

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.
U. S. Postage
1c Paid

"The Churches of Christ Salute You" Rom. 16:16
AUGUST 1953

Mammoth Spring, Ark,
Permit No. 1



Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Buchanan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, Sunday Aug. 2 at the home of their daughter, Mrs. V. J. Boler. All three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren were present. Fifty-eight persons were present in all. They received many nice gifts.

FOR CHRIST SENT ME NOT TO BAPTISE

Boyd E. Morgan Mammoth Spg.

When Paul wrote the Corinthian brethren and condemned them for their divisions, for some were saying, "I am of Paul and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas (Peter); and I of Christ" I Cor. 1:12-17 he asked "Is Christ Divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gains; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas; besides, I know not whether I baptized

any other.—For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

Denominational preachers, pressed by the people seeking the truth, often in an effort to prove that baptism is not essential will quote "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel." This is nothing short of wresting of scriptures. What they imply is that baptism is no part of the gospel. If they can get you to believe that, they have you deceived, as they desire to do. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned". Mk. 16: 15, 16. When Phillip preached the gospel to the Eunuch, he preached baptism and when they came to a certain water, the Eunuch was baptized. Acts 8.

What Paul meant was that he was a chosen vessel to preach. Any able bodied man could do the baptizing. Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John: yet Jesus baptized not, but his disciples. Jesus preached and his disciples baptized those who heeded; thus making more disciples. The idea that a formally ordained preacher must do the baptizing is not taught in the Bible. Any brother can administer to this duty. Of course sectarian preachers want you to believe that it has to be an ordained preacher. I could hold services, one be convinced and demand baptism, any

brother could then baptize the believer. Paul thanked God that he was not the one who baptized the Corinthian congregation for fear that the congregation would forget Christ and boast that they were of Paul. Who had baptized them was not important. The fact that they had been baptized in the name of Christ was. Gal. 3:26, 27.

Wouldn't it have been ridiculous if all those who were baptized of John the Baptist had called themselves Baptists.

They would have forgotten Christ. Wouldn't it have been a terrible thing if those Paul had baptized had called themselves Paulites? Paul was thankful that his name could not have been so used. I doubt if Baptist preachers would like to quote this context and along with this their favorite quotation. "For Christ sent me not to baptize." Next time you hear it, ask for the quotation just above and insist that it be used in its proper setting. John the Baptist came from God and baptized by the authority of God, but not in his own name. He baptized not to make Baptists but to prepare a people for the Lord. No doubt he is very much displeased with the abuse of baptism today.

You can't keep trouble from coming but you needn't give it a chair to sit on.

The secret of most of the discontent of the world is the hunger for the things that are really not necessary.

Fulton County Gospe News
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Published Monthly
Free Subscription
Sponsored by:

Welcome Hill Church of Christ
Editors; Hubert Taylor
Lester Martin

Supported by Moten, Pilot and
Welcome Hill churches
Editors; Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL
Clovis Ragsdale
Moten

Probably the biggest problem facing the small country congregations in Fulton County is that of migration of membership. This situation has been going on now for about fifteen years. Then there are statistics which show a large majority of boys and girls raised on farms in Arkansas leave the farms before they reach the age of twenty-one. It is very discouraging to a congregation to have two or three families leave every so often. Not only does it weaken the congregation in members but oftentimes the very ablest leaders are among those who go. There is an old proverb that we think is applicable in this situation; "Our loss is another gain."

These brethren go into the cities of the North and West and find new "Church Homes" oftentimes where there are no Churches in their locality, they start new congregations. This is very commendable and it is through their efforts that many new mission fields are opened up. Thus indirectly the small country churches are doing mission work without planning to do so.

This is one reason for the necessity of carrying on the work, especially the teaching of our

young people who are the ones most likely to go. If they are "rooted and grounded" in the truth, then we do not have to worry about them falling away. Because they leave home so early in life it is imperative that we reach them at a tender age. Many parents suffer much anguish and heartache because they neglect teaching and taking their children to church when they had them at home, then after the children left and went out into the world they live a very worldly life or follow after false doctrine.

