

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

Volume 11

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

July 1970

Number 12

## The Evangelist And His Work

By James E. Shafer

An improper conception of work a preacher should do can be wasteful monetarily, deprive the congregation of valuable service and leave the preacher frustrated.

Many members are dismayed if the preacher fails to keep punctual office hours, do the church's secretarial work, visit regularly, be available as an errand boy, spearhead the young people's work, keep administrative details in order, impress the community and finally have two comforting sermons each Sunday.

Paul's language (2 Tim. 4:1-5) sounds like the evangelist's work should be more concerned with saving souls that entertaining members or conducting a publicity campaign.

The area of emphasis for the evangelist may vary somewhat with the individual needs of the congregation but the church should clarify this when hiring him. He is more likely to perform his work acceptably if he knows what is expected of him.

However, it will benefit all concerned if the congregation realizes that a preacher cannot effectively specialize in all these categories. A secretary can more economically do secretarial work. If one cannot be hired, voluntary workers will leave the preacher's time free for the work he was hired to do.

The preacher is not the pastor. The elders are the church's pastors (shepherds) and cannot abdicate this responsibility without incurring God's displeasure. Responsible elders in discharging their duty of shepherding the flock may want to fill the pulpit themselves on occasion.

Finally, a preacher who is hired to do evangelistic work has a full time job. He has no more free time for special requests than any other person fully employed, whether he is asked to concentrate his efforts in "pulpit type" evangelism, "personal work" or some other method of evangelism. If he is expected to take time out for special projects, this will detract from his evangelistic work.

Congregations that hire a man with little clear understanding of what he should do, and then after a year or two decide

(Continued on Page 2)

## What Young People Think (About Religion)

### FUTURE OF RELIGION IN AMERICA LIES IN HANDS OF TODAY'S YOUTH

The training that the churches and homes are giving our youth will reflect in tomorrow's homes and church. The examples which they see in older people will be their pattern for the future. Therefore it is most important to teach them God's word and show them what it can do for one's life if he will obey it!

### EVERY CHILD IS ENTITLED TO BE BORN INTO A GOD PATTERNED HOME

When a child is born into a home he is "safe", not saved, he has never been lost to be saved. Little children are such as the kingdom of Heaven. Sin enters their lives when they sin, 1 John 3:4. The child does not bear the sins of the parent, but the parent can influence him to sin, Ezekiel 18:20. The parents are to "train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6. "Fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord", Ephesians 6:4.

### A PARENT CANNOT TRAIN A CHILD IN THE LORD IF HE IS NOT IN THE LORD

That every child should have an opportunity to know of God, obey God, and be saved, he must have parents who are Christians themselves. No one has a right to train a child to be lost who was safe when the parents received him! How about you mother, father, are you qualified to train the child to follow you as you follow Christ?

### MR. EUGENE GILBERT CONDUCTS A SURVEY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Eugene Gilbert, president, Gilbert Youth Research, Ins., questioned 1,300 teenagers, "in a representative sample of the country", concerning their religious beliefs. If you will read what these young people said you can understand that they have not been brought up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord".

### 53% THOUGHT IT NOT NECESSARY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH

Yes, fifty-three percent felt that it does not matter whether one is a member of a church in order to be saved and go to heaven! Here is the direct quote, now ask yourself where these young people learned this. "Fifty-three percent felt it

doesn't matter whether they belong to a church so long as they live a good life". Remember that the Lord "adds the saved" to the church, Acts 2:47. Eighty-five percent of these young people were "affiliated formally with some church".

When these young people were taught one is saved first, then seeks the Church of his choice, and after being saved it is impossible to be lost, then why should they think membership important? They are following their training, but not in the Lord!

### "WHAT DISTINGUISHES YOUR DENOMINATION FROM OTHERS"?

This is one of the questions asked and in their answers they show a complete lack of knowledge of God's word, the Bible! Here are the answers; judge for yourself.

A — "Has more Democratic government". Jesus is the head of his church and has all authority, Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 28:18.

B — "Its liberalism and opportunity to let one think for himself distinguishes it from all others". All are to speak the same thing and there is to be no division among God's people, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.

