

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"
JUNE 15, 1954

Mammoth Spring, Ark,
Permit No. 1

SALUTATIONS... VIOLA.

THIS JOB IS DONE!

Dedication June 6

You are Invited and Urged to be Present.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

A congregation of the Church of Christ has been established in Viola. A commodious building has been erected. This building is 32' x 65' on the inside measurement. It contains an auditorium, three classrooms, baptistry, dressing room and both front and rear vestibules. One class room may be used as an auxiliary dressing room, serving the baptistry. Another is so equipped as to be used for a cry room for babies of distressed mothers. Arrangements are such that the mothers may both see and hear. Babies may sleep or cry at will.

Floors throughout are sanded,

finished hardwood. The ceiling is Celotex. Walls are sheetrock finished in a pastel green. Seating is factory manufactured hardwood pews. The outside is finished with Batsville sandstone. The roof is composition shingles.

Total cost of land, building and seats is approximately \$8500. in cash. Enough material and labor were donated to cause the contracted value to be around \$15,000 all has been paid for. No indebtedness is left hanging over the church to discourage it.

The location is ideal. It is at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 62 where it is easily attainable and in sight of all who

pass Viola. There is plenty of parking space on the church ground so that no danger is incurred from the highway if proper caution is observed in entering and leaving.

The building is so planned and constructed that additions can be easily built when and if needed. The auditorium now 48 feet in length can very easily be lengthened to 60 feet. Classrooms can be added on either end.

All of us may well take pride in our accomplishment. The building is complete. We are now in it. This is a milestone in the task of evangelizing this section. The

Continued on page 3

Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring Ark.

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Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

The Fulton County Gospel News has been issued earlier this month to served Viola. It is our hope that many will be present dedication day. Since the brethren from Oklahoma, who are interested in this work, desire to be here for old timers day and dedication the time is ideal.

The church so firmly implanted in Viola is a monument to the spirit and power of brotherhood cooperation. This is the only way this job could have been done so well. During the past several years brethren have remarked that we should have a church at Viola. The way to get the job done with the things we should do is to do them. The church there shall stand to our credit. All are justly proud of what we have done.

But with this job done and paid for what are we going to do now? Will we sit back, pat one another on the back and brag to one another for our mutual benefit about what we have done? Will this be enough for the next five year, ten years to come. This job if finished in year, with all our sacrifices we have not hurt ourselves. All could in the year ahead do exactly what we did at Viola, but in another place, and no one would be hurt, but all benefited.

Now, what can we do? What will we do? Well, we can do any-

thing we want to do and what we want to do is exactly what we will do. How about you leading out in your community?

Did you know that of all the churches in the county that until the new building at Viola was built that only four had classrooms, of these four, one only built its classrooms last winter. And of the four, only one (Morriston) has sufficient classrooms for its needs. This means that now we have seventeen local congregations in the county and only five have any classrooms at all while twelve have none. You remember those children that we raised and never could understand why they were not Christians. Perhaps they did not receive proper, correct instruction. "Train up the child in the way when he is young and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The answer is in the training. Well, those classrooms we have been needing and sometimes talking about, lets build them now. Get Started!

Those mission meetings that we have been intending to hold or were wishing were held, lets talk them up now. Select a preacher, arrange for his care, advertise the meeting, arrange the location and seats and get to work. When we conducted the Viola meeting you saw how it was done. The Mammoth Spring church supported me. Wheeling helped \$25.00. Others offered but their money was turned in on the building. Mammoth Spring isn't the only church in Fulton County that can sponsor a mission meeting. Every other church can. Some congregation get to be very old and have never conducted a single mission service. This is not good. Ask for help when and if you need it. We'll all work together as much as possible always, I trust. If every congregation held one mission meeting a year just think of the possibilities.

Have you considered a Vacation Bible school? Have you thought of buying and operating buses to bring people in to church? Are you making an honest effort to arrange for more preaching in your home congregation?

