



Magnolia Messenger

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

JAN - MAR, 2010 -- VOLUME 32; NUMBER 1 -- Our 32nd Year

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

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Mark 16:16

???



Franklin
May Help Explain
(Turn to Page 13)

A Reader Asks:

QUESTION: I have always been taught that worship consists of five components: 1) Singing, 2) Teaching, 3) Lord's Supper, 4) Giving, 5) Praying. Recently I have been wondering, "What is worship?" and "When is it not worship?"

In order to worship, do you have to be doing all of these five components or can you just be doing one of them and it still be worship to God? Does worship have to consist of the five things mentioned above or are the five things above not right?

I will appreciate any input you have on this subject so I can explain it better to other people. (J. H.)

Response by Brother May on Page 3

Thanks from the Franks
MM Circulation: 25,000
EOY Contributions: Encouraging



A Scene in Beautiful Israel

Possible location of the "Mount" where Jesus taught the "greatest sermon ever preached." (Matthew 6,7,8) The sea of Galilee is in the background. June and I will be forever grateful for our trip to Israel taken in November, 2009. (See pages 2 and 13) Join us for **another trip to Bible Lands in November of 2010** -- God willing. (Editor) **DETAILS on PAGE 7**

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A Helper for Haiti
(Story on Page 6)

Have YOU Answered the
"Question Box", Lately?
(See page 24)



**WHO IS SHE?
WHY IS SHE SMILING?**
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Plus
MUCH MORE !

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For Two
Mississippi
Churches of Christ



Bernard Waites
Read About The Waites
(Turn to Page 14)

The communities of Buffalo and Perrytown, located in the southwestern corner of Mississippi, have benefited from the services of the same preacher since January of 1962.

Since
**1
9
6
2**



Islam Sign Vs. Biblical Truth. Read "Salvation ONLY in Jesus" (Pg 2)

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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)

Dear A. L. and June,

Happy holidays from Michael and Tamika Stegall. We hope you are doing well? This February I will be preaching at Midway Church of Christ in West Point MS for two years. I always see the articles from our sister church in the Messenger. There are four churches in West Point, but I am currently building a relationship with one, the Old Aberdeen Road Church. I hope that one day we all can come together. I'm sending this emailing to ask you to put me on your mailing list for the Messenger. (Michael Stegall; Amory, MS)

Hi Brother Franks,

I am an elder at the Buford Church of Christ in Buford, GA and was made aware of the Magnolia Messenger by David Wheeler who is an elder here as well. This newsletter appears to be a great work for the Lord. I would like to start receiving the Magnolia Messenger with the next issuance. Please send to the following address: (Stan and Jolene Nutt; Sugar Hill, GA)

I continue to enjoy receiving the Magnolia Messenger. Keep up the good work... Looking forward to the next publication. (Barbara Yates, Pace, FL)

I have learned so much from the Messenger! Thanks! (Elaine Nettles, Brookhaven, MS)

We appreciate your efforts for the Lord and the Church. (Lee & Lawrence Horn, Greenwood, MS)

Hi!

...Just want you to know how very much I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger and appreciate the work you put into it. I especially like to read Bro. Cecil May's column... (Sybil Taylor, Montgomery, AL)

My dear brethren:

I will be a complete stranger to you and your people, but I have enjoyed the Magnolia Messenger for many years and commend you for the good work you do. I have preached the gospel for more than sixty-five years, and my work has been largely in Ohio and Indiana. My last work, before retirement, was some twenty-eight years with the Fishinger and Kenny church in Columbus, Ohio. I still preach for small congregations in Ohio and do some meeting work. Your paper is always a joy to read, and when I finish with it, I always feel that there is harmony and peace in your area of our brotherhood. Thank you for the fine spirit which your paper portrays. (Gene M. Carrell; Columbus, Ohio)

...Thank you for the sending the good paper to me and thank you for the good work you and your wife continually do. (Pat Casey; West Plains, MO)

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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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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Salvation Only In Christ Jesus

- Editor -

Sin is our enemy and separates us from God (Isa. 59:2). Sin is the reason why men are lost and are without God and without hope. Salvation from sin is our greatest need.

Enter Jesus. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..." (John 3:16; **Note:** picture of sign on this page). Jesus, God's son, came to do for sinful man what man could not do for himself. Recall the angel's instructions to Joseph before the Christ-child was born: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall *save* his people *from their sins*" (Matt. 1:21).

Later, when Jesus explained His mission on earth, He said, "For the son of man is come to seek and to *save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:10). According to the apostle Peter, salvation can be obtained only through Jesus, the Christ. He stated, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the only Saviour. Besides Him, there is no other!

According to the Holy Scriptures, sins are forgiven, salvation is obtained and true hope is found only through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is, according to the Bible, the one and only saviour!

Sad, but true. The majority of the world's population rejects Jesus as **the** Saviour. And, many others, who profess faith in Jesus, refuse to accept His plan of salvation as set forth so very clearly in the New Testament of Christ.

Not many weeks ago, my June and I were richly blessed to travel with a group to the land of Israel. We were thrilled to walk where Jesus walked (Jerusalem), dip our hands in the water of the river where Jesus was baptized (Jordan) and sail across the same sea Jesus traversed many times (Galilee).

I cannot find the words to describe our innermost feelings to actually have been on the "mount" where it is believed Jesus preached the "greatest of all sermons" -- the



Sign seen in Nazareth. (Picture taken by editor)

Say: He is Allah. The One and Only. Allah, the Eternal, Absolute, He begetteth not, Nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him.

"Sermon on the Mount." (See Matt. 5,6,7.) We were also richly blessed to visit what is said to be the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed so earnestly that God would "let this cup pass from me" (Matthew 26:36ff).

Afterward, we were excited to visit the hillside believed to have been "the place of a skull" where Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and offered himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, suffering a most agonizing and shameful death by crucifixion. Then, we were blessed to walk only a short distance from "Calvary" or "Golgotha" to what is thought to

be the tomb (or a similar tomb -- "hewn out in the rock", Matt. 27:60) from which Jesus arose early on that very special "first day

of the week." It truly stirred our hearts to enter that "open tomb" and, like the early visitors (about A.D. 30), to find it empty, and looking around inside, to see words taken from scripture inscribed on the wall of the tomb, "**He is not here; he is risen....**" (Matt. 28:6)

After leaving the empty tomb, our thoughts were focused intently

on His glorious resurrection as we thought about the *great commission* He gave to his disciples. He commanded them to go into all the world and preach the gospel of his resurrection to "every creature" on earth. We thought about his miraculous ascension into heaven from the mount called "Olivet", accompanied with the solemn promise of two angels who said to the apostles, "Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner...." (Acts 1:11).

I do not hesitate to say that our eight day visit in Israel, "the holy land", certainly strengthened our faith in the divinity of the One known as "Jesus of Nazareth"; the One who repeatedly proved -- through his life, words and mighty works -- his very special relationship with the Father as the *only begotten* Son of God and the *only* Saviour of the world.

How wonderful is the knowledge and the belief that Jesus, through his sacrificial death and resurrection, opened the door to heaven as He made known God's divine plan for the salvation of sinful mankind; a salvation which is only possible through Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Besides Him, there is no other.

A disturbing realization: Our visit to the "holy land" (Israel), in November of 2009, made us aware of the sad reality that the "land of Jesus", now occupied by millions of people, almost all of whom reject the divinity of Jesus Christ and refuse to believe He is **the** Saviour of the world.

We are told that less than 3% of all the people who live in Israel, the so called "holy land", consider themselves to be "*Christians*" (used in a very *broad* sense). Most of those who live in the cities of



A. L. Franks

Turn to SAVIOUR on Page 16

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTION: I have always been taught that worship consists of five components: 1) Singing, 2) Teaching, 3) Lord's Supper, 4) Giving, 5) Praying. Recently I have been wondering, "What is worship?" and "When is it not worship?"

In order to worship, do you have to be doing all of these five components or can you just be doing one of them and it still be worship to God? Does worship have to consist of the five things mentioned above or are the five things above not right?

I will appreciate any input you have on this subject so I can explain it better to other people. (J. H.)

RESPONSE:

What is worship?

Worship is an expression of adoration or praise toward one deemed to be worthy of it, ascribing to him glory, blessing, honor and thanksgiving. That is a definition of the Greek word *proskuneo*, the word most often translated "worship" in the New Testament, and the word which means what we usually mean by our English word.

Its etymology is from the root for "prostrate oneself," or "fall on one's face before." That gives me an opportunity to restate one of my "pet peeves:" the etymology of a word is not necessarily, not even usually, the word's meaning. Several passages refer to someone "falling on their face (a different word) and worshipping (*proskuneo*)" someone. For examples, see Matthew 2:11; 4:9; 18:26. Quite frequently it is Jesus they fall down before and worship, when they recognize that he is the Christ, the Son of God.

When people "worship" (*proskuneo*), they express praise, ascribe glory, give gifts (the wise men at Jesus' birth, Matthew 2:11), sing a hymn to, etc. "Worship" (*proskuneo*) is done by performing an "act of worship."

When is it not worship?

Worship is a matter of intent. If I sing a song of praise to God and it comes from my heart, if I mean it, then I am worshipping. If I sing the same song, but have no mental recognition of the words as I just sing from rote, or sing while thinking of where I am going to eat dinner, then it is not worship, even if I am in the Sunday morning assembly.

I can enjoy crackers and grape juice as a snack while I watch television at home or I can partake of the Lord's supper in the assembly using the same elements but "discerning the body."

I worship (*proskuneo*) only when I intend to worship.

Do all of the five named things have to be done for it to be worship?

No. Any one of them, properly engaged in from the heart, is worship.

And that opens the door to clear up another misconception: worship does not take place only in the assemblies. If I say a prayer just before I go to sleep at night, that is worship. If a woman thoughtfully sings a hymn of praise to God while she is doing laundry, that is worship. Our "saying grace" at meals is worship. Where we are does not determine the validity of our worship (John 4:19-24).

Lord's Supper in the Assembly

The clearest teaching on what is to take place in the assembly is found in 1 Corinthians, chapters 11 through 16.

"Assembly language" begins in 1 Corinthians 11:17, "when you come together." It continues, "when you come together as a church" (v. 18) and "when you come together" (v. 20). This is the section where Paul begins to write to the Corinthian Christians about their abuse of the Lord's supper.

Verse 20 says, "When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat." They were supposed to come together for the purpose of partaking of the Lord's supper, just as the Christians at Troas did (Acts 20:7).

It is clear here that the Lord's supper belongs in the assembly but that the Corinthian Church was so desecrating the Lord's supper that the Lord's supper was not what they were doing when they came together. However, it is what they were supposed to have come together to do.

New Testament Doctrine of Assembly

There is in the New Testament a well-defined doctrine of assembly. We are not to forsake it but to encourage and edify one another in it (Hebrews 10:24-25).

There are some things which are acceptable and right at other times but which do not belong in the assembly. These include women speaking out (1 Corinthians

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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14:34-35), tongue-speakers exercising their gift if no interpreter is present (1 Corinthians 14:28), and eating a meal for sustenance (1 Corinthians 11:34).

Some are saying that the Lord's supper ought to be taken in connection with a fellowship meal, citing Corinthians as an example, but Paul seems to be saying the opposite to the Corinthians. After rebuking them for not sharing what they eat, he adds, "if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home" (1 Corinthians 11:34).

That would not seem to forbid eating in the same place they assembled, because their meetings were often held in their homes. It does seem to forbid a meal to satisfy hunger as a part of the assembly.

The Lord's supper is a memorial feast. The command is, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24).

"Five Acts of Worship"

Some quarrel with or make fun of the "five items of worship" you named, but I have not run across any one who has a valid one to add.

All of the five are worship and all can be found being done in assembly with apostolic approval.

In 1 Corinthians the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:26ff.), prayer and singing (1 Corinthians 14:15), teaching (1 Corinthians 14:19) and giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) are all explicitly mentioned as taking place in the assemblies at Corinth, with apostolic approval. And Paul of-

ten states that he teaches the same thing in all the churches (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:17).

It is far better to follow in our twenty-first century assemblies what the Lord's apostles taught the first century churches to do in their assemblies than to add whatever we decide we want, without scriptural evidence of God's approval.

Edification

We speak of our assemblies as "worship services." The Bible never calls them that, and the word "worship" only occurs in the New Testament once in connection with the assembly. That is where Paul forbids tongue speaking without an interpreter, because a visiting unbeliever, hearing that, would think everyone was "out of their minds." If one were to hear prophesying, he would be much more favorably impressed, Paul says, and "falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth" (1 Corinthians 14:23-25).

Encouragement (Hebrews 10:25) and edification, building up through teaching (1 Corinthians 14:12, 26), are New Testament stated purposes for assembly.

However, the New Testament also teaches that the purpose of the first day of the week assembly, specifically, is to remember Christ's sacrifice by partaking of the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 14:20; Acts 20:7). The Lord's supper is certainly an act of worship.

The Lord's supper is the only one of the five components of worship mentioned for which a specific time (first day) and occasion (assembly) is specified. The others can be done either at home alone, in assembly, or when or wherever.

Another Kind of Worship

There is a worship related word (*latreuo*) which in some versions is translated *worship* and in some *service*. But it is not the same "service" as *diakonos*, usually translated "ministry" or "service."

Diakonos is the word from which we get "deacon." It refers to what we usually mean by *service*: waiting on tables, helping the poor, cutting the yard for a widow, etc.

The *latreuo* family of words refers to the service priests render as they stand at the altar and receive animals from the worshippers and offer them in sacrifice to God.

The writer of Hebrews notes concerning Jesus Christ, "if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They serve (*latreuo*) a copy

and shadow of the heavenly things." (Hebrews 8:4).

The *latreuo* family of words are worship words, referring to priestly service at the altar.

The New Testament teaches the universal priesthood of all believers. Christ "has made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father" (Revelation 1:6).

As New Testament priests we offer our "sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips" and monetary gifts for good works (Hebrews 13:15-16). Indeed we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice which, in view of our having been "justified by faith," that is, having been forgiven of our sins, is our reasonable or spiritual *latreuo* (Romans 12:1).

Here we are called to fill the roles both of priests, serving at the altar offering sacrifice, and of the sacrifice offered. Our sacrifice is a living sacrifice, not one slain. As such, our lives, at least the part of it we live in harmony with the will of God, are, in the *latreuo* sense, worship.

This is not the same as *proskuneo*. It does not change the fact that what we do as worship in the assembly needs to be "acts" or "components" of worship that God has indicated he wants to receive.

It should, however, make us aware that because of our redemption our lives as a whole are sacred.

The work Christians do for a living they do to provide for their families as they have been commanded (1 Timothy 4:8) and each one also "so that he may have something to share with anyone in need" (Ephesians 4:28).

Faithful Christians glorify God in their everyday workplace. They do not have to be preachers for that to be true. "Slaves (or in our culture, employees), obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving (Greek, *slaves of*) the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:22-24).

As a Christian you have offered your body as a sacrifice to God. "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

"Preach the Word"

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

“A Hole in One”

About Tiger Woods

Taken from
Vicksburg Reminder
(December 23, 2009)

- Eric Welch -

Since Thanksgiving, the news has been dominated by the unfaithfulness of Tiger Woods to his marriage. To date, fourteen women have come forward with claims that they have had extra-marital affairs with him.

I have yet to hear anything in the news that calls Woods' behavior for what it is - adultery. He had hidden this sin from the public for two or three years. Because of these claims and his own admission of infidelity, he has lost advertising sponsorships from companies who no longer see him as a fit representative. Yet these are nothing compared to what he is losing. For a man who has had 18 holes-in-one over the course of his golfing career and his first at age six, one hole-in-one now stands as one he will wish he never made: *the hole left in the heart of his wife.*

King David was a man who was caught in the same (2 Samuel 11). David committed adultery with Bathsheba and proceeded to cover it up. Ultimately it led to the death of one of his most loyal soldiers, Bathsheba's husband.

David's sin demonstrates the glaringly bad decisions that people make when they are tempted to sin. Sin dulls our moral senses. We forget the principle of **sowing and reaping**. We forget that the pleasures of eternal life in heaven outweigh the temporary pleasure of sin.

We also forget that sin cannot be hidden from God and it will eventually be brought to light: Hebrews 4:13 *No creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him with whom we must give account.* Yet keeping these principles in our hearts can help us guard against sin.

But the greatest motivation for us against sin is knowing the hole it leaves in the heart of God. David knew this after the prophet Nathan exposed his sin:

Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight ... (Psalm 51:4). If you are not a Christian, you must realize that your sins have hurt God deeply. You must come to understand and believe that Jesus died for your sins. You must renounce your sinful life and turn your desire for God. That's called repentance. You must confess Jesus as God's Son and submit to His will in immersion in water where He promises to wash away your sin so that you might be whiter than snow.

