



Our 33rd Year

# Magnolia Messenger

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

Volume 33  
Number 4  
Oct. - Dec.  
2011



The Sign Says It Well  
**Gay Blvd**  
**Dead End**  
(Turn to Page 12)

## CORINTH CHURCH (Foote Street) Celebrates 105 Years

The Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth celebrated their 105th Anniversary on October 30, 2011. **Charles Curtis**, one of their former preachers who still lives in Corinth, was the speaker for the special occasion. **Blake Nicholas** is the minister at Foote Street and **Terry Smith** is the Associate Minister. Cathy Weathers is secretary.

The Foote Street church is overseen by elders **Johnnie Bennett**, **John Dodd**, **Wayne McAlpin** and **Robert Shappley**. Sixteen capable men serve as deacons in the congregation. A recent (10/23/11) bulletin showed Sunday attendance at 275 and a contribution of \$7,915. We pray the church can continue to effectively serve the Cause of Christ in Alcorn County, Mississippi until He returns.

## Understanding Moral and Spiritual Issues In the Context of the Modern Secular Political Agendas

This Issue Begins a series by **Roger Hines** former Professor of Bible at MBC



"AMMENDMENT 26"  
(Begins on Page 11)

Would You Be  
So Foolish as to affirm  
"There is no God!"?  
The Man Who Did  
(Story on Page 12)

A Reader Asks:  
Good questions about...  
**LIFE & DEATH.**  
(May Responds on Page 3)

(TNIV)  
Today's New  
International Version:  
"Not Your Father's NIV"  
(So Says May on Page 3)

The top speed of  
a human sneeze  
is about 200 mph!  
Read Simpson's  
Comments on Page 11



Seth  
Sullivan's  
Serious  
Study  
on  
Page 19

"Becoming a Soul Winner"

Power in a Pot Roast  
(Lesson on Page 14)

### MM

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## Mississippi MM RV Rally

14th Annual - April 24-28, 2012

Lake Tiak-O'Khata  
Louisville, Mississippi

(details on page 7)

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- "But I Can't Go!" -- An Excuse? (Page 4)
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Plus a Whole Lot More



J. Marlin Ivey  
Kosciusko/Jackson

Departed  
10/21/11

"A Man of Influence"

"A Christian Gentleman"

Thoughts on Page 15

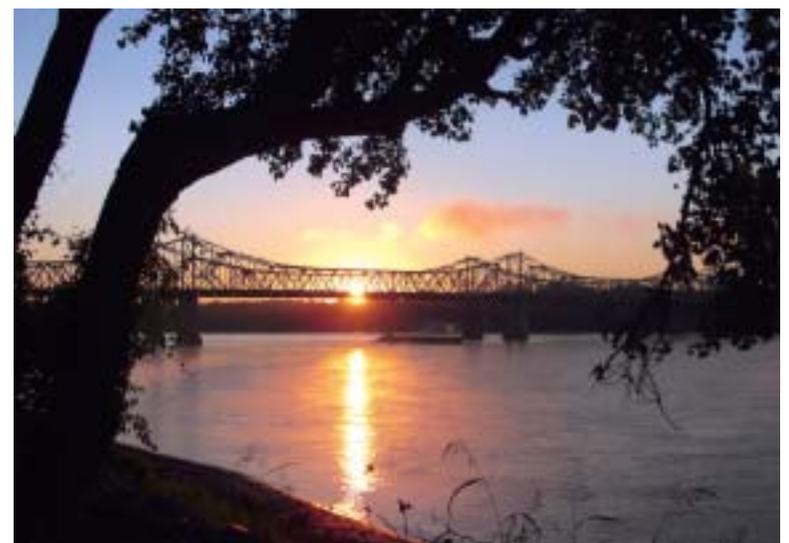
## Subject of Salvation

Words in **RED** spoken by Jesus Christ

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

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

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



Beautiful Sunrise Looking Across the Mississippi into Mississippi

Thanks for reading another issue of the "Magnolia Messenger"

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

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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

## Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

I have been receiving the Messenger for years and would also like you to send it to... I really enjoy reading this paper. Thanks in advance. **Annetta Beam**; e-mail)

Dear brother,

Thanks for the current issue and for the article by **Doug Greenway**. This was truly an issue of GOOD NEWS. I appreciated the article on Translations by bro. **May** in the previous issue. Keep up the good work and the encouragement of all good works. Sincerely, (**Jim Olive** e-mail)

### "I had to cut it [MM] up"

Brother Franks,

Thank you for the latest issue of the Magnolia Messenger! It was great! However, I will have to tell you that I had to cut it up. There were so many articles I had to cut out and put into my files for later use. Please keep up the good work you are doing! God bless you! **Brian Giselbach** (e-mail)

A friend here loaned me a copy of your paper, the Magnolia Messenger, and I was impressed with the articles. I especially enjoyed the one by Cecil May on instrumental music in the church. I had never even heard of your paper until I got my hands on this one. I hope you will accept this small donation (it may be all you ever get from me) and add my name to your mailing list. Thank you so very much and keep up the good work!

When I was in the Air Force we were stationed at Keesler AFB in the early 60s and worshipped with the Ocean Springs congregation. Seeing their ad for a youth minister in your paper brought back some fond memories and gave us a bit of an update on the church there. Again, thank you! (**Monroe F. Bentley**; Prairie Grove AR)

Brother Franks,

The two articles you wrote -- I really appreciated them both. The first one because God shows us even more love by the extra times His admonitions are provided for us in holy scripture... we are likewise reminded of repetition, repetition, repetition... as one of the best learning tools.

The second one was another article I could relate so many times in life reminding us of Jesus's constant great love for all... The way in which you rightly divided the scriptures was very evident and appreciated! In Him, (**Randle C. Mauney**; e-mail)

Please send your magazine or paper to Mrs. Louisa Ganier... Sister Ganier is 85 years old. She lives in New Orleans, LA. Recently, she was in the hospital and almost died. Thank God, the doctors, thru God's grace, saved her life. She lives in the 9th ward in New Orleans. When she came back to herself, the first thing she wanted to do was the "Question Box" in your paper... So please keep the Messenger coming. Thanks for your work and labor of Love. (**Valerie Mitchell**, Franklin, LA)

## Magnolia Messenger

### Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of more than 23,000 copies of each issue of the "Magnolia Messenger". Your prayers and support are **requested, needed and appreciated!**

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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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## "Fear Thou Not"

### An "Impossible" Command?

"Fear" is common among men. I know for sure that, as a man, fear all too often knocks at the door of my heart. Numerous temptations to be filled with fear literally surround all responsible people. **Fear:** There is the ever present fear of disease, such as heart attack and cancer. There is the fear of losing precious possessions such as family and finances. Severe weather can create fear. Enemies stir feelings of fear, both personally and collectively. Then, there is before us always the fear of dying. "Fear" can take away happiness and make earthly life useless.

### COMMANDS & PROMISES

**"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."** (Isaiah 41:10)

These inspired words, involving commands and promises, are the words of God spoken originally to His people of old -- the nation of Israel. Many New Testament promises are similar, assuring us that the God who cared for Israel of old, certainly cares for His people today. (Study Phil. 4:6; I Peter 5:8; Matt. 6:24-34.) Let's take a closer look at Isaiah 41:10.

Consider the two difficult commands: (1) "Fear thou not" and (2) "be not dismayed." Yes, the Lord commanded, "**Fear not**". In other words, "Do not be afraid, don't be scared. Don't attempt to go through life bearing the heavy load of fear." The Lord also commanded, "**Be not dismayed.**" In other words, "Do not be bewildered; don't be overcome with discouragement. Never even consider turning back. Never, never give up!"

**Why not fear? Why not be dismayed.** The Bible answers these two questions with divine assurance from the Almighty One. God promises, (1) "I am with thee; (2) I am thy God; (3) I will strengthen thee; (4) I will help thee; (5) I will uphold thee...."



A. L. Franks

Will you, please, accept the challenge of prayerfully considering each of God's precious promises of divine assurance. By allowing God to work in you, the "impossible commands" become possible.

(1) "**I am with thee.**" God assures us that we are not left alone in our earthly struggles. He said, "I am with thee." What a promise! The Almighty One; the all loving One; the all knowing One. "I am with thee." Never alone. He is the greatest and the best of all companions. So, why should I (you) fear? Why be dismayed? Trust Him who promised, "I am with thee."

(2) "**I am thy God.**" God is ours; He is yours. He is mine! We are His. And, He is God! What a relationship! God is our Father; we are His children. We are family. Our loving Father is our Almighty **God!** He is all powerful; He is all knowing and always present. So, why be afraid? Why be discouraged? Remember His promise. "I am thy God." He is **my** God! .

(3) "**I will strengthen thee.**" Our human weakness is especially felt in the frequent times of temptation and tribulation. Remember God's promise: "I will strengthen thee." God is ever ready to provide that much needed strength. We can't do it alone. We have to have help. And, we have that help! Remember the words written by Paul who said, "**I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me**" (Phil. 4:13). What blessed assurance! So, be not afraid. Be not dismayed. We can do it. We can make it. Not

by our own strength, but with His strength. So promised our God.

(4) "**I will help thee.**" The many troubles and trials of earthly life can make us feel so helpless. But, we are not alone. He is there. "**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace; that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need**" Heb. 4:16). Can't do it alone. Can't make it by our self. But our loving and gracious God exhorts and promises: "Don't you fear; don't give up; **I will help you.**"

(5) "**I will uphold you.**" Life's many pressures and burdens can cause us to buckle under its heavy loads. But, thanks to the One who is all powerful, His right hand is ever present, ready and willing to reach out in love -- undergirding and providing all the support needed to stand. Never forget: God said, "**I will uphold you.**"

We can be assured that the same God who manifested his care for the physical nation of Israel is readily available to care for all those who make up the spiritual nation of Israel (the church). God is the same. He declared long ago, "**I change not.**" (Mal. 4:6) He still cares. He still **commands:** "**Fear thou not.**" "**Be not dismayed.**" And, He still **promises:** "**I am with you; I am your God; I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you.**"

My prayer is that God will graciously assist me (and you) so that each day we will live in faith, trusting in our Gracious God who is our Heavenly Father. With His help, what seem like "impossible commands" become "possible commands."

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Bill Chandler, evangelist, asks:

### When Will We Learn?

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**"The truth of the word of God without compromise"**

## Bible Questions Answered

**QUESTION:** Is the “second death” of Revelation 20: 6 a true spiritual death? Does it mean we continue to live on in Hell? How does it relate to Matthew 25:46, which says some “go... into eternal life” but others “go away into everlasting punishment”? Is everlasting punishment “life,” or is it some form of “death”? In other words, are we conscious for eternity, experiencing the pain of fire or is the punishment a “going out of existence spiritually”? (D.P.)

**RESPONSE:** Good questions about “life” and “death.”

In current conversational English, “living” is often used to mean existing, and “dying” to mean ceasing to exist. Perhaps our questioner has that impression.

A Jehovah’s Witness once said, “When a person is dead, he is not in purgatory; he is not in heaven or hell; he is not anywhere; he is dead.” Obviously she understood “dead” to mean “not in existence.” Many believe that the dead are “like little dog, Rover; when he is dead, he is dead all over.”

However, that is not the Bible’s understanding of death for humans, made in the image of God.

### Lazarus and the Rich Man

Jesus’s story of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16 repre-

### Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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sents both of them as having conscious existence after death and before the second coming and resurrection.

Some attempt to dismiss this incident as “just a parable” and therefore not representative of reality. But, if it is a parable, it is the only one which gives a name to one of the characters in the story. Furthermore, if it is a parable, which is not by any means certain, it is still representative of reality. Jesus does not tell fables. His parables are incidents in every day life which recognizably could be true.

### Death Is Separation, Not Non-Existence

A primary meaning of “death” in the Bible is separation. Physi-

cal death is defined as the separation of the spirit from the body: “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:26). When Jacob’s favorite wife Rachel was dying in childbirth as Benjamin was being born, her death is described in these terms: “And as her soul was departing (for she was dying)” (Gen. 35:18). Similarly, when Jesus brought Jairus’ daughter from death back to life, Scripture says, “And her spirit returned, and she got up at once” (Luke 8:55).

When “death” is used figuratively in Scripture, as it frequently is, it is used to signify separation. The Ephesians were said to have been “dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked” (Eph. 2:1-2). That means they were separated from God because of their sin. On the other hand, when the redeemed are said to be “dead to sin” (Rom. 6:2), that means they are separated from sin and are at one with God.

It is significant that, although sinners have conscious existence between death and judgment, what they have is never called life. Instead it is called “the second death” (Rev. 20:15). It is “the lake of fire” and it is eternal separation from God; therefore “death.”

### Life Is Union

John often speaks of believers having “eternal life.” He is not saying they have life forever. Rather he is speaking of “life” which partakes of the nature of the eternal. “Eternal life” in John is union and fellowship with God. We were once dead in sins and therefore separated from God, but when our sins are forgiven, we have “life.” We become one with God in fellowship, resulting from the fact that our sins are forgiven. That is “eternal life.”

It is noteworthy that it is always “the believer” who has eternal life (John 3:16; 1 John 5:13). People are never said to have eternal life today because they believed yesterday. So, “take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God” (Heb. 3:12).

**Bible Questions Invited!**

## Not Your Father’s NIV

- Cecil May, Jr. -

The NIV New Testament was published in 1973, followed by the whole Bible in 1978. In 1983 some revisions were accepted by the ongoing Committee on Bible Translation (CBT) and included in editions printed after that date. A plan to further revise it in 1997, using “gender inclusive language,” died quickly under a barrage of objections from conservative evangelicals. “Gender inclusive language” meant, among other things, eliminating masculine pronouns when they were intended to include both males and females.

So the publishers brought out, not a revision but a newly named alternative, Today’s New International Version (TNIV). It met strong opposition, seeming to many to further the feminist, egalitarian agenda, but it left the old NIV as it was.

The TNIV immediately became a factor in the battle over the egalitarian vs complementarian views relating to a “wider use of women” than the classic texts, 1 Timothy 2:8-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:33b-35, would seem to allow.

Wayne Grudem, professor of Bible and Theology at Phoenix Seminary and a leading spokesman at Evangelical Theological Society meetings, wrote a scathing rebuttal, *The TNIV and the Gender-Neutral Bible Controversy*. He counted 3000 places where words such as “man,” “father,” “son,” “brother,” and “he” vanished from the text. He raised convincing objections to what Grudem felt was the TNIV’s treatment of specific texts that failed to be loyal to the authors’ intent.

Now a new updating of the NIV is being announced for 2011. It includes some, though apparently not all, of the “gender neutral” revisions of the TNIV. Translation Committee Chairman Douglas Moo says this time more than a dozen Bible translation committee scholars will “review every single gender-related decision we have made and make sure we are putting God’s unchanging word into English people are actually using.”

Maureen Girkins, president of Zondervan, publishers of NIV, says the “divisive” TNIV and the “cherished” NIV will no longer be published after the newest NIV comes out. If you go to your bookseller to buy an NIV after that occurs, you will not come away with the NIV with which you are familiar.

Attempts to remove “he” for gender neutral reasons often results in stilted language, unsuitable for a translation whose purpose was to be more readable, and it sometimes results in poor grammar. 1 John 4:16 is translated, “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in them.” A plural “them” is used when the antecedent is a singular “whoever,” and besides the grammatical difficulty, it changes our fellowship with God from a personal reality to a collective abstraction. Revelation 3:20 is translated, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Again, a plural “they” standing for an antecedent which is singular. I learned not to do that in fourth grade English.

1 Timothy 2:12 in the old NIV reads, “I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man; she must be silent.” “To exercise authority over a man” is the ESV translation. Both correctly convey the meaning of Paul’s original words. The new NIV changes “have authority over a man” to “assume authority over a man.” Like the KJV, which unfortunately translated “usurp authority over a man,” this leaves the impression that if a woman is given permission by someone in authority to lead or teach over men, she could do so; she would not then be “assuming” or “usurping.” The original does not have that connotation.

Leland Ryken, Professor of English at Wheaton (Illinois) College and literary consultant on the ESV translation committee, expresses concern that too liberal use of dynamic equivalency in the new NIV “adds an editorial layer of judgment and commentary.” Cultural changes and “political correctness” may be dictating translation policy rather than the need to translate accurately, neglecting to remember that what is being translated are the very words of God.

Be aware that the next NIV you buy will not be the one with which you are familiar.

Sources: *USA Today*, 9/1/2009, “Update of Popular ‘NIV’ Bible Due in 2011.” *Christian Post*, 3/13/2011, “New NIV Bible to Debut Amid Ongoing Concern.” *Gospel Advocate*, July 2011, “The Revised NIV: Trojan Horse of Error,” By Gregory Alan Tidwell.

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(No phone calls for addresses, please!)

## “But, I Can’t Go!”

- Ken Joines -

Most of us have grown up hearing the Great Commission quoted from our pulpits across this land. Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) Indeed, few of us would be Christians had someone, somewhere, some-time not take these instructions personally and seriously enough to bring the saving message of the gospel to us.

And most of us have been amazed and inspired by the examples of good men and women who have gone literally to the ends of the earth to share the gospel with those who have not heard. Some have gone at great personal expense and sacrifice to remote islands, dangerous bush country, and great cities in faraway places.

While some of these missionaries were busy on foreign soil, their parents, siblings and sometimes even their children died back home and were buried. Many funerals were held which could not be attended by those missionaries. Not a few lost their lives in this process. You and I owe a great debt of gratitude not only to God but also to those devout Christians.

“But I can’t go to those places. I’m too old. My health is very poor. I have neither the means nor the time to ‘go into all the world’”, one says. So we turn the work

over to someone else. And we nurse feelings of deep guilt, thinking we have no part in taking the gospel to all the world.

Such feelings, when harbored for too long, can have a devastating effect on one’s own faith, causing us to feel like second-class or even worthless disciples. We dread the thought of having to face the Lord and trying to explain this to Him.

**But wait!** Have we mistakenly thought that Jesus meant for every single one of us to

go across the seas or mountains in order to take His message to “all the world”? Consider this. What about MY world—the world where I live and work and play.

It is true that it is not practical or even possible for all of us to go to China or Africa or New Guinea. But if I am an educator, maybe my world is the world of academia. If a banker, then the world of finance. And how about your world of medicine, advertising, government, aviation or agriculture? Do I need to perhaps re-think my own situation and take a new look at my responsibility to share God’s gospel message right where I am?

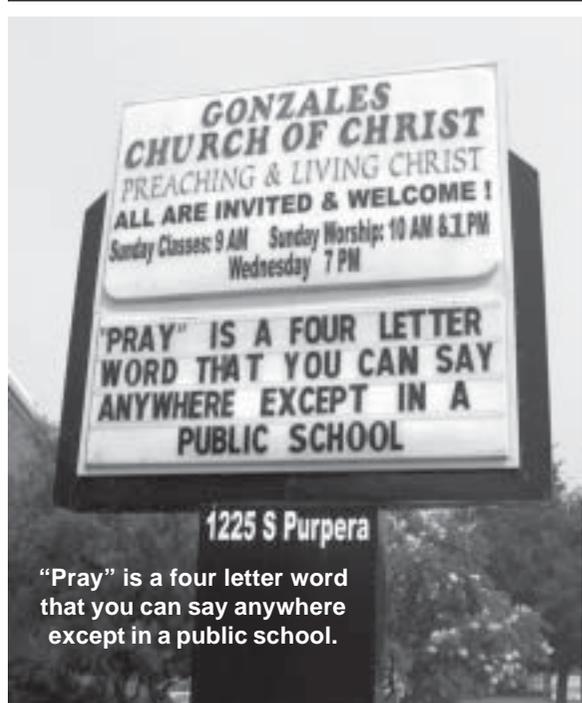
So, rather than beating yourself up and incurring needless feelings of guilt because you can’t make that mission trip to Russia or India, why not reconsider just where your world is—your every day world?

And go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ was born. And died. And was raised. And ascended to Heaven. And is coming again!

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Ken Joines



“Pray” is a four letter word that you can say anywhere except in a public school.

SO SAD: Our Country Has GONE a Long Way!



His Name Is PRINCE

DeKalb Church is Growing  
“Served by a Prince”

The first issue of the Magnolia Messenger was published in the fall of 1978. In that very issue was an article written by **David Wade** who was working with Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, asking for help in establishing a church in Kemper County, one of several Mississippi counties where no church of Christ regularly assembled.

