344

Did You Read the article about 12,002 pairs of shoes on Page 6?



## Attention... Especially Mississippi, Louisiana (and adjoining states) Churches of Christ

This space is available for you to advertise your upcoming events, reports about good works and other encouraging things you wish to share with thousands who read more than 25,000 copies of each Magnolia Messenger. Please feel free to submit your news and reports. **Thank you.** (editor)

**You Can Receive and Read Every Issue of the Magnolia Messenger No Charge to You**

Address: MM; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090  
E-mail: franksmm@aol.com

## An Apology From the Editor

“This Question Box [last issue] was too hard!”  
The new Question Box [see page 24] should be Easier!

(Answers: Last Issue)

## Well... Well... Well!

### The Well at Bethlehem

(Answers are in 2 Samuel 23.)

1. Who said, “Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem...”? **David**

2. The “mighty three men”: Match the person's name (col. 1) with the appropriate identification (col. 2)

- |           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 2 Adino   | 1. Son of the Hararite |
| 3 Eleazar | 2. the Tachmonite      |
| 1 Shammah | 3. the son of Dodo     |

3. Surprise ending: What did the king do with the water brought to him from the well at Bethlehem? **Poured it out unto the Lord.** Why? “the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives.”

### Jacob's Well at Sychar in Samaria

Study each of the quotations below taken from John 4. Answer “Who Said?” Ponder each statement.(All answers are found in John chapter 4. Supply the verse number.)

- “Give me to drink.” **Jesus** (Verse 7)
- “God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” **Jesus** (24)
- “The well is deep” **woman** (11)
- “Give me this water that I thirst not.” **woman** (15)
- “...Master, eat.” **disciples** (31)
- “I have no husband.” **woman** (17)
- “...whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst...” **Jesus** (14)
- “... Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.” **woman** (19)
- “...he whom thou now hast is not thy husband...” **Jesus** (18)
- “He told me all that ever I did.” **woman** (28)
- “...Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already unto harvest.” **Jesus** (35)
- “... Now we believe... for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.” **Samaritians** (42)

### Wells and People Associated Therewith

Match the well [column 1] and the people [column 2] associated with the well. Answers are found in Genesis 21; 21; 24; 26 and Exodus 2. (Supply chapter & verse)

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 “Beersheba” (21:30,31)        | 1. Moses and Zipporah   |
| 2 Well near Nahor (24:10,11)    | 2. Rebekah & Isaac      |
| 3 “Shebah” (26:32,33)           | 3. Isaac & His servants |
| 1 Well in Midian (Exo 2:15-22)  | 4. Hagar & Ishmael      |
| 4 Well in wilderness (21:14,19) | 5. Abraham & Abimelech  |

Ponder this Passage: Fill in the missing words. (Proverbs 5:15): “Drink waters out of thine own cistern and running waters out of thine own well.”

## A Report

## L/ATX RV Rally at Salmon Lake Park

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** My June and I sincerely regret we were unable to attend this year's L/ATX rally due to the conflict with our long planned trip to Israel. So thankful that the rally was a "great success." We, too, appreciate the capable leadership of Ray and Donna Franks.

## Report by Charlsy Ford

The rally was officially Wednesday Oct. 28 through Sun. Nov. 1. However, a number of "early birds" got there as early as the previous Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Arriving early didn't provide those early birds with any worms... just lots more fun time to visit and play games.

Most of Wednesday was spent greeting, hugging and delight in seeing Christian brothers and sisters that we hadn't seen (in some cases) since the last RV rally. This was topped off with a... as always... a delicious pot luck supper, followed by an excellent talk by Danny Manuel from Many Louisiana titled "In God We Trust" to start off the much needed theme.

The theme this year was "Change You Cannot Believe In". Other equally good presentations were continued Thursday by Tom Welch, Dan Manuel and Ray Franks. Tom's topic was "How Times Have Changed" and he took us back to yesteryears and compared that to our current trend. Dan Manuel spoke on "Seven Principals that Made America Great".

You wouldn't have believed how much he had changed and how different he looked from Wednesday to just the next day -- Thursday. Outstanding change of Halloween costume and make up!

OOPS! TWO...yes...not one, but two Dan Manuels. The one who spoke Wednesday is from Many, LA. The one that spoke Thursday is from the Holy Land... Palestine, Texas that is! So most of us decided to call the Louisiana man... Danny Manuel and Texas man... Dan Manuel.

Ray Franks spoke Thursday night on the topic "We Should Seek God". Some say we should change from the dependence on God! Ray reminded us of the price that was paid by the ones who came before us beginning with the Mayflower and continuing with the Declaration of Independence. Ray reminded us that the United States is the first nation in all of recorded history to be established for the express purpose of acknowledging the sovereignty of God and the dignity of man.