If you are a Christian but you have become unfaithful, you must confess your sin and repent of it. Let me suggest that you read David's confession in Psalm 51: 1-17. John says that God is faithful and just to forgive our sins if we acknowledge it and walk in the light (1 John 1:7-9). The one who walks in the light is one who humbles himself and repents of his sins. He realizes that no work can make us deserving of God's grace and mercy. David recognized that: "For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering" (Psalm 51:16).

Every person who sins against God has a "hole" in his or her heart. Only God can heal the heart that submits to Him. *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise (Psalm 51: 17).* Do you want God to heal your heart?



Eric Welch

Eric Welch serves as an evangelist for the I-20 church in Vicksburg which presently brings together about 175 worshippers on Sunday morning. According to Clyde Redmon, one of the four elders, Eric is doing a "good job." His address: Eric Welch; Vicksburg Church of Christ; 3333 North Frontage Road; Vicksburg, MS 39180; vickcofc@cablelynx.com

"Live for this life alone and you will miss the next one."



Grandma Ruth Died Nov. 28

- Marshall Eubanks, Jr. -

Ruth Ella Dungan Eubanks Rush, 87, passed from this life on November 28, 2009 at the Providence Hospital in Mobile, AL. She was born May 18, 1922 in Lucedale, MS. Grandma Ruth was married to Houston Lane Eubanks in 1939 until his death in 1991 and then to Rufus Rush from 1997 until his death in 2008.

Grandma was a faithful member of the Lord's church from early childhood. She enjoyed being a gospel preacher's wife and raising 9 children along the way. Always beside Grandpa Houston, they served churches all over Alabama and Mississippi and together they served as missionaries for a short time in the Cayman Islands.

Grandma Ruth impacted many lives throughout her 87 years of life. She was respected by all who knew her and her beautiful smile and notable singing voice will be missed on this side of eternity.

(A grandson, Marshall Eubanks, Jr., preaches for the Christian Chapel Church, near Amory, MS. Thanks, Marshall, for sharing your thoughts with MM readers.)

Thanks for Reading the MM

News & Notes

TUPELO

The Gloster Street Church of Christ in Tupelo announced in the church bulletin some of their plans for 2010. The church is planning four goal Sundays: January 31; May 2; August 29; and November 7. Vacation Bible School will take place June 21-25; and their Gospel Meeting is scheduled for November 7-10, with **Jerry Jenkins** preaching. The ministers at Gloster Street are **Chad Ramsey** and **Brian Galloway**.

SOUTHAVEN

The 18th Power Lectures are planned for July 25 -29, 2010. The theme for the lectures are "Moses: The Meekest Man In All The Land."

Now, You Take it from There!

- by -

John Simpson

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One Nation Under God

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

The following story is being circulated to illustrate just how close we are to going under:

After being interviewed by the school administration, a prospective teacher said: "Let me see if I understand you correctly.

"You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning.

"You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride.

"You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job.

"You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams.

"You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

"You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a chalkboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.

"You want me to do all this and then you tell me... I CAN'T PRAY?"

Our nation has surrendered to a political system that is bent in the main, to legislate the God of Creation away from every facet of society, to appease those who worship false gods. We must take it back!

Our children do not belong to the government, they belong to us! Big government has taken our children and it is now our task to take them back. We gave them away at the voting booth and that is the only place we can get them back. America is greater than any political party and our allegiance must be to her when we exercise our privilege to choose elected officials; from the nation's capitol down to local officials.

We will come back to **One Nation Under God**, when we surrender again to: "*Righteousness exalts a nation*" (Prov. 14:34), and "*For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil*" (I Pet. 3:12).

Now, you take it from there!

Preachers for the Past Fifty Years in Coffeerville, MS

John W. Purdy Wrote to MM:

Please find enclosed a copy of a picture with all the preachers who have worked on a full time basis for the Coffeerville Church of Christ from 1960 to the present date. The large original of this picture hangs in our church building and is very impressive. We are happy to be able to record our history in this manner.

We have sent a copy of this picture to each of the preachers or their family but have been unable to find any information as to the location of James A. Mahaffey. If anyone has an address for him or his family, please send it to **John W. Purdy, 1662 CR 211, Coffeerville, MS 38922.**

The church here is doing well and averages in the mid-seventies in attendance at the Sunday morning services.

If you can, please put this picture in the next edition of the Messenger, as I believe it will be of interest to many of your readers. All the members of the church here receive the Messenger and enjoy reading it. (John W. Purdy)



1960 - 2010 (Fifty Years):

Earl Manning (1960-1962)	Jimmy Bates (1978-1979)
Jim Mahaffey (1962-1965)	Larry Montgomery (1979-1983)
Don Wood (1966-1967)	Don Wood (1983-1986)
Don Huddleston (1967-1971)	Ed Burns (1986-1996)
Garrell Kidd (1971-1973)	Allen Wiese (1997-2003)
Bob Winton (1974-1977)	Don Robertson (2004 - present)

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

Sobering Words To The Faithful

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2: 10).

- John F. Gardner -

Were they “faithful” even when called upon to die a martyr’s death? We would like to know what that struggling, oppressed church did when the letter from Jesus was read to them. That letter from their crucified and resurrected Savior who ruled heaven and earth was short, to the point, and powerful (Revelation 2: 8 – 11). The words were from “the first and the last, the one who died and came to life” (V. 8, English Standard Version).

Smyrna was a hard place to live as a Christian near the end of the first century. It was a city of wealth, located some 35 miles north of Ephesus at the end of main road that connected to a major harbor. Trade was brisk and involved such highly sought merchandise as myrrh. But in contrast to the wealth all around, the band of God’s people were poor to the point of perhaps being in beggarly circumstances (V. 9). The poor are crushed in the shadow of the rich.

It was hard to live there as a saint in another way as well. The city was known for its beauty because of the pagan Temple of Cybele and the Temple to the godhead of Tiberius. That meant constantly fighting against the demands of paganism and the worship of Caesar which was required by the state. In addition, there was an enclave of Jews there who hated the followers of Jesus and in effect served as a “synagogue of Satan” (V. 9). Although Jews in the flesh, they were not true Israel anymore (Romans 2: 28, 29; Galatians 6: 16).

Encouraging Words

Jesus identified himself to the struggling church facing life and death issues as the one who suffered death and overcame it by a resurrection (V. 8). As the “first and the last” He declared himself in charge of all events from beginning to end. When He appeared to John, the Lord said, “Fear not, I am the first and the last and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades” (Revelation 1: 17b, 18). The ever-living One would help them face mounting suffering and even martyrdom, if they would only hold to Him.



John Gardner

The One who gave up the riches of heaven to become poor for the sake of lost humanity (2 Corinthians 8: 9) knew how they struggled to get by with so little. To encourage them, He reminded them of the spiritual riches they had stored up in heaven (V. 9) Later He would tell a wealthy church that they were spiritually bankrupt in spite of their affluence (Revelation 3: 17).

Sobering Words

“You have suffered much, but more is on the way,” is what the Lord said in essence to those he loved in ancient Smyrna. It was going to get worse before it got better. The devil, through some human agents, was about to subject the Lord’s people to an intense, but limited, tribulation (“ten days”) which would test some of those in the church because they would be cast into prison. No doubt some would be tested beyond imprisonment and would face the prospects of dying for the faith.

Guiding Words

The Savior’s instruction to his followers is clear. “Do not fear what you are about to suffer” (V. 10). They were not to let the icy grip of fear paralyze them and persuade them to abandon their lives of faith in Christ. The first disciples who gather around Jesus heard similar words (Matthew 10: 28). Those who succumb to such fear will be lost (Revelation 21: 8).

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (V. 10) means more in this context than just living out many long years of faithful service until one dies. It clearly speaks of a degree of faithfulness that will not be abandoned even in the face of immediate, violent death as a martyr. Of course, one must live all of one’s days keeping the faith of Christ even if no prospect of immediate martyrdom is present; but how much more faith is

required when facing a brutal execution. The saints at Smyrna were faithful; they would have to be even more faithful in the days ahead.

Faithfulness involves upholding the teachings of Christ in word, but also living them out in life (Titus 2). It is certainly more than attending all of the services of the church (as important as that is); it is attending to the will of Christ in every aspect of life “24/7.”

Hope-filled Words

For those who overcome the almost overwhelming temptation to abandon faith to save one’s skin, Jesus promises “the crown of life” (V. 10) and freedom from “the second death” (V. 11). The crown was a symbol of honor and victory. Smyrna was called the “crown of Asia” and some of its coins bore the image of a crown. The Christian in heaven will celebrate life in ways that make all earthly celebrations pale in comparison. The faithful in Christ, and only the faithful, will escape the agonies of the lake of fire, which is the “second death” (Revelation 20: 14).

Relevant Words

As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, will we need to apply these words in a different way from previous generations of Christians in America? If poverty comes and continues to burden many because of their faith; if groups committed to the propagation of sinful practices gain more political power; if false religions become even more militant and overt in their opposition to truth, will we hear Jesus’ sobering words to the faithful in ancient Smyrna as words for our own salvation in the midst of difficult days? “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2: 11).

(Brother Gardner was Academic Dean for MBC. He is still living in Kosciusko and serving as an elder of the church His email address: gardner.john43@gmail.com)

Mission Statement

“A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church.”

(Taken from the bulletin of the Central Church of Christ in West Plains, Missouri. Pat Casey is a special servant/minister.)

R. J. Redd's Departure at 91

Johnson Grove (Brookhaven) Elder for Many Years

- Otis Bowman -

As family and friends passed by his casket, in plain view was an award Bro. Redd had received from the Johnson Grove Youth Group, it read, "Heart of A Servant." This was not just given, it was earned.

I only knew Brother R.J. for nine years but during that time it was plain to see he was an example to all he came into contact with. He was an Elder in the church, a husband, father and papaw. He loved his family, the church, youth, and singing.

The Apostle Paul stated in the Corinthian letter, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (I Cor. 11: 1) Bro. Redd was one of the few men I have known in my life time that could have made that statement without reservation along with the Apostle Paul.

Bro. Redd loved to go anywhere church people were gathering. He went to Gospel Meetings, fellowships, and singings all around Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. He was a great encouragement to young people and loved to see them learning and laughing at church. From the Berean Children Home to ball games he knew young people were the church of tomorrow.

He loved to cook and was in charge of our monthly men breakfast as well as Wednesday night meals. Ask any preacher

who ever held a Gospel Meeting at Johnson Grove, they could tell you of a breakfast he prepared for them. Anytime you pulled up to the church building, his beautiful rose garden was in plain sight. He also loved to garden at home.

Brother R.J. also sent out birthday, anniversary, get-well, and sympathy cards all year long. This was all while in his 80's and 90's. He loved the church! He was so excited the Crystal Springs Church of Christ was building a new church house. We had to go by and view the construction progress on a couple of trips we made to Jackson. He was looking forward to being there for their dedication. He passed away on January 6th at 91 years of age. He may not have seen the completed church building at Crystal Springs but now he has in view the one the Lord has prepared for all who it can be said of, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matt. 25: 21) His memory will live on but with much sadness he will be missed by all.

(Otis Bowman preaches for the Johnson Grove church of Christ, near Brookhaven, MS. MM editor was privileged to preach in a meeting at Johnson Grove and enjoyed the hospitality of brother R. J. Redd. Also, many years ago, brother's R.J.'s wife was one of our Bible winners with the MM and "QB".)

What Are We Looking For?

The Hummingbird vs. The Vulture

Both the hummingbird and the vulture fly over our nation's deserts. All vultures see is rotting meat, because that is what they look for. They thrive on that diet. But hummingbirds ignore the smelly flesh of dead animals. Instead, they look for the colorful blossoms of desert plants. The vultures live on what was. They live on the past. They fill themselves with what is dead and gone. But hummingbirds live on what is. They seek new life. They fill themselves with freshness and life. Each bird finds what it is looking for. We all do. *(via East Main Informer; Tupelo, MS)*

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

(Matt. 6:26)

The Lord's Church in Action

Help for Haiti

The month of January began with Joe Thompson and Kathy Cadden doing "their thing." You see Joe and Kathy spend a multitude of hours every month collecting, repairing, and shipping medical supplies and other items to countries around the globe using the Funded Transportation program with the U. S. State Department.

They also have dedicated volunteers whose help is immeasurable. Their 501 © 3 organization is **Operation Ukraine** located at **803 9th Street South in Columbus, Mississippi**. Joe recently retired from Four County Electric and Kathy is now a full-time missionary. (The history of Operation Ukraine was written about in a previous issue of *The Magnolia Messenger*.)

January also had other things in store for Operation Ukraine. Ivan Skoleba, a preacher from western Ukraine and his and Kathy Cadden's interpreter, Tanya Zoulina, were in the United States traveling from church to church telling about their work in Ukraine and hoping to gain support for the work there. They visited churches of Christ in Kentucky, Nashville, Memphis, Caledonia, Columbus, Amory, and Judsonia, Arkansas.

On the night of January 14, a packed classroom at the Columbus church listened intently as Ivan told about his ministry in Ivano-Frankivsk. Tanya was very efficient in her English translations. The evening was such a blessing to all. Ivan told of how becoming a Christian has changed his life.

Little did we know that in another country, not as far from our shores, a great catastrophe had taken place that would spur Joe, Kathy and many, many others to action. An earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale had hit Haiti two days earlier. Thousands of people were killed and many thousands more were injured. The LaMentin church was destroyed **killing 150 of the members** as they had gathered for Bible study.

Operation Ukraine had many items in the warehouse that would be invaluable in Haiti. A group in Starkville were to leave on Friday, January 15 and needed sutures, betadine, bandages, and lidocaine. They were available at the warehouse! Kathy and Joe sprang into action and haven't slowed down yet!

The group went with an abundance of supplies, some supplied by Operation Ukraine. Then the phone started ringing!! John Kachleman, a preacher with the Judsonia church of Christ in

Judsonia, Arkansas, with whom Operation Ukraine works, and others in the brotherhood, decided to collect items to make IDP buckets. (IDP is short for Internal Displaced Person.)

These are used, five-gallon plastic buckets which are cleaned and dried. They are filled with metal spoons, plastic cups, 18 to 28 ounce plastic bowls for rice or soup, a clothes line, a paring knife, a 3 to 4 inch LED flashlight, disposable razors, creamy petroleum jelly, two towels, a bar of soap, a first aid kit, paper and pencil. Individual hygiene kits for both male and female are filled with a towel, a bar of soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, a tube of creamy petroleum jelly, pads or razor. All items must be new.

We have acquired 42,500 pounds of rice. We have just under 2,600 mosquito nets, and 4,200+ tarps to be used as family shelters. Helping Hands International in Nashville has sent \$6,000 worth of food through a congregation in Tennessee. All these items will be shipped with Counterpart under the State Department. EVERY dollar and EVERY cent donated for Haiti will be used to purchase items to be sent to Haiti and to supplement the shipping costs as needed.

Several churches have provided Operation Ukraine much needed money to help with this effort: Bartlett Woods church in Arlington, Tennessee, Estes church in Henderson, Tennessee, Great Oaks church in Memphis, Tennessee, Woodland

Hills in Cordova, Tennessee, and the Caledonia church in Caledonia, Mississippi.

Groups from several churches, along with many individuals, have been at the warehouse working to help get these lifesaving supplies on the way to those desperately needing them in Haiti.

There are jobs for all ages. We have had little ones no older than three years to retired men and women, who are making a difference. Just imagine sweet, three-year old **Lilly Meredith** as she puts new tubes of Neosporin and sealed bandages in a Ziploc bag for the hygiene kits! She is learning, even at this young age, what it is to use the talents God has given each of us. Lilly is the daughter of Shane (pulpit minister for the Caledonia church) and Meghan Meredith.



Turn to Haiti on Page 16

"Inscriptions" Haiti or Heaven?

The earthquake in Haiti has been a horrendous tragedy. The stories that have come out of the rubble have been both sad and jubilant. In an interview a wife told of praying for her husband who was missing. She said, "I prayed for him and knew that he was in God's hands, I just didn't know if it was in Haiti or Heaven." After forty hours he was rescued from underneath six floors of concrete.

What a great outlook we have in Christ. Paul declared, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11). We have comfort in health or sickness. We have hope in life or in death. We find balance in despair or success. We are at peace in Haiti or Heaven.

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28). All things that happen in life are not good, but we serve a God who is able bring good from tragedy. God works with us to bring out of the earthquakes of life unseen blessings and a stronger faith.

(Dennis Doughty, preacher in Tunica, MS. dennis1848@bellsouth.net)



Dennis Doughty

“Watch Out For Satan’s Deception”

- Tim Childs -

The Holy Scriptures gives us insight into the person, work and final end of Satan. Friend, you don’t want to be on his team when the clock runs out.

