

MIRACLE MESSAGE

Vol I Num 1 Jan 26, 1985 KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST

Back home in Crow Corner. While Paula and I await God's open door of opportunity for service we have moved in with my father-in-law and mother-in-law for awhile. We have stored our furniture in my brother-in-law's trailer and know the Faith of Abraham when "he went out, not knowing whither he went" but "by faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country." (Heb 11:8-9).

My wife asked me what we were going to do with the expense of moving and the normal expenses of life hanging over our head and I told her we were going to do what we always did- we were going to trust the Lord. I've been serving the Lord for nearly 23 years now and He's yet to fail to meet my needs and I'm convinced He won't fail now either. I figure it this way, I work for the Lord and if He fails to pay me for my work I'll question Him about it in Heaven!! So I'm continuing to study and witness and work and let the Lord take care of the minor details. Isn't it exciting knowing and serving the Lord?!

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Part of that work for the Lord is putting out newsletters and, since God has wonderfully provided funds for this ministry lately, I figured I'd better get to work.

I really appreciate the kindness shown to me by the people of Shiloh. Several of them helped me load my office equipment and furniture into the van and that was a job! We had a good fellowship supper Saturday night and many braved the cold and sleet and snow to be in the last service Sunday. (The first Sunday I was at Shiloh it dropped to 8 degrees and the last Sunday I was there it did likewise- I wish I knew what that meant!). The Church will always have a special place in our heart and I pray God's Blessings on them in the future.

Our move was cold and tiring as we fought wind and ice all the way but it really got exciting about midnight when I ran out of gas. We used the car to get more gas but when I tried to crank the truck the battery was dead! We then had to go back and borrow jumper cables. But the Lord blessed even in the troubles. The people at the gas station were very nice to loan us what we needed and the truck ran out of gas right opposite a road state trucks use to cross the interstate and I didn't have to drive extra miles. It was almost like the Lord saying, "I'm sorry you don't have enough sense not to run out of gas but I'll make it as easy for you as I can." Thank the Lord He loves me in spite of myself!

"SAINTS IN WRONG PLACES"

My brothers used to tell me that I wasn't fit for anything except being a Pastor because that's all I thought of. They were right. I'm supposed to enjoy the rest but I can't. I go to town for something and wonder who's helping those lost people find Jesus so they can miss Hell. Or who's helping that discouraged Christian keep on keeping on. I study my Bible chapters each day and can't wait to share the Blessings with someone. I'm like a fish out of water because, like Jeremiah (Jer 20:9), it burns within my bones.

My situation led me to think about people in the Bible who were not where they were supposed to be.

1. Abraham in Egypt (Gen 12:10) - A Backsliding Believer. Drought brought despair so Abraham left the promised land for a more promising land and ended up telling a lie and gaining a maid that has caused us trouble every since. A backsliding believer not only loses his testimony and joy he also can gain a problem that can be a thorn in his side the rest of his life (Jud 2:3).

2. Lot in Sodom (Gen 13:12, II Pet 2:7-8) - A Silenced Witness. Lot chose circumstances over companionship and lost his testimony, his fortune, and his family.

3. David on the Housetop (II Sam 11:2) - A Lazy Saint. David should have been with his troupes but he remained behind and a restless walk on the roof led to adultery and murder. I wonder how many Christians have gotten into trouble on Sunday or Wednesday because they were too lazy to go to Church??

4. Elijah under the Juniper Tree (I Kings 19:4)- A Discouraged Worker. The battle had been hard and the opposition had become rough and Elijah left the mountain top for the Juniper tree. He was useless for God's work until he went back to the mountain and renewed his place with God.

5. Jonah in the Whale's belly (Jonah 2:1)- A Disobedient Servant. Jonah started to Tarshish instead of Nineveh and God had to "get his attention" along the way. I wonder how many people have run from God's will for their life and now must battle stormy seas to put them back on course?

6. Peter at the Fire (Luke 22:55)- A Miserable Disciple. In the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong crowd. You may be a pigeon but if you quake like a duck, act like a duck, and fly like a duck; if I can shoot you you'll be a dead duck!! Better decide who's side you're on and stay there.

A man came to Dwight Moody one time and said that every time he came to Church he was attracted to a saloon along the way. Mr. Moody asked him where he hitched his horse and he said right in front of the saloon. Mr. Moody told him to move his hitching post!!

If you're in the wrong place you need to move your hitching post and get back into service for the Lord.

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You may wonder about the name of this newsletter. My name is spelled a little funny and so my teachers used to call me "Miracle" Jones. I decided to use that play on words for a title while I was between Churches.

GRACE AND GLODY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

P O BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, S.C. 29560

PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 304-3725

Vol III Num I

Feb. 26, 1985

Where do I begin? So much has happened this past month until I don't know where to start telling it. Let's begin with the most important first- I accepted the pastorate of Grace FWB Church on Feb. 6 (What a 15th anniversary present for Paula and I!) and am so excited about what God has done and is doing until I can hardly stand it. Every day since then I have gone as hard as I can from early until late and still have a tremendous amount to do to get things in order. Painting, plumbing, unpacking, and preaching have been surrounded by changing licenses, getting car tags, changing insurance, and all of the "details" that go with a move. I don't mind it as bad this time however because, by God's Grace, I don't plan to do it again soon.

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Grace Free Will Baptist Church NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Lake City, S. C.
Permit No. 6

Things at the Church are going very well right now (I hope this "Honeymoon" last for at least 15 or 20 years!). People seem to have a desire to do a work for God and I have a desire to let them. I'm looking forward to a great work for the Glory of God in the future.

Some physical changes will be apparent soon. Thanks to the generosity of Jack and Devonne Hanna we will soon have a new pulpit, new pulpit chairs, and a new communion table. This will really help the looks of the inside of the Church. And thanks to the Men's Fellowship, we will soon have new walks for the Church and Fellowship building. This is going to be a welcome addition to the outside of the Church and when we add the paving we're talking about it will really help the beauty and comfort of the Church. (And I believe I have a right to be excited about over \$2500 worth of gifts to the Church in the past 3 weeks!!).

A number of "spiritual improvements" are also evident. There is a genuine spirit of Love and concern among the members (*Jn 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*), the Spirit's movement is evident in the services, and a number of people have set themselves to pray regularly for God to send genuine sin curing, God honoring Revival. The time of Christ's return is near and too many people are doomed for Hell to allow us to "play" Church; we want to do something while it is day before the night comes when no man can work (*Jn 9:4*). We invite you to be a part of this work for God.

Many of you will be receiving this news--letter for the first time and I welcome you to the "family". I use this ministry to inform people of what God is doing for the Church and for me (He does so much I have to tell someone!!), and to distribute Bible notes and sermons. God has greatly blessed this ministry in the past and I look for His continued Blessings. Much of the expense is contributed by individuals who feel led to do so but we never ask for anything from anyone. This is a ministry of Faith and God has yet to fail to meet it's needs. I have a bank account expecially for the newsletter and I try to pay all bills with checks so there will be accurate records of contributions and expenxes. We have received several donations in the past 3 weeks and I have tried to acknowledge each of them by personal letter. They have helped us with the inital expense of beginning the work again and I really appreciate them. (If you do not want your gift made public then please indicate so when you give it.).

I have a number of chapter by chapter Bible Study books and tapes that I will be offering in the near future. Please remember that any of this material is ABSOLUTELY FREE. If you want it don't hesitate to ask and don't worry about finances (I put it together as God supplies and so when I offer it it is already paid for.).

If your address is incorrect then please let me know. If you know of others who you think would benifit from this ministry then get me their address. I'm still in the process of getting set up so please bear with me for awhile. Hopefully, things will look better and function better soon.

VISION

Without my glasses I'm legally blind. (I can't see the chart much less the letters on it!). I try to always have an extra pair of glasses handy in case anything happens to the pair I'm wearing (Once aboard ship I was fixing an antenna on the after mast and 60 feet above a rolling deck my glasses blew off. I had to cling to the mast for dear life until someone could bring my glasses to me- they bounced from steel post to steel post and landed on a steel deck and remained unbroken). I thought of this the other day when I was riding down the road and accidentally knocked my glasses into my lap (Children, have you ever tried driving a car at 55 mph when you can't even see the hood! Now that's exciting!). I was able to immediately pick them up but it started me thinking. How many people driving down life's pathway lose their vision, wreck their lives, and end up hurting themselves, their family, or innocent bystanders?

I remember so well the excitement I felt when I first got my glasses. Slowly but surely my vision was becoming worse and as it did I kept moving closer and closer to the front of the classroom. Finally it got so bad until I couldn't even see the blackboard sitting in the front row and the teacher sent a note to my parents asking them to have my eyes checked. I'll never forget that first day when I obtained my glasses. For the first time I could see leaves on trees as we rode by and that night I saw my first star. It was so new and exciting and wonderful. Now, there are days I forget I even have them on except when they slide down my nose and aggravate me.

Isn't that the way it works with Salvation? You realize you're blinded by sin and you accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and it's so wonderful until you want to tell everyone. Everything seems different and new and full of excitement. But then time passes. You begin to take "sight" for granted. You hardly ever mention that you now can see and it becomes a little aggravating to have to avoid the sins you used to ignore because you couldn't "see" them. (If YOU have begun to take salvation for granted you need to remember where you were and return to your first love. Rev 2:5).

Not only do we take sight for granted but sometimes we begin to allow things to fog our glasses causing us to stumble and fall. It may be that we have failed to grow in God's Graces and in the knowledge of Christ and this causes our eyes to grow dim (II Pet 1:4-9). If this is the case then we need to remember that Jesus said, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (Jn 8:12)*. Don't try to "see" without your "glasses". Jesus brought you out of darkness and He must keep you out of darkness. Don't let sin "fog" your vision.

Sometimes the problem is that something gets in our eye. More often than not this eye "irritate" is a person (Ever notice how easy it is for us to see the speck of dust in our brother's eye and miss the splinter in our own? Matt 7:3). It's just so easy to look at someone else's faults and get our eyes off Jesus and our vision begins to fail. We need to remember the words of John - *he that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now (I Jn 2:9)*.

Dimmed vision, Blocked vision, and, finally, Lost vision. When we first received sight everything looked wonderful but then we began to see the dirt and disease and death all around us and sight turned from a Blessing to a Burden. (One of the sermons I'd like to hear sometime is "The Blind man one year later". In John 9 Jesus passes by a man blind from birth and heals him. "e has never received any work training and now that he can see he no longer can beg. How did he support himself? After the wonder of sight wore off how did he feel??).

This same type reaction happens to many Christians. They're saved and long to change the world and their first burst of energy shows them vast mountain peaks in the distance to be scaled for God. They set out on the journey and it is only after they have begun that they lose their vision to see the vast desert between them and the mountain. The blazing Sun withers some and they stop. The enormous distance discourages some and they turn back after a short run. Some find an oasis and never have the courage to venture back out into the burning sands. But some continue to see the mountains sparkling in the distance and, as much as they admire the beauty of the desert flowers and the comfort of the water hole, they know the danger of settling in the desert, and they continue toward their goal.

I remember when I first started preaching. I wondered why the preachers before me hadn't changed the entire world already (After all, I figured it shouldn't take me but 5 to 10 years to do it!!). Well, as you have probably guessed, it didn't work that way. The easiest thing to do was to blame other people or the times we

live in or anything else that seemed handy. Then, one day sitting in the quiet of my office going a hundred miles an hour in the "work" of the Lord my glasses fell off! I lost sight of the mountains and saw only desert. I realized I could not change the world. Every time I fixed a problem in one place another jumped up somewhere else. I began to think the mountains were mirages and hope began to falter.

That's when I heard the voice of Christ as He whispered in my ear one of the greatest truths I've ever learned- CHRIST CAME TO CHANGE THE WORLD A PERSON AT A TIME!! I had been trying to change the whole world at one sweep- and I expected them to change into what I was. I had to realize that Jesus came to save them one at a time and then to take their individuality and mold it into the overall plan of God. Christ saves People, not programs, and once they're saved they are placed as different parts of the Body of Christ so God can use THEIR part for HIS Glory.

Many Churches and Pastors are in trouble today because they have lost sight of this fact. For years they have "compared themselves among themselves" and now they are reaping the fruit of this unwise action (II Cor 10:12). Different Pastors have different personalities (I Cor 3:5-6), different churches have different personalities (Acts 17:11), and when we try to make each a carbon copy of the other we run into all kinds of problems (Ask the Pastor of that 30 member, 100 year old country church who tried to make it into a "Super" Church about personalities!!).

We must regain our vision of God's job for US and then do our part the way God called us to work and let other people fulfil their places in God's plans. Without that vision Churches and Pastors will continue to falter and fail and the work of God will continue to go undone. And the ditch that these blindly led Blind fall into is horrible beyond imagination!

Thank God, I got my vision back and I'm headed to the mountain a step at a time. It's great to be able to see. Sight shows you a lot of problems as well as pleasures but now I know that the problems are there even when you're blind- you just can't see them. Now that I can see I have a reference for my life and also the ability to see the "snakes and cactus" along the way so that I can avoid their dangers. It's great to be able to see where I'm going. It's great to be going where I'm going! Come, let's walk to the mountain together.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDER:

March 11	Ladies Aux. 7:30pm Church
March 16	Master's Men 8:00am Prosser's Cafe
March 24	Faith Promise Mission Offering Sunday
March 31	Roll Call Sunday (Last year we had 38. This year we hope to double to at least 76)
April 5	Easter Play (Going to be simply great. Don't dare miss it.)
April 7	Easter (Is this the Sunday we have 100 and Brother Ralph shows us something that has never been seen before and will never be seen again?)

GRACE AND

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GILORY

Vol III Num 2 March 6, 1985

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

PRAISE ITEMS- WALKS: I TOLD SOMEONE SUNDAY THAT I HARDLY NEEDED THE NEW WALKS AT THE CHURCH FOR I FELT I WAS "WALKING ON AIR" ALREADY. AFTER THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAD AGREED TO PURCHASE THE CONCRETE FOR THE WALKS LAST WEEK THE MAN WHO WAS GOING TO FORM AND POUR THE WALKS SAID HE WOULD DO ALL OF THAT WORK FOR FREE! SO WE'RE GETTING A LOT OF CONCRETE WORK DONE WITHOUT ANY COST TO THE CHURCH AND WITHOUT HAVING TO WORK EVERY SATURDAY FOR THE NEXT MONTH TRYING TO GET THINGS READY TO POUR THE CONCRETE. IN FACT THEY ARE WORKING ON THE WALKS EVEN AS I WRITE THIS (I KEEP WALKING OUTSIDE AND PRAISING GOD AND THEN COMING BACK TO WORK!).

WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NEW WALKS WE'LL HAVE PARKING AREA FOR MANY CARS, NOW LET'S GET THE PEOPLE TO COME TO FILL UP ALL THESE PARKING SPACES.

RADIO: WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BROADCAST OUR MORNING SERVICES OVER WJOT MARCH 17, 24, AND 31. THE LORD HAS OPENED A DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY FOR US AND WE WANT TO USE IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WE'LL HAVE THESE 3 SERVICES NOW AND 5 MORE IN THE FALL (AND MAYBE OTHERS IF WE CAN WORK IT OUT.). LET'S PRAY AND PARTICIPATE AND EXPECT GOD TO USE THESE SERVICES TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST.

SPECIAL THANKS TO DARIN MATTHEWS FOR HELPING ME BY TYPING SOME OF THE NEW ADDRESSES FOR THE NEWSLETTER. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO GET SET UP AND THINGS LIKE THIS REALLY HELP OUT.

DON'T MISS SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK. THE TEEN, YOUNG ADULT, AND ADULT CLASSES WILL HAVE A SPECIAL JOINT CLASS AND A SPECIAL LESSON THIS SUNDAY. IF YOU MISS IT YOU'LL MISS A BLESSING. (WE'LL COMBINE THIS WEEK'S LESSON WITH NEXT WEEK'S LESSON AND HAVE BOTH ON MARCH 17.).

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FISHERS OF MEN

Mark 1:17-18 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

There are 2 basic types of Fishing:

1. Net Fishing (Many at one time)- equal to preaching to a congregation
2. Line Fishing (1 at the time)- equal to personal Soul Winning

You must decide which type of fishing you want to do (You can do Both! But not normally at the same time.).

I. First, there must be A DESIRE TO FISH

- A) A Goal- Do you want to obtain Fish? (Are you satisfied with Fruit instead of Fish??)
- B) A Going- Do you want to obtain Fish bad enough to go fishing?? (Or would you rather "eat" what someone else has caught?)

II. Second, there must be A PLACE TO FISH

- A) Location: - You don't fish in the middle of a field! You have to go where the fish are.
 - Most of the time, you net fish in the ocean and line fish in rivers and lakes (Most of the time you Preach in Church and do Personal work in the highways and hedges)
- B) Likely Place- Most Fishermen have favorite "holes" that they fish at. They have learned by experience where and when to fish. (Yet I have caught fish in the most unlikely of places.)

III. Third, There must be EQUIPMENT TO FISH WITH

- A) A Text: The Roman's Road
 - No one is righteous Rom 3:10
 - All are Sinners Rom 3:23
 - The Wages of Sin is Death Rom 6:23
 - Christ loved us even as Sinners Rom 5:8
 - You must believe and confess Christ Rom 10:9-10
 - Assurance is based on God's Word Rom 10:13
- B) A Testimony- What has Jesus done for you?
 - 3 times in the book of Acts Paul's Testimony is given:
 - Once, to show the Church how he was saved
 - Second, Before a crowd that was trying to kill him
 - Finally, before Kings

Have you been fishing lately? Lots of good fishing "Holes" are available if someone wants to take advantage of them.

A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST IS A FISHER OF MEN

GRACE

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AND

GLORY

Vol III Num 3 March 14, 1985

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

COFFEE POT - The Lord continues to supply our needs. I mentioned several times that we needed a coffee pot for the Church and Danny and Beth Broach donated a brand new Mr Coffee this week. This will allow us to have more fellowship times and, also, we hope it will encourage some to come early on Sunday morning for coffee and Prayer. (My wife says she may never see me anymore since I don't have to come home for coffee now but isn't it exciting to see God supplying one need after another!).

RADIO- We're looking forward to broadcasting our 11am service over WJOT this Sunday (and the next 2 Sundays). Several sick or shut-ins have already said they plan to listen and I encourage you to let everyone know. We have planned a good program of music and Bible preaching and I pray God will use it to speak to many hearts.

WORK DAY- We will have a Church work day following Master's Men this Saturday (March 16). It will begin at 9:00am and we've got something for everyone to do. Let's make the best Church in town the best looking!!

NEWSLETTER HELP- Special Thanks to Rev. Carroll Alexander for supplying me a number of addresses and a number of pages of address labels. It really helps out now as I'm trying to get everything in order.

Thanks also to Mr and Mrs Bill McBride for a gift for this ministry as well as a number of addresses.

(If your address is incorrect or if you know of other addresses then let me know.)

TAPES- If you would like to enjoy our Sunday Morning service but you're unable to attend let me know and we'll try to send you a tape of the services. We already have several tapes of past services and we'll be glad to loan them to you.

HAVE YOU TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT JESUS TODAY?????

HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR THIS MINISTRY THIS WEEK???

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Tuesday, March 19, is my 23rd Birthday!! I was born again on March 19, 1962 and rejoice in God's marvelous Love and Grace. God took a backwoods nobody out of the swamps of Crow Corner and made him a servant of the most high God and gave him an inheritance as a son of God. I can't express what this love of God has meant- and means- to me. I deserved death; but I got life. I deserved wrath; but I got mercy. I deserved to be a slave; but He made me a son. Marvelous wonderful Grace! Unmatched, overwhelming Love!! Thank God for a faithful preacher and a concerned Church that sought out one of those "Jones boys" and told him that God loved him and would forgive him. Go and do thou likewise.
(The Senior Citizens have invited me to give my testimony Tuesday Morning at their meeting and I look forward to the Fellowship. You ought to hear these Seniors sing! They really are a Blessing.)

EVERYBODY - SOMEBODY - ANYBODY - NOBODY!!

FRED SOMEBODY, THOMAS EVERYBODY, PETER ANYBODY, AND JOE NOBODY WERE NEIGHBORS, BUT THEY WERE NOT LIKE YOU AND ME. THEY WERE ODD PEOPLE AND MOST DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. THE WAY THEY LIVED WAS A SHAME. ALL FOUR BELONGED TO THE CHURCH, BUT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ENJOYED WORSHIPPING WITH THEM. EVERYBODY WENT FISHING ON SUNDAY OR STAYED HOME WITH FRIENDS. ANYBODY WANTED TO WORSHIP BUT WAS AFRAID SOMEBODY WOULDN'T SPEAK TO HIM. SO GUESS WHO WENT TO CHURCH... NOBODY. REALLY, NOBODY WAS THE ONLY DECENT ONE OF THE FOUR. NOBODY DID THE VISITATION. NOBODY WORKED ON THE CHURCH BUILDING. ONCE THEY NEEDED A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER. EVERYBODY THOUGHT ANYBODY WOULD GET SOMEBODY TO DO IT. AND YOU KNOW WHO DID IT? THAT'S RIGHT...NOBODY. IT HAPPENED THAT A FIFTH NEIGHBOR (AN UNBELIEVER) MOVED INTO THE AREA. EVERYBODY THOUGHT SOMEBODY WOULD TRY TO WIN HIM AND BRING HIM TO CHURCH. ANYBODY COULD HAVE MADE AN EFFORT; BUT YOU KNOW WHO FINALLY WON HIM...NOBODY!!!

The Function of Faith is not to explain mysteries, but to win victories!

Many children are spoiled because you can't spank grandparents!!!
Happiness is liking what you're doing.

The thing that a married man will never understand is why all bachelors aren't rich!

Having your name on the church roll doesn't make you a Christian anymore than owning a piano makes you a musician!

Sometimes the Lord calms the storm; sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child.

GRACE

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AND

GLORY

Vol III Num 4 March 27, 1985

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

I have turned over God's "Blessing Bucket" and Blessings are running everywhere. The Lord is doing so much until I can't keep up with it all. There are projects to complete, people to visit, papers to publish, radio programs to produce, sermons to prepare, and... I love it!! It is simply thrilling to see God's purpose and power manifested time after time, day after day. How I pray God will give us wisdom and strength to use these opportunities.

THANK YOU- Mrs. Marjorie McAllister for typing addresses for the newsletter. I have received large numbers of new addresses for the newsletter (Praise the Lord!) and Mrs. Marjorie's help in getting them typed has been invaluable. With all of the other activities going on I have not been able to get the newsletter equipment set up and running smoothly yet but I keep plugging away at it and, hopefully, it won't be long until it is published regularly and with much more "meat" in it.

-To an anonymous doner for a recent contribution to this ministry. Start up expenses have been heavy but God is still in control and I praise Him for His continued Blessings.

RADIO- Many people have told me that they have listened to and enjoyed the first 2 weeks of broadcasting our Sunday Morning Worship Service and I want you to pray the God will really use this coming Sunday's broadcast to speak to people's hearts.

-The Lord is also opening doors of opportunity for me to speak on the daily morning devotion program. This is the second week in a row that I have been able to give the devotions and I'm trying to be available any time they want to use me. This is 15 minutes of free air time each day and it's much to valuable to pass up. Pray for God's continued Blessings and directions.

EASTER PLAY- The Easter Drama "I Find No Fault in Him" will be presented Friday night, April 5 at 8:00pm by members of our Church. This is a very good play with a good message. Mrs. Sylvia Gowdy is directing the play and under her watchful eye, and with all of the special effects we have, it will be a program to be enjoyed by the entire family. We are praying for a full house and for God to use it to speak to people's hearts about their relationship to Jesus Christ. Invite everyone you can and come early for a good seat.

