



Our 34th Year

Magnolia Messenger

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

Volume 34
Number 4
Oct. - Dec.,
2012



(The Story of Ruth on Page 3)
Born in Tennessee -- 1904
Died in Missouri -- 2012
At the Age of 107

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PLUS, A Whole Lot More!

After Nine Years of Effective Ministry in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Paul and Glenda Franks are Moving Back to Kosciusko, Mississippi



Read on Page 15
"Open Letter from MM Editor"

Magnolia Messenger Expanding with Additional Workers

We are thankful to announce that Paul and Glenda are returning to Kosciusko in January of 2013 (God willing), to work with the Magnolia Messenger and Mission Opportunities in Mississippi, Louisiana and adjoining states.

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

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News Notes

RIENZI, MS

A special day was held at the North Rienzi Church of Christ on September 23, 2012 with the young men of the Foote Street congregation in Corinth, Mississippi conducting the worship service.

PONTOTOC, MS

The Pontotoc Church of Christ plans to host the Area Wide Youth Meeting on February 10,

2013. Special servants for the Pontotoc congregation on Church Street include **Evan Kirby** (pulpit); **Gordon Gentry** (associate) and **Jason Street** (youth).

JACKSON, MS

We are saddened to announce the recent passing of Russell H. Corkern, a long time member of the Siwell Road Church of Christ We extend our sympathy to the Corkern family as well as his church family at Siwell Road.



Gladye Derryberry
Age: 100

Present for Church Services
On a Monday night!
(Her Example on Page 7)

407

Sent in Answers to
"The Question Box"

Is Your Name on Page 23?

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On Being Brutally Honest

If we would be brutally honest about it, we'd say, "I'd like to believe but I am not ready to change my lifestyle... I'd like to believe but I'm not ready to move out away from this friend I'm shacking up with... I'd like to believe but I don't want to change this pattern of behavior or this attitude... I don't want to change the fact that I'm just a party animal."

Read Joines' Article on "Saving Faith" -- Page 9

**SPRING
2013
MM RV
Rally**
at
*Beautiful
Lake Tiako'kata*
in
Louisville
Mississippi

April 22 - 25

**RV Pads
Cabins
Motel**

All are Invited

(See Page 11)



Magnolia Messenger
South Huntington St
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Kosciusko, MS 39090

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Dear Mr. Franks,

You do a wonderful job with your Quarterly periodical the "Magnolia Messenger." My mother certainly enjoyed reading it every time she received one; however, she passed away in 2009. I had her mail forwarded to my address in Tennessee following her death. While it makes excellent recycling material four times per year, it would be much better served to send it to someone in Mississippi who would get better use of it. Please, remove my late mother from your mailing list. The following is from the last label I received... Thanks for your help. (George Oxnam)

I came across a copy of Magnolia Messenger and I have found it delightfully refreshing! I would be honored to receive a copy. (Twyla Morris; Randolph, MS)

I truly enjoy reading your paper and hearing about what is going on around the brotherhood. I was wondering if I could get a copy of the Messenger Volume 34 number 2. I don't have that issue. Thanks so much and God bless! (James Hughes, Greenwood, MS)

My friend gave me a copy of the July-Sept Magnolia Messenger. I have really enjoyed reading about the church

in your area. I am an eighty one year old man living alone, and really appreciate hearing about the brethren in other places. I live in Seneca South Carolina and attend the Seneca Church of Christ. I would love to be on your mailing list to receive the Magnolia Messenger. Many thanks and God bless. (Jimmy Grubbs, Seneca, SC)

We are thankful for your good work! (Church of Christ, Roxie, Mississippi)

Al,

It was so good to see you and June recently at the Great Smoky Mountains church. We always enjoy our time with you and appreciate all the good work you do. I especially want to thank you for your kind words in the Magnolia Messenger about the GSM church. We count it an honor to be servants of Christ and to share fellowship with faithful Christians around the world. You and June have meant so much to us through the years. Thank you for publishing the MM and for the wonderful way you share news from churches across our southern states. I also commend you for your strong stand for the truth. Please visit with us again soon.

(Al Behel, preacher for the Great Smoky Mountains church of Christ in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee)

Editor's Note

Inclusion of a church and/or preacher in the MM is not to be considered an endorsement.

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

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A Serious Study About Salvation

"Is It Possible to Know What is Right and to Know I Am Saved?"

- Editor -

Recently, I ran across a statement that stirred my interest. It simply stated, "I am saved because I am right; you are lost because you are wrong."

"I am saved...; you are lost..." Passing judgement is a serious business. When *eternity* is under consideration, judgement is best left up to God who, alone, knows the heart of man. And, while we are given the ability to "judge" -- based upon **evidence** or **fruit** in one's life; yet, only God knows the full story. As for me, I am thankful that God is **the** judge. Thankful also that God is good; He is right; His will is perfect and He makes no mistakes!

For me or you to say, "I am saved because I am right; you are lost because you are wrong" seems to place emphasis upon the wrong person! It's not **what I think**; not **how I feel**. Rather, it is God, it is His Word that is the standard (the authority), not me or any other man. And while it does appear that an evil spirit of "self-righteousness" prevails when the above statement is made; yet, there remains an important question that needs to be answered.

Here is that question: "**Is it possible to know what is right, to do it and to know I am saved?**"

Jesus told his disciples, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Is not Jesus saying that one **can know** the truth and that *freedom* comes through knowledge of and response to **the truth**? The apostle Paul wrote, "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." (Rom. 8:16,17). Taking the Holy Scripture at face value, Paul is teaching that when the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit, we **can know** we are children of and heirs of God..

The gospel plan of salvation is **clearly revealed** in God's Word. Through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit has made known the will, the plan of God for the salvation of all who are lost in sin. Since the first century A.D., the written Word is the instrument through which the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of men. It is not only possible; it is required that we compare *our response* to the Lord's directives (commands) as clearly taught in the Spirit's instrument -- the Word of God. And, by so doing, we can **know** we are children of God and heirs of His "exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4).

According to the inspired scriptures, revealed by the Holy Spirit in Mark 16:15,16, the plan of salvation is plainly stated. Jesus Himself said, "Go... preach the gospel... He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that **believeth not** shall be **condemned**." The gospel must be heard and believed by every person in the world who is in need of salvation. As evidence of that faith, the believer is to be baptized. Everyone who believes and is baptized is given the assurance of "salvation" by the Saviour Himself! He can know he is saved. Because Jesus said so!

Jesus added, "He that believeth not shall be condemned." Obviously, if I do not evidence my faith in Jesus through obedience to Him, then I do not really believe. Baptism and repentance are evidences of faith!

Now, if I hear the gospel, believe the gospel and make known my faith in Jesus as the Saviour through *repentance* of sin and *baptism* (as He commanded), is it not possible to know I am saved? On the other hand, what if a lost soul does not hear and/or, does not believe and/or refuses to **obey** the Lord in baptism? **By what authority can I, you, or anyone else, offer the promise of salvation to that person?**

Prayerfully consider the teachings of the apostle Paul, who wrote about the Second Coming of Christ. He declared that Jesus is to be "revealed from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that *know not God* and to them that *obey not the gospel* of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 1:8,9). According to this passage, Jesus is coming to take vengeance upon two groups: (a) "them that know not God" and (b) "them that *obey not the gospel* of our Lord Jesus Christ." Sounds serious!

Obviously there is *something* about the "gospel" that **requires obedience**. The gospel of Christ includes commands that must be obeyed. Is that not what the Bible teaches throughout the book of Acts, as the many cases of conversion are studied? Take for example, the people who heard the "first gospel sermon" on Pentecost. When they heard Simon Peter relate the true story of the life of Jesus -- how He lived among His people, proved His Sonship (Divinity) through "wonders and signs" and how He was unjustly condemned, illegally crucified and hastily buried. Then, after three days, the inspired apostle affirmed that Jesus came forth **alive** from the grave; then, forty days later, He ascended into Heaven where He was proclaimed by God to be "*both Lord and Christ*." (Study Acts 2)

From among the thousands listening to Peter preach, there was a great multitude -- *pricked in their hearts* -- who cried out, "*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*" Speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, the apostle commanded them to "*Repent and be baptized... for the remission of sins*." The gospel preached by Peter contained commandments -- gospel commands to be obeyed. The Bible says that those who *gladly received the word* were baptized and on that day membership in Christ's church increased by "*about 3,000*." Those who believed and obeyed received remission of sins and were promised the "gift of the Holy Spirit." **They were saved**. The Bible says so! (Acts 2:38,47).

Every soul who learns God's will and responds by faith, in obedience to Jesus, can be assured that he is saved -- not by his own works or merit, but "by grace through faith" (Eph. 2:8,9) God bestows His saving grace on those who show evidence of their faith. And, when anyone so responds to the Lord and Saviour, he **can know** he is saved. (alf)



A. L. Franks, Editor

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTIONS:

I have heard some brothers in some parts of Africa are excommunicating sisters who wear trousers. The basis for their decision is Deuteronomy 22:5. "A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this." What is the correct interpretation of this scripture? (L.K.)

Is it wrong for women to wear long pants to church, or at all? Also is it wrong for a man to wear female clothes? (M.B.)

RESPONSE:

Deuteronomy 22:5 is an Old Testament law and Christians are no more amenable to it than to the dietary laws of Leviticus 11; we eat pork chops and bacon, catfish, shrimp and oysters, all forbidden under the Old Testament but perfectly acceptable under the New (Acts 10:9-16).

Deuteronomy 22:9-11, in the same chapter as the verse cited in the question, says, "You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole yield be forfeited, the crop that you have sown and the yield of the vineyard. You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together." Most of us likely have clothes on right now made of two or more kinds of cloth. We recognize we are not under those laws.

The Bible says we are "no longer under" the law of Moses (Galatians 3:24-25). Jesus abolished Moses' law in his death (Ephesians 2:15). He nailed it to his cross and as a result we are no longer to be judged by questions of foods and by what we do on the Sabbath (Colossians 2:14-17). Jesus fulfilled the law and took it out of the way (Matthew 5: 17).

Most readers of the *Magnolia Messenger* are aware of all that. Many, however, who do

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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not realize the New Testament says we are not subject to Old Testament laws, act as if they did realize it. They eat what Leviticus 11 forbids and work on Saturdays just like any other day, even if they do not understand the rationale for it.

Some, though, who understand we are not under the ordinances of the Old Testament, nevertheless pick some of the Old Testament laws that appeal to them and preach them as if they were still in force. The use of Deuteronomy 22:5 to object to women wearing slacks or pantsuits is a case in point.

It is also pertinent to realize that women's slacks and pantsuits such as are stylish today are not men's clothing. They

No lesson on any biblical sin is really complete without an acknowledgment of the love of God for everyone, including sinners, and for the gift of his unique Son who enables anyone guilty of any sin to be "washed, sanctified and justified" by grace through obedient faith in Jesus the Christ.

are specifically cut and sewn for women and men would look quite ridiculous in them.

There is no New Testament Scripture that forbids a man wearing dresses or other women's apparel. Some instances of "cross-dressing" are related to sexual deviations, but that is an all together different discussion than this one.

The questions to which we are responding relate only to American clothing customs. It would not be pertinent in Scotland where kilts (skirts) are standard men's clothing or in India where male and female styles are so radically different from ours.

On a related issue, it is, I believe, a mistake to cite the Old Testament laws against homosexuality as part of today's debate as to whether homosexuality is a sin. Opponents quickly cite the dietary laws, etc., as evidence those laws are outmoded, confusing the issue in the minds of the unlearned.

Homosexuality is a sin, not because the Old Testament says so, but because the New Testament clearly condemns it. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

"For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error" (Romans 1:26-27).

Remember also, however, verse 11 from the 1 Corinthians 6 passage, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

No lesson on any biblical sin is really complete without an acknowledgment of the love of God for everyone, including sinners, and for the gift of his unique Son who enables anyone guilty of any sin to be "washed, sanctified and justified" by grace through obedient faith in Jesus the Christ.

CM, Jr

Ruth Pritchard

at age
107

Hugged
by
grand-
daughter,
Karen
Robinson,
of
Yazoo City

Died
8.31.12



Remembrances of Ruth

December 27, 1904 - August 31, 2012

Died at age 107

The family and friends of Ruth Pritchard have many good memories of their precious loved one. Sister Pritchard's granddaughter, Karen Robinson and her husband, Carlos, from Yazoo City, Mississippi recently shared with us some of those precious memories.

Sister Ruth was born in Tennessee on December 27, 1904, but she lived most of her adult life in Pemiscot County, Missouri. She was a faithful member of the church of Christ in Steele, Missouri and was able to attend services until just three or four years before her death at the age of 107. About ten years before her death she drove herself to an assisted living home in Blytheville, Arkansas -- just across the line from Steele.

We never had the privilege of personally knowing sister Ruth; however, through the years, we heard many good things about her -- especially her faithfulness as a Christian.

We understand she was a woman of beauty; not only outwardly, but also inwardly. She always wanted to look nice, but not to the neglect of her spiritual being.

Sister Ruth Pritchard was blessed with a very long physical life; however, like everyone else, it eventually came to an end. On August 31, 2012, at the age of 107, her spirit departed from her body to what is, we have reason to believe, a much better place!

Sister Ruth left behind her son, Charles and his wife Barbara of Steele, Missouri whom we are

blessed to know personally. She is also survived by two other children (one daughter is deceased). She also left behind fourteen grandchildren, 20 great grands, 21 great great grands, and two great great great grands.

Sister Ruth has family living in Mississippi, and when they would return to visit her, she would often ask, "Are you going to church like you should?"

Even in her advanced years, after passing one hundred, she remained concerned about the spiritual welfare of her family -- whether they were faithful to the Lord or not.

Sister Ruth's attitude and actions reminds us of the passage found in 3 John 4, where the apostle of love wrote, "Greater joy have I none than this, to hear of my children walking in truth."

Sister Ruth wrote an insightful letter to her family on **December 1, 1973**. The letter includes the following words.

"Dad and I have been married for 52 years; we have had good times, and bad times, our ups and our downs. But we have raised you wonderful children, and we have a bunch of lovely grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"We love all of you very much. My prayers are, every day of my life, that all of you will study God's Word, and obey His teachings and live your life the way He has instructed you to live so that, after this life is over, we can all live together in that home where there will be no more partings. This is your mother's prayer! With all my Love, Ruth Pritchard"

What precious memories. What a woman! (by June Franks)

A Reader Writes About "The Question Box" She Said: "I'm So Sorry"

In the previous issue of the MM, readers were invited to answer "The Question Box" studying "The Two Testaments" (page 24). One dear student responded to the last two sections of the study, saying, "I'm so sorry -- but I don't know the answers. I have studied until I have a headache. Again, I am so very sorry...." She then added, "My sister in Christ wants you to send her the Magnolia Messenger, if you would...."

EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

First: We are very pleased to add your "sister's" name to our mailing list. Second: The last section of the "QB" did not ask you to fill in blanks or provide any answers. It was, rather, a request that each student simply study the points stated and the Bible references cited as a reminder that Old Testament teachings and/or laws are not to be confused with New Testament teachings and/or laws.

This was intended to aid students in understanding *why* OT practices such as (a) the use of instrumental music, the offering of animal sacrifices and the burning of incense in worship are not required *nor* are they authorized for Christians who are under the New Covenant -- not the Old. Such a study also was intended to help us see more clearly that the Levitical priesthood, the sacredness of a building (temple) in Jerusalem and the keeping of the "Sabbath" are not applicable to Christians under the New Testament of Jesus Christ. And may I personally add my regrets by saying: *I'm so sorry for not making the lesson more easily understood. But, thanks to you and to all for answering "The Question Box."* (alf)

Traveling The Trace

We Met Stephen -- The "Wheelchair Guy"

We Sought to Encourage Him; He Encouraged Us More!

My June and I enjoy driving the Natchez Trace Parkway, especially when we are traveling in our motorhome. Recently, as we were returning from a working trip, we stopped at one of the many "pullover sites" along the trace.

We parked at an overlook point on the Barnett Reservoir where I noticed a man, sitting in a wheel chair, looking out over the beautiful lake. Walking back to where he was, I found him reading a Bible commentary. After saying "hello", and complementing him for his interest in the Word of God we engaged in some interesting conversation.

Before leaving our new found friend, so he could get back to

his reading, my June prepared a cup of hot spiced tea for him. I gave it to him, along with a copy of the "Magnolia Messenger."

Then after asking if it would be okay to take his picture, we said "good-bye," finished our trip to Kosciusko and immediately got involved with other things. For the next few days we didn't give much thought to our visit with the "wheelchair man."

Then, one day when checking email, I found a note from the man we had met in the wheelchair at the reservoir overlook. The email stated,

Thank you for taking time for me last week on your way back home at Overlook Point on the Trace. (Wheelchair guy) I enjoyed the conversation and the opportunity to encounter someone so immersed in the work of The Lord.

Please relay my thanks to your wife for the cider. I have to agree it was good. Thank you also for the MM copy. It certainly is a relevant paper for the Christian walk. Good job!