We give thanks to God. Not long afterwards, a congregation was established in DeKalb (population: about 1,000), the county seat for Kemper County where lived an additional 9,000 souls. This mission effort was accomplished largely through the leadership of **S. C. Kinningham** who served as a missionary on behalf of the East Main church in Tupelo, Mississippi.

We are thankful to publish a recent report about the church in DeKalb which indicates that growth continues. Sunday attendance now runs upward to 50 each Lord’s day, according to evangelist **Prince Lewis** who has filled the pulpit of the church on a regular basis since June of 2008. Brother Lewis lives in Kosciusko; however, he is thankful to drive over to DeKalb each Sunday and Wednesday (and other times, as needed) to preach and work with the congregation.

Prince Lewis is not just a prince in name; he also is respected by many who know him as a “prince of a man” who is willing and ready to use his various abilities to serve his Lord and Master. May God continue to richly bless the preaching man known as “Prince” and the church for which he preaches -- in DeKalb, Mississippi. (alf)

### Encouragement

Dear Bro. Franks,  
I picked up the Magnolia Messenger at the Valley View Church of Christ after Bro. Ken Joines preached for us October 16. I have enjoyed the Magnolia Messenger so much. I pick it up every morning and find something new to read in it. Here is my contribution to the paper. Thanks for your hard work. (Bonnie Colburn, Jonesboro, AR)

### A Report

## LA/TX RV Rally, 2011

- Dean Caldwell -

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Louisiana – Texas R V Rally was held at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland, Texas from November 2 through November 6, 2011. The theme of the rally for this year was “Life’s Journey”.

The rally featured several great lessons on this theme. **Glen Westmoreland** of DeQuincy Louisiana presented a lesson entitled “Down the Road of Joy and Happiness”. Two lessons were presented by **Joel Dimmette** from

The only person to attend every one of the 27 rallies since their beginning in 1998.



Eleanor Townsend



Joel Dimmette Presented Two Lessons

the ByPass Church in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on “Down the Road of Discovery”. “Down the Road of National Unrest” was presented by **Dan Manuel** of Palestine, Texas.

Although the beginning of the rally, as scheduled, was on Wednesday, November 2, campers began arriving as early as the previous Friday, anxious to begin fellowship with other Christians they have grown to love dearly over the years. By Monday afternoon on October 31, several ladies were busy playing games, while the men were sitting together discussing campers and pickup trucks, and planning just how they would cook the fish for the annual fish fry on Friday evening.

In addition to serious time in devotionals, prayer, gospel singing, and patriotic programs, the rally allowed ample time for great fun and entertainment. On Thursday evening campers enjoyed a special session of “Price is Right”, where Al Franks was selected winner of 5 men who enthusiastically invited a total of 25 contestants to “Come on Down”. Other great entertainment included “Picking and Grinning” by **Dan Manuel** and **Morris Tirpitz**. **Jerry Thompson** of Palestine presented a great “Christian Magic Show” on Saturday morning. And of course the rally included the annual auction, where people went away pleased with purchase of items they had donated to raise funds for the rally and other worthwhile causes.

Several people were recognized and honored for special services in support of the rallies over the years. **Tom Welch** was recognized for providing fish, which he caught and cooked each year, a total of about 1300 pounds over the past 12 years. **Elizabeth and Cathy Dickerson** were recognized for their efforts in preparing 5 editions of Directories over the past 12 years, as well as a number of other things to make rallies successful. **Eleanor Townsend** of Lafayette Louisiana was especially recognized as the **only** person who has attended every rally over the past 13 years (since 1998) in both Mississippi and Louisiana-Texas, a total of 27 rallies.

The rally concluded on Sunday by attending the Crockett Road Church in Palestine for morning worship and a great lunch hosted by the Crockett Road Church. Sunday evening services were at Salmon Lake Park with Tom Welch from Many, Louisiana speaking.

Lord be willing, the next rally will be the Mississippi Magnolia Messenger Rally at Lake Tiak-O’khata in Louisville, Mississippi, beginning on April 24, and ending April 28, 2012. The Louisiana-Texas Rally for 2012 will be October 31 through November 4 at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland, Texas.

Every person who comes to a rally always looks forward to the next rally, and each rally always includes some who come for the first time.

For those who do not have an R V, cabins or motel rooms are always available nearby. This fall the rally had a total of 23 rigs, and attendance at the sessions ranged from 58 to 92 people.

Contact person for the Louisiana–Texas Rally is **Ray Franks** of DeQuincy, Louisiana, telephone 337- 786-3095. For the Mississippi Rally, contact person is **Paul Franks**, Lake Charles Louisiana, telephone 337-515-7314



Tom Welch (left) Given Award by Glen Franks



Picture on Screen as Seen During Funeral Service

## The Saddest of All Funerals

- Report by June Franks -

Through the years, we've attended many funerals; but, on Friday, October 14, 2011, we sadly joined with hundreds of others for a funeral service in Gulfport, Mississippi. We had come together to pay our loving respect to the precious memory of Karen Brown Ferguson and her son, Trevor Cole Ferguson.

The funeral was so very sad because of the senseless and horrific crime that had been committed. Karen and Cole were murdered in their own home by an evil intruder. Karen and Cole's lives were tragically taken from them on a Monday afternoon, October 10th, as they went about their normal activities in their Gulfport home.

That very day was Karen's wedding anniversary. She and her husband, Les Ferguson, Jr., had been married 24 years. They had planned to go out for dinner that night to celebrate. Karen and Les, Jr. have lived in Gulfport for the

past several years where Les, Jr. has served as a preacher and an elder for the Orange Grove Church of Christ.

Those who knew Karen best described her as a "devoted wife and mother" and a "wonderful preacher's wife." Further comments made about Karen indicated that she was a "very caring person and always manifested a serving attitude."

At her funeral service she was also described as a "Hero"! Even though Karen was small in stature, she did what she could to protect her family. She might have fled and escaped herself; however, she chose to stay and would not leave her 21 year-old son who had cerebral palsy and was confined to a wheelchair. Karen also helped save the life of her little five-year old son, Casey, by telling him to run to a neighbor's house.

The Fergusons, Karen and Les, Jr., were blessed with four boys, Kyle, Cole, Conner and

Casey. Kyle is married and presently serves as the Campus Minister for the University Church of Christ in Murray, Kentucky.

Even though Cole was handicapped, he was very smart and enjoyed being with other people. He was very outgoing and especially loved camping. He loved sports and I learned that his favorite football team was the Mississippi State Bulldogs.

Even though the funeral was

very sad, we were all uplifted by the singing, prayers and those who spoke. We were encouraged by the inspiring message delivered by Les, Jr.'s brother, **Billy Ferguson**, preacher for the 7th Street Church of Christ in Columbus, Mississippi.

As sad as the funeral was; yet, as Christians, we are blessed beyond measure because of the Hope we have for both Karen and Cole. They were Christians and lived earthly life in view of their departure to that Heavenly realm. And, it is wonderful to realize that each of us can have the same hope, if we remain faithful unto/until death.

Karen leaves behind her husband, Les Ferguson, Jr. and three sons, Kyle and his wife (Karissa), Conner and Casey. She also leaves her parents, Bobby and Joan Brown of Henderson, Tennessee (formerly of Vicksburg), one brother and a sister. She is also survived by her in-laws, Les and Marjorie Ferguson of Kosciusko, Mississippi.

Cole leaves his dad, Les, Jr. and his brothers, Kyle, Conner and Casey, along with his loving grandparents, Bobby and Joan Brown and Les and Marjorie Ferguson.

On that October afternoon, Karen and Cole's physical lives were ended by someone who evidenced no respect for life. Sadly, the suspect in the double-homicide, Paul Ellis Buckman, was later found at his apartment -- dead of self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the entire Ferguson family, the Brown family and their church families. Our prayers will continue to be with all. We love you. (June Franks)

## TODAY Is My Life

These lines are being written in Kosciusko, Mississippi, on a Thursday in October. It is raining this morning as we make arrangements to leave for Gulfport, Mississippi to attend a funeral service for two precious souls -- a mother (Karen Ferguson) and her son (Cole Ferguson). Karen and Cole were murdered by an evil intruder on Monday afternoon in their Gulfport home.

Although it is raining and death and a funeral weighs heavily on my mind, it is still my earnest desire to have a good day -- to His honor and His glory. To have a *good day*, I need to emphasize **today** -- not yesterday, not tomorrow. Yesterday is gone -- cannot be recalled. Tomorrow is yet future and may never come! Today is **the day**. **Today is my life.** (alf)

## "Home, Sweet Home"

-By Les Ferguson, Sr. -

Written a few days after his son's wife and their son were murdered in Gulfport, MS

It was Sunday morning, October 16, 2011. We were in the church services of the Orange Grove Church of Christ in Gulfport, Mississippi. On Friday, October 14, we had buried my oldest son's wife, Karen, and their 21 year old son, Cole.

It did not take much to start the tears flowing again. I was sitting by my son, Les, Jr. His oldest son and his wife were just behind us with his other grandparents, Bob and Joan Brown. His 14 year old son was a couple of rows ahead of us sitting with some his friends. Casey, his 5 year old, was with some friends also.

During the singing of some hymns, Casey decided he needed to come be with his Dad. As he climbed up into his lap, he handed him a card. It, of course, was done in the scrawl of a five-year-old. Casey had drawn a stick figure of a little boy and had printed these words, "**Home, Sweet Home.**" He wanted his dad to see it and then his grandmother, my wife Margie, and all the rest of the family that were sitting with us and around us.

What was going through a little five year old's mind when he drew that stick figure and printed those words? A little boy whose world had been violently torn asunder? How could it be "**Home, Sweet Home**" when he has had his Mom and brother taken from him in a senseless and hateful act?

I do not know what Casey was thinking. But I have thought about it a lot. I think there is a message there for you and me. Life is fragile. It can change in a moment. Really, when we leave the house in the morning, there is no guarantee that we will come back when the day is done.

"**Home, Sweet Home.**" Does that describe your home? I know for a fact that it described Casey's home before tragedy hit. Will it ever be "**Home, Sweet Home**" for him again? Well, I think it will, but it will be a while getting there.

Your many expressions of love and prayers for Margie and me and for our son and his boys and his in-laws are so much appreciated. We still need you to pray for them and us.

What I want to say to all of us: Embrace your family. Solve any differences. Don't leave home

angry. You never know when what you say, or the hug or kiss, will be the last one you give or receive. Do all you can to make your home "**Home, Sweet Home.**" Forgive, and when you do, forget it. Don't dig up bones. Let bygones be bygones! In my perspective, there is nothing any sweeter than a home where motherhood is honored, father is respected, kids are loved and God is worshipped.

I hope yours is "**Home, Sweet Home!**" If it is not, I urge you to do all that you can do to achieve that. If I can be of any help to you, give me a call at 662-289-3791. (This article, written by brother Les, appeared in the Star Herald, a weekly paper for Kosciusko and Attala County, Mississippi.)

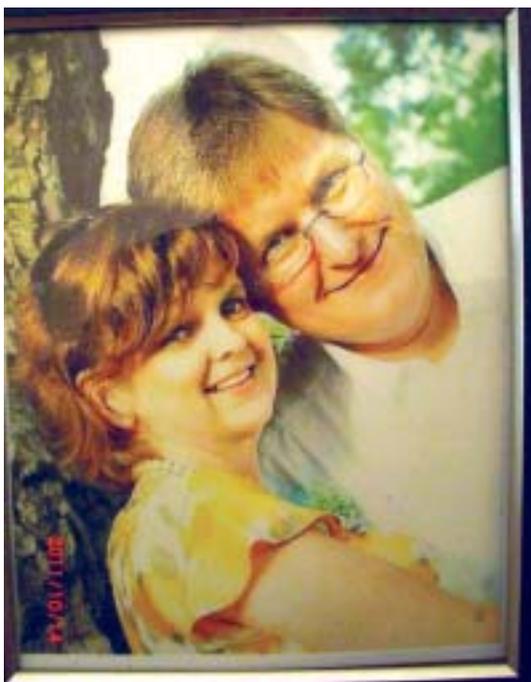
**Les Ferguson, Sr.; Preacher  
South Huntington Street  
Church of Christ;  
Kosciusko, MS 39090**



**Claude C. Capers  
at age 96  
Still Actively Serving**

When attending the funeral service for the Fergusons (as reported on this page), we were pleased to run into Claude Capers. More than 40 years ago, we became acquainted with brother Claude and quickly came to appreciate him for his service in the Kingdom and for his close association with **Bill Lambert** who, at the time, preached for the Skyway Hills church in Pearl, Mississippi.

It was so good to see brother Claude again and to learn that, although **he is now 96 years old**, he is still actively serving in the Lord's church. He serves as an elder and treasurer for the Downtown church in Gulfport, Mississippi. He has not yet "*finished the course*"; he knows not when the "*time of his departure*" will come, but he continues to "*keep the faith.*" Appreciate you, brother Capers! (alf)



Karen and Les: Together til Death!

## Sunny Glen Children's Home San Benito, Texas

### Louisiana Church Visits and Teaches the Word

**Editor's Note: When I was growing up in SW Louisiana, (60 plus years ago) I often heard about the good being done by Sunny Glen Children's Home in caring for needy children. I knew the home was somewhere out in Texas, but had no idea where San Benito, Texas was. Three score years later, I am grateful to hear that needy children are still having their needs met by Sunny Glen.**

**The following article, submitted to the MM about the annual pilgrimage of the DeRidder, Louisiana church (Bilbo at Roberts), reminds us that the good work continues in South Texas at Sunny Glen. (alf)**

**- Julie Fariss -**

Praying, planning, practicing, and *praying some more* all went into a weeklong mission trip to help make serving the needs of a children's home in South Texas a big success.

The Church of Christ at DeRidder, Louisiana spent months collecting needed items, planning VBS classes, making material, practicing puppet shows, preparing team building activities, and most of all praying for their travels in July, 2011. Many members helped with the preparations, even if they could not make the trip.

Finally, on July 18<sup>th</sup>, thirty-three people left in seven vehicles for Texas. A night was spent in Corpus Christi after a few hours of fun at a Family Fun Trackers. Tuesday morning, the team was up and ready to finish their travels and get straight to work.

Upon arriving at Sunny Glen Children's Home in San Benito, TX, the group was greeted by **Dennis and Kathy Kimball** who helped with room assignments, unloading of supplies, and answers to questions. After a quick lunch, the team set up the puppet stage, arranged props, and organized teaching materials.

Everyone immediately went to work on preparing supper. The Louisianians wanted to bring a little taste of Cajun to their new friends, so the first night they served Chicken and Sausage Gumbo, warm potato salad, bread and lettuce salad to approximately seventy people. (Must be a record to make thirty pounds of potato salad in forty-five minutes!) No complaints were heard.

At last, a much needed good night sleep was had by all. Each day the DeRidder group was up

early for breakfast, ready for the singing, puppets, classes, crafts, games, and playing planned for the Sunny Glen children from 9:00 to 11:00 and from 1:00 to 3:00.

Bible lessons about Daniel, Zaccheaus, Jesus' Death and Resurrection, and the Philippian jailor were taught by the puppets and then re-emphasized by the teachers at each session.

The teens from DeRidder found it easy to bond with the kids in Texas by participating in team building games. Everyone enjoyed transporting Fruit Loops with a straw and no hands, dressing a small teammate in adult clothes, putting on boxers and socks that were frozen, and playing musical chairs where one chair was a bucket of ice water.

Free time finally came at 3:00. Wrong! On most days it was time to prepare for supper

**On November 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, Sunny Glen will celebrate 75 Years of service to the Rio Grande Valley. What an accomplishment!**

again. The Sunny Glen staff and kids also got a taste of beans and rice on Thursday and then Jambalaya on Friday. They loved it all, but Jambalaya was definitely the favorite. Mouth watering desserts, made by one of the house parents, Mrs. Guerrero, were enjoyed by everyone.

On Wednesday, the evening was started by going to CiCi's Pizza for a fantastic treat. Then back to SGCH for singing, a devotional, and prayer. After supper it was time to rest. Wrong again! Everyone spent time getting to know one another by playing volleyball, basketball or playing on the play ground.

Each day, three men from DeRidder helped Dennis, who is in charge of maintenance, make repairs around campus, including painting several fences. It's a full time job to keep every building in good working order so the children's home can function properly. This was a great way to serve.

The team from Louisiana made the trip south in order to spread God's Word through teaching and especially by example. They know that they were the ones who

learned the most. Seeing and experiencing the life that each set of house parents must provide for six, seven, and even eight children at a time, was inspiring and encouraging to those who don't live that life all the time.

The precious children who come and go from Sunny Glen are blessed beyond measure to have a staff who not only provide for the physical needs, but also minister to their spiritual needs as well.

The house parents are required to take the kids to a Church of Christ for weekly services. Also, many who work in administration and in the offices are good Christian examples to the kids who come to SGCH. The house parents are diligent to teach the Bible and a few of the older teens have put on Christ in baptism as a result. Praise God!

On November 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, Sunny Glen will celebrate 75 Years of service to the Rio Grande Valley. What an accomplishment! If the Lord wills, may they serve for another 75 years. Please, pray for the children who come and go, that their hearts will be open to a Christian way of life. Pray for the house parents and staff that they will remain true to God's word as they work together to **"help hurting children become happy children"**.

For more information as to how you and your congregation can help ease the financial burden for Sunny Glen, please, contact them immediately.

SUNNY GLEN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
P.O. Box 1373  
San Benito, Texas 78586  
(956) 399-5356  
Email: info@sunnyglen.org

A special thanks to **Julie Fariss** who wrote and sent article to the MM. Her email address: wjfariss@earthlink.net

**Church Of Christ  
PO Box 321  
DeRidder, LA 70634-0321**

**Need a Preacher?  
Run an Ad. -- No Charge  
See Page 18**

## Life's Great Choices

**- Albert Gardner -**

We may blame others for our condition but we are where we are and what we are because of choices we have made along the way. Some choices bring immediate results, others are delayed but are far reaching. Surely, we make both kinds.

Adam and Eve made the wrong choice, and it affected the whole human race. Immediately they died spiritually and physical death came upon them and upon us as a consequence of their sin.

Abraham's and Lot's herdsmen quarreled over grazing land for their flocks and herds. Abraham told Lot to choose the direction he would go and he would go the opposite way. Lot looked toward Sodom and saw the lush pasture land and chose that way. It was

a bad decision, as most of them are when they are made only on material things. He lost some of his family in Sodom, his wife turned to a pillar of salt, he committed incest with two of his own daughters, and they each had a son by their father, from which came the Ammonites and Moabites. His short term choice affected him the rest of his life.

Moses, on the other hand, "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ of greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Hebrews 11 :24-26).

If one judges the choice of Moses based on short term immediate results, he made a bad one. He gave up the wealth and status he could have had in Egypt, to be associated with a slave group of people along with the hardships. However, he looked at the reward of serving with God's people.

We will make short and long term choices, so we must be careful not to "pitch our tent toward Sodom", but with Abraham and Moses look to the final reward. There are three great choices we face.

**First, we will decide whom we will serve.** Joshua said it right in his farewell address to his people. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on



Albert Gardner

the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

We cannot serve two masters. At an early age we should remember our Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:1),

before we become hardened by sin and lose the desire to serve God. Our real purpose on this earth is to find God, love and serve Him.

**Second, we must decide what job we take to provide for our family.**

Some jobs are dishonorable because they involve sin. Some jobs, though honorable, will take us away from the church and our families, and will hinder the spiritual part of life. In a job we should consider our usefulness in the church as well as our God

given role in the home.

**Third, most of us will choose to marry.** It is often the case that marriage seals destiny. A Christian should marry a Christian. The first consideration should not be money or physical attraction, but we should seek someone who will help us go to heaven. Cross purposes in the hope confuse the children, and tend to make an unhappy home.

When husband and wife are both Christians, there is a belief in the Bible by which any problem can be solved and every question can be answered. If they are divided in their belief, they will be divided in their solution to problems. Even though both are Christians, there may be problems, but there is a good basis on which to settle matters.

The problem with the rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21, was that he was planning without God. Many today are like that because they live for the present without much consideration for what is beyond the grave. Many verses teach that how we live determines destiny. One, that is very clear, is 2 Corinthians 5:10. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

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**Magnolia Messenger**  
Welcomes Your  
Comments and Suggestions

**...but we are where we are and what we are because of choices we have made along the way.**

An Admonition From Arkansas

“Be Busy and Be Happy”

**Editor's Note:** The following was written by Steve Reeves who served several years as preacher for the Goodman Oaks congregation in Southaven. Steve is now living and preaching in Dardanelle, Arkansas. He recently sent a couple of articles to the MM. Below is one of them.