Let's clean up, build up, grow up and keep up. Let's get to all we can with the gospel as quick as we can.

Let's do more in '54.

— Boyd E. Morgan

NEWS

Remember dedication day services June 6. Many congregations are meeting earlier or arranging for services to be over at their place earlier so they can be with the Viola brethren for part of the day at least.

Services at Viola will begin at 10 o'clock. Bro. Boyd Morgan will be in charge and make the preliminary remarks. The eleven o'clock service will be conducted by Bro. Guthrie Dear, Judsonia, Ark. Bro. Dean is located with there. He is the editor of the Arkansas Christian Herald which is unique in its field as a newspaper of church affairs. Truly a splendid work. You will want to hear Bro. Dean for he is a splendid gospel preacher whose heart is in his work.

Dinner will be spread at noon. If your services are such as to require you to remain beyond the morning services at Viola, with your home congregation, then come to the dinner.

After dinner we will have a song session, with talks at three o'clock. Several speakers will talk at this time, among them will be Bro. Joe. H. Blue.

JUST A CORPSE

A preacher, preaching a funeral said, "This corpse has been a member of this church for 15 years." - This sometimes describes perfectly some members of the church. Instead of being lively, working, active members—they are only corpses.

"Be noble! and the nobleness that lies in other men, sleeping, but never dead, will rise in majesty to meet thine own." —Lowell.

That man who is willing to cooperate in a good work only when he is the one who planned it, is not interested in doing good at all, but only in achieving personal recognition under the mere pretense of doing goodness.

"REVEREND"

Clovis Ragsdale — Moten

In Psalms 111:9, we have the only place in all of the Bible that the word reverend is found. There is no doubt but that the word is used to describe the importance and the degree of greatness of the name of God. In so much as the word is never used to describe any man, no matter how Godly or how great, we can be correct in saying that it is a term suitable and worthy for only God himself. To use the word reverend to describe a human being would be to place that person on a plane with God and would be blasphemy.

The second reason that the practice would not be right is that it's use in connection with men would be adding to God's written word. This is a sin as John the revelator taught in Rev. 22:18.

The third reason that could be given in opposition to the use of the title could be from the standpoint of creating a class or rank. God has stated that he is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34. All Christians have the same rank and that is we are all servants. In the bible we have no Reverend Paul, or Right Reverend John, or Very Right Reverend Peter. The terms come from the wisdom of men which is often times foolishness when compared with the wisdom of God. I Cor. 3:19.

The question arises what should we call those who spend their time teaching God's word publicly. The bible does not leave us in doubt concerning this question. The answer is found in Cor. 3:5. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man." In Timothy 2:7 Paul calls himself a Preacher. To speak as the bible speaks requires that we call them ministers and preachers.

There are none who would insist that the preachers in the days of the Apostles permitted themselves to be called reverend. Thus in restoring the New Testament Church to the world today, we have no right to place a term that applies only to God himself before that of any man.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

Continued from page 1

building is comparable to our ability and suitable for our needs. It's beauty signifies our respect to the greatest cause upon the earth, the cause of religious truth. Unto the glory of God and His Son Jesus Christ and for the earthly Kingdom of Heaven we do this day dedicate it. A temporal house is built for the use and convenience of the Spiritual house of God. In it the true worshippers shall meet and in it give praise unto God (as the spiritual house should) and unto him who is the head, even Jesus. "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."—Eph. 3:21.

WHY IT WAS DONE

Viola is the third largest town in Fulton county. In it was no Church of Christ. In and around the community are several church members who found it necessary to travel several miles to assemble with the saints on the first day of the week. They had the truth and knew it was the truth, they knew the world needed the truth they had. They wanted their neighbors to hear and know the truth. But it is difficult to get neighbors to drive several miles to hear a thing that they are already prejudiced against. A meeting alone in Viola was not enough. We did that. Just to hold a meeting, bring the gospel, or even convert a few would not be enough. Just to offer the prospect of a several mile drive each Lord's day to worship, is oftentimes enough to cause many to seek a more convenient season. The Kingdom of His dear Son is not a transient thing. It is all-consuming and all possessing. It is a permanent thing that demands a permanent service continually unto itself. Viola needed a building in which to offer to the populace 'round about the gospel and to offer them a permanent opportunity to serve God. The cause needed the influence of permanence, which it now has. Thanks to God and faithful brethren.