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EASTER SERVICES:

SUNRISE SERVICE- We will have our Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday beginning at 7:00am. Weather permitting, we will have it in the lot beside the Fellowship building (Where we trust one day our new Church Building will sit!!) and it will be followed by a Fellowship Breakfast hosted by the Master's Men (They don't know that yet. I just volunteered them!).

SUNDAY SCHOOL- We will begin our Sunday School at 9:00am on this Sunday so that we can go directly from breakfast into Sunday School.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE- The Easter Worship Service will begin at 10:00am and should be over around 11:00am. This will allow people to have family get togethers without missing Services (We will not have an Evening Service). Try to bring all of your family to these Services so that they can gain the true meaning of Easter.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE WILL ALSO CONTAIN MANY SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH.

EASTER AT GRACE, A DAY NOONE WANTS TO MISS.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY- This Sunday is National Roll Call Sunday among Free Will Baptist. This is the Sunday when all of our Churches report their attendance so that the National Office can get an idea of how our denomination is growing. Our goal here at Grace is to double last year's attendance of 38 to 76. It's a goal we can reach but it will take everyone attending and working to invite others to attend.

Remember also that Brother Ralph has promised to show us something that has never been seen before and that will never be seen again this Sunday at the beginning of Sunday School.

Pray, Invite, and come expecting a Blessing.

EGG HUNT- The Teen Sunday School Class will host an Easter Egg Hunt for ages 2-11 on Saturday March 30th from 2:00pm until 3:30pm. The Children are asked to bring 3 colored eggs with them. All Children are urged to come and join the fun.

FLOWERS- If you will provide an Easter Lily for use during the Easter Play on Friday Night and the Easter Sunday Services then contact Paula or I (394-3725) so we will know how many to expect. We need as many as we can get- and they make great gifts for the sick or shut in or to place on a family grave afterwards.

We will probably also need some "greenery". Contact Mrs. Marjorie if you would like to help in this area. (This is for the Play on Friday Night).

I Corinth 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Col 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself;

GRACE

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D

GLORY

Vol III Num 5 April 4, 1985

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

ATTENDANCE- The Lord blessed with a very good attendance Sunday and I praise the Lord for the work put forth. We did not reach our goal of 76 in Sunday School (We had 67- I told Brother Ralph he just got the numbers reversed!) but we did have 79 in the preaching service and the movement of the Lord's Spirit was very evident.

Now that we have cracked the "50 barrier" 2 weeks in a row it's time to start looking for that "100 mountain peak". We can do it and, by God's Grace, we will do it.

GIFT- Special Thanks to the McBrides for a gift to this ministry and for a large number of addresses. We're always glad to add new people to our "family".

EASTER DRAMA- "I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM" will be presented at the Church this Friday (April 5) at 8:00pm. This Drama depicts the trial of Jesus from the viewpoint of Pilate and shows clearly the choice everyone must make about Jesus Christ. Pilate finds (as we all must) that it was he that was on trial and not Jesus. The characters, the scenery, and the special effects all combine to provide entertainment for the entire family with a real meaning so invite all of your family (especially the lost) and remember to join us in a special day of Prayer for the program on Friday. Special Music will be provided by Mrs. Camille Scott.

EASTER DAY

We will have a Special order of Service on Easter Sunday so please note the times and be here for all of the Services.

(We will not have Evening Services on Easter Sunday.)

7:00AM SUNRISE SERVICES BESIDE THE FELLOWSHIP BUILDING. SPECIAL MUSIC, TESTIMONIES, AND REJOICING TOGETHER AROUND THE WORD OF GOD AS WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

8:00AM BREAKFAST: FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL- "THE EFFECT OF THE RESURRECTION"

10:00AM EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE- THE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL PRESENT VARIOUS PARTS BETWEEN THE SONGS AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY.

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1003 348 Lawrence St
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It was a dark, desperate, despairingly deadly day. The man who had fed the hungry, healed the sick, and even claimed to be the Son of God was hanging on a cross dying as a common criminal among other criminals. He had claimed to be the way to God but one of his own had betrayed him, the highest religious court in the land had convicted him, and the common people had chosen a murderer instead of him. Even nature had seemed to turn her back on him as darkness covered the sun and the earth trembled and shook. No wonder he had cried out to God asking why he was forsaken.

What a horrible way to die! Forsaken by his friends, railed on by his enemies, without help or (seemingly) without hope, and even with God's face turned away. What could bring a man to such a death? Why would Jesus willingly walk to Calvary? How could He face such an inglorious end to his life and ministry? The answers are the heart of the Christian message.

1. What could bring a man to such a death? SIN Not His own (for He was sinless) but yours and mine. *All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God (Rom 3:23) and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) so God made him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Cor 5:21).* The next time you think your sin is small and matters not then you need to look to Calvary and see how much of a Penalty was paid for it!!

2. Why would Jesus willingly walk to Calvary?? LOVE God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8). Such love overwhelms me. God didn't wait for me to get better or even to stop sinning. Jesus loved me in spite of it and offered to pardon me if I'd just accept by Faith His payment of my sin debt. How can He love me so much when we serve Him so little? How can we serve Him so little when He loves me so much??

3. How could He face such an inglorious end to his life and ministry? HOPE. He knew the tomb could not hold him. He looked beyond the momentary to the permanent. He knew that the end was the beginning. He knew God had a plan and He was doing His part of it. He knew that the defeat of His death would become the Victory of His life and death would be swallowed up in victory. *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinth. 15:54-57).*

If you're in the will of God don't worry about the crowd's approval, or life's conditions, or changing circumstances; just remember that God will never do wrong and He WILL be victorious in the end. PRAISE THE LORD!!

GRACE

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, S.C.
PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

AND

G L O R Y

Vol III Num 6 April 16, 1985

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

Easter Services were a real Blessing in the Lord and I appreciate everyone's cooperation. The Easter Drama on Friday night went very well and I appreciate the work everyone put into making the program such a success. The Sunrise Service was well attended and the breakfast was great. We had our largest attendance in Sunday School that we've had in a long time (72) and the young people did an outstanding job with their presentations during the worship service. I wish I could name all of the people that worked on these various projects but I'd probably leave several off so let me just say that I am very thankful for the effort everyone put into the work.

BLESSING- Special Thanks to the Marion Cokers, Bill McBrides, and David Browns for their recent gifts to this ministry. With the number of newsletters we are presently mailing it cost around \$25 each time and that depletes our funds fairly rapidly but the Lord continues to meet the needs week after week.

I'm praying about an electronic stencil cutter to help relieve some of my work. A new one cost around \$1500 but the Lord may have a used one somewhere for us.

I can list physical gifts to this ministry but there is no way to tell about the encouragement, prayers, and concern that others give every week. It simply amazes me the number of people that are touched by the newsletter and the concern they show. Keep those prayers coming!!

BROADCAST- We will again be broadcasting our Morning Service over WJOT this Sunday (April 21) and the next. The Lord really used these programs in March and I ask you to help me pray that they would reach many in our community for Christ. I plan to speak on "Hope" this Sunday Morning. We'll look at What Hope is, Who needs Hope, and How to obtain Hope. In a world where so many people have given up hope I feel it's a very needful message and I invite you to join us here at Grace for this and all services.

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00am MORNING EVANGELISTIC SERVICE 11:00am
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00pm WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING 7:30pm

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BOOKS- IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE NOTES ON THE FIRST 3 CHAPTERS OF NEHEMIAH IN AN EARLIER MAILING FEEL FREE TO WRITE AND ASK FOR THEM. THE COMPLETE CHAPTER BY CHAPTER NOTES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SOON. ALSO AVAILABLE ARE CHAPTER NOTES ON THE BOOKS OF I TIMOTHY, JAMES, GALATIANS, PROVERBS, I THESSALONIANS, AND REVELATION. YOU ARE WELCOME TO ANY OR ALL OF THESE SIMPLY BY ASKING FOR THEM. THERE IS NO COST FOR ANY OF THESE HELPS.
(Many Pastors adapt these notes for their own church use and they are welcome to do so. If you have means to copy the notes then I ask that you get a copy and make copies from it. If you do not have a means to get copies then simply tell me how many copies you can use and I'll supply them for you.)

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OPEN MY EYES

Lord, open my eyes and show me the need
Of souls in bondage that need to be freed.
The whole world's a field of souls that are lost
That need to be reached whatever the cost
If I can't go, then I must stay,
But my job's important for I can pray.
And I must give so that others can go
Into the lost world your love to show.
Yea Lord, open my eyes and show me the need
To serve you Lord, in word and in deed.

Mrs. Iris Ziglar, Bratt, Fl.

GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE

Give what you have,
be it little or much.
If you can't write a book
You can still keep in touch
With someone "out there"
Who is eager to hear
From a friend. So send them
A message of Cheer!
If you can't preach a sermon,
No doubt you can smile,
And perhaps make somebody's
Life worth the while.
Or just a small touch
In the hour of despair
On someone's faint arm
Will show that you care.

You may not be elected
To congress or sit
At a banqueting table
Presiding with wit;
But do not give up
Or sadly deplore
The things you can't do.
God made you for
A special assignment
That you - only you
Of all other people
On earth can do!!

Alice Hansche Mortenson

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

"Facing the Problems that come with building"

The Work has begun. The Wall is being built. BUT... And that's the way it always is. As soon as the Lord's work begins Satan begins also. Chapters 4-6 show us some of the various ways Satan uses to try to stop us from building the walls.

Chapter 4- Outward Force

Chapter 5- Money and People Problems

Chapter 6- Deception and Division

Chapter 4 Outward Force to stop the building of the Walls.

I. SCORN 1-6

A) The Reason for the Scorn- Anytime you try to do a work for the Lord you can expect opposition. Satan is at war with God and he's determined to defeat God thru defeating God's people. As long as God's people are content to live defeated lives behind broken walls then Satan will leave them alone but as soon as they begin to build for God Satan becomes angry and tries to stop the work.

B) The Route of the Scorn-

1. The supposed impossibility of the task- "Will they revive the stones"

2. The weakness of the workers- "These feeble Jews"

3. The Dependence on Divine Help- "will they sacrifice so that God will accomplish in a day what has not been accomplished in years."

4. The poor quality of the work- "If a fox walk on the wall it will fall down"

C) The Reaction to the Scorn- Prayer and continued work
vs 6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together, unto the half thereof; for the people had a mind to work.

II. FORCE 7-23 The walls are half completed now and the enemy realizes that scorn is not enough-taunts now become threats.

A) The Characteristics of the Opposition

1. Combined- "They conspired, all of them" (Sanballat, Tobiah, Arabians, Ammonites, Ashdodites) *vs 7-8* Is it not remarkable how many "enemies" will become friends to defeat God's work? (See Pilate and Herod *Luke 23:12*).

2. Angry- They were very wroth *vs 7* Why were they angry? Because the walls were going up! They should have rejoiced in their neighbors good fortune but instead they became angry.
In 3:20 For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

3. Wily- "They shall not know, neither see" *vs 11*
Remember that sometimes Satan is an "angel of light" (*II Cor 11:14*) and sometimes a Wolf in sheep's clothing (*Matt 7:15*). If we are to defeat Satan we must not be ignorant of his devices (*II Cor 2:11*).

4. Ruthless- "to slay them and cause the work to cease" vs 11 Satan's goal is to destroy the Christian and cause God's work to cease. REMEMBER THAT!!

B) The Method of the Opposition

1. Force 7-9
2. Discouragement 10
3. Rumors 11-13

C) The Answer to the Problem

1. Watch and Pray vs 9 (See Matt 26:40-41)
2. Encourage yourself in the Lord vs 14 God is still on the Throne! Remember that! He is more powerful than Satan.
3. Teamwork- Some work while others watch. Get a prayer partner to share the burden.
4. Preparation- Work with a weapon in hand. Keep on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18)
5. System- A trumpet call in case of trouble vs 19-20 Phone Prayer Group to handle emergency needs.
6. Fellowship- They all dwelt within the city vs 22. Sometimes you need the "courage of the crowd". Jesus said he would never leave or forsake us. And when we are saved we joined with other Christians as part of His Body.

If we are to continue building the wall today we must:

- Pray unceasingly
- Watch against encroachments of sin in our lives
- Wield the sword of Scriptural truth against sin and error
- Build up the walls of God's spiritual Zion by daily witnessing for Christ.

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

"Facing the Problems that come with Building"

Chapter 5- Money and People Problems

Nehemiah has faced the outward enemies that tried to stop the work of God and, having overcome them, the wall continues to be built.

Now Satan lets loose the termites of greed and division to try to stop the work from within. WE need to remember that the seed that survived Satan and the Sun was rendered fruitless by the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things (Mk 4:14-19) and that Jesus was finally betrayed for 30 pieces of silver! The early Church had to elect Deacons because some of the widows didn't think they were getting their "fair share" (Acts 6) and it is money problems (that turn into People problems) that hinders much of God's work today.

Let's learn how Nehemiah meets and overcomes this problem so that the work of God can continue.

I. THE MONEY PROBLEMS vs 2-4

Many of the people were having financial difficulties because of:

A) Charity vs 2 They had given of their substance to help the helpless (One of the marks of Christianity is that those with the least tend to give the most to those in need (See II Cor 8:2 and remember the widow's mite)). Christian love means that we share with others (I Jn 3:17) but many times it seems to catch us at a very bad time.

B) Circumstances vs 3 There was a drought that had depleted the farmers income while raising the price of food.

C) Collection of taxes vs 4 The king's tax burden was becoming more and more severe while money was more and more scarce.

II. THE PEOPLE PROBLEM vs 1-7 The Money problem developed into People problems.

A) Destroying Unity (Division among the Brethren) vs 1 Because some had and some did not there were feelings of resentment and division among the people.

B) Destroying Family (Placing Children into Bondage) vs 5 Their poverty had forced some to sell their Children into bondage (Not like slavery; this was an indenture to teach a Child a trade) and now they were unable to pay off their indenture payments. (How many parents today must take a second job or an outside job to give their children "things" and fail to give them what they really need- a home???)

C) Destroying Home and Hope (Loss of land and possessions) vs 5 The people had to sell everything to pay their debts. Now they had nothing to work for or with.

D) Destroying Compassion (Greed among the Group) vs 7 Some were taking advantage of the misfortune of others to charge high interest on loans and this was compounding the problems.

III. THE ANSWER vs 8-13

A) Remember what we did- vs 8 We redeemed them from the bondage of the enemy, will we put them in bondage to a Friend? (The freedom of many of the Israelites had been purchased from Babylonian captivity and now they were being enslaved for debts to their brethren.)

B) Remember those who observe us- vs 9 "Ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies"? Better to suffer wrong than do wrong (I Cor 6:7).

C) Remember the Leader's sacrifice vs 10 We might have had but we didn't (The leaders of the people had a right to expect the people to support them as they labored for the people but they had not done so. See Paul's example in I Cor 9:15.)

D) Restore the situation vs 11-13 Nehemiah asked the people to restore the land and vineyards they had confiscated and to allow the people to repay their debts interest free. This principle of restitution is a sadly missed part of Christianity today (See Luke 19:8).

THE EXAMPLE OF NEHEMIAH vs 14-19

1. He forsook his rights as governor
2. He did not take what the former governors took
3. He worked on the walls instead of buying land for personal use.
4. He helped feed others in need.

Sometimes it is so easy to let Finances come between us and Family, or Friends, or Faithfulness to God. Remember that *the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (1 Tim 6:10). A good solgan to remember is "Use money and Love People-- Don't Love money and Use People."

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

"Facing the Problems that come with Building"

Chapter 6 - Deception and Division

The Wall is completed except for some minor details but the enemy won't give up. They have tried to attack the work from without (Chapt 4) and from within (Chapt 5) and now they seek to attack by distracting the Leader or dividing the people.

The methods Nehemiah uses to overcome these problems show us how we should persist in the work of the Lord in spite of every method the Devil throws at us.

I. DISTRACTION 6:1-4

Problem- The enemy tries to get Nehemiah to leave the work and meet. Sounds innocent enough but Nehemiah knows that it is just a trick (as Christ could see thru the questions of the Scribes and Pharisees) to distract him from his real purpose. (You would be surprised to learn how many Pastors get so busy "Pastoring" until they can't get prepared to Preach! Or how many teachers allow everything in the world to come between them and study.)

Today Satan tries to distract us from God's Purpose for our lives by: (Mark 4:19)

1. The Cares of this world- Pressure of life overcomes Purpose
2. The Deceitfulness of Riches- Profit replaces Purpose
3. The Lust of other things- Personal Pleasure outweighs Purpose

NOTE- It was not wrong for Nehemiah to meet. But it was wrong to allow the meeting to take him from God's purpose for him. Most of the things that separate us from God's Purpose for our life are not wrong in themselves (Lu 14:18-20 Buying land and oxen or getting married) but they become problems because they distract us from our main job. (Example of lighthouse keeper who gave away his oil to worthwhile causes until he did not have enough to keep his light burning on a stormy night and many ships were lost).

Answer- 1. Definite Purpose vs 3 "I am doing a great work" Paul said, "This one thing I do" (Phil 3) and Christians ought to realize that God has called them to a specific task and they will answer for how they handle that task. The Body Principle of Christianity means that we don't have to do everything but we need to do what we're supposed to do well. **DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO???**

2. Dogged Persistence- 4 times Nehemiah answered the same way Once you know what you're supposed to do, Keep at it!! No matter how many times Satan tempts you to give up and accept a secondary goal keep on til you accomplish God's perfect purpose for your life. Don't start out chasing deer and end up chasing rabbits!!

II. SLANDER 6:5-9

Satan is a liar and the father of it (Jn 8:44) and he is the accuser of the Brethern (Rev 12:10). Since Distraction would not work Nehemiah's enemies decided to send an "open letter" slandering Nehemiah. (The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me" may sound good but those who have been deeply wounded by slander and gossip know that words hurt worst than wounds. Do YOU do Satan's bidding by accusing the Brethern with gossip??).

Answer- Prayer and Proclamation of the Truth. Don't allow the Slander to distract you (You don't stop your car because of a barking dog!!). Tell the Truth to those who will listen (Many won't because they WANT to believe bad) and then ask God to work things out and give you the strength to keep on doing right.

III. FALSE PROPHET 6:10-14

Nehemiah visits one of the shut-ins and finds him to be a False Prophet. He tells Nehemiah to escape death by going into the Holy Place of the temple but Nehemiah knows that God has said that only Priest could go there and death was the penalty for disobedience. Instead of saving his life he would have forfeited it!

Answer- Perception. Remember that "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor 11:14) and we need to learn to be "Fruit Inspectors" (Matt 7:15-20). We also need to learn to compare scriptures with Scriptures. (Satan quoted but wrongly applied Scripture when he tempted Christ.)..

IV. PROBLEMS 6:15-16

Building by it's very nature encounters and overcomes Problems. Don't expect a "bed of roses" without a few thorns- but don't hesitate because problems may be encountered.

Answer- Performance. When the enemy cast all his problems our way and we continue steadfastly to do our job for God the enemy will be "much cast down in their own eyes" and God will get the Glory.

V. DIVISION 6:17-19

The problem with Problems is that they generally turn into personality conflicts that make people "chose sides" and people find it hard to stand against family regardless of the "right" in the issue. Nehemiah faced this problem caused by personal preference and family loyalty and it continued even after the original reason for the problems had ended. The walls were completed and Tobiah had no reason to continue his "fight" but he continued to send notes and keep up a "following" of family members.

Answer- Patience. Everything Nehemiah said or did was held up for examination by a critical court. Nehemiah had to simply keep on keeping on and remember that the ultimate judgment will come from God.

When Problems come your way as you labor for the Lord:

(1) Don't get side tracked from your purpose, (2) Don't let slander defeat you, and (3) Don't sin because others have. Stand, and having done all, Stand (Ep 6:13)

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

Chapter 7 "Preserving the Gains"

The walls were complete, Nehemiah is finished building a Project and will soon begin building a People. But the Problem that comes with completing a project is that people tend to relax, let down the guard, and allow the enemy to destroy their gains.

The Greatest Danger you'll face is when you complete a project. Most Pastors leave churches when a project is completed; most dieters "gain their losses" when they reach their diet goal; and Israel gained and lost a land because they failed to continue to walk with the Lord. The book of Hebrews was written to a people who had started out well but were in danger of losing everything because they did not continue in the Faith. Paul told the Galatians *Ye did run well, who did hinder you that you should not obey the truth? (Gal 5:7)*. When a man had the demons cast out of him but he did not preserve the gains Jesus said the last state of that man was worst than the first (Matt 12:43-45).

We need to learn how to face and overcome the dangers that come with a completed project and then learn how to go forward to greater heights. Nehemiah tells us this in this chapter.

I. PARTICIPTION vs 1 & 2. Those who sit on the sidelines are the first to fall. (Wolves try to pull down the strays!!).

A) If you attend Church spasmodically then you may have dropped out for a length of time before you are missed.

B) If you attend but refuse to get involved you find it easy to miss. Participation:

1. Builds Faith- *Jn 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God...*

Jm 1:22 BE ye doers of the word, and not hearers

2. Bears Fruit- If you abide in the vine you'll bear fruit

3. Brings Feelings- You will feel needed and wanted.

What can you do?? Porters- Greeters at the door

Singers- Specials, choir, etc.

Levites- Teachers: Sunday, Wed. VBS...

Who will we chose??

a. Faithful- It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful (Ex. of bank clerk who lost job for hiding 2 pads of butter under his bread to keep from paying for them.). In the parable of the talents the man who used his talents faithfully was the one who got the reward.

b. Feared God- Dreaded to fail God, Desired to Please God.

Basically a Faithful Christian who has proved himself (Lay hands suddenly on no man- needs to attend Church 6 months before given a position of responsibility.). This does not mean they cannot Participate. It means they need to Prepare before they accept a position of leadership.

II. PERCAUTIONS vs 3 You not only need Guidelines for Participation but you also need to set up some Guards.

A) Guard the Gate- This is how the enemy will try to come into the city. Eye gate, ear gate, mouth gate- Do you guard what you see, what you hear, and what you say?? Eve listened to Satan, looked at the fruit, and tried to debate with Satan (He can give you a justification for everything you want to do!).

B) Guard the Group- Everyone was on watch= care one for another
Everyone watched from his own house= Personal Involvement. (Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Gal 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.)
We are individual members of the Body of Christ. We guard ourselves to keep from hurting others, we guard others to keep from hurting ourselves.

III. PLAN vs 4-73 Guidelines and Guards aren't enough; you also need Growth (You can't hold your own. If there is no growth there is decay.)

A) Prepare another Goal. The project needed people and Nehemiah sets out to populate the city. (See 11:1 where they eventually decide to bring 1/10 of the population to Jerusalem).

He who aims at nothing generally hits it. A ship without a helm will run on the rocks. (Ex. of man in Timmonsville who broke his steering as he crossed the railroad track and, out of control, killed a man walking beside the road.).

Example- Goal: become regular in Church
add Goal: become involved in Church work
add Goal: Study Bible to aid in Church work
add Goal: Regular Prayer for Power for Work.

B) Look at your resources- In this case Nehemiah listed the people so he could know who he had available. (What can you do?? What will you do??)

3 things you can do with Nehemiah's list of people:

1. Analyse it. This is the list of people who came from Persia to Palestine in 536 BC with Zerubbabel: vs 1-7 leaders, 8-25 people by families, 26-38 people by cities, 39-42 Priest, 43-45 Levites, 46-56 Temple servants, 57-60 Solomon's Servants, 61-63 Those without genealogy, 66-67 Total people, 68-69 Total animals, 70-73 Gifts Given.

