



Our 35th Year

Magnolia Messenger

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

Volume 35
Number 2
April - June
2013

Simpson

Says:

No generation of Americans has ever worn fewer clothing in public, than this morally bankrupt society. A righteous nation, filled with God-fearing men and women, could do more to lead our country into a chapter in history of purity and modesty than any other thing!

MODESTY:

"A Christian Virtue"
(Read Page 20)

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

570

Sent in Answers
(Page 23)

The "Woman" In Proverbs

Answer the "QB"
(Study Page 24)



Kids Caught "Reading" the MM



World-Wide
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Now at Home In
Mississippi
(Story on Page 8)

This Issue

Over **24,000** Copies

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Every State in the USA

MBC Library Re-opening



Also, Now The
Home Offices Of The
Magnolia Messenger

More than 30,000 Books Available to Bible Students
(See Page 16)

MM Reader Asks

What was "nailed to the cross" according to Colossians 2:14? Was it the old law or was it the "record of debt that stood against us" as several newer translations indicate. (D.E.)

(Cecil May Responds on Page 3)

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(CONTACT)

Magnolia Messenger
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090
662-289-3559 (office)
601-668-3344 (Al)
662-792-2700 (Paul)
franksmm@aol.com
apaulfranks@gmail.com

"O, My God!"

PLEASE,
Think Before You Speak!

And then there are our euphemisms: "Gosh" and "Golly" for God, "Gee" and "Jeez" for Jesus, "darn" and "dang" for damn, and "heck" for hell.

Call me old fashion, but early in life I was taught by my parents (later reinforced by Christian teachers) that such language was not appropriate for one who sought to honor the name of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Please Consider
Hugh's Plea on Page 5

Ken Said,

"Eat That Tomato"



Ken Joines Also Wrote:

So, don't ever let some holier-than-thou church member embarrass you or cause you to feel like a second-class Christian just because you don't fit into their mold, or perform at their expected level. Do what you are capable of doing and God will accept and bless you.

(Some Good Reading on Page 9)

Magnolia Messenger
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Kosciusko, Mississippi

Gospel Meeting

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2013

Evangelist

Cecil May, Jr.

MBC Reunion

October 3, 4, 2013

For more information, contact Les Ferguson, Sr.
662-289-3791 or lesfergusonr@hotmail.com

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

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

Readers' Response

(Comments & Suggestions Invited; Criticisms Considered)

Bro. Franks:

I was pleased to read about the revival of the **Hazlehurst Church of Christ** in the Oct.-Dec. issue of the *Magnolia Messenger*. My uncle **A.J. Meredith** was a long-time leader in that church. It was his wife **Louise** who was the first Bible winner in your "Question Box" in 1978. Their daughter **Loleta Higginbotham** talked to me in the last year or two about arranging for someone to use the vacant church building there. I'm glad it's being used. (Don L. Meredith, Memphis, TN)

Hello brother Franks,

I believe that the *MM* is one of the best publications I receive relative to the church's activities and biblical based articles. It is always 'packed full' of good reading... May God continue to bless your labors of love in His kingdom. Your friend and brother in Jesus Christ, (Raymond Elliott; Prattville, AL)

Note: Jerry Miller, a leader in the I-20 congregation in Vicksburg sent the following email to the *MM*, which he had received, showing the lasting value of the printed word -- long after it is originally published. It stated:

I just found an old issue, Jan/Feb. 2007 of the *Magnolia Messenger* publication. I wish the publishers knew how their publication is saved & read & affects lives for years after they mail them out! There was an article in there with a photo of **Reggie Crawford** leading singing, and an article about

how he and **Jerry Miller**, were working with a prison ministry program at Madison Parish Detention Center in **Tallulah, LA**. I realize that was 6 years ago, but I was still touched (6 years later), by what I read, and was wondering if they still needed religious materials, etc. donated for their prison ministry program, or if the program is still in existence.

Brother Franks:

I have received the *Magnolia Messenger* off and on for several years and appreciate your service to this area which is, in many ways, still a mission field in spite of its many strong churches... I enjoy the spiritual lessons published in the *Messenger* (like your's and May's) more than the news as I am not in the area now. I know many of your current and/or previous writers from lectureships or gospel meetings...
Claude Thompson; Dallas, TX

Dear *Magnolia Messenger*,

Recently I had the pleasure of viewing a copy of your newsletter. In it was an advertisement to receive a copy. I am currently an inmate in the California Department of Corrections and I love the Word. I would very much like to receive your newsletter. Thank you and God bless you. (Albert Youngs, San Luis Obispo, CA.)

Thank You For Reading The
Magnolia Messenger

Your Comments
Read and Respected

Magnolia Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko

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

Contributions from churches and individuals make possible the circulation of more than 24,000 copies of each issue of the "*Magnolia Messenger*". Your prayers and support are **requested, needed** and **appreciated!**

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A. L. Franks, Editor

Paul Franks, Associate Editor

Cecil May, Jr., Bible Questions Answered

June & Glenda Franks, Special Assistants

Telephone Numbers

Office/Home

662-289-3559

Cell

601-668-3344

Mailing Address

Magnolia Messenger

P. O. Box 1578

Kosciusko, MS 39090

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)

E-Mail: franksmm@aol.com

Our DIVIDED Religious World

Is One Religion As Good As Another?

- Editor -

An estimated seven billion people presently inhabit the planet earth. **Religion** is an important matter -- touching the lives of most of earth's population. And, when it comes to religious beliefs, it is an undeniable fact that we live in a *mixed up* and *greatly divided* religious world.

How is the world of religions divided? Going to internet sources, I found it interesting to be reminded that only about **one third (1/3)** of the religious world is considered "**Christian**" -- using "**Christian**" in a very broad sense. Then, there are the Muslims -- with a little more than one fifth (1/5) of the earth's population. Next comes the **Hindu** religion with a little less than 14%, followed by the **Buddhist** religion with about 6%. Other religions, including **Jewish**, make up about 12%. Finally and sadly, about 12% of earth's people are said to be **non-religious** with about two percent self-identified as "**atheists**."

A closer look at the very broad category of "**Christian**" (about 1/3 of the earth's population), shows much and serious division. Those identified as **Roman Catholic** make up about fifty (50) percent of all who are said to be "Christians." Then, there are those called "**Protestants**" who make up about 20 percent of the world's population. They are followed by the "**Orthodox**," "**Anglican**" and several other religious groups, including those who are sometimes identified as "**Christian Cults**."

Students of history are readily aware that religion has been and continues to be a great influence in our world. There are, literally, millions who are ready to live and die by and for their religious convictions. It seems in order to ask: "Who is right? What is right? How can we be sure?"

Dependable answers to such vital questions can be found. Through many centuries, diligent students have found that the Holy Bible, the *Inspired Scriptures*, provides **true** and **trustworthy** answers to all of life's important questions, including "Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?"

My earnest plea and the plea of those who make possible the publication of the *MM* is that all,

World Population: 7.0 Billion

"Christian" -- 2.3 billion

"Muslim" -- 1.4 billion

"Hindu" -- 1.0 billion

"Buddhist" -- 0.5 billion

Other -- 0.84 billion

"Non-believers" -- 0.84 billion

who would find meaning to earthly life and wish to spend eternity in Heaven, go **back to the Bible** -- that one source of reliable information, the book which has proven itself to be the Word of God. Let us "go back to the Holy Scriptures" and from them learn the Lord's plan for man -- his *present* and his *future*! The Bible, and the Bible alone, provides the answer. And, that answer is found in Jesus and His church.

Scripture clearly teaches that man is a sinner. Since the days of Adam and Eve, sin has been a problem for every responsible person. "**All have sinned**." Death comes to everyone -- as the result of sin. "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Rom. 5:12).

The first Adam brought sin and death into the world. Jesus (the "*second Adam*", I Cor. 15:45) brought righteousness and life. "*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous*" (Rom. 5:19).

Jesus is **the** Saviour. There is no other! "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). Salvation from sin is found in Christ only -- in His body or His church. Jesus came from Heaven to the earth to "*save His people from their sins*" (Matt. 1:21).



A. L. Franks, Editor

To accomplish His mission of salvation, He promised to build his church (Matt. 16:18). Through His sacrificial death at Calvary, Jesus fulfilled that promise by shedding His blood, enabling all who come into contact with His precious blood to have their sins forgiven and to be "added" to His church, His body (Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22,23).

Are you a **Christian**? That's what first century disciples of Jesus were called (Acts 11:26). You can become a Christian through genuine **faith** in Jesus as the Son of God, **repentance** of your sins, **confession** of His name and **immersion** (baptism) into Christ (His church; His body) *for the remission of sins*. (See Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:37.) As a Christian, live/work like Jesus, be not ashamed, but "*glorify God in this name [Christian]*" (I Peter 4:16).

Yes, our present world is filled with religion -- *different* religions. Not all are of God, nor sanctioned by His word. Our plea is that you not simply be religious but that you simply become and be a Christian. While the different religions of the world may *claim* to help you in time and eternity, there is absolutely no substitute for the Love of God as manifested through the gift of His only begotten Son who lived, died and was raised to be our Saviour and **the** Saviour of the whole wide world. There is nothing (no one) to take the place of Jesus Christ and His church for which He died, purchasing His church with His blood. Our closing plea is -- **Believe it not** when some one says, "*One religion is as good as another*."

Churches of Christ, made up of imperfect people who have been saved "*by grace through faith*" (Eph. 2:8), seek earnestly to be the church you read about in the New Testament and diligently strive to be simply the "Lord's church" and/or the "Body of Christ." You are encouraged to visit and to investigate the church of Christ in your community. We would be pleased to help you locate a congregation in your area.

Feel free to give us a call at **601-668-3344** or **662-792-2700** or email **franksmm@aol.com**.

Magnolia Messenger;

P. O. Box 1578;

Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Bible Questions Answered

QUESTION:

What was “nailed to the cross” according to Colossians 2:14? Was it the old law or was it the “record of debt that stood against us” as several newer translations indicate. (D.E.)

RESPONSE:

Undoubtedly, both the Law and the record of our sins were done away with by the death of Jesus, hence, figuratively, “nailed to the cross.” The law was fulfilled and abolished and our sins were paid for and forgiven.

However, what Paul was saying in Colossians remains an interesting question.

Law Is Abrogated

Gospel preachers through the years, speaking of the Old Covenant, have noted it was fulfilled by Christ (Matthew 5:17-18), we are no longer under it (Galatians 3:24-25), it has been “nailed to the cross” (Colossians 2:14), it was abolished in Christ’s flesh (Ephesians 2:14-16), and it was replaced by the New Testament at the death of Christ the Testator (Hebrews 9:17).

Some who opt for the translation “the record of debt that stood against us” (as ESV) instead of “the handwriting of ordinances that was against us” (as KJV, meaning the law) do so because they object overall to the idea that the Law of Moses has been abolished. They tell us we ought to be “biblical Christians, not New Testament Christians.”

However, even if Colossians 2:14 does not say the Law of Moses has been abrogated, there are several other passages that do, as indicated in the paragraph above. Those who deny the law has been abolished need also to consider, “Why is it not still a sin to cut the grass on Saturday (Exodus 20:8-11)

and eat bacon, catfish and shrimp (Leviticus 11)? When I asked one such speaker these questions, he responded, “Well, that is somewhat of a problem.” Indeed, it is!

Not everyone, however, who opts for “the record of debt that stood against us” is denying that the law has been abrogated. The questioner to whom this column

is responding, for instance, does not.

Examination of the Passage

The following are renderings of the King James Version and of the English Standard Version, typical in each instance of several others:

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:14, KJV). “By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:14, ESV).

Paul’s original words, translated “handwriting of ordinances” by the King James translators and “record of debt . . . with its legal demands” are *cheirographon tois dogmasin*.

The etymology of *cheirographon* is *cheir-*, “hand” and *graphon*, “writing”; so the translation, “handwriting.” The word occurs only here in the New Testament. In this passage it is combined with *dogmasin*, the word, obviously, from which we get “dogma,” but correctly translated “ordinances” (KJV), “legal demands” (ESV) “regulations” (NIV) and “decrees” (NASV). All are synonyms and all seem to refer to the Law.

Record Of Debt

There are instances in literature contemporary with the New Testament in which the word *cheirographon*, “handwriting,” means a “record of debt,” as ESV translates it. In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, including the Apocrypha) and in second century B.C. papyri, the “handwriting” or “record of debt” is virtually equivalent to our “I.O.U.’s.” It is a record of what is owed to be paid on its presentation.

If that is the meaning in Colossians 2:14, then Paul is saying that the record, the handwritten

Response by Cecil May, Jr.



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

list, of our sins, which are shown to be sins by the Law’s ordinances, is “nailed to the cross.” Thus the debt is paid.

Whether or not Paul is saying that in Colossians, it is, thankfully, true.

Handwriting of Ordinances

Another possibility is that Paul is calling the Law of Moses a written list of ordinances, and it is that Law that he is saying is “nailed to the cross.” Although some commentators have implied that the word translated “handwritten” always means a record of debt, that is not the case. For three considered reasons I believe that what Paul is saying in Colossians 2:14 is that the Law of Moses has been nailed to the cross. Here are my reasons:

1) In context Paul concludes that, because of what is nailed to the cross, we “therefore” are to “let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ” (Colossians 2:16-17). Food, drink, festivals, new moons and Sabbaths are all rites of the Law of Moses. When King David charged the priests and Levites to fulfill their duties, he referred to the same set of rites: “and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the Lord on Sabbaths, new moons and feast days, according to the number required of them, regularly before the Lord” (1 Chronicles 23:31).

Because the “handwriting of

ordinances” is nailed to the cross, therefore they (we) are not to be judged on the basis of the Sabbath or other Jewish festivals. That strongly suggests to me that the “handwriting of ordinances” is the Law of Moses, whose ordinances establish Sabbath observance and the rest of the Jewish festivals.

2) The “handwritten” document is at least connected with the “ordinances” or “regulations,” the Law. They are mentioned together.

3) Ephesians and Colossians were obviously written at the same time and, though they treat different main topics and were written for different purposes, they are parallel in many ways, even including much verbal identity. If the two epistles are laid side by side, and compared topically, Colossians 2:14 is strikingly parallel to Ephesians 2:14-15: “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace.” Clearly in Ephesians Christ is said to abolish “in his flesh” the law of commandments and ordinances.

That parallel structure is not a conclusive argument by itself but it may serve to corroborate the conclusion that is suggested by the fact that whatever was nailed to the cross ended the Sabbath as a factor in judgment.

Fulfilled and Abolished, Not Destroyed

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until

heaven and earth pass away, not a *yodh* (the smallest Hebrew letter) or a *keriaia* (a stroke, a small part of a Hebrew letter that distinguishes it from another letter)

It is appropriate to say, “It [the Law of Moses] has been nailed to the cross.”

will pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:17-18, my

translation, CMJr.).

“The Preacher” said, “Of making many books there is no end” (Ecclesiastes 12:12). Similarly there seems to be no end of new Bible translations. Many have value, but since translation is a human endeavor, there is as yet no perfect one. One error that appears in many translations makes Jesus say in Matthew 5:17 that He did not come to abolish the law but then has Paul say in Ephesians 2:15 that Jesus did abolish the law. The two words used by Jesus and Paul, however, are not the same. Jesus said he did not come to destroy (*kataluo*) the law. Paul said Jesus came to abolish (*katargeo*) the law.

Destroying something and fulfilling and abolishing something are very different things. I frequently preach gospel meetings for churches based on an agreement that was set years before the event. When I have completed the week’s meeting, it is appropriate to say I have fulfilled it. Since it is fulfilled, it is no longer in effect; so it is abolished. I would certainly hope, however, that it would not be said that I destroyed the agreement or the meeting.

Jesus did not destroy the Law. He fulfilled it completely, fully obeying every commandment both for himself and for us. He fulfilled its prophecies, its promises and its types and shadows and, having been fulfilled, the Law of Moses is no longer in effect.

It is appropriate to say, “It has been nailed to the cross.” **CM,Jr**

The Saviour’s Plan for Salvation (1)

HEAR the Gospel

“How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?” “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:14-17)
Before faith, one must hear; he must hear the word of God.

BUT THERE IS MORE!
(Turn to Page 5)

Fulton Bible Institute
Spring Class
Averaged
48 Students From
15 Congregations

- MOTTO -
*Going Forward
By Going
Back to the Bible*

Next Study
(Lord Willing)
Begins August 27
"The Book of Revelation"



Fulton Bible Institute recently completed the Spring Term with a study on The Book of Hebrews. This picture is from our end of the course banquet that we always have after we finish a course. We averaged 48 students who came from 15 congregations throughout Northeast Mississippi. Our next study begins Tuesday, August 27. It will be on The Book of Revelation. Fulton Bible Institute started in the fall of 2005 and continues to grow and make an impact for good in our area. Our motto is "Going Forward by Going Back to the Bible." (**Contact: Fulton Church of Christ; 500 South Clifton St; P. O. Box 251; Fulton, MS 38843; 662-862-4549**) (Report by Russ Crosswhite)

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For more information, call:

Bruce Pate at 1-615-781-6201

Magnolia Messenger

Appreciates

Comments and Suggestions

P. O. Box 1578; Kosciusko, MS 39090

franksmm@aol.com

**Mt. Gilead Church Merges
With Pine Grove Church**

(A Note from Roger Crane)

"Just a little note to let you know that we have closed the doors to Mt. Gilead church and have merged with Pine Grove Church of Christ. Due to the failing health of brother Wayne Mitchell and our small numbers, we have been forced to do this. The congregation is enjoying going to Pine Grove and the brethren there have opened their hearts to us. Enclosed is a small donation from the former Mt. Gilead church of Christ. S/ Roger Crane

Response: We regret to learn of the closing of Mt. Gilead, recalling a very pleasant visit we had with you just a few months ago during your Gospel Meeting with **Billy Lambert** preaching. We are very thankful for your donation. God bless! (Al & June Franks)

CrossTies Radio
Features Gulf Coast Preachers

AN INTERNET RADIO STATION

- Report by Bill Denton -

We're excited about CrossTies Radio -- an Internet radio station, reaching anybody in the world with Internet access! CrossTies Radio is especially designed as an outreach to the Mississippi Gulf Coast communities, but technology enables us to reach a world-wide audience.

In addition to sermons and more by **Bill Denton**, this week we announce the addition of **Mark Hodges**, minister for the Long Beach, Mississippi church as one of our speakers. **David Austin** of the 22nd Ave. church in Gulfport, Mississippi is already a part of the team. We're working to include some of the other Gulf Coast preachers as regular or featured speakers.

Here's how you can use the station. First, listen to it! You'll be blessed by the variety of lessons available and encouraged by the great "a cappella" singing. Second, let your friends, family and co-workers know about the station! After all, what's "outreach" without reaching out? Third, if you're in the Gulf Coast area, encourage your congregation to give CrossTies Radio a plug every week in your church bulletin, on business cards, and other congregational information.

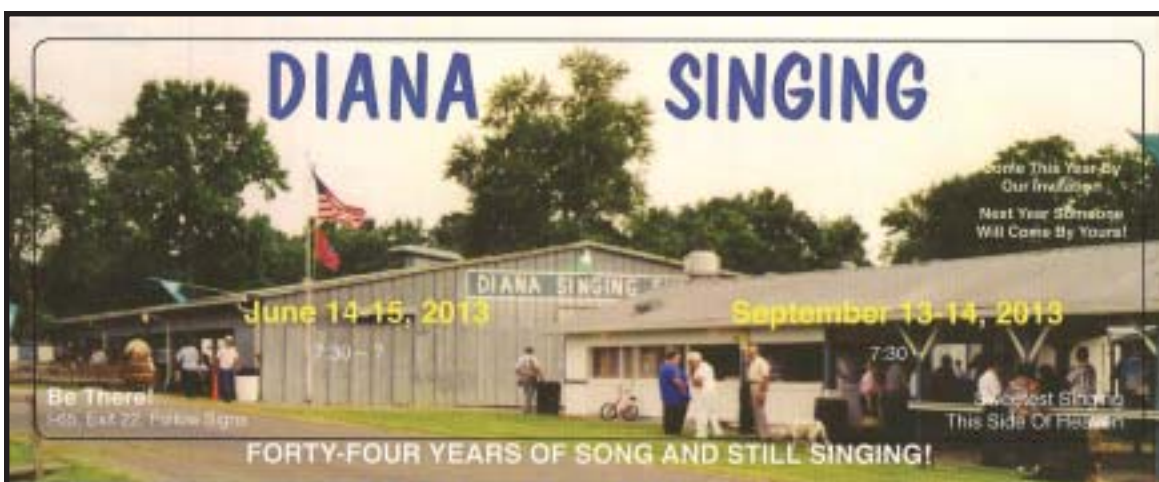
Want to help? If you have some good "a cappella" music that you'd be willing to donate,

we can use it! We'd love to collect a great library of music to air on the station. What to look forward to? Well, more content is coming in the future. In addition to sermons, we'll have short audio devotionals, Bible studies, and some programs of a more "talk radio" format where we discuss Bible topics. How does it work? Basically, we create playlists that repeat for several days. Right now there is a little over ten hours of music and sermons playing on the station. These will repeat until we add another playlist. This allows us to reach more people with the lessons. If you listen and discover something you've already heard, come back later! There's plenty of material available.

Want to help spread the word? Send the information to others! That's the first thing. Beyond that, you can preset our station as a favorite on your Live365 player. There are also buttons to share on social media like Facebook or Twitter! "Like" us and put it out there! Thanks for listening!

(Easiest way to reach the station: <http://www.crossties.org> and click on the Internet Radio graphic on the right side of the page)

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO BOX 4383,
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Bill Denton, preacher**



Location: In SW Tennessee on I-65 (exit 22)

E-MAIL: dianasinging@juno.com; hey-jack@igiles.net; **WEB PAGE:** www.dianasinging.com

PLEASE:
Think Before You Speak!
“O, My God!”

- Hugh Fulford -

The third of the Ten Commandments says, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7). The moral force of that commandment continues in effect under the New Testament law of Christ, but apparently it has become a forgotten commandment in our day.

God’s name is taken in vain and spoken thoughtlessly, irreverently, and profanely in countless ways every day. The vocabulary of some otherwise intelligent people is so limited that they cannot express themselves without using God’s name in the most impious ways imaginable. Comedians, lacking of any real talent, have to depend on profanity and vulgarity to produce laughs from their mentally challenged audiences.

Today, people—including many teenagers—react to the least surprising or unusual event with a flippant “O my God” (OMG). The expression falls thoughtlessly from the lips of countless millions of people every day. Some are so in the habit of using it that they are not even aware of what they are saying.

Bible scholars tell us of the respect the ancient Jews had for the name of Jehovah. For instance, the Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary (Merrill C. Tenney, General Editor) states: “The Jews took seriously the third commandment ‘Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain; for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain’ (Exodus 20:7) and so, to keep from speaking the holy name carelessly, around 300 B.C. they decided not to pronounce it at all; but whenever in reading they came to it they spoke the word *adonai* which means ‘Lord.’” (page 408).

There is something to be learned from the above if we will learn it, and that is that God and His name are to be revered. “Holy and reverend is his (God’s) name” (Psalm 111:9 [KJV, ASV]). This is the only time in the English Bible the word “reverend” is used and in that one instance it applies to God, a fact of which the so-called “clergy” might well take note.

In what is commonly called “The Lord’s Prayer” but more correctly designated “The Model Prayer,” Jesus instructed His disciples to say: “Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name” (Matthew 6:9). The word “hallowed” means “to make holy or sacred, to sanctify or consecrate, to venerate.”

We Southerners have our mild forms of profanity: “God a’ mighty”; “Good God”; “Good Lord”; “My Lord”; “Lord, have mercy”; “Lordy mercy”; etc. Likely, most of those who use such expressions do not think of themselves as taking the name of the Lord in vain, but “vain” means “useless, futile, idle, unavailing, empty.” A vain word or expression conveys nothing of substance; it is empty of any real meaning.

The above expressions are sterling examples of such vain use of the Lord’s name. We all need to remember that Jesus said, “But I say to you that for every idle word that men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36). We would do well to call this verse to mind the next time we are tempted to speak the name of God or the name of Christ in a thoughtless, careless, and irreverent manner.

And then there are our euphemisms: “Gosh” and “Golly” for God, “Gee” and “Jeez” for Jesus, “darn” and “dang” for damn, and “heck” for hell. Call me old fashion, but early in life I was taught by my parents (later reinforced by Christian teachers) that such language was not appropriate for one who sought to honor the name of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ. (The preceding is not written from a self-righteous standpoint, but simply as a statement of fact.) And, yes, I know—people don’t think of it as being irreverent. But that is precisely the problem—people often don’t think—either about their words or their actions!

Hugh Fulford
2892 Cages Bend Road
Gallatin, TN 37066
E-mail: huford@comcast.net



The young boy visiting services was fascinated with brother Joe’s preaching

Missionary Joe Ruiz
Speaks to Kosciusko Church

Sunday, May 19, 2013, was a very special day for the South Huntington Street church in Kosciusko. **Joe Ruiz** and his wife, **Bonnie**, along with several other Hispanic speaking visitors from the West President Street church in Greenwood, Mississippi, blessed our services with their presence and brother Joe’s mission report and sermons.

To a combined adult and teenage class, the capable minister, who was born in Peru, gave an interesting power point report on his recent mission trip to Peru, which included a visit to a new village in the jungles of South America.

One of the highlights of his report was hearing him tell about the gathering of 180 children, along with parents, who eagerly waited several hours for the privilege of participating in a planned VBS and to hear the gospel of Christ proclaimed.

Brother Joe’s report was followed by two excellent sermons with a fellowship meal, provided by the Kosciusko church, sandwiched in between the lessons.

The long time missionary to Southeast Asia, Mexico and Peru spoke in English, which he translated into Spanish for the benefit of several Hispanics who were in attendance. In addition to congregational singing in English, brother Joe led the Hispanic brethren in the singing of three songs in the Spanish language.

We are thankful for the visit, encouraged by the report and edified by the inspirational lessons presented by Joe Ruiz -- a very talented missionary who works under the oversight of the West President Street Church of Christ in Greenwood, Mississippi. **Gene Barrett, Bill Daves** and **Doug Segars** are the elders.

Please Pray
For Gospel Missionaries
At Home & Abroad

“The Grave-yard Shift”

- James A. Horton -

In the 1500s, because of the fear that many had of being buried alive, it was not uncommon for a string to be tied to the wrist of the deceased that was attached to a bell above ground.

The individual who had to remain in the cemetery overnight to listen for a possible ringing of the bell, was said to be working “The Graveyard Shift.” The expressions, “dead ringer” and “saved by the bell,” originated with this practice. Over the years, the term came to be applied to workers whose jobs required them to work through the midnight hour – thus, “The Midnight Shift.”

King David made use of another kind of “Graveyard Shift” by using the time of the evening and early morning hours of nighttime to commune with God. In Psalms 63:6 he said, “When I remember You upon my bed, I meditate upon You in the night watches.”

Paul summed up the lesson of the persistent widow by adding, “And shall not God avenge His own elect who cry day and night to Him?” (Luke 18:7) David must have had such meditation and communion with God in the night when he said, “. . . You have

visited me in the night.” (Psalms 17:3).

Our Lord used a type of “Graveyard Shift” to engage in periods of uninterrupted fellowship with His Father. Prior to the calling of His twelve apostles, it is said: “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to

the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.” (Luke 6:12)

If men of old, and our Savior himself, felt the need to call upon God in the “night watches,” then, certainly, we should be working the “Graveyard Shift” ourselves in petitioning and praising God.

James A. Horton
839 Ashland Rd
Ripley, MS 38663
jahortn@yahoo.com



News Note

COLDWATER

The Antioch Church of Christ near Coldwater, Mississippi has two preachers. **Jimmy Rutledge** and **Chris Keeton** alternate the preaching responsibilities on Sundays. The time of their Sunday services are 9:30 and 10:30 A.M. They also have a Bible class meeting every Tuesday night. The church averages 35 in attendance. A special thanks to **Carolyn Ingram** for submitting this information via telephone.



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The Saviour’s Plan for Salvation (2)

BELIEVE in Jesus

“..for if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is....”

(Heb. 11:6)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 6)

MM - Circulation Increasing!

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We Are Thankful!



Worker stacks freshly printed copies of the Magnolia Messenger as they come off the presses in Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Circulation: 24,000 and Increasing.

Magnolia Messenger Expanding

Target: Louisiana

(See Story on Page 18)

1978

The year the Magnolia Messenger began. Now in our 35th Year!

We thank God and His people for the increasing influence of the MM. With the addition of Paul and Glenda Franks to our team effort, we are seeking to expand the coverage of the MM.

Your prayers and support are earnestly requested and much appreciated. **THANK YOU.**

New Preacher Comes To Liberty Church

Dennis, MS

According to a report written by **Catherine Mitchell**, editor of the *Belmont & Tishomingo Journal*, the Liberty church in Dennis, Mississippi is served by a new preacher -- **David Conley**. He replaces **Ron Deaton** who preached many years for the Liberty church, up until his retirement at the end of 2012.

Brother Conley and his wife, **Debra**, have two grown children and two grandchildren. After ten



David Conley
New Preacher at Liberty

years of preaching for the Red Rock Church of Christ near Tuscomb, the Conleys made the short move over to Dennis, located in the northeast corner of Mississippi, where they began their work with the Liberty congregation in January of this year.

We pray God's blessings to be with the **Liberty** church and their new evangelist as, together, they continue to proclaim "*liberty to the captives*" (see Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:18). (alf)

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (3)

REPENT of Sins

Jesus said, "...except you **repent**, you shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

God, "...commandeth all men everywhere to **repent**..." (Acts 17:31)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 12)

Christian Camping

"The Most Productive Field"

- Paul Franks -

Experts tell us that a majority of converts to Christianity are made when a person is young. From my experience, over the last 30 years of being involved with Christian Camping, I am convinced that it is the greatest tool for outreach we have in this country. More people are immersed into Christ at a Christian Camp than anywhere else. We need to be sending our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to our Christian camps.

Sardis Lake Christian Camp is in the middle of a major renovation project. **Danny Jones** (picture) who serves the camp as its caretaker and promoter recently shared with us their plans for the near future. Most of the current cabins at Sardis have been there since the beginning, back in the 1960's. These cabins don't have bathrooms or any heat or air conditioners.



Danny Jones - Sardis Lake Camp

Plans are to build four new buildings that will take the place of all current cabins. These buildings will be divided into four cabins each with bathrooms, central heating and air. With these facilities, Sardis Lake will be able to offer **year round** activities for the church especially in north and central Mississippi. You are invited to go to www.sardislakechristiancamp.org and learn more about this wonderful ministry.

Gulf Coast Bible Camp has, in the last couple of years, gone through some major renovations. The cabins are now said to be very "adult friendly". These cabins have heat/air and can be used **year round**. 14 events have already taken place this year at Gulf Coast Bible Camp. **Byron**

Smith is the Camp director. This past year funds were raised and a house was built at the camp for Byron and his family so he could live at the camp. Byron's job is to promote the camp and encourage its use. You can go to their website: www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com to learn more about this camp.

Maywood Christian Camp in Hamilton, Alabama, the largest Christian Camp in this area, already has **year round** activities. This camp, as most others, start the first week of June and run weekly camps all during the summer. Different directors recruit staff and campers from different parts of the country. For example, **Tony Brown** (662-720-3805) and **Phillip Hathcock** (two Mississippi preachers) are the directors for camp week June 16-22. You are encouraged to go to www.maywoodchristiancamp.com and learn more this camp. **Jeff Goff** is the Camp Director and would love to talk to anyone who would like to use these facilities.

Camp Ch-Yo-Ca near Monroe, Louisiana is the first camp I attended, as a boy, many years ago. The camp was sold a few years ago but two years ago was purchased by a group that loved the camp and has recently been re-opened. You can go to www.campchyoca.com to learn more about this camp.

Also, in Louisiana you have **Camp Smiling Acres** which is on 118 acres near Greensburg, Louisiana. This camp is about 40 miles south of McComb, MS. For more information, you can go to www.campsmilingacres.com and learn more about this camp.

Another camp in Louisiana that is associated with churches of Christ is near DeRidder, Louisiana and is called **Christian Youth Encampment at Ingallwood Park**. You can go to www.cyeonline.com for more information.

Finally, two more camps that I love and have had close association with are **Camp Red Oak Springs**, near Newton, Texas and **Camp Ruta** near Vilnius, Lithuania.

My great uncle, **Hubert Franks** helped to start Red Oak Springs camp over 55 years ago. I served as a director of session three during the time I lived in south Louisiana



John Davis - Camp Red Oak

and **Jake Hance**, the Youth and Family Minister for the Enterprise Blvd congregation will be the director of Session Three this summer. **John Davis**, who recently retired from full time preaching, poured his heart and soul into this great camp for most of its existence. Please take a moment and go to www.campredoaksprings.net in order to learn more about this camp.

Camp Ruta is a Christian youth camp that started in 1998. You can visit www.vkb to learn more about this special ministry in the country of Lithuania. This camp has been a real blessing to the Lord's church in this former Soviet state.

There is also a national association of Christian camps affiliated with churches of Christ. You will find it interesting to go to www.naccamps.org. At this website you will notice that on September 10-13, 2013 they will have their National Christian Camping Workshop this year at Maywood Christian Camp near Hamilton, Alabama. (Report by Paul Franks)



New Cabins to Replace the Old at Sardis Lake Christian Camp

Personal Thoughts on Preaching

by John Pigg



Preacher for the Lake Harbour Church in Ridgeland

As far as I know I am the first preacher in my family tree of my father, John W. Pigg, from Leake County, MS and my mother, Anna Ceclia Carmanati from Longwy, France. Beth's father was David Samuel Johnson, from Red Hill, MS, and Beth's birth mother was Elizabeth Martindale from Pope, MS, who died when she was a child, but as far as she knows there was no preacher in her family lineage either. Beth's father later remarried Frances Dalton, from Maben, Ms.

Soon after Beth and I married and I became a preacher, my mother-in-law informed me that her grandfather, Albert H. Smith, was a gospel preacher who spent most of his life preaching in North Mississippi. He was born on February 6, 1866 in Benton County, TN and died in 1947. My point in this brief background history is simply to say that preaching was not in the ancestry or the "DNA" of the Pigg/Carmanati or Johnson/Martindale family.

Shortly after I was discharged from the Marine Corp, Beth and I moved back to where we grew up in Pearl, MS. I took a job as a shoe salesman for the old McRae's Department Store. As members of the Skyway Hills church of Christ, Beth and I continued to grow as Christians and to get involved in teaching others the gospel of Christ. One day as I was having a Bible study with my mother, she was impressed with my love for Christ and impacted by my passion for wanting to follow the Bible and the Bible only, she blurted out, "Johnny, you should have been a preacher!"

Possibly she planted the seed in my mind. Perhaps it was God's providence working in my life that eventually led me to feel in my heart a keen sense of a "call to preach" and to make up my mind to choose preaching as a life's work and to change careers. But either way, my point is that as a boy, I had no one in my family as a prime motivator to be a preacher, nor a mentor or model in which to pattern my ministry; I had to "start from scratch."

I recall that when I began my preparation at Freed-Hardeman Christian College in Henderson, TN that they gave all the freshmen a Bible-knowledge test. I was never given the results, but I am confident that I flunked it!

Although I had a godly mother, we never had Bible study at home, and even though I attended Sunday school and worship in the Baptist church as a youngster, my knowledge of God's Word was extremely limited.

I have always credited **Bill Lambert**, who helped establish the first church of Christ in Rankin County, MS for teaching me about being a "Christian only," who re-baptized me in 1964, and was our preacher when Beth and I were newlyweds, for having the most influence on my personal choice to become a preacher. He and his wife, **Helen**, had a great love for the Word of God and they lived it! From the beginning of my ministry, I have had a strong conviction that with God as my helper, I was going to keep an honest, humble heart and always "stay with the Book" and "preach the Word."

That brings me back to my mother-in-law's grandfather, Albert H. Smith, who like myself, did not grow up in the church of Christ. He and his wife, Mary V. Carter, were of another religious group; however, they became unhappy with their church and started to seriously study the Bible together. One day they decided to attend a gospel meeting conducted by the church of Christ and both were baptized that very day!

He started preaching and helped establish one of the oldest churches in Mississippi at the time in Dancy. My mother-in law told me the story about a church of Christ in the Delta that started using a piano in their worship. Some congregations were splitting over its use, so they called her grandfather to come over and preach on what the New Testament taught about music in worship. After that, they started singing once more unaccompanied by a musical instrument

and moved the piano out!

Thank God for faithful men who choose to become preachers and who will "not shrink from declaring the whole counsel of God." Thank God for preachers who are convicted to know "nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified" and are committed to preaching the "truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" of God's Word.

If you believe your preacher comes from this "spiritual family tree" of strong, sound men of God, then I encourage you as soon as you read this article to pledge that as soon as you can you are going to let him know how much you appreciate him. God only had one Son, and he was a preacher! But today God has many sons in the preaching ministry, and most of the ones that I know are God fearing, humble, servants of Christ who are willing to "spend and be spent" in order to spread the gospel, to save lost souls, and to build the Lord's church.

There is something else I would encourage you to do. If there is a young man in your congregation that you believe has the natural talent and the spiritual gifts for preaching and who is sincerely trying to live the Christian life, why not take time to persuade him to consider becoming a preacher. If he eventually decides to preach, then perhaps you could help him financially to prepare to preach, and you will have made one of the most valuable contributions to the Lord's church you could ever make. God needs a few young, faithful men to choose preaching to replace the old ones like me!

338 Lake Harbour Dr.
Ridgeland, MS 39157
jpigg@lakeharbourcoc.org

KOSCIUSKO - TIPTON ST. Ladies' Day - Aug. 17, 2013

The ladies of the Tipton Street Church of Christ in Kosciusko, Mississippi are looking forward to their upcoming Ladies' Day. It is planned for a Saturday, August 17, 2013 with **Jennifer Blake** and **Pauline Dawkins** as the speakers. The theme is "Walking Worthy as a Christian Throughout Life." For more information contact: **Alberta Fuller** at 662-289-5525 or **Doris Watson** at 662-289-1450. The Tipton Street ladies want to encourage you to mark this date on your calendar and come if at all possible.



(From left) Kathryn Leggett, Lila Swanson, Brenda Berry, Shirley Coleman, Avis Porter, Barbara Coleman, Betty McLarty and Mildred Knight

After Many Years, Ladies' Bible Class Restarted at Pine Bluff Church

At Toccopola

Near Oxford, Mississippi

There is now a ladies Bible Class at Pine Bluff Church of Christ (near Toccopola, MS). There has not been one for many, many years.

The lord blessed us with a very capable retired teacher who has been a Christian for fifty three years. **Barbara Coleman** has had much experience in teaching, having taught school for thirty-six years. She has taught Bible classes, ladies Bible classes and has been a song leader for ladies' days.

We are studying a wonderful book, "Recipe for Peace" by **Janie Craum**. Not only is the class edifying to the members of the church, but is a good outreach tool to the community. We are so glad to have visitors come to study the Bible with us and enjoying their friendship.

The ladies' class also goes to the local nursing home and sings once a month. It is very rewarding and a real blessing for all those involved.

(Report by and sent to MM by Avis Porter. Thanks, sister Avis!)

GULFPORT

Janet Smith a member of the Orange Grove Church of Christ recently informed us that **O. B. Richardson** from Mobile, Alabama is now preaching for the Orange Grove congregation. She also added they average around 230 and they have lots of children! Thanks Janet for your call.

Dear Al & June,

I am glad Paul and Glenda are now working with you. Your paper serves as a great asset in the kingdom of God. The articles that you and June write are very helpful. I am thankful for you. Yours in Christ, (**James Meadows**, Knoxville, TN)

News Note

Living Water For Cambodia

Partners In Progress which is a ministry of the Windsong Drive church of Christ (formerly 6th & Izard) in Little Rock, AR is pleased to announce the launching of a water purification system which is mounted on a raft and provides pure water and Living water for a town of 12,000 people who previously were forced to drink severely contaminated water from the Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia. The population is Buddhist but now has two evangelists from the School of Preaching in Siem Reap, Cambodia tending the raft and preaching the Word.

Working in Cambodia since 2000, PIP reports there are more than 50 congregations of the Lord's church that have been established in the last 22 years and others are being

planted through a combination of Humanitarian work and preaching the gospel.

The Ship of Life, a clinical ship, was launched in 2005 and treats an average of 230 patients daily in an effort to show God's love while providing a forum to spread the Word. The Ship of Life and the Living Water Raft is helping some of the poorest people in the world with a per capita income of less than \$100.00 per year according to a Rockefeller Foundation study.

Your prayers for this effort are requested. (Report by Bill McDonough)

Partners in Progress
PO Box 13989
Maumelle, AR 72113
www.partnersinprogress.org



Gospel Broadcasting Network At New Home in Olive Branch, Mississippi

On Saturday, March 30, 2013, GBN celebrated the Grand Opening of their new facilities in Mississippi. The Gospel Broadcasting Network has now completed their move from Ringgold, GA to their new location in Olive Branch on Germantown Road, which is just outside the Memphis, TN city limits.

Speakers for the Saturday celebration included **Jim Dearman, Jeff Archey, Mark Teske and Don Blackwell**. The special day honored **Barry Gilreath, Sr.**, GBN's founder -- who died at the age of 65 on June 7, 2011. A bronze plaque has been mounted on the front of the new building with the words, "**The Barry Gilreath, Sr. Broadcast Center**" -

- dedicated to his memory on March 30, 2013."

GBN seeks to present "*The Truth... and Nothing But the Truth... 24/7*" in the broadcasting of gospel program 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This world-wide cooperative mission effort involves the support of Christians and local churches from all over the nation. The Southaven Church of Christ in Southaven, Mississippi has accepted the challenge of overseeing the work. The elders of the Southaven church are **Larry Everson, Con Lambert and Vern Schrimsher**.

A great variety of Gospel Programming is made available by GBN to viewers and listeners throughout the world. Programs are readily available twenty-four hours and day and seven days a week. Simply access the World-Wide-Web and type in www.gbntv.org.

The expressed purpose of GBN, according to their website, is do do the following.

(a) To establish in viewers of all ages a strong belief in

the existence of God through a heavy concentration of Christian evidences.

(b) To establish in viewers the conviction that God has revealed Himself and His will to man through the Bible.

(c) To encourage the proper response to God's Word -- obedience to the plan of salvation and adherence to the New Testament pattern of worship, work, and Christian living.

We rejoice with our brethren in the completion of their move from Georgia to Mississippi. We are grateful for the energetic efforts being made to reach out to the whole world with the glorious message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our continuing prayer is

that all Christians may work together to accomplish the mission given to us by our Lord. "**Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature**" (Mark 16:15). (Editor)

NOTE: Employees of GBN are available to come and visit congregations to report on the work of GBN. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the office at 601-874-5508.

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Carthage, Mississippi
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662-289-7536

"A Life Well-Lived As A Shepherd of God's People"

"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith."
Hebrews 13:7 (RSV)

- By Willie Nettle -

I have known Brother James Scott, Jr. all of my life. But it was in his role as a shepherd of the church that I truly came to know his character, his heart, and his servant mentality. In March 2009, he was ordained as one of the first shepherds of the Bypass Church of Christ in Vicksburg, MS.

The Bible teaches that a plurality of godly, family men should feed and shepherd the local congregation of which they are members, gladly sharing their spiritual wisdom, serving as examples to the flock, and watching out for the souls of every member of the local body.

After being nominated by the local Bypass Church family, Brother Scott humbly assumed the role of shepherd along with myself and Brother Dean Caldwell. He faithfully served in that role until the end of his physical life, December 1, 2012, at the age of 68.

It is that role that I call your attention to as we continue to honor the life and legacy of this humble man of God. According to Hebrews 13:7, the Bypass Church has at least three (3) ongoing responsibilities toward this faithful leader — responsibilities that will even bless the lives of others who dare to accept them.

FIRST, We Should Remember Him As A Spiritual Leader, as one who endeavored to speak the Word of God through word of mouth and way of life. Every shepherd should be "able to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2). According to Titus 1:9, "He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." Brother James loved and respected the Word of God. One of his favorite sayings was, "*The Bible is right, and we're wrong.*" He believed and practiced Philippians 4:11-13.

Several things are worth remembering about this spiritual man of God. **(1) Remember his work ethic.** From an early age, he knew how to work and take responsibility. He could drive a tractor at age 6 and a log truck at age 12. His philosophy regarding work was, "*If you're going to do a job, do it well; make sure you're number one at it!*" **(2) Remember his punctuality.** He hated being late for any engagement. When he was working, he was always 30 minutes early for work. **(3) Remember his optimism.** He always looked for the upside in every situation. One of his favorite statements was, "*I'm not going to complain, because it won't change anything anyway.*" **(4) Remember his healthy sense of humor.** He loved having fun, telling humorous stories, and making others laugh.



Elder James Scott and His Wife, Marie

(5) Remember his honesty. Even as a child, he would always tell the truth if some mishap occurred involving him and his siblings. He would still get a whipping along with them, but he was not going to lie for them. **(6) Remember his love for his children and grandchildren.** He made all of them feel very loved and extra special. He secretly confessed to each of his seven children that he or she was daddy's favorite, and each child believed him! **(7) Remember his devoted love for his dear wife.** All of his kids knew he loved them dearly, but each of them knew that he loved their mother more; they all knew that Mama Maria came first! He didn't mind going with her anywhere and everywhere. He made sure she always had the best-looking and best-running automobile in the family. He looked out for her well-being, both physically and spiritually. He was always a true gentleman to her; he allowed no one to make him feel bad about doting over his wife. He tried to love her the same way Christ loved the church. **(8) Remember his humility, patience and non-judgmental attitude.** He had a unique way of correcting you without judging you. **(9) Remember his role as a mentor** to so many young people, both in the church and the community. **(10) Remember how he enjoyed being a servant** — the true essence of Biblical leadership.

SECOND, We Should Consider The Outcome Of His Way Of Life. Brother Scott wasn't perfect, but he did what he could, and the Lord richly rewarded him for it. He proved that Christianity really does work (cf. Gal. 6:7-10)! It really does empower you to live with joy and contentment. It really does bless your marriage and your family. It really does give you a peace that this world cannot understand. It really does help you to deal with the worries and anxieties of life. It really does give you hope beyond this dark veil of tears.

The blessed outcome of Brother Scott's life includes the following: (1) A loving and devoted marriage; (2) strong, supportive sons and loving, nurturing daughters; (3) grandchildren who

love and respect him; (4) a joyful and happy life; (5) a strong faith that carries you through all the different seasons of life, even life beyond the grave.

All of this brings us to our **THIRD** and final responsibility to this great spiritual leader: **We Should Imitate His Faith.** A man is not worth being a shepherd if he's not worth imitating. Brother Scott walked by faith all the way to the end. He believed in the love and power of God and prayed to our heavenly Father often. He believed in speaking where the Bible speaks and being silent where the Bible is silent. He believed in practicing what the Bible teaches, even if it means leaving a church that he could not find in the Bible, obeying the pure, saving gospel, and being added to the church of Christ. He believed in non-denominational, New Testament Christianity. Because of his faith, he was firmly committed to whatever he was involved in — work, school, family, church.

To everyone who says you loved him, prove it by living like he lived. Imitate his faith -- walk with God!

I reiterate three responsibilities that the Scott Family and the Bypass Church Family still have toward our fallen shepherd: **(1) Remember Him As A Spiritual Leader; (2) Consider The Outcome Of His Life; (3) Imitate His Faith.**

The ultimate outcome of his life is recorded in 1 Peter 5:2-4, "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."

Written by Willie Nettle,

(Evangelist & Fellow Shepherd)
Bypass Church of Christ
787 Hwy. 61 N. Bypass
Vicksburg, MS 39183
wjnettle@yahoo.com

"Asleep in Jesus" - HOPE!

“Eat Your Spinach” or “Eat That Tomato!”



- Ken Joines -

“Eat your spinach or your carrots, or tomatoes or peas or okra...” or some other item on the family dinner table. Who among us has not heard these or similar words from our parents when we were growing up?

At our house when our four children were small, it was tomatoes. Both Jan and I loved tomatoes and we were determined that all four of our kids would love tomatoes, too. We tried every trick in the bag. We tried disguising tomatoes. And I’m ashamed to tell you this, but we sometimes even threatened them if they did not take just one small bite. “Eat that tomato!”

But guess what: By the time they left home, not one of them would eat a tomato. And guess what again: I decided that this was entirely okay. I got to thinking that there are very few of us who do not have at least one particular food that we just don’t like. Won’t eat it. Don’t even like to smell it.

My wife would not eat **mustard** in any form. She could detect the slightest bit of mustard in any prepared dish. She didn’t even like mustard-yellow paint—on a car, on a wall or even a mustard-yellow piece of cloth.

With me it’s **nutmeg**. I can’t stand the taste of nutmeg. I can detect even a minuscule amount of nutmeg in any food. I can smell it in a hermetically-sealed jar that is buried a foot deep in the earth!

The mother places the food on the table, but the children don’t like it. She says, “there are starving children in Africa that would just love to have some of this.” And the kids are thinking, “Then by all means, let’s box up all this and send it to them.”

The fact is, people are just different. Not only do we have our different preferences for food; we all have different talents and abilities. Things that bring great pleasure to one person may hold absolutely no attraction to another.

Jesus recognized and honored this fact. He said some people have lots of talents while other have far fewer. In Matthew 25:15 (ESV) he tells about a man’s servants saying, “To one he gave five talents, to

another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.” Jesus never frowned on the one-talent person or made that person feel inferior. Neither should we. And this is what I want to write about just here.

Those of us who lead people—whether it is raising a child or helping Christian people to grow—would do well to recognize the fact that not all people will measure up to our expectations. And we can do immeasurable harm when we push people beyond their abilities if we cause them to feel of lesser importance in the body or kingdom.

It sickens me to think of the good Christian men and women who sit silently on the pew every Sunday feeling so inferior and actually unneeded because some preacher brow-beat them every Sunday for not taking a more prominent lead in the worship activities. There are so many things they could do and would do if they were not so discouraged.

It took a lot of years for me to understand that not every man can get up before the congregation and lead a song, or lead a prayer. There are some who are simply not capable of teaching a class. And never will be. There are some Christian women for whom a Tuesday morning Ladies’ Bible Class, or a prayer breakfast, or retreat simply holds no attraction. But please don’t make the mistake of thinking that such people are not studious in the Word, or prayerful or of a servant heart.

Just because one may not fit into my mold is no sign that he brings no honor to God in the greater scheme of things. I’m thinking in particular of a wonderful sister in a church I once served who never came to our Ladies Bible Study Class on Thursday morning. A few, including me, questioned her dedication and occasionally wondered (out loud!) about whether she was interested in things spiritual.

But when I got to know her better, I discovered that this one woman was doing more in service to others during the week than the rest of us put together. She was at the hospital, or Nursing Home, or cleaning some sick person’s house, or preparing material for her 4-yr-old class. She knew the Bible almost backwards. That one case taught me to be extremely careful that I don’t misjudge another.

Some kids just won’t eat spinach. A few of them may learn to, while some never will. But one can live a healthy life and never let spinach cross his lips. Similarly, one can be a wonderful, faithful, productive servant of God and never perform at my self-imposed expectations.



Hear me: Were it not for the less-talented, just think of the things that would go undone down at church. Grass not cut. Floors not cleaned; dust, dirt and grime everywhere. No bulletin boards. Communion cups never picked up after worship. The sick unattended. Meals not prepared for the disabled. Cards and letters not sent to the down-and-out.

Some elderly people would not have anyone to take them to a doctor’s appointment. Apostle Paul likened the church to the human body. (I Cor. 12) There are so many parts of your body that you have never seen and never heard from and never will, but just let one of them fail to function and you may land in the ER. Can’t we learn something from this???

So, don’t ever let some holier-than-thou church member embarrass you or cause you to feel like a second-class Christian just because you don’t fit into their mold, or perform at their expected level. Do what you are capable of doing and God will accept and bless you.

For the first fifty-five years of my life I knew a man with just a second-grade education who never led a song, or led a public prayer, or taught a class. But he always had his wife and five children at church. Two of his sons became preachers of the gospel. All of his children have been active Christians.

He wasn’t “eating his spinach” but don’t tell me he wasn’t a productive man of God. Some may have thought he wasn’t doing “church work” but this is because some don’t know what church work is. There is no shame in having just one talent. There is both shame and sin in failing to use the one talent we do have.

I learned long ago that some of God’s greatest servants are never seen before the congregation leading a song or prayer or teaching a class. But take them away and the church would collapse and everyone—even the 5-talent people—would suffer.

Thank God even for those who never “eat that spinach.” (Incidentally, two of my four children now eat tomatoes!)

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

**Annual MM RV Rally
Is for the Younger and the Older
Folks With RV’s & Folks Without RV’s**

Our 15th annual RV rally was held again in April of 2013 at Lake-Tiak-O’-Khata near Louisville, MS. We had a great crowd with all ages attending the rally. We had people who came in their RV’s, people who stayed in hotels and cabins and folks who drove in for each day. We had several new faces this year. As Joe Thompson from Columbus said, “Coming to this RV rally is addictive. Once you come, you will want to attend every year.”



Virginia Ford,
“A First Timer”
80+ Years Old

Grimmett for their help. A special thanks also to **Stephen**, my brother, who provided the food and helped cook the Wednesday evening meal. Many others helped as well. **Thanks to all.** This rally was a great success and we are indeed thankful. (by Paul Franks)



Children of James & Kimberly Malone. Aubrey Claire, Anderson and Carter were “first-timers”, along with their parents.

My father-in-law, **James Black** died during the rally and **Glenda** and I were absent during most of the rally. A special **THANK YOU** goes to **Garnett and Betty Harris** for taking up the slack for Glenda and me. Also, thanks to **Candy and Michael Hony**, along with **Jerry**



Bill Lambert Taught Several Encouraging Lessons on “God’s Amazing Grace”

**Next MM MS RV Rally
April 23 - 27, 2014**

(God be willing)

**Next TX-LA RV Rally
October 17-19, 2013**



Thanks to All VOLUNTEERS Who Helped.
(A few of many pictured above)

Annual RV Rallies

**A Time for
Physical Relaxation
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**

**FUN
FOOD
FELLOWSHIP**

**Mississippi
Lake Tiak-O-Khata
(Louisville, MS)**

**Texas
Salmon Lake Park
(Grapeland, TX)**

G. P. S.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of us older folks are slow to accept new gadgets and/or new ways of doing things. However, believe it or not -- some of us older guys (even *preachers!*) are actually learning that new things are not all bad. Many have learned that a "GPS" -- which may still be considered "new" -- can be very useful. In the following article, brother Elliott reminds us of something that is nearly 2,000 years old which cannot be changed or made better. There is no new plan! **GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION REMAINS THE SAME. (alf)**



Raymond Elliott

2:15-17; Isaiah 59:1, 2; Romans 5:12).

However, in the darkest day of man's existence in the beautiful Garden of Eden, God's plan for man's salvation is found in Genesis 3:15 when the "seed of

know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:5, 6). The road map that leads to salvation and to the Father is found in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the only way (Acts 4:12)!

So He says to all who would be His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). The way that Jesus leads us is "narrow" and "difficult" but the reward is eternal life (NKJV, Matthew 7:13, 14).

God has given us the perfect and complete directions in His Holy Word that will lead us to Jesus Christ and salvation (Psalms 119:105; John 6:44, 45; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:2-4).

God's plan of salvation certainly involves man's response. A person must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24); repent of sins (Acts 17:30) and, based upon a confession of faith in Christ, be immersed in His name for the remission of sins (Romans 10:9, 10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Following in the steps of the Savior we will never stray from the way that is infallibly safe and secure and that leads to "the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10, 11).

May our attitude always be as found in the song, "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow".

Raymond Elliott
1204 Kingston Green Dr
Prattville, AL 36067-1702
b.rayelliott@gmail.com

From The Pen of a Prince

Greetings Bro. Al,
Enclosed please find the answers to the current Magnolia Messenger. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and I look forward to doing ever more in the future... May God continue to bless you and your family and may the Messenger continue to bring joy and enlighten us all. God bless, (**Prince Lewis**, Koscusko, MS)

- Raymond Elliott -

I had thought that I might enjoy having one but I never dreamed that someone would give me a GPS! Much to my surprise, some of my children gave me a GPS for a Christmas present.

A son took charge of getting the thing ready for me to use in my car. He put the address of a local business into the GPS and this lady's voice instructed me when and where to turn in order to get to my destination as I looked at a map where I was to travel.

Just in case you might not be familiar with this gadget, here is a brief definition: "The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based navigation system made up of a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit by the U.S. Department of Defense. GPS was originally intended for military applications, but in the 1980s, the government made the system available for civilian use. GPS works in any weather conditions, anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day."

Theoretically I should never get lost while traveling when I use my GPS.

In the beginning of man's existence on earth he was in a safe place and in a perfect relationship with Jehovah God. In a sense, man was not saved because he had never been in a lost condition. But he became estranged from his God and in a lost condition because of his disobedience to the commands given to him from God (Genesis

God's plan of salvation certainly involves man's response. A person must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24); repent of sins (Acts 17:30) and, based upon a confession of faith in Christ, be immersed in His name for the remission of sins (Romans 10:9, 10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

woman" was mentioned. The "seed" is also referred to as being the "seed" of Abraham. The apostle Paul defined that "seed" as being Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:19, 16).

The fact is, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was referred to by John in Revelation 13:8 as being "slain from the foundation of the world." The Lord God, in His infinite wisdom, foreknowledge and marvelous grace and love, planned aforetime to provide salvation for mankind through the death of His beloved Son (Hebrews 2:9; Ephesians 2:5, 8) John 3:16).