- Steve Reeves -

Jeremy Henwood's last moments were filled with doing good. Henwood, 36, a four-year veteran of the San Diego, California, police department, was gunned down last week [August, 2011] while eating in his Patrol car at a McDonalds restaurant. His assailant, who pulled up and fired a shotgun blast at the officer, was killed in a gunfight with police shortly afterwards. Henwood was also a captain in the Marine Corps Reserves, and had recently returned from deployment to Afghanistan.

Henwood's last moments were captured on a video surveillance camera at the McDonald's counter. As he stood at the counter thirteen year old Daveon Tinsley approached him and asked to borrow a dime. "What do you want the dime for?" Henwood asked. When the boy responded that he wanted to buy some cookies but didn't have enough money the policeman told him, "I'll buy them for you." He then went on to ask Tensley what he wanted to be when he grew up. "An NBA basketball star," replied the youth. Henwood encouraged the boy by telling him he would have to work real hard in order to achieve that goal. With those words he left and stepped out to his car and – in a few moments – into eternity.

As Jesus died on the cross he saw the spiritual bankruptcy of the human race. Knowing that we did not possess the righteousness needed to satisfy God's justice Jesus said, "I'll pay the price. I'll buy it for you." He traded His sinless perfection for our sinful imperfection. He purchased our pardon and bought the church with His blood (Acts 20:28). More than any deed recorded in human history the death of Jesus on the

cross affirms our worth in God's eyes and assures us of His never ending love.

I do not know if young Daveon Tinsley will ever become a professional basketball player. I do know this. Until the day he dies he will remember on a daily basis the San Diego policeman who, as his last act on earth, showed him a moment of kindness. May we likewise remember each day the kindness of the Savior in our behalf. May we always be “Busy and Happy” as we do His work!



Steve can be reached in care of the Dardanelle Church of Christ; 209 Union; Dardanelle, AR 72834; E-mail: gopreacher@hotmail.com

Reader's Response

Could you please change my mailing address? I enjoy your publications so much. I was so surprised when I got your newsletter two years after moving from the address you have. God works in mysterious ways!! Thank you, God bless you, (Riva Walls, Flowood, MS)

A Report From

Harvey Starling

Romania Missions

Occasionally, we receive a report from evangelist Harvey Starling, whom we have known since back in the 1960s. We are thankful he is able to continue his mission efforts in “Taking the Gospel to Romania,” a ministry of the Midway congregation in Jasper, Alabama.

Recently, brother Harvey wrote about some of the special events planned for Romania during the last four months of 2011.

These activities include **Pitesti Bible Training School** where 40 students enrolled for two weeks of special Bible training. **A Preachers' Seminar** was scheduled for 18 preachers in Dolj, Arges and Valcea Districts.

**A City Wide Campaign** is lined up for November 6-9, 2011, in the city of Valcea with its population of 140,000 souls. In December a “**Food and Quilt Project**” is scheduled during which time food bags and quilts are to be distributed to about 100 families from seven congregations.

Brother Harvey wrote to his supporters saying, “The regular work continues in all seven congregations but these four specific efforts fill special needs. If the Lord permits, I will be with a different congregation in the U. S. each week until I am scheduled to return to Romania in mid-October through November....”

Brother Harvey can be contacted by addressing:

**Harvey & Pat Starling;**

**P. O. Box 915;**

**Madison, AL 35758**

**Email: hmsstar@bellsouth.net**



Alex Gear and wife, Gillian, of Scotland

Like many other churches of Christ, the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko, Mississippi, has had a long history of positive response to the Lord's command to “go into *all* the world, and preach the gospel to *every* creature” (Mark 16:15). This desire to “make disciples of *all* nations” (Matt. 28:19) has led the church to become involved in many missions efforts in several places on earth, including the country of Scotland.

For several years the Kosciusko church has been helping in the financial support of Alex Gear, a native of Scotland, and a long time local missionary. Brother Gear was converted/baptized into Christ in 1968, in part, through the influence of two brethren (**Jerry Porter** and **Neal Buckley**) from Henderson, Tennessee who led in the beginning of mission efforts in that country in the late fifties.

In the early to mid '90's Alex Gear was encouraged by **Buddy Baker** to come to the states and study at International Bible College in Florence, Alabama. After about three years at IBC, in 1997, Alex returned to his homeland of Scotland where he intensified his efforts to evangelist his part of the world.

For the past 10 years Alex and his wife have been working with a congregation in East Kilbride which is considered a suburb of Glasgow. The church now has a membership of about 40-50 and gaining influence for the gospel and New Testament Christianity by demonstrating a spirit of service to the community, including a couple of the public schools where Bible teaching is not only allowed but encouraged!

In his visit at Kosciusko, brother Alex used the Bible study hour to report on the progress of the church at East Kilbride and to express his appreciation to the church for their support. During the morning worship hour, brother Gear spoke on the need for and the beauty of “Christian Growth.”

Using Colossians 2:6,7 as his text, he stressed the need for Christians to grow “INWARD” through the development of personal faith and the need to grow “OUTWARD” by giving thanks.

His sermon was very well presented as he spoke in his native “Scottish English”. His sermon was a little hard for me to follow at times; however, his remarks evidenced deep conviction and a sincere desire to please the Lord as he reminded us all of the necessity of spiritual growth. Among observations made, I noted the following. (1) “We are not sinless, but as we grow, we sin less.” (2) “There is more in knowing God than simply knowing there is a God.” (3) “Just as our relationship

with one another requires time to grow, so does our relationship with God.”

In closing the speaker from Scotland stressed the need, if we want to grow, for each Christian to engage in frequent prayers and reading God's word on a daily basis.

Just as the mission efforts in Scotland have come to mean a lot to Kosciusko brethren, so should all mission efforts be appreciated by Christians everywhere. The Lord still says, “Go” and He commands, “Make disciples.” I want to especially thank **Les Ferguson, Sr.** for his personal interest in mission works throughout the world. Largely through the efforts of brother Ferguson, the Kosciusko church has been able to participate in seeking to save the lost in several places on earth. (alf)

I want to especially thank **Les Ferguson, Sr.** for his personal interest in mission works throughout the world. Largely through the efforts of brother Ferguson, the Kosciusko church has been able to participate in seeking to save the lost in several places on earth.

Reader's Response

Hello Bro. A.L. Franks, It is good to get M.M. I love every article and I read them all. It is good to keep up with the Church in Mississippi. So just let me say I thank you for the good paper you and your staff send out. It is good that it goes to so many places. So just keep up the good work. Yours in Christ, (**Joe Arnold**, Bowling Green, KY)

Missionaries from Glasgow Scotland Visit Kosciusko Church

Sunday 10/30/11

Mississippi MM RV Rally

14th Annual - April 24-28, 2012

Lake Tiak-O'Khata

Louisville, Mississippi

God willing, the 14th Annual *Magnolia Messenger* RV Rally will be held April 24-28, 2012 (Tuesday through Saturday) at Lake Tiak-O'-Khata in Louisville, Mississippi. **Cecil May Jr.** will be one of the guest speakers.

This beautiful resort in central Mississippi has a great RV park with full hook-ups, including cable. For those who do not have an RV or want to leave your RV at home, you can stay in the resort's many cabins or in the resort lodge. Lake Tiak-O'-Khata is also famous for its award winning restaurant.

We are expecting to fill up the RV Park. If you are thinking you might go, please call the park at 1-888-845-6151 and reserve an RV site, hotel room or a cabin. For more information you can go to their website at [www.ltok.com](http://www.ltok.com). If you have any questions, please call me at 1-337-515-7314. (Paul Franks)

## The Fruit of Love

- Eddie Lewis -

An aged minister faced death. A friend said to him, "Preacher, you are about to receive your reward." The preacher looked at him and replied in labored breath, "Oh, no, not a reward, but mercy."

David knew this boundless grace, when he cried, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness, according unto the multitude of your tender mercies blot out my transgressions" (Ps. 51:1). God's desire is to forgive and restore fallen man, if he will come to Him!

Jesus teaches us that love has three directions: toward God, toward man, and toward self. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, this is the first and great commandment" (Matt. 22:37-39). Our love toward God is manifested in our obedience to the commands of God. "If a man loves me, he will keep my words" (Jo. 14:23).

Our love toward our fellow man is manifested in service to him. After Jesus washed the disciples feet He said, "Love one another as I have loved you..." (Jo. 13:34-35). The man that loves his neighbor will not steal from him, or lie about him, or hurt him. Also, this love is even extended to his enemies, which is the real test of our faith (Matt. 5:43-48).

There are several verses in the Bible that tell us what love is and how it is to be demonstrated. But, I feel Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 13 is the best. He mentions eight negative and eight positive features of love.

### Negative:

*Love does not envy*—It does not have that inordinate desire for that which belongs to another. It rejoices in the happiness and good fortunes of others.

*Love does not parade itself*—It doesn't "show off" or "parade itself" due to some privilege or ability that it has.

*Love is not puffed up*—The Corinthians were prideful over some of the spiritual gifts they possessed, but love doesn't act that way.

*Love does not behave rudely*—Self-love sometimes betrays itself in unbecoming behavior, or is unconcern about how some offensive actions may affect others. Love is decent and



Eddie Lewis

courteous to all people.

*Love does not seek its own*—This is not saying we should not be concerned about our own affairs, but undue concern for one's self, to the point that we forget about what others are suffering, is not love.

*Love is not provoked*—One that loves, forbears the faults of others (1 Pet. 2:23).

*Love thinks no evil*—Such a one considers others actions. He doesn't believe evil of others, unless it is proven.

*Love does not rejoice in iniquity*—He does not rejoice in the evil done by others. Sin grieves his heart as it grieves the heart of God.

### Positives:

*Love suffers long*—Love is pictured as a person who is patient under trials (Eph. 4:1). He forgives others' actions.

*Love is kind*—It is good natured and gentle. It is courteous and seeks to do well to others. Even enemies (Matt. 23:37)!

*Love rejoices in the truth*—It does take sides, and rejoices when it sees truth triumph (Acts 11:23).

*Love bears all things*—"Bear" means to cover. It means that love is disposed to conceal the faults of others, to bear them patiently.

*Love believes all things*—It is the opposite of those who try to paint everything in dark colors, or make the worst out of it. Love tries to believe the best of others.

*Love hopes all things*—Hope gives us a bright and sunny outlook on life. Even when the clouds are the darkest and evil seems to have won. Hope still sees the very best.

*Love endures all things*—Endures is a stronger word than "bear." It means love endures gross ill treatment, violence, persecution, and all those things

that provoke strife. Paul said Christians would suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:10). Christ suffered persecution, but He did it because He loved us and wanted us to be saved (Heb. 12:2).

*Love never fails*—The spiritual gifts would come to an end, but not love. God's love would always forgive us and help us have a greater love for others and ourselves.

This fruit of the Spirit sets the pace for all the others. How can we have joy, or peace, or any of the other fruit without first being saturated with the same love Christ knew? When we learn to love and express it, there is a beauty that comes to life that we never knew before.

By Eddie Lewis, Associate Minister, Germantown Church of Christ, Germantown, TN. His address:

**Eddie Lewis**  
9423 Laurel Hill S  
Olive Branch, MS 38654-1658

### Berean Children's Home Additional Note

If you would be interested in a personal visit to your congregation for the purpose of learning more about this "good work," you may contact our Board President:

**Wendell Davis**, 1695 Westwood Ln. NW; Brookhaven, MS 39601; Home: 601-833-4376 Cell: 601-757-8766



Wendell Davis and Wife, Faye

10/14/11 in Brookhaven

## Ribbon Cutting Takes Place For The "Berean Children's Home"

On Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, a milestone was reached for the "Berean Children's Home." This home for needy children, under the oversight of the elders of Mt. Olive Church of Christ in Brookhaven, Mississippi, had its beginning in 1979 and was located in Albany, Louisiana.

Several years ago the board of directors began discussions to move the home to Brookhaven, closer to its sponsoring congregation. With the donation of 10 acres of land, Beatrice Allen, a longtime member of the Mt. Olive Church of Christ and a local business owner, made the mission of moving the home to Brookhaven possible. She said, "The board needed a place, the children needed a place and I had the land. Giving the land for such a worthy cause was the right thing to do." She added, "You'd be surprised how much a facility like this is needed in our world today."

The home broke ground in August of 2010 and now, with the first phase completed, it is ready to open. The first phase of construction saw the completion of four buildings. The Administration Building includes a reception area, offices for the director and counselor, a library with work stations equipped with computers and a conference area for meetings.

The two residential buildings, one each for the boys and girls, have quarters for the house parents, eight bedrooms for the children (each child with their own room), and a common area for the children to gather. The fourth building houses the cafeteria, a utility/laundry area, as well as a storage area. A metal building has also been constructed to store lawn equipment and other work related tools. With the completion of the first phase, the home is equipped to house up to 16 children.

Berean Children's Home receives no federal or state funds. It is funded only through private donations. Support is primarily received from faithful Christians and churches of Christ through

out the United States. The Lord has blessed us abundantly and we are confident He'll continue to do so.

The board, dependent upon continued support from faithful Christians, is planning for phase two, which would see the construction of two more residential buildings. This would bring to 32 the number of children we could house.

If the Lord wills, with the sale of the old property in Louisiana and continued and new support, we hope one day to build a gymnasium as well as a baseball field. We look forward to seeing the children from the home getting involved with many of our youth from other churches of Christ around the area.

Our mission is to help and reach as many children for our Lord as we possibly can. It is our desire to meet not only their physical needs but their spiritual needs as well. We hope to provide a warm and loving home, a place where children can develop into the young men and women that God intended them to be.

We are asking individual Christians as well as congregations to consider this work in your plans for the coming year. We know of no greater work that can be done than reaching the next generation for the cause of our Lord and his church. For more information, **please contact:**

Berean Children's Home  
1180 Berea Trail S.E.  
Bogue Chitto, MS 39629  
Phone: 601-823-5776

### Email:

bereanchildrenshome@cableone.net  
Website: www.bereanhome.org  
(still being updated)

### To Donate:

**The Berean Children's Home**  
P.O. Box 1009  
Brookhaven, MS 39601

Article submitted by **Ronnie Lofton**; 916 Morningside Drive; Brookhaven, MS 39601  
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Architect's Drawing  
Phase One  
(Now Completed)

Berean Children's Home

## Restaurants

### Nourishment and Encouragement



"Just One of the Many Places"

- MM Editor -

My June and I are richly blessed. Many people in many places who receive and read the MM are a source of encouragement to us. Every word of encouragement is greatly appreciated and produces within us even a stronger desire, with God's help, to publish a paper that is worthy to be read. We are reminded on a daily basis of just how indebted we are to the many, many people who help make our mission work -- through the paper and our personal efforts -- possible. I am pleased to relate three recent examples involving restaurants where we were both **nourished** and **encouraged**.

In early October of this year, while working in South Louisiana, we stopped in for lunch at a Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Lafayette. As we were entering, I spoke to a man on the front porch. He responded very kindly and then asked, "Are you Al Franks?"

He didn't look like he was connected with the IRS or the Mafia, so I answered, "Yes." He said, "I am from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and I enjoy reading the 'Magnolia Messenger'." He went on to say that he and his family had formerly lived in Tupelo, Mississippi. Just a few minutes later, we also met his wife and really enjoyed a brief visit with **Gary and Priscilla Dick** who caught us up on news from the Great Smoky Mountain Church of Christ in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We were encouraged.

About 15 minutes later, while sitting at our table eating lunch, we glanced over to a nearby table and saw a man I thought I recognized. I spoke to him and learned that he was presently living in Houston, Texas. He commented, "I appreciate your paper." The man, **Ed Hunt**, introduced us to a friend traveling with him and reminded us of our work together in the planting of a new congregation in McGee, Mississippi, back in the 1980's.

Again, we were *encouraged* even as we were *nourished*.

Then, on October 22, 2011, my June and I stopped by a favorite eating place in Mathison, Mississippi (pictured, left). After enjoying an inexpensive meal (2 for \$9.00, tax included!), we walked to the check out register and were informed that the price of our meal had already been paid. When I enquired "Who paid?" I was told, "A man who has already left said that you *published a paper he liked* and that he wanted to buy your meal." We were moved with gratitude. I asked, "Who was he?" After searching through some checks, he answered, "**Ed Williams**... I believe he is from Starkville." (Thank you, Ed!)

So, you see. Just three examples. We are so blessed. We cannot express often enough our sincere appreciation to all who make possible our ministry. We are constantly reminded of our need to continually thank God as we renew our efforts to publish the very best paper possible and that it may long continue to "*provoke unto love and good works*" (Hebrews 10:24)

*All June*

### We want to do more We want to do better

Your *suggestions* are invited;

Your *comments* are welcomed;

Your *help* is Needed

For more information about the mission efforts of the Franks -- through the paper and through their personal efforts, please feel free to contact us.

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## THANK YOU

for

Receiving & Reading

the

Magnolia Messenger

Thank you for the paper and Bible Study. 1 Thess. 5: 16-18 (Cathy Allen, North Fort Myers, FL)

Thanks so much for the MM. I enjoy it. Thanks so much! (Nelle Grissom, Scotts Hill, TN)

## Magnolia Messenger

### Circulation

### Includes

### Hand Distribution

Nearly **24,000** copies of each issue of the Magnolia Messenger are mailed all over the United States. Over **21,000** go to individuals at their home or office addresses. More than **2,000** are mailed, mainly to churches, in bundles of five copies to each address. Still many others are hand distributed.

For example, when we printed the issue before this one, while we were still in Hattiesburg, Mississippi (where the MM is printed and mailed), my June and I handed out several copies to people we met on that very first day.

We were in a store known as "Dirt Cheap" when we handed a copy to a nice lady who was shopping for a toy to give her grandson. Later, when eating at Cracker Barrel, we were pleased to present a new copy of the MM to a waitress named Debbie. Later in the day we stopped at a roadside fruit stand and gave a "Messenger" to a lady selling watermelons. Then, we stopped in at the Kensington Woods church building and hand delivered copies of the new MM to secretary Mary Kay Stickroth, elder Ken Upchurch, preacher Mike Benson and his wife, Lanore, who joined us for lunch at noon.

Later in the day, a waitress at Red Lobster seemed very pleased to receive a copy, especially when she (Becca) learned that her dad, who is plant manager for Signature Offset Printing in Hattiesburg, had just printed our new issue. Then, there was another waiter named Jarris who received the paper kindly... And, so the MM gets around.

We are grateful to all who receive and read the Messenger. We find it beyond our ability to adequately express our great appreciation to all who help financially in the publication and distribution of each issue. Every dollar counts and every dollar helps to spread the "good news" about the Lord and His church. We close this little report about circulation by giving special thanks to God who makes it possible for the MM to now go by mail into *every state in the nation.* (alf)



Sign Says: Jesus Christ is our Savior; Who is Yours?  
"Somewhere in Mississippi"

## Answers: Last Issue

### The Shortest Gospel

Mark: Lesson 2  
(Chapters 9 - 16)

#### True or False

(Based on the writings of **Mark chapter 9**, indicate with a "T" or "F" which of the following statements are either true or false. Also write in blanks provided the correct references where answers are found.)

**T** 1. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God would come with power during the lifetime of some who lived during the first century. (Mark **9:1**)

**T** 2. The ninth chapter of Mark mentions two *different* men with the name "Elias" [Elijah]. (**4 & 13**)

**T** 3. Mark does not reveal what Jesus, Moses and Elias talked about on the mount of transfiguration; however, I know the topic of their conversation. (Study Mark 9 and Luke 9) The topic was: **JESUS' DECEASE**.

#### Locate Verses

Locate each of the following verses or parts of verses found in the **last eight chapters of the book of Mark**. Meditate on the meaning of each message. Okay? Also, write in the missing chapter or verse.

