



Our 34th Year

# Magnolia Messenger

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

Volume 34  
Number 1  
Jan. - Mar.  
2012

## In This Issue

- Is "Close Enough" Really Close Enough? (Page 5)
- Sardis Lake Christian Camp Bestows Honor (Page 5)
- Choate's Puplications Searches for Gideon (Page 6)
- Church Autonomy: The New Testament Plan (Page 7)
- Practical Suggestions for Soul-winning (Page 8)
- "When the New Begins to Fade" (Page 9)
- The Serious Problem of Spiritual Erosion (Page 10)
- "Affirmation Vs. Transformation" (Page 12)
- The Fruit of "Faithfulness" (Page 13)
- "Eating the Body and Drinking the Blood" (Page 16)
- "There Once Was a Place" (Page 17)
- "All of Us Are Dying" (Page 19)
- A Plea for Commitment (Page 23)



The Wife and The Preacher  
Same Preacher; Same **Two** Churches  
**For Fifty (50) Years!**

(Celebration Details on Page 8)

*Satsuma Tree*  
Turned out to be a  
*Persimmon Tree*

Disappointed editor's  
**Spiritual Applications**  
(Page 2)



## Response From Readers

A Sample. Just One Day. (12-26-11)

### Encouraged!

All during the latter part of December and the early weeks of 2012, we went to the Post Office with excitement because so many of you who read the MM were responding to our "end-of-the-year" report. We are grateful to share with you a *little taste* of what we found in the mail on *just one day* -- the day after Christmas.

Of all the mail received on December 26th, the first letter opened requested, "Please take me off of your mailing list. I am now blind and unable to read." That was sad. However, included in the envelope was \$7.00!

Next... another envelope. No letter; no note; but, there was a check for \$1,000.00! Then, another was opened which included the **answers** to the "Question Box" **and** a check for \$12.00.... And, so went the opening of our mail picked up at the post office on the day after Christmas.

We want you to know that we felt a great and urgent need to bow before our gracious Heavenly Father and thank Him for all of you who read and/or respond to the MM. **We are encouraged!** We are **thankful**. (Editor)

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

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 142  
Hattiesburg, MS  
39401

## Delightful "Drop-in Visits"

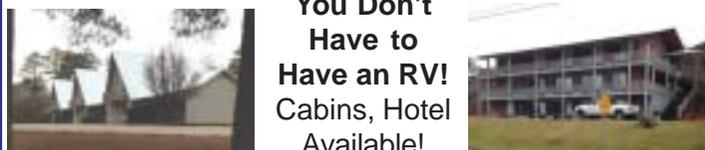
Southaven (Page 11)  
Senatobia (Page 16)

For the First Time, Ever  
**This Issue**  
is in  
**Full COLOR**  
(All 24 Pages Are In Color)

## Mississippi MM RV Rally

-- 14th Annual --

April 24-28, 2012; (Tuesday - Saturday)  
LAKE TIAK-O'KHATA; LOUISVILLE, MISSISSIPPI



You Don't  
Have to  
Have an RV!  
Cabins, Hotel  
Available!

Fun, Food, Fellowship  
**SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION**

with Keynote Speaker

**Cecil May, Jr.**

(More details on Page 9)

## A Reader Asks:

QUESTION: Ezekiel 20:25.  
"Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live." Please explain. (CM)

**Cecil May Responds**  
(Study Page 3)

Is Your Name Found on Page 21?

"Eating the Body"  
and  
"Drinking the Blood"  
-communion-  
(A short study on page 16)

Do We, as Christians,  
Need to Study the  
Old Testament Scriptures?

Answer  
"The Question Box"  
(Turn to page 24)

A  
"Play-House"  
indicates  
Children

A  
"Real Home"  
for  
Needy Children

The  
Pine Vale  
Story  
on Page 20



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)

### FOREST

#### Reader Remembers

It is always uplifting to read about this congregation [Forest, MS] -- still there and sharing God's truth. I serve as one of elders for the church at Morris Alabama, and I remember the Forest congregation was on the verge of losing their building and we, along with others, contributed so this would not happen. I praise God for this. Bless each of you. (An elder; Morris, AL)

Please add my fellow elders to your list for sending the Magnolia Messenger. I enjoy the biblical articles and answers given to the hard questions we are dealing with. (Kurt Simmons, Dallas, TX)

Hi Al and June,

I just finished reading (cover to cover) Vol. 33 No. 4 of the Magnolia Messenger. As always, your publication is uplifting, a joy to read and educational. Ginny and I gain so much from this wonderful paper. Thank you for the wonderful work/writing you do and thanks to all of those who write articles/columns for the Messenger. I pray God will bless your efforts and your family and all who work with you and that you have wonderful holidays and a great 2012. In Christ, (Rick and Ginny Cliett; Sevierville, TN)

## THANKS

to all

Readers Who Respond

Dear Al & June-

I worship with Jackson Street church in Monroe, LA. We met a few years back and I continue to enjoy MM... I work with 7 other ladies who send the World Bible School Correspondence Course to several incarcerated women in Alabama. We recently received a request for material re: lesbianism. I vaguely recall reading an article on that subject and THINK it was in your paper. May I bother you to tell me if you have indeed published such an article in the last 2 years or so, and which edition it was in? If I know that I can look it up myself. I appreciate your help in this project. (Myra Lawrence, Monroe, LA)

Beth and I want to thank you both for your labor of love with the MM over the many years from start of this great good news paper. It has brought the churches of Christ in the Magnolia states of LA & MS together like nothing else could have and it has promoted every good work as it purposed from the beginning. Only because of your devotion as editors and your personal perseverance, but most of all your reliance on God's help, that you have stayed the course... We love you dearly and appreciate your service to the Lord and his church more than we can express... We are sending you a small donation to help out on expenses. We will try to do more a little later in the year. We are thankful that LHD has the MM in our annual mission budget. (John & Beth Pigg; Ridgeland, MS)

Prayers are Requested for the MM

## The "Satsuma Tree" Turned Out To Be A Persimmon Tree

Editor Says: "I Was Really Disappointed!"

After Jesus had finished cleansing a "den of thieves" from the temple, he traveled a short distance from Jerusalem to Bethany where he spent the night. The next morning, as he returned to Jerusalem, being hungry, he saw a fig tree by the wayside and walked up close, presumably, to find figs for breakfast. However, he found no figs -- only leaves. Jesus spoke to the tree and said, "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforth forever." Matthew records, in chapter 21 and verse 19, that "immediately the fig tree withered away."

I thought of this event in the Lord's life when my June and I were visiting, a few months ago, in south Louisiana. We were looking for the meeting house of the Lord's church in Walker, Louisiana. Just about the time we found the church building, I noticed a tree nearby. It looked like a satsuma tree loaded with fruit! Although I was not hungry, those "satsuma oranges," hanging from the tree, sure looked attractive and appetizing.

So turning my attention from the newly found church building, I walked closer to the fruit tree. And, like Jesus, I was disappointed. Taking a closer look, I found the tree was not a satsuma tree and its fruit was not the sweet oranges expected. Instead it was a persimmon tree and its unripe fruit was far from sweet.

Yes, I was disappointed, but unlike Jesus, I didn't speak to the tree. Instead, I spoke to myself and was reminded of valuable lessons to be learned from that morning experience in Walker, Louisiana.

When I first saw the tree I "saw" what I wanted to see. My thoughts had been influenced by my surroundings and my inner



Not a Satsuma, but a Persimmon Tree



A. L. Franks, Editor

desires. After all, we had earlier noticed a highway sign informing us of a town nearby called "Satsuma." I assume the town was, most likely, named for the juicy and easy-to-peel Mandarin oranges that grow quiet well in the area. But I was mistaken. I was wrong. I had only "seen" what I expected and/or wanted to see.

**This is often the case in spiritual or religious matters.** Do we

not see what we expect to see or what we want to see? Do we not, far too often, study the Bible searching for that which we want to find? Maybe, it is personal desire to "justify" a certain practice or bad

habit. For instance, a person who loves to drink alcoholic beverages would like to believe that God's word approves his practice. So, he searches the Scriptures, looking for "justification" for his habit. In doing so, he may choose to ignore the overall message of God's word which teaches clearly that drunkenness is sinful (I Cor. 6:9,10). He may disregard Bible warnings about the danger of alcoholic beverage consumption (Prov. 23:29-35). He may also chose to disregard the teachings of Scripture which requires Christians to be exceedingly careful about placing a stumbling block before others (Romans 14:21). Yes, the "drinker" sees what he wants to see.

Another example is someone who desires to "justify" his practice of homosexuality. So, he

reads his Bible and sees what he wants to see. In so doing, he ignores plain teachings against the abominable sin of perversion (Romans 1:21-32) and choses, rather, to emphasize "love" and "not judging." Again, he sees what he wants to see!

Then, there are certain religious beliefs and/or practices which many do not wish to give up. This may include sprinkling for baptism, salvation by "faith only" and "repentance is not really necessary." A person who doesn't want to give up such erroneous beliefs and practices reads the Bible and finds scriptures that speak of God's love and His marvelous grace. He concludes, "I don't really have to do what God says." He reasons, "God is love; surely he would not permit me to be lost eternally in Hell." So, the Bible reader sees what he wants to see.

Then, there is a Bible student who really likes the use of instrumental music in worship. So he opens his Bible and finds where instruments were used in Old Testament worship and concludes,

"Surely it must be okay for us to worship with instrumental music." In so doing, he fails to look more closely at New Testament teaching and practice which provides absolutely no authority for the use

of instruments in worship by followers of Jesus Christ.

Finally, there is another Bible reader who doesn't believe in the essentiality of water baptism and so he turns to the account of the "thief on the cross." He sees what he wants to see and declares, "I can be saved like the thief on the cross." Yet, upon closer observation (study), he can easily see that the thief was in the presence of Jesus who had the "power to forgive sins" while he was still living on earth. The will, the New Testament, of Jesus was not in force, it was not binding. But for all who live under the New Covenant, it is required that we comply with the will of the Lord which requires baptism "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38); "to be saved" (Mark 16:16); "to wash away sins" (Acts 22:16). I pray that you (and I) will always seek to see what God would have us to see. Remember, as Jesus said, it is "not my will, but Thine."



Sweet, juicy, easy-to-peel Louisiana Satsuma

# Bible Questions Answered

**QUESTION: Ezekiel 20:25.** "Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgements whereby they should not live." Please explain. (CM)

## RESPONSE:

The passage inquired about reads, "Moreover, I gave them statutes that were not good and rules by which they could not have life." One would naturally wonder, "Why would God give laws and rules that were not good? To whom would he give commandments that were of no value for bringing life to those who kept them?"

Just as it is said in real estate that the three most important considerations in determining price are *location, location, location*; so in Bible study the three most important considerations in determining meaning are *context, context, context*.

### The Kind of People Addressed

As we look at the paragraph in which this statement appears, God, through the prophet, is addressing recalcitrant, rebellious Jews, whose wickedness had already brought them into Babylonian captivity and exile. They were living out that sentence even as Ezekiel wrote. However, the defeated, scattered nation had still not changed their lives.

Looking at more of the context, God said, "Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them through the countries, because they had not obeyed my rules, but had rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were set on their fathers' idols. Moreover, I gave them statutes that were not good and rules by which they could not have life, and I defiled them through their very gifts in their offering up all their firstborn, that I might devastate them. I did it that they might know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 20:23-26).

As the reader will understand, this passage has mystified many students of Scripture and learned commentators, and has caused many honest searchers to inquire, just as our questioner did, "Please explain this." It seems to contra-

## Response by Cecil May, Jr.



Cecil May, Jr., Dean  
College of Biblical Studies  
Faulkner University  
5345 Atlanta Highway  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
334-386-7154  
cmay@faulkner.edu

dict what most of us think we know of God's nature.

### God's Many-faceted Nature

"God is love" (1 John 4:8). He revealed himself to Moses with these words, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" (Exodus 34:6-7a). How could such a God give deliberately harmful commandments?

However, if we formulate our view of the nature of God solely on the attributes of love, mercy and grace, we end up with a truncated, partial view of God. The rest of God's statement to Moses cited above from Exodus is, "but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation" (Exodus 34:7).

The New Testament often reminds us of both facets of God's nature, calling us to, "Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness" (Romans 11:22).

God is love. God is merciful. God is gracious But God is also

holy, holy, holy. He forgives, but in his holiness he cannot accept or abide *continued, unconfessed and unrepented*; that is, *unforgiven sin*.

It is God's hatred of sin, as genuinely a part of his divine nature as his love for sinners, that comes through so clearly in these his words through Ezekiel. God's beloved nation, his chosen people, was enslaved by heathens. The city where he caused his Name to dwell would soon be a smoking heap of ruins. All of that because the people Ezekiel was addressing had sold themselves to continued sin and rebellion which God's holiness could only reject.

### Consistent Theme

Though shocking, the idea that God misleads those who offend and anger him is a frequent theme in Scripture. Through Ezekiel God has already said of the righteous who turn from their righteousness to commit injustice, "I lay a stumbling block before him" and "he shall die" (3:20). And again, if an idolator seeks a word from a prophet, and the prophet speaks encouraging words to the idolator, "I, the Lord, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel" (14:9).

Similar actions of God would include his hardening Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 9:19; 10:2; Romans 9:17). Isaiah's charge concerning rebellious Israel was, "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed" (Isaiah 6:10).

Jesus cited this passage and applied it to the Jews who were rejecting his message: "Though (Jesus) had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' Therefore they

could not believe. For again Isaiah said, 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them'" (John 12:38-40).

It is significant that Jesus' first quotation in this exchange was Isaiah 53:1, the introductory verse to the prophecy concerning the Suffering Servant Messiah. This is the very message that the Jews for the most part would not accept, that he would die for their sins and then be raised from the dead. Then Jesus notes Isaiah's charge concerning their recalcitrance. While they saw and acknowledged great miracles done by Jesus and by his followers in his name, they refused to believe that he was from God. They were demonstrating a stubborn refusal to see the obvious that Jesus said was wilful blindness (see John 9:39-41).

### We Must Love the Truth

God responds favorably to truth lovers and seekers after righteousness. He often seems providentially to bring truth seekers and truth proclaimers together. He "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). But when the Gentile world "refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up" (Romans 1:28). If a person does not love the truth and therefore refuses to hear and receive it, "God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

### Human Sacrifice?

The Canaanite god Molech required his followers to offer their first born sons in sacrifice. The Lord forbade the worship of Molech, of course (Leviticus 20:1-5), but he also forbade the Israelites to follow such abominations in their worship of the Lord. "Do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in

that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods" (Deuteronomy 12:30-31).

The Lord did require of the Israelites, however, the "redemption," the "buying back" of the first born (Exodus 13:11-16). Ezekiel said God gave them "statutes that were not good" and added, "and I defiled them through their very gifts in their offering up all their firstborn, that I might devastate them. I did it that they might know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 20:26).

Ezekiel gives "their offering up all their firstborn" as an example of the "statutes that were not good" that God "gave them" to follow because they refused to follow his way. Both Ahaz (2 Kings 16:12) and Manasseh (2 Kings 21:6), kings of Judah, offered their children in sacrifice, and that is recorded in Scriptures as evidence of their departure from the Lord.

Perhaps that perversion of God's command concerning the firstborn is the delusion these deranged and rebellious Jews "obeyed" to their own destruction.

### Conclusion

However "fuzzy" or confused this explanation of this difficult passage may be, one thing is certain. A desire on our part to know and do the truth is needed to keep us from self deception. "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority" (John 7:17). "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

### Brand New Book

#### Bible Questions Answered

by Cecil May, Jr.

A compilation of brother May's response to questions asked by MM readers over past 30 years

**\$29.95 + \$2.00 Shipping**

Proceeds for Bible teaching at V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies at Faulkner

Order from

College of Biblical Studies  
Faulkner University  
5345 Atlanta Highway  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
334-386-7154  
cmay@faulkner.edu



Eulene and Darrell Ramsey of Winona, MS

### - Report by Betty Choate -

In the fall of 1994, the phone rang, and Eulene Ramsey was on the line. She said that she had seen, in our *World Evangelism* paper, an article saying that we were in great need of help in the office.

She explained that she and Darrell had planned to retire from their jobs, with the expectation of doing foreign mission work somewhere, self-supported from their retirement income. However, while Darrell had been in Ghana, on a follow-up trip for World Bible School, he had contracted cerebral malaria and would not be able to live and work outside the country. Her question was, "Could you use my help in your office?"

Darrell and Eulene had personally built their house in the suburbs of Houston, TX. They had been members of the Vidor church for many years, with close friendships among the membership.

When they moved to Winona in January of 1994, they sold their house, left the home church and their friends behind, and settled in the small town of Winona, with the small church here in which there were few people of their age. It was a drastic and sacrificial change, in many ways. During fifteen years of dedicated work, they independently provided for their own financial needs, asking nothing except the opportunity to be of service.

I often told Eulene that her example of working till the job was done, regardless of the amount of pain she was enduring from her arthritis, would mean that I would never be able to complain about anything!

She reported to work on time, no matter how she felt. She kept up with the address data base, she did the bookkeeping, she typed manuscripts, she did whatever was needed to keep the office running smoothly. Half of each year, she and Barbara Oliver carried all of that responsibility alone. We are eternally thankful for all that was accomplished through their efforts.

I admit, it was two or three years after the Ramseys moved to Winona before I had the courage to ask Eulene, outright, if they

### Free at Last!

Eulene Ramsey is now free of arthritis pain.

### 15 Years Volunteer Services

regretted their decision!

Frequently, thereafter, she told me what a blessing it had been to be a part of the group, sharing in the work here. Barbara became like a daughter to them; Byron and Gay Nichols (current editor of *The Voice of Truth International*) always stayed with Darrell and Eulene when they came for our team meetings. Fenter and Sue Northern were a continual blessing in their lives while they worked with the church in Winona; Paula and Jerry Bates have been attentive since their move here in 2007; and the church here in Winona has shown, even in this time of need, that there is a supportive spiritual family, supplying whatever is needed when one's physical family is small. I thank everyone for the service that has been rendered.

Eulene was in pain from arthritis all over her body for many years. She was relieved of that suffering when she went home to be with God on December 13.

She was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Winona. Darrell remains in the Winona Manor Nursing Home. (Betty Choate; Winona, MS)

### MERRYVILLE, LA

The Boxwood Church of Christ (Al's home congregation) near Merryville, Louisiana recently secured the services of a new minister. He is Douglas J. Brackbill. His business card reads, "Gospel Preacher and servant to the congregation at Boxwood."



Somewhere in Mississippi

## Legos and Girls

- Eric Welch -

One day last week, a National Public Radio host interviewed a lady who was protesting the Lego toy company's new marketing target. The company now features Legos with pastel colors, dresses and beauty shops for girls.

Feminists are protesting this change because they believe that the toys contradict their agenda for a gender-neutral society. Their goal is to have everyone to believe that the only difference between males and females is anatomy. However, Lego's research alone into how boys and girls play demonstrates that they are indeed different and girls do like to play "princess."



Eric Welch

Wise parents will honor their little princess by affirming her beauty and by encouraging self-respect. Mothers are a strong influence in helping their little girls grow up with dignity. The apostle Peter holds up one of the greatest women of faith, Sarah, as an example for Christian women (1 Peter 3:3-6). Mom will follow the Sarah, whose name means "Princess". The little princess needs a mother who behaves with the grace and integrity of a queen. For example, Mom will keep her daughter from exposing her flesh in the way she dresses and, thereby, from flushing away her dignity.

Fathers have an even greater role in affirming the royalty of his little princess. He is the first man that she will love. Thus, he has an enormous impact on how she sees herself. A wise father will tell her, "I love you," and will show her affection through hugs and kisses. This attention will help her as a young lady to remain strong when she dates young Christian men. She will not need them to tell her how beautiful she is because Dad has always told her.