Throughout the Old Testament there is the theme that 'someone is coming' and that being the promised Messiah who would bring salvation to the human race. Isaiah, the Messianic prophet, prophesied hundreds of years before the coming of the Savior: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14); and His name was to be called Jesus "for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus, in answering Thomas who asked Him, "Lord, we do not

A Request From Don Maxwell in Bossier City, LA

Please, if you can, run the ad for me to advertize World Bible School. I would like to enlarge my world to include more than inmates.

Yes... I want to enroll in a FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

(Please print clearly the information requested below)

Name: _____

Address: _____ or P. O. Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____; Zip: _____

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve."

Don Maxwell
Airline Drive Church of Christ
2125 Airline Drive
Bossier City, Louisiana 71111

Thank You For Reading the Magnolia Messenger.

More Readers' Response

Dear bro. Franks:

*I'm sending a few names to receive the MM. I have been reading the Messenger for a number of years. When I see names of preachers that I am acquainted with such as **Bill Lambert, Tom Holland, Ken Joines** and others. It warms my heart to see their good works along with many others. Keep up the good work. Hopefully we at Huntland can generate some \$ to help. With Christian Respect; (**Wm (Bill) Rogers**, Winchester, TN)*

"one thing missing"

Dear brother Franks,

*I read your article in the Magnolia Messenger entitled "We Live in a Different World." Your article was excellent. There was one thing missing that's causing many Christians to become more like the world. That is, "We are God's Building" (1 Cor. 3:9); thus, we must do **all** things as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23,24). Keep up the good work! (**Dora Lewis**; Franklin, LA)*

Batesville Members Involved in Medical Missions

Two members of the Batesville Church of Christ, Batesville, Mississippi, **Beverly Martindale** and **Robbie Kiihnl**, (picture unavailable) along with several others, went on a medical mission trip to native Indian tribes in the jungles of Panama.



Beverly Martindale
(Medical Mission)

Robbie, a wildlife conservation officer, serves as the head of the mission committee for the Batesville, Mississippi congregation. The Batesville church supports the medical clinic in Panama.

Beverly, a registered nurse, has been on several mission trips. It was through Beverly's encouragement that Robbie made the mission trip for the first time; how-

ever, I understand he has made known his desire to go back.

Beverly's sister, **Patricia Carter**, from Middleton, Tennessee also went on the mission trip.

Panama Missions is associated with churches of Christ and is

overseen by the Childersburg, Alabama congregation. Their goal is to meet the **spiritual and physical** needs of the people in these areas of extreme poverty.

The team ministered to the needs of the Kuna and Embera Indian tribes, who have little access to modern health care. The group included a physician, a dentist, a nurse practitioner and five registered nurses. (*Report by June Franks*)



Philip and Paul Gaunt

Gaunt Brothers From Vicksburg

Both Are
Now Deceased

“Bachelors”
“Benefactors”

- Report by Paul Franks -

Paul and Philip Gaunt were two physical brothers. Both were faithful Christians and life-long bachelors who lived in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The Gaunt brothers lived on a farm and worked hard all of their lives. And, in part, because they didn't spend much money on themselves they were able to amass a fortune.

During the 80's and 90's I would go by their house on a regular basis asking them to support causes I was working with at the time. They were always interested and wanted to help.

Many times I would spend the night in their home. On one occasion, after having a restless night sleeping on a worn out mattress, I complained about it to them. The next time I came for a visit, I learned they had gone out and bought a new mattress for the guest room.

They loved people. Many evenings, Paul, Philip, Rhea Fuller and other members of Vicksburg's I-20 congregation would conduct Bible Studies with people who were interested in knowing more about the Bible.

They loved preachers! Because of their love for those who preached and those who would preach, they loved Magnolia Bible College. They had a tremendous amount of respect for Cecil May, Jr., who was long time president of MBC. (Brother May had served the I-20 congregation where they attended.)

Paul Gaunt, himself, also preached for many years for the Oak Ridge church located outside of Vicksburg. Their love for Magnolia Bible College caused them to give generously to the work of training gospel preachers. Their love for preachers was so evident that MBC's library was named in their honor.

We are thankful to say that the Paul and Philip Gaunt Library, on the campus of what was MBC, is once again operational. The elders of the Kosciusko church, who were given the responsibility to oversee the assets of MBC after it was closed in 2009, recently made the facility

available to the Magnolia Messenger.

The front part of the library building now serves as offices for the Magnolia Messenger and the back portion still houses **more than 30,000 books** that belonged to the college. A former librarian for MBC, **Prince Lewis** who lives in Kosciusko, has agreed to volunteer his time to get the library up and running again! We are thankful.

Philip Gaunt died first, a couple of years ago. In April of 2013, Paul Gaunt, at the age of 90, departed this life. Funeral services for Paul were held on April 11 in Vicksburg with **Jerry Miller** leading congregational singing and **Eric Welch** preaching the funeral sermon. These two brothers and benefactors are being sorely missed by so many people who remember their love for the Lord and His Cause.

We are living at a time where the *“largest transference of wealth”* is taking place in the history of the world. There is a need to encourage those we know and love to leave a part of their estate to the work of the Lord's church. It is truly sad to see a sister or brother in Christ be so devoted to giving to the Lord; and, then when they die, their estate falls into the hands of non-believing relatives who selfishly spend all the inheritance on material stuff and/or pleasure.

There is a need that more and more Godly men and women understand this quote from Randy Alcorn who said, *“Our use of money and possessions is a decisive statement of our eternal values. What we do with our money loudly affirms which kingdom we belong to.”* Of course, this principle by Bacon comes from the Bible.

Paul and Philip Gaunt left a wonderful example for all of us to follow. What example are you leaving?

**Please Tell
Others About The
Magnolia Messenger**

- Eddie Lewis -

Mark Twain wrote, “Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.” I guess the thing that makes that good example so annoying is our inability to accomplish the same achievement in our lives.

Admiration for a great person can inspire us, but it can't enable us. Change only comes when we make the decision to change. The power to change comes from within.

In the second chapter of Philippians, Paul gives us the example of Jesus practicing the submissive mind and heart. Paul tells us to have the “same mind and heart.” But how can we have the same mind and heart that Jesus had? There's no way we can do the things Jesus did. He is the Son of God!

The problem is not as great as you might think. Paul is not asking us to reach for something that is impossible. He has set before us a **divine pattern** for the submissive mind and heart. In Philippians 2:13 the **divine power** to accomplish this command is seen, *“It is God who is at work in you.”* We do not accomplish the submissive mind and heart by imitation of Jesus, but by incarnation, *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”* (Gal. 2:20).

Therefore, the Christian life is a series of “ins” and “outs.” God working in us and our response is to work out His will in our lives. Paul makes three points about **how we cultivate the submissive mind and heart** (Phil. 2:12-18).

1. We have a purpose to achieve (Phil. 2:12, 14-16). *“Work out your own salvation. . .”* (Phil. 2:12). This statement does not mean you can be saved the way you want. Paul was writing to Christians. They had already responded to God's grace and in faith had been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 16:11-40). “Work out” means to work to full completion, like you would work a math problem to completion. In Paul's day the word was used to describe working a mine until all the ore was gone, or a farmer who worked a field from planting to harvest.

Our lives have tremendous potential, like a field. God wants to help us fulfill that potential. One of the great things about being a Christian is the knowledge that God has given all of us a **purpose** (Eph. 2:10). God has given us the talent to fulfill that purpose. He is not asking us to do anything beyond our ability, but He is asking us to “work out,” bring to maturity our salvation. Don't be a “cheap imitation” of someone else. Be all you can be! With God's help and power you can.

2. There is power to receive (Phil. 2:13). *“It is God who works in you both to will and do His good pleasure.”*

The principle here is: God must work **in** us before He can work **through** us. This principle is seen at work in the lives of all great spiritual leaders: Abraham, Moses, David, all the Apostles, and others. God had a purpose for each to fulfill and each man was tested by God, and prepared to do His work.

Paul warns these brethren that they should not build their lives on him. He would not always be with them. They needed their own power from God to enable them to carry on the great work of God (Phil. 2:14-17).

I believe this **power** is God's Holy Spirit that

Power to Receive



Eddie Lewis

dwells in the Christian. Paul said we are the *“temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you”* (1 Cor. 6:19-20). This is not the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit that empowers us to live for God.

Paul tells us of the divine power that is available to us in Ephesians 1:18-23. He tells of the great power that Christ received empowering Him to do all that He did. Paul says that same power is “toward” (Eph. 1:19) us. The word “toward” is the same Greek word as “for” in Acts 2:38. We understand that word to mean we are baptized “to

receive” the remission of sins. That means this “power is given to us” by God. God has given us power to do His will (2 Tim. 1:7).

God has given us **three tools** to help this power work in our lives:

* God's divine Power is released in our lives as we **study and apply the word of God to our lives** (1 Thess. 2:13).

* **Prayer is the second tool.** The book of Acts makes it clear that prayer is a divine source of power (Acts 4:23-31, 12:5, 12). Paul tells us how the Spirit helps us in prayer (Rom. 8:26-27). Unless we take time to pray God can't work in us and through us.

* **Suffering is God's third tool.** “Fiery trials” have a way of burning away the chaff and empowering the Christian to serve God (1 Peter 4:12-19). Paul and Silas in the Philippians' jail were beaten and put in stocks in the inner prison, but they sang at midnight (Acts 16:19-33) and God shook the building and set them free. That is God's power at work.

These three tools are the means God uses to give us power through the Spirit to achieve His purposes.

3. There is a promise to believe (Phil. 2:16-18). What is the promise? That **joy** comes from submission! The world's philosophy is that joy comes by aggression. You fight everybody and take what you want and you will be happy, but Jesus is proof that this philosophy is wrong! He never used a sword to win a battle. He never practiced hatred, but always loved. He never lied, but always told the truth. Yet, He won the greatest victory of all—the battle against sin and death. Because He surrendered, He was victorious (1 Cor. 15:57).

The same is true with us! *“For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted”* (Luke 14:11).

Our joy is two-fold (Phil. 2:17, 18). We have joy in the *“Day of Christ.”* First, we will be rewarded eternally. Second, we have joy in the here and now. The service we give to others and the care we offer is a source of great joy. Paul said he was being poured out as a *“drink offering”* for them (Phil. 2:17). He asked them to *“share my joy.”*

We can “rejoice” as we practice the submissive mind and heart. The power to accomplish God's purposes brings us joy. What a tremendous challenge we face as we find the heart of Christ!

By Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North Mississippi, 9423 Laurel Hill, Olive Branch, MS 38654. Email—lewis7946@gmail.com.

The "Far Country"

"...The younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country..." (Luke 15:13 English Standard Version).

- John Gardner -

The quote above is recognized by many as coming from Jesus' riveting story of a young man who wastes so much, hurts himself and others, yet finds forgiveness as a broken, but restored son (Luke 15: 11 – 32).

Many young adults, and some not so young, are planning and taking trips to the "far country" where they are just sure their real lives will begin. Their current lives feel confined, restricted, less than what life ought to be. For such, even a Christian home where the Father in heaven is honored and limitless spiritual blessings in Christ are offered, seems so limited. They reason that surely there is more to life than what they experience.

But what are the realities of the "far country" that beckons so many? What needs to be considered before one takes a trip with such huge consequences?

First, **the "far country" is not really about geography**, although that usually gets involved somewhere along the line. It is about the heart and mind, and how distant one may be from those around him or her. If there is an alienation from those physically near, the heart is already in the "far country." If there is a rejection of godly values that define the home where one is, the journey has already begun.

The son in Jesus' parable had already started his journey inwardly before he made his audacious demand of his father.

The actual journey was but a consequence of following the sin of the heart and mind that had begun in the Father's house. In application, a man or woman may still be in the home and in the church, but be "alienated from the life of God" (Ephesians 4: 18) and live inwardly in a "far country."

Second, **the "far country" offers what it cannot give.** It can only offer fleeting pleasures that temporarily satisfy "the

Many young adults, and some not so young, are planning and taking trips to the "far country" where they are just sure their real lives will begin. Their current lives feel confined, restricted, less than what life ought to be.



John Gardner

passions of our flesh ...the desires of the body and the mind..." (Ephesians 2: 3). But the "pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:

25) last only a short while before they fade and demand more and more sin to reach the same "high." Sooner or later, there is always a famine.

The cost of pursuing sin becomes too high; the supply of whatever thrills becomes too scarce. And inside there remains a gnawing hunger for real life, for what only God can give (Isaiah 55: 1 – 3; John 6: 32 – 35).

Third, and lastly for this brief article, **the "far country" does not have to be one's final destination** if one does not stay too long. Some, like the son in the parable, come to their senses, remember the Father's house, give up their pride and rationalizations, and return home. Their return is a choice, a commitment to do whatever is necessary and to take whatever is offered them in mercy.

But be advised, there is an incredibly large number of wanderers in the far country even today who will never leave it. They have gone so

far into the distant land that spiritually they are beyond a point of returning (Hebrews 6:4-6). The conscience that once troubled them in the midst of their pleasure-seeking, now is silent (1 Timothy 4: 2). They will live the rest of their days in the "far country" and suffer eternally at

the end of those days.

However, those who are now "far off" from God, whether those who left the innocence of childhood for rebellious adulthood without obeying the gospel or those who as children of God turned away, can return home if they earnestly desire it and will turn to the waiting Father.

Those "far off" from the Father in the country of sin can be made "near" to Him and all that is truly life by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2: 13). The one never born again into God's family (John 3: 1 – 5) reaches that blood of Christ and nearness to God by obeying the gospel which includes baptism (Acts 2: 37 – 41; Romans

6: 1 – 4). The child of God who rebels against the Father and runs off into sin must realize the awfulness of

that choice, repent from the heart for that disobedience, and turn in prayer to the merciful Father who is compassionately watching and waiting (1 John 1: 5 – 10).

There is no more touching verse in all of the Bible than the one in Jesus' parable that shows the father of the rebellious boy shamelessly running to embrace and kiss the broken, stained, empty son (Luke 15: 20). In Rembrandt's notable painting called "Return of the Prodigal Son" which he painted a couple of years before his death, the artist emphasized the warmth and strength of the father's embrace by making his hands that hold close the wayward son larger than usual. The scene in Verse 20 touches us so much because, beyond the human story, we know the Father in heaven waits every day and every hour for those who have left Him to come home. His embrace that awaits is bigger, warmer, and more lasting than any we have ever experienced from loved ones on earth.

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

Please send your paper to the following individuals. I enjoy it so much and it helps me on subjects that I need extra teaching on. Thanks in advance, (Linda Boone, Memphis, TN)



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

IRENE WRIGHT

Rick & Benny Caldwell
(Sheffield, AL)

Larry & Joyce Morgan
(Booneville, MS)

GLADYS TOMLINSON

M/M Billy L. McAdams
(Jackson, MS)

LETHA STEADMAN

Lamar & Lanell Kilpatrick
(Florence, MS)

IDA MAE CONLEY

Bonnie F. Strickland
(Brandon, MS)

JOE STERLING

Sherry & Bobby Johnson
(Crosby, MS)

LORENE LINDSEY

RUBY GIDEON
Dale & Beverly Howell
(Amory, MS)

JAMES BLACK

IDA MAE CONLEY
Carole Milner
(Brandon, MS)

NORA WHITAKER

BELLE CROSS
Jerry & Eleta Grimmert
(New Albany, MS)

PAUL GAUNT

Marvin & Mary Ann Weast
(Vicksburg, MS)

THOMAS W. WALTERS

Mrs. Carolyn P. Olson
(Foxworth, MS)

JERRY WALLACE

Sarah L. Curtis
(Memphis, TN)

PERRY COTHAM

George & Nell Barber
(Mantachie, MS)

NATHAN DOBBS DENNIS HUDSON, SR.

JAMES STONE
Hazel Cook
(Columbus, MS)

CAROL HENLEY PHILLIPS

Jay & Mary Henley
(Brandon, MS)

PAULINE TRAHAN

Reid & Freida Thompson
(DeRidder, LA)

PAULINE L. MAYS

Delbert Mays
(Ridgeland, MS)
Myrle Turman
(Mantee, MS)

GEORGE & LILLIE LEWIS

Prince Lewis
(Kosciusko MS)

GEORGE BOWEN

Jenny Sanders
(Carthage, MS)

In Honor Of

BERNARD WAITES AND
THE CORINTH CHURCH OF
CHRIST, WOODVILLE, MS.
The Samantha Gentry Family
(Woodville, MS)

Suggestions for Contributors

In addition to the **name of the person** being memorialized or honored, please include **your name and address** and the **address of a family member** to whom a written acknowledgment may be sent. **THANK YOU** for caring for others and the Magnolia Messenger.

Thank You

Please: Send Your Gifts To:

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

For Remembering the MM
As You
Remember and/or Honor
Your Loved Ones

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (4)

CONFESS Faith in Christ

"... with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10). Before being baptized, the eunuch **CONFESSED**, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37).

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 16)

The Journeys of Paul, a Messenger

MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA, PLUS

- Paul Franks -

My wife, Glenda and I have visited over 20 churches in Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee and Mississippi since we started working with the Magnolia Messenger. We have been well received in every church. We are overjoyed at the number of people who come up to us and expressed their appreciation for the Magnolia Messenger.

In each issue of the Messenger, I plan to share some of the visits that we have made so that, in this way, you can "meet" some of these wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ and "taste" just a little of the encouragement we have received from them.

One Sunday morning, we drove to Maben and visited with the Midway congregation. When I think of this church, I think of Lavern Bland who was one of the first students at Magnolia Bible College. He has served as an elder of this congregation for many years. Shawn Nygard, a

From Midway, we traveled to visit the Hillcrest congregation in Baldwin, Mississippi, where we saw Sister Cole who is the oldest member in the congregation. At the age of 90, she attends every time the door is open. Tim Childs, who served many years as their pulpit minister, has recently moved to preach in Georgia. We will miss Tim in Mississippi.

We had gone up to North Mississippi to pick up Donnie



Donnie Clough is congratulated by Les Ferguson upon Donnie's response to Jesus Christ.

Clough who was coming back to Kosciusko to help with the remodeling of our house. I had the opportunity to baptize Donnie a few weeks ago. He has decided to live in Kosciusko and is faithfully attending the church here.

One Sunday, we traveled to visit the church in Yazoo City. I walked in the kitchen area and noticed a group of ladies getting ready for a class. I was encouraged to see that many Christian women eager to study the Bible together. The church is excited to have Trey Henry and his family working with this church. Yazoo City was my home two different times and

every time I go back, everyone makes me feel really at home again.

We traveled to Shreveport and attended the Southern Hills congregation. Our mission is to expand the Messenger in the state of Louisiana and we are encouraging churches around this magnolia state to partner with us in this expansion. We

got to visit with Morris and Helen Tirpitz, both in their 80's, who are faithful members of this congregation and have been long supporters of the Magnolia Messenger. They have been attending our RV rallies for years. Morris has become somewhat famous for his "Little Red Wagon" song that he always sings at our rally campfire.

Our daughter Megan and her husband, Andrew Shepherd, live in Chattanooga, TN. Megan was due to give birth to our first grandson on May 18. However, on April 8, 2013, she calls and tells us their baby is coming early and Glenda and I quickly headed



Paul Franks Holds His First Grandson, Silas Monroe Shepherd

to Chattanooga. Silas Monroe Shepherd indeed came 6 weeks early. I guess he was ready. He and his parents are doing very well. We got to spend several days with them and the East Brainerd congregation was so friendly and helpful to us during our visit.

One Sunday morning, we attended the Winona congregation and heard a great lesson from their preacher Shane Meredith. Glenda and I always compare notes to the friendliness and atmosphere of each church we visit.