HOW IT WAS DONE

Advantage of this opportunity is taken now to point out first that this work has been done without the aid of a 'Missionary Society' or of any unscriptural organization of any kind. The Bible and consequently the church of Christ knows nothing at all of such. It has been done by the CHURCH. The church is the only organization upon earth that has the authority to establish other congregations. This particular work has been done under the direction and authority of the elders of the church at Mammoth Spring. Namely, Brethren M. C. Ragsdale, John Smith and Ira Smith. Yet it has not been done by Mammoth Spring or any other one congregation alone. Many other congregations (of the church of Christ — the church of Christ's choice) have joined in this work in entirely scripturally cooperation. Realizing, the need; and the many souls destitute and hungry for the truth; and the field needing labor and harvest, many have rallied in many ways to this work.

WHO HAS DONE IT

Such a task as to write down who has done this work is indeed a problem. It is our desire to give honor to whom honor is due. Yet who can adequately describe the hours of labor of so many, the hours of planning, the gathering of funds, of materials, of all the necessary arrangements? Who even knows, the hours of thought, the number of miles, the extent of the toil imposed upon all by this accomplishment? Surely, God alone! In such a description as now undertaken, somewhere, SOMEONE, somehow will be overlooked. But it is not an error of the heart, but an inability to know all of this task. Perhaps it would be best just to say WE did it.

Preachers active in the work are Boyd Morgan of Mammoth Spring, and Joe Blue of Morrilton. Upon them has rested for the greater part of the obligation of raising funds in this vicinity. Bro. Morgan held the meeting there a

Continued on page 4

WHO HAS DONE IT?

Continued from page 3

year ago in May. Since then, Clovis Ragsdale, C. H. Cavin, Ira Woodward, Doyle McGuire, Orbie Robbins, Vergil Boler, Marshall Holloway, Harold Jackson, and others have preached there in the store building used for the purpose.

T. E. Burch of Wewoka, Okla., and R. H. Harber of Seminole, Okla., have ably assisted in raising funds in Oklahoma for this work. They also have been very liberal themselves. Without them the work would have been far lesser in quality. Besides this they have made several trips from Oklahoma to here at their own expense in this work. Much labor has been donated. This runs into hundreds of dollars. All of the local congregation of Viola has helped in this respect. Earl Harber who oversaw the construction together with his son contributed over 500 hours of labor. Bathis Roe did the electrical wiring. The McCarty's and the Harris's have done untold jobs. Townspeople have helped. Brethren of other places have helped. Cecil "Shorty" Smith of Mammoth Spring made all the door and window frames. A Brother in Mountain Home made and donated the marble name stone. Dr. Guenther of Salem gave the Butane wall furnace, J. C. Caldwell made the pulpit, Dillard Collins made and gave the speaking unit. Skinny Kittrell of Thayer gave the classroom and vestibule light fixtures. Mr. and Mrs. Bathis Roe gave a piece of the land. These we enumerate knowing that this is not all, forgive us. Yet we are showing the way all cooperated, and the idea is illustrated in this manner.

Every congregation in the county has contributed to this cause. It may be said to the county's credit, that not one single local congregation of the church of Christ in Fulton County failed in this respect. Also the majority of the churches surrounding the county helped.