If you are female, you were created in God's image and, although you might wrinkle as you age, you will still be God's daughter and, therefore, his beautiful princess (Genesis 1:27; cf. Romans 8:29). [Adapted from a sermon by David Wright, "Raising Girls", Jeffersonville, IN] —from Vicksburg Reminder, January 25

## Winona

### Theola (Kite) Burton Departs at Age 90

Mother of Mrs. J. C. (Betty) Choate

Theola Jane Kite was born on June 1, 1921, in a rural community near Weir, MS. At an early age, she married Grady Clyde Burton, a covenant relationship that continued until his death on September 19, 2004. To that home were born five children.



Mrs. Clyde Burton

Her mind was sharp, and her interest in people was great.

On November 17, she fell and suffered a spiral fracture from her hip to her knee. She had surgery to repair the break, and the care at the hospital was all that anyone

could ask, but her weakened body could not overcome the complications that developed. She lapsed into a coma and crossed into that eternal realm November 22, to receive the welcome home that awaits all of God's children.

A little "aside" that speaks volumes about Theola's focus in life: On the way to the hospital in the ambulance, she made opportunity to talk with the attendant about his soul, and was happy that he wrote on his arm some of the Scripture references and promised to study them. During those five days at the hospital, we gave quite a number of copies of *The Voice of Truth International* and select study books to the nurses and doctors. Her intention always was to make a way to bring up the subject of salvation. Her life has been a motivational example for all of those who knew her.

### Reader's Response

...because of a cross...

Sorry for the delay in sending my donation...The Magnolia Messenger will continue to be on my donor list because it is so valuable to accomplish your goals. I pray that Paul's good letter and card have provoked many to love and good works. **Because of a cross, (Mary Warren, Memphis, TN)**

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



## Close Enough!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A few weeks ago **King McCarver**, pulpit minister for the Beech Hill congregation (near Ripley, MS) suggested that James Horton, associate minister at Beech Hill, send an article he had written to the MM. Brother King said, "Thank you for your excellent article sent to me on Monday... As I said last night, it is astonishing that many can have a dismissive view of baptism when the NT has so much to say about its significance. Thus there is the continuing need for teaching that will open eyes that

have been closed by denominational slogans and assertions that give false comfort. I am grateful, James, for your article. It does that needed teaching, and it does so in a way that holds the reader's attention from start to finish..." He then asked, "Have you considered sending it to A. L. Franks for possible publication in the MM? Sometimes he prints articles that he has seen in church bulletins."

**Thanks King for your suggestion. Thanks James for your article.**  
(Al Franks, editor)

### Here is the Article

#### James Horton

Have you ever pulled into a parking space and parked your car too near one line or the other and said, "Oh well—close enough!" Or, have you done minor repairs around the house and cut a board a little too short and decided, "Well, it's close enough?" Maybe you threw papers as a kid and hit the bushes instead of the porch and you went on your way while saying to yourself, "That was close enough!"

How do you suppose such reasoning is seen in the eyes of God? Imagine anyone's half-hearted effort of obeying God as being "Close enough!" Do you think God is pleased with anyone just coming close to obeying His will?

The Scriptures teach that in order for anyone to become a Christian, he must hear the gospel message (Rom. 10:13-17), believe what is taught (John 20:30-31), repent of his sins (Acts 17:30-31), confess his faith in Christ as the Son of God (Rom. 10:9-10), and be baptized for the forgiveness of his sins (Acts 2:38).

Upon learning of each of these requirements in order to receive salvation, what would you think of someone who went all the way up to — but leaving out baptism "for the remission of sins" — and then concluding, "Well, I'm close enough?"

How can one possibly claim to be saved when he has not done all that God requires for one to receive salvation from sin? Is it close enough for God to accept



James Horton

his coming short of doing all that is required?

In I Samuel 15, God commanded Saul to destroy the Amalekites — enemies of the people of God. When Saul failed to completely destroy them, and came back

with King Agag and the best of the spoils, God rejected him as king over Israel. God called Saul's action of partial obedience, "rebellion" (23), and in verse 24 Saul admitted, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord. . ." God was displeased with Saul's "close enough" attitude regarding his obedience to God.

In Numbers 13, the Israelites approached the border of the 'promised land' but failed to enter the land "flowing with milk and honey." Although they were close, they were not allowed to enter! (Read Heb. 3 & 4)

It is sad for anyone to come short of the goal for which he has worked and anticipated for so long a time! Remember, we shall reap, "if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9)

May God strengthen our resolve not to come short of our eternal rest! (Heb. 4:1)

**James Horton**  
839 Ashland Road  
Ripley, MS 38663  
jahortn@yahoo.com

The Magnolia Messenger  
is Supported by  
Volunteer  
Contributions from  
Churches and Christians.  
**THANK YOU!**

### Reader's Response

Brother Al,

Thank you for printing the article in the last issue of MAGNOLIA MESSENGER. I have had feedback from at least four, which shows that MM is widely circulated and read.

Thanks again for printing it. I hope 2012 is good to you and yours, and that you will have happiness, good health and a reasonable amount of prosperity. Yours in Christ, (Albert Gardner; Kennett, MO)

## Two Builders

One "Wise"; One "Foolish"  
Which One Are You?

- editor -

Remember Jesus' story about the "wise builder"? You know -- the man who built his house upon the rock. The "rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house...." And, you know what happened. Jesus said the house "fell not". Why? "For it was founded upon a rock."

But, then there was the "foolish builder." His house was built upon the sand. And when the rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house, it fell! What was the difference between the two builders. It was, basically, a difference of choice. The wise builder chose a solid foundation ("rock"); the foolish builder chose a weak foundation ("sand"). One house fell; the other house stood.

The two builders in Jesus' story represent two different types of hearers. One hears and obeys; the other hears and doesn't obey. Which type of builder are you -- wise or foolish? One who hears and obeys or one who hears and doesn't obey?

The choice is yours. Whether your house stands or falls is left up to you. Be a hearer of God's word, but don't stop with hearing. Don't stop with listening to sermons and/or just reading the Scriptures. Obey God. Listen to Jesus. Show your love for him by being submissive through doing his will. Remember also, it was Jesus who said, "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father in Heaven." (Matt. 7:21)

Magnolia Messenger

Welcomes Your  
Comments and Suggestions

## John Pigg Inducted Into SLCC "Hall of Fame"

On Saturday evening, January 7, 2012, my June and I were blessed to be in the company of a large number of Christians (some estimated the number to be 200) who have a special interest in the work of Sardis Lake Christian Camp, located on Sardis Lake near Batesville, Mississippi. The gathering took place in the activities building of the Senatobia church of Christ.

The main purpose of the meeting was to promote the work of the camp and to recognize the dedicated services of two special brethren who have meant much to the NW Mississippi Camp which has had a great spiritual impact on thousands of young people for more than 40 years. The honorees were **John Pigg** and **Charles Frazier, Jr.**

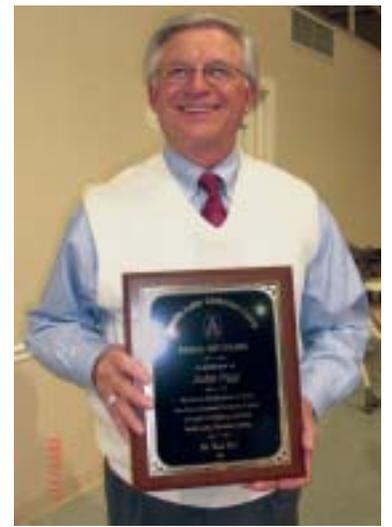
Charles Frazier, Jr., deceased, was represented by many members of his family. He began his work with SLCC, as a counselor, in the summer of 1982. Each year he would take a week vacation from his work with the Memphis Fire Department so he could assist in the work of the Camp.

Concerning brother Charles, it was said, "He had a relationship with children unlike many others. His sense of humor made him an approachable figure that was easy to come to in time of need. Children who were fortunate enough to get to know him understood that underneath his exterior was one of the kindest, most gentle men around. The children, who were taught by him, encouraged by him, led by him, and mentored by him were surely better off for having had him in their lives."

John Pigg had his first experience with a youth camp in 1968 when he was asked to lead singing and teach a Bible class at Mid-South Youth Camp in Henderson, Tennessee. In 1969 John began his work with SLCC which, over the years, found him serving as a counselor, session director and a member of the Board of Directors. On behalf of young people, he has been an effective promoter and fund-raiser. John has seen the blessings that come into the lives of those who were privileged to attend SLCC.

On the evening of the Senatobia gathering, the guest speaker was **Daren Howard** of Collierville, Tennessee. Daren is a Managing Partner in the Mid-South for Mohorn & Associates, LLC, and a franchise group for Dale Carnegie Training, Inc.

Daren's talk inspired all of us to appreciate the power of effective communication. He stressed the value of enthusiasm, noting that the word "enthusiasm" originally suggested, "God within us."



John Pigg  
Honored: "Hall of Fame"

He proclaimed that an enthusiastic communicator will show fervor; he will be "fired up." He mentioned a sign on an office wall in which an employer reminded his workers, "If you are not fired up, you will be."

Daren proceeded to share with us three lessons he had learned about communicating with others. According to the gifted communicator, the lessons are: (1) "Make the other person feel important." (2) "Show honest, sincere appreciation for the other person." (3) "Communicate well, often and personally."



Daren Howard

In closing his remarks, the talented speaker called upon us to consider the teaching of 2 Corinthians 3:18 which shows that needed changes can come through the proper influences in our lives. He also cited Luke 6:40 which shows the value of the master (teacher) over his disciple. It seems that Daren was saying that we can all learn, we can do better and we can and should learn to communicate more effectively.

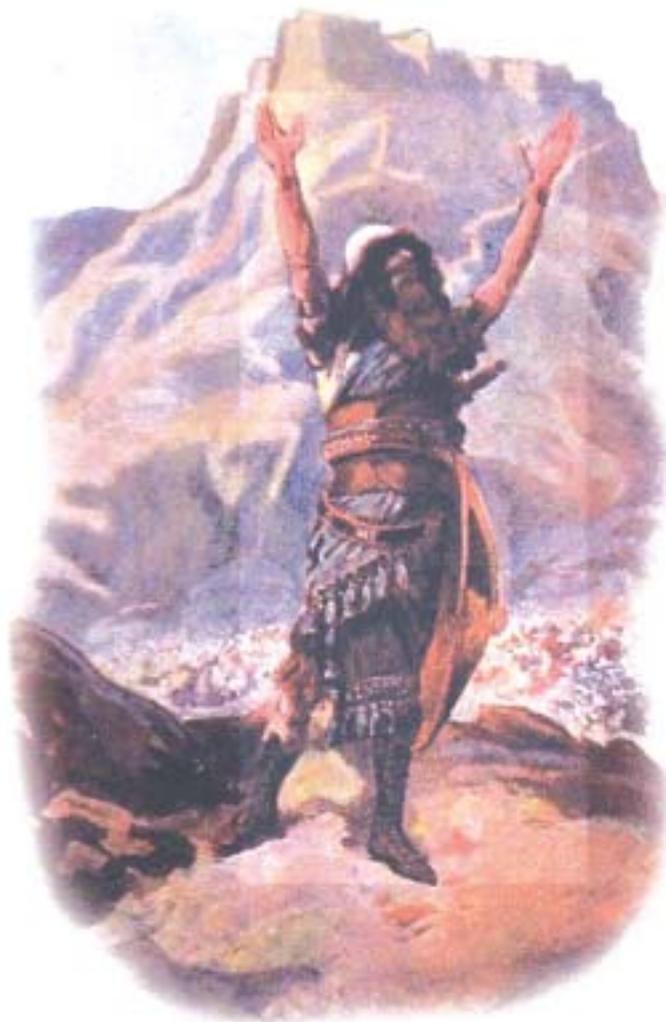
Other Hall of Fame Honorees for SLCC include the following: (2007) **F. W. "Woody" Loden, III** and **the Sawyer Family**. (2008) **Sam Hester** and **Ray Lipe**. (2009) **Jones Connection** and **Robert Rawson**. (2010) **James Alfred "JAP" Puryear**, **David Chadwell** and **David Pryor**.

Danny Jones serves as caretaker for the camp. He has become a vital part of the overall work of SLCC. His efforts are greatly appreciated. For more information, write or call:



Danny Jones

Sardis Lake Christian Camp  
176 Four H Club Rd  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662-563-9647



# WE'RE LOOKING FOR GIDEON AND HIS 300!

**Yes, we're looking for a strong, Biblically-sound and passionate man (and wife) to take the lead in a much needed work in the Lord's church. We're calling him "Gideon".**

**And we're looking for his 300 warriors who will work with him and with God, to turn things around in the church.**

## What is the reason for this search?

(the World Evangelism Team, Winona, MS;  
[Choate@WorldEvangelism.org](mailto:Choate@WorldEvangelism.org); 662-283-1192)

Have you noticed how many of our young people leave the Lord soon after leaving home? The statistics are high. One of the primary reasons is that our class materials are not covering definitive doctrine, so it is not surprising that there are people who regularly attend our worship services who do not know the difference between the church of Christ and the denominational world.

Some now question the necessity of baptism. Some see no problem with adding instruments of music to worship. Some think of the New Testament as a book of ideals rather than laws laid down by God. Many in the church have accepted "tolerance" and "compromise" to the point that the authority of the Scriptures has been rendered meaningless.

When the older generations, that were reputed to really know the Scriptures, are gone, what kind of apostasy will take place in the American church? What will be the reality twenty years down the road?

How can we bring the church back to the point of real conviction and motivation? The one answer seems to be developing literature -- **the full spectrum, from cradle roll through adult** -- that will prepare ourselves and our children with *knowledge of God's*

*Word*, and with the experience of a *living* relationship with Him, so that if this growing trend of secular opposition to Christianity continues to escalate, we -- and our children -- will be able to stand.

### Permeate all of the lessons with our five "P"s:

- + Purity of life
- + Purpose in this world
- + Prayer
- + Providence
- + Passion for God

The lessons we plan will be neither "conservative" nor "liberal" nor "legalistic" but, rather, *Biblical*. They must be balanced, not a reaction to anything. If the Bible doesn't provide the authority for a belief or practice, *we won't teach it*. If it is a Biblical doctrine, *we have the obligation to incorporate it into the spectrum*, but the doctrine must be taught with understanding and explanation of why God asks this and what He is accomplishing by it.

**Christians experienced in writing, teaching, artwork, layout work, editing, proofreading, etc., who would like to volunteer to help develop these materials are urged to contact us at 662-283-1192 or [Choate@WorldEvangelism.org](mailto:Choate@WorldEvangelism.org).**

## What Do We Propose?

### Component Parts

- + **Classbooks, cradle-roll through adult** -- perfect-bound, full-color books for the child to keep in his permanent library.
- + **Teacher's manual and visuals** for the room, with training DVDs (buy only once).
- + **LifeSpan** weekly paper for take-home.
- + **Book of Bible Knowledge** -- compilation of visuals for each lesson of each quarter, bound into book form, for the child's permanent library, for review throughout childhood.
- + **Flash cards** for memory work - picturized for younger children and a photo from lesson with verse on back for older children.
- + **Memory verses set to music**, with accompanying CDs.
- + **Time Lines** (4 levels, for Wednesday evening studies) show Biblical events, corresponding secular events in that time in world, as well as secular events with providential overruling -- changing the course of history.
- + **Parenting class materials** for Sunday classes and for family devotionals.
- + **Daily Devotional material** -- drills/review materials.
- + **Song books and CDs** -- Adult, teen, juvenile.
- + **VBS guides**, lessons, and pattern books, with DVDs for instructions.
- + **Bible Times Rooms** with instructions for making the rooms; lesson books, DVDs.
- + **Mission Learning Centers** with instructions for making the rooms; lesson books, DVDs.
- + **DVDs** of special adult class materials.
- + **DVDs** of Holy Land experiences.
- + **Power points** of classes.
- + **DVDs of classes**, taught by experienced teachers and made available for small churches, lacking teachers.
- + **Materials for small-group meetings**, dealing especially with evangelism and other lessons in outreach and teaching.
- + **Bible Character dolls and sets** for 3-D lessons.
- + **Hands-on objects** for cradle roll classes.
- + **DVDs** to teach cradle roll teachers.





Most of the above were members or were closely associated with the Hollandale church

### Hollandale, Mississippi Church Group Reunited

**Editor's Note:**

A few months ago (on Labor Day weekend) about 50 Christians from Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee gathered together at Leroy Percy State Park, near Hollandale, MS. The purpose of the meeting, arranged by **Bruce Pate** and **Robert Rawson**, was to reunite, for a short time, sev-

eral who were once members of the Hollandale church of Christ which, sadly, no longer assembles in the delta town of about 3400 souls.

A few weeks ago, we received the above picture from Bruce Pate with the request that we run it in the next issue of the MM. Glad to do so. Thank you, Bruce.

*Pictured: (front; from left) Wesley Lester, Faye Obyrant, Marcell Brannan, Connie Tice, Dale Pate, Ronda Berry, Tina Hollman, (from left - back) Robert Rawson, Bruce Pate, Wilma Berry, Milinda Eubanks, Betty Anderson, Lizzie Mae Baugh, Charles Berry, Shirley DeWitt, Marie Clark, Earl Whitted*

### News Note

**SHERMAN**

At the Freed-Hardeman lecture-ship we were privileged to see **Teresa Semore**. Teresa infomed us that her son **Dustin** was now preaching for the Church of Christ at Sherman, Mississippi. A thank-ful mama that shared some good news for the Magnolia Messenger.

W  
H  
E  
R  
E?  
  
F  
O  
R  
G  
O  
T!

Somewhere in Mississippi -- Home of another church of Christ



## 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'-



Come in your RV or stay in Cabin or Motel

**More Information: Page 9**



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)

## Church Autonomy

- Dennis Doughty -



Dennis Doughty

dennis1848@bellsouth.net

While at the Freed-Hardeman Bible Lectureship I was glad to hear it stated at the Open Forum that the moderator did not speak for churches of Christ, nor did the University serve as an eldership of our brotherhood. This emphasized the autonomy, or "self-government" that exists in churches of Christ.

The Lord's church does not have a central headquarters, other than Heaven. We are connected by a common faith, nothing more. We honor only one authority; Jesus Christ. (Mt. 28:18-20). We have neither produced, authorized, nor deferred to any man made creed, but honor only the inspired Word of God. We do not pledge allegiance to any convention but "love the brotherhood" (I Peter 2:17).

There is diversity within churches of Christ. During efforts to restore the church to its original state, the early preachers proclaimed, "In Matters of Faith Unity, In Matters of Opinion Liberty, In All Things Charity." A motto that summarizes the teachings of Romans 14. There are many viewpoints that are not "matters of faith" within our church family. While we accept diversity, we denounce division, striving to maintain "the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians. 4:3). Yet there are no "official decisions" handled down from headquarters, or a university campus, proclaiming "The Church position." Rather we individually "search the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11) to see what the Lord would have us do.

I have found something interesting about churches of Christ in this modern age; We believe the Bible. A lady from another faith asked me recently, "Do you really believe that story of Noah and the Ark?" I looked at her with some surprise and said, "Well of course I do. I believe the Bible!" Many people today are truly perplexed by this. We believe the Bible. We really do!

When asked "What does the Church of Christ teach?" on a particular subject, our reply is "the church does not teach, but follows Christ's teachings." We strive to imitate, not to instigate; convert, not command; obey, not organize. Our preachers are not "ordained" but tested, our elders -- not "Lords," but servants; our women not preachers or elders, but help-meets and valuable workers. (See 1 Corinthians 11:1; Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Peter 5:3; 1 Timothy 2:9-12)

Church autonomy has many benefits, which reveals the wisdom of God. It encourages Bible study (rather than wait for a decision or lesson material from Headquarters), curtails division (limits it to only one congregation, not an entire brotherhood), and promotes local leadership (not a hierarchy). We read that Elders were appointed "in every church" (Acts 14:23). This enabled every congregation to rule itself, and is the example we follow today in churches of Christ. ■

**Elders  
are  
Shepherds  
or  
Pastors**

*Kensington Woods Church of Christ*  
415 S. 40th Avenue • Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
(601) 264-2945  
  
Brian K. Anderson - Shepherd  
(601) 264-2945  
[BAAnderson@kensingtonwoodschurchofchrist.org](mailto:BAAnderson@kensingtonwoodschurchofchrist.org)

A few months ago, when visiting Sunday services of the Kensington Woods church in Hattiesburg, an elder (Brian K. Anderson) gave me one of his cards. As shown above, his card states that he is a "Shepherd." The word "shepherd" is very scriptural and appropriate to designate a vital and good work (I Tim. 3:1ff).