2. Agonize over it. This is supposed to be the same list as Ezra 2 but there are a few differences (Did some die along the way? Did some join at the last minute?). So today they that compare themselves among themselves are not wise (II Cor 10:12). (I can't preach like Billy Graham but I don't have to answer for Billy Graham. I have to answer for Mike Jones!!).

3. Apply it.

A) God remembers what you do- Woman who anointed Jesus' feet

B) God records Who you are- Is your name in the Lamb's book of life???

Preserve the Gains- Watch

Prepare to Grow- Have a Plan

Ponder your place in God's list- What will God put beside YOUR name?? (Achan was remembered as the troubler of Israel!! I Chron 2:7)

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GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

April 24, 1985 Vol III Num 7

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

CONFERENCE REPORT-

- DECIDED TO PAVE PARKING ALONG THE WALK IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH AND BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND PARSONAGE. SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING LOOKED AT AND A DECISION SHOULD BE MADE SOON.
 - ELECTED MARJORIE MCALLISTER, ALTHEA COKER, AND RALPH MCALLISTER AS NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEW TEACHERS.
 - DECIDED TO SEEK BIDS ON HAVING THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH AND PARSONAGE PAINTED.
 - SET OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY/HOME COMING FOR SEPT 15.
- MANY OF OUR PROJECTS WILL BE GEARED TOWARD THIS SPECIAL EVENT. BY HOME COMING WE HOPE TO HAVE NEW PARKING TO GO WITH NEW WALKS, FRESH PAINT ON EVERYTHING, NEW WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH, A NEW BACK ON THE PIANO, AND NEW PULPIT FURNITURE. (WE ALSO HOPE TO HAVE A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE TO WORSHIP GOD WITH!!).

HAPPENINGS THIS SUNDAY-

- TIME CHANGE. REMEMBER THAT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS THIS SUNDAY. DON'T BE LATE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL. (A GOOD LESSON THIS SUNDAY. THE OUTLINE OF THE LESSON IS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAPER.).
- FAITH PROMISE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS FOR APRIL. EVERYONE CANNOT GO BUT EVERYONE CAN BE FAITHFUL TO GIVE.
- RADIO, WE WILL AGAIN BROADCAST OUR WORSHIP SERVICE OVER WJOT. (LAST SUNDAY'S MESSAGE ON "HOPE" IS AVAILABLE FROM OUR TAPE LIBRARY FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BORROW IT.).
- THE CRAIG CRIBB SINGERS WILL PROVIDE THE SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SUNDAY. GOD HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO US IN OUR SERVICES LATELY. COME JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP GOD.

MEMORIAL- THE BILL MCBRIDE'S GAVE A MEMORIAL GIFT TO THIS MINISTRY IN MEMORY OF ROBERT PARKER. WE REALLY THANK THEM. REMEMBER THAT FLOWERS FADE BUT THE WORD OF GOD LAST FOREVER.

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CHRISTIAN SERVICE: THE SINNERS ROM 12:14-21

This is our third lesson on the results of Dedication ourselves to God as found in Romans 12.

The first part dealt with the Self vs 1-8 (Dedicate yourself, Discover your gift, and Develop your gift).

The second part dealt with the Saints vs 9-13 (A selfless Affection, a spiritual Ardor (zeal), and a sharing Attitude).

Today we are going to deal with our relationship to Sinners as a result of our dedication to God. The Christlike spirit we will talk of is not easy nor natural but it is right and every Christian should seek for the Holy Spirit to produce it in their lives. We are going to find we need the right attitude if we are to have the right actions.

I. THE TROUBLERS vs 14 Our attitude toward those who trouble us should be to seek their good (Bless) instead of their harm (curse). Remember that Doctrine determines Duty. If "God commended his love toward us while we were yet sinners" (Rom 5:8) then our duty is to do likewise. What is your attitude toward those who trouble you??

II. THE TROUBLED vs 15 Next is our attitude toward those who are troubled (whether saint or sinner). Sadly, we are more inclined to jealousy than rejoicing when someone receives good and we are more inclined to joy than sorrow when someone receives bad. Paul said that "Love envieth not" (I Cor 13:4) and it is EMPATHY (To feel with. Sympathy is to feel sorrow for) that we need instead of envy! What is your attitude toward the troubled??

III. THE TROUBLE vs 16 The problem with our attitude is our mind-set. We are set on self instead of serving. Paul list 2 helps:

1. The Harmonious Mind- The same philosophy and purpose= Christ.
2. The Humble Mind- Not seeking self exaltation but service to all. Realizing you don't "know it all".

Phil 2:5-7 Let his mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;

IV. THE TEST vs 17-21 Our attitude will determine our Actions

A) The Way you live with Trials vs 17

If you return evil for good that is devil-like

If you return evil for evil and good for good that is manlike

If you return good for evil that is God like.

We are not to "Pay BACK" (Recompense) evil for evil but to provide a life style that will allow us to face persecution as trial and not as truth!! (See I Pet 4:14-16).

B) The Way you act in Trials vs 18-21

1. Negative- No vengeance. If I am forced to act by the world's actions then the world is my boss!!

2. Positive- Help your enemy: no way to win a conflict but maybe the way to win a soul!!

BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

THE WORLD SAYS	AN ENEMY	THE WORD SAYS
- HATE		- BLESS
- STRIKE BACK		- LIVE AT PEACE
- SEEK REVENGE		- FEED HIM
- NEVER FORGIVE		- GIVE HIM DRINK

GRACE

AND

G L O R Y

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, S.C.
PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

May 8, 1985 Vol III Num 8

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

SPECIAL SPEAKER- Rev. Ronnie Jones, Pastor of Black River FWB Church of Andrews will be our guest speaker this Sunday Night (May 12) at 6:00pm. Finish up Mother's Day on a good note by bringing the entire family to Church Sunday Night to Worship with us in this special service.

HYMNTIME- The Lord has opened the door to allow me to announce Hymntime over WJGT here in Lake City from 9:00am-10:00am each week day. This is a tremendous opportunity to share the good news of the Gospel with our community every day and I covet your prayers. It adds to an already full work load but I trust God for the needed strength. I am basically allowed to play and say what I want so I'm trusting God to give me wisdom to uplift the name of Christ in this area.

(Don't let this cause you to hesitate if you need me. First Guideline we established was that I could not come in or could leave anytime I was needed for Church work.)

LADIES AUX. NEWS- The Ladies Aux. will sponsor a Mother/Daughter Banquet in the Church Fellowship Building Monday, May 13 at 7:30pm. Contact Mrs. Susan Spring if you need more details. - We will receive a special offering this Sunday Night (May 12) for the Ladies Aux. to help them as they seek to purchase a new refrigerator for the Fellowship Building.

GIFTS- I'm happy to acknowledge gifts to this ministry from Mrs. Carrie Huggins and Mrs. Susan Springs. Mrs. Carrie cleans the Church each week and I can't tell how much I appreciate her sharing in this work. Mrs. Susan had a yard sale and gave me part of her profit. Over and over God moves on people's hearts to help this ministry and I sit in awe of His ways of working out our needs. Ain't God Good! I trust YOU will continue to Pray for this newsletter ministry and for the new Radio work. God continues to bless physically and spiritually at the Church and I believe part of it is our desire to reach out in every way possible with the Gospel.

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GROWING UP FOR GOD

Luke 2:39-52

Parents are often puzzled about how to raise their children for the Lord and they wish they had a "Guide book" to help them. The Bible has a lot of principles to go by but the greatest example to follow is that of the Lord Jesus himself.

A few observations:

1. The proper place (location) for the Child is important- God wanted Christ raised in Nazareth and not Jerusalem or Bethlehem so He arranged for him to be driven out.

2. Financial Security is not necessary for proper growth- a) the offering when Christ was presented at Temple was the least expensive indicating the poverty of family. b) a carpenter in a small city such as Nazareth would not make much. c) Joseph is not mentioned after Christ is 12 so he probably died before Christ was 30.

3. God Like Living by the Parents is needful: a) his parents went to Jerusalem each year for Passover (vs. 41). b) Mary was called "Highly favoured" by the angel (1:28). c) Joseph was called a "just" man Mt 1:19 (Do you pray about WHERE and HOW you live?? Do you think it's more important to let the Child have the latest toys than for the mother to be home guiding him as she should??)

I. BEFORE 12 vs 40 He grew, waxed strong in spirit, was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

1. Grew- Proper food, exercise, home care, etc.
2. Waxing strong in spirit- He knew the Word of God and the Father vs 40
3. Filled with wisdom- Educated (Jesus knew at least 3 languages: Read from Hebrew scroll, talked in Aramaic, and talked with Pilate in Greek.)
4. Grace of God was upon Him- God helped parents raise him!!!

II. JESUS AT 12- He had had his Bar Mitzvah and was now a "Son of the Law". This meant he was now to take an active part in discussing the Scriptures.

- He was interested in learning from the scholars at the temple
- His understanding astonished the doctors at the temple
- He realized at this early age the need of being about the Father's business.

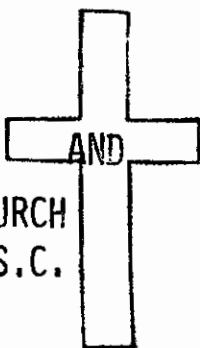
(He was so usually obedient that His parents just assumed He was with them in the crowd when they left Jerusalem.)

III. JESUS FROM 12-30 He lived in Nazareth and was subject to his Parents (Even though they did not have as clear an understanding of His purpose as He did!!!). He increased in:

1. Wisdom- Mental Maturity (Paid attention to what he saw, studied)
2. Stature- Physical Maturity (Played, worked, etc.)
3. Favor with God- Spiritual Maturity (Studied the Word- needed when he began his ministry and was tempted! Regular in Church Luke 4:16)
4. Favor with man- Social Maturity (Able to "mingle" with people. First miracle at Wedding, Often had "fellowship suppers".)

Today we need to help each child realize that God has a Plan for their life; help them develop mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually; and look to God for the help needed to raise them right.

GRACE



GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, S.C.

VOL III NUM 9
JUNE 5, 1985

BUSY BUT BLESSED! The past month has been very very busy but the Lord has continued to guide and Bless thru it all. I told someone the other day that I was tired of being a "building Overseer", I'm ready to become a Preacher again! I have had to stay right around the Church for the past 4 weeks with all the work we've had going on and there have been a lot of long days and short nights. But I praise the Lord for His sustaining Grace thru it all. The results were well worth the effort. (A Special word of Thanks to Marion Coker and Marion Lowder for their invaluable help and advice during this work. I know if it's wrong after it's finished. They know how to keep it from going wrong in the beginning.).

The Church, Fellowship Building, and Parsonage have all been repainted on the outside (and look much much better). The cement part of the parking is finished (125 yards of concrete!) and we hope to get the asphalt part completed soon. (Now if we can just get cars to park in all those spaces!). We put down an 18 ft. strip 172 ft. long in the front and a 40 ft. strip 110 ft. long on the side plus a pad for a car port and a short walk. People ought to be able to park now without wading thru mud or wet grass. Now comes the hard part- paying for all that concrete! (But, as I told someone the other day, God has already given us that much money already this year for other projects and I believe He can do it again.).

The new windows for the Sanctuary are being installed even as I write this and we hope the new pulpit furniture will be here soon. When we get thru with everything things will look very nice and all the new people we're looking for will think it's always been this way!!

REV MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

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REVIVAL



REV. JEFF HART, EVANGELISTIC

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

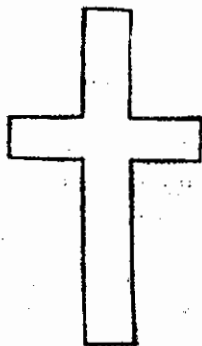
SUNDAY JUNE 9 - WED. JUNE 12

SUNDAY 6:00PM MON-WED. 7:30PM

COME AND BRING A FRIEND

GRACE

VOL III NUM 10



GLORY

JUNE 17, 1985

WE HAD A GOOD REVIVAL WITH REV. JEFF HART OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE. NO ONE WAS SAVED (AND MY HEART ACHES OVER THAT) BUT BROTHER JEFF PREACHED GOOD MESSAGES AND THE CHURCH PARTICIPATED VERY WELL. MAY GOD USE THIS TO SEND US INTO THE SUMMER WITH A GREATER DETERMINATION THAN EVER TO SERVE HIM.

FATHER'S DAY SERVICES WERE VERY GOOD HERE AT THE CHURCH. JENENE BROWN LED THE SONG SERVICE (AND DID AN EXCELLENT JOB), SUSAN SPRING AND ALTHEA COKER WERE USHERS, SLYVIA GOWDY LED IN OPENING PRAYER, AND THE LADIES CHOIR WAS ALMOST FULL. WE HAVE EXCELLENT LADY WORKERS HERE IN THE CHURCH AND WE'RE VERY THANKFUL TO THEM FOR USING THEIR TALENTS TO HONOR OUR FATHERS. (WE'RE BACK ON THE RADIO AGAIN. LAST SUNDAY WAS THE FIRST OF 3 IN A ROW. THE LORD JUST CONTINUES TO GIVE US OPPORTUNITIES TO MINISTER TO OUR COMMUNITY.)

SUNDAY NIGHT WE HAD A "SING-A-LONG" WITH FAVORITE CONGREGATIONAL SONGS AND SOME NEW GROUPS FORMED BY THE PREACHER "VOLUNTEERING" THEM. THE LADIES GROUP OF JACKIE LOWDER, MARJORIE MCALLISTER, MILDRED LOWDER, SUSAN SPRING, AND PAULA JONES DID A VERY GOOD JOB AND WE LOOK FOR THEM TO SING AGAIN SOON. (I NEVER CAN FIGURE WHY THE PEOPLE WHO CAN SING WON'T WHILE THE PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO WANT TO SING CAN'T.)

PRAISE NOTES - TO JOHANNA LOWDER FOR HER WORK IN PAINTING THE NURSERY AND OBTAINING NEW WALLPAPER FOR IT.

- TO MARJORIE MCALLISTER, DARIN MATTHEWS, AND PAULA JONES FOR PUTTING UP A NEW BULLETIN BOARD DISPLAY IN THE FELLOWSHIP BUILDING AND IN THEIR CLASS.

- TO ALTHEA COKER FOR HER WORK ON OUR MISSION BULLETIN BOARD. SHE HELPS US TO SEE HOW TO PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY.

IT HAS YET TO BE SEEN WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH A CHURCH FULLY DEDICATED TO HIM. LET'S DETERMINE TO BE THAT CHURCH. WE HAVE SEEN WHAT GOD CAN BEGIN. NOW LET'S GO FORWARD TO VICTORY.

REV MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

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RESULTS OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:8-10

The Faith chapter in the Bible- Hebrews 11- is one of the greatest lesson books in the Bible. It gives us a description of Faith and then shows us example after example of this Faith in action. Vs 1 tells the Wording of Faith, vs 2 gives the Wealth of Faith (a good report), vs 3 tells about the Worlds of Faith, vs 4 gives the Worship of Faith (Abel), vs 5-6 talks about the Walk of Faith (Enoch), and vs 7 tells about the Work of Faith (Noah).

Then Abraham takes centerstage and tells us we should obey God when we don't know Where (8-10), when we don't know How (11-12), when we don't know When (13-16), and when we don't know Why (17-19). This is the kind of Faith that makes us a "Friend of God" and is best explained by the actions in vs 8-10.

I. FAITH MEANS WE LEAVE SOMETHING vs 8

God's call has always been to leave those things that tie you down and become a Cross-bearing Fisher of Men. Most people who refuse to come to Christ do so because they are unwilling to leave something. (The rich young ruler's wealth, the man's dying father, the house to lay your head in, or the cries of the crowd). Like the drowning man who refused to shed his money belt or the captured monkey who refused to turn loose the apple holding him captive men aren't willing to leave what they have to take the streight and narrow way with Christ.

What has God asked you to give up in order to gain a fuller life? Once you turn loose your "idol" you'll find the Abundant life of Faith you seek.

II. FAITH MEANS WE LIVE DIFFERENTLY vs 9

Since this world is not our home and we are just passing thru then we don't live like the world and it's people. We TALK about different topic (generally in a different "language"), we DRESS differently (Modestly and appropriately), we ACT different (Holy), and we have a different value system (Serving to lead, losing to gain,...).

Does the World think you're one of them or do they realize you are a "Foreigner" in their midst???

III. FAITH MEANS WE LOOK FOR A CITY vs 10

We have Hope in God and we realize that this world will pass away so we look for a new world wherein dwell righteousness. This world has foundation (The sure promises of God) that are steadfast in any storm that comes and the builder and maker is God so everything will be just right.

Are you looking for a city or settling in this world?? *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable (1 Cor 15:19)*

NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD.

SPECIAL THANKS TO A NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR THEIR HELP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER OVER THE PAST MONTH. BILL AND ELISE MCBRIDE ARE CONSISTANT CONTRIBUTORS THUR CRAFTS THAT MRS. MCBRIDE SELLS. CARRIE HUGGINS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT GIVER AND A REAL ENCOURAGEMENT. JACK HANNA DONATED SOME DOORS THAT WERE SOLD AND THE MONEY USED FOR THIS MINISTRY. AND MARION COKER CONTINUES TO BE A FAITHFUL SUPPORTER.

ALSO A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO REV. GORDON TIMMONS. HE HELPED PAINT THE PARSONAGE AND ALLOWED ME TO USE HIS ELECTRONIC STENCIL CUTTER TO MAKE OUR NEW HEADING FOR THE NEWSLETTER, THE REVIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND TO RUN SEVERAL PAGES OF THE NEHEMIAH NOTES. ONE OF THESE DAYS GOD IS GOING TO GIVE ME A STENCIL CUTTER ALSO- YOU JUST WAIT. IT WOULD CUT MY TYPING LOAD IN HALF. I HAVE THE NOTES ALREADY TYPED AND READY TO USE BUT THEN I HAVE TO GO BACK AND TYPE A STENCIL AND IT REALLY ADDS TO THE WORK LOAD. (WHEN I GET RICH AND FAMOUS (!) I'M GOING TO HAVE A WORD PROCESSER TO HELP ME GET THE MATERIAL STREIGHT AND A STENCIL CUTTER TO PUT IT IN PRINT!!).

SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE OFFICE LAST WEEK AND STOLE \$35 OF THE NEWSLETTER MONEY I HADN'T DEPOSITED YET BUT BY SATURDAY GOD HAD GIVEN ME \$58 TO REPLACE IT! I PRAISE THE LORD IT WASN'T WORST; THEY COULD HAVE STOLEN MY TYPEWRITER AND I WOULD REALLY HAVE BEEN IN A MESS.

THE HYMN TIME MINISTRY SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL AND ALLOWS ME TO MAKE A NUMBER OF CONTACTS. IT ALSO GIVES ME NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK ON THE MORNING DEVOTION PROGRAM BEFORE HYMN TIME. GOD HAS SO MUCH WORK WE CAN DO IF WE LL JUST MAKE OURSELVES AVAILABLE.

WE ELECTED NEW OFFICERS AND TEACHERS AND THEY BEGAN THEIR WORK ON JUNE 2. EVERYONE SEEMS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE AND THE NEED TO REACH OUT FOR MORE PEOPLE. THE LORD HAS BLESSED WITH A NUMBER OF PROJECTS BUT IT'S PEOPLE WE WANT TO REACH AND BUILD. I BELIEVE WE CAN AND SHOULD DOUBLE OUR ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR AS WE WORK TOGETHER EXPECTING GOD'S BLESSINGS.

THE NOTES WITH TODAY'S NEWSLETTER COMPLETE OUR STUDY OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A BOOKLET OF THE COMPLETE NOTES THEN CONTACT ME AND LET ME KNOW HOW MANY. WE ALSO HAVE THE NEW PRAYER BOOKLET AVAILBLE (10 PAGES OF PRAYER HELPS AND PROMISES). BOTH OF THESE (LIKE ALL OUR BOOKLETS) ARE ABSOLUTELY FREE TO ANYONE DESIRING THEM.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

WE WILL HAVE A FINGER FOOD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY NIGHT FOLLOWING SERVICE TO ALLOW US TO MEET OUR EVANGELIST AND REJOICE TOGETHER IN GOD'S BLESSINGS ON THE CHURCH. LET'S START OUR REVIVAL WITH A CHURCH FULL.

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

Chapter 11 "Responsibility of Completed Work"

After you Re-Build and have Revival you now want to Reach out to get People. The Re-built walls have no purpose if there are no people. Always keep in mind that the ultimate goal of a Project is People- not Pride in Building.

I. POPULATING THE CITY vs 1-2 The Ultimate Goal

A) The City was a Place of:

1. Peril- Place enemy attacked
2. Perspiration- Much rubble, Temple to be maintained
3. Protection- Walls surround, Strength of Fellowship

B) People were there because:

1. Some were Rulers- Their "Job" (They had a heart for work)
2. 1/10 of the People- "Luck of the Lot" (Many people chose a Church because of Family or Friends)
3. Some Willingly offered to stay in Jerusalem- and obtained Praise of the People. (Chose to do God's Work in God's Place.)

1. Are you willing to get on the "Front Lines" and do battle for the Kingdom of God??
2. Are you involved in "Populating the Church" by witnessing, working, and praying???

II. POSITIONING THE PEOPLE vs 3-36 Not just "figures" but functioning workers for God.

A) Their Family- Each person is listed according to Family.

1. Received my name from my family- Physical and Spiritual
2. Received my "Basics" from my family- Values, convictions, reputation (one of the "Jones boys").

When the Roll is called up yonder will the circle be unbroken

B) Their function- didn't just dwell, had a job to do

vs 6- valient men- men of activity (Busy people have no time to fear or fret).

vs 9- an overseer second over the city (Assistant)

vs 11- Ruler of the house of God

vs 12- Brethern did the work of the house of God

vs 13- Chief of the fathers

vs 14- mighty men of valour- (We need Christian "Heros")

vs 16- oversight of the outward business of the house of God

vs 17- principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer

vs 19- Gate keepers (Greeters, Absent contacters)

vs 20- singers over the business of the house of God

vs 24- at the King's hand in all matters concerning the people
(If you have 100 people in church: 10X5 talents= 50, 20X2 talents=40, 70X1 talent= 70. Therefore the 1 talent people can do more than the 5 or 2 talent people.)

Problem- 1. We forget what "game" we're playing-

Not tennis with 1 player and many spectators

But Football with offense, defense, trainers, water boys, cheerers

2. We forget our "Goal"- Not to show up

Not just to keep the other team
scoreless but to score ourselves.

ARE YOU TRYING TO FILL THE HOUSE OF GOD SO THERE WILL BE REASON
TO BUILD?? OR DO YOU JUST WANT TO BUILD???

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

Chapter 8 "The Word in Worship"

The project is completed. Now it is time to build the People. (God will rescue People, not Projects, from this Planet. Therefore we need to build People.) Just as Work was needed to build the walls so the Word is now needed to build the people. Therefore the emphasis changes from the Leader to the Reader!

Nehemiah heard of the problems in Jerusalem and God burdened his heart to come and accomplish a project. Now the people realize that the physical problem was caused by a spiritual problem and their heart is burdened to correct their situation. So they do what everyone should do- they went back to the Bible and sought to worship and learn of God. A great revival is the result. May God do the same for us.

I. THE PEOPLE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD 8:1-8

A) The Desire of the People vs 1 Do you WANT the Word?

B) The Description of the Service 2-6

1. Who was present- men and women and all that could hear with understanding. (Nursery for Children that can't understand)

2. When it was read- From sunrise until noon (Would like to have a service where we start at 9 with preaching, have Sunday School at 10, and then have a second preaching at 11).

3. How the people listened- attentive (Having ears to hear..)

4. Where Ezra was- on a "pulpit" stand so everyone could see him. Surrounded by Partners to help him with the work of the Word. (Deacons, Teachers, Song Leaders, etc.)