It is impossible to fully fathom just how disadvantaged we would be living in this world without the Book of all books, the Holy Scriptures. The centuries old proverb “forewarned is forearmed” has an application for us having the revelation of God concerning his evil rival and our enemy, Satan.

In the context, Paul indicated he had forgiven a penitent brother “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians. 2:11). You and I cannot afford to be ignorant either.

Revelation 12:7-17, along with other Bible passages, give information about Satan bringing his battle against God and his people to the earth. Satan and his horde failed to defeat Michael and the angels of light, and were thus permanently cast out of heaven.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which

We will either be under the influence of Satan, the Prince of Darkness, the Prince of Death, or under the influence of Jesus, the Prince of Life, the Prince of Peace.

deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). “Deceiveth” is defined by Thayer as “to cause to stray, to lead astray” and further it is used metaphorically “to lead away from the truth, to be led into error.” Who is leading you? Which direction are you being led?

First, Satan deceives people into thinking they are their own master and they totally control their own destiny. Some of us, simply put, just want to do our own thing. We don’t want anyone telling us what we can, or can’t do. While Satan promises people freedom if only they will reject God, he never has and never will make good on his promise.

Satan’s brand of “freedom” is captivity of the worst and most devastating kind. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans



Tim Childs

6:16). Although he may be fooled into thinking he is, man will never be his own master. We will either be under the influence of Satan, the Prince of Darkness, the Prince of Death, or under the influence of Jesus, the Prince of Life, the Prince of Peace.

Second, Satan deceives people into thinking that he is their friend and faithful ally, and that he’ll be there to deliver them during their time of trouble.

Why is there pain, sickness, drunkenness, death, murder, robbery, rape, divorce, hate, war, lying, fornication, adultery, etc.? Who is the sponsor of this evil and terror? Did you say he was your friend? *With friends like that, who needs an enemy?*

When a person acts on the prompting of Satan, there may be a fleeting moment of pleasure, but more often than not, it is quickly

followed by trouble and shame. Satan is so skillful in his art of deception that while he is destroying our lives and those we care about most, he has us thinking that he is our best friend.

When has Satan really delivered you in a time of trouble? When has he stood with you at a graveside to comfort your grieving heart after he had taken your loved one at the hands of an evil-doer? No, he stands in the shadows in the distance and laughs at you because he still has you fooled.

No, even if Satan was so inclined, he cannot deliver you in your time of trouble because he cannot even deliver himself from his own condemnation. Satan is a liar, the father of lies, and

desperately wants you to join him in hell. There’ll be no celebration party there!

God has given us his very best – the gift of his only begotten Son (John 3:16).

God loves you and seeks your welfare since He has your best interest at heart. His commandments are not burdensome, and Jesus will help you bear your cross. Hear and obey the Word of truth right away before it is too late for your soul.

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

Batesville Plans Special Meetings

May 3 - 5, 2010

Batesville Civic Center
7:00 P.M. Nightly

July 25 - 30, 2010

Batesville Church Building
(Eureka St with Barry Grider)

Do I Have To Go To Church?

- + Do you have to hug your little children?
- + Do you have to remember your wife’s birthday?
- + Do you have to call home when you’re late from work?
- + Do you have to buy Christmas gifts for your family?
- + Do you have to attend the funeral of a close friend or loved one?
- + Do you have to say, ‘I love you’ when you love someone?
- + Do you have to attend ball games and band functions in which your children are involved? *(Steve Higginbotham; via Rocky Creek Church Bulletin; Lucedale, MS)*

*“I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.”
(Psalms 122:1)*

Did you miss Last Year’s Trip to the Bible Lands?

We are going back this year, Lord willing!

November 10, 2010

A group of Christians led by Paul and Al Franks will be leaving from the United States for **Greece** on November 10, 2010. We will tour **Athens** and **Corinth** and then sail on a beautiful cruise ship to **Egypt**, then to **Israel** and to **Turkey** and then sail back to **Athens**. **This is a 12 day trip**. We would love for you to go with us!

This trip is called the *Lands of the Bible Cruise*. It encompasses the Old Testament (Moses and the Israelites in Egypt) and the New Testament (the Gospels and Jesus’ Ministry: Acts and Paul’s Ministry). We will be using Educational Opportunities again to help us with this trip. You can go to their website at www.eo.travelwithus.com and when you complete your registration form, your host will be Paul and Al Franks and **our ID# is 45403**.

This 12 day program departs on November 10, 2010 and prices **start at \$2,398***. This price includes International airfare based on New York and Guided Shore Excursions. Not included will be tips, taxes, port charges, etc. You will need to look at the website or request a brochure from Paul Franks to get all of the details. Please send an email to apaulfranks@gmail.com or call Paul at 337-515-7314.

More... Encouragement...More

Dear Al & June,

Please change our address. We truly enjoy the paper. It is so encouraging and uplifting. Gary was transferred to Auburn, his unit in Baton Rouge was closed. God is so good in everything. We will never forget your help at Capital City in Baton Rouge. Your help - helped all of us as we struggled. Our children still talk of you... Thank you

for your great paper and changing our address. You both are in our prayers...

(Gary & Karen Foster, Auburn, AL)
Brethren,

You publish a great paper. I enjoy it very much even though I am a Buck-eye. But God’s family are the greatest people on earth, wherever they are. Thank you, **(Roy Rogers, Gahauna, OH)**

Plenty of Time (??)

NOTE: In the West Main Church bulletin (Tupelo, MS), dated January 10, 2010, preacher **Doug Greenway** wrote the following under the heading of “*Doug’s Diggings*”:



Here we are finishing the first full week of the New Year. Only 354 sleeps, 8 hours, 47 minutes and 56 seconds until Christmas, 2010! *(As I write this.)* Better start your shopping!

Or maybe you feel like you have **plenty** of time for that later. Plenty of time to say “I love you.” Plenty of time to say “I’m sorry.” Plenty of time to get a new life, a fresh start and do whatever it is you need to do. And whatever you really **intend** to do. *Plenty of time*. But, maybe and maybe not!

Be aware that life is short and an eternal end somewhere is sure. Be aware that right now — today -- is a very precious gift.

The NIV has Psalm 90:12 this way, “*Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*” Instead of obsessing about the number of years in our life -- may we be more aware of the amount of life in our years! Go out behind the barn and think about that one. *(Doug preaches for the West Main congregation in Tupelo, MS.)*

“We Should Seek God”

As Individuals and As a Nation

Acts 17: 24-27

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him, reach out for him and find him.”

- Ray Franks -

I love this country. There is no other country in the world that I would rather be a citizen of than the United States. It's not perfect; human beings are involved; but, in my opinion, it is the best the world has to offer. America was indeed begun by men who honored God and desired freedom to seek God and set their founding principles by the words of the Bible. Look at the beginning words of the *Mayflower Compact* that was signed by 41 individuals while they were still on the ship: *“In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are under-written....”*

These people who came to this great land to establish what is now known as America, made a big sacrifice. They devoted themselves, at all cost, to have the right and privilege, among other things, to seek their God without government intervention.

This nation, 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.

Long ago, the nation of Israel enjoyed God's blessings in an unprecedented way. God had *personally* chosen them from among all the peoples of the earth, to be *His* people (see Deut. 7: 6-7). God, in His infinite wisdom, chose this insignificant people as the vehicle through which He would show His love, mercy and grace, and fulfill His eternal purposes in the coming of His Son and our Saviour Jesus, the Christ.

Today, when I consider all the nations upon this earth, it is my opinion that, for some reason, God has chosen to bless the United States of America above any other nation I know in the modern world.



Ray Franks

America really is the land of the free. This is the place where dreams can literally come true.

When I think about the pilgrims, our forefathers, and the price they paid for our nation, and consider how God has blessed us with so much -- *why is our nation in the shape it's in?* It is illegal to pray at a foot ball game, but you can freely use God's name in vain. The Ten Commandments are being removed from the court houses. *“In God We Trust”* is being removed from our currency... and, the list goes on.

I've wondered why we have allowed others to take control and create laws and enact ordinances that totally conflict with what our founding fathers believed in and died for. I keep asking myself, *why we have allowed this?* It seems that it is no longer right to seek God and that we should not depend upon God. Why are we allowing these things to come about?

This situation is very similar to a story I read in Haggai, one of the books of the Old Testament, and what Haggai was called to do. Some of God's people had been released to go back to Jerusalem to “rebuild the temple”. Ezra tells how, that when the people first arrived at Jerusalem, there was an excitement and enthusiasm for the work. It wasn't long until they had cleared the ground and laid the foundation for the temple.

BUT, from the moment they returned to Jerusalem and began the construction of the temple, the Samaritans made numerous complaints to the leaders calling for the work to cease. Their charge was that the Jews had always been a source of insurrection and trouble in the world and they didn't want them back *in their neighborhood with their temple*, so to speak.

So what happened when the Samaritans began bringing verbal charges against the Jews and their temple project? The Jews downed their tools, went home and for fourteen years, or so, nothing happened. In time, the foundation became over grown with weeds. Bottom line – What really happened? When their enemies began verbally attacking them - **they folded!**

Is it not true that *history repeats itself?* When those who were opposed to prayer took a firm stand in the courts of our land, what action did **you personally** take? With judge after judge allowing condoms to be placed in schools and Bibles removed, what action did **you personally** take? Is it not accurate to compare ourselves with those Jews who chose to walk away from their mission to rebuild, when they were confronted verbally by the enemy, instead of taking a stand for what was right and for what was their obligation? *“We The People”* -- when we band together -- we can make a difference!

Our forefathers paid a huge price -- homes, business, savings; even their own families were destroyed, so they could pass on to you and me a God fearing nation built on dignity, integrity and Godly principles. If we are going to pass on anything worthwhile to our next generation, let me tell you a secret; something that some of us need to know: **it's going to cost you something too!** If we fail to stand up for “Godly principles” and “Dependance upon God” we will guarantee our children and grandchildren a very dim future.

Going back to the story in Haggai, I found the instructions that were given to those people who had become discouraged and had walked off the job. In reading the book of Haggai you will find, at the end of the story, they were successful. God instructed them to be strong, to be determined, to be stubborn, and to not give up. They needed stick-ability; they needed perseverance to see the job through.

Not only were they to be strong, but they were to work. You see, faith is not only about being, it's about **doing**; it's about engagement and involvement. It's not just sitting on the pew at church and *talking* about some of these issues. We must get up off

Turn to SEEK GOD on page 16

The Preaching Franks Brothers

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the July-Sept, 09 issue of the MM we ran a story and pictures about three aging brothers (75, 79 and 90) who are still preaching every Lord's day. The brothers were/are: M. B. , R.C. and Hubert Franks. These brothers have one other living brother who was not pictured because he was ill and could not be present the day pictures were made. That brother is **J. D. Franks**. Yes and, as you may recall or suspect, the brothers are uncles of mine. (There were six boys in the Franks family and all were devoted to the church of the Lord and served as elders and/or preachers. Two have departed (my father, Lovis, and my uncle Leonard) “to be with the Lord.”

We rejoice to report that J. D. Franks, who has been very ill for more than a year, recovered sufficiently and was able to preach at his old home church (the Boxwood church of Christ; Merryville, LA) on Sunday, December 13, 2009. One of his sons, Ray, sent a brief report of that special occasion and included a “Card of Thanks” that his dad and mom wanted to share with many who expressed concern and offered prayers during his illness.

Ray wrote,

I am forwarding you a picture of J. D. as he stands in the pulpit at Boxwood on December 13, 2009 to preach in my absence. As you are aware, this is the first time in over a year that Dad was able to preach. We had an excellent turnout (89) for that special day with all the brothers and sisters present. Dad's message was focused on cancer as it relates to the Christian life...

I am sending a thank you letter from mother and Dad that I would like to have published in the Magnolia Messenger. So many people responded to Dad's illness from the RV Rally and other places Donna and I have visited. Dad often would ask me concerning cards he received, who this or that person was and where they were from. It was a good feeling to see so many cards and letters from those who did not know dad personally. We would like to thank those folks by means of the Magnolia Messenger



J. D. Franks, Preaching Again!
Sermon Focused on Cancer

CARD OF THANKS

Dorothy and I sincerely appreciate the outpouring of care and concern we received during my recent illness and surgery. There are no words to tell you how much your cards, letters, phone calls and most of all, your prayers meant to us during my recent struggle with cancer.

What a blessing it is to have such a large extended Christian family truly concerned about you. I received cards from those who only knew me through my children. I am so touched that they would take time from their busy day to remember me.

Surgery in February, followed by chemo in March and radiation treatments in June have resulted in cancer free follow ups. I do believe the power of God and your prayers are directly responsible for my recovery. I am grateful for the return of some of my strength and energy and looking forward to working on a few projects when we are blessed with some warmer weather.

I ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers. God bless you all.

*In Christian Love,
J.D. & Dorothy Franks*

Dear Preacher....

- by Ken Joines -

"Dear Preacher: "I'm a member of your audience and I sit before you this morning with a heart that is troubled. Oh, you can't see my desperation by looking at me; I've learned to hide my feelings so deeply that sometimes I fool even myself. The people who sit on either side of me would be surprised to know that I often walk the floor at night and cry."

"I'm a husband whose marriage is falling apart and I can't seem to do anything to stop it."

"I'm a teenager who is in serious trouble at school and it's only a matter of hours until my parents are notified and then I don't really know what will happen to me."

"I'm a Senior Citizen and our Doctor has told us that my wife cannot possibly live more than a couple months."

"I'm a successful businessman and I've gotten everything I wanted in life, but it isn't enough."

"I'm a parent whose adult child is in the far country and we're so far apart spiritually that we don't believe she's reachable."

"I'm a single and have just invested everything I have and am in a relationship with another person who walked away without even looking back."

"I'm an abused wife who often covers my bruises with makeup. I am terrified to stay but I don't want to leave and lose my children."

"I'm blue and depressed and don't even know why, but I can't live like this much longer. I can imagine the shocked reaction of the people here in this pew if I told them I have seriously considered suicide. Or maybe they wouldn't be shocked; maybe they have, too."

"So preacher, when I sit in front of you Sunday after Sunday I do not care to hear a few thoughts on Transactional Analysis, or a theological exhortation on Evolution. I don't care to hear you share a few thoughts you gleaned from the internet on Saturday night. I don't want to hear you review the latest book on new trends for growing a church in our modern culture. I don't even want to hear you beg for money for the new Fellowship Hall. I don't want to hear a dry, generic message you got off the internet—I can read those things for myself, and often do. This church would be stronger if you just shut down your internet connection and opened your Bible and delivered its message to us."

"I'm empty and I feel useless. My question to you is the same asked by a King a long time ago to the prophet Jeremiah: **'Is there any word from the Lord?'**

We preachers need to do what evangelist Philip did for the Ethiopian long ago (Acts chapter 8)—just preach Jesus. The Bible is relevant and fresh. Jesus is a friend of the believer (Luke 7:1-10). He is a friend of the doubter (Luke 7:18-35). Jesus is a friend of the sinful (Luke 7:36-50). He



Ken Joines

So many times in my 50+ years of ministry I failed to do this. I can see now that I often preached the wrong thing to the people.

is a friend of the lost (Luke 8:1-15). Jesus is a friend of the fearful (Luke 8:22-25) and he is a friend of the desperate (Luke 8:40-56). Tell us these things more often. We need to be reminded.

So many times in my 50+ years of ministry I failed to do this. I can see now that I often preached the wrong thing to the people. Here's what I mean: If the offerings are low, we don't

need to preach about giving—we need to preach Jesus. When attendance is down, the people don't need a sermon about absenteeism—they need to hear about Jesus. So much of what is called "gospel preaching" is not good news at all. The really Good News (gospel) is: Jesus is the Son of God, my Lord and my only Savior. He loves me enough to suffer and die in my place. He walked out of His own grave, defeating death, my worst enemy, ensuring my own resurrection. He will forgive all of my sins if I will obey Him. He gives me strength every day to do what I need to do. By His grace I can successfully live the Christian life. He will come again and receive me unto Himself and I will live forever with Him in Heaven—now THAT is good news!!! And the people deserve to hear it.

The word of God is full of good sermon material. Preachers need to open the Book of God and tell the people what's in it. Elders who are truly shepherds will demand that their preacher feed the people with this pure, solid spiritual food, not spiritual fast food. —Ken Joines

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

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Kosciusko, MS 39090
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...I enjoy the MM very much and I do appreciate so much the work the two of you do... We have a young minister here now who was raised in Ruston and is very good. We are so blessed to have him. We are small. Thanks again and God bless! (Ava Cleveland, Arcadia, LA)

Thanks for all you do with your "good News" paper - encouraging and teaching in the cause for Christ. We always look forward to each issue. Love, (Betty & Leon Parker, Midnight, MS)

MBC Has Closed

Where are the Former Teachers?

