

I Want To Sing

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B. S.

1. When this life on earth is o'er, and I reach the oth - er shore, With the
2. Here the way is sel - dom fair, streets of gold are shin - ing there, In that

saints gone on be - fore, I want to sing; With the choir of an - gels fair,
land be - yond com - pare, I want to sing; Tri - als press on ev - ry hand,

§
sing - ing songs so rich and rare, Tell me, friends, will you be there, I want to
but up there I'll un - der - stand, When I join that hap - py band, I want to

D.S. - Rock of A - ges, Cleft For Me, I want to

FINE CHORUS
sing. I want to sing, I want to sing, with - in the pal - ace of the
sing.
sing.

King, A - maz - ing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, I'm Press - ing On To High - er Ground,

D.S.
Sing the song, O Hap - py Day, When Je - sus Washed My Sins A - way,

Bennie Stanberry II



1909 - 1997

◆ The College Report ◆

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43% Increase In Enrollment

Praise the Lord! We have had our *third* increase in enrollment in *six years!* Last year our enrollment increased 62% and this year it has increased another 43% for a total of **105%** increase over a two year period! Thank you for your prayers, they are working. We have 26 full-time students and 4 drive-in students.

First Year Student Body:

Calvin Barber - Kingman, KS
Cheryl Bensch - Logan, OK
Keith Buschman - Cave Springs, AR
Tara Cloud - Gulf Port, MS
Alicia Cunningham - Big Bend, WV
Troy Foster - Follett, TX
Greg Goering - Kingman, KS
Stephanie Hawley - Riverton, KS
Mrs. Nelda Hendrix - Marshfield, MO
Jennifer Higley - Joplin, MO
Kalle Hollis - Baxter Springs, KS
Tammie Karber - Balko, OK
Junior Longoria - Columbus, TX
Duronda Manning - Laverne, OK
Brian Moser - Joplin, MO
Mr. Deryl Sanders - Magnolia, TX
Willie Sims - Taneyville, MO
Melanie Whitlock - Joplin, MO

Second Year Student Body:

Stacy Axtell - Austin, TX
Gene Barber - Kingman, KS
William Derixson - Mattoon, IL
Christina Hawley - Riverton, KS
Mrs. Brenda Krege - Amarillo, TX
Mr. Roger Krege - Amarillo, TX
Mrs. Jeri Sanders - Magnolia, TX
Sabrina Wheeler - Joplin, MO



Drive-In Student Body:

Mrs. Lynn Jennings - Joplin, MO
Mr. Stephen Jennings - Joplin, MO
Mrs. Jessie Schmig - Joplin, MO
Steve Stockton - Granby, MO

Class Ratio:

First Year Students - 73%
Second Year Students - 27%

Gender Ratio:

Female Students - 57%
Male Students - 43%

Graduate *Ken Cruse* is pastoring in Snyder, TX at the Apostolic Faith Church. Graduate *De Lee Baughman* is Minister in Training in Roswell, NM at the Trinity Apostolic Faith Church. Graduate *Julie Taylor* is the Youth Director and Sunday School Teacher in Ashland, AL at the Bethel Community Church. Graduate *Jason Hill* is the Youth Director in Spearman, TX at the Apostolic Faith Church. Graduate *Jenny Wheeler* is working with the youth in Prosperity, MO at the Apostolic Faith

Geographic Ratio:

34 % Missouri Students
24 % Texas Students
20 % Kansas Students
10 % Oklahoma Students
3 % Arkansas Students
3 % Illinois Students
3 % Mississippi Students
3 % West Virginia Students

Average Student Age - 24.2

Student Age Ratio:

(17 - 20) = 53 %
(21 - 24) = 20 %
(25 - 28) = 3 %
(29 - 32) = 7 %
(33 - 36) = 3 %
(37 - ??) = 14 %

Church Affiliation Ratio:

66.8 % Apostolic Faith Church
6.7 % Baptist Church
6.7 % Full Gospel Church
3.3 % Assembly of God Church
3.3 % Calvary Gospel Church
3.3 % Christian Church
3.3 % Community Church
3.3 % Faith Fellowship Church
3.3 % Methodist Church

Previous Education Ratio:

87 % High School Graduates
7 % Some College Work
3 % College Graduates



Our Christian Heritage

The Lord has impressed on me to write my testimony. Not that I feel I am any one special but to show the importance of Christian Parents, Pastors, Sunday School Teachers, Christian Individuals, and Bible College on a young life.

I was born in New Mexico to Godly farm and ranch parents. Reading the Bible and church attendance was a very important part of our lives. It was never a question of "Are we going to church today?" We went unless we were sick and snow bound so bad we could not get out. My mother was a school teacher and Sunday School Teacher so she always had supplies on hand to teach my sister and I when we could not get out. I remember several occasions of going to church on the Back of daddy's Farmall H. tractor, when the snow was so deep we could not get out in the Model A. Ford car. Mother was a small little lady so daddy would hold her on his lap and my sister and I would stand behind. He would put the tractor in over drive which would go about 45 miles an hour, and away we would go 12 miles to church and 12 miles back. We had a wonderful pastor and our Sunday School Teacher was a young man not much older than we children, but he really loved the Lord and taught us in the class. Some of these boys later became preachers so they must have absorbed some good in spite of their disorderly conduct.

The greatest influence on my desire to live for God was my parents. We had a large stories of the Bible Book and daddy would read to us from it every night before we went to bed. He put such meaning into it as he read them for they were so dear to him. He would cry as he read the beloved stories. When he would read how Jesus died on the cross I would go to bed and cry myself to sleep. I never let daddy know I did though for I wanted him to think I was a big girl. I couldn't understand how Jesus would love me, a little country girl so much he would die for me, and why He would want me as His child. I gave my life to the Lord at an early age, and was saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost before we left New Mexico and moved to the hill country of Texas. My daddy had lived there as a young boy and always wanted to go back. When my sister and I were young teenagers daddy sold the farm and ranch in New Mexico and bought a ranch 3 miles south of Leakey, TX. We attended the Apostolic Faith Church in Leakey where Brother and Sister Jake Pletcher pastored (Sister Pletcher is now Sister Marvin Boyd, and Karen Grimmer's mother).

Brother and Sister Pletcher talked me into attending the Apostolic Faith Bible College in Baxter Springs after I

graduated from high school. That was in 1949. I met Max Pennington there and we were married the following October and returned to Bible College in 1950 as a couple. Max felt his calling into the ministry and was ordained that year. He has pastored small churches and held down a full time job at the same time. A lot of his work has been in children's ministry. We traveled several summers when our girls was still home holding children's crusades. He was an aircraft engineer until he was forced to retire in 1987 because of health problems. God was so good to us and spared his life in a wonderful way which is a testimony within itself. We still work for the Lord in what ways we can.