**Shepherds or Pastors are commanded to:**  
"feed the church of God"  
"take care of the church"  
"watch for souls"  
"feed the flock";  
"take the oversight";  
be "examples to the flock"  
(Acts 20:28; I Tim.3:1-7;  
Heb. 13:17; I Pet 5:2,3)



Silvia and Bernard Waites

## Minister Honored For 50 Years Service

- Sherry Johnson -

Beautiful spring like weather was the backdrop on Saturday, January 28, 2012, for a reception given by the members of the Perrytown Church of Christ. The celebration was to honor their minister, Bernard Waites and his wife, Silvia, on the occasion of fifty years of devoted service to our Lord, his church, and his community.

Approximately one hundred and forty friends and family attended the afternoon celebration at the fellowship hall of the church of Christ in Perrytown, Mississippi.

Beautiful fresh flowers adorned several tables in the hall. The guests were served a sumptuous buffet of homemade cakes of all varieties, sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, punch and soft drinks.

A beautiful blanket with pictures made during the past fifty years of the honoree, his family, and church members was displayed on one wall. A scrapbook full of memories, pictures, cards, and best wishes was also displayed for the guests viewing as well as a slide show of pictures taken during the past fifty years. These items were presented as gifts to the honoree and his wife for their enjoyment.

Brother Waites, Silvia, his young daughter, and his hunting dog arrived in Wilkinson County in January, 1962, at which time he began preaching for the Perrytown church and the Corinth church of Christ, located nearby in the Buffalo community. He has diligently and faithfully served members of **both** congregations for the past fifty years. The last Sunday in January, 1962, began

a lifetime of service that no one would have predicted.

Every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m., Bro. Waites leaves his home, going to the Perrytown congregation to teach a Bible class and preach a sermon. Then he goes to the Corinth congregation in time for worship services where he preaches another sermon. On Sunday evenings at Corinth, he preaches yet another sermon. He teaches a Bible study class on Tuesday night at Perrytown and on Wednesday night at Corinth. He has done this faithfully for fifty years, only missing three times on Sunday due to illness or while taking a vacation to travel.

At his request, there is no written record of the numerous marriages he has performed or the many funerals he has conducted. He has also held gospel meetings throughout the United States and in Saint Vincent, West Indies, and India.

Over the past fifty years, he has taught at Woodville Attendance Center, also driving the school bus to supplement his income.

He was elected to two terms as Wilkinson County Superintendent of Education, serving from January 1968 to January of 1976. He served as Headmaster of Pine Hills Academy for two years. He then taught for twenty years at Wilkinson County Christian Academy, retiring in 2006.

Brother Bernard Waites was initiated into the Mississippi Teachers Hall of Fame in 2003 and recognized by the Mississippi Economic Council's

**Turn to Waites on Page 18 - #1**

## Minister Waites

### Fifty Years & Still Counting

- by David Pryor -

*"He was there for me and for my children's births, for my grandparent's funerals and for my parents deaths."*

*"He has been my minister my entire life."*

*"He simply is the best minister ever made. God broke the mold when he made him."*

All of these accolades and many more were all spoken about one humble and loving minister of God's word. One who has served not one but two different congregations in Wilkinson County for more than 50 years.

Bernard and Silvia Waites moved to Woodville, Mississippi in 1962 along with their six month old daughter and began a career in God's service that is unmatched in our State today.

He is a more than life sized man, standing six feet tall with broad shoulders, Brother Waites is known to everyone in Wilkinson County (in the southwest corner of Mississippi) as "Brother," "Boo," "Brother Waites" or simply "Preacher."

He has married hundreds of young Mississippians and has been there to send scores of loved ones on to their final resting place with heartfelt remarks at funerals and wakes. He has never kept up with statistics of his wedding ceremonies, nor his funeral services. He simply says he does not want to take the attention away from those he is holding services for. "I am there for them," he said "I don't ever want to be guilty of boasting."

During the month of January of this year the two congregations for which brother Waites labors, held appreciation services for the stately grandfather of five. In appreciation for his length of service, the Corinth church in the Woodville community presented him with a **brand new Silverado pickup truck.**

The Perrytown church, in the Perrytown community, held a reception in his and Miss Silvia's honor, a reception attended by not only church members, but members of the community as well. Each person took their time to hug Brother and Sister Waites and then take a moment to reflect on what they have meant to everyone. Brother Waites sat patiently listening with a broad smile on his face as people would

**See Waites on Page 18 - # 2**

## Practical Suggestions For Becoming a Soul Winner

Seth Sullivan

In the last edition of the Magnolia Messenger I submitted an article titled, "Becoming A Soul-Winner."

I received several encouraging responses with many

people desiring to know more about the practical side of how to accomplish this task. Therefore, I felt compelled to write a part II.

As stated in my prior article, soul-winning is something we **become** (Mark 1:17). It is a process. Learning how to evangelize takes study, time, and patience. Being persistent will result in personal growth. Specifically, the main reoccurring question that has been asked by several readers is, "What do I need to do to become a soul-winner?" Allow me to offer a few suggestions.

First, decide that you will not allow fear to get in the way! God did not give us a "spirit of fear" (2 Tim. 1:7). God can use you as an instrument to accomplishing His will, no matter what your age, if you will let Him (2 Chron. 34ff). Be ready and willing to make evangelism a way of life.

Secondly, get yourself trained. Find yourself a partner; whether that person is your spouse, children, or a close friend in the church. Set a scheduled time to meet each week with that person to study the Bible. Ask your church leaders to provide you with Bible study materials which incrementally take you through the Bible. Several resources are available through our brotherhood universities.

For church leaders, it would be most beneficial to have an entire quarter dedicated to studying how to evangelize. This will provide a **s y s t e m a t i c** approach to training. Not only can fundamentals



Seth Sullivan

be examined, but also learning how to ask the right questions (i.e. open questions) but will also engage every member of the body.

There are lesson materials available from faithful

brothers in Christ. For example, Stephen Rogers in his series, "Evangelism Made Simple" provides a teacher's handbook and student workbooks. It provides a 13-week lesson series leading a person to immersion and living faithfully in the church. An important question for any church leader I think would be, "How are we equipping the saints for soul-winning?"

I would encourage congregational leaders to set up an evangelism resource room at the church building. This is a room designed specially for evangelism needs. At the congregation where I serve, we call it the "**ER**" (*evangelism resource*) room:

- \* Storing various tracts, Bible correspondence courses, and Bible study methods

- \* Has a table with chairs available in the room for members to hold one-on-one Bible studies

- \* Has a television with a DVD player for viewing "Jule Miller" films and "Searching For Truth"

After you have given adequate time to studying the Word, prepare for one-on-one Bible study! Recent statistics indicate that the number one way of reaching out to others is through friendship evangelism. In other words, when colleagues at work, a friend at the gym, or life-long associates engage in conversation concerning spiritual matters, ask them if they would be interested in studying that

matter further. Set up a study time. Offer to them where they would like to hold the study (i.e. your home, their home, "ER" room at the See SETH, Page 18



## When the New Begins to Fade

- John Gardner -

It seems only a few days ago we were living in the first square of the new 2012 monthly calendar. We were praising God in worship on the first day of the new week, of the new month, and of the new year. But soon it was over and we began that speedy trip through the days and weeks of 2012. That feeling of new began to fade.

Many of the new presents we received during the holidays soon lost that exciting luster of newness. The new resolutions made the first days of January don't seem as new because they have either become a regular part of our daily lives or have been abandoned.

What happens when the incredible gifts of God's grace which make possible a really "new life" begin to

lose some of their brightness and excitement for us? What are

we to do when we can speak of "newness of life" without joy and gratitude surging through hearts? Let's consider the kind of "new" God gives us in Christ, what we can do to keep that "new" life fresh, and what incredible "new" things God has in store for us at last.

When a person turns in humble obedience to the gospel of Christ for salvation he or she becomes "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17, New King James Version). Totally new! The old life of sin is ended, the "old man" of sin has been crucified (Romans 6:6). One arises from the burial of baptism to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). New standing with God, new blessings to enjoy, and new directions to go. New relationships in the body of Christ to cultivate and deepen. New challenges to face, battles to wage, and victories to win in Christ.

But sometimes the "new" begins to fade for some and they gradually drift back to the "old." That possibility explains why so much is written in the New Testament about staying with the new and how to do that. Romans 6 is a lengthy passage about living up to one's baptism and living out the new life. Two thirds of Colossians 3 and half of Ephesians 4 is about the same



John Gardner

matter of keeping newness in one's spiritual life.

Look more closely at Ephesians 4:17-24. Paul testified in the Lord that the Ephesian Christians must make a break with any of the old Gentile ways they

had known when they had lived in futility of mind, with d a r k e n e d understanding, in ignorance,

with a blind heart, and in all forms of sin. They were to focus anew on Jesus who taught them a whole new way of life.

The apostle reminds the Ephesians that they could and must "put off...the old man which grows corrupt through deceitful lusts" (V. 22). They had been taught better, but they were returning to their old ways. The "newness" of life in Christ had begun to fade and they looked to the old to enrich their lives.

To find a high level of satisfying, God-honoring newness again required that they be "renewed in the spirit of [their] mind" (V. 23). A mind renewed and refreshed in the joys of kingdom living would help them reconnect with the "new man" of righteousness and holiness God created in them at the first (V. 24). The renewing of the mind is

central to finding again the new life and proving just how good and perfect and acceptable God's will is (Romans 12:1,2).

Focusing daily on the Word of God, the will of God, and the ways of God can renew our thinking. Seeking God's compassions and mercies which are "new every morning" (Lamentations 2: 22, 23) revives and renews the spirit. Praying as David that God would "renew a steadfast spirit" in us and "restore...the joy of...salvation" to us (Psalm 51:10,12) will open our lives for Him to keep us new and fresh. Launching out by faith to serve the Lord in new and better ways will transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. If we do these things, the "old" life of sin and selfishness will never look so bad, nor the "new" life in the Savior ever look so good.

We need to remember that we are moving toward that heavenly realm where God makes all things new (Revelation 21:5). We are looking forward to new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3: 13; Revelation 21:1). The City of God, New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2), will be our home. We will have a new permanent place with God and new names will be written upon us (Revelation 3: 12). All of the old sufferings, sadness, disappointments, pains and death itself will be gone because the former things will then have passed away (Revelation 21:4).

If the vibrancy, joy, energy, and zest of the new life God has given us in His Son ever begins to fade, run—don't walk—to the One who makes all things new and be renewed from the inside out all over again.

John Gardner  
P.O. Box 251  
Brandon, MS 39043-0251  
gardner.john43@gmail.com

**We were praising God in worship on the first day of the new week, of the new month, and of the new year.**

**If the vibrancy, joy, energy, and zest of the new life God has given us in His Son ever begins to fade, run—don't walk—to the One who makes all things new and be renewed from the inside out all over again.**

**THANK YOU**  
for  
**Receiving & Reading**  
the  
**Magnolia Messenger**

Make Plans to Attend the 14th Annual

### Magnolia Messenger RV Rally

April 24-28, 2012 (Tue - Sat)

Lake Tiak O'Khata Resort

213 Smyth Lake Road

Louisville, Mississippi 39339

Reservations Line 1-888-845-6151

Phone (662) 773-7853; www.ltok.com

**Cecil May, Jr.; Resource Speaker**

RV Sites \$19 (Full hook ups); Hotel Rooms— \$68 and up  
Cabins \$110 (Can Share); Efficiency Suites \$135

For more information contact:

**Paul Franks**

apaulfranks@gmail.com

337-515-7314

For the last 13 years Christians from many different states have gathered in the spring and fall at different locations to have fellowship and study the Bible together and show support for the Magnolia Messenger. Many of these Christians attend in some kind of RV. Others stay in hotels, cabins and some have even stayed in tents. We would love for you to attend our 14th annual RV Rally and make your way to Louisville, Mississippi and stay at the beautiful Lake Tiak O'Khata. If you don't have an RV, book a room at their hotel or rent a cabin. We will be eating together during the rally. Cecil May, Jr. will be speaking several times. We will have some fun things to do and we will enjoy the beauty of God's creation. If you would like a complete schedule send me an email or call me. I hope to see you in April at the Lake Tiak O'Khata Resort. (Paul Franks)

## NEW BOOK

### "Finding the Heart of Christ"

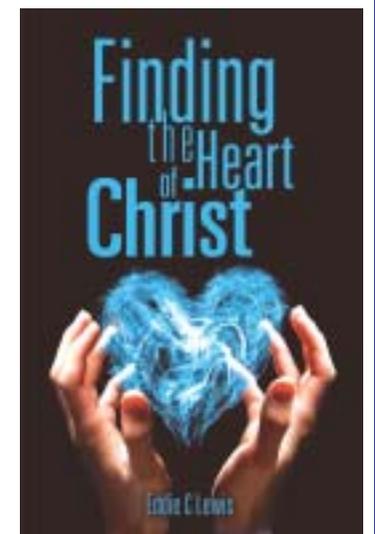


By Eddie Lewis

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.



# Spiritual Erosion

- Editor -

The Lord's church rests upon a very solid foundation. Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Upon this rock, I will build my church." The rock (Greek: "Petra") upon which Jesus built his church, according to Strong's Greek Dictionary, means "a mass of rock" and is clearly different from the name Jesus gave to Simon; that is "Peter" (Greek: "Petros") which means "a piece of rock." The church of Jesus Christ was not built upon Peter (a piece of rock); rather upon "this rock" (a mass of rock).

That foundation upon which the church was built is the truth confessed by the apostle Peter in Matthew 16:16 where Peter declared his faith, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (Matthew 16:13-18). The Lord's church was founded upon a solid foundation, a divine platform -- the fact that Jesus was divine; that he was/is, indeed, the **Son of God!**

Furthermore, in this remarkable passage, Jesus promised, "I will build my church." The church was yet in the future at the time Jesus spoke. It had not been built or established. Also, Jesus made very clear that what He was about to build was "His church." It belonged to Him. It was a divine institution to be built upon the solid foundation of His Sonship; His divinity. This solemn promise and its fulfillment sets the church of our Lord apart from all other organizations or institutions founded by men and built upon that which is less than divine.

The church of Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament, established in the first century, is the world's greatest institution. For the church Jesus willingly gave His life. He "purchased the church with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). To the church Jesus adds the saved (Acts 2:47) and Jesus is declared to be the "Saviour of the body (church)" (Ephesians 5:23).

The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus left heaven, came to earth for the purpose of saving His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). The inspired physician (Luke) wrote that Jesus came to "seek and to save that

which was lost." (Luke 19:10). While on earth, Jesus shed his blood "for the remission of sins" and with his blood, He purchased his church (Matt. 26:28; Acts 20:28). There is an unbreakable connection in Scripture between the Lord's church and man's salvation; thus, making the church of Jesus Christ the most important organization in the world!

Sadly, as Jesus warned in Matthew 7:15, there were, and are, "false prophets" which come in "sheep's clothing" but inwardly they are "ravening wolves." They work to under-mind, to erode those eternal truths plainly taught in Scripture that should be held as dear and precious by all believers. A few of the areas in which New Testament Christianity is under attack and the enemies of Christ are seeking to undermine and erode are listed, as follows.

- (1) The inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures.
- (2) The seriousness of sin and man's need for salvation.
- (3) Jesus Christ is **the** Saviour -- the **only** Saviour!
- (4) The plain, simple plan of salvation which includes faith, repentance and baptism.
- (5) The necessity of being obedient as evidence of faith in Jesus.
- (6) The place of the church in God's plan for the salvation of man.



Singing Youth from Huntsville, MS Church Bless Nursing Home Patients

(7) Acceptable worship requires worshipping in spirit and in truth.

(8) The need to follow New Testament teachings regarding the organization of Christ's church which includes elders and deacons in each congregation.

(9) The necessity to "walk in the Spirit" and to bear the "fruit of the Spirit" (See Galatians 5).

(10) The fact that "walking after the flesh" and continuing to practice such sins as fornication, idolatry, hatred, strife, drunkenness and such like" will result in eternal separation from God. Remember the warning: "...They which do such things shall **not inherit the kingdom of God.**" (Gal. 5:19-21)

(11) The necessity of practicing "pure religion" which includes "visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction" and keeping oneself "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

Sadly, slowly but surely, some are chipping away at many of the great truths clearly imbedded in God's plan for the salvation of lost humanity. As a result of such evil influences, even some in the Lord's church are removing from that solid foundation upon which the church was built and are allowing an alarming erosion of their standing with God. Let's be on guard. "Watch and pray" as Jesus commanded. "Be sober; be watchful," Peter warned, adding, "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:9). (A. L. Franks)

**Let's be on guard. "Watch and pray" as Jesus commanded. "Be sober; be watchful," Peter warned, adding, "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:9).**

## Rocky Creek church of Christ

3211 Rocky Creek Road  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
601.947.2231 rockycreekchurch@bellsouth.net  
www.rockycreekchurchofchrist.wesbly.com

### Elders

Dos Gardner  
Sid Smith  
Ben Harrison

### Deacons

Ston James-Education  
Lance Chevers-Building  
Preston Goff-Treasurer  
Jeremy McKnight-Youth  
Mario Michiel-Youth

Pulpit: Stephen Crigler  
Secretary: Peggy Havard

### Our Schedule

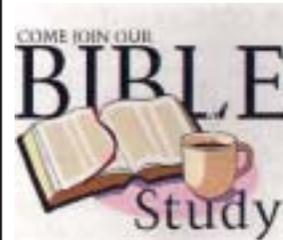
Sunday: Bible Class - 9am  
Worship - 10am & 6pm  
Wednesday: Bible Class - 7pm

## Mississippi Church Bulletins

Those of us associated with the MM appreciate all church bulletins that find their way to us. This includes *internet* bulletins, as well. It seems to us, however, that printed ones seem to carry a little more "weight" and get more attention.

We are pleased to share with MM readers a sample of what was found in a recent printed version of the bulletin from the Rocky Creek church, near Lucedale, MS, where **Stephen Crigler** preaches and the church secretary is **Peggy Havard**.

### An Invitation



### Sentence Sermon

"Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good...."

## Get A Bigger Pan



Bigger Pan Picture from MM Files

Two men went fishing one time. One man was an experienced fisherman, the other wasn't. Every time the experienced fisherman caught a big fish, he put it in his ice chest to keep it fresh. Whenever the inexperienced fisherman caught a big fish, he threw it back.

The experienced fisherman watched this go on all day and finally got tired of seeing this man waste good fish. "Why do you keep throwing back all the big fish you catch?" he asked.

The inexperienced fisherman replied, "I only have a small frying pan."

Sometimes, like that fisherman, we throw back the big plans, the big dreams, the big opportunities, the big jobs that God gives us. Our faith is too small.

\* Are you still at the same place you were spiritually five years ago? *Get a bigger pan!*

\* Are you content with just coming to worship service on Sunday morning? *Get a bigger pan!*

\* Do you keep telling yourself that you are going to get more involved in the church, but never do? *Get a bigger pan!*

\* Do you have an overwhelming sensation to respond to the invitation each time it is offered, but leave without doing so? *Get a bigger pan!*

We laugh at the fisherman who didn't figure out that all he needed was a bigger frying pan; and yet how ready are we to increase the size of our faith?

via Rocky Creek Bulletin

Do You Have Friends or Relatives You would like to receive the Magnolia Messenger?