Ray emphasized the need for us to apply lessons from the book of Haggai to our lives and to America today. What does God want me to do? Be strong!...Take A Stand... Stand up for God and He will stand up with you. The silent majority has been silent too long. "Enough is enough"...The future is in our hands, the future of our country lies largely in what we give to the next generation. Our forefathers paid the price for us; are we willing to do the same for our next generation? "The only thing



(Left) Ray and Donna Franks Recognized for Their Years of Service  
(Right) Plaque Presented by Peggy and Tommy Shull

necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". (Quote from Edmond Burke)

Thursday night entertainment was first class with Wilburn DeLancey



Wilburn DeLancey

doing some "Tall" story telling. If one didn't really know him they would have believed everything he said! Wilburn was followed by Morris Tirpitz picking, grinning and singing one of our favorite songs "The Little Red Wagon".

Friday was another impressive day. It started with the auction at 10:00. If Ray Franks ever needs another job, he can become an auctioneer. A much deserved plaque was presented to Ray and Donna for all the years of hard work they have given to us through the RV Rally. They are greatly appreciated and loved.

We were honored to have Army Staff Sergeant Gary L. Hawkins, back from Iraq, to share with us impressive things that we never see or hear on the news, except maybe on FOX. Gary is a military journalist and had photos and information that record just the facts. Most of the people in Iraq appreciate our military and how they have helped the county and people.



Danny (Dan) Manuel - Texas

He was in Basarah. He is the son of Dan and Joann Hawkins.

This was followed by Tom Welch's (with the help of others) delicious fish fry. We all look forward to that every year. Thanks, Tom and **all the rest of you!**

Friday nights patriotic program by Ray Franks begin with a new song entitled "America is Me" followed by several video's and clips including the late Red Skelton on the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance...

Friday night Dan Manuel spoke on the six myths that could destroy America.

1. Morality without religion cannot destroy our nation.

2. Whatever is legal is moral.

3. There is no God and our nation can exist without a God.

4. A firm arsenal (military) insures our safety and freedom.

5. We will not reap what we sow.

6. God will not avenge men for their wrong. Judgment will not come.

These are MYTHS and if we believe them or act on any of them our nation will not be for our children and grandchildren what it has been for us.

As Ronald Reagan said: "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

We spent Saturday morning singing gospel hymns and playing more games. Saturday evening the Country Music Show—Dogwood Jamboree was enjoyable as always. Of course, most of you know it is the Dan Manuel from the Holy Land (Palestine) that is the instigator of that!

This report tells you some things about our wonderful Louisiana/Texas RV Rally which can also be called: **OUR FAMILY REUNION.**

(Reported by: Charlsy Ford, Temple Texas)



Danny Manuel - Louisiana

## Home of the Covington Road Church in Natchez

Struggling, but still Serving!



We were privileged to drop by for a midweek service at Covington Road in Natchez on September 16. **Dick Root**, evangelist, continues to manifest a loving spirit for God, His word and His people as he earnestly serves part-time (almost *full-time*) as preacher for the Covington Road congregation.

My June and I were blessed to visit with the brethren assembled on Wednesday evening where we were reminded that the Covington Road church includes some of the most loving and dedicated people we have ever known.

These brethren, although they have gone through some serious struggles over the past few years, are faithfully serving the Lord with much determination. May God richly bless. We appreciate the opportunity to both visit and preach. Thanks, brother Root! A very special thanks to the church for the privilege of staying overnight on your parking lot in our motorhome. (Al & June)

## I Wish Mama Knew

Since childhood, she was accustomed to attending church services. However, with the trials of youth and then, later, the responsibilities of being a wife and mother -- faithful and dedicated service as a member of the body of Christ was not really her thing.

Times and things have changed. Now, a widow and having passed threescore years in age, she is very faithful in church attendance and also involved in just about all of the many activities of a living body of disciples. In a recent telephone call she told about getting up at five o'clock on a Friday morning and, along with another lady, going to the church building to prepare breakfast for a group of young people who were having a morning devotional at 7:00 a.m. She commented, "I really enjoyed doing it."

Often her phone now rings and she hears the voice of some older lady in the church asking for her assistance. It may be a need to make a doctor's appointment or to go the store for groceries. Occasionally a sister will call asking her to take her "out to eat". She has found there is time to be involved in the VBS program of the church. She is now ready and willing to prepare a meal for the visiting preacher during a gospel meeting. And, frequently she speaks of her enjoyment of being involved in the congregational activities.