5. Why the service was held- To honor and worship God thru reading of Him in the Word.

C) The Dissection of the Word 7-8

1. Many helped explain it- Not of private interpretation. (See II Pet 1:20, 2:1).

2. Distinctly= "To separate". They read each word separately so the people would realize every word was important.

3. Gave the sense- explained the meaning of the word.

4. Caused to understand- Taught the Word (No teaching has taken place if there is no learning.)

WHY SHOULD WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD???

WE GROW BY THE WORD- I Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

WE ARE CHANGED BY THE WORD- II Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

WE ARE CLEANSED BY THE WORD- Ps 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

In 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

WE ARE KEPT BY THE WORD- Ps 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

DEFEAT DEVIL THRU THE WORD (Jesus when he was tempted, Sword of Spirit is Word) I In 5:4 This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

CONVICTED BY THE WORD- Jer 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

SAVED BY THE WORD (As it produces faith in Christ- Jam 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul.

II. THE PEOPLE HONOR THE WORD OF GOD 8:9-12

Maybe the world would be much more interested in coming to Church if they saw God's people get excited over His Word like these people did!! They thought it was "Christmas" because they heard the word.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of Hosts.

III. THE PEOPLE HEED THE WORD OF GOD 8:13-18

There were 3 feasts to be celebrated during the 7th month (Lev 23:23-44).

1. Feast of Trumpets first day of month
2. Day of Atonement 10th day of month
3. Feast of Tabernacle 15th to 22nd day of month

The people evidently had forgotten about these and now that they have returned to the Word of God they find it is not only to listen to but also to obey. They make the necessary arrangements to observe the Feast of Tabernacle by dwelling in booths and show that they believe the Bible means what it says.

WHY SHOULD WE HEED THE WORD OF GOD TODAY??

1. Reflections- *James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

A. Necessary to Heed the Word if it is to change us.

B. Necessary to Heed the Word so God can Bless us.

2. Rock- *Luke 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth: against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

The Word obeyed is our foundation in life's storms. It's too late to start "doing better" when the storm comes. Remember that it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD??? Do you come to Endure it? Be Entertained by it? or Be Enlightened by it??

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

Chapter 9 and 10 "The Word Brings Repentance and Revival"

Having returned to the word in Chapter 8 the people begin to see the need of a Spiritual obedience, as well as a physical heeding, of the word of God. They realize it's not enough to "go thru the motions" of living in booths, they need to correct their cold hearts and failing lives. In doing so they show us one of the best ways to Revival we encounter in the Scriptures.

1. REPENTANCE OVER PAST SINS vs 1-2 3 weeks of Bible study and Fellowship with God have brought the people to the place that they can see their sins and their need of separation from the sinful. The closer one gets to the light of God the more you can see the darkness in and around you (Jn 3: 19-21). Maybe what's needed today is a 3 week "Pre-Revival" so that we can really have REVIVAL in the one week we allow ourselves!

When is the last time you turned the searchlight of God's word on your life for an extended time??

2. REJOICING IN GOD 3-5 Confession of sin leads to worship of God. They would read the Word for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the day and then they would confess their sin of not applying that word to their lives the next $\frac{1}{4}$ of the day. As they confessed sin they began to see how great God really was and they began to rejoice in God's love and mercy and holiness.

Maybe we should change our order of service- Pray for 15 minutes, Preach for 15 minutes, Praise for 15 minutes, and Practice for 15 minutes.

3. REHEARSAL OF WHAT GOD DID 6-15

A. In Creation vs 6 (God made it all, all ought to worship Him)

B. In Choosing Abraham vs 7 Brought him out and gave a new beginning

C. In the Covenant with Abraham's seed vs 8 God performed what He promised.

D. In Carrying Israel out of Egypt into Canaan vs 9-15

Deliverance, Preservation, and Possession

Jesus told the Ephesian Church to Remember what they had before they left their first love (Rev 2:4-5) and it was when the Prodigal son remembered the benefits at the Father's house that he returned home (Lu 15:17). Today, we too, need to remember what God has done for us and retell it often.

When is the last time YOU testified of God's Blessings in your life?

4. REBELLION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISREAL vs 16-35

How heartbreaking that verse 16 begins "but". they list the rebellion of the children of Isreal as time after time they turn back after God has delivered them. vs 29 sums up their attitude, "They dealt proudly (Pride in self), and hearkened not unto thy commandments (Disobedience), but sinned against thy judgments (Rebelled against chastisement), and withdrew the shoulder (Loss of fellowship), and hardened their neck (stubbornness) and would not hear (Difiance).

How sad that it happened to their fathers. How doubly sad that in vs 33 they had to admit that they also were guilty.

Have you spurned God's Love and Fellowship and Forgiveness to go your own way in the world???

5. RESULTS OF REBELLION vs 36-37 But sin and rebellion does not go unpunished. The harvest comes if the "crop" is planted.

A) Servants in their own land- "Freedom" from God had brought bondage to sin. (In America today freedom for all has meant less and less freedom for any!!!).

B) Their increase went to the kings God had allowed to conquer them- Benefits became burdens as the rulers taxed them more and more. Everytime they would gain a little the government would tax them more. (Sound familiar?!)

C) They have dominion over our bodies and our cattle (Possessions at their pleasure). The old saying is, "The man takes a drink, the drink takes a drink, the drink takes a man!". So it is with sin. It conquers your land, then your money, and then your body. No wonder Jesus talked about gaining the whole world while losing your own soul.

D) We are in great distress- not only lost possessions but also lost hope.

The Wages of Sin are death. And Payday is Coming!!!!

6. REDEDICATION TO DOING RIGHT vs 38 10:1-39

The people "stood up to be counted" about returning to doing right. There is something about a Public Commitment of your self that really helps settle an issue.

The People promised to:

A) Observe and do all the Commandments of the Lord 10:29 (Personal Life). Going to Learn right and Live right. Not only going to Hear the Word but also Do the Word(See Ja 1:22).

B) Refrain from "Mixed Marriages" 10:30 (Family Life)

1. Maintain purity of Jewish Line
2. Avoid being unequally yoked with the world

C) Observe God's Law of Sabbath 10:31 (Social Life)

1. In regard to Labor- 1 day of rest per week
2. In regard to Leaving- Leave land free 1 year in 7
3. In regard to Jubilee- Year of freedom from debts

D) Support for the House of God 10:32-39 (Spiritual Life)

1. Financially- Bring the yearly offering they were supposed to bring
2. Physically- Supply the wood that was needed
3. Proportionally- Tithe of the Firstfruit.

REAL REVIVAL COMES WHEN PEOPLE REPENT OF SIN AND RETURN TO DOING RIGHT.

WILL YOU?????

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

Chapter 12:- (vs 1, 43, 44) "Mission Accomplished"

This chapter shows the triumphal march around the completed walls of Jerusalem. One group of Priest went in one direction under the direction of Ezra and another group went in the opposite direction with Nehemiah. They met opposite the Temple and dedicated the Walls to God with great Joy and Rejoicing.

A need had been seen and now the job was completed. Nehemiah reflects on "Mission Accomplished" and shows us the joy of doing what needs to be done. In our own lives we meet with similar needs and problems and we look for similar results.

I. REFLECTION ON PAST ACTIONS vs 1 Nehemiah begins by listing the priest that came with Zerubbabel. They were the ones that made the original sacrifice to come from Babylon and rebuild the Temple so that the Walls would have a purpose.

As Nehemiah reflected back on past actions to see where he had come from, so we today need to continually look back to those who have come before us and sacrificed in order to allow us to have what we have today.

Reflect on the fact that IT ALL BEGINS AS A SEED. Every idea, every life, every project, begins as a seed. (In Nehemiah's life Caring became concern, became conviction, became Construction!).

A) Be Careful of the TYPE OF SEED you sow- Remember that you reap what you sow. If it's bad seed you'll get bad fruit.

B) Be Careful of the TIME OF SOWING- As you have opportunity do good to all men. (Example of man who stopped to fix a flat for a lady who later turned out to be the employment manager he was going to see.). Remember that the 3 most important decision in your life are generally made by the time you are 25- Job, Partner, Salvation.

C) Be Careful of the TYPE OF SOWING you do: (See Mark 4)

1. Lost Seed- The "Birds" snatch up your opportunities
2. "Shooting Star" Seed- No root so withers when going gets rough. (Be careful of taking easy way out always)
3. Choked Seed- Allow other things to come between you and your purpose.
4. Fruitful Seed- Good Ground, Honest Heart

II. REJOICING IN PRESENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS vs 43 The battle had been difficult but Victory made it all worthwhile.

A) Building for Success- People need obtainable goals. There must be something to aim for. Then this big goal must be divided into smaller goals- Graduate, Pass each grade, pass each course. (If you know where you're going you know how far you've come and how far you have to go.)

B) Basis of Success- (Only place in Bible) Josh 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. (See also Ps 1:1-3)*

Find God's Plan for you Life. Get in It. Do it.

III. REGARDING FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS vs 44 (Guidelines were laid down for future work).

A) Realize you are planting now for future growth

1. Habits become hardened so be careful what controls you.
2. Grab a Goal to Guide you and realize that Principles are more important than Profit or Praise.

B) Remember there is a Judgment to come:

Ecc 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

WHEN YOUR LIFE IS OVER WILL YOU LOOK BACK WITH
REGRET OR REJOICING?????

NEHEMIAH: LEARNING TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

Chapter 13 "Revival Revisited"

Nehemiah closes his book by showing how easy it was for people to fall back into sin and sinfulness. It is sad that the last historical event of the Old Testament are about the Jews falling back into the pattern that had so recently resulted in their captivity. Let this be a warning to each of us of the need of Watchfulness.

Nehemiah also shows how he corrected the situation and continually asks God to remember him well for the work. Let this remind each of us that there is a Judgment to come. Let us Watch, and Work, with that in mind.

I. THE SINS. How sad that people fall into the same sins time after time. Nehemiah had dealt with most of these sins in chapter 10 but now after a visit to Babylon (vs 6) he finds the same conditions existing.

NOTE- 1) Be careful how you avoid sin just when the "Preacher" is around

2) Be careful how you follow men instead of God. (Abraham followed God. Lot followed Abraham. When they separated Lot ended up in Sodom!).

A) Mixed Multitudes 1-3 When the wall was dedicated someone found the Scripture that commanded the Jews to separate from the Ammonites and Moabites. The reasons were twofold:

1. Purity of the Jewish line of Christ.

2. Penance for past sinful traits and actions.

Even today we are told *not to keep company with any man that is called a brother (if he) be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: (I Cor 5:11).* We are also commanded to *be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: (II Cor 6:14).* Christians need to remember the old saying, "When you lay down with the dogs you get up with fleas!".

B) Misuse of God's House 4-9. One of the Priest had decided to allow one of his friends (But an enemy of God's work!) to use part of the temple to live in. This meant that the funds for the temple had no storage place and will help result in the next problem.

How many Christians send much money to some TV Evangelist while allowing the work of God at home to go lacking? (At Church they at least have a vote in how it is used but they have no input at all with the faraway preacher.).

How many times do friendships replace fundamentals and God's honor suffers???

C) Misappropriation of Tithes 10-14. The people had begun to withhold tithes (because of the Church situation??) and the Levites had had to leave their ministry and go to work to earn a living.

Are YOU stealing God's tithes??

Are you keeping your minister so poor he can't do the work God called him to do??

D) Mischief on the Sabbath 15-22. Again Nehemiah has to deal with the fact that the people were disregarding the Sabbath day. Some were working, some were selling, and the Levites were not "keeping the gate" to prevent it. This was a common and continuing problem and one of the reasons God sent Judah into Captivity (See II Chron 36:21).

Although Christians do not keep Sabbath today but instead celebrate Sunday as the day Christ arose, still we should reverence and honor Sunday and do no unnecessary work or shopping on Sunday.

E) Mistakes about Marriage 23-31 . Again Nehemiah finds those who have rejected God's Word in regard to marriage and now the results are seen in Children who talk like and about the "world" instead of God. Even so today there are many who reject God's Word about authority in the home and guidelines for raising children and end up in trouble.

II. THE SERVANT vs 14, 22, 31. Nehemiah asked God to remember that although the people had fallen back into sin, he hadn't. He wanted God to remember the work he had done and judge him by his work and not the people's failure.

Even so today we need to wonder how we will be remembered and what we will leave behind.

1. WHAT JESUS LEFT BEHIND

A) A Completed Salvation- He could cry, "It is finished!". There is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby you must be saved.

B) A Purchased Church- The Body of Christ to function for Him.

Mission of the Church:

1. Preach and teach all the World.
2. Provide a House of Prayer.
3. Substain Divine Worship
4. Defend Christtian Faith
5. Proclaim the Lord's Return

C) The Great Commission- Go ye therefore unto all the world. (Grounds for Exploration, Evangelization, Education.)

D) Victory for us to enjoy- Defeated Death, Abundant Life, Holy Spirit to empower us.

2. WHAT I WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND

A) No Question about my Salvation- I know whom I have believed.

B) No money that belongs to God- Tithes paid up (Not skipping weeks on vacation or absense.)

C) My Job Completed- I have finished my course, I have kept the Faith.

HAVE YOU RETURNED TO FORMER SINS???

HOW WILL THE WORLD REMEMBER YOU??? HOW WILL GOD???

GRACE

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PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

GLORY

Vol III Num II June 26, 1985

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

It seems as if God has a new Blessing for us every week. I keep thinking that we might have reached the bottom of the "Blessing Barrel" but, like the widow who fed Elijah, every time I look there is more to be had. Honestly, if I weren't living thru what God is doing I would hardly believe it.

NEWSLETTER SUPPORT- The Teen Fellowship of the Church had \$130.31 left in their fund from their newsletter effort of last year and they decided to give that to this newsletter ministry (Praise the Lord for our Teens!). At the same time I received a good offering from the McBrides and from Mrs. Anne McKnight and, after mailing over 4000 newsletters, obtaining permits, buying tapes, and mailing all the free booklets we've sent out, we are just about back to where we were when this ministry began. God has met every need and I stand in awe of His Provision.

(I still have several copies of the Prayer Booklet and the complete Nehemiah notes if anyone would like them.).

REFRIGERATOR- The Master's Men decided to help the Ladies Aux. out and donated the final \$100 toward the new Refrigerator for the Fellowship Building. It's being installed even as I write this and we're looking forward to seeing that ice-maker work. (We hope it will provide enough ice for the smaller activities of the Church.)

The Master's Men did put one "stipulation" on the gift. They're going to "let" the Ladies clear out the shrubbery around the Church as a Thank You for the gift!! Seriously, Ladies, we hope that men and women both can work together to clean out the shrubbery in the near future so the best Church in town will look even better.

Remember that we broadcast our 11am Service over WJOT again this Sunday (and possibly every Sunday in July!). God has really used these services and we need your help to continue the good work.

I hope you'll continue to pray for the Hymntime Ministry. There is hardly a day that goes by that someone doesn't call and tell how much they enjoy the program. Continue to Pray for God's Blessings.

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A GOOD REPORT THROUGH FAITH HEB 11:32-40

As we study through the book of Hebrews we find that Faith is the all important thing in our relationship with God. Hebrews was written to a people who were in danger of turning back from Faith in Christ because of troubles and trials and the writer shows them that Christ is the only source of Salvation. He proclaims Christ greater than Angels, Prophets, Priests, or mighty men; the Mediator of a New Covenant and in Heaven today pleading our cause. Then he brings us to the great Faith "Hall of Fame" in chapter 11 and shows us Faith defined by Word and Action.

He lets us know that Faith affects every area of our life:

MENTALLY- By Faith we Understand

MORALLY- By Faith Enoch walked with and pleased God (Impossible to please Him without Faith.)

PHYSICALLY- By Faith Abraham walked up and down with God as a Pilgrim

RELIGIOUSLY- By Faith Abel offered the right sacrifice

FAMILY- By Faith Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph and Moses was hid by his mother.

SOCIALLY- By Faith Moses refused the Egyptian courts and chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God.

EVEN UNTO DEATH- These all died in Faith.

Then in the last portion of Hebrews 11 the writer shows us how we too can have a good report through Faith.

I. THEY BELIEVED GOD HAD A JOB FOR THEM IN SPITE OF THEIR DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES vs 32

Some were cowards (Gedeon) and some were heros (David). Some were Strong Men (Samson) and some were Young Boys (Samuel). Some were men who had to be pushed by a woman (Barak pushed by Deborah) and some were Mighty Men of Valor (Jephthah- who was also the son of a harlot.).

Even today God's toolchest confounds men- 1 Cor 1:26-29 For ye see your calling, brethern, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty: and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen; yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presense.

REMEMBER THAT GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING! Heb 11:3

II. THEY BELIEVED GOD HAD DIFFERENT PURPOSES FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE

A) Some were chosen to Triumph vs 33-35a Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens, women received their dead raised to life again.

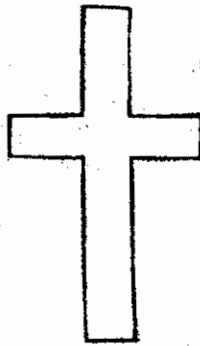
B) Some were tortured vs 35b Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection.

C) Some were chosen for Trial vs 36-38 Others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins: being destitute, afflicted, tormented: (Of whom the world was not worthy;) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

THESE ALL RECEIVED A GOOD REPORT BY BEING AND DOING WHAT GOD WANTED. WHATEVER THEIR LOT, THEIR FAITH WAS IN THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF GOD.

GRACE

VOL III NUM 12



GLORY

JULY 9, 1985

ISN'T IT SIMPLY MARVELOUS BEING A CHILD OF GOD? MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN, THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES ME EACH DAY, HEAVEN WITH JESUS AND THE FATHER IS IN MY FUTURE, AND EACH DAY IS A NEW EXPERIENCE IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. PART OF ME BOWS IN WONDER AND ADMIRATION AND AWE OF GOD WHILE PART OF ME SHOUTS FOR JOY AND VICTORY AT THE WORK GOD IS DOING. I DON'T HAVE PERFECT HEALTH OR UNLIMITED WEALTH BUT I DO HAVE JESUS AND I FIND THAT THAT IS SUFFICIENT.

THE RADIO WORK IS DOING VERY WELL AND I THANK THE LORD THAT THIS NEWSLETTER MINISTRY IS ABLE TO EXPAND TO INCLUDE ANOTHER OUTREACH. I WAS ON THE MORNING DEVOTION PROGRAM AGAIN LAST WEEK AND I'M IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING SOME TAPES SO I CAN GET SOME DEVOTION PROGRAMS RECORDED AHEAD. I'M ALSO TRYING TO RECORD SOME OF THE MORNING SERVICES WE ARE BROADCASTING AND HOPE TO HAVE THESE AVAILABLE FOR LOAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THANKS TO THE SAMMY FLOYDS, THE MCBRIDES, THE TED HANNAS, MRS. CARRIE HUGGINS, AND THE JACK STEWARTS (WHO DROVE 800 MILES TO GIVE US AN OFFERING! THEY REALLY HAD TO COME TO A MEETING IN MYRTLE BEACH BUT THEY DID DRIVE WELL OUT OF THEIR WAY TO VISIT AND LEAVE AN OFFERING.) FOR THEIR SUPPORT RECENTLY. ALSO THANKS TO "ANONYMOUS" FOR A GIFT. IT IS THRU THE HELP OF PEOPLE LIKE THIS THAT THIS MINISTRY IS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO GROW.

P.S. JUST CAME BACK FROM SPEAKING AT THE SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER AND MRS. SYBIL ANDERSON GAVE ME A GIFT FOR THIS MINISTRY BEFORE I LEFT. IT IS SIMPLY ASTONISHING THE WAY GOD SUPPLIES.

ANOTHER BLESSING OUT OF GOD'S "BLESSING BARREL". I HAD WANTED TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION IN NASHVILLE BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO AND, BECAUSE OF THE MANY PROJECTS THE CHURCH HAS BEEN DOING IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY, I KNEW THAT THE CHURCH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SEND ME THIS YEAR. I HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT I WOULD NOT GO (O YE OF LITTLE FAITH!) WHEN SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH DECIDED TO RAISE THE MONEY AMONG THEMSELVES AND PROVIDED A WAY FOR PAULA AND I TO GO. WE'RE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT GOING AND LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT CONVENTION. (YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THEY FIGURED IT WOULD BE

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WORTH ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE RID OF ME FOR A WEEK!!).

WE HOPE TO GO THRU MISSISSIPPI ON OUR WAY TO NASHVILLE AND THEN WE HOPE TO SEE MANY OF OUR "FLORIDA FRIENDS" AT THE CONVENTION. I'M LOOKING FOR GREAT PREACHING AND A GREAT TIME OF CELEBRATION OF OUR DENOMINATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SO I CAN COME BACK REFRESHED AND INSPIRED AS WE HEAD INTO A VERY BUSY SUMMER.

Summer activities

- July 3 - Home made Ice Cream/Boiled Peanut supper after Prayer Meet.
- July 5 - S.C. Conference Quarterly meet at Fellowship FWB Church
- July 7 - Broadcast Morning Service over WJOT
Communion/Foot-washing service PM
- July 8 - Ladies Aux. Meet at the Church
- July 10- Quarterly Church Conference following Prayer Meet.
- July 14- Broadcast Morning Service over WJOT
- July 16- Church Clean-up Night (Everyone is invited!!)
- July 20- Master's Men Meet
- July 21-26- National Association, Nashville, Tenn.
- July 28- Faith Promise for Missions AM over WJOT
- July 28-31 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (Full Details next week)
- Aug. 5-10- Teen Camp (Pastor Preach and Teach)
- Aug. 12-17- Junior Camp
- Aug 18- Carlisle Hanna Day. (Needs \$20,000 to return to India)
- Sept. 15- 25th anniversary- HOME COMING (Biggest Attendance ever)

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

We had just arrived in China from Viet Nam and needed a part for our equipment. It was supposed to be at the Naval Supply Office in town. I needed the part so I was chosen to go get it. I don't speak very much Chinese so I found a taxi and showed him the address on the order form. He assured me with nods and ununderstandable Chinese that he knew exactly where I was to go. 3 unsuccessful locations and an hour later we arrived back at where we had begun. The Taxi Driver pointed across the street and I saw the sign saying "Naval Depot".

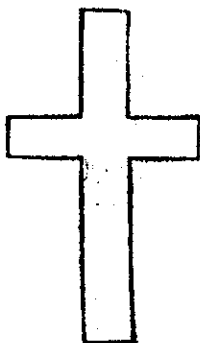
Many people go thru life like that. They are seeking Peace and Meaning to life but they listen to the wrong advice and spend their life seeking instead of living. Some think it is in a Region, I know it is in a Relationship. Some think it is in a Position, I know it is in a Person. Some think it is in a good Feeling, I know it is in Faith in Christ.

My heart breaks to see people "riding all over town" seeking something that is right before their eyes.

John 14:5-6 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:

GRACE

VOL III NUM 13



GLORY

JULY 16, 1985

SPEAKERS- While the Pastor is away this Sunday, Rev. Odell Mouzon will speak during the 11am and 6pm services. Brother Odell is a fine young man and I know he'll be a Blessing to the Church.

Danny Broach will speak during the Wednesday, July 24th Prayer Meeting Service. (Cuz Wednesday Night Services have been simply great lately and I want us to keep up the good work. Attendance and Participation have been excellent.).

I will be speaking at the Beech Springs FWB Church Sunday Morning and Sunday Night and look forward to seeing many of our Mississippi friends. A Baptismal Service is already scheduled so it should be a great time in the Lord.

(We should arrive back from the National sometime Friday but we will keep in touch with the Deacons during our stay so contact them if you need us.)