C — "A mixture of most demoniations". There is one body (Ephesians 4:4) And this one body is the Lord's Church. Colossians 1:18.

D — "It is not as narrow minded about such things as dancing and going to movies". The doctrine of Christ must govern us, not men in some of the churches. Galatians 1:8-9.

### HOW DID THESE TEENAGERS CHOOSE A CHURCH?

"Should find a church they like just as they find a job that suits them" That is how they found these churches which they consider non-essential to salvation! Here is another, "A person should join a church whose doctrine fits his beliefs". The bible teachers that faith comes by hearing God's word, Romans 10:17, and without this faith one cannot please God, Hebrews 11:6. There is nothing said about a person deciding what he wants to believe, then seeking others who believe

(Continued on Page 2)



## The Fulton County Gospel News

... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale  
and James E. Henley.

### DIARY OF A FAMILY BIBLE

**JANUARY:** A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy the first two weeks.

**FEBRUARY:** Clean up time. I was dusted and put back in my place. MY owner did use me for a minute last week. He had an argument.

**MARCH:** I had a busy day the first of the month. My owner was appointed leader of something and used me.

**APRIL:** Granddad visited us. He kept me on his lap for an hour. He seems to think more of me than he used to think.

**MAY:** I have a few green stains on my pages. Had some spring flowers pressed in me.

**JUNE:** I look like a scrap book. They stuffed me full of newspaper clippings. One of the girls got married.

**JULY:** They put me in a suitcase today. I guess I'll be in this thing a whole month.

**AUGUST:** Still in the suitcase. Wish I could get out of here.

**SEPTEMBER:** Back in my old place at last. Have a lot of company. A bunch of "True Stories" and "Comics" are on top of me. Wish they would read me as much as they do these silly things.

**OCTOBER:** They used me a little today. One of them is very ill. Right now I am all dusted and on the center table. I think they are expecting the preacher.

**NOVEMBER:** Back in my old place. They looked through me for some important papers today.

**DECEMBER:** I am all covered with wrapping paper, ribbons, etc.

Teach me, Father, when I pray,  
Not to ask for more,  
But rather let me give my thanks  
For what is at my door.  
For food and drink, for gentle rain,  
For sunny skies above,  
For home and friends, for peace and joy,  
But most of all for love.

## Some Things Mothers Ought to Say:

The Mothers of our land have a powerful voice. They marched and obtained the right to vote. They marched and closed up the saloons. I think it high time that Mothers lifted up their voices of protest again.

First Mothers ought to say something about today's clothes. They need to tell designers that their clothes are ugly, uncomfortable, and immodest. Why should a godly woman allow herself to be forced into wearing something she knows isn't right? Why should she allow such things to be forced on her children.

Mothers need more respect and dignity for the human body. Make no mistake about it—the way the body is clothed (or unclothed) betrays a basic concept of life itself.

Mothers need to make their sons clean up, pull off their smelly rags, cut their stringy hair, and become men again instead of symbols of heterosexuality. No wonder there is so much perversion in today's world. And Mothers can do something about it if they will!

Second, our mothers ought to say something about today's music. It's not just a fad it is a mania. The best is sensual and the lyrics are plain dirty. Singing and music in other forms is a vital part of man's environment. It plays a basic role in the formation of his personality. One great man once said, "Let me write a nation's music and I care not who writes her laws." When the tempo is stimulating and suggestive, they leave nothing even to the imagination, then we are sowing the wind and must reap the whirl-wind.

Mother, put some of those records on and listen carefully to what they say. Is that what you want fed to that daughter or son of yours? Throw those things in the garbage and lay down the law. Most of the money for this moral filth is supplied by mother and daddy. Cut out the money for it and such people will soon be forced out of business. Mothers need to write some indignant letters, apply some pressure, make some phone calls. Such things as the right source and in sufficient volume could force a crack down on this business. MOTHER, IT IS UP TO YOU!

Third, mothers need to say something about the trend in the church today. It must start by mothers getting back to the feet of Jesus. In Luke 10 we have the story of Mary choosing the good part while Martha was more interested in other things. The "Marthas" are filling the church today. And with them comes "the new Morality." There is too little spirituality among many of today's mothers in the church. They are too interested in money and material things.

that he should "move on" need to study children. They are often slaves of the fashion world and thus are a means of encouraging the things we have condemned.