The Lord gave us 5 precious children. A son, the oldest and 4 lovely daughters. We have 17 grandchildren and 2 great granddaughters.

I am thankful for my upbringing but that doesn't make me any better than someone who has not had that blessing. People can have all these opportunities and still not choose the Lord. Maybe someone else who has not been so blessed chooses to serve the Lord anyway. Its all a matter of "choose ye this day whom you will serve." I am so glad I chose the Lord and he me. Its the best life there is.

This is a tribute to all those who blessed my life. I love you in Jesus.

Sincerely,

Dorothy (Daugherty) Pennington.

Mission Impossible?

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

One of the big movies in the theaters is "Mission Impossible". Do you sometimes feel like your mission and purpose are lost or impossible? Are you worn down by the cares of this life? Are you weary in well doing? Do you have more programs and classes than you do personal prayer time and study? Do you sometimes feel like God is very far away? Have you lost the sense of how you fit into God's plan?

If you would like a very simple, straight forward answer to your purpose and mission read Acts 26:16-18. As you read it, take it personally, as if the Lord is speaking specifically to you.

"But rise, and stand upon thy feet; for I have appeared unto thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." With God All Things Are Possible.

Used For the Master

I wish to thank all of those who have supported the Apostolic Faith Bible College. I enjoyed my two years there and I will use what I have learned.

In 1994, I started taking violin lessons from Roberta Sluder, who lives in Joplin, Missouri. The violin that I had was a three quarter size and I needed a full size. My grandfather, Ed Cass, who lives in Lubbock, Texas brought me his violin. I was very happy to receive this special violin, that he has had since 1935. My grandfather was taking violin lessons in 1935 in Jr. High School in Wink, Texas. The company he was studying with had violins for the students to use or buy. Grandpa wanted a better one than was offered.

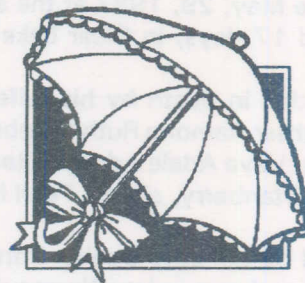


His oldest sister had a friend, Olga Vaughn, who was going on a concert tour in Germany. She told his parents that she would look for him a violin while she was there. She was also going to visit some family there and also visit the Concert Master of the Berlin Conservatory of Music, who was her old teacher and friend.

The Concert Master told her that a new group was taking over Germany and that no Jews would be left in power. He was unsure as to what Hitler would do to the music organization. The Concert Master was trying to rescue as many instruments as he could and preserve them. He would declare them broken or cracked, not fit for use. He did this to several old instruments to get them out of Germany. This is how my Grandfather received his violin in 1935. The violin has never been sold and has been kept in our family. I play it in my home church and I am so happy that I could play it while on choir tour for A.F.B.C. I am glad that it has been used to **praise our Lord.**

Sincerely,
Jenny Wheeler - Prosperity, Mo.

Note: Ed and Alice Cass attended Bible College in 1953. They are now retired and living in Lubbock, Texas. Ed had by-pass surgery in June, 1997. He is doing well and is in physical therapy. Thank you for your prayers for him. Through the past few years two of their daughters attended Bible College; also one son-in-law and three granddaughters.



Umbrella of Love

by Tonya Weston

Am I thunder and Lightning or an umbrella of love,
Do I boom and strike out, or give hope from above?
Do I judge and condemn or pour in healing oil,
Do I magnify darkness or wipe up the soil?

Must I always be right, can I yield and forgive,
Is it just me and mine, or for you that I live?
Is it all about self that makes my world tick,
Can I lay down my life, give my time to the sick?

Am I busy, so busy, that all I can say,
The Lord bless you and keep you and then turn away?
Do I reach out to those who are hurting and sad,
To bring sunshine and cheer, do I make them feel glad?

Their burdens are heavy, their hearts filled with fear,
I must go and lift them, yes listen and hear.
Oh, Lord, flow through me, everywhere I go.
Help me to be sensitive, so that people will know.

You're always right there, in the midst of their storm
With arms open wide to embrace and keep warm.
I'll tell them you love them and show them you care.
Their hurts wrap in mercy, their wounds I'll repair.

I'll shout it, I'll cry it, proclaim it and say,
"Get up and go on, you can start fresh today."
I'll share how You changed me and made me brand new,
My past is behind me, Your will now I do.

Father, forgive us and help us each day
To be more like You, Your glory display.
We must work together, each one do our part,
The Master is calling, do, give Him your heart.

Division is over, let's tear down the wall,
Uniting ones efforts, no longer we stall.
Time is so short, please, listen my friend,
To reach and to save them, we must go and send.

In Loving Memory

A.B. Stanberry

Algernon Benona "Bennie" Stanberry II was born July 12, 1909 in Gorman, Texas to Algernon Benona "Dad" Stanberry I and Cora Cordelia Wright Stanberry. He departed this life May, 29, 1997 at the age of 87 years, 10 months, and 17 days, in Clear Lake Hospital, Webster, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth Hembree Stanberry, daughter Ramona Ruth Stanberry Tackett, his wife of 44 years, Veva Adele Adcock Stanberry, brothers Oral and Orville Stanberry, sisters Pearl Harms and Buna Mears.

He is survived by his wife Delilah Botter Stanberry of Alvin, daughter and son-in-law Norma Jean and James Doty of Katy, Texas; son and daughter -in-law A.B. "Buddy" and Doris Stanberry of Katy, Texas. Survivors also include 14 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, 38 great-great grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Bennie spent all of his life in the Gospel work as both his parents were ordained ministers. He was saved and baptized at the age of eight and ordained as a Minister at the age of sixteen by his father and T.E. Howard of Moorefield, Nebraska.

In May of 1924, still at the age of 14, he met Charles F. Parham who had come to his father's mission in Joplin, Mo. to preach. Bennie sang and played his violin to the song "The Old Fashioned Meetin". Bro. Parham requested he sing several more songs which he did, since he had more than 100 songs committed to memory. After that service, Bro. Parham asked Bennie's dad if he would allow him to accompany he and Fred Campbell to Cherryvale, Kansas for the dedication of a mission built by Bro Durbin. Thus was the beginning of his travels with Bro Parham.

