

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

July, 1960

Church at Winona Plans New Building

The church at Winona has plans for a new church building to be built on a lot which has already been purchased by the members of the congregation. At last account they had \$905.00 dollars. It is hoped that the building can be built for around \$2000.00. It will be so constructed that additions can be built on to it at a later date. They do not plan to start the building until the remainder is secured. It is urgent that those who have not contributed to this work to do so soon. There has not been nearly enough interest shown in this mission point. Every congregation in Fulton, Oregon, and Howell counties should have a part in helping to establish the church in this part of Missouri, which has few who are worshipping after the New Testament order. If you are the Elder or leader in a congregation, discuss this need with others and send help to Winona.

They plan to have a tent meeting in the near future. There is a need for help each Sunday in conducting services. Don't put off helping this needy place.

Brother Wesley Hylton of Carthage, Mo., was chosen to bring the message at the Morriston Homecoming service on the fourth Sunday in June.

The meeting at Welcome Hill, held the last of May and first of June resulted in one being baptized. Herbert Hooker of Poplar Bluff, Mo. did the preaching. Brother Storey of Salem, Ark. preaches each Sunday and Sunday night at Welcome Hill. This is the smallest congregation in this area to have full time preaching.

Gospel Meetings

WHEELING, ARK. June 27 - July 6, Bro. Herb Dean of Searcy, Ark., the speaker

GAMALIEL, ARK. July 21 - 31. This is a tent meeting with Riley Henry doing the preaching.

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK. Brother L. F. Mills of Wichita, Kansas, will be the speaker. Meeting will be held under a tent.

AGNOS, ARK. July 7 - 16. Wesley Hylton to do the preaching.

JEFF, MO. 8 miles east of Thayer, Mo. Norman Starling, San Marcus, Tex. will be the speaker.

MORRISTON, ARK. Aug. 15 - 24, with H. L. Bruce of Pittsburg, Texas doing the preaching.

Contributions Acknowledged

Mrs. Ernest Jones	1.00
Mrs. Troy Nichols, West Plains, Mo.	2.00
Mrs. Will Bartley, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Berry Hunnicutt, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
J. A. Dubois, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Truman Dubois, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Riley Henry, West Plains, Mo.	1.00
Church of Christ, Salem, Ark.	5.00
Friend of Paper	2.00
Church of Christ, Welcome Hill	5.00
Morriston Church of Christ	5.00
Church of Christ, Wheeling, Ark.	10.00
T. Shelt Taylor, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Ramsey Cotter, Gepp, Ark.	1.00
A friend of the paper	3.00

Bro. S. R. Tipton who was to have held the meeting at Wheeling, is ill with Typhoid fever, and in his place, brother Herbert Dean of Searcy will do the preaching.

Lonnie J. Smith To Work With Thayer Congregation

Berry Honeycutt

Bro. Lonnie J. Smith, who is working with the church in Sterling, Ill., will be moving to Thayer, Mo., the last week in June. After a tour of scheduled meetings, Bro. Smith will assume full time work with the Thayer Congregation. Having worked with the Thayer Congregation in the past, Bro. Smith is well known throughout this section and needs no introduction. We are happy to have him come our way and are looking forward to a good and prosperous work together. People throughout this area will have opportunity to hear Bro. Smith, as he will be preaching on Radio Station KALM by the end of the summer.

Isn't It Strange?

Some Christians can be pushed, shoved, and insulted in the ticket line at the ball game, ignored in the beauty salon or barber shop, and "bawled out" in the grocery store, but they never cease to frequent those places — but, if they feel slighted at church, they refuse to attend for weeks or sometimes quit for good. Yes, it is strange, isn't it? Not only strange, but inconsistent. Being peeved at the brethren and forsaking the Lord is about as logical as being angry at the dog and kicking the cat. —Selected

Brother Owen D. Olbricht of Lamar, Mo. preached at Mammoth Spring Sunday night, June 12.

Brother Wesley Hylton began work with the church in Carthage, Mo. the first Sunday in June.

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Editor— Clovis Ragsdale

Editorial

Fulton county has contributed several able gospel preachers to the brotherhood in years gone by. Among these men were names like C. L. Wilkerson, Joe H. Blue, B. M. Lemmons, Cleo Blue, Albert S. Hall, Perry Blue, and others whose names I do not have. They have baptized thousands of people and conducted a great number of gospel meetings. However, we believe that we have a group of young men from this county who will equal or exceed the great work of the above mentioned.