When Mothers get back to the feet of Jesus, study the word, pray, keep the home and rear the children, then things will be different. But not until then. The parties and plays and "socials" that have become "THE THING" in the church today are the product of the "Marthas".

Fourth mothers ought to say something about the names of their children, that will bring dignity and meaning. Names with real meaning like those found in God's word are a thing of the past. Far too many children are named for some star of stage or screen. How could a Christian woman name her baby after some "spectacular success" that has just discarded her fifth husband? Mother, throw away that cheap magazine, turn off the immoral TV program and get back to the Word of God. Teach that boy and girl about God's image which they bear, about the worth, dignity and responsibility of life about their eternal destiny. Make no mistake about it. Mothers have a powerful voice. They are speaking up and they are being heard either for good or evil. MOTHERS, SPEAK UP FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

### What Young People Think (cont.)

the same thing and joining them. What if this thing that one decides to believe is the "doctrines of men", then his worship is "vain", Matthew 15:7-9. If he does not obey God he will be lost, Matthew 7:21.

### GOD, CHRIST, THE BIBLE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT MENTIONED

Did you notice that none of these teenagers mentioned God or what He commanded? Only forty-four percent of them attended the service of some church as much as once a week! Could one of these have been your child? If so what chance could he have of being saved according to the Bible? Is it not about time that teenagers be taught the bible, God's word?

### The Evangelist (continued)

evangelistic work. A diligent evangelist can be much more effective after he has been at one location a year or so and developed a knowledge of the community. The church that continues to change preachers frequently loses much of his potential. We will be more effective in carrying out the value of a capable preacher more fully and encourage him in his work.



## What Have They Done?

What have they done? They have come to neglect to do that which they know they should be doing, and which they really want to do down deep in their hearts.

God knew this state of mind would come before man did. Nor does God hate men and women who are not doing their duty any more than a parent ceases to love a child that disobeys him.

Loving warnings are given in the word of God regarding this thing we know as NEGLECT. The tendency to draft away, little by little, is no new thing. "Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" Heb. 1:1-3a.

All of us need warnings given in love at times. All who speak to us may not do it in love, but at the same time those who do give exhortation may have far more love than they can convey. Those of us who try to give words of encouragement need to be doubly sure it is love which is motivating our words. The body of Christ is far too sacred in every part for us to speak or act out of any other motive than true Christian love. Those who falter are in such need of tender care! We are given a pretty fair picture of the concern of our Lord for the lost. We often give lip service to his example, but we may not come near to imitating him in it. If we who still make open profession by faithful attendance at worship services can come to love as our Lord did those who have ceased to do the same, and those who have never begun, the number will increase who eventually enter the portals of God's glorified world for the spirits of just men.

But, if we may say a word to the person who has never begun his outward profession of attachment to our God, let me say that if we are given any help from men or not, the need for faithfulness to God is the same. No excuse will be good enough. We must do our duty to God regardless of the difficulty. It is for our own sake, and the sake of our children, that we must learn and do the will of God. There are all kinds of worthless things doing all they can to claim our attention away from God, week after week and year after year. Even things which are good in themselves must not hinder our worship.

Worshipping regularly does not make us Christians, per se. This is about as helpful, however, to faithfulness as

regular eating is to good health. One may have plenty to eat and still not be healthy, but one thing for sure is that we must eat. Just so must we study and worship.

Those who had grown weary in doing well, and who had evidently quit going to worship, were exhorted not to, Heb. 10-23-25. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." And, another verse is: "And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart." Gal. 6-9.

What I have been talking about here is addressed in part to the one who needs help, and also to the ones who might render aid. Note, too, that this is the case in the passage in Heb. 10. God says a word to the sick person, and also to the doctors and nurses, in the same passage. Most of us can thank somebody for being the chief stepping stone in our spiritual well being. Nearly all who neglect the duty they know they owe to God give as an excuse for delay the unloving behavior of someone toward them. Let us think and pray that we not be a hindrance to anyone.