Note: A long time and faithful supporter of MBC has asked that we provide information about what is going on with those who lived in Kosciusko and were teachers at MBC. Pleased to do so. And, we ask that you join with us in prayer on behalf of each of these men as they seek to use to the fullest their God-given time and talents to the glory of the Heavenly Father. (editor)

Garvis Semore transferred to Freed-Hardeman University, as a teacher, shortly before the school closed.

Shawn Hardin continues to live in Kosciusko. He is working for the VA Nursing Home and is serving part time as a youth minister for the Kosciusko church on Huntington Street.

Travis Brown is now preaching for a congregation in West-Central Alabama.

Les Ferguson, Sr. continues to serve as minister of the church in Kosciusko and is becoming more and more involved in mission work in Mexico.

David McElwain is checking out several possible preaching locations and hopes to relocate shortly.

John Gardner continues to serve as an elder in Kosciusko and "fill-in" preacher as he gives consideration to a place where he can work effectively as a preacher of the gospel

Roger Hines is continuing to serve "part-time" as preacher for the church in Canton, MS. He is actively seeking a school where he can continue his role as an instructor in a college setting. We ask that you remember in prayer Roger's wife, **Karen**, who is undergoing cancer treatments while they continue to live in Kosciusko.

We pray the Messenger keeps going in this uncertain economy. God will bless. In Christian Love, (Bill & Jeanie Brackett, Houston, TX)

Good news is being shared, congregations encouraged and individuals instructed. Thanks, (Patty E. Henson, Kilmichael, MS)

West Main Church of Christ Tupelo, Mississippi 50th Anniversary Celebration/ Homecoming April 24-25, 2010

Saturday events begin at 4:00 p.m. and will include a cookout and social at the building and a devotional/singing around 8:00 p.m.

Sunday events besides morning worship at 9:00 will include lunch, special recognitions, a power point presentation and an early afternoon singing/devotional.

Former ministers, elders, and songleaders will participate in all services.

Family members and representatives of the original group who formed West Main will be honored.

West Main was established in 1960 when the Gloster Street congregation in Tupelo decided to start a new work to reach out to those on the growing west side of Tupelo. The first worship service was held on January 3, 1960, in the Rankin School auditorium and we moved into our present location at West Main and Thomas streets in June, 1961. The auditorium we now use for worship services was completed in 1974. For more information and to RSVP, please visit our website at www.westmainchurch.org or call the church office at 662-842-9263. **We invite and encourage all former members to attend and celebrate with us!** (Jimmy and Monica Roden Spencer: 662)842-4177)

“In God We Trust”

- Ray Hyatt -

The beautiful Washington Monument stands exactly five hundred fifty-five feet and five point five inches tall in our nation's capital. It was completed in 1888, and is the tallest structure in the city. It is interesting that federal law has decreed that no other structure may exceed it's height in that city.

On it's roof is inscribed two Latin words that translated mean “God over all.” I like that, and I will bet you do too! Sadly, I suspect that if the monument would be constructed in our days of political correctness, the words on the roof would be left off. Nevertheless, they are there—and it is just another way of saying “In God we trust.”

In reality, aware of it or not, everyday we are exposed to this remarkable statement in many ways. Every piece of money we handle, every judicial system we deal with, every federal or state building we enter, every historical document that frames our democracy plainly proclaims, “In God we trust.” Although the atheistic media with garbage like “God is irrelevant or God is dead bombard America daily”, still most Americans (at least to some extent) trust in God!

Certainly, this is a biblical principle. In Psalms 25:2, David wrote, “Oh my God, I trust in thee.” He repeats this statement of trust dozens of times in Psalms alone. Job declares “Let come on me what will, yet will I trust in Him” (Job 13; 15).

Misguided or weak, we sometimes put our trust in humans - wealth, might, or wisdom. But sooner or later, in times of trouble, stress, need, or approaching death, we inevitably turn to God. Why? Because down deep in our everlasting souls, we know that there is someone and something greater than all of this, and this world is not our home.

When I was a little child, I completely trusted my father. In my innocent eyes, he was able to do anything. He could defend me, feed me, console me, and give me gifts. This led me to love and obey him.

Surely, we can do no less for our heavenly Father! But let us be careful to understand that trusting in God also means to love and obey Him. May we never be like the hypocrites that Jesus condemned in Mark 7:6, “...this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.” Rather, let us say, “Speak Lord, thy servant heareth, command and I will obey.”

May God bless all of us to make our deeds match the glorious words, “In God We Trust.”

(Ray Hyatt is a gospel preacher and longtime leader in the DeQuincy congregation. He can be reached by addressing him in care of the church at 225 Hall Street; DeQuincy, LA 70633. His article was taken from “On the Right Tract”, Jan. 2010)

I enjoy the paper very much, especially Bro. May's answers. I know him personally and see him quite often. (Jesse Russell, Pike Road, AL)



Washington Monument

“When it is Time to Take A Walk”

Editor's notes on sermon preached by John Allen

On a recent Sunday morning in December, 2009, my June and I were blessed to hear John Allen, preacher for the church at Clinton, Mississippi, deliver a very meaningful lesson under the heading, “When It Is Time To Take A Walk”.

Brother Allen, who has been preaching for the Clinton church since July, 2009, gave three REASONS for responding publicly to the invitation. First, he spoke of the need to “obey the gospel” as he cited scriptural steps to take in response to the Saviour. He then stressed a second need; that is, “to be restored”, citing the examples of the “prodigal son” (Luke 15) and Simon “the sorcerer” (Acts 8). This was followed by a third reason, which is, to make known a genuine need for the prayers of the church. The young, talented preacher noted that prayer is a powerful resource that is “greatly unused.”

This was followed by REACTIONS to the response, including “fear” and “rejoicing”. Then, the preacher closed his well prepared sermon by calling attention the RESULTS of public response which included forgiveness and support -- both of which are greatly needed and both give solid reasons for “taking the walk” or “responding publicly” to the invitation of the Lord. A good sermon; an encouraging visit with the Clinton church overseen by elders Robert Shelton, Glenn Newell and Mark Bridges.

I enjoy the MM. Especially Bro. Mays answers. (Dan Eubanks, Selmer, TN)

I grew up in Columbus and this gives me some contact with the home folks. So sorry the Bible College closed. I am a Harding Graduate -57. (Lewis M. Stewart, Statesboro, GA)

News Note

ENTERPRISE

The Enterprise Church of Christ in Enterprise, Mississippi had an Open House on Sunday, December 6, 2009, on the occasion of completion of their fellowship hall expansion.



Newly Appointed Deacons in Vicksburg

ByPass Church in Vicksburg Appoints Deacons

Special report to the MM
- by Dean Caldwell -

The Bypass Church of Christ in Vicksburg has appointed five men to serve as Deacons.

Joel Dimmette, William (Bill) Muirhead, Therington Nunnally, Willie Powers Sr., and Le’Roy Tousant II were ordained as the first Deacons for the Bypass Church in a special ceremony on November 1, 2009.

Joel Dimmette, age 30, is married to Sayward Muirhead Dimmette, and has two children, ages 4 1/2 and 2 1/2. As a Deacon, Joel will supervise the Education and Audio/Video ministries, and will continue to preach occasionally. A member of the church since 2004, Joel was a student at Magnolia Bible College, and will complete his degree through Amridge University, Montgomery, Alabama.

A Christian since 1976, Bill Muirhead is 55 years old. His wife is Jenny Beauman Muirhead. The Muirheads have two adult daughters. Bill will have oversight of the Bypass Finance Ministry and will be active in teaching.

Therington Nunnally will serve as Coordinator of the Worship Services, and will manage the Bible Correspondence Course ministry. Therington's wife is the former Ann Jackson. The Nunnallys have two adult

daughters and one teenage son. Therington became a Christian in 1977.

Oversight of the buildings and grounds of the Bypass Church will be the responsibility of Willie Powers, Sr., a member of the church since 1986. Willie and his wife Elaine have two adult daughters and one adult son. He will also be active in the Audio/Video Ministry and serve as a LIFE Group coordinator.

Brother Le’Roy will be serving as director of Youth Activities, and will serve in special ministries for the men and the families of the church. Joy Harris Tousant and Le’Roy have two daughters, ages 10 and 7. Le’Roy is in the active military service, employed as a Human Resource Officer, and was born into the family of God in 1999.

The Bypass Church was established in Vicksburg in 1987. In April 2005, the Bypass Church, a primarily black congregation, merged with the Magnolia Church, a primarily white congregation, forming the current Bypass Church.

On March 1, 2009, Dean Caldwell, James Scott, and Willie Nettle were ordained as the first Shepherds of the Bypass Church.

Dr. Nettle also serves as the Evangelist of the church. (Report sent to MM by Dean Caldwell.)

Magnolia Messenger

Thanks from the Franks for Receiving and Reading

Durant Church to Host Youth Day
Saturday, Feb. 27
Speaker: Shawn Hardin

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, we will be hosting our Youth Day Program. The theme will be “Let No One Despise Your Youth.” Guest speaker will be Brother Shawn Hardin. The program will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.. Everyone is invited to come. Visit www.cocd.i8.com for more information. (Request from James Williams)



IN GOD WE TRUST

“Preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season.”

2 Timothy 4:2)

"Celebration of Life"

MBC Closes With A Special Service

After 33 Years

As a special way of recalling the valuable services provided for a third of a century, many MBC staff, students and friends, along with graduates and former teachers, gathered together in Kosciusko on December 11 and 12, 2009 for a meaningful service call a "Celebration of Life."

On Friday evening, following an enjoyable time of visiting and eating, the participants gathered together in the J. B. Hayes Building to publicly share their thoughts as to what MBC had meant to each one.

Les Ferguson, Sr., a graduate and former president of MBC,



Les Ferguson, Sr.

spoke and, in so doing, read a note from **Bill Lambert**, the first Academic Dean of MBC, who also served for one year as Interim President. A note was shared from **John Poore**, one of the first instructors at MBC, along with written words from **Ron Tiga**, an early student, who also expressed his appreciation for MBC.

Others, among those who spoke, included **John Mark Smith**, a graduate and former staff member of MBC. **John T. Smithson**, former adjunct faculty member, read a very thoughtful poem he had written about the college and several of its people (see/read his poem on this page).



John T. Smithson



Robbie McCafferty



John Mark Smith

Mark Castleberry, chairman of the board of trustees, shared a note received from **David Lipe**, an instructor for many years at MBC who, like several others, had moved on to work with FHU in Henderson, Tennessee. He was followed by **Howard Cox** who made a few comments including the observation that he was perhaps the only teacher who had been hired twice (both times by president Cecil May, Jr.).

Robert Rawson expressed his appreciation for MBC. Robert, shortly after MBC started, encouraged students in his "Training for Service School" in Batesville to advance their education by becoming full-time students at MBC. Robert was followed by **Ronnie Livingston**, a graduate and long-time house-parent for the dormitory of MBC.

Cecil May, III came from Kentucky and spoke; also **Gregg Swindle** from Alabama. Both are graduates of MBC. **John Pigg**, who served MBC in various ways, including raising funds and, at one time, a board member, offered some thoughtful comments. John was followed by **Shawn Nigard**, another of the more than 100 who graduated, over the 33 years, with a Bible degree from MBC.

After the sharing session, we were privileged to hear five young talented singers who call themselves "Zomen". They skillfully blended together their voices as they sang for the last time in connection with MBC.

Next morning, after an enjoyable breakfast together, we assembled in the auditorium of the South Huntington Street church to continue our celebration of the good accomplished during MBC's short life of just 33 years.

Several appropriate songs were led by two very capable song leaders -- **John Mark Smith** and **Robbie McCafferty**. With their talented leading, the congregational singing was truly "top notch." The singing was followed by remarks from MBC Trustee Chairman **Mark Castleberry**. Mark had to cut short his comments due to being emotionally overcome. However, his meaningful words and actions made a lasting impression upon

all present. This was followed by long-time president **Cecil May, Jr.**, who spoke "off the cuff" concerning MBC's past, present and future. Cecil served the college as president for more than half of its thirty-three years.

This was followed by a response from **John Gardner**, one of the elders of the Kosciusko church. John served for the past several years as Academic Dean and, during the last few months, he did double duty as Acting President of MBC. John expressed appreciation to all who had connections



Mark Castleberry

with MBC. On behalf of the elders, he spoke with optimism as he expressed hope for the future. He requested prayers that beneficial works to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ would develop from the good that has been done, over the past 33 years, by MBC.



John Gardner (file photo)

Magnolia Bible College

1976 - 2009

33 Years

Of Service to

The Lord's Cause on Earth

MBC Lives On!



Cecil May, Jr. and J. Marlin Ivey Converse During "Celebration"
Just two of the many who helped to make MBC possible.

The Last Roll Call - MBC

In 1976 the door opened wide,
And the first eager students gathered inside.
They came in search of biblical knowledge,
And that was the birth of Magnolia Bible College

The first roll was called by David Wade,
"The Life of Christ" was the first class that made.
Rod Tate first occupied the President's chair,
Then Bill, and soon Cecil May was there.

Even as it blossomed and its influence spread,
The new school struggled to stay out of the red.
It took men, and money, and much dedication,
But in time MBC attained full accreditation.

Students came from every place,
To the school under the pine trees by the Natchez Trace.
They studied under teachers who loved the Lord,
Who were committed to the truthfulness of His Word.

As each roll was called and each class convened,
Renewed hope for the church in Mississippi was seen.
Our graduates now serve across the state,
The impact of MBC has truly been great.

A school is its people, that one thing is clear,
It isn't just buildings and books we hold dear.
But hand in hand and heart to heart,
Friendships formed here will never break apart.

Our memories are places, and things, and especially each other,
We were quite a family - each sister and brother.
Each one left his mark in his own special way.
From Fenter to Furman, from Roger to Ray.

Gary followed Cecil, and Les followed him,
Then Garvis, and John -- we're thankful for them.
And what would MBC have been all these days,
Without godly women like Passeur and Tays?

We remember chapel, the library, and the songs of Zomen,
The good works done here were never in vain.
Bobbie Carter's smile, the lectureship --
And students -- from teenagers to Granny Blankenship.

We remember objects from Randy Winstead's museum,
And the Benefit Dinners at the County Coliseum.
The 8:00 Monday morning roll calls,
And Ray's voice reverberating through the walls.

And now it's time for the last roll call,
God has truly blessed us one and all.
We've enjoyed the bountiful gifts of His grace,
Showered upon our school by the Natchez Trace.

Now may He watch between us while we're apart,
And keep us always joined in heart.
May others be blessed because of us all,
As we continue to serve after the last roll call.



Fulton Bible Institute - Fall, 2009 Class - "Averaged 51 Students From 15 Congregations"

Russ Crosswhite, preacher for the Fulton church, sent above picture and wrote: "Here is a picture from our recent end of the course banquet. During the fall of 2009, Fulton Bible Institute offered Bible History II (Part 1). We averaged 51 students from 15 different congregations throughout Northeast Mississippi. If anyone would like to find out more about Fulton Bible Institute and the courses we offer, they can contact us at 662-862-4549. Fulton Bible Institute is under the oversight of the Fulton Church of Christ in Fulton, MS. (Russ Crosswhite, School Administrator)

Registration and More Info at www.goodwoodchurch.org

At this critical time in our fellowship, the elders of the Goodwood church of Christ invite you to attend



March 12-14, 2010

Goodwood Church of Christ
10715 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
(225) 272-8936
www.goodwoodchurch.org



Dan Chambers Ralph Gilmore William Woodson

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday - March 12, 2010:

7:00pm Ralph Gilmore, "What the Bible Says About Fellowship"
8:00pm William Woodson, "What the Bible Says About the Church"

Saturday - March 13, 2010:

10:00am Ralph Gilmore, "Does Biblical Doctrine Really Matter?"
11:00 Dan Chambers, "What the Bible Says About Music in Worship, 1"
12:00 FREE CATERED LUNCH
1:00 Dan Chambers, "What the Bible Says About Music in Worship, 2"
2:00 All Three Speakers, Panel Question-and-Answer Session

Sunday - March 14, 2010:

9:00am William Woodson, "How to Achieve Biblical Unity as a Congregation"
10:00am Ralph Gilmore, "How to Achieve Biblical Unity as an Individual"

Free Childcare Available • Hotel Accommodations Nearby

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." John 17:17



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!