Cash contributions are listed:

Oklahoma contributions:	
CHURCHES:	
Wewoka	\$ 500.00
Seminole	500.00
Holdenville	150.00
Shawnee	150.00
Ada (Central)	250.00
Tulsa (10th and Francis)	250.00

INDIVIDUALS:

T. E. Burch (Applied on land)	
	100.00
W. E. Harber	250.00
Mrs. S. B. Hammons	10.00
W. E. Grsiso	100.00
Mrs. W. R. Black	50.00
Sister in Ada, Okla.	25.00
Paul Harber	20.00
J. B. Gray	25.00
Name withheld	50.00
Jay L. Smith	50.00
W. R. Gray	25.00
J. H. Kinslow	20.00

Besides this, Bro. T. E. Burch and R. H. Harber took it upon themselves to raise the \$2300.00 necessary for seating. Just who has contributed this — how much they have given, etc., is not known. The Oklahoma brethren have done this.

Churches of this vicinity.

Mammoth Spring	\$ 540.00
Viola	200.00
Moten	150.70
Sturkey	75.00
Hatfield, Mo.	25.00
Union Hill	50.00
Salem	250.00
Wheeling	170.00
Elizabeth	25.00
Morrison	250.00
College church, Searcy	150.00
Heart	25.00
Coal Hill	100.00
West Plains, Mo.	100.00
Bryon	100.00
Fisher St. Jonesboro	100.00
Liberty (Glencoe)	20.00
Central Little Rock	100.00
Welcome Hill	50.00
Burk's Chapel	10.00

Black Rock	30.00
Corning	25.00
Clinton	10.00
Bono	25.00
Maynard	25.00
Chocton	25.00
Flint Springs	36.90
Ash Flat	50.00
Texarkana, Texas	50.00
Oxford	15.00
Paragould	50.00
Sixth and Izard, Little Rock	
	100.00
Pilot	50.00
Cross Roads	100.00

INDIVIDUALS:

C. C. McCallen, West Plains	
Mo.	100.00
Chet Collins	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hapaylo	
	10.00
Ira Atkins	10.00
Dr. and Mrs. Guenther	
Salem	25.00
Mrs. Henry	1.00
	156.00
Joe H. Blue	50.00
Linza Stone	5.00
Jim Felt	5.00
Lon McCarty	100.00
Edd Harris	50.00
Oren Henry	20.00
Rex Castleberry, Salem ..	200.00
J. L. Lefevers	25.00
G. W. Tucker	5.20
Thurman Snelgrass	5.70
Charlie Moore	10.00
Bro. and Sister Wadley	
Salem	20.00
Six Sturkie Brethren	25.00
Owen Stroud	5.00
Edith Kirksey	5.00
Bill and Nell Carroll	10.00
Jimmy Cone	30.00
Harold Jackson	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Phillips	\$25
M. C. Ragsdale	50.00

We realize some will be overlooked at best in some way, so again forgive us. But TO ONE and ALL, we say THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE, FOR YOUR INTEREST, HELP, AND YOUR PRAYERS.

— Boyd E. Morgan

WANTED .. THE SCRIPTURE!

Men should build their hopes on the Word of God. Mt. 7:24-27. We ought to be ready to give scripture for the things that we believe and practice. 1 Pet. 3:15; 5:11. We, like the Bereans, ought to search the scriptures. Acts 17:11. Have you given your religious beliefs a scriptural test? Check the list given below and see if you can find scripture for the things mentioned.

A Bible reference that gives the name of the religious organization to which you belong.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scripture that permits a human creed, confession of faith, manual or discipline to be used as the standard for interpreting the Word of God.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scripture that teaches that "Reverend, Rabbi, or Father" are religious titles to be worn by preachers.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scripture that teaches that an alien sinner is to pray for salvation.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scriptures that teach that man is saved by either, faith, grace or morality alone.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The expressions in the scripture "join the Church" or "get religion".

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scripture authorizing the use of instrumental music in New Testament worship.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scripture that teaches that baptism is sprinkling or pouring.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scripture that teaches that a child of God can not fall from grace.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

The scriptures which teach that Holy Spirit baptism and Miraculous gifts are for men today.