This very special lady, who represents many such older ladies in the church of our Lord, has, in recent years, become one of the most dependable and working members

-- truly "ready unto every good work." (Tit. 3:1) And, the wonderful thing about her faithful and generous service is that she is presently enjoying her life more than perhaps "ever before". She has learned that it is truly "more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Church services and worship have become far more meaningful. Fellowship of loving brethren is more precious and life itself has become the "best ever".

One of greatest regrets of this remarkable woman was frequently expressed in these words, "I just wish I had gotten involved with the church and its work years ago." She added, "I am sorry I waited so long." She then spoke of her dear departed mother who had set a good example before her -- being heavily involved in caring and doing for others and who often encouraged her to become more involved and not just be a "pew warmer". The -- now older and wiser -- daughter was heard to comment, "I just wish I had listened earlier to mama. If she could only know that I am now involved and could see by my present life that her example was not in vain."

I think often of her lament, "If only mama could know." Somehow, someday, I cannot help but hope, "Maybe mama does know." But, what is even more important is the fact that **God does know.** (alf)

The MM Requests Your Prayers and Your Suggestions

(See Question Box) **These Sent In Answers** (Turn to Page 24)

- |                           |                              |                               |                             |                              |                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Betty VanBuren         | 70. Wynell Thompson          | 139. Ruby Wright              | 220. Glen Brady             | 302. Ralph & Doris Gillespie | 355. Bobby Brown            |
| 2. Shirley M. Phillips    | 71. Johnny & Princess Watson | 140. Everjean Parson          | 221. M/M Arthur Burnett     | 303. Michael Hony            | 356. Foy Smith              |
| 3. Lenola Balentine       | 72. Carolyn Garrett          | 141. Myrle Turman             | 222. Hazel Cook             | 304. Jewell Phillips         | 357. Mariah Wallace         |
| 4. William & Atlean Snow  | 73. Donna Gulley             | 142. Stacey & MeLinda Hawkins | 223. Grace Potts            | 305. Trillie Strickland      | 358. Aslaeen Dean           |
| 5. Frances Harrell        | 74. Doris Laird              | 143. Velva Dykes              | 224. Rick Bishop            | 306. Charlene Williams       | 359. Linda Crochet          |
| 6. Garry Gooch            | 75. Robert Blackburn         | 144. Ruby McCrory             | 225. Bernice Townsel        | 307. Kathy Rogers            | 360. Mary Ella Webster      |
| 7. Michael Coleman        | 76. Delores Rhodes           | 145. Sue Mason                | 226. Charlane Stanfield     | 308. Rosa Lee Johnson        | 361. Weida Pyron            |
| 8. June Faulkner          | 77. Willa Fox                | 146. Charlotte Ritter         | 227. Admiral Tidwell        | 309. Mrs. Louella Whitehead  | 362. Opal Wright            |
| 9. Mary Jo Purdon         | 78. Betty Jo Stewart         | 147. Sue Glenn                | 228. Dick Green             | 310. Billie J. McCurdy       | 363. Bonnie Howell          |
| 10. Patricia Wright       | 79. Cathey Roberson          | 148. Jerry & Norma Inman      | 229. Nancy Switzer          | 311. R. C. Cobb              | 364. Irma Lucas             |
| 11. Dezarie Ashby         | 80. Billy Willingham         | 149. Dorothy Brunson          | 230. Ed Istre               | 312. Josie Isaacs            | 365. Lisa Dearman           |
| 12. Kerry Deaton          | 81. Era Hinson               | 150. Jean Lewis               | 231. Coy Daily              | 313. Grace Childers          | 366. Elsie M. Moore         |
| 13. Ann McDonald          | 82. Melba Ogg                | 151. Lozell Milligan          | 232. Jancie Vaughan         | 314. Bodean Collum           | 367. Sandy Dean             |
| 14. Elledith Harris       | 83. Ima Jean Fogus           | 152. Roy Gambrell             | 233. Genie Henning          | 315. James Hoy               | 368. Artis W. Hinton        |
| 15. Thomas A. Tucker      | 84. Lisa Dettor              | 153. Opal Chittom             | 234. Shelia Woodard         | 316. Susie B. Johnson        | 369. Rosa Lee Thurman       |
| 16. Minnie Gwyne          | 85. Mrs. V. E. Buffington    | 154. C. W. Jackson            | 235. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr.  | 317. Bobby Lively            | 370. Lucy Franks            |
| 17. Merlene Scott         | 86. Otis & Linda Baker       | 155. Julie Fiveash            | 236. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.  | 318. Cathy Clark             | 371. Earl A. Franks         |
| 18. Miriam Styers         | 87. Mary M. McDonald         | 156. Ouida Gentry             | 237. B. J. Womack           | 319. Eleanor Townsend        | 372. Helen Franks           |
| 19. Gladys Wiser          | 88. Billy J. Smith           | 157. Dorthy Ford              | 238. Nicole Womack          | 320. Lucretia McNeese        | 373. Wes & Rhoda Jeans      |
| 20. Clifford Crowder      | 89. William Pyron            | 158. Laura & Inez Brannon     | 239. Na'Nia Womack          | 321. Lucille Jackson         | 374. Dorothy Franks         |
| 21. Vera Spencer          | 90. Carol Bonner             | 159. Danny Feazell, Jr.       | 240. Bralan Womack          | 322. Iva A. Hill             | 375. Jessica Slaydon        |
| 22. Libby Williams        | 91. Bonnie Glass             | 160. Betty A. Skinner         | 241. Natalie Grisham        | 323. Jackie Baswell          | 376. David & Missy Blackmon |