Brethren remember that even though we may be few in number our opportunities for doing good and saving souls are not hopeless and oftentimes we are accomplishing more than meets the eye.

When leaders move away the opportunity for doing that good work generally falls upon the shoulders of men who had been excusing themselves on the ground that bro.-so and so was more able to the job. With a little time and effort they become able leaders and more have been added to the ranks of those who are able to carry on the public work and worship of the church. The next time you despair because some christian family is leaving think of the good it may accomplish for the cause of Christ in general and always bear in mind that our Savior stated, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18;

NEWS

The meeting at Mammoth Spring closed with five baptisms and four restorations. The meeting was well attended and the

gospel preached in a plain forthright manner by Bro. Moody.

The Pilot congregation has received their new pews. They are probably the best to be found in the entire county.

Bro. Huey Hartzell closed a meeting July 12 at Welcome Hill with two additions.

Sister Kowanda Wiseman became the bride of Dean Bateman Sat. July 18 at 7:00 P. M. in the church building at Mammoth Spring. Bro. L. N. Moody officiated at the ceremony

Bro. Orbie Robbins preached at Viola Aug. 2.

Bro. Earl Harbour is in charge of the building of the church house at Viola. We hope to start building in Sept. if sufficient funds have been raised.

Following is a list of those who have contributed to the Viola building fund;

Seminole, Okla. Church of Christ	\$500.00
Wewoka, Okla. Church of Christ	500.00
W. E. Harber, Shawnee, Okla.	250.00
Mammoth Spring Church of Christ	240.00
Ira Atkins, Mammoth Spg.	10.00
Union Hill Church of Christ	50.00
Moten Church of Christ	100.00
Viola Church of Christ [special cont.]	83.60
Morrison Church of Christ	250.00
Sturkie Church of Christ	25.00
Hatfield Church of Christ	25.00
Total	\$2033.60
Expenditures Lot	500.00
Total	\$1533.60

All who wish to contribute, should send their checks made payable to the Viola Church of Christ Building Fund, %Edd Harris, Viola, Ark.

THE LORD OPENED HER HEART

Paul E Morgan Mammoth Spg. Acts 16:13, 14. "And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spoke unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which was spoken of Paul".

After the great call "Come over into Macedonia" had been answered by the apostle Paul, his first opportunity to 'help us' was presented by Lydia and the women which 'resorted thither'. Outside Phillipi, the apostle preached for the first time on European soil, and Lydia became the first European convert to the cause of the Lord. As far as salvation is concerned, this case is of no more importance than the conversion of Saul, of the Eunuch, of the household of Cornelius, or those on the day of Pentecost. The outstanding point of discussion is 'whose heart the Lord opened'. The fact that the Lord opened her heart is sufficient for some to launch out and preach salvation poured out upon the alien sinner separate and apart from all God's commands and the sinner's obedience.

The heart was so important in the plan of salvation that the Lord opened it. The church of Christ has no reason to deny this, it behooves us rather to teach how the Lord operates upon the heart of man.

The human heart is likened unto the earth in Luke the eighth chapter. Jesus said, "A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed some fell by the wayside; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devour-

ed it. "And some fell upon a rock: and as soon as it was sprung up it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

"And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

"And other fell on good ground and sprang up, and bore fruit an hundred fold." Luke 8; 5-8.

The good ground in this parable Jesus said are they which in an honest and good heart, having HEARD the WORD keep it and bring forth fruit with patience." Luke 8;15

We cannot doubt for a moment that Lydia's heart was any other ground than 'honest and good'. She attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul, thereby bringing forth fruit unto God of her own soul and the souls of her household. She also became hostess to the temporal needs of the apostle and his company. The scripture reads, "She besought us, saying, if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us."