GIFTS: TO THIS MINISTRY- Thanks to Mrs. Addie Kennedy for her gift and concern.

TO MY WIFE- The Lord supplied me a new pair of shoes recently so the Ladies Aux. decided to supply my wife with a new Dress to wear to the National. They gave her the money to buy a new "frock" Sunday Night and she thinks she's as good as I am now!! (Thanks Ladies. Now the prettiest Lady at the National can also be the best dressed.).

GOLD STAR- For RON KNIGHT for his work last week to increase his Sunday School Class. By much work and personal contact he increased his class from 2 to 12 (and by that raised the Nursery class to 12 also). We know we CAN have 85 in 85 but it's going to take work and effort, like Brother Ron put forth, to accomplish it. Thanks, Brother Ron. Keep up the good work.

(There are multitudes of people in our area who desperately need the Bible Study, Bible Preaching, and Fellowship that our Church offers. Let's give them the opportunity to share in all the Blessings God is showering upon us.)

REV MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

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VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL

JULY 28-31, 1985

SUNDAY, JULY 28 6:00PM "GOD'S SON" (SALVATION)

Junior (12under) - Dot Sullivan
Adult (13up) - Rev. Mike Jones

MONDAY, JULY 29 7:30PM "PRODIGAL SON" (RELATIONSHIPS)

Junior - Susan Spring
Adult - Darin Matthews

TUESDAY, JULY 30 7:00PM "NOAH'S SON" (SERVICE)

Combine classes- Marion Coker

(We will meet at Carolina Skateworld, Scranton at 7:00pm. We will skate until 7:30pm when we'll break for the Puppet Play and Lesson. Light Refreshments will be served.

Cost is \$1.50 per person admission plus \$.50 for skate rental. The Rink will be closed to the General Public but, of course, every one who is attending our VBS is invited. We look for many adults every night but especially this night to help us with the children. We will provide our own music and dismiss around 9:00pm)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 7:30PM "ABRAHAM'S SON" (COMMITMENT)

Junior - Kay Floyd
Adult - Ronald Knight

ORDER OF SERVICE

March in, Pledges, Choruses, Theme Song, Offering	15min
Puppet Play (Sylvia Gowdy and the Teens in charge)	10min
Object lesson (Pastor)	10min
Bible Lesson	15min
Refreshments	

Sunday- Church Supper (Finger Food)

Monday- Ice Cream (Billie, Betty Lou, Miriam serve)

Tuesday- Light Refreshments (Jenene, Paula, ??? serve)

Wednesday- HOT DOGS!!! (Marjorie, Devonne, Althea serve)

Each Lady is asked to bring on Sunday, July 28:

1 Drink, 1 Bag Potato Chips, 1 Bag Cookies

Our Offering will go to Rev. Carlisle Hanna, missionary to India.

(No Craft now. Beginning in September we will have a craft time following Prayer meeting while the Adult have Choir Practice.)

The Church will supply the ice cream and cones (Thanks to Beth Broack for her help in obtaining these) and the hot dogs and buns (Thanks to Mr. Dallas Wise for his help in getting these).

We have a very good, fun-filled week of Bible School Planned. Pray that God would use it in a mighty way to reach young people for Christ.

Every car that comes ought to be filled to the brim with people.

G I R A C I E A N D

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PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

G L O R Y

AUGUST 5, 1985 Vol III Num 14

"TO KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST"

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TRIP- The Lord really Blessed and manifested Himself during our trip to the National Association. We had a very enjoyable service at Beech Springs FWB Church that included the Baptism of Mrs. Debbie Ericksen. It was good to see all the fine folks in Mississippi again and Paula and I appreciate all their kindness toward us.

We left after Church Sunday afternoon and arrived in Nashville without an idea of where we were to go but God directed and we ended up obtaining a room right next door to the Convention Center! (Isn't it great when God spoils you like that!!). The Convention was fair but the Bible Conference and Camp Meeting were simply great. Several Pastors made a point of sharing their favorable comments about the newsletter and several others asked to have their names added to the list. So the Convention turned out to be a Blessing in several different ways.

Meanwhile back at Grace, Brother Odell Mouzon was doing a fine job of preaching, our attendance was staying high, and the Lord continued to Bless. Brother Danny and Mrs. Althea did a very good job with Prayer Meeting and I continue to be impressed with the talent God had given our Church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- Turned out real well. We averaged between 50 and 60 each night, the Teens did a good job with the puppets, Mrs. Billie Ard has found a permanent job as "Mrs. Gracie", and the Teachers did a good job each night. We had a lot of cooperation and effort and everyone is to be commended.

CAMP- I will spend this week Preaching and Teaching at Teen Camp and I covet your prayers that God would really speak to these Young People about conversion and commitment. The Lessons I will be teaching are about FWB Doctrine and many of the notes are included in today's newsletter.

GIFTS- I received recent Gifts from Mr. Marion Tunstall of Hemingway, Mr. Fletcher Stanford of Saltillo, Miss., Mrs. Elisle McBride of Lake City, Mrs. Anne McKnight of Lake City, and ??? (Somehow I ended up with more \$\$ than names so I evidently forgot to write someone down. I always keep newsletter money separate and when I returned from the National and made my deposit I had the extra money. Whoever you are, Thank You.). The Lord really knows when to send funds. The paper alone for this mailing cost \$15 and the postage \$25.

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FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

HAVING GIVEN OURSELVES TO GOD, BY FAITH IN CHRIST, AND ADOPTED THE WORD OF GOD AS OUR RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE, WE NOW GIVE OURSELVES TO ONE ANOTHER BY THE WILL OF GOD IN THIS SOLEMN COVENANT.

1. Born Again
2. Bible as Foundation
3. Body of Believers

WE PROMISE, BY HIS GRACE, TO LOVE AND OBEY HIM IN ALL THINGS, TO AVOID ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL, TO ABSTAIN FROM ALL SINFUL AMUSEMENTS AND UNHOLY CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD, FROM ALL SANCTION OF THE USE AND SALE OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES, AND TO "PROVIDE THINGS HONEST IN THE SIGHT OF ALL MEN."

1. Affection for God
2. Avoidance of Sin
3. Effect on Others

WE AGREE FAITHFULLY TO DISCHARGE OUR OBLIGATIONS IN REFERENCE TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES, SECRET PRAYER, FAMILY DEVOTIONS, AND SOCIAL WORSHIP; AND BY SELF-DENIAL, FAITH, AND GOOD WORKS ENDEAVOR TO "GROW IN GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST."

1. Christian Graces
2. Christian Growth

WE WILL NOT FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR CHURCH CONFERENCES, PUBLIC WORSHIP, AND THE OBSERVANCE OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE GOSPEL; NOR FAIL TO PAY ACCORDING TO OUR ABILITY FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH, OF ITS POOR, AND ALL ITS BENEVOLENT WORK.

1. Time for the Church
2. Tithes to the Church

WE AGREE TO ACCEPT CHRISTIAN ADMONITION AND REPROOF WITH MEEKNESS, AND TO WATCH OVER ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, ENDEAVORING TO "KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT" IN THE BONDS OF PEACE, TO BE CAREFUL OF ONE ANOTHER'S HAPPINESS AND REPUTATION, AND SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THE WEAK, ENCOURAGE THE AFFLICTED, ADMONISH THE ERRING, AND AS FAR AS WE ARE ABLE, PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OF THE CHURCH AND OF THE GOSPEL.

1. Correctable
2. Careful
3. Concerned

WE WILL EVERYWHERE HOLD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE SACRED AND CHRISTIAN OBLIGATIONS AND ENTERPRISES SUPREME; COUNTING IT OUR CHIEF BUSINESS IN LIFE TO EXTEND THE INFLUENCE OF CHRIST IN SOCIETY, CONSTANTLY PRAYING AND TOILING THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD MAY COME, AND HIS WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

1. Priority in our Principles
2. Priority in our Practices

TO THIS END WE AGREE TO LABOR FOR THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATIONAL AND DENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES, THE SUPPORT OF MISSIONS, THE SUCCESS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS, AND EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS FOR THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD. AND MAY THE GOD OF PEACE SANCTIFY US WHOLLY, AND PRESERVE US BLAMELESS UNTO THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

1. Participates in Programs
2. Prayer for Purity

FREE WILL BAPTIST

The Free Will Baptist denomination is a fellowship of evangelical believers united in extending the witness of Christ and the building of His Church throughout the world. The rise of Free Will Baptist can be traced to the influence of Baptist of Arminian persuasion who settled in the colonies from England.

The denomination sprang up on two fronts in America at almost the same time. The Southern line, or Palmer movement, traces its beginnings to the year 1727 when Paul Palmer organized a church at Chowan, N.C.. Palmer had previously ministered in New Jersey and Maryland, having been baptised in a congregation which had moved from Wales to a tract on the Delaware River in northern Penn..

The Northern line, or Randall movement, had its beginnings with a congregation organized by Benjamin Randall June 30, 1780, in New Durham, New Hampshire. Both lines of Free Will Baptist taught the doctrines of Free Grace, Free Salvation, and Free Will, although there was never an organizational connection between them.

The Northern line expanded more rapidly in the beginning and extended its outreach into the West and Southwest. In 1910-11 this body of Free Will Baptist merged with the Northern Baptist denomination, taking more than half the 1,100 churches and all the denomination property, including several major colleges. The remaining churches met on Dec. 28, 1916 at Pattonsburg, Missouri and formed the Cooperative General Association of Free Will Baptist.

Free Will Baptist in the southeastern United States, having descended from the Palmer foundation, had often manifested friendly relations with Free Will Baptist of the Randall movement in the North and West but the slavery question and the Civil War prevented formal union between them. The churches in the Southern line were organized into various associations and conferences from the beginning, and had finally organized into a General Conference by 1921. These congregations were not affected by the merger of the northern movement with the Northern Baptist.

The remnants of the Randall movement (the Cooperative General Association) and the Palmer movement (The General Conference) met in Nashville, Tenn. on November 5, 1935 and organized the National Association of Free Will Baptist. Fifty years of Growth has given us 2,400 churches in 42 states and 14 foreign countries. We now have 4 Bible Colleges (Virginia, Tenn. Okla., and Calif.), numerous Bible Institutions, 3 Children's Homes (S.C., Tenn., and Ala.), and a Budget of over \$11 million dollars in 1985 for all the various departments. (Executive Office, Executive Church Bonds, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Master's Men, Retirement and Insurance, FWB Foundation, Sunday School and Church Training Board, and Radio and Television Comm.) All of these Departments are headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.

THE FOUNDATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST- THE CHURCH

"The Local congregation of believers is the only visible form of the "Church" founded by direct authority of Scripture. Free Will Baptist, therefore, recognize the local church as the sole source of authority possessed and exercised within the visible church. The local church is an independent and self-governing body, with full authority to transact its business, choose its pastor and officers, receive, discipline, and dismiss members, hold free title to all its properties, and conduct all it's internal affairs.

The local Free Will Baptist Church bears two important relationships to other churches: 1) Christians within the local church are members of the universal and invisible church, known as the body of Christ. 2) Local Churches voluntarily form associations which organize and cooperate as the Free Will Baptist denomination" (From the Free Will Baptist Treatise).

One of the most closely guarded distinctives of a Free Will Baptist Church is its independence from outside control. We firmly adhere to the fact that there is no higher authority than the local Church (except, of course, the authority of the Head of the Church-Jesus Christ.). Individual churches join Conferences and Associations for the purpose of Fellowship and to combine efforts to spread the Gospel and advance the work of God. These Conferences, however, have no control over the Church and the only "power" they yield is that of withdrawing Fellowship from an offending Church. This is a tremendous Blessing for the local Church while at the same time a tremendous responsibility.

Free Will Baptist Churches in South Carolina belong to one of Six (6) Conferences which make up the South Carolina State Association of FWB-- Beaver Creek (29 churches), Bible Belt (? churches), Central (20 churches), Eastern (9 churches), Palmetto (9 churches, and South Carolina Conference (44 Churches).

DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINES OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

1. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS NOT FOR THIS AGE. Free Will Baptist understand that the Bible teaches the following facts:

On the day of Pentecost believers spoke in distinct foreign languages which were readily understood by the nationalities present. (Acts 2:5,8,11).

Tongues were given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign which confirmed the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers. (I Cor 14:1-40; Heb 2:4).

While tongues were bestowed by the sovereign will of God on some believers, all did not speak with tongues (I Cor 12:10,30). When this gift was abused it became a source of disturbance in the congregational meetings. To eliminate confusion and correct error, Paul set particular guidelines for the Christian Church to follow (I Cor 14:18,19,23,33). The gift of tongues was neither an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor does it bring about Sanctification (I Cor 12:13).

We believe that speaking in tongues as a visible sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine to be rejected. Any implication of a "second work of grace" has never been tolerated in our fellowship of churches and will not be permitted.

We teach and preach the fulness of the Holy Spirit and heed the scriptural admonition, "Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ep 5:18b-20). (Adopted July, 1979 in Charlotte, N.C.)

I heartily agree with the statement and add my own observations:

1. Tongues were for a sign to the Jewish nation to cause them to realize that the Gospel proclaiming Christ as Saviour and Lord was indeed from God (I Cor 14:22). There is no longer any need of this sign because the Jews have been "broken Off" and the Gentiles "grafted in" (Rom 11:17).
2. When tongues were used they had to follow specific guidelines:
 - a) no more than 2 or 3 at a meeting (I Cor 14:27).
 - b) No more than 1 at a time (I Cor 14:27).
 - c) Women were NOT to speak (I Cor 14:34).
 - d) A spiritual person would acknowledge the word of God above feelings or "Prophecies" (I Cor 14:37).
3. The Fruit of the Spirit is not a Prideful Attitude (See Gal 5:22-23). ANY person who receives a Gift should realize that it is given according to the Grace of God (Rom 12:6) and is to help the Body of Christ as it pleases God! (I Cor 12:18).

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT; HIS PERSON AND WORK

Basically the relationship of the Believer to the Spirit is this:

- a) The Spirit draws us to God and when we accept Christ by Faith the Spirit baptises us into the Body of Christ (I Cor 12:13). The Spirit is our earnest (down payment) of the promises of God (Ep 1:13-14) and the Christian can grieve the Spirit (Ep 4:30) by doing wrong or quench the Spirit (I Thess 5:19) by not doing right. The Christian should be Filled with the Spirit (Ep 5:18) by submitting to God and His plan (Ep 5:20-22).

We are not to neglect the Spirit because of abuses by others but are to realize that we can do the work of God only in the Power of God (Zech 4:6). Jesus told the disciples to wait for the "enduement" of power (Lu 24:49). The Greek for "endue" means to sink into, as dye into a garment. May God help all of us to allow the Spirit to "Sink into" every area of our life that we may be empowered for Service and Examples of the Saviour.

3. ATTITUDE TOWARD TRANSFER OF CHURCH LETTER. "Upon receipt of a letter of good standing from any church recognized as Christian, with the qualification that the applicant must have been baptized by immersion and satisfied therewith" (Qualifications for Membership from the Treatise p52). Most denominations only accept letters from other churches in their denomination (as if they were the only right group in the world!) while FWB accept them as Brothers in Christ.

4. ATTITUDE TOWARD WATER BAPTISM PERFORMED BY NON-FREE WILL BAPTIST. Most denominations require you to be re-baptised if you join their church calling baptism by other groups "alien" baptism. (That's why some groups report so many baptisms. They're re-doing what was done correctly the first time!). I find the policy repulsive and dishonoring to the cause of Christ. It stinks of salvation by water baptism instead of Faith in Christ.

5. OPEN COMMUNION. Most denominations hold "Closed Communion" (You may partake only if you are a member of that particular Church). Free Will Baptist invite all Believers to join us in the Ordinances of Communion. (After all, Brothers in Christ should be able to eat at the same table!!).

6. WASHING THE SAINTS FEET. We believe that when Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (Jn 13:14-15) that he meant what he said. We celebrate Feet-Washing as part of our Communion Service and it is one of the great Blessings of our Fellowship. Every Believer is invited to join with us in this Blessed Service.

7. EVERYONE CAN BE SAVED. "The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men (Mk 16:15), both by the word and strivings of the Spirit (Joel 2:28), so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all (I Tim 2:4 *who will have all men saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth.*); and if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly his own (Hosea 13:9, Jn 5:40 *And you will not come to me, that ye might have life.*) (From the Treatise, Chapt. VIII). Many denominations believe that God wants to save only certain people (Naturally, it's always them and their group!!) but FWB believe that *whosoever will may come and drink of the waters of life freely* (Rev 22:17). Our doctrine of election is called "conditionnal election"- that is, anyone who meets God's conditions of Repentance of sin and Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ becomes one of the elect and is saved. This is why FWB are so evangelistic and Mission Minded; we don't exclude anyone from the Gospel Call.

8. THE POSSIBILITY OF APOSTASY. "There is strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power of divine grace which is pledged for their support (Rom 8:38, I Cor 10:13); but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore, to watch and pray lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost"

1. We believe that salvation is a present possession by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and that a person's eternal destiny depends on whether he has this possession. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that salvation depends on human merit or works.

2. We believe that a saved individual may, in freedom of will, cease to trust in Christ for salvation and once again be lost. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that a believer may not again be lost.

3. We believe that any individual living in the practice of sin (whether he be called "backslider" or "sinner") must be judged by that evidence to be lost should he so die in his sins. This we hold in distinction from those who suggest that pernicious doctrine that a man may live in sin as he pleases and still claim Heaven as his eternal home.

4. We believe that any regenerate person who has sinned (again, whether he be called "backslider" or "sinner") and in whose heart a desire arises to repent may do so and be restored to favor and fellowship with God. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that when a Christian sins he cannot repent and be restored to favor and fellowship with God.

(All of the above from the Treatise).

Many denominations believe in "Once Saved, always Saved" and simply place all those people who claim to be saved and then go back into the category of "never were really saved". We believe that the Bible is abundantly clear that *The Just shall live by his Faith* and that there are numerous Biblical examples of people who have turned away from Faith and were lost (Heb 3:17-19). This does not make me scared of "losing my Salvation", it makes me more than ever aware of my need for a close walk with God. I am in the hand of God and no man can pluck me out- but I can walk out on my own. *(I Cor 9:26-27 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

Many other denominations believe in being "saved and lost and saved...". They base Salvation on works and goodness. We do not believe in Salvation by works. We believe a person is saved by FAITH and once they are saved they can never be "saved again". (Although they can rededicate themselves to God.). We do believe, however, that just as a person will show their Faith by their works, so they will show their turning from Faith by their works (or lack thereof.). Works will not save you but a person who does not work should examine his Faith.

If a person makes "shipwreck of Faith" (I Tim 1:18-20) and becomes an apostate *there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins but a certain fearful looking for judgment and fiery indignation.* (Heb 10:26-27).

I do not have Eternal Security but I do have Eternal Assurance- and that to me is far better.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE- The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. GOD- There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.
3. CHRIST- Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT- The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD- God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN- Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.
7. THE WORK OF CHRIST- The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the grounds of salvation by faith.
8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION- The conditions of salvation are: 1) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2) Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3) Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. ELECTION- God determined from the beginning to save all who would comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by Faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. FREEDOM OF THE WILL- The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.
11. SALVATION FREE- God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.
12. PERSEVERANCE- All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of Salvation.
13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES- 1) Baptism: the immersion of believers in water, and (2) the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. 3) Feet-washing, an ordinance teaching humility, is of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true Believers.
14. TITHING- God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt 23:23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (I Cor 16:2a).

15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH- The Divine Law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RESTRICTION- The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, SC
PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 394-3725

GLORY

August 15, 1985 Vol III Num 15

"TO KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST"

CAMP- We had a wonderful week of Teen Camp. There were numerous decisions every night and the lessons seemed to be well received by the Teens. It was a physically exhausting week but the Lord gave spiritual strength and encouragement and I appreciate your prayers. Camp can be one of the most important weeks in the life of a Young Person (there were more decisions made in Camp last week than will be made in 98% of the churches in a year!!) and it's a shame more adults aren't willing to give their time and effort to be counselors.

CARLISLE HANNA DAY- Remember that this Sunday Morning's Offering will go entirely to Rev. Carlisle Hanna to help him raise the \$20,000 necessary for him to return to India. Pray and give as God directs.
(Remember that we continue to broadcast our Morning Worship Service over WJOT at 11am. If you know of people unable to attend our services then contact them and invite them to become part of our "Radio Family".)

Sunday Night we will have an "Old Fashioned Sing-a-long" beginning at 6:00pm. Come out prepared for a Blessing.

GIFTS- I tell you that if I did not see week by week how God meets the needs of this ministry I wouldn't believe it! I needed \$100 to pay our Postage Fund this week and God gave me almost exactly that amount. Special THANKS to Mrs. Li'a Tisdale, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barnhill, and Mr. Jack Hanna.

Thanks also to John S. Hanna for 2 reams of paper and to Arnold and Jackie Lowder, Marjorie McAllister, Darin Matthews, and the "Princess" for helping me put together last weeks newsletter at a time when I desperately needed help because of a shortage of time.

The Lord opened up another week of Morning Devotions this week and because of tapes and equipment provided by this ministry I was able to get Rev. Tom Malone on 3 days and received very good reponse. There are open doors everywhere if we will just walk thru them.

ARE YOU 12 INCHES FROM HEAVEN? Christ in your Head but not your Heart!

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"WHO CAN ABIDE WITH GOD?" Ps 15:-

This Psalm might be entitled "Fitness for Fellowship" because it describes that very thing. It shows that a Relationship with God is more than a Birth- it's a life, and a Holy Life at that, as we fellowship with a Holy God. The Psalmist list the characteristics you will find in this Relationship.

Note that you "abide/dwell"- not something you do 5 minutes a day or a place you visit 2 hours a week.

Tabernacle= House of God

Holy Hill= Surroundings (God is part of our life in the field as well as the fold, in the community as well as the Church)

1. HIS WALK- "Walketh uprightly"- His manner of life is right
"Worketh Righteousness"- a. Works for Right things
b. Works righteously
2. HIS TALK- "Speaketh the truth in his heart"- True about himself
True to himself
"Backbiteth not with his tongue"- Not a Gossip or a
"Grump"
3. HIS LIFE- "Doesn't do Evil to his neighbor"- His actions correspond to his testimony
(His neighbors want what he's got because what he's got is worth wanting!)
"Doesn't take up a reproach against his neighbor"-
Because he loves his neighbor as himself he seeks to build them up instead of tear them down.
4. HIS LOVE- "In whose eyes a vile person is contemned"- Hates sin and what it does to people.
"He honoureth them that fear the Lord"- Loves and respects the people of God and the things of God.
(Show me a man who looks for chances to do evil or associate with evil doers and who looks for excuses to miss associating with God's people and I'll show you a person who needs to check up on his Salvation!!)
5. HIS WORD- "Swareth to his own hurt and changeth not"- He is dependable and trustworthy. In a sin-tossed world men are looking for real MEN who say what they mean and mean what they say.
6. HIS WEALTH- "Putteth not out his money to usury (excess interest)"
Doesn't think Profit is more important than People
"Doesn't take reward against the innocent"- Thinks right living ought to be reward by helping instead of taking advantage of.
7. HIS STABILITY- "He that doeth these things shall never be moved"-
A Constant Christian. He doesn't rise and fall with the tide but serves God in Good times and in Bad, in Public and in Private, at Home and Abroad.

DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD ONCE A WEEK OR DO YOU ABIDE WITH HIM???

DO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT YOU OF BEING A CHRISTIAN???