| 23. Carolyn T. Taylor     | 92. Sidney Robinson          | 161. Harlen Headley           | 242. Mary N. Faulconer      | 324. Myrtle Rogers           | 377. Stephanie Slaydon      |
| 24. Lorene Lindsey        | 93. Mrs. L. C. Stewart       | 162. Doralynn Felton          | 243. Pierce Flatt           | 325. Imogene Kirk            | 378. Nicholas Slaydon       |
| 25. RayAnn Woodruff       | 94. Brenda Mobley            | 163. Melvin & Kay Linton      | 244. Jerry H. Maxwell, Sr.  | 326. Shirley M. Phillips     | 379. Gail Gurganus          |
| 26. Patrilla Maddox       | 95. Diane Dunaway            | 164. James Vermillion         | 245. Maurice Graves         | 327. Claude Edwards          | 380. Johnny Blackmon        |
| 27. Dwight E. Hester      | 96. Mrs. Millie Goode        | 165. Eddie Vermillion         | 246. Mamie Guinn            | 328. Anna Lee Pruitt         | 381. Kathy Brewer           |
| 28. Jennifer F. Gray      | 97. Olen Roden, Jr.          | 166. Bonnie Dixon             | 247. Freida Sanders         | 329. Dotsy Downs             | 382. Beulah Rupert          |
| 29. Paul & Elsie Bryson   | <b>98. Jane S. Bell</b>      | 167. Jim Nowell               | 248. Emily Hall             | 330. Betty Husband           | 383. Mary Jacobs            |
| 30. Dorsa Sparks          | 99. Karen Britt              | 168. Claude & Brenda Faught   | 249. Shelia Hall            | 331. JoAnn Mills             | 384. Olen Roden, Jr.        |
| 31. Earlene Parsons       | 100. Larry Echols            | 169. Marvin England           | 250. Betty Standard         | 332. Mary Lou Mirante        | 385. Ardessa Swilley        |
| 32. James Breckenridge    | 101. Kaye Wise               | 170. Dahlia McAfee            | 251. Gladys Bryant          | 333. Kelly Rudy              | 386. Jaquita Jordan         |
| 33. Rosie Felton          | 102. Florene Ashmore         | 171. Edith Winters            | 252. Betty Clark            | 334. Loretta Rougeou         | 387. Irene M. Wright        |
| 34. Peggy S. Walker       | 103. Tommy Muirhead          | 172. Betty Henderson          | 253. Sandra Welch           | 335. Philip Carter           | 388. Shirley Bostick        |
| 35. Kay Shiers            | 104. Marilyn Howell          | 173. Bernice Mills            | 254. Elbertine Wesberry     | 336. Zack Moore              | 389. Sarah R. Day           |
| 36. Phillip Bradley       | 105. Mrs. Sharon Freeman     | 174. Ms. Brenda Burlison      | 255. Maggie R. Edmonds      | 337. Daniel Mastin           | 390. Nancy H. Blair         |
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| 38. Janie Green           | 107. Mildred Carroll         | 176. Hoyt White               | 257. Ms. Faye Cottrell      | 339. Diamand Mastin          | 392. Mrs. Bea Basford       |
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| 41. Cheri G. Moore        | 110. Doris Darnell           | 179. Sidney Clemmer           | 260. Shirley Pearce         | 342. Paige Wiggs             | 395. No Name                |
| 42. Jeff & Debbie Shull   | 111. Ruth Christian          | 180. Travis Hamilton          | 261. Barbara Baker          | 343. Sommer Burnett          | 396. Louisa W. Ganier       |
| 43. Brenda Higgins        | 112. Gene Turner             | 181. Mary Adams Warren        | 262. Sandy A. Key           | 344. Thelma Talbert          | 397. YOUR NAME, next time   |
| 44. Kathie Stacks         | 113. Bernita Booker          | 182. Leonard Young            | 263. Ken & Virginia Sullins | 345. Kittie Edwards          |                             |
| 45. Danny Stacks          | 114. Wilda Pounds            | 183. Verna Spake              | 264. Linda T. Shirley       | 346. Richard Odum            |                             |
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| 66. Myra D. Reaves        | 135. Glenda Jefcoat          | 204. Mr. Mack Moore           | 285. Alice Humphries        |                              |                             |
| 67. Millie Goode          | 136. Ruby Dilmore            | 205. Mrs. Dean Howe           | 286. Roger King             |                              |                             |
| 68. Peggy Engel           | 137. Elvis Dilmore           | 206. Marie Harrell            | 287. Bonnie Skates          |                              |                             |
| 69. Melody S. Woodruff    | 138. Mima R. Vines           | 207. Mrs. C. W. Wells         | 288. Jim Hill               |                              |                             |
|                           |                              | 208. Dot Winslett             | 289. Judy Redd              |                              |                             |
|                           |                              | 209. Dee Kepler               | 290. Mark Williams          |                              |                             |
|                           |                              | 210. Evelyn Faulkenberry      | 291. Bronwen Pollard        |                              |                             |
|                           |                              | 211. Oscar F. Yates           | 292. Ms. Linda Laird        |                              |                             |
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|                           |                              | 218. Lessie M. Tanson         | 299. Natalie Stewart        |                              |                             |
|                           |                              | 219. Barbara Armstrong        | 300. Mildred Herrington     |                              |                             |
|                           |                              |                               | 301. Jessie Baker           |                              |                             |