In his email, the "wheelchair guy" invited me to look at his "Scripture based blog" on the internet. He added, "I do it to help with my Bible study. It helps clarify my thoughts. A few people even read it."

A Visit To Long Remember



Holding cup of tea and MM

Our Times Demand Solid Meat Not Candy Sermons

(HEB. 5:14)

"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

- Fenter Northern -

As we Christians grow older we experience the heart rending departure of more and more loved ones to the other side. The shore of the dark sea separating the visible temporary from the invisible eternal begins to loom clearer through the murky mists. For these Christians (me too), to never forsake the assembly is not a needed sermon anymore; not to us who are saints of mature years in Christian service.

In our more immature years, it was needed as part of our growing process, but the command to assemble, now after many years of worship, is no longer viewed as an external command; it has lost itself in the sweet anticipation of loving desire to share with the saints the blessed fellowship around our Master's Table.

The command is written in the Book but to assemble in remembrance of Jesus' blessed gift of salvation is written in the heart. The words of the beautiful hymn written by a blind lady that we have sung for many years seems so much more moving and heart warming as the years go by:

Oh, the pure delight of a single hour,

That before Thy throne I spend;

When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,

I commune as friend with friend!

There are depths of love that I cannot know,

Till I cross the narrow sea;

There are heights of joy that I may not reach,

Till I rest in peace with Thee.

We Christians, when in the assembly, identify with that saint in the Psalms who penned his thoughts while at worship this way: "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." (Ps. 84:2). Friend, can you and I say that?

We Christians surely can identify with the Psalmist's longing



Fenter Northern

Former Academic Dean of MBC

to worship in the felt presence of God.—perhaps at some times more than others, we are still in the

What a terrible void it leaves when Christians gather on Lord's Day expecting and desperately needing solid spiritual bread and find only candy being passed out from the pulpit.

flesh— but nevertheless we've been there. In a world filled with a c h o k i n g atmosphere of mind numbing materialism

where our Father God is crucified openly again; when Barabbas is still the preferred company to those of good moral ethics; it is imperative that God's pulpit vibrate continually with solid, biblical exhortation.

Reader's Response

Thanks so much for the good deeds you do in mailing the Magnolia Messenger. Your articles are so true and needed. God bless all of you. In Christ, (Joyce Reich Gray, Amory, MS)

What a terrible void it leaves when Christians gather on Lord's Day expecting and desperately needing solid spiritual bread and find only candy being passed out from the pulpit.

There is another precious hymn that truly speaks the hearts of saints each Lord's Day. This hymn never grows old. You don't have to remind any Christian to assemble when they meet to sing this hymn in truth from depths of their soul:

When we meet in sweet communion,

Where the feast divine is spread;

Hearts are brought in closer union,

While partaking of the bread.

Precious feast all else surpassing,

Wondrous love for you and me;

While we feast Christ gently whispers,

"Do this in My memory."

Feast divine, all else surpassing,

Precious blood for you and me;

While we sup, Christ gently whispers,

"Do this in My memory."

Let's all say Amen! (Written by Fenter Northern; 6213 Bell Grove Pl; Montgomery, AL 36117; email: fnorthern@charter.net)

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

Caught in the Act of Reading the MM

Jesse Allen is the preacher for the Monroe Street Church of Christ in Alexandria, LA and was one of several area preachers who attended a recent Gospel Meeting in Bentley, LA where MM editor preached. We were pleased to get to know him and learn about his work for the Lord in central Louisiana.

Brother Allen has served the congregation in Alexandria for the past fifteen years. He told us that he had received the "Messenger"



Jesse Allen

Looking Up from Looking Over
An Issue of the MM

in years gone by, but due to moving about, he was no longer on our mailing list. Of course, we were pleased to add his name back to the more than 21,000 individuals who regularly receive the MM by mail. (Many additional readers are able to pick up copies mailed in bundles to churches throughout the nation.) We are thankful and much encouraged. Thank God for all those who make publication of the MM possible!

For Couples "Just Living Together"

FREE WEDDINGS OFFERED

- Editor -

Students of God's word have long known that the Lord does not approve of couples living together before marriage. The Bible says, "...to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife and let every woman have her own husband" (1 Cor. 7:2). Intimate relations are for husbands and wives -- married to each other. Sexual relations outside marriage are labeled in Scripture as "fornication." Hebrews 13:4 declares, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers [fornicators] and adulterers God will judge."

Marriage is one of God's gifts to man. Within the bounds of matrimony husbands and wives can experience some of life's greatest joys. The "oneness" of a husband and his wife; the "completeness" that marriage brings, remind us of why God said, "It is not good that man be alone." The Creator then said, "I will make him an help meet for him." Then the creation record states that, from the side of man, God took a rib and "made He a woman, and brought her unto the man." (Gen. 2:18-25)

Thousands of years later, Jesus made reference to that first man and first woman who were united by God in the first marriage and said, "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6).

Marriage is the act that binds two hearts and two lives together in a home for life. It involves love; it involves commitment. Promises are made to be kept. Vows are taken to uphold. Not only the couple, but also the community benefits from such public commitment. In the home as God would have it, the laws of the Almighty are recognized and respected -- resulting in a life-long contract that is to be broken only by death -- "til death do we part."

In an effort to encourage marriage for couples living together outside of wedlock, **Carl Hardie**, preacher for the church of Christ in Ottawa, Illinois, decided to make an offer. He and another preacher in the city offered to perform "free of charge" weddings in Washington Square, a public place of assembly in the city. This offer was to be made to all unmarried "living-together couples" who realized that "shacking up" was not acceptable to God nor approved by Godly people.

A public announcement, making known the free offer, was published in the local newspaper.

The announcement stated that ministers would be available on a certain Saturday afternoon from one until six o'clock to perform the weddings at no charge.

In his comments about the offer, preacher Hardie stated, "It's for people who are broke but want to get married." He added, "We're offering them an opportunity to do the right thing." Then, to couples living in sin, he said, "It's the best thing you can do for the kids and the best thing you can do for each other."

An Exception

Brother Hardie said, "The Bible passage (Matt. 19:9) will be observed... In a marriage where there was infidelity, that scripture allows for the remarriage only of the innocent party." The preacher continued, "If you were married before, you need to be the one who didn't run around on your wife or husband."

The only other requirement was that each couple show up for the "Free Wedding" with a marriage license and a desire to do "the right thing."

NOTE: This report is based upon phone conversations with Carl Hardie and a report published in a local newspaper in Ottawa, Illinois. We do appreciate brother Hardie calling this evangelistic effort to our attention. His example just may be something other churches and or preachers will want to do. (Editor)

Bible Teaching Articles are Welcomed by the MM.

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Signs and Scripture



(Prov. 14:12)

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

(John 14:6)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

(Matt. 7:13,14)

Jesus said, "...broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at... narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Dear Magnolia Messenger, I have really enjoyed your good paper for about 25 years. I am sending a couple of addresses to you to add to the mailing list... Love in Christ, (Emily C. Overton, Jasper, AL)

News Note

Mitchell Muses About 40 Years in NE MS

News notes for the MM come from several sources. Church bulletins, printed and e-mailed, provide interesting news items. News also comes from telephone conversations and from personal visits as we travel and work among the brethren.

This news note comes from a weekly newspaper, the *Belmont & Tishomingo Journal* which is published by **M. Wayne Mitchell** and edited by his wife, **Catherine**. In the November 7th issue, Wayne wrote about his 1972 move from central to northeast Mississippi, where he has worked and preached for the past forty years.

Congregations for which he has preached regularly include: **Liberty** (5 years), **Pine Grove** (3 years), **Belmont** (18 years), and **Mt. Gilead** (now in his 17th year). He also served for a short time as "interim preacher" for the church in **Sardis**, Mississippi. Wayne commented, "My family and I have been so richly blessed down through the years by the association and continued friendship of so many." Thanks Wayne and Catherine for your dedicated service. God bless! (MM Editor)

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 Magnolia Messenger (24,000 copies of each issue). Please feel free to submit your news and reports. **Thank you.** (editor)

MM Welcomes Comments, Suggestions and Ideas.

The Two Testaments

Answers -- Last Issue

The Old Testament Superseded by the New Testament

Where does the Bible teach? (Match the reference in the scripture block (on right, below) with the scriptural teaching which shows that Old Testament laws are not binding on Christians.)

7 1. Christians are "dead to the law" and "married to another (Christ)."

2 2. "Believing Pharisees" were *wrongly* teaching that Gentile converts must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses.

6 3. The Old Testament law, spoken of as the "ministration of death, written and engraven in stones", was said to be "done away" and/or "abolished." **NOTE:** "Engraven in stones" refers to the Ten Commandments!

1 4. The Mosaic law was a "schoolmaster [tutor] to bring us unto Christ." However, after Christ came, his followers are "no longer under a schoolmaster."

5 5. Christians are not to be entangled again with the old covenant, described as "the yoke of bondage" which including the requirement of circumcision. Those who would seek to be "justified by the law" are said to be "fallen from grace."

3 6. Jesus, at and in His death, broke down the "middle wall of partition" and "abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances."

4 7. God changed the Levitical priesthood to the priesthood of Christ and His disciples. The Bible says, "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." God also promised, "I will make a new covenant", then the inspired writer declared: "A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."

What About THE Ten Commandments?

The New Covenant or Testament *includes* many commandments. In fact, everyone of the ten commandments "engraven in stones" as given to the nation of Israel, **except** the "Sabbath law", is *included* in the New Covenant. Some of the original ten commandments are even more encompassing and demanding in New Testament teachings. (See Matthew 5:21-30). *Consider the Old Testament commandments found in Exodus chapter 20 (below) and match the New Testament reference (in block, on right) where each command is included or made a part of the New Covenant.* Alternate:

1. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."
2. "Honor thy father and thy mother..."
3. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
4. "Thou shalt not steal."
5. "Thou shalt not covet..."

Many Old Testament Regulations Are Not Included in the New Testament.

(Study OT guidelines found in Deuteronomy 21-24. Write in the reference where each is found)

1. When a man takes a new wife: "...He shall be free at home one year and cheer up his wife..." (Deut. 24:5)
2. Under the OT a man was permitted to have more than one wife at a time. (Deut. 21:15)
3. OT law directed that an unrepentant and rebellious son be stoned to death (Deut. 21:21)

1. Gal. 3:15-29
2. Acts 15:1-5
3. Ephesians 2:11-22
4. Hebrews 8:1-13
5. Gal. 5:1-6
6. 2 Cor. 3:1-18
7. Romans 7:1-4

- 3 or 5** 1 Cor. 6:9,10
- 1** 1 John 5:21
- 2** Eph 6:2
- 4** Eph. 4:28
- 5 or 3** 2 Peter 2:14

CHRISTIAN

Serve God, Your Father, in Doing Good

-Tim Childs-

God is good (Mark 10:18). Because He is good it naturally follows that He is found in all of history practicing what is good and right. No exception. Jesus, the Son of God, came



Tim Childs

into the world, and He did, in fact, "show us the Father" (John 14:8-9). The Apostle Peter, a witness among many privileged to see such *Light* (John 1:9), declared in truth that He "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). It is only natural the Son of God would be caught up in the doing of good. After all, He is "the Son of His Father." He was God in the flesh.

Being begotten of Him and born of His seed, it follows that we, too, will be found busy in the practice of what is good on a daily basis. By God's design, we have been redeemed (Titus 2:14), raised up (Ephesians 2:6) to pass "from death unto life" (John 5:24), and positioned within the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:18) in order to practice the doing of good works (Ephesians 2:10). Therefore, the contrast is set by God for his children: we are to be "a pattern of good works" (Titus 2:7) unlike those who are yet children of darkness and remain "unfit for any good work" (Titus 1:16, ESV). "In this the children of God are manifest, and the

children of the devil: whoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (1 John 3:10).

Christians are taught not to be slothful and lazy (Hebrews 6:10-12), but rather to be diligent and "zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). When Jesus, our Savior, gave "himself for us," He did so with this purpose in view. He has enabled and empowered us now to be "servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18).

The gospel preacher, Titus, was to remind his contemporary brethren "to be ready to every good work (Titus 3:1). Being ready to every good work we are equipped and prepared like a first-responder to immediately fill a need when the call comes in. We cannot afford to be caught off-guard or flat-footed. Time matters. Because of our identity with the Father and His Son, it is only natural that you and I will be lights in the world and be demonstrating the good, acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).

— — — —
(Tim preaches for the Hillcrest church of Christ in Baldwin, MS. His address: Hillcrest Church Of Christ; 956 S Fourth St.; Baldwin, MS 38824-9201. hillcrestchurch@bellsouth.net)

Two Things That Get My Attention!

Old Timey Church Buildings
Old Timey Gospel Preaching

Scripture Says,
"Ask for the Old Paths"
Jeremiah 6:16

Back to the Bible
6,000 Years Ago
2,000 Years Ago

The Bible only makes Christians only. Let's do Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible things by Bible names.

Readers' Response

Please add this name to your mailing list. I have been giving mine to them...I like to reread mine. Thanks, (Bea & Floyd Hunt, Belleville, IL)

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to inform your organization I do have a change in my location here at LA State Prison. I have not gotten them lately and this is probably the reason here... So this letter is to have my address corrected so that I can receive them once again. I enjoy reading your paper and I do pass them on to other christian brothers who also appreciate them... Also, where as I can do the Question section. This helps me to look deeper into God's Word in answering those questions. Plus it keeps my mind also on Christ Jesus too! I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Yours in Christ, (Paul Howard, Angola, LA)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings! I hope and pray that all is well with all of you. I wanted to send you this card to thank you all for the Magnolia Messenger and for sending it to me. It helps me a great deal to know that there are people out there who care. Thank you for the encouragement, scripture, kind words, poems, etc. that are listed in the MM. Just wanted you to know that I appreciate all of you and that you will always be in my prayers. May God continue to bless and keep you all. Please, keep up the good work. You bless so many with doing the work that God has led all of you to do. Have a wonderful holiday season. In Christ's Love, (Rachel Ellene Cook, Ocala, FL)

Dear Sir:

Please send a subscription of "Magnolia Messenger" to me at the following address. Keep up the excellent work you are doing!! (Kenneth Magee, Bogue Chitto, MS)

My family and I have received the Magnolia Messenger for years. We would say "Thank you" and please continue this good work. Sincerely in Christ. (Richard & Kay Sanders, Woodruff, S.C.)

We enjoy getting the Messenger. Keep up the good work. (Bill & Betty Welshans, Vicksburg, MS)

Bro. Franks,

Thanks for all the papers you have sent me through the years. I enjoy them very much. God Bless. (James Ray, Cleveland, TN)

I've enjoyed the Good news today through your paper, and I pray our Almighty God and Savior will continue to bless your ministry. You're reaching out to people like me who are searching and learning what God's will is for our lives means more than you could ever imagine. Thank you so much. Sincerely Yours, (Angela McInnis, Flowood, MS)

We enjoy the Magnolia Messenger very much and appreciate Ray and Donna Franks putting our name on the list for your paper. We are enclosing a check to help you to continue your ministry. Sincerely, (Janice & George Slagle, Jonesborough, TN)



As Seen Along Interstate 55, South of Jackson, MS
Regardless of who printed and/or paid for the sign,
the message is worthy of consideration.
The HOLY BIBLE. Inspired. Absolute. Final.
We say, "Amen!"

THANK YOU FOR Receiving & Reading the Magnolia Messenger

Married
57
Years

Betty
&
Gilbert
HOWELL

Bentley, LA



In October of 2012, my June and I were blessed to stay in our motorhome for several days in Central Louisiana, just a few miles north of Alexandria. In addition to the opportunity for June to speak at a "Ladies' Day" and for me to preach in a "Gospel Meeting" at Bentley, we were also blessed to spend some time with Gilbert and Betty Howell.

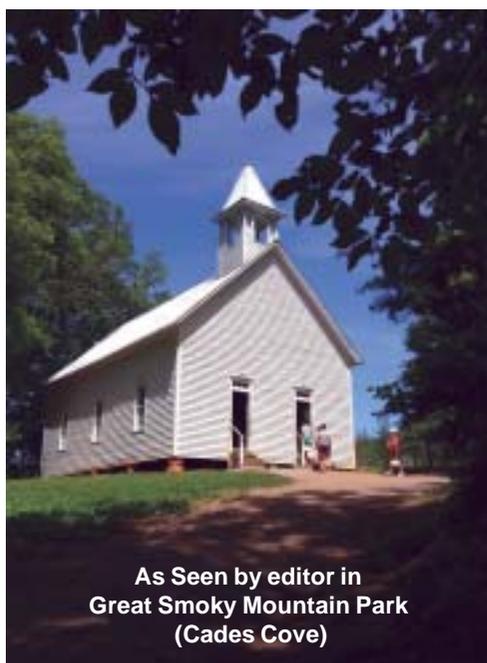
We first met the Howells, way back in 1964, when he was preaching for the Jack's Creek congregation, near Henderson, Tennessee. At the same time, I was preaching for the Poplar Springs church, near Huntingdon, TN. Gilbert and I were both students at FHC. I remember being a "little jealous" of Gilbert because he lived at Jack's Creek -- only about eight miles east of Henderson and Freed-Hardeman but I had to travel nearly 40 miles to FHC from Clarksburg. "Jealous." But, I got over it!