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GLORY

August 21, 1985 Vol III Num 16

"TO KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST"

MISSION MONEY- Our total offering for Brother Carlisle Hanna came to \$522 and I appreciate the sacrifice everyone made to enable Brother Carlisle to return to India. We need to especially remember him in our prayers in the next weeks as he continues to overcome the effects of his accident and continues the work in India

I have been working with a computer that Brother Carl Jordan has access to lately and it sure does make things easier. I have to research, write, and revise 3 sermons a week, a Sunday School lesson, the newsletter articles, normal correspondence, Radio devotional programs, and (Beginning the first week in September) a training course for the Bethel Bible Institute each week. The word processor part of the computer allows me to write and revise my material much quicker than normal and the spelling feature allows me to check my spelling (Which regular readers will know is a very needed item!!). I appreciate Brother Carl working out the arrangements to enable me to use this equipment now and can't wait until the Lord sees fit to get me one for my office!

Speaking of Radio Devotionals, I'm on my second week of doing them and the Lord has really blessed in their acceptance. (If the Preacher who is supposed to do the devotion doesn't show up I have a tape available for them to use- otherwise they play "funeral music" for 15 minutes!). Having so many devotionals allows me to do some sermon series and that helps with the planing as well as the presentation.

I have received a number of calls this week about the devotions and I Praise the Lord for supplying the tapes and equipment necessary to go thru this Open Door. (I would not be able to do the devotion live because I am preparing for the Hymntime program during that time. Also being able to record the program in my office allows me to add special music and prepare myself better mentally and spiritually.) Continue to Pray that God would use this outreach to minister to many people.

The Lord has blessed our Church with more outreach ministries than any Church it's size in the area and I can't express my appreciation to the good member we have here for their prayers and support.

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WHERE DO YOU FIT IN??

A national survey of churches in the United States revealed the following about Church members:

- 10% cannot be found
- 20% never attend a service
- 25% admit they never pray
- 35% admit they never read God's Word.
- 40% never contribute to the Church or it's mission
- 60% never read or study the Sunday School lesson
- 70% never attend the Sunday Evening Service
- 75% never assume an responsibility in their church.
- 95% never win a soul to Christ.
- 100% Expect to go to Heaven!!!

public school as lightly as they treat Sunday School they would never have to worry about sending their kids to college!!

If most people treated their attendance at work like they treat their attendance at God's house they would be fired in a week.

If most people worked on their job like they do at church they wouldn't last a day at work!

IF people spread the Gospel with as much zeal as they spread Gossip we'd turn the world upside down in a week!

A man may say he's a Bluebird but if he walks like a Duck, talks like a Duck, acts like a Duck, and flies like a Duck--if I go Duck hunting he's going to be dead Duck!

A man may say he's a Christian but if he.....

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IN CASE SOME OF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN, HERE IS OUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00am A person who attends our Sunday School regularly will study thru the Bible every 7 years. And I think the Bible is the most important Book in the world.

MORNING EVANGELISTIC SERVICE 11:00am The Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to a world that desperately needs it.

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00pm Time to Sing, and Praise, and Preach, and Worship God together.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30pm Bible Based Activities, Bible Study, and Prayer Time. (And many times, time to Fellowship together).

JOIN US THIS WEEK IN ANY OR ALL OF OUR SERVICES. GOD HAS BEEN DOING GREAT THINGS FOR US AND WE'D LIKE TO SHARE THE BLESSING

* The survey sounds close to being correct. The first thing I ask for when I go to a Church is an up-to-date membership roll (Most churches don't have one!). I use this for my Prayer list and to locate the members. EVERY church I have pastored there have been people on the roll that noone could identify.

* It's not hard to find the 20% of the adverage Church that never attend.

* I list the non-prayers and non-Bible readers much higher than this.

* If most people paid their debts to society like they pay their tithes to God they would be in jail in a month!

* If most people allowed their children to treat

their children to treat

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GLORY

September 9, 1985 Vol III Num 17

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

IT'S FINALLY ARRIVED!! Home-Coming/ 25th Anniversary services are this Sunday (Sept 15). After months of preparation and anticipation the big day is finally here-- and we're looking for a great, great day in the Lord. Special Music, Special Preaching, Special Presentations, Church History displays, a Huge Fellowship Meal, and the largest attendance in the history of the Church are anticipated. Make your plans to be here at 10am and spend the day with us as we rejoice in past Blessings and look to future achievements (Times, Participates and order of service are on the back of this page).

Let me give a Big word of THANKS to all of the people of the Church for their work and sacrifice to prepare for this day. You'll want to look over the Sunday School rooms and notice how nice they look (Notice the class Bulletin Boards!). But some of the greatest work has been done by the Teaching and labor of the members over the past 25 years to bring us to this place. Thanks, early church pioneers, for preparing the way for us. Now let's use what we have to go ever forward.

It has been a very busy several weeks since the last newsletter as the Lord continues to open new doors of service and outreach. I was on morning devotion 4 weeks in a row and I'm using some of the messages from "Victorious Faith" (produced by the National Association of FWB) this week. We are broadcasting our Morning Service every Sunday now and have received excellent response. Our community is becoming increasingly aware of our Church and it's message as we use radio, newsletters, and personal contact to spread the Gospel. Thank God for His Blessings.

Special Thanks to Mrs. Carrie Huggins, Mrs. Anne McKnight, and Mrs. Elise McBride for recent contributions to this ministry.

Several of the Ladies are meeting once or twice a week at the Church for a time of Prayer and the results so far have been amazing. I mention this to show I appreciate their effort and to let YOU know that you too can do something for God. You may not have much money or talent but you can pray for this ministry and this minister. And God can produce results beyond anything you imagined.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY/HOME-COMING ORDER OF SERVICE SUNDAY SEPT. 15

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00am (Please fill out a name and address card and put it in the offering plate during Sunday School. Put your name on the name tag and wear it on your clothing. Thank You.)

Hymn #398 "Glory to His Name"

Prayer- Arnold Lowder, Deacon

Responsive Reading #416 "Church Covenant"

Special Music-

Special Presentations

Bible Lesson- "Presistent Prayer" Luke 11:1-13 10:15- 10:50

HOME COMING WORSHIP SERVICE (over WJOT) 10:55am

Prelude- Jackie Lowder, Pianist Marion Coker (Deacon), Song Leader

Hymn #51 "Take the Name of Jesus with You" (First Song at Organizing

Opening Prayer- Ralph McAllister, Deacon

Welcome and Announcements

Poem- Mrs. Billie Ard

Choir Special #88 "Though Your Sins be as Scarlet"

Offering- Gene Fulton will present a Special during the Offering

(Today's offering is to help rebuild our General Fund after all the work we have undertaken this year in anticipation of this 25th Anniversary/Home-coming Service--Paint church and parsonage; new sidewalks and parking area; new windows in church; new back on piano; new pulpit, communion table, and chairs; new refrigerator in fellowship building; reworked nursery; new rug on porch;...)

Hymn #3 "How Firm a Foundation" (First song in Church Building)

Church History- Carl Jordan Recognize Charter Members

Special Music- Johnny and Lossie Evans

Message- Rev. Johnny Evans

Invitation #376 "Just as I Am"

FELLOWSHIP MEAL- Dinner should be ready. We will ask the blessing as we dismiss. Please form the line down the hall into the Fellowship Building. Please keep all food and drink inside the Fellowship Building. (Overflow can use the Sunday School rooms if necessary but please keep all food and drink out of the Sanctuary).

WORSHIP IN SONG- 1:30pm We Welcome Ronnie and Robin, Rev. Carey McElveen, Gene Fulton, The Singing Echoes, Marion and Jenene, ... to sing for God's Glory.

No Night services today--remember Prayer Meeting Wednesday at 7:30pm

Flowers today are in memory of and respect for Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Granger by Tommy and "Sully" Sullivan.

Ushers- Jack Hanna (Deacon) and Sammy Floyd

Nursery- Betty Lou Thompson and Melissa Powell

Be sure to check the Bulletin Boards around the Church. They have a number of "interesting" pictures and papers from the church's past.

THANKS to everyone for their cooperation in making today's activities possible. God has been great to us this year and we hope that our 26th year will be the best ever.

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GALORY

September 19, 1985 Vol III Num 18 "TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

Home Coming was simply great. The Singing and Sermon were very very good, the food was excellent, the church was full, and the Spirit of the Lord seemed to minister in a very special way. I really appreciate the work and prayers of everyone and I'm already looking forward to next year.

The Church looked as good as it has ever looked with new porch carpet, the paving complete, the extra care everyone had taken in their class, and the new pulpit set. (We had to send that back Monday because it was the wrong color but we hope to have it back soon.). Much much work went into preparing for the Home Coming and I appreciate everyone's effort.

Brother Danny Broach spoke last night at Prayer Meeting and did an outstanding job. I think he gave as good a message as I have ever heard him give and I appreciate his willingness to share God's Blessings with the Church.

SPECIAL SERVICES- The Ladies Aux. will have their Installation Service Sunday Night (Sept 22) at 7:00pm (**NOTE THE TIME). Ladies in the program will meet at 6:00pm.

The Teens will host a Spaghetti Supper and be in charge of the Services next Wednesday night (Sept 25). Contributions will be accepted to help the Teens with several projects that they have planned. I hope we have a church full to show the teens we appreciate their willingness to work as well as to feed us. I really appreciate the work Mrs. Slyvia and Sully are doing with our Teens.

This Sunday morning's sermon will be about what happens after death. We recently talked about the new bodies we receive when we go to be with the Lord but we need to know what happens besides the new body. I think the message is one that EVERYONE needs to hear and I urge all of you to make a special effort to be here Sunday.

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I have talked with a number of Christians lately that seem to be "drifting" in their Christian life. They don't think they are accomplishing anything for the Lord and wonder why. Maybe the following comments will help.

REFERENCE- I have a number of puzzles on my desk (Rubic's cube, Pyraminx, Rubic's Revenge, star cubes, etc.). I use them in sermons from time to time and the kids love to come into my office to play with them. One of the first rules you learn when you begin to solve puzzles is to find and maintain a reference point. These puzzles can be very "puzzling" when you're trying to think 4 or 5 moves ahead of where you are now and it can look like you ought to do one thing when that is exactly the wrong thing to do. You must look at your reference point and work from there regardless of how much it seems like it won't work.

Life is like that. As you go through life's pathways there are many twists and turns and sometimes you get confused. When we do we must come back to the reference point. Many people use the Church as a reference but when church problems come along their reference becomes obscured. Some use the Pastor as a reference but when he fails to live up to their extraordinary expectations or God moves him to another field they begin to drift. You need a reference that is steadfast- *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Heb 13:8).*

INSULATION- We have tried to keep our thermostat set on 80 degrees this summer to conserve electricity (and money!) but it has been very hot and our Air Conditioner ran very very much. All of the equipment checked out but still the Air Conditioner ran and ran and ran and still couldn't keep the house at 80 degrees.

I have been thinking about ineffective Christian living lately and last week I awoke in the middle of the night with the answer to the air conditioner and the ineffective living problem. I determined that sin separates from the Saviour and, when I checked the next day, I found that dust and dirt insulate cooling coils so that they become ineffective. The coils and the machinery all worked well but through the years dust and dirt had accumulated on the coils and the cooling could not get into the house. I vacuumed the coils clean and could not believe the difference in comfort and economy.

We allow the same thing to happen in our lives. Sin begins to "pile up" and we ignore it. Then we find ourselves working longer and harder and accomplishing less and less for God. We check the "machinery" over and over and wonder what's wrong when what we need is a good cleaning- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn 1:9).*

If you are not as close to God now as you once were you need to realize that God has not moved- you have!! And God does not deal in "surface" issues, He gets to the root of the problem.

So you must be willing to come back to God and deal with your problems realistically. It won't be fun but it will be Fruitful!

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COLOR

October 1, 1985 Vol III Num 19

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

WHAT A GREAT DAY WE HAD SUNDAY. WE HAD THE LARGEST SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND THE LARGEST SUNDAY NIGHT ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR (SO FAR!!). OUR SERVICES LATELY HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD AND I APPRECIATE THE LORD'S BLESSINGS VERY MUCH. MUCH OF THE CREDIT GOES TO THE LADIES PRAYER GROUP THAT MEETS EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE CHURCH AND TO RON KNIGHT AND DANNY BROACH WHO HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO INCREASE THEIR CLASS. SLOWLY BUT SURELY PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT OUR CHURCH CAN DO SOMETHING FOR GOD IF EVERYONE WILL JOIN IN AND DO THEIR PART.

THE LADIES AUX. INSTALLATION SERVICE AND THE TEEN NIGHT WERE SIMPLY GREAT. BOTH GROUPS HAD VERY GOOD PROGRAMS AND GOOD PARTICIPATION. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

OCTOBER IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER BUSY MONTH:

- Oct 4 S.C. Conference Quarterly Meet at First FWB Church Charleston
- Oct 9 Quarterly Church Conference following Prayer Meet
- Oct 11 Pulpit furniture supposed to be ready (Again!)
- Oct 14-18 Pastor on Morning Devotions over WJOT
- Oct 18-19 Evangelism Conference at Horse Branch FWB Church Turbeville
(Friday night and all day Saturday. Going to be great!)
- Oct 20, 27 Morning Worship Service broadcast over WJOT
- Oct 31 Family Fun Night at the Church
- Nov 1 Teen Trip to Mountains (Tentative)

Special Thanks to Mr and Mrs Ken Hill of Miss., Mrs. Carrie Huggins of Lake City, and Mr and Mrs Bill McBride of Grace for recent help for this ministry. Hopefully, it will allow me to put together a number of books for distribution soon. Between Preaching, Radio, newsletters, Bible Institute, and writing books I have to spend all my time thinking and have little for typing up stencils. (I miss my Florida Secretary!). So be patience with me as I try convert written notes into typed booklets.

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THINGS IN HELL WE NEED IN THE CHURCH

Luke 16:19-31

As we look at this story of the sad fate of a man who lived for self instead of the Saviour we can see the awfulness of Hell. This glimpse allows us to consider some of the things in Hell that are needed in today's Church.

1. SINNERS vs 22-23 Most Churches have very very few sinners in their services anymore. We wonder why the preaching of the Word fails to produce results when the people who need to hear it aren't here!! Sad to say, most Christians are satisfied instead of seeking. Others are afraid sinners will disrupt the services because they don't know everything they're supposed to do yet or they are afraid they will inconvenience us in some way.

IF WE HAD MORE SINNERS IN CHURCH WE'D HAVE FEWER IN HELL!!

2. A VISION OF HELL vs 22 Jonathan Edwards said that if he could show the Church Hell he'd have no problem getting them to Heaven! People seem to have forgotten that Hell is a place of torment, flames, thirst, and eternal separation. And sinners will not fear Hell unless Christians do. In a world that preaches nothing but "goosey love" for everyone someone needs to remind people that the wages of sin are still death.

3. A VISION OF HEAVEN vs 22 When Isaiah saw the Lord it changed him (Is. 6). Far too many Church members have "parked" in this world and lost their vision of being a pilgrim and a stranger (Heb 11:13). We need to "see" Heaven and long to go there. Do you have a Heavenly Vision, or simply a Tele-vision???

4. ERNEST PRAYER vs 24 The Rich man did not pray a nice little "now I lay me down to sleep" prayer. He meant business and prayed until he got an answer (in this case "no"). When is the last time you saw Christians arriving at Church early or staying late to pray?? When is the last time you prayed and prayed and prayed???

5. A MISSIONARY ZEAL vs 27 The rich man wanted someone sent, not by chance, but on purpose. He was determined that they get the message.
The People to witness to- my 5 brothers
The reason to witness- Lest they come to this place
The way to witness- The Word, not miracles. You don't have to be a Magician. You simply have to be available!! (This means sometimes you Comfort them, sometimes you Confront them, sometimes you Convert them, but always you Care.)

IF WE ARE GOING TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF HELL WE NEED TO TAKE SOME LESSONS FROM HELL!!

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GLORY

October 16, 1985 Vol III Num 20

"TO KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST"

REVIVAL

OCT. 23-25 7:30PM NIGHTLY
REV. ROGER TRIPP, EVANGELIST

PRAY*****PLAN TO ATTEND*****INVITE EVERYONE YOU KNOW

REV. ROGER TRIPP PASTORED THE CHURCH IN IT'S BEGINNING AND NOW PASTORS A HOME MISSION CHURCH IN HICKORY, N.C.. HE IS RESPECTED AND LOVED HERE IN THE CHURCH AND IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR A GOOD REVIVAL. MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS AN INVITATION TO ATTEND.

+ + + + +

SEVEN MONTHS TO THE DAY AFTER WE ORDERED OUR PULPIT SET IT HAS FINALLY ARRIVED! WE THANK JACK AND DEVONNE HANNA FOR THEIR GIFT AND PRAY IT WILL BE USED TO BRING GLORY TO GOD FOR MANY YEARS.

I appreciate recent gifts from Marion Coker, Jack Hanna, Billie Ard, and Elise McBride for this ministry. This newsletter ministry has operated for 10 months now entirely by Faith and has yet to see a time when God did not meet its needs. A large number of Preachers and members use the notes and sermons I include from time to time and that is a real Blessing as it expands the ministry. As time and God's provision allows I will include more helpful material. Feel free to use it in any way that would advance the cause of Christ. I'm not looking for "credit" from men--I'm expecting rewards from God!! (In case you are interested, I do tithe the income from this ministry. All of the work of this ministry is "God's Work" but I want Him to know that I realize the source of our supply.)

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During Church Conference on Wednesday, Oct 9, the Church made one of the most important decisions it may ever make. We decided to begin to tithe the income of the Church. Our finances have been very low this year and this is a step of Faith but I believe it is one that God will honor (If we think we have it rough now, I just found a copy of the conference minutes for 1967. The church took in \$7,838.58 and spent \$7,789.49 leaving a balance of \$49.09!!!! The preacher received \$2,300 that year.)

It was decided that the tithe would be divided as follows: $\frac{1}{4}$ to the Children's Home in Turbeville, $\frac{1}{4}$ to the Promotional Secretary's Office (Rev. Norwood Gibson), and $\frac{1}{2}$ to Foreign Missions to be divided among the Lees, Hannas, Pooles, and Aldridges.

The Dead Sea is dead because it only takes in; and I'm convinced that a Church that thinks only of itself is destined to die also. This is a start and it requires a great deal of Faith right now but I hope the day will come soon when 50% of everything we take in will be used for outreach ministries. May the Lord give us the Faith and the Finances to do so.

Neh 10:38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God; to the chambers, unto the treasure house.

Mal 3:8-12 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

Ex 23:19 The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God.

Prov 3:9-10 Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

#####

REMEMBER THE REVIVAL TIME CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH WILL BE HELD AT HORSE BRANCE FWB CHURCH IN TURBEVILLE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT AT 7:00PM AND ALL DAY SATURDAY BEGINNING AT 9:00PM. HEAR GREAT SINGING WITH REV. JOHN GIBBS AND GREAT PREACHING WITH REV. CONNIE CARIKER, REV. TRYMON MESSER, AND REV. ROY THOMAS. SATURDAY NIGHT WILL ALSO FEATURE A JOINT YOUTH RALLY WITH SINGING, REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TIME. IF YOU WANT TO HEAR SOME PREACHER THAT "SHUCK THE CORN" INSTEAD OF "CACKLING ON THE NEST" AND SOME SINGING THAT MAKES YOU THINK GOD CRACKED THE DOORS OF HEAVEN THEN MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THESE SERVICES.



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October 23, 1985 Vol III Num 21 "TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

ONE OF THE SYMTOMS OF THE SICKNESS OF THE CHURCH TODAY IS THE WAY IT ALLOWS AND ACCEPTS THE WORLDS WAY OF DOING THINGS. IT HAS ALLOWED THE WORLD TO COMMERLIZE CHRISTMAS UNTIL PEOPLE DREAD IT INSTEAD OF REJOICING IN IT; IT HAS ALLOWED EASTER TO BECOME COTTON-TAILS INSTEAD OF CHRIST RISING; AND IT HAS ADOPTED THE PAGAN WORSHIP OF DEMONS AND WITCHES INTO IT'S BOSOM BY PROMOTING THE SYMBOLS AND SINS OF HALLOWEEN (Churches sponser "Haunted Houses"!!! and most homes have "jack-o-lanterns" scattered all around- which represents demon possession). LET'S LOOK AT WHERE HALLOWEEN CAME FROM, WHAT'S BAD ABOUT IT, AND WHAT WE CAN DO AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

I. THE BACKGROUND- On May 13, 610AD the Catholic Church first celebrated the "Feast of all Holy Martyrs". Eventually they decided that a day was needed to honor all Saints and not just martyrs. They called it "All Saints Day" and moved it to November 1 of each year.

The Evening before All Saints Day began to be called "All Hallow's Eve (Eve of all the Holy Ones Day) and eventually was mutated to Halloween

The Customs associated with Halloween come from the Celts. The old Celtic calendar began the New Year on Noventer 1 (The year ended for them with the harvest of their crops) and the night before (Oct 31) became known as a time when witches and goblins roamed around trying to hold back the new year. People began to have New Year's Eve parties (just as they do today) and would dress up as witches and goblins to "placate" the demons. Eventually they began to go from house to house demanding an offering (treat) from the householder in exchange for protection from the demons for the coming year (or I'll trick you).

II. THE BADNESS

1. When so many people are becoming involved in cults, witchcraft, and Satanic "churches"; do you think a Christian parent (or Church) should allow their children to dress up as demons and witches and then find they get rewarded for dressing that way????? What kind of Roll Models do you want your children to have?

(Continued on back)

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2. The very principle of you give me a "treat" or I will "trick" you is absolutely foreign to the teachings of Christ. Do you think we should promote this among children??

3. With the problems today of a sick society that puts poison in candy, razor blades in fruit, and molests children "Trick or treating" has become not only spiritually bad but physically dangerous.

III. WHAT CAN WE DO? The idea of children having fun and being treated is a good one. We don't want to "throw out the baby with the bath water!". Here are a few suggestions:

1. Let's do away with the name Halloween and all it means-- call your get together a "Fall Festival" or "Family Fun Time", etc.

2. Instead of having the kids go from door to door organize a house party where the kids can play games and enjoy themselves. Let each of them bring a bag of candy and pour it into a big bowl from which everyone eats as the evening progresses. (This will teach them to share- or that eating too much candy at one time makes you sick!!). Think about any decorations--what do they represent??

3. Let everyone dress as Bible Characters, as people from foreign lands where we have missionaries, and let the first game be to guess what Bible character they are or what country they represent. (This teaches them the Bible or shows them God's concern for a lost world instead of making them want to be demons).

4. Ask you Pastor to make a public stand about it so that everyone will know what you are trying to do and why you are doing so.

5. Remember the basis for everything we do-- I COR 10:31 WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

* * * * *

Our "Family Fun Night" is scheduled for Thursday, Oct 31 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Building. Our theme this year will be "Rejoicing in the Harvest" (Just finishing up a Revival and looking back on a year of great Blessings from the Lord). We will dress "Country" (easy for everyone) and have "Country Contest" as part of our activities. Every family is asked to bring a bag of candy and the ladies will provide refreshments. We're looking for a great clean time of Christian fun. (No, Mrs. Althea. Clean does not mean you put water all over the preacher- or soap in his coffee!!!).

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REMEMBER:

REVIVAL CONTINUES THRU FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:30PM EACH NIGHT. MRS. MONA MORRIS WILL SING THURSDAY NIGHT AND THE SERVANT'S TRIO WILL SING FRIDAY NIGHT. DON'T MISS THE BLESSINGS.

TIME CHANGES SUNDAY, AN EXTRA HOUR TO GET READY SO WE CAN HAVE THE LARGEST ATTENDANCE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS YEAR.

GOLD STARS TO:

BETH BROACH FOR SUPPLYING THE GLASS FOR THE TOP OF THE COMMUNION TABLE.

