

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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

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THE MODEL CHURCH

Marvin Ed Berry—Welcome Hill

Webster says a model is a pattern of something to be made, copied, or imitated.

The Apostolic church is to be a model church for all ages. Eph. 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church Christ Jesus for all ages.

All congregations today are to be fashioned after the "Churches of Christ" in the New Testament.

Now let us look at the pattern or Model.

What is a Model Church?

It is a Studious Church. A Model church is given to a study of the Bible. Jno. 8:31, 32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

A Model Church is rich in faith. Jam. 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him.

It is a defensive Institution. A model church is "Set for the defense of the Gospel". Phil. 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. A model church is "Clad in the whole armour of God and takes the Sword of the Spirit, it attacks all false doctrines. What a Model Church has: It had a converted membership. Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that sins may be blotted out, when the times of

refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. It's members are new creatures in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" It has leadership of vision and zeal Prov. 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish." It has Unity and Fellowship. 1 Jno. 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another."

What a Model Church Does.

It worships as it is written. A model church worships in "Spirit and in Truth. Jno. 4:24 God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth It's worship is not after the doctrines of men, thus not Vain. Matt. 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. The Model Church, the only one spoke of in the Bible, practices pure religion. James tells us in the first chapter of James the 27 verse that Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and Widows in their afflictions and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Let us study the Bible and read of this Model Church and not add to it or take away from it.

The simple believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going, Prov. 14:15.

GOSPEL MEETING

Efforts began Monday evening (July 6) at 8:00 to establish a congregation of the church at Koshkonong, Mo.

Bro. Walter Billingsley of West Plains, Mo, will do the preaching. Let's get behind this effort and help spread the Word of God.

THE BIBLE VERSUS THE DOCTRINES OF MEN

(Matthew 15:9, "But in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men)

Error; Christ's blood was not shed for the whole world, but only for the "elect".

Bible: 1 John 2:2. "And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

Error: "We are saved by the blood of Christ before and without obeying Him,"

Bible: Hebrews 5:9. "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him."

Error; We do not need to believe the gospel in order to be cleansed by the blood."

Bible: Mark 16:16. "He that believeth not shall be damned."

Error: "We do not need to repent in order to be cleansed by the blood."

Bible: Luke 13:5 "I tell you nay but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Error. "We do not need to
Continued on back page

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Marion Farley—Jonesboro, Ark.

The above caption would cause one to immediately recognize the truth in the maxim "Weil begun is half done," whether reference is made to things temporal or eternal.

In view of this fact, let us see what is necessary to begin well in temporal affairs.

Sometimes it is necessary to tear down. Many old structures are razed that a modern building may be erected on the same site.

Then through the wisdom of man, materials are gathered together to form the superstructure of the edifice. Great excavations are made that it might have a firm foundation on which to rest. We all understand that without a suitable foundation it will be unable to stand the test of time. Laborers become a factor in the program. But all of this without proper plans to be followed would only result in failure.

Now to make the spiritual application. When we take upon us the yoke of Christ, "Old things pass away, all things become new." We crucify the old man of sin, and when we come forth from the watery grave of baptism we rise to walk in newness of life.

In the sixth chapter of Judges, Gideon was required to tear down his fathers Altars, before he and the Israelites, could worship Jehovah acceptably.

Prov. 24:3 states, "Through wisdom is a house builded and by understanding it is established." It is not by man's wisdom that God's spiritual house was built or established, but by the unerring wisdom of God, who does all things well, Solomon said "It is not in man that walks

to direct his steps."

Now our house is built upon the "Rock of Ages": the sure foundation; The "Chief cornerstone"; Jesus Christ himself. One who hears and does the sayings of Jesus, is likened to a man who digs deep and lays the foundation of his house upon solid rock, which when the storms and waters came could not be moved, because of the right foundation. But the person who hears his words and gives no heed, is compared with the man who built upon the sand, who, when the winds and floods came, suffered great loss.

We are not wise when we rely upon our earthly possessions, as the rich farmer in Lk. 12, who thought his own resourcefulness had been the sole cause of his bountiful harvest, exalting himself, forgetting that God said, "He that exalteth himself shall be abased, but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

This man seemed to have only the immediate future in mind, and not of eternity. the good Christian Paul speaks in 1 Tim. 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life".

Our highest aim must be to make proper preparation for the future, Jude 20 says "But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith."

Jesus said "Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal."

When we are ready to every good work, visiting the sick; the widows and orphans in their hour of need; assembling ourselves together promptly on the

hour; being diligent in God's work; then it is that we are not only building ourselves up, but also the Church for which Christ died, as is pictured in the following, Eph. 2-21 "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord." 1 Peter 2:5. "Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house."