Winona was one of the top churches we visited that month. This church is led by Ralph Pace and Bo Surrell as elders. Matt Surrell led the singing that day and did an outstanding job. At the end



Helen and Morris Tirpitz (Shreveport) "Little Red Wagon"



Ladies Class in Yazoo City Pauses for a "Picture Break"

of the service he encouraged some of the young people to stand before the church and help him with a song. We really enjoyed our visit with this church family.

We had a visit from Vladimar Rancev who was visiting the USA from his home in Vilnius, Lithuania. Vladimar is a Christian who is studying online at Sunset in Texas. He has been my friend for many years helping me to do our camp work in Lithuania. It is



Matt, Stephanie and Vlad - Lithuania Bible Camp

Stephanie Williams. Matt is the director of the 1st session of camp in Lithuania.

We also made a visit to the Lake Harbor congregation in Ridgeland. John Pigg has been the minister for many years. Not long ago, a young man from Grenada, MS came to work with this congregation by the name of Frank Powell. His wife, Tiffani and Frank have started the journey to adopt a baby from the country of Ethiopia. They have their own children but have felt a need as they have studied the scriptures to reach out to an orphan in the world.



Tiffani and Frank Powell Lake Harbour in Ridgeland, MS See JOURNEYS on Page 18



Larkin (Shawn) Nygard Family in Maben

graduate of MBC, is their preacher. I am grateful he gave me the opportunity to speak.



Sister Cole (age 90) attends "every time the door is open" at Hillcrest.

“Let’s Kill Lazarus...”

- Mike Benson -

It is impossible to read the sentence without some incredulity. John records, “...The chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death...” (John 12:10).

Think about that word—”priests.” It’s plural. One spiritual leader didn’t scheme to murder Lazarus; many spiritual leaders schemed to murder Lazarus. And these guys were supposed to be the religious right—the moral elite of ancient Jewish society!

The ESV says, “...The chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well.” “As well...” In truth, they didn’t want to murder just one man, but two. They wanted to kill Jesus (cf. 11:53) AND Lazarus.

“Why?” you may ask. Re-read John 12::9-11. A

great many Jews believed in Jesus. And why did a great many believe in Jesus? Because Lazarus had been raised from the dead!

Remember that the Sadducees taught that there was no resurrection (cf. Matt. 22:23-28). Unfortunately for them, Lazarus illustrated that their dogma was at obvious variance with the Biblical data. He was a living, breathing entity despite the fact that he had been entombed for four days (11:39). Lazarus was concrete evidence to the contrary; he was the doctrinal deathblow to their misguided, man-made tradition.

It was impossible for the chief priests to argue against him. Any sane, thoughtful, sincere individual wouldn’t even attempt to debate with Lazarus. He was absolute proof that Jesus could perform miracles. He was undeniable corroboration of the divinity of Christ (cf. John 20:30-31).

And that’s why the chief priests wanted to kill Lazarus and Jesus.

A few thoughts rattle around in my neo cortex as I ponder this curious incident:

■ If Jesus could resurrect a dead man, why did the chief priests entertain the idea of killing Lazarus in the first place? Couldn’t Jesus resurrect Lazarus again, if He so desired? What this teaches me is that you can’t expect coherent thinking and behavior from people who insist



Mike Benson

on upholding their agenda over truth.

■ If Jesus could, and obviously did, bring a dead man back to life—as He had also done on previous occasions—e.g., the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17) and the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:40-56), wouldn’t that serve as affirmation of His divine power?! Had the chief priests really thought about the futility of trifling with the miracle Man of God?!

The chief priests in John’s story remind me of a critical point: **unbelief is not due to a lack of evidence; unbelief is due to a lack of conviction!** People don’t

reject the truth because there are no facts; they reject the truth despite the facts!

Even when there is incontrovertible testimony, some folks simply chose not to believe. If their hearts are hard and their motives are impure, you can expect them to be antagonist towards truth and to engage in sinful, destructive behavior. On the other hand, if their hearts are soft and their motives are pure, you can expect them to investigate, believe in, and follow the Lord.

Was the world created in six literal days? Is there life beyond this transient walk? Is immersion necessary in order to be saved from sin? Is it possible to live in adultery? Is homosexual behavior sinful? It depends. It depends on whether or not a person wants the truth and is willing to follow it to its inevitable conclusion.

The chief priests weren’t willing to do that. Dear reader, are you (cf. 2 Thess. 2:10)...?

— — — —
Mike serves as the pulpit minister for the Kinsington Woods Church of Christ in Hattiesburg, MS. His email address: mbensonkw@att.net

Thanks for reading Mike’s article!



In his younger years: **Basil Overton**, standing with some beautiful Young Mules at “Mule Day” in Columbia, TN

Remembering My Friend -- Basil Overton, “A Mule Lover”

- By Dennis Doughty -

I lost a dear friend recently with the passing of Basil Overton. He was Vice-President of International Bible College and the Editor of the World Evangelist for many years. I had the privilege of knowing him for 40 years and working closely with him for eight of those years. He was a highly educated preacher, yet a very simple man.

He had an artificial valve in his heart. If you listened closely you could hear it “click, click” as it opened and closed. In his “heart of hearts” he loved the simple things in life. He loved old Cadillac’s, and he loved to preach and proclaim the gospel. He loved chicory coffee and molasses, and he loved to write. He loved to plant trees and he loved to grow churches and encourage young preachers. He loved mules, and long friendships.

One of my favorite days spent with him was driving his old Cadillac up to Columbia, Tennessee for their Mule Day celebration. He would hear some string of young mules braying nearby and declare, “That is music to my ears.” He told me one of the earliest memories he had as a boy was when his father came in from the barn one morning and informed the family that their mule had died. “We did not go to school that day,” he said, “everything came to a halt as we found a way to town to buy another mule.

I will share something about him that I think very few people know; One day I walked into his office and he was sitting there with a small book in his hand. He told me it was his journal he kept as a seaman in the navy during World War 2. “I want to read something to you,” and he began to read to me about standing on deck one night as a young sailor and watching the

battleships bombard Iwo Jima. It was a chilling yet inspiring recounting of the scene. He went on to tell me of going to the island after the main battles and helping gather up the dead. I was mesmerized by his words.

He was a preacher’s preacher, and a writer’s writer. For 30 years he preached no fewer than ten gospel meetings a year. He had a doctorate degree yet his preaching was simple and down to earth. Whatever abilities I brought with me as a writer, he made me better, much better. When it came to his knowledge of the Restoration Movement and his ability to refute the ideas of Evolution there were few his equal in our brotherhood.

The work that he and his good friend Charles Coil did together in leading International Bible College helped spread the boarders of God’s kingdom in ways that will only be rightfully appreciated and rewarded in eternity.

A day spent with brother Basil, and I had many, was a day that left mind and soul enriched. Aaron got to spend days with Moses, and Jonathan enjoyed time with David. Peter walked with the Lord, and Timothy traveled with Paul. Me, I got to spend many an hour with Basil Overton, and that was pretty special too!

— — — —
Dennis Doughty preaches for the Tunica, MS congregation.

dennis1848@bellsouth.net

— — — —
Editor’s Note: One of my most memorable days was spent with Basil Overton in 1978. I was blessed to spend the day with him in Florence, Alabama and ask questions and receive worthy answers as we prepared to publish the **first issue** of the *Magnolia Messenger*. He blessed my life!

V. B. S.

“It’s That Time of the Year Again”

Vacation Bible School

Yazoo City Church of Christ
1230 E Broadway

June
Sun.16-Wed.19
6:30pm to 8:30pm

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...
from Galatians 5 (NIV)

Classes for ALL ages, including adults!

Need a ride to VBS or more information?
call 662-746-2579

The Booneville, Mississippi congregation (2nd Street), as a part of their mission emphasizes, has joined hands with the Yazoo City church to provide a quality VBS program of learning for all ages. Under the leadership of **Jim Estes**, one of Booneville’s elders, 15 workers are scheduled to accompany him to Yazoo City, arriving on Thursday before the school begins on Sunday. Plans are to knock on doors, inviting the community and making other needed preparation for an edifying program of study dealing with the “Fruit of the Spirit.” **Trey Henry** is serving as the new full-time preacher for the Yazoo City church.

We pray for Booneville and Yazoo City and all other congregations who choose to use a V.B.S. this summer to the upbuilding of the church of our Lord. (alf)

==== Visiting Among Churches in North Mississippi ====

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are very grateful to our brother **Eddie Lewis** for sharing with MM readers his report of visits among churches of Christ in North Mississippi. During the first quarter of 2013, his visits included the following congregations:

- Saucer Creek
(Fulton)
- Friendship
(Olive Branch)
- Lake Forest
(Walls)
- Goodman Oaks
(Southaven)
- Nesbit
- Hernando
- Holly Springs
- Germantown
(Memphis)

- by **Eddie Lewis** -
(Missionary to North MS)

In January, I began a new adventure in my life. I retired from full-time ministry. The church in Germantown, Tennessee, where I worked for 13 years, agreed to support me in a mission effort to north Mississippi. I am available to sub for preachers who are on vacation or a mission trip. I am also available to serve as an interim preacher as a congregation searches for a new minister. The following is a report of my travels for the first three months of this year.

Saucer Creek

During the month of January, I served as an interim preacher for the church at Saucer Creek, just outside of Fulton, MS. The church is made up of many wonderful families. **Jim Davis** is the person who contacted me about preaching for the church in January. Their membership is 80. They had around 50 each Sunday in attendance, when I was there. They are in the process of



Jim Davis and Wife

searching for a preacher. The church has no elders. The congregation is made up of three major families: **Johnsons**, **Cleavelands**, and **Dulaney**s.

The second Sunday I was there, I ate lunch with **Steven Shappley** and his family. He is

the minister at **Bean's Ferry Church of Christ**. He has been there 13 years and is a wonderful friend. It was good to visit with him and his family.

On the third Sunday, the church hosted an area wide singing for churches in the Fulton area. I was able to meet many song leaders from several congregations. About 50 brethren attended. It was wonderful to sing many of the old songs and some new songs I had never sung before.

I presented a series of lessons each Sunday from my new book, "Finding the Heart of Christ." I talked about Philippians chapter 2—The Power of the Submissive Mind. Also I preached about Faith, Our Passion for Christ, Forgiveness, Gratitude, and The Importance of Our Heart.

I did get to visit with Bro. Davis and his family. What a wonderful Christian family that has a heart for the Lord and a desire to see the church at Saucer Creek grow. I pray that the church in Germantown will be able to help the church at Saucer Creek in the months ahead.

Friendship

February 3: I visited with the Friendship Church of Christ in Olive Branch, MS. **Daniel Overton** is their preacher and **Keith Honeycutt** serves as their



Daniel Overton and Wife

minister of involvement. They are served by three elders. They have 190 in attendance each week. Daniel is attending Harding School of Theology and is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University. They have small groups meeting after the PM Service and/or during the week. Daniel taught the adult class and presented a wonderful lesson on the importance of the Bible in our daily lives. The Friendship Church has lots of young people.

Lake Forest

February 10: I visited with the Lake Forest Church of Christ, in Walls, MS. **David Fisher** is their minister. He has been there for over 20 years. They have no elders and their attendance is 35-50. **Jack Darby** taught the adult



David Fisher and Wife

class. David presented a lesson on "Drinking from the Wells with Joy" (Is. 12). It was a very interesting lesson. David emphasized that Christ came to bring us salvation. We must praise God and thank Him for who He is, as creator and redeemer, and for all He has done for us in Christ. We must not be ashamed to speak the name of God and to proclaim what He has done.

Goodman Oaks

February 24: I visited with the Goodman Oaks Church of Christ in Southaven, MS. **Derek**



Jimmy Eddlemon, Gordon Schmittou (2 of 8 elders) and Derek McNamara (1 of 4 ministers)

McNamara is their preacher. They are served by four ministers and eight elders. Their attendance is around 617 on Sunday morning. Goodman Oaks is one of the largest Churches of Christ in Mississippi. **Jimmy Eddlemon** was the elder that taught the class I attended. They are beginning a study of 1 John. Jimmy did a wonderful job of teaching the class.

Derek preached on Rom. 14:20-23, "The Strength of Silent Faith." He gave two illustrations of the clothing people wear and how others judge them. His point was don't judge others by what they wear to church. We are to love others. Sometimes it is better to keep your judgments to yourself. Paul tells us to express love and encouragement to others. It was a good lesson.

Nesbit

March 3: I visited with the Nesbit Church of Christ in Nesbit, MS. The preacher there is **Jason Hilburn**. He has served the church there for 4 years. He has two students from the Memphis School of Preaching who assist him. The church has no elders. Their attendance is around 82. I saw several people I know from

other places. Jason taught the adult class. His lesson was on Acts 9, Saul's conversion. His sermon was on "Incorruptible Things" 1 Cor. 4:16-18. He listed eight things that are incorruptible: God, the seed, the blood, love, the body, adornment (1 Pet. 3:1-2), our inheritance, and our crown. Good lesson.



Jason Hilburn and Wife

Hernando

March 10: I visited with the Hernando Church of Christ in Hernando, MS. The preacher is **Andy Scott**. He and his family were away visiting with family for spring break. Their youth minister, **Chris Keeton**, preached in Andy's place. Chris' lesson was on "Character and God's People" (Hos. 2:14-15). His main point: in conflict we learn about ourselves. He illustrated his lesson with three Old



Chris Keeton

Tupelo, MS

West Main Church of Christ

Announces

Summer Series on Wednesday Evenings
Theme:

"What the Church Needs to Hear"

- June 5 -- Ken Joines
- June 12 -- Miles Stutts
- June 19 -- Paul Franks
- June 26 -- Doug Burleson
- July 3 -- Rick Jones
- July 10 -- Clyde Mize
- July 17 -- Kirk Brothers
- July 24 -- V.B.S.
- July 31 -- Dale Jenkins

Testament men: Abraham, Jacob and Moses. He said these men were who they were because of the conflicts they endured. Conflict made them great men of faith. Also, he used Psalms 66.

They have four elders. **Doug Morris**, one of the elders, is from my hometown of Senatobia. It



Doug Morris and Wife

was good to see him again. They are in the process of selecting five additional deacons. They were making plans for their youth to attend the first session of Sardis Lake Christian Camp. Their attendance is around 101.

Holly Springs

March 17: I visited with the Holly Springs Church of Christ in Holly Springs, MS. They have two vocational preachers: **Todd Sanderson** and **Kerry Reid**.



Kerry Reid and Todd Sanderson

Todd is a vice principle for the Byhalia school system and Kerry is a police officer. Todd preached. His lesson was on "Sacrifice and Commitment" (Jonah 1:1-10). His point: When we lack
See Eddie's Travels on Page 16

Eddie's Travels

(Continued from Page 15)



Barry & Pam Burleson

commitment: (1. We miss out on the great privilege of working with God. (2. The decisions we make affect others. (3. We become hardened by the decisions we make. (4. We lose both our integrity and trust. It was a very good lesson. Each week Kerry and Todd swap roles.

They have three elders. Their attendance is around 90. I

visited with **Barry and Pam Burleson**. Pam's father was a long time preacher in Mississippi—**Phil Hefley**. I met the parents of two of our Germantown members. I met the parents of **Emily Brewer, Jerry and Peggy Moore**.

I also met **Terri Grisham's** parents, **Harold and Nell Cardin**. Emily Brewer's family makes up a large portion of this congregation. Todd and Kerry are both related to Emily. The youth were away at a retreat at Sardis Lake Christian Camp. Kerry taught the adult Bible class. His lesson was on Paul changing his life (Phil.3:7). It was a very good lesson.

Germantown

March 24: The church at Germantown had a dinner to honor Judy and me for our 13 years of service. It was a great honor for us. We really appreciate the elders remembering us and supporting us in our new mission effort. We thank the elders for our retirement gift and all their kind words. We will always remember this special occasion.

Tunica

March 31: I visited with the Tunica Church of Christ. Their minister **Dennis Doughty** was out of town and asked me to sub for him. Dennis has been there for 5 or 6 years. They usually have about 26 in attendance. We had

about 40 in attendance; there were lots of visitors for Easter Sunday.

Last year they hosted a group from the **Lake Harbour Church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS** for a campaign in Tunica. **John Pigg**, the minister at Lake Harbour, preached. Previously they hosted Tunica's Annual Community Thanksgiving Program that packed their building with visitors from the community. The Goodman Oaks church helped with this program. Both events helped the church grow spiritually and in number.

Tommy Swindoll and his son, **Tommy II**, lead the service by making the announcements, leading the communion and the singing. Their family makes up a



Kathy Doughty, Tommy & Pat Swindoll

major portion of the congregation. The congregation has several children, mainly Tommy's grandchildren. I presented lessons from Philippians 2: "Esteem Others" and "Power to Receive." Both deal with how to develop the mind of Christ.

It has been a great honor for me to visit with so many churches in north Mississippi. As I travel each week, I pray that I can be a blessing to each congregation I visit.

Traveling North Mississippi,

Eddie Lewis

9423 Laurel Hill

Olive Branch, MS 38654

Email—lewis7946@gmail.com

VERONA

The Verona Church of Christ near Tupelo, Mississippi plans a Gospel Meeting for June 21-23, 2013 with **David Jones** doing the preaching. **Wayne Cox** is the local minister and edits and publishes a paper called "Truth for Today."

FULTON

Some of the members of the **Fulton Church of Christ** plan to go with some from the **Gloster Street** congregation in Tupelo, Mississippi on a mission trip to Whitehouse, Texas. The dates are July 31 - August 5, 2013.

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (5)

BE BAPTIZED into Christ

"He commanded them to **be baptized** in the name of the Lord." (Acts 10:48)

"...arise and **be baptized** and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

BUT THERE IS MORE!

(Turn to Page 18)

Magnolia Messenger

This is what it is about;
This is why we seek to serve!

A Prisoner Writes:

Dear Magnolia Messenger,

I pray that this notation finds you all blessed and doing well. I have been baptized into Christ for 3 years now. I am now an active leader and faithful servant in the church of Christ here in Cottonport. We are truly blessed to have ministers of the church come from the streets into prison to preach the Gospel!

I have grown so much since I first heard the Gospel preached to me. It was the best decision I've made. (obeying the Gospel and getting baptized, then being faithful.) Anyway, I am requesting to be added to your mailing list for the Magnolia Messenger.

I've just picked up my very first issue today and it was inspiring to read about the Church of Christ outside of prison. (Which I've never known before.) It is truly amazing to read about my brothers in Christ and to see the work they do. It is truly inspiring! Please continue the Lord's work and continue to bring souls to Jesus! Respectfully,

Signed: Brother "Nate" Nathal Trahan, Cottonport, LA

Thanks, brother Nate for writing. Thanks to all who read these lines and help make possible the work of the Magnolia Messenger. May our Great and Good God richly bless. (Editor)

Old MBC Library Is Re-opening



MBC Library
Kosciusko, Mississippi

A partial view of the more than 30,000 volumes
To be made available to students of God's Word

(For information, please call 662-289-3559 or 662-792-2700)

We thank God that Prince Lewis, a trained and experienced Librarian, has volunteered his services to assist in the re-opening of the Library. **More details later.**

Cecil May, Jr. "Retires Again" But Not From the Magnolia Messenger

**Lord be Willing,
Brother May To Continue
His Response To Questions
From MM Readers!
(See Page 3)**

NOTE: On April 5, 2013 brother May announced his retirement -- at age 80 -- which becomes effective June 1, 2013. We have chosen to include excerpts from his statement for MM readers.