We will not have to think at much length to know what we would like to have others do for us if we were the one on the needing end for encouragement. Whatever we think would be a real help to us if we were neglecting our duty is apt to likewise be a help to others who may desire and certainly need a kind word of concern. Professional people who attend the sick, for the most part, can serve Christians as a good example. If leaders in the church showed similar concern for the lost it is probable that more alien sinners would ask their aid. We seldom ask others to help us if we even remotely suspect they don't care if we make it to safety or not.

Just simply saying, "We surely do miss seeing you at church" can be a wonderful help when said sincerely. Silence can be an awful discouragement to the already discouraged. We may be surprised if we ever learn how many stay away from church goings-on altogether because they have never been convinced that those already going would welcome them.

We need to try to do our duty to ourselves, even if we have to do it with little or no help, but at the same time we all need to be conscious of the brother or sister who may need a stronger arm to cling to to make it to safety. Who knows

## Life Is Precious

The following is taken from the May 1969 issue of Reader's Digest, page 112 and presented without comment. There are at least a dozen lessons in this for the reader and each can draw his own lessons. By all means read it several times to really see how it may influence you for good.

"Within minutes, everyone in the neighborhood had heard the searing words: 'killed in Vietnam'. A wave of gloom spread through the street, where not so many months earlier the man—then just a boy—had walked self consciously in his new uniform, smiling with awkward pride of a young soldier. Neighbors offered his parents feeble words of sympathy, but no one really knew what to do or say.

"Next day, the answer came. When the soft light of early morning reached the lawn of the soldier's home, it fell upon an American flag placed there by his anguished parents. It fluttered proudly in the breeze. As one mind, the neighborhood recognized the gesture, and in rapid succession flags went up at house after house. Soon the street was two streaming columns of red, white and blue—a mass display of sympathy and recognition for a sacrifice too great to capture in words."

No one can read this, who has one ounce of compassion, without tears appearing in his eyes. No doubt, the greatest word in the entire article, is "sacrifice". This young man gave all, that others might be free! Then, I think of our saviour!

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.", Heb. 12:2. He gave all that others might be free! But, my friend you have a cross too, if you will be saved!

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.", said Jesus, Luke 9:23.

Christ's cross was not easy! Hear the master pray in the garden! "And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.", Matt. 27:39. Is your prayer the same? Do you pray that God's will be done, then live in open rebellion to His will? Yes Jesus bore His cross, but if you are saved, you have a cross too. Was His great sacrifice in vain as far as you are concerned?

when any one of us might need desperately some help from somebody?

—Wm. Kay Moser.



## Church News

The Church of Christ in Sturkie, Arkansas, announces a gospel meeting to begin August 24th and continue through the 30th. Brother N. E. Honeycutt of Thayer, Missouri, will be the speaker. Services will be at 8 p.m. each evening.

ATTENTION: We received a one dollar contribution from a lady in Ravenden, Ark., with a name to be added to our mailing list; this name has been misplaced so will the lady please send us this name again, so it can be placed on our mailing list.

James E. Henley

### Contributions for June:

Larry Price .....	\$ 5.00
Banner Church of Christ .....	10.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ .....	5.00
Bertha Stein .....	2.00
Agnos Church of Christ .....	5.00
Ring Church of Christ .....	5.00
Sturkie Church of Christ .....	5.00

## Shall I Force My Children to Go to Church?

"Shall I make my child go to church? Yes and with no further discussion about the matter. Are you startled? Why? How do you answer Junior when he comes to breakfast on Monday morning and announces to you that he isn't going to school anymore? You know! Junior goes! How do you answer him when he comes in very besmudged and says: "I'm not going to take a bath." Junior bathes, doesn't he?

Why all this timidity then in the realm of his spiritual guidance and growth? Going to wait and let him decide what church he will go to when old enough? Quit kidding! You didn't wait until you were old enough. You didn't wait until he was old enough to decide whether he wished to remain dirty or be clean. Do you wait until he is old enough to decide if he wants to take medicine when he is sick?