Noticeable in the parable of the sower is the fact, that while the devil followed the sower, overthrowing the ability to bring forth fruit in all but the honest and good soil, the devil exercised no power whatsoever upon the sower and hindered him in no way. Satan is unable to stop the sowing of the seed, Jesus said, "Now the parable is this the seed is the word of God." Luke 8;11. The power of the seed is shown in Heb. 4:12. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the

thoughts and intents of the heart."

Regardless of the condition of the heart: wayside: thorny; or rocky: God has the right of way to have the seed sown. Whether or not fruit is yielded depends upon the quality of the heart. Solomon said, Prov. 16:1 "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. "Now the question arises, how does God prepare the heart? God prepares the heart by revealing unto man the way and preparing the means unto the end proposed in the outset. Go through, go through thy gates; prepare ye the way of the people: cast up cast up the highway: gather out the stones: lift up a standard for the people." Isa. 2; 10.

In Lydia's case, salvation was proposed. "Come over into Macedonia and help us," was the cry. Lydia was saved. This is unquestioned. Lydia was born again. Peter declared the means of the spiritual new birth when he said. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." I Pet. 1:23

When John the Baptist came to do his work, that work was to open the hearts of the people for the reception of Jesus Christ. He did it by preaching the message of God. The highway he prepared was not a temporal road for the Lord to travel; but a highway prepared in the hearts of the people.

But Lydia is the subject of our consideration. Paul had gone into a foreign land to plant the seed of the kingdom and bring about the fruition thereof in spiritual new births. The Lord prepared Lydia's heart as he prepared the heart of others. We are misguided to get us to believe that the

Lord opened Lydia's heart so that she would listen to Paul. Also that the opening thereof rendered her saved and that she heard as a child of God. Such is not so. Positively not. The scripture says no such thing. Let us read again.

Acts 16: 13-14 "And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a riverside, where prayer was wont to be made: and we sat down, and SPAKE Unto the women which resorted thither.

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

Notice now "and spake unto the women which resorted thither" "Lydia—heard us"; "whose heart the Lord Opened": The Lord opened Lydia's heart by the preaching. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17

Her heart was not opened and salvation poured immediately in for note; "Whose heart the Lord opened, that she ATTENDED unto the things which were spoken of Paul. Not that she just listened. Attended means that she did them. She did what Paul told her to do. She and all her household. How noticable is the 15th verse which says, "And when she was baptized and her household."

Who can deny that this was what Paul told her to do. Of course if a strange missionary today were to conduct a baptismal service at the close of his very first message in a strange unchristian land, it is no doubt that some religionists would brand him a "Campbellite" and declare he taught water salvation and dig to denominationalism he should have waited un-

til he had several more, then opened the doors of the church and tried each candidate and voted as to whether or not they could be 'taken in'. It is peculiar to the Lord's way that this was NEVER done.

Jesus said "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved—he that believeth not shall be damned" Mark 16:16

THIS IS WHAT LYDIA DID. God will save you the same way. Has God opened your heart? Do you believe? If you do you will be baptized to be saved. If you do not believe, you will not.

From the Christian Chronicle, October 29, 1952

JUST SUPPOSE

By Cline R. Paden

I wish every preacher in the brotherhood would tell his audience next Sunday something like this just suppose that during the week that is beginning today the police chief of this city should come to us and tell us that we cannot have any more services in the building here, and tells me that I can't preach any more until I get a permit to do so.

"Suppose that I go in search of that permit and find that it is unobtainable, then suppose the next Lord's Day there are scores of policemen around our meeting house turning us away when we arrive for worship—arresting us when we ask why. . . ."

"Suppose we hear that the church in the next town and the next town and still in the next town have all been closed and that immediately the thought comes to us that if we are to worship now...and maybe from now on...that it will have to be in secret in a private place with doors tightly closed and the shutters drawn. . . ."