Send us their names and addresses.  
**Magnolia Messenger**  
**P. O. Box 1578**  
**Kosciusko, MS 39090**



Place of Assembly for the Southaven Church of Christ

We were in the northwest corner of Mississippi, when on the second of the five Sundays in January, 2012, my June and I were blessed with an opportunity to “drop-in” for an evening worship service with our brothers and sisters who are known as the Southaven church of Christ.

Shortly before services were scheduled to begin, we entered their beautiful building and enjoyed meeting several who had come together for the regular evening worship services. Among the cordial brethren were **Tommy and Peggy Shull** -- two of our long time friends and “camping buddies.”

As services started, the song leader asked us to turn to song number 271. As I picked up a book to turn to the selection, I noticed that the congregation was benefiting from the use of an excellent “new” hymnal edited by **W. D. Jeffcoat**, published a few years ago.

After we sang enthusiastically “Faith is the Victory”, we then asked ourselves in song, “Why Did Our Saviour Come to Earth?” This song was followed by an opening prayer and then, together, we spoke consoling words of hope as we sang, “Farther Along”.

At the appropriate time, Wade Webster, pulpit minister at Southaven, walked into the pulpit and invited all, saying, “If you will, open your Bible.” The reference he cited was James 4:1-12 and his announced subject was “Prayers That Avail Nothing.” When he mentioned “Prayer,” I recalled that earlier that same day, when visiting the Senatobia church, the morning Bible class study was on the same mean-

ingful topic -- “Prayer”. I’m so thankful that brethren continue to emphasize the powerful privilege of prayer.

Based on the text from James chapter four, brother Webster presented several reasons why some prayers do not avail. In a handout, which was used in addition to “Power Point”, he had printed an outline of his sermon which listed several “Prayers That Avail Nothing.” Seven prayers that avail nothing were named. They were listed as Sensual, Silent, Selfish, Snobs, Sinners, Skeptics and Slanders.

Brother Wade, following closely the writings of James, effectively stressed scriptural reasons why some prayers are not heard and/or not answered by God. His lesson also reminded

us of how to pray effectively, so that our prayers “avail much.” It was a good lesson and a good visit. It helped to build within us a desire to return, sooner than later, to worship with our brethren of the Southaven congregation.

The

Southaven church is presently overseen by three elders. They are **Con Lambert, Larry Everson and Vern Scrimsher**. According to their website, the church is also served by six deacons. In addition to **Wade Webster** (pulpit), **Robert Jefferies** serves as an associate minister. He, too, has served as a minister at Southaven since 2007. May God bless all in their efforts to do His will and to glorify His name. (AI & June Franks)



Wade L Webster, Preacher

**MM**  
Invites Your Suggestions

## JESUS Politics and Polls

### - Fenter Northern -

Initially in their politics the nationalistic Jews saw Jesus as someone they might use to gain political leverage. He attracted large crowds with his preaching supporting it by doling out bread to the crowds. They could use a man like that to lead a revolt for national freedom. Endorsements ran wild, no compliment was good enough. The first polls came in and Jesus was far ahead of all the others who had claimed to be the Messiah.

“Come” they said “let’s make him a king.”

But— (politics always has a but) they hadn’t fully checked out Jesus’ thinking. They eventually discovered he had a strange idea that his kingdom was not of this world and his servants would never fight to make it so. He just would not go along with the party line.

Learning this he was no longer “the man” for their party. The “Nazarene carpenter” was trouble for them. High expectations quickly vanished. A man with his ideas was dangerous to their politics. Rather than helping their



Fenter Northern

Former Academic Dean of MBC

revolt he could undermine their cherished political goals. So, if he wouldn’t let them make him the party king they must destroy the opposition. So, they began poisoning the minds of the people. A new poll showed Jesus way down. How could they finish him off and prevent any future threats?

The party leaders Annas and Caiaphas made it all fall into place by mixing politics with religion. They would brand Jesus a heretic, charge him with blasphemy and make it all look legal to the public with a quick court trial. They

would use the media to incite crowds to yell “kill him” then they would pressure the governor to “line up” or they would complain to his superiors to remove him from office. It all came together and worked— much like today— but *God had the last word*. We— his few— must believe he still does!

Fenter & Sue Northern  
6213 Bell Grove Pl  
Montgomery, AL  
fnorthern@charter.net



Somewhere in Mississippi  
**ETERNITY**  
It’s Hell Without Jesus

# WindSong

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Memories of the past, visions of the future.  
1912 CENTENNIAL 2012

The WindSong Church of Christ (formerly the 6th and IZARD Church) of Little Rock, Arkansas will be celebrating their one hundred year anniversary during the month of May. The festivities will include special Bible classes, song services, and times of fellowship. Each Sunday morning during the month, the following guest speakers will address the congregation on these topics:

- May 06<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Howard Norton - “Looking Back” (Homecoming & Singing)
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - John Gipson - “Mothers and Children”
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Bruce McLarty - “Our Youth”
- May 27<sup>th</sup> - Larry Roberts - “Our Seniors”

Everyone is invited to come celebrate with us at #3 WindSong Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72113. Visit us at [www.windsongchurch.org](http://www.windsongchurch.org).

## Understanding Moral and Spiritual Issues -- #2: *Affirmation vs. Transformation*

- Roger Hines -

In the last few generations with the increasing secularization of our society, the role of Christ and His message has come under increasing criticism as to its value and purpose. This criticism in itself was once relegated to philosophers and social critics, such as David Hume, Karl Marx, J. J. Altizer, and Harvey Cox.

However, now with the popular culture enveloped in secular thinking, Christ is seen, at worst, as a myth that might have served some purpose in a more primitive time, but now, He is no longer relevant. At best, Jesus is a benign cheerleader who supports the goals of the society and of individual desires.

In other words, the message of Christ is a fluid message that can be adapted to support and justify the values that people have. Our society has seen this development in regards to issues such as abortion, gay rights, open marriage, the environmental movement, and euthanasia, to name just a few.

Thus, as Christians we must make clear that the message of Christ is not about affirmation but about transformation. God so loved the world that He sent His Son to change people, not to affirm their sins, not to approve of something that they had created but to restore what He had created.

To take the attitude that Jesus came to affirm our conduct is to say that we are basically good, and that the society that is created is good, without God's direction and defining of the terms of salvation. Indeed, this attitude says that we define what is right and wrong, what is good and evil, and what is tolerant and intolerant. Words like salvation, sin, evil, grace, and peace take on an entirely different meaning without the transforming message of Christ.

One of my favorite fiction books, if it can be called just fiction, is George Orwell's *Classic* 1984, published in 1949. The most telling social commentary in the novel for me is the scene in which the protagonist, Winston Smith, is eating lunch and conversing with a man who works in the Ministry of Truth. This man is working on the Newspeak Dictionary cutting out words that are extraneous,



Roger Hines

redundant, or that are conducive to "thought crime". The man proudly boasts, that after going through some further editions to refine the language, that all thought crime should be removed by 2050.

We live in a society that has become increasingly Orwellian in its language and thought that shapes our values today. Parents are now called primary caregivers, abortion is called pregnancy planning and the child is only referred to as a fetus. Homosexuality is called an alternative lifestyle. Even marriage is called traditional marriage, thus making it simply one of the life-styles and neither right nor wrong in itself. Sin is redefined as intolerance. We are already good because we determine what is good; what is evil is to restrict us in our freedom.

Ultimately, the focus is either upon God to direct our steps or the age old deception that claims that we can direct them. If we accept the great lie that truth and value revolves around humanity, then, in the words of George Orwell, "Love is hate, war is peace, truth is lie."

Jesus did not come into the world to condemn it (since it had already condemned itself through its human-driven programs and life-styles) but that it might be saved through Him (John 3:17). When we trust in our own goodness, then we will never trust in Christ, and the purchase of His blood will seem like water.

*Affirmation vs. transformation.* Remember the words of Paul: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2 (NKJV).

To be conformed to the agendas of this world is not good, is not acceptable, and always falls short of perfection. Christians cannot let the world determine what is right or wrong in private morality or in matters concerning the public welfare.

The transforming power of Christ gives us a new mind (I Corinthians 2:16), a new heart, a new purpose, and the correct definitions of salvation, sin, grace, and tolerance.

In subsequent issues of the Magnolia Messenger, the general principles, that have been briefly outlined here, will be given greater treatment as they apply to current movements and attitudes in our culture; but, underlying all of these is the difference between affirmation and transformation.

An unconverted world cannot produce a perfect or even better world; in fact, it only makes it worse by believing that imperfect people can govern other imperfect people without the message of Christ directing them. As Jesus said, "And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14—NKJV).

*Brother Roger is a former professor of Bible at MBC. He presently preaches for the church in Canton, MS. His address:*

**Roger Hines**  
305 South Huntington St  
Kosciusko, MS 39090  
hroger819@yahoo.com

Remembering  
"the good ole days"  
— — —  
"Honor Bucket"  
Still Used Sometimes



Seen at recent FHU Lectureship  
2 Cor. 8:9

"Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." (KJV)

someone added:  
"Put ALL your money in"



## 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

#### JIM DEMPSEY

Alice Dempsey  
(Bradford, AR)

#### RAY HERRINGTON MRS. CLETA MORGAN DEXTER ALLEN

Carolyn McCoy  
(Vicksburg, MS)  
Mrs. Joan M. Priddy  
(Vicksburg, MS)

#### EDNA MELTON VIVIAN MARTINDALE DOROTHY THORNTON

Sid & Jean Clemmer  
(Faulkner, MS)

#### RAY HERRINGTON

Frances Leist  
Carolyn Freeman  
(Roxie, MS)

#### WAYNE BRIDGES

Don & Mary Wates  
(Montgomery, AL)

#### DAVID JOHNSON

Charles & Mary Johnson  
(Hattiesburg, MS)  
Mrs. L. E. Gross  
(Port Lavaca, TX)

#### IONA CICET

Bobby & Sherry Johnson  
(Crosby, MS)

#### MARY LASKA DEES

Merrill Graddy  
(Ripley, MS)

#### NANNIE FAY WILSON NOLA GAIL WILSON BETTIE WILSON

Brenda Wilson  
(Smithville, MS)

#### M/M IDES RUTHERFORD

Shirley Spain  
(Jasper, AL)

#### ORA & ERNEST SPANN DOLORES WHATLEY

Gayle Waggener  
(Ball, LA)

#### NELL GOLDEN CHARLES DICKEY

Rick & Betty Bishop  
(Columbus, MS)

#### PAUL W. WALDEN

Gerald Walden  
(Ripley, MS)

#### HUGH ALLEN

Yvonne W. Carter  
(Vicksburg, MS)

#### J. ROY JOHNSON

Hazel Cook  
(Columbus, MS)

#### ETTA LESTER

John & Suzanne Walton  
(Madison, AL)

#### BESSYE WILLIAMS

Tommy & Pat Gray  
(Vaiden, MS)

#### MIRIAM D. MOORE

William Moore  
Priscilla Wolfe  
Vence Moore  
(Quitman, AR)

#### ODELL GRIFFIN

ANNIE JEANS FRANKS  
Reid & Frieda Thompson  
(DeRidder, LA)

#### PEGGY AGE

James H. Agee  
(Chattanooga, TN)

#### MAYBELLE MCBRIDE

Thomas McBride  
(Ripley, MS)

#### MRS. D. D. HUGHEY

M/M Darrell Morrison  
(Ripley, MS)

#### MR. EDD COX

MRS. DOROTHY COX  
M/M Edward E. Cox, Jr.  
(Monahans, TX)

#### J. MARLIN IVEY

Barrett & Bobbie Chapman  
(Ripley, MS)

#### MADELINE BROADAWAY

Charles & Juanita Fulgham  
(Yazoo City, MS)

#### JOHNNY ALDRIDGE

Garnett and Betty Harris  
(Brandon, MS)

### In Honor Of

#### WENDELL & FAYE DAVIS

Donny & Dottie Lawson  
(Brookhaven, MS)

#### FLODINE POWELL

Patsy & Frank McDaniel  
(Steens, MS)

#### CECIL MAY, JR.

Pierce Flatt  
(Pike Road, AL)

**Magnolia Messenger**  
P. O. Box 1578

Please: **Send Your Gifts To: Kosciusko, MS 39090**

## Readers' Response

### Encouragement From Over Much of the Nation

#### LOUISIANA

Continue the outstanding work that you all are doing. God bless MM spiritually, physically, and financially. (Clarence Bailey, Baker, LA)

#### MISSOURI

We wish for you another good year for MM. We do enjoy it so much. You are in our prayers. (Charles Pritchard, Steele, MO)

#### ARKANSAS

Dear brother Franks,

For years I have enjoyed reading the Magnolia Messenger. I know that it has been a labor of love on your part, as well as a blessing to the cause of Christ.

It's a joy to keep up with the various congregations and well-written articles that appear in each issue...

I regretted so much to learn of the death of J. Marlin Ivey. What a blessing this man has been to the brotherhood!

May God bless you with good health, and many years, to continue your dedicated service in the Kingdom. Warmest regards, (John Gibson, Little Rock, AR)

#### ALABAMA

Dear Bro. Franks,

Enclosed is a small amount to help with your fine paper. I enjoy it very much and feel it is a blessing to the brotherhood. Sincerely, (Lucretia McNeese, Vernon, AL)

#### MISSISSIPPI

I am praying that your work and the "Messenger" will be able to continue. You both have worked hard to produce this much needed "good news paper" for all of us. Prayfully, (Patty Henson, Kilmichael, MS)

Dear Magnolia Messenger Staff,

I'm honored, on behalf of a group of ladies at Goodman Oaks Church of Christ, to send this money collected in our Yoga class that meets twice a week in our church building. My name is Dianne Culley and I lead this class. I'm sure in the future we will remember your good works as we honor our bodies

and our bodies to the Lord's work by sending a donation again in the future. Thank you from all of us for your great publication. (Dianne Culley, Goodman Oaks Church of Christ, Southaven, Mississippi.)

#### OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren,

Just became acquainted with your good paper. I love it and would like to be added to your list of subscribers. I understand there is no charge but I would like to include a check to help with the expenses. If there is a charge and it is more please let me know...Thank you; the poem, "On Losing a Spouse" was worth a lot to me. (Wayne Bass, Ponca City, OK)

#### TENNESSEE

We have received your paper for several years and love it. I brought my parents here for medical reasons. My dad Lavell Powell passed away. My mother still lives and in fairly good health. I read the paper to her and discuss the articles. You do a great job putting the paper together. My mother Allene Powell was born and lived most of her life in Mississippi. She still calls it home. Please let me know what you need for change of service. Yours truly, (Jean Powell Swarengin, Morristown, TN)

#### OREGON

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Franks,

I first heard about Magnolia Messenger from two sweet sisters who attended the church of Christ in Florence, Oregon. My wife and I enjoyed it immediately, and felt that it presented a sense of faithfulness that larger brotherhood newspapers lacked.

Thank you for encouraging the brotherhood to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, strength and soul, and to do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith. Your brother in Christ, (Aiden Humphrey, Junction City, Oregon)

**Thanks for Your Response!**

## Berean Children's Home, Inc.

"The Family With A Heart"

1180 Berea Trail SE  
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

## The Fruit of Faithfulness

- Eddie Lewis -

When the Wright brothers finally succeeded in keeping their airplane aloft for 59 seconds, December 17, 1903, they rushed a telegram to their sister in Dayton, Ohio telling her of their success. It read, "First sustained flight today 59 seconds. Hope to be home by Christmas."

When she received the news, she was so excited that she rushed the telegram to the local newspaper. The next morning, the paper in bold print said—"Popular Local Bicycle Merchants to be Home for Holidays." The scoop of the century and the editor of the paper missed the point of the telegram.

We might laugh about this, but the sad truth is we miss the point of some scriptures because we read them casually or are influenced by some tradition. Such is the case for one of the fruit of the Spirit—Faithfulness (Gal. 5:22).

The word in the Greek is—Pistis. It is the common word for "faith." But in this list of virtues, Paul is talking about faithfulness and loyalty to God and our fellowman. It is the quality of reliability and trustworthiness, which makes a person one upon whom we can depend and one upon whose words we can utterly rely.

In the New Testament, we have other verses that can illustrate the real meaning of the word. Jesus charged the scribes and Pharisees with being meticulous about their tithing, yet they neglected the weightier matters of the law, "justice, mercy and faith" (Matt. 23:23). He meant they were careful to carry out their rituals and ceremonial laws, but they neglected the basic human qualities of justice, kindness and loyalty.

Paul said that servants must never waste their master's goods, but be of good fidelity (Tit. 2:10). Faithfulness to their masters was required of Christian servants.

Paul compares the fickleness of man to the faithfulness of God (Rom. 3:3). God's promises are always true, even if man is fickle. Man's unfaithfulness never cancels the faithfulness of God.

John wrote to the Christians in Asia. They were suffering



Eddie Lewis

persecution at the hand of Rome. The supreme virtue in their life was their inflexible loyalty to God, even in the face of death (Rev. 2:10). "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life that fades not away."

Paul praised God for considering him faithful enough to be a minister of the Gospel (1 Tim. 1:12). He also tells Timothy to commit the teaching of the gospel to faithful men who can teach others (2:2).

This word is also used of Christ. He is the faithful witness (Rev. 1:5), a faithful and merciful high priest (Heb. 2:17), a man on whom you can stake your life. His words are dependable (Heb. 3:2, 5) and lead us to the Father.

Also, this word is used of God. He has called us into fellowship with Christ and we can trust His call (1 Cor. 1:9). He is faithful not to allow us to be tried above what we can bear (1 Cor. 10:13). God is faithful to establish us and keep us from

all evil (2 Thess. 3:3). We can depend on His promises, even when our property is confiscated or we are persecuted by others. Even if we are insulted on behalf of Christ (Hebrews 10:32f). We must be faithful like God. We must possess that same trustworthiness.

Apathy is part of the problem. During Colonial days, Andrew Bradford had the contract for printing public materials in Pennsylvania. One day, the governor made an important address, and Bradford printed it in his usual careless manner. Another young printer saw an

opportunity to capitalize on Bradford's shabby work. He reprinted the speech in elegant form, then mailed a copy with his compliments to the governor and each member of the assembly. The following year, Ben Franklin was rewarded for his conscientious work by receiving the contract for all of Pennsylvania's public printing. As Christians, we must never become careless in the way we live out our Christianity in our community.

We are engaged in a violent struggle with sin. We have the responsibility to tell others of the "Good News." It is a struggle for the souls of men. It is more than just telling them or convicting them that they need to come to church, their eternal destiny is at stake. However, some in the church are unconcerned about the souls of others.

The church at Laodicea is an example (Rev. 3:17f). The church had grown to a powerful force in the city. Because of the wealth in the city, the church itself was made up of wealthy people. Jesus refers to their attitude. "You say, 'I am rich, I have acquired wealth and don't need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked."

Because of their wealth they had become self-sufficient and felt they could do for themselves. They did not need God. Jesus encourages them to seek after spiritual good, spiritual garments, and spiritual salve for their eyes (v.18). Their

pride had caused them to be unfaithful to God. He asked them to come

back. His invitation is seen in verse 20, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me."

Jesus is calling us to faithfulness. Don't be a self-satisfied, lazy Christian. Be one that is faithful to His call!

