



Our 33rd Year

# Magnolia Messenger

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

JAN. - MAR., 2011 -- VOLUME 33; NUMBER 1



20 years ago Megan announced, **When I grow up, I'm going to marry a Christian. She did!** -- (See Page 12)

### BATESVILLE

The Board of Directors of SLCC honored **David Chadwell, Kenny Puryear** and **David Pryor** at the annual Hall of Fame Dinner on January 8, 2011, at 6:00 P.M.

### Magnolia Messenger Reader Asks:

**QUESTION:** *What does it mean for Christians to be judged "according to their works"? Since the blood of Jesus covers the sins of the faithful Christian, upon what basis are Christians to be judged and what are the consequences/rewards of such judgment? (G.S.)*

*Read Cecil May's Response on Page 3*

## Babies Born out of Wedlock (Page 23)

**You Can Receive and Read  
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**Address:** MM; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090  
**E-mail:** franksmm@aol.com

### QUITMAN

We were saddened when Robin Dickerson, faithful member at the Quitman Church of Christ, wrote telling us of the death of **Josephine Gooch**. Sister Josephine was the wife of Quitman's preacher, Richard Gooch. Sister Josephine was a very sweet lady and a very faithful preacher's wife. We extend our deepest sympathy to brother Richard and to her church family at Quitman.

*Home at last! With the Lord! With all the redeemed and safe ones of all ages! No problems to trouble or vex us (Revelation 21: 4). No death to take us to another place. Joys that never fade and life that never ends (1 Peter 1: 3-5) are there.*

**Read With Hope  
"Moving Day" by Gardner**  
(Turn to Page 5)



**F. M. & Pearl Hylander  
Married 72 Years**

*This story began 94 years ago on July 16, 1916. when F.M. Hylander was born down there in Star, Mississippi...*

*...Story Continues on Page 8*

**Music in Worship**  
(Page 13)  
**Making Announcements**  
(Page 16)

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### An Apology To Amory

In the previous issue of the MM, we included a report about an "Extreme Make-over" in Rolling Fork, MS. Apparently, our information was *not current*; therefore, we omitted the Amory congregation from a listing of churches who helped in this good work.

We sincerely regret the error, appreciate having this called to our attention and offer our apologies. (Editor)

Our Next  
**MM MS RV Rally**  
McComb (April 27-May 1)  
go to our website:  
magnoliamessenger.com

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### THANK YOU

For your help in publishing the Magnolia Messenger.

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Very Encouraging!**

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**(Details on Page 22)**

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### Challenge to Christians answer

### "The Question Box"

*Teachings in Titus*

**It will do you good. Help you too!**

*(Page 24)*

**Over 400 Sent in Answers!**

*(Page 21)*

**Attention:  
Church Leaders  
Read - Study**

**Giving Generated  
by God's Grace**

Ponder with Pigg on page 9

Two Gospel Broadcasts on MS Television



NE Mississippi (See page 6)



Nationwide (See Page 11)

Magnolia Messenger  
South Huntington St  
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CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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

## Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Hello,

We have a wonderful friend that wants to subscribe to the Magnolia Messenger. Here is her name and address: ..... She is a young 75 years old and originally from France. She was 9 years old when the Allies invaded Normandy. She lived "within walking distance" from the beach. She was liberated by "some wonderful boys—15 and 16 year old black American soldiers. Later she became a nurse and married an American serviceman (airforce) and came to America.

She lived near the foot of Sand Mountain, AL (where my father's family were from). She became a Christian in Alabama and also a citizen of the U.S.A. by choice. She is an Alabama football fan (among quite a few here in Tennessee). Her husband died about 2 years ago. She is a wonderful Christian woman and I asked if I could sign her up to receive the Magnolia Messenger. She said yes.

My wife, Regina, and I read the Magnolia Messenger and we profit from it greatly. Thank you for the good work you are doing. (Bob and Regina Jarnagin)

Bro. Franks,

I greatly appreciate you and your wife publishing the Magnolia Messenger (MM). I did want to suggest that you consider web publication of the MM. I am sure that others have made the same suggestion. Surely there are web publishing experts in the Mississippi brotherhood who could assist you.

I am concerned that once you pass away the MM will also die. I think that if MM were web based it would be easier for another to pick up the banner of the MM and run with it. I know that is easy for me (and other) to make these suggestions, but you will have to carry the load. I will continue to support the MM (though my support is small). Thank you again for your hard work putting out the MM. (Roland Reagan Butte, MT)

Al & June, Keep up the good work. If you die -- I'll try to help June keep it going. Tell that to the man from Montana. It will make him feel better. (John D. Dial, Madison, MS) But I pray you and I will be here to help the Lord's church for a much longer time!!

### MM Welcomes Readers' Response

## Magnolia Messenger

### Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of almost 25,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your prayers and support are **requested, needed and appreciated!**

### Supported By Contributions

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Cecil May, Jr., Bible Questions Answered

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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 and/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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## Almighty God, My Loving Father

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the previous issue of the MM, we published the first part of a "lecture," originally prepared for the FHU lectureship held in Henderson, Tennessee. We are pleased now to share with our readers the second part of that lecture which was presented in February of this year. We pray that your reading of this article will bring you even closer to "Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father." (alf)

### Part II

(Continued from last issue)

I say again. Thanks to the lectureship committee for inviting me to speak on this vital topic, "God, The Loving Parent." My personal study in preparation of this lesson has blessed me as I have been reminded of three major considerations. Two, we have covered briefly already; that is, "A Developing Concept" and "An Understandable Concept." This leaves one more major consideration, which is, "A Meaningful Concept." In stressing the meaning or practical applications of our topic, we will call special attention to New Testament teachings which *detail* how God, as our *Father*, works in the lives of each of us as His children.

Let's begin with this beloved verse -- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..." So declares the "Golden Text" of the Bible (John 3:16). When God's "only begotten Son", as a baby, came into the world, the concept of God as a loving parent was made clearer and more meaningful than ever before. In contrast to the Old Testament, the New Testament abounds in references to God as "Father".

Jesus came "to show us the Father" (John 14:7-10). Jesus emphasized his special relationship with God, His Father. The first of the hundreds of times the New Testament mentions God as "Father," is recorded by Matthew in chapter 5, verse 16. Here Jesus commanded his disciples to let their light shine through the doing



Alfred (Al) L. Franks  
- Editor -

good works, so that those who observed would glorify "your Father who is in Heaven."

To his disciples, Jesus declared repeatedly, that *His* Father was also *their* Father. Seventeen times in His "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus spoke of the *Father* He and his disciples shared together. For example, Jesus taught his disciples then and his disciples now (including you and me) to pray, "Our Father which art in Heaven" (Matthew 5:9).

In the Gospel according to the apostle John, Almighty God is called "Father" one hundred and fifteen times (115) -- most of these in statements made by Jesus Himself. Our Lord, in leaving Heaven and coming to earth and being "made flesh", manifested grace and truth as the "only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14). Jesus called upon all to worship the Father saying, "true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth..." (John 4:23).

**To all who love God and are among "the called", the Bible faithfully promises that our Father "...works all things together for good..." (Romans 8:28).**

Jesus declared that He was "the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). He also spoke about His *Father's house* where, He said, there were "many mansions", and promised that He was going away to prepare a place for His faithful dis-

ciples and that He would come again and receive them into the mansions above. He said, "...where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

One of the most remarkable of Jesus' promises is found in John 16:23, "...Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." Jesus made very clear that His relationship with the Father was one of love -- with tremendous blessings -- and that his disciples, his brethren, were also blessed to share in the Father's gifts of love -- made available to all, coming from the heart of *Almighty God, our Loving Parent*.

The Bible abounds with exceeding great and precious promises made by our all loving and all powerful Heavenly Father. Repeatedly, inspired writers of the New Testament assert that such desired blessings as grace, peace and mercy come from our Father (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 John 1:3).

Paul wrote to Christians in Galatia, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). Paul said, in Ephesians, that the Father has "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (1:3). And, Peter wrote that God, the Father, "hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

A study of "God, The Loving Parent" means so very much, especially in light of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the "only begotten Son of God." New Testament teachings assure us that God, our Father, truly cares for His children. *He provides*. Jesus said, "Your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye need of all these things" [food, drink, clothing] (Matthew 6:32). The scriptures admonishes us to never forget that **if** God cares for grass and for birds, He certainly cares and will provide for us, His children (Matthew 6:25-34).

See My Father on  
Page 16

# Bible Questions Answered

**QUESTION: What does it mean for Christians to be judged "according to their works"? Since the blood of Jesus covers the sins of the faithful Christian, upon what basis are Christians to be judged and what are the consequences/rewards of such judgment? (G.S.)**

**RESPONSE:** Several passages use language indicating judgment by works in speaking, at least seemingly, of Christians. Yet we are told we are saved by grace and not by our own works. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Judgment by works is starkly contrasted to justification by grace through faith in Christ. "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace" (Romans 11:6). So what does it mean that Christians are judged by our works?

As a response to this question, let us examine each passage in the New Testament that speaks of judgment by works or by deeds and see how they apply.

## Romans 2:6-8

In Romans, and elsewhere in Paul's epistles, justification by works, by law or by works of law means justifying oneself by being righteous, by never sinning.

Romans 2:6-8 says, "He (God) will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury."

In the first two and a half chapters of Romans, Paul suggests two ways one could, theoretically, be justified (that is, "declared righteous"). Those who never sinned could be declared righteous because they are righteous. Sinners, on the other hand, must be justified by having their sins forgiven, that is, by grace through faith.

It is in that context that the Romans 2 passage cited above contrasts those two categories:

those who continually persevere in well-doing, that is, who never sin; and those who have sinned.

Then Paul declares there is no one in that first category, "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23); "there is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10).

Therefore, since no one can be justified on the basis of his or her own works, God has prepared another way, "a justification through faith in Jesus Christ." In order for the just God to declare sinners to be righteous, a propitiation, a righteous substitute, died in order that sinners could live (Romans 3:21-26).

Faithful Christians, therefore, have no sinful works for which to be condemned, or even to be given demerits. All of our sins have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7). Our living active faith has been counted as righteousness (Romans 4:3-5) and our sins have not been counted (Romans 4:6-8).

## 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Will Christians, too, be "judged" by what we have done? One passage thought by some to say so is 1 Corinthians 3:11-15: "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each

one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved,

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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but only as through fire."

"Works" in this passage is understood by some to refer to a Christian's good works. If his works are of the best sort ("gold, silver, precious stones") he will be given "special" or "extra" rewards in heaven. If they are mediocre ("wood") or poor ("hay, straw") they will be burned up but he himself will still be saved.

That view, however, ignores the context.

The foundation laid is Christ and is laid by preaching Christ. Not all of the work done to bring about conversion, however, is done by one preacher. In the agricultural metaphor, one plants, another waters (1 Corinthians 3:6). In the construction

metaphor, one lays the foundation and another builds on it. The "works" that result are converts.

S o m e converts withstand the

storms and the fire and are saved. That is a reward to the worker as well. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (3 John 4). Others fall away and are lost. To

the worker, also, that is a loss, but it does not affect his salvation.

Jesus used the agricultural metaphor in the parable of the sower to teach the same truth about the "survival rate" of converts (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23).

## Romans 14:10

"Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God" (Romans 14:10).

This chapter contains instruction to the strong and weak as to how they are to relate to one another. The "strong," in this context, are those who understand that all foods are clean, acceptable and given to mankind to be eaten with thanksgiving. The "weak" are those who believe it is only acceptable to eat vegetables.

The natural human tendency is for the strong to look with disdain on, that is to "despise," the weak, and for the weak to condemn, that is to "judge" the strong. Paul commands each to overcome those human tendencies. The strong shall not despise the weak; the weak shall not judge the strong.

The reason given for the weak not condemning the strong is that Christians are not the judges of one another. God is the judge of all. "For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God" is simply a way of saying so. We are all servants of God; if we judge one another, we are judging another's subject (Romans 14:4). That is not within our purview.

It is undeniable (to Bible believers) that God through Christ is the judge of all the earth. Final judgment is not our function. That is what this passage is saying.

## 2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

The emphasis here is that "we make it our aim to please him (the Lord)" (5:9), because he is the one who will be our judge. In this same context, however, he notes that Christians have been reconciled to God and a result of that reconciliation is that he does not count our trespasses against us (5:19).

Christians must remain faithful in order to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). Those who "walk in the footsteps of the faith" of our father Abraham are the "blessed . . . against whom the Lord will not count his sin" (Romans 4:8, 12). Our sins are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ if we walk in the light (1 John 1:7). Those in Christ who walk after the Spirit are not condemned (Romans 8:1-4).

Unfaithful Christians who have walked in darkness after the flesh will be judged. Their deeds of unrighteousness will be paraded before them as they are condemned by them.

Faithful Christians will be there as well, but, when the books are opened, their deeds will be judged as perfect for their sins will have been covered by the blood of Christ, forgiven and forgotten!

CM

## Recent FHU Lectures Scheduled 124 Speakers



Steve Shappley - FHU Lectures

From 15 states and American Samoa, the FHU lectureship committee selected speakers for the 75th Annual Bible Lectureship at Freed-Hardeman University February 6 - 11, 2011.

Seven preachers from Mississippi were included in the number. They were Steve Shappley, on left, (Fulton), Michael Bates (Batesville), Dennis Doughty (Tunica), Al Franks (Kosciusko), Perry Jinkerson (Starkville), John Pigg (Ridgeland), and Mark Ray (Jackson). 73 speakers were from Tennessee and fifteen from Alabama. Other states included FL, NJ, KY, SC, TX, IN, GA, OK, KY, OH, MO, and WV.



Dennis Doughty Spent A Week In An "Empty Library"

## God's Library

- Dennis Doughty -

I just spent a week in an empty library. I wandered down long aisles of books that now sit in darkness. I sat at empty study tables where once eager minds searched for knowledge. I thumbed through biographies, studied maps, searched card files and found answers to the questions I brought to this place.

At the end of my stay it felt sad to turn out the lights, and leave unused such a wonderful place of knowledge, quietness and learning.

The Bible is also a library. It contains 66 different books, written by the most inspired men in the history of man. This God-breathed collection records 6,000 years of man's history, great geography studies, thrilling stories and the answers to the greatest questions of mankind; "How did we get here? Why are we here? Where are we going?"

Sadly, God's great library also sits empty. It lies in the darkness of a forgotten drawer; the greatest story ever told, waiting on unread pages. Even those who claim to love it so, seldom walk through its inspired aisles, or spend time around its study tables. David said, "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). He loved God's library. We should too!

(Dennis preaches for the Tunica church of Christ. His address: Dennis Doughty; P. O. Box 155; Tunica, MS 38676; E-mail: [dennis1848@bellsouth.net](mailto:dennis1848@bellsouth.net))

### GREENVILLE (Southside, 82 West)

From **Abraham Jones**, minister for the Southside church in Greenville, Mississippi, we received an invitation to attend their "Annual Revival" during the week of February 16 - 20, 2011. The guest evangelist was to be **James K. Hamilton** from Dallas, Texas. The announced theme was "Revive us Again." A workshop was also planned for Saturday (2/19) on the subject of "Forgiveness." We regret that this issue of the MM was scheduled to be printed after the meeting took place. We pray that all went well. (alf)

## Points to Ponder

### Psalms 89:47,48

*"Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah."* Let's meditate on a couple of points.

#### Point Number One

*"Remember how short my time is" (vs 47).* The subject is life, earthly life. At the very longest, it is still short. The psalmist prayed for God to remember how short physical life is; the need for man -- for me -- is to remember how short my life is. May God help me to never forget: **My time on earth is short.**

As I've aged, I realize this more and more. A week is as a day. A year is as a month. So, make the most of it; make the best of it. Get ready to depart. It won't be long!

"As a vapor", so is life. "As a flower," so is our earthly existence. (James 4:14; Job 14:2). "Here today; gone tomorrow." Though man live "threescore and ten;" yet his days are few. (Psalms 90:10; Job 14:1)

#### Point Number Two:

**Am I ready to depart?** That which must come at some time (death) may come at any time. Are you prepared? Are you a Christian. Are you "in Christ"? Are you "Christ-like"? Are you making known Christ to others?

Heed the inspired admonition: "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain." Remember this truth: "...ye know not what shall be on the morrow... ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that" (Jas. 4:13-15)

Yes, life is short. Get ready to depart! Depart and "be with the Lord." What a hope! Thanks to God who loved the world so much He gave His Son. And, thanks to His Son who left Heaven and came to earth on a mission -- "to seek and save the lost."

He died for me (you); He shed His blood for me (you); He established His church for me (you); He gave his plan for salvation through faith, repentance and baptism. Life is **short**; but eternity with the Father is **L-O-N-G.** (alf; Editor)



Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage (JoAnn and Dan Hawkins)

My June and I were blessed to be present for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the marriage of Dan and JoAnn. It was a joy-

ous occasion. The Hawkins are Christians and fellow "RVer" who live in Minden, LA. (See also page 21)

## "Comfort the Afflicted; Afflict the Comfortable"

via bulletin; Enterprise Blvd Church of Christ; Lake Charles, LA - Paul Franks -

Someone shared a phrase with me last week that goes like this. **"We are to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."** You may be like me and not care much for the last part of that statement. One meaning of afflict is to make "uncomfortable."

As a preacher, I am to preach the "truth in love." The problem is that sometimes the truth can cause uncomfortable feelings. The Apostle Paul wrote, **"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."** (Galatians 1: 10)

The Apostle didn't mind if his preaching happened to please man as long as it pleased God. We are not to go out of our way to aggravate and afflict anyone, but we should be careful not to become a teacher like Paul described in 2 Timothy 4, **"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."**

There is a temptation to teach what people want to hear. **"You can be lukewarm and be pleasing to God."** **"You don't have to listen to God concerning what He says about marriage and sex."** **"You can be a friend to the world and still be friends with God."** These statements are not true, but they are tempting to teach because so many people practice them.

We all have a desire to have friends. Our friends can say things

that hurt. Proverbs 27:6 teaches, **"Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."** There is a fear that when I teach some truth of God's Word that I will upset you and you will become my enemy. Paul seemed concerned when dealing with the church in Galatia when he said, **"Have I now become your enemy?"** (Galatians 4: 16). He went on to tell the Galatia readers, **"you who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."** That probably made a few people upset at the Apostle Paul.

Since we can "fall away from grace" it is important for those of us who teach to make sure that we teach sound (healthy) teachings that will encourage all of us to remain in the grace of God. Sometimes those teachings may "step on your toes, but the aim was for your heart."

If you are going down a road and up ahead the bridge is out and you've not seen the signs telling you the bridge is out, you would want me to step in front of your car, waving my arms and hollering at you to stop. That might make you and me both uncomfortable, but it may save a life.

If you are going down a road that will lead to spiritual death, it seems to me that the loving thing to do would be to try to get you to turn around. Do I risk making you angry? Could I become your enemy? As we comfort the afflicted, maybe at times, we do need to afflict the comfortable if it will prevent a spiritual crash.

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# Moving Day

- John F. Gardner -

About three months ago, it was “moving day” at the Gardner house in Kosciusko, MS. It was time to let the movers do their work and for us to do our last minute tasks. By day’s end, we would be relocated in Brandon, MS. Weeks of work and preparation that led to that day ended in the new location, but still other labors to unpack and place our belongings had just begun.

Statistics show that Americans are a mobile people, relocating from house to house, from city to city, and from state to state. Both the U.S. Census Bureau and more recently the Pew Research Center keep up with all of the household moving that goes on in the United States. But whether it is relocating across town or crossing several states, most household moves involve unpleasant and unwanted events. Moving day surprises are not usually welcomed.

But not all moving days should be dreaded. The Apostle Paul envisioned a grand moving day for all of the faithful in Christ Jesus when he wrote 2 Corinthians 5: 1 – 8. “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan,

earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for the very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body



John Gardner

we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (NKJV).

That moving day which will take us from the tent of this body to our eternal house is a move the faithful long to make (Vv. 1 – 4). From earth to heaven, from temporary housing that is wearing out to the permanent residence, from the imperfect to the perfect—surely we long for that change, that move God has in store for us. If we do not, perhaps we need to consider again the depths of our spiritual desires.

The moving day under consideration requires preparation, but no packing. Laying up spiritual treasure in heaven should occupy us daily (Matthew 6: 20; 1 Timothy 6: 18,

19). No last minute, frantic packing of earthly belongings will be necessary since we will take none of our “stuff” with us. “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6: 7). In that new realm, we will be “clothed with that habitation which is from heaven” (V. 2). All of our transient mortality will be “swallowed up by life” (V. 4).

Our move is a move planned by God. “Now he who prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee” (V. 5). God wants us with Him. He works to

prepare us for that moving day and assures us of His intention by giving us His Spirit. Through the Word of God, the Spirit leads us to the Way, Jesus Christ (John 14: 6) and outlines the way of life in Him. The Spirit produces divine fruit in us as we live faithfully in Christ (Galatians 5: 22, 23). God is at work in us, preparing us for our new home (Philippians 2: 13).

Moving day will take us into the very presence of the Lord Himself (Vv. 6, 8). Notice Paul says at the beginning of the passage, “We know” (V. 1). In Verses 6 and 8, he uses the words confident and knowing. While our “home” is now in this body, we are absent from the Lord, although He is in close fellowship with us (John 14: 23; Revelation 3: 20). What a grand assurance we have that when this perishing fleshly tent is transformed into the eternal habitation, we will truly “be present with the Lord.”

We anticipate our move by faith. “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (V. 7). We believe the One who has promised such wonder things. We trust Him and obey His Word even when it seems our moving day may be a long way off. We focus our eyes on that which only faith can see, the things above (2 Corinthians 4: 16 – 18; Colossians 3: 1, 2).

Our moving day will end all moving days. “Eternal in the heavens” (V. 1) means no more necessity or desire to move. Home at last! With the Lord! With all the redeemed and safe ones of all ages! No problems to trouble or vex us (Revelation 21: 4). No death to take us to another place. Joys that never fade and life that never ends (1 Peter 1: 3 – 5) are there.

No one knows exactly the date the Lord has written down for any Christian’s moving day. The One who gave us life knows the days appointed for us (Psalm 139: 16). Therefore, we should live confidently and hopefully in Christ daily so that when that moving day comes, we will be ready and waiting. **JG**

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## Now You Take It From There....

- by -

**John Simpson**

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## Children Learn What They Live

- John Simpson -

Biblical instruction to parents is given in specific commands and examples of application. Ancient Hebrew parents were to teach their children to walk with God and then to show them how.

In a text that has been called “the magna carta of the home”, a proper and effective method is outlined: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might... You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk to them when you sit in the house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up” (Deut. 6:5-7).

There were to be no gaps in the process, nor modification caused by circumstances: “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates” (Deut. 6:8,9). This covered all in-house activities, through the door, down the walk and to the front gate – a learned acceptable behavior from how they lived!

But that is ancient, antiquated and old-fashioned! Really? Children still learn what they live. Those who live without God learn to be Godless; those who live with criticism learn to condemn; those who live with hostility learn to fight; those who live with ridicule learn to be shy; those who live with shame learn to feel guilty; those who live with tolerance learn to be patient; those who live with encouragement learn confidence; those who live with praise learn to appreciate; those who live with fairness learn justice; those who live with security learn to have faith; those who live with acceptance and friendship learn to find love in the world; those who live with approval learn to like themselves and those who live with parents who “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4) learn to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

A five-year-old girl was asked by her minister how many children there were in her family. She replied. “Seven.” The minister observed that so many children must cost a lot of money. “Oh, no, the child replied. “We don’t buy ‘em, we raise ‘em.” It is said that the 18<sup>th</sup> century discovered the man, the 19<sup>th</sup> century discovered the woman, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century discovered the child. Now that he is discovered, let’s train him correctly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

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

## In Business for Service



The World Evangelism Team preparing  
Five pallets of books for shipment to Nigeria

### Betty (J.C.) Choate

This is a request to our brotherhood for help with a particular need. What is the need? To know of any shipping containers being sent by the church to English speaking countries.

Let me give a little background. What began many years ago, as a means of "self-publishing" J.C.'s writings, expanded into printing the materials of others. At first we thought that perhaps through "J.C. Choate Publications" we could eventually become self-supported in the mission work we wanted to continue doing, but as we saw the need in the rest of the world for materials written by Christians, we decided we should put the money from sales back into printing so that the stock could be built up and so that we would have books to share.

We've stayed with that policy through the years, and we've given away many thousands of books and magazines. We want to give away even more. We are asking to be informed concerning the shipping of any container, by our brethren, to any country where English materials (we also have available 5 studies in Spanish, and issues of The Voice of Truth International in that language) can be used.

Sharing the space, we will pay our percentage of the shipping cost, and any postal charges involved in dispersing the boxes to individual churches and individuals once they arrive

in the country of their destination. As we all work together to fill the containers, and to cover the costs involved, much good can be accomplished and the financial burden will be less for everyone because of the sharing.

We believe deeply in the use of mass media tools. Radio and TV are powerful, and CDs and DVDs are the wave of the future but — for much of the world — a well bound book that will open the truth immediately to eager readers, or will wait quietly until it is given opportunity to speak, and will happily travel from hand to hand, continuing to work through the months and years, is perhaps the most effective of the mass media options.

Our contact information is [Choate@WorldEvangelism.org](mailto:Choate@WorldEvangelism.org) or 662-283-1192.

Betty Choate, along with the World Evangelism team, continues with the mission work initiated by J.C. Choate. "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...." Mark 16:15, 16 "The churches of Christ salute thee." Romans 16:16 <http://worldevangelism.org/>

### BATESVILLE

A Gospel Meeting is being planned at the Batesville Church of Christ, Batesville, Mississippi with **Chad Ramsey**, preacher for the Gloster Street congregation, Tupelo, Mississippi doing the preaching. The scheduled dates are 7/31 - 8/3. **Michael Bates** is the local preacher.

## Daughter Details Daddy's Death Jimmy Cox

**Jimmy and his wife died in an  
house fire on January 10, 2011**

*Hello, I am Nancy Talbot, the daughter of Jimmy Cox. I live in Mobile, Alabama, and am the office manager for the Regency Church of Christ. I just wanted to let you know (If you didn't already know) that my Daddy and his wife, Shirley, passed away on January 10, 2011 in a house fire.*

*As a reminder, Daddy was a member of the Columbia Church of Christ in Columbia, Mississippi, since 1949 when he moved there. He has been a faithful Christian all those years and preached off and on during that time when the Columbia congregation didn't have a minister. He filled in whenever needed in neighboring congregations. He has written articles for the Magnolia Messenger and wrote a religious article for years for The Columbian-Progress, where he worked for about 45 years. Until the recent past, the church in Columbia had a paid article in the newspaper that he wrote.*

*You may receive memorials in his memory. I think the Columbia church will send a gift as well as others. Please remove his name from the mail list. His address is: 2530 Hwy 44, Columbia, MS 39429.*

### Readers' Response

*You have a great publication; important to the brotherhood. Thank you for what you do! (Joe & Barbara Brewer, Pensacola, FL)*

*Thanks for everything. Love the Magnolia Messenger. (Lynn Campbell, Vicksburg, MS)*

*We always look forward to receiving the Messenger. (Phil & Carol Mote, Hernando, MS)*

*Hello Al & June,*

*Interesting item: I just got a nice, warm letter from an old friend (Mrs Verna Dean Moon) from Jackson, MS. She is "91" years old, and I knew her and her family from the period 1950-1955, where I grew up (Shreveport, LA).*

*Over the years, I have lost contact with the Moon family and was delighted to hear from her!! By the way, she saw the article about our area-wide men's prayer breakfast meetings and that prompted her to drop me a note, to me here in Shreveport!! So, Brother Franks, you need to tell your readers they need to read the Messenger faithfully, they, too, may hear from a long-time, lost friend!*

*Thank you, my gift check is enclosed. God Bless! (Ken Nichols, Shreveport, LA)*

## "DaySpring" -- Daily

*Gospel TV in NE Mississippi*

Recently, while living in our RV for a few days in Tupelo, Mississippi, we were reminded of the faithful efforts of the Gloster Street church in Tupelo to reach out with the gospel using television.

Assisted by several area congregations, each morning -- at 8:00 A.M., James Segars conducts an interesting, informative and distinctive study of God's word which is broadcast on area cable systems in NE Mississippi. The program depicted by the



**James Segars Seen Daily on TV**

above picture was seen and heard in February, 2011. *Thank God for another good work. (editor)*

## News Notes

### UNION

A revival meeting is scheduled for May 1-4, 2011 at the Church of Christ in Union, Mississippi with **Ray Paseur** doing the preaching. Sunday the time is 9:30 and 10:30 and 6 P.M. Monday through Wednesday the time is 7 P.M.. **Rick Benson**, preacher for the Union congregation said, "Can't wait to hear Bro. Ray preach again."

### MERRYVILLE, LA

The Boxwood Church of Christ hosted a special Ladies Day on January 15, 2011 with **Martha Jackson** doing the speaking. The theme was "A Stitch In Time." I personally can attest to the fact that the building was beautifully decorated and I was blessed with the opportunity to take advantage of some of the good leftovers. **Glen Westmoreland** is the preacher at Boxwood.

### COLUMBIA

We are sad to report the death of **Jimmy Cox and his wife**. It is our understanding they both burned to death in a house fire. Brother

Cox often preached for the Columbia Church of Christ, Columbia, Mississippi. We extend our deepest sympathy to brother Cox's family and to his church family in Columbia where he served as member and fill-in preacher for many, many years.

### CORINTH

**Hope to Cope** is an outreach ministry designed to support and encourage those who desire a life of sobriety. We know... deep inside the heart of every addict is a sober person trying desperately to emerge from the shadows of addiction. **Hope to Cope** is Christ-Centered, Christian based, and Community oriented. Meetings are Tuesday nights at 6:30 at the Foote Street Church of Christ Annex (903 Foote Street in Corinth). Meetings are informal and end promptly at 8:00. For more information, contact **Duane Estill (662) 808-1919**. (Copied from the Church bulletin of the Foote Street Church of Christ)

**MM Welcomes  
News Notes**

## Another Simple Study

Romans 8:1 declares, "There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." "No condemnation." Sounds good to me. I like that.

But, who are "them"? Scripture plainly states, "... to them which are in Christ Jesus." Sure sounds like one has to be "in Christ." In Christ, there is no condemnation.

A vital question: How does one get "into" Christ? If there is no condemnation in Christ, surely we want to be in Christ! The question is, "How do we enter Christ?" The answer is clear and specific. Holy Scripture plainly states, "For as

many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). **Baptized into Christ!** Consider a second passage of inspired Scripture. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized into his death?"

The Bible clearly teaches (1) There is no condemnation in Christ. (2) One must be in Christ where there is no condemnation. (3) Baptism puts one INTO Christ. Sounds clear. Simple. Yes, so simple, even I can understand. So can you. Please answer: Are you in Christ? Have you been baptized into Christ? (Editor)

**Comments? 601-668-3344**

## The Fruit of Goodness

*"...the gospel of the extra dinner plate"*

- Eddie Lewis -

A preacher asked a group of college students, "What do you desire to do with your life and why?" Most of their answers reflected the attitude of selfishness. They wanted to make lots of money, have lots of possessions, or be famous.

Then he asked them to list the men and women they felt were great personalities in the history of our nation. They mentioned men and women known for their self-sacrifice and service to others—men like Lincoln and Washington, and women like Bessie Ross and Dolly Madison. The preacher observed, "They all realized that true greatness is seen in goodness, but not one of them wanted to make the personal sacrifice to achieve such for themselves." It is sad to see others exemplify the attitude of the world. Jesus said, "To find life one must lose it for me" (Mt. 16:25).

Living a godly life is not easy. True goodness requires spiritual stamina that goes far beyond a desire to do so. It cost the Christian, but it is a fruit of the Spirit we must develop in our lives.

Let's begin by defining the word—**goodness**. The Greek word is *agathos*. It is a hard word to define, but it is a quality of conduct and action. It is goodness seen in the things you do. Another Greek word for goodness is *chrestos*, which is a quality of the heart and emotion. *Chrestos* is a quality of graciousness and attractive kindness. *Agathos* is more stern and firm. It is displayed in zeal for goodness and truth. Examples of *agathos* are Jesus driving out the moneychangers in the Temple (Matthew 21:13) and the seven woes Jesus uttered against the Scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23).

The word can also be illustrated by the Greek word that is opposite of goodness—*evil* (*poneros*). The contrast is seen in the parable of the laborers in



Eddie Lewis

the vineyard (Matthew 20:15). At the end of the day all the workers are paid the same. Those who had worked all day complained. The master responds, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I like with mine own? Is your eye **evil** because I am **good**." Moffatt says, "Have you a **grudge** because I am **generous**?" The words—*poneros*—means grudging and *agathos*—means liberal, or generous.

The person that practices goodness has a life full of love, friendship, and brightness. The *poneros* man grudges everything he gives. The *agathos* man is generous, open-handed, and openhearted. His generosity springs from a heart that is kind. His acts of goodness come from acts he does daily. He has built a life of goodness.

What can we do to cultivate goodness in our hearts and stamp out the evil that is there? Let me suggest three things:

**1. We must desire to practice goodness.** Nothing can be accomplished unless we first have a desire to practice this fruit of the Spirit. I would encourage you to pray about it.

**2. What is the foundation for doing good?** *It cannot be self.* When everyone does what they think is right we end up in a mess (Prov. 14:12). Our conscience has to learn what goodness is.

*It cannot be the crowd.* We argue, "Well, everybody else is doing it." Our morals cannot be established on fads and fashion. A teenager was recently arrested for shoplifting. When asked why

he did it, he said, "I didn't need the material, but I did it because some other teens challenged me. Besides, I don't feel I did wrong because everyone does it." What a sad commentary on our morals.

*We cannot trust education to make us good.* Some feel education will guide our society to greater acts of goodness, but that is simply not true. Just because a person learns doesn't mean he always gains a greater moral understanding. The key is what he is learning. We learn prejudices, hatred, and falsehoods. Education might make a person more skilled, less rude, and more civil, but it does not always teach him the truths for goodness in his life.

**3. The eternal truth is that God's Word is the only basis for goodness in our world.** It is the foundation we need to set the guidelines for developing **goodness**. David praised God for His word and said it gave him **light, life, guidance, and truth** for his path (Psalms 119). If we neglect this foundation we will inevitably make the wrong decisions about life and goodness. Jesus' aim was to transform us into people who show love and goodness to others, for the glory of God.

A deacon in a congregation in Boston, many years ago, said of himself, "I can't speak in the assembly. I can't do many other things in Christian service. But, I can put two extra plates on my dinner table every Sunday and invite two young men who are away from home to break bread with us." He did this for over thirty years. He became acquainted with many men who attended church and many that became Christians because of his personal influence.

When he died he was buried in Andover, thirty miles away. Because he was a well-known merchant, a special car on a train was chartered to convey the funeral party. It was made known that any of the young men he had helped become Christians would be welcomed

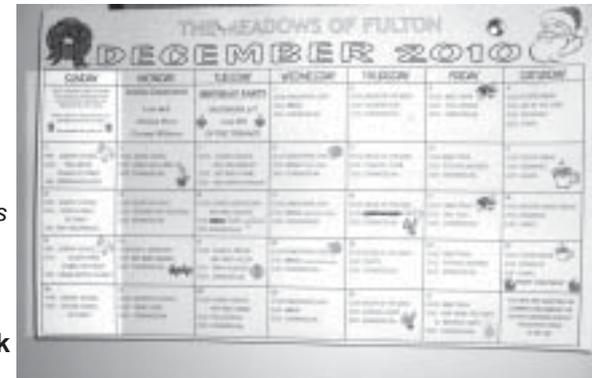
**Turn to GOODNESS on Page 16**

## Fulton, Mississippi Area Churches of Christ Set A Good Example Nursing Home Ministry

### Sunday Services

Conducted by the following congregations

Pine Grove  
Tilden  
SaucerCreek  
Fulton



Above pictured monthly calendar is in each patient's room at the Meadows Nursing Home in Fulton, Mississippi.

My June's only brother (Prentiss Pearson), was a patient at The Meadows of Fulton when he died on February 12, 2011. A few weeks ago when visiting him, we noticed a calendar in his room, displayed next to his bed. It was a blessing to notice that four of the area congregations in/around Fulton, Mississippi, were working together in showing care and concern for the folks who live in the home called "Meadows." Each Lord's day at 2:00 P.M. a worship service is conducted in the home by one of the area congregations. This cooperative spirit in caring for the "needy" is truly a "good example" and the Fulton area churches of Christ are worthy of being imitated. (MM editor)

## In Memory of Lewis Robinson

- By Dennis Doughty -

On November 30th, of this past year, the Lord's church in Mississippi lost a humble servant and preacher, and I lost a very special friend.

I first met Lewis Robinson and his wife, Audrey, when I moved to Fulton to begin preaching for the Pine Grove congregation forty years ago. Lewis was an auto mechanic and often he would make a "house call" to repair my old Chevy II Nova. As a young preacher who knew nothing about motors, getting this kind of special help was much appreciated.

I feel honored that I had a little something to do with Lewis making the decision to preach the gospel. I had graduated from the Preston Road School of Preaching in Dallas Texas and helped Lewis become enrolled in what I thought was the best preacher training school in our brotherhood at the time.

Not only did he attend there, but he ended up preaching for the same little congregation in Ovilla, Texas that I had preached for when I was a student there. He and Audrey and their kids moved into the little wood frame house next to the church building that I had lived in myself. This created a special bond between us that remained until the end.

After graduating Lewis and Audrey moved to work with the church in Durant, Mississippi. I was preaching 10 miles away in Lexington. Our two families had a lot good times together during the two years we were there. Lewis went on to become the full time minister for the new congregation in Hesterville, just north of Kosciusko. He worked for this congregation for several years.

Lewis began to have health problems and moved back to Fulton and their home where he continued to do some preaching until his health would no longer let him preach the gospel that he loved and lived. In his later years he remained that unassuming servant by mowing and caring for the cemetery at Pine Grove.

Lewis was one of the most truly humble men I ever knew. He often supported himself in his preaching, and led many souls to the Lord. He will be missed on this side, and graciously received on the other.



## F. M. & Pearl Hylander: Married 72 Years

### Still Counting and Courting

- by Ken Joines -

This story began 94 years ago, on July 16, 1916, when F.M. Hylander was born down there in Star, Mississippi. Pearl Bailey would be born on April 9, 1922 over at Wheatley, Arkansas.

Through the years and by the time he was 17 they

both had drifted to Memphis where F.M. would become good friends with Pearl's brother Hank. F.M. had a 1937 Ford and those two boys stirred up quite a lot of dust around these parts.

When Hylander would pull up to the Bailey place and honk, sometimes this little 12-year-old would come out and beg to go with them, but F.M. said they really didn't much like it when she went along. It cramped their style, you see. But as time passed, this gangling 12-year-old began to take shape into quite a cute little item and F.M. found himself noticing her much more by the time she was 15. They soon began dating and on August 1, 1938, they became Mr. & Mrs. Hylander, a fact that remains after 72 years.

F.M. worked for American Standard Supply Co. in Memphis for three years before joining Firestone where he worked until he retired 37+ years later. Pearl worked at Woolworth until the children came along, but by that time F.M. had built a "sideline" business of garbage collection in the Whitehaven area. At one time he owned six trucks and employed fifteen men. This was in addition to his work at Firestone. Pearl did office work for their business.

They had five boys. Ronald Wayne died three days after his birth and before leaving the hospital, but the other four are Larry of Greenville, Texas whose work has been in the banking business; Ricky Lieutenant with the St. John's Parish in La Place, Louisiana; Doug an Electrical Contractor in Walls,



F. M. & Pearl Hylander

MS; and Don of Olive Branch, MS who works for FedEx.

Pearl said, "I would always buy these pink outfits, thinking I would surely have a girl this time, but it was not to be. They are thankful for their four boys, eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Not only have these two been married for more than seven decades, but they are close friends and long-time fishing buddies. During their fishing lives they owned three different motor homes and when spare time was available they usually headed for Enid Lake to fish for Crappie, Bass, Bream and "anything else that would bite." They often went to Lake Fork in Texas to fish. Wherever they were, there was always plenty of laughter and good times.

Pearl Bailey grew up in the church of Christ. He was not a Christian for many years after their marriage, and it was her steadfast dedication and unwavering faithfulness to the Lord Jesus that played a major role in leading F.M. to become a child of God. While she worshiped regularly at the McKellar Avenue church in South Memphis, he would stay home and cook. On Sunday nights she would ask, "Would you like to go with me?" It seemed that his negative answer would never change. But her persistent devotion finally reached its target when one Sunday he went with her. O.K. Vick was the preacher. It wasn't long until brother Vick buried F.M. in baptism and ever since that time those who know him

best know him for his quiet spirit and his dedication to things that are right.

They built their present house in Horn Lake, Mississippi in 1966. For awhile they attended the Southaven church of Christ, later joining the fellowship at Holmes Road

in Memphis where they stayed until the late Peck Blythe convinced them to come help start the Lake Forest church in Walls, Mississippi. F.M. and Peck visited numerous congregations and individuals in a successful drive to sell bonds to erect the new house of worship. For the last several years they have worshiped at the Goodman Oaks church in Southaven.

This past August our congregation saluted the Hylanders for 72 years of marriage. This writer has known these wonderful people for many years. I've been with them in joy and sorrow. I've enjoyed many a package of Crappie fillets that were caught, cleaned, frozen and delivered to our house.

Not many weeks ago, I witnessed something that is so typical of this man's agility even at his advanced age. I was turning in to the parking lot at Tractor & Supply in Horn Lake to pick up some wild bird seed when I noticed someone coming out of the store with an extra large bag on his shoulder. Upright and sturdy as a 50-year-old, it was 94-year-old F.M. Hylander briskly toting a 50-pound bag of seeds to his car! He and Pearl enjoy feeding the wild birds, but one of their greatest pleasures is feeding a group of Raccoons that shows up at their back door every evening about dusk. As I was writing this on a Sunday night, I phoned him for some more details and asked if he had fed his 'coons yet. He said, "Yes,

See **HYLANDERS** on Page 16

## 13th Annual

### MM MS RV Rally

To be held, Lord willing, at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, MS on April 27 - May 1, 2011. Our theme will be:

**Living life focused on two days,  
This DAY and that DAY.**

Plenty of cabins and rooms at the lodge are available at the present time. All of the lodge rooms are reserved under my name.

You can call the State Park (601-684-3938) and reserve a cabin/RV site today. Don't wait to the last minute. Make your reservations today.

If you need more information, you can call me at 337-515-7314. (Paul Franks, director of Mississippi Rally) Or visit our website at [magnoliamessenger.com](http://magnoliamessenger.com)

#### SARDIS LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP 'in memory'

A cabin will be erected in memory of **Anthony "Shane" Ruiz**. To contribute, make your donation payable to: SLCC, 176 4-H Rd., Batesville, MS. 38606 and earmark it "SLCC overflow cabin in memory of Shane Ruiz." Groundbreaking is planned for March 2011. Shane was killed in a tragic accident while on a mission trip.

#### MERIDIAN, MS (Northside Church)

**John Carlisto** began his work with the Northside Church of Christ on January 1, 2011. John came to Northside from Durham, NC. **Guyton Montgomery**, the former preacher, now works with Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies in Pensacola, FL. (A special thanks to Chuck Rowell for this information.)

## Thank you for Receiving and Reading the Magnolia Messenger

### Christians Care

Jesus said: "**I was sick and ye visited me.**" (Matthew 25:36)  
Pure religion includes Visiting the "**fatherless and widows in their affliction.**" (James 1:27)



#### A Nursing Home Scene

Caring Christians are pictured visiting with Edith Pirtle (seated, left), a nursing home patient. The visit followed a Sunday afternoon worship service conducted by the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Caring Christians included Dewey and Martha Lawrence (standing), Margie Ferguson and Janie Wallace (seated).

## Giving Generated by God's Grace

*How should churches generate growth in giving among members?*

- John Pigg -

How should churches generate growth in giving among members? In West Germany giving is generated by the government. Most citizens are members of two official churches — Catholic and Lutheran, and the government takes 8% of their income out their paychecks as a church tax, which is re-distributed to the churches.

Aside from being unscriptural, the downside is their members are dying spiritually and the churches are declining instead of growing!

A typical Lutheran church, for example, might have 10,000 tax paying members in its district, but on a given Sunday have less than 100 worshippers!

The Biblical way for churches to generate growth in giving is by a grace/giving system of financial stewardship. The grace of God can turn selfish, stingy givers into joyful, generous givers, and the upside is members grow spiritually and churches grow numerically.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church he commanded them and other churches to join in a benevolent effort for suffering saints and others in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1-3). In 2 Corinthians (chapters 8-9) Paul sets forth the Biblical guidelines for generating growth in giving by God's grace.

Paul never mentions "money" or dictates a tithe or dollar-amount or percentage one should give. The word "grace" occurs seven times in these two chapters, and is clearly taught as the main motivation for our generous giving to the Lord's work. Consider carefully these four points.

(1)

**The Macedonian Model** (8:1-5). Paul had taken up a collection in Macedonia on his way to Corinth, and the Christians were unbelievably generous as their giving was a demonstration of



John Pigg

"God's grace." They had been "enriched" with a "wealth of generosity" enabling them to contribute their "abundant gifts," and God is given the ultimate credit.

The way God's grace had produced abundant giving among the Macedonian Christians was not by making them rich in shekels, but by making them spiritually prosperous through his grace resulting in an "abundance of joy."

What should cause liberal giving to any ministry is a heart filled with joy inspired by the grace of God, or else we shouldn't give at all. When joy motivated by God's grace fills our minds, not even poverty can stop us from growing in our giving. Jesus said of the poor widow who gave two small copper coins into the temple treasury in Lk 21:2-5: "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

When joy is overflowing by the grace of God, genuine concern for the needs of Christian ministry and church missions spontaneously arises and two things are affected: the amount we give and our eagerness and willingness. The Macedonians gave beyond what they were able. They looked at their personal incomes and family

budgets and were so carried away with joy that they gave more than they could afford, and they did it with an incredible desire. They were "begging earnestly" for Paul to allow them the privilege to participate in this offering to relieve saints of their suffering.

The bountiful joy that God's amazing grace gives us makes us beggars! Leaders don't have to plead with church members to grow in giving; they have a readiness to do so and are thankful for the opportunity! Don't miss this point: **It's possible to grow in giving as a substitute for our personal commitment to Christ rather than an expression of it.** God doesn't want us to give our money in that manner. Of first importance is to give ourselves to God and to the Lord's work. Only then will our gifts will be pleasing to the Lord. Furthermore, the Macedonians gave "by the will of God." They followed God's guidelines for giving according to New Testament teaching.

(2)

**The Preacher's Promotion** (8:6-8). Paul does not promote a "Health & Wealth Gospel" as some preachers today who teach the more money you give, the more you will get. Paul didn't solicit donations from the general public, or offer free letters with his official apostolic signature if anyone would send him a love offering of \$25 or more!

Paul preached the sovereign grace of God as the spiritual compulsion for growing in giving. He doesn't merely pray that the Corinthians will be ready with a generous collection when he arrives; he spends two chapters promoting the fulfillment of what they had previously promised. He sent Titus to preach and promote grace/giving by encouraging them to "complete this act of grace," and to "excel in this act of grace."

Neither Paul nor Titus was going to coerce or command the Corinthians to give "according to what they do not have," but they did urge them to "prove the sincerity and genuineness of their love" by giving based on "what a person

See GRACE on Page 19



## We Weren't There

Charles Edward Shepherd

We weren't there and we didn't see it,  
But we still believe it's true;  
The Son of God had to die to make us free,  
It was the only thing he could do.

Satan had won an earlier battle,  
In the garden -- many years before;  
A spotless lamb had to be sent,  
The whole world's sins he bore.

We weren't standing in the crowd that day,  
As Pilate took his stand.  
With a basin of water he washed and said,  
"I'm innocent of the blood of this man."

One man had to be pardoned that day,  
As the mob gave their verdict and said,  
"Release Barabbas, Crucify Jesus,  
His blood shall be on our head."

We didn't witness the soldiers that day,  
As they bowed and made sport with the news.  
They beat him, mocked him, and put on a scarlet robe,  
Saying "Hail the King of the Jews".

We didn't see as the nails were driven,  
Through his hands and feet with pain;  
The blood that came forth cost Jesus his life,  
That eternity would be man's gain.

We weren't standing neath the cross that day  
Gazing up into His face to see,  
Him writhing in torment and hear Him say,  
"My God, why has thou forsaken me?"

The blood soaked ground, his job was done,  
The Son of God was dead;  
"It is finished, into thy hands I commend my spirit,"  
Were the very last words He said.

We didn't see the empty tomb,  
Or feel the nail prints in His hand;  
But He is coming back to take us home,  
To an eternal heavenly land.

Charles Shepherd; 2510 Sharron Dr.; Chattanooga, TN 37421

### FERRIDAY, LA

The Ferriday church has recently hired a new preacher. According to Mike Barker, their new preacher is **James Pasley**. Brother Pasley has moved from Butler, Alabama to work with the Louisiana church of about 50. We pray God's blessings to be with him, his family and with the Ferriday congregation. Ferriday is a community of about 4,000 souls, located 12 miles west of Natchez, MS. Thanks, brother Barker, for letting us know.

We solicit your prayers and your encouragement for the MM.

## The Peril of Pride

Proverbs 6:16-19 tells us of seven things that the Lord "hates." The first is "a **proud look**".

Pride is a *dangerous* sin. It's a damaging, terrible sin. It's such a *deceptive* sin that often the people who are the proudest are the least likely to admit it.

Let's think about what **pride is not**.

First of all, a good *healthy self-image* is not pride. Ought to "not think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Rom. 12:3). But it takes a certain amount of self-confidence to make it in life!

Secondly, godly pride does not prohibit one from *receiving honors*. As a matter of fact — the Bible speaks of giving honor to whom honor is due (Rom. 13:7).

When a man says to his wife, "Honey, I'm proud of you," if he means, "I'm giving you honor," -- then God is pleased. It would be great for her to say to him, "Dear, I'm proud of you too!" And then give him a pat on the head. Tell him he's a "good boy." Give him a treat. Just like you train a puppy. That'll work every time!

Thirdly, when the Bible uses the term "pride" it does not condemn one for realizing the need to do a job well. If you are sweeping a floor you ought to sweep the corners.

And finally, there is nothing wrong with dressing nicely. You are not humble because you go around looking like an unmade bed. That's just sloppiness.

Now — What IS the pride the Bible *condemns*? It is an *attitude of independence from God*. If you're thinking, "God, I don't need you. I can do it myself." This is ungodly pride!

What are the effects of ungodly pride?

**#1:** Pride *provokes* God. Our text (vs. 17) says that a proud

look is something God hates. And every assault, every murder, every bit of theft, every bit of cruelty -- you can say this, "pride did that." It's a sin that leads to all others.



Doug Greenway

**#2:** Pride *promotes* dissension, feuds and fusses.

Proverbs 13:10 says, "Only by pride cometh contention." *If pride doesn't cause your problems, often it keeps you from solving your problems!* There are **seldom** problems "too big" to solve — only people "too small" to solve them.

**#3:** Pride *precedes* destruction.

Look at Proverbs 15:25. "The Lord will destroy the house of the proud." Do you see that? Look at Proverbs 16:18. "Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall."

But I want to tell you that *until you admit your need of the Lord*, you will never be saved. I'm telling you dear friend, what the **Bible** says, "God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

**How do you want your life-story to end?**

Doug Greenway  
West Main church of Christ  
Tupelo, MS  
doug\_greenway@yahoo.com

### Durant Church

to host  
Lectureship/Discussion

February 28 -- March 3, 2011

"The Home and The Church"

(Monday thru Thursday)  
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

(Three lessons each evening)  
Speakers include: **James Hill** (Eupora); **Greg Ledbetter** (Killen, AL); **Danny Butler** (Louisville); **Emmette Armstrong** (Durant); **Robert Rawson** (Batesville); and **Walter Williams** (Batesville).

### Dale H. McCaleb

Departure: 1/16/11

**Editor's Note:** Notice sent to MM by Cecil May, Jr., as requested by brother McCaleb's family.)

Dale H. McCaleb was born October 15, 1922, in Winfield, Alabama, and departed this life January 16, 2011, at the age of 88. Brother McCaleb attended Montgomery Bible School and received an A. A. Degree. He served in the U. S. Navy for six years. He was a minister for churches of Christ for 20 years and then began a civil service career as an aircraft mechanic for 34 years. He was a faithful member of the Leonard Street Church in Pensacola, Florida for 29 years.

Survivors include his beloved wife Ruby of 63 years, sons Michael (wife, Rose) and Roger (wife Linda), 4 grandsons, Travis, Brent, Aaron and Nathan, and 4 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 20, 2011, at Faith Chapel Funeral Home North, Cantonment, Florida with Barry O'Dell and Billy Lambert officiating. Burial followed at Barrancas National Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Charles Decker, John Heflin, Aaron McCaleb, Kenneth Brannan, Larry Brannan and Rick Brannan. Honorary pallbearers were the elders of the Leonard Street Church.

### Warrington Church Closes Its Doors

*Not good news!*  
**May good come there from!**

On Monday morning (1/9/11), brother Ray Herrington of Vicksburg, Mississippi, called. When I asked how his new year was coming along, he answered, "Pretty good; although some... not so good." He then related a decision which "had to be made" and which became effective Sunday, January 9, 2010. After more than 40 years of spiritual services to the community of Warrenton, Mississippi, (a few miles south of Vicksburg), the dwindling congregation reluctantly; yet, permanently closed their building. Brother Ray stated that it was truly a "hard decision" and a "sad occasion." But, as he said, "We had to face reality... we were down to about 10 to 12 and were just spinning our wheels."

Brother Ray stated that most of the Warrenton members have

### Robert Rawson Radio Broadcast "Almost 2,000 Hours"



Robert Rawson is pictured in the audio studio of radio station WBLE-FM in Batesville, Mississippi

Robert Rawson, long time preacher for the Batesville, Mississippi church of Christ (Eureka Street) recently celebrated a very special record of radio broadcast time. On December 13, 2010, brother Robert presented his **2,000th** hour of broadcast time on the program called "Moments With The Master."

Robert has been a daily radio speaker at Ruleville, Mississippi on stations in Drew and Cleveland. For the past 32 years, he has enjoyed working

J. Boyd Ingram, WBLE-FM radio station owner, took the picture on 12/13/10 at the close of the morning broadcast.

This was the occasion of Robert's 2,000th hour of radio gospel preaching -- spanning much of his 50 years as a preacher.

with the church in Batesville, Mississippi and doing daily radio programs.

His broadcasts over the past year (2010) have been archived at the [www.batesvillechurchofchrist.com](http://www.batesvillechurchofchrist.com) site along with associate preachers **Michael Bates** and **Josh James**. WBLE-FM recently added their streaming of the radio broadcast, *around the world*, at 7:35 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. each day via their site [www.wble101.com](http://www.wble101.com).

In 2011, Rawson enters a part-time role in another phase of "retirement" with the Batesville church and plans to conduct gospel meetings and/or workshops as well as serving as preacher for the Charleston Church of Christ.

When Robert is absent from Charleston, one from a host of preachers, adjunct teachers and past students, associated with the "Training School for Better Service," fill-in at Charleston. The [www.tsfbs3-edu.com](http://www.tsfbs3-edu.com) site now enjoys 3,000 pages viewed per month of preaching/teaching techniques.

Rawson is in his 50th year of (as the late J. A. Thornton used to say) "trying to preach." Thanks be to the Lord. (Article sent to MM by Robert Rawson.)

The Bible Still says:  
"Preach the Word"

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

made plans to become a part of the nearby I-20 church of Christ in the city of Vicksburg. He also said that the facilities of the Warrenton church were now "up for sale" and that interested persons could contact either of the two men who served as elders until the church closed. For more information, please contact: **Ray Herrington** at 601-636-4197 or **Mark Rhodes** at 601-636-4443.

We join with brother Herrington in requesting prayers on behalf of our brothers and sisters who, reluctantly, felt the need to make such a sad decision. Lets all pray the work of the Lord will move forward in the community as brethren unite in faith with other brethren as all seek to glorify the precious name of Jesus Christ. Pray also for the proper disposal of the property and the dispersal of proceeds to help further the Cause of Christ.



**Berean Children's Home Under Construction in Brookhaven, Mississippi**

The Berean Children's Home, established in 1979, is in the process of relocating from Louisiana (near Hammond/Albany) to Lincoln County, Mississippi (near Brookhaven). The home will be located near the Mt. Olive Church of Christ, according to Wendell Davis, long time leader in benevolent work of "caring for the homeless." Brother Davis requests opportunities to visit with churches

and provide updates on the work and needs of the home. Contact:

**E-mail:**  
**bereanchildrenshome@cableone.net**  
**Address: Wendell Davis;**  
**P.O.Box 1009; Brookhaven, MS 39602**  
**Phones: 601-757-8766 (cell) or 601-833-4376 (residence)**

**A "Drop-In" That Was Not Planned To Be A "Drop in Visit"**

**NOTE:** Regular readers of the MM know that my June and I frequently "drop-in" unexpectedly and visit services of congregations in Mississippi and adjoining states. The following was not planned as a "drop-in"; however, we decided we just had to share it with MM readers. (alf)



**West Main; Tupelo, Mississippi**

On Sunday evening, February 13, 2011, between the hours of 5:00 and 9:00 P.M., visitation was held at Pegues Funeral Home in Tupelo, Mississippi, for the family of **Prentiss Pearson**, who died the day before. (Prentiss was my wife's only surviving sibling.)

My June and I decided to leave the funeral home during visitation hours and make a quick visit with our brethren of the West Main Street church in Tupelo for their Sunday evening service. Due to the circumstances, our visit was not a planned "Drop-in-Visit" to be reported in the MM; however, we must say a word or two about what turned out to be two visits -- one on Sunday and the other on Tuesday.

On Sunday at the evening worship hour, we found the fellowship of our brethren to be warm, the song service to be inspiring and the sermon to be excellent.

Doug Greenway, who has served well as West Main's preacher for the past few years, preached a powerful and provoking lesson on what he called a "Check Up From The Neck Up."

In his sermon, brother Doug asked penetrating questions as he challenged us to have or to take a needed "check up from the neck up". He challenged us to repeatedly ask ourselves, "How am I doing?" in response to such



**Doug Greenway**  
 Teacher/Preacher

questions as the following.

- (a) "What kind of MUSIC do I allow into my head?" (b) "What type of HUMOR do I enjoy?" (c) "Who are the COMPANIONS I seek?" (d) "How do I spend my FREE TIME?" (e) "How do I spend my MONEY?" (f) "How do I live my LIFE in light of Scripture?"

The experienced preacher asked that each listener seek to have the "mind of Christ" which, he said, would "enable us to deal with any of life's problems." (So much for Sunday evening)

(And, now for Tuesday morning.) In part, due to an earnest ap-

peal made to my June by a faithful member of the West Main congregation (**Hazel Pearson**), we returned to the beautiful church building of the West Main congregation for a Bible class on Tuesday morning at 11:00 A.M. We had thought the fellowship was warm on Sunday evening, but it was even warmer on Tuesday morning. So enjoyable and helpful.

The preacher, Doug Greenway, taught a lesson dealing with **encouragement** to the 28 students who had come together on the third day of the week. Using the New Testament example of Barnabas, the teacher challenged us in practical and specific ways, to make it our goal in life to be an encouragement to those around us.

The West Main congregation brings together 350 or so worshippers each Lord's day and is overseen by five elders -- **Allen Welford, Perry Britt, Chuck Begnaud, Jimmy Keith and Larry Williams**. We were truly blessed by our visits with the West Main church in Tupelo, Mississippi. (Of course, lunch with elder **Allen Welford** and his wife, **Betty**, added to the value of our visits. (Al & June)

**Search**

TV Program

Now on  
**WRBJ**  
**TV34**  
 in  
**Jackson,**  
**MS**

Sundays:  
 7:00 a.m.



MM file  
 Photo 75

Phil Sanders recently called and shared with the MM some very good news. Brother Phil said: "Search of the Lord's Way will appear in Jackson, MS on WRBJ TV34 each Sunday morning at 7 a.m., beginning February 13! We are delighted to be on television in Jackson and hope to make a difference for the Lord's people there."

Philip D. Sanders, Speaker  
 In Search of the Lord's Way  
 P.O. Box 371  
 Edmond, OK 73083  
 405-348-3242

<http://www.searchtv.org>

**Sunday Morning at Eggville**



Eggville's Building: **Leon Willis** -- Their Preacher for About 30 Years



An early Sunday morning telephone call provided requested information and an appreciated invitation. Leon Willis, long time preacher for the Eggville congregation, near Tupelo, provided directions to the church building along with an invitation for me to preach at the morning worship hour.

My June and I really enjoyed visiting with the rural church that



brings together about 50 or 60 worshippers each Lord's day. Our impression is that the Eggville

church is a loving congregation that has great respect for the authority of the Holy Scriptures and continue faithfully in their efforts to expand the borders of Christ's kingdom. Our special thanks to brother **Ken** and brother **Ricky** for doing a good job in song leading and Bible teaching. May God richly bless all, especially brother Leon and his wife, **Jean**, as they provide leadership for the church called "Eggville."

**NOTE: We thank God for all congregations of God's people -- whether LARGE or small. Each size has certain advantages. Let's not forget that some of the smaller congregations provide members and frequently serve very effectively as training grounds for quality servants in the Lord's Kingdom.**

## Five-Year-Old Megan

**"When I Grow Up, I Want to Marry a Christian"**20  
Years Later

Little Megan - 20 Years Ago

Twenty something years ago an article appeared in "The Magnolia Messenger" entitled, "Megan Plans to Marry a Christian" written about a sweet little five

year old girl named Megan Leigh. Just recently we were reminded of the article written about Megan and we decided to do a follow up story. We were reminded of her expressed desire and the remark she had made as a little girl saying, "When I grow up, I want to marry a Christian."

Two decades have swiftly passed and that sweet little girl has grown into a sweet young lady.

Megan went on to graduate from high school, then on to college. She graduated from Harding University with a degree in Nursing in December of 2008.

Shortly thereafter, she applied for a nursing job in Chattanooga and was accepted at the Urlanger Children's Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

When Megan moved to Chattanooga one of the first things she did was to locate a church.

In addition to having a place for worship, she felt like it would give her an opportunity to meet other Christian young people.

Megan realized, in finding a Christian mate, the places she chose to go or the companions she chose to be with, all played a part in her being able to find a Christian husband.

Many prayers had gone up before the Father that Megan would meet just the right person -- a Christian. And, as someone so wisely stated, "Not just a member of the church, but a true Christian."

God was working "all things to-

gether for good" on behalf of Megan; but, it was according to His timetable and not ours or hers. She continued worshipping with the East Brainard Church of Christ in Chattanooga. Then, it happened!

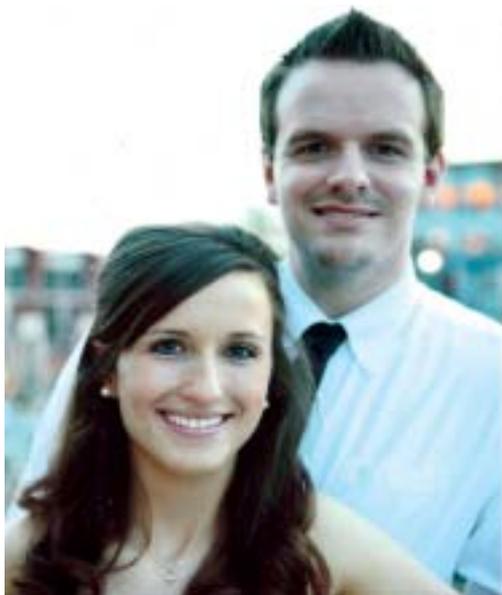
On a certain Sunday, she was introduced to Andrew Christopher Shepherd, who had been away at college but had returned home for the summer. Andrew and his family were members of the East Brainard congregation.

We are thankful to report that **dreams do come true** if one sticks to their principles of being a Christian themselves.

Megan and Andrew were married in a simple, but beautiful ceremony performed by her dad on a snow white beach in Pensacola, Florida on May 8, 2010.

It is our prayer that Megan and Andrew will have a long and useful life together and that they both will always remain faithful to the Good Lord. It is so much easier to be and remain a Christian if you have help and encouragement from your mate in being loyal to Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to Megan and Andrew. May God richly bless you in all your endeavors to serve Him. *(by June Franks)*



Megan and Andrew Shepherd

Remembering  
"Bob"

Helen ("Bob") Franks

We were recently blessed with the opportunity of attending Sunday services at Al's home congregation in southwest Louisiana (the Boxwood church of Christ.)

This is the first time we had visited the church since the death of Helen "Bob" Franks, who was a faithful member at Boxwood. ("Bob" was married to a Al's cousin, **Ruel Franks** who had preceded her in death.)

As we entered the auditorium that Sunday morning we immediately missed "Bob" as she usually occupied the same pew every service. We remembered that "Bob" was very faithful to attend every service of the church in spite of her deteriorating physical condition which led to her passing from this life on October 8, 2010 at the age of 88.

Remembering Bob, we recalled with thanksgiving, not only her faithful attendance but also her love for knowledge as a faithful student of God's Word. She was also a faithful reader of the *Magnolia Messenger*.

We remember how dependable she was to answer the "Question Box" in each issue of the Messenger. You could count on "Bob" to send her answers to us. In so doing, she not only gained from her study but she also was an encouragement to us as well as others who read the Messenger.

"Bob's" daughter, **Johnny Blackmon** reminded us that "Bob" had mailed her recent answers to us and that her name appeared in the Messenger *after* she had passed away. We also remember the encouragement that she always gave to us each time we would go back to "Booger Branch" in southwestern Louisiana.

The following poem was written on the funeral brochure that called to remembrance the life and death of our dear sister "Bob".

*Those we love don't go away;  
They walk beside us every day;  
Unseen, unheard, but always near;  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

We extend our deepest sympathy to "Bob's" immediate family as well as her spiritual family at the Boxwood Church of Christ.

**Ask Yourself  
How will you be remembered?**

*(Written by June Franks)*



## Magnolia Messenger

## Memorials &amp; 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*

**ALLAN SMITH  
MILDRED DAVIS  
RAY CAGLE**

Charles & Pauline Aldridge  
(Jackson, LA)

**MRS. PAT (RAY) HYATT  
MR. FRED DELOACH  
MR. LYNN STAMPLEY**

Jess & Cindi Franks  
(DeQuincy, LA)

**ADDIE LEWIS**

Steve & Cookie Midgett  
Hazel Lewis  
(Petal, MS)

**CLAUDIA RUBLE**

Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

**CHARLES WESLEY JEANS  
HELEN "BOB" FRANKS**

Wes & Rhoda Jeans  
(Merryville, LA)

**MADLINE FULGHAM  
BROADAWAY**

Larry & Brenda Summers  
Charles & Juanita Fulgham  
(Yazoo City, MS)

Brad & Andrea Cohen  
(Brooksville, MS)  
Frances Stewart  
(Water Valley, MS)  
Bonnie Strickland  
(Jackson, MS)

Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

**JIMMY W. COX**

Larry & Diane Dunaway  
Tony & Gina Luther  
(Columbia, MS)

**DORIS ADDISON  
BILL BRUMLEY**

Rick & Betty Bishop  
(Columbus, MS)

**WILMA LEDBETTER  
CARL MICHAEL "MIKE"  
DRUMMOND**

Anita Taft  
(Cordova, AL)

**V. J. WOOD  
JO BEAN**

Ms. Hazel Cook  
(Columbus, MS)

**NIC DILMORE**

Elvis, Ruby & Bill Dilmore  
(Mendenhall, MS)

**IDES & MARY GLENN  
RUTHERFORD**

Shirley Spain  
(Jasper, AL)

**T. J. SMITH**

Margaret Burnett  
(Charleston, MS)

**MERTIE M. & X. L. LOVE**

Dale & Betty Love Pearson  
(Winona, MS)

**MARY ALCORDA**

Ken Nichols  
(Shreveport, LA)

**BOB MORPHIS**

Sydia Palmer  
(Corinth, MS)

**MR. C. D. PARISH**

T. C. Nowell, Jr.  
(Starkville, MS)

**WAYMON & FAYE TAYLOR**

Linda Riggan  
Sandra Taylor  
Jennifer, Bo & Taylor Sellars  
Mark Riggan  
(Tupelo, MS)

**BRUCE BUSH**

Charles & Juanita Fulgham  
(Yazoo City, MS)

**RON CHANDONAI**

Barbara & Gene Persinger  
(DeRidder, LA)

**JEWEL TATUM**

Frances Stewart  
(Water Valley, MS)

**PRENTISS PEARSON**

Carole C. Milner  
(Brandon, MS)  
Charles & Juanita Fulgham  
(Yazoo City, MS)  
Bob & Mary McCafferty  
(Kosciusko, MS)  
Robert & Helen Logan  
(Fulton, MS)

**CAROL HENLEY PHILLIPS  
MARY HEATHER SPENCER**

Jay & Mary Henley  
(Brandon, MS)

**IRBY PERKINS, JR.**

Mrs. Martha Perkins  
(Leesville, LA)

**MRS MAMIE BAUGH**

Bill & Eloise Purvis  
(Florence, MS)

**JIMMY BRADSHAW**

James & Deanie Bradshaw  
(Indianola, MS)

**JAMES BOWEN**

Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

*In Honor Of*

**SHARON STRICKLAND CANNON**

Bonnie Strickland  
(Brandon, MS)

**MADOLYN & GENE GIBSON**

J.W. & Yvonne Carter  
(Vicksburg, MS)

MM; PO Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090

## Music In Worship

A Review of Thomas C. Alexander, *Music in Worship* (Nashville: Gospel Advocate Company, 2010).

- Jim Howard -

Tom Alexander, Bible professor at Harding University, has done our brotherhood of churches of Christ a great service in producing the book *Music in Worship. A New Examination of an Old Issue* in response to the decision of several churches of Christ, some very large, to become "both/and churches," that is, churches characterized by both instrumental and non-instrumental worship services. Specifically, Alexander answers a series of three sermons presented by Rick Atchley at the Richland Hills Church of Christ in Ft. Worth, Texas in December, 2006. These sermons were made public.

In February, 2007 the Richland Hills Church added a Saturday evening worship service which included musical instruments and observance of the Lord's Supper.

Alexander points out that none of Atchley's arguments for instrumental music in worship are new, most being at least a hundred years old. Atchley identifies three factors for the church's decision to include an instrumental service: the church's need for more space, the belief that more people could be reached with the gospel through this kind of service, and the belief that instrumental services would keep many "dedicated and talented people" from leaving Richland Hills for a church that gives them an instrumental option. It is not my purpose to present every one of Atchley's arguments, capably answered by Alexander, but only the most major.

Atchley not only argues that instrumental worship was commanded in the Old Testament, a fact granted by most a cappella advocates, but also that God commanded instrumental music before the giving of the Mosaic Law. He thus argues believing that the

abrogating of the Law by the New Covenant would not do away with God's desire for instrumental worship if such preceded the giving of the Law. Alexander responds that if this argument is valid, a number of Old Testament practices could be justified for Christian practice including animal sacrifice, Sabbath keeping and dancing.

As regards the New Testament, Atchley argues that because Jesus does not address instrumental music in worship, this means it is a non-issue and not that important. Alexander points out a number of issues not addressed by Jesus including instructions concerning elders and deacons, the cessation of the Aaronic priesthood, infant baptism, husband and wife responsibilities, and homosexuality. Who would see these issues as unimportant? The same points could be made regarding Atchley's stress on instrumental music's being a non-issue in the Book of Acts. In arguing that the Book of Revelation authorizes instrumental music in worship, he fails to admit that such authorization would also open the door for altars, incense and sacrificial temples -- all of which are mentioned in Revelation.

In the chapter entitled "Plumbing the Bottom Line," he quotes Atchley as saying, "The authority to forbid instrumental music must be established apart from a clear command of God. You can't open your Bible and show me where God forbids it" (p. 59).

Alexander quotes Everett Ferguson extensively "to emphasize that the absence from the New Testament of a prohibition against instrumental music per se does not necessitate the conclusion that brother Atchley has reached, namely, that instrumental praise was an issue of no consequence to the New Testament writers. Further, the absence of references to instruments as vehicles of praise should not be construed as permission to employ them in Christian worship without persuasive evidence that they

should be so used" (p. 63).

Of Atchley, Alexander notes, "At the end of the day he bases his initiative to add instruments to Christian worship on the fact that there is no prohibition against their use in the New Testament" (p. 64). The author then asks why by the same reasoning the church can not accept sprinkling for baptism, infant baptism, a pope as head of the church on earth, regional bishops, and the burning of incense, none of which is prohibited in the New Testament (p. 65).