The past fifteen years as Dean of the V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies has been a highlight of my preaching and Christian education career. I am delighted with the progress Biblical Studies has made and especially with the support the administration and board of trustees has given to Bible as the heart of Faulkner's curriculum and to the College of Biblical Studies as we have implemented that thrust...

Among many notable accomplishments during my tenure as Dean are the addition of graduate degrees, the building of a truly superior biblical studies faculty, increase in the number and quality of Bible majors, implementation of the highly successful Vanguard program and construction and use of the Harris-Parker Bible building.

At my request, effective June 1, 2013, I will move to a new and different role in the College of Biblical Studies: I will become Dean Emeritus.

At Dr. Hilyer's request, I will retain responsibility for the

oversight of the College of Biblical Studies to ensure its continued faithfulness to the Bible, to the restoration plea and to biblical hermeneutics. However, I will no longer be involved in the day-to-day administrative responsibilities.

At eighty years of age, I am feeling my mortality. I have a number of things I want to get in print while I still can; so that "after my departure" some of the things I think are important will still be accessible to others. I am currently writing a "Bible Questions Answered" column every other month in the Magnolia Messenger, a monthly "Finally Brethren" column for the back page of the Gospel Advocate and four issues of Preacher Talk per year. I have one Bible Questions Answered book in print and enough material for another at some point...

I am currently writing a book on the Providence of God that Gospel Advocate has tentatively agreed to publish. I want to write a textbook on Hermeneutics, a book on New Testament Interpretation of Old Testament Prophecies, and I have been asked to write a commentary on 1 Corinthians in the Truth for Today series.

**Cecil May Jr. Dean;
V.P. Black College of Biblical
Studies; Montgomery, Alabama**

MM Editor's
thankful response:
"Retired" ???

“ENVY”

JEALOUSY

“Green-Eyed Monster”

- Seth Sullivan -

America is a blessed nation! We are all fortunate to be able to live in such a prosperous place where we can pursue a career, raise a family, and enjoy wonderful freedom! Yet with all the advancements in the world, it sometimes can bring the worst out of people. It brings the potential for jealousy.

Children of God must be thankful for what they have (Heb. 13:5). A Christian's heart should be consecrated to *God* and **not** to *possessions*. Trying to “keep up with the Joneses” will lead only to a life of misery and unhappiness. Furthermore, it is displeasing to God.

God desires that His people not be jealous of others. In fact, people who are full of envy are *rejecters of God* (Rom. 1:29). It is unfortunate, but many will continue to live this foolish lifestyle (Tit. 3:3). This is one

Offer prayers of thanksgiving continually to God for what you have but remember that it isn't about what we possess on earth, but what we gain in Heaven (Phil. 1:21)!

reason the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren. Many of them were carnal minded -- being divided amongst themselves. Paul admonished, “For you are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are you not carnal, and walk as men?” (I Cor. 3:3).

Jealousy is an evil ambition. Where these traits exist, there is evil. James proclaimed, “But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (Jam. 3:14-16).

There are several examples of envy found in the Bible. When Cain's sacrifice to God was rejected and his brother's accepted, Cain became jealous of his brother Abel (Gen.4:4,5). King Saul developed a resentment for David because he was loved by the people (I Sam.18:1-9). The chief priests delivered Jesus before Pilate out of envy (Mark 15:10). Even today, it is possible for some to preach Christ out of envy or rivalry (Phil. 1:15)!



Seth Sullivan

God's desire is for His children to seek contentment. It is vital for a Christian to not walk in envy (Rom. 13:13) but rather to simply put it away (I Pet. 2:1; II Cor. 12:20)! After Paul delivered his lesson on the “fruit of the Spirit”, he encouraged the

Galatian brethren to “not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another” (Gal. 5:26).

May every child of God seek to work humbly in the Lord's Kingdom! God promises to bless those who serve for His glory (Matt. 6:33). Have a lowliness of mind and esteem others more highly than yourself (Phil. 2:3). Offer prayers of thanksgiving continually to God for what you have but remember that it isn't about what we possess on earth, but what we gain in Heaven (Phil. 1:21)!

Seth preaches for the Waynesboro Church of Christ; P. O. Box 94; Waynesboro, Mississippi 39367; 601.735.4086

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Hello Everyone,

Hope all is well. Been sorta down, but the Messenger always seems to give me the lift I need in order to keep going. Just knowing I can always count on God's Word and learn from all it has to say; makes life a whole lot better for me and my family. (name withheld)

I would like very much to receive the Magnolia Messenger. A friend has been giving me hers and I have enjoyed them very much. I attend church at Oneonta Church of Christ and if any one in your area comes this way we would welcome their visit. Thank you very much. In Christian love (Lydia R. Sellers, Remlap, AL)

Attention MS, LA, TN, AL and 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)

The Magnolia Messenger Requests Your Prayers

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

A Tribute to the Memory of Geunita Murphy

(Mrs. Paul D. Murphy)

Written by
M. Wayne Mitchell

In a lifetime, how many people do you meet who fit the description of the “beatitudes” as spoken by Jesus? One which stands out as being descriptive of our very dear friend, Geunita (Samples) Murphy, is found in Matthew 5:8. It states, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

Having known sister Murphy for over 60 years, she was the personification of purity and kindness. She was reared in a Christian home; her parents, sisters and brothers were Christians. Being well acquainted with what it means to be a Christian, as a young lady, she married a gospel preacher -- Paul D. Murphy. They became a fine team in the efforts of winning souls.

Sister Murphy emulated the description of a “virtuous woman” as well as a Godly, loving wife and mother. Everyone who knew sister Geunita could vouch for her genuineness as being a Godly Woman. We have always considered her a model for a preacher's wife. There are few that reach the height of the example she was.

“That the aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness; not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste keepers at home, good obedient to their own husbands that the word of God be not blasphemed....” (Titus 2:3-5).

Sister Murphy lived a colorful life of service and dedication. The above scripture truly fits her.

She was a faithful wife and a

loving mother. So many people have spoken lovingly of her. Her life was nothing short of a Christian in action. It was her desire to render all the help she could to her fellow travelers.

We have never had a more friendly, loving, gracious and concerned Christian friend. She always made you feel welcome in their home. She was a great host to the many people entertained in their home. She had that touch to make you feel at home.

She was a “mentor” and helpful to young girls and those aspiring to be preachers' wives or elders' wife. Her presence was genuine; her example was worthy; her constant and proper instructions were a welcome blessing to all Christians and especially to Christian women.

The comment of the apostle John would well fit her demeanor in life and her hope for eternal life. John wrote, “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, 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).

Wayne Mitchell
P.O. Box 70
430 N. Second Street
Belmont, MS 38827
PH 662-454-7196

Editor's Note: Sister Geunita Murphy, who died several months ago, was preceded in death by her husband, Paul D. Murphy. Brother Murphy departed this life on February 27, 2003, at the age of 89. For 68 years he was a preacher of the gospel and is given credit for establishing 43 congregations with more than 15,000 people responding to the Lord's invitation as extended by him. At the time of his death, he and Geunita had been married 64 years. (alf)

Readers' Response

Dear Brethren,

I just received my copy of the “Magnolia Messenger” and enjoy it so much. I especially like completing the Question Box each time. The article Sis. Franks wrote about “In prison and ye visited me not” touched me. I like others, do not feel like going to a prison and visiting inmates but I am so glad to hear that your publication is being sent to prisoners. I want to help in this small way to do this. Thanks so much. (Linda Anderson, Gainesboro, TN)

Dear A. L. Franks and Staff:

I have enjoyed the Messenger for the past several years and I have enjoyed the work that you are doing with this publication. Please add the names to your mailing list: I was glad to learn

that Paul is now helping you and June with this work. Keep up this good work. May the Lord bless your effort in serving Him in this way. Sincerely in Christ, (O. L. Ransom, Cookeville, TN)

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you so much for sending the Magnolia Messenger. The publication is very inspirational. I would like to continue receiving the publication...Thank you, (Tammy McCreless, Haleyville, AL)

Thank you for the Messenger. The Questions and Answers makes a real good Bible study. (I love to do them) Wish I had a book of them. I don't get to go to church now and I miss it very much... (Willa Dean Gaddy, Fulton, MS)

JOURNEYS

(Cont. from page 13)

They have been told that there are over 5,000,000 orphans -- just in Ethiopia. Several family members and members of their congregation, as well as others, have helped with money that will be needed. They have been informed that it will cost over \$30,000 to complete the adoption procedure. If you would like to be a part of this experience with them, they would appreciate any support you can send. Their address is, **Tiffina and Frank Powell; 118 Apple Ridge Dr.; Brandon, MS 39047.** Their phone number is 601-624-2720.

We stopped by the **Hwy 69 congregation** south of Columbus on a recent Wednesday night and found a large group of Christians. **Brian Adkins** serves this church as its minister. I was given the opportunity to teach the Bible class.

It was great to see **Terry and Dorothy Hopper**. I have been friends with the Hoppers for a long time. Terry's dad, **J. B. Hopper**, who passed away many years ago, was a very active supporter



Brian Adkins
Hwy 69 Church Building

of good works in the Columbus area. Terry's mother, **Louise Hopper**, is doing well and is active with this congregation.

We visited several other congregations over the past two or three months; but for now, that just about takes up the time and space allotted. Thank you again for all your encouragement as we travel these southern states teaching, informing and provoking brethren "unto love and good works." (Report by Paul Franks)

Magnolia Messenger Expanding Target: Louisiana

- Paul Franks -

Churches of Christ in Louisiana number around 228 with 24,000 members. Compare that to Mississippi's 380 churches with 43,000 members and you realize that the church is stronger in Mississippi than Louisiana. Also, the population of Louisiana is over a million more than in Mississippi.

My father, Al Franks is from Southwest Louisiana and I lived in that area for the last ten years. We continue to be vitally interested in the future growth of the body of Christ in Louisiana which is also another "Magnolia state." The state flower for both Louisiana and Mississippi is the Magnolia.

One way that we believe will edify and help build up the body of Christ is to send the Magnolia Messenger to more people. I was talking to a preacher in Louisiana last week and he told me that the church where he preaches gets one bundle. He requested extra bundles because the members enjoy giving them to their friends and neighbors.

We are sending less than 2000 copies of the paper to individual addresses. We have a

goal to increase that number in the next few months. We also send small bundles of the paper to 67 churches in the state of Louisiana. We want to increase that number too.

Churches can send their church directories and we will add each address to our mailing list. You can also send names and addresses of your friends and family that live in Louisiana or anywhere else and we will be glad to add them to our mailing list.

The Dequincy, LA congregation has made a substantial contribution to enable us to start the process of gathering and adding these addresses. It would be a great blessing and would help with keeping the costs down if, after reading this article, you will encourage your congregation to send in their complete mailing list so we can add their names.

We need other churches and individuals to help us with this goal for **expansion**. If you or your congregation is able, please make a special contribution to the Magnolia Messenger for this effort. Thank you!

Paul Franks
apaulfranks@gmail.com
662-792-2700

Largest PTP

Ever Is In the Works!

Sevierville, Tennessee
August 23-29, 2013
polishingthepulpit.com

The largest PTP {Polishing the Pulpit} ever is in the works—**165 speakers, 12 concurrent sessions each hour, nearly 700 separate classes spread over seven days.**

Our **attendance goal is 3000.** We believe this may be the most gospel ever preached at one event in the State of Tennessee!



SNOWDOWN: Just one of the many Mississippi churches of Christ represented at Lads to Leaders in Memphis (Snowdown is in NE Mississippi, not far from Booneville)

Challenge to Parents

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

Make plans to attend the 16th Annual MM RV RALLY in Mississippi scheduled for April 23-27, 2014.

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

Churches Looking For Preachers

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

We will plan to run each ad not more than one or two times unless a specific request for extension is received from the congregation looking for a preacher. There is no charge for this service. Thank you for asking!
Editor

Booneville, ARK

The Heritage Addition Church of Christ in Booneville, Arkansas is seeking a full time pulpit minister beginning June 1. We are a 'mainline', conservative congregation with Sunday AM attendance of approximately 100. A successful candidate will be competent in the pulpit and have a passion for lost souls. You may visit www.booneville.com for general area information. For more information, or to submit an application, please contact:

**Heritage Addition
Church of Christ
PO Box 155
Booneville, AR. 72927**

E-mail or call:
thedutchman@centurytel.net
or rscottbgcslc@magtel.com,
or Telephone: 479-675-3582

West Ouachita

Church of Christ
West Monroe, LA

We are searching for a full time preacher. We are located in West Monroe, Louisiana, with 4 elders and 2 deacons. Our attendance ranges from 40 to 60 with all ages. We believe in sound doctrine and we need someone as soon as possible. All applications must have references.

Please contact **Todd Chaman** at 318-355-1999 or email at toddchapman@yahoo.com

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"

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

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation (6)

BE FAITHFUL to the Lord

"Well done, you good and faithful servant... enter into the joys of your lord." (Matt. 25:21)

"...be you faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10)

The Saviour's Plan for Salvation includes **hearing the gospel, believing in Jesus, repenting of sins, confessing faith, being baptized into Christ and remaining faithful to Him as Lord.**

(PLEA: Turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in obedient faith)

Call: 601-668-3344; E-mail: franksmm@aol.com

2013

Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes National Convention is Now History

- Report by June Franks -

We were blessed to attend the Lads to Leaders/Leaders National Convention held in Memphis, Tennessee on March 29-31, 2013. In addition to the Memphis convention, other assemblies at the same time were in Atlanta, GA, Dallas, TX, Louisville KY, Nashville, TN, and Orlando, FL.

When **Roy Johnson**, Executive Director of the Lads to Leader/Leaderettes emailed us a special invitation to attend the convention in Memphis, my first reaction was, "It would be nice to go but we are so busy." However, in spite of our busy schedule, we reluctantly decided to attend the convention. We are so thankful that we did!



Blake McAdams
Awarded Trophy for Song Leading
ALL Participants were WINNERS!

We arrived at the Marriot Hotel in downtown Memphis on Friday afternoon, March 29, 2013. Immediately, we began to meet and greet people from many different places -- especially brothers and sisters (young and older) from throughout the state of Mississippi.

It was so encouraging to see families who were there to support their children; not *only* the parents, but grandparents as well! Some gladly take off from work or plan their vacation during this time in order that they may attend the convention.

It is our understanding that when one convention ends, al-

most immediately the young people and those who work with them start working on their program for the next year.

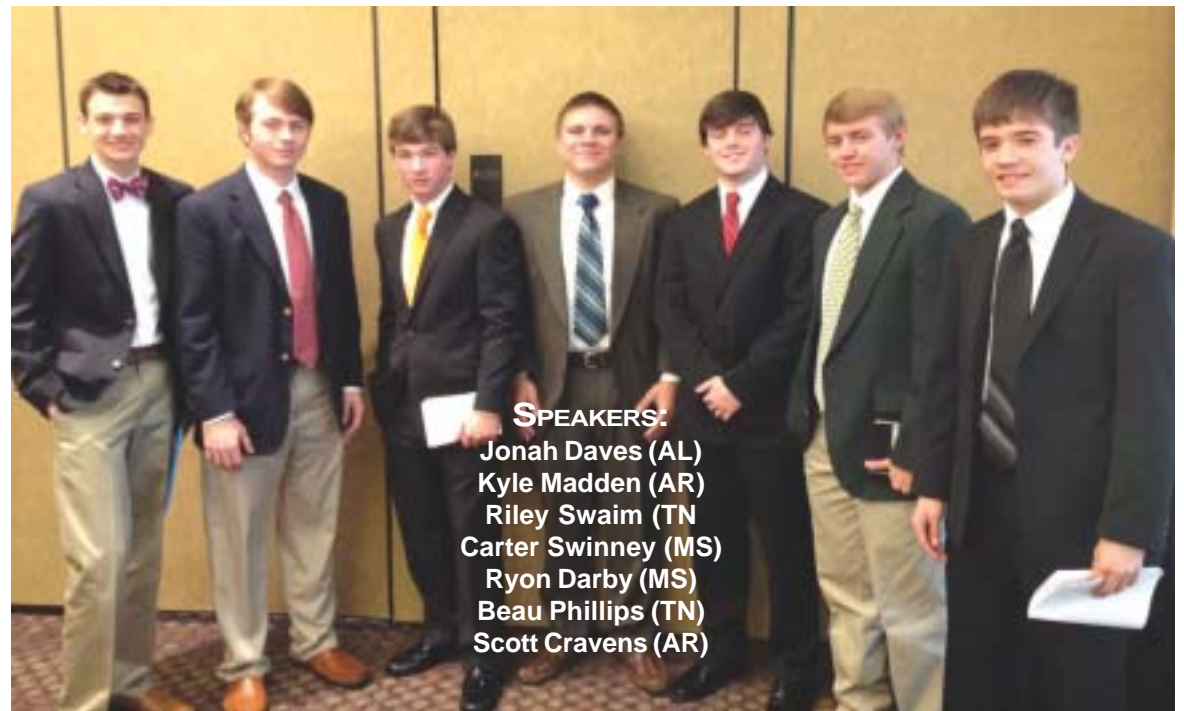
So much was going on during the convention. Different sessions were simultaneously held throughout the convention center with the different age groups and featuring different talents. There was no way that we who were there, to encourage and support those participating, for us to attend each class or session.

We chose to attend a speech competition that included seven young men who had come from different areas of the country to participate.

They also indicated, by their words, that the Lord's church meant something to them and that the church of the New Testament was just not another denomination. I literally cried as I sat there and listened to them speak.

We often feel like or may even say sometimes that "the young people are going to the dogs!" Please, just attend one of the conventions and you will realize that this is certainly not the case.

These seven speeches/sermons that these young men gave were truly outstanding. The sincerity and the dedication with which they presented their lessons was so very touching.



SPEAKERS:
Jonah Daves (AL)
Kyle Madden (AR)
Riley Swaim (TN)
Carter Swinney (MS)
Ryon Darby (MS)
Beau Phillips (TN)
Scott Cravens (AR)

Seven Young Men -- Seven Inspirational Sermons

We also were privileged to attend a song leading competition in which some of the younger boys participated.

For example, we were blessed to meet up with the parents and grandparents of **Lofton Pace**, one of the thousands of participants. Lofton and his parents, **Johnny and Leigh Pace** live in Batesville, Mississippi and are active in the Lads to Leaders program with the Batesville congregation. Lofton's grandparents, **Ralph and Virginia Pace**, live in Winona, Mississippi, where Ralph serves as an elder.

Lofton's joyful task was to lead a song, along with several other young boys in his age group -- eight years old and in the third grade. Lofton did a very good job; so did the other boys as well.

It reminded me of the days, before "Lads to Leaders" as an organized program, when our son, Paul, began leading singing. He was five or six years old and his favorite song to lead was "Trust and Obey!"

We are so thankful for the congregations, with which we were working over the years, for

allowing Paul and other young boys an opportunity to lead singing and participate in the public worship services.

One afternoon, as we were leaving the convention hall, we met a certain young boy, along with his mom and brother -- standing by the exit door. He was so handsome, in his vest and tie, holding the trophy that he had just won in the song leading contest. We soon learned that his name was **Blake McAdams** and that he and his family worship with the Missouri Street congregation in West Memphis, Arkansas. (Blake is pictured on this page.)

The Lads to Leaders program was begun in 1968 with **Jack Zorn** as the founder. The brotherhood-wide effort has grown to more than 20,000 participate who come together each year in several locations around the country.