After school, Gilbert and his family moved about and preached in Virginia, Kentucky,

Tennessee and Louisiana. His work also included serving Mississippi churches at McComb, Hazlehurst, West Corinth and Roxie.

Brother Gilbert's most recent work, as a preacher, was in Louisiana with churches at Alexandria, Montgomery and Bentley. A few years ago, because of a stroke and other health problems, Gilbert was forced to retire. Presently, he and Betty live in Bentley where he continues to be actively involved, as much as possible, in the work of the church.

On June 8, the Howells celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. In doing so, they serve as an example of a loving couple -- "married for life" -- who know by experience, that God's plan for marriage and the home is the "way to go." We congratulate Gilbert and Betty and pray for them many more years of service together in the Lord's kingdom. May God bless. (alf; MM Editor)



As Seen by editor in
Great Smoky Mountain Park
(Cades Cove)



Gladye Derryberry

at age **100** was present for the Monday night service of Clinton's Gospel Meeting.

Gladye Derryberry was born on a Thursday, September 19, 1912, in Ramer Tennessee. **Over 100 years later**, it was our privilege to visit with her on a Monday evening at a church service in Clinton, Mississippi. We were encouraged to hear her speak of her faith in God and her love for the Lord and His church.

Sister Derryberry, who has lived in Clinton since 1993, is a faithful member of the Clinton church of Christ. She regularly attends all three services each week, plus special events such as a Gospel Meeting. Assisting her in her advanced years is her loving daughter and family-- **Anne and**

Robert Shelton. Brother Robert serves as one of the three elders of the Clinton church and also preaches each Sunday morning for the church in Tallulah, Louisiana.

Sister Derryberry commented to me, *"I don't know why God keeps me here; there must be some purpose."* My response: *"Sister Gladye, you are an inspiration to many. Your example of faithfulness to the Lord means much to me and to others. Your presence here for this meeting on a Monday night proclaims a powerful message to all who know you and who may hear about you. May God bless."* (Editor)



Fulton Bible Institute 2012 Fall Banquet

Sixty students from **17** congregations participated in the fall term of the Fulton Bible Institute in Fulton, Mississippi. They studied in depth the Book of Hebrews, #1. The next session beginning, Lord willing, January 8, 2013, features, the Book of Hebrews, #2. **Russ Crosswhite**, preacher for the Clifton Street church in Fulton, is the director of FBI.

VICKSBURG'S BYPASS CHURCH HOSTS MEN'S DAY AND GOSPEL MEETING WITH EVANGELIST LOYD HARRIS

November 10 - 15, 2012, were very special days for the Bypass congregation in Vicksburg, Mississippi. On Saturday, the church hosted a special day for men. Then, the next day, their fall meeting began with evangelist Loyd Harris of Little Rock, Arkansas. (Brother Harris preached several years in Mississippi, including Greenville and Moss Point.)

My June and I were present for the closing service and were richly blessed by the warm fellowship of many brothers and sisters -- not only from the Bypass congregation, but also from several area

congregations, including I-20 (Vicksburg), Lake Harbour (Ridgeland), Fulton St. (Canton); also from Hazlehurst, Clinton and Jackson.

On the final night of the meeting, brother Harris used I Samuel 28 as his text for a sermon he entitled, *"Internal Struggles of a Disobedient Man."* He preached about King Saul and some of the bad decisions he made which greatly affected his life, leading to his early death.

The gifted preacher recalled how that Saul was, at first, humble, but became arrogant and disobe-

dient to God. He spoke of the danger of "success" which can lead to pride.

Brother Harris pointed out a major difference between King Saul and King David. Both made serious mistakes, but the difference in the two was *how* they responded to their mistakes. He said, *"It is not what you do wrong that affects God's attitude toward you, but what you do after you have done wrong."* A good service and another good visit.

Evangelist **Willie Nettle** serves effectively as the long time preacher for the Bypass church.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY SUMMIT
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- "How to Build a Youth Program with Volunteers" (David Baker)
- "Innovative Ideas for Teaching Teens" (Andrew Jenkins)
- "The Biblical Foundations for Youth and Family Ministry" (Jeremy Hinote)
- "New Songs for Youth Groups" (Jon Podein)
- "Let's Get Real with Ministry" (Dale Jenkins)
- "How to Plan a Youth Mission Trip from Start to Finish" (Mike Whisenant)
- "Working with the 'Other Guys' on the Ministry Team" (Paul Spurlin)
- "Ministry and Technology" (Joey Sparks, Scott Bond Jr., Daniel Howell)

O Happy Day!



A Joyous Occasion in Bentley, Louisiana

Pictured above (from left) are Kristen, Lydia and Ben. On Sunday, October 21, 2012, Kristen and Ben were baptized into Christ. Standing between them is Ben Nettles' grandmother, Lydia, who was there to congratulate them on their decision to be united in Christ. Sister Lydia Dikes, over 90 years of age, was present, not only on Sunday morning, but for **every** service of the Gospel Meeting which continued through Wednesday. The following Saturday afternoon Kristen and Ben were united in marriage in Galveston, Texas. My June and I were privileged to work with the Bentley church in their Ladies' Day and Gospel Meeting. (Editor)

NOTE: About six years ago, I selected and saved the following article penned by **Floyd C. Johnson**, a gospel preacher. He reminds us of the value of the "OFF" switch on television sets. His article was timely in 2006; it is even more timely today. Read for profit. (Editor)

Use "Off" Often On TV Sets

One of the most important questions we can learn to ask is "Why?". Why does it seem we are a more violent nation? Is there a cause and effect at work in our people?

I don't remember, growing up, where people wanted to settle their differences with a gun or knife. Oh, there were always fools who did so, but they were few in number. Now it has become so common it doesn't even move us to tears or anger when we see the result of evil behavior on the evening news.

Now take a test. Watch TV for three days in a row, attend two movies in one week, and what will you see? Write down how many acts of murder and mayhem you view in that short time span.

People learn to be evil. They learn by what they are taught, and the media is a great teaching tool. The impact of this teaching tool on the lives of small children cannot be over stated. Jesus taught that "*what goes into the heart defiles a man*".

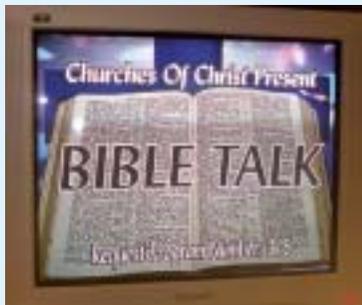
Day after day, growing up watching murder, rape, and mayhem must have a telling effect on the soul.

Parents must know what their children are watching. One of the greatest inventions known to mankind has to be the OFF switch. Use it often! *Brother Johnson serves as a minister with the Huntington Park church of Christ in Shreveport, LA. His address:*

Floyd C. Johnson
6161 W 70th St
Shreveport, LA 71129

The "ON" Switch On Your TV Can Be Used With Great Benefits

View "Bible Talk" each Lord's Day at 7:30 a.m. on WCBI, Channel 4, Columbus, Mississippi. Also, view on GBN's website. Go to: www.gbntv.org



TV Speaker: Larry Fife
Larry Fife has recently moved to serve as preacher for the church in Fayette, Alabama, where he also serves as regular speaker for their weekly gospel telecast -- "*Bible Talk*".

"Water in the Plan"

Note: The following was given to me by a dear sister at a RV rally in East Texas. It is my understanding that the article consists of comments made by **Marshall Keeble**, a well known and much loved gospel preacher of the 20th Century. Brother Keeble was born in 1878 and died at the age of 89 on April 20, 1968. He had a great impact upon multitudes for Christ and His church -- especially in black communities scattered throughout the nation. (Editor)

"Water in the Plan"

Water is important in a man's life. God created water first, then He created man out of dust. Without water, dust wouldn't stick. There is power in the water.

There's water in a car. There's power in that water. If you don't believe it, try going home without it in the radiator and you've got a burnt up car. Now, try to get a man to go to Heaven without water and you've got burnt up man. Try going to Heaven without water, and you've got a burnt up church.

Some say you're saved before baptism. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Now, you can't say you're saved before baptism - besides, you're calling God a liar. You can't go to Heaven calling God a liar. You can call me a liar, but not Him..

Some say, "A man is saved and then baptized." A woman doesn't wash clothes because they are already clean. I've seen a lot of smart women, but not that smart. She washes clothes because they are dirty. Man is baptized because he's dirty and needs to be cleansed.

The gospel is made up of five "pills" that will cure anything: first pill, "*hear*"; second pill, "*believe*"; third pill, "*repent*"; fourth pill, "*confess*" and fifth pill "*be baptized*." Take with water and they'll cure sin.

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



You don't have to have an "RV" to attend our MM RV Rally (See Page 11 for Details)

TV Contestants Were Asked:

What would you do today if you knew the world would end tomorrow?



Watching television is, to say the least, "a risky business." Who would deny that television is often a great "waster of time"? And, since Christians are taught to "*redeem the time*"; that is, "*make good use of time*" (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5), caution needs to be exercised in watching television.

Ever so often, my June and I will turn on the television searching for a program that may be considered "relaxing and/or recreational." Recently, in our search, we came across a program called "Family Feud" where two "families" were competing for generous prizes by trying to guess how different groups of 100 people had responded to certain questions. One of the questions was: "*What would you do today if you knew the world would end tomorrow?*"

We found it interesting to listen as one of the families responded. Four answers had been given at the time the above picture was taken. Those answers were: (a) Pray; (b) Visit/call family; (c) Party/get drunk and (d) Make love.

We were encouraged that answer given most often was to "*pray*". Thirty-three out of 100 said if they knew the world would end tomorrow they would pray. One out of three seemed to realize the need for and the value of prayer. Sadly, however, two out of three did not mention prayer. What about you? Would prayer be a priority to you?

Then, in respond to the serious question, 18 out of 100 said they would *go to visit or call family*. One out of five appeared to realize the value of family. This leaves four out of five who did not mention visiting or calling a family member! What about you? Would family be a priority to you?

Sadly, many of those responding to the serious question answered they would "*party or get drunk*". Yet, others answered that they would "*make love*." Again, I ask: What about you? How would you answer?

Your response to the question about what you would do today if you knew the world would end tomorrow is largely determined by what you believe about life after death. Those who know and believe the Scriptures and have come to know and believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God and is the Saviour of the world have full assurance that death and or the end of the world is not really the end -- it is only the beginning! They realize that the most important thing in life is to be ready to die; to be ready for the end -- which could come tomorrow! And, to be ready to die, one must be a Christian. Are you? Are you ready to die? Are you ready for the end of the world and/or the day your world ends? (A. L. Franks, Editor)

(Note: Those of us who are responsible for this paper (publisher, writers, contributors) encourage you to make preparations for the end of your life and/or the end of the world. Is there some way we can help? Please let us hear from you. Thanks. God bless!

franksmm@aol.com; (662-289-3559)

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

“Saving Faith” -- An “Inside Job”

- Ken Joines -

It seems that there is an awful lot of searching going on in this country. People are empty to the core and they are not sure what they're looking for, but they sure are running here and there looking... just looking. They know they have this aching void inside but they turn deaf ears to the real solution. You'd think that the rebellion of the 60s, the sexual revolution of the 70s, the materialism of the 80s and confusion of the 90s would have taught us that there is something more to life as we stand here in the morning hours of the 21st century. But we're slow learners, we human folks. What we need is for somebody to take us to the river and wash away our illusions and just show us the way to be right with God.

To be sure, we've had all kinds of offers; New Age crystals, Scientology, Astrology, Psychic Friends Network and all kinds of religions and angels. But the one solution that was offered a long time ago—and the offer still stands—is the very one people are rejecting. A meaningful relationship with God is what we want and need and the only way to that is through Jesus Christ. To a world that is screaming “show us the way”, Jesus Christ steps in and says, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me.” (John 14:6 NKJV)

But there is so much confusion about how to become a Christian. The average person on the street might tell you, “Live a good life, buy lots of Girl Scout cookies, give to the United Way, collect enough trophies for doing good things and you'll be OK.” Many parents would say, “Aw, don't worry about that. We had you christened as a little bitty boy. You're automatically a Christian.” Some people might tell you, “Why, you were born Christian. Some are born Jewish, some Muslim, and some Christian.” And often the churches don't help a whole lot; they just muddy the waters because nearly every church offers a different plan.



Ken Joines

What the world needs is a clear biblical presentation of how to become a Christian, and there's not a lot of that being done these days. Not what the person on the street, or your parents, or even your church might say, but WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. Becoming a Christian is a decision that no one else can make for you but you.

And it starts with an inside job where, in your heart and mind you begin taking these fledgling steps in a thing called FAITH. Faith that Jesus is who he said he is: the Son of God. Faith that he is able to save you from sin. You see, some folks have never really understood who Jesus is.

You'd think that the rebellion of the 60s, the sexual revolution of the 70s, the materialism of the 80s and confusion of the 90s would have taught us that there is something more to life as we stand here in the morning hours of the 21st century.

And when you find out who he is and the depth of his love for you, you'll find it hard to resist him. You will see him as an amazing Savior who can transform you from the inside out. He said if you don't believe I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins (John 8:24).

That's a pretty bold statement. You see, Jesus Christ is everything to Christianity. Buddha is not essential to Buddhism. Mohammed is not essential to Islam, but everything about Christianity—I mean everything—is wrapped up in the person and work and claims of Jesus Christ. And your eternal salvation is hanging on the verdict of the question of his identity. So you've got to know what the Word of God says about this person.

GOD IN THE FLESH

Jesus is God. God in a man's body or flesh. Not just a good man, an incredible carpenter-turned-teacher, not just a miracle-worker or great moral teacher. He is God incarnate, God in the flesh. When you buy a can of Chili Con Carne it means chili with meat in it. And Jesus was God with meat on him. God himself came into the world in the form of a human. “The Word became flesh (in-carnate)...” (John 1:14) Scripture says that in Christ all the fullness of deity lives in bodily form (Col. 2:9), that Christ is God (Romans 9:5), that God purchased the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). So the Bible says that this a m a z i n g Savior who wants to transform me from the inside out is God in the flesh! I don't understand how this can be. But I believe it.

A SUBSTITUTE.

Then the Bible says that Jesus died as a substitute for me. The whole reason we need a Savior is because of our sin, our rebellion against God. This can be active rebellion such as shaking your fist at God, or passive rebellion as in ignoring him in our lives. But the fact is our sin has created some distance between us and God.

If I stole your wallet and began charging things to your credit, don't you think this might create some distance between you and me? Well, we have been doing this to God for years and it has created distance between us. And I'm talking about a huge distance here! And to span this chasm, Jesus stands in the middle with one hand holding onto God and the other reaching out to mankind inviting us to take hold of him, listen to him, obey him, and trust him to save us.

He is qualified to do this because Isaiah said he was pierced for OUR transgression, crushed for OUR iniquities and that makes him our substitute. (53:5) And my friend, you have no idea how much you matter to Jesus Christ—that he was willing to take your place and die as a substitute for you on a cross.

See SAVING FAITH, Page 16

Ken Had to Say “Goodbye” To His Janrose

Ken Says: “She was ‘the Wind Beneath My Wings’.”

Janrose Forgy Joines, 77, was born February 14, 1935 at Greenville, KY and departed this life November 20, 2012. She was the wife of Ken Joines, longtime preacher for the Goodman Oaks Church of Christ in Southaven, MS.

Other survivors are one son, Mike Joines of Seattle, WA; three daughters, Pam Joines of Abilene, TX; Laura Joines of Denver, CO and Jennifer Enochs (Robin) of Tupelo, MS; three grandchildren, Ashley Urban (Richard) and Kendra Wheeler (Josh) both of Abilene, TX, and Lauren Browder (Chase) of Austin, TX; two great grandchildren Tory Urban and Colin Wheeler; and one brother John Forgy of McKenzie, TN. Jan had suffered several years with Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis for which there is no known cause or treatment.

The funeral was held at Goodman Oaks with burial at nearby Twin Oaks Cemetery. Her husband, Ken, delivered the eulogy. Other speakers were Derek McNamara who preaches at Goodman Oaks, Shawn Jones a businessman and former co-worker of Ken's from Houston, TX, nephew Steve Stovall, John Forgy and Pam Joines.

The family suggests that any memorials be sent to the **Ken Joines Scholarship Fund** in care of Goodman Oaks Church of Christ, 1700 Goodman Road, Southaven, MS 38671. This fund is for the purpose of training men to preach the gospel of Christ. A memorial service is planned in January or February at Sebring, Florida where the couple once lived and had wintered in recent years.