I would like to acquaint our readers with their names and where they are presently laboring. Charles Coil preaches for the church at West Memphis, Ark. He has held several meetings in recent years in this section. Eldon Coil is preaching regularly in the state of Indiana. Doyle Kinder of Sturkie has been in Freed-Hardeman College is now holding meetings in this area. Hillard Storey who has also lived at Sturkie is now in Italy. This is one of the most difficult mission fields in the world. He has more than three years work already completed over there. His brother Gene Storey, preaches regularly at Welcome Hill. The Mammoth Spring congregation was, for many years, the place of worship for the three Olbricht boys who are now preaching in different parts of the world. Glenn is in Nuremburg, Germany; Thomas is in Nanituck, Mass., and Owen D. is at Lamarr, Mo. Two other young preachers who were raised in a stone throw of Fulton county, James Paul Dubois, who is preaching in North Kansas City, Mo., and Lyndal Anthony, who is still in school at Harding, are well known to most of us. Orbie Robbins of Elizabeth and Charlie Cavin of Sturkie

have labored in and around Fulton county for several years. We are grateful for these fine men, many who are young in years and have a lifetime to give to the cause of the Lord. We hope there are yet other young boys growing up in our midst who will choose to work at the most important job in the world—that of preaching the gospel.

The preacher shortage in the brotherhood today is becoming acute. The editors of the many Christian papers are bringing to the attention of the brotherhood the fact that this shortage is hindering the spread of New Testament Christianity. Unless something is done soon many of the smaller congregations will be almost without any preaching at all. The need for preachers in mission fields is becoming greater as new doors are opened. More churches are finding it necessary to employ a preacher full time than ever before. Let us give every encouragement necessary in order to get more young men to choose the ministry as their life's work.

Editor's Note: In this article we may have left out the name of some one who deserved to be mentioned. This would be due to a lack of information at the time this article was written. —C. R.

Christ, The Hope Of The World

Wesley Hylton

We find this statement in Heb. 6:19, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

If the hope in Christ was removed, in this age of tension and uncertainty, the world would be plunged into chaos. Christ, and the hope He offers, is the only thing that man can truly count on. All else is uncertain. Our present way of life tends to create insecurity. Hence, everyone is busy trying to find something that will make life richer, and more enjoyable.

This search for a better way of life has led many to investigate religion, with surprising results. They found something truly worthwhile. Their previous estimate of religion is reflected in their amazement that Christ has so much to offer. Many, before learning

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The Book of Acts

Clovis Ragsdale

All but some of the most radical of Bible scholars agree that Luke was the author of Acts and also of the third gospel which bears his name. No evidence has been put forth as to who could have written the book if Luke was not the author. Irenaeus and other early writers credited the authorship to Luke without question. This helped build up a strong tradition in Luke's favor.

From statements made in chapters sixteen, twenty, twenty-one, and others, we can conclude that the author was a companion of Paul. From the salutations to the Colossians and Philemon, we learn that Luke was a companion to Paul while he was imprisoned at Rome. There is no doubt that the book was written by one man because of the similarity of style and language throughout. The medical language in Acts and the writers interest in sickness and the sick suggest that the author was a physician. This is also noticeable in the book of Luke. The tendency of the writer to employ medical terms more frequently than the other writers and the way in which he abstains from using in a medical sense words which medical writers abstain from using must not be overlooked. He also uses medical language in a secondary sense and one must look very carefully at each word and phrase.

The book of Acts was called for by the need for an authentic history of the Apostolic period. It gives an account of what Jesus began both to do and to teach through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit after he had returned to Heaven. Without this book man would have no authentic record of Apostolic history, except for fragmentary bits which are to be found in the epistles. The need for proof that the Christian movement is one great movement for all peoples, both Jew and Gentile, needed to be driven home to not only the twelve apostles, but to the whole world then and in the ages to come. Prophets of old had spoken of the time when God would accept all men, and Christ had taught that in some of his parables. In the book of Acts we have Peter, a Jew,

assisting Cornelius, a Gentile in becoming a Christian, and Paul, a Jew, preaching to the gentiles in main. The question of circumcision was settled in the council at Jerusalem as far as the word of God was concerned. Those who continued to insist on this act of the old Covenant did so in violation of the decision rendered in Acts, chapter fifteen.