Not only did he travel the U.S. directing choirs and singing, he pastored the church at Alief, Tx. for 15 years, the church in Bayard, Nebraska for 3 years and the church at Tomball, Texas for over 23 years. During the 45 years he made his home in Katy, Texas, he was also a self-employed contractor, always making time to help in a revival or direct the choir at Campmeeting. During this time at Katy he produced the "Haven of Rest" Radio program each Sunday for close to 30 years. For the last 21 years he made Alvin, Texas his home where he retired but never gave up his song. He sang a solo the Sunday morning before he was hospitalized on Monday. A Devotional Service was held at the Trinity Apostolic Faith in Alvin with Rev Ronnie Martin and Brenda Martin sharing memories and giving tribute to his memory. The church choir who he lovingly called his "Kiddies" sang several songs written by Bennie.

The memorial service was held in Katy at the Apostolic Faith Church with Rev. Ted Barker, Rev. Harrol Waterbury and Rev Edwin Waterbury officiating. Bennie's children and grandchildren furnished the special music.

Tawanna Botter furnished the music along with her husband Jimmy Botter, sisters, Teloa Pearman and LaTonna Chevalier and brother Tyron Stanberry, sang several choruses, one that was written for Bennie the day before he passed away, "The Things We Cannot Know Belong To Jesus", and two songs, "These Hands of Mine Shall Touch The Hand of God" and "It IS Well With My Soul". Norma Jean and Buddy sang "I'll Meet You In The Morning."

As a tribute to a great singing ministry, Bro. Tim Barker assembled choir members from Hempstead, Alvin and Katy, along with singers from a distance to sing several Campmeeting songs under the direction of his son Buddy. They were "City of Gold", "A Good Time is Coming" and "There's A Home Waiting Me". Rita Scott played the piano and Lamoyne Fox played the organ.

Services ended with Doty and Stanberry grandchildren and their spouses singing the theme song of Bro. Bennie's radio program "The Haven of Rest" and ending with one of Bro. Bennie's favorite songs "What A Day That Will Be." Bennie's song "I Want To Sing was played as a final tribute.

Interment was at the Katy Magnolia Cemetery with Rev. Jim Fox and Rev. Marcus Adair officiating. Everyone sang "Amazing Grace" in closing.

Pallbearers were J.K. Doty, Gordon Doty, Jarrell Doty, Obed Doty, Preston Chevalier, Jimmy Pearman, Smoky Merchant, and Kylon Waterbury.

Honorary pallbearers were: Jimmy Seber, Charles Seber Jr, Bob Roberts, Don Lillybridge, Kenneth Doty, Virgil Mott, Raymond Barker, Richard Barker, Melvin Scott, Raymond Dollins Jr., Roland Busch, Stacy Botter and all Fellow Ministers of the Gospel.

"Ode to Granddaddy"

by Doris Stanberry

The old violin lies silent now
Untouched by it's Masters bow.
He's gone to receive his great reward
That he earned so long ago.

His songs will ever live on again
On the lips of those who knew
What power they gave and the lives that were changed,
from the strength that those songs drew.

With harmony pure and sweet, his children
And grandchildren will continue his voice.
Inheritance of God and man, talent lives on -
But sing they will, for they have no choice.

God chose an earthen vessel, a boy of only twelve.
Gave him talent to write songs, preach, sing and play.
Today he writes a brand new song, a song of sweetest
praise - for God's grace, mercy, love and joy,
And family to follow his way.

My Tribute to Bro. Bennie Stanberry

By Brenda Martin

A man that had a song to sing...And sing it he did. You sang your way into our hearts and lives and you have blessed us deeply. Your gift of putting words to music is a legacy to be proud of and a heritage that you so graciously passed on to your children, grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Your songs revealed precious moments and qualities about yourself that you didn't mind sharing.

Songs like:

"It Takes the Lord to Make a Home"
"When He Steps On Your Toes"
"Bethlehem's Babe"
"Lord, I'm So Weak, But Make Me a Blessing"
"Open Wide The Door and Help Yourself"
and my favorite: "Handful of Purpose"

Bro. Bennie, the words you penned and the music that flowed has stirred, lifted and encouraged lives for generations. You will Forever -be - remembered, Forever loved, Forever-giving and Forever-touching the hearts of people everywhere. Your song lives on in the heart of each of us.

Some men search their whole lives trying to find that one thing that to them is unique and sets them apart from everyone else. You spent your life living in that uniqueness. You were a man that walked to the beat of your own drum. And furthermore you enjoyed the trip!

I liked that most about you. Enjoying the trip! What a precious jewel that quality is and you lived it in view of all of us. The opinions of others didn't carry too much weight with you. I think that your philosophy of life may have been: 'Let's stir the water- Something has got to get movin!'

Well I guess it has come time that we must part. For now you have a much grander audience. And the song you now sing has a sound and a melody that brings a twinkle to your eye, kissed by one small tear, because you never dreamed that your song would bring angels to their knees in praise and worship. Eternal Joy



Joseph Warren Williamson

Joe Williamson, 76, of Amarillo, Texas died Thursday, May 8, 1997. Services were at 11:00 a.m. Monday, the 12th at Schooler Funeral Home, Brentwood Chapel, with Dr. Marcus Adair, director of FAith Bible Center in Canyon, Texas and Pastor Lee Nelson of the Apostolic Faith Church in Amarillo officiating. Burial was at 3:00 p.m. Monday in Rest Lawn Memorial Cemetery with graveside services at Hereford, Texas. The organist was Raenall McDonough and the soloist was Regi Fowler, who sang one of Joe's favorite songs, the old-time "The Last Mile of the Way" and "Because He Lives".

Joe was born in Pine Log, Benton County, Arkansas on October 15, 1920. He grew up in Garfield, Arkansas. He married Norma Cooke of Houston, Texas in Leakey, Texas in 1950. They were members of the Apostolic Faith Church. To this marriage, one daughter was born, Cynthia Jolene. They lived in Hereford, Texas most of their lives. He farmed the Dr. C.Q. Smith irrigation farm for eight years; worked for Reddell and Hubble Water Well Service for a number of years; and became sick with Post-Polio Syndrome while working for Hereford Butane.

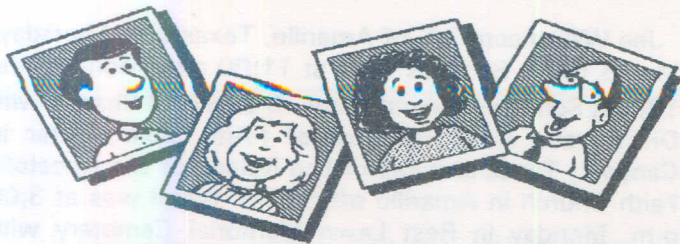
The Williamson's moved to Amarillo in November, 1990 to live with their daughter and son-in-law due to his illness.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Jolene Wynne of Amarillo; a sister, Edith Alexander of Texarkana, Arkansas; a brother, Clint Williamson of Bowie, Texas; one granddaughter and a number of nieces and nephews.



HOME

Today God looked around His garden
And found an empty space.
He then looked down upon this earth
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you,
And lifted you to rest.
God,s garden must be beautiful,
He only takes the best.
He knew that you were in pain.
He knew that you would never get well
Upon this earth again.
He saw the road getting rough
And the hills harder to climb,
So He closed your weary eyes and
Whispered in your ear, "Peace Be Thine".
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
We'll meet you in Heaven.
We love you and we'll miss you.



NEWS ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pampa, Texas

We are going strong at Pampa! We had a larger than usual attendance at Easter and a wonderful sermon and Communion service. Our Children's choir sang, with Evelyn Noble and Stacey Phillips in charge.

Sis. Lori Gollaher is now in charge of the children's choir and they sang for us on April 20th also. Lori is doing a fine job with the children and her efforts are appreciated.

The Haskell Cooleys were with us on the evening of April 12th, which we appreciated and enjoyed.

We appreciate efforts made by the Nobles, Bro. Ron and Sis. Evelyn, our pastors, and solicit your prayers.

Pampa Chapel
Ron Noble, Pastor
Anabel Simmons, Reporter

Columbus, Texas

Hello from Columbus, Tx!

Things here in Columbus have been going well. We have had a busy summer with camps and VBS.

Our young people went to youth camp at J Bar J in Sealy, Texas the first week of June. They had a great time.

We had Vacation Bible School July 7 - 11 with just over 100 enrolled. We were amazed we had such a great turn out of kids but we had a wonderful time with them. We had so many talented workers and everyone was so helpful.

Seldon, myself and our daughters were able to be in Camp Meeting in Baxter Springs, Kansas. The girls and I were there for the whole week and Seldon joined us for the weekend services. It was a really good camp meeting. The preaching was some of the best I've ever heard.

Several of our group traveled to West Virginia for Camp Meeting there at Singing Hills campground. Reports came from them of a wonderful camp there as well.

While we were gone, Roy and Jo Botard of Huntsville, Tx. and Floyd and Sue Snyder from our church filled in for us. We do appreciate them being available.

Our church has been watching the Homes of Honor video tape series by Gary Smalley. It has helped our

families so much. His books and tapes are filled with practical, scriptural teaching on marriage and parenting. We highly recommend them. So many families are hurting and need that extra encouragement and teaching.

One of our young adults, Ralph Longoria, is currently attending Bible College in Baxter Springs, Kansas. I know he would appreciate your prayers.

Please pray for us. We have had contact with so many people here that need their "eyes" opened to the gospel and many that simply need to really make a wholehearted commitment to God. Pray for freedom to work here and refresh burden among the body of Christ.

In case some don't know we have had an address change. Our home address in Columbus, Tx. 78934 is 308 Malleck. Our church address is Box 5048 Alleyton, Texas 78934.

Love and Prayers,
Vanessa Harris
Christian Gospel Church
Columbus, Texas

Roswell, N.M.

Dear Sis. Oakes,

This is a request to put my name and address in the next issue of the Apostolic Faith Report. I will be working alongside Sister Louise Sutton.

Thank you for all your support during the time I was in Bible College. I could not have progressed as far as I did without the prayers of the movement. I am so grateful for faithfulness in even the small things God has directed you to do for me.

Your Sister in Christ,
De Lee Baughman
611 W. 17th
Roswell, N.M. 88201
505-622-5197

OPEN FOR CALLS

The time is now for our churches to be growing, reaching out to a lost and dying world. This is no less than that which Jesus speaks of in Luke 14, the parable of the great supper. Therefore fulfilling the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20, being children of God we are but servants in this world.

Christ has made a personal call on my life to minister his Word. Whether it be for a revival, filling in for a service or full time pastorate, I make myself available to whatever the Lord leads.

Rick Crouch
Ph. 417-623-8970

2818 W. 16th St.
Joplin, Mo. 64801

And With His Stripes We Are Healed

On July 22 my husband, Glenford, found me in nearly a comatose condition. An ambulance was called and I was rushed to the Beaver hospital where I suffered a grand mal seizure. A helicopter was summoned and I was airlifted to N.W. Texas Hospital in Amarillo, Texas. At the same time word was called our my daughter, Glenda Buschman and family who were at Camp Meeting at Baxter Springs, Kansas. You, our dear friends in the Apostolic Faith movement, immediately went to fervent prayer and continued praying throughout the remainder of Camp Meeting and beyond.

My condition or illness was diagnosed as encephalitis. I was in ICU for more than a week. I remember very little during this period but God was answering prayer of His children and after twelve days I was released to go home. All five of our children have been a great help during my sickness. Glenda stayed with us for a week after I returned home.

I want to especially thank our grandson, Keith Buschman for standing in the prayer line in my stead. Without the earnest prayer in my behalf, I'm convinced that I would not be here today. I am able to walk without support, do a little house work and I am gradually regaining my strength and memory.

Thank you is not a strong enough word to convey my feelings of love to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I was almost overwhelmed by the number of churches and individuals that prayed for me when I was unable to pray for myself. I wouldn't have minded going on except for the sadness it would have caused my family and close friends. And evidently God has something more for me to do.

Thanks again. I can't think of a better time to become critically ill than at Camp Meeting time.

God bless you,
Gracie Bensch
Logan, Oklahoma



"I am the bread of life."
John 6:48

Tomorrow

by the late Mrs. Lida Kerst

Don't worry about tomorrow
It doesn't come anyway.
I'm the God of tomorrow
As well as the God of today.

Don't worry about tomorrow
Put away fear and doubt,
I know the past and the future
And will work all things out.

To fear me will give you wisdom,
To fear man will bring a snare.
How is it you trust me here
And can't trust me over there?

You look on the outward appearance
I look upon the heart of man.
I'll help you where you would hinder
Why can't you understand?

I've an all seeing eye
And I'm watching everywhere,
So while you trust me here
Can you not trust me over there?

My ways are not your ways
Neither my thoughts your thoughts
For I am the God of all flesh
And with me there is nothing too hard.

I opened the prison door for Peter,
Stopped the lions mouth in the den,
Saved Paul when he was ship wrecked
And healed the lepers ten.

I opened the eyes of the blind
And gave hearing to the deaf.
I healed all manner of diseases.
Is there anything that's left?

I have all that you need
And will in every way supply,
If you will only trust me
And on me still rely.

When your yoke is hard
And your burdens heavy to bear
Remember I am
the God of Heaven
That always answers prayer.