Ken and Jan had been married for more than 58 years. Together they served churches in Butte, Montana; Claremore, Oklahoma; Augusta, Kansas; Sebring, Florida; Elizabethtown, Kentucky; Merkel, Texas; Greenville, Kentucky; Hixson, Tennessee and Whitehaven/Goodman Oaks.

Ken had this to say about his wife: “Jan was first and foremost an obedient servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. She knew her Bible, having read it through every year for more than thirty-five years and she lived accordingly. She was known for her sweet smile, reserved and easy-going personality, loyalty to her Lord and her family, her steadfast support of her husband's work, her generosity and the fact that she never once complained about her illness, nor asked, ‘Why me?’

When the diagnosis was given more than four years ago there was



Jan Joines Died Nov. 20th (1935 - 2012)

no frantic scrambling to make last-minute changes; she was secure in her relationship with the Savior and approached death with that calmness, just as she had lived. There were no loose ends to tie up. She was not a classroom teacher but a faithful and determined helper of those who did teach. Her bulletin boards were first-rate. She always stood ready to help in all phases of my work but behind the scenes. She was truly **The Wind Beneath My Wings**. Lee Greenwood's recording of that song was played at the end of her service because it so accurately depicts what she was to me. It says:

“It must have been cold there in my shadow; to never have sunlight on your face.

You were content to let me shine; you always walked a step behind.

So I was the one with all the glory, while you were the one with all the strength.

A beautiful face without a name; a beautiful smile to hide the pain.

It might have appeared to go unnoticed, but I've got it all here in my heart.

I want you to know I know the truth; I would be nothing without you.

Did you ever know that you're my hero, and everything I would like to be.

I can fly higher than an eagle, for you are the wind beneath my wings.”

Jan was also known as a quilt maker of the highest caliber. I encouraged her to enter them in the State Fair, but she would not; she needed no recognition except to be loved. Several of her quilts were on display at the funeral with one of her more recent ones draping her casket in lieu of a floral spray. May God bless thee out of the seventh heaven, my own Janrose.”

Ken Joines
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“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” (Rev. 14:13)

Has God's Kingdom Already Come To Earth?

- Seth Sullivan -

There is stern dispute today over whether or not Christ has already established His kingdom on earth. One of the many notions by some people is Dispensational Premillennialism. The idea is that Jesus came to the earth over 2,000 years ago but because he was rejected as "King of the Jews" He decided to wait to establish His kingdom until a later date in time. There are others who promote the teaching of Postmillennialism; that Christ will come and reign a 1,000 years on earth as a literal king. Does the Bible address these s e e m i n g d e b a t a b l e issues? Let's consider what the Scriptures say.

The Lord Jesus proclaimed, "Our Father which are in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:9-10). From this passage, Jesus extols that the kingdom was coming but it hadn't arrived yet at the turn of the 1st century.

After Jesus' three-year earthly ministry, He would inevitably hang on Calvary's cross and die for the sins of the world (I Jn. 2:2). Upon His resurrection and subsequent ascension back to the Father, the Holy Spirit would



Seth Sullivan

remission of sins (2:38) and as a result of their obedience they were added to the church (2:47).

The people make up "the church!"

What is the church? It is the *ekklesia*, the "called out"; the called out from darkness into light. Why would that matter? The prophets Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and Daniel foretold

under Inspiration that the "coming kingdom" would be set up in Jerusalem and would stand forever (cf. Isa. 2:1-3; Mic. 4:1-3; Jere. 31:31-34; Dan. 2:44). These very prophecies were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 1:8-9; 2:14-21)!

A few years later, while in prison the Apostle Paul wrote to the brethren in Colossae saying, "Giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:12-13). By this letter, written approximately around 62-63 A.D., the Colossians were already a part of the kingdom! How can this be if the kingdom is supposedly not on earth yet today?

The Apostle John wrote, "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom...." (Rev. 1:9).

Are you a part of the kingdom? Scriptures clearly indicate that the kingdom (i.e. the church) has arrived. How do I enter? Those on the Day of Pentecost were baptized and thus added! Why is that important? Consider this, the Apostle John wrote that only the "bride of Christ" will enter heaven (Rev. 19:7-8). Are you a citizen of the kingdom? Are you preparing yourself for the "wedding feast?"

NOTE: After several years serving as an "associate minister" for the Kensington Woods church in Hattiesburg, Seth has recently move to Waynesboro to serve as their preacher. His new address:

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1401 Walnut Street
Waynesboro, MS 39367
sethka63@hotmail.com



An Assembly Place For the Church

Magnolia Messenger

Appreciates

Comments and Suggestions

By this letter, written approximately around 62-63 A.D., the Colossians were already a part of the kingdom! How can this be if the kingdom is supposedly not on earth yet today?

come and guide the apostles unto all truth (Acts 1:8; cf. Jn. 16:13).

As the Day of Pentecost arrived (Acts 2:1) the apostles were given the miraculous ability to speak in each man's own native language (2:6). Jesus would be preached to all the "nations" present and those hearing were obedient to the message. The Bible teaches that those who heard were baptized (immersed) for the forgiveness/



Alex Gear (standing) Speaks to Kosciusko Church About His Mission Work in the country of Scotland (as seen between two of many respectful listeners).



Home of the Bentley Church of Christ

Bentley, LA Church

Hosts LD and GM With MM Editor and Wife

I was blessed to grow up in the southwest region of the "Pelican State" of Louisiana. This past October, my June and I returned to my home state to work several days in central Louisiana -- about 20 miles north of Alexandria. We appreciate the opportunity we had to be associated with the loving church in Bentley and to enjoy special fellowship with **Bill and Carolyn Nettles**, the local preacher and his wife.

We are grateful to report that God blessed both the Ladies' Day and the Meeting with visitors from the community and several area congregations. **Two were baptized and one requested prayers** of the church.

From all indications, Bill and Carolyn are doing a very good work in the rural community. May God continue to bless all as they work together to build up the world's greatest institution. (alf)



MM Reader Asked: "Please send your publication. It's good!" (Three two dollar bills enclosed) -- We are encouraged!

Magnolia Messenger

Helps Family Keep in Touch

Recently, William and Georgia McBride dropped by Kosciusko for a short visit. It was so good to see them for the first time in several years.

The McBrides used to live in Kosciusko, where they became Christians many years ago. They now call Hattiesburg "home"; however, they travel from place to place in their RV in connection with their work. They expressed appreciation for the MM which, they said, "has followed us" and "keeps us in touch" with the work of the church, especially in Mississippi.



William and Georgia McBride
"The MM has followed us"

The Franks express thanks for the opportunity God has provided, **through his people**, to publish the "Messenger" which regularly provides sound Bible teaching articles and helps keep brethren informed of what is taking place among God's family in Mississippi and parts of the Southeast. Thanks to all who receive, read and support the MM.

The Focused Mind

Philippians 1:12-26

- Eddie Lewis -

More than anything else, Paul's desire as a missionary was to preach the Gospel in Rome. It was the hub of the empire. He states his goal in Acts 19:21 and Romans 1:15. He wanted to go as a preacher, but instead he goes as a prisoner. I am sure he could have written a long letter about his experiences, the record is seen in Acts 21:17-28:31, but he sums it up in verse 12, "The things which happened to me."

For most of us, all these trials would look like we had failed, but Paul did not find joy in ideal circumstances, he found his joy in winning the lost to Christ. If the circumstances promoted the furtherance of the Gospel, that was all that mattered to him.

The word "progress" in verse 12 is a military term used to refer to the engineers who go before the troops to open the way, or build bridges for the troops to cross. Paul found that his circumstances, instead of confining him as a minister, actually opened up new opportunities for his ministry.

In this passage there are three things Paul used to help him have that focused mind. At first glance they seem like problems, but he uses them to the furtherance of the Gospel.

1. Paul's chains (v. 12-14). These chains, instead of binding Paul, released him to do God's work (2 Tim. 2:9). The chains gave Paul contact with the lost. He was chained to Roman soldiers 24 hours a day. The chains put Paul in contact with the officials of the Roman court. It wasn't long until some of the soldiers and court officials accepted the gospel. This could



Eddie Lewis

not have been done without his chains. The chains gave the Christians courage to speak out (v. 14).

The brethren in Rome took courage to speak out when they saw the courage and faith of Paul. The word "speak" doesn't mean to "preach," it is talking about everyday conversation. All of Rome was talking about Paul and the Christians took advantage of that talk to say a good word. When you have a focused mind, circumstances don't defeat you; you look at them as God given opportunities.

2. Paul's critics (v. 15-19). The church in Rome was divided over Paul. Some wanted him to be saved and others wanted to make things tough on him. The word "contention" (v. 16) means—selfish ambitions. These critics were not interested in promoting Christ, but themselves. Paul gives us a tremendous look at a focused mind and the critic. He was able to rejoice that the Gospel was being preached and lost people were being saved.

It is hard to take criticism, especially in difficult

circumstances, but Paul was able to rejoice.

3. Paul's crisis (v. 20-26). He had to face his trial. He may be found a traitor and executed. He wasn't worried! His main concern was to glorify God. How did Paul magnify Christ to the people? The Christian's walk is the means by which the lost can see Christ. They watch how you go through a crisis and see if you will act like Christ. The lost see you go through a crisis and see how important Christ is to you.

Paul was not afraid of death. Whether he lived or died he would magnify Christ (v. 21). He said he faced a difficult decision, whether to die and be with Christ, or live and help the brethren. He was willing to postpone his joyous reunion with Christ to help the church. No matter how you look at it nothing would steal his joy.

Ask yourself this question, "For me to live is _____." Given your priorities and schedule this week, how would you honestly fill in the blank? "For me to live is money, and to die is to leave it all behind." "For me to live is fame, and to die is to be forgotten." "For me to live is power, and to die is to lose it all."

How would things change, if you filled the blank in with "Christ?" How would this new reason for living affect your daily life or any hardship you're facing?

What a great test for each of us -- **joy in spite of circumstances!** (Eddie is a gospel preacher: His address follows.)

Eddie Lewis
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Elders and Deacons of the Madison Church of Christ (Near Jackson, MS)

The Madison, Mississippi church recently installed new deacons. Front Row (left to right): Present Deacons, **Bill Richard, Rob Salley and David Dees**. New Deacons, **Rhett Mullis, Mike Kendrick and Russ Ogburn**. Back Row: Elders, **Bob Brown and Kyle Smith**. Not pictured is present deacon **Brad Harriman**.
(Picture and caption sent to MM by Madison church. Thanks!)

15th Annual MM RV Rally

April 22 - 25, 2012

at beautiful

Lake Tiak-O'-Khata in Louisville, MS

The 15th annual Magnolia Messenger RV Rally will be held again this year at Lake-Tiak-O'-Khata in Louisville, Mississippi. This beautiful park proved last year to be a great place to have a rally. We are expecting the biggest year ever in people attending as well as a larger auction.

The rally will start Monday, April 22 and conclude with a dinner on Thursday night April 25, 2013. You will need to call ahead and reserve your RV site, hotel or cabin for these dates. The phone number for the resort is 662-773-7853.

In the next issue of the MM, the details of the rally will be given. For more information you can call me (Paul Franks) at 337-515-7314 or email me at apaulfranks@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at this rally.

This month's "Question Box" asks you to study the four "one chapter books" of the NT.

See Page 24

Have you answered "The Question Box"... lately?

His First Sermon

14 Year-Old Jacob Wood Preaches in Macon

On a recent Sunday morning in Macon, Mississippi, fourteen-year-old Jacob Wood stepped into the pulpit to preach for the first time. His sermon topic was "The Race of Your Life."

Jacob is from Starkville, Mississippi, where he is a freshman at Starkville High School. He is the son of Joe and Leslie Wood of Starkville and the grandson of Opal Wooten Wood and the late Raleigh Edward Wood. Jacob is also the grandson of George and Sylvia Williams of Thyatira, Mississippi.

Everyone was elated to know of Jacob's interest in preaching; many were blessed to actually hear his first sermon.

Jacob's grand-dad, Raleigh Wood, was a preacher of the gospel in Starkville before he passed

away at an early age. We have reason to believe that grand-daddy Raleigh would have been so pleased and thankful if he could have been present to hear grandson Jacob preach his first sermon.

Our special thanks to Donna and Andy Wood, members of the church in Kosciusko (aunt and uncle to Jacob), for sharing with

us and readers of the Messenger such encouraging information and the picture of Jacob preaching his first sermon at Macon.

[Personal to Jacob: We pray that you will continue proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. We do anticipate hearing great things from and about you as God continues to bless your life in His service. (June & Al Franks)]



Jacob Wood Preaching in Macon

Saving the Once Saved

- John Gardner -

"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and cover a multitude of sins." (James 5: 19, 20, New King James Version).

The title of this article might appear very strange or patently false to multiplied thousands of religionists professing to follow Jesus. They believe those saved can never be lost again. While the impossibility of apostasy as taught by major religious bodies may be appealing to some, it is totally contrary to numerous scriptures (Hebrews 6: 4 – 8; 10: 26 – 31; et al), including the two verses above which are at the heart of this article.

Some in the body of Christ might be offended by the directness of the title because it calls for judgments based on Scripture. The idea that one can tell who may be considered saved and who may be considered unsaved with regard to certain aspects of faith and practice based on God's Word is anathema to them. They cite prohibitions against unfounded critical judgments (Matthew 7: 1 – 5 and Romans 14: 1 – 12). However, they neglect to account for the "judgments" involved in discerning who is totally beyond the appeal of the gospel (Matthew 7: 6) or in identifying a false prophet (Matthew 7: 15 – 20). In spite of the dangers involved in considering another's spiritual state, our key passage in James requires that we exercise cautiously and humbly what Jesus called "righteous judgment" (John 7: 24) with regard to spiritual conditions in the light of the Word of God because of the serious consequences involved.

Before going further, notice that "the truth" James is referencing can be known and is necessary to enter into and maintain a right relationship with God. New Testament writers knew nothing of some kind of personalized, subjective truth such as "my truth" which is just as good as "your truth" or someone else's truth. The revealed truth of God which sets free in Christ can be known (John 8: 31, 32) and is identified with the Word of God (John 17: 17).

Consider the strong language James uses for the one who was



John Gardner

once following "the truth," but now has left it. He was once "among" the brethren, i.e. a Christian. The departing brother or sister is called a "sinner." That term is not used much at all in our day of political correctness, but if it is, it is most often applied to what appear to be the worst of society outside of Christ. But James reminds us that Christians wandering from truth which brought them into Christ sends them down a path of sin which Peter affirms in some ways renders them far worse off than before (2 Peter 2: 20 – 22).

The brother or sister who departs from the truth, James affirms, is in error, is in a path that leads to spiritual death, and is living in a multitude of sins (V. 20). How much stronger could one make a description of a soul in danger? And James applies it to erring brothers and sisters who leave behind the faithful doctrine and practice they have followed for some new or even old error they have now chosen.

James' purpose for the passage is to stir up "someone" to "turn back" the wandering brother or sister, if at all possible. Although not as direct as Paul's instruction in Galatians 6: 1 where the apostle uses the imperative to direct the "spiritual" to make a rescue effort, James hopes to spur saints to activity by emphasizing how serious the plight of the wayward is.

The Epistle of James begins like an epistle (which of course it is), but ends without greetings or a farewell which are customary. It may be that James wants the strong ending of his epistle to ring loud and clear in the mind of the hearer/reader long after the epistle has been put down.

As we go about seeking to "save souls," let us certainly keep in view the countless multitudes outside of Christ who have never

known Him. But let us also not forget those who slip from the ranks of the faithful in Christ, those once among us in churches of Christ. Such ones have embarked on the path of the sinner again and are in danger of eternal destruction. We should make every effort to help them turn from the error that has entrapped them. While diligently seeking to lead the never-saved to Christ, let us also faithfully pursue the compelling mission of trying to save the once-saved. Saving the once-saved from death is a precious act of love that has eternal consequences.

John Gardner
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North Brandon Church Adds Two Associates

John Overby II
James Malone

After several months of searching for a full-time associate minister, the elders of the North Brandon church in Brandon, MS are taking a different approach to meet their need for additional ministerial assistance.

Instead of a full-time worker to serve with youth, young adults, and others in the congregation, the North Brandon church will have two associate ministers to serve on a part-time basis. Both men have other employment, but both are committed to ministry plans that heavily involve them in week night and week-end service.

John Overby II will be working with North Brandon's youth deacon, Chris Wallace, in teaching, guiding, and implementing a more vigorous youth program. He and his wife and sons will be a real asset to the growing youth work at North Brandon.

James Malone, who recently preached for the Forest, MS church, will serve by working with young and middle adults to strengthen singles and families. He will focus much of his work on visitation. He will join John Gardner in teaching adult Bible classes and will preach one Sunday a month.

The North Brandon church looks forward to continued growth as these two men and their good families take on important focused ministries for the glory of God.