1. "...He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark **16:16**)

2. "And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand and the other on his left." (**15:27**)

3. "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready but the flesh is weak." (**14:38**)

4. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." (**13:31**)

5. "...Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (**12:17**)

6. "...My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves." (**11:17**)

7. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (**10:9**)

8. "Where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." (**9:48**)

#### Matching

Match each word in the left column with the appropriate word or phrase in the right column. (**All answers are found in the last half of Mark.**)

5 Garden

4 "Skull"

2 Daniel

3 Simon

1 300+

1. Box of ointment

2. Abomination of desolation

3. Cyrenian

4. Golgotha

5. Gethsemane

#### Who Said/Asked?

Match the person(s) in column one with the appropriate statement/question in column two. (**Mk 9-16**)

8 Young Man in white 1. "Master, we saw one casting out devils... he followeth us not... we forbade him..." (Mark **9:38**)

1 John 2. "...Which is the first commandment of all?" (**12:28**)

7 Centurion 3. "...Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand and the other on thy left hand..." (**10:37**)

3 James and John 4. "And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch." (**13:37**)

6 High Priest 5. "...Master, behold the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away." (**11:29**)

4 Jesus 6. "...Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (**14:61**)

5 Simon Peter 7. "...Truly this man was the Son of God." (**15:39**)

2 A Scribe 8. "...He is risen; He is not here." (**16:6**)

## His Eye is On the Sparrow

The sparrow is a small bird that gets little respect. Its color is a drab brown; its wingspan a tiny few inches. Its song is a lowly chirp; its appeal is nil. Man does not prize this little creature, protect it, house it, or hardly notice it. Yet this tiny bird exists in large numbers across this land. Why? How? God!

Our Heavenly Father loves these little birds. God feeds them, although they do not grow their own food (Mt. 6:26), and if one falls to the ground, He pauses over it (Mt. 10:29).

I am impressed that the Father cares for such a tiny creature. I am almost jealous. But then my Lord assures me, "Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows" (Lu.12:7). God loves the sparrow, but he loves me more. He takes notice of the fallen sparrow, but he sends the angels to minister unto me (He. 1:14). I like the value God gives to all his creation, but it is nice knowing that He values me the most.

## A Christian Mule?

A little girl watched as her grandfather hitched up his mule to plow his garden. "Is that mule a Christian?" she asked. "Why would you think that?" her puzzled grandpa replied. The little girl, staring at the strange beast answered, "Because his face is so long!"

Christians should be the most joyous, happy, content people on God's green earth. Yet often our lives do not reflect that joy, our speech does not confess it, and our faces do not show it. Jesus taught us not to worry about life as the world does, for our heavenly Father will take care of us (Mt. 6:31,32). Paul said we can "rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice! (Ph. 4:4)."

The great preacher for the Manhattan church, Burton Coffman, was walking down the street in New York City singing hymns. Someone commented to him, "You seem like you own the world." "No", he said, "But my Father does." I knew Burton Coffman, he was a happy energetic Christian, and bore no resemblance to a mule.

## The Golden Years

"Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated" (Du. 34:7). It must have been nice to be in such great health at that age. Good health, especially in old age, is a blessing. Solomon called old age "the evil days" and said they could be days of darkness, fear, idleness and restless nights (Ec. 12:1-5). The longer we live the truer these words become.

As we get older we do come to highly value our health and longevity of years. Many suffer so much physically, or died in the prime of their life. Even now at 60 years of age I appreciate the number of years I have been blessed to live on this planet, and to do so in good health. I know of many who were not so fortunate.

Let us use the blessing of old age to the glory of God, and not as an excuse to cease serving Him. Lets use the "golden years" to prepare for the streets of gold! Remember the great work Moses was doing when he was a hundred years old. Hey, Noah built the when he was mere 600!

# Inscriptions

by  
Dennis Doughty



## "Inscriptions" The Weekly Column

*What started out as a weekly column in a Bible class newsletter has grown into what I call "Our brotherhood's largest syndicated column."*

*I am now in my sixth year of writing this little article, writing about 45 a year. I figure I have written somewhere around 250 articles. I do not know the exact figure but it is safe to say that the article is now read by several hundred people every week.*

*It is always three paragraphs and is always the same size, (within a line or two). This makes it perfect for bulletins as it will always fit into a regular space which helps those who put out weekly bulletins. Some congregations use it in their electronic bulletins, or send it out to their email list with other church information.*

*Many individuals just like to receive it every week for their own devotional time. For preachers it gives some excellent sermon ideas with illustrations and scripture texts (I have developed many into sermons).*

*If you would like to receive "Inscriptions;" just write me at [dennis1848@bellsouth.net](mailto:dennis1848@bellsouth.net) and ask to be added to my mailing list. (Dennis Doughty)*

### Editor's Note:

Dennis serves as preacher for the church of Christ in Tunica, Mississippi.

## No One Called Him "Doctor"

No one called him "Doctor," but Jesus was a great healer, and cared greatly for the sick, He never took the oath written by Hippocrates in the 4th century B.C., yet he used his powers "for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgement" (from the Hippocratic oath).

Jesus cured the diseased, comforted the afflicted, restored sight to the blind, mobility to the lame, cleansing to the lepers, hearing to the deaf, sight to the blind and even life to the dead (Lu. 7:21,22). He had no nurse, no clinic, no operating room, no medicines, and no medical degree. What he had was great compassion. "It is not the healthy that need a doctor," he said, "but the sick" (Mt. 9:12).

When we care for the sick we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. The New Testament church healed the sick (Ac. 5:15), visited the sick (Ac. 28:8), and prayed for the sick (Jm 5:15). To be that church we must have the same love for the ill of soul and body.

## Satan and State

I discovered the other day that our tax dollars, in a job training bill, is helping to train people to work in our local casino industry. The training takes place in small private "colleges" operated in store fronts, to train people to deal blackjack and run a craps table. Our tax dollars at work! Why couldn't we use those same tax dollars to train men to preach in our small private colleges?

"Oh no," many would object. "Remember the separation of church and State." Well, what about the separation of Satan and State? Should our tax dollars be used to help legalize homosexual marriages, pay for abortions, and to train riverboat gamblers; while withholding funds to support a man attending a school of preaching?

Peter said that Satan was like "a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (2 Pet. 5:8). Now we know that his work is government subsidized!

## The Power of Faith

When a young shepherd boy bent down and picked up five smooth stones from a flowing brook the history of a nation changed and a great warrior and king was born. The story is legendary. Every leader, teacher, salesman, soldier and athlete, Christian and non-Christian, knows of it and is inspired by it; the story of David and Goliath.

It is the story of the power of faith; of a young boy who believed beyond the shadow of a doubt that God would be with him. "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sa. 17:37). So the youth filled his sling with a stone from Elah's brook and his heart with faith in his God and ran to achieve the victory he knew awaited. Oh! The Power of Faith!

We all face Goliath. We all stand at the creeks edge and gaze upon the immense challenges before us. Our faith is tested in many ways. We can step back in fear and never know the power of faith or we can fill our sling and move forward with the assurance that God will give us the victory.

## Understanding Moral and Spiritual Issues In the Context of the Modern Secular Political Agendas

### ADMENDMENT 26

- Roger Hines -  
Former Professor of Bible  
at Magnolia Bible College



Roger Hines

**Author's Note:** The following article is based upon a sermon delivered at the North Liberty Street church of Christ in Canton, Mississippi two days before Mississippi voters voted on **Amendment 26** to the state constitution, popularly known as the "Personhood Amendment." Sadly, the amendment failed to pass in the election and abortions will be allowed to continue for the foreseeable future in the State of Mississippi as they will throughout the country.

We live in a unique time in the history of the church. Unique in the sense that Christians have never quite faced this particular situation before of having access to a say in the laws of the land while witnessing the increasing secularization of our nation. We have been the minority with no say in the government, such as during the days of the Roman Empire.

In the 19th Century, members of the churches of Christ could vote or not vote while knowing that there was a Christian consensus involving basic morality and respect for marriage and the unborn. There were, of course, exceptions to this general social and political milieu, but in general, heterosexual marriage and protection for the unborn were important measures of the spiritual health of the society.

Historically, members of the church of Christ often have been ambivalent when it comes to the relationship between church and state and between personal Christian faith and the exercise of their rights as American citizens, especially regarding the relationship between faith and voting preferences. They have run between the two extremes of not voting at all and not having anything to do with national decision making to voting based on party affiliation without consideration to the platforms that may run contrary to Biblical principles.

However, today we are confronted with a third situation in that we have the right to exercise our voices in the public arena that no longer is directed by, or often even respectful to, a Christian consensus. The secular mindset theorized in the latter half of the Twentieth Century has now found

fruition in the laws and leadership of our country.

Modern definitions of pluralism with its moral equivalency means that there is no consensus of truth or that truth is even a worthy goal. Modern pluralism is not that despite our diversity we are one people with one set of moral values based upon the Bible but that the diversity itself defines what is right and wrong.

Such an attitude is reflected in national leaders who believe that people and governments define and determine right and wrong instead of viewing right and wrong as from God. Humans do not define right and wrong; they acknowledge right and wrong that has already existed before governments ever came into existence.

The recent opposition to Amendment 26, popularly referred to as the "personhood" amendment is a case in point. The amendment simply read that either by conception or cloning, the fetus is seen as a person and, therefore, should be treated as such.

Those forces in opposition to the amendment did not make one argument in favor of the child and would not even refer to the child as such. All the arguments were peripheral arguments about what might happen to the mother, and many of those arguments referred more to situations that had nothing to do with the health of the mother.

Planned Parenthood and the ACLU through the euphemistically-termed organization *Mississippians for Healthy Families* only ostensibly were concerned about the health of the mothers. Make no mistake; the issue was about the lucrative existence of abortion clinics and their right to operate. It was about a restructuring of the society in which ultimately authority comes from people and not from God.

As noted previously, Christians are for life and the preservation of life and have been so since the early

days of the church. During the Roman Empire, the popular culture saw nothing wrong with abortion and other forms of infanticide, including exposure of newborns to the elements so that they might perish.

A personal letter of a Roman husband to his pregnant wife illustrates the Ancient attitude toward the unborn and newly born. He gives several bits of advice and instruction to his wife, including directions regarding the fate of the child. If the child was a boy, she was told to keep it, but if the child was a girl, then she was ordered to expose it. Often, one of the works of benevolence of early Christians was to rescue children who had been exposed.

Secularists and even some well-meaning Christians have said that morality cannot be legislated. They sound like the character in the Robert Frost poem *The Mending Wall* who would fall back on his father's expression that "good fences make good neighbors: as sufficient explanation for not repairing the wall. He thought that the phrase was self-explanatory and needed no defense.

We have been told that government should not have such power of the private lives of individuals, a comment in itself which sounds strange coming from people who have very little problem with government control in other areas of people's lives. The problem with these arguments is that secularists legislate morality frequently. They determine what is fair from everything to taxes, to who can marry whom, to who has authority to terminate pregnancies.

Regarding the power of government to involve itself in the lives of people, it must be said that government can take one of two attitudes regarding absolute moral issues, such as marriage and the protection of the unborn and children. Government can either acknowledge existing moral law and cultural norms that came from an appreciation of those laws or it can take the attitude that right and wrong are fluid and based upon freedom of choice and changing public attitudes.

The Founding Fathers of our country did not really have a revolution of culture but a revolution against a disrespect for the basic rights of people given by God. The Declaration of Independence neither created nor defined life, liberty, and the pursuit of

See ISSUES on Page 22



Now You  
Take It From There....

- by -

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### HIGH VELOCITY

The top speed of a human sneeze is about 200 mph according to "Mind Boggler" from **Shoppers Hotline News**. That kind of velocity is certainly "not to be sneezed at", I suppose. Surely this discovery had to come from a government funded research grant to the College of Sciences in some major university, offering a degree in cranial and respiratory anatomy, with a specialty in pneumo-dynamics. And it took a lot of time and money to figure this one out. This is a "mind Boggler", but also a mind jogger. Reading this jogged my memory of a Biblical narrative recording that one sneezed seven times.

*Top speed of  
a human sneeze  
is about 200 mph!*

The Hebrew word **ZARAR**, translated "sneeze", is used only once in our English Bible, but a profound message revolves around it. A prominent couple of Shunem, who had shared the comforts of their home with the prophet Elisha, had a son who died, but was restored to life by the prophet (II Kings 4: 8-37). Without a detailed description of all the procedure, Elisha lay on his body, "and the lad sneezed seven times and the lad opened his eyes" (verse 35).

We could spend a lot of time and money attempting to figure out the dynamic co-incidental of this passage. We could use a speculative, nonsensical approach, using physics with its laws of thermo-dynamics; apply them to seven successive sneezes. And come up with an outlandish figure for velocity! Or we can simply read out of the text what God wants us to know:

(1) God works through His people; here it as the anointed - Elisha, (2) Elisha was empowered with the miraculous measure of the Spirit of God, (3) He was moved with compassion for the grief-stricken mother, (4) He prayed to God about it before acting, and (5) It was a day of gratitude and rejoicing for the family in Shunem. Read the passage (II Kings 4: 8-37), and see what else you may come up with that is important and edifying.

*This is a  
"mind Boggler",  
but also a mind jogger.*

Now, "don't sneeze at it", but you take it from there!

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## The "Gay Movement" Needs to Stop!

- editor -



### The Sign Says It Well "Gay Blvd" Dead End

Within the past 2 or 3 decades a once "respectable" word has taken on a "new" and different meaning. The word is "gay". And sadly, an increasing number of folks, who use and/or wear that word with its "new" meaning, are working overtime as they seek to make the word *gay* "respectable".

In times past the word "gay", as an adjective, was often used to suggest that which was "bright and pleasant, promoting a feeling of cheer." It also has been used, in times past, to mean that which is "brightly colored and showy." This is the way the word "gay" is used the one time it appears in the KJV of the Bible (James 2:2,3).

Sadly, in the 21st Century, when the word "gay" is used, it most often refers to a person who is "sexually attracted to another of the same sex." In today's world, the word "gay", unfortunately, usually means a "homosexual" -- whether the person or the practice. A person who is "gay" and who practices the "gay" lifestyle is disobedient to God. This was true according to Old Testament law (Lev. 18:22; 20:13). It is also true, according to New Testament teachings. (Study I Cor. 6:9 and Romans 1:27ff.)

Those who practice the gay lifestyle also show their disrespect for a Loving God and refuse to honor the wisdom of the Almighty Creator who, when he created the first humans, "made them male and female." God, then, brought the couple together and commanded, "Be fruitful and

multiply and fill the earth..." (Gen. 1:27,28). Homosexuals are among a group of sinners who, according to the judgement of God, are said to be "worthy of death"; that is, eternal separation from God (Romans 1:24-32).

So sad. The sinful practice of homosexuality leads to a "Dead End." There can be no reproduction. No offspring. Life ends with the person who is strictly homosexual. The gay lifestyle (homosexuality) also is a practice that leads to the second death -- eternal separation from God. Being "gay" (with its newly acquired definition) is not something that is "bright and pleasant, promotion a spirit of cheer." It truly leads to a dead end -- a **double DEAD END!**



### The Sign Says It Well If traveling down "Gay Blvd" **STOP**

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The pictures in this article were taken recently of street signs seen in Mississippi. We are confident that those responsible for naming the street were NOT endorsing a sinful lifestyle. The name was probably given long ago when "gay" had a much different meaning than it generally does today. (alf)

#### Hello Dear Ones,

*Al, just a line to say I enjoyed filling out the Question Box, but you really know how to make it hard on old eyes (Ha). I loved this one. I believe its the best one yet. Several have commented on it. Thank you for doing "The Messenger." You both are to be commended. Please come to see us at Mayfield very soon. All My Love, (Ruth Gunter, Saltillo, MS)*



Kyle Butt  
(Christian)

### "God Does Exist"



Blair Scott  
(Atheist)

### "God Does Not Exist"

On September 29, 2011, a public debate was held on the campus of the University of North Alabama. **Blair Scott**, an atheist and directory of Communications for American Atheists, Inc. affirmed that "God Does Not Exist." **Kyle Butt**, a Christian associated with Apologetics Press, presented ample evidence for the existence of God.

The debate was held in the university's Norton Auditorium and was said to be nearly filled to capacity with an estimated 1,500 to 1,700 in attendance. In addition, many thousands of others viewed the debate as it was streamed live by the Gospel Broadcasting Network. My June and I were among the thousands watching -- thanks to GBN.

**Dave Miller** of Apologetics Press, stated, "... the cause of Christ was well served by the event." Over and over, as the debate continued, I could not help but to express thanks to the Almighty One for the many evidences He has given to us which declare emphatically, "God Does Exist."

The evidences are so many and so clear that Scripture says the unbeliever is "without excuse" (Rom. 1: 18-20) I also am grateful to brother Kyle for effectively calling attention to those clear evidences.

But, I also thought about another passage of scripture as the

See **ATHEIST**, next column



## Magnolia Messenger

### Memorials & Tributes

The person whose name is in **CAPS** is memorialized or honored by the person(s) whose name is in lower case letters. Thank you. God bless!

### In Memory Of

**BOB FLOYD**  
**ROY BARTON**  
Frances Stewart  
(Water Valley, MS)

**KAREN FERGUSON**  
**COLE FERGUSON**  
Larry & Janie Wallace  
(Kosciusko, MS)  
Della & Eudell Rhodes  
(Southaven, MS)

**MARGUERITE TIRRILL**  
Lillie Cobb  
(Natchez, MS)

**HEATHER SPENCER**  
Carl & Vera Spencer  
(Jackson, MS)

**THOMAS TUPMAN**  
**STEPHEN ALDRIDGE**  
Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

**JOHNNY ALDRIDGE**  
Garnett & Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)  
Jay & Mary Henley  
(Brandon, MS)  
Carole Milner  
(Brandon, MS)

**BETH PHILLIPS**  
Pierce Flatt  
(Pike Road, AL)

**MRS. PAULINE MAYS**  
Myrtle Turman  
(Mantee, MS)

**BARRY THORNTON**  
Jim & Alice Dempsey  
(Bradford, AR)

**WILLIAM (BILLY) CRYER**  
C. A. Creed  
(Sulphur, LA)

**NELL GOLDEN**  
Frank Golden  
(Columbus, MS)  
Jon Golden  
(Birmingham, AL)  
Hazel Cook  
(Columbus, MS)

**HAZEL WHARTON**  
Hazel Cook  
(Columbus, MS)

**FREDERIC SEAB**  
Frances Leist  
Carolyn Freeman  
(Roxie, MS)

**MARLIN IVEY**  
Larry & Janie Wallace  
(Kosciusko, MS)  
Jenny Sanders  
(Kosciusko, MS)  
Marnece Moore  
(Kosciusko, MS)

**MADELINE FULGHAM**  
**BROADAWAY**  
Bonnie Strickland  
(Brandon, MS)

**JIMMY BRADSHAW**  
James & Deanie Bradshaw  
(Indianola, MS)

**JOYCE WILLIAMS**  
Rayburn & Johnnye Faye  
Blackmon  
(Merryville, LA)

**JOHNNY ALDRIDGE**  
**TOM TUPMAN**  
**TOMMY TUPMAN**  
Jimmie Dean Tupman  
(Humble, Texas)

**Suggestion:** Pick out someone you really appreciate and honor him/her in the next issue of the MM. How about it?

### THANK YOU

for remembering the Magnolia Messenger  
as you remember and/or honor those you love and appreciate.

Please Send Your Gifts To:

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

**ATHEIST** (from column 3, this page)

atheist affirmed that "God doesn't exist." And, that passage is Psalms 14:1 where the Bible says, "The fool hath said in his heart, 'there is no God'."

You know what? It sorta sounds like the Bible is saying that a man who denies the existence of God is a "fool." Now, I didn't say that. Give God credit.

## 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.)

### Danville Church Report

**Burns: Age 97 -- Still Teaching Sunday Class**

**Leonard: Resigns from Full-time work**

**Church is Looking for a Preacher**

"I am enclosing a photo of Bro. Charles Leonard and Bro. Fred Burns of the Danville congregation. Bro. Leonard has been preaching for 58 years and moved to Mississippi in 1971 to work with the Biggersville, MS congregation. He preached for the Hill's Chapel congregation in Prentiss County for over four years, then returned to Biggersville and preached for the Danville congregation for nearly 30 years. He recently resigned from full time work and is available to fill in or preach in meetings.

"Brother Fred Burns came to the Danville congregation three years ago. He is now 97 years old and teaches the Sunday morning Bible class. He came to Danville from the Coleman

Avenue congregation in Memphis where he lived until his wife passed away. He was a popular performer of 'hillbilly tunes' in the early days of Memphis radio and television and says he has a 'Bachelor of Age' degree. He is very active in all works of the church here.