In summation, Alexander states "Contrary to Atchley's criticism, the New Testament's silence regarding musical instruments in worship should not be dismissed especially when viewed in light of the New Covenant's abrogation of the Old Covenant cult, the positive teaching of the New Testament on how vocal music suits the nature of Christian worship and exhortation, and the historical evidence from the New Testament era and the post-New Testament church" (p. 80).

As a gospel preacher of 35 years, I plead guilty on behalf of myself and a lot of my fellow preachers. Twenty or thirty years ago, we assumed that everyone in the church understood the restoration principle. A generation grew up who did not understand and now we are paying the price. Tom Alexander's book is excellent and can make a great contribution in this regard. The elders of the church where I preach ordered a copy for every family in the congregation. May I urge elders everywhere to do likewise.

-----  
*Brother Howard preaches for the Madison church, near Jackson, Mississippi. His address: Jim Howard; P. O. Box 1845; Madison, MS 39130.*

### PASCAGOULA

Jim Ingram, one of the elders, of the Pascagoula Church of Christ informed us of the hiring of their new preacher. **Aubrey Watkins** and his wife **Dawn** will begin their work with the congregation as of May 1, 2011.

1950

Oct. 28  
2010

Still  
Counting;  
Still  
Courting!



The Fulghams (60 Years): Juanita and Charles

My June and I realize that we have been richly blessed. For more than 50 years, we have been privileged to get to know so many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. And, among the many, we are thankful to include Charles and Juanita Fulgham of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

On the 60th anniversary of their marriage date, we were pleased to be among the large group of family and friends who gathered together in the "Fellowship Room" of the Yazoo City Church of Christ to help them celebrate the special occasion.

Our prayer is for Charles and Juanita as they continue to "let their light shine" as faithful Christians and active members of the Yazoo City church. May God richly bless them, their children -- Edwin, Mike and Gloria -- along with their seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

### MADISON (Jackson, MS)

The Madison Church of Christ has hired a new Youth and Family Minister to serve their congregation. He is **Adam Eppes** from Clinton, AR. Adam began his work with the Madison congregation in December, 2010. (*This information was provided by Brad Guth. Thank you Brad!*)

## MARRIAGE

"A Gift of/from God"

ONE  
Wife  
(woman)  
(for life)



ONE  
Husband  
(man)  
(for life)

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

(Genesis 1:27)

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

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

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

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

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

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



(Left) Prentiss Pearson (a patient at "The Meadows") shows copy of paper to his sister and brother-in-law (June and Al Franks). The bi-monthly publication, shown to the Franks a few months ago while visiting in a Fulton nursing home, was made available by the evangelistic efforts of the Mantachie, MS Church of Christ. (Larry Lott serves as the local preacher). After the above was written, Prentiss passed from this life into eternity on February 12, 2011. **Life is so uncertain!**

**"House to House/Heart to Heart"** publication circulating among patients of the Meadows Nursing Home in Itawamba County, MS. "House to House" is the most widely circulated publication among churches of Christ in the World. Up to **1.8 million** copies every other month!

## Baptism = Immersion

Some years ago 20th Century Christian published a little article with the above heading. I think it is very interesting because it shows that there are some in the denominational world, in time past, who had a right understanding about baptism being an immersion in water. Note what these men said:

**John Calvin (Presbyterian):** *"The word baptism signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the primitive church."*

**Martin Luther (Lutheran):** *"Baptism is a Greek word and may be translated immerse. I would have those who are to be baptized to be altogether dipped."*

**John Wesley (Methodist):** *"Buried with him in baptism" - alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion."*

**Wall (Episcopalian):** *"Immersion was in all probability the way in which our blessed Savior, and for certain, the way by which the ancient Christians received their baptism."*

**Brenner (Catholic):** *"For thirteen hundred years was baptism an immersion of the person under water."*

**Macknight (Presbyterian):** *"In baptism the baptized person is buried under the water. Christ submitted to be baptized, that is, to be buried under water."*

**Whitfield (Methodist):** *"It is certain that the word of our text, Romans 6:4, alludes to the manner of baptizing by immersion."*

The above was printed (11/10/10) in the weekly bulletin of the South Huntington Street church of Christ in Kosciusko, MS. Preacher, **Les Ferguson, Sr.**, announced that he was planning a series of sermons on "Baptism," calling attention to the series by publishing the insightful comments made by prominent church leaders of years gone by.

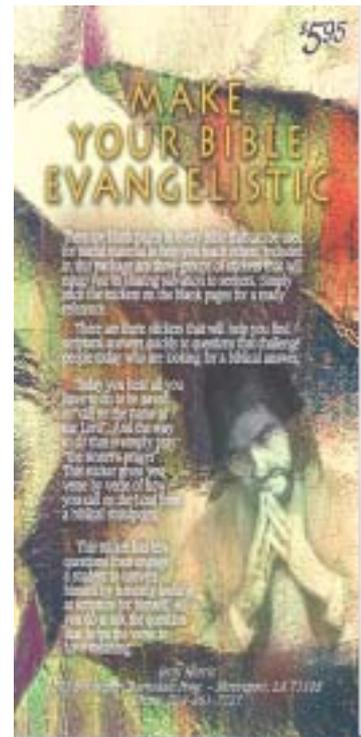
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## Tipton Street Church Hosts Meeting With Area Preachers

A few months ago (Nov., 2011) using the theme, "I believe; therefore, I speak," the Tipton Street church in Kosciusko hosted another Gospel Meeting. They chose local preachers from area congregations to do the preaching.

We were blessed to attend on a Thursday night and to hear the effective preaching of evangelist **Billy Moore**, long time preacher for the Delmar congregation in Ruleville, MS. His lesson, as usual, was well prepared and well presented.



**Billy Moore**  
Our camera happened to catch brother Moore looking up as he delivered Heaven's message to earthly men.



Somewhere in Mississippi

## The Number of Stars

**2,000?  
300 Sextillion!**

When I was a little boy, I recall hearing that the stars in the sky had all been numbered and that the total was about 2,000. Of course, I now know that what I heard or *thought I heard*, was an "uneducated guess." On occasions, I have tried to count the visible stars, but never reached the number of 2,000. So, I gave up.

Much more knowledgeable people, through the use of telescopes and satellites and space explorations, have determined that the stars are so many it is truly impossible to make an accurate count.

Recently, while listening to a radio program, I heard a report which stated that the number of stars was much greater than was previously thought. The reported said, "At least, *three times higher*."

How many stars are there? The reporter said that astronomers now estimate the number of stars to be 300 sextillion. He explained, "*That's 100 billion squared, multiplied by 30.*" (??)

The reporter said there are "300 sextillion stars." I can't comprehend. I don't understand. I am persuaded; however, that regardless of the number, there is no plausible explanation for the existence of so many stars except to believe in a higher power -- *a much higher power* -- **Almighty God** (the God

of the Bible).

The writer of the eighth Psalm exclaimed, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" He added, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained...." The **star maker** is God. There can be no other explanation. When the stars are seriously considered (300 sextillion), only a person the Bible calls a "fool" would say "there is no God" (Psalms 14:1).

How many stars did God make? More than 2,000. Many, many more. Scripture uses the word "multitude," as in Deut. 10:22. Abram was challenged to "look toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them...." Abram did not and could not. But God can. He numbered them; He made them. The Bible says, "He telleth the number of the stars..." "He [God] calleth them all by their names." Holy Scripture adds the following words, extolling the great *Star-Maker*, "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." (Psalms 147:4,5).

All who are privileged to be Christians are greatly blessed to know the One and True God -- the Creator of stars, the Maker of man and the Giver of life. When we get to thinking about our God, we sense a need to join voices with all faithful believers and exclaim, "How Great Thou Art!" I feel like singing.

(Article by Editor)

### Fulton Bible Institute

*"He being dead, yet speaketh"*

On Tuesday evening, February 15, 2011, my June and I were in Fulton, Mississippi to be a part of a very special gathering of Christians.

For the past five or six years, such meetings have been taking place under the banner of "Fulton Bible Institute" (associated with the Sunset School of Preaching; Fort Worth, TX).

During the past several years brethren from as many as **nineteen** (19) area churches of Christ have been coming together at the Clifton Street church building for



Richard Rogers (deceased) taught an excellent study on the Minor Prophets the night of our

in-depth Bible Study. About 50 were assembled on the night of our visit. **Russ Crosswhite** (Fulton's preacher) is the very capable local director. (alf)

## Swindle Family Moving To Zambia

### MISSION NEWS

Greg and Mary Swindle have announced their plans to move to Zambia, Lusaka, Africa to work with the Mapepe Bible College. They will be working there with David and Lorie French, former associates from their time spent with the Martin Church of Christ in Martin, Tennessee. Greg just returned from a three-week visit to Mapepe where he taught a course on Knowing God. While in Africa he became convinced that this is where God wants him to serve.

For the last five years Greg has been working with the Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ in Florence, Alabama as their Involvement and Education Minister. Prior to this he worked with the Emerald Beach Church in Panama City, Florida. During his time in Panama City, Greg and Mary made several mission trips to Guyana in South America. Previous to this he accompanied the West Main church in Tupelo to the Ukraine while working with the Martin Church of Christ. In the summer of 2010 Greg and Mary made an additional trip to Guyana. Having been raised in Southern Mississippi, he has a deep seated love for missions.

It is important that Greg be at Mapepe as soon as possible. David and Lorie French have been carrying this work on without co-workers for over seven years now and they are in great need for assistance as the work has increased tremendously during this time. David personally recruited Greg to work with him because they had worked so well together while in Martin years before and he knew that Greg's heart was in missions.

While serving as a Chaplain with the Florida Army National Guard, Greg was called to active duty with the Army. He was part of the forces that occupied Baghdad where he ministered to the needs of the soldiers for thirteen months. He is well-equipped to deal with the hardships of living in Africa and knows how to minister to the needs of men and women living in difficult circumstances.

Greg is a graduate with honors from Magnolia Bible College and has done graduate work at Harding Graduate School and Freed-Hardeman University. He received a Masters in Ministry from the Theological University of America and will receive a Masters



The Swindle Family -- To Zambia by September

in Counseling from Heritage Christian University in May of this year. In addition Greg has taught several classes in the Continuing Education program at The University of North Alabama in Florence.

The Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ in Florence, Alabama has agreed to be his sponsoring congregation and to include him in their mission budget for the next three years. He does need other churches to participate with him in this tremendous effort in training men and women to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in Zambia. Tentative

plans are for Greg to be at Mapepe no later than September, 2011.

### Sponsoring Church:

Sherrod Avenue  
Church of Christ  
1207 Sherrod Avenue  
Florence, AL 35630  
256-764-3253

256-651-2454 - Greg's cell  
256-764-0799 - Greg's home

### Point of Contact:

Paul Swindle  
207 Oakview Street  
Florence, AL 35633  
256-718-1669; 256-702-2200

### Skyline Church: Alive -- Dead -- Alive Again! (Memories and Gratitude)

Every time we think about the Skyline church of Christ, we feel gratitude. Back in the mid 1900's, Skyline was a thriving country church. Attendance was good. Gospel meetings would attract overflow crowds. The first Gospel Meeting I was privileged to conduct in Mississippi was at Skyline in 1955. The building was packed, folks were standing against the walls, children were seated on the stage [pulpit] -- not because I, a 16-year-old Louisiana boy, was preaching, but because that's the way it was in those days at Skyline.

Over the years, the Skyline church had "more than its share" of problems, resulting, finally, in the closing of the church. For several years the building sat there empty -- unused.

But, thank the Lord. Through the leadership of a few dedicated men and an handful of faithful women, the church was revived -- it was reestablished. Today, the Skyline church is alive and doing well.

Attendance runs from 50 to 70. Troy McNutt serves capably as their preacher. Their weekly bud-

get was increased for 2011. They are studying the scriptures dealing with leadership in hope of selecting elders in the near future. All seems well.

We were blessed with an opportunity to visit the Skyline church on a recent Wednesday night in February. A young man, **Marcus Presley**, taught a meaningful lesson on the dangers of liberalism as it relates to the home and family.

It was a good night. A good visit. Brought back a lot of memories. The Skyline church was home to my June when she was growing up in Tupelo, Mississippi and, after we were married, it was our home on two different occasions, in the late 50's and early 60's, when I served as their full-time preacher. We thank God that Skyline is alive again! (Editor)

### Please Forgive

Please forgive us for not reporting on every congregation we visit in between issues of the MM. We run out of space and we have been known to misplace our notes. **Just not room for all.**

## Valuable Suggestions

# Making Church Announcements

- Ken Joines -

During the course of a year, I am privileged to preach to a wide variety of congregations -- in recent times -- from Texas to West Virginia and from Florida to Alaska. One thing we all have in common is how to get news and announcements into the hands of the people—how best to accomplish this. And the first thing I want to make clear is that I believe there is a spiritual element in our announcements because the happenings among church members is Kingdom business; it relates to the spiritual and physical needs of the family of God.

We are members of Christ and members of one another so it is an important part of our basic relationship to share information when we assemble. When we hear of sick ones or grieving ones or when we learn of other needs and opportunities to serve, **this is important.**

I am old enough to remember when most of our churches did not even own a mimeograph machine and some designated brother simply stood up and told the people we were going to have a gospel meeting or a hayride or turtle-stomp this coming Friday night. By the mid-fifties most of us had either a spirit duplicator or mimeograph and we started printing bulletins to hand out. Next came the offset press and Xerox and we obtained postal permits and began mailing all the pertinent information to the homes of the church members.

Now we have PowerPoint and we can get real creative with that; albeit, sometimes a little too creative, because some of the pictures and art work projected can be distracting. During communion at a recent service the operator put up there what looked like an apple tree on the screen and occasionally an apple



Ken Joines

would fall. I found myself focused on when the next apple would drop instead of on the spiritual business at hand. (I'm still not sure what that tree was supposed to be saying).

In most churches we mail or email the announcements to the people, then we give them another print-out when they arrive at church. We eliminated the need for many announcements.

But guess what? We somehow forgot to do away with the announce-ER. In the majority of our churches some guy still gets up there and reads to us what we have just read. I preached for a church last year where they had the handout and also projected all those same announcements on the big screen up front. Then a brother got up

*I appeal to all of us to genuinely care about one another. Be attentive. Read every announcement and see if there is someone who needs me. See if there is a good work I need to help with. And then do our very best to allow God to use us to bind this body of people together and to serve our community.*

and welcomed the people and read all the announcements from the announcement sheet we had in our hand. And then, so help me if another man did not stand before us at the close of the service and read all those announcements to us AGAIN! A year later, I believe I still remember some of those announcements they made—who was sick, even the room number!

I am forced to ask if this is the best use of time. There the people sit, trapped, getting madder by the minute, knowing that the Baptists will beat them to the cafeteria. Some are no doubt tempted to jump up and shout—like Moses, “LET MY PEOPLE GO.....just let ‘em go!” By the time we are finally dismissed the people are so frustrated that they don’t even care whether we have the baby shower. Or the fried squirrel cook-off.

There simply has to be a better way. And there IS a better way. At one larger church the elders recently announced a new “announcement policy”, for in a church of several hundred there is sometimes a long list of announcements. And here’s how they are now handling announcements.

A deadline is set for things to go in the mailouts and handouts. Last minute news will be scrolled on the large screens before and after worship. Exceptions are to be made in the case of deaths, funerals and critical illness, thus eliminating the need for most oral announcements.

Now, wasn’t that easy? I commend this procedure. It is a wee bit offensive for you to hand me a sheet with all the pertinent facts on it, then get up and read it to me—as though I am illiterate.

If someone is going to rehash all the announcements, then please don’t go to the trouble and expense of printing them. And if a person

is not interested enough to read those details for himself, he will not be interested enough to listen to it when you read it TO him.

I cannot count the number of times I’ve seen a brother make a long list of announcements and then say, “Now, our Youth Minister has an announcement.” He makes his and then HE says, “And now, one of our Elders has an announcement.” By then you See ANNOUNCEMENTS, pg 19

## My Father

(Cont. from page 2)

Furthermore, we are reminded that *if* evil fathers know how to give good gifts unto their children, “...how *much more* shall *your Father* which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:11). To all who love God and are among “the called”, the Bible faithfully promises that our Father “...works all things together for good...” (Romans 8:28).

It seems appropriate to stress, in closing, that for God to be a loving parent to me or to you -- it is necessary to be a child of God. If I am not His child, I (you) cannot pray, “*Our* Father who art in Heaven.” If I am not presently His child, I am in need of being “born again”, as Jesus taught Nicodemus in John chapter three. Here, Jesus plainly said, “...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

In response to Nicodemus’ further question, Jesus explained the process of the new birth by adding, “...Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (verses 3,5). Have you been born again? Are you a child of God -- the loving Father?

My final thought in this study is based upon the writings found in the next-to-the-last chapter of the last New Testament book. Here are recorded these remarkable words, “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be *my son*” (Revelation 21:7). The greatest proof of God’s love, as

a parent, is *yet to come* and will be experienced by all his faithful children in that beautiful city of God, the New Jerusalem. This is where all of God’s family will be together, *forever*, in a place where there will be no tears, no death, no sorrow, no crying and no pain. Heaven at last. With God; our Father. Forever! What a hope. What a Loving Parent!

(Your comments, questions or suggestions invited.) Contact editor: A. L. Franks; P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090; E-mail or call: franksmm@aol.com; 601-668-3344)

## HYLANDERS

(Cont. from page 8)

but there were only seventeen that came tonight.” Many times twenty-five or more will show up expecting their handout. He said his ‘coons eat six pounds of dog food every day.

F.M. and Pearl Hylander. A sweeter couple you will not find. Devoted to one another. Loving their family. Loving and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Loved and respected by all who know them. (Article written by and sent to the MM by Ken Joines; Southaven, MS. Thanks, Ken)

## Readers Response

Want to say how much we appreciate the work you both are doing. Our prayers are with you. In *Christian Love*, (Henry & Virginia Ford, Ackerman, MS)

## GOODNESS

(Cont. from page 7)

in this special car. One hundred and fifty men came and packed that car and over flowed into other cars on the train in honor of the memory of that man who preached *the gospel of the extra dinner plate.*

That’s goodness! It requires the spirit of sacrifice, and the willingness to give. It requires the willingness to be used by God for His cause or purposes in service to others.

By Eddie Lewis, Associate Minister for Germantown church of Christ, Germantown, Tennessee. EddieLewis@gtownchurchofChrist.org.