Eddie is an associate minister with the Germantown church of Christ, Germantown, Tennessee. His address:

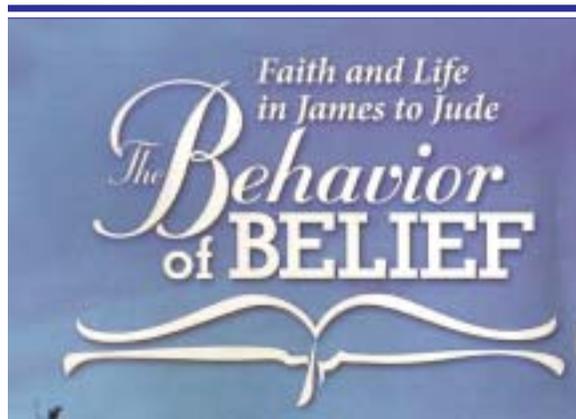
Eddie Lewis

9423 Laurel Hill S

Olive Branch, MS 38654-1658  
EddieLewis@gtownchurchofchrist.org

*We are engaged in a violent struggle with sin. We have the responsibility to tell others of the "Good News." It is a struggle for the souls of men.*

*Because of their wealth they had become self-sufficient and felt they could do for themselves. They did not need God.*



**FHU  
Annual  
Lectures  
Provide  
Spiritual  
Nourishment  
and  
Precious  
Memories**

### 76th Lectureship: Conducted February 5-10, 2012

My personal experience with the annual lectureship held at Freed-Hardeman College/University goes back to about 1957. Having grown up in SW Louisiana and known only small congregations, I had never been in a audience of a thousand or more Christians as they joined their hearts and voices singing "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." Such was my introduction to the annual lectureship at FHC in Henderson, Tennessee. The beautiful singing brought "shivers to my spine" and "raised hairs on my arm."

Over the past 55 years, not only have I enjoyed being a student at Freed-Hardeman, but also a frequent visitor to the annual lectureship. The in-depth scriptural studies and the fellowship of so many brothers and sisters from all over the nation, has provided much spiritual nourishment and has generated some very precious memories.

have undergone significant changes. Amazed to see so many about my age (and even younger) who are beginning to look like "old men" and "older women."

The "Preacher" wrote in Ecclesiastes chapter one, verse 4: "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh...." So many of the older preachers have gone to their eternal reward. And, while they may be unreplaceable; however, *thank the Lord*, their places are being filled by younger gospel preachers. This fact of reality is a reminder of the tremendous value of schools like FHU which continue to train new men to be effective preachers of the gospel.

My memory bank was also visited, during the lectures, as I recalled a picture of two men closely associated with Magnolia Bible College, which we published in the MM -- almost thirty years ago. This picture was one of several printed on two pages -- the "middle spread" -- of the "Messenger" dated March, 1980.

The men pictured in "black and white" in the March Messenger included **Batsell Barrett Baxter, Jack Exum, Clifton Ganus, Jr., John C. Stevens, Jack P. Lewis and George Benson**. All of these men had written,

expressing their desire that the newly established (1976), Magnolia Bible College, become a great influence in the training of effective workers in the Lord's Kingdom.

Also, under the caption "*In Good Hands*" we ran a picture of two gospel preachers who had come together on behalf of MBC. These two men were **Bill Lambert** and **Cecil May, Jr.** In 1980, Bill was serving as the Academic Dean and Interim President and Cecil was the President Designate (scheduled to begin his service on May 6, 1980).

The most recent lectures at Freed-Hardeman brought these two together again. Both Bill and Cecil spoke at the 2012 lectureship. When I saw them together, remembering the picture published in 1980, I asked that they allow me to take their picture again -- 32 years later. I am grateful to say that their work and service in "Christian Education" and "Preacher Training" at MBC and other places continues to bear fruit and are greatly appreciated. Yes, these are among the "precious memories."

**NOTE:** Addresses for Bill and Cecil are as follows.

bandhlambert@sbcglobal.net  
Bill Lambert  
504 E Center Ave  
Searcy, Arkansas 72143-5652

Cecil May, Jr.  
5345 Atlanta Highway  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
cmay@faulkner.edu



Beautiful Congregational Singing

"One of the best features of the weekly telecast from Edmond, OK"

### *In Search of the Lord's Way*

Weekly TV Program -- Nationally Televised

Original  
Speaker  
Mack Lyon

Phil Sanders  
Speaker

Comment:

"It is truly  
amazing how  
much alike  
these two men  
are."

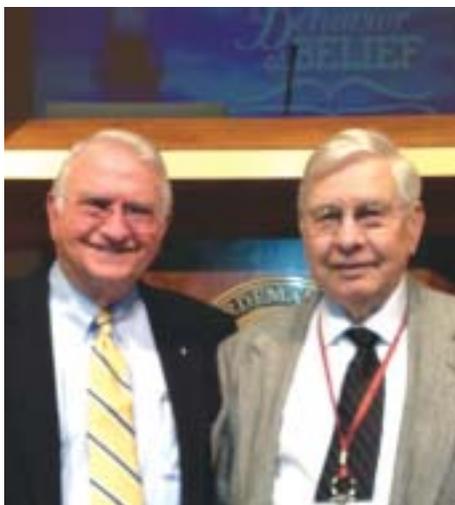


Phil Sanders and Mack Lyon: *Truth; yet, in love!*



Bill Lambert & Cecil May, Jr. -- 1980 at MBC

This past February found my June and me in Henderson for three days and three nights. As usual, we were blessed with nourishment and filled with memories. Couldn't help but think about those who *used to be* a part of the annual lectures including such men as **Marshall Keeble, Guy N. Woods and Gus Nichols**. Couldn't help but notice that brothers and sisters, we have known for many years,



Bill Lambert & Cecil May, Jr. -- 2012 at FHU

Dear Brother Franks,

I have been receiving your publication several years and share many articles with our congregation. Recently we have been doing "The Question Box" but not sending them to you. This last issue I encouraged them to send the answers to you. We are a congregation of 50-60, located about 25 miles SE of Fresno, CA. Thank you for all that you are doing for the Brotherhood and our prayer is that God will continue to bless you. (**Walter Loftis**, Dinuba, CA)

Dear Bro. Franks,

I am sending a donation in the hope it will help toward the Messenger's deficit. I do enjoy reading and participating in the "Question Box." Thanks for promoting the gospel. Your sister-in-Christ, (**Lessie Tanson**, Stockton, CA)

You are doing a good work. I enjoy receiving the Magnolia Messenger. Thanks so much. May God bless you in this work. (**Maggie Fain**, Ocean Springs, MS)

Thank you so much for the great work you are doing. May God bless you in his work this year. (**Leo Steen**,

Vicksburg, MS)

Thank you for all of your hard work. In Christian Love, (**Tammy Byars**, Bruce, MS)

Dear Al and June,

Thanks again for the wonderful Magnolia Messenger. May God bless

you eternally. Love, (**Gene and Wilma Finley**, Star City, AR)

We enjoy the "Messenger" and hope you can continue the good work. Sorry this can't be more. (**Mike & Cecelia Roney**, Millport, AL)

Thank You. Thank God!

## More and More Readers' Response

### Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Convention Date Set for April 6-8, 2012

**More than  
16,000 Registered**

More than 16,000 youth and adults have registered to attend one of the six convention locations in April. The locations are Atlanta, Dallas, Indianapolis, Memphis, Nashville, and Orlando.

The theme for this year's event is "We'll Work 'til Jesus Comes." The Bible Bowl will cover the New Testament books of James, 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

**Six Locations**

**Atlanta  
Dallas  
Indianapolis  
Memphis  
Nashville  
Orlando**

The debate topic: "Resolved: Baptism - immersion in water - is essential for salvation."

For more information,  
Phone: 334-215-0251  
ladsoffice@lads-to-leaders.org



Home of the West President Church in Greenwood

## Greenwood Church Hosts Delta Enrichment Seminar An Example "Worthy of Imitation"

Churches of Christ in the mid to north Mississippi delta area recently (January 21, 2012) conducted their annual **Enrichment Seminar** on the subject of "Evangelism." The Greenwood church (West President) served as host for this year's meeting which featured speakers from five delta congregations. It was attended by scores of church leaders and dedicated members from several congregations.

The speakers this year were **Tim McCarter** (Cleveland) who spoke on the much needed topic, "An Urgency For the Lost." **Danny Holman** (Greenville) discussed the vital topic of "Knowing the Lost." **Gene Hill** (Indianola) presented a challenging study on "Methods of Evangelism."

Lesson number four featured **Joe Ruiz** (Greenwood) on the very important matter of "Evangelizing the Lost." This was followed by the closing lesson of the day in which **Billy Moore**

(Ruleville) pleaded that all be involved in "Evangelizing the Fallen."

My June and I were truly blessed to be present for some of the lessons and were privileged to enjoy fellowship with many brothers and sisters from all over the area. We are persuaded that cooperative efforts such as the long standing practice of the Delta churches who work together providing the annual "Enrichment Seminars" is an example "worthy of imitation."

We deeply appreciate the willingness of the Greenwood congregation to host this year's seminar. Greenwood's West President Street church is overseen by elders **Gene Barrett**, **Bill Daves** and **Doug Segars**. **Nathan Segars** is the minister who regularly preaches for the church. **Joe Ruiz**, another gospel preacher, serves as an evangelist with special emphasizes on reaching the Spanish speaking people of the Delta area, along with other parts of the world.

## Somewhere in Tennessee

Never have I seen a church building so close to the highway. It got my attention; got me to thinking... You know, Jesus said he was "the way" (John 14:6). He also said he was "the Saviour" of the body, the church (Eph. 5:23; 1:22,23). This means that the church and salvation are inseparable. Acts 2:47 states clearly that the Lord

gave his life -- he shed his blood for it (Acts 20:28). **I repeat:** No man-made building is the church. The picture, on the left, is used to emphasize that the Lord's church and the way to Heaven are not just close, they are united into one!



## The 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)

## Copied From A Colorado Church

### Why Can't Preachers Tend to Their Own Business?

Dear Bessie,

*I guess your letter helped me. I went to church today. I got there early and stayed late. I lost count of the number of people who spoke to me, and they really seemed glad to see me back. Thanks for the good advice.*

*But I can't honestly say that I went away happy. I went in the hope I would be inspired. I thought the preaching would make me feel better, but it didn't. It made me feel miserable and a little mad, too.*

*That narrow-minded preacher even said that able-bodied people who habitually absent themselves from the services are guilty of a grievous sin! I thought my aching back and other ailments would exempt me from the indictment, but what he said later convinced me that somebody had been telling on me. He went on to say that some people can attend all the PTA meetings, music and garden club meetings, but when it had to do with church, they suddenly find themselves to be invalids! He might as well have called my name!*

*Why can't preachers tend to their own business? (Copied. Thanks, Neal!)*

## Freed-Hardeman University Honors Memory of Fergusons

-- News Release --

**HENDERSON, TN** — Dr. Bob and Mrs. Joan Brown of Henderson, Tenn., have established a scholarship in memory of their daughter and grandson, Karen Brown Ferguson and Trevor Cole Ferguson. The scholarship will be awarded to students who need financial



Cole and Karen Ferguson - Died October 10, 2011

assistance to attend Freed-Hardeman University.

The Fergusons were killed by an intruder Oct. 10, 2011, at their home in Gulfport, Mississippi. Bob Brown retired last year as chairman of the FHU Department of Chemistry and Engineering Sciences.

Billy Ferguson described his sister-in-law as a compassionate person, and a loving wife and mother of four sons. She died while trying to save her children from the gunman. Karen was involved in many church activities at the Orange Grove Church of Christ where her husband Les is the minister. They had worked closely with various disaster relief groups who went to the Gulfport area in the wake of hurricane Katrina.

Twenty-one year old Cole suffered from a disability and had been in a wheel chair for the past two years. He did not, however, "allow his disability to define who he was," according to his uncle, Billy Ferguson. "He always had a smile, loved to play practical jokes, loved to laugh, and loved to come to church."

Survivors include Karen's husband and Cole's father, Les Ferguson, and three surviving sons: Kyle, Connor, and Casey. Karen Ferguson is also survived by her parents, Dr. Bob and Joan Brown; a sister, Robin Brown; and a brother, Scott Brown.

Anyone desiring to make contributions to the scholarship fund may contact the development office at Freed-Hardeman University. (01-05-12; Jud Davis, 731-608-257)

### Editor's Note:

On Saturday, January 21, 2012, my June and I were in Greenwood, Mississippi for the Delta Enrichment Seminar held at the West President Street church facility. Sadly, we were informed by Jerry King, a long time member and

leader at West President, that a few months earlier, his beloved wife had died in her sleep. He wanted to share with us and with MM readers a little poem he had written in her memory. Thank you, brother Jerry. God bless!

## A Tribute to Joyce King

Written by her husband, Jerry King

(On Tuesday, July 20, 2011 at 1:14 PM.)

### Draw Close To the Cross

God sent his Son to die for me;  
He loved me enough to die at Calvary.  
So help me live, so his death was not in vain.  
God sent an angel to walk with me,  
So let me live, so that we walk together again.  
God wouldn't want me living away from the cross,  
Crying tears over my earthly loss.  
He wouldn't want me crying these tears,  
Over my love who knew no fears.  
He wants me to know,  
That she is waiting for me with a loving glow.  
She would want me to draw closer to the cross,  
And take full advantage of my earthly loss;  
Share his love with others and draw them to the cross,  
So that her death would not be a loss, but be a great gain for the cross.

Jerry King; 10089 Hwy 82; Greenwood, MS 38930



## Another Drop In Visit

Meeting Place for the Senatobia Church of Christ (Hwy 51, S)

- Report by A. L. Franks -

It was a cool and cloudy morning on January 8, 2012, when my June and I *dropped in* for a Sunday service with our brethren in Senatobia, Mississippi. Once inside their spacious facility on Highway 51, South, we not only enjoyed the physical warmth, but also the spiritual warmth of fellowship with many brothers and sisters in Christ.



Calvin Seago, Class Teacher

Bible classes for all ages were conducted beginning at 9:00 a.m. We were blessed to benefit from the auditorium class taught by one of the four elders of the church -- **Calvin Seago**. (The other elders or shepherds are **Chuck Adams**, **Paul Embrey** and **Kenny Puryear**.) The subject of the hour was "Prayer." Two vital points that I recall from the lesson was the need to be Persistent and to be Humble in prayer. We were reminded of the great blessing all Christians enjoy of being able, at anytime and from any place, to go to the Heavenly Father in prayer with full assurance that He would hear and, in harmony with His will, would answer.

In the break between classes and the "worship hour" I was blessed to meet "brother Barnabas." The long time preacher at Senatobia, Mike Jones, introduced **Loyce Smart** to me, calling him "Barnabas", saying that he was always *encouraging* others. Before I learned his name, Loyce had already spoken to me and told me twice that he really appreciated the remarks I had made during the Bible class. So, I was easily persuaded. *I had just met an-*

*other "Barnabas."*

**Ken Puryear**, another elder, welcomed everyone to the morning worship services. Brother Ken spoke with enthusiasm coupled with sincerity. Somehow, I think I could speak for others present saying that we all felt truly welcome.

The song service and the communion service were very meaningful and helped us to feel that we had made a good choice that day by dropping in to visit.

Mike Jones, the regular voice in the pulpit for the past 25 years or so, used as his text Romans chapter 12 and stressed the need transformation that Jesus makes available to His disciples in helping us to become more like Him.

An additional treat for us was to go immediately after services over to their multipurpose building and enjoy "leftovers" from the banquet held the night before honoring Sardis Lake Christian Camp workers -- John Pigg and Charles Frazier, Jr. The meal was served by the youth of the congregation.

This gave us an opportunity, not only to enjoy a good meal, but to spend more time visiting and getting to know better our brethren who make up the Senatobia congregation of about 300 souls.



Mike Jones, Pulpit

**Note:** A special thanks to **Grant Azbell**, Youth Minister of the Senatobia church, for helping me remember the real name of the "Barnabas" mentioned in this article. Thanks, Grant!

MM Welcomes Comments

## Reader's Response "and all the rest"

Brother Al and all the rest,

*Thank all of you for your wonderful contribution to the brotherhood. I speak of the wonderful work you do in publishing the Magnolia Messenger. To me a mark of your goodness is not only the most helpful and timely articles that come our way, but the spirit in which they are presented.*

*The teaching we read is Biblical, to the point and most thoughtful, but it is presented in the disposition of a sweet gentle spirit (moderation, forbearance, etc.), the kind of spirit that we are told to let it be known to all. This is not only seen in the editorials and feature articles, but it is on every page.*

*If I am not mistaken, I believe Bro. J. A. Thornton used to say that he wanted to do "all the good" he could and "no harm at all." To me this describes the attitude of the folk I read in the Magnolia Messenger. And it should describe our attitudes as well.*

*The Magnolia Messenger is a bright light beaming in a world of calamity, fear and darkness. It may be that even darker days are coming. I pray that we all can let our "forbearance" show through when we live our lives so that others can see the spirit of Christ in us and be drawn to the good news of our Savior.*

*May God bless us when we do with our whole heart what He wants us to do, not turning either to the right or the left, but obeying out of love and reverence His commandments. Best Regards, (Bob & Regina Jarnagin, Hornsby, TN)*

*Thank you for a great work. May God bless you. (Ken & Linda Harris, Senatobia, MS)*

*Dear brother and sister Franks: ... We both enjoy the Magnolia Messenger, so we hope it will be able to be in print. Thanks for being there for us. In Christian love, (Don & Mary Wates, Montgomery, AL)*

### BRANSON, Missouri Vacation in the Beautiful Ozark Mountains

#### 2 Condominiums Available

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

(1 mile west of Silver Dollar City)

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

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

## "Eating the Body and Drinking the Blood"

-- Communion --

"This do in remembrance of me."

-Lavon Henley-

Today [Sunday], we, as well as Christians around the world, will pause during our worship assembly and "eat of the body and drink of the blood." This we do in memory of the ONE who has made the forgiveness of sins and eternal life possible.

As I have grown older and more mature in my walk with God, I have found this part of our worship to be more meaningful. There are two words that become special to me as I read scripture relative to this act. They are **remember** and **examine**.

First, I confess that this is one of the most difficult challenges for me as I worship "in spirit and truth"; that is, to totally remove from my mind all else. Even more difficult is to be the one to make the public comments prior to our partaking. The burden of saying the right words that will effectively cause every Christian present to **remember** and **examine** is awesome. In this area of our communion, I confess my failures.

Brethren choose various ways and comments in an effort to encourage all to **remember** and **examine**. We should first acknowledge that this memorial is not about me, my biological family and friends.

It is not my desire to edit others comments, however, I have found it difficult to see a relationship to remembering Christ and "missed train connections", the plea to "give money, not gifts to my son who is getting married", "auto being destroyed in a car wash", and many other experiences that somehow get into this memorial. These are interesting and entertaining stories and worthy of sharing at the right time and right place.

Then, I must remind myself that my "communion" is an individual matter -- one on one -- with God, Christ and the Spirit. If I fail to **remember** and **examine** in the spirit in which Christ gave us this memorial, it is my failure. I cannot blame the Brother presiding at the table.

There are some who teach that, during communion, the bread is literally transformed into the body of Christ and the juice into the literal blood of Christ. While I find no Holy Scripture that supports the literal transformation, we are challenged, by Christ himself, to eat and drink as if it were his literal body and blood. Others, as we, believe the bread and drink are symbolic of the shed body and blood.

When we celebrate communion, we recognize that Christ is really here in our midst, but it is not in a bodily way. Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father as we share in this meal. Christ body is with us in a spiritual presence that is revealed through the Holy Spirit. Christ is truly here through the Spirit as we celebrate and partake of "His body". It is a presence that can touch us in the depths of our soul, transform us in living our lives in reflection of Christ working in us and through us.

Thankfully, my opinions have changed over the years. Once I, perhaps, had an unknowing relationship with communion. Today, it is one of the places where I experience and feel the presence of God the most in our corporate worship. Communion has become a central part of who I am as a Christian.

---  
*Brother Henley, a long time friend, serves as an elder in the Lord's church in Spanish Fort, Alabama. His address: Lavon Henley; 29488 Acorn Knoll Dr.; Daphne, AL 36526-5619.*

Dear Sir,

*... I thoroughly enjoy the paper as it tells the story that needs to be told with biblical backing. Keep up the good works and thank you. (Laudice D. Scrimshire, Mozelle, MS)*



### A Sunday FIRE on FEB. 26th

Only a file cabinet was left standing after fire destroyed everything in our storage building. This fire reminded us of how quickly earthly possessions -- no matter how precious -- can be gone forever.

