

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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

M. C. Ragsdale
Mammoth Spring
Ark

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MEETINGS NOW IN PROGRESS

Bro. George Darling of Coffeeville, Kansas is in a meeting at Brandsville, Mo. The meeting began June 5 to continue through June 14. Bro. Darling also will be with the West Plains, Mo. congregation in a vacation Bible school 9-11 A. M. June 8-19. Bro. Hobby Dean Hilburn, who preaches regularly at Brandsville, is directing the song service there.

Bro. Ray Chester began a meeting at Thayer, Mo. June 5 and will continue through June 14. Bro. Chester is no stranger in this section and we are glad to see him again. The Thayer church will have a Bible School for five days mornings 9-11 A. M. June 8-June 12.

Bro. Elmo Hall of Lake City, Arkansas began a meeting with the Union Hill brethren Saturday night June 6. This meeting will continue 10 days or more. The Union Hill congregation was established a year ago and this is first meeting to conduct on their own. Bro. Hall is a former minister of the Mammoth Spring church and has many friends here.

Card of Thanks

The family of Jess Lemmons would like to take this means of thanking each and everyone for their kindness and sympathy shown us at the death of our husband and father.

Mrs. Jess Lemmons
Mrs. M. E. Berry
Mrs. Jess Mullins
Mrs. Gary Thomason
Harold, Raymond and
Rex Lemmons

NEWS

We are happy to announce the beginning of a new radio broadcast over KLRW, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. KLRW is 1320 on your dial. It is a 1000 watt station, thus affording a fairly wide coverage. The broadcast is being supported by churches of Christ in Lawrence County.

The gospel of Christ will be heard on weekdays, Monday thru Friday at 12:45 P. M. There will be no Saturday program. On Lord's Days, it will be heard at 9:15 A. M. A contract has been signed for one year. All services will be announced for all places who request it or that they learn of. Address "The Voice of Truth" P. O. Box 355, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. The brethren there would appreciate hearing from you relative to the reception of the program, etc. They would like to know how far it reaches.

This gives us 45 minutes in this vicinity with Blytheville at 12:15; West Plains and Pocatowas at 12:30 and now Walnut Ridge at 12:45. The Walnut Ridge program began June 8, the preacher is Bro. Obert Henderson.

Bro. T. M. Mills of Batesville, Arkansas began a meeting at Hardy, Ark. Sunday June 7. Many have heard Bro. Mills on the air from Batesville and appreciate this opportunity of hearing him in person. Bro. O. C. Pickens Sr. of Jonesboro, Ark. is directing the song services. Bro. Pickens closed a very successful singing school at Mountain Grove Mo, June 5.

Visitors worshipping with the Moten congregation Sunday May 31 were Alfred Porter and family, Odle Frisbee and family; Mrs. Hunt, and Hurley Crews. Bro. Odie Frisbee helped organize the Moten congregation over 20 years ago. He now makes his home in Wellington, