

Fulton County Gospel News

Harold Turner
Church of Christ
Cotabool
1110

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

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News and Notes

Two were baptized during the recent meeting at Franklin where Brother L. F. Mills was preaching.

Two were restored during a recent meeting at Sitka where Brother Carl Clem was preaching.

BROTHER WESLEY HYLTON has recently moved to work with the church in Salem, Arkansas. Brother Hylton is known by most of the people in this area in that he used to work with the church Thayer, Missouri for about the in Mammoth Spring. We pray for the success of the work there.

BROTHER GENE BENCH has moved to Phoenix, Ariz. He has been working with the church in past two years. May God go with him and his family, and may they be of great benefit to the work there.

A Scientist Looks at Religion

There can be no conflict between science and religion. Science is a reliable method of finding truth. Religion is the search for a satisfying way of life. Science is growing; yet a world that has science needs, as never before, the inspiration that religion offers.

Arthur H. Compton
(physicist) in Readers Digest

JUST A THOUGHT - -

"It usta be when girls went out to swim
They dressed like Mother Hubbard.
But now they have a different whim—
They dress more like her cupboard."

Steering Clear of Rocks

Many years ago one of the presidents of the United States was taking a trip on a Mississippi River steamboat. Being a friendly man, he walked freely among the passengers and members of the crew, and finally found himself standing before the boat's pilot. "How long have you been piloting boats on the river?" asked the President. "Nigh on to forty years," said the pilot. "Then," said the President, "I suppose you know exactly where all the rocks are in this part of the river." "No, Sir," was the pilot's reply, "I don't know where the rocks are, but I know where the rocks ain't!"

The pilot knew where the safe channel was and kept his boats there. He didn't take any chances by getting among the rocks. The commander of the great battleship Missouri which was stranded in the mud because it left the deep channel of the Chesapeake Bay could have learned a valuable lesson from this old pilot.

Boys and girls today might also find the advice worthwhile. Our lives are very much like boats on the river of life. This river may have many dangerous rocks and shoals. Some above the surface where we can see them, others just beneath the surface where they cannot be seen. There are some advantages in knowing where the dangers are, but it is of greater value to know where the safe channel is, and keep it. There may be some value in knowing where the places are that boys and girls get into trouble, but it is better to stay in the safe channel marked by the word of God and correct guidance of godly parents.

Via Preceptor, S. Africa

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A LITTLE MORE

We recall the kind ole grocer,
When the sugar he would pour,
How he would tip the scales to balance,

THEN HE'D ADD A LITTLE MORE.

and his business, how it prospered
For he gave an honest measure,
AND HE'D ADD A LITTLE MORE.

So it is with life, my brother,
We would write a better score,
When we have done what is expected,

IF WE'D ADD A LITTLE MORE
—Selected

"Not what you possess but what you do with what you have, determines your true worth."

Fulton County Gospel News

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

SUPPORTED BY:

CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:

CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND

Trading Troubles - -

Someone has said, "If troubles could be traded, more people would protest a swindle than proclaim a bargain." Do you know anyone with whom you would like to trade troubles?

Some time ago I was in a city some distance from home. I noticed a lady who was present every day for services who had no hands. She was born without hands. One day she brought an article to me asking that I read it and give it back to her the next day. I read with much delight the great thoughts she had written and gave it back to her the next day with the comment for which she asked. One who had seen her give me the article came to me after she was gone and started telling me what an outstanding person she was. She told about how loyal she was to come to worship "although she had no legs." Up to that time I did not know she had been born without legs. She had learned to use artificial legs so well I did not know she was wearing them. The lady went on to tell me how this woman had married, had been the mother of three children, kept her own house and that learning to write without hands was only one of the many things

she had succeeded in doing. How would you like to trade troubles with her?

Some time ago I heard a man speak who had been in other country preaching the gospel. He told of the great hunger people have there for the word of God. It seems that these people are willing to travel long distances, regardless of the weather to worship and learn more about God. They never complain of too many services. Their complaint would be that they do not meet often enough although they meet many more times than people in this part of the country. He told of the uncomfortable places where they worshipped, but on one ever seemed to notice they were without comfort. They were so hungry to get close to God and to learn more about Him that any place with God and God's people was comfortable. Are we ready to trade troubles with these people?

One of the most unfortunate things that happens to us is that we do not realize how fortunate we are. We live in a land of plenty. Perhaps nobody will read this article who does not have much more than is necessary or deserved. If we have lived for a few years we know that today we have much more than we did years ago, and no doubt we had more than we needed then. We have comfortable places to meet and the gospel is within the reach of everyone who desires to hear it. But while we have all these opportunities we not only refuse to take advantages. We have comfortable buildings in which to study and worship but many people use them very little. We have someone to preach the gospel to us but we listen very little to what he has to say. We have dedicated teachers to instruct us but we will not give them the opportunity to teach us. We have Christian men who make plans for bigger and better things but we yawn in their faces and go our drowsy way. What do you think it would take to wake us up? Would it help us to be in a place where gospel preachers and teachers were scarce? Would we then realize how fortunate we are? Or

could it be that we would have been more devoted to the lord had we been born without hands and without feet?

by Cleon Lyles
via Aim

The Privilege of Giving - -

The privilege of giving is an important part in the life of a Christian. I call it a privilege because we would be of all men most miserable if God had refused to grant us this opportunity. We, at times, may think of it as a duty to perform, but it is more than that. We do not think of eating and sleeping as a duty but as a privilege we gladly accept to keep our bodies strong and healthy.

Giving is to the soul what sunshine is to the apple tree. A neglected fruit tree is a miserable thing indeed to look upon. Try as the tree will, always the fruit is blighted, worm-eaten, shriveled, and-or otherwise, diseased.

In the sunny state of California, many have orange trees growing in their lawn gardens. Some of these trees bear fruit that is small and bitter to taste. The reason: proper care, moisture, and plant food have been withheld.

The soul of man is somewhat like this. If all other good works are done and the power of giving is withheld, all is for naught. The soul will be shriveled, blighted, small and bitter.

In the mind of man, there is always a doubt of not being finally redeemed because giving has not been a part of him — "Maybe I could have given more but did not." Peace of mind is based upon being reconciled to God.

I know, of course, there are other things which may be a disturbance to the mind besides this one thing. However, it may and could be the one thing I lack in making inner peace with God. Why not keep our soul and mind in a healthy state by accepting the privilege of giving as we do eating and sleeping.

—Delmer Andrews.

The Only Way Out

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you could not see any way out? Were you ever driven to despair by some maddening trial or trouble, so that you didn't know the answer and just couldn't get hold of God? Then listen to the words of the patriarch Job in our scripture, in verse three he bitterly complains, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!" There seemed to be no escape. He says, in effect, "I am shut in, hemmed about on all sides by an impenetrable barrier. In front of me all is dark; in back of me it is no better. To the left I see no light; on the right it seems God is deliberately hiding Himself." Some of us have been where Job was. We faced some problem, some test, which made us feel almost hopeless, and we too cried out, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!" It was the same no matter where we probed for an answer. However, there is another direction besides forward, backward, right, and left. It is the way up! Job was driven to abandon all hope in finding help AROUND him; then he looked UP, and a glorious light shone into the darkness of his despair. "Ah", says Job, as he takes this new perspective, "He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Job could see no way out, but faith took and banished his fears, Faith begins where reason ends. When all your reasonings and efforts to solve your problems fail, then look up to Him who knows the way you take. Why does He know? Because He has gone that way before; He experienced every trial you will ever face. He has passed through it and knows the way out.

If you are at your wit's end, then take time to read Hebrews 2:18; 4:15, and 1 Corinthians 10:13. Stop looking AROUND: stop looking WITHIN; start LOOKING UP and let faith take over! HE KNOWS! Turn it over to Him!

- Author unknown.

AND NO POPCORN

Mulling over the timeworn excuses for not going to church, Grant H. Elford of Lake Crystal, Minn. and Dr. Ronald Meredith of Fresno, Calif., on a trip together, compiled this list of reasons for "WHY I DO NOT ATTEND THE MOVIES":

1. The manager of the theater never called on me.
2. I did go a few times, but no one spoke to me. Those who go there aren't very friendly.
3. Every time I go they ask me for money.
4. Not all folks live up to the high moral standards of the films.
5. I went so much as a child, I've decided I've had all the entertainment I need.
6. The performance lasts too long; I can't sit still for an hour and three quarters.
7. I don't always agree with what I hear and see.
8. I don't think they have very good music.
9. The shows are held in the evenings and that's the only time I am able to be at home with the family.

—Newsweek

DON'T LET YOURSELF

Worry — when you are doing your best.

Hurry — when success depends on your accuracy.

Think evil — of a friend till you have the facts.

Believe — a thing impossible without trying.

Trust — an elastic conscience.

Waste — time on peevish and peevish matters.

Imagine — that good intentions are a satisfying excuse.

Harbor — bitterness in your heart toward God or man.

Selected

"Many want the Christ of the cross who are unwilling to accept the Cross of Christ."

"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting — it has been found difficult and not trying."

"A LITTLE KID HEARD HIM"

Few parents care anymore what they say in front of their children. Even fewer are celebrities who give a second thought to the way they influence youth. Scoutmasters, coaches, teachers and others who should know better are offenders as well. It is refreshing to find one influence amidst this indifference and carelessness that is wholesome and good for young people.

Sid Ziffer's column in the Los Angeles Times carried a report on Frank Howard the rightfield of the Dodgers.

"He doesn't smoke or drink, but the other day he had the misfortune to swear and it caused him no end of embarrassment. Lining over the rail in a desperate attempt to snag a long foul ball, Howard muffed it and in his exasperation uttered a dirty word. Sure enough, some little kid heard him and his world was shattered. The lad's father wrote Howard a letter expressing his disappointment in his choice of language. Big Hombo took it all so to heart he insisted on going on the Dodger radio and formally apologizing to the boy, the father of the boy and every other kid in town. He hopes to cut his tongue out if it ever happens again."

It has been a long time since I have heard any one apologize to a youngster for foul language. I tip my hat to Mr. Frank Howard. His example should stimulate us to give the kids something better to observe in us. Those of us who are Christians must be especially cautious of what we say. The apostle said, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers."

(Eph. 4:29)

From the
South National Messenger

"The world at its worst needs the church at its best."

"The devil doesn't mind that you are religious — as long as you

Lowering Standards

Roy Lanier, Jr.

"Sixty-three percent of the nations population has membership in churches. This represents a gain of two percent over a year ago. Does this indicate a religious revival and increased church influence? Dr. David W. Barry, executive director of the New York Mission Society, does not think so.

"Barry attributes increased church membership totals largely to the fact that churches which formerly did not send in statistics are now doing so. Standards of church membership are also being lowered, he says. Gone is the former long period of observation and testing which prevailed in some denominations. Today, in Barry's opinion, there is little to distinguish a church member from a non-member, in cost communities.

"A skeptic said recently that church influence has declined because the church is becoming a 'country club'. Barry no doubt will deny this but what he says seems to indicate that some churches are headed in that direction." (NORMAN TRANS., Editorial, Aug. 20, 1959)

The editor of the local paper makes an astounding charge: "Standards of church membership ...are being lowered..." I wonder how long it took him to come to this conclusion? He gives two reasons why these standards are being lowered: 1. Very little distinction between members and non-members; 2. A trend toward being a "country club".

It has been evident to conservative religious thinkers for some time that the churches in America have been on a digressive march. This has been a constant and steady digression ever since the first one nearly 2000 years ago. The honor and distinction of being a Christian has often been lost in the soft cesspools of compromise. The rejection of pure, plain positive preaching has encouraged the idea that a community of religious people should be together for purely social reasons.

Though this editorial was concerned with religious groups as a whole in America, the Lord's church would do well to heed the warning. The same trends that culminated in "country clubs" are creeping into the thinking of some of our brethren. Here are some signs:

JESUS IS NO LONGER EXALTED AS KING AND SUPREME GUARDIAN OF OUR SOULS. Some look to Jesus as a great teacher, reformer, thinker, and philosopher. When one no longer looks to Jesus as the author and finisher of one's faith, there is danger.

THE TRUTH NO LONGER ACCEPTED AS INSPIRED. Some have felt that the Bible was not worthy of obedience, therefore they turn to man's creeds and councils. This blatant disregard for God's word has contributed much to the lowering of standards of religious bodies in America.

THE DESIRE TO PLEASE SELF RATHER THAN CHRIST IS A THIRD CONTRIBUTING FACTOR. Arguments are now heard that churches have a right to engage in certain actions because such actions are pleasing to the members. Certain methods and forms of worship are thought proper for the members like them! Little regard is shown as to pleasing God.

THE DESIRE FOR RESPECTABILITY, PROMINENCE, RECOGNITION AND PRAISE HAS HAD ITS SHARE IN LOWERING STANDARDS. More emphasis is sometimes put on what others might think of what we are doing, with less emphasis on what God thinks of that which we are doing. It is easy to lose one's self in trying to please others. Keeping a "good name" in the community can wreak havoc upon the good name of Christ. Wanting the reputation as a "fine group of people" can sometimes lead to danger. For this reason the plain preaching of some has been stilled and the religious group is more concerned about how a man "fits into the community", than whether he preaches the whole counsel of God.

If history serves as a good teacher, these same signs which have led to the lowering of standards in major religious bodies will also lead the Lord's church to lose its identity. Many brethren would turn about face if they realized where the course of compromise is bound to end.

Pray for Others

John H. Alley
Springfield, Missouri

The power to prevail much in prayer for others is a mark of spirituality. We will not ask great favors from God for others unless we ourselves have experienced God's goodness and mercy. A person who has himself received mercy seeks to secure mercy for others.

Prayer for others denotes an unselfish character. Abraham was not so narrow and selfish to think only of the safety of Lot and his family but for the entire city of Sodom. He prayed not once, but six times for them.

The Apostle Paul indicated his deep concern for Israel who has rejected Christ (Rom. 10:1). Paul not only prayed that Israel be saved, but he desired it. That is, there was a craving in his heart to see Israel's need of salvation supplied. This desire prompted him to do all within his power to take the gospel, God's saving power, to them.

Abraham was concerned about others. Paul cared for others. Jesus, our example, was concerned with the last, the least and the lost. Are we? Pray for others! "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

"Lord, help me live from day to day

In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer will be for others."
May the heavenly Father help us to manifest daily a Christ-like concern and attitude for the lost.

"Paying attention to a yapping dog is not only time wasted — it also encourages him to bark louder."