**NOTICE**  
 All answers received before Nov. 14, 2009, have been included. Thanks to all who read the MM and answer "The QB".  
 (see page 24)

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**Sign Says**  
 "Everyone Welcome" (Question: Can there be a meeting place for the true church of Christ where everyone is not welcome?)  
 Acts 2:38 -- "Repent and be baptized"  
 Romans 16:16 -- "Churches of Christ salute you."

## By/For/About Women... Mostly

From Natchez

### An Idea for the Ladies

To Sister June Franks

I am writing this article due to an article that was in the July/Sept. 09 issue of the Magnolia Messenger. First of all let me start by saying I love it and I am sure it blesses many homes.

The Jackson Chapel congregation in Leesville, LA was seeking a minister with a family background that would seek the lost sheep and those who had erred from the church. The church of Christ must minister with that as a top priority.

I am a member of the Melrose Ave. Church of Christ in Natchez, MS. Bro. Michael Hoggatt, Sr. is

the minister. This congregation has been in existence for 10 years.

In past years we, as sisters, would have a ladies' day program, as many congregations do. But this year we discussed another way that we could approach this event. Sis. Barbara Hoggatt suggested that we have a ladies' seminar instead of a ladies' day. We all agreed. Our desire was to seek those sisters who had fallen by the way, had erred from attendance, and to encourage the new converts and the young to work in the church. We did a mail-out to those sisters. Some were even hand delivered.

About a month prior to the program we gave out personal invitations about the size of a business card and every sister was to invite at least two ladies who were not members of the Lord's Church.

We chose a young sister who had been in the church for 5 years and another, who has been in for more than 50 years, to be the speakers. The song leader was a teenager. The committees were formed with most of them being chaired by new converts and the young, along with a seasoned sister as co-chairman. They did a marvelous job and were esteemed highly.

I felt in my heart I needed to share this experience with our sisters far and near about the success it was. There were ladies from every walk of life and some from various denominations. The list goes on and on. We had about 60 in attendance and it was just beautiful.

I am so thankful to God that this idea was given to our minister's wife. We all went to work. Already we see the fruit of our labor. Next year, if it be God's will, we will resume our ladies' day. The theme was "Just Us" and our theme song was "Lean On Me."

If there are any sisters who would like any more details about the seminar please write to **Melrose Ave. Church of Christ, C/o Barbara Hoggatt, P. O. Box 2231, Natchez, MS 39120** (Sent to MM by **Peggy Wimberly**, Chairperson, '09") Sister Wimberly added, "Sister Franks -- thanks for listening!"

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## The Road Less Traveled

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden back.  
Oh, I saved the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim  
For it was grassy and wanted wear,  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

- **Tori Willis** -

The above poem by **Robert Frost**, entitled "The Road Not Taken" gives me an illustration of Joshua 1:16.

"Whatever you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go."