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## At the LA/TX RV Rally

# Living A Dream

- Dean Caldwell -

Surrounded by loving Christians; excellent Bible classes and worship services; great entertainment; Gospel singing; wonderful food and fellowship; enriching patriotic programs; fun filled games and activities; plenty of free time for relaxation: These were dreams fulfilled by nearly 100 Christians as they came together during the last week in October 2010 for the 12th annual Louisiana-Texas RV Rally at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland, Texas.

The theme for the rally was "Dreaming the Impossible Dream". Although several folks began arriving the prior weekend or earlier in the week, the scheduled activities of the rally began with lots of hugs and greetings and a great pot luck dinner on Wednesday evening, October 27th. Following dinner, **Dennis Doughty** of Tunica, Mississippi presented the first "Dream" lesson, "The Dream of Tomorrow."

On Thursday morning brother Doughty spoke to the men and **Nellie Caldwell** from Vicksburg, Mississippi spoke to the ladies on the subject "Dreaming of a Better Relationship & Eliminating the Nightmares", and provided great scriptural insight on ways to improve marriages and relationships with other Christians. In the afternoon, and every afternoon, many Christians were busy playing cards, dominoes, pitching washers, or just enjoying visiting and relaxing.

On Thursday evening, following the Pot Luck Dinner, the entire group was mesmerized by a wonderful lesson presented by Brother Doughty entitled "The Impossible Dream: The Wonder of Resurrection!" Following the lesson **Ray and Donna Franks** and **Dan and Audrey Manuel** led the entire group in an entertaining game of "The Price is Right". Several folks went away with some really nice prizes, and all went away having had a lot of fun.

**Ryan Smithy** of Brownwood, Texas presented a great lesson on Friday morning from John 4:35 on "Dreaming of a Harvest White." The annual auction was held following the morning lesson on Friday. Several people went away with great purchases and great satisfaction knowing that the money they spent buying items that had been donated by the people attending the rally would all be used for good causes.

The traditional "Fish Fry" was the dinner menu on Friday

evening, with Brother **Tom Welch** of Many, Louisiana again providing the fish and supervising several men who helped with the cooking.

After dinner **Joe Hancock** of Hallsville, Texas spoke to the group on "Dreaming of a Better Life." The lesson was followed by a great patriotic program prepared by Ray Franks and his son-in-law **Mike**. Afterwards **Joe Hancock** and **Morris Tripitz** entertained with a "picking and grinning" session. Of course the crowd demanded that Brother Tripitz sing "When the Old Rusty Wagon Was New", a song he has to sing for the group at least once during every rally.

"The Christian Magician Show" was presented by **Jerry Thompson** of Palestine, Texas on Saturday Morning. His "slight of hand" was both entertaining and informative, as he demonstrated how he uses his talents to teach Bible lessons using his "magic", especially to children. The morning was completed by a period of gospel singing by the entire group.

Following the pot luck dinner on Saturday evening, Dan Manuel, minister of the Crocket Road Church in Palestine, Texas gave a rousing lesson on "Dreaming of a Better Country." Brother Dan and his wife **Audrey** and Brother Tripitz teamed up after dinner for more entertainment with song and humorous stories.

On Sunday morning several campers went into Palestine to worship with the Crocket Road Church, while other remained at the park to worship. The morning lesson was presented by **Dean Caldwell** of Vicksburg, Mississippi, with **Dan Hawkins** of Minden, Louisiana conducting the song service, and Tom Welch presiding at the Lords Table for Communion.

The activities concluded on Sunday evening with an evening worship service with Ray Franks speaking to the group, followed by the last pot luck of the week.

Twenty one RV rigs from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi came

together for the rally. Several other Christians stayed in cabins at Salmon Lake Park and in nearby motels, and participated fully in all the rally activities.

The RV Rallies for Christians began in Mississippi 13 years ago, hosted by **Al and June Franks, Paul and Glenda Franks** and supporters of the *Magnolia Messenger*. The Louisiana/Texas Rally began the next year.

The Mississippi Magnolia Rally meets in the spring each year and the Louisiana/Texas Rally comes together in the fall. Several Christians have never missed attending a rally —and don't intend to.

Lord willing, the next Mississippi Rally will be April 27 - May 1, 2011 at the Percy Quin State Park. The next Louisiana/Texas Rally will be November, 2nd thru 6th, 2011 at the Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland, Texas.

Christians from several states and many congregations who regularly attend one or both of the rallies each year have developed a great love for each other over the years, and are always anxious to welcome new Christians into their unique fellowship.

Christians who have access to a travel trailer, motor home, or any RV are encouraged to bring them to the Mississippi Rally in April and to the next Louisiana/Texas Rally in November. For those who don't have access to an RV, there are plenty of cabins and motel accommodations available at both rallies. For some who work or for some other reason cannot attend all of the rally, great blessings can be experienced by attending whatever part of the rally they can.

For more information on the Mississippi Rally contact **Paul Franks** at 337-515-7314 or email: [apaulfranks@gmail.com](mailto:apaulfranks@gmail.com)

For information on the Louisiana/Texas Rally contact **Ray or Donna Franks** at [rdfranks@netcommander.com](mailto:rdfranks@netcommander.com) or 337-786-3095.



Rally Attendees Enjoying a Miniature Train Ride Around Salmon Lake Park

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The rally



Nellie  
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Attending the  
LA/TX RV  
Rally.



Sample of Some of the Smiles Seen at LA/TX Rally

### 13th Annual

## MM MS RV Rally

To be held, Lord willing, at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, MS on April 27 - May 1, 2011. Our theme will be: **Living life focused on two days, This DAY and that DAY.** Plenty of cabins and rooms at the lodge are available at the present time. All of the lodge rooms are reserved under my name. You can call the State Park ( 601-684-3938) and reserve a cabin/RV site today. Don't wait to the last minute. Make your reservations today. If you need more information, you can call me at 337-515-7314. (**Paul Franks, director of Mississippi Rally**) Website: [www.magnoliamessenger.com](http://www.magnoliamessenger.com)

## Churches Searching for Preachers

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

We will plan to run each ad **not more than one or 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!**

### Waynesboro, MS

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

**Salary: \$40,000**

**Health Insurance:**

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

#### Contact:

**Terry Heathcock** (after 6:00 PM)

601-735-2288

[cbheathcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cbheathcock@yahoo.com)

**Jim Bowen** 601-671-0987

[www.sufinta@bellsouth.net](http://www.sufinta@bellsouth.net)

**Jamie Heathcock**

601-735-3014 or

601-410-0894

[snookiejam@hotmail.com](mailto:snookiejam@hotmail.com)

Mail Your Resume to:

**Waynesboro Church of Christ**

**Preacher Search**

**P. O. Box 94**

**Waynesboro, MS 39367**

### Need a Preacher?

**Run an Ad. -- No Charge**

### 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.**

### DeQuincy, LA

**Position: Pulpit Minister**

(9-15-10)

The church of Christ in DeQuincy Louisiana, which is located in the southwest part of the state, about 20 miles northwest of Lake Charles, is searching for a minister to work with our congregation. Currently the congregation has three elders and four deacons.

We are a loving congregation with a Sunday morning attendance of between 80 and 100 members. We are active in a Prison Ministry program each Sunday at the local prison, we support other area congregations when they are in need of someone to fill their pulpits, and we are also supporting mission work. We help support an area church youth camp, Red Oak Springs in Newton Texas, as well as other types of benevolent work in our community.

We are looking for a doctrinally sound, reasonably young family man with training from a Christian University or reputable Preaching School. We will also consider new graduates. We would like someone with a good pulpit delivery, who can teach Bible classes, conduct home Bible studies, and have "strong" people skills with a loving desire to regularly visit the Family of God, be it at their homes, in the hospital, or at the nursing home.

Our employment package value is approx. \$45,000, which includes a 3 bedroom, 2 baths, 2 car garage, brick home and other expenses.

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

**Ray Franks**

**P O Drawer 218**

**DeQuincy, Louisiana 70633**

**Home: 337-786-3095**

**Cell: 337-515-0866**

**DeWitt Green**

**Box 254**

**Reeves, Louisiana 70658**

**Home: 318-666-2468**

**Cell: 713-515-7631**

*"...How shall they preach, except they be sent?...."* (Rom. 10:15)

### Youth/Family Minister

**Vicksburg (61 Bypass)**

We are searching for a full-time youth and family minister who is passionate about serving the Lord and ministering to our young people and their families. We desire a mature, spiritually-minded young man who can be a good example to our youth and mentor them in their spiritual development.

**Size: 150**

**Parsonage: No**

**Position Open: Dec. 2010**

**Salary: Negotiable**

The Bypass Church of Christ is a diverse, racially-mixed, a cappella congregation of about 150 located in the historic town of Vicksburg, Mississippi. We value our restoration heritage, but have no desire to bind traditions that are not plainly taught in Scripture. We hold to Scripture, but allow freedom in methods where the Bible has not specifically spoken. We are led by 3 shepherds.

For more information, please contact:

**Bypass**

**Church of Christ**

**787 Hwy. 61 N. Bypass**

**Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183**

**Attention: Willie Nettle**

**E-mail:**

[wjnette@yahoo.com](mailto:wjnette@yahoo.com)

**Phones:**

**601-638-5142 or 601-638-6165**

### Coquille, OR

MM reader writes: "Billie and I moved here where I preached years ago. The area is like ten years ago. Membership is about 22 Sunday mornings. We need a preacher who can bring his retirement with him. We are Bible pounders, Christ following. Help. I preach alternate Sundays. We moved from Carhage C.O.C. at Carhage, MO. Thank you for your great attitude and hard work.

**Bob Powers**

**P. O. Box 863**

**Coquille, OR 97423**

*Magnolia Messenger*

needs

**YOUR PRAYERS**

## News Notes

### SOPOT, POLAND

**Death Vists**

**Missionary Family**

We were so very saddened to learn of the passing of Michael Ray "Mikey" Dawidow. Mike and Molly Dawidow, along with their children, are missionaries in Poland. Mike was raised in Poland and Molly is from Batesville, Mississippi. Ray Lipe (now deceased) and Belle Lipe are Molly's parents. (Our information came primarily from the Batesville Church bulletin.)

"It is with an indescribable sense of loss, yet in the certainty of the resurrection that we announce the death of our son, brother & grandson, who is at peace with the Lord - Michael Ray "Mikey" Dawidow (October 1, 1981-January 1, 2011)."

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mikey Dawidow. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with Mikey's family. May God bless you with peace and comfort in the days and months ahead. May you take comfort in all the precious memories and the wonderful hope there is for Mikey.

### The Franks Give Thanks

*-- Encouraged --*

*Dear Brother Al and Sister June,*

*I read with great interest your article about Almighty God as Your Father. Brother Al, I rejoice that you were given the opportunity to speak at the recent Freed-Hardeman Lectures on the subject. First, I consider the invitation as an honor in view of your accomplishments and service to the Father. And you did a great job in dealing with the subject. The only disappointment for me was that the article was "to be continued" at a later date.*

*Sister June, your article on "Just Living Together" is an excellent study, and worthy of every young person's prayerful attention. Thanks for the Magnolia Messenger and its contents. (Stacy Carter, Starkville, MS)*

*Enjoy the Bible articles and hearing about the Lord's church in so many places. (Wilma Jewett, Poolville, TX)*

*We pray for your good works. (Mrs. Wesley Hyatt, Memphis, TN)*

*Look forward every time. Read it all. (J. T. Street, Ripley, MS)*

*Keep the "Good News" moving forward. (Patty Henson, Kilmichael, MS)*

### MOORHEAD

**Gene Got Sick in California**

Gene and Madolyn Gibson faithfully work with the Christian student center at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, Mississippi. We have learned that Gene became very ill while visiting a daughter in California.

According to e-mails from Madolyn, Gene has had the best of doctors and care while in California. Their children were able to be with them for awhile. Robby, their son, is a doctor and lives with his family in Alaska. A daughter, Jeanna Lynn May and her family live in Yukon, Oklahoma and Angela lives with her family in California. We pray God's continued blessings to be with Gene and Madolyn as he continues to recover from his illness.

### Encouraging

*Hi Al & June,*

*...The MM is a great paper. We thoroughly enjoy every page. June your article is very touching. Thank you so much for all you do in God's Kingdom. We miss you and love you very much. Tommy beats me to the Question Box everytime now. Love, (Tommy & Peggy Shull, Southaven, MS)*

*Dear Al & June,*

*...We consider your family among our dearest friends and I am thankful that we have been partners in preaching in Mississippi through the years. Both of you serve a unique purpose for the Lord and his church in the Magnolia states of Louisiana and Mississippi and your good work with the MM has been extraordinary, exemplary and exceptional.*

*We love you both and pray God to keep you healthy to be able to continue this important ministry. We know of no two people that are more loved and appreciated by the churches or could replace you in the service you render.*

*Each issue of the MM is informative, instructive and inspiring to the brotherhood and brings glory to God. We look forward to receiving it and reading every page... May God richly bless you in the future as he has in the past and is doing in the present!! In His Service with You, (John & Beth Pigg, Ridgeland, MS)*

### Steens Church

**To Give Away Song Books**

The Steens church, near Columbus, MS has song books to give away. "Songs of the Church" by Alton H. Howard.

If interested, call **Frank McDaniel** at 662-328-0701 or **Pete Bowen** at 662-329-2379

## MM - More - MM Readers' Response

**Note:** Dennis Doughty, who writes some for the MM, forwarded to us the following response to his article on "Christmas" which was published in the previous issue of the MM.

*Brother Doughty:*

*I appreciate so much your article entitled, "How I Wish the World Would Celebrate Christmas." I read it in the recent issue of "Magnolia Messenger." Also, the poem "Behold Him!" is great. I would like to use the poem in our church bulletin. It says what needs to be said. I might use your article as a springboard for a sermon later. Thanks so much. Have a great Christmas. Eph. 5:20* **Bill Brandstatter**, Preacher, **Marion, IL** church of Christ.

### Just One Man's Opinion - Encouraging -

**Editor's Note:** The following "Reader's Response" is simply the opinion of one man. And, it is the opinion of a man. May God help me to never forget that my greatest goal in life is to be well pleasing to the Lord. What God thinks about me (and, about you) is what really matters. May all be to His glory. "In Him, we live, move and have our being." From Him "every good gift comes" (Acts 17:28; James 1:17). So, we give thanks to our Loving Father, the Almighty God. Thanks also, to brother Ray Hyatt.

*Dear Al and June,*

*Find enclosed a small contribution to help with your excellent publication... Also, Al, I want to give you a sincere compliment. I have wanted to tell you this in person -- but the appropriate opportunity seemed to never present itself.*

*Anyhow -- I want to tell you that you have a very unique and unusual ability to present the "good news in all its glorious simplicity as good or better than anyone I know.*

*Whether preaching, teaching or writing, your presentations are always so plain and simple -- and yet interesting and informative.*

*In contrast, and unfortunately -- we have drifted away from the beautiful and powerful simplicity that is in Jesus Christ, into the quagmire of man's wisdom. I believe your style truly emulates that of our Savior. May God continue to bless you and yours.* Love, **Ray Hyatt (DeQuincy, LA)**

### More Encouragement

*Dear Bro. Al,*

*I just got the Messenger a few days ago. I enjoy it so much. I was sad to read of Bro. Thornton passing. When I was a young girl and he was a new young preacher, he stayed in my parents' home and preached where we lived in Missouri.*

*I have kept up with him some over the years. I have written him to say hello and ask him about something I was studying. He was so kind to answer and remind me he remembered my Dad and Mom. He was a great Christian man.*

*God Bless you and June in all you do. I am sure you will never know the good the paper does until you find out when we all get to Heaven.*

*I will be praying about what is decided to be done with the buildings. Ray and I stopped several times and worshiped at the church when we would be coming from Missouri. God Bless you In Christian love. **Pat Hudson** (via e-mail)*

A  
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**Jimmy Anderson**  
Teaching Adult Bible Class  
in Lake Charles, LA

## Thank God For Capable Bible Teachers

As we visit among churches of Christ in Mississippi and adjoining states we are made to appreciate the many capable Bible teachers who gladly use their God-given time and talents in the effective teaching of the Holy Scriptures. One such man is Jimmy Anderson of the Enterprise Boulevard church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Jimmy is an example of the quality of so many Bible teachers that bless the church of our Lord.

## Grace

(Continued from page 9)

has," and to "finish" what they pledged to do a year ago.

(3)

**The Savior's Sacrifice** (8:9). Jesus Christ is God Almighty, through whom the universe was made, and who upholds all things by his power. He has existed from all eternity as a part of the Godhead. It was from this infinite height that he performed the unimaginable condescension to be born in a cattle stall and to die on a criminal's cross in order that we might be made rich. Not rich in silver, but in salvation, joy, liberality, and love; not because we were worthy, but because we were undeserving.

This grace of God bestowed on sinful humanity turns selfish people into joyful, generous givers, just like God! The Savior's sacrifice takes away our selfishness. The basis for selfishness is the notion that giving less to the Lord's work and keeping more for ourselves will provide happiness and fulfillment to our lives. Actually, the very opposite is true. God not only sent and sacrificed his beloved Son to save sinners, but he knows that his saints will be much happier and more fulfilled when they imitate the sacrificial giving of their Savior.

(4)

**The Givers God Graces** (9:6-15). God loves and blesses bountiful sowing and cheerful sharing. It not only "produces thanksgiving to God," it "is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God." Grace/giving springs from our "submission" to God and flows out of our "confession of the gospel of Christ." The "surpassing grace of God" is bestowed upon us, when we sow "bountifully, and not sparingly or reluctantly" and share the abundance of our physical blessings with others, not out of "compulsion," but out of "cheerfulness and compassion" because that is how God gives to us.

If God approves so heartily of joyful generosity, we may be sure he will bless and grace it more abundantly. There are thousands of testimonies that could be told by generous givers who have given above ten percent of their income at various times in their

lives and have discovered themselves unable to out give God.

The statement, "God loves a cheerful giver," is shocking if we think that God loves all men in the same way. He loves all in that he gives life to all, and sent Jesus to die for all. But God loves uniquely all who love him and are called according to his purpose, and are joyous, generous givers, in that he works everything together for their good and turns all their liberality back upon their heads with his limitless gracious blessings so that they can be more generous in greater good works.

Those who "sow bountifully will reap bountifully" in the sense that God will never allow them to give so much that they can't give more. Or to put it positively: the more you give, the more God will enable you to give. This truth is stated three times: "so that you may always be able to provide for every good work" (v. 8), "God will increase the harvest of your righteousness" (v. 10), and "You will be enriched for generosity" (v. 11).

The truth is plain; it is a **promise**. You may have much or little, but the more you give for the sake of the Lord's work, the more you will be blessed to bestow even greater generosity. The ultimate blessing of grace generated growth in giving is that the needs of the saints are met, the gospel of Christ is acknowledged, many thanks rise to the heavenly Father, and he is glorified in the world.

### Special Note

The elders asked me to prepare this sermon and deliver it to the Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS, on December 12, 2010 following the presentation of the 2011 weekly budget needed to support the new program of work.

Every member was challenged to take two action steps in response: (1) to grow in their giving by God's grace. The lesson was closed with the question of the Psalmist, "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? (Ps. 116:12), and answered with the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Our goal was to grow our combined giving by \$500 per week over what we had averaged the

previous 52 weeks in order to be able to immediately meet the new budget. We appealed for equal sacrifice; not equal gifts. (2) We challenged every member to indicate only what their increased amount would be on a card that was provided, not the total amount of their weekly contribution, and they did not have to sign their name. \$723.00 was committed!

This growth in giving was generated by God's grace and he deserves all the glory! I challenge every person who reads this article to help your congregation grow in giving in 2011 by increasing your giving based on the blessing of God's grace to you. **I also challenge you to increase your giving to the Magnolia Messenger so that it can keep up its good-news work!** (Emphases added by editor of MM. Wonder why?, alf)

John Pigg, Minister  
Lake Harbour  
Church of Christ  
Ridgeland, MS  
jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org



Somewhere in Louisiana

## Announcements

(Cont. from page 16)

wonder if maybe everyone present will need to make his special announcement.

I appeal to all of us to genuinely care about one another. Be attentive. Read every announcement and see if there is someone who needs me. See if there is a good work I need to help with. And then do our very best to allow God to use us to bind this body of people together and to serve our community.

**Ken Joines**  
7154 Golden Oaks E  
Southaven, MS 38671  
kjoines35@hotmail.com

"Render to all their dues... honor to whom honor." (Rom. 13:7)

Larrie Askew, a faithful member of the Lord's church in DeQuincy, LA was honored by fellow Christians at the most recent LA RV Rally. This deserving recognition was led by Ray Franks, who asked that we publish the tribute in the MM. Glad to do so. The words that follow were inscribed on the beautiful plaque Larrie is holding in above picture. (alf)



Larrie Askew, A "Christian Servant"

*Presented to*  
**Larrie Askew**  
*In Recognition of a*  
**True Christian Servant**

*Through many hardships, trials and personal tragedies, you always put your personal feelings aside and show great love and sacrifice for your family, friends, and others around you.*

*Despite debilitating health issues, you find numerous ways to help others and share with them your abundant love.*

*You epitomize what true Christian service is and have earned the respect and admiration of your family, friends, and all who come to know and love you.*

**Louisiana RV Rally**  
**October, 2010**

**Mississippi MM RV Rally**

April 27 - May 1, 2011

Go to our website for more information

www: magnoliamessenger.com

(More Details on Page 8)

Watch DIRECTV®

**"Getting To Know Your Bible"**

Monday - Friday  
DIRECTV Channel 377  
9:30 p.m. CT  
3:30 a.m. CT

**Billy Lambert**  
Speaker



**"Let's Stop  
at Rayville for  
Sunday Worship"**

The day was Sunday. The date was December 5, 2010. "We", in this report, are **Garnett and Betty Harris**, along with my June and me, Al Franks. We had gone to Bossier City in northwest Louisiana, to help celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary for two dear friends -- **Dan and JoAnn Hawkins**.

After spending Saturday night, we departed early on Sunday morning enroute to Mississippi. Checking our time, we decided we would stop on our way back home and visit our brethren who assemble in Rayville, Louisiana. Glad we did.

As we entered the church building, we found that the Bible study hour had just begun. It didn't take long, however, until we realized that the class which was being taught by **Randy George** was a serious study of Old Testament service and worship. Emphasizes was given to the special activities of those led in Jewish worship, known as "Levites." We quickly learned to appreciate brother George for his leadership in Bible study as a member of the Rayville congregation.

Between classes and worship services, we were blessed to meet and greet many of the 50 or so brethren who call the Rayville congregation their "home church." It was especially pleasant to meet Rayville's preacher and his wife. The preacher is **Jerry Lee**. Stop with "Lee." Nothing added.

After singing the grand old hymn, "When We All Get To Heaven", very capably led by **Doug White**, we were edified by brother Lee's sermon which used Isaiah 59 as a launching point. The preacher discussed the need to place our utmost trust in God and to never forget that two of the greatest problems we face are (a) Sin and (b) Death and that Jesus is the answer to both! Brother Lee gave good scriptural advice when he said, "When down, look up -- don't look around." He also commented about the instructions for life as recorded in the little book of James saying, "When I get upset with my brother, James can calm me down."



Meeting House for the Rayville, Louisiana Church of Christ

Near the close of Lee's sermon calling for "Renewal" and "Reconciliation," the preacher reminded us that being a Christian involves more than just "going to church." He recalled the widely circulated statement, "Sitting in a church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than sitting in a hen house will make you a chicken."

Near the close of the service I was especially grateful to have a few minutes to speak words of encouragement to the congregation and to give a brief overview of our work with the "Magnolia Messenger."

It was truly another good "drop-in visit" topped off by a gracious invitation from the Doug White family to enjoy lunch with them at a family restaurant



The Lees: Special Servants at Rayville, Louisiana

nearby. From the Harris and the Franks families, a special thanks to our brothers and sisters at Rayville, LA.

(Report by MM Editor)

**Charleston Church Hosted Special Lectures on December 6, 2010**



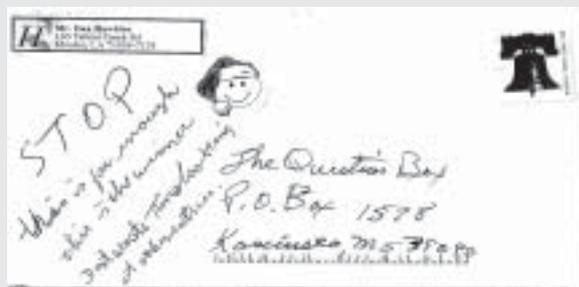
Speakers: (L-R) Andy Scott, Buddy Burns, James Hill and Danny Butler

Andy Scott is the preacher at Hernando; Buddy Burns preaches for the Red Hill congregation near Winona (Duck Hill); James Hill continues to serve the Eupora church and Danny Butler preaches for the church on the eastside of Louisville. This special series was arranged by Robert Rawson, who preaches at Charleston when he is not in meetings or lectures elsewhere.

(See Question Box)

## These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)



Answers received from Dan Hawkins in Minden, LA. Brother Dan wrote on the front of his envelope mailed to "The Question Box," **"STOP. This is far enough. This is the winner. Don't waste time looking at other entries."** A good try, brother Dan. Sorry. Didn't work this time. Keep trying. Keep sending in answers. Thanks! (alf)

Turn to page 4

1. Mr. Steven Tutor
2. Jane Walker
3. Dorothy J. Dean
4. Marie Sykes
5. Edith Winters
6. Eileen Ferrebee
7. Charlane Stanfield
8. Don "Ug" Lee
9. Lois Cleo Wright
10. Jean Forrester
11. Alice Humphries
12. Stan Neuenschwander
13. Pat Moore
14. Barbara A. Beard
15. Ed Istre
16. Jack L. Falls, Sr.
17. Mary Brannan
18. Linda McKinney
19. Brenda Brockway
20. Elizabeth Hines
21. Joe Arnold
22. Evelyn Faulkenbury
23. Janice Lewis
24. Imogene Grayson
25. Janie Green
26. Lawrence Horn
27. Mary L. Williams
28. M/M Arthur Burnett
29. Ms. Lucille Jackson
30. Elvis Dilmore
31. Ruby Dilmore
32. AlPaulthemia Cotton
33. Margaret Parker
34. Faye Brooks
35. Carolyn Harvill
36. Sidney Robinson
37. Era Hinson
38. Ms. Eileen Williford
39. Emily Overton
40. Dee Kepler
41. RayAnn Woodruff
42. Margaret Googe
43. Linda Cook
44. Dorothy Alexander
45. Betty Shackelford
46. Ima Jean Fogus
47. Mrs. B. H. Darby
48. Carole Shelby
49. Bernita Booker
50. Mrs. June Faulkner
51. Mrs. Jerry Bradley
52. Sherron Dixon
53. Maggie R. Edmonds
54. Evelyn M. Doss
55. Bobbie Loggins
56. Garry Gooch
57. Mrs. Mary M. McDonald
58. Elledith Harris
59. Linda T. Shirley
60. Beulah Rupert
61. Jennifer F. Gray
62. Vera Spencer
63. Carrie Niemet
64. Rick Bishop
65. Ann McDonald
66. Arvis & Lucille Midkiff
67. Frances Harrell
68. Katie Houston
69. Marie Lively
70. Ray Parham
71. Melody Woodruff
72. Julius Lee Morris
73. Kerry Deaton
74. Nadine Patton
75. Wm. & Atean Snow
76. Billy Willingham
77. Mike Sullivan
78. Paul & Elsie Bryson
79. Donna Gully
80. Joyce A. King
81. Iva Hill
82. Gerald White
83. Diane Dunaway
84. Bonnie B. Glass
85. Faye Stanford
86. Estelle McDonald
87. Coy Daily
88. Travis Hamilton
89. Ruby Wright
90. Barbara F. White
91. Betty Stewart
92. Ken Harris
93. Mrs. W. C. Wells
94. Juanita LeBouef
95. Lenola Balentine
96. Dorsa Sparks
97. Mary J. Myles
98. Marie Green
99. Madonna Michael
100. Barbara Beard
101. Geneva Brooks
102. Patsy McClung
103. Myra D. Reaves
104. Willa Fox
105. Kay Shiers
106. James Breckenridge
107. Johnny & Princess Watson
108. Barbara McGee
109. Tommy J Muirhead
110. Annie Mae Pipkin
111. Carol Bonner
112. Lisa Dettor
113. Jim Nowell
114. Robert Blackburn
115. Fran Williford
116. Bernice Townsel
117. Linda B. Keirn

118. Trillie Strickland
119. Dick Green
120. Mrs. V. E. Buffington
121. Betty A. Skinner
122. Alma Maddox
123. Mr. Wayne Crum
124. Linda P. Swain
125. Vera Ashmore
126. Rebecca Aexander
127. Betty Standard
128. Marcella A. Moore
129. Merlene Scott
130. Dorothy Brunson
131. Glen Brady
132. Roy Gambrell
133. Melba Ogg
134. Barbara Baker
135. Mr. Scott Nelson
136. Shirley Styers
137. Frances Tuttle
138. Amy Hutson
139. Sue Marques
140. Peggy S. Walker
141. Wynell Thompson
142. Virginia Luther
143. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
144. Edward Pearson
145. Mary Ella Webster
146. Virginia B. Kissell
147. Ann Rector
148. Roger King
149. Mattie Ann Owens
150. Lloyd Lambright
151. Clifford Crowder
152. Mrs. Dean Howe
153. Charles Coffey
154. John L. Gates, Jr.
155. Thomas Forrest, Sr.
156. Ms. Doris Laird
157. Bobby Brown
158. Everett Boyd
159. Barbara Yates
160. Debra Michael
161. Martha Simpson
162. Dorthy Ford
163. Inez & Laura Brannon
164. Rosie M Felton
165. Ruby Worthey
166. Gerald Worthey
167. Darla Ferguson
168. Warren Scott Gallaher
169. Dot Winslett
170. Melvin & Kay Linton
171. Linda Crochet
172. Catherine Powell
173. Pierce Flatt
174. Laura Nanney
175. Michelle Simpson
176. Norma Taylor
177. Shellie Hancock
178. Betty York
179. Charles & Pauline Aldridge
180. Dwight E. Hester
181. Nellie R. St.Clair
182. Mark Williams
183. Charlene Williams
184. Sommer Burnett
185. ? Westmaeland
186. Louella Whitehead
187. Bobbie Saxton
188. Lisa Dearman
189. Della Rhodes
190. Genie Henning
191. Ella Darnell
192. Lessie M. Tanson
193. Imogene Kirk
194. Lacey' Mastin
195. Elizabeth Sullivan
196. Brenda Harvill
197. Verna Spake
198. Cleta Burnett
199. Mildred Herrington
200. Dorothy Laws
201. Maydean Crowe
202. Jessica Slaydon
203. Stephanie Slaydon
204. Nicholus Slaydon
205. Dorothy Franks
206. Earl Franks
207. Annie Jean McGill
208. Toni Burnett
209. Kyla Hunter
210. Dorothy Sullivan
211. Jackie Sullivan
212. Shanya Smith
213. Trey Williams
214. Sherry Gordon
215. Idna Eddington
216. Catherine Allen
217. Bonnie Howell
218. Mariah Wallace
219. Millie A. Goode
220. Aslaeen Dean
221. Deborah Brannon
222. Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson
223. Sandy Dean
224. Victor & Ruth Hawn
225. Carolyn Garrett
226. Minnie Gwyne
227. Kathie Stacks
228. Danny Stacks
229. Cathey Roberson
230. Connie Fountain
231. Michael Coleman
232. Joyce Key
233. Albert Hicks
234. Claude Edwards
235. Betty Clark
236. Hazel Cook
237. Mrs. Oreatha Johnson
238. Irene M. Wright
239. Bernard Macon, Sr.
240. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell
241. Betty Spears
242. Joe B. Holmes
243. Miriam Hyters
244. Peggy Hartman
245. Terry Gatewood
246. Bonnie Dixon
247. Jo Masters
248. Mrs. Sharon Freeman
249. Eddie Vermillion
250. Jim Vermillion
251. Richard Williams
252. Henry Bulman
253. Marvin England
254. Pauline Jones
255. Shelia Hall
256. Emily Hall
257. Bill Maness
258. Ruby McCrory
259. Sandra Welch
260. Claireen Sipes
261. Bobby Lively
262. William & Miriam Moore
263. William Pyron
264. Anna Lee Pruitt
265. Linda Leech
266. Ann Kimble
267. Rosie Lee Odoms
268. Yvonne Swilley
269. Kaye Wise
270. Doris Darnell
271. Shirley Bostick
272. Libby Williams
273. Glenda Jefcoat
274. Grace Cooley
275. Lester Cooley
276. Thelma Talbert
277. Doyce Britt

278. Karen Bolls
279. Iris Casteel
280. Eunice M. Kirkland
- 281. Marvis Lee**
282. Brenda Burlison
283. Ms. Pinky Hawes
284. Bonnie Skates
285. Lucretia McNees
286. Alice Dempsey
287. Everjean Parson
288. John Hazel
289. Tommy & Peggy Shull
290. Sue Mason
291. M/M Jerry Lewis
292. Patsy Muniz
293. Tina Geraci
294. Reid & Frieda Thompson
295. Travis & Sherry Murray
296. Justin & Hollis Kahla
297. Larry Harper
298. Jane Kuykendall
299. Mary Adam Warren
300. Josie L. Isaacs
301. Peggy E. Cooper
302. Sammy Cooper
303. William & Rachel Glover
304. Floyd Hunt
305. Eva Almon
306. Kathy Perry
307. Myrtle Rogers
308. Patricia Thornton
309. Tammy Ballard
310. Shirley M. Phillips
311. Nellie Dickinson
312. Juanita M. Tynes
313. Billie Boyd
314. Gladys Bryant
315. Gail Gurganus
316. Pat Morris
317. Wilma Ridenour
318. Kathey James
319. Harlen-Loretta Headley
320. Jackie Hester
321. Grace Childers
322. Betty VanBuren
323. Jerry & Norma Inman
324. Veva June Calhoun
325. Barbara Johnson
326. Cortez Brown
327. Mary Jacobs
328. Mattie Cole Gregory
329. Sally Jones
330. Sandra Hudley
331. James Hudley
332. Mary Williams
333. Katheryn Lee
334. Mary Alice Bowers
335. Ralph Brownlee
336. Batsell B. Booker
337. Jerry Jones
338. Mary R. Dennis
339. Millie A. Goode
340. Margaret Bailey
341. Thomas C. Tidwell
342. Kay Bramlett
343. Sandra Warren
344. Hattie Johnson
345. Dianna Alcede
346. Joey Alcede
347. Peggy Alcede
348. Dawson Alexander
349. Debbie Anderson
350. Jimmy Anderson
351. Henry Bacarisse
352. LaVonne Bacarisse
353. Doug Berry
354. Ila Berry
355. Paulette Boudreaux
356. Karen Cash
357. Kelsey Cash
358. Pat Cole
359. Tommy Cole
360. Tommy Cole, Jr.
361. Alice Cooper
362. Vester Cooper
363. Kara Crowell
364. Kasey Crowell
365. Debbie Doucet
366. Ray Doucet
367. Suzan Dubrock
368. Judith Elkins
369. Walter Elkins
370. Laura Farve
371. Chris Franks
372. Glenda Franks
373. Paul Franks
374. Robyn Franks
375. Agnes Gandy
376. Randall Gandy
377. Sharon Gomez
378. Craig Green
379. Crystal Green
380. Cynthia Green
381. Margaret Griffin
382. Steve Griffin
383. Maria Guerrero
384. Jeannine Harris
385. Melinda Hewitt
386. Mo Johnson
387. Stephanie Mann
388. Sandra Martin
389. Ana McReynolds
390. Missy Nugent
391. Jason Poynter
392. Jason Rhodes
393. David Sigmund
394. Debra Sigmund
395. Kenneth Sigmund
396. Denise Stout
397. Marci Touvell
398. Dody Treme
399. Renee Treme
400. Grady Ward
401. Gloria Watson
402. Leora White
403. Bud Wranosky
404. Linda Wranosky
405. Gwendolyn Bryant
406. Hazel Dunlap
407. **YOUR NAME**, next time

Please send YOUR answers to us for our next issue. Thanks!

## Encouraged!

*The Magnolia Messenger is wonderful! Please keep sending it. God Bless, (Morgan Wilson, Longview, TX)*

*Keep up your Good Work! Please! (Danny & Maggie Craddock, Springdale, AR)*

*Dear Al & June, We truly enjoy the MM and are thankful for your work and dedication to it's publication...May God continue to bless you both. In Christian Love, (Terry & Ann Adkins, Tupelo, MS)*

*I enjoy the Messenger and will give as long as I can in this small way. I'm 82 yrs. old now and one never knows. I just take one day at a time. Thank you for all you do for the Church. (Ava Cleveland, Arcadia, LA)*

## Readers' Response

Truly Encouraging. We are Grateful!

### Outside Mississippi

Dear Bro. Franks,

I really enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. I haven't gotten it lately, because I have moved to Paris, Tennessee. Would you please send it to my new address. Thank you so much. (Lila Wilson, Paris, TN)

Dear Al & June;

Enclosed is my check for the support of the Messenger. Truly one of the most interesting papers I receive. God bless you both in your work...In Christian Love, (Don Taylor, Bon Aqua, TN)

I really enjoy your paper. It is very enlightening! God bless you! (Mrs. Jimmie Hyde, Haleyville, AL)

Thanks so very much for the Messenger. I read every word of it and enjoy very much the Question Box. Praying for you. (Jim Nowell, DeValls Bluff, AR)

We pray you will have a successful 2011. (John & Renee Mayher, Cookeville, TN)

Dear Al & June,

Thanks for the "Messenger." I look forward to getting it and look to see if friends from Yazoo are mentioned. I planned to go to Southaven when you were there but my ride fell through! I had looked forward to seeing you again. I still drive to Cordova church but it's hard to make it. Love, (Louise O'Reilly, Germantown, TN)

Can't let a good work need money, God had blessed me, so I bless you. (Bruce Franks, Merryville, LA)

Keep up the good work! (Gladys Jackson, Rock Springs, WY)

...May you all continue the wonderful work with the MM. We will keep you in our prayers. In Christian Love, (Charles & Barbara Pritchard, Steele, MO)

The Magnolia Messenger is always a source of comfort. (Thelma Atwater, Evansville, IN)

I like to read the MM and pray for you and your mission. (Shirley Carr, Kilgore, TX)

My prayers will continue for the Magnolia Messenger and for you and your family. (Mary Warren, Memphis, TN)

I lived near Water Valley, MS as a child and enjoy reading the Magnolia Messenger. Glyn Purdy was my uncle and Russ Crosswhite is my niece's husband, minister at Fulton, MS. (Frances Hester, Memphis, TN)

May my small gift help in some way for your good work! Thank you! (Lelia McNickle, Tulsa, OK)

Always enjoy the Magnolia Messenger. (Barney & June Roe, Brentwood, TN)

### Inside Mississippi

I really enjoy the Magnolia Messenger. Thank you, (Dorsa Sparks, Belmont, MS)

Thank you for all your good work. God bless! (Mrs. Ralph R. Gray, Jr. Amory, MS)

...Keep the Magnolia Messenger coming. I really enjoy reading it from front to back. In Christ, (Nell Watson, Brandon, MS)

I want to let you know how much I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger. I always answer the questions. I am sending a check. Pray it will help in a small way...May God bless both of you and all who have a part in publishing the Messenger. In Christian Love, (James & Katie Houston, Olive Branch, MS)

Dear Bro. Franks,

We recently received our letter about the Magnolia Messenger. We would like to help with your work with a contribution from us here at Strickland. I personally know of the work you and June have done over the years and I appreciate this work more as my role in the church continues. Thank you for what you do. We at Strickland are blessed and want to help this work. We have enclosed a check and will continue to pray for this work. We receive a bundle of the Messengers and they are always picked up. Please come and visit anytime here at Strickland if you are in our area. Thank you and God bless you. Sincerely, (David Nowell for the Elders, Strickland Church of Christ, Glen, MS)

Thanks for your labor in the Lord's Vineyard. As we grow older it seems we grow closer and want to keep in touch with our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we all celebrate this season as Bro. Doughty suggested in his article with emphasis on the Cross instead of the Manger. (Mrs. Patty E. Henson, Kilmichael, MS)

Please keep mine coming. Thank you so much! I like what I'm learning. Please pray for my understanding. You all are so spiritually helpful and such a blessing. I'm so grateful. Amen. (Ms. Mary Jane Myles, Greenville, MS)

I enjoy every issue of the Messenger. So glad it can be sent to so many people. (Miriam Styers, New Albany)

## Four Preaching Uncles

"J.D.", "M.B.", "R.C." & Hubert  
Thur., January 13, 2011

In mid January my June and I determined to devote a Thursday doing something that will not likely be repeated. We planned a day of very special visits. Our oldest son, Paul, accompanied us as the three of us departed Lake Charles, LA on a journey that would cover about 150 miles. Our goal was to visit all four of my dad's surviving brothers -- three in Louisiana and one in Texas. We almost succeeded.

Our first stop was at Oretta, near DeQuincy, where my Uncle J. D. and his wife (Aunt Dorothy) have lived for about 60 years. Although Uncle J. D. is in his eighties and has been fighting a long battle with stomach cancer, he was pleased to tell us of the blessing he enjoyed the Sunday before our visit. He had preached for his home church in DeQuincy.

Our second stop was with my Uncle "B", who lives nearby with his wife of almost 70 years -- my Aunt Rene. Although he has passed 90 (92 ?) years in age, his mind is still sharp and his love for preaching is not diminished. He spoke to us about the privilege of preaching each Lord's day for the Lone Pine church of Christ, near Merryville, LA.

Our third stop of the day was in the community of Bivens, where my uncle R.C. lives. A widower, he lives alone; however, is right next door to his daughter (Bobbie and her husband, Mike) who are always there for him. We were pleased to hear uncle R.C. talk about preaching the Sunday before our visit. R.C. worships with the church in Merryville, about 10 miles from his home, where for the past several years, he has served as their regular preacher.

Our final stop of the day was in Newton, Texas where my youngest uncle, Hubert (a widower) lives alone. Not yet 80, Hubert was not at home and we were unable to make contact with him. Uncle Hubert preaches regularly for the church in Newton, a church he has served for several decades. After graduating from Harding in the early 50's, he has preached in Newton except for a short time in Leesville, Louisiana. Sorry we missed seeing him.

As we made our way back to Lake Charles in time for supper, we were filled with gratitude. Thankful for our visits. Thankful for my uncles. Thankful they preach the gospel. Thankful for their good examples. (alf)

## Lands of the Bible Cruise 2011

Encompassing the Old Testament  
(Moses and the Israelites in Egypt)  
and the New Testament

(the Gospels and Jesus' Ministry; Acts and Paul's Ministry)

With Paul and Al Franks

12 Day Program Departs on  
(God willing)

November 25, 2011

Prices starting at \$949\*

(cruise only)

\*plus airfare, tips, taxes, excursions, etc.

How about planning to go with the Franks (Paul and Glenda, Al and June) on a Mediterranean cruise?

Lord willing, we are leaving the states on Friday, November 25, 2011 and flying to Rome, Italy. We will board the beautiful Norwegian Jade and set sail for an 11 night cruise. We will visit Turkey, Cyprus, tour Israel and Egypt and get to see the beautiful city of Rome -- all in one fabulous trip.

We are pleased that we were able to reserve some rooms on the Norwegian Jade at a great price of \$949 per person. The flights, around that time of the year, should be less than \$1,000. We expect all of the other expenses to be less than \$1,000. (Port charges, tips, taxes, all of the excursions, etc.) So the entire trip will cost around \$3,000 per person. Compared to other trips I have been on, we are going to be able to see a lot of wonderful and beautiful places for a good value.

All you need to do is call or write or email Don West of West Travel in Jackson, MS and let him know of your plans to go with us. We have waved the \$100 deposit.

We are praying that Egypt will have worked out their problems before we make our journey. Take comfort in knowing that the cruise line will exercise great care to not take us anywhere there may be a serious problem. We will continue to monitor the situation and the cruise line will let us know what choices we will have if they are unable to take us to Egypt. Your initial deposit is not due until July 29, 2011. So by then we should have a clearer picture of what to expect.

Please call Don and put your name down for one of our remaining rooms. We would love to have you go with us. We will be traveling as a group and we will be doing most of the excursions as a group.

You will have a tremendous amount of fun on this trip, but I believe the greatest benefit is that your faith will grow and become stronger. What better investment can you make than that?

A attractive brochure can now be downloaded from our website, [www.magnoliamesseger.com](http://www.magnoliamesseger.com) and you can call me (Paul) if you have any questions at 337-515-7314.

Don West can be reached at 601-957-1660. His email is [westtv1@bellsouth.net](mailto:westtv1@bellsouth.net) and his address is: West Travel Service, 800 Colonial Cr. Jackson, MS 39211.

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

### Babies Born Out of Wedlock

- June Franks -

Sometimes, watching the news can be very upsetting. Recently, a news program that I happened to be watching was so upsetting that it spurred me on to write this article.

A very old woman was once interviewed by someone in the news media. When asked to what she attributed her longevity, She replied, "I never watch the news."

It does seem most all of the news in the paper or on television is bad news and can be very disturbing to us if we allow it to.

This particular news cast was about the situation in our nation concerning those having babies out of wedlock.

The news program began by quoting a statistic which stated, "Thirty nine per cent of Americans now believe that marriage is becoming obsolete."

Those relating the news seemed to imply that marriage was for the past and you were an old foggy if you thought anything differently.

The statistics were also quoted, "Forty percent of the babies born in America are born out of wedlock." The news cast further stated, "This is becoming the norm in Hollywood. The actresses are leading the way in having babies out of wedlock."

The news media further indicated that Hollywood is having a big influence on our society. We would have to agree that so many look to those in Hollywood and use them as a role model for their behavior.

However, the news program did indicate that the celebrities have desensitized people, which I applaud them for saying. In other words, many think it is all right and nothing wrong with having a baby out of wedlock.

Just think of the number of teenage girls that look to the "stars." The movie stars make it appear all so easy and acceptable. For the most part their life-style is glamorized by the media.

God's plan from the beginning was that children have a mother and a father and the privilege of bearing



June Franks

children should only be for those who are married.

The Bible says, "So God created man in his own image in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." (Genesis 1: 27,28)

It seems that in today's world there is no shame connected with having a baby out of wedlock. Unwed mothers often carry their baby's picture in their wallet or on their phone and often show it to you -- seemingly without any shame.

***We know that the baby is not responsible for the acts of those who brought him/her into this world.***

However, it needs to be pointed out when one does find out they are with child there should never be any consideration to abortion. This would just further complicate the matter and then you would be guilty of murder.

However, those who engage in acts of fornication need to remember that such sins the Bible strongly condemns.

As Christians we know that the Bible is still true and is very much relevant for us today.

The Bible says, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners,

shall inherit the kingdom of God." (I Cor. 6:9,10)

Paul was writing to Christians in Corinth as he further stated, "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and the spirit of our God." (I Cor. 6:11)

One can make a mistake, be deeply sorry for that mistake, repent and seek forgiveness. God is ready and willing to forgive those who come to Him in true repentance. We should be willing to forgive them, too.

But it is those who *continue* in this life-style, without ever considering their relationship to God, that makes it so sad!

Those relating the news about unwed mothers never mentioned the Bible or indicated in any way what the Bible might say about this matter.

Young people you can remain pure in today's world. Don't let your so called *friends*, the so called *stars* or the **devil** convince you otherwise. We are called to be different and God would not ask something of us that we could not do.

Yes, it is upsetting to see the direction in which our country seems to be going. Just maybe I shouldn't watch the news any more.

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

### Used Church Pews

*"Desperately Needed"*

On Thursday morning (12/30/10), Bill Davis, a gospel preacher with ties to several churches in Mississippi, called MM and asked that we run an ad requesting used church pews be donated for a mission church on the island of St. Martin in the Caribbean. Brother Davis said he had recently visited the area where missionary **Charles Emmanuel** made known their "desperate need" for pews to seat 100 + worshippers.

Brother Bill stated that he would be responsible for the costs of shipping the pews. For more information or to assist, please call Bill at 850-376-5929 (cell) or 850-315-8889 (Home). His address: Bill Davis; P. O. Box 1105; Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

### Ruth

A Condensed and Rhymed Version of the Entire Book of Ruth

Avis Corley Porter  
9803 Highway 336  
Thaxton, MS 38871



- Avis Corley Porter -

In Bethlehem, there was a famine in the land,  
To leave and go to Moab, was Elimelech's plan.

His wife Naomi and their two sons he took,  
And that dry, dusty country, they forsook.

Elimelech died and much grief came into her life,  
In time, each son did take a wife.

Two Moabitish women, her daughters-in-law became,  
Ruth and Orpah are their names.

After ten years, Mahlon and Chilion also died,  
Three heartbroken women cried and cried.

To Judah, Naomi and her daughters-in-law started,  
But from Naomi and Ruth, Orpah parted.

From Naomi, Ruth would not leave,  
To her and her God, she would firmly cleave!

In Bethlehem, it was barley harvest time,  
To earn a living, work Ruth must find.

In the field of Boaz, a wealthy man, she worked,  
She was not lazy and her duty she did not shirk.

Boaz told her to drink of his water and eat of his bread,  
Each day of his food, she would be amply fed.

For Naomi, Ruth had much love and care,  
She saved some of her field lunch and with her did share.

In time, Ruth became Boaz's wife,  
Much happiness came into their life.

To their home, God sent a tiny baby boy,  
Who was his grandmother's "pride and joy."

A book of the Bible bears Ruth's name,  
Being an ancestress of Christ is her greatest fame!

**Editor's Note:** Sister Porter wrote and said, "Brother Franks, I have wanted this printed since the 1970's. Now I am in my 70's!" Want fulfilled! Welcome. (alf)

**We Say:** Thank you for reading this issue of the MM, and

**Maci Says:**

"Thank you for selecting and reading the Magnolia Messenger."

**Prayers and Suggestions Requested**

franksmm@aol.com  
662-289-3559



Use KJV for wording & spelling

# The Question Box

Use KJV for wording & spelling

## Teachings in Titus

Three of Paul's New Testament epistles were addressed to two of his capable and faithful co-workers -- Timothy and Titus. The books that bear the names of the well known evangelists are literally filled with instructions on how to develop strong Christians and faithful congregations. This month's "QB" directs your attention to some of the teachings in the little book of Titus.

Titus was instructed to "set in order the things that are wanting" (1:5); to speak "things which become sound doctrine" (2:1); and to "exhort and rebuke with all authority." (2:15)

You are asked to complete each section in this month's study and send your answers to us. By so doing, you **will encourage others**; plus, **you may be our next Bible winner**. (Each issue, by random selection, we award a beautiful Study Bible to one student who sends in answers. See page 21.) This time, **it may be you!** Thank you for your interest in the study of the world's greatest book as shown by your answers to "The Question Box". (alf/editor)

### (True or False)

- \_\_\_ 1. There is nothing God cannot do.
- \_\_\_ 2. Paul left Titus in Cyprus to "ordain elders in every city."
- \_\_\_ 3. The phrase "filthy lucre" appears less than three times in the book of Titus.
- \_\_\_ 4. The expression "good work" and/or "good works" is found more than once in Titus.
- \_\_\_ 5. The word "sound" is used in connection with doctrine, faith and speech.
- \_\_\_ 6. The name of a lawyer is mentioned in the book of Titus.
- \_\_\_ 7. The book of Titus teaches some things to be "good and profitable;" others, "unprofitable and vain."

### Seven "Be" Teachings to Four Age Groups

(Match the teaching [column one] with the age group [column 2] to whom it was directed.

- |                                         |                |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| ___ Be "sound in the faith"             | 1. Aged Men    |
| ___ Be "temperate"                      | 2. Aged Women  |
| ___ Be "good"                           | 3. Young Women |
| ___ Be "keepers at home"                | 4. Young Men   |
| ___ Be "teachers of good things"        |                |
| ___ Be "sober minded"                   |                |
| ___ Be "obedient to their own husbands" |                |

### Qualifications of Elders: True or False

- \_\_\_ 1. Paul refers to elders as bishops who function as stewards.
- \_\_\_ 2. A bishop is required to be "the husband of one wife."
- \_\_\_ 3. An elder must never become angry.
- \_\_\_ 4. No man who is known for his inability to control himself should ever be appointed to serve as an elder.
- \_\_\_ 4. Qualified elders are servants of the Lord who love both hospitality and good men.
- \_\_\_ 5. The phrases "faithful children" and "the faithful word" are associated with qualified elders.
- \_\_\_ 6. A congregation without elders is a congregation that is "wanting" [lacking something].
- \_\_\_ 7. A capable elder is able to use "sound doctrine" in his efforts to "exhort and convince the gainsayers."

### Personal Requests to Titus

Write the numbers for chapters and verses where each of the following teachings are found.)

- 1. "...Set in order the things that are wanting...." (Titus \_\_: \_\_)
- 2. "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works...." (Titus \_\_: \_\_)
- 3. "...Let no man despise thee." (Titus \_\_: \_\_)
- 4. "...Be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis." (Titus \_\_: \_\_)

### The Grace of God

- 1. God's grace that brings salvation, teaches us to deny what **two** things? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. God's grace also teaches us to live in what **three** ways? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Please Send Your Answers To Us

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

# Challenge to Christians Answer "The Question Box"

*It will do you good. Help you too!*

## Recent Bible Winner Elvis Dilmore

(on right)

Brother Dilmore and his wife, Ruby, are long time-faithful members of the Lord's church in Mendenhall, MS. (Ronnie Greenhagen is the present preacher.)



Paul Franks (left) is pictured presenting Bible to Elvis Dilmore. Paul served as preacher for the Mendenhall church, over 30 years ago, when he was in college at MBC. He presently preaches for the Enterprise Boulevard church of Christ in Lake Charles, LA. Elvis was a faithful member **then and now** at Mendenhall.

## Our New Bible Winner

### Marvis Lee

(Decatur, AL)

*Congratulations!*

Answer "The Question Box"  
You may be our next Bible Winner

### LONE OAK

(Columbus, MS)

**Eddie Lawson** has been hired by the Lone Oak Church of Christ as their preacher. Eddie and his wife, **Evelyn**, have been involved in Mission work for many years. The Lawsons moved the first of the new year into the Lone Oak community. (Thanks sister Sanders for this updated information.)



### Yet, Another Delightful Drop-in

at Hill's Chapel (near Booneville) on a Wednesday evening. We found a friendly and caring group of Christians assembled in the name of Christ. **Johnny Miller** is the local evangelist.