DAVID AND ROBBIE GOWDY FOR HELPING THE PREACHER RAKE STRAW FOR THE CHURCH.

GRACE

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"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

VOL III Num 22 NOVEMBER 13, 1985

GLORY

I WOULD HAVE MADE ENOUGH HONEY FOR THE ENTIRE WINTER IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS IF I WERE A BEE BECAUSE I'VE BEEN "BUSY AS A BEE" LATELY. I FEEL LIKE 'VE ALMOST LIVED IN THE HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL HOME FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND IT DOESN'T SHOW A LOT OF SIGNS OF EASING UP. THAT'S THE REASON THIS NEWSLETTER IS SO LATE. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET IT OUT BUT TIME HAS BEEN AT A PREMIUM.

THE FAMILY FUN NIGHT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. MRS. ALTHEA COKER AND HER COMMITTEE PUT TOGETHER A GREAT PROGRAM AND EVERYONE SEEMED TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN. WE HAD A GOOD TURN OUT IN SPITE OF THE RAIN AND I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR.

OUR SERVICES HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD LATELY AND IT'S GOOD TO SEE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE'VE PRAYED FOR AND WORKED WITH SO LONG BEGIN TO COME TO CHURCH. I BELIEVE WE'VE GOT WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR AND NEED AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE IT WITH THEM.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MCBRIDES AND MRS. MARY VON BAKER FOR RECENT GIFTS TO THIS MINISTRY. WE NEEDED SOME THINGS LAST WEEK AND WHAT THEY GAVE WAS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED!! TIME AFTER TIME GOD HAS DONE THIS. I COULD WRITE A BOOK ON THE ANSWERED PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY. (ANOTHER EXAMPLE. I ASKED PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR THE RADIO BROADCAST OF OUR MORNING SERVICE SUNDAY AND ONE OF OUR MEMBERS WHO WAS TOO SICK TO COME SUNDAY MORNING CAME SUNDAY NIGHT SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF WHAT SHE HEARD ON THE RADIO!!).

I HOPE THE NOTES IN TODAY'S NEWSLETTER WILL HELP YOU. IF YOU'RE GOING TO HELL I HOPE YOU'LL TURN AROUND, TRUST JESUS, AND BECOME A CHILD OF GOD. IF YOU'RE SAVED, I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT HEAVEN SO MUCH UNTIL YOU'LL INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN YOU. (WHEN I GET MY COMPUTER (NOTICE I DIDN'T SAY "IF") AND ELECTRONIC STENCIL CUTTER I'LL REALLY GIVE YOU SOME NOTES TO STUDY!).

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CONDITIONS BEFORE THE COMING

There are some things we need to understand about this age we live in, between the resurrection and the rapture.

1. **DISTINCTIONS OF THIS AGE.** There are a number of ways in which this present age differs from all the ages that preceded it.

A) Before, Christ was anticipated. Now we see Him on the right hand of the Father as we look back at His death, burial, and resurrection. Our Faith is in an accomplished victory instead of an anticipated visit.

B) In ages past, the Holy Spirit came on certain men to empower them for specific tasks. Today He dwells in every believer.

C) The Nation of Israel has been set aside as God's primary instrument during this age and the Gentiles have been grafted in.

2. GOD'S PROGRAM DURING THIS AGE.

God has not "changed" or "done away with" His program for Israel. He has simply set them aside while He accomplishes His purpose with the Gentiles. His purpose for Israel will yet be realized.

His program for this age is to call out a people from the Gentiles to show the marvel and wonder of Grace- *Ep 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Jesus Christ.* He will actually show in the ages to come how Israel could have enjoyed the Blessings of God but their stubborn rebellious spirit kept them from doing so.

These called out Gentiles form the Church and as such are the:
body of which Christ is the Head (Ep 1:22-23)
bride of which Christ is the bridegroom (Ep 5:25-27, 32)
branch of which Christ is the supporting vine (Jn 15:1)
flock of which Christ is the Shepherd (Jn 10:7-27)
temple of which Christ is the cornerstone (Ep 2:19-22, I Pet 2:5)
ministering priests of which Christ is the high priest (I Pet 2:9)
new creation of which Christ is the first fruits (I Cor 15:45).

3. CONDITIONS DURING THIS AGE

There are no signs of Christ's return to Rapture the Church (There are numerous signs before His Second Coming in Glory). But there are a number of prevailing conditions that will exist as this present age draws to a close that warn us to be increasingly watchful. The key thing to remember about these conditions is that they will exist in the Church and not just in the world.

1. Denial of God's Power II Tim 3:5
2. Denial of Christ coming in the flesh I Jn 4:3
3. Denial of Christ's return II Pet 3:3-4
4. Denial of the Faith I Tim 4:1-2 (Age of Apostacy)
5. Denial of Sound Doctrine II Tim 4:3-4
6. Denial of the Separated Life II Tim 3:1-7 Jude 18-19
7. Denial of Christian Liberty I Tim 4:3-4

The example of how this age will develop is found in the 7 churches in Rev. 2: 3:-. Notice that the Church finally ends up in Riches instead of Rags but with Christ on the outside seeking entrance!!

HEAVEN

There are 3 places called "Heaven" in the Scriptures.

I. THE ATMOSPHERIC HEAVEN- The Atmosphere is normally considered to be the area from the ground to 20 miles above the earth although all "air" does not end until 1000 miles above the earth (To give you some reference- normal clouds are within 7 miles of the earth and the density of the air at 150 miles above the earth is 1 ten-millioneth of that at sea level.). (The Greek words used in the Bible to distinguish the Atmospheric Heaven from the Celestial Heaven makes the dividing line the top of the mountains- specifically Mt. Olympus- which may make Atmospheric Heaven "Breathable" air.)

The Atmospheric Heaven is the abode of the birds and the source of rain (snow, hail, dew, etc). It has 3 important aspects in regard to Spiritual happenings:

A) It is the Dominion of Satan- Ep 2:2 *The prince of the power of the air is Satan* and he and his demon cohorts use the atmosphere to travel from place to place to do their wicked work. They consider the air their particular dominion because man (until recently) was unable to invade it. (Man was given dominion over the fowls of the air (Gen 1:26) and this may be Satan's way of trying to show his superiority over man. Also, when God cursed the serpent, He told him to crawl in the dust of the earth and Satan may be showing his rebellion against this punishment). Think of all the bad music and programs that go out over the "air waves"!

(When Jesus ascended on high in Ep 4:8-10 the idea is that as He went thru the air the demons tried to stop him but he shed them as a running back sheds tacklers!).

B) At the Lord's Return we will meet Him in the air (I Thess 4:17). To show His dominion and control over Satan Christ will gather His Children for their flight to Glory in the atmosphere that Satan considers his own.

C) The 7th vial judgment (The final one before Christ's return) will be poured out into the air- Rev 16:17 *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there was a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.* (This may bring about the atmospheric changes that will enable man to live extended lives during the Millenium as he did before the flood. It may simply be God's final judgment on Satan's dominion in the air.)

II. CELESTIAL HEAVEN- What we on earth call "Space"- containing the sun, moon, and stars. On a clear night as many as 200 stars can be seen with the naked eye standing in one spot. With a one inch telescope some 225,000 stars are visible. With the 100 inch telescope 1,500,000,000 stars are visible but with the 200 inch telescope nearly 1 billion galaxies are visible (Each of which may contain as many as 100,000 million stars!!).

The distance between stars is so great until it must be measured in light years (The distance light travels in 1 year- 5,880,000,000,000 miles). Our Solar system has a diameter of 660 light minutes but the galaxy of which it is a part has a diameter of 100,000 light years! The closest galaxy to us is the Andromeda Galaxy- 1,500,000 light years away!!

1. We are to stand in awe of the Universe- Ps 8:3 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him?*

2. We are to use the "guideposts" of the Heavens- Jer 31:35 *Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night. (See also Gen 1:14-19).* Ships pilot by the stars (The wise men followed a star to Christ). The sun is our "timepiece"- days, seasons, etc.

3. We are not to worship the Heavenly bodies or use them to forcast the future- Ex 20:4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:* Many of the Eastern religions worship the sun--but check our beaches! Satanic worship involves the use of the Zodiac signs-- Most scholars believe that the tower of Babel was built to worship the "heavenlies" (Zodiac signs) and was never intended to reach the "Moon". Gen 11:4 *And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. "May reach" was added by the translators and should read "topped by the heavenlies".* Such a Zodiac building has been found in the ruins of Babylon.

This means you should not read or heed your "horror-scope".

III. THE THIRD HEAVEN- The abode of God.

While it is true that God is a Spirit and "The Heaven of heavens cannot contain God" (I Kings 8:27, II Chron 2:6) because He is everywhere at once; yet the Bible tells us that God has chosen to abide in a place called Heaven.

There are very few references to this Heaven in Scripture (Most things that people say about Heaven are actually about the millennial kingdom or the New Jerusalem). The clearest description is found in Rev 4:- and this is mainly about God's throne. It describes who is:

A) On the Throne (God). He is described as Jasper (Clear to Blue) and Sardine (Red). (God is Spirit, Light, Love, and Truth. How do you picture these??)

B) Round the throne- An emerald (Green) rainbow. Also 24 elders in white raiment with crowns of gold (Israel and the Church?? 12 tribes and 12 apostles.).

C) Out of the throne- lightnings and thunderings and voices (See Ex 19:16-20. The Throne speaks of judgment.)

D) Before the Throne- 7 lamps of fire representing the 7 Spirits of God (The 7-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit- restraining, convicting, regenerating, sealing, baptizing, indwelling, filling). -A sea of glass like unto crystal

E) In the midst of the throne- 4 living creatures full of eyes (See Ez 1:4-10). They represent the many sided nature of God. These creatures begin to give glory and honor and thanks to God which causes the 24 elders to begin to worship God by casting their crowns before the throne. (The reason for this worship: *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou has created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* We realize that our purpose and peace is found in worship of God.)

The "Door of Heaven" is the house of God- Gen 28:17

NEW JERUSALEM- FUTURE HOME OF THE SAINTS REV 21:-

One of the most common fallacies among people is the asertion that we will spend eternity in "Heaven". The actual order of things for the Christian after death is Heaven, Earth during the 1000 year millinnial reign of Christ, and our mansion in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth throughout eternity.

Most of the things that people ascribe to Heaven are in fact about the New Jerusalem. Here are some facts about that marvelous place-- it's not "Heaven" but it's what we think of when we think of Heaven!

I. IT'S SHAPE- Rev 21:16 *The city lieth four-square, and the length is as large as the breadth:...* The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. There are 2 possibilities- a cube or a pyramid. If it is a pyramid then the top would be the throne of God and everything else would radiate from it.

II. IT'S SIZE- The City: Rev 21:16 *he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs.* That's about 1400 miles- the bottom of the city would reach from New York to Denver and from Florida to Canada! Scientist say that the bottom "floor" of this city would accomodate every man, woman, and child that has ever lived on earth.

The Walls: Rev 21:17 *He measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.* 216 feet in present day measurements (Some believe this to be the THICKNESS of the walls). To compare- a 216 foot wall around a 1400 mile high city would be like a one inch curb around the Empire State Building!! And yet John called the wall "great and high" (21:12). 216 feet is, after all, equal to a 20 story building!

III. IT'S CHARACTERISTICS- It is adorned as a bride for her husband(2,9)

A) It's Foundation- The city rests upon 12 layers of foundation stones each with a name of one of the 12 apostles of the Lamb inscribed on it (14). vs 19-20 describe the precious stones that make up this foundation: Jasper (clear to blue), Sapphire (darker blue), Chalcedony (sky-blue with intermingled colors), Emerald (bright green), Sardonyx (white with layers of red), Sardius (Fiery Red), Chrysolyte (Golden Yellow), Beryl (Sea-green), Topaz (Golden Green), Chrysoprasus (Blue Green), Jacinth (Violet), Amethyst (Sparkling Purple).

B) It's Wall- The wall was of Jasper (vs 19). A "See-thru" Wall!!!

C) It's Gates- 12 gates, and at the gates 12 angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel: On the east 3 gates, on the north 3 gates; on the south 3 gates; and on the west 3 gates (12-13). The twelve gates were 12 pearls: Every several gate was of one pearl (vs 21). The Gates are never shut (vs 25).

D) It's Street- Pure gold, as transparent as glass (vs 21). The Glory of God will radiate thru the wall and the street and provide light for the city.

E) It's River- A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (22:1).

F) It's Tree of Life- In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life (22:2). Possibly the river runs down the middle of the street and the tree spans the river to hang on the street. The purpose of the tree- to bare 12 manner of fruits, and yield her fruit every month (?-no sun, how will we distinguish months?) and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (???).

IV. IT'S CITIZENS

A) Who They Are

1. The Holy Angels- Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto Mt. Sion, and unto the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. How many angels are there?? And I heard the voice of many angels around about the throne,...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands!!! (Rev 5:11). They have served God and the Saints (Heb 1:14) and will continue to do so.

2. The Church- The Bride of Christ. All those that have overcome thru the Blood of Christ and become sons of God.

3. God- And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. This is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. The God of the universe will chose to dwell forever with redeemed men!!! More than any other verse this proves God's love for men to me.

B) What We Do- His servants shall serve him Rev 22:3

Probably with Song and Worship, but also with identification (His name shall be in their forehead (22:4) and by reigning with Him (22:5). Will the New Jerusalem be our "Home Base" as we administer God's business thru out the universe????!!!

SOME THINGS YOU WON'T FIND THERE:

1. The Old Earth- It has passed away (Rev 21:1, II Pet 3:10)
2. No Sea- Rev 21:1 Where does the river go???
3. No Tears, Death, Sorrow, Crying, Pain, or Curse (21:4, 22:3)
4. No temple- The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it (21:22). Symbols have become substance- We won't go to talk about Him, we'll go to worship Him!!
5. No sun, moon, or night- The Glory of God and the Lamb lighten it (21:23, 22:5). Possibly by traveling the golden street and jasper walls much like light travels a tube of glass.
6. No shut Gates- 21:25 Access always!
7. No one not written in the Lamb's book of life (21:27, 22:15).

HELL

One of the most neglected subjects in spiritual circles today is the subject of Hell. It is seldom preached on or thought about but it is of vital importance to everyone- Sinners need to know where they are going, and Christians need to glimpse the place we're trying to rescue people from.

1. Our greatest fear should be of Hell- Luke 12:5 *But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into Hell; yea, I say unto you, fear him.*

2. It's better to be maimed in this life than to go to Hell-Mt 18:8 *Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.*

I. THE PURPOSE OF HELL- Hell was originally prepared for the devil and the angels who rebelled against God (Mt 25:41) but was enlarged to include everyone who chose to rebel against God and follow the works of Satan (Is 5:11-15).

****If someone had a virus that caused them to do harm to themselves and to others and this virus was highly contagious wouldn't you need to separate this person from others to protect them. That's why God had to prepare a place to put rebels. If they went to Heaven, they would change it into a "Hell" (Disease, Disobedience, and Death would move into Heaven if they entered there).**

The reason God does not just "kill" these rebels is that they are given an eternal soul as part of their "birthright" that makes man different from the animals. It is our greatest Blessing-- but if you refuse to trust Christ, it is your greatest Burden.

II. THE NAMES OF HELL- The Bible uses 4 words for Hell:

1. Sheol- The O.T. word for the place where the dead go. It is sometimes used for the grave (Gen 42:38, Ps 88:3) but always in the sense of a place of separation from God (Jon 2:2).

2. Hades- Equivalent to the O.T. "Sheol". Luke 16:19-31 makes it clear that Hades was divided into 2 parts before the ascension of Christ with an impassable gulf between them. The unbelievers were in Hell where they were tormented and the saved were in "Abraham's Bosom" or "Paradise" (See Lu 23:43 where the repentant thief went to Paradise that day).

At His ascension Christ carried the Paradise believers with him to Heaven (Ep 4:8-10. Also Matt 27:52-53) where they await their resurrection bodies. (Paul talked of being caught up into the third heaven...paradise in II Cor 12:1-4).

3. Gehenna- Identical to the "Lake of Fire". It is the final abode of the wicked. It gets its name from a place in the valley of Hinnom, just outside Jerusalem, where trash and refuse was dumped and burned (It is said that the fires never went out--dead animals and many poor people were cast into this "trash pile" because they had no burial place.). When Israel fell into idolatry they offered human sacrifice at Gehenna (II Chron 28:1-4, Jer 7:31-33).

It is significant that God chose to call the final abode of the wicked dead after a trash pile. Men will go there because they rebelled against God and are therefore useless.

4. Tartarus- The prison of fallen angels (II Pet 2:4, Jude 6,7) where they await God's final judgment. (These are the angels that rebelled with Satan).

III. THE LOCATION OF HELL

A) Hades, Sheol, and Tartarus all seem to be located within the earth. Each time they are used mention is made of going down into them.

B) Gehenna seems to be located on the edge of or outside of the Universe. It is called "Outer Darkness" (Matt 8:12, II Pet 2:17).

IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF HELL

A) Unquenchable fire (Matt 3:12, Mk 9:43) where the body survives (Remember that God produced fire that would not burn Moses' bush and the 3 Hebrew children lived in the fire) and the worm does not die (Is 14:11, Mk 9:44). The fire will produce thirst and torment (Lu 16:24) and Misery and Pain (Rev 14:10-11 "They have no rest day or night").

B) Memory and remorse- Luke 16:25 "Son remember"

C) Frustration and anger- Mt 13:42 "Wailing and gnashing teeth"

D) Undiluted Divine wrath- Rev 14:10 *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture...*

E) According to knowledge and opportunity- Lu 12:47, 20:45, 47

F) Forever- Mt 25:46 "These shall go away into everlasting punishment"

V. THE PEOPLE OF HELL (Gehenna- "The Lake of fire")

1. The first occupants are the Beast and the False Prophet
Rev 19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

2. The next occupant will be Satan- Rev 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. The idea that Satan reigns in Hell is not Biblical!!*

3. Fallen Angels- Jude 6 *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. These fallen angels will be judged by the Saints (I Cor 6:3).*

4. All Unsaved People- Rev 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Rev 20:15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

You don't have to go to Hell. God has provided an escape- Jn 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*

You don't have to spend eternity thirsting in the flames- Rev 21:6-7 *I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

YOU CAN DENY HELL, YOU CAN DISBELIEVE HELL, BUT YOU'RE DESTINED FOR HELL APART FROM CHRIST.



WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE
THAT THE YOUNG ADULT CLASS
WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE
MORNING SERVICE ON SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 1, 1985.

RON KNIGHT AND DANNY BROACH
ARE DOING A FINE JOB WITH
THIS CLASS AND WE'RE THANK-

FUL FOR THEIR WORK. MOST OF THESE YOUNG ADULTS
HAVE NOT TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN THE CHURCH
SERVICES LATELY AND WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR
THEM THAT THIS WOULD BE JUST THE BEGINNING OF
FAITHFUL WORK FOR THE LORD. EACH OF THEM VOLUN-
TEERED FOR THEIR JOB AND I PRAISE THEM FOR THEIR
WILLINGNESS TO WORK.

HYMN- GRAHAM MATTHEWS, SONG LEADER

PRAYER-

YOUNG ADULT CLASS CHOIR SPECIAL

SERVE THE LORD WITH YOUR TALENTS- TODD NEWELL

SPECIAL MUSIC: ROBIN AND GRAHAM MATTHEWS,

CAM NEWELL, SULLY SULLIVAN.

SERVE THE LORD WITH YOUR TITHES- WYMAN LOWDER

OFFERING: USHERS- STEVE POSTON,

HYMN

SERVE THE LORD WITH YOUR TRUSTWORTHINESS- RONALD
KNIGHT

CONCLUSION- PASTOR

GRACE AND GLORY

Vol III Num 23 Nov 23, 1985 CHRIST FIRST I

As we enter this Thanksgiving season I find numerous reasons to Praise the Lord. He has been extremely good to the Church and its pastor this year and I rejoice in His Blessings. Our Sunday School attendance is up 15% for the first 10 months of this year compared to the same time last year; numerous improvements have been made in and around the Church with a minimal amount of debt incurred; and the outreach ministries of the Church have increased many fold to include newsletters, radio, and consistent giving to outside causes. The spirit in the services and the cooperation among the people has shown marked improvement in recent weeks and the potential for growth is as good as it has ever been in the history

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of the Church.

There is much Toil (and probably Tribulation!) ahead of us but we have begun to see what we can accomplish thru God's Power and Blessings and it's good for us to take the time to Praise the Lord for what HE has done for us. One of the first (and worst!) signs of backsliding is to become unthankful to God for Blessings (Because we think we deserve them! Rom 1:21). Let's look forward to God's future Blessings with a great deal of Faith but let us never forget what He has already done for us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Wed, Nov 27 7:30pm Praise Service
Sun, Dec 1 11:00am Young Adult Day
Sat, Dec 7 7:30pm Adult Class Party
(Red Barn Rest.)
Mon, Dec 9 7:30pm Ladies Aux Dec. Meet
Last night of fall term
of Bethel Bible Institute
Sat, Dec 14 7:00pm Young Adult Party, Church
Sun, Dec 22 WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING
6:00pm Christmas Play
7:00pm Fellowship Supper
Tue, Dec 31 9:00-Midnight Watch Nite Service

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

We have needed some extra microphones for our P.A. system for some time but they became vital as we prepared for this year's Christmas Play. Brother MARION COKER saw the need and purchased 4 very good mikes for the Church and we appreciate it more than we can say.

So far this year we have mailed nearly 10,000 newsletters and it's all made possible by the continued supply from the Lord. Thanks to Rev. Johnny Hudson, Ann McKnight, Bill & Elise McBride and ??? for their help this week. Also thanks to several that have contacted us recently about blessings and sermons received from this ministry. The work is not nearly as hard when you know it is worthwhile.

PRAISE THE LORD

God is not glorified by our silence, our fears, our doubts, or our frustrations. He is glorified by our Praise.
Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
Ps 50:23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:

WHERE WHOULD WE PRAISE: In the gates of the camp of the Lord (II Chron 31:2), In the midst of the congregation (Ps 22:22), Among many people (Ps 35:18), Among the nations (Ps 57:9).

HOW SHOULD WE PRAISE: With my mouth (Ps 145:21), with joyful lips (Ps 63:5), With a shout (Ez 3:11), with trumpet and sound of cornet (Ps 98:6), with stringed instruments and flutes (Ps 150:4).

WHEN SHOULD WE PRAISE: All day long (Ps 35:28), At all times (Ps 34:1), Seven times a day (Ps 119:164), Continually (Ps 71:6).

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAISE FOR: His mighty acts (Ps 150:2), His Power (Ps 21:13), His excellent greatness (Ps 150:2), His Word (Ps 56:4), His name (Ps 54:6), His wonders (Ps 89:5), His faithfulness (Ps 89:5).

Ps 150:6 Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

GRACE

GLORY

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P.O. BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, S.C.
PASTOR KIRCHWAL JONES 394-3725

"To Know and To Show Christ"

Vol III Num 24

December 7, 1965

THE SERVICES CONDUCTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT CLASS WERE SIMPLY GREAT. THE SPEAKERS AND SINGERS PUT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT INTO THE SERVICES AND EVERYONE RECEIVED A BLESSING. WE HOPE THESE YOUNG ADULTS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEIR TALENTS FOR THE LORD ON A REGULAR BASIS.

SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO: -MRS. CARRIE HUGGINS AND MR. AND MRS. CHARLES HANNA FOR THEIR GIFTS TO THIS MINISTRY, -TO MRS. SUSAN SPRING FOR A GIFT IN MEMORY OF MR. HAZEL TISDALE, -TO REV. NED PATTILLO FOR A CASE OF PAPER (EVERY SHEET OF PAPER IN A NEWSLETTER MEANS I'VE USED A REAM OF PAPER, THERE ARE 10 REAMS IN A CASE. I GO THRU MANY CASES OF PAPER IN A YEAR), -TO SULLY SULLIVAN FOR USING THE SCHOOL STENCIL CUTTER TO CUT STENCILS FOR THE "JUDGMENT" NOTES IN TODAY'S NEWSLETTER TO SAVE ME SEVERAL HOURS TIME (I'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR A STENCIL CUTTER FOR A LONG TIME, ONE OF THESE DAYS...)

WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING- EVERY YEAR THE CHURCH DESIGNATES THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS AS OUR "WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING" SUNDAY TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR THE LORD. THRU THE YEARS THIS OFFERING HAS BEEN USED TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH OF THE WORK AROUND THE CHURCH, THIS YEAR WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE \$4000 IN ORDER TO FINISH PAYING FOR THE PAVING WORK WE DID THIS YEAR. THIS WOULD BE THE LARGEST OFFERING EVER BUT WE CAN DO IT IF WE TRUST GOD, PRAY AND PLAN WHAT GOD WOULD HAVE YOU TO GIVE IN THIS SPECIAL OFFERING.

Are you sure about your Salvation? Many times people begin to come to Church and "do better" but they have never repented of their sins, trusted Christ as Saviour, and been Born Again by the power of the Holy Spirit. Don't trade the slavery of Sin for the Slavery of "Religion". Come to Christ and become a Son instead of a Slave.

Then publicly follow up that decision by Baptism and joining a local Bible-believing, Bible-teaching Church.

When you look at where this world is "coming to" it ought to make you want to come to Christ and find Pardon and Peace. Let me know if I can help.

*** **

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Permit #2

MILLENNIUM: THE 1000 YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH Rev 20:1-6

A larger body of prophetic scripture is devoted to the subject of the Millennium than to any other one subject!

I. THE REASON FOR THE MILLENNIUM-

A) To completely fulfill all the covenants that God made with Israel;

1. The Abrahamic Covenant will be completely fulfilled as Israel occupies all of the land it was promised with all of the blessings that go with it. (Physical)

2. The Davidic Covenant concerning the King, the throne, and the Kingdom will find complete fulfillment in the reign of Christ as Messiah. (Government)

3. The New Covenant promises of a new heart, forgiveness of sin (national), and the filling of the Holy Spirit are fulfilled during this time. (Spiritual).

B) This is God's final "test" for mankind. Mankind will have ideal conditions to live in, a just government (Saints will rule), access to God, and freedom from Satanic Temptation (Satan will be bound during this 1000 years). So mankind will be without excuse when Satan is released and deceives the nations into rebelling against God.

II. CONDITIONS DURING THE MILLENNIUM.

God will set up a Kingdom characterized by Righteousness, Obedience (He will rule with a "rod of iron"), Holiness, Truth, and Fulness of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29).

This will produce ideal conditions for mankind:

1. Peace- "Swords into plowshears...man will learn war no more" Is 2:4
Even among the animals- The lion will lay down with the lamb and the child play on the snake hole Is 11:6-9
2. Joy- with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of Salvation .
3. Holiness- The pots of Jerusalem and even the bells of the horses will have "Holiness unto the Lord" on them!! Ezech 14:20-21
4. Glory- The Glory of God will be for all to see Is 40:5
5. Comfort- God will comfort as a Mother her child Is 66:13-14
6. Justice- There will be the administration of perfect justice for every individual Is 9:7
7. Full knowledge and Instruction from God Is 2:2-3
8. Removal of sickness (Is 33:24), & Healing of deformities (Is 29:18)
9. Rest from oppression- The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet; they break forth into singing Is 14:7
10. Seven-fold increase in light by day and night (Is 30:26) which will increase production on earth.
11. Unified language (Zeph 3:9) and Unified Worship (Is 66:18-20).
The Temple will be at Jerusalem and everyone will come to worship there at least once a year.

Imagine what will be invented and accomplished during this time when mankind has divine knowledge to draw on, extended life to use his knowledge (a 100 year old man will be but a child!), and all of our energy and resources will be directed toward good instead of war. No wonder some people confuse this time with "Heaven"!!

JUDGMENTS

Heb 9:27 It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

"The most awesome thought in this world is my accountability to God". Therefore we ought to learn everything the Bible has to say about HOW God will judge us and WHAT He will base His judgment on.

There are 6 major judgments listed in the word of God that take place after God's present program for this earth:

(1) Saints, (2) Sinners, (3) The Earth, (4) The Gentile Nations (Matt 25:31-32), (5) Israel (Matt 24, Ez 20:34-38), and (6) The Angels (Jude 6, II Pet 2:4, Is 14:12-19).

I. JUDGMENT OF THE SAINTS I Pet 4:17 Judgment must begin at the house of God.

A) The Place of Judgment- ROM 14:10-12 For we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The word for Judgment seat here is "Bema" Seat. In Paul's day this was the place that the judges gave out awards in the Olympic games. Therefore the Judgment Seat of Christ is a place of REWARDS for service, not judgment for sin (Christians sins have already been judged in Christ.)

The Time of this Judgment will be between the Rapture of the Church and the Return of Christ

B) The Purpose of the Judgment- Christ is coming to:

1. Redeem our bodies Rom 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2. Receive us into His presence Jn 14:3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. I Thess 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

3. Review us--This review will mean 3 things:
REBUKES for failure to properly build I Cor 3: 12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
REGRETS over lost opportunities (I believe this is why God will wipe away the tears from our eyes in Rev 21:4)

REWARDS to cast at Jesus' feet- Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders (Representing the Church) fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

There are 5 Crowns the Believer may receive:

1. The Incorruptible Crown (Having to do with the way we boss our bodies and faithfully perform our duties) I Cor 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things, Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

2. The Crown of Righteousness (Having to do with our purity as we long for His return) II Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing.

I Jn 3:3 Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

3. The Crown of Life (Having to do with our steadfastness in Temptation.) James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

4. The Crown of Glory (For Faithful Pastors) I Pet 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

5. The Crown of Rejoicing (The Soul Winner's Crown) I Thess 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming.

Here are some things we may be judged about:

1. Some say this is simply a judgment of our MOTIVES. They say that the works we did in fleshly strength for fleshly glory will be "Burnt up" as wood, hay, or stubble. That we did to bring glory to God will stand the fire as gold, silver, or precious stones (I Cor 3).

2. Others believe this is a judgment of SERVICE. In the Past God dealt with us as Sinners, Presently God deals with us as Sons (Rom 8:14, Heb 12:5-11), in the future God will deal with us as Stewards (I Cor 4:1 It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.) "Give an account of himself" in Rom 14:12 is the phrase used to describe a steward reporting to his master about how he has managed the

resources entrusted to him.

This Judgment for Service may involve:

- a. How we used our talents- Hid or invested Matt 25:14-30
- b. How we suffered for Christ- Matt 5:11-12 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (See also I Pet 4:12-13, II Cor 4:17, and Phil 1:29)
- c. How we spent our time and money- Ep 5:16 Redeeming the Time for the days are evil. I Tim 6:17-18 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (See also Matt 5:19-21)
- d. Whether we followed God's plan or our own- The very essence of sin is chosing your way over God's way.
- e. How we reacted to temptation- James 1:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptation; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- f. How faithful we are to Church, Prayer, and the Word of God. Heb 10:25, Luke 18:1, II Tim 2:15

If Cor 5:10 For we must ALL appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that EVERY ONE may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

JUDGMENT OF SINNERS

II. JUDGMENT OF SINNERS- The Great White Throne Judgment found in Rev 20:11-15.

A) The People of the Judgment

1. Christ as Judge- Jn 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the son.
Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he (Christ) which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

2. Sinners as judged- Rev. 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them;

B) The Books of the Judgment- Rev 20:12 ...and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

1. The Book of Conscience (?) Rom 2:15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another: (Not always a good guide).

2. The Book of Words- Matt 12:36 But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

3. The Book of Secrets- Rom 2:16 God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ. Heb 4:13 There is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

4. The Book of Works- Matt 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the Glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.
Rev 20:13 and they were judged every man according to their works.

5. The Book of Life- Only Blood washed Saints found there

C) The Results of this Judgment- Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

TRIBULATION

I. DEFINED: Tribulation- To press hard upon, to squeeze. It is translated Tribulation, affliction, anguish, persecution, trouble, or burden and occurs 54 times in the NT.

It is used to define:

1. Those hard pressed by war
2. Those pressed by poverty
3. A woman in child birth Jn 16:21
4. The afflictions Christ had to endure
5. Anxiety, burden of heart II Cor 2:4
6. A period of trouble at the end of the world. It is this period of time at the end of the world called the Tribulation that we are concerned with. It has 2 main purposes:
 1. To proclaim Christ at the Rightful Ruler over the earth (Rev 5:- 11:15)
 2. To prepare Israel for the coming Kingdom (Matt 24:- OT Prophets)

II. DURATION: 7 years (There is some question about Jesus' statement in Matt 24:22 *except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.* If this means the "Period of Time" called the Tribulation shall be shortened then it will not last the full 7 years. If this means "literal days" shall be shortened (See Rev 8:12) then the full 7 years will be accomplished)

We know the length of this time because it is Daniel's "Seventieth week"- Dan 9:24-27 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the streets shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary: and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations shall be determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consumation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

The command to rebuild Jerusalem was given on March 14, 445BC and Christ made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on April 6, 32AD--a period of exactly 173,880 days or 483 prophetic years of 360 days (7X 69= 483). The Church age now intervenes between the 69th and 70th year while Israel is "cut off" and the Gentiles are "grafted in".

The Seventieth week will be divided into 2 parts, each 3½ years long (42 months; 1260 days; time(12), times(24), and ½time(6)). The first half is called the Tribulation and the second half is called the "Great Wrath". The division point is the "Abomination of Desolation" when Antichrist will enter the temple, erect an image to be worshipped, and declare himself God. Sever persecution of the Jews (and anyone not willing to acknowledge the Antichrist by accepting his "mark") will begin at this time. (Matt 24:15).

III. DETAILS- Much is said about this period...yet it is said thru symbols and from various viewpoints (Heavens, earths, Jews, Gentiles) and it is difficult to know when, how, or why certain events will take place. Here are some of the major "guideposts" from Revelation.

1. War

A) On the Earth:

- at the beginning of the Tribulation (Russia destroying America?) 6:-
- the Beast against the two witnesses during the first half of the tribulation Rev 11:
- The Beast against the Saints Rev 13:7
- The destruction of the Russian Army Ez. 38, 39
- The Dragon against the Jews during the last half of the Tribulation Rev 12:12-17
- The Battle of Armageddon

B) In Heaven: Rev 12:7 When Michael and his angels cast Satan out of Heaven forever! (Glory!!!)

2. Woes- There are a large number of dreadful events to happen during the Tribulation.

- War and Famine and disease that kills 1 billion people Rev 6:8
- 1/3 of the trees and grass burned up, 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, and 1/3 of the sea creatures die 8:7-9
- 1/3 of the water becomes so bitter til men die that drink it 8:10-11
- pain so great from "scorpion" bites until men beg to die and are unable to do so Rev 9:3-11
- So many men die in the valley of Armageddon until the blood rises to the height of the horses bridle for almost 200 miles 14:20
- Thunder and lightning, great earthquakes, 130lb hail 16:17-21
- Destruction of the "religious" and economic centers of the earth 17:-, 18:-

3. Wonders-

- That the Two Witnesses will be able to destroy men with fire, order drought on the land, turn water to blood, and smite the earth with plagues. 11:4-6
- That the Antichrist will be able to overcome the Two Witnesses 11:7
- that the Antichrist will appear to come back to life 13:3-4,
- that the Antichrist will be able to defeat the Saints 13:7, and
- that the false prophet will be able to call fire from Heaven and cause an image of the Antichrist to come to life 13:11-15.
- That men continue to refuse to repent 9:20-21

IV. DELIGHT- That while all of this is going on on earth I'll be "getting married" in Heaven as the Bride of Christ!

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;.. II Thess 1:7-9

THE ANTICHRIST

The present day spirit of Antichrist seeks to REJECT Christ (I Jn 4:3 Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: for this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world) while the Antichrist of Revelation will seek to REPLACE Christ (II Thess. 2:3 ...that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.). Today the strategy is to produce lack of Faith in Christ. In the Tribulation time it will change to trying to produce Faith in another "Christ" (Matt 24:5,24)

Much is said (and much is left unsaid!!) in the Bible about this "Future Fake". This is a brief overview.

I. HIS POWER

A) From Satan- II Thess 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Rev 13:2 And the dragon (Satan- Rev 12:9) gave him (The Beast) his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: (Which is what Satan has wanted from the beginning!)

B) After the Spirit departs- II Thess 2:6-7 (New American Standard Bible) And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains (The Holy Spirit) will do so until he is taken out of the way.

NOTE- Because of these references to direct Satanic Power many people believe that the Antichrist will be a resurrected Judas Iscariot

1. Jn 6:70,71 Jesus refers to Judas here as the Devil (in the Greek)

2. Luke 22:3, Jn 13:27 Satan actually enters Judas. This is never said of another individual in the Bible. (It talks about demons entering but never the Devil)

3. Jn 17:12, II Thess 2:3 The title "son of perdition" is used only of Judas and the Antichrist.

4. Acts 1:25 Peter says Judas went "to his own place". Some believe this to be the bottomless pit where Satan has kept Judas until he brings him forth during the Tribulation (See Rev 17:8).

II. HIS PERSONALITY:

- A) An Intellectual genius Dan 8:23 "understanding dark sentences"
- B) An Oratorical genius Dan 11:36 "shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods"
- C) A Political genius Rev 13:1 Heads the revived Roman Empire
- D) A Commercial genius Rev 13:16,17 Dan 11:43 Controls all Commerce
- E) A Military genius Rev 6:2 13:2 Defeats the Russian Army, combines the world's armies
- F) A Religious genius Rev 13:8 II Thess 2:4 Gets people to worship him at God, Allows Jews to build temple and worship there (3½ years)

People will bask in his presence and wonder how anyone could withstand such a marvelous person who brings peace to the world and unity to the world community. They will not look on him as a dictator over the world but as a "daddy" that helps them thru the difficult times and punishes those who continue to cause trouble by trying to worship God or refusing to accept the new world order.

III. HIS PRACTISE- Dan 8:23-25 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Fierce Countenance- Not a playboy but a determined leader

Understanding dark sentences- master of the occult and trickery

His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power- Satan powered

Destroy wonderfully- uses "marvelous means " to destroy his enemies

Prosper- everything he attempts will succeed

Practise- he will not only say but perform

Destroy the mighty and the holy people- Defeat God's people!!

Policy shall cause craft to prosper in his hand- Promote occult

Magnify himself in his heart- until he proclaims himself God

By peace shall destroy many- when they say peace sudden destruction will come on them.

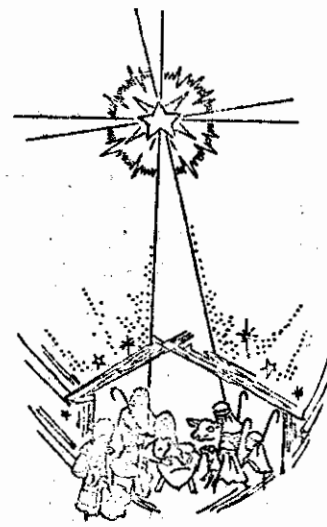
Stand against the Prince of princes- seek to replace Christ

Broken without hands- II Thes 2:8 The Lord shall consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy him with the brightness of his coming.

GRACE

AND

GLORY



Vol III Num 25 Dec. 18, 1985

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to WELCOME into the Fellowship of the Church James (Buck) Flowers, Patricia Flowers, Toshia Flowers, and Mark Rodgers. Buck works at Builder's Way in Florence, Patricia is the assistant Branch Manager at Security Federal here in town, and Toshia (8th grade) and Mark (6th grade) attend school. We expect them to be a real asset to the Church.

Baptismal Services for Patricia, Toshia, and Mark will be scheduled for the first part of the new year. We hope the Lord will bless us to have many more to baptize with them.

CAROLING

We had 4 cars loaded with singers Sunday afternoon as we tried to carry some of the Christmas cheer into the homes of our sick and shut-in. Everyone seemed to have a great time and I appreciate everyone who participated. Once we got started it was hard to stop and I hope we can do something like it again soon.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Paula and I would like to wish each of you a very Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy New Year. 1985 has been a very busy year but the Lord has blessed during it all and Paula and I thank God for each of you. Our only "complaint" this time of year is that we can't be in 3 places at once (Eating Gumbo in Florida, Fresh baked biscuits in Mississippi and fresh bar-b-qued hog in South Carolina!). God has blessed us with a vast number of friends and one of the things that excites me about serving God is knowing that one day we will never have to part again.

Our prayers are with each of you and a special word of Praise for the fine folks here at Grace. Because of your effort and cooperation we have been able to sow seed this year that God will use in the years ahead to produce fruit for His glory. Can hardly wait to see it!

*** **
GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1003 Lake City, S.C.
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725
"To Know and to Show Christ"

*** **
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage PAID
Lake City, S.C. 29560
Permit #8

COMING THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING- The entire day's offering will go to our Building Fund to help pay off the \$4000 we still owe on our Paving Project. Wouldn't it be great if we could pay off the entire amount and begin 1986 ready to continue to grow for the Lord. That's a lot of money for a Church our size but not much for a God as big as the one we serve. Pray and give the amount God lays on your heart to show God you appreciate the Gift He gave to us.

CHRISTMAS PLAY-

-The Nursery Class will present a short program at the beginning of Sunday School Assembly.

-At 6:00pm we will have our Christmas program, "Christmas Fever". This is a musical drama about some people who discover the joy of Christmas is in giving Love instead of receiving gifts. Mrs. Sylvia Gowdy and Mrs. Ann Thigpen are directing this year's program and they have put a lot of time and effort into producing a play that will glorify God with it's message. We're looking for a Church full of people to see this program.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER- Following the Play we will adjourn to the Fellowship Building for a "Finger Food" Fellowship Supper. There will also be a small gift for everyone who attends.

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DO YOU HAVE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON "BLAHS" AND "BLUES"?? PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SO GOOD TO THIS MINISTRY THIS YEAR AND I THOUGHT I WOULD TRY TO OFFER THEM SOME HELP AS MY LOVE GIFT TO THEM. SO FOR EVERYONE WHO REQUEST THEM I WILL SENT EITHER A CASSETTE (Side 1- "Tribulation" from II Cor 1:1-11 about why God allows Troubles to come our way and what we can do about them. Side 2- "Release the Prisoners!" from Luke 4:18 shows how to live the liberated life) OR A PAGE OF NOTES ON "HOW TO CURE THE BLUES" FROM I KINGS 19:-.

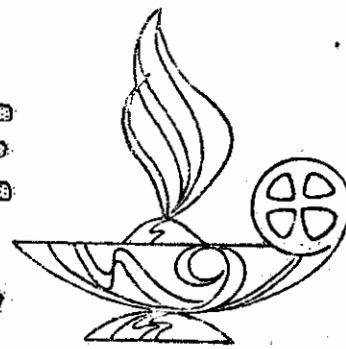
YOUR FREE COPY OF EITHER OR BOTH IS AVAILABLE FOR THE ASKING. I AM NOT DOING THIS TO TRY TO GET YOU TO GIVE ME ANYTHING- THE TAPES ARE ALREADY BOUGHT, THE NOTES ARE ALREADY PRINTED- BUT TO ALLOW ME TO GIVE SOMETHING TO YOU. I DID NOT THINK I COULD SEND THEM TO EVERYONE ON OUR MAILING LIST (AND I DID NOT KNOW IF EVERYONE WANTED OR NEEDED THEM) BUT I DO WANT TO SEND THEM TO YOU IF YOU WANT THEM. THE ADDRESS IS:

Rev. Mike Jones
P.O. Box 1003
Lake City, S.C. 29560

I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO BORROW A "BINDING" MACHINE FROM SOMEONE SOON SO THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER SURVEY NOTES ON EVERY BOOK IN THE BIBLE. THIS MINISTRY EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW CHRIST AS SAVIOUR AND THEN TO SHOW HIM IN THEIR CHANGED LIVES. CONTINUE TO PRAY THAT GOD WOULD GIVE THE WISDOM NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL FOR IT.



GRACE AND GLORY



Vol III Num 26

Dec. 26, 1985

Sunday was simply SUPER. The Nursery Class presented a very good program before Sunday School. We tied our largest Sunday School attendance of the year in Sunday School and the Spirit of the Lord was evident during the preaching service. And then things really got good! The Christmas play was simply great with excellent singing and an excellent message and was capped off with a young lady rededicating herself to the Lord at the conclusion of the Program (Everyone did a great job- special thanks for all the work you did in preparation for the program).

We then found that we had met our "Miracle" goal of \$4000 in the White Christmas Offering (Glory!) so everyone could partake of the meal that followed like it was a Victory Supper. (Special Thanks to Marjorie McAllister, Darin Matthews, and Lila Tisdale for decorating the Church and Fellowship Building so nicely.). The Church was full Sunday Night and we hope our visitors will come again to worship with us.

WATCH - NITE SERVICE: We're planning another big night for the last day of 1985. Our Services on Tuesday, Dec. 31 will begin at 7:30pm and conclude around 10:00pm (We're beginning and ending early this year to encourage our young people to come). The first half of the services will include congregational singing, a Puppet Presentation, and special music by the Grace Junior Choir, Rev. Carey McElveen, Sandy Pate, the Scranton Baptist Church Trio, and the Grace Singers. (Including, among others, our "world famous" Men's Quartet!!). We will have a coffee and cake Fellowship Break and then the final portion of the Service will include more music, a Testimony Time, and the Message by Rev. Carey McElveen, Pastor of the Scranton Baptist Church. Plan to join us for this Special Service.

DID YOU ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE IN 1985?????

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO FOR GOD IN 1986?????

+++++

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Beginning Balance- (This is money left from the "Miracle Message" ministry that began the present ministry. Included also was typing, printing, addressing, and recording equipment)	\$ 480.00
Contributions Feb. 20 - Dec. 20	927.95
Total to Account for	<u>\$1407.95</u>
Expenses Feb. 20 - Dec. 20*	<u>\$1224.94</u>
BALANCE Dec. 20, 1985	<u>\$ 183.01</u>

Mailing Permits	\$ 150.00
Postage	613.50
Paper	131.10
Checks printed	6.99
Office supplies (Staples, ink, etc)	47.46
Tapes for Tape Ministry, radio devotions	91.95
Books, etc for newsletter notes	83.94
Tithes (\$25- Back to the Bible	100.00
\$25- Daily Bread	\$1224.94
\$50- Help for needy families)	

This ministry this year has mailed over 10,000 newsletters, given out numerous booklets of chapter by chapter notes on various books of the Bible and Bible survey notes, distributed numerous tapes of preaching and singing, allowed me to be on Morning Devotions nearly 50 times, and I count the daily Hymntime program and the broadcast of our Sunday Morning service as part of the outreach of this ministry.

By Faith I face the future expecting God to supply the needs to continue and expand as HE sees best. The entire goal of this ministry is to get as many people as possible to KNOW Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and then to help them in every way possible to SHOW Him in their changed lives. I've got 2 folders full of letters and cards from people who have been blessed by this work and I can only praise God for His Blessings on it. I weep sometimes- out of frustration because of lack of equipment, out of frustration because of lack of talent, out of frustration at the poor quality of some of the newsletters- but somehow God uses it. Surely this is a case of God using the "foolish things of the world to confound the wise" (I Cor 1:27). Pray with (and for) me that God would use this ministry in 1986 to reach more people than ever for HIS Glory.