The author of Joshua tells us the Israelites' decision to follow God's chosen leader for them. They were choosing good over evil, God over Satan.



Tori Willis

Really, that's a choice that we all have to make, and Frost's poem describes his thoughts as he makes that choice. I've learned **three** rules about our choice through this poem: We can only choose one option; we must choose now; and we must choose for eternity.

As we've seen, there are two options in this choice: God or Satan. We can only choose one, or as Frost says, we can only travel one path. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus tells us we cannot serve two masters. While we, like Frost, may wish to be 'one traveler' and try both ways, it is just not possible.

Our choice is between heaven and hell. The paths that reach them are very different. "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." Matthew 12:30. God will not accept you if you do not wholeheartedly serve Him, and anyone who is in Satan's service is no where near the narrow road. We can only take one path.

Next, the choice has to be made now. In Joshua's farewell speech, he tells the Israelites to 'choose that day whom they will serve.' There is a fork in the road of our lives when we make a choice, but we cannot stand there.

In Matthew 8, a scribe tells Jesus very much the same statement that the Israelites gave Joshua. In verse 19 the scribe says, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." However, another man that talked to Jesus that day seemed to have problems making his choice

immediately. He pretty much said, "Lord, can I go about my own life and come back to you later?" Jesus says, "No." It is dangerous to procrastinate in our decision, for we don't know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will return, according to Matthew 24:36. We must choose now.

Deuteronomy 30:19. "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; Therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

Finally, we must choose for Eternity. As Frost so aptly describes it, "knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back". Really, many people never do come back to that choice. What I choose now is likely going to be my choice for eternity. If we choose God, as the Israelites did in Joshua 1, we will not want to come back. If we choose Satan, he will lead us farther and farther away from God.

Our choice is eternal, because it has eternal consequences. As we know from Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus, there is a great gulf between heaven and hell. Once we enter into eternity, we cannot alter the choice we made.

Jeremiah 21:8. "Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the lord: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death'."

I hope you have enjoyed looking at Joshua 1:16 through Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken." I know I enjoyed preparing this lesson, using my favorite poem. I learned that in my choice of paths, I have to choose one option, right now, and forever. Relying on God, I know I can make the right choice. As Colossians 2:3 says, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus Christ. Let's follow God where He leads, down the road less traveled.

Note: Tori and her family are members of the church in Southaven near Memphis. An email address: [toddwillis@netzero.net](mailto:toddwillis@netzero.net)

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

### A Study on Changes

- June Franks -

The year 2009 is swiftly passing by. Different seasons come and go. It is hard to believe that we are now in the Fall season of the year. Fall is probably the most beautiful season of the year with its spectacular foliage colors and the cooler weather. Winter, Spring and Summer -- each brings a change and a beauty of their own.

As a people, we are usually ready for a change when a new season approaches. However, even though the seasons change, we are thankful to know that *God never changes*. The Bible says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

It should be a great comfort for us to know that God remains the same. Our Father has promised his love for us throughout the scriptures. He still loves us even with our human weaknesses and frailties. God hates sin and, even though we do sin, God doesn't want us to continue in sin.

The Bible says, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." (John 15:8) Also in John 15:12 the Bible says, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Without any doubt, one of the greatest texts of the Bible is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Many people try to excuse the sins they commit on not feeling loved. We need to always remember that we are loved by God. No matter what our status in life may be, we are important to God.

The Bible says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35-39)

The thing that can and will separate us from God is for us to continue in our sin. God hates sin. Even though we have concluded in our



June Franks

study that God never changes and His Word never changes, God teaches in His Word that we should change.

The Bible says, "...but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30) "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

Paul in his defence before Agrippa said, "But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance." (Acts 26:20)

### A Response... by Lummus to Shepherd

(NOTE: The following positive response was written by Barbara Lummus regarding Rosie Shepherd's article, "Aging With Grace and Beauty" in the July-Sept, 2009 issue of the Magnolia Messenger. Barbara is a widow lady and is 76 years old even though she doesn't look it. June Franks)

- Barbara Lummus -

Rosie, I really did enjoy your article in the July/Sept. issue of the Magnolia Messenger. Many statements and scripture references that you talked about are true. Keep up the good work in your teaching and writing. However, I have not reached the point in my life where I think that trying to look younger is not important.

In the profound words of Gloria Heidi, author of "Winning the Age Game," I am dedicating this article to ageless women everywhere.

Personally, I have not found in the scripture where it is a sin to try to look younger. In fact, the Apostle Paul said it is good to renew one's mind (Romans 12:2), and coupled

Repentance means to change or to turn away from sin. The Bible says, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance..." (II Corinthians 7:11)

As Christians we should be changing every day. We should be growing spiritually every day. When we first become Christians we are considered babes in Christ. However, we should not remain as babes.