The filing cabinet, with its valuable materials gathered over many years, is now nothing but memory. But, thank God, there is something that endures for ever; fire cannot destroy! It is the precious soul of a person prepared to stand before God. And, that is what really matters!

# “There Once Was A Place . . .”

## Editor

### Agrees with Reeves

*“Oh, How I Hope He is Wrong!”*

- Steve Reeves -



Steve Reeves

Recent news headlines deviated from the standard fare of election year politics to cover the story that the Susan Koeman foundation (an organization that raises funds to fight breast cancer), was cutting its funding of Planned Parenthood, an organization that among other things provides and promotes abortion. The media reported an enormous outcry of protest against the Koeman Foundation and charged it with being unduly influenced by “radical right wing extremists.” After two days of the media generated hullabaloo the Foundation “reconsidered” and made the decision to restore the funding.

Anyone who is familiar with world history, United States history and Biblical history should be able to see that our country is engaged in a struggle that is much deeper and broader than standard election year politics. It is a battle that is far greater than the ongoing tiff between political parties and ideologies. I see it as a spiritual war for the very heart and soul of our nation.

The Old Testament prophet Amos proclaimed that he was “not a prophet nor the son of a prophet” (Amos 7:14), and yet he had an important, God given, message for the people of ancient Israel who were about to be conquered by the Assyrians. I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet but based upon my observations of both Biblical and secular history I feel confident in making the following observations.

Much of our moral and social decline began in the 1960’s with the removal of prayer from public schools and quickly escalated with the “feel good” sexual revolution of the 60’s and 70’s. In 1973 came the Supreme Court’s decision of Roe vs. Wade that legalized abortion. Hailed as a “landmark” decision it paved the way for over 1 million abortions each year with a high of 1 and a half million in 1990. Soon there was the explosion of the homosexual movement and today’s legalization of “Gay” marriage that has led the United States into a full blown cultural war. Fueled by the advent of Cable Television with its twenty-four

hour a day news coverage, endless blabbing political commentary and subscription channels (not to mention network programming) that display and glamorize every perversion known to man the forces of evil have found ready access into the homes of America. This rising tide of immorality has been transformed into a virtual Tsunami by means of the internet’s dark side with its bottomless cesspool of immoral behavior.

These are the visible signs of an invisible struggle. The apostle Paul admonished the church in Ephesus to remember, “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12). I regularly hear my good-willed brethren pray that our country might “turn back” to God” and that our leaders might turn to Him for wisdom and guidance “before it is too late.”

Frankly, I find myself wondering if it is already too late. I am concerned that the United States has crossed a line. I fear that our society has already become like those spoken of by Paul in Romans 1:18-32 and that God has given this country up and over to “vile passions” (vs. 26), and “a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, etc...” (vss. 28ff).

Unless the moral tide of our nation is **quickly** and **dramatically** turned America will go the way of so many countries and empires that have ended up on the ash heap of history. With the dissolution of the family and continued degradation of moral and social standards the political infighting and cultural conflict will only grow worse. With no belief

or reliance on absolute truth there will be a steady erosion of our political, economic and defensive structures until we are a totally bankrupt country – financially, morally and socially. The history of our nation will be revised and rewritten to eliminate the heroism of those who served, fought and died for liberty and noble causes while glorifying those who encouraged lawlessness and evil.

From within and without the borders of the country there will arise those, (some espousing false religions), who will assume power until they have the means to revoke the constitution established by the founding fathers of the United States and replace the government with a structure that denies the basic rights espoused by the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights.

No longer will people be free to worship as they please, live where they choose, work on the job they desire and speak freely as I have in this piece. Christians will be persecuted and churches, taken for granted by so many today, will be closed and forced “underground.” Free enterprise, civility and public charity will vanish.

It is later than we think in America. Some of the scenario I have described is already occurring. Perhaps within a generation or two, my children and their children will be faced with a horrendous way of life unimaginable to us. It is heartbreaking to consider that they may have to look at succeeding generations and wistfully say, **“It wasn’t always this way. There once was a place called . . . America.”**

I long for the United States to be the “shining city on a hill” spoken of by President Reagan twenty-five years ago. **I hope I am wrong in my predictions. Oh, how I hope I am wrong.** There is one thing; however, I am sure of. I am confident of God’s promises. The message from the book of Revelation is clear. In the face of persecution and trial God wins! He is the ultimate victor over the force of evil and His people will live and love with Him through all eternity. Such wonderful hope beckons me to cry out, “Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus.”

Steve W. Reeves, Preacher  
Church of Christ; 209 Union  
Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834

E-mail: gopreacher@hotmail.com

# 1,770,051

## Members

### Of Churches of Christ In India

That’s what I recently read in a bulletin sent to us from: Church of Christ; India Missions; P. O. Box 1448; Hamilton, Alabama. According to the report (November, 2011), over one million, seven hundred and fifty thousand Christians are scattered over the nation in more than 80,000 churches of Christ. This sounds good. I hope the numbers are correct. Actually, I hope the real numbers (which God only knows) are greater!

But, even at that, the number of members is very small compared to the total population of 1.25 billion souls in the nation. This tells us that there is still much work to do, not only in India, but throughout the world. And, may we never forget: The great commission still says **“all the world.”** (For more information, please contact the above address or [www.indiausa@sonet.net](mailto:www.indiausa@sonet.net))

In regard to numbers, an interesting comment is included in this recent bulletin. I share with you.

*Numbers are important--to say they are not (when it concerns the work of the church) may be an attempt to hide how little we are doing -- such as how few folks we are baptizing in our local churches. When dealing with those being baptized, numbers represent real people -- souls who are being saved. Surely, numbers are important to God -- He gave His son for the whole world, that all men might be saved. That is quite a number!*

## DeRidder, Louisiana

### Christian Selects, Copies and Distributes

I know a man in Christ who likes to share with others. As he reads and studies, he enjoys selecting writings that relay much needed messages. He makes copies of such material and then, come Sunday, he stands near the door of the church building and greets those entering with a hand-out of writings and/or sayings he has recently put together.

Several months ago, we were privileged to visit with the church in DeRidder (Bilbo Street) and, as usual, was greeted by brother **Ernie Duhon**. And, as is his custom, he handed me three pages of material he had copied for hand distribution.

Today (2/27/12) I ran across that copy of Ernie’s handout and read again his selected material. It included two very meaningful poems dealing with the great love of God. Another poem expresses, in a beautiful way, how a loving God mends broken hearts.

Ernie included several short writings, such as a little piece about “Children & Canoes.” It states:

*“Children, like canoes, are more easily controlled if paddled from the rear.” Children need correction. The wise man Solomon declared, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” (Prov. 13:24)*

Thoughts about aging included three interesting statements. (a) *“The person who says he’s too old to learn new things probably always was.”*

(b) *“I pity any person of 90 who reaches it with nothing more to*

*show than how pleased he is to have reached it.”*

(c) *“What you possess in this world will go to someone else when you die, but what you are will be yours forever.”*

Ernie also included a statement attributed to Henry Ford, who said, *“I am looking for a lot of men who have an infinite capacity to not know what can’t be done.”* Makes you think about a man whose faith in God with whom all things are possible.

We appreciate Christians who, like Ernie, are always thinking of others and making an effort to share good things (writings) with them. (alf/editor)

## NEW ALBANY CHURCH Makes Mission Statement

According to the church bulletin, the elders of the New Albany Church of Christ have set a mission statement or goal for this year to be: *“Reaching Beyond Ourselves in 2012.”*

The bulletin further states: “They (the elders) are appealing to every individual and age group within the congregation to develop a vested interest in the overall objective and mission of the New Albany congregation. Each member is requested to be devoted to a study of the Bible and worship within the coming year to enable each of us to become better equipped for saving self and serving our fellowman.

“Too, we must pray earnestly for God to assist us with growth and spiritual maturity consistent with His Nature.”

The elders of the New Albany congregation are **Richard Jennings** and **Troy Robertson**. The preacher is **Mike King**.

## Waites: Fifty Years

(Continued from page 8)

#2

tell humorous stories about his five decades of service, or told him how grateful they are to God they were for his life.

Brother Waites has been the spiritual guide for literally scores of people including at least three families that spans five generations.

Brother Al Franks, editor and publisher of the statewide church newspaper *The Magnolia Messenger* says to his knowledge there is no other person in Mississippi he knows that has preached for 50 years at the same congregation, much less for two congregations at the same time.

Brother Waites career in Mississippi began in 1962 when, as a recent graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, then known as Harding College, he received a phone call from Brother Charlie Netterville of Woodville. After several conversations an offer was made and accepted beginning this labor of love. However, it was not without some tense moments as brother Waites tells the story that he did not know about working for the second congregation until after he had arrived for the interview. "We were staying with Brother Netterville on that Saturday night and it was then he told me about Perrytown," Brother Waites said. He added, "It never bothered me, I was happy to do it."

He said the most interesting thing to ever have happened to him during a worship service was the time during a prayer he felt something tugging on his coat and opened his eyes to see a goat had a hold of his jacket.

"I had bought our daughter a goat to play with," he laughed. "We lived right across from the church building and it was in the summer when we had the doors and windows open. Someone was praying and I was sitting on the front row and I felt a tug on my coat and looked down at that goat." He said he waited until the prayer was over and then escorted the goat out of the building and closed the door. "There was a good bit of chuckling when I came back in," he added.

Brother Waites has received many honors in his time in Mississippi.... [See other article on this page for some of the many honors, Editor] He will readily admit, it is an honor to be recognized by others, but the greatest reward he knows of is seeing someone he loves coming to know Christ. (by David Pryor) trophy\_ms@yahoo.com

#1

M. B. Swayze Education Foundation for his 10-year STAR Teacher Designation, given to teachers who have a positive effect on students. The Mississippi Private School Association recognized him in 2004 for his 25 years of dedicated service to education.

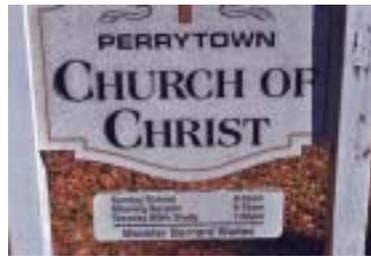
Each fall, Harding University gives alumni awards to an alumnus from each of the colleges in recognition of their achievements and excellence in their chosen fields... Bernard Waites received one of the ten Distinguished Alumnus Awards presented by the School of Bible and Religion in 2007.

Bernard and his wife, Silvia, have three children, Lourelia Waites Pryor of Clinton, LaDonna Waites Crotwell of Pelahatchie and Van V. Waites of Madison. They also have five grandchildren.

Brother Waites states that he will, unless he is fired, becomes physically unable, or the Lord calls him home, continue to minister/preach for the Perrytown and Corinth Churches of Christ.

Words cannot express the appreciation of the church members as well as a multitude of friends in this community to Brother Waites for his service to both congregations. (by Sherry Johnson)

shrylyn@ftcweb.net



### Address:

Mr & Mrs Bernard Waites  
1409 Buffalo Rd  
Woodville, MS 39669-3607

## SETH

(Cont. from page 8)

church building, etc.). Don't be afraid to let your light "shine" (Phil. 2:15).

Remember that friend whom you are studying with knows you personally! Many today desire only to pass on studies they get to their church leaders, people whom they may have never met. I am not suggesting that it is wrong to involve the leadership of your local congregation. I rather encourage every Christian to remember that evangelism is a congregational effort!

You have the courage to follow through with the study! Remain steadfast (I Cor. 15:58). The Bible tells us that Jesus on the night before His crucifixion desired heavily that the cup of suffering might pass from Him (Matt. 26:37-39). Even in agony Jesus did what the Father willed and today the Lord wills that every child of God be involved in evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20). Will you answer the call? Think about it.

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

**Thank You  
for  
Reading the MM  
Supporting the MM  
Answering the "QB"**

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

## 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! Editor**

### Hemphill, TX

The Hemphill Church of Christ is presently seeking a gospel preacher for a small but dedicated membership of 40 individuals. Average attendance runs 50 to 60.

Hemphill, Texas is located 10 miles from Toledo Bend Reservoir, on the east, and 30 miles from Sam Rayburn Lake, on the west, in east Texas. We enjoy a church-centered family membership which is active in the excellent school system and community activities of its multi-cultural citizens.

We furnish a 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath brick home located about one mile from the church building and a really nice office in the building. Applicants are asked to submit a complete resume and tape or video to our committee.

Salary is negotiable. Please send information or questions to:

**Hemphill Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 1923  
Hemphill, TX 75948**

For more information contact:  
**Paul Boone 409-625-0626 or Max Goodart 409-787-2323.**

### (61 South) Natchez Preacher Needed

Attendance: 25 -30  
House Provided  
Utilities & Salary

Contact

**John Seyfarth, Jr.  
139 Upper Kingston Rd  
Naatchez, MS 39120  
601-442-6503**

This church is seeking a man with some experience, who loves the Lord and His Word, who truly cares for others and is ready to "speak the truth in love."

### Waynesboro, MS

The Waynesboro church of Christ, located in southeastern Mississippi, is seeking to fill the pulpit with a sound New Testament minister.

Our congregation was established in Waynesboro in 1952 by only a few faithful Christians. Present attendance runs about 50-55 each Sunday morning with a weekly budget of \$1,700. The population of Waynesboro is approximately 6,500. The church building is located on Hwy 145, North.

Those applying for this position should be well-rounded in all areas, a leader, and exhibit a desire to help the congregation to grow.

The responsibilities of the minister should be considered traditional — preaching and teaching the whole truth, greeting and following up on newcomers, working to restore the unfaithful and visiting the sick and shut-ins.

Contact:

**Terry Heathcock**  
(after 6:00 PM) 601-735-2288  
cbheathcock@yahoo.com

**Jim Bowen**  
601-671-0987  
www.sufinta@bellsouth.net  
**Jamie Heathcock**  
601-735-3014 or 601-410-5591  
snookiejam@hotmail.com

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

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

**MM  
Welcomes  
Your Suggestions  
Your Comments  
Your Criticisms**

## Bible Lectureship/Discussion

*Evangelism In Home and Family*

to be conducted at the

**Church of Christ**

Durant, Mississippi

April 9-11

6:30 till 8:00 P.M. Each Evening  
**Walter Williams, Robert Rawson,  
Philip Evans and Greg Ledbetter**

## ELDERSCONNECT

FOR ELDERS, LEADERS, AND THEIR WIVES

June 11-14

Cost per person: \$125

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Sam Long, Director of Church Relations  
Faulkner University | 5345 Atlanta Hwy  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
(334) 386-7256

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT FAULKNER.EDU

**Faulkner University**  
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# All of Us Are Dying

## Psalms 9:10 (KJV)

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

## - Charles Hodge -

Because my next birthday will be my 80th, my next move is to Grady Cemetery (in my pasture). The thought of death is verboten [forbidden] in our culture. Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Inc. who died as this article was being written, said: "No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there." As far as we know, only two men, Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), avoided death. Even Jesus Christ died! Unbelievable, yet true.

Realizing this, I determined to preach on it. My preparation turned one sermon into two. They were preached where I was born, Bardwell, Texas. I knew that congregation would be patient with me, yea forgiving. The two sermons were preached the same Sunday. The morning sermon had rapt attention. The evening service was larger than usual. As the members walked out, they were serious, yet thankful. They told me it was vital. The Bardwell church considered themselves blessed!

Nothing in life is more basic than death.

All of us are living; all of us are dying. There are 1,200 verses in the Bible on death. The only way to live true life is to prepare for death. How we deal with death is as important as how we deal with life. They go together. They cannot be separated. Every community has a cemetery.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27 KJV). No matter how old one is, death comes sooner than expected. At funerals, there is the guessing game: "Who will be next?" We believe that is never us! How do you want your funeral? Have you prepared your funeral? If you have not prepared your funeral, you are not prepared to die!

The Bible, the Book of Life, is the only book that can tell us about dying. Philosophy is too proud to discuss it! Psychology will not touch it with a 10-foot pole! Science will not humble itself to admit it!



Charles Hodge

The great blessing in life is to die on time. It is heartbreaking to see babies die. Equally heartbreaking is seeing the faithful become unfaithful before death. Hezekiah, the king, had a fatal disease (2 Kings 20). He was blessed by God with a warning.

Isaiah the prophet rang his doorbell telling him to set his house in order to die. Hezekiah humbled himself before God. God heard and answered that prayer, giving Hezekiah 15 more years.

What frightens you the most? Death? Dying? Christians do not wish to die although they may not fear death. He who does not prepare for death is a fool. American screenwriter and director Woody Allen said, "I am not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens." Funny, yet true, and so sad. Death is inevitable, yet it is not natural. God made Adam and Eve to live, not die. Those afraid to die are afraid to live.

Re-read John 11 about the death and resurrection of Lazarus. Knowing in a few minutes Lazarus would be restored to life, Jesus "groaned in the spirit, and was troubled ... Jesus wept" (vv. 33-35). There is a time to mourn, to cry. Jesus knew what death had done to Martha and Mary.

Every day, remind yourself you will die.

Death should be a basis for all life decisions. Death is an enemy. Paul said the last enemy to be conquered was death (1 Corinthians 15:26). Because Jesus is the resurrection and life (John 11:25), death is dead. The verse beyond all of us is John 8:51: "he shall never see death." He may die, but he will not be dead!

Revelation 20:14-15 is frightening. Anyone not printed in the Book of Life will be taken by the second death. Christians

die once to sin. They do not have to die twice! Christians have eternal life, not just immortality. Death is not permanent. Many things are worse than death. Learn how to die.

Through death, Jesus destroyed Satan who had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). Jesus has abolished death; the full gospel can be preached (2 Timothy 1:10). Believers have passed from death to life (John 5:24). God raises the dead! This is why only Christians can truly sing at the cemetery. See you in heaven.

*Note: This article by brother Hodge appeared in the Gospel Advocate (January, 2012) and is reprinted by permission from the Gospel Advocate. Brother Hodge, a long time friend and encouraging brother, can be reached by addressing:*

*Charles Hodge  
711 Villa Creek Dr  
Duncanville, TX 75137-3830*

L  
D  
W  
I  
L  
L  
I  
S



## Gospel Preacher For More Than 60 Years Has Departed

### CHEROKEE, AL

A faithful gospel preacher for over 60 years, L. D. Willis died on May 19, 2011 at his residence in Cherokee, Alabama. L. D. passed away at the age of 87. L.D. preached in many states and foreign countries. For the past 30 years, his primary emphasis was raising funds for various mission efforts.

L.D. is survived by his wife, Pat, two daughters and grandchildren, one sister Wanda Rogers, Jacksonville, Florida and one brother, Jerry Willis, Tupelo, MS and a host of cousins including me, June Franks. (Information taken in part from article written by Wayne Barrier who concluded his tribute by saying, "We are all indebted to him." (MJF)



## Tidwell Appointed Editor of Gospel Advocate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Gregory Alan Tidwell has been named editor of *Gospel Advocate* magazine by Publisher Neil W. Anderson. Tidwell assumed the role of editor from Anderson, who retired as editor in September. Anderson will continue as publisher.

"During the past 12 years I have had the privilege to serve as editor and publisher," Anderson said. "My purpose was and continues to be teaching the Word accurately and encouraging brethren to know and obey God's Word."

Tidwell, commenting on his new position, said, "Tolbert Fanning and William Lipscomb began publication of the *Gospel Advocate* in 1855 'with the hope of rendering some good service in the cause of truth.' In keeping with this hope, I am honored to accept your invitation to become editor of the *Gospel Advocate*. Many thanks for this opportunity to serve the Lord's church."

In addition to Fanning and Lipscomb, the *Gospel Advocate* has been edited by such men as David Lipscomb, J.C. McQuiddy, B.C. Goodpasture, Ira North, Guy N. Woods, F. Furman Kearley and Anderson. Tidwell becomes the 17th editor of the 156-year-old magazine beginning with the October issue.