Of course, it would be impossible to report on everyone we met or everything we saw. But we are very thankful for every person who participated and for all the home congregations and families who provided encouragement and opportunities for each participant.

The Memphis convention honored **Al Franks** from Kosciusko, MS and **Gary and Linda Ezell** from Jonesboro, AR with beautiful plaques in appreciation for the support and encouragement given to the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program.

In case you are wondering, *Just what is "Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes?"* The following is the answer given on their website.

"The Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes convention is an annual weekend event where thousands of youth and adults gather to display the talents they've worked on all year. It encourages and motivates participants to grow, and bring families and churches together by crossing generational lines. At the convention students and adults are recognized for the work they've completed over the past year, and students in grades 3-12 are given the opportunity to compete against other students of similar age and ability in such areas as speech, song leading, debate, puppets, Bible Bowl and art."

The next Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Convention is planned for April 18-20, 2014 with the aim of "Building Godly Leaders for Tomorrow." (June Franks)



Pace Family
Ralph & Virginia
Johnny & Leigh
With Lofton

Lofton Pace; Accompanied by Parents and Grandparents



Sample of Memphis Crowd

Paseurs “Retire” and Move Back to Kosciusko

**Long Time Teacher at MBC
Now Preaching in Forest**

Ray and Sharon Paseur have recently moved back to Kosciusko, Mississippi. Several years ago, when they moved from MBC to work with the West Ouachita church of Christ in West Monroe, Louisiana, they retained ownership of their house in



Ray & Sharon Paseur

Kosciusko. Ray and Sharon have decided to back away from full time work and come back to their homestead in Kosciusko

The congregation in Forest, Mississippi is excited to announce that Ray became their preacher as of May 1, 2013. Traveling 48 miles (one way) twice each week from Kosciusko to Forest is something that I was blessed to do for seven years.

The Forest congregation is doing well. We are thankful that things worked out so that Ray and Sharon could work with this fine church. Ray will also teach Bible classes at a school meeting in the facilities of the Siwell Road congregation in Jackson. Plans are that he will also be teaching

in another school Paul Williams and Willie Nettle planned to start in Jackson.

Ray and Sharon have one living daughter, Andrea who is 36. They lost their two other daughters. Their precious surviving daughter has a degenerative neurological disease and requires constant care.

Ray's mother, Jean Paseur, has also moved to Kosciusko with them. Ray and Sharon said they are already missing the West Ouachita church in West Monroe, LA, saying they “enjoyed our work there.” They went on to say that “while we love the people in Louisiana, we are glad to be back in Mississippi, our home.” **(Paul Franks)**

MM Welcomes News and Reports from Churches of Christ, especially in Mississippi and Adjoining States

Bible Winner

Now You Can Take Your Choice

Bible Study Library CD or Thompson Study Bible

(Each is valued at over \$100.00)



If you are selected as our new Bible winner, you now have a choice of either of the above. Is your name on page 23?

(Please Answer “The Question Box”)

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address:

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

Email: franksmm@aol.com

*(No phone calls for
addresses, please!)*

News Note

CLINTON, MS

Al and I traveled to Clinton, Mississippi early Sunday morning, June 2, 2013. We arrived at the church building where the Clinton congregation meets just a little before nine. Al taught the adult Bible class and then preached at the worship hour in the absence of **John Allan**, their full-time preacher, who was away in Gospel Meetings.

We were blessed with the opportunity to be with the Clinton congregation not only for worship, but also join them for a delicious meal prepared mostly by the ladies of the church.

We were also informed about their most recent Gospel meeting which was conducted May 19-23, 2013 with the very capable evangelist **Roy Sharp** of Freed-Hardeman University. Brother Spark spoke on the theme: “Marriage and Family.” It is always a blessing to be with brethren at Clinton where **Robert Shelton**, **Glenn Newell** and **Mark Bridges** serve as dedicated elders.

**You Are
Cordially I nvited**

to
**Visit and Worship
with a
Church of Christ
in
Your Community.**

**Where a
Warm Welcome
Awaits You!**

**Now You
Take It From There....**

- by -

John Simpson
4073 Stillwood Dr
Memphis, TN 38128-3056
j38128sim@yahoo.com



MODESTY: A Christian Virtue

How should we define modesty today? First, we must define it Biblically; then sensibly; and finally, in good taste. Fads and fashions come and go, but they do dictate the dress code for all societies, with few exceptions.

Your judgment and mine may be poles apart, but at Eternal Judgment we will both meet center stage to answer for our judgment calls of physical dress. In Victorian Society if a lady's ankles were exposed, she and most citizens were embarrassed. In our modern society, almost everything may be exposed without embarrassment of moral conscience – why the difference? Somewhere between the two of these, we should be able to come up with a dress code that is pleasing to the Lord.

Reading from your Bible, twice in the New Testament, the word *kosmios* is used with reference to public demeanor of dress and character. Properly defined, this word means *orderly, well arranged, decent, or modest*. Once with reference to feminine gender: “...I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly, discreetly...” (I Tim. 2:9); and once with reference to masculine gender: “...Temperate, prudent, respectable...” (I Tim. 3:2).

Scripture never suggests that unregenerate society may set standards of public attire for those professing godliness, but to the contrary: “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12: 1,2).

Ours must be a dress code of common sense and Christian morality that is becoming to God's people. God calls His people to think pure (Phil 4:8), act pure (Jas. 1:27), and to be pure (I Tim. 5:22), which allows our common sense to present ourselves with decency and modesty – at home, at worship, or any other public place.

God calls His people to think pure (Phil 4:8), act pure (Jas. 1:27), and to be pure (I Tim. 5:22), which allows our common sense to present ourselves with decency and modesty – at home, at worship, or any other public place.

The darkest chapter in King David's life has, as its introduction, a woman who exposed her body for public viewing. She still has many modern daughters who lead men to lust, sin and finally to destruction. No generation of Americans has ever worn fewer clothing in public, than this morally bankrupt society. A righteous nation, filled with God-fearing men and women, could do more to lead our country into a chapter in history of purity and modesty than any other thing!

The bottom line: I have set no standard, nor established a dress code, but have challenged everyone to do both; from Biblical citation, common sense, good taste and decency. There is a parade every day – you are in it – the decision is yours! Remember, modesty is a Christian virtue.

Now, you take it from there!

Love Isn't Always Easy

- Dawn Guillory -

*Sometimes you just have to do
What you have to do; Love isn't always easy.
When it seems your loved one is fighting you;
Love isn't always easy.*

*When your loved one is changing inside,
The changes may be for better,
But until the change comes, you hold on and sigh;
Love isn't always easy.*

*Trying to live your own life,
While watching your loved one
Being cut constantly with an emotional knife;
Love isn't always easy.*

*As your loved one's health slips away,
You assist as much as you can,
But pray for a better day;
Love isn't always easy.*

*Sometimes it takes much more --
All your hopes, dreams and money
To balance out what will never be funny;
Love isn't always easy.*

*When your loved one makes the wrong choice
And you are left to help --
Having had no voice;
Still love anyway. Love isn't always easy!*

Dawn Guillory
suntay222@gmail.com

Readers' Response

Thanks for all you do - and the articles that are so true and helpful. May God bless all of you and family. (Joyce Gray, Amory, MS)

Remember me and my family in your prayers. So glad your son and wife have joined you and Bro. Franks in the MM. ...Remembering you and MM in my prayers. (Alice Dempsey, Bradford, AR)

(NOTE: Thank you Alice for your prayers on our behalf and your great

source of encouragement. We are praying for you.)

Thank you for the Magnolia Messenger. We recently got a subscription for all of our families. Being relatively isolated by location from like-minded congregations, this helps us vicariously to experience the warmth and fellowship of other congregations...God bless you.

(Stanley Sherman, Johnson City, OR)

Wanted

Missionary Minded Couple For India Missions

"Missionary to India and Central Asia is seeking a couple dedicated to Christian missions to work with him in India. The work will include overseeing an orphanage, schools of preaching and village evangelism. Seeking a couple who is willing to be in India six months per year and stateside raising funds and reporting six months per year. A great productive work. Call Garry Jones at 865.567.7872. or write to P.O. Box 1126, Clinton, TN 37717. Help in raising full support, insurance and retirement provided. Seeking long-term commitment to the work."

Garry Jones
P.O. 1126
Clinton, TN, 37717
865-567-7872
865-247-8146

(Under the oversight of the elders of the Clinton, TN church of Christ).

*A Bible That Is Falling
Apart Usually
Belongs To Someone
Who is Not!*

What is Better Than An Old & Used Bible?

Bible pictured belonged to **Larry J. Echols**, former preacher in Yazoo City, MS who is now deceased. His wife, Janie, sent the picture to MM.



"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...." (2 Tim. 3:16)

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

Say it Now!

Why wait until tomorrow,
To tell someone you care?
God doesn't promise us tomorrow,
Or, that they will still be there.

Tell a dear one you love them,
So they won't have any doubt.
Today is the best time,
To try to work things out.

To keep our love a secret,
It cannot multiply.
When it is neglected,
It will begin to die.

So go over and hug your neighbor,
Ask if there is something you can do.
It will not only bring you happiness,
It will make God happy too!

Nina Thorn
1135 Ratliff Ferry Rd.
Canton, Mississippi 39046

Wings
Women IN God's Service

Expressing
the
Love
of
Jesus

Sister to Sister
John 13:34
John 15:12

with
Virginia Hamblin

Virginia Hamblin is a member of the Lake Harbour church of Christ, a gifted bible class teacher and speaker on ladies spiritual growth. Through her presentations, she offers engaging and practical application of spiritual truth. In 2011, Virginia spoke at the Kensington Woods Church of Christ Ladies Day Program in Hattiesburg, MS. Virginia continues to use God's Word as her authority and His Spirit as her guide. She also uses her gift of teaching to win souls and build up the body of Christ while enjoying the hobbies of gardening, growing flowers and reading. She lives in Canton, MS and is married to Ollie Hamblin, Jr. and they have four sons and two adopted sons.

Lake Harbour
Church
of Christ

Ladies
day program

Saturday,
October 5th
2013

Refreshments
8:00 am
Program with
Registration
8:30 am

Information & Registration
<http://wings.lakeharbourcoc.org>

338 Lake Harbour Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-856-2165

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

Splinter or Plank? Which do You Have?

- June Franks -

A common understanding of *judge* is to form an opinion without carefully weighing a situation; to criticize, as to judge a person unkindly. Most will agree that this type of judging is wrong.

As Christians we should want to have the right attitude about others and not judge someone until we know the truth or the facts.

One can change channels on the television only a few times until he sees a number of television programs -- each featuring a different judge. These judges are there to ask questions. The ones involved are to present the evidence that will help the judge to correctly rule in the matter at hand. Their judging serves a purpose.

We know that there has to be a judge in the court of law. This judge is a public official authorized to decide questions brought before a court.

There are many scriptures in the Bible that relate to *wrong* judgement of others. One scripture is found in Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

"Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?"

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly

to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1-6)

The *mote* has been described as a **splinter** and the *beam* as a **plank** of wood. Which had we rather have in our eye -- a splinter or a plank of wood?

Another's fault may well be minor compared to our own overlooked errors. However, in God's sight, there are no *big* and *little* sins. Sin is sin!



June Franks

This scripture is teaching that we need to take care of our own problem *first* before we approach someone else about their problem. Our own problem may be even bigger than the other person's problem.

But how often do we judge an individual *unfairly*? We may have the wrong feelings toward someone -- for years, without really knowing the situation.

The Christ-like thing for us to do is, when we do see a mote in someone else's eye, we must first look at ourselves and the possible beam that is in our own eye. We often have trouble seeing our own mistakes. We need to do what we can do to correct our beam first before going to someone else. Then we should go to that person *in love* instead of gossiping to others about the mote that is in their eye.

This is a quote from Edward H. Hoch, an American politician of the early nineteen hundreds, *"There is so much good in the worst of us, And so much bad in the best of us, That it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."*

Identifying sin and scriptural error is not judging or being judgemental. We should never

ignore or condone sin and sinful behavior. The Bible does teach that spiritual leaders have the responsibility to feed the sheep and protect the flock from sin and error. (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29)

Even though the Bible teaches against judging in the wrong way, Jesus taught us that we can know people by their fruit (Matthew

7:15-23). According to Jesus the only way to know a person is by the fruit they bear.

We have been taught all of our lives to not judge a book by its cover. It is so tempting to want to judge someone by their appearance or, so to speak, *by their cover*. However, speaking of *cover*, the way we dress or not dress, sometimes, does influence our thoughts of others.

The Bible does condemn the way that we may judge someone who comes into the assembly. When we do this we show partiality between the rich and the poor. "Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" (James 2:2)

God knows each of our hearts and He certainly knows us by our fruit. God is **the Judge** and **only** He can make the final decision about our salvation.

Let us always remember the scripture that teaches we are to remove the beam from our own eye before we try to pass judgement on someone else who may only have a mote. (Luke 6:42)

June Franks
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090
franksmm@aol.com

Youth Also Benefit From "Old Folks" RV Rallies



Anderson Leads Song at Rally

POEMS

By
Barbara

Barbara Cagle Ray
bcagleray@comcast.net



Walking by Faith

Show me no pity because my eyes fail me,
For I walk by faith and not by sight.
I would rather walk with God in darkness
Than to walk alone with the gift of light.

There have been days of anguish and despair
When I felt my faith would fail the test.
I've prayed, "Dear Lord, please linger near;
If I can feel You close, I'm truly blessed."

I cannot see the pearl-tipped peaks of spring,
Or autumn's bright leaves as they spin and fall.
But how can I fail to place my trust
In the Master above who created them all?

Far beyond where the eagles upward soar
Lies Heaven's glorious and infinite space.
God awaits my coming in the sunset's glow,
And the next thing I'll see shall be His face!

I'll taste life's bounty, feel the warmth of love,
Hear birds sing, smell the roses by the lake.
Please grant me the gift of patience, Lord;
To see Your face, I'll wait...I'll wait.

Accepting Flaws

Lush hidden treasures, delicate as lace,
Open with the fragrance of sweet perfume.
Tender velvet roses, so perfectly designed,
Emerge from bursting buds to glorious bloom.

They sparkle like gems, kissed by dew,
As they open wide their scarlet arms.
Cascading over an arbor or in a vase,
They curl tenderly, like a mother's arms.

Mother Nature buzzes with hearty applause
As roses unfurl, so radiantly adorned.
How can anything be so perfectly made
And still be plagued with prickly thorns?

They seem to add depth to its beauty;
The unique quality of the rose is revealed.
Without the thorns, wouldn't the rose
Be just another flower in the field?

It was such a blessing to us older folks, who attend the Magnolia Messenger RV rally, to have in our attendance this year James and Kimberly Malone along with their three children from Brandon, Mississippi.

I admired James when he indicated they allowed their children to miss school to attend

part of the RV rally. As James said, "Parents let their children miss for other reasons."

We definitely want to encourage more younger folks, if at all possible, to take advantage of attending the rally.

Anderson and Carter are to be commended for their willingness to help in the song leading.

(See Question Box)

These Sent In Answers

(Turn to Page 24)