The Bible speaks of areas in which we should be changing. "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." (I Peter 2:2)

Even though God doesn't change, if there is sin in our life, we must change or we will not be pleasing to God. If you need to change your life, remember, it is for your benefit. The reason God wants us to change is so we can be happy in this life and live forever with Him throughout all eternity.

The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Mrs. A. L. (June) Franks  
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Barbara Lummus

with that statement and the one in Proverbs 23:7, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he," convinces me that we should

learn to act, feel and look younger. If I believe strongly that I'm an old prune, then I may begin to think and act like I'm one. Who thinks a prune is beautiful? In fact, the connotation of a prune is very negative in that it has come to mean a dull and uninteresting person.

I know in my heart that God wants all Christians to be happy. Happiness breeds contentment; contentment breeds commitment; commitment breeds physical and spiritual labor; physical and spiritual labor breeds love and care for others, which is the trademark of a Christian. If I look and feel beautiful on the inside, this will show on the outside and vice versa; I will come across as having a good measure of self-respect which will be returned to me via other peoples actions toward me.

Anyone can want to be beautiful on the outside and still have a pure heart. As you mentioned, Rosie, in your article, "Be the best that you can be...." We are God's representatives here on earth. If I decided to run around looking "old and

By  
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray  
BCagleRay@Aol.Com



### He Paints the Wings of Butterflies

The Master Painter of the universe  
Reaches forth with brush in hand.  
His canvas is the entire world;  
He mixes colors bright and grand.

He paints the wings of butterflies;  
Like sparkling gems, they softly flutter.  
Daisies lift sweet smiling cheeks,  
Praying for a bit of golden color.

He flings a rainbow over the rain,  
Like a glittering pathway to the sky.  
He then spreads gold atop the hills,  
And frosts the clouds that sail on high.

Flowers are adorned with lavish hues;  
The birds are given iridescent wings.  
Leaves become splashed with colors bold;  
Bare paths acquire a verdant sheen.

Sometimes our spirit needs color, too,  
It darkens with the cloud-filled skies.  
We must ask the Master for His help;  
He paints the wings of butterflies!

Barbara Cagle Ray, 520 Vinson Dr., Nashville, TN 37217

### Gladys Rogers in Saltillo Celebrates 100 Years

A very special invitation was issued to Al and myself for the celebration of Gladys Roger's 100th Birthday. A party was given in her honor on Saturday October 10, 2009 in the annex of the Mayfield Church of Christ in Saltillo, MS.

Sister Gladys is the oldest living member of the Mayfield Church. She enjoys five generations of family and friends. She has two children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

This scripture was on the invitation, "Honor thy father and mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

Al preached for the Mayfield congregation in 1957. Sister Gladys and her family were faithful members at Mayfield. We are thankful that we had the opportunity of knowing her and her family. Congratulations sister Gladys for reaching this milestone in your life. (June)



Gladys Rogers -- 100

sloppy," how many non-Christians would listen to me?

Yes, all of us grow older, but we still must look at age as relative -- not absolute. If it were absolute, it would be mathematical equation -- we would all age at the same rate.

And yes, eyes grow dim, hair and teeth go, sexual desire and proper circulation also go. Health problems arise etc. etc. However, I, for one, am working hard to combat these defects. As long as I live on earth, I am going to live life to the fullest-- as a Christian, of course.

Barbara Lummus; 647 County Road 1451  
Saltillo, MS 38866

Use of the  
King James Version  
may be helpful

## The Question Box

Is your  
name found  
on page 21?

### The Birth of Jesus Christ

This is a good time of the year to be reminded of the significance of the miraculous birth of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. *Anytime of the year is a good time!* **We know not when Jesus was born.** We just know that, through the goodness and grace of our loving God, Jesus was born. He lived. He taught. He died. He was raised from the dead. He ascended into Heaven to prepare for us a place and He is coming again!

This month's study asks you to review the teachings surrounding the wonderful birth of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew and Luke. Prayerfully answer each

#### (I) True or False

Study carefully the accounts of Jesus' birth found in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. Write in the blank provided either "true" or "false" for each statement

1. The visit of the three wise men with baby Jesus took place in a stable.
2. Herod the king lied when he said he wanted to worship Jesus.
3. An angel of the Lord convinced Joseph to change his mind about putting Mary away.
4. The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.
5. The name "Jesus" was given by an angel before he was ever conceived.
6. The journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem required more than 50 miles of travel. (See a map of Bible lands)
7. Mary visited with Elizabeth for six months before either of their babies was born.