"Suppose we have to forego

the great privilege of hymning praises to God for fear that we will arouse unfriendly neighbors who would report us to the police. Suppose that in spite of all the precautions you take you find yourself being followed by police in your efforts to find a secret place to worship. Suppose we are told that if the closure order is violated in any way that the government will confiscate our song books, our benches, Bibles, communion trays, etc.

"Suppose I were ordered not to preach any more...not even in private—and specifically commanded not to baptize. Suppose I were ordered to turn your name and your address over to the police along with all others who are members of the church and all who attend our services so that the police could know who you are and where you live.

"Then suppose that they should ask us to compromise our principles and create an organization in the church that the Lord did not put there. . . or else! If you are having difficulty imagining these things happening here be informed that these are actual conditions in Italy. They are actual conditions under Catholicism anywhere. They would be actual conditions here if Catholicism had her way in the United States, etc., etc., etc. . . ."

I wish not only the church in America but the whole world knew of the peril this force presents.

It is useless to know the will of God and not to do it. You have accomplished nothing.

CHURCH HISTORY

by
Clovis Ragsdale Moten

We closed our last article on church history with a study of the establishment of the church on the day of the first pentecost after the resurrection. In this issue we shall study the church in the days of the apostles. First we need to understand how the church grew and worshipped in the days immediately after its establishment. In Acts 6;7 we are told that the church grew in great numbers and many of the Jewish priests became obedient to the faith.

The same Jews who opposed and finally succeeded in putting the Saviour to death began to persecute the church which up to this time was in Jerusalem only. We read in Acts 8 of the efforts of Saul of Tarsus and other powerful Jews who made great havoc of the church. Because of this the church was scattered from Jerusalem in the regions round about Jerusalem, into Samaria, and all Judea. In the meantime Saul of Tarsus was converted. Through his efforts much of the Gentile world was to hear the story of the cross.

The door of the church was opened to the Gentiles by Peter at the conversion of Cornelius about eight years after the church was established. The church grew with leaps and bounds as the apostles and other able men went in all directions declaring the simple story of the cross and establishing congregations of the church in many places. Each congregation was separate and independent of all others. Elders, sometimes called pastors or bishops, were placed in charge of local congregations. Also from the members of each

congregation were chosen deacons, whose duty it was to look after the temporal affairs of the church.

One thing of great importance that we need to study about the church of the New Testament is the acts of worship practiced by these Christians, who had divinely inspired men to guide them in all things. In Acts 20;7 we are told that the disciples came together to break bread upon the first day of the week, also while they were assembled. Paul preached unto them. In Heb 10; 25 Paul warned not to forsake this assembling together. In I Cor. 16:12 they were taught to lay by in store upon the first day of the week. In Col. 3:16 we are taught that we are to teach and admonish in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our heart to the Lord. In I Tim. 2:8 we are told that men should pray everywhere. In I Thes. 5:17 to pray without ceasing.

Therefore prayer was a part of the public worship of Christians. Thus we learn that the worship of the church in New Testament times consisted of five acts (1) Lord's supper (2) singing (3) prayer (4) preaching or teaching (5) giving

Church houses as we have today did not exist in the first two centuries of church history. Christians met in homes, public gathering places, and out in the open to worship God. Church houses were introduced as a matter of expediency during the reign of Alexander Severus 222-235 A. D.

The church in Mammoth Spring is contributing to the mission work in Italy. They recently received the following letter.

Chiesa di Cristo
Via Achille Papa, 25 ..Roma—
Telefono 32,488

June 9

Mr. Orville Buchanan

Rt. 1 Box 5

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

Dear Brother Buchanan:

While we are sure the church in Brownfield has already acknowledged receipt of your contribution we thought that perhaps a letter from the field might be appreciated by you brethren who are making sacrifices in favor of the Cause we love in Italy.