What will you say when Junior announces he does not like to go to church? That's easy to answer. Just be consistent. Tell him "Junior, in our family we all go to church and that includes you." Your firmness and examples will furnish a bridge over which youthful rebellion travels into rich and satisfying experiences in personal religious living.

"The parents of America can strike a telling blow against the forces which contribute to our juvenile delinquency, if our mothers and fathers will take their children to worship our Lord regular."

-J. Edgar Hoover

## A Mother's Love

"A Mother's pure love is the closest thing on earth to God's love for us."

### A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Oh, give me, God, the wisdom that I need  
To mold the tender lives within my care;  
Give me the power that I may subtly lead  
Them into righteous fields to settle there.  
I ask for them no rainbowed path of ease;  
I ask for them no store of wealth or fame;  
I only ask that by their lives they please  
You and the world with an untarnished name.

I know that man is weak and life is strong,  
And sometimes honest roads look very drear,  
That winning laurels often takes too long  
And luring vistas from all sides appear . . .  
But while I have my young beneath my wing,  
God, help me guide them right in everything.

In I Sam. 2:1-21 is recorded the story of HANNAH. Hannah was a Mother who KNEW HOW to love. Paul admonished Timothy to teach the young women to love their husbands, love their children. Hannah was childless for years. She poured her sorrowing heart out to God with the solomon promise: "If thou wilt give me a son, I will give him to the Lord all his life."

God heard Hannah's prayer. He gave her a son. She kept her promise. She taught him to worship God and returned him to the house of God to serve the God she loved so devotedly.

All Mothers are not unselfish human beings. Many confuse real love with possessiveness, "and when things don't work out to their liking (as they never do!) they blame God or the other person because they don't receive the response they think they deserve."

"When a woman expects her child to prove his love by bending to her whims, she has fallen into the trap of possessiveness, not love. Real love concerns itself, first of all, with the welfare of the loved one—never with itself."

Hannah would probably never have uttered: "After all I've done for you, it seems to me you could do this for your poor old mother!", even if Samuel had stayed with her. Her love was simple, uncomplicated, all-encompassing. Her heart was broken to leave the little fellow forever in the temple. But she did it, and God took care of her broken heart.

Hannah's faith was not compartmentalized. She did not have faith only to worship God in His temple. She had faith to drop her sadness and begin to hope, once she poured out her heart in prayer to Him. Within minutes

## "SHE HAS DONE WHAT SHE COULD . . . A BEAUTIFUL THING"

By Earle McMillan  
Assistant Professor of Bible  
Abilene Christian College

Common denominators for Christianity are many. Perhaps the lowest of these is a cup of cool water. Jesus taught that a kind extended hand holding a cup of water for one in need could silently convey the basic truth of Christianity.

This fundamental principle is also manifest in the story of the woman who broke open an alabaster cruse of expensive ointment and poured it over Jesus' head (Mark 14:3-9). In this incident — at least as far as the text is concerned — a woman in silence preached the love of God as contained in the "first commandment." This lavish gift was the expression of love, devotion, and discipleship. It was indeed a sermon in action. Jesus' own comment establishes this fact, "... whenever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." Eloquent silence — a sermon still in circulation.

At least two lessons should be observed, one for men and one for women. That for the women is more obvious. That is, that there are many tasks within the structure of Christianity with which women can, should, and must preach the gospel.

The lesson for men is more implied than expressed. We must "get it through out heads" that women are reflective, thoughtful, capable human beings; that they have insight and are able to implement this insight with direct, forceful action. In short, we must learn that when a woman says "for better or for worse," she means just that, and that she is capable of laying her very life on the line to prove it.

after she prayed, she dropped her sorrowing, dried her tears, let go her sadness, and ate! Her motives were unmixd. Her entire heart was turned toward God. And it was open.

No wonder Samuel became the great man of God he did. His mother had passed on her own uncluttered, truly believing faith to him from the day of his birth.

Hannah's faith lived and acted in God's behalf through her child. Hannah's early training was tremendously important. Perhaps it was equally important that she proved her love for her son by leaving him FREE to become his best self in the service of the Lord God. May God give us more Mother's like her today. Hannah was a Mother who KNEW HOW TO LOVE.