#### (II) Match the Columns

Match the word or phrase in column one with the most appropriate expression in column two. (All answers found in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.)

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ Emmanuel          | 1. Said, "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." |
| ___ Sign to Shepherds | 2. An 84 year-old prophesies                             |
| ___ Sign to Wise men  | 3. Asked: "How shall this be seeing I know not a man?"   |
| ___ Anna              | 4. "The city of David"                                   |
| ___ Simeon            | 5. "God with us"   |
| ___ Mary              | 6. Star  |
| ___ Elizabeth         | 7. Cousin to Mary  |
| ___ Bethlehem         | 8. Baby in swaddling clothes and in a manger             |

#### (III) Prophecies Fulfilled

Study Matthew 1 and 2. Write in the name of the prophet who made the prophecy. The **answers** are Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremy (Jeremiah)

1. "A virgin shall... bring forth a son" \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Rachel weeping for her children" \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Out of Egypt have I called my son." \_\_\_\_\_

of the sections in this lesson and upon completion, please send your answers to us. By so doing, you will encourage others (see page 21) and you also become eligible to be a winner of a beautiful study Bible. (By random selection we award a Bible to one of the students who sends in answers to the Question Box.) **This time you must may be the one.** Thanks for your interest in the study of God's word and thanks for answering "The Question Box". Together, let us continually thank our Heavenly Father that He sent His son to earth to become our Saviour. (alf, editor)

#### (IV) Divine Communications

(Study Matthew 1 - 2 and Luke 1 - 2. Fill in the blank with the name of the person to whom the communication was given.)

1. **Angel of the Lord** to \_\_\_\_\_. "fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife..."
2. **God in a dream** to \_\_\_\_\_. "not return to Herod."
3. **Angel of the Lord** to \_\_\_\_\_. "Flee into Egypt."
4. **Angel of the Lord** to \_\_\_\_\_. "go into the land of Israel."
5. **Gabriel** to \_\_\_\_\_. "Hail, thou that are highly favored."
6. **Angel** to \_\_\_\_\_. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy..."
7. **Heavenly host** to \_\_\_\_\_. "Glory to God in the highest..."
8. **Holy Spirit** to \_\_\_\_\_. "Not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

#### (V) Mary's Son Identified

The following are words used to identify/describe Mary's newborn child (Write in chapter and verse from Matthew and Luke)

1. "Emmanuel" -- (Matthew 1:23)
2. "King of the Jews" -- (Matthew \_\_:\_\_)
3. "Governor" -- (Matthew \_\_:\_\_)
4. "Nazarene" -- (Matthew \_\_:\_\_)
5. "Jesus" -- (Matthew \_\_:\_\_)
6. "Son of the Highest" -- (Luke \_\_:\_\_)
7. "Son of God" -- (Luke \_\_:\_\_)

*"Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people; for unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* (Lk. 2:10-11)

#### 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 21). 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**  
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The Beautiful Dead Sea in Israel. (Turn to Page 14)

## The Sinner's Prayer

- Editor -

A preacher asks those who wish to be saved to repeat after him "the sinner's prayer." After the prayer is spoken, the preacher then proclaims, "You are now saved." By what authority does the preacher speak? Where is such a plan for salvation taught in the holy scriptures?

According to Word of God, it is not what the sinner *says*, but what he *does, as evidence of faith*, that results in salvation. Jesus plainly declared, "Not every one that *saieth* unto me, Lord, Lord, shall inherit the kingdom of God, but he that *doeth* the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21) Jesus clearly taught that salvation comes **not** through what you say but what you do; and, what you do must be the will of the Father!

Doing the will of the Father is the scriptural response of the sinner to the Saviour. Obedience to Jesus, the Lord, is evidence of **saving faith**; that is, the faith that saves. A non-doing faith is a dead faith and cannot save. (Study James 2:14-26)

Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). Jesus called for action on the part of the believer; that

is, doing something that would show his submission to Jesus as Lord. Submission will take the sinner into the waters of baptism where faith would be clearly evidenced.

The inspired apostle answered those who would be saved and who had asked, "What shall we do?" He responded (commanded) "Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38) It takes more than saying something. It takes action motivated by faith.

"The Sinner's Prayer" is insufficient. More is required. Man is not saved by prayer alone; he must show his faith in the Saviour through repentance of sins and baptism for the remission of sins. (See Acts 2:38).

Are you saved? Have you manifested your faith in Jesus, as the Divine Son of God, through your obedience to His will. Have you *repented*? Truly? Have you been baptized? It is not enough the say "the sinner's prayer." So teaches the Word of the Living God. Believe it! Prove your faith by obedience! (alf)

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