We just wish you could see the work and know the results that come from your fellowship. The church in Italy is growing. The growth is not large, there is nothing sensational about it. It is just growing—slowly, but steadily...spiritually and numerically. It is growing in the face of the bitterest persecution facing the church in our times. The fact of this growth under such adverse circumstances can be explained only by saying that the gospel is having its intended effect on the souls of the lost of this nation. His word is returning to Him...but not void. It is bring Him the precious fruits. And we know it must rejoice your hearts to know that you are having a part in this harvest. Baptisms are reported from all over Italy this week. Two baptisms here in Rome.

It was just this that we wanted to say...the church is growing. And we wanted to say thanks for having fellowship in this growth!

Police have ordered the closing of another church this past week. The brethren in Velletri...thirty miles out of Rome...are having to ignore the police order to meet for worship. We ask your prayers in this new crisis.

Gratefully,
C. R. Paden

WORDS

Marion Farley Jonesboro, Ark.

Since words are the expression of ideas, it is very understandable why Jesus said in [Ma. 12: 34]. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" And the wise man Solomon in (Prov. 4:23). "Keep thy hear with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life."

I am confident most everyone that is familiar with the teachings of Gods eternal Word, will agree that the heart that is so often referred to therein, is that part of man which allows him to think, [Prov. 23:7]. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." And purpose (2 Cor. 9:7). "Every man as he purpoeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver."

This should be sufficient proof, that it is extremely important that we choose our words carefully, lest we come into condemnation through our neglect of the same.

So very much harm has been done by letting tempers run wild, causing words to be spoken at the wrong time, and in the wrong manner. Also words of deception used, causing ruination to many.

In the very beginning, all was well in the beautiful garden of Eden, until the woman listened to words of the deceiver, which caused, her to form in her heart a distrust for the God that had made her from a rib taken out of Adam, and then to speak words to her husband that caused him to sin also.

That we have power over our words to accomplish great good on the one hand, or destructive harm on the other, is taught in [Jas. 3:10]. where James said,

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing my brethren these things ought not so to be."

Men and women become obedient to the gospel because they hear words from God's book divine that causes them to realize their lost and undone condition, and resolved to correct the same by obeying the simple commands just like the disciples did in the days of the early church, who, being eager to do the Fathers will, were asking "What must we do" and in each instance, submitting without asking why, or trying to substitute a man made plan instead, although we learn in (1 Cor. 1:21) even they could not, from the stand point of human reasoning, understand it all, for Paul says here "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe". then, by words that seemed foolish to them. Paul said they were saved.

The same is true today, many are those who are not willing to listen to God's words relative to the conditions of pardon of ones sins, which are just as forceful today as they were over nineteen hundred years ago.

On the other hand we learn in [11 Thess. 2:12]. of some people that God is not going to be pleased with, who listened to a lie (words) and these were condemned for so doing.

Also there are times when words of comfort are priceless.

I don't believe there is any way to better describe words that are used wisely, than did King Solomon in (Prov. 25:11). where he said "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver". And by Jesus himself in [Ma. 12:37] for there he shows that even our future depends on

our words; Listen. "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

This being an individual matter it is of utmost importance that we ask ourselves this question, "Am I willing for my words to stand in judgement for or against me. If not, what am I going to do about it?"

Are you planning a Vacation? Remember the needs of your home congregation and leave your contribution with some friend. When you plan to be away, remember that your home congregation has been depending on you and may be embarrassed by your absence.

True love is friendship set on fire.

So many people need sympathy these days that you shouldn't waste any on yourself.

One who only samples the word of God occasionally never develops much taste for it.

Add Them Up.

1 Number of hours darkness was over the whole land when Jesus was crucified.

2. Number of heads the great dragon mentioned in Revelation has.

3. Number of yoke of oxen one man had to prove as recorded in the parable of the great supper.

4. Number of the chapter in Luke where the story of the prodigal son is found.

5. Number of tabernacles Peter wanted Jesus to make on the mount.

The result is the number of years David reigned in Jerusalem.

Have you visited some of the sick this week?