EXCUSES FOR NOT ATTENDING BIBLE CLASS

[1]. I work all week and need to rest on Sunday. Why not rest on Saturday or Monday? "Oh, you don't understand I have to work on those days". Can you afford to take a day that isn't yours and use it as you please? Which is more important..your work, or the Lord's work?

[2]. I don't like the teacher.

Do you know of a perfect person anywhere? Don't you think if all the class were present each Sunday, with lessons well prepared, ready to respond and cooperate in every way that even the teacher would be helped?

[3]. I don't have time to study.

In, the truest sense, do you have less time than the others? Would you want to be a member of a church which had no Bible School? Would the church here have one if all the membees did as you on the Lord's day morning?

[4]. The people are not friendly enough.

Have you tried taking the load in this matter and speak to others first? Do you think someone might say the same thing about you sometime? Even if men do slight you, do you think that justifies you in slighting the Lord and his work?

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EDITORIAL

Mr. Boyd E. Morgan
P. O. Box 355

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Dear Brother Morgan;

It was nice indeed to receive your letter of June 18, 1953 in which you wrote me, as you did Brother R. H. Harber of Seminole, with regard to the progress you and other Brethren have made regarding the securing of the lots in Viola for a church building. Since receiving your letter, however, I have talked with you three times on the telephone.

In as much as I plan to be out of town the most of next week, attending a special series of lectures at Central Christian College, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, I thought I would drop you a line bringing you up to date with what information I have regarding the Viola work. I am sorry indeed that it was not possible for us to secure the John Sherman lots for the building, but at the price they made of \$1,000 for a tract approximately 90' by 90', it seems there is nothing else to do other than to deal with Mr. Jim DeShazzo, who owns the 60' strip of land just North of the highway.

Brother Harber and I are very

hopeful that you will be able to get at least 150 or 160 feet of this 60 foot strip, even if you should have to pay a little more in order to get the extra 20 or 30 feet. It is also our opinion that we should offer to buy an additional 10 foot strip from Mr. and Mrs. Roe, who have offered to give the 30 foot strip just North of the DeShazzo property. All whom I have talked to regarding this matter, urge that we should have at least 100 feet front by at least 150 feet. This would give us ample parking space for a while at least. I hope Mr. and Mrs. Roe will consider letting us have the additional 10 feet as it will be badly needed for the church building in the future. We would not ask them to give the extra 10 feet unless they really want to do so, but would be glad to pay them what is reasonable for this extra ten foot strip.

Another thing that has occurred to me, Brother Morgan, and that is that it might be well to let the building front on the West and not build it in the "L" shape indicated in your letter. Instead of making the vestibule, as you indicated, you could have this in the front of the building similar to the way the Salem church building is situated and this would give you room for a small entrance or vestibule with a small room on each side which could be used for class rooms. I regret very much to see us complete a building for any congregation without any provision whatever being made to teach the young people. We must depend on these children in future years if the church is to continue to grow. We cannot expect them to be well taught if they must stay in the class with the older people from the time they are school age

until they are grown. I assure you, Brother Morgan, that I do not want to get in an argument with, or irritate any of the brethren in that county, who may not believe in separate classes for the young people. That would be bad and detrimental to the cause in Viola. I do believe, however, that I have learned from 40 years experience with working with the church here in Wewoka, and a good deal of observation of congregations round about that if we do not make some provision for teaching our young people in some sort of a well planned Bible school, or whatever you may want to call it, that we are not going to be able to interest very many of them, and we will continue to let many of the young people from Christian families go with their friends to "Sunday School" at denominational churches, and by the time they are grown up, we have lost from 50% to 75% of them. It cost so much less to add at least two, if not more, classrooms while the building is being erected than it would to add them later. I wish you would discuss with Brother Harber or someone who contemplates building for overseeing the erection of the building, about how much more it would cost to add an additional twelve feet to the building and then partition off this twelve feet from the auditorium, put a partition in this 12x28, or whatever the width of the building is, and make two good class room in this way.

I believe that Brother Harber and I would rather try to raise some additional money, or all of the additional cost, if necessary, to have these class rooms erected at the time the building is put up. The point you mentioned on the

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EDITORIAL—Cont. from page 3

telephone the other day, Brother Morgan, about adding the class rooms at this time and making the building more expensive than other congregations in the county have, is a good point and well put but it seems to me there ought to be enough brethren in Fulton County, who know facts regarding teaching of young people as they grow up, who will listen to reason with regard to preparing class rooms at the time the building is erected. I am sure it is as you said the other day, that many of the congregations in the county have buildings with no class room facilities, but just because most of them have made the mistake of not preparing class rooms when their buildings were erected, I can see no reason that the congregation at Viola ought to go ahead and make the same mistake just because many of the other congregations do not have these facilities. I believe you could approach any of them who make the objection, in the proper manner and sell them on the idea of making the building just a little longer while it is being erected so as to give room for these class rooms. This is especially true when we brethren here in Oklahoma who have a special interest in the work at Viola, are making effort possible to raise as much money for that work as we possible can. I believe, if necessary, we would rather pay all of the additional cost of making the building some 12 feet longer and placing these two partitions necessary to make the class rooms, than to see you erect the building with just one large room similar to the one at Agnos. I have met with them there a few times in