"Greg is a man of faith who spends much time in the Word," Anderson said. "He is respected by his peers and has prepared himself spiritually, academically and emotionally. I respect his integrity and convictions. For all these qualities, I believe Greg is ready for this new challenge."

Tidwell will be familiar to *Gospel Advocate* readers as the author of the monthly column "Perspective," which he began writing in 1995. He has also written articles for the magazine since 1989. Tidwell is the minister of the Church of Christ at Fishinger and Kenny in Columbus, Ohio, where he has served for more

than 27 years - first as campus minister, then education minister and finally pulpit minister. Previously he worked alongside Jim Bill McInteer for five years as an associate minister in Nashville.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Tidwell has a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University in 1982 and a master's from Vanderbilt

University in 1986. He has continued post-graduate studies in journalism, management and biblical studies.

Tidwell and his wife, Peggy (nee Ward), met and married in Columbus, Ohio, 24 years ago. They have twin sons,

Jordan and David, who are high school seniors. He plans to continue to live and preach in Columbus. Tidwell may be reached by email at [atgreg.tidwell@gospeladvocate.com](mailto:atgreg.tidwell@gospeladvocate.com).

The *Gospel Advocate* is the fifth longest running publication in the United States.

Columbus, MS (7th St)

## Roy Johnson Former Elder Died Nov. 17th

A long time reader of the *Magnolia Messenger*, Hazel Cook, informed us of the passing of J. Roy Johnson. Brother Johnson died on November 17, 2011 at the age of 97. Brother Roy was married to Vadus Johnson for 78 years.

He was an elder of the 7th Street Church of Christ for 28 years and attended services up until 4 months of his death.

We extend our deepest sympathy to brother Roy's family and to the 7th Street congregation in Columbus.

**The MM  
Requests  
Your Prayers & Suggestions**

# Pine Vale Children's Home Works 'Til Jesus Comes

- Lynn Baragona -  
 "We'll work 'til Jesus comes" is the theme of the 2012 Lads to Leaders convention. The Pine Vale Children's Home family is working hard to get ready for the convention in Memphis, Tennessee. The children are busy practicing their speeches, songs and puppet plays in preparation for the big weekend. All have submitted their Good Samaritan points, most have learned the books of the Bible and everyone is getting excited about participating in as many activities as possible.



**Lynn Baragona**  
 Assistant/Wife of Director

Vale groups so they can practice their puppet scripts. Devotionals at the three Pine Vale homes are centering around the theme so the children will understand the meaning of the words, "We'll work 'til Jesus comes".  
 Tommy Baragona, director at Pine Vale, encourages the children to give back to the community. As a result the Pine Vale family is involved in such activities as visiting with nursing home residents, raking yards, cutting grass and sending cards to encourage sick members in the congregations where they attend worship services.

Pine Vale's children and some of the staff spent an entire day at the **Booneville church of Christ** working on posters for the Art competition as well as

Pine Vale residents are not alone in giving back to the community. They witness acts of kindness almost daily as others give to Pine Vale. On a recent Saturday, a youth group from the **Union church of Christ** out from Meridian, Mississippi arrived to bring supplies for the pantry as well as gift cards for the children. On the same day, a boy scout group from Tupelo, Mississippi who are members at **East Main church of Christ** arrived to spruce up Pine Vale's playground equipment. Pine Vale is so blessed to have the support of area churches and communities.



**Tommy Baragona, P.V. Director** was pleased to show us the well stocked food pantry

recording audio presentations to submit to the Mass Media competition. The Booneville congregation allowed Pine Vale free reign in the teacher workroom, providing supplies and equipment to give the children the opportunity to create their masterpieces. One of Booneville's deacons, Junior Johnson, gave up a good portion of his day to work with the children who needed to record audio presentations. One of the elders at Booneville, Eddie Mauney, put together a puppet stage for the Pine

be supported by so many churches and community members there is still a great



Pine Vale Children Working on Posters for Lads to Leaders



**Jennie Gross, House Parent**  
 Still Serving After 15 Years

need for more funding. As costs continue to rise Pine Vale finds itself struggling to make ends meet as they pay for utilities, gasoline, clothing and providing for the everyday needs of a large group of children.

As reported in The Christian Chronicle's January 2012 edition, "in a survey of 20 children's homes in more than a dozen states, The Christian Chronicle found widespread concern about declining church support amid trying economic times and shifting ministry priorities."

The staff at Pine Vale Children's Home considers Pine Vale to be a mission field since few of the residents know who God is when they arrive at Pine Vale. God has given the Pine Vale staff the responsibility of introducing Him to these children and helping them see that God loves them and wants them to have a good life. Please consider supporting Pine Vale Children's Home as it fulfills a very important mission, that of sharing Jesus with children.



Sign at the Entrance to Pine Vale  
 Established 1971  
 by Mr & Mrs E. W. Wade  
 Supported by Churches of Christ and Caring Individuals  
 "Helping Children Grow"



← **Elsie and Dennis Miller**  
 Houseparents in one of three cottages



**Bob and Maureen Sutphin**  
 Houseparents (picture not available)

**Pine Vale benefits greatly by volunteer services from the community and from congregations throughout the area.**



Group from East Main Church (Tupelo) shown Power washing playground equipment

Address:  
 1872  
 County Road  
 700  
 Corinth, MS  
 38834  
 662-286-6555  
 pinevalech@comcast.net

## News Notes

### CROCKETT

**Dan Beardain** is scheduled to speak at the Crockett Church of Christ in a Gospel Meeting July 22-26, 2012. The Crockett congregation is located west of Senatobia. **Robert Rawson** has recently moved to Crockett to work with that congregation.

### QUITMAN

**Charity Lindsey Tucker**, a member of the Quitman Church of Christ, wrote and asked that a note be placed in the Magnolia Messenger about their change of service time. According to Charity, the time of services on Sunday night has been changed to **6:00 p.m.** Charity also reported that their preacher, brother, **Richard Gooch**, is doing great.

### MM

### Welcomes News Notes

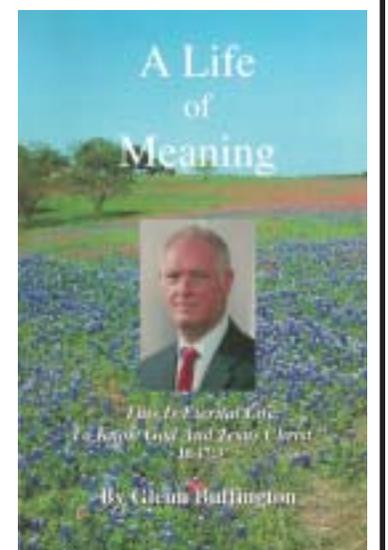
## A Life of Meaning

*Would you like to be a soul winner?*

\* Excellent source for personal worker; \* Good for distribution on mission fields and preaching schools, \* Designed to make new converts and give them a solid foundation

By Glenn Buffington  
 (Mission work in India, Trinidad, Russia, and Guyana)

**Glenn Buffington**  
 P.O. Box 117  
 Burns, TN 37029  
 glenni@bellsouth.net



(See Question Box)

## These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

- |                              |                               |                            |                              |                          |                             |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Juanita LeBouef           | 81. Faye Stanford             | 161. Carolyn Garrett       | 241. Sandra Welch            | Phillips                 | 340. Larry & Marsha Simmons |
| 2. Marilyn Howell            | 82. Betty Skinner             | 162. Betty Standard        | 242. Paul & Elsie Bryson     | 304. Bobby Lively        | 341. Pat Gray               |
| 3. Ed Istre                  | 83. Lucy Ross                 | 163. Lacey' Mastin         | 243. Janice Vaughan          | 305. Karen Bolls         | <b>342. Tommy Gray</b>      |
| 4. Carolyn Harvill           | 84. Ima Jean Fogus            | 164. Rashaud Ewing         | 244. Pat Moore               | 306. Trudie Raney        | 343. Bob McCafferty         |
| 5. Paula Marlene             | 85. Shirley Styers            | 165. Trey Williamsd        | 245. Kathie A. Stacks        | 307. Charlene Williams   | 344. Mary McCafferty        |
| 6. Laura Nanney              | 86. Betty VanBuren            | 166. Shamyia Smith         | 246. Danny C. Stacks         | 308. Doralynn Felton     | 345. Frances Thompson       |
| 7. Doyce Britt               | 87. Linda Crochet             | 167. Jackie Sullivan       | 247. Nelda S. Anderson       | 309. Doris Jean Fletcher | 346. Jim Dendy              |
| 8. Jennifer F. Gray          | 88. Roy Gambrell              | 168. Elizabeth Sullivan    | 248. William Pyron           | 310. Caleb Wilson        | 347. Miriam Dendy           |
| 9. Nadine Patton             | 89. Philip Dale Franks        | 169. Kyla Elena Burnett    | 249. Bonnie Skates           | 311. Grace Whitley       | 348. Margaret Gann          |
| 10. Linda Cook               | 90. Tammy Franks              | 170. Crystal Burnett       | 250. Gwendolyn Gray Bryant   | 312. Bonnie Howell       | 349. Mark Williams          |
| 11. Billy Willingham         | 91. Ruby & Elvis Dilmore      | 171. Jaylen Sullivan       | 251. Norma & Jerry Inman     | 313. Billie Boyd         | 350. Joan Loftis            |
| 12. Melba Ogg                | 92. Mary L. Smith             | 172. Tyra Verner           | 252. Mary Brannon            | 314. Udale Ware          | 351. Barbara Yates          |
| 13. Marvin England           | 93. Aubrey & Dean Bass        | 173. Rick Bishop           | 253. Eunice Kirkwood         | 315. Virginia Ware       | 352. Judy Juilian           |
| 14. Ken Harris               | 94. Alma Maddox               | 174. James R. Brooks       | 254. Genie Henning           | 316. Martha Perkins      | 353. M/M Edmon Wheeler      |
| 15. Dee Kepler               | 95. Joe B. Holmes             | 175. Mattie Ann Owens      | 255. Dorothy Carter          | 317. JoAnn Mills         | 354. Rebecca Broom          |
| 16. June Faulkner            | 96. Robert Blackburn          | 176. Dorothy Alexander     | 256. Ralph & Doris Gillespie | 318. Mary Lou Mirante    |                             |
| 17. Donna Gulley             | 97. Dot Winslett              | 177. Dorsa Sparks          | 257. Shellie Hancock         | 319. Kelly Rudy          |                             |
| 18. Mrs. W. C. Wells         | 98. Janie Green               | 178. Bill Moore            | 258. Gaynell Clark           | 320. Wanda Eaves         |                             |
| 19. Carol Bonner             | 99. Bobbie Holder             | 179. Doris Carroll         | 259. Ruby McCrory            | 321. Lara Cooley         |                             |
| 20. Tony Coleman             | 100. Sheri Glazier            | 180. Kathy Perry           | 260. Gail Gurganus           | 322. Keli Perkins        |                             |
| 21. Kimberly Easterling      | 101. Emily Glazier            | 181. Maggie R. Edmonds     | 261. Imogene Eldridge        | 323. Wendy Williams      |                             |
| 22. Carole Shelby            | 102. Lisa Dettor              | 182. Lawrence Horn         | 262. Bobbie Loggins          | 324. Hattie Johnson      |                             |
| 23. Barbara Beard            | 103. Lenola Balentine         | 183. John Hazel            | 263. Carolyn Stanford        | 325. Sue Hamrick         |                             |
| 24. Jan Fitzgerald           | 104. Mrs. Louisa W. Ganier    | 184. Pierce Flatt          | 264. Foy C. Smith            | 326. Brenda Harvill      |                             |
| 25. Julius Lee Morris        | 105. Dorothy Brunson          | 185. Dwight Hester         | 265. Shirley L. Tarver       | 327. Mary Salinas        |                             |
| 26. Glenda Jefcoat           | 106. Linda Hogue              | 186. Jo Mastersd           | 266. Ms. Lucille S. Jackson  | 328. Anita Wolford       |                             |
| 27. Peggy Wroten             | 107. Travis Hamilton          | 187. M/M Ken Sullins       | 267. Lessie Tanson           | 329. Barbara Carroll     |                             |
| 28. Wanda Yancey             | 108. Alice Humphries          | 188. Linda T. Shirley      | 268. Bonnie Glass            | 330. Benjamin Jackson    |                             |
| 29. Sue Glenn                | 109. Bobby Brown              | 189. Wayne Crum            | 269. Bodean Collum           | 331. Manuel Cotton       |                             |
| 30. Willa Fox                | 110. Alice Dempsey            | 190. Diane Dunaway         | 270. Mr. James Hoy           | 332. AIPaulthenia Cotton |                             |
| 31. Kerry Deaton             | 111. Dee Collier              | 191. Sandy Dean            | 271. Pinky Hawes             | 333. Deborah Smiley      |                             |
| 32. Era Hinson               | 112. Thomas Forrest, Sr.      | 192. Claude Edwards        | 272. Lisa Frazer             | 334. Martha Lawrence     |                             |
| 33. Wm. & Atlean Snow        | 113. Wilda Pounds             | 193. Tommy & Peggy Shull   | 273. Frances Ewing           | 335. Dewey Lawrence      |                             |
| 34. Ray Parham               | 114. Jeff & Debbie Shull      | 194. Sidney Robinson       | 274. Thelma Talbert          | 336. Steve Lawrence      |                             |
| 35. Bernita Booker           | 115. Pam Bateman              | 195. Pat Morris            | 275. Lena Hawkins            | 337. Thomas Rigby        |                             |
| 36. Vic & Ruth Hawn          | 116. Olye M. B. Rush          | 196. Fran Williford        | 276. Ruth Christian          | 338. Kim Grymes          |                             |
| 37. Billy J. Smith           | 117. Vera Winfrey             | 197. Mrs. Dorothy Laws     | 277. Shirley Bostick         | 339. Steve Barnhill      |                             |
| 38. Doris Darnell            | 118. Minnie Gwyne             | 198. Virginia B. Kissell   | 278. Ann Kelley              |                          |                             |
| 39. Sue Mason                | 119. Frances Griffin          | 199. Peggy Hartman         | 279. Diane Wiley             |                          |                             |
| 40. Vera Spencer             | 120. Merlene Scott            | 200. Barbara F. White      | 280. Idna                    |                          |                             |
| 41. Natalie Stewart          | 121. Cindy Vest               | 201. Garry Gooch           | Eddington                    |                          |                             |
| 42. Melvin & Kay Linton      | 122. Inez & Laura Brannon     | 202. Edward Pearson        | 281. Bill Jones              |                          |                             |
| 43. Mrs. Sharon Freeman      | 123. Dorthy Ford              | 203. Shelia Grant          | 282. Mrs. Gladys             |                          |                             |
| 44. Helen DePriest           | 124. Patrilla Maddox          | 204. Lauren Harris         | Jones                        |                          |                             |
| 45. Helen Ward               | 125. Marie Lively             | 205. Bernice Mills         | 283. Connie                  |                          |                             |
| 46. Debra Michael            | 126. Buddy Parsons            | 206. Kaye Wise             | Fountain                     |                          |                             |
| 47. Sherry Martindale        | 127. Jane Walker              | 207. Bettie Brown          | 284. Bonnie                  |                          |                             |
| 48. Jim Hill                 | 128. Gail McMillen            | 208. Mary Williams         | Holcomb                      |                          |                             |
| 49. Judy Hill                | 129. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell   | 209. Sally Jones           | 285. Annie                   |                          |                             |
| 50. Sarah F. Greene          | 130. Eva Almon                | 210. Cathy E. Brooks       | Holcomb                      |                          |                             |
| 51. Billye Wiygul            | 131. Harlen Headley           | 211. James Hudley          | 286. Ginny                   |                          |                             |
| 52. Charles Coffey           | 132. Eddie Vermillion         | 212. Doug Brackbill        | Luther                       |                          |                             |
| 53. John L. Gates, Jr.       | 133. Jim Vermillion           | 213. Earl Franks           | 287. Carl Trimm              |                          |                             |
| 54. Jack Stillman            | 134. Barbara McGee            | 214. Dorothy Franks        | 288. Diana                   |                          |                             |
| 55. June Brents              | 135. Marcella A. Moore        | 215. Nicholas Slaydon      | Schmied                      |                          |                             |
| 56. Jean Clemmer             | 136. Barbara Perry            | 216. Jessica Slaydon       | 289. Nicole                  |                          |                             |
| 57. Sidney Clemmer           | 137. Imogene Grayson          | 217. Stephanie Slaydon     | Anderson                     |                          |                             |
| 58. Katie Houston            | 138. Jean Lewis               | 218. Wes & Rhoda Jeans     | 290. Mary                    |                          |                             |
| 59. Annie Pipkin             | 139. Fred & Norma Lorenz      | 219. Beulah Rupert         | Jacobs                       |                          |                             |
| 60. Glen Brady               | 140. Martha West              | 220. Taisheivya Smith      | 291. Della M.                |                          |                             |
| 61. Terry Johnson            | 141. Sherry Townsend          | 221. Mrs. V. E. Buffington | Rhodes                       |                          |                             |
| 62. Philip M. Carter         | 142. Sherron Dixon            | 222. Trillie Strickland    | 292. Evelyn Page             |                          |                             |
| 63. Dick Green               | 143. Linda F. Anderson        | 223. Ruby Wright           | 293. Evelyn M.               |                          |                             |
| 64. Sherry Gordon            | 144. Mr. Michael Coleman      | 224. Betty Clark           | Doss                         |                          |                             |
| 65. Kay Shiers               | 145. Margaret Bailey          | 225. Grace Childers        | 294. Scott                   |                          |                             |
| 66. Estelle Glover           | 146. Bernice Townsel          | 226. Carolyn Perry         | Gallaher                     |                          |                             |
| 67. Eileen Ferrebee          | 147. Gladys Bryant            | 227. Kim & Buddy Frost     | 295. Millie A.               |                          |                             |
| 68. Charlane Stanfield       | 148. Howard Young             | 228. Shirley Graham        | Goode                        |                          |                             |
| 69. Rosie Mae Felton         | 149. Ms. Doris Laird          | 229. Ann Kimble            | 296. Juanita Akin            |                          |                             |
| 70. Johnny & Princess Watson | 150. Peggy S. Walker          | 230. Ruth Lacey            | 297. Don Lee                 |                          |                             |
| 71. Irene M. Wright          | 151. Michelle Simpson         | 231. Ann Holeman           | 298. Mary J.                 |                          |                             |
| 72. Roger King               | 152. Kittie Edwards           | 232. Cathey Roberson       | Adams                        |                          |                             |
| 73. Joyce A. King            | 153. Arvis & Lucille Midkiff  | 233. Tom McLemore          | 299. Brenda                  |                          |                             |
| 74. Mary Townsend            | 154. Althea House             | 234. Stan Neuenschwander   | Dierkes                      |                          |                             |
| 75. Mary Ella Webster        | 155. Barbara A. Beard         | 235. Jolene Dale           | 300. Jimmie                  |                          |                             |
| 76. Miriam Styers            | 156. Patsy McClung            | 236. Mary M. McDonald      | Brown                        |                          |                             |
| 77. Mrs. Hazel Myhan         | 157. Stacey & Melinda Hawkins | 237. Jimmy & Clara Davis   | 301. Jackie                  |                          |                             |
| 78. Helen Gordon             | 158. Gary & Linda Turner      | 238. Jimmy Wayne Davis     | Hester                       |                          |                             |
| 79. M/M Arthur Burnett       | 159. Joyce Ann Key            | 239. Evelyn Faulkenberry   | 302. Bille Noles             |                          |                             |
| 80. Lisa Dearman             | 160. Mae Gatewood             | 240. Mrs. Dean Howe        | 303. Shirley M.              |                          |                             |

**355. YOUR NAME, next time**  
**Please study and answer**  
**"The Question Box" on Page**  
**24. Send us your answers.**  
**Thank you. (alf)**

**NOTE: All answers re-**  
**ceived after February 27**  
**will be recognized, Lord**  
**be willing, in our next is-**  
**sue. Thank you for an-**  
**swering "The QB."**

**Is Daily**  
**Bible Reading/Study**  
**A Part of Your Life?**

Jesus said, "**Man shall not**  
**live by bread alone...."**

## Answers - Last Issue

## The Question Box

## BIBLE PEOPLE AND THEIR NAMES

*"There is Something in a Name"*

**NOTE: References to help you find the answers to Parts I, II and III.** (Gen. 17:5; 32:28; 35:18; Num. 13: 16; Judges 6:32; Ruth 1:20; Dan. 2:26; Mark 3:17; Acts 4:36; John 1:42. **References to help with Part IV:** (Esther 2:7; Acts 9:36; 13:1, 6-8, 9; Col. 4:11; Rev. 9:11; 12:9)

**I. New Names Given to Bible Per-**  
**sons** (Match the original name [col-  
 umn one] with the new name [column  
 two] for each of the following.)