OPEN FOR CALLS

Revivals, Fill-In
Rev. & Mrs. Roland Haney
P.O. BOX 3
Follett, TX 79034
PH. (806) 653-3010

In Loving Memory



Doris Scruggs

Doris Grace Scruggs, age 75, was born March 13, 1922 and went to be with her Lord and Saviour, on May 7, 1997 in the St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

At a young age Doris came to know the Lord. In 1937 she met John Scruggs, they fell in love and were married on August 24, 1938. They soon learned from each other that they both believed the Pentecostal doctrine and began attending Apostolic Faith services. They went to Camp Meeting together in 1939 and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. John was called to be a minister in the Apostolic Faith movement and they worked together for the next 59 years, holding revivals and establishing and pastoring churches.

Doris is survived by her husband, John Franklin Scruggs; son, Leslie Kit Scruggs and wife Margaret Lucille; daughter, Debbie Annette Murrell and husband Chet; sisters, Marie Sorrells, Gladys Niles, Eva Hueshe; grandchildren, Jonie Scruggs, Melody Skrivanek, April and Travis Murrell; great-grandchildren, Kyleigh, Talan and Kori Scruggs.

Services were held Friday, May 9, at Canon Funeral Home in Waller, Texas with Pastor Jerome Crowhurst and Evangelist Calvin Springer officiating. Interment followed in Pattison Methodist Cemetery.

Mary L. Jones

Mary L. Jones, 51, of Great Bend, Kansas, died March 19, 1997, at her home. She was the daughter of Elbert J. and Addie Mahon Young, born Dec. 10, 1945 in LaJunta, Colorado.

She was united in marriage to Owen E. Jones on July 11, 1965, in Liberal, Kansas.

For several years she and Owen Earl made their home in Hardesty, Oklahoma, where she blessed many hearts with her beautiful voice. Pastors could depend on Lorraine lifting her voice to magnify the Lord blessing all that heard her. From Hardesty they were in Hays, Kansas, where she was an LPN at Central Kansas Medical Center. Then they were transferred to Great Bend where they lived and served faithfully until her death.

Survivors include her husband, Owen, of the home; a son, Michael A. Jones, Garden City, Kansas; a daughter, Tricia L. Wilson, Lawrence, Kansas; her parents of Liberal, Kansas; a brother, Nolan R. Young of Olathe, Kansas; a sister, Janis C. Young, Colorado Springs, Colorado; and a granddaughter, Bailey Madison Wilson; R.C. (Whitey) and Mary Jones, Hardesty, Oklahoma.

Services were conducted March 22, 1997 at the First Nazarene Church with the Revs. Jack Cornell and Bud Prentice officiating. Interment was in Great Bend Cemetery.



Wanted: Someone to Care

Jeremiah 12

Jeremiah lived in a perplexing time amidst a perverse people. Though he was a great prophet, he sometimes questioned God and his questions sometimes seemed insolent, except that they were asked in honesty and concern.

In the 12th chapter of the book bearing his name, he says in verse 1, "Let me talk to God".

And the God of all things communes with him as with a friend. Jeremiah asks in verse 4, "How long shall the land mourn?" And in verse 11, God tells him it is because, "No man layeth it to heart.

"In other words, nobody cared.

The word "because" in verse 11 implies that the situation would be different if people cared.

It is interesting that God referred to the "heart". He would later (Jeremiah 17:9,10) remind Jeremiah that "I the Lord, search the heart."

Hence these questions may be asked; and the answers may be found in your heart or in the heart of God or between your hearts in honest conversation ... if you care.

What is worse than knowing that no one cares? I hope you don't know, but in this present world there are those who could answer that question for you. They feel like the Psalmist when he cried, "No man careth for my soul."

Do people know whether we care for them? Looking at my own life, I can tell you that there is a difference in my life because someone cared for me at the right time. His name was Willford Teel and I was an unknown house painter to him, but he cared enough to come outside to this stranger and ask, "Do you know Jesus Christ? Do you go to church? What do you think about the Holy Ghost?"

I did not move toward God that day but a re-connection with God and man was fused for me that day, although I did not know it at the time.

How closely are prayer and care related? Is there a similarity between a "prayer meeting" and a "care meeting"? Why is there such poor attendance at a "care meeting"?

Do you, like me, owe your physical life to God's answer to the "Prayer" of a "carer"?

Have you ever talked 'til there were no more words or cried 'til there were no more tears or prayed 'til you had no more prayers? I have. And how precious to me were the prayers of Savoy Grimmer at that time! I could cite others who have cared for me but the idea is to cause us to consider whether it matters to others that we care.

For whom are we to care? Or, for whom is it not our portion to care? Can you observe the people about you and point out the ones for whom Christ did not die?

What about the ones who are crude and rude and tattooed? What about the ones who are hard and scarred and graying and sitting at a table alone? What about the man who sits in board rooms and makes decisions involving millions of dollars while his sin debt is beyond

his ability to pay? They all need someone to care.

How much do you have to care, to care? Suppose you throw a bone to a dog. That means you care. Suppose you share a bone with a dog when you're as hungry as the dog. Which time did you care for a dog?

How much will it cost to care? In the light of Jesus teaching, how much will it cost to callously refuse to care?

How much did God the Father care? How much did Jesus the Son care? How much did it cost each of them?

And did Jesus say, "As the Father hath sent me, so send I you?" Let us ask our hearts, "Are we willing to spend and be spent?"

All these questions have been addressed to Christians, But if you don't know God or if you are far away from God, these questions are for you...because we care.

Do you care where you are going? Don't you have better to do with your life than to lose it to the second death from which there is no return?

Have you ever thought you didn't care and found out later that you cared, oh so much? Have you ever cared only after it was much too late?

If you now refuse to care and die in your carelessness and you stand in judgment before the Christ who cared enough for you to die for your sin...then when it is too late to care...

Then, what will you give in exchange for your own soul?

"Seek the Lord while He may be found."

You are loved.

Ken Cruse

2506 25th

Snyder, TX 79549

PH: (915) 573-8115

Congratulations!

We congratulate Teresa Hackney, Dallas, Texas, who graduated on August 9, 1997, from Texas Woman's University with a degree of Master of Science. Teresa made her home with Donald and Vivian Flowers in Perryton, Texas and attended the Full Gospel Church. She also attended the Apostolic Faith Bible College in 1990-1992.

Life Through Christ/Destruction Of The Wicked: You Choose

Written by: De Lee O. Baughman

If the final end of a person's soul has been reached why would there be a need for resurrection? Why would there be a need for judgement? Immortality has to do with the body and not the soul. The mortal puts on immortality (1 Cor 15:22-24), if one is to have an eternity after this life. This paper will attempt to expose the nature of one's life that can be lived through Christ; it will go on to explain that life is only found in Him. It will do this by exposing common myths adopted by many people about eternal torment (punishment for eternity) and refuting them with the Word of God--the Bible.