We are entitled to the book of Acts for a history of the establishment of the church. The second chapter of Acts is one of the richest chapters of all the Bible. Here we learn of the church coming in to being and also how we can become a christian. Other conversions are recorded which make plain the plan of salvation. We learn how the New Testament church worshipped, Acts, chapter twenty, and what day christians assembled.

The labours of Paul in preaching the gospel to much of Europe and the middle eastern countries is recorded in chapters thirteen through the end of the book. We learn how christianity developed from a humble beginning in Jerusalem to its being made known to the greater part of the civilized world. From the work of Paul, christians should be encouraged to stand firm in the face of persecution and discouragement. The need for preaching the gospel to great and small is shown by Paul who preached Christ and him crucified to kings, governors, to business women, magicians to soldiers, sailors, and to servants in the very households of the great men of the Roman Empire. We today are much indebted to this inspired writing for what we know about the Church of Christ, in its early years here in this world.

Scholars are considerably disagreed as to when this book was written, some suggesting that it was written sometime during ninety to one hundred thirty A. D. This date seems to be founded upon poor judgement. Acts was written at a time when the supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit were taking place and were still regarded as significant.

Some would place the date at between seventy and eighty A. D. This opinion rests mainly on the idea that Luke was written after the destruction of Jeru-

salem, in seventy A. D.

Thiesse, and many other scholars, seem to be more logical, when they set the date around fifty nine to sixty two A. D. Much of their case rests on the belief that Luke wrote the book while attending Paul while he was a prisoner at Rome, awaiting trial. The abrupt ending of the book is thought to have been brought about because the book was completed before Paul came to trial. I believe this date is accepted by most today as being authentic.

Only three places are mentioned as possible sites for the writing of this book. They are Antioch, Ephesus, and Rome. The overwhelming evidence favors Rome. Tradition is that Luke completed his literary work while in Rome when Paul was a captive and awaiting trial for the disturbance that began back in Jerusalem.

That it was written from Rome is supported by the fact that the author is preoccupied, first with tracing the expansion of the church from Jerusalem to Rome, and second with stressing the favorite attitude of the Roman authorities to the first missionaries. While Paul was imprisoned at Rome, he was allowed the freedom of having visitors rather freely. This would enable Luke and others to be with him much of the time and would almost make ideal the conditions for prayer and meditation. What better time could Luke have had for writing the book of Acts.

The Purpose Of The Church

Boyd E. Morgan — Kennett, Mo.

God has always separated His people from the world. His most extreme separation was the flood when Noah and his family were separated from the sinners by the destruction of all that were unrighteous. When people again turned in rebellion against Him, God separated Abraham from all the balance of his people. Gen 12:1. Abraham became the father of the Jewish race. Gen. 17:5. The balance of the people became Gen-

tiles and were forsaken of God because of sin. Eph. 2:11, 12.

The called out body of Christ which he declared he would build Mt. 16:18 and which he did build. Acts 2:47, is a kingdom that is not of this world. It is in the world but is not of the world. "Jesus answered, My Kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." John 18:36. The matter of who is in the church is taken care of by the Lord. Acts 2:47. It is his intent that all the saved have fellowship and association together, being separate and apart from the world. Eph. 1:10, 11; I John 1:7; II Cor. 6:17, 18.

Unto this fellowship is given the Great Commission. Mt. 28:19; II Cor. 4:7. Those possessing the treasure in Earthen vessels are to make known God's wisdom to the world. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the CHURCH the manifold wisdom of God." Eph. 3:10. This God intended that the church do by preaching."—it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:21. This is the purpose of the church.

God further purposed that this be brought about by the church being zealous of good works. Titus 2:4 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Also I Pet. 2:9. According to Eph. 3:21 the church is to glorify God by Jesus Christ throughout all ages. How this is done Jesus explained in his wonderful sermon on the mount. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mt. 5:16.

The church will be called to give account as to the discharge of its purpose as every member stands in the judgement and sentence is passed upon him. In that day the righteousness shall be separated from the unrighteous. Is it any wonder that God has separated them in this life by placing the saved in the church?

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the truth, looked upon religion as something suited only to children, women, and old men. Thus the richer, fuller life is enjoyed by those fortunate enough to seek and find it.

This hope our Saviour offers is available to all. His plea is, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He expressed His disappointment in Jn. 5:40, when He said, "Ye will not come unto me, that ye may have life." The following statement further indicates His offer of hope. "I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." No one questions the fact that they were living, physically. However, they weren't getting out of life all that was available. They were missing something vital. This something would lift them above mere existence. It would give life meaning and direction. It would answer the age old question, what am I living for?