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 10) Abram     | 1. Barnabas          |
| 5) Jacob      | 2. Cephas            |
| 9) Benoni     | 3. Jehoshua (Joshua) |
| 4) Gideon     | 4. Jerubbaal         |
| 8) Naomi      | 5. Israel            |
| 3) Oshea      | 6. Boanerges         |
| 7) Daniel     | 7. Belteshazzar      |
| 2) Simon      | 8. Mara              |
| 6) James/John | 9. Benjamin          |
| 1) 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  | (3) "Father of many<br>nations"               |
| 2. Cephas    | (4) "Let Baal plead"                          |
| 3. Abraham   | (2) "Rock, Stone"                             |
| 4. Jerubbaal | (6) "Sons of Thunder"                         |
| 5. Israel    | (7) "Bitter"                                  |
| 6. Boanerges | (1) "Son of consolati-<br>on/<br>exhortation" |
| 7. Mara      | (5) "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          | (5) Angel (God)          |
| 2. Cephas            | (3) Moses                |
| 3. Jehoshua (Joshua) | (4) Joash                |
| 4. Jerubbaal         | (9) Jacob                |
| 5. Israel            | (7) Prince of<br>Eunuchs |
| 6. Boanerges         | (8) Herself              |
| 7. Belteshazzar      | (1) Apostles             |
| 8. Mara              | (2) Jesus                |
| 9. Benjamin          | (10) God                 |
| 10. Abraham          | (6) 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 col-  
 umn two.)

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

DeKalb, MS &amp; Don Fox

## Almost Forgotten Memories

Hello brother Franks:

In the Oct-Dec 2011 edition of the Magnolia Messenger, page four, I read about the DeKalb church and its growth. This article brought back almost forgotten memories. I remembered back in August/September, 1971, **Bert T. Watkins**, then the preacher of the **Verona congregation**, and I had a tent meeting at DeKalb.

I was the preacher for the **Sherman church** at that time. Bert and I had become very close brothers in Christ and started to look at the DeKalb area to do some evangelistic work.

After making a few trips to DeKalb to canvass the area, talk to local folks and check out a possible area to place a tent, we decided to hold a tent meeting there. The Verona church took on the project and **Dorn Patton**, now worshipping at the **Skyline church** was responsible for getting a tent and arranging the putting up of it. Brother Patton continues to be very active in the work of the church. We are thankful for such men.

After a few more visits to DeKalb to pass out flyers for the meeting and, according to business minutes of the Verona church that brother Dorn had kept along with my fainting memory, we held the tent meeting the first week in September, 1971. Bert preached one night, and I would preach the

next and so on. The attendance was very good, and the local citizens seem to enjoy us folks from NE Mississippi to hold such a meeting.

Bert and I remember the late brother **George E. Darling**, who I believe preached for the **Meridian, Mississippi church** at that time, encouraged us with a visit to DeKalb.

We would like to believe that some folks in DeKalb remember this long-ago effort, and it had some influence with the great work of **East Main congregation**. Our brother, the late **S. C. Kinningham** and his leadership will always be appreciated. We thank God for all that work toward the end that souls will be added to the church.

Your brother and servant,  
Donald R. Fox

PS:

I had lost contact with Bert some years back. Dorn Patton furnished me with his address/telephone number. I called him and had a good conversation with his wife, Dot and Bert on 14 December. Bert does not receive the Magnolia Messenger. Could you please add him to your mailing list? Thank you! Bert is now 80, and I am 79 and Dorn is a young 76. It has been forty years since our little tent meeting at DeKalb, time has passed very swiftly.

foxdonald@comcast.net



Gospel Ministers Gather for Luncheon/Fellowship in Madison, MS

### "The Way It Used To Be"

Remembering the way "it used to be", John Pigg and Jim Howard, along with the encouragement of others, decided to arrange for a meeting of gospel preachers who live and work in the mid-Mississippi area. This planned meeting was made known to several and was held at noon on Monday (January 30) in Madison, MS. A popular eating place known as "Mama Hamils" was selected as a meeting and eating place.

Shortly after eleven o'clock A.M. about 18 ministers from the area had found their way to Madison for the meeting. Those in attendance included **Weldon**

**Hatcher** who leads the worship services at Sunnybrook Estates in Ridgeland each Sunday. Also present were **John Pigg**, (Lake Harbour church in Ridgeland), **Mark Ray**, (Siwell Road congregation in Jackson), **John Allan**, (Clinton), **John Gardner** (N Brandon), **Eric Welch** (I-20, Vicksburg), **Les Ferguson, Sr.** (Kosciusko), **Roger Hines** (N Liberty, Canton), **Prince Lewis** (DeKalb), **Lee Woodard** (Kosciusko), **Eric Dawkins** (Sunnybrook), **James Evans** (Canton); **Jim Howard** (Madison); **Ralph Flowers** (N. Flora); **Rob Salley** (Sunnybrook); **Adam Eppes** (Madison) and **Frank Powell** (Lake Harbour, Ridgeland). Of course, I (**Al Franks**) was also present, but since I took the picture I am not pictured.

This special meeting represents the desire of many to revive regular preachers' meetings in central Mississippi. We trust that such gatherings will once again be commonplace - sorta like "the way it used to be." (alf)

### News Note

**TUPELO**  
(Syktyvkar, Russia)  
- two decades -

The church of Christ in Syktyvkar celebrated their 20th anniversary in October of this past year. In a report from **W. C. Hill, III**, we learned that the West Main Street church in Tupelo, Mississippi, has been involved for the past two decades in mission efforts in Russia and has provided financial oversight for the work in Syktyvkar.

## A Brief Salute to W.A. Bradfield

E. Claude Gardner

W.A. Bradfield literally "wore himself out" in God's service. He was an extraordinary evangelist, serving simultaneously as a highly successful educator. While he was an effective administrator of Freed-Hardeman College (now university) he became a popular and leading gospel preacher in the brotherhood. At FHC he built the enrollment with an increase each year as long as he served. He evangelized in several states which resulted in over 10,000 responses to the gospel.

In the interesting biography written by Andy Erwin about W.A. Bradfield entitled, "**You've Been a Good Brother, Willie**" it portrays his life and work beginning with his childhood and it records his many contributions of service until his death. His visibility and mighty power was in his last twenty years. He believed strongly in the motto: "FHC has a glorious past and an optimistic future."

He had unusual passion for the church and the college. Reading about his life, one is amazed with his heavy load and the spectacular results he

produced with the help of God, his family, and faithful friends.

The book includes several sermon outlines that Bradfield preached in hundreds of places. These sermons show why multitudes obeyed the gospel. He preached Bible sermons - the kind needed today.

For my dear friend and colleague, I am pleased to recommend this volume. He was my best friend in FHC and he always supported and encouraged me without reservation. One will be motivated and also thankful for the untiring work and the simplicity of the gospel he effectively preached. It would be a fine gift for any occasion and it will bring a blessing. The Gospel Light Publishing Company published a beautiful volume written by Andy Erwin, a talented preacher, writer, and author.

For your personal copy of brother Erwin's book about the life of brother W. A. Bradfield, please order using the address shown to the right.

### You've Been A Good Brother, Willie

The Life & Sermons of  
W.A. Bradfield



Written by  
Andrew D. Erwin

Order From  
Andy Erwin  
3778 CR 33  
Killen, AL 35645  
\$14.95 plus S&H

## Our Comfort Zone

- editor -

### Be Ready to Move Out of C.Z.

In evangelism  
In friendliness  
In doing good

### Be Not Ready to Move Out of C.Z.

In Christian Living  
In Scriptural Worship  
In Biblical Teaching

### Daily Prayer

"Lord, help us to know *when to move*  
and *when not to move*. In Jesus name."

### Comfort & Conscience

Comfortable, we are,  
when confident we are doing the will of God.  
Uncomfortable, we are,  
when we go against what we have come to believe.

**CAUTION...CAUTION**  
Let's make sure our beliefs are  
based solidly upon the Word of God.

### Suggestion

Violate not your conscience; ask not others to  
violate their conscience. (Study Romans 14)

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

### A Plea For Commitment

- June Franks -

Far too often we are hearing of those who are having trouble in their marriage and are contemplating a divorce. I believe a *lack of commitment* is a major factor for those who are thinking of getting a divorce.

It seems many couples are marrying without the commitment that is needed to help a marriage survive. Some say, "If it doesn't work out, then so be it, we will just find someone else."

According to their actions many do not have any idea even going into a marriage that marriage is a life long commitment. Maybe there has not been enough teaching about marriage and the commitment that we do make when we enter into the marriage covenant.

Commitment is the act of binding yourself (intellectually or emotionally) to a course of action. Traits of commitment means we are being sincere and steadfast with fixity of purpose. Words that describe commitment in a marriage are dedication, loyalty, or an allegiance to our marriage.

Commitment is something that many people have a hard time with. This simple term means that you are dedicated to one thing and one thing only. When one is married they are to be committed to the relationship for life, when things are going well and also when things may not be. Remember the vows say, "*For better or for worse.*"

We should have the attitude of *I will do whatever it takes to make our marriage work.* When you think only of yourself in your marriage, you are headed for problems. Our marriage is bigger and more important than any problem we may have. Sometimes we have to make sacrifices in our marriage.

We should all be on guard and realize that the devil is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Satan doesn't want us to be committed in our marriage and he tries every way he can to destroy marriages. Satan definitely wins when he destroys our home. It has been said, "As goes the home, so goes the nation."



June Franks

If you are considering a divorce please think of the people it hurts. It hurts everyone involved especially the children. The Bible says, "*And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.*"

"*And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.*"

"*And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*"

"*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to this wife; and they twain shall be one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" (Mark 10: 2-9)

This section of scripture is so familiar to each of us because it is part of the marriage vows. So many have forgotten their commitment or they just simply want to ignore it.

When one is seeking to end a marriage they can use all kinds of excuses for ending their marriage. We have heard, "*I just don't love him/her anymore.*" Usually when we make this statement we probably have already found someone else. This reasoning is certainly not acceptable to God. As the marriage vows say, Marriage is for life and that is *until death do we part.*

We should never let ourselves be in such a position to even think about committing adultery. If at all possible, don't allow yourself to be alone in the company of the opposite sex. So often an intimate relationship begins with just being friends. It could begin in the office where you work or it

could be over the internet. We need to recognize the danger of being friends on Facebook. It is good to re-connect with family and friends. However, becoming too friendly could lead to problems.

We should always avoid becoming too involved with someone else. Remain committed to your mate and stay as best friends. A person who commits adultery is being selfish. They are thinking only of themselves and not who it may hurt.

We also hear the statement, "*I just want to be happy.*" God does want us to be happy but when we make a commitment in marriage it is for life. Your attitude goes a long way in remaining happily married. Always remember the saying *the grass is greener on the other side* is **not** true.

Please, if you are married and are thinking of a divorce, re-consider the commitment that you made in your marriage vows. The only one that you can control in a marriage is you.

We have to face reality; we may be committed to our marriage, but if the other person is not then there is not much that we can do.

Those who are not married should definitely consider the vows you are to make and in so doing think of the commitment that you are making.

May God bless each of us in our marriage and help us to realize that the laws of God are given for our good because **God does want us to be happy.**

Mrs. A. L. Franks

P. O. Box 1578

Kosciusko, MS 39090

franksmm@aol.com

### Comments Invited!

#### 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.

## POEMS

By  
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray

bcagleray@comcast.net



### ...Along With Each Life-Giving Breath

Who shaped the branches of each unique tree  
And adorned the meadows in puffs of gold?  
Who placed the sparkle in a babbling brook,  
And filled the evening sky with stars untold?

Who designed the drowsy country woodlands,  
Primal valleys and mountains clad with snow?  
Who curled the eyelids of a velvet rose,  
And gave the rocks their mossy cameos?

Who created autumn's vibrant colors,  
And the majestic birth of every spring?  
Who fashioned a bird from a tiny shell,  
Gave it wings to fly and a voice to sing?

Rain's soft whisper above the distant hills,  
Eddying winds or peaceful woodland lake--  
All priceless gifts of love from God above...  
Along with each life-giving breath we take.

### The Last Leaf

The chilling winds came, snow began to fall,  
Winter laid its head on earth's frozen breast.  
On the highest bough of a gnarled oak tree,  
One leaf remained, left alone by the rest.

Its color was darkened by old Jack Frost,  
Now it shivered in an icy cold blast.  
Its companions had gone with autumn's flight--  
Now frigid white flakes were falling quite fast.

In eddying currents the wind swirled 'round,  
The tree quivered as its branches outspread.  
In a twinkle the leaf snapped from the limb,  
Then spiraled downward to an earthly bed.

There's a time for everything God has made--  
In the spring new leaves will adorn the tree.  
They'll dance in bright colors before they fly,  
Blazing their way into eternity.

Magnolia Messenger  
Appreciates  
Comments and Suggestions

Attention... Especially  
MS, LA, TN, AL, AR  
Churches of Christ

This space is available for you to advertise your upcoming events, reports about good works and other encouraging things you wish to share with thousands who read the more than 24,000 copies of each Magnolia Messenger. Please feel free to submit your news and reports. **Thank you.** (editor)

Use KJV  
for Spelling  
and Wording

## The Question Box

Send  
to Us  
Your Answers

### Jesus and the Inspired Old Testament Scriptures

Recently, a brother was heard to say, "I don't think we ought to spend time studying the Old Testament. We need to give all our attention to the New Testament since we are no longer under the Old Covenant." What would Jesus say? What would He want us to do?

This month's study, taken from the book of Matthew, looks at Jesus' relationship with and attitude toward the Old Testament Scriptures. Through this helpful study, we can better understand the attitude our Lord would have us to have toward the scriptures of the Old Testament.

First, be reminded of the following Biblical teachings. (a) "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable..." (2 Tim. 3:16,17). (b) "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning..." (Rom. 15:5). (c) Concerning God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt and their subsequent punishment because of sinful behavior, Paul wrote, "Now all of these things happened unto them for ensamples and they

are written for our admonition..." (I Cor. 10:11).

Someone has said, "The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed." Both Testaments are of/from God. It would be impossible to understand one without the other.

It is certainly true, however, that Christians are not under the Old Covenant (Testament). We are under the "new" and "better" covenant -- the New Testament (Will) of our Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:14-17; Heb. 8:1-13).

In this "QB", you are asked to study the book of Matthew and consider the relationship of Jesus to the Old Covenant and his respect for the inspired Old Testament scriptures. Please fill out each section in this month's study and, if you will, send your answers to us. By so doing, you will encourage others (see page 21) and you may be selected as our NEXT BIBLE WINNER. Each issue, we randomly select and award a beautiful Study Bible to one student who sends in answers to the "Question Box." This time, it just may be you! Thanks. (alf)

#### This Study: All answers are found in the book of Matthew

##### Old Testament Women in the Genealogy of Jesus

The genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1), going back to Abraham includes the names of four Old Testament women. (Match the woman in column one with the most appropriate phrase in column two.)

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Tamar (Tamar)           | ___ Solomon's mama                  |
| 2. Rachab (Rahab)          | ___ Mother of twins (Phares & Zara) |
| 3. "Wife" of Urias (Uriah) | ___ David's great grandmother       |
| 4. Ruth                    | ___ Jesse's grandmother             |

##### Old Testament Men Mentioned in the Teachings of Jesus

(Match the OT person named by Jesus and the most appropriate phrase connected with each.)

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Solomon (Matt. 6:___)        | ___ Jesus called him "righteous"      |
| 2. Moses (8:___)                | ___ Commanded the offering of a gift. |
| 3. David (Matt. 12:___)         | ___ Wore glorious apparel             |
| 4. Jonas (Jonah) (Matt. 12:___) | ___ Ate food that was "off-limits"    |
| 5. Abel (Matt. 23:___)          | ___ A preacher in Nineveh             |

##### Jesus Used Old Testament Scripture to Defeat Satan

(Match the Old Testament reference (left) with the teaching stated by our Lord in the right column.)

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Deut. 6:___   | ___ "...Live... not by bread alone..." |
| 2. Deut. ___:16) | ___ "Shalt not tempt the Lord..."      |
| 3. Deut. 8:___   | ___ "... worship/serve God only."      |

##### Quotations from Isaiah Associated with Jesus.

(Match the statement made by the prophet Isaiah {Esaias} [right column] with the correct reference.)

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Matthew 15:___ | ___ "...The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." |
| 2. Matthew 3:___  | ___ "...people... in darkness saw great light..."     |
| 3. Matthew 13:___ | ___ "...Himself took our infirmities..."              |
| 4. Matthew 4:___  | ___ "A bruised reed he shall not break..."            |
| 5. Matthew ___:17 | ___ "For this people's heart is waxed gross..."       |
| 6. Matthew 12:___ | ___ "But in vain do they worship me..."               |

##### Jesus Confirms Old Testament Records

Events and persons of the OT are often questioned by sceptics. (Match the NT reference [right] where Jesus confirmed the truthfulness of the teachings found in Old Testament Scriptures [left column].)

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. The real cities of Sodom and Gomorrha were burned up.      | ___ Matthew 12:40    |
| 2. Jonah miraculously survived in the belly of a "whale".     | ___ Matthew 17:___   |
| 3. Moses and Elijah were still "alive" after departing earth. | ___ Matthew 24:37-39 |
| 4. A flood destroyed all human life except Noah's family.     | ___ Matthew ___:15   |

#### 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



"Somewhere in Louisiana"

#### Lake Charles, Louisiana

Church of Christ

(Enterprise Boulevard)

**75th Year**

**Anniversary/Reunion**

Saturday & Sunday

**June 30 and July 1, 2012**

**Please Mark Your Calendars!**

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.

#### CORINTH

**Terry Smith**, Youth Minister, for the Foote Street Church of Christ, reports in the church bulletin that *On Solid Ground* was a huge success. The overall attendance was 148 including 32 who attended from the Foote Street congregation. **Randy Gaddy** from the Woodland Hills church in Memphis did an excellent job speaking on the theme, "The Devil is Real." Brother Terry says this was the 14th program of *On Solid Ground* which was started by Foote Street in December, 1997. On March 9-15, 2012 the youth group will be involved in *Mission Mississippi*.

#### BATESVILLE

The Batesville Church of Christ will be hosting a Marriage Seminar June 1-2, 2012 with **Glen and Cindy Colley**.

#### New Bible Winner

**Tommy Gray**

(Kosciusko, MS)

**Congratulations!**

#### MEMPHIS MSOP Lectures

(March 25-29)

The forty-sixth annual lectureship is planned for March 25 -March 29, 2012 at the Memphis School of Preaching. The general theme is: "In God We Trust".

#### VERONA

The Verona Church of Christ has a Gospel Meeting planned for June 8-10, 2012 with **Nathan Segars** doing the speaking. **Wayne Cox** is the local minister.



Seen at Tipton Street in Kosciusko  
Ever Present for all who are Present

**God's  
Plan  
for  
Man  
To  
Be  
Saved  
NO  
GREATER  
NEED;  
NO  
OTHER  
WAY!**