Adam was formed by the dust of the earth. He was lacking in nothing but the breath of life making him a living soul; this same breath was common with the other things God had created--Adam would cease without God's breath (Ecc. 3:19). Man has three parts that describe his make up as a person: 1) Spirit--Breath of life (which goes back to God) 2) Soul--Personality (which ceases to exist upon death) and 3) Body--the outer shell during this life--Back to dust. The words "soul and spirit" occur in the Bible approximately nine hundred and fifteen times. Never once is the term "immortal" connected with either one of them.

Let me start by explaining some common terms used in relationship to life, eternal life, and death of man.

Apollumni is a Greek term translated perish or lost. The same word translated in a noun form is the words "Destruction" or "Perdition." (Jn 3:16, Mt 10:28, Jn 17:12, Mt 7:13, Phil 3:19).

Sheol is a Hebrew term appearing 65 times in the Old Testament. It is translated in the word grave 31 times, hell 31 times, and the pit 3 times. Sheol referred to the place or abode of the dead.

Hades is a Greek term appearing 11 times in the New Testament. Hades means the abode of the dead.

Gehenna is an Aramaic term deriving from the Hebrew word, Gehinnon, which is the valley of Hinnom, a place south of Jerusalem where fires were continually burning garbage or refuse, prior to Josiah's reign the Jews had been guilty of child sacrificing to Moloch here. To prevent this from taking place, Josiah defied, or desecrated the place by filling it with human bones (2 Ki 23:10-14). It was the custom afterwards to throw the carcasses of animals there and it gradually became a community garbage pit. When first Isaiah (66:24) and then Christ (Mk 9:44) made reference to this pit, they were not typifying the sinner, by the fire nor the worm, but by the garbage, that was either consumed by the fire or the worm illustrating the total destruction of the wicked. The fact that the fire was not quenched indicates the fire could not be put out, not that it would not go out when it had consumed all of the rubbish. This word is translated hell 12 times in the New Testament.

Tartarus is the Greek word translated for hell. It appears only once and is found in 2 Pe 2:4. It refers to the place of fallen angels held in chains of darkness.

"*The Abyss*" is the Greek word translated "bottomless pit (Re 9:1,11; 11:7; 17:8).

Lake of Fire and Brimstone represents the second death (also known as destruction).

Redemption has two aspects: 1) the saving of our souls from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ and 2) the saving of our natural body from death.

Rapture (a non-biblical term) is used to mean to seize suddenly, to move from, to remove (Mt 24:40-41).

Translate (a non-biblical term) is used to mean to bear or change from one place to another.

Forever is a space of time. The word "Forever" means a period as long as he lived or until the year of Jubilee, which occurred every 50 years, when all slaves were set free (1 Sa 27:12).

Quicken means to make alive, to resuscitate, bring back to life.

Ruach a Hebrew word meaning, Breathe (Ps 104:29-30; 146:4, Ecc 3:19).1

The only occurrence of the word "immortal" in the Bible is found in 1 Tim 1:17 which states: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." This verse established that: A) God's presence is absolute and essential to all life. If He is the creator of all things, His existence is absolute. B) God is the self-existing--He was not created--He was in the beginning and called all things into being. C) God has no beginning nor end: 1) He is Almighty, 2) He is the "I Am" God, 3) He is eternal, 4) He is immortal (1 Ti 6:14-16).

Nothing can be exalted above God and stand against Him for God is omnipotent--unlimited in power, God is omniscient--He knows all things, God is omnipresent--He is everywhere present. Our existence had a beginning. God has the right to give life and cease life. He is God (Ac 17:28). Life of man is as a vapor that appears for a time and vanishes--We all have an appointed time to live and die (Jas 4:14).

"The Bible says the wicked are to die, to perish, to pass away, to fade away, to wither, to be destroyed, consumed, utterly consumed root and branch, devoured, cut down, ground to powder, plucked up by the roots, broken to shivers, dashed in pieces, crushed, cut in sunder, put away like dross, cast away, to vanish away like smoke, like a dream, to perish like the brutes, to be ashes, to be as nothing, to be as though they had not been, to be no more, etc. If these expressions are not sufficient to prove the uniform teaching of the Bible that God alone is immortal and that man is mortal, then words cannot be put together in the English language that will prove it. Through Adam's fall, death was sentenced upon all mankind. Mankind was condemned, without any hope because of sin.

Through Christ death has been abolished. He became the way we could be reconciled back into fellowship with God through Christ. Christ became the good news to a

man without hope. Christ made a way where there was no way back to God.

All men have sinned. The wages sin pays is death (Ro 6:23). "If death destroys those things which result in consciousness, then consciousness itself is destroyed by death. If death has no effect upon them and they continue their activities regardless of death, then consciousness continues in death." Man returns at the time of death into the same condition as he was before he was ever created--dust (at death the body returns to dust) (Ecc 12:7). God gave us our spirit and He may take it upon our death--He is God Almighty.

"When the breath of life was breathed into the body {my paranthesis (of man)}, that union created a consciousness...if that union does not exist, whatever may remain," it is certain that consciousness does not remain. "At the point of death man's breath leaves, his body returns to the earth from which it came and his thoughts perish."¹ The consciousness depends upon the breath being united with the body. It follows that when this vital union is broken up and the breath is separated from the body, the consciousness is destroyed.

There will be no more brilliant thoughts, no consciousness, no memory, no emotion, no sense of time, for all have perished with the body and return to the earth, the personality ceases and the spirit goes back to God, the one who gave it (Job 14:10,21; Ps 6:5; 115:17; 146:3-4; Ecc 9:5-6). "This death is not a modification of life, not a continuation of life in changed conditions, not a release into a fuller life, not life in misery, not life in happiness. Death is not life at all. To die is not to live. To die is to stop living. Death does not mean to go to heaven, hell, purgatory, or anywhere. Death means the end of life. The soul does not live. The spirit does not live. There is no intelligence, no consciousness, no memory." All that composed the man is gone.

The dead lie in their graves (Ac 2:29,34). When one is dead, one lies down to sleep. At the resurrection the person is awakened; at the point of death until the resurrection man is in an unconscious sleep until they are awakened at the resurrection (Ps 134:3; Jn 11:11-14; 1 Th 4:13; Dan 12:2). "There is no place of torment now, nor will there be until the end of the world. Men do not go to hell when they die." Dead men who have been wicked during their lives are not in hell now, but in their graves, at rest, perfectly unconscious. Purgatory is a falsehood of Satan adopted by some Catholics, Universalists, and Restorationists. The belief is that the state of the dead can be altered by the payment of monies so that the minister may pray them out of purgatory.