In Memory Of

- | | |
|---|---|
| PHILLIP MAURICE HARRIS
Carol Thomas
(Pheba, MS)
Robin & Peggy Jones & Family
(Walnut, MS)
Jean Harris
(Forest, MS) | ROY WHITE
Nell Golden
(Columbus, MS) |
| MS. VIOLA JACKSON
Yvonne Carter
(Vicksburg, MS) | DORIS PERKINS
POLLY GARRISON
LLOYD YATES
Hazel Cook
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| MR. LEONDIAS SANDERS
Jesse & Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)
Otha L. "Aunt Doc" Hewitt
(Lake Charles, LA)
Ina Sadler
(Vidor, TX)
Ray & Donna Franks
(DeQuincy, LA) | BLANCHE MEEKS
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Gram & Big Pop
(Brandon, MS) |
| IDES & MARY GLENN RUTHERFORD
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(Jasper, AL) | FRED SHIELDS
Sibyl Shields
(Smyrna, GA) |
| MARIE CHAPMAN
Billy Byrnes
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INEZ WATTS
Bonnie Skates
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| MERTIE & X. L. LOVE
Betty Love Pearson
(Kilmichael, MS) | RAY ADAMS
Martha Adams
(Santa Fe, TX) |
| MS. DORIS DENDY
Tommy & Pat Gray
(Vaiden, MS)
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Larry & Janie Wallace
(Kosciusko, MS) | AUNT ADEANE L. HAIRELL
Silvia Waites
(Woodville, MS) |
| CLARENCE & LOIS FULGHAM
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Jerry & Shirley Sanders
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| BERT BROWN
Velda Carter
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BRIAN & SHARON GALLOWAY
ELDERS AT GLOSTER STREET
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(Pike Road, AL) | HAZEL BIZZELL
ON A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
George & Nell Barber
(Mantachie, MS) |
| CAROLYN KEELING
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Larry & Janie Wallace
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Kosciusko, MS 39090 |

MEXICO MISSIONS

"A Fruitful Work"

Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35)

Les says, [Mexico Missions] "We encourage you to become involved in a great mission work. If you are interested...." (See column three, this page)

- Les Ferguson, Sr. -

Lord willing, on Thursday, February 18, John Sisco, Dustin Abbott, John Pigg and I will fly out of Jackson, Mississippi for Mexico. These three brothers are members of the Lake Harbour Church of Christ in Ridgeland, Mississippi. John Pigg is their preacher and Dustin Abbott is their youth minister. John Sisco is their treasurer. The Lake Harbour church has partnered with the S. Huntington church in Kosciusko in carrying out this mission work.

This trip has a two-fold purpose. John Sisco and Dustin Abbott will be involved in taking pictures and asking questions of all of our Mexican preachers and their families. The pictures and the information will be used to

produce a brochure of our "Mexico Missions" work. The brochure or brochures will be used in creating an awareness of what is being done and what yet can be done in this part of our world. We will also use the brochures in raising funds to be able to increase our mission efforts in Mexico.

The second purpose of this planned trip is to use John Pigg in presenting a special seminar titled "Leadership for Evangelism." Leadership and evangelism has been a major focus in John's ministry over the years. We want to pull from his experience in planting the seed for leadership development in these churches in Mexico and how that impacts evangelism. This special seminar will be presented in five churches of Christ in the State of Guanajuato. The churches are: San Miguel, Commonfort, Celaya, San Luis de la Paz, and Guanajuato.

While in the country, we will also visit two new churches that have been planted in the last six months. The older of these two is Irapuato. Our purpose will be to take pictures and encourage the young evangelist and his family in their work. We will also visit the cities of Santa Ana and La Piedad. Santa Ana is located in the SW corner of the State of Guanajuato. La Piedad is in the State of Michoacan. The Lerma

River separates the two cities. Jonathan Mojica, a December 2009 graduate of the Central School of Preaching in Queretaro, is our preacher who will be seeking to evangelize Santa Ana/La Piedad. He has just gotten started with the January 2010 rental of a house suitable for him to live in and for the church to begin. We look forward to visiting with him and encouraging him in his new work.

This "Mexico Missions" is only eight years old. But our God has blessed it in a great way. Up until the first of the year, our concentration has been focused on the State of Guanajuato. With Jonathan Mojica on board, we add to our Guanajuato emphasis with an effort in La Piedad, Michoacan. While we are interested in expanding the work, we must also say that these cities where we are working are cities with hundreds of thousands of people. There is room and a need for other churches to be planted to help in the mission of seeking the lost. We encourage you to become involved in a great mission work. **If you are interested and /or have questions, please give me a call (662 289-3791).** I will do my best to answer your questions.

Les Ferguson, Sr.
lesfergusonSr@hotmail.com

Maybe, Just Maybe Franklin Can Help Explain

Jesus' Command:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Jesus' Promise:

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

The Question:

What must I do to be saved?

The Answer:

Believe and be baptized... SAVED

Faith + Baptism = Salvation



Five 100 dollar bills with a Picture of Franklin on each bill.

Now, what if this were the promise?

"He that believeth and is baptized shall receive \$500; but he that believeth not shall receive nothing."

The Question:

What must I do to receive \$500.00?

The Answer:

He that believeth and is baptized... \$500.00

Faith + Baptism = Money.

Sounds Simple

"What a difference money can make!"

Which is more important to you --
"To Be Saved" or "\$500.00"?

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Baptism is a Burial
(John 3:23)
"And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there..."



Jordan River in Israel where many still come for baptism

Preaching in Mississippi

1962 - 2010

(A Preacher's Wife Recalls What it Has Been Like)

First, a short note from the preacher's wife.

She wrote:

While asking my body to "wind down" for bedtime last evening, I read the majority of the latest issue of MAGNOLIA MESSENGER.

The article PREACHING IN MISSISSIPPI AROUND 1900, caught me attention.

Yes, things have changed greatly, but now the same things are done just in a different way. God bless the diligence of the early preachers. The congregation here was blessed with just such men. It is rumored that Alexander Campbell once held a "meeting" at the Woodville Courthouse.

Silvia Waites Continues:

On a cold icy January day in 1962, we moved to the Buffalo Community in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, along with a six month old baby and a "squirrel hunting dog". The house for us was just a shelter, as it was not in great condition. The first summer, it was so hot, the baby and I had to sit in the yard under a tree, as it was cooler there.

One of the gentlemen at the Perrytown congregation asked if we had an air conditioner. Answer: No. In a few days one arrived and was installed in one room. What a blessing. As time went by, the house was repaired, a wall heater installed, another room, and carport were added. But our family grew to five.

The home needing major repair, it was decided in 1973 for us to build our own home with help from the Buffalo and Perrytown churches. So after a

year of preparation, we now have a very nice 4 bedroom home.

As we live in the "country", we have experienced many things the "city" preachers haven't.

We never knew when we came home what we might find on our carport. Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes at harvesting time, two "tow" sacks full of each would appear. Before that tomatoes, corn, okra and other things appeared. Our freezer was always plentiful with catfish, squirrel and duck. Most of the time we did not know who brought it.

We have a fireplace in our home. Firewood would appear in the stack along with "split pine" to use. We live on a nice five acre plot, calves appeared in the pasture for preacher to feed and then butcher to feed us. From time to time the hens leave a dozen or so eggs in the preacher's truck. All we have to do is put the cartons in a sack, return them and the hens get them out and refill them.

Before Christmas one year, our grandchildren were riding the riding lawnmower around and around the house. In a few days a very nice 4-wheeler appeared on the carport. Now-a-days, the preacher needs it as he is 74 years old and his body is feeling it.

Two generous men of means periodically handed the preacher funds and told him to go buy himself a new suit.

By the hand of God and Alonzo Welch we received a son. Brother Welch said, "If I were younger, you would not get him."

This happened on the 11th anniversary of our marriage.

The preacher always parked his truck immediately in front of the Perrytown meeting house, as he had to leave quickly to get to the Buffalo church to preach again. One Sunday Morning, he went to his truck to find a man walking around and around the truck. When the preacher go to the truck, the

gentlemen looked at him and said "You go to Al's tire place in Natchez, tell him to put a new set of tires on this truck and tell him to charge it to C.J." You see, at the time we were trying to keep three cars in the road, because we had teen- age children.

When we reached the 25 years in this location, the preacher was given a very nice [new] truck. He drove it over 200,000 miles. The day it died, on its way to Perrytown, it was in front of the home of the man instrumental in giving him the truck. So, he just walked to the house and borrowed one of their vehicles.

The things related above still happen to this day, except for the son. We didn't get another one. But we are proud of him as he is working hard with the new congregation in Madison, Mississippi. The son and our two daughters all live in the Jackson, Mississippi area. They have given us five grandchildren.

The preacher tells me that when his earthly house leaves "Buffalo", it will be in a pine box. God set him down in a place he could relate to easily, as he was raised a "country boy".

As the preacher was visiting the "flock" after we first arrived, he happened upon the "Cavin" crew, daddy, sons and grandsons. They were "marking" calves. Upon seeing the preacher coming, the Daddy said, "Uh, Oh, here comes someone to get in the way."

Well, the preacher, just "fell right in there" and started helping with the operation. The Daddy looked at the preacher and said, "I guess we'll keep you."

Now, understand preacher has worked hard, also teaching school and driving a school bus as well as ministering to two congregations. But we are blessed.

Written by and sent to the Magnolia Messenger by Silvia H. Waites, Preacher's wife and helper. (Published in the MM by her permission.) Her address: Mrs. Bernard Waites; 1409 Buffalo Rd; Woodville, MS 39669-3607.

Sir: I think the Magnolia Messenger was excellent this time. The pictures were very good. (Ann McDonald, Indianola, MS)

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Bernard & Silvia Waites

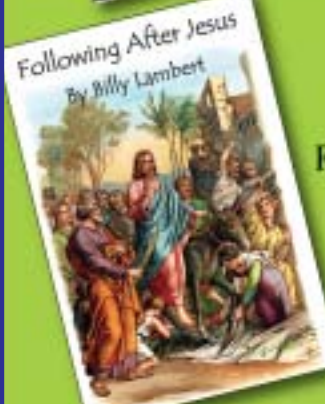
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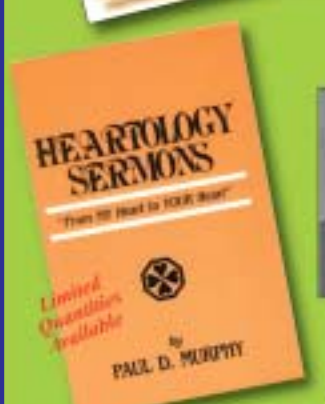
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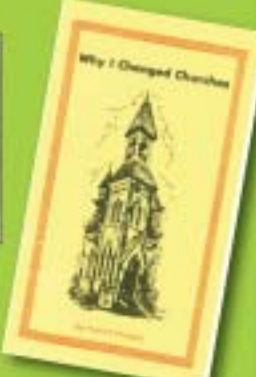
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Devoted to One Another

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

- Eddie Lewis -

I had the privilege of growing up in a great family. Some of you have met my mother. I had two sisters and two brothers. I was the middle son of three boys. My father died when I was three years old. He died in service to our country. My mother had little formal education. She finished the eighth grade, but she had a natural talent for teaching children. So for over 30 years she taught and operated a kindergarten... We didn't have much money, but she provided for her children.

We had the usual problems growing up, but we were basically a very close-knit family and still are today. I can remember times when my older brother and I would fight with each other. My younger brother and I would wrestle all the time. But that was our privilege as a family. No one else had better pick on my brother, I was ready to defend him because he was my brother and I loved him.

My mother made mistakes in raising her children. She was not perfect, but she was our mother and we loved her. She was devoted to us even when we did things that were wrong. Her greatest contribution to our lives was the spiritual heritage she gave us. She taught us to love God and His ways. It is a heritage I appreciate today.

Today all the children are grown and married. She has 11 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. There are 54 of us all together. Mainly, we see each other now at special occasions, but we still have a great love and devotion for each other. We thank God for our family.

Being part of a family is something most of us can identify with. This is why Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (Romans 12:10). He is introducing the Roman Christians and us to an illustration of the function of the church.

The body concept is illustrated in 1 Corinthians 12 where he says we are, "Members one of another." Each member is vitally important to the function of the body.

The family concept gives us another important picture of the function of the church. It adds the dimensions of warmth,



Eddie Lewis

tenderness, concern, and loyalty. All are emotions seen in the family.

To put it another way, the body image shows the physical aspect of the church and how every member is needed to make the body function as a unit.

The family image shows the psychological aspect of our relationship in the church. We are "devoted to each other in brother love."

The Greek word used for brother love is "philadelphia." This is the love that should exist between brothers and sisters in a family. Applied to the church and its function, it is the love that Christians have for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are the family of God (Ephesians 3:14).

The word "brother" is used in reference to the church some 230 times in the New Testament beginning with Acts. It is used by all the New Testament writers. The word means, "From the same womb." So it is a family term, but when it is used of Christians it means, "Fellow believers, members of God's family, or brothers and sisters in Christ." We all have been

Blood brothers would do anything for each other—even die for each other if necessary. Christians are blood-brothers.

born of the water and Spirit into God's family. We have a vitally important heritage that binds us together in Christ.

To be devoted literally means the mutual love of parent and child, and husband and wife. It could be translated, "Show loving affection," or "Love tenderly." Therefore, when the KJV says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love," or as the Beck Translation says, "Love one another tenderly as fellow

Christians," both are showing the emotion of these words.

Paul's point is Christians are to be just as devoted to each other as are the individual members of a close-knit family. We are indeed "Blood-brothers" in Christ. "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7).

I'll never forget the scene in the story of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. These two young adventurers signed a pack with their own blood. They committed themselves to each other. Blood brothers would do anything for each other—even die for each other if necessary. Christians are blood-brothers.

Christians are born by the blood of Christ into His family. We go through various stages of growth and maturity. In our immaturity we may make mistakes or act selfishly, but as we mature our lives should reflect the nature of Christ. This is why Paul exhorted the Philippian family, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

A relationship like this doesn't happen overnight. It is not automatic. If it were there wouldn't be so many exhortations in Scripture for us to show brother love (Hebrews 13:1-3, 1 Peter 1:22-23, 3:8-9, 2 Peter 1:5-7). Consider one, "Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).

Our next step is to evaluate our attitude and actions toward each other. To what extent do I feel emotion and affection toward my fellow Christians? In Paul's letter to the Romans he tells them to be, "Devoted to each other." He said, "Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). This command involves our emotions to deeply feel joy or deeply feel sadness for each other. I realize some Christians find it hard to identify with their fellow Christians at a "feeling" level. There could be a

See DEVOTED on Page 16

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Tupelo - Gloster Street Ladies Provide BCC for Prisoners Over 3,000 names; 150 Lessons Weekly

Report by
Peggy Engel

A group of ladies at the Gloster Street Church of Christ have been doing a Jail Ministry where we offer Bible Correspondence Courses to prisoners. This ministry has been on going for many years now. We have more than 3,000 names in our files and we usually grade and return around one hundred to one hundred fifty lessons each week. This work is included in the church budget and also, one of the adult classes helps financially with the mailing. About 10-15 women meet each Monday afternoon and do this work. We have had several baptisms, over time, and many write and tell us how they have been blessed by reading and

studying the Bible. We feel that we at the very least, are encouraging them to read and study, therefore learning the truth.

I am enclosing a letter and a **poem from one of our correspondents**. We get some very interesting letters and comments, but we thought you might be interested in this one. He has written a poem and asked if we could help him with it. It may not be something that you can use in the Messenger, but we wanted you to look at it.

I enjoy the Messenger so much and pray God's blessings on all of you as you continue in this good publication.

Report from Peggy Engel;
2605 Pemberton Ave.;
Tupelo, MS 38801

A Better Life Ahead

(a prisoner's poem)

- Robert J. Bufford -

They say life is what you make it, that it also comes and goes;
We should not dwell on what's behind us, but focus on the road.

No matter what we've been thru, there's hope of a better day,
Filled with joy and happiness, by finding the better way..

But in order for it to get better, we must throw away the old,
Become a new person, and let God be in control,

With Him being our guide, how could we ever lose?
Decisions to be made, He knows which one to choose..

Our life would be better, with not a worry at all,
No matter how bad the situation, we would always stand tall!

So the question we should ask, *Am I ready for my life to get better?
Or do I want to remain at a stand still, stuck in the stormy weather?*

If you're ready for life to get better, then put your car in drive,
And focus on the road ahead, with God on the passenger's side.

(edited by MM editor)

More... Encouragement ...More

Brother Franks:

Just wanted to say I appreciate the good work you are doing and the Magnolia Messenger is super for truth and accuracy concerning God's Word. Keep the good work up and the Magnolia Messenger flowing - It is a blessing to many people including me. Please accept this contribution to help further distribution of the paper. In Christian Love, (John A. Parham, Midland City, AL)

I'm sending a small donation for the Magnolia Messenger I enjoy the wonderful stories and the Question Box and hearing of the things done and said about our Lord Jesus and His Church. Please continue to do this good work and keep the Messenger coming to us. Its a great paper. Wade and I attend Rogers Springs Church of Christ at Middleton, Tn., a small congregation but a great work done here. Thanks, (Mr. & Mrs. Wade & Annie Burgessballard, Middleton, TN)

DEVOTED

(Continued from page 15)

number of reasons why and each of us who find it difficult to do so needs to examine themselves and find out why.

Maybe it is fear of rejection. We have been hurt in the past by someone we loved and now are afraid of that same type of rejection.