**MM
Welcomes
Your Suggestions
Your Comments
Your Criticisms
We Really Do!**



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

V. P. BLACK

George & Nell Barber
(Mantachie, MS)

JOYCE AUST

Kathy Segars & Kay Wells
(Greenwood, MS)

DON R. ADAMS

Faye Stanford
(Byhalia, MS)

WILMA MILLER

GERRI STRUTTON

TONI THOMPSON

MITCH MILLS

Reid & Frieda Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

M/M G. A. "ALLIE" WRIGHT

PRENTISS PEARSON

Lois Wright
(Fulton, MS)

EVIE G. SMITH

Rhenda Miltner
(Coldwater, MS)

KATHERINE COOPER

Louie & Ann Rector
(Morton, MS)

Garnett & Betty Harris

(Brandon, MS)

Sarah Anthony
(Brandon, MS)

Carole Milner
(Brandon, MS)

Sandra Oliver
(Flowood, MS)

(Brandon, MS)

SUE NORTHERN

T. J. & Bobbie Pedigo
(Montgomery, AL)

LEROY THORNTON

Carthage Church of Christ
(Carthage, MS)

SHARON CANNON

Mr./Mrs. Charles Haywood
(Brandon, MS)

WINSTON OAKES

DUNCAN SMITH

Jamie & Cathy McCartney
(Ferriday, LA)

MRS. RETHA WALTERS

Carolyn Olson & family
(Foxworth, MS)

VERA "DOT" DEARING

Mr./Mrs. Charles Haywood
(Brandon, MS)

In Honor Of

STEVE GOOCH

Richard L. Harris
(Hernando, MS)

JERRY & ELETA GRIMMETT

50th Wedding Anniversary
Carole Milner
(Brandon, MS)

BONNIE STRICKLAND

(Mother of Sharon Cannon)
Mr./Mrs. Charles Haywood
(Brandon, MS)

Thank You

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Please: Send Your Gifts To:

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

BENTLEY, LA

The ladies of the Bentley Church of Christ did an outstanding job of hosting a Ladies' Day on Saturday, October 20, 2012. It was my privilege to speak. We came away feeling so blessed that we were able to meet these wonderful people. Al also preached in a Gospel Meeting, beginning on Sunday, October 21 and going through Wednesday night. Good preaching, good crowds and good fellowship. (June Franks)

PHILADELPHIA, MS

It was a blessing to talk on the phone with Sister Hammer, a member of the church in Philadelphia. She informed us of their Gospel Meeting that was scheduled for October 28-31 with Wayne Jones doing the preaching. Chris and Amber Butler presently work with the Philadelphia congregation. We were also encouraged to learn that one of their long time members, Sister Lee, was to celebrate her 95th birthday on November 20, 2012.

Hazlehurst Church Continues to Serve The Community

Church Doors Were Closed. Now Re-opened!

Hazlehurst is located in SW Mississippi, about 30 miles to the south of Jackson. The city is home to nearly 4,000 precious souls of whom about three fourths are of African descent.

For many years the community and area was served by the Lord's church that had a church building located on Highway 51. Our very first Bible Winner in connection with the "Question Box" (Magnolia Messenger) was a member of the church in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. I believe her name was Ruth Meredith. That was 34 years ago!



As Seen in the Darkness
Three Services Scheduled Each Week



Malcom May Serves as Capable Preacher in Hazlehurst

Membership and attendance dropped off, through the years, to the point that a decision was made, about five years ago, to close the doors of the church building. The facilities were closed for a short while; however, the decision was made to re-open them to the glory of God.

On Wednesday night, November 14, 2012, my June and I were blessed to visit the "revived church" where we found a small group of disciples who were "fervent in spirit" and desirous to serve the Lord. Malcom May serves as preacher

for the congregation that presently brings together 15 to 25 disciples.

Only about half that number was present on Wednesday night; however, we were much encouraged by their spirit of optimism and faith. I enjoyed the privilege of speaking to the group on the subject of prayer and the need to follow closely God's plan for church growth. Their response was very encouraging.

My June and I believe you will be hearing good things from the renewed efforts

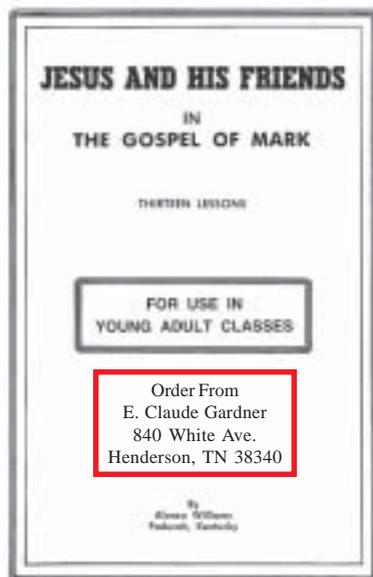


Landy and Zavier Killingsworth

Physical and Spiritual Brothers

Two of several reasons there is hope for the "Revived Church" in Hazlehurst, MS. Both boys seemed very spiritually minded. Zavier (on right) said when he grows up he wants to be a "good preacher."

to build the Lord's church in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. They need and desire your prayers.



Order From
E. Claude Gardner
840 White Ave.
Henderson, TN 38340

Brother E. Claude Gardner asked us to inform congregations that he still has **FREE** copies of an excellent book (pictured above) for teenagers and young adults. He said, "I have a few hundred copies that I will **GIVE** for a young people's class." He added, "The book was written by Alonzo Williams (now deceased) who was a gospel preacher and lawyer. I think it is good solid material." (Address above)

Meek Moses

- Alvin Jennings -

Moses was *meek* above all men (Num 12:3). That is, he endured injuries with patience and courage. He had many trials as God's leader. One of his most challenging was the rebellion of Korah against his position as leader of Israel (Num 16).

When Korah, backed by a large company of 250 Levites, challenged Moses' authority, Moses told them he had not *run for this office*, but that the Lord chose him for it (verse 28). He had tried to excuse himself, but God strengthened him to accept the job (Num 18:8).

Moses never flaunted his position, but repeatedly focused on the authority of God and His word as he obeyed "according to all that the Lord commanded" (Num 17:11). Only one incident in all the 40 years of leading in the desert did he fail to obey God (Num 20:8-13).

Leaders today would do well to point to God's word in support of their decisions and actions, rather than to demand obedience on the basis of their position. Jesus still has "all authority" as "head over all things in His body the church" (Col 1:18; Eph 1:22-23).

But what happened to Korah? The earth opened up and swallowed him alive! (Num 16: 1-34). *Leaders, beware!!*

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Now You Take It From There....

- by -

John Simpson
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j38128sim@yahoo.com



The Sweet Perfume of Home

Someone has written: "Home is the place where you are always welcome when no one else wants you"!

Jesus had a home-away-from-Home, at Bethany about two miles east of Jerusalem near the Jericho Road. When no one else wanted Him, He went to the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, where He was afforded the comforts of home.

The Bible records several events that took place there – one in particular: "So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving...Mary took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume" (John 12:2,3).

All of us, who enjoyed even the semblance of home, can stroll down memory lane and breathe the fragrance of belonging where others care. How pleasant to recapture this hallowed sanctuary of molding us for what we are today.

Please indulge me for this personal experience. Recently I visited our old home place in south central Arkansas and recaptured many pleasant memories. I climbed the steps to the front porch and slowly entered the house where I grew from toddler to adulthood – the house was filled with the fragrance of childhood memories. There were special places of reverence in that old house. The fireplace, where the entire family would sit in the evening, share experiences of the day, do homework, sing hymns and pray. Then the dining table, where we enjoyed luscious meals prepared by our Mother and sisters. No boisterous or idle behavior was tolerated here – throwing food was a "Federal Offense" with expulsion from the table and proper correctional measures followed. And the front porch; with rocking chairs and a swing, where countless hours of sharing, playing and serious moments were enjoyed.

On the outside we worked under biblical mandate: "Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10), and ... "Labor, performing with your hands what is good" (Eph, 4:28).

This visit is probably the last time I will view that old house, but if I live and remain mobile, perhaps I can return and stand where it once stood, to recapture more childhood memories. Remember: "Home is the place where you are always welcome when no one else wants you". All of us need to cherish the sweet perfume of home!

Now, you take it from there!

Magnolia Messenger

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Bruce McLarty (Searcy, AR)
"The Story of the Lord's Vineyard"
(Isaiah 5:1-7)
- Dale Jenkins (Spring Hill, TN)
"The Story of the Wedding Feast"
(Matthew 22:1-14)
- Bill Watkins (Nashville, TN)
"The Story of the Poor Man's Ewe
Lamb" (2 Samuel 12:1-5)
- Phillip Hines (Hartselle, AL)
"The Story of the Two Debtors"
(Luke 7:41-42)
- Scott Tillman (Nashville, TN)
"The Story of the Rich Fool"
(Luke 12:16-21)
- Lonnie Jones (Huntsville, AL)
"The Story of a King's Compassion"
(Matthew 18:21-35)
- David Shannon (Mount Juliet, TN)
"The Story of the Laborers in the
Vineyard" (Matthew 20:1-16)

SPECIAL SERIES

- Michael Moss (Vienna, WV),
"Preaching the Parables"
- Jim McQuiggan (Pleasant View, TN),
"Worship Worth Talking About"
- Terry Edwards (Montgomery, AL),
"Walking with Jesus"
- Sharon Paulk (Ft. Deposit, AL),
"The Heart of Jesus (Women)"

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

- Don Hudson (Nashville, TN),
"Equipping Elders"
- Glenn Colley (Huntsville, AL),
"Equipping Teachers"
- Aubrey Johnson (Peachtree City, GA),
"Equipping Deacons"

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Marci Johns (Faulkner University),
"The Technology of Efficiency I"
- Tashara Walker (Faulkner University),
"The Technology of Efficiency II"
- Leslie Cowell (Faulkner University),
"Service that Feels Good and Does Good"
- Jendia Grissett (Faulkner University),
"Some Things Never Change"

An Open Letter From MM Editor

To all who RECEIVE and READ the Magnolia Messenger

God willing, on January 3, 2013, I will turn 74. When I was young, I never thought I would live past 60. God has indeed blessed me and, as far as I know, I am in good health. But, I realize each day that I am unable to do what I used to do. My June and I are beginning to realize that, if the Magnolia Messenger is to continue, we must have some help as we plan for the future.

In addition to publishing the Magnolia Messenger for the past 34 years, we have also been blessed to assist in the planting of several new congregations. We have also had the privilege of helping a number of small, struggling churches during very difficult times. God has blessed our efforts. We are grateful to Him and to all who have made our work possible through prayers, encouragement and financial support.

Since the closing of Magnolia Bible College, three years ago, the church in Kosciusko (our home congregation for more than 41 years) has gone through some very difficult times. About a year ago, I was asked to serve as one of the elders in Kosciusko. I was honored to accept and, since earlier this year, I have been working more closely with the South Huntington Street church. With the advancing of age and the added responsibilities of being a good shepherd, it became even more apparent that capable help was needed.

Our oldest son, Paul and his wife Glenda, have been living in Lake Charles for more than nine years. During this time Paul has preached for the Enterprise Blvd Church of Christ which has, with God's blessings, grown and prospered -- bringing together about 300 each Lord's day. Before moving to Lake Charles, Paul worked in business and preached part time for the church in Forest, MS where much progress was made, enabling the church to continue serving even after the decision was made to "close the church doors." Paul has also, in earlier years, after graduating from MBC, worked full-time for a total of sixteen years in development on behalf of Magnolia Bible College and Sunnybrook Children's Home.

I believe that God has, over the past several years, prepared Paul and Glenda with the needed skills and spiritual growth so that they can be effective servants in the mission efforts associated with the Magnolia Messenger. This is why I, and the



Paul and Glenda Franks. Joining Our MM Team.

other elders of the Kosciusko church, have invited Paul and Glenda to move back to Kosciusko to help us -- not only to continue the Magnolia Messenger, but to expand this vital ministry. We are excited that he and Glenda have accepted this challenge and, Lord willing, will join hands with us in January of 2013.

Paul and Glenda have stepped out in faith to help us with this ministry. For us to accomplish what we believe God wants us to do, we do need your help -- your prayers and your support. I am convinced that our scriptural motto, "...provoking one another unto love and good works" (Heb. 10:24), is needed more than ever among the Lord's people. Please be assured that when you have fellowship with us in the "mission efforts" associated with the MM, you are involved in a vital and effective ministry.

Our Continuing Commitment:

To publish the Magnolia Messenger with the objective of provoking brethren "unto love and good works."

To provide sound, balanced Bible teaching articles and to promote unity and peace in the brotherhood.

To encourage church plantings and assist churches across the South -- as needed and requested.

To increase greatly the number of people receiving the Magnolia Messenger. [Present circulation: 24,000] If you have someone in your family who has left the church and/or their faith needs strengthened, you can send in their name and address and we will be glad to mail our "Good News newspaper" to them. (No charge to them or you.)

To promote the study of God's word through "The Question Box" -- always in each issue.

Thank you for your continued interest in receiving and reading the MM. We earnestly solicit your prayers that the ministry of the Messenger will, not only continue, but greatly expand. May all be to the glory of our gracious God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In Christian love and hope,

H. L. Franks,

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

Send us their names and addresses.

No charge.

No obligation.

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

Email: franksmm@aol.com

(No phone calls for addresses, please!)

A Report 2012 LA-TX RV Rally



Fish Cookers Take Break at Texas RV Rally

- Dean Caldwell -

The 2012 edition of the Louisiana Texas RV Rally was at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland, Texas on October 24 through October 28, with 106 people at the Rally on Friday Evening, and a total of 32 RV'S during the week.

Several people began arriving the week before the rally, anxious to begin the fellowship, fun, and spiritual communion they have grown to expect and love at the semi-annual R V Rallies.

On Sunday morning October 21, about 25 early arrivers worshiped with the local congregation in Grapeland. By Tuesday evening, about 50 people had arrived, and enjoyed a fresh boiled and fried shrimp dinner provided by Dave and Judy McGee, and entertainment by Dan Manuel, minister of the Crockett Road Church in Palestine, Texas.

During the week, rally participants were blessed with uplifting spiritual lessons, special prayers, and great food, fun, and entertainment, and stirring patriotic programs.

The theme for the Rally this year was "MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE".

Spiritual lessons included a presentation Wednesday evening by James Tidwell on "How Choices Affect Our Lives". On Thursday morning Dean Caldwell spoke to the men and Nellie Caldwell spoke to the ladies on "Examples of Wise and Unwise Choices". Dennis Doughty presented a lesson on Thursday evening on "A Good Name is Better to Be Chosen". Dan Manuel brought an excellent lesson on Friday evening on "Political Choices, and How They Strengthen or Weaken Us as a Nation". During the Bible study hour on Sunday morning at the Crockett Road Church in Palestine, Ray Franks gave an uplifting lesson entitled "Choices and Sacrifices That Built a Nation", followed by Dan Manuel speaking on "Choose You This Day Whom You Will Serve" during the worship hour. A worship service at Salmon Lake on Sunday evening featured Al Franks

speaking to the remaining group of about 32 people.

Special prayers were offered for our "Troops" on Wednesday evening, led by Steve Griffin from Lake Charles, Louisiana. On Thursday evening Vernon Riggins from Quitman, Arkansas led a special prayer for the "Election" to be held on November 6. A special prayer for "Our Country" was led by T. D. Deal from DeQuincy Louisiana on Friday evening.

The group enjoyed several "Pot Luck" meals together, and a wonderful catfish dinner on Friday evening, with fish provided by Glen Franks and prepared by him and several other men. On Sunday, an excellent meal was provided by members of the Crockett Road Church following the morning worship service. Great additions to the rally this year were homemade ice cream on Wednesday evening and buffet breakfasts prepared by several men on Friday and Saturday mornings, consisting of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits, and gravy.

On Tuesday evening entertainment was provided by Dan Manuel picking and singing, and grinning. Entertainment on Wednesday evening by Morris Tirpitz included the rally tradition of his singing "When the Old Red Wagon Was New". Dan Manuel and a group called "Yesteryear" entertained on Friday evening. Saturday evening several people attended the Dogwood Jamboree, a Branson style music show produced and directed by Dan Manuel at the Palestine Civic Center.

The Friday evening program was dedicated to a stirring patriotic program produced on power point by Ray Franks and Bill Collins. The program featured memories of heroic Americans and great American leaders who made our country great.

Among all the activities, there was ample time for the traditional fun and games, including cards, dominoes, and pitching washers. On Thursday several people were selected at random to play "Price is Right", where six different people went away with very nice and useful prizes.

See TX RV Rally on Page 18

Mexico Mission Report

via
South Huntington Street
Church of Christ
Kosciusko, Mississippi

- Les Ferguson, Sr. -

The S. Huntington Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi is the sponsoring church for Mexico Missions. This is a mission that focuses on winning the lost, training Mexican preachers and planting churches in the Mexico State of Guanajuato.

Over the last 10 years Mexico Missions has planted eight churches in this area of Mexico. All of them are located in the State of Guanajuato with the exception of the church in the city of La Piedad in the State of Michoacan. I list them by the cities for your information.