their new building and met with them many times when they met in the old school house at Agnos, and know when they were attempting to have three or four classes in the same room that it was so disturbing that none of the classes could get out of the lessons what they should have. We had that same thing here in Wewoka for many years, and I think I know whereof I speak. We purchased an old Presbyterian church building here back in 1919 that had no rooms of any sort except the main auditorium, A few years later we spent \$2 000 or \$2,500 in putting in a baptistry and adding two class rooms. This helped a great deal, but was not sufficient. When we built the new building in our present location in 1929 we saw to it that we had enough room for nine or ten different classes. None of us now would think of going back to the old plan if it could possibly be avoided. I will not argue this point further, Bro. Morgan, but I think I know we are right with regard to the matter. You are on the ground and of course whatever you brethren decide to do, we will go along with you and raise all the money we can to assist. As already stated, however, I believe that brethren who will be in on the ground floor of making the plans should give this matter of some class rooms careful consideration. I wish you would talk to Brother Joe H. Blue about this matter. I shall be glad to have you tell him our views regarding the class rooms. I went to see Mr. W. E. Harber, President of the American National Bank in Shawnee, Thursday afternoon of this week. He is a brother to Brother Henry

Harber but is not a member of the church. He, with Henry and other members of the family lived in Viola a good many years I told him what we were planning to do and mentioned that I thought he might want a part in the erection of a building for the church in Viola. He wrote me a check for \$250 and advised that if it were necessary, and probably would be, to raise more money later on, to let him know and he would help us some more, I thought this was very considerate of him. I appreciated his contribution very much. I have his check for \$250, payable to the Church of Christ, Viola, Ark. When we get the other checks ready and you get your deal closed on the lots, we will send these checks to you for the use of the congregation in Viola. In the event you should want to get in touch with me next week you can call me at Central Christian College, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Wife and I plan to drive to Bartlesville early Monday morning, June 29 and expect to reach the college by 9 a.m. Bartlesville is about 150 or 160 miles from Wewoka, just a little East of North of here. I sure hope you will be able to get the deal closed for the property before you leave for your meeting, which I believe you say will be about Thursday or Friday of next week. We will return to Wewoka late Friday afternoon of July 3. I am hoping they have a good crowd and good services at Morrilton where Bro. Joe H. Blue lives, this coming Sunday. I hope your announcements there with regard to the Viola work shall reach and interest a good many people. Wishing you much success in

EXCUSES.. Cont. from page 2

[5]. I intended to but something came up.

Something, of course, might happen that would make it impossible for us to attend, but too often little things keep us away. Would that same thing keep you away from your work? As long as we live things will come up. Has it occurred to you that something is coming up at the JUDGMENT too?

(At the judgment, will you give the Lord the same excuses that you offer now? Better read Matt. 7:21-23 before you decide. My heart bleeds to see so many who claim to be Christians just wasting away this time of opportunity and service, to finally wind up in hell. Please be faithful.)

EDITORIAL.. Cont from page 4
 pleting the arrangements for the Viola property and the meetings you are soon to hold, I am

Your Brother in Christ,
 T. E. Burch

Editor's Note.. The church at Agnos now has class rooms. It is my belief that Bro. Burch has so ably argued this point that it needs nothing added to it.

Since this letter I have had one telephone conversation with him and received one letter. The letter contained [checks as follows:

Seminole, Oklahoma Church of Christ	\$300.00
Wewoka, Oklahoma Church of Christ	500.00
W. E. Harber, Shawnee, Oklahoma	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,250.00

These checks have been deposited in the Salem bank in the Viola Church of Christ building

fund. May God bless these who have so generously supplied our need. We will build a building in Viola containing two or more classrooms. The lot described was purchased July 1 from Mr. Deshazzo and Mr. and Mrs. Bathis Roe donated the 40' requested. May God bless all who have had a part in this work.

In a meeting at Mammoth Spring the last night of June the Mammoth brethren set aside \$500 for the Viola work. Moten has already set aside \$100. Other churches are considering at this writing how much they can do. At present we have approx. \$2500 in view. Now is the time brethren. Let us go all out. Here at Mammoth we have a full budget and it is only by sacrificing that we can do this extra burden. But we will do it, the Lord's willing. There are enough brethren in the country who are willing to sacrifice that we undertake this task with no misgivings.