There is a future life but it is not a continuation of this life. It is not a life as we know in the here and now but an entirely new life. A person will have a new body that has been changed from corruptible to incorruptible (immortal). It will be given at the time of the resurrection of the dead. Upon His return God will give eternal life to those expecting Him and, who have lived for Him upon this earth (1 Cor 15:51-57). Those that do not obey the

truth of God and the provisions He has made for them will not receive immortality. Immortality is conditional. A person must have a salvation experience. We have no promise of immortality without this experience! (Jn 5:24,40; 10:10).

In the parable The Rich Man and Lazarus, people that support eternal torment tend to use this parable as their supporting evidence. This parable can be found in Luke, chapter 16, verses 19-31. Let me show you how this parable cannot be the backbone in which a person can rely for their supporting proof of eternal torment. The Bible reads: "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

A parable is a fictitious narrative; an allegory from which a moral is drawn. The true meaning is not on the surface, but has a hidden meaning. It cannot be taken literally. A doctrine cannot be established on a parable but the interpretation of the parable if it corresponds to the other teaching of the Bible.

The rich man was neither good or evil. It said he was rich who at death went to heaven. He "fared sumptuously"; he was dressed "in purple and fine linen signifying wealth, a high official position. It was the sign of a king. It was seen in the tabernacle usually worn by the high priest (Esther 8:15, Jud 8:26, Mk 15:17, Ex 25:4; 26:1,31,36; 28:5,6,15,33; 39:29). In this story the rich man represents the Jewish nation (chosen by God for His own).

Lazarus is seen as a beggar. He was a good man but he "laid at the rich man's gate, ...full of sores,"... "desiring to be fed with the crumbs" and "the dogs came

and licked his sores." In this story Lazarus is representing the Gentile (those outside the Jewish nation--outcasts, lepers, thrown outside the city gates because of their disease, their smell) people. Can you imagine Christ wanting to represent a Christian as this poor beggar? Would you recognize this man Lazarus as God's elect, a child of the King? David said he had never seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread. The Jews, as a nation, had been given God's best promises. A provision as of this time had not been made for the Gentile (Eph 2:11-13).

The beggar died and was carried, not to heaven, but "into Abraham's bosom." This was not his literal bosom because Abraham had been dead many hundreds of years and long since turned to dust, but Lazarus (the Gentile) was "carried into Abraham's bosom" spiritually being made heirs to the things of God promised to Abraham (Ro 3:29, Gal 3:7-9, 14, 28-29; Col 3:11).

"The rich man also died and was buried." An end came like death, and he ceased to exist in his former state. And in hell, he lifted up his eyes being in torments, and seeing Abraham afar off, and Lazarus "in his bosom."

In verse 24 the rich man calls out for help, not from God, but to "Father Abraham" which makes it plain that he (the rich man) was a descendant, son of Abraham, representing the Jewish people, who were at that very time, looking to Abraham saying "Abraham is our father (Jn 8:39) and reflecting the promised Messiah, thus casting themselves into the "torments" that they are still in.

In verse 25, Abraham acknowledges the relationship "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime (the Jewish dispensation was now ended) received good things." How wonderfully God had blessed the Jews, His chosen people. "And likewise Lazarus evil things." Up to this time Gentiles were counted as dogs (Mt 15:26, Mk 7:26-28). "Now he --Lazarus (the Gentiles) is comforted. "While Jesus was giving them this parable the Jews "derided Him" (verse 14) while the Gentiles, "publicans and sinners," drew near unto Him to hear Him (Lk 15:1). The law of the prophets were until John, since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every man (Jew and Gentile) presseth unto it (verse 16 and Rom 11).

There is still "a great gulf fixed" (verse 26) between the Jews and other nations, for the Jews are scattered "among all nations" throughout the world (Amos 9:9) and still the Jews remain to be a separate people.

The "five brethren" also had "Moses and the prophets" and Abraham said, "Let them hear them." Had they done so, they would have not crucified the Christ, and they did not believe that Christ had "rose from the dead."

In Luke the 15th chapter you can see the description Christ gave of the "elder brother" in the parable of the prodigal son, which is how the Jew felt toward Christ, and the "Publicans and sinners" to whom He was giving the Gospel.

This story has no reference to the future state of the dead whatsoever, although some people use this parable to explain eternal torment. This describes the Jewish

dispensation and the budding of the Gentiles, and what would happen to the Jews who had been in "outer darkness," despised, hated, persecuted by the peoples of the world ("His blood be on us and on our children.").

Christ marveled at the faith of the centurion and said, "I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel--and I say unto you that many shall come from the east and west (Gentiles) and shall sit down with Abraham, and Issac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom (Jews) shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Mt 8:10-12).³ This Scripture is literally being fulfilled in the "Wailing Place" at Jerusalem.

"Try this test; put a piece of paper in a pan. Light it with a match. Now don't quench that fire! Don't put it out for that's what quench means. Very soon the paper will burn up.⁴ Then put it down on the floor and step on it"² (1 Sam 27:12). If the doctrine that teaches that at death a wicked man will go to a place of torment is true, there would be no need of a resurrection from the dead to receive a punishment that they are already receiving in death? If this doctrine of punishment in hell at death is true, there would be no need of future judgment, which the Bible teaches will take place at the second coming of Christ. If men are already receiving all their torment in hell, what need would there be of judging them? Shall they be brought from hell to see if a mistake has been made in their cases, and whether they after all, should have been sent to heaven instead of hell. (Job 21:23-30; 2 Pe 2:4-9).

God promises eternal life to all who believe on Him. God doesn't want anyone to perish. God made a way. All a man has to do is accept the provision made for him through Christ Jesus, God's son (De 30:15-20; Jn 3:15-17; 10:27-28; 1 Jn 5:11). By receiving Christ we receive an adoption into the family of God. To fulfill the requirements of adoption one would have to enter into a legal act (to surrender to God's will), a contract with Him for the things which are to come (Ro 8:15, 17, 23). Eternal life is promised to those who seek in doing the will of God in bringing honor and glory to Him in this life (Ro 2:7; Mt 10:22; 24:13).

God being a merciful God reserves judgement for the only one qualified--Himself. He alone is righteous, holy, pure, above reproach, merciful, and impartial. He treats all men equally. He gives the same opportunity to accept the gift of His Son that gave His life on our behalf. I'm afraid my friend, if one rejects the mercy of God they will face the judgement of God (Mt 16:26-27; Jn 5:22; 12:48).