Book **Chapter** **Verse**

These things are taught by many. You can help us in our search for them. If you know where the New Testament teaches any of the things listed above, please fill in the blank and mail to this paper.

EVANGELIST

Joe Pruet, Thayer, Mo.

There are two types of officers in the New Testament Church. They are temporary and permanent officers. The apostles and prophets make up the temporary officers while the elders, deacons, and evangelists make up the permanent officers. The apostles and prophets have gone into eternity leaving the permanent officers to officiate in the church until the end of time.

Among the permanent officials are the evangelists. An evangelist is simply a proclaimer of the gospel. This title can refer to any Christian who is faithfully performing his duties. However, it is used in a more definite sense by Paul in Eph. 4, where some were given to be apostles, some prophets, some pastors, some evangelists. This is the only sense in which the evangelist can be distinguished from any other Christian.

Just as any other Christian, the evangelist has certain duties that fall upon his shoulders. These duties are enumerated by Paul in his letters to Timothy and Titus. When all the duties of an evangelist are summed up, I believe they can be stated in three different categories.

First: The duty of an evangelist is to convert and baptize people. Jesus commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel and to baptize those who believed, into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This commission is still in existence today and must be preached by those who have taken it upon their shoulders to proclaim the word. Timothy was solemnly charged by Paul to "Preach the word". When the word is preached and men believe it, they are to be baptised into Christ.

Second: The duty of an evangelist is to set in order the things that are lacking. He is to form into congregations those who have become believers and to see that there is the proper organization. The congregation selects men who are qualified as elders, the evangelist

is to appoint them to office. He is not the ruler of the church and thus cannot select the elders. When elders are appointed, the preacher's duty is to be under them and not over them. He is to see that the elders receive due honor, and that no accusation is made against them except at the mouth of two or three witnesses. The evangelist can cause the elders to be loved and respected or hated and despised.

Since his duty is to set in order the things that are lacking, he must see that everything is in order according to the New Testament pattern.

Third: The duty of an evangelist is to watch over the congregation and the church in general. He is not to be the dictator of the church but is work in harmony with the elders that the most good may be accomplished. The evangelist is usually ready to help when a problem arises in the church. If his heart is in his work, he will build a resistance in the church against false doctrines. He will not allow false teachers to enter in among God's people. Neither will he be guilty of causing division but always promoting unity. The responsibility of the purity of the church rest to a great extent upon his shoulders. An evangelist must not shirk his duties. The church of almighty God is looking to him for their spiritual support.

Let Paul's charge to Timothy be to any man who wants to preach God's word. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine."

MARION FARLEY

Bro. Marion Farley is moving to Dallas, Texas. He has previously preached at Pilot, Union Hill and Mammoth Spring. He has been a regular contributor to our articles for this paper since its beginning. It is hoped he will continue.

A letter from Bro. Farley tells us that Sunday May 23 was the first services at Zipp City, Texas,

where he will labor with some six or seven families in establishing a



New Testament church. Credit is given to Frank Corley, a friend who is helping him for making this possible. A building for the church services has been located, renting for \$75. per month and a lot has been located that can be purchased for \$1500 with \$150 down and the balance in monthly payments. Bro. Farley also requests as many copies of Fulton County Gospel News as we can spare to be used in doing personal work.

He is building a home some five miles from Zipp City. His present address is 517 Masters Drive, care of R. H. Wells, Dallas, Texas.

We wish him well and success for himself and his family in all his undertakings. Our prayers go with him.

MEETING SCHEDULED

Preacher	Place	Date
Lowell Blasingame	.....	May 30- June 8
	Worth, Ark	
H. F. Sharp	.....	June 1-10
	Hickory Grove, Mo.	
G. W. Bingham	.....	June 4-13
	Welcome Hill	
Riley Henry	.....	June 9-20
	West Plains, Mo.	
Lowell Blasingame	.....	June 9-18
	English Bluff	
Elmo Hall	.....	June 18-30
	Union Hill	