Maybe it is a poor family background. Some have grown up in homes where physical affection and love were not expressed toward family members. This doesn't mean that they didn't love each other. They just didn't show it in an outward manner or with emotion. Of course that does not mean that you can't learn to show affection, but it does mean that you will have to work at it.

Maybe you are angry or resentful. Some are controlled by deep feelings of anger toward others and want to get even. Sometime in the past something happened at church and they hold a grudge. Their anger prevents them from expressing any positive emotions about the church. They have to let go of those emotions if they are ever to express love. Remember we have been forgiven by God.

Maybe you are selfish. Some Christians are simply selfish and self-centered. They think of their needs only. They care less what others need. Their thought is, "What will it cost me to help someone else?" What a sad state to be in.

If you identify with any of these situations, I encourage you to seek help from a trusted Christian friend who cares about you. He or she can help you get to the point where you can care about someone else.

Jean looked ruefully at the plastic bags. She couldn't decide which was better: to get wet feet from walking in the rain with holes in her shoes, or to get them wet with perspiration from wearing those bags. She slipped the bag on over her slim foot and then put on her shoe. She tucked the edges in so the bag didn't show. After putting on the other bag and shoe, and a sweater under her shabby coat, Jean went outside and locked the front door. It was more than a mile to the church building. In summer it was a warm pleasant walk, but this is a cold, rainy day in March.

Halfway to church, Jean heard a car horn and glanced up to see the Murray's smile and wave as they drove past. A block later Mrs.

Elms went by in her big, empty car. By the time Jean got within three blocks of the church building, six more families had passed her. She could understand that it would probably seem senseless to a driver to pick up a rider for just a few blocks.

When Jean arrived at the building, she went to the ladies' room to take off the plastic bags; Mrs. Murry, the fellowship chairperson, combing her hair, didn't notice. "Oh, Jean, dear," she said hopefully, "Would you mind picking up some ice cream for the fellowship tonight? We'll need about five gallons. I'll give you the money." Jean looked up—a little angry, but mumbled a polite, "Yes, of course."

The early arriving members at the fellowship that night were puzzled when they found—in the middle of the fellowship hall—a grocery cart dripping with melted ice cream. Mrs. Murray felt the worst, "I should have remembered that Jean doesn't have a car," she exclaimed. Others felt guilty that they hadn't offered her a ride that wet evening, or at least driven her to church occasionally. They wondered what to say to Jean the next time she came to church. They needn't have worried, there wasn't a next time.

I encourage you to, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love." I pray that God will forgive us for our lack of devotion.

—————
Eddie Lewis, Associate Minister, Church of Christ, 8723 Poplar Pike, Germantown, Tennessee 38138.

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Haiti

(Cont. from page 6)

Roberta Edwards (front cover of *Christian Woman* Jan/Feb 2010 issue) supported by Estes church, is who we hope much of the items shipped will go to, as we are using Roberta's consignee, Rang Hee, with Counterpart.

He has gone to Haiti to check out logistics and to make sure our supplies will have the best route of getting through to Roberta and other groups working with orphans. John Kachelman has secured six containers with Judsonia, Columbus and Henderson, Tennessee, will be the three places these containers are to be placed. The three locations are all one project for shipping using Roberta Edwards's consignee in Haiti. Because of past working relations with the State Department, we will be able to use government shipping and protection of containers.

We have 4,000+ tarps, 2,000+ mosquito nettings and the 42,500 pounds of rice here in Mississippi and the 42,000 pounds of rice John has in Arkansas to ship. The State Department will provide additional containers. The 10 pallets or approximately 10 tons of canned food and baby formula will travel to Miami, and with the military, into Port au Prince to our consignee.

Operation Ukraine needs funds to pay for shipping as needed. We still need items for IDP family buckets, money to purchase rice and beans, baby formula and gallon cans of fruits and vegetables. This will be an ongoing project.

If you would like to set up a workday, please give us a call. If you are interested in joining this effort, please feel free to call Kathy Cadden. She will be happy to tell you all about it! For more information, you may call **Kathy Cadden: (662) 549-2416** or email her at the following address: kathy.cadden.ukraine@gmail.com or call **Joe Thompson: 549-0533**.

—————
(Article written by Kathy Cadden and Patsy Conquest, both of whom worship with the Caledonia church of Christ.)

Help Haiti?

Another
Contact to Consider
Estes Church of Christ
P. O. Box 191
Henderson, TN 38640
or call
Troy Robertson
an elder at New Albany, MS
662-534-3491

Saviour

(Continued from page 2)

Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and all the other communities of the land, call themselves "Jews" or "Muslims".

Both groups *reject* Jesus. To the Jews and Muslims, Jesus is not the one and only saviour. Yes, in the very land where the Son of God lived 33 years, where he did his "mighty works"; where he suffered, bled and died, and, where he was raised from the dead -- never to die again; from where He ascended back into Heaven and where He established His church and where the gospel began to be preached and spread throughout the world; yes, right there in that land, His land, the "holy land", Jesus, the only Saviour, is *rejected* by millions.

I find it disturbing to realize that while a *visit to Israel* strengthened my faith; yet, apparently *living in Israel*, has had little influence on the Jews and the Muslims. Thinking about our recent visit to the "promise land" of the Scriptures, two or three important lessons seem very obvious.

(1) Sincerity is not enough. One can be sincere and still be lost. The Jews and Muslims evidence genuine sincerity in the way they live, dress and worship. Many are they among them who are willing to die for their faith. But they reject the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. Sincerity alone does not

SEEK GOD

(Cont. from page 8)

the pew, out of our buildings and hit the streets and take the battle direct to the enemies.

Christians must rise again and say, "*Enough is enough*" and do what we can to restore the dignity and integrity of our nation. Sitting around and only talking about it in our church buildings, and not getting involved and engaging our enemies, will guarantee the enemy a sure win.

You may be thinking there are just a handful of us compared to so many of them. In Judges the sixth chapter, you find a man by the name of Gideon who was nothing more than a farmer. God called him to save the Israelites from the Midianites. God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 to just 300 men to fight a battle against an army that couldn't be counted. By the way, Gideon won!

Self sufficiency is an enemy when it causes us to believe we can do what needs to be done in/by our own strength. We can be confident of the battle before us,

bring forgiveness of sins. The Bible clearly teaches that only through Jesus is salvation possible.

(2) Being in the majority is no guarantee of forgiveness and does not insure salvation. The Jews and the Muslims make up over 90% of the total population. So, being "a part of the large crowd" or even "in the majority" is of no real comfort when it comes to the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of the soul.

(3) Visiting the "Holy Land" is not, within itself, going to produce saving faith in Jesus as the Son of God. May we never forget that when Jesus gave the Great Commission, He placed the power of salvation in the *gospel* message of Jesus Christ which is to be preached to every creature in all of the world (Mark 16:15,16; Romans 1:16).

Jesus didn't command nor does He expect a sinner to make a pilgrimage to Israel. He does expect and He does require (a) Faith in Him as the Son of God; (b) Repentance of sins; (c) Baptism into His body and a (d) Life of faithfulness in His service as a member of His church. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Matt. 25; Eph. 5:23-27)

A. L. Franks, editor
franksmm@aol.com
601-668-3344

if we place our confidence in God and not ourselves. The *silent majority* has been silent *too long!*

**"All that is necessary for
the triumph of evil is for
good men to do nothing."
Edmund Burks**

It wasn't too late for God's children, in the book of Haggai who dropped the ball for a period of time; and, if we respond as they did, I believe God will bless us. What will it be?

Address for Ray Franks, a first cousin to the editor of the MM. rfranks@centurytel.net; P. O. Drawer 218; DeQuincy, LA 70633



EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was sent to the MM by Charlie Buckley, preacher for the Lord's church in Bay St Louis, MS. Brother Charlie did not say, or may not have known, who the author was. He simply commented, "If more of us lived like this man what a better place this world would be."

Red Marbles

"If more of us lived like this man what a better place this world would be."

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good.'

'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller.

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it' said Miller..

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hm m m m m, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'... Mr. Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died.

They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts -- all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her, and moved on to the casket..

Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket.

Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size... they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds.. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath...

Today I wish you a day of ordinary miracles... A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself... An unexpected phone call from an old friend... Green stoplights on your way to work... The fastest line at the grocery store.. A good sing-along song on the radio... Your keys found right where you left them.

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived."

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Announcement sent to MM by Eddie W. Sorrell, Sr., evangelist/minister of the Hattiesburg congregation

More... Encouragement ... More

Thank you for your part in carrying out the Great Commission.

(Darrell & Patsy Morrison, Ripley, MS)

We look forward to each edition. May the good Lord continue to bless you in this great work. (Barry & Ann Embrey, Coldwater, MS)

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



Meditate on Marbles

CHRISTMAS PAST

- Ken Joines -

I'm writing these lines on Christmas day, having just received an email from a dear friend in Florida who grew up in West Virginia, who said when she was a child they were put to bed early on Christmas Eve, awakened at midnight, played with toys, ate, and went back to bed. That way, the parents got to sleep in! Interesting. This set me to thinking about what Christmas was like for me as a boy in Kentucky.

We were not poor—we always had a good clean place to live, plenty of good food to eat and good clean clothes to wear—we just didn't have very many luxuries. At our house Christmas didn't bear much resemblance to what some have today.

A couple days before Christmas we'd head for the fields and cut a cedar tree, bring it home, set it in a bucket filled with rocks for stability. Popcorn was strung together and hung on the tree. A star was cut from pasteboard and wrapped in Tin Foil (Reynolds Wrap would come decades later). Oh, we could've bought a string of lights, but it was no use because there was no electricity in our house. My Mom and sisters made a few colorful ornaments by hand.

On Christmas Eve we hung our stockings (usually Dad's real work socks). Next morning's content was predictable: an orange, apple, English walnuts and some hard candy. While we sometimes did get a toy or two (a doll for my sisters, perhaps a pocket knife for my older brother and me, a toy car or truck for our little brother), most of what we received was utilitarian: a winter coat, cap or gloves, or a shirt and "overall pants" (that's jeans today) or a pair of shoes—things we actually needed and used.

All this sounds like another world entirely. And it was. It was before Madison Avenue took over the airwaves and started telling us what we couldn't live without. They've convinced us that if we can't afford it, that makes no difference. Put it on the credit card. And later, if you find that you can't pay for it, there'll be a lawyer that will settle this "for a fraction of what you owe"; in effect just walking out without paying an honest debt.

This teaches your children to indulge themselves without considering whether they can afford something. Buy it! Charge it! If you can't pay, then just evade the debt, let the bank eat it and

then they can demand "stimulus money" and we'll all pay your debts for you with higher taxes for everyone. That's the new way.

When Jan and I married and began having children, Christmas was different from what I've described earlier, to be sure. Television was now running ads so fast and getting all the kids hyped about the latest toys. So the kids started making their lists. Long lists.

Excitement permeated our house at Christmas time. We had good times. But I am happy to say we never borrowed money to buy what we could not afford. We never used a credit card. We joined the Christmas Club at the bank and spent what we had saved for what we could afford. And I believe everyone was happy with that arrangement.

Okay. I know you've been waiting for it. So here goes..... Bah! Humbug!

Ken Joines

7154 Golden Oaks E
Southaven, MS 38671
901-212-1601

kjoines35@hotmail.com

Encouragement

Everyone here looks forward to getting the Messenger. (Coffeerville Church of Christ, Coffeerville, MS)

God bless you! Keep up the good work! (Dottie Wright, Searcy, AR)

My husband and I enjoy the many articles, poems etc. in the Messenger. May God's choice blessings be yours for publishing it. (Thelma Atwater, Indianapolis, IN)

Thank you so much for the Messenger. We read it from cover to cover. Please accept this small chck to help with this good work. Sincerely, (Don & Mary Myers, Montgomery, AL)

Keep up the good work. (Max Watkins, Lawton, OK)

BRANSON, Missouri Vacation in the Beautiful Ozark Mountains

2 Condominiums Available

Each: 2 BRs & 2 Baths
Each: Full kitchen & Den
Each: Sleeps Six

(1 mile west of Silver Dollar City)

Minimum: 2 nights -- \$250.00
Per week (7 nights) -- 600.00

Owned and Operated
By the Fulgham Family
in Yazoo City, Mississippi
**Information or Reservation
662-746-5865**

Please Remember to Pray for the Magnolia Messenger

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. 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!**

West Plains, MO

The Central church is in need of a Youth/Family Minister by mid-summer 2010. The church is in daily prayer. We are asking God to help in our search for the right person to come and help us on our journey. Central church of Christ has six elders and ten deacons with good facilities and with a good teen ministry and a number of young married couples. Central is located in the beautiful Ozarks in West Plains, MO. Home of the Zizzers and home of the Grizzlies (MSU).

Contact

Pat Casey (417) 256-8551.

Email: coccentral@wpcs.net
www.churchofchristcentral.com

Need a Preacher?
Run an Ad. -- No Charge

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

Address:

148 Deerhunter Ln
Leesville, LA 71446-5666

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

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 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.

Preacher Available

James D. (Danny) Butler

Age 64. Married for 45 years. Two children and nine grandchildren. Been preaching for 38 years. Has degrees from Memphis School of Preaching, Southern Christian University and Regions University (Formerly Southern Christian University). Experience in Radio and Television Evangelism; trained in Marriage and Family Counseling. Experienced in personal work and conflict resolution and other aspects of church work. Seeking to locate with a sound congregation that desires to teach and live first Century Christianity in the Twenty-first Century. I am prepared to locate immediately. If you desire further information please contact me at 205-275-6665, or Danny Butler c/o James Hill, Jr.; 2491 West Roane Ave; Eupora, MS 37944

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

SW Louisiana (Boxwood)

Small congregation desiring growth and praying for a spiritually sound preacher. Located in Southwest Louisiana, in a rural setting, we have opportunity for growth and have a 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home to offer, plus salary. Willingness for personal work is a must!! If possible, send an audio tape and resume to:

**Boxwood Church of Christ
c/o David Blackmon
121 Hard Times Road
Merryville, La 70653**

Contact Info:

David Blackmon 337-825-6836
Earl Franks 337-825-8813
Wes Jeans 337-825-6575

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 Severns** at 863-444-0303 or **Keith Shine** at 863-993-2259,
e-mail stidhams@strato.net

Oak Ridge

Northeast Mississippi
(A country church in Prentiss
County, near Booneville)

Presently looking for a full-time family man to preach for a church widely known for their "great singing." Need someone who is "experienced" and is "sound in the faith"

Attendance: About 60, average
Budget: \$2,200.00 - weekly
House Provided (3 bedrooms)
Salary + benefits

Resume and recorded sermon
requested. Send to:

**Oak Ridge Church of Christ
CR 7461
Baldwyn, MS 38824**

Contact:

**Larry Coats - 662-728-3451
Larry Kennedy - 662-416-5077**



A "bed" for the homeless; Seen by editor in NY City

A Reminder to be Thankful

Why is the man, pictured above, asleep in the middle of the morning? Is he homeless? Is he an addict? These are just three of many questions that crossed my mind as I observed the man sleeping on a bench in a public park in the city of New York.

I, then, recalled the words of Jesus who said, "Ye have the poor with you always." Poverty is not always limited to those who are "no good". Remember: Jesus spoke about himself, saying: "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Scripture also tells us about Jesus who, "... became poor that you may be rich." But, concerning some who are poor there is the Biblical admonition, "If any will not work, neither should he eat." (II Thess. 3:10)

Somehow, seeing the sleeping man at mid-morning, in a public park, reminded me to be thankful. Oh, how thankful we ought to be. Our blessings are abundant -- physical, mental and spiritual. "Every good and perfect gift is from above". "In Him we live and move and have our being." (Jas. 1:17; Acts 17:28)

Be grateful. Thank God daily for a house in which to live; a bed on which to sleep; food on a table to eat; a family to love; friends with whom to share. And, as you and I give thanks, let's remember our "church family" -- our brothers and sisters in Christ and our Heavenly Father. "Giving thanks always for all things...." "In everything give thanks." Eph. 5:20; I Thess. 5:18 (alf)

The 2009 Pan American Lectureship

The Pan American Lectureship was held in Recife, Brazil in November. If not the longest running lectureship among churches of Christ, it is certainly one of the longest. The 2009 Lectureship was the 47th annual.

This lectureship which originated in the mind of the late Reuel Lemmons is currently sponsored by the Jackson Street congregation in Monroe, Louisiana.

The annual lectureship is directed by Jim Frazier of Minden, Louisiana. The co-ordinators are Howard Norton (Tegulcigapa, Honduras), Dan Coker (Fort Worth, Texas), and Don DeLukie (Monroe, La).

The lectureship attracts a faithful following among those who attend. For instance Lillian Kok of Singapore, Malaysia is present every year. Jimmy and Anette Davison of Clyde, Texas are another example of devoted supporters.