What will you do with Jesus? Will you turn Him away? Will you accept the gift He offers you personally? While Jesus was on the cross, you were on His mind. Please don't turn Him away.

***When you turn your back on God,
any way you go is the wrong direction.***

Sacrifice: It Must Continue

Written by Rick Crouch, Joplin, MO.

We find that shortly after Adam was placed in the garden of Eden, that man fell short and sinned. This brought about the first sacrifice made by God himself to provide skin coverings for Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:21.

The account of Cain and Abel, Genesis 4, taught the first family the way to approach God with sacrifice. The Lord looked favorable on Abel and his offering of the firstling of his flock and rejected Cain's offering of the fruit of the ground. We can see in this account God's love for man in that He gave Cain the opportunity to do what was right. It's not until later in Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul," do we find the significance of the blood.

Animal sacrifices continued through out the Old Testament. They were made by Noah after the flood (Gen. 8:20-21), by Abraham after a great test of his faith (Genesis 22), and by Job, who offered sacrifices for sin (Job 1:5; 42:7-9).

Another vital sacrifice is found in Exodus 12, the Passover. Verse 13 says, "when I see the blood I will pass over you".

Only after Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt was the Law given. This clearly showed the way Israel was to worship. It set up a very rigid but well defined system of sacrifice. Even though the Priests were to make the sacrifices, some families did offer a local sacrifice. (1 Sam. 16:2-5; 20:6,29; @ Sam. 15:12,24.)

Probably the most controversial sacrifice is mentioned in Judges 11:29-40. Here we find Jephthah making a vow unto God, committing "whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the children of Ammon shall surely be the Lord's and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." Once again God tests the sincerity of the heart. Jephthah keeps his vow in that " who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed; and she knew no man."

For Israel , after the law was given, sacrifice of a lamb without blemish was very important, signifying the rolling ahead of their sin, to be in good standing with God. Sad to say, they didn't understand what John the Baptist was saying when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." (John 1:29)

Once again God's love was shining on hopeless man. Little did they realize that God's supreme sacrifice of his only Son had arrived. Only after Christ's crucifixion did mankind parallel Exodus 12:5 with John 1:29 and Exodus 12:8 to Matthew 26:17-19.

The Scribes and Pharisees were so wrapped up in the very letter of the Law and were threatened by Jesus, who knew more and had a greater understanding of the scripture than they. Determined to get rid of Jesus, they couldn't rest until He was crucified/sacrificed. And even then they didn't rest. The point I want to make is that sacrifice doesn't stop at the cross. Complete atonement

for our sins has been made and the example has been given to us. The rest is up to us! It can only start by us accepting Jesus and the sacrifice He made for us. (Hebrews 9:25-28) Paul states in Romans 12:1 that we are " to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." "We have the privilege to live for Christ because He died for us. (Ephesians 5:2) Our sacrifice (lives) given to God is a sweet smell and pleasing to God. (Philippians 4:18)

Not only are our lives to be a sacrifice, but we are to offer the sacrifice of praise continually with our lips. (Hebrews 13:15-16). We find Paul and Silas in prison because of the sacrifice of their lives, in which they were teaching the gospel of Christ. (Acts 16: 25-26) Here we find the power of praise for they prayed and sang praises to God. In their midnight hour, the darkest moment, we find God shook the place up and everyone's bands were loosed. As a result souls were saved.

King David must have understood how much God appreciated praise. (Psalms 22:3) God inhabits praise and praise glorifieth God.

It is our turn to give sacrifice unto God and all we have to do is to follow directions from God's Holy Word. (Psalms 51;15-17) O Lord, open thou my lips and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

For thou desireth not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O god, thou wilt not despise.

Do I , have I, am I offering my total, my very best sacrifice God to God? It's no more than He has done for us. The power of Christ's blood will cover our sins. Perhaps I didn't ask the most important question, "Will I make that sacrifice?" These are questions we need to ask ourselves every day. Remembering Paul's writing to the Church at Corinth, "I protest (affirm) by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily." When we die daily to the flesh we are sacrificing ourselves to God, yielding to God totally enabling us to walk in the Spirit of God. (Galatians 5;16-26) Paul was so right, trials and temptations come every day, we must die daily sacrificing the desires of the flesh. As we do this "the things of this world grow strangely dim.

I praise God for the love, grace and mercy He has given in my life. It's my deepest desire to do God's will. I am praying for His will and strength and understanding to know and to carry out his will and to make that sacrifice unto God. I would invite you to offer up your life/ sacrifice to God today and each day as you face other trials and temptations.

May God bless and keep each and every one.

***For to me to live is Christ,
and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21***

RELIGION WITHOUT CHRIST

Several years ago in the hills of Southwestern Pennsylvania a well trained minister was found doing simple gospel work in a scattered farming community with apparent results. In the course of conversation he said, "For many years I was the rector of a fashionable church in New Jersey. I was quite a successful preacher, as they go, but I, myself was unsaved. Many young people came into the church, but they were the children of those who were members and they simply followed along in the footsteps of their fathers and mothers. They were not saved. They joined the church because it was the proper thing to do. Then I suddenly woke up to the fact that I, myself, was unsaved. Now I am preaching the gospel as simply as I know how."

Today the world is full of religion, professed by those who really do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Someone has said that "religion is the Devil's instrument to blind men's eyes." We fear that the remark is true. Wherever you go you met men and women belonging to this or that system of religion who knows nothing either of the sinfulness of their own hearts or of God's way of salvation for the lost.

Perhaps one who reads these lines is a "church member", or even the minister of a fashionable congregation, and yet he himself is unsaved.

There must be a personal experience of the soul with God if one is to be a Christian. Nicodemus came to the Lord and said, "We know that thou art a teacher come from God." Jesus answered him, "Verily verily I say unto thee...Ye must be born again."

Reader, are you born again? Have you ever seen yourself as a lost sinner on your way to destruction, and turned to the shelter of the precious blood of Christ for your salvation?

Nicodemus was a Pharisee- orthodox and a teacher of religion- but he needed to be born again. Saul of Tarsus likewise was a Pharisee, very zealous for his religion; but he was brought to see the emptiness of religion and turned to Christ for salvation.

You may be a nominal Christian, but have you ever seen yourself as a sinner in the presence of God? Have you ever seen yourself as lost unless a holy Substitute can be found who will die for you? Or is yours a religion without Christ?

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If "sinner" is your title, there is a Saviour for you- a Saviour whose precious blood is sufficient for the chiefest of sinners. If you are only religious, you may be very respectable in the eyes of your fellow man but you are on your way to hell; and unless your eyes are opened before you die, you will be lost. May God save you from a "religion without Christ", that you may find your only refuge and hope in Him who came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

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