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Tommy Rigby | 96. Genie Henning | 191. BJ Womack | 286. C. D. McDuffa | 381. Sharon Huckaba | 476. Paul Briley |
| 2. Ms. Mary Adams | 97. Dorothy Banks | 192. Nicole Womack | 287. Nan Conley | 382. Kimberly Franks | 477. Ms Dorothy Laws |
| 3. Nell Millsaps | 98. Doris R. Buckner | 193. Ma'Nia' Womack | 288. Faye Frazier | 383. Elissa Franks | 478. Hattie Johnson |
| 4. Bettye McCool | 99. Margie C. McKinney | 194. Bralan Womack | 289. Stan Nenenschwander | 384. Stephanie Slaydon | 479. Ella Darnell |
| 5. Shirley Dewett | 100. Billy F. Alford | 195. Marion Crelia | 290. Pat Brown | 385. Johnnye Blackmon | 480. Bonnie Dixon |
| 6. Ms. Charlotte R. Vandiver | 101. Sue Bunch | 196. Paul Howard | 291. Rhenda Miltner | 386. Doug & Tori Brackbill | 481. Laura T. Dixon |
| 7. Willa Fox | 102. Lozell Milligan | 197. A. C. Little | 292. Terry Miltner | 387. Wes & Rhoda Jeans | 482. Diane Dunaway |
| 8. Glen Roden, Jr. | 103. Tyra Verner | 198. Bonnie B. Glass | 293. Marcy Kanapaux | 388. Carter Blackmon | 483. Bartha Rockingham |
| 9. Sidney Robinson | 104. Rashayd Ewing | 199. Arvis Midkiff | 294. Shelia White | 389. Dianne Roberts | 484. Mandy Wallace |
| 10. Peggy S. Walker | 105. Elizabeth Sullivan | 200. Kathy Perry | 295. Sherry Gordon | 390. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell | 485. Missy Nugent |
| 11. Amy Hutson | 106. Shamyia Smith | 201. Edward Pearson | 296. Vera Spencer | 391. Mary Elle Webster | 486. Juanita Flanagan |
| 12. Peggy Hartman | 107. Joshua Williams | 202. Irene M. Wright | 297. Kimberley Easterling | 392. Kathy Brewer | 487. Aslaeen Dean |
| 13. Vera Winfrey | 108. Jaylen Sullivan | 203. Terry Johnson | 298. Eileen Ferrebee | 393. Jerry Gilliam | 488. Millie Ann Goode |
| 14. Deborah Locicero | 109. Trey Willams | 204. Pamela Fogus Luna | 299. Dick Green | 394. Daphne Stephens | 489. Patricia A. Cieloha |
| 15. June Brents | 110. Chelsea Sullivans | 205. Glen Brady | 300. Dan M. Mobley | 395. Toria Chatman | 490. Juanita Akin |
| 16. Ann Kimble | 111. Lacey Mastin | 206. Yvonne Swilley | 301. Alma Maddox | 396. Magdalene Tillman | 491. Trillie Strickland |
| 17. Tom McLemore | 112. M/M Arthur Burnett | 207. Lenola Balentine | 302. Tommy J. Muirhead | 397. Carolyn Pitts | 492. Eva Almon |
| 18. Esther Hall | 113. Evelyn Young | 208. Doris Darnell | 303. Betty A. Skinner | 398. Verna Jones | 493. Juanita M. Tynes |
| 19. Thelma Talbert | 114. Doris Watson | 209. Michael Deaton | 304. Claude Edwards | 399. M/M Dennis Hyatt | 494. Curtis Phillips |
| 20. Roger King | 115. Latisha Rena Watson | 210. Glenda Jefcoat | 305. Mrs. V. E. Buffington | 400. Darla Ferguson | 495. Mary Lee Albersen |
| 21. Elvis Dilmore | 116. LeRoy Watson | 211. Minnie Gwyne | 306. Idna Eddington | 401. Barbara Nickerson | 496. Wilbert S. Butler, Jr. |
| 22. Ruby Dilmore | 117. Sidney Clemmer | 212. Shirley Styers | 307. Gloria Boyd | 402. Natalie Stewart | 497. Mary Dell Wise |
| 23. Rosa L. Sanders | 118. Jean Clemmer | 213. Cheri G. Moore | 308. Glenda Kees | 403. Shawanda Elliott | 498. Terri Sykes |
| 24. Timothy Holliday | 119. Lois Gray | 214. Linda F. Anderson | 309. Rebecca Alexander | 404. Shirley Grayson | 499. Cortez Brown |
| 25. Barbara A. Beard | 120. Kathy Kirby | 215. Natalie Grisham | 310. Myrle Turman | 405. Ella F. Gentry | 500. Addie Brown |
| 26. Bernice Mills | 121. Stacey Melinda Hawkins | 216. Ralph & Doris Gillespie | 311. Jenny Thompson | 406. Betty Clark | 501. Willie M. Stancil |
| 27. Garry Gooch | 122. Carolyn Stevens | 217. Gene Turner | 312. Wynell Thompson | 407. Mary VanHouten | 502. Mary Williams |
| 28. Kay Shiers | 123. Joe B. Holmes | 218. Marvin England | 313. Linda T. Shirley | 408. Leah Pound | 503. Ollie Wooten |
| 29. Jane Walker | 124. Bonnie Howell | 219. Ann Holeman | 314. Foster C. Owens | 409. Bronwen Pollard | 504. Bettie Brown |
| 30. John L. Gates | 125. Taishevya Smith | 220. Mary Lois Moore | 315. Mattie Ann Owens | 410. Mary Salinas | 505. Wade Hardy |
| 31. Charles Coffey | 126. Laura D. Wells | 221. Nita Mathis | 316. Janie Green | 411. Bill Moore | 506. James Hudley |
| 32. Carole Shelby | 127. Kenneth Harmon | 222. Olen Moore | 317. Melvin & Kay Linton | 412. Shirley Bostick | 507. Sandy Dean |
| 33. Mr. Scott Nelson | 128. Linda Crochet | 223. Barbara Loden | 318. Paul & Elsie Bryson | 413. Kittie Edwards | 508. Herchell & Jessie McDonald |
| 34. Linda Cook | 129. Cathy Missildine | 224. Karen Britt | 319. Elizabeth Hines | 414. Helen DePriest | 509. Zach & Amie Guttery |
| 35. Angela Cook | 130. Earlean F. Williams | 225. Brenda Harvill | 320. Emily Overton | 415. Althea House | 510. Betty & Lyman York |
| 36. Molly Hodge | 131. Mary N. Faulconer | 226. Mary Robinson | 321. Lauren Harris | 416. Margaret Ray | 511. Eleanor Townsend |
| 37. Ann Kelley | 132. Mary M. McDonald | 227. Ruby Wright | 322. Lynell Garlington | 417. Harry M. Weathers | 512. Juanita Bradley |
| 38. LaCreese Willingham | 133. Ginny Luther | 228. Velma Isom | 323. Larry J. Shoemaker | 418. Michael Euer | 513. Wanda Yancey |
| 39. James & Katie Houston | 134. IvaA. Hill | 229. Marcella A. Moore | 324. Doris Carroll | 419. Opal T. Sappington | 514. Emma Gilreath Wheeler |
| 40. Elizabeth Dickerson | 135. William Pyron | 230. Everjean Parson | 325. Mrs. Bertie Wilson | 420. Hazel Cook | 515. Gary T. Wolfg |
| 41. Roger Bickham | 136. Louise Gavien | 231. Frederick Alan Jones | 326. Carolyn Perry | 421. Doris Jean Fletcher | 516. Barbara Yates |
| 42. Peggy Wroten | 137. Mark Rutherford | 232. Mary Townsend | 327. Shaquille Sanders | 422. Mrs. Mary Brannan | 517. McArthur Mullins |
| 43. Geneva Brooks | 138. Rick Bishop | 233. Michelle Simpson | 328. Evelyn M. Doss | 423. Carolyn Robinson | 518. Rosie Lee Odoms |
| 44. Carrie Wall | 139. Min Lasonnia Whitfield | 234. Lois Wright | 329. Bobbie Loggins | 424. Elsie Moore | 519. Tom Kelly |
| 45. Linda McKinney | 140. Harlen -Ruth Headley | 235. Pat Moore | 330. Tom Ainsworth | 425. Chuck Bishop | 520. Bea Hunt |
| 46. Audrey Bowling | 141. Gerry Hahn | 236. Audrey McMinn | 331. Esther Williams | 426. Mrs. Marty Danilchuk | 521. Margaret E. Johnson |
| 47. Nadine Patton | 142. Virginia B. Kissell | 237. Bobby Lively | 332. Laura & Inez Brannon | 427. Bernard Macon, Sr. | 522. Bernice Richards & Shirley Ray |
| 48. Dorsa Sparks | 143. Velva Dykes | 238. Marie Lively | 333. Nelda S. Anderson | 428. Betty Harris | 523. Catherine A. Allen |
| 49. Peggy Engel | 144. Sherry Martindale | 239. Annie Mae Pipkin | 334. Mrs. W. C. Wells | 429. Carolyn Kendrick | 524. Bonnie Howell |
| 50. Carolyn Garrett | 145. Mrs. Shelia A. Williams | 240. Debbie Eubanks | 335. Wayne Crum | 430. Willa Dean Gaddy | 525. Don Lee |
| 51. Billy Willingham | 146. Pierce Flatt | 241. Evelyn Page | 336. Buddy Parsons | 431. Dorothy Brunson | 526. Harold & Bonnie Mobley |
| 52. Juanita LeBouef | 147. Connie Fountain | 242. Ken Harris | 337. Janice Vaughan | 432. Jo Carolyn Potts | 527. Gwendalyn Gray Bryant |
| 53. Emile & Peggy Rollins | 148. Pearl Hitt | 243. Faye Stanford | 338. Dwight (Gene) Hester | 433. Jane Kuykendall | 528. Debra Sigmund |
| 54. Rosie Felton | 149. Sharon I. Rachels | 244. Deborah K. Skipper | 339. J. L. Eaton | 434. Carolyn P. Olson | 529. Michael & Estella Glover |
| 55. Dean Bass | 150. Sandra Welch | 245. John W. Knight | 340. Betty VanBuren | 435. Willam Richards | 530. Eddie Evans |
| 56. Richard L. Odom | 151. Dewayne & Brenda Dierkes | 246. Barbara F. White | 341. Merle Johnston | 436. Richard Stinnettm Jr. | 531. Linda Boone |
| 57. Donna Gulley | 152. LaJanice Barnett | 247. Mrs. Nancy Thayer | 342. Brenda Redd | 437. Gail Gurganus | 532. Mary Jacobs |
| 58. Jean Lewis | 153. Nellie Dickinson | 248. Alberta Fuller | 343. Dotsy & Jimmy Downs | 438. Booker T. Williams, III | 533. Mrs. Dean Howe |
| 59. Eunice M. Kirkwood | 154. John Hazel | 249. Carol Bonner | 344. Della M. Rhodes | 439. Meredith Feek | 534. Bobbie Hill |
| 60. Betty Stewart | 155. June Faulkner | 250. Charlotte Ritter | 345. Brenda McDougal | 440. Carol Bradley | 535. Bonnie Skates |
| 61. Ed Istre | 156. Judy Butler | 251. Vera Ashmore | 346. Myra D. Reaves | 441. Pam Deslatte | 536. Imogene Kirk |
| 62. Rachel M. Pruitt | 157. Mary Turner | 252. Kaye Wise | 347. Ben Hightower | 442. Nancy Akers | 537. Deborah Brannon |
| 63. Lloyd & Barbara Beard | 158. Merlene Scott | 253. Lois Ginn | 348. Jim Vermillion | 443. Joyce E. Parker | 538. Phyllis King |
| 64. Carla Cadden | 159. Patsy McClung | 254. Ruth Lacey | 349. Eddie D. Vermillion | 444. Theron B. Dent | 539. Angela Barrett |
| 65. Kerry Deaton | 160. Doris Humphreys | 255. Margaret N. Freeman | 350. Robert Blackmon | 445. Donna Rohm | 540. Ethel Warren |
| 66. Wilda Pounds | 161. Carolyn Harvill | 256. Nancy Floyd | 351. Linda B. Keirn | 446. Lois Nielson | 541. Mary Ellen Albritton |
| 67. Bettye Ohren | 162. Jennifer F. Gray | 257. Ima Jean Fogus | 352. Marvin Green | 447. Ora Mae Collins | 542. Marshall Kern |
| 68. Julius Lee Wales | 163. Jean Girdner | 258. Amy Mahers | 353. Melba Ogg | 448. Joe Arnold | 543. Karen Clower |
| 69. Doyce Britt | 164. Sherry Townsend | 259. Dorothy Winslett | 354. Shirley Graham | 449. Lisa Dearman | 544. William Clower |
| 70. Billye Wiygul | 165. Nettie D. Doss | 260. Miriam Styers | 355. Dianne Wiley | 450. Mary MdDonald | 545. Andrea Hopper |
| 71. Bobby Brown | 166. Carl Trimm | 261. Ruth Christian | 356. James R. Brooks | 451. Delarick Evans | 546. Pat McKinney |
| 72. Hattie Johnson | 167. Alzenia Catchings | 262. Jerry & Norma Inman | 357. Judy Crowell | 452. Doris T. Pace | 547. Oddie M. Floyd |
| 73. Bonnie Holcomb | 168. Rossie Clark Cotton | 263. Evelyn Faulkenburry | 358. Edith Winters | 453. Willene Gipson | 548. Jeff Stratton |
| 74. Bernita Booker | 169. Christine Teague | 264. Beulah Rupert | 359. Mark Williams | 454. Hattie Hooper | 549. Glenda Franks |
| 75. Patrilla Maddox | 170. AlPaulthenia Cotton | 265. Debra Michael | 360. Bodean Collum | 455. Floy I. Smith | 550. Robert H. Rone |
| 76. Carolyn Stanford | 171. Guy & Kayla Jaxzentrey | 266. Joye Hester | 361. Joyce Reich Gray | 456. Alice Dempsey | 551. Ruby Sweeny |
| 77. Dee Kepler | 172. Manuel Cotton | 267. Herschel Ford | 362. Tommy Lewis | 457. Ms. Eileen Williford | 552. Mary Lou Neal |
| 78. Brenda Taylor | 173. Lanwyn & Gloria Cotton | 268. Billy Ray Strickland | 363. Phillip Carter | 458. Patty Henson | 553. Wanda Rone |
| 79. Oretha Johnson | 174. Dio & Teresa Cotton | 269. James & Judy Hill | 364. Josie Isaacs | 459. Ms. Lucille Jackson | 554. Conrad Smith |
| 80. Sue Mason | 175. Nigel & Shelley Cotton | 270. Doris Strickland | 365. Betty Standard | 460. Fran Williford | 555. Barbara Smith |
| 81. Pat Morris | 176. Jonas & Dorothy Cotton | 271. Paul & Darlene McElroy | 366. Sue Hamrick | 461. Teresa Locke | 556. Paul Franks |
| 82. Ann McDonald | 177. Lisa Dettor | 272. Debra Lopoz | 367. Jim Nowell | 462. Norma Taylor | 557. Eddie Frith |
| 83. Paula Triplett | 178. Joyce A. King | 273. Kathie Bordelon | 368. Jeff & Debbie Shul | 463. Michael Gingerich | 558. Carol Frith |
| 84. Edward C. Nickerson | 179. Alice Humphries | 274. Jolene Dale | 369. Jerry Howard | 464. Kay Barron | 559. Jim Hopper |
| 85. Ray Parham | 180. Gail B. Saxon | 275. Lawrence Horn | 370. Cynthia Green | 465. Tommy & Peggy Shull | 560. Anthony Warren |
| 86. Frances Harrell | 181. Bernice Townsel | 276. Mary Beth Dietz | 371. Addelee Brown | 466. Prince E. Lewis | 561. Brantley Hopper |
| 87. Dahlia McAfee | 182. Doralynn Felton | 277. Dalton L. Dietz | 372. Annie Greer | 467. Alberta Craft | 562. Mary Katherine Stratton |
| 88. Laverne Coker | 183. Maggie R. Edmonds | 278. Rocky D. Dial | 373. Wilma J. Ridenour | 468. Karen Barnett | 563. Bobbie Holder |
| 89. Sarah Hill | 184. Weida Pyron | 279. Wanda Cochran | 374. Betty Spears | 469. Ione Wester | 564. Anna Lee Pruitt |
| 90. Johnny & Princess Watson | 185. Exie Motes | 280. Billie Jane Davis | 375. Sue McDaniel | 470. Millie A. Goode | 565. Ms. Clela Burnett |
| 91. Sherry Dixon | 186. Mary L. Smith | 281. Mattie Hoy | 376. James & Gloria Breckenridge | 471. Kristy Pipes | 566. Howard ? |
| 92. Danny Stacks | 187. Wm. & Atlean Snow | 282. Travis Hamilton | 377. Barbara Skrobak | 472. Etoil McDonald | 567. Melvin Wilson |
| 93. Kathie Stacks | 188. Shelia Woodard | 283. Anita Taft | 378. Michael Coleman | 473. Bonne Poore | 568. Grace Childers |
| 94. Ollye M. Rush | 189. Jeremiah Woodard, Sr. | 284. C. W. O'Kelle | 379. Hazel Perkins | 474. Mary T. Feist | 569. Evelyn Page |
| 95. Bobby E. Marques | 190. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 285. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 380. Linda K. Hughes | 475. Floyd Goode | 570. YOUR NAME next issue? |

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

The Question Box

Use **KJV** For
Wording & Spelling

The "Woman" in Proverbs

"Strange, Evil, Whorish, Foolish, Gracious, Fair, Virtuous, Wise, Brawling, Angry, Contentious and Adulterous.

What Kind of a Woman Pleases God?

In the beginning of the human race, God created two people -- a male and a female; a man and a woman. Since the beginning, every person born into the world, has had two parents -- a male and a female, a man and a woman. (See Genesis 1:26,27; 2:7,18-25)

Of all the billions born through the centuries, approximately one half have been girls (women) and one half boys (men). I find it amazing that of the present world's population of nearly 7,000,000,000, there are about 3.4 billion males and 3.4 billion females. Does this not suggest that there is some force or power at work in nature so that for the birth of every man child there is a woman child born? How could this ratio be maintained without God? (*How could anything be without God?*)

The Wise and Loving Creator displayed marvelous design when he chose to make male and female. He made us to be different for good reasons. Readers of the "Messenger" need no further comments from me!

Without a doubt, the two most influential persons in my life were/are women. One, of course -- my mother. The other, as you might guess -- my wife; my June!

May I add a brief prayer as I pause and write, "Thank you, God, for women!"

The word "woman" is used 369 times in the KJV of the Bible. And, as these occurrences clearly teach, God's wisdom is manifested and His will is accomplished, in large measure, through the life and the work of a woman.

In a recent study of the book of Proverbs, my June and I began to notice the frequent occurrence of the word "woman" and the adjectives used to describe different women. As a result, we decided to prepare a special lesson for "The QB" on "The Woman in Proverbs."

You are challenged to complete this study which will increase your wisdom as you ponder the proverbs about women. After answering the "QB", please send your answers to us. By so doing, you will increase in knowledge, grow in wisdom and you will encourage others (see page 23). If your name is drawn, you have a choice to make -- a beautiful Study Bible or a Bible study CD library for your computer. Thank you for your interest in the world's greatest book and for sending in your answers to the "QB." (alf)

Match the Woman With the Phrase that BEST Fits Her

(Correct answers are found in the following chapters in Proverbs: 2,6,9,11,14,21,25,27,30,31)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Strange Woman (Prov. 2:___) | ___ Obedience will "keep thee from" her |
| 2. Evil Woman (Prov. 6:___) | ___ "Better to dwell in the corner of an housetop" than with her |
| 3. Foolish Woman (Prov. 9:___) | ___ She is "simple and knoweth nothing" |
| 4. Gracious Woman (Prov. 11:___) | ___ She "flattereth with her words" |
| 5. Fair Woman (Prov. ___:22) | ___ She will bring a man to "a piece of bread" |
| 6. Virtuous Woman (Prov. ___:10) | ___ She "retaineth honour" |
| 7. Wise Woman (Prov. 14:___) | ___ Without discretion, she is "a jewel of gold in a swine's snout" |
| 8. Brawling Woman (Prov. 25:___) | ___ She "buildeth her house" |
| 9. Angry Woman (Prov. 21:___) | ___ "Better to dwell in the wilderness" than with her |
| 10. Contentious Woman (Prov. 27:___) | ___ She is like a "continual dropping in a very rainy day" |
| 11. Adulterous Woman (Prov. 30:___) | ___ She says, "I have done no wickedness" |
| 12. Whorish Woman (Prov. 6:___) | ___ "Her price is far above rubies" |

Fill in the Missing Words in Each Reference

- "For the _____ of a _____ woman drop as an _____, and her _____ is _____ that _____." (Prov. 5:___)
- "But whoso committeth _____ with a _____ lacketh _____: he that _____ it _____ his own _____." (Prov. 6:___)
- "A _____ woman is a _____ to her _____: but she that maketh _____ is as _____ in his _____." (Prov. 12:___)
- "It is _____ to dwell in the _____ of the _____, than with a _____ woman in a _____ house." (Prov. ___:9)
- "_____ is deceitful, and _____ is vain: but a _____ that _____ the Lord, she _____ be _____." (Prov. ___:30)

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 or A Bible Study CD Library. **You may be the one.** Send your answers to:

The Question Box
P. O. Box 1578
Kosciusko, MS 39090

"I Don't Like You!"

Have you ever had someone say "I don't like you"? Maybe they haven't come out and said those words, but they have shown by their actions or lack of action they really don't want anything to do with you.

Maybe you know of a person that for some reason you just don't like. Have you ever asked yourself, why? How do you deal with that person? What if that person is a co-worker, family member or a member of the same church? Many times, we will "depersonalize the relationship." We will do the bare minimum. We don't want to be around that person. We don't accept invitations from them and even worse, we get to the point where we totally ignore one another.

This person may have a flaw that bothers you. Experts tell us that if we don't like someone it might be because we see in that person a trait that we don't like of ourselves. To "overcome your dislike of someone else, you will need to overcome your dislike of yourself." This reason is one of three I have been told why people dislike other people. The other two are, "they want to be you which indicates jealousy and/or they see you as a threat."

We should not expect everyone to like us or want to be our friend, but we should do all we can to like and encourage everyone with whom we come in contact. We need compassion, help, forgiveness and we want to be accepted. We need to be reminded of two very important verses that should guide us in our relationships. "Be kind to one another; tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4: 32) "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Colossians 3: 12-13)

God has shown compassion and has forgiven His children. He expects us to show compassion and forgiveness and if we do that, then the person with whom we are struggling can become a real friend and we can enjoy their friendship again. If we show love to our brothers and sisters in Christ, the world will have an easier time believing what we teach. (John 13: 35)

Paul Franks, 662-792-2700, apaulfranks@gmail.com

Our New Bible Winner

407. Mary VanHouten

(DeValls Bluff, AR)

Congratulations!

A few weeks ago, my wife and I were blessed to visit the Sunday evening services of the Hollywood Road church of Christ in Houma, Louisiana. It was a privilege to deliver and present a beautiful

Study Bible to **Betty Van Buren**, our most recent Bible winner.

I'm thankful for the opportunity given me to speak to the congregation. Also grateful that **David Jones**, the preacher, accepted our invitation for him to personally present the Bible to Betty before the

congregation. Afterward the presentation, a man came up to me and said that, through Betty's influence, he was a Christian. Other comments made clear to us that Betty is considered a dedicated

Christian and the church in Houma truly loves her.

OUR Challenge to YOU:

Send in your answers to the "Question Box" and we just may show up at your congregation to present to you a beautiful new Study Bible. (Paul)



Paul Franks
Associate Editor



Betty Van Buren, David Jones