It is truly pathetic to see the number of people who today are going through life without hope. They live only for the moment. Circumstances have prevailed which caused them to lose their desire for something better. Unhappy and miserable they seek to drown their sorrow in alcohol, only to find themselves enslaved to a monster. These unhappy citizens are found in every community. They cannot adjust to the pace of life. Somewhere along the way they got out of step, and don't have the heart to make a renewed effort to get back on the right road. The look of defeat can be seen in their eyes. It is reflected on their countenance. These miserable creatures are usually found on what is commonly known as "skid row".

Skid row is not the only habitation of thwarted souls. They are to be found in all circles. They only react differently. They try to escape life by becoming absorbed in work, a career, or some other pursuit. Usually, they are selfish and self-centered, interested only in things that will further their interests. They refuse to look beyond the immediate confines to a better way of life. Alive among the dead is a good way to describe them. They are dead to hope, to Christ and all things that make life more noble.

Life without hope is a dreary pros-

pect. Without it man cannot arise above his animal nature. The principles of Christianity lift man to his highest peak. His conduct is based on higher ideals, rather than being motivated by selfishness. Man must have a goal in life, otherwise it becomes meaningless. Considering the heartaches and sufferings that are the lot of all, it would be tragic to think of the future as holding nothing better. The very fact that so many get so little out of life plainly indicates why Christ should be preached to all the world.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Tell them of Christ who died for them, who loves them, and is willing to lead them into paths of glory and honor. Without love every creature is miserable and lonely. Everyone needs to love and be loved. Human love is sometimes fickle, being motivated by selfishness. True love is expressed in giving, rather than receiving. Divine love is a perfect example. God gave His Son. His Son gave His life. Why did they go to such extremes? Because they loved sin-sick, dejected humanity. They wanted him to have something better. Furthermore, they wanted him to know that when all others had forsaken him he still had a friend. One that loved him unselfishly. One that could be counted on, when needed the most.

To attain the hope that Christ offers we must be in Him. If a ship is to avoid the storm, it must find a safe haven. Man's haven is in Christ. By seeking the Kingdom first, man is assured of receiving every temporal blessing needed. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:32. To enter our haven of safety, where life is richer and fuller, we must learn the truth. This includes how to enter Christ. Jesus also said, "If ye love me, you will keep my commandments." His commandments include: Faith in Him as the Son of God; repentance, a turning away from sin; confessing His name before men, so that He will confess us before the Father; and, being baptized for the remission of sins. Read Heb. 11:6; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32, 33; Acts 2:38. Thus, we arise a new creature in Christ Jesus, and the wonderful hope of eternity is ours.

Just as the tender young plant must be nourished by the sunshine and rain, the babe in Christ must also be nourished. They are to "desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Proper growth and development depends on soil, climatic conditions, and other varying factors. Spiritual growth depends on environment, companionship, proper attitude, steadfastness, and reverence.

To maintain our hope in Christ, we must worship regularly. This includes attending all the services, and not just the ones that may be considered important. The new-born Christian is urged to, "set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Worship should be approached reverently and sincerely. Regular observance of the Lord's Supper, prayer, singing, giving, and teaching, will provide proper nourishment and strength for the trials that lie ahead. Paul speaks of those who improperly approached the Lord's Supper. He said they were "weak and sickly." They endeavored to mix worldly things with spiritual. Their worship was vain. So will ours be, if we do not approach it with the proper attitude.

Our faith in Christ, and our hope for the future, will be severely tried. The arch enemy of all righteousness will do everything he possibly can to turn us from the better way. He will attack at the weakest point, using the cunningly devised weapons that are available to him. He knows our weakest point, and will not fail to work on it. Each time he is successfully resisted makes it easier the next time. But don't be deceived into thinking he will quit trying. Be on guard against surprise attacks. He may strike when you least expect it. His offers of worldly happiness are cunningly concealed in a bag of traps.

Our hope is an anchor that will enable us to ride out the storm of temptations, and enjoy the wonderful calm that comes afterward. Remember these words and live by them. "Thy words have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Our hope in Christ will lead to a better life here on earth, but not only here, for all eternity too. The world's only hope for peace, happiness, and future blessings, lies in Christ. Do you have that hope? If not, why? You can have it!