1. San Miguel de Allende – a city of over 100,000 residents.
2. Comonfort – a city of 70,000 people.
3. Guanajuato – the capital city of the state – 500,000 plus residents.
4. Celaya – a city of 400,000 residents.
5. San Luis De La Paz – a city of 112,000 people.
6. Irapuato – a city of 450,000 people.
7. Salvatierra – a city of 95,000 people.
8. La Piedad – a city of 106,000 people.

Since beginning this work, other congregations have gotten involved. The church in **Statesville, North Carolina** is now the sponsoring church for the work in Guanajuato City. The **Crieve Hall church in Nashville, Tennessee** is now the sponsoring church for the work in La Piedad, Michoacan. We are thankful for their interest and desire to be involved in this work. We welcome any participation in this work and especially churches that are able to take on a church plant.

Over the last ten years we have also been able to do some work in Delores Hidalgo and Juventino Rosas. Currently there is not a church meeting in either of these cities. We hope that in the days ahead we can again work on planting a church in both of these cities.

My wife, Margie and I, travel to Mexico at least three times a year. We work with all the churches and especially with the



preachers and their wives. I teach classes and preach sermons that the preachers request.

We recently were in Mexico. I am happy to report that it was a very good trip with no major problems experienced. There is a continual need for good lessons and seminars on marriage and family.

The oldest of these churches is the one in San Miguel. They will soon celebrate their eleventh year. So, as you can see, it is a young ministry. So lots of teaching on a variety of Biblical subjects is needed. That is not to say that the preachers are not capable of delivering such lessons. Indeed, they are, but the help we can give is greatly appreciated.

At the present time five of these churches are conducting in depth training schools using School of Preaching materials. They are branches of the School of Preaching located in Toluca, Mexico. All of the preachers for these churches are products of Schools of Preaching. These branch schools are where we get our preachers for the church plants. They are vital to the local work and vital to our efforts to

grow in opportunities to plant new churches.

The S. Huntington Church in Kosciusko was very instrumental in the founding of Magnolia Bible College to train preachers. Our brotherhood has been blessed by the work MBC did during its existence. Those blessings are on-going as the graduates continue to serve in churches in Mississippi and many other places.

Most of you who read this helped us train preachers at Magnolia Bible College. The S. Huntington Church of Christ is still in the business of training preachers. Right now, that training is being done down in Mexico. There are still many cities in the State of Guanajuato without a church of Christ. I ask you to consider helping us train a preacher and plant a church in a city where there is not one. For further information, drop me a note to:

Mexico Missions
P.O. Box 1399
Kosciusko, MS 39090
or give me a call at
601 562-4226
Les Ferguson, Sr.
(Director, Mexico Missions)



**Come to our
MMRV Rally
in Louisville
Mississippi
April 22-25, 2013**
You don't have to
have an RV.
Motel is available!

(See Page 11)

Saving Faith

(Continued from page 9)

ROSE FROM THE DEAD

He really did. He walked out of his own tomb! Try to imagine for just a minute that you and a friend are trapped inside a cave that is beginning to flood and you think there is no way out. As the water rises, your friend says "I've gotta do something," so he dives under the water and in a few seconds comes back up and says, "I found a tunnel and I'm going back to see if there's a way out." He dives in and is gone for two minutes, three minutes and twenty minutes. You are sure he has drowned. Water is up to your chest now. Then suddenly your friend's head pops up and he says, "I found it... I found the way out. Follow me." The very fact that he came back after being down there twenty minutes verifies his claim. So you take hold of his hand and follow him to safety. Only a fool would refuse his only hope.

Well, Jesus Christ didn't just make the claim that there is a way out. He verified it by coming back from the dead. He said, "There's a way out. I am the way. Follow me." And that is

what separates Christianity from every other world religion. Jesus Christ is the only religion leader who said he was God, then backed up his claim by rising from the dead. And for me, any man who can walk out of his own tomb after three days is whoever he says he is. And he said he is the way and NO ONE comes to the Father but by him. I ask you to investigate this claim.

Why don't you just accept what he did for you on that cross? He took your place. He died for you. And this salvation is called a gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). You can't buy it. You can't earn it like a trophy or certificate or Brownie points. Just do what he asks you to do and accept the gift.

You see, a Christian really does believe with all his heart that Jesus is the Son of God in the flesh, that Jesus died as a substitute for our sins, that Jesus arose from the dead, therefore making a way for us to rise from the dead one day, too, and be forever with him in Heaven. I know some of you are saying

right about now, "That sounds pretty good, and I'd really like to believe it, but I don't know, I have some barriers to overcome yet." Well, let me try to help you overcome some of those barriers.

First, you may need to just **admit your own inadequacy.** This is not easy. And we don't like it. When we start talking about sin, some of us recoil and say, "I'm not so bad." I've watched some people struggle to come to faith and I am convinced that one of the biggest barriers to faith is not a lack of evidence, but the presence of pride. I must admit that I have sin in my life and I need a Savior. I need forgiveness. I need the grace of God. We must admit we stand in need. I simply must come to the point where I can say, "Know what, I do need something beside myself. I do have a spiritual void, I am a moral foul-up, I do want someone to show me the way, I do want to live forever, I do want to go to heaven." When I can truly say that, this is the beginning of a faith that will lead me to obedience.

People are empty to the core and they are not sure what they're looking for, but they sure are running here and there looking.....just looking.

So, please examine the evidence. So many have never done this. Oh, they may have

watched Mel Gibson's great movie about Jesus, or years ago attended VBS or a Sunday School class, or read a book that had a couple things in it about Jesus. But what you really need to do is to read God's book, the Bible. Apostle Paul said that faith comes from the word of God (Romans 10:17) I find that when a person sits down and starts to really dig through the Word of God, his faith begins to grow. He begins to see that this stuff is true! And this will eventually lead to obedience to the gospel.

Another thing we need is to **be honest about the real barrier.** Because when you get right down to it, all this doubt about Christianity is really not intellectual at all; it is moral. If we would be brutally honest about it, we'd say, "I'd like to believe but I am not ready to change my life-style... I'd like to believe but I'm not ready to move out away from this friend I'm shacking up with... I'd like to believe but I don't want to change

See SAVING FAITH on Page 19

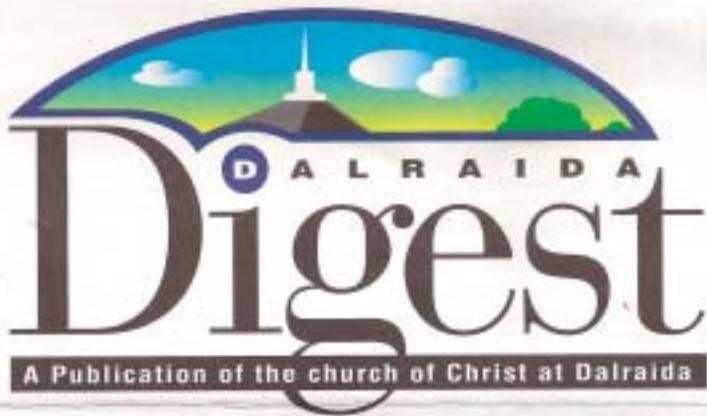
Among The BEST from BULLETINS

Editor's Note: We deeply appreciate the work that goes into the publishing of quality church bulletins and express appreciation for each that comes our way on a regular basis. From time to time, we are pleased to share with MM readers bulletin articles which we consider to be among the "Best from Bulletins".

The following article, which encourages us to be thankful for

good elders, is from the Dalraida church in Montgomery, Alabama. It was received by us near the end of September, 2012.

Twelve reasons for the giving of thanks for elders are said to have been "adapted from Neal Pollard." The final paragraph apparently was written by Doug Smith, preacher for the Dalraida congregation. We think the article is worthy of your consideration.



Be Thankful If Your Elders ...

... 1. Are willing to lead you to do what's right and biblical, even if unpopular and uncomfortable.

... 2. Want the Bible classrooms and pulpit to stay on biblical center, veering neither to the left or right (cf. Josh. 1:7) --regardless of what the churches down the street do.

... 3. Are kind and friendly, even if at times, without polish or oratorical articulation.

... 4. Expect the best from you, but ask you to do nothing they themselves are not doing (1 Pet. 5:3).

... 5. Are among you rather than above you or aloof from you (1 Pet. 5: 1).

... 6. Obviously love you, even if they occasionally have to correct or admonish you (1 Th. 5:12).

... 7. Prioritize the work with spiritual objectives taking precedence over material objectives and with evangelistic goals over an internal focus.

... 8. Ask the church to do for others rather than try to cater to our whims and desires (Heb. 13:17).

... 9. Are impartial rather than prejudiced or cliquish.

...10. Are driven by "What does the Bible say?" rather than "What do the people want?" (Acts 20:28).

...11. Stand behind and commend even difficult lessons that move us to obey God.

...12. Show commitment to their task through time, effort, and zeal rather than being those who go through the motions (Heb. 13:7).

For these and many more reasons, I am thankful for the Dalraida eldership! They are numbered among the "all" who sin and fall short of God's glory (Rom.3:23). They each have strengths and weaknesses. Yet, these are men so driven by God's will and God's Word; I am thankful to preach and attend under the oversight and authority of such men. My heart aches for those who are not afforded such a pleasure; it thrills for those who do. Have you thanked God for your elders today? Have you thanked your elders (1 Th. 5:13)? They do not serve for recognition or accolades, but they just as surely will not rebuff your appreciation! May we be grateful sheep!



Maci Hinson
At Sunday Church Services
Learning Early in Life
Respect for Worship Services
and Bible Reading
Scripture Commands

"...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

NOTICE

My June and I are thankful that little Maci is one of our precious great grand-daughters and wish to commend her parents, Derek and Erin.



"The church of Christ at Bentley"
A "T Shirt" Message of Value

Madison Church Plans Dedication of New Church Building

January 27, 2013

Exciting things are happening with the Madison Church. On Sunday afternoon January 27, 2013 at 2:00 we plan to dedicate our new church building located on Reunion Parkway next door to the Madison Station Elementary School.

Garvis Semore will give the dedicatory address, **Leon Sanderson** will direct congregational singing, and the **Crowley's Ridge College Chorus** will sing.

We invite our brothers and sisters from all over the state to come and share with us this historic occasion. (Good news announcement via **Jim Howard**, preacher for the Madison church, near Jackson, Mississippi.)

A Biblical Rationale for Restoration

Jim Howard

The restoration plea is currently under attack as never before. Under tremendous pressure to force us into the main-stream of American evangelicalism, many question the possibility of restoring the New Testament church.



Jim Howard

Apostle the authority to speak for Jesus in all matters relating to the church.

(2) The Pastoral Epistles Possess a Strong Christology.

Though liberal and critical scholars

have denigrated these writings for many years, the truth is that the Pastorals have a very high degree of authority in and of themselves to speak God's revelation concerning the nature of the church and His will as to its functioning. Note the exalted picture of Christ:

He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory (I Tim. 3:16).

(3) The Pastorals are Uniquely Qualified to Help Us in Restoring the New Testament Church Because They Deal with Specifics Concerning the Church.

In I Tim. 2:11-15 the Apostle Paul gives detailed instructions concerning the role of women in the church. In I Tim. 3:1-13 Paul gives in detail the qualifications for elders and deacons. Such instructions are crucial if the church of our day is to resemble the church of New Testament days.

Yes, these reasons explain why the Pastoral Epistles provide the Biblical rationale for restoring the church to the life-style, worship and leadership which it possessed in the first century. Should not this inspired, divine mandate charge us to be quite careful that the church of our day be God-designed and not the product of man's ingenuity? Only such a church can be pleasing to God who has specific ideas about the shape of the church.

Jim Howard, Minister
Madison Church of Christ
P.O. Box 1845
Madison, MS 39130

(1) The authority of the Apostle Paul comes directly from his teaching by and relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

No one ever walked more closely with Jesus. Paul did not receive his gospel from man but from the Lord Jesus himself (Gal. 1:11-12). Paul was so totally devoted to Jesus (so obsessed with him) that he no longer possessed a self-consciousness. He had been crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20); he no longer lived but Christ lived in him.

To the Philippians, the Apostle proclaimed, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). The intimate relation of Paul with Jesus, who had personally commissioned him, gave the

MM
Appreciates Suggestions
franksmm@aol.com

Let Us Be Thankful!

- Dennis Doughty -

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



are truly blessed" they told the reporter. "How can you say that?" he replied, "your home is flooded, you have no electricity, no running water, you have lost so much." To which this family said, "Yes, but we have our home, our family, and just around the corner our neighbor's homes have burned to the ground." There

is always reason to rejoice and be thankful.

As this holiday season is upon us let us all truly look at how many ways we have been blessed. I know as I count my blessings I can see how good God has been to me. I am not in a prison cell. I had a Christian upbringing. I live in a great county. I have material blessings that far exceed my basic needs. I live in a wonderful community. I have been saved by the blood of the Lamb. I have been redeemed and reconciled to God through the

Jesus taught us not to worry about life as the world does. He was quick to point out that such concern cannot add a single hour to our life. Then he said, "Do not worry then saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?', for the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matthew 6:27, 31, 32).

In knowing that God cares for me, that he is aware of my daily needs, it gives me a reason to live a happy and thankful life. As a Christian Paul could write from a prison cell "rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). I doubt that this was the attitude of other inmates.

Even under the most difficult of situations we can find good reasons to be thankful. I just heard a family interviewed whose home was flooded during Hurricane Sandy in the New York area. "We



"His face is so long."

death of His son on the cross. I have a family that I love and who love me back. I have great friends. I have a wonderful extended church family that reaches into many countries around the world.

As I count my blessings I ask each of you to count yours. You too will see that there are many. God is good. Let us be thankful, truly thankful!

Dennis Doughty
P. O. Box 155
Tunica, MS 38676
dennis1848@bellsouth.net



"Somewhere in Mississippi" In a church building bathroom

Fulton, MS

The Pine Grove Church of Christ, near Fulton, hosted a Ladies' Day on September 15 with Mrs. Evelyn Apple doing the speaking.

TX RV Rally

(Cont. from page 15)



Some rest; others continue to cook.

A most entertaining event with a serious purpose was the Auction on Friday morning. The people were most generous in bringing nice items to be auctioned, and making great bids, therefore raising money to be used for costs of the rally, with any additional funds left over for contribution to the Magnolia Messenger.

Eleanor Townsend of Lafayette Louisiana continued her unmatched record of attending every single rally in both Mississippi and Louisiana - Texas since they began many years ago.

The next rally will be at Lake Tiak-O'-Khata in Louisville Mississippi on Monday, April 22 through Thursday, April 25, 2013. Paul Franks (apaulfranks@gmail.com) can provide more information on the Mississippi rally.

In 2013 the Texas-Louisiana Rally will be October 17 -19 at Salmon Lake Park in Grapeland Texas. Contact person for the Louisiana Texas rally is Ray Franks (rdcontracting@centurytel.net) Home 337-786-3095 Cell 337-515-0866

Article written by Dean Caldwell, an elder in the By Pass church at Vicksburg Mississippi.

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

Yazoo City, MS Seeks Full time Minister

Immediate Opening

Attendance: About 60
Very Nice Facilities
(Located on Highway 49)
Auditorium Seats 300
10 Classrooms
Large Activity Room
3 BR House Furnished

"Free of Debt"

Yazoo City Church of Christ
Yazoo City, MS 39194

Seeking

Mature, Experienced Person
With Supportive Family
Call 662-571-4323 or
662-571-0899

Forward or fax Resume to
Church of Christ
1230 E. Broadway
Yazoo City, MS 39194
(662-746-2579)

Attention:
Preacher Committee
Fax: 662-673-1128

Lake Charles, LA

Seeks Full-time Minister

Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ is searching for a full time pulpit minister, beginning January 2013. EBCC is a well established church having recently celebrated it's 75th Anniversary.

The church is located in Lake Charles, LA at 2801 Enterprise Boulevard. Website: <http://www.blvdchurchofchrist.org>

EBCC has 4 elders, 7 deacons and 4 staff ministers with an average attendance of around 282. Lake Charles is an economically sound area with unemployment of 6.8% -- well below the national average.

Resumes may be sent to
Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ
2801 Enterprise Blvd.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Fax: 337-430-0093
Email:
office@blvdchurchofchrist.org

"Preach the Word"

Caledonia Seeks Full time Minister

(Open: 9/15/12)

Marital Status: Preferred Married
Salary Range: Negotiable
Benefits: Minister's House
Contact:

Sonny McLellan at (205) 695-7864, (Cell) (205) 712-0122
E-mail:
sonny5735592@yahoo.com

The Caledonia church of Christ [near Columbus, MS] presently has an attendance of 60 plus on Sunday mornings. The church is located in an area that is very favorable for future growth. The growing town of Caledonia has an excellent school system.

The church is blessed with a beautiful new building and is located near Columbus, MS and the Columbus Air Force Base. There is no debt on the building; a nice preacher's home is adjacent to the building. Resumes, salary history and audio or video examples of recent sermons, may be submitted to

Caledonia Church of Christ
C/o Sonny McLellan
3161 Aberdeen Road
Vernon, AL 35592



House for Preacher

DeQuincy, LA

"Retired" Preacher
Available for Gospel Meetings, Seminars and/or
Fill-in Preaching.