The lectureship in Recife, Brazil was in a city of some 4 million people. The 5th largest city in Brazil is the site of some great mission work done among the Portuguese speaking people.

Randy and Kathy Short are examples of the fine mission

efforts in a city that had humble beginnings and now hosts over 20 congregations. Recife is located 4,694 miles southeast of Miami, FL. Brazil is so vast that you could add another Texas-sized state to the United States and Brazil would still be bigger.

Participants lodged in the Dorosil Hotel, located on the beach of the Atlantic Ocean. The lectures were conducted at one of the large meeting rooms of the Hotel. On Sunday a joint worship service of Brazilians and Americans was conducted at a rented public building and over 500 were in attendance.

Lectureship speakers included, Howard Norton, In addition to the speakers, others gave reports of their work and interest in Latin-America.

Even though Brazil is a Portuguese speaking nation, Spanish is also spoken by a very large group.

The 2010 Pan-American Lectureship is scheduled to take place in Monterrey, Mexico, the first week of November.

Report sent to MM
by Don DeLukie, preacher for
the Jackson Street Church of
Christ in Monroe, Louisiana

My Mama Was Asked To "Wait on the Lord's Table"

- editor -

The church was assembled for worship on a Sunday morning. Having gotten busy, making preparations for my part in the services, I did not notice immediately what was going on. Then, as I looked, I saw three people standing before the congregation. There were two men and one woman. The woman was my mother.

A deacon, who was just trying to do his job, had asked the three people to participate by going up in front of the congregation and lead in worship by serving the Lord's Supper at the morning worship service. The deacon had decided that it would "be neat" to ask nurses in the congregation to lead in the communion service. Specifically, he included a woman nurse, my mom, to be one of those to "wait on the Lord's table."

When I realized what was about to happen, I spoke to my mother and asked if she *really wanted* to participate, in that way, in the service. She answered, "No, not really!" I then suggested that she take her seat, which she did.

It was at this point **in my dream** that I woke up, looked at the clock and realized that it was 4:45 in the morning. The request that my mom participate as a *leader* in the public observance of the Lord's Supper had taken place only in my mind -- *in a dream*. As I lay in bed waiting for the sun to rise, hoping that I might even go back to sleep, I began to think very seriously about the dream.

Why did my mother say that she really did not wish to take a leadership role in the communion service? Could it be that she recalled the writings of the apostle Paul who commanded, "I suffer not a woman to teach or usurp authority over man?" (I Tim. 2). Could it be because of the teachings found in I Corinthians chapter eleven which clearly indicates that the roles of men and women are different and that such differences were ordained of God?

In our present day, the *distinction* in roles for men and women is fading rapidly. Is this good? Is it right? Is it all just a cultural thing? Are we in the 21st

century bound by teachings from the "dark ages" of the first century? "Just a **cultural thing**?"

We think not. We are persuaded that the *different* roles for men and women are *God given* and are not merely cultural. When Paul wrote, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be silent," he gives as his reason God's plan from the beginning of the human race. He wrote, For Adam was first formed, then Eve...." (I Timothy 2:11-15). A distinction in roles was made by God at the beginning. The roles of men and women are not the same, and haven't been the same since the very beginning.

Believing and saying that roles are different, is not really a matter of who has the power. Knowledgeable men of every century have known that women, especially Godly women, are very "powerful". Their influence is nothing short of amazing.

Take my mom, for an example. Her life and influence helped to qualify my dad to serve as an elder (bishop) in the Lord's church. And, although God does not permit women to serve as elders; yet, without the help of my mother, Daddy could never have served. (Remember: God says that an elder must be the "*husband* of one **wife**"; thus, no woman can qualify. See I Tim. 3:2.)

Furthermore, my mother assisted greatly in my decisions to obey the gospel and to become a gospel preacher. She, for the most part, prepared my first "sermon" which I "preached" five nights after I was baptized into Christ. Even to this day, she continues to be a powerful influence in my life and work. Her influence continues, even though she departed this world in 2002. For, as it was said of Abel, so it can be said of my dear mother - she "being dead, yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).

The Lord knew what He was doing when he made men and women different and assigned to them different roles. As followers of Christ, we need to learn and respect those different roles. According to the New Testament, women are not allowed by God to serve as elders and/or preachers. Even to serve as a

"deacon", according to I Timothy chapter three, *women are excluded* when the qualifications are considered. The Bible teaches that a deacon is to be "the **husband** of one *wife*." (verse 12). And, let us not forget that when the Lord selected twelve apostles, all twelve were men.

I cannot think of a greater work or a higher position on earth than to be a Godly Christian woman. Her influence, her power, is unfathomable. Yet, God made clear distinctions. May we always respect those distinctions as we demonstrate our respect for the varying roles of men and women as servants in the body of Christ.

Whoever coined the phrase about the woman who "*rocks the cradle, rules the world*" was expressing a truth that is so very apparent to discerning men and women. May God bless us all to His honor and to his glory. (alf, editor: franksmm@aol.com)

Congregation Complimented

The Siwell Road church in southwest Jackson recently received a deserved compliment. It came from their preacher, Mark Ray. Writing in the church bulletin (Jan. 19, 2010), Mark mentioned the generous response of the congregation to the needs of their community which had developed because of the extremely cold weather in January. Mark wrote,

I say this oftentimes, but I want to say it again. I am so proud to belong to this good congregation. The people here are welcoming and friendly. They are willing to work so hard to serve others and to show a Christian spirit. From great efforts in evangelism to benevolence to public service to Christian living, Siwell Road is a great place to belong.

May more and more preachers have reason to compliment the congregations they serve. And, may more preachers look for reasons to be complimentary. We appreciate the example of Siwell Road and the words of preacher Mark Ray. May God continue to bless. (alf, editor)

Winona, Mississippi

"Gospel Gazette Online" Completes Eleven Years of Service

Louis Rushmore, editor of the Gospel Gazette Online, recently wrote to GGO subscribers. Brother Rushmore stated the following:

Dear Friends,

The December issue of Gospel Gazette Online is ready for your use and may be viewed directly by following the link below.

<http://www.gospelgazette.com/gazette/2009/dec/page1.html>

With this issue of GGO, we have completed 11 years of digital publication monthly on the Internet. Thousands of articles are archived for your edification. We have heard from every continent over those years. Our two-fold goal is to glorify God and edify souls. Likewise, this is the constant object of our prayers. We invite you to help us increase the circulation of GGO even more. The price is right; we do not charge anyone for using our magazine. Subscriptions (free) are not necessary to use GGO, though they give us a gage of how many souls use our journal (in addition to counters, etc.); a subscription, though, provides a monthly reminder to regular users so they can know when the next issue is ready for use. May Almighty God bless each of us as we embark on a new year.

Your servant,

Louis Rushmore

rushmore@gospelgazette.com

www.gospelgazette.com

www.worldevangelism.org

(Editor's Note: Louis Rushmore and his wife, Bonnie, live in Winona, Mississippi, where they work as team members with *World Evangelism* which has long been the emphasizes of J. C. and Betty Choate. After the death of J.C., a couple of years ago, Betty continues her dedicated service to world evangelism. We commend the Rushmores and others who think of Winona, Mississippi as their "home base"; but, who are deeply concerned about getting the gospel to "all the world." May God bless. (alf)



Bonnie & Louis Rushmore

It is a blessing to see the work that you are doing for the Lord to help get the Lord's Word out to the world. God be with you all. (Clarence Bailey, Baker, LA)

There is so much to do right here in the USA and I think the MM is doing well toward that field. Thanks, (Thomas A. Tucker, Shreveport, LA)

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)

Lake Harbour Drive Church of Christ

Ridgeland, Mississippi

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\$1,200,000

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Magnolia Messenger

“Mississippi’s GOOD NEWS Newspaper”

Circulation: 25,000

Happy New Year 2010

Editor’s Note: Avis Porter was asked to write a poem for Earl Edge, one of the men who preaches for the Pine Bluff church near Oxford, MS. Brother Edge was planning a sermon based on Philippians 3:14. Beginning with verse 13, this passage states, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* (Phil 3:13-14 ,KJV) Sister Porter has made her poem available to share with MM readers. (Thanks, sister Avis!)

We welcome the first Sunday of the New Year,
How blessed we are to be assembled to worship here.

We should with humble hearts pray each day,
Word of kindness and love to each other say.

All displeasing habits to God we should leave behind,
Pleasing the Lord in righteous way is what we should find.

Determine to read His word each and every day,
Do kind deeds for others along the way.

Work diligently for God in two thousand ten,
Teach others the Lord’s will and their soul to win.

As Paul, we should press toward the mark for the prize,
And strive to be pleasing in the heavenly Father’s eyes.

Avis Corley Porter; 9803 Hwy 336; Thaxton, MS 38871

Lucedale New Deacon Added

We who are associated with the Magnolia Messenger appreciate receiving church bulletins from numerous congregations. We are especially grateful to read reports of continuing efforts of brethren who truly want to be New Testament churches of Christ. This is often expressed by reports of churches who seek out and select qualified men to serve as elders and deacons in each congregation.

We were recently reminded of this determined and wide-spread effort when reading a bulletin from the **Rocky Creek church** near Lucedale, Mississippi. An article stated, “*The elders have added **Jeremey McKnight** as our new deacon.*” The writer requested, “*Let’s give him the support, encouragement and prayers needed in this new work.*” The article continued, “*We’re proud of you Jeremey!!*”

Jeremey joins a team of three other deacons who have asked to be responsible for specific areas of work. The bulletin article stated that deacon **Lance Chavers’** responsibility with the buildings. **Stan James’** responsibilities will be teaching and educational work. **Jeremey McKnight’s** responsibilities will be the youth and their activities and **Abi Goff’s** responsibilities will be the grounds and treasury.

The Rocky Springs church of Christ is also capably served by elders **Don Corder, Sid Smith** and **Ben Harrison**. Talented **Stephen Crigler** fills the pulpit and **Peggy Havard** is the capable secretary.

In Israel



Stephony Halper

Follows with her Bible open to Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 as **Gene Cloer** quotes from memory Jesus’ remarkable “Sermon on the Mount.” We were on the mount believed to be the very site where Jesus preached his “greatest sermon.” This was a typical scene in our fall trip of ‘09 to Israel. **Another trip to Bible lands is planned for the fall of 2010.** (See Page 7)

18th Annual Mississippi State Youth Conference

June 4 - 6, 2010

on the campus of

Jackson State University

Jackson, Mississippi

To be Hosted by

Hanging Moss

Church of Christ

5225 Hanging Moss Road

Jackson, Mississippi 39206

For information please call church secretaries -- Juanita Dabney (601-750-3163) or Phelisa Pittman (601-366-8762 or 601-566-0027)

A Joyful Day in Crystal Springs

Jan. 17, 2010

“Finally, A Real Church Building”



New Home of the Crystal Springs Church of Christ

It was an exciting day. Sunday, January 17. My June and I are grateful we could share in the excitement experienced by the faithful disciples in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. After using what was originally a building designed for tractor sales and service for more than 25 years, the congregation is pleased to give thanks for what is considered by many to be “a real church building.”

We were blessed to be involved in the beginning of the Crystal Springs congregation. We remember very vividly that first Sunday service back in the early 80’s. We are truly thankful for the progress made through the years since, especially the decision made when **Keith Wilson** became the preacher for the congregation. For many years Keith and his wife, **Amanda**, have been dedicated servants of the Lord -- assisting in the development of the Crystal Springs church.

Sunday services on that special “joyful day” included an opportunity for me to preach to the increased group of worshippers present for the occasion. My sermon was entitled, “*A Church Building and “Building a Church.”* Among those attending were several visitors from area congregations and many friends from the community.

A highlight of the day was an

hour of some of the most beautiful singing ever heard. Seven very capable song leaders, from area congregations, led the joyful worshippers in singing praises to a loving God.

Many expressions of thanks were heard concerning those who had a part in the earlier days of the church, including several who have already departed this life. Thinking of “departures” (dying) reminds us of what the church is all about -- seeking to prepare precious souls for entrance into that eternal home of the soul. (alf)



Keith Wilson

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

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

1. Ima Jean Fogus
2. Billy Willingham
3. Don "Ug" Lee
4. Carol Bonner
5. Ken Harris
6. Modean Edwards
7. Vera Ashmore
8. Ms. Doris Laird
9. Ms. Sandra Morris
10. Juanita LeBouef
11. Grace Childers
12. Penny Clanton
13. Willa Fox
14. Wm. & Atlean Snow
15. Thomas A. Tucker
16. Admiral Tidwell
17. Beulah Rupert
18. Barbara Beard
19. Sibyl Goodman
20. Grace Potts
21. Exie Motes
22. Bernita Booker
23. Natalie Grisham
24. Cheri Moore
25. Dee Kepler
26. Mrs. B. H. Darby
27. Betty Jo Stewart
28. Barbara Atkins
29. William Pyron
30. Marcella Black
31. Debra Michael
32. Dorothy Brunson
33. Sue Tines
34. Melba Ogg
35. Donna Gully
36. Ann McDonald
37. Era Hinson
38. Eileen Williford
39. Wanda S. Yancey
40. Linda Cook
41. C. W. Jackson
42. Julie Fiveash
43. Carole Shelby
44. Warren Scott Gallaher
45. Hazel Lewis
46. Nancy Switzer
47. Linda B. Keirn
48. Mark Williams
49. Mary W. Blake
50. Sarah Hill
51. Michael Coleman
52. Rick Bishop
53. Alma Maddox
54. Magdalene Tillman
55. Glen Grady
56. Josie Isaacs
57. Cathy Clark
58. James R. Brooks
59. Karen Britt
60. Shirley Styers
61. Barbara A. Beard
62. Dorsa Sparks
63. Mrs. Evelyn M. Doss
64. Lester & Grace Cooley
65. Ruby Pounds
66. Marcella Moore
67. Jack L. Falls, Sr.
68. Sidney Robinson
69. Paula Roper
70. Shelia Hall
71. Emily Hall
72. Barbara Yates
73. Betty Standard
74. Patricia Wright
75. Dezarie Ashby
76. Mary N. Faulconer
77. Jane Walker
78. Betty A. Skinner
79. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins
80. Marie Harrell
81. Rosie Felton
82. Dot Winslett
83. Johnny & Princess Watson
84. Linda T. Shirley
85. Margaret Googe
86. Peggy S. Walker
87. Ruby Wright
88. Martha S. Simpson
89. Willie Beardain
90. Janice Vaughan
91. Wilda Pounds
92. Tommy Muirhead
93. Lenola Balentine
94. Kim Schmelzer
95. Catherine Isom
96. Garry Gooch
97. Robert Blackburn
98. Sue Gurley
99. Carolyn Harvill
100. Dwight E. Hester
101. Bowden & Melba Grisham
102. Linda Hogue
103. Brenda Carter
104. Kathryn Leggett
105. Frances Harrell
106. Linda Crochet
107. Estelle Glover
108. Kerry Deaton
109. Miriam Styers
110. Carolyn Garrett
111. Kimberly Pearce
112. Shirley Pearce
113. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
114. Velda Carter
115. Lloyd L. Lambright
116. Gladys Bryant
117. Dorothy Alexander
118. Minnie Young
119. Hazel Cook
120. Florene Ashmore
121. Jeff & Debbie Shull
122. Velva Dykes
123. Myra D. Reaves
124. Marie Sykes
125. Charlotte Vandiver
126. Billie Boyd
127. Travis Hamilton
128. Patrilla Maddox
129. RayAnn Woodruff
130. Coy Daily
131. Victor O. Farrar
132. Norma Taylor
133. Dahlia McAfee
134. Lisa Dettor
135. Ruth Christian
136. Benita Burge
137. Michelle Simpson
138. Fran Williford
139. Mary Adams
140. Mary M. McDonald
141. Ginny Luther
142. Trillie Strickland
143. Gladys Wiser
144. Mildred Carroll
145. Mrs. Bertie Wilson
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164. Diamond Mastin
165. Daniel Mastin
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168. Sommer Burnett
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170. Dennis Ray McNairy, Jr.
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177. Ollye Rush
178. Ruby Dilmore
179. Elvis Dilmore
180. Charlane Stanfield
181. Dick Green
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183. Brenda Mobley
184. Dotsy Downs
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194. Evelyn Faulkenberry
195. Vera Winfrey
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197. Gaynell Doughty
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200. Natalie Stewart
201. Ed Istre
202. Janie Green
203. Carol Bradley
204. Phillip Bradley
205. Lozell Milligan
206. Mamie Guinn
207. No name
208. Minnie Gwyne
209. Buddy Parsons
210. Mary T. Feist
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212. Doyle Varner
213. John L. Gates, Jr.
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363. Tommy & Peggy Shull
364. Louisa W. Ganier
365. Aubrey Erwin
366. Elsie M. Moore
367. LaShanda March
368. Bea Basford
369. Trudy Raney
370. Shirley M. Phillips
371. Imogene Kirk
372. Nellie St. Clair
373. Nancy H. Blair
374. **NEXT TIME: Your name**

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Answers: Last Issue

(I) True or False

- FALSE** 1. The visit of the three wise men with baby Jesus took place in a stable.
- TRUE** 2. Herod the king lied when he said he wanted to worship Jesus.
- TRUE** 3. An angel of the Lord convinced Joseph to change his mind about putting Mary away.
- TRUE** 4. The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. (Luke 2:16)
- TRUE** 5. The name "Jesus" was given by an angel before he was ever conceived. (Luke 1:31)
- TRUE** 6. The journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem required more than 50 miles of travel. (See a map of Bible lands)
- FALSE** 7. Mary visited with Elizabeth for six months before either of their babies was born.