Let's build the best building possible with our means, Your generosity will make it more commodious, more attractive more influential, more useful. Think how you will enjoy knowing that you had a part in establishing the cause in a community where it did not exist. The last Sunday in June we had 40 present at services. Watch it grow as souls learn that there is a difference. When you set your figure turn it over in your mind and see if you can't add from \$50 to \$100. The money will not be wasted, but will be carefully used for the purpose given. Get busy and mail your check to Bro, Len McCarty at Viola or to us here at Mammoth. Make all checks payable to Church of

Christ, Viola, Ark. Personal contributions may be made in the same way.

Not only are we working but the group at Viola is working also, Sunday, July 12 has been set aside by them as the day for their special contributions. This morning Bro. M. C. Ragsdale and I were callers there and saw a check made out from Bro. Lon McCarty for \$50 for this occasion. It has not been long since he contributed \$100 for the same purpose at Crossroads.

Soon we will be breaking ground for this church building. Remember the need, and do something now. Should you see you can do a little now and a little in a month, two months, three months, please advise us. building will be built according to what we can do. Let us help Viola now and some day Viola will be helping us as we plant the gospel elsewhere.

Remember this labor in your prayers also. May God bless you. Thank God also for those who are helping us as we gather up the necessary funds and count the cost. The Oklahoma brethren have been helpful not only financially but have been a great inspiration and encouragement. **SO HAVE YOU.**

Isn't it Strange that those who spend all their money on food and clothing don't care to have their funeral in a grocery store or clothing store or those who spend it all on an automobile wouldn't want it in a garage. Those who spend it in a theatre would never have it there either, Can't you get the moral?

NEWS

Dear Bro. Morgan:

Enclosed find check which is Wheeling church's small contribution to efforts and expense of meeting at Viola.

We are much pleased with your labor in the work at Viola and your deep interest and zeal in spreading the gospel throughout the county.

Wishing you continued success in all your labor and the very best personal regards to you and your family.

Sincerely and Brotherly Yours,

Tom Cone

The following check was sent after last month's paper had gone to press. We thank the folks at Wheeling for their fellowship in this expense. The check was for \$25.00 and was given to Bro. Morgan together with a check for \$25.00 from Mammoth Spring to cover travel expenses during the meeting and to cover expenses since incurred in transacting business at Viola. Thanks for brethren who realize that it takes money to carry on any worthwhile program. These make more work possible.

elcome Hill:

Bro. Hartsel is in a meeting here July 1-12. We hope for every success. We also invite you to all our services. Bible study each Wednesday evening at 8 P. M.; Sunday morning at 10. A. M. and preaching at 11. Bro. C. H. Cavin preaches the 1st Sun.; Bro. Marvin Ed Berry the 2nd, and Bro. Ira G. Woodward the 4th.

Send in your news.

Extra copies of this paper will be left at Bro. Virgil Boler's shoe store in Mammoth Spring.

Mammoth Spring;

Bro. L. N. Moody of Oak and Main Streets Church in Jonesboro, Ark. will begin a meeting here with us July 15. This meeting will continue over two Sundays. Bro. Moody is a very able preacher and we invite you to come out and hear him. Services will be conducted under the Tent, and will begin each evening at 8 P. M.

The Wheeling Meeting will begin August 12 with Bro. Paul Keller doing the preaching.

Bro. Frank Puckett is in a meeting at Salem. It began July 5 and will continue 10 days.

Bro. Frank Gould of Pocahontas will begin a meeting at Heart the third Sunday in July.

Bro. J. A. McNutt of Memphis, Tenn. conducted a meeting at Liberty Hill beginning June 28

The Meeting at Brandsville, Mo resulted in three baptisms, and one has been restored since. Bro. Hilburn is preaching for them regularly.

Five were baptized in the Thayer meeting.

Five were baptized at Union Hill.

Two were restored at Hardy.

Four were baptized in the meeting just closed at Moten.

One was restored at Viola at regular services since the meeting.

Our Lord promised that his word would not return unto him void. We are so very thankful for those sincere souls who having learned the will of God have the courage to do it.

Bro. Ira G. Woodward was operated on in Memphis, July 1. We look for him back home about July 10. He has a ruptured side

from a previous appendicitis operation. He is in the Baptist hospital at this writing.

THE BIBLE VERSUS THE DOCTRINE OF MEN

Continued from page 1

confess Christ in order for the blood to save us."

Bible; Rom. 10:9 "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Error; We may have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and cleansed by the blood without having our bodies washed with the waters of baptism."

Bible; Heb. 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Error; "Cleansing is unconditional, if done by the blood of Christ.

Bible; 1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin"

The story was told that when the neighborhood church caught fire one of the men who had never attended church came to help save the building. The preacher seeing the man, remarked "This is the first time that you have ever been to church." Whereupon the man replied, "Yes, and this is the first time that this church has ever been on fire."