Contact:
Paul Wilcoxson
404 LeBlanc Street
DeQuincy, LA 70633
Cell: 337-802-2212

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



Everyone Seems to be Listening to RV Director Ray Franks

From the Blue Ridge to the Bayou

How a boy from Boone wound up in Booger Branch

When a man decides to preach the Gospel, he makes a commitment to go where God places him. Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. Genesis 12:1 ESV. Growing up in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina, I would have never included the bayou and piney woods of southwest Louisiana as a possibility of where I would ever call "home". But then I am reminded that: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. Isaiah 55:8 ESV.



Douglas J. Brackbill
The "Boy from Boone"
Who Moved to "Booger Branch"

I was born and raised in the mountains of North Carolina. Growing up in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Watauga County in Boone, North Carolina I was being taught about God by my grandmother; who raised me hearing a chapter of the Bible being read every night. I was brought up in a Bible reading God fearing Christian home. God was always the most important thing in my life.

I became a Christian and decided I wanted to be a preacher at the age of 14. But for reasons at that time unknown to me then, but clear now, God was not ready for me to proclaim His Word. For the next 28 years, I went to school, lived and worked in NC, PA, DE, back in NC, and then TN. During all those years, while working in the secular world, God was preparing me for the work of a Gospel preacher.

Then in 2007 I started my studies at the Nashville School of Preaching and Biblical Studies and began to preach the Gospel for congregations in TN, AL and KY on a temporary fill in basis. I also preached at two local retirement homes each Lord's day. I became active in Lads to Leaders, VBS, Monday Night For The Master, Pew Packers and other works.

God was giving me on the job training to prepare me for my first located pulpit and congregation. When I wasn't preaching I was worshipping at the Hartsville Pike congregation in Gallatin, TN. During this time, I was blessed to meet and become acquainted with

many other Gospel preachers as I participated in the Middle Tennessee Area Preachers meetings. God was getting me ready, but I still didn't know for what.

Then in 2009 I began to actively search for my first full time pulpit. After meeting with congregations in TN, AL, KY, NC, GA, AR, MO and NY; God placed us in Willow Springs, Missouri for a little over two years. I had never heard of Willow Springs before going there to meet the congregation and "try out". I began my work there in August of 2009.

My training had prepared me to preach, but I still was learning to become a preacher. God was using this time to get me ready, but I still wasn't sure what He was getting me ready for. I was learning to do the work of a preacher. I was blessed to make friendships that will never be forgotten. Willow Springs made an indelible mark on my life. And in "His due season" last December, He brought me to Boxwood. And now I know Boxwood was what God had been getting me ready for all these years.

For those of you who don't know, the Boxwood Church of Christ was where Brother Al Franks began his work. The Boxwood Church of Christ is located in the Bivens Community 10 miles southwest of Merryville, Louisiana, and is one of, if not the oldest, continually meeting congregations in southwest Louisiana. Just like Willow Springs, I had never heard

of Merryville or Bivens before my first visit here. And so the current chapter of our lives began.

God has blessed us with a warm and loving church family. The best way to describe the way it feels here is "it just feels right". I have had the pleasure of meeting Brother Al and Sister June, along with the other "Franks" at their annual family reunion. This area is just like where I grew up, where family and church are so important in people's lives.

It is my privilege and honor to be able to preach the Word and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the saints here. We love and are loved by the family of God that calls Boxwood home. Our family is growing both spiritually and numerically. Our VBS was an overwhelming success with a fantastic outreach to the children of the community.

We now have an active American Heritage Girls troop and a Boy Scout troop. Our family meets once a month for a Family Fun Night/Thursday Night Together where we have fun and play games.

I pray that God continues to bless this congregation, community, and my family as we try and do His Work and carry out His Will for the glory of His Kingdom! Thank you God for sending me to Booger Branch!

(Doug Brackbill; 123 Boxwood Church Rd, Merryville, LA 70653)

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Members of the Boxwood church studying together as they answer "The Question Box" in the *Magnolia Messenger*

— —
Encouraging!

Saving Faith

(Continued from page 9)

this pattern of behavior or this attitude... I don't want to change the fact that I'm just a party animal."

So I challenge you to be honest with yourself. Just admit that you don't want to change yet, you don't want to give up a life of sin. The reason is not intellectual, but moral.

But if you will get into the word of God and start reading and s t a r t accepting the truth of that Word, then he will start changing you from the inside and

you'll soon be to the point where you can truly accept and obey the Savior. Before you know it, you'll be not just ready, but eager to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sin.

Then finally, I want to challenge you to **act on the faith you already have**. Start taking another step. You took one step by opening the Word. You took another step when you began reading it, and another when you started believing what you were reading. You have a little bit of faith. I challenge you now to act on that faith! If your faith is ever going to increase you must act on what you already have, step out on that little bit and watch the flame start to burn brighter... and brighter.

There was an interesting bridge project years ago at the Niagara River. It began in an unusual way. They flew a kite with a string trailing across the river. They then attached a larger twine to that string. Then they attached a small rope. To this rope they eventually attached a tiny steel cable. Then a larger cable until finally they built a suspension bridge across that river. But it all started with this little bitty piece of kite string. And it is as though Jesus is saying, "If you have a little bit of faith, I can help you grow that faith to the point where you'll want to obey me. But you need to act on the little bit of faith you now have." Take that first step and watch it grow.

There is no sin, no pit so deep that you have fallen into that the grace of Jesus Christ cannot

reach down and forgive you and transform your life. And there is no amount of intelligence, brilliance, talent or trophies that you can pull out of a bag and save yourself. There may be some people who think they are going to show up at the gates of heaven with enough gold in their hand that will buy their entrance. But guess what.... I think I can hear

To be sure, we've had all kinds of offers; New Age crystals, Scientology, Astrology, Psychic Friends Network and all kinds of religions and angels. But the one solution that was offered a long time ago—and the offer still stands—is the very one people are rejecting.

God say to t h e m , " H m p h ! Gold! We pave the streets here with that stuff."

You see, it is only t h r o u g h Jesus Christ, it is acting

upon the faith you already have, and putting your life in his hands and saying, "Lord, what must I do to be saved?" The answer is the same as it has been for two thousand years: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38). It all begins with a choice. It begins with an inside job: Faith. You can go to the airport and look at that huge Boeing 767 and believe that it will take you to Chicago or Anchorage. But you won't get to the desired destination until you actually board that plane. You can believe all you want to that Jesus will save you, but until you obey his commands he cannot save you.

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Lifting Lives in Vicksburg

- a homeless shelter for families -

- Joel W. Dimmette, Sr. -

An estimated 1.6 million families in America are homeless, and that alarming number is increasing. Furthermore, homelessness not only affects families in metropolitan cities, but also rural towns across the country. It seems that Christians are generally unaware, or feel powerless to make a difference once confronted with this issue. After all, the statistics represent a great number of family members (men, women, and children) who each have their own specific needs.

For many years, the Hwy. 61 N. Bypass Church of Christ in Vicksburg, MS, has been joyfully giving hot meals, warm shelter, and Christ's saving gospel to needy people in the Vicksburg community. Its latest mission, however, is to expand its ability to physically and spiritually lifting the lives of homeless families. In early 2012, Nellie Caldwell, Joel Dimmette, Bobbie Heads, and Willie Nettle formed Lifting Lives Ministries, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization.

In the coming years, with God's blessing and Christian support, Lifting Lives Ministries (LLM) will feed, counsel, and educate troubled youth, discouraged elderly, and people of despair to lift their lives into permanent enthusiasm and empowerment, enabling them to be productive participants of society.

As Christians, we realize, however, that nobody can be truly lifted to new and abundant life without hearing and obeying the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Impoverished families in the local area are often overlooked, though they too need physical assistance and the gospel of Jesus.

Lifting Lives is currently establishing the LLM Family Shelter. The few shelters that exist in Vicksburg work tirelessly to serve specific needs, but they do not serve the same purposes (e.g. men's shelter, children's home, women's restoration, domestic abuse, and substance abuse).

Sadly, there is not a family shelter in Vicksburg. Therefore, assistance is extremely limited and many families remain helpless. Without proper shelter geared to their needs, families have been separated and, in some cases, children have been taken from their parents. Thus, homeless families often intentionally remain hidden from the public and feel as if their only

options are either to separate or remain as a unit living on the street, in a vehicle, or an unsafe environment.

Lifting Lives Ministries wants to give these parents and their children another choice in their time of crisis. The family is not only the foundation of society, but today's children will either be tomorrow's friend or foe of Christianity. Surely, they also need to be fed and taught in Jesus' name. The LLM Family Shelter is also an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ, call individuals who would probably never enter the church building, and prove to the community that Churches of Christ are passionate about Christ's work.

Homeless families are not only in need of housing, but more importantly, access to socio-economic advancement opportunities. The LLM Family Shelter will provide a safe and structured environment to homeless families in Vicksburg by physically providing: **(1)** shelter to families without homes; **(2)** clothing to participating families; **(3)** three meals per day to those staying at the facility; and **(4)** access to tools for success, such as education and work training through partner agencies. **Additionally**, knowing that Jesus addressed physical and spiritual needs, **LLM will provide spiritual nourishment to every program participant through prayer, gospel tracts, and daily group Bible studies.**

In this evil world Christians need to be "as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Matt. 10:16). Thus, LLM has developed an extensive eligibility plan to ensure that those who demonstrate the greatest need receive charitable aid. These eligibility requirements are tied into the program's initiatives; essentially, participating individuals must show fair effort and progress in order to continue enrollment in our program.

Initial program participation will begin with a three-night admission into the family shelter. At the end of this initial admission, families that comply with policies and procedures will be invited to stay. The evaluation process will be conducted on a weekly basis. As a principle, families should be ready to move to permanent housing within 30 days. The organization has created this program plan to provide more help to more people. Those who do not show progress will be required to leave

until such time that they make the commitment to the program's procedures. In sum, it is the purpose of the LLM Family Shelter to create *physical independence* for families, while also creating *spiritual dependence* on Jesus Christ.

Given the unique housing needs of families, LLM plans to rent and renovate what was formerly the Hillcrest Motel, located at 40 Hwy 80, Vicksburg, MS. Once all the permits are in place, and the shelter is finished and fully operational, roughly 20 families (potentially 75 men, women, and children) will receive daily physical and spiritual guidance towards independence, while keeping the family unit intact. Each family will be taught how to serve themselves and how to navigate through the process of attaining employment, better permanent housing, and submission to Jesus Christ.

Lifting Lives Ministries, Inc., is governed by a volunteer board of directors, who are Willie Nettle, Mrs. Nellie Caldwell, and Ms. Bobbie Heads. Joel Dimmette proudly serves as Executive Director.

Dr. Willie Nettle received his BA Degree from Magnolia Bible College and his Master of Theology (1987) and Doctor of Ministry (2004) Degrees from Harding School of Theology. He has been preaching the gospel for 33 years, and received the Harding School of Theology "Alumnus of the Year" Award in 2010.

Mrs. Nellie Caldwell is passionate about serving the elderly and possesses 50 years of experience working with a variety of religious, charitable, and secular organizations. Ms.



LLM Board of Directors (from left) Bobbie Heads, Willie Nettle, Joel Dimmette (Executive Director) and Nellie Caldwell

Bobbie Heads received her Master of Communications Degree from Ashford University, and sees the effects of poverty and non-Christian training on children daily while teaching High School classes.

Joel Dimmette possesses 15 years of successful entrepreneurial experience and has been preaching the gospel for 6 years. He attended Magnolia Bible College, received his BA Degree from Amridge University, and is currently pursuing a Master of Historical Theology Degree from Harding School of Theology.

Each of these Christians is passionate about saving souls

and has an extensive history volunteering for a variety of community outreach initiatives. Their collective experience, in conjunction with supporting churches and individuals, will succeed in lifting the lives of homeless families in Vicksburg.

Tax Deductible Contributions

May be sent to:

Lifting Lives Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 820538
Vicksburg, MS 39182
Call: 601.529.6140, or email:
info@liftinglivesministries.com.

— "Ready unto every good work"



A Shelter for Homeless Families in the Vicksburg, Mississippi Area is being made ready.

**Madison, MS Church
Schedules Marriage Matters Seminar
March 24-27, 2013**

Jim Howard, preacher for the church in Madison, Mississippi, wrote to the MM, saying: *"We have scheduled a Marriage Matters Seminar with Jerry & Lynn Jones. This is a 13 session nationally recognized conference. Each session will explore some of the complex issues and emotions surrounding relationships and will explain in a very down-to-earth manner the solutions to counter them. Both professional educators and dynamic communicators, Jerry and Lynn have conducted 380 conferences and have spoken to thousands of people in 43 states and three foreign countries. They will make you laugh, cry and truthfully evaluate yourself and your family relationships. We of the Madison Church invite those from throughout the area to share the significant opportunity of this free seminar. Thank you.*



Lynn and Jerry Jones
(Spoken to many thousands in 43 states)

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." (Col. 3:18,19)



Judy Gillman's Interest in the Lord and His Church was Increased Through the Influence of Messages on Signs

"...By These Signs..."

The Enterprise Blvd church [Lake Charles, LA] has had a sign in front of the building for many years. Joe Carlile was in charge of putting up the sayings on our sign until his death a couple of years ago. For a time, Taylor Mason managed our sign. Recently, Terry and Alice Bergeron have been in charge. When they agreed to serve in this way, I told them that this was a great ministry and a good way to teach truth.

Recently Judy Gillman started attending our services and after study and prayers, she obeyed the gospel! I asked her what caused her to stop by and visit our services and she said, **"The sign! Every time I drove by, I read the sign and the sayings were an encouragement to me."** Everything we do and say has an impact on someone. Usually we are influencing people we don't even know about. Let's continue to look for ways to communicate God's love and mercy and grace to a dying world. (PF)



Judy Gillman

In Memory of
Katherine Cooper



Katherine Cooper

Katherine Elizabeth Cooper entered into life June 27, 1925. After 87 years, she departed earthly life on October 13, 2012. She was a resident of Pelahatchie, Mississippi and a faithful member of the North Brandon Church of Christ in Brandon, Mississippi. Funeral services were held at the North Brandon church building on October 16 with ministers Ray Penna and John Gardner officiating.

Katherine Cooper was a vibrant, loving lady who truly cared for others. Many readers of the MM know her because of her involvement in our RV rallies held in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Sister Cooper enjoyed being with Christians and blessed the lives of those who were privileged to be in her presence. She is already sorely missed by her physical family including two daughters, a son, a brother, seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. We will



miss her sweet smile and her pleasing personality.

When sister Cooper's body was laid to rest in her casket, the family chose to place under

her hands an open Bible as an indication of her love and respect for the Bible as the Word of God. May God bless the physical and church family and all who have suffered loss because of her departure.

Her family requested that memorials be made to the Magnolia Messenger and to Hospice Ministries. (MM Editor)

How Will YOU Be Remembered?

Magnolia Messenger

Welcomes Your
Comments and Suggestions

**What
Will Your
Answer Be?**

Nina F. Thorn
1135 Ratliff Rd
Canton, MS 39046



*If God should call you home today,
What would your answer be?
Would you be so happy or would you say,
"I knew not you were coming to take me."*

*He gave you the Holy Bible,
To show you the only way.
Do you take time to study it or
Think you don't have to obey?*

*God will let you choose,
Where you spend eternity.
Will your choice be heaven,
Or will fire be your destiny.*

*You can't live like the world,
And have a life of peace.
Judgement day is coming,
So, what will your answer be?*

The Lord is My Bubble Wrap

*He wraps Himself around me,
So that my fragile self will not break.
He re-inflates when Satan's darts try to break through;
He holds me together when myself wants to fall apart.
He keeps me warm when there is no one to hold me;
I can go anywhere as my Lord,
Makes me ready to ship at His Will.
I am truly blessed and loved.
One day I will be sent to my final destination,
Where God shall change the fragile to eternal,
And reveal me as He intended all along,
And we will dwell together forever.*

Amen
Dawn Guillory
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Lake Charles, LA 70602
suntay222@gmail.com

More

Reader's Response

Hello! Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I love and enjoy the Magnolia Messenger periodical newspaper you send. It is a wealth of information about churches of Christ doing the will of the Father. When I start reading the MM, I try to read slowly because the different people that speak, speak or write thus saith the Lord... Thank you for this wonderful periodical. It has helped me and continues to do so each time that I read it... Thank you, (Jerry Jones, Memphis, TN)

Encouraged and Thankful

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

“Out of the Mouth of Babes”

(Psalms 8: 2)

- June Franks -

But Jesus said, “Suffer little children and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the Kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14)

The Bible also says, “Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.” (Proverbs 20:11)

The Bible teaches the importance of having qualities like a little child.

“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, “Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18: 1-4)

We can learn many valuable lessons from little children. For instance, just recently, I was reminded of the power of words spoken even by a little three year old girl.

Back in January, our granddaughter, Ashley and her family, moved from Lake Charles, Louisiana to Rockwall, Texas. And, after several weeks had passed, we were blessed to make a trip



June Franks

“out west” to visit them.

We arrived late one Monday afternoon at our granddaughter's apartment, and had not been there very long, when our three year old great granddaughter, Braylee asked me, “Mawmaw, are you going to church with me?” She continued by saying, “We go to Eastridge church.” (Eastridge Church of Christ)

Braylee's question made an impression on me. First I was so thankful to know that she and her family had found a church home in Rockwall. I was also impressed with the fact that she wanted her mawmaw to see where she went to church and to meet her friends. It was evident to me that she loved going to church services.

Braylee's question reminded me that, as parents, we need to start our children “going to church” as soon as possible after they are born. We have a God-given responsibility to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

A few weeks later, Ashley sent us a video of Braylee talking to a little girl she had just met who lived in the same apartment complex. Without Braylee knowing it, her mom had videoed her talk-

ing to the little girl. The video showed Braylee inviting the little girl that she just met to church. She was telling her new friend about her friends at church, She Said, “I go to Eastridge, will you go to church with me?”

Here was a little girl, just three years old, inviting someone to go to church services with her. This made me think if a child can do this, as her mawmaw, I can learn from Braylee.

I did hear the little girl say “No” to Braylee. So often people tell us “No”; but we need to keep inviting. We just never know who may accept our invitation.

I deeply appreciate the Eastridge church of Christ in Rockwall, Texas for being there for Ashley's family during this transition in their life.

A special thanks to sweet Braylee for reminding us, as older people, that we can definitely learn from a three year old child.

Mrs. A. L. Franks

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Kosciusko, MS 39090

franksmm@aol.com

News Note

Fulton, MS

Jason Jarrett, a student at the East Tennessee School of Preaching, was guest speaker on November 4, 2012, at the Homecoming service at the Fulton Church of Christ. The Fulton church and several other area congregations are supporting Jason as he prepares to preach full time. **Russ Crosswhite** is the preacher for the Fulton church.

Challenge to Parents

Encourage Your Talented Son To Dedicate His Life to Preaching the Word

Have **YOU** Answered “The Question Box” On Page 24?

A Reader's Response

Hello,

My name is Richard and I saw a friend with your paper and after looking at it, I would like to get on your mailing list. It's nice to know what Christians around the country are doing. My wife would also enjoy being on that list...I'm sure it would boost her spirits. (Richard Stinnett, San Luis Obispo, CA)

POEM

By

Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray

bcagleray@comcast.net



The New Year's Message

At the homeless shelter each New Year's eve, Grace was asked to deliver a message of cheer. “At ninety, I'm too old for this”, she said. “You'll have to! find someone else next year.”

After dinner, she was escorted to the podium; Her trembling voice was humble and calm. “Tonight is the last year I'll speak”, she said; “I will leave you with the Twenty-third Psalm.”

“The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want”— Her eyes began to glow like a beacon of light. Before she was finished, a hush filled the room; You could have heard a pin drop in the night.

A gentleman in the corner was moved to tears; Grace was escorted off the stage to the floor. She moved toward his chair and asked of him— “Have you not heard the Twenty-third Psalm before?”

“Oh, yes, I've heard it many times”, he said; His hands were shaking, and his voice was frail. “But I've never heard it quoted by one before, Who obviously knows the Shepherd so well.”

Remembering the 13th Verse in “2013”

- June Franks -

The Bible says in Philippians 3:13, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.”

As we look forward to the new year, 2013, we can do so with the knowledge that we should forget those things in the past and, with God's help, determine that we are going to do better in the future.

We shouldn't dwell on the past; but, it does help to look at the past year with an attitude of making needed changes and amends in the coming new year. The new year gives us an opportunity to start afresh and to make corrections where needed.

To many, the new year symbolizes a fresh start. There will likely be “New Year's Resolutions.” Every new year should bring a lot of motivation as we hope and plan for the future; that is, to do better than we did in the previous year.

The Bible says, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,” (Philippians 3:14). Paul said that he not only forgot the past but he reached forth to those things which are before.

We know about Paul's *past*, but yet, he could say that he forgot

those things which are behind. Paul presented the *negative* side -- his past; but, he also presented the *positive* side; that is -- reaching forth to those things “which are before.”

So many have trouble forgetting their past. A lot of emotional problems are caused because people cannot forgive themselves of things that are in their past. It should bring great comfort to us to know that if we truly repent, if we change our way of living, that God forgives and forgets our past.

We cannot do anything to change the past; therefore, we should look to the future, knowing that we have been forgiven by God.

Helen Keller once said, “Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.”

As we approach the coming of the new year, 2013, understandably, we may do so with a certain amount of apprehension. It is true that we may not know what is in the future, but we do know who holds the future. Let us always remember that God is still in control and that He has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

Forgetting the past is difficult to do but it will help if we remember verse 13 of Philippians 3 as we begin the new year of 2013. (mjf)



Braylee and Sadie Lambert as seen in a field of Texas Bluebonnets

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

THANK YOU FOR SENDING IN ANSWERS
 by doing so
You Encourage Others to Study the Bible!
 plus
You May Be Our Next Bible Winner!

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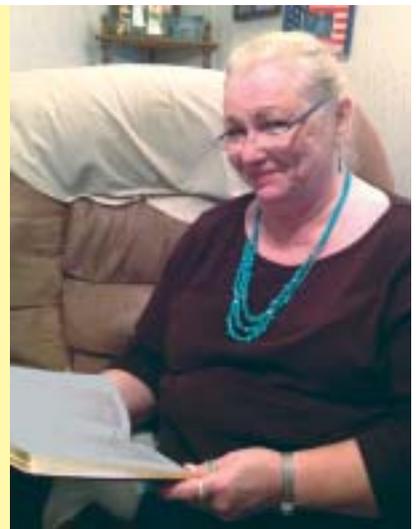
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| 121. Modean Edwards | 192. Kay Shiers |
| 122. Meredith Peek | 193. Annie Mae Pipkin |
| 123. Dot Winslett | 194. Exie Motes |
| 124. John W. Knight | 195. Minnie Gwyne |
| 125. Claude Edwards | 196. Peggy Wroten |
| 126. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr. | 197. Linda K. Hughes |
| 127. Shelia Woodard | 198. Carolyn Garrett |
| 128. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 199. Rhenda Miltner |
| 129. B. J. Womack | 200. Evelyn Page |
| 130. Nicole Womack | 201. Nan Conley |
| 131. Ma'Nia Womack | 202. Buddy & Barbara Hitt |
| 132. Bralan Womack | 203. Frederick Alan Jones |
| 133. John Hazel | 204. Marie Lively |
| 134. Tom McLemore | 205. Margaret Parker |
| 135. Naomi Jahneke | 206. Sherron Dixon |
| 136. Sidney Robinson | 207. Sharon Huckaba |
| 137. Garry Gooch | 208. Frances Harrell |
| 138. Carolyn Harvill | 209. Peggy Hartman |
| 139. Bernita Booker | 210. Brenda Harvill |
| 140. June Brents | 211. Ray Parham |
| 141. Linda Crochet | 212. Ruby Wright |
| 142. Betty VanBuren | 213. Bobby Lively |
| 143. Pierce Flatt | 214. Carol Bonner |
| 144. Ann Mixon | 215. Nell Millsaps |
| 145. Dorothy Banks | 216. Ann Kimble |
| 146. Eva Almon | 217. Rosie Felton |
| 147. Roger King | 218. Katie Houston |
| 148. Linda B. Keirn | 219. Angela McInnis |
| 149. Paula Triplett | 220. Faye Stanford |
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| 151. Vera Ashmore | 222. Linda Paden |
| 152. Dean Bass | 223. Mary A. Jacobs |
| 153. Bonnie Skates | 224. James Hudley |
| 154. Tommy J. Muirhead | 225. Mary Williams |
| 155. Alma Maddox | 226. Cortez Brown |
| | 227. Karen ? |
| | 228. Cathy E. Brooks |

229. Hattie Howard
230. Emma Pride
231. Mary Howard
232. Addie Brown
233. Wade Hardy
234. Earl Johnson
235. Willie M. Stancis
236. Bettie Brown
237. Jerry Jones
238. Brenda Redd
239. Yvonne Swilley
240. Patricia A. McClure
241. Mary Turner
242. Lauren Harris
243. Sherry Townsend
244. Ann Kelley
245. Mattie Hoy
246. Mary Robinson
247. Thelma Talbert
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249. Barbara Skrobak
250. Jack Stillman
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252. John L. Gates
253. Juanita Quarles
254. Maggie R. Edmonds
255. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell
256. Sidney Clemmer
257. Jean Clemmer
258. Beulah Rupert
259. Genie Henning
260. Dwight E. Hester
261. Mark Rutherford
262. Gary Wolfe
263. Donna Gullett
264. Dianne Wiley
265. Doris Carroll
266. Lisa Dettor
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268. Ralph & Doris Gillespie
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271. Mrs. W. C. Wells
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273. Don Lee
274. William Pyron
275. Eunice M. Kirkwood
276. Nellie Dickerson
277. Amber & Brian Clark
278. Lynell Garlington
279. Virgil Hook
280. Dillie P. Horton
281. Helen DePriest
282. Patsy Howard
283. Betty Shackelford
284. Doralynn Felton
285. Lucretia McNecs
286. Elsie Moore
287. Dahlia McAfee
288. Debbie Chapman
289. Mrs. Dean Howe
290. M/M Edmon Wheeler
291. Mary Beth Dietz
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293. Michael Deaton
294. Natalie Grisham
295. Althea House
296. Ms. Mary S. Faulconer
297. Velve Dykes
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299. Tyra Verner
300. Trey Williams
301. Shamyia Smith
302. Lacey Mastin
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304. William Richards
305. Bodean Collum
306. Bobbie Holder
307. Ouida McCarter Reeves
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309. Mary A. Jacobs
310. Imogene Grayson
311. Carolyn Stanford
312. Connie Fountain

Our Recent Bible Winner
Doris Carroll
 (Rayville, LA)

Sister Carroll is a member of the church of Christ in Delhi, Louisiana where **Otis Bowman** serves as preacher.

Congratulations!



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 313. Ruth M. Bazer | 376. Sandy Dean |
| 314. Mr. Michael Coleman | 377. Anna Lee Pruitt |
| 315. Joe B. Holmes | 378. Amanda Pendley |
| 316. Merlene Scott | 379. Michael Euer |
| 317. Elvis Dilmore | 380. Taisheivya Smith |
| 318. Ruby Dilmore | 381. Gail B. Saxon |
| 319. Lisa Dearman | 382. Tabith Ferguson |
| 320. Robin Flowers | 383. Kelly Rudy |
| 321. Sandra Welch | 384. Wendy Williams |
| 322. Evelyn Doss | 385. Mary Lou Mirante |
| 323. Laura Brackbill | 386. Robbie Cole |
| 324. Carter Blackmon | 387. Keli Perkins |
| 325. Caleb Blackmon | 388. Idna Eddington |
| 326. Earl Franks | 389. Sue Hamrick |
| 327. Missy Blackmon | 390. Johnnye Blackmon |
| 328. Elissa Franks | 391. Carl Trimm |
| 329. Wes & Rhoda Jeans | 392. Mr. Kenneth Harmon |
| 330. Nicholas Slaydon | 393. Charlene Williams |
| 331. Stephanie Slaydon | 394. Tommy Lewis |
| 332. Jessica Slaydon | 395. Iris Casteel |
| 333. Dorothy Franks | 396. Imogene Kirk |
| 334. Tori Brackbill | 397. Millie A. Goode |
| 335. Doug Brackbill | 398. Bonnie Howell |
| 336. Mildred Carroll | 399. Ernestine Lathan |
| 337. Danny Bolden | 400. Dorothy Laws |
| 338. Jimmie Brown | 401. Ginny Luther |
| 339. Imogene Holliman | 402. Betty Harris |
| 340. Lucille Jackson | 403. Gail Gurganus |
| 341. Foy C. Smith | 404. Sarah Morton |
| 342. Robert Blackburn | 405. Karen Bolls |
| 343. Edith Winters | 406. Karen ? (Memphis) |
| 344. Iva A. Hill | 407. Hattie Johnson |
- NOTE:** All answers received on/by 12/5/12 are included. Thanks for answering the "QB" and thanks for your interest in the Word of God.

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24,000

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Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

The Question Box

Great Lessons From Small Books

Four One Chapter Books; Philemon, 2 & 3 John and Jude

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

The Bible contains 66 books, divided into 1,189 chapters and approximately 31,100 verses. Of the 27 New Testament books, four contain only one chapter each. The four "one chapter" NT books were written by Paul -- **Philemon**, by Jude -- **Jude** and two written by the apostle John -- **2 and 3 John**.

Although these books are small in size, they -- like all books of the Bible, are great in their messages. This month's study asks that you review the four one chapter books of the New Testament and answer each section in "The Question Box". Combined, all four books contain a total of only 77 verses; thus, it should not

take you long to find correct answers to each question.

Thank you for your interest in the study of God's precious Word. And thank you for answering the "QB". By so doing, you learn and you (*by your example*) **encourage others** to learn (see page 23).

Each issue of the MM we award a beautiful Study Bible to one of the many students who send in answers. Each winner is prayerfully chosen by random selection. This time **it just may be you!** God bless you in your search for a better understanding of the "World's Greatest Book."

(Al Franks, editor and author of "QB")

Persons Named in the Books

In the space following each name, write the name of the book where the person is mentioned. Then, underline either "F" or "U" to indicate whether the mention was "Favorable" or "Unfavorable."

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Aristarchus _____ (F or U) | 6. Onesimus _____ (F or U) |
| 2. Michael _____ (F or U) | 7. Demetrius _____ (F or U) |
| 3. Diotrefes _____ (F or U) | 8. James _____ (F or U) |
| 4. Archippus _____ (F or U) | 9. Balaam _____ (F or U) |
| 5. Gaius _____ (F or U) | 10. Demas _____ (F or U) |

True or False (reference)

- ___ 1. The phrase "paper and ink" is found in only one of the four epistles. (_____)
- ___ 2. The phrase "face to face" appears in two of the four books.(_____)
- ___ 3. Enoch was the 7th generation from Adam, the first man.(_____)
- ___ 4. The "error of Balaam" involved greed for earthly reward.(_____)
- ___ 5. One of the four books mentions no human by name.(_____)
- ___ 6. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrhah because of sexual sins.(_____)

Supply the Missing Words

Find each of the following quotations selected from the four one chapter books, fill in the missing words and write the reference where each is found.

1. "... it was _____ to _____ unto you, and _____ you that you should _____ contend for the _____ which was _____ delivered unto the _____." (_____)
2. "Whosoever _____, and _____ not in the _____ of _____ hath not _____." (_____)
3. "... for I _____ that through your _____ I shall be _____ unto _____." (_____)
4. "I have no _____ joy than to _____ that my _____ walk in _____." (_____)

In Which of the Four Books

Is Each of the Following Phrases Found?

- "Paul the aged" _____
- "church in thy house" _____
- "anti-christ" _____
- "elect sister" _____
- "do more than I say" _____

"A Little Extra"

"The Most Ungodly Verse"

Locate the most "ungodly verse" to be found in the four one chapter books. (Note: The word "ungodly" appears four times in one verse.

The reference to the "most ungodly verse" is (book: _____; verse: _____)

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 23). 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

2013

"The Best Year Ever"

- Paul Franks -

The year 2013 can be the best year ever for you! If you die as a Christian, you will go on to be with God. If you get sick, you will realize that this world is not all that important and you will be more determined than ever to prepare for eternity. If you lose money, you will realize that storing up for yourself on this earth is being disobedient to God. You will, hopefully, realize that we need to "store up treasures in heaven" so that we can take hold of an abundant life. Any bad thing, can and will turn out for the best -- if your goal in life is to go to heaven. "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:6).

Loving the world is dangerous. The Bible says that if you love the world and the things of this world, then you don't really love God. The world promises a good time and, for a short period, a person can have "a good time." But it doesn't take very long to realize that giving in to the pleasures of sin will lead to death. Many times this death is a physical death; it is *always* a spiritual death. The devil is out to destroy your life and he is doing all he can to get you to focus on this world and not really be making plans for the next one. Remember, "the world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" (I John 2:17).

Something that scares me is that we often deceive ourselves and decide we can disobey God and think that, somehow, God will understand. It is obvious, to me, that we can allow our conscience to be seared; thus, preventing us from seeing the reality of our evil actions and how they are perceived by God. Please read what Jesus plainly stated in Luke 14:25-34, "...any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." Are you really a disciple of Christ?

I want to close with these words of Jesus recorded in John 12:25, "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." My point is for us to have, as our goal, going to heaven and encouraging as many as we can to go with us. Are you showing to your family that **going to heaven is the most important goal in your life?**

Paul Franks; Associate Editor; Magnolia Messenger;
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Paul Franks
Associate Editor

Our New Bible Winner
Congratulations!

Jane Walker
(Haynesville, Louisiana)

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

Billy Lambert
Speaker