(II) Match the Columns

- 5_ Emmanuel
8_ Sign to Shepherds
6_ Sign to Wise men
2_ Anna
1_ Simeon
3_ Mary
7_ Elizabeth
4_ Bethlehem

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

III. Prophecies Fulfilled

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

(IV) Divine Communications

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

(V) Mary's Son Identified

1. "Emmanuel" -- (Matthew 1:23)
2. "King of the Jews" -- (Matthew 2:2)
3. "Governor" -- (Matthew 2:6)
4. "Nazarene" -- (Matthew 2:23)
5. "Jesus" -- (Matthew 1:21)
6. "Son of the Highest" -- (Luke 1:32)
7. "Son of God" -- (Luke 1:35)

Thank you for reading the
Magnolia Messenger
and for answering
"The Question Box"

By/For/About Women... Mostly

“Choose Your Friends Wisely”

- Kristen Bobo -

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kristen is the 14 year old daughter of Chad and Jennifer Bobo. Kristen has been in the *Leaderette's* program for 5 years. The Bobo's are members of the Goodman Oaks church of Christ in Southaven, MS. Kristen has spoken on various topics such as:

“*Mephibosheth*”
“*The Syrophenician Woman's Daughter*”
“*Change*”

“*Being A Servant Of The Lord*”

Introduction

Joshua 1:16: “*All that you have commanded us we will do and wherever you send us we will go.*” Have you ever thought about who was encouraging the Israelites to follow Joshua? I think the answer lies in the text. It was Moses. In Numbers 27:21 and 22, Moses inaugurated Joshua into being the leader of God's people. They readily accepted him and followed him all the days of his life.

The body [nation] of the Israelites at that time was around 2 million people. It must have taken a lot of encouragement to move the entire people to tell Joshua “*All that you have commanded us we will do and wherever you send us we will go.*”

Now let me ask you another question: Who encourages us to follow our leader, the LORD. I think it's the people we are around the most everyday. For some of you, that may be your parents, your grandparents, or your younger siblings. Most often though it is our friends.

Who influences us?

Friends can affect our attitudes and willingness to follow our leaders. Your friends may persuade you to think, “Oh, she's just a teacher; we don't have to listen to her.” If you do not have strong faith and are hanging around negative peers, then your attitude will become negative too. This is why we must be strengthened by the Word.

Have you noticed that if you sit next to godly people at school, you begin to behave godly as the result of their example? However, if you follow those who continually do wrong, then you will fall into that pattern. This is what happened to David in 2 Samuel chapter 12 and later to Amnon in chapter 13.

David and Nathan



Kristen Bobo

We need friends that will keep us close to God. Nathan was this kind of friend to David. David was guilty of adultery and murder. However, it seems that he had convinced himself that he had done nothing wrong. Have you ever done something wrong, and then convinced yourself that it was not?

In order to remain close to God, we must first realize and acknowledge that we've done something wrong. Sometimes we need a little help doing so. Nathan gave David that help in 2 Samuel 12. The entire text is much too long to put here, but the scenario is summarized in verse 9. It reads, “*Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.*”

Here Nathan opened the eyes of his friend. David was able to repent and get back on the right path. Isn't this what we want, too? A friend that is able to keep us going on the spiritual path; someone that will encourage us to listen to our superiors.

Amnon

We also need friends who will not tempt us to leave God. Do you remember who Amnon was? Amnon was one of David's sons. He fell into a forbidden relationship with his sister Tamar. He became frustrated with her until his friend, Jonadab, suggested that he trick her. That's exactly what he did. That evening he tricked Tamar into coming to his room and defiled her.

Later in the chapter, Amnon was killed by Tamar's brother Absalom, but Jonadab was left alive. Amnon fell victim to the corruption of his peers. As the son of King David himself, Amnon knew better than to commit this sin. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:33 “*evil company corrupts good*

morals.” Jonadab did not actually do any killing, but it was his stratagem that led Amnon to a brutal sin and ultimately his death.

This is usually what happens when we have friends with faulty morals. They can entice us to do wrong and, we are the ones that end up with the punishment. Pals like this will not only discourage us from following our superiors, but will destroy our relationship with God.

Conclusion

At this point, I've given two examples of friends. One of positive influence and one of negative influence, but how does this relate to you and me? It's simple.

Choose Your Friends Wisely

* Choose those that can help You be the best You.

* Choose those that will love you enough to bring you the truth.

* Choose those that will stick with you. My best friend gave me a pillow that says, “It takes a king time to grow an old friend.”

Think about the friends you have now. Do you have a Nathan in your life or an Amnon? Joshua 1:16, “*Whatever you have commanded us we will do and wherever you send us we will go.*” Do your friends encourage you to follow the Lord?

Kristen can be reached by email: kebobo@comcast.net



Posted in Philadelphia

The Magnolia Messenger is Supported by Volunteer Contributions from Churches and Christians. Thank You!

Who's the Boss at Your House?

-Lynn Baragona -

Who makes the decisions in your home concerning what church sponsored activities your children attend? If your child's physical well-being was in danger, would you allow that child to make the decision whether he needed to see a doctor or not? Let's apply that same principle to your children's spiritual well-being. Do you allow them to make decisions regarding their attendance at spiritual activities? Are you jeopardizing their spiritual well-being by allowing them to make bad choices?

Who's the boss in your home? God gave parents the responsibility to provide guidance and direction in their children's lives. Is the child in charge or is the parent? I'm afraid many of us are confusing the parenting role with that of the friendship role. We should not only be encouraging our children to take advantage of spiritual opportunities but we should be setting the example by attending these activities also.

It is the parent's God-given responsibility to hold firm and raise children to be capable, contributing Christian adults. Proverbs 22:6 says “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*” How can we expect our children to become workers for the Lord when they are not in the habit of attending spiritual activities as they grow to be young adults?

Is the God-ordained balance of power out of whack in your home? What answer will you give the Lord when He asks “Who was the parent in your home – you or your child?” When considering your answer to that question, look back at the spiritual activities your children had an opportunity to participate in during the past year – did they take advantage of any or all of these activities? Who's the boss at your house?

(Lynn Baragona lives in Booneville, MS. Her husband, Tommy, serves the church as an elder. Her email address: lynnbaragona@gmail.com)

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

‘Hot, Baby, HOT’

- June Franks -

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, our precious little great-granddaughter, Braylee, fifteen months old, came with her parents for a visit at our home in Kosciusko.

During Braylee's visit, she was curious about the gas logs in our fireplace. Even though the fireplace had a fire screen, it could still be very hot to the touch.

Therefore, when Braylee would start toward the fireplace, we would warn her that the fireplace was hot. We would say to her, "Hot, Baby, Hot." Braylee just learning to talk, would reach her hand out toward the fireplace and say, "Hot."

However, this did not keep her from wanting to inspect further for herself and several times she would start to touch the fire screen.

This reminded me of the way we sometimes act. Even though there are many warnings in the Bible that we should heed, as a people, we often ignore the warnings. Even though Braylee was told many times that the fireplace was hot, it seemed at times that she was ignoring our warnings.

The Bible plainly warns, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Recent Bible Winner



Mrs. W. C. (Betty) Wells
(Ethridge, TN)

July-Sept., 09 Issue, MM

See "Question Box" -- Page 24



June Franks

"Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power. (II Thess. 1:7-9)

According to this scripture, to fail to heed the warning to obey the gospel is a serious matter. The verse states, "... taking vengeance on them... that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

If we have reached the "age of accountability", we should heed the warning and obey the gospel if we have not done so. And, we need to obey before it is too late.

As Christians we are also warned many times in the Bible. One such warning is, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12)

Timothy was warned to flee youthful lusts. (II Timothy 2:22) We should heed this warning as well.

We are also warned about the devil. The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion

walketh about seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8)

As parents and teachers of our teenagers we often warn them of the dangers of the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and illicit sex.

However, in spite of our warnings some want to try or to experiment with these different sins. If they would only realize the warnings are for their benefit.

It may be years down the road, but if they continue in one or more of these sins, so many will come to regret that they did not heed the warnings when they were younger.

Some realize the error of their way after they have become addicted to some of these sins.

It is never too late to stop any sin that we may find ourselves involved in. God stands ready and always willing to forgive us if we will repent.

The Bible is our guide book. It is our road map from earth to heaven. Just as there are warnings on the road of life, there are also warnings for us in God's Word.

Because we love little Braylee, we warned her of the potential danger of being burned. Our warning to Braylee was for her own good.

God has great love for us and His warnings in the Bible are for our own good or benefit.

The Bible says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

Mrs. A. L. Franks
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090
franksmm@aol.com

Corine Moss, Age 103, Passed Away

OXFORD

David Moss called on November 30, 2009 from Oxford, Mississippi and informed the Magnolia Messenger of the passing of his mom, **Mrs. D. S. (Corine) Moss.**

Sister Moss passed away at the age of 103. She was a faithful member of the church which meets on North Lamar Street in Oxford.

David said his mom would often send in answers to the Question Box found in the Magnolia Messenger.

Sister Moss was one of thirteen children. Even though we do not remember meeting sister Moss, we do know several in her family.

When Al preached at Clarksdale, Mississippi, we had the

privilege of staying in the home of her brother, **Herman Reaves** who is now deceased.

Another brother we have had the privilege of meeting is **Lynn Reaves** who lives in Cleveland and is a member/elder of the Cleveland Church of Christ.

Our dear friend and the sister of sister Moss is **Becky Coleman.** We talked with Becky on the phone about her sister.

Becky, who is in bad health now, spoke kindly of her sister saying, "She was twenty years older than me. She was just like a mother to me." Becky also added, "She was a faithful Christian."

We extend our sympathy to the family of sister Moss and to her spiritual family at the North Lamar Street Church of Christ in Oxford. (June Franks)

POEMS

By

Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray

BCagleRay@Aol.Com



A PARALLEL

My child cried out in the dark of night,
And a loving mother's ears heard her fear.
I ran quickly to stand beside her bed,
And she somehow sensed that I was near.

The crying stopped and sleep soon came,
So I slipped silently back to my bed.
Her fear ceased simply because I was there;
It mattered not if any words were said.

As an adult, I often fear the unknown;
Then I feel a presence come softly near.
I cannot see a face within the room—
Yet, I somehow sense that God is there.

Peace rolls over me like a mighty ocean,
And like vapor, my fears just disappear.
In His presence I am secure and calm;
I am His child, and I sense He's near.

LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF

Yesterday as I walked home from work,
The people that I met were very sad.
Not one of them smiled or spoke to me,
And, oh, what a stressful day I'd had!

A smile or handshake might have helped,
And I couldn't understand the reason why --
When I walked past an old friend of mine,
He failed to even look me in the eye.

The next day I took the same way home,
And all the people were chatting joyfully.
They smiled and greeted me as I passed,
And my old friend stopped to talk with me.

Today, I was in a better frame of mind,
And I suddenly had an epiphany...
The people I saw yesterday weren't sad,
All the sadness was inside of me!

Sister Ray's Address: Barbara Ray;
520 Vinson Dr., Nashville, TN 37217

Ladies' Day

Rolling Fork, Mississippi

Saturday- March 27, 2010

9:00 a.m. --- Lunch (lunch provided)

Guest Speaker

Jane Maynard

Joyce Maranto says, "Come, join us for a day of fellowship and spiritual growth."

Use of the King James Version may be helpful

The Question Box

Is your name found on page 21?

Jonah, the Reluctant Prophet

Jonah is considered by many to be the first book written by those men known as the "major" and "minor" prophets. It is probably also the best known -- the reason being the *special miracle* involving Jonah who was swallowed by a great fish as he attempted to flee from the presence of the Lord.

Other than the information related in the book that bears his name, we know almost nothing about Jonah. Jesus, however, gives credence to the Old Testament records by mentioning Jonah in His teachings as recorded in the New Testament.

This month's study asks you to carefully read the 48 verses in Jonah's four chapters and complete each section of the quiz. When you have finished the entire lesson, please *send your answers to us*. By so doing, you will **encourage others** in Bible study (see page 21) plus you may be the winner of a beautiful new Study Bible. (We award a Bible to one student who is selected at random from all who send in answers.) This time, **you** just may be that person. Thank you for your interest in the study of God's sacred book. Thank you also for answering "The Question Box." (alf, editor)

I. Lesson on Obedience

1. List five things God sent out and/or prepared (appointed) to help teach Jonah his need for humble obedience. (The answers are found in chapters 1 and 4. The first letter of each answer is given. You are also asked to write in the numbers for the chapter and verse where each answer is found.)

1. **W** _____ (: :) 3. **G** _____ (: :) 5. East **W** _____ (: :)
 2. **F** _____ (: :) 4. **W** _____ (: :)

II. Statements Made by Jonah

(Locate the chapter and verse in the book of Jonah where each of the following statements are written.)

1. "I am an Hebrew." (: :) 4. "It is better for me to die than to live." (: :)
 2. "Take me up and cast me forth into the sea." (: :)
 (: :) 5. "I do well to be angry...." (: :)
 3. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord." (: :) 6. Which of the above statements did Jonah repeat? " _____"
 3. "I will pay that which I have vowed." (: :) _____"

III. Jesus and Jonah

(Study Matthew 12:39-41; cf. Luke 11:29-32)

1. How does the phrase "Three days and three nights" apply to both Jonah and Jesus? To answer, fill in the missing words: "For as _____ was _____ days and _____ nights in the _____; so shall the _____ of _____ be _____ days and three _____ in the _____ of the _____."
 2. Why did Jesus say the Ninevites would "rise up in judgement" and condemn those who were living at the time of Christ? To answer, fill in the missing words. "... because they _____ at the _____ of _____; and, behold, a _____ than _____ is here."

IV. True or False

1. _____ I know the only Old Testament reference where Jonah is mentioned outside the book of Jonah. (2 Kings)
 2. _____ The men on the ship cast lots to determine who was responsible for the violent storm on the sea.

V. Qualities of God

How is God described by Jonah?

"_____ God, _____, slow to _____, and of great _____ and _____ thee of the _____." (: :)

VI. Four Things the Ninevites Did

Because of their recognized sinful behaviour, what did the Ninevites do to show their faith in God and their repentance before God? To answer, complete the wording of the following verse: "Proclaimed a _____"; (2) "Put on _____"; (3) Cried "_____ unto God" and (4) "_____ from their _____ way."

VII. Two Final Points

1. List two persons mentioned in this little book who were said to be angry? _____ and _____.
 2. The city of Nineveh was occupied by more than _____ people and also "much _____."

THANK YOU FOR SENDING IN ANSWERS

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
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Why You Have Received and are Reading This Issue of the MM

(Not a Question, But a Statement)

The reason it is possible for you to have received and/or to be reading this copy of the Magnolia Messenger is because of the generosity of scores of churches and hundreds of Christians. We are very grateful to each congregation and to each individual who remembers the work of the "Messenger" in prayer, plans and contributions.

We are very thankful to report that our "end of the year" contributions were very encouraging. And, the faithful gifts from monthly donors, along with many who give, for special reasons and on special occasions, throughout the year -- **all together** -- make possible the mission efforts of the paper (the "Messenger") and the people (the Franks).

We want and need to say, once again, "THANKS" -- to each one who receives and reads the MM. We are very thankful for every prayer and for every donation. Because so many care and *show that they care* is why it is possible for you to receive and read each issue of "Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper." *Thank God and thank you -- for receiving, reading and/or giving!* (alf)

Our New Bible Winner
 285.
Patricia Thornton
 New Site, Mississippi
Congratulations!

The brethren that worship at Drew have supported M.B.C. monthly for a number of years and, like so many others, are saddened by its closing. Lord willing, we would like to continue in helping of the Lord's work by sending our monthly contribution to the Messenger, another great work for the Lord. (Drew, MS Church of Christ)

12th Annual Magnolia Messenger Mississippi RV Rally April 28 (Wed) -- May 2, 2010 (Sun)

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 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 \$10.00. 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.

You don't have to have an RV to attend!
 (You can reserve an RV Site, cabin or hotel room)

Make plans to attend



"Somewhere in Mississippi"