"The Danville congregation is looking for a preacher who can partially support himself. Anyone interested may contact Bro. Leonard at 662-287-6530 or Bro. Burns at 662-287-0388."

**Danville Church of Christ  
C/o Mr. Charles Leonard  
471 County Road 513**

**Rienzi, Mississippi 38865**

*(Report sent to us by Mrs. Charles Leonard. Thank you, sister Leonard.)*



Fred Burns (age 97) Still Teaching Charles Leonard (Recently Retired)



A Beautiful Combination: The Great Smoky Mountains and the Colors of Autumn. God is Good!

## Mountains and the Bible

- Editor -

The Bible often mentions mountains. From the first reference in Gen. 7:20, which tells of the great flood that covered the mountains, to the last reference in Revelation 21:10 where John, from the vantage point of a high mountain, saw "the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descend out of heaven from God."

### Named Bible Mountains

Upon the mountains of Ararat Noah's ark was said to have rested on the 17th day of the 7th month, as the waters of the great flood receded. (Gen. 8:4) Mount Horeb became known as the "mountain of God" because at Horeb God appeared and spoke to Moses from the midst of the burning bush (Exodus 3). Then, there was the mount called "Sinai" where, in its presence, God's voice was heard by the people of Israel as He proclaimed the immortal words of the Ten Commandments. Later, it was to the top of mount Sinai that God called Moses where he remained forty days; during which time God revealed much more of his covenant to the nation of Israel (Exodus 19).

Other mountains named in Scripture include a mount called "Nebo", with a peak known as "Pisgah". Here God permitted Moses to view, from afar, the promised land. As you may recall, Moses was not allowed to personally enter the land of promise because he had disobeyed God regarding a matter of "speaking to" or "smiting a rock" (Deut. 34).

### New Testament Mountains

Bible students are well aware of specific mountains mentioned in the New Testament. Who hasn't benefited from the reading of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" as recorded in Mathew chapters 5 through 7? There is also mention of an "exceeding high mountain" where Jesus was taken and tempted by Satan (Matt. 4:8). Then, there is a fascinating story about Jesus and three of his close disciples going upon a "high mountain apart" where Jesus was transfigured and entertained company from "another world" -- Moses and Elijah. Here on the mount of transfiguration, Jesus was also acknowledged as God's "beloved Son" (Matt. 17).

Finally, a mountain was involved in the account of Jesus' ascension back to the Father in Heaven. From a mount known as the "mount of Olives", located a short distance from the city of Jerusalem, Jesus was taken up into heaven. It was here upon this mount that the disciples heard the promise made by God's angels who said, "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11,12).

Mountains, which are very much a part of the historical records of both Old and New Testaments, have long fascinated mankind. Majestic mountains are not only beautiful to behold, they symbolize permanence, peace and tranquility. Mountains remind of us the almighty power of the Almighty Creator who knew his creatures would love mountains.

Mountains provide a place of solitude and are conducive to fervent praying. Even by Jesus, mountains were often used as an escape from the pressures of a busy life and a quiet place for effective prayer. (Read Matt. 14:23; Mark 6:46

and Luke 6:12).

Personally, I love the mountains. On several occasions my June and I have been blessed with opportunities to visit the many mountains in North America -- in the East and in the West. We especially love the "Great Smoky Mountains" where the above picture was taken. We also enjoy visiting churches of Christ in the area, including the Great Smoky Mountains congregation in Pigeon Forge, TN.

Mountains were very much a part of the "Trip of Our Lifetime" when, a few years ago, we visited the Bible Lands. Here in Israel we were privileged to see first hand what is believed to be the "Mount of Temptation" and the "Mount of Transfiguration". And, without question, the greatest thrill of all was the opportunity given to me to preach on a Sunday morning to a small group of about 30 worshippers who were together in the name of Jesus Christ on top of what is known as the "Mount of Olives."

Mountains, as impressive as they are, are no substitute for the Maker and cannot be made the objects of our worship. Furthermore, we should never feel that being in the mountains makes our worship more acceptable to God. Our faith must be in the true God -- the God of the Bible and in his "only begotten Son." This faith we can and must manifest no matter where we are.

Acceptable worship does not require mountains and they can never serve as a substitute for a close relationship with our Heavenly Father and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus once said, "Neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall men worship the Father... but the hour cometh and now is when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." (John 4:21-24)

## The Power of a Pot Roast

Sabrina  
at  
Starkville

- editor -

Recently while eating at one of our favorite restaurants, my June and I were blessed to run into a sister in Christ from out of town. Sabrina was working for the



Sorta like a "cup of cold water" (see Matt. 10:42)

day in Kosciusko and, like most of us, had taken out time for lunch. We invited her to eat with us; glad we did. We especially enjoyed hearing her tell a personal story reminding us of the "power of a pot roast."

Several years ago Sabrina and her husband, who were members of the Lord's church, had moved into a new community. For several weeks they enjoyed worshipping with the Starkville church on Lee Street. They found the church to be friendly and were pleased with the response of the "mainly white" church toward them.

A few weeks had gone by when death visited Sabrina's family -- her husband's father died. Immediately the congregation responded with thoughtful concern. Specifically, she mentioned one of the expressions of love which involved the wife of one of the church elders. Mary Lou had prepared a pot roast and brought it to Sabrina and

her family. Along with the other acts of kindness, this particular pot roast made a deep and lasting impression upon the family. They realized, more than ever before, that others in the church truly cared for them.

The pot roast, along with other gestures of kindness, greatly encouraged Sabrina and her family -- leading them to become more involved and active in the work of the local church. As a result they began to really grow spiritually, finding great strength from the Lord and His church.

So, what are we saying? Simply: "There was **power in that pot roast.**" It reminds us of what Jesus once said, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a **cup of cold water only** in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matthen 10:42). Go and do likewise! (alf, written 11/15/11)



Drop  
In  
Visit

WN  
9-21-11

61  
By-Pass  
Vicksburg  
MS

The By-Pass Church in Vicksburg, Mississippi, is ably served by two preachers. **Willie Nettle**, who has served the congregation since its beginning, continues to serve effectively as a preacher and an elder. He is assisted in the work by **Joel Dimmette** as an associate minister.

On the evening of our "drop-in visit" we were blessed to hear brother Joel bring a much needed lesson on "Five Practical Ways to

Keep a Marriage Strong."

Afterwards, during the regular class hour, brother Willie led in a discussion on "Four Principles in Being Good Stewards of Money." Both lessons were well prepared and presented. Both needed!

The By-Pass church in Vicksburg is also served by elders and deacons in their efforts to be the church you "read about in the Bible."

Enjoyed our visit. Appreciate the warm reception & fellowship.

## Forest, MS Church Conducts Gospel Meeting

The church of Christ in Forest had set aside the date of October 23 - 26, 2011 as the time for their fall Gospel Meeting. They invited **Chad Ezelle** from Collierville, Tennessee to be the guest evangelist. My June and I were privileged to visit the closing service of their meeting. Glad we did.

The present preacher at Forest is **James Malone**. Brother James and his family live in the Brandon area, not far from Forest and is able to drive over on Sundays and Wednesdays and other times as needed. From all indications, he is doing a good job with a church that has come through some rather trying times.

Most of those who were involved in the beginning of the Forest congregation, back in the early 80's, are no longer there. Several have moved away, others have died and, sadly, a few no longer attend. Yet, there are bright spots. For example, several months ago, the church was blessed with the return of the **Al Geter** family (They had previously been worshipping with the church in Meridian.) Other members have grown spiritually and are now providing effective leadership for the congregation which brings together about 25 to 30 each Lord's day.

**Chad Ezelle**, the visiting evangelist, based all of his lessons during the meeting on the book of Nehemiah. On the night of our visit, the preacher called attention to chapters 8 and 9, showing the great power of hearing the Word of God read and explained by capable and faithful men such as **Ezra**, **Nehemiah** and the Levites.

The talented speaker also pointed out that the people of Israel didn't just hear -- they responded to the reading of God's word. Their response included recognition of and regret for their sins. This was



James Malone (Local Preacher) and Chad Ezelle (Visiting Preacher)

followed by confession of their sins resulting in the joy of forgiveness and renewal of their efforts to serve God as taught in His word. All of this led to a much needed revival and restoration in Israel. (See chapter 9 of Nehemiah).

Brother Chad applied the example of Israel to our day, noting that when we hear God's word and respond properly, it will also bring about needed renewal and restoration among believers in Christ.

It was a good visit; a good meeting. The Forest church is a friendly, loving and caring group of people who are, in our judgment, going in the right direction as they seek to build a stronger and more solid congregation to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the city of Forest and Scott County with its thousands of people. May God bless richly. (alf)

### Reader's Response

Dear Brother Franks,  
A sister in Christ passed on a copy of her *Magnolia Messenger* to me last week and I was uplifted by the many articles and the heart warming love and kindness read about. I would like to be put on your mailing list and also my son....(Patricia Case, Bald Knob, AR)

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## Marlin Ivey

*"A Man of Influence"*

October 21

On this date, in 1918, my dear mother came into this world. She was to become a great influence in my life. Ninety-three years later, on October 21, 2011, another person who greatly influenced my life, departed from this world. He was J. Marlin Ivey of Kosciusko and, more recently, of Jackson, Mississippi.

Outside of my own physical family, no man has had a greater impact on my life and my work than Marlin Ivey. I shall be forever indebted to him. You are reading just one of many reasons. This paper, the "Magnolia Messenger" would most likely not have been had it not been for Marlin's wise suggestion and his encouraging words for me to consider beginning the publication of "Mississippi's GOOD NEWS Newspaper."

As evidence of the great and good influence of Marlin upon, not only me, but also my entire family, I am pleased to share with you an article written by our oldest son, Paul. It was published recently in the bulletin of the Enterprise Church of Christ in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where Paul serves as preacher. (Editor: alf)

## J. Marlin Ivey

*"A Christian Gentleman"*

- by Paul Franks -

In 1971, when I was 13, my family moved to Kosciusko from Yazoo City, MS. The day we moved, Marlin and Nelma Ivey came for a visit. Marlin was one of the elders of the church where my dad was the new minister. Their two children, Joey and Lori came with them. To say the least, I was impressed with the Ivey's from the beginning.

At age 15, my first job was working for the Ivey's. They had moved into a beautiful new house with a swimming pool and a lake behind the house. One summer, I spent 40 hours a week working in their yard, planting, cutting grass and working in huge flower beds. I remember that job with fond memories.

When I graduated from high school, Marlin and Nelma gave me a deluxe leather edition of *Songs of the Church*. I still treasure this songbook and the encouragement they gave me to lead singing. Marlin Ivey also encouraged me in my decision to become a gospel preacher. He was very interested in preaching training. He was on the board of International Bible College and Alabama Christian College at that time. The President of ACC came to Kosciusko to see Marlin Ivey. Because of Marlin's support, the President offered me a full tuition



J. Marlin Ivey

Departed October 21, 2011

scholarship to attend Alabama Christian College in Montgomery.

Two things kept me from going to Montgomery. One was a young lady by the name of Glenda Black and the other was Marlin Ivey's dream of starting a preaching training school in Mississippi.

In the fall of 1976, Magnolia Bible College opened its door with six students. I was one of them.

## Joseph Marlin Ivey

July 10, 1936 -- October 21, 2011

Additional Details

We are saddened to inform the readers of the Magnolia Messenger about the passing of Joseph Marlin Ivey of Kosciusko and Jackson, Mississippi.

Brother Marlin was born in Kosciusko on July 10, 1936. He passed from this life on October 21, 2011 at the Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi at the age of 75.

Visitation was on Sunday evening October 23rd from 5 to 8 P.M. at the J.B. Hayes Center at the South Huntington Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko. The love and respect that so many had for him was evident at the visitation for brother Marlin. Many stood in line for hours to visit with his family and to view the body.

Funeral services were also conducted at the J.B. Hayes Center on Monday, October 24 at 11 A.M. with burial in Parkway Cemetery. Jordan Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Brother Marlin's son, Joe Ivey from Nashville, Tennessee delivered the eulogy.

Brother Ivey was preceded in death by his parents, Kermit Marlin and Helen Murphy Ivey. He is sur-

After graduating in MBC's first class in 1980, I started working with Magnolia Bible College. Marlin Ivey was the chairman of the board of MBC. Over the next 12 years, I was able to work closely with Cecil May, Jr. who was President and Marlin Ivey as we worked to build MBC.

After leaving MBC, I began to work with Sunnybrook Children's Home. Marlin Ivey was chairman of that board as well. He had a favorite saying that he repeated to me on several occasions. It went something like, "Life is short. Learn to be happy with your job or find a new one."

When the decision was made to move to Lake Charles, I went to see Marlin. He was very encouraging to me and told me that he knew I was going to do a good job.

Last week I learned that Marlin, after battling cancer for the last two years, died. My favorite expression is to be able to say when a man dies, "He was a Christian gentleman." Marlin Ivey was truly a "Christian Gentleman!" We need more like him. I am trying and I hope you are too.

vived by his wife of 55 years, Nelma; son Joseph Marlin, Jr. (Malinda) of Nashville, TN; daughter, Lori Ivey of Ridgeland; grandchildren, Shane (Natalie) Ivey, Jenny (Matt) Shoemaker, Sarabeth Ivey, Katherine (Jason) Gaughf, and David Bush; and great grandchildren, Madelyn and Murphy Hayes Ivey, Adeline Grace and Milly Claire Shoemaker, Kayden McKenzie and Kaylee McCauley Gaughf.

Memorials made be made to Mexican Missions, South Huntington Church of Christ, P.O. Box 1399, Kosciusko, MS 39090 or to Sunnybrook Children's Home, P.O. Box 4871, Jackson, MS 39296.

Joseph Marlin Ivey was a dear brother in Christ to Al and myself. He will be greatly missed. Only eternity will tell of all the good that brother Marlin and Nelma have done through the years for the cause of Christ... really, **around the world.**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Nelma, Joe, Lori and the entire Ivey family. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you. We love you!

(Report by June Franks)

### VERONA

The Verona Church of Christ has a Gospel Meeting planned for January 20-22, 2012. The speaker will be **Mark Lindley**. **Wayne Cox** is the preacher at Verona.

### KNOXVILLE

The 38th Annual Lectureship will be held at East Tennessee School of Preaching on March 4-7, 2012. Their goal is to present "Reasons For Hope" in a practical way that benefits every Christian.

### FULTON

**Richard May** spoke on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at the Homecoming service of the Fulton Church of Christ. **Russ Crosswhite** is the local minister.

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

Christian Student Center at Moorhead, MS

## "Rejoice and Again I Say Rejoice"

- Madolyn Gibson -

"Rejoice and again I say Rejoice". That has been the tone around the student center this week. It started with the baptism of **Stephen Gill** on Wednesday night and has continued through tonight when Stephen baptized a friend of his, **Johnny Moton** from Cleveland.

We met them in Indianola where he was baptized. Stephen, just two days old as a child of God has already not only taught but baptized his first soul. Gene studied several hours with Stephen today before he left to go home to Cleveland. Stephen then studied several hours with Johnny. It is beautiful to see such a fire in a person's bones.

While Gene was studying with Stephen, I was studying with two other students. The girl, Santanna, showed a very tender and open heart to God's Word. I encouraged her to continue her study with much prayer. She is coming to our worship service at the CSC this Sunday.

Please pray for these new babes and Santanna. We have many students this year that have already expressed to us their love for studying God's Word. Gene and I are so thankful for the opportunity to be here to teach them. We had around 65 for Wednesday night Bible study this week. It is because of many of you and your support that the Gospel is reaching the lost here in the Mississippi Delta. Thank you and God Bless you.

## More Good News From Moorhead

- by Gene Gibson -

Brother Gene sent two pictures showing the attendance at a mid August Wednesday night Bible Study. He wrote, "There is no way to show all of them in one picture, just as it is impossible to get a solid count of how many are present under such crowded conditions, but this should be a minor indication of the power of the Christian Student Center at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, Mississippi."

Brother Gibson added, "I lost my breath a couple of times, trying to be heard completely to the back of each end of the room. Madolyn prepared snacks for them. We both worked together for about 30 to 45 minutes on setting up as many

chairs as we could place beforehand. We had them standing and sitting on the floor also. I finished restoring the meeting rooms with some cleaning at midnight. Madolyn finished up in the kitchen and finally made it into bed closer to one A.M."

Brother Gene concluded by saying, "We Need Your prayers -- for our health and stamina, increased monetary support and a strong mission minded congregation willing to become the sponsoring congregation [Christian Student Center; Mississippi Delta Community College; Moorhead, MS]."

GeneGibson; E-mail: ggibson331@bellsouth.net

## Talent Show Winners

To the right are pictured the winners of the first talent show held at the Student Center on October 14th. The Halliburtons are from Greenville where brother Henry serves as an elder for the south Main Church. The event was very successful and a great time was had by all.



Henry and Kay Halliburton Talent Show Winners at Student Center

## A "Drop-in Visit" Kensington Woods Church of Christ

- June Franks -

Hattiesburg, Mississippi is not only the home of the University of Southern Mississippi but is also home to the Kensington Woods Church of Christ. On Sunday morning, August 28, 2011, Al and I were blessed with the opportunity to visit the services of the Kensington Woods church which brings together about 200 or more worshippers each Lord's day.

Earlier in the week, while visiting at the church building, we learned that some of the members

came together before the regular service hours for a special prayer session. This sounded like a great idea so on Sunday we arrived early, in time for the prayer service. It was an enjoyable occasion as we joined with other brothers and sisters in praying for the sick and for others with special needs. We were blessed to offer prayers on behalf of the mission efforts of the Kensington Woods congregation, locally and foreign.

After the prayer service, we enjoyed meeting and greeting others who were coming in for Sunday School. It was good to see several we have known for a long time and to make new acquaintances.

Soon it was time for Bible classes to begin. Adults were offered various classes and studies; however, we chose to stay in the auditorium class which was taught by **Seth Sullivan**, one of the ministers for the Kensington Woods congregation. We knew Seth from his days at Magnolia Bible College and when he worked as a youth minister with the Lake Harbour church in Jackson. We were not surprised with the good job he did with the class.

After classes, all assembled in the auditorium where we were blessed to join with the congregation in the weekly "breaking of bread." The communion service was very touching as one of the men effectively directed our

### Hattiesburg, Mississippi

thoughts back to the crucifixion, reminding us reasons why we are to focus our minds on Jesus as He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us!

The inspirational song service on the morning of our visit added much to the atmosphere of wor-

concluded, we realized that, once again, we had been blessed with the opportunity to worship with our brethren in Christ; this time - at Kensington Woods in Hattiesburg.

Then, to sorta put the "icing on the cake," we were pleased to be invited to eat lunch with two long time friends, **Ken and Lou Brown**. They took us to the "Movie Star Restaurant" in Hattiesburg which is owned and operated by members of the Kensington Woods church. The food and fellowship was excellent!

Later in the week, we had

opportunity to return to the Kensington Woods church building and visit further with **Ken Upchurch** (an elder and minister), **Seth Sullivan** (preacher) and secretaries, **Breanne Sullivan** and **Mary Kay Stickroth**.

Then, on top of that, we were also blessed with the opportunity to join **Mike Benson** (preacher) and his wife (**Lanore**) for lunch. An encouraging visit.

We thank God for the Kensington Woods church and for what they mean to the Hattiesburg area and to other parts of the world as they reach out with the saving message of the gospel of Christ.

The congregation is overseen by elders **Brian Anderson**, **Charles Johnson**, **Don Rake** and **Ken Upchurch**. Their weekly contribution of about \$8,000 helps in several mission efforts including Tanzania 2000 (Africa) and the Christian Student Center (Hattiesburg).

sermon. He spoke about "The Powerful Seed," the "Peril of the Seed," and the "Protection of the Seed." He asked each of us to evaluate the soil of our hearts. He asked us to ask ourselves, "What kind of a hearer am I?"

A very meaningful part of the worship on that Lord's day was the congregational singing so ably led by **Duane Richey**. It was encouraging to see and to hear him lead in singing praises to God. We were to learn later that Duane had been diagnosed with cancer and had been taking treatments. But, he didn't seem to let his illness prevent him for still doing what he could in service to God. And, thankfully, he appeared to be doing well.

When Sunday services were



Home for the Kensington Woods Church of Christ in Hattiesburg



Duane Richey and Mike Benson

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Bogue Chitto, MS 39629

The Berean Children's Home has now completed phase I of construction and is now accepting applications for residents. (Turn to Page 8) If any church or individual knows of a child in need, please see the contact information below.

Phone: 601-823-3776

Fax: 601-823-3997

Email: bereanchildrenshome@cableone.net

Mailing address

Berean Children's Home

P. O. Box 1009

Brookhaven, Mississippi 39602

## More Readers' Response

Brother Al,

Though I am technically no longer a "Mississippi" preacher, I still have several meetings and speaking engagements in the state... I've attached a copy of a brief article, along with a photo for you to run, if you would like to. I would like to stay in touch with my Mississippi friends...

We are settled into our new work here in Dardanelle, Arkansas -- a beautiful small town about 70 miles west of Little Rock... you and June need to put up the RV and come see us.

We are thankful that the work at Goodman Oaks continues to go well. I know the new minister, **Derek McNamara** will enjoy getting to know you if he doesn't already. I think he preached in Natchez some years ago. Blessings to you and your dear June. Sincerely in Christ, (**Steve Reeves**; Dardanelle Church of Christ; 209 Union; Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834)

Dear Al and June,

Enclosed is a small contribution to help the circulation of the "Magnolia Messenger" coming to our homes and others throughout the United States. As always we enjoy keeping up with so many of former and present friends and acquaintances throughout the years by reading the "Magnolia Messenger!" I am always anxious to begin reading when I open my mailbox and see it there. Hopefully you are both well and we continue to pray for you and your work... Love and Prayers, (**Della & Eudell Rhodes**, Southaven, MS)

Thank you and those who help you send out the MM. I do love it and you have been so good in forwarding mine to my new address... Would you please add my sister's name and address. I would read my Christian mail, including the Messenger, and give it to her. But I moved and I know she misses reading it. Thank you, (**Libby Fuller**, Lubbock, TX)

Prayers are Requested for the MM

Dear Saints in Christ,

I am sending an address to whom a Christian wants to receive the Magnolia Messenger... Thank you for sending me the MM also. I pray that the MM will stay with us until the end. Yours in Christ, (**Joseph B. Mear**, Lafayette, LA)

### From the Pens of Prisoners

"I would like to start receiving your letter column. I would like to participate deeply. I have a very deep love for God... I am enhancing my ministry to others in prison. I will keep you posted on anything of God's work in here that pertains to the Messenger. I'm putting you on our intercessory prayer list... Thank you for your love of God and what you do on his behalf. (**Jason Deville**, St. Gabriel, LA)

I first want to thank you for adding me to the subscribed list of the Magnolia Messenger. Your newspaper covers many articles and also has answered a few questions that have been looming in mind... (**Michael W. Robinson**; Oakdale, LA)



Thank you for thinking of the Magnolia Messenger when you remember and/or honor Friends and Relatives (See Page 12)



**Who?  
Why?**  
*Just a joke?*  
*Attention  
Getter?*  
**Well... It worked!  
Got My Attention.**

*"Somewhere in Tennessee"*  
Car Tag Advertises: "Bad Wife"

**Bad Wives of the Bible**

**1. Eve, the First Wife**

Eve was deceived by the serpent, yielded to Satan's temptation and ate of the forbidden fruit. She then influenced her husband to do likewise. Adam was not deceived by Satan; rather he was influenced by his wife, Eve (Gen. 3; 1 Tim. 2:13,14).

From the very beginning, the power (influence) of a woman over a man is clearly evident and continues to this day. A man (husband) -- to be a good man, needs a good wife who will influence him in the way of righteousness and not in the ways of evil. The first wife, because of her actions in Eden and evil influence upon her husband, may very well be worthy of the title -- a "bad wife."

**2. Mrs. Potiphar**

She "cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, 'Lie with me'." (Gen. 39:7). Her evil intent became even more evident as she "spoke to Joseph day by day... to be with her." (39:10). She attempted to physically "force" herself upon Joseph. But, being a righteous man, Joseph "left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out." (verse 12). Afterwards this bad wife, Mrs. Potiphar, brought false accusations against virtuous Joseph causing him to be cast into prison. Because of her evil ad-

vances, the wife of the Egyptian ruler, Potiphar, could, we believe, correctly be called a "bad wife."

**(3) Jezebel,**

**The Wife of King Ahab**

Jezebel forged her husband's name to a death decree against Naboth, an innocent vineyard owner. She had false accusations brought against him, resulting in his murder. As you may recall, king Ahab had wanted Naboth's vineyard for himself but Naboth would not sell it to him. So as a result of his wife's evil plans and sinful actions, Naboth was stoned to death without mercy. Jezebel then sent word to her husband to go ahead and claim the desired vineyard of the dead man (1 Kings 21). Surely all would agree, the conniving woman Jezebel proved herself to be a "bad wife."

What the world needs, what every man (husband) needs, is a **good wife**. Scripture states, "Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord" (Prov. 18:22). This is certainly the case if and when a man finds a "good wife". Surely all would say, "Amen": *When a man finds a "good wife" he has found a "good thing."* (alf)

**Have you Answered  
The "Question Box", Lately?**

*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



**1-20  
Church of Christ  
Vicksburg, Mississippi**

November, 2011  
**These Ladies  
Turned 90**  
*"A Fountain of Youth"*  
in Vicksburg?  
**Congratulations!**

**Gladys Thornton**  
(Picture not available)



**Francis Sibley**



**Francis Gammon**

(Photos by MM editor taken at SM services at 1-20 church in Vicksburg, MS on 11/27/11)



**An Update On Ray Gilbert  
"The Man At The Top of Stairs"**  
**Ray Died 11/18/11**

In the Oct/Dec., 2010 issue of the Magnolia Messenger an article was published entitled, "The Man At The Top Of The Stairs." The article was about Ray Gilbert, a faithful member of the South Huntington Street Church of Christ.

Even though brother Ray was 88, he was still very active in the Lord's work. Especially on Sunday morning, brother Ray was always standing at the top of the stairs in order to greet those coming up the stairs and to pass out the church bulletin.

However, on Friday afternoon, November 18, 2011, Brother Ray was mowing his yard and evidently suffered a heart attack and died instantly. He was found dead still sitting in a slumped position on his lawn mower.

We will certainly miss brother Ray. You could count on him to always be faithful in attendance and "ready unto every good work." He was usually the first at the building and the last to leave. We can truthfully say that brother Ray set a good example that each of us could follow.

Les Ferguson spoke at brother Ray's funeral. He concluded his message by saying, "Ray is standing at the top of the stairs to welcome each of us into heaven."

Thank God that we knew Weaver Ray Gilbert, "The Man At The Top of The Stairs." (mjf)

**Married  
65  
Years**  
since  
**6/28/46**



**Mable and Grover Sanders**

Parents of  
three children

Members of  
the 1-20  
church in  
Vicksburg, MS

*Our congratulations to brother and sister Sanders who continue to set a good example for those who are younger. God's plan is one man and one woman, together for life!*

**Sunnybrook Children's Home**

Ridgeland, Mississippi  
[www.sunnynch.net](http://www.sunnynch.net)

**Position of Ministry: Houseparents**

We are seeking loving, married Christian couples with the hearts of servants to minister as House Moms and House Dads in residential setting to the most innocent among us – children.

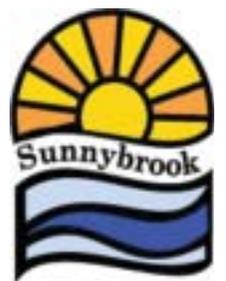
Demanding position - 24/7, but very rewarding  
Ability to work as a team  
Love of children – especially abused and neglected  
High Energy; Positive; Enthusiastic; Role Models; Committed;  
Stable Work History; Organized  
**Those merely in pursuit of "just a job" need not apply**  
Competitive Salary; Excellent Benefit Package

*For Further Qualification  
Details, Requirements and  
Compensation,  
please contact:*

**Rob Salley**, Executive Director,  
[rsalley@sunnynch.net](mailto:rsalley@sunnynch.net)

or  
**Moses Kendrick**, Campus Manager,  
[mkendrick@sunnynch.net](mailto:mkendrick@sunnynch.net)

601-856-6555



## Spiritual Food Shaped in the Image of His Son

Providing Food  
Physical and Spiritual

NOTE: **Jim Estes**, an elder and a minister of the Booneville church (old highway 45) wrote about a much needed work that deserves attention and imitation. Published in their weekly church bulletin, brother Jim wrote the following to their local congregation. We have chosen to share it with readers of the MM.

Brother **J.T. Beard** and his wife, **Lynda**, are to be commended for their leadership of this congregation's food pantry ministry. The on-going support of the congregation for this ministry is a great example of Galatians 6:10 in action. The intent of this article is to let the congregation know that spiritual food is also provided to participants of our food pantry ministry.

In February of this year a 15-20 minute Bible study focused on a single topic became a prerequisite to food pantry participation. Jim Estes or Milton Floyd have been and are teaching these classes per the following schedule:

2/10 & 17/2011 --- The Restoration Plea  
3/10 & 17/2011 --- Rightly Dividing the Word  
4/14 & 21/2011 --- Back to the Bible for Salvation – Acts 2  
5/12 & 19/2011 --- Back to the Bible for Worship  
6/9 & 16/2011 --- Back to the Bible for Moral Living  
7/14 & 21/2011 --- Denominationalism  
8/11 & 18/2011 --- Jesus said, "I Will Build my Church"  
9/8 & 15/2011 --- What the Bible says about Church Leadership  
10/13 & 20/2011 --- Judgment Day  
11/10 & 17/2011 --- What About the "Sinner's Prayer"?  
12/8 & 15/2011 --- The Bible: Our Only Authority

With 65-130 people per month participating in the food pantry, this gives us an excellent opportunity to share the gospel with many who have never heard the truth.

In addition to these monthly classes, all participants are offered tracts and home Bible studies. Several of this year's home Bible studies are a direct result of this food pantry ministry. Some are planting, some are watering, and God will give the increase! (1 Cor. 3:6) Let's continue to work together to make the food pantry ministry a spiritual success.

Jim Estes  
P. O. Box 28  
Booneville, MS 38829

### More and More Encouragement

Greetings from the church of Christ that meets in Basehor, Kansas! Finally a Christian publication that speaks to the Gospel Message! The apostle Paul said under inspiration, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to

every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16 Thank you for your articles that speak where the Bible speaks. Please send a copy to two of my dear friends...Thank you, (**Wally Rachford**, Tonganoxie, KS)

Alone with changing my address could you put my good friend and bro. in Christ, Terry Johnson, on your mailing list. Thank you. The MM is very encouraging to us and we enjoy it, front to back. (**Bobby Brown**, Greenwood, MS)

Magnolia Messenger  
Appreciates  
Comments and Suggestions

The Bible Still says:  
"Preach the Word"

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

## Churches Looking 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.

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!

### Preacher Wanted

Florence, AL

The Wood Avenue church of Christ located in historic downtown Florence, Alabama is seeking candidates to fill the position of pulpit minister. The Wood Avenue congregation is the oldest of the "in town" churches of Christ, with its history dating back to 1886 and a current AM attendance of over 200. We desire to place a dynamic individual in this position who will work collaboratively with our congregation in continuing our service to God. We are seeking a minister who has earned a minimum of an Associates Degree in Biblical Studies from a well-respected conservative church of Christ university or preaching school and possesses a minimum of 10 years of ministry experience sharing the whole

### Waynesboro Church Welcomes New Minister Tim Hester

**Terry Heathcock**, church leader at Waynesboro, has written:

Hello brother Al and sister June, Just wanted to make sure you were aware, and of course to say thank you, to you both and the MM for all your help.

As of September 1st, brother **Tim Hester**, his wife, **Amy**, and their daughter, **Betty**, joined the work here in Waynesboro. They came here by way of Corinth, Mississippi (the Walnut area).

After such a long period without a minister we feel that God has blessed us. So many prayers, so much hard work has finally come to fruition. We give the Father all the praise!

In Christ,  
Terry Heathcock,  
Waynesboro Church of Christ

### 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.

counsel of God, including experience conducting gospel meetings, workshops and lectureships. Other experience sought includes being a published author and possessing the ability to provide guidance to individuals in personal and scriptural matters. Resumes, including both personal and professional references, salary history and audio or video examples of recent sermons, may be submitted to Wood Avenue Church of Christ, attn: New Minister Search Committee, PO Box 516, Florence, AL 35630 or email to: Resumes@woodavenue.com. All submissions will be held in strict confidence.

### Preacher Wanted Crockett, MS

The Crockett Church of Christ, near Senatobia, Mississippi is presently looking for a preacher to replace their retiring minister. The Crockett church brings together about 50 each Lord's day, although on November 20th, they had about 65 present. The church offers a house, next to the church building and a salary. If interested, please contact Tom Osborn at his home phone: 662-560-6589 (after 6:00 P.M.)

**Danville Church** (near Corinth) is looking for a preacher.  
(Please see page 13)

## First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized

### Examples in the Book of Acts

**Jews on Pentecost**  
"...they that gladly received his word were **baptized**... about three thousand souls were added to them." (Acts 2:41)

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

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

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

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

**Saul**  
He "arose and was **baptized**." (Acts 9:18)

**Cornelius**  
"And he commanded them to be **baptized**..." (Acts 10:48)

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

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

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

**First Century Converts to Christ Were All Baptized!**

### Wonder Why? Could it be?

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Quotations from KJV & NKJV.

### Have YOU Been Baptized?

"To be saved"? (Mark 16:16)

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

"To wash away sins"? (Acts 22:16)

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



Posted in church parking area  
Somewhere in Mississippi

# “The Christmas Story”

Fact or Fiction or Tradition?

## Test Your Knowledge

How well do you know what is called “The Christmas Story”? MM readers have, no doubt, many times read and/or heard read the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus. Diligent Bible students know that many of the traditions associated with the story of our Lord’s birth **do not agree** with what is actually presented in the Bible.

Of course, this includes December 25th as the day of His birth. We do not know the year, month or day of His birth. “Christmas”, as a **holy day** is not scriptural. Christians are not instructed to celebrate His birth on any set day. We do, however, thank God for the gift of His Son and rejoice that He came and that He is coming again!

Several months ago, **Eddie Ray**, a member of the Lord’s church in Natchez, Mississippi, sent to us a little quiz about “The Christmas Story” that he had *picked up somewhere*. Eddie did not say who the author was; he probably did not know. And, although the author is unknown to us, we thought you, as a reader of the MM, might enjoy checking out your own knowledge, as you separate fact from fiction and/or tradition.

So, our challenge to you is this: **Take this quiz.** See how well you do and learn what is **fact** and what is **fiction or tradition**. After you take the little test, challenge your family and friends to do the same. **The answers follow the quiz.** (*alf; editor*)

## Challenge: Take The Test

1. Joseph was originally from: (A) Bethlehem, (B) Nazareth, (C) Hebron, (D) Jerusalem, (E) None of the above

2. What does the Bible say that the Innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph? (A) “There is no room in the inn.” (B) “I have a stable you can use.” (C) “Come back later and I should have some vacancies.” (D) Both A and B, (E) None of the above

3. A manger is a: (A) Stable for domestic animals, (B) Wooden hay storage bin, (C) Feeding trough, (D) Barn

4. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus’ birth? (A) Cows, sheep, goats, (B) Cows, Donkeys, goats, (C) Sheep and goats only, (D) Miscellaneous barnyard animals, (E) None of the above

5. Who saw the star in the east? (A) Shepherds, (B) Mary and Joseph, (C) Three Kings, (D) Both A and C, (E) None of the above

6. According to the Bible, how did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem? (A) Camel, (B) Donkey,

(C) Walked. (D) Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey, (E) Horse-drawn chariot, (F) The Bible doesn’t say.

7. How many angels spoke to the shepherds? (A) One, (B) Three, (C) Multitude, (D) None of the above.

8. What did the angels say/sing? (A) “Glory to God in the highest”, (B) “Alleluia,” , (C) “Unto us a child is born, Unto us a son is given”, (D) “Joy the world, the Lord is come.”

9. What is a heavenly host? (A) The angel at the gate of heaven, (B) The angel who serves refreshments in heaven, (C) An angel choir, (D) An angel army. (E) None of the above.

10. What is Frankincense? (A) A precious metal (B) A precious fabric (C) A precious perfume (D) None of the above

11. In Matthew, what does “wise men” or “Magi” refer to? (A) Men of the educated class (B) Eastern Kings (C) Astronomers (D) Sages

12. What is Myrrh? (A) Middle Eastern Money, (B) A drink, (C) The sound a happy cat makes (D) A spice used for burying people (E) None of the above

13. How many wise men does the Bible say came to see Jesus?

14. Where did the “magi” find Jesus? (A) In a manger (B) In a stable (C) In Nazareth (D) In Egypt (E) In a house, (F) None of the above

15. When the “magi” found Jesus he was: (A) A babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, (B) A young child, (C) A boy in the temple, (D) A grown man.

16. The “star in the east” that the wise men followed: (A) Stayed in the same place their entire journey, (B) Disappeared and reappeared, (C) Moved ahead of them and stopped over the place where Jesus was, (D) Was just a mirage, (E) None of the above.

17. The “magi” stopped in Jerusalem: (A) To inform Herod about Jesus, (B) To find out where Jesus was, (C) To ask about the star, (D) To buy presents, (E) None of the above.

18. Where do we find the “Christmas story”? (A) Matthew, (B) Mark, (C) Luke, (D) John, (E) All of the above, (F) Only A and B, (G) Only A and C, (H) Only A, B, and C.

19. When Joseph found Mary was pregnant, what happened? (A) They got married, (B) Joseph wanted to break the engagement, (C) Mary left town for three months, (D) A and B, (E) B and C.

20. Who told (made) Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem? (A) The angel chorus, (B) Mary’s mother, (C) Herod, (D) The shepherds, (E) Caesar Augustus.

## Check Your Answers with the Following Answers

1. **A.** Joseph worked and currently lived in Nazareth, but he was returning to Bethlehem -- “*his own city*” (See Luke 2:3).

2. **E.** In the Bible record, the innkeeper didn’t “say” anything (See Luke 2:7).

3. **C.** Feeding trough.

4. **E.** The Bible doesn’t say, we just “assume” that since Jesus was born in a stable that there were various barnyard animals present. However, since the shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks that night, other animals could have been out of the stable as well.

5. **E.** This is a “trick” question. The “magi” saw the star. However, the Bible doesn’t say how many there were. They were **not** kings, but astronomers or “star gazers” (see answer 15).

6. **F.** Although the modern “pictures” in a Bible show Mary on a donkey with Joseph beside her, the Bible doesn’t say!

7. **A.** Luke 2:10 “The angel of the Lord said unto them...”

8. **A.** Luke 2:14

9. **D.** The word means “army” - literally thousands. Now, since there was a “multitude” of the heavenly army” (hosts), there could easily have been from 10,000 to 100,000 angels there that night! No wonder the shepherds were “sore afraid”!

10. **C.**

11. **C.** The word “Magi” literally means “star-gazers”.

12. **D.** See John 19:39. Spice used in burying dead bodies.

13. The Bible doesn’t give the number. Many people assume that there were three because of the three gifts. However, in ancient times these men usually traveled in caravans of ten to twelve, along with a full entourage for meals, provisions and protection.

14. **E.** Matthew 2:11 (see next answer).

15. **B.** Matthew 2:11. When the shepherds found Jesus, he was a “babe” in a manger. The Greek word used in Luke 2 is for a “newborn baby”. However, by the time the Magi appeared in Bethlehem, Jesus had been moved from the manger to a house (verse 11) and the Greek word used in Matthew is for “toddler” or “young child”. He was probably somewhere between 12 to 24 months old.

16. **C.** (Matthew 2:9) Most people miss this question, because there are so many pictures and dramas in which the star remains stationary over the manger. The star did not appear over the manger (the

**Turn to STORY on Page 22**

## Becoming A Soul Winner

by  
**Seth Sullivan**



Seth Sullivan  
Minister at Hattiesburg

Have you ever tried reaching out to others around you with the precious message of the Word? Perhaps it was a family member, colleague, or a friend whom you have known for years. If so, how did your efforts turn out?

Were you disappointed in the outcome? Many today in the church may have this sentiment, “Evangelizing is something I know we should do, however, I was just not bestowed with the gifts to be a Bible teacher.” If that is your sentiment, may I please make a few points for your consideration?

God knows that His children are at different levels in their spiritual walk (2 Pet. 3 : 1 8 ) . Therefore, evangelism shouldn’t be viewed as a commission that must be mastered “overnight.” It is a process. It requires thinking, reflection, study, and determination towards a projected goal.

A few years ago I had the privilege of being a student in the *Fishers-of-Men Training Course* with Bro. Timothy Wilkes. He made some interesting observations about Mark 1:17 that I would like to share. The passage says, “And Jesus said unto them, ‘Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.’” Let’s first pull some of the words out of this passage and then we will make a few observations. Note a few of these words: “Come/Follow,” “I will,” “make you,” “become,” and “fishers of men.”

What does “come” mean? It entails that Jesus is the only one to follow. We keep His teachings and live and learn accordingly. We do not follow the Virgin Mary, the Pope, etc. “I will” is a promise. It is a commitment that God will aid us as we follow Christ. “Make you” sounds a lot like development. You are going to change. You will not stay in

**“Evangelizing is something I know we should do, however, I was just not bestowed with the gifts to be a Bible teacher.”**

your current state. “Become” refers to growing. If we hope to reach out to our family and friends, then we must be willing and ready to undergo a growth process within ourselves. It will put us out of our “comfort zone.” Lastly, there are the words, “fishers of men.” In modern day terminology Mark 1:17 is saying that “God will help us become a soul-winner.”

If we hope to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19, 20), then every believer must recognize that becoming a soul-winner doesn’t happen overnight. We grow into effective Bible teachers. Defeat whatever sentiment you may have about evangelism. Don’t allow

words like, “I can’t do it” or “It is not something I am capable of doing” exit your mouth nor reside in your heart! Believe in God’s Word! He promises to be with us and help us grow. Trust in the Lord.

Are you willing to challenge yourself to rise above fear and doubt? Eternity is what is at stake. How many souls need the gospel? All! Therefore, choose to become an evangelist. Choose to accept the Great Commission as required by God. Grow as a teacher, have faith in God’s promises, and become what God expects you to be!

**Seth Sullivan**  
415 S 40th Ave  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
sethka63@hotmail.com

**Reader’s Response**  
Dear Brethren:  
Received your “Magnolia Messenger”, recently and enjoyed it very much. It is one of the best in the brotherhood. It covers all areas of living the Christian life. In the “Messenger” you requested new readers. Following are a few of those who will profit from your wonderful paper. May the Master continue to bless you and yours in this worthy effort in reaching the lost and uplifting those of the household of Faith. He is Risen! (Mike Mitchell, Belleville, IL)

## 1964 - 1967

Capitol Street  
Church of Christ  
Jackson, Mississippi

Al Price  
Pulpit minister  
David Wade  
Associate and Song Leader



Former Members of the Old Capitol Street Church Gathered Together in Jackson, MS

## August 21, 2011

A Joyful Reunion of  
Former Members  
of the old  
Capitol Street  
Church of Christ  
Held at the  
Siwell Road  
Church of Christ

When David and Helen Wade retired and moved to Henderson, Tennessee, they rejoined Al and Josephine Price with whom they worked at the Capitol Street Church of Christ in Jackson, Mississippi from 1964 to 1967. Al was the pulpit minister and David was the associate minister and song leader. They discovered that both had wanted to return to Jackson for many years and see the remaining members that were there 44 to 47 years ago.

David has retired from a successful career in preaching ministry and Helen as a medical transcriptionist. David continues

his work as host of "Questions and Answers", which airs on **The Gospel Broadcasting Network**. Al and Josephine are both retired, though Al continues to preach after 51 years for the Diamond Grove Church of Christ near Henderson and serves as an adjunct instructor in sociology for the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Jackson State Community College.

Their first stop on August 20 was Sunnybrook Children's Home where they helped in its development and growth in its earliest days. More specifically,

they wanted to see the memorial to **Marty Philpot**, the 7-year old Sunnybrook child that died in 1965 from burns received one Sunday morning *while dressing for Sunday School*. Her picture with a plaque hangs on the wall of the Administration Building at Sunnybrook.

On Sunday morning Al preached again at Capitol Street at the invitation of Bro. **Issac Young**, their minister. Al described this experience as "uplifting and unforgettable," and was impressed with their many ministries and plans for the future.

That afternoon at the Siwell

Road Church of Christ, a reunion of former members of Capitol Street during the middle 1960s was enjoyed with stories (some funny and some quite sentimental) and fellowship. Nostalgic memories of years past with wonderful Christians are a normal emotion, and many more preachers and congregations would enjoy such reunions.

David can be contacted at: dwade4@hotmail.com. Contact Al at: ccreb@bellsouth.net.

Report by Al Price

1023 John Brown Road  
Henderson, TN 38340



Paul Sparks (center) Visited by Robert Rawson (left) and Bruce Pate

Paul Sparks  
Former MS Preacher  
Receives Visitors

On Saturday, November 12, 2011, Robert Rawson and Bruce Pate went to Springhill, TN to visit with Paul Sparks. Brother Sparks is a long time preacher for the Indianola and Durant churches of Christ in Mississippi. He moved to Tennessee to be near his daughter, Amanda. Paul's wife, Joan, died about a year ago. He is not in the best of health these days. I am sure that he would like to receive cards and letters from his Mississippi friends. Address: Paul Sparks; 3009 Langston Place; Springhill, TN 37174.

Robert Rawson is in his 34th year as minister of the Batesville congregation. He also conducts a preacher training program and preaches in several gospel meetings throughout the year.

Bruce Pate was baptized in 1955 by the late J. C. Choate and is one of at least four men who preach who were members of the East Main church in Tupelo. (This includes Dove Wilson, Jimmy Franks and Robert Kingsley.) He presently preaches at a 5:30 a.m. service each Sunday at the Antioch church in Nashville for the benefit of those who have to work on Sundays. Bruce also preached five years in Hollandale, Mississippi, a community he continues to love very much.

(Report by Bruce Pate)

## Former Members of the Hollandale Church Hold Reunion

Report by  
Robert Rawson

The Hollandale Reunion/ Meeting is in the books. About 50 were present on Labor Day at Leroy Percy State Park for the first gathering of the Hollandale church of Christ in awhile.

Good memories were shared over pictures which were brought by former members. Familiar hymns were sung with songleaders, **Robert Rawson** (Batesville) and **Danny Holman** of the South Main church in Greenville. **Bruce Pate** of Antioch, Tennessee, former preacher at Hollandale, proclaimed the sacred old story of Jesus and the church of our Lord.

About 20 could stay for the Tuesday and Wednesday discussions as well as the night services. The changing economy of that era caused the relocation of the church members, many to the church in Greenville. But, there were reunion brethren attending from as far away as New Albany, MS and Dover, AR.

## "One Way To Grow" 4 New Babies

At the end of May and the first of June [2011], families in the Corinth Church of Christ (SW Mississippi, near Natchez) welcomed four babies -- three boys and one girl. The baby boy to the left in the picture and the baby girl in the center of the picture were born on the same day in the same hospital.

**Editor's Note:** Silvia Waites sent the picture below and note above to the MM, stating, "One way to grow! Just found this of interest." Sister Waites also mentioned, with gratitude, that she and her husband, **Bernard Waites**, would soon be celebrating his **50th anniversary** as preacher for the Corinth and Perrytown congregations in Wilkenson county, MS. Our congratulations to brother and sister Waites for their long tenure of service to the Lord's Cause in SW Mississippi. May God continue to bless.



Left to Right: Lindsay and Matthew Netteville with Winn; Sarah and Bradley Hayes with Landry; Stephanie and Eric Morris with Elliott and big brother, Jon Berlin. Not pictured: Jay and Christina Cavin have a son, Justin Cain Cavin.

(See Question Box)

## These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

1. Charlotte Vandiver  
2. Sheri Glazier  
3. Emily Glazier  
4. Dee Collier  
5. Ollye M. B. Rush  
6. Shellie Hancock  
7. Michael W. Robinson  
8. John L. Gates, Jr.  
9. Jack Stillman  
10. Charles Coffey  
11. Charles & Pauline Aldridge  
12. Sue Mason  
13. Myrle Turman  
14. James Stults  
15. Kristina Padgett  
16. Chris Duffell  
17. Cathy Moore  
18. Miranda Duffell  
19. Linda Hogue  
20. Ed Istre  
21. Garry Gooch  
22. Sidney Robinson  
23. Iva Hill  
24. Jack L. Falls, Sr.  
25. Shirley Styers  
26. Charlene Stanfield  
27. Betty A. Skinner  
28. Sandra Welch  
29. Eunice M. Kirkwood  
30. Jim Hill  
31. Judy Hill  
32. Lucy Ross  
33. Ella F. Gentry  
34. Willie Beardain  
35. Marvin England  
36. Billy Willingham  
37. Joyce Jarrett  
38. Wilma Branch  
39. Ima Jean Fogus  
40. Claude Edwards  
41. Vera Spencer  
42. Ken Harris  
43. Beulah Rupert  
44. Carole Shelby  
45. Ray Parham  
46. Doyce Britt  
47. Caleb Wilson  
48. Michelle Simpson  
49. Penny Clanton  
50. Shelia Woodard  
51. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr.  
52. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr.  
53. B. J. Womack  
54. Nicole Womack  
55. Ma'Nia Womack  
56. Bralan Womack  
57. Mrs. V. E. Buffington  
58. Betty Clark  
59. Katie Houston  
60. Linda F. Anderson  
61. Audrey Bowling  
62. Johnny & Princess Watson  
63. Elizabeth Dickerson  
64. Natalie Grisham  
65. Mrs. W. C. Wells  
66. Floyd & Millie Goode  
67. Dora Lynn Felton  
68. Sherry Johnson  
69. Mary Howell  
70. Donna Gulley  
71. Bonnie Holcomb  
72. Melody Woodruff  
73. Ruth Christian  
74. Linda T. Shirley  
75. Peggy S. Walker  
76. Phyllis King  
77. Don Lee  
78. Mary Beth Dietz  
79. Imogene Grayson  
80. Steve & JoAnn Gooch  
81. Leroy Gurganus  
82. Essie M. Teamer
83. Betty Jo Stewart  
84. Fran Williford  
85. Barbara Beard  
86. Wilda Pounds  
87. Irene M. Wright  
88. Kimberly Easterling  
89. Rosie M. Felton  
90. Betty VanBuren  
91. Jerry & Norma Inman  
92. Genie Henning  
93. Wynell Thompson  
94. Tom McLemore  
95. Ms. Mary Brannon  
96. Elvis & Ruby Dilmore  
97. Ann Holeman  
98. M/M Ken Sullins  
99. Barbara A. Beard  
100. Frederick Alan Jones  
101. Velva Dykes  
102. Lenola Balentine  
103. Mary M. McDonald  
104. Faye Stanford  
105. Cheri G. Moore  
106. Frances Harrell  
107. Sherrie Dixon  
108. Bobby Lively  
109. Everjean Parsons  
110. Virginia B. Kissell  
111. Bowden & Melba Grisham  
112. Debbie Eubanks  
113. Bonnie Brown Glass  
114. Velma Isom  
115. Carl L. Trimm  
116. Dee Kepler  
117. Ann Kelley  
118. June Faulkner  
119. Carol Bradley  
120. Buddy Parsons  
121. Gary & Linda Turner  
122. Juanita LeBouef  
123. Lisa Dettor  
124. Nadine Patton  
125. Era Hinson  
126. Emily Overton  
127. Cindy Vest  
128. Dorothy Ford  
129. Inez & Laura Brannon  
130. Dick Green  
131. Jean Cannady  
132. Alice Humphries  
133. Marie Lively  
134. Miriam Styers  
135. Bernita Booker  
136. Linda Cook  
137. Dorsa Sparks  
138. Coy Daily  
139. Pat Moore  
140. Dwight E. Hester  
141. Paul & Elsie Bryson  
142. Peggy Wroten  
143. Ella Darnell  
144. Carol Bonner  
145. Danny C. Stacks  
146. Kathie Stacks  
147. Debra Michael  
148. Janie Green  
149. Ann McDonald  
150. Exie Motes  
151. Linda B. Keirn  
152. Julius Lee Morris  
153. Kerry Deaton  
154. Eileen Ferrebee  
155. Aubrey & Dean Bass  
156. Alma Maddox  
157. Marcella A. Moore  
158. Peggy Engel  
159. Sherry Townsend  
160. Annie E. Ballard  
161. Joyce A. King  
162. Melba Ogg  
163. Tommy J. Muirhead  
164. Maggie R. Edmonds  
165. Mrs. Sharon Freeman
166. Pauline Jones  
167. Doris Darnell  
168. Pierce Flatt  
169. Shirley L. Tarver  
170. Sidney Clemmer  
171. Glenda Jefcoat  
172. Judy Ward  
173. Ruby Wright  
174. Ralph & Doris Gillespie  
175. Steve Austin Kelly  
176. Linda Crochet  
177. Grace Childers  
178. Eddie Vermillion  
179. Jim Vermillion  
180. Jeff & Debbie Shull  
181. Carole Kimmel  
182. John Hazel  
183. Billie Boyd  
184. Cathey Roberson  
185. Louisa W. Ganier  
186. Willa Fox  
187. Glen Brady  
188. Kay Shiers  
189. Mildred Carroll  
190. Jennifer F. Gray  
191. Emily Hall  
192. Shelia Hall  
193. Pearl Hitt  
194. Pat Nettles  
195. Bobbie Loggins  
196. Mattie Ann Owens  
197. Myra D. Reaves  
198. Dot Winslett  
199. Stan Neuenschwander  
200. Merlene Scott  
201. Bill Moore  
202. Deborah Brannon  
203. James R. Brooks  
**204. Patsy McClung**  
205. Wm. & Atlean Snow  
206. Clifford Crowder  
207. Rosie Lee Odoms  
208. Thomas Forrest, Sr.  
209. William Pyron  
210. Meredith Peek  
211. Mrs. Cecil Smith  
212. Jolene Dale  
213. Ms. Doris Laird  
214. Sylvia Birt  
215. Roger King  
216. Idna Eddington  
217. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins  
218. Edward Pearson  
219. Ann Kimble  
220. Philip Carter  
221. Betty & Lyman York  
222. Kaye Wise  
223. Effie Lee Jones  
224. Lucretia McNeas  
225. Brenda Harvill  
226. Vera Mae Ashmore  
227. June Brents  
228. Shirley Bostick  
229. Kathy Perry  
230. Doris Carroll  
231. Mr. Michael Coleman  
232. Betty Harris  
233. Eleanor Townsend  
234. Helen P. Ward  
235. Shelley Carroll  
236. Kelly Rudy  
237. Martha Mirante  
238. JoAnn Mills  
239. Robbie Cole  
240. Wanda Eaves  
241. Eva Almon  
242. Ginny Luther  
243. Bonnie Skates  
244. Danny Rucker  
245. Christine Holliday  
246. Ms. Mary Smith  
247. Gladys Bryant  
248. Rebecca Alexander
249. Thelma Talbert  
250. Mary J. Adams  
251. Betty Eubanks  
252. Toni Burnett  
253. Joe B. Holmes  
254. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell  
255. Bernice Mills  
256. Wayne Crum  
257. Melvin & Kay Linton  
258. Robert Blackburn  
259. Edith Winters  
260. Connie Fountain  
261. Tommy Shull  
262. Ruth Gunter  
263. Minnie Young  
264. Ms. Eileen Williford  
265. Brenda Vick  
266. Alice Dempsey  
267. Cleta Burnett  
268. Lawrence Horn  
269. Hattie Hooper  
270. Mrs. Doris J. Fletcher  
271. Jean Forrester  
272. Pete Bowen  
273. Mildred Herrington  
274. Missy Blackmon  
275. Nellie Caldwell  
276. M/M Arthur Burnett  
277. Jaylen Sullivan  
278. Tyra Verner  
279. Jackie Sullivan  
280. Elizabeth Sullivan  
281. Trey Williams  
282. Kyla Elena Hunter  
283. Shamyia B. Smith  
284. Rashanda Ewing  
285. Lacey Mastin  
286. Imogene Kirk  
287. Lisa Dearman  
288. Scott Gallaher  
289. Bodean Collum  
290. Gail Gurganus  
291. Estelle Glover  
292. Jo Masters  
293. Ms. Dorothy Laws  
294. Hattie Johnson  
295. Kenneth Harmon  
296. Joe Arnold  
297. Della M. Rhodes  
298. Mark Williams  
299. Nelle Grissom  
300. Carolyn Kendrick  
301. Foy C. Smith  
302. Bobby Brown  
303. Everett Boyd  
304. Jimmy & Clara Davis  
305. Mrs. Jean Swane  
306. Pam Bateman  
307. Dorothy Alexander  
308. Jimmy Wayne Davis  
309. Evelyn Page  
310. Anna Lee Pruitt  
311. Shirley M. Phillips  
312. Rosa Sanders  
313. Carolyn Harvill  
314. Carolyn Garrett  
315. Cindy Staggs  
316. Marjorie French  
317. Wilma Ridenour  
318. Anita Taft  
319. Jan Blakney  
320. Lauren Harris  
321. Althea House  
322. Evelyn Faulkenberry  
323. Shirley Graham  
324. Travis Hamilton  
325. Frances Griffin  
326. Mrs. Mary Faulconer  
327. Kittie Edwards  
328. Edmon & Kathy Wheeler  
329. Minnie Gwyne  
330. Rick Bishop  
331. Charlene Williams
332. Marilyn Farquhar  
333. Bernice Townsel  
334. Betty Standard  
335. Olen Roden  
336. Trillie Strickland  
337. Lozell Milligan  
338. Lessie Tanson  
339. Betty Standard  
340. Martha West  
341. Lucille Jackson  
342. Bernard Macon, Sr.  
343. Helen DePriest  
344. Pat Morris  
345. Juanita Bradley  
346. Ruby McCrory  
347. Mrs. Dean Howe  
348. Carolyn Perry  
349. Carolyn Stanford  
350. Vera Winfrey  
351. MCarthur Mullins, Jr.  
352. Ruby Pounds  
353. Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson  
354. Jane Walker  
355. Cynthia Brown  
356. Hazel Cook  
357. Susie Johnson  
358. Daisy Tierce  
359. Jackie Hester  
360. Christine Herron  
361. Mary VanHouten  
362. Mae R. Johnson  
363. Dahlia McAfee  
364. Marie Sykes  
365. Peggy Hartman  
366. Irma Lucas  
367. Sandy Dean  
368. Harlen & Ruth Headley  
369. Barbara Trammell  
370. Al Paulthenia Cotton  
371. Manuel Cotton  
372. Kathey James  
373. Mary Salinas  
374. Barbara Yates  
375. Verna Spake  
376. Diane Dunaway  
377. Jean Lewis  
378. Bonnie Howell  
379. Aslean Dean  
380. Billy J. Smith  
381. Kim Wilsoncroft  
382. Sherry Gordon  
383. Evelyn M. Doss  
384. Dorothy W. Hagger  
385. Karen Bolls  
386. M. Elizabeth Jessiman  
387. Catherine A. Allen  
388. Myrtle Rogers  
389. Leora White  
390. Marty Danilchuk  
391. "Harry" Max Weathers  
392. Bettie Brown  
393. Ollie Wooten  
394. Cortez Brown  
395. Cathy E. Brooks  
396. Burlean Leatherwood  
397. James Hudley  
398. Addie Brown  
399. Sally Jones  
400. Emma Price  
401. Mary Williams  
402. Jessica Slaydon  
403. Wes & Rhoda Jeans  
404. Dorothy Franks  
405. Earl Franks  
406. Nicholas Slaydon  
407. Stephanie Slaydon  
408. Lucy Franks  
409. Paul Franks  
410. Glenda Franks  
411. Denise Stout  
412. April Williams  
413. Pat Cole  
414. Tommy Cole, Jr.  
415. John T. Sikes
416. Pamela Oliver  
417. Ancilla Nolan  
418. Laura Farve  
419. Linda Ruth Reed  
420. Otha Hewitt  
421. Leora White  
422. Erlene Elkins  
423. Steve Griffin  
424. Margaret Griffin  
425. Patricia Hanney  
426. Scot Nugent  
427. Amy Nugent  
428. Karen Cash  
429. Stephanie Mann  
430. Lora Cranfill  
431. LaVonne Bacarisse  
432. Henry Bacarisse  
433. Ena Franks  
434. Glen Franks  
435. Kathie Bordelon  
436. Walter Elkins  
437. Judith Elkins  
438. Roxanne Barrilleaux  
439. Bernie Barrilleaux  
440. Marilyn Estes  
441. Louis Estes  
442. Kenneth Sigmund  
443. John Sigmund  
444. Debra Sigmund  
445. Evelyn Sigmund  
446. Dortha Carlile  
447. Alice Cooper  
448. Vester Cooper  
449. Debbie Doucet  
450. Ray Doucet  
451. Kenneth C. McReynolds  
452. Janet McReynolds  
453. James Kirby  
454. Kenneth J. McReynolds  
455. Angie Kirby  
456. Brandy Courville  
457. Jacob Hance  
458. Derek Fontenot  
459. Bre Jones  
460. Jessica Hance  
461. Daniel Decareaux  
462. Benjamin Treme  
463. Marci Touvell  
464. Katy Nugent  
465. Kelsey Cash  
466. Kendall Nugent  
467. Katlyn Smith  
468. Linda Wranosky  
469. Bud Wranosky  
470. Melba Clayton  
471. Suzan Dubrock  
472. Charles Brittain  
473. Doreen Brittain  
**474. YOUR NAME**  
**NEXT TIME**  
Please consider  
answering  
"The Question Box"
- NOTE:** All answers received through November 29th have been noted on this page. Answers received later will be included in our next issue, God willing. Thanks!
- MM Welcomes  
Suggestions and/or Ideas**
- THANK YOU  
For Reading the MM**
- The Magnolia Messenger  
is Supported by  
Volunteer  
Contributions from  
Churches and Christians.  
Thank You!**

## ISSUES

(Continued from Page 11)

happiness. Rather, it acknowledged what people already knew in large part from their appreciation of and respect for biblical principles.

What exists in our country today takes its traditions more from the French Revolution in which history, tradition, and biblical principles had no place. The Goddess of Reason of that revolution, the creation of a new calendar with Year One, and the view of the modern state as involving itself in and interpreting the morality of its citizens is the offspring of that revolution.

One attitude that has come out of the campaign against the "personhood" amendment is that of moral equivalency. In this case, there is no right and wrong involving the decision to abort, but the only ultimate good is the choice to do so. Our modern world has taken the idea of choice and made it the ultimate in determining right and wrong and good and evil instead of understanding choice as the penultimate of right and wrong.

Choice is only that personal decision but not the moral and spiritual consequences that come from that choice. I have a choice to do right or wrong; I have a choice to steal, murder, commit adultery, bear false witness and anything else, but the choice is not the end in itself. Choices have consequences, and in the context of abortion, the consequence is either life or death. All the rights of the mother, ninety percent of which involve preference and personal convenience, pale in comparison. Christians understand that although people have many choices, only one choice is right.

Oddly, proponents of the right to abortion have said that laws against abortion involve too much government interference, but ironically, laws like Amendment 26 actually are a protection against government intrusion into those moral laws that government acknowledges and does not create.

Indeed, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), not a law but the fiat of the U.S. Supreme Court that did not recognize existing moral law but gave its own definition of moral law, promoted the politicizing of abortion.

Jesus spoke of the difference between honoring God and honoring men. In Matthew 22:15-22, a strange coalition of Pharisees and Herodians, two groups who had little love and respect for each other and were united only in their hatred of Jesus, showed him a coin and asked him whether it was right to pay taxes to Caesar. The coin

had the image of the current emperor (Tiberius) and included the inscription Dominus et Deus (Lord and God). Jesus discerning their hypocrisy told them to render unto Caesar the things that were Caesar's and unto God the things that were God's (22:21). Thus, abortionists have made human life in the womb a thing an homage that we render unto Caesar.

People often shortchange Jesus' meaning in this statement by concluding that it is alright to serve and honor government. That assumption is not wrong, but Jesus was more interested in their rendering to God the things that were God's. The religious and political leaders were so interested in their own agendas that they missed obedience to God. Moral issues, especially those involving absolute right and wrong, are not in the realm of Caesar or the popular will. They are under the jurisdiction of God. Anti-abortion laws are not about popular will; they are about the acknowledgement of the things that are God's.

Secular governments and the general population will always seek convenient alliances with God's people by appealing to their sense of fair play or to sympathy for the hardships that people might have in obeying what is right and good.

Like Pharaoh, they will point out that there is danger and inconvenience in doing the unpopular. Moses told him that all the people and all of their cattle and possessions had to go into the wilderness to worship the Lord. Pharaoh tried to threaten him and then to compromise with him. "Moses" he said, "leave your families and your cattle, or sacrifice in the land, or don't go too far" (Exodus 8:25).

Ultimately, Pharaoh appealed to the fears of the people about what might happen: "The Lord had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you" (Exodus 10:10—NKJV). Fear always appeals to the selfish element in people and not to their sense of what is right. It is easier for people to feed on the doubts of others regarding what might happen instead of trusting in God regarding what they should do. Moses would find out this sad fact over the next forty years with these people who feared the possibilities of the wilderness instead of walking in the will of God.

Regarding personal control over the body, the fetus (child) is dependent for nine months or less upon nourishment from the mother but not its identity, its soul. As Christians, we understand that

Christ is in control of our bodies and the decisions we make. We, indeed, are bought with a price (I Corinthians 6:12-20). All things may be lawful (Caesar), but not all things are right (Christ).

As part of the body of Christ, Christians should appreciate life more than anybody. We are living in the culture of light and not the culture of death that pervades our society. "He has rescued us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13—NKJV). I like how the KJV expresses the passage in that we have been rescued from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son.

We cannot expect the culture at large to share the same values about life, truth, and personal accountability to God that we have, but we can remind them through avenues such as the political process that our laws, traditions, and morality were founded upon biblical principles. We can remind them that the Constitution was not just a creation of the whims of likes and dislikes of a particular historical period but that it sought to be a reflection of biblical principles regarding the interactions between citizens and their fellow citizens, their government, and the respect for life.

Even the twenty-six amendments to the United States Constitution were clarifications of our individual rights than a redefining of those rights. Ultimately, when laws no longer are based on truth that exceeds the limitations of personal preference and safety, then all we are left with is the tyranny of people and governments.

So, do we stand for life? Do we stand for truth? Do we stand for the weak and the helpless? Or do we see choice as the ultimate good and convenience as the ultimate factor in the decisions we make?

On the base of the Statue of Liberty, a poem by Emma Lazarus is inscribed which says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, send these the homeless, tempest tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door." Those words mean something totally different in a secular world. They only have meaning for the born and the unborn in the context of the word of God.

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## LADIES' DAY

March 31, 2012

SATURDAY

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

538 EAST RACE STREET  
HIGHWAY 61

ROLLING FORK, MS

"RISE UP..."

JANE MAYNARD

MOUNTAIN HOME, AR

Registration: 8:30 A.M.



## Story

(Cont. from page 19)

shepherds did not see the star over Bethlehem that night) nor did it stay stationary over the house. This verse makes it clear that the star moved "in front" of the magi and guided them till it "stood over where the young child was". They were already in the "east" when they saw the star "in the east". So, the star had to first move over them and then to the west toward Bethlehem before they could begin to follow the star!

17. **B.** Read Matthew 2:2

18. **G.** Isn't it amazing how God divinely inspired these two gospel writers to write His exact words, but, yet, He used their interests and professions to recall different aspects of Jesus' birth. Matthew, a tax collector, records the genealogy of Jesus (used for taxation) and the story of the "magi" -- men of means from a foreign country. Luke, a physician, records the pregnancy and birth. (Luke 1 and 2)

19. **E.** Joseph wanted to "put her away" secretly and Mary left town to see her cousin Elizabeth. (Matthew 1:19 and Luke 1:39, 56).

20. **E.** "There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus... everyone into his own city..." (Luke 2:1-5).

Please Pray for the MM

## NEW BOOK

### "Finding the Heart of Christ"

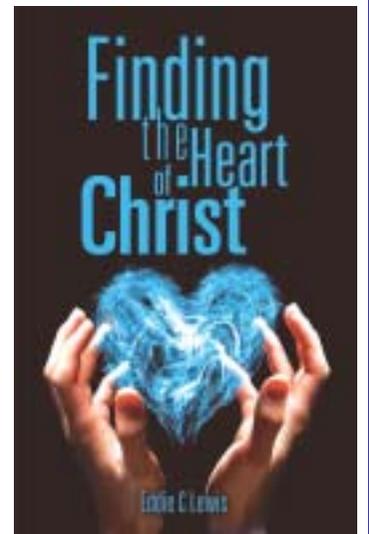


By Eddie Lewis

Order / Information:

Eddie Lewis  
9423 Laurel Hill S.  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
Call: 662-893-2694  
Cost: \$15.00 + s/h

This book is the result of 40+ years of study of the **attributes** that make up the **mind and heart of Christ**. The great challenge for Christians in any age is to have the heart of Christ. All around us are examples of people that seem to have that mind and demonstrate it in their acts and attitudes. I have come to the realization that having the mind and heart of Christ doesn't just happen, you have to work at it. It only comes as we study God's Word and let Him speak to us through it. When we have prayed about the message we have received and trust in Him, then He will help us grow in these attributes. What a tremendous challenge we have before us.



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

### WHAT WILL BE SAID AT YOUR FUNERAL?

- June Franks -

After attending a recent funeral, someone was heard to make the comment, "I sure hope those good things can be said about me at my funeral."

We know that it really doesn't matter what someone else may say at our funeral -- whether good or bad. The life we have lived will speak for itself. The fruit we bare can be easily observed. What someone may say will not change our destiny. We are in God's hands and God is the Judge.

In order for good things to be accurately said about you at your funeral, you need first of all to be in Christ. "Live in Christ so you can die in Christ." Remember: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... (Rev. 14:13).

The Bible says, "Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3,4)

Baptism is the step that puts us into Christ. To be in Christ means we are a Christian and we are "Christ-like."

As Christians, we are to manifest (bear) the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

We should not live according to the flesh. The Bible says, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21)

In order for good things to be said about us at our funeral, we need to be a person who goes about doing good. Scripture summarizes the life of Jesus by saying that "He went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

We are to be a light shining



June Franks

forth in the world. The Bible says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

The Bible says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

How can we expect to have good things said about us at our funeral if we do not put the church first in our lives? The church is very important because the Bible says that Christ died for the church. The saved are in the church; the saved are the church!

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body... Husbands,

love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Ephesians 5:23-25)

The Bible also says, "If you love me you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). So many say they love God but fail to keep his commandments. Of course, no one of us is perfect; and, if it were not for the grace of God, not any of us could be saved.

It is such a blessing to be a Christian and to receive, even in this life, all the wonderful blessings that God has in store for those who are faithful Christians.

We are the only one who can determine what may be said about us at our funeral service. Let us always keep this in mind because we never know when this time may come. You do not have to be old to die. Death can come at any age or at anytime. The Bible says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement." (Hebrews 9:27).

If we want good things said about us at our funeral then we must live right. "We can not expect to live wrong and die right!!!"

Mrs. A. L. Franks  
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franksmm@aol.com

### Granny is Gone

About thirty years ago, a lady in her sixties, chose to move from Alabama to Mississippi. She came to Kosciusko where she could be a part of a new school (MBC) that had been started to train effective servants in the Lord's church. She came offering her time and talents to help in every way she could.

"Granny", as we came to know her, had little money, but she had

a great desire to glorify her Lord and Saviour. As an older single woman, she dedicated her life to service as a teacher, as a neighbor, as a church member and as a student of God's word. She enrolled in MBC and, over several years, earned two degrees. Her example was truly an inspiration.



Millicent Blankenship

In failing health, a few years ago, Granny chose to return to Alabama where she became a member of the Central church of Christ in Saraland (near Mobile). Here she spent her last few years -- still doing what she could to assist in the world's greatest work -- the work of the Lord.

We were saddened to learn of her recent death. Granny's body was laid to rest in Alabama soil on Thursday, November 17, 2011. Granny is gone from us, but certainly not forgotten. Those who knew her best have reason to strongly believe that, although Granny is gone, she has "gone to be with the Lord."

Hope is a priceless gift from a loving God.

## POEMS

By

Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray

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### The Final Tear

*We all have walked rose-strewn paths  
And wept tears of joy through the years.  
Then suddenly the dark clouds gather,  
And we cry, "Dear Lord, dry our tears."*

*When days are dark and filled with pain,  
And we can't find joy in the little things,  
Tears of joy become tears of sorrow;  
We become as birds with broken wings.*

*The soul that once soared with happiness  
No longer hears life's jubilant psalm.  
God can gently wipe tear-dimmed eyes,  
And fill our hearts with blessed calm.*

*"Joy cometh in the morning", we know,  
Yet we must face the sorrow of today,  
But we have the assurance in the end—  
God will wipe our final tear away.*

### A Note From Barbara

*Hello, brother Franks: I'm sending a collection of my poetry for 2012. I hope you will find several that you feel are worthy of publication.*

*I'm very grateful to you for the many years that my poems have been printed in the Magnolia Messenger. You wouldn't believe the emails and letters that I receive from individuals who appreciate my work. Thank you so much!"*

The following is one of her poems for 2012

### Patches

*I watched my grandmother's skillful hands,  
As she stitched her quilt squares into place.  
Some days she sewed with a beaming smile;  
Other days, there was sadness in her face.*

*The days when she stitched with a happy grin,  
She would work with patches bright and bold;  
But on the days she stitched in sadness,  
The fabrics she chose were very dark and cold.*

*When she unfolded the hand-made treasure,  
And spread it across the bed, we'd stare—  
The dark colors complemented the light ones,  
And a perfectly patterned quilt laid there.*

*Each day of our life forms a pattern, too;  
As it nears completion, we'll clearly see,  
That it took both the light and dark patches,  
To make us the best that we could be.*

*The final product wouldn't be quite the same,  
Without the dismal days that bowed our heads.  
How would we learn to cope with life's sorrows,  
Without a pattern of dark and golden threads?*

Use KJV  
for Spelling  
and Wording

# The Question Box

## BIBLE PEOPLE AND THEIR NAMES

"There is Something in a Name"

Send  
to Us  
Your Answers

There is great value in a name. The Bible says, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...." (Prov. 22:1) We often sing, "There is a name I love to hear... **Jesus**." Scripture states clearly, "...There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). The name associated with a product, a service, or a person is important. There is something in a name.

This issue of the "QB" asks that you recall many of the people mentioned by name in the Word of God and that you provide response to each of the

four sections in this study which show by scripture that **there is something in a name**. After completing your study, please send your answers to us. By so doing, **you will encourage others** (see page 21) and you will become eligible as a possible winner of a beautiful new Study Bible valued at approximately \$100.00. Each issue, by random selection, we award a Bible to one student who sends in answers to "The Question Box." This time, **it just may be you!** Thank you for your interest in Bible study as indicated by your answers to the "QB." (alf)

**NOTE: References to help you find the answers to Parts I, II and III.** (Gen. 17:\_\_\_; 32:\_\_\_; 35:\_\_\_; Num. 13: \_\_\_; Judges 6:\_\_\_; Ruth 1:\_\_\_; Dan. 2:\_\_\_; Mark 3:\_\_\_; Acts 4:\_\_\_; John 1:\_\_\_ . **References to help with Part IV:** (Esther 2:\_\_\_; Acts 9:\_\_\_; 13:\_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_; Col. 4:\_\_\_; Rev. 9:\_\_\_; 12:\_\_\_)

### I. New Names Given to Bible Persons

(Match the original name [column one] with the new name [column two] for each of the follow-

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| ___ Abram      | 1. Barnabas          |
| ___ Jacob      | 2. Cephas            |
| ___ Benoni     | 3. Jehoshua (Joshua) |
| ___ Gideon     | 4. Jerubbaal         |
| ___ Naomi      | 5. Israel            |
| ___ Oshea      | 6. Boanerges         |
| ___ Daniel     | 7. Belteshazzar      |
| ___ Simon      | 8. Mara              |
| ___ James/John | 9. Benjamin          |
| ___ Joses      | 10. Abraham          |

### III. The Meaning of the New Name Given.

(Match the new name given to each person (left column) with the meaning of the new name (on right).

- |              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Barnabas  | ___ "Father of many nations"         |
| 2. Cephas    | ___ "Let Baal plead"                 |
| 3. Abraham   | ___ "Rock, Stone"                    |
| 4. Jerubbaal | ___ "Sons of Thunder"                |
| 5. Israel    | ___ "Bitter"                         |
| 6. Boanerges | ___ "Son of consolation/exhortation" |
| 7. Mara      | ___ "Power with God"                 |

### II. Who Gave the New Name?

(Match the person's new name (left column) with the one(s) responsible for the new name (right column).

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Barnabas          | ___ Angel (God)       |
| 2. Cephas            | ___ Moses             |
| 3. Jehoshua (Joshua) | ___ Joash             |
| 4. Jerubbaal         | ___ Jacob             |
| 5. Israel            | ___ Prince of Eunuchs |
| 6. Boanerges         | ___ Herself           |
| 7. Belteshazzar      | ___ Apostles          |
| 8. Mara              | ___ Jesus             |
| 9. Benjamin          | ___ God               |
| 10. Abraham          | ___ Jesus             |

### IV. Others with More than One Given Name.

(Match the name in column one with the appropriate name by which each was also known in column two.)

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Barjesus | ___ Elymas   |
| 2. Hadasha  | ___ Esther   |
| 3. Saul     | ___ Niger    |
| 4. Abaddon  | ___ Justus   |
| 5. Tabitha  | ___ Devil    |
| 6. Jesus    | ___ Paul     |
| 7. Simeon   | ___ Dorcas   |
| 8. Satan    | ___ Apollyon |

### Additional Thoughts to Consider:

In New Testament times, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ were identified by several expressions, including "Disciples", "Believers" and "Saints." In the first century A.D. all who were obedient to the Gospel and were born again were, as the "children of God," also called "Christians." (Please study prayerfully Acts 11:26 and 26:28).

An inspired apostle wrote: "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf [in this name]." (1 Pet.4:16) Please answer to yourself and to God.

**Question 1:** When you are asked about your relationship to Jesus Christ, do you respond by simply saying, "I am a Christian"?

**Question 2:** Is there any scriptural need to say that, you, as a disciple of Jesus, are a certain kind or "brand" of a Christian?

**Question 3:** Why cannot all disciples who truly accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord be united and be known simply as "Christians" and members of Christ's church? What about you? Are YOU a Christian?

### 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



Newly Renovated/Expanded Facilities  
Lake Harbour Church of Christ (Ridgeland, MS)

The Lake Harbour church of Christ, formerly known as the South Madison church, is now enjoying their new facilities. This growing church in Ridgeland, Mississippi presently has seven elders or shepherds -- **Richard Brooks Marion Freeman, Trayon George, Morris Houston, L. C. Reese, Dusty Reynolds and Bill Underwood.** (Bill has been very ill in recent months.) Eleven men are listed as deacons in their weekly bulletin, along with other special ser-

vants **John Pigg**, preacher; **Frank Powell**, youth minister and **Juana Hall**, secretary.

This church brings together about 200 - 225 worshippers each Lord's day. On a recent "Friends and Family Day," attendance reached **302** for the morning worship service in which **Cecil May, Jr.** was the guest evangelist. We congratulate our brethren in their material and spiritual progress as a church of Christ in the greater Jackson area.

### Lake Charles, LA (Enterprise Blvd Church)

## 75th Year Reunion

Saturday  
**June 30, 2012**  
and Sunday  
**July 1, 2012**

**Please mark your  
calendars for**

### Next Year's Celebration!

If you have any memorabilia or photos that can be used for a DVD and Presentation, please contact **Peggy Alcede** at 337-477-2524 or the church office at 337-439-9761.

### Boxwood Church (Merryville, LA)

#### Reaches Out at October Fest

According to Rhoda F. Jeans, the Boxwood church of Christ, near Merryville, Louisiana, recently took advantage of a community event as an opportunity to reach out with the Gospel. On Saturday, October 29th, members of the country church manned a booth at the "October Fest" celebration in Merryville. Sister Rhoda wrote, "Food for the soul was handed out in the form of candy and treats, as well as, printed gospel information. A good time was had by all and hopefully many fall 'seeds' were planted."

### Congratulations to Our New Bible Winner:

**204. Patsy McClung**  
Amarillo, Texas

## There is Something About This Sign

The Invitation: "Welcome"  
The statement: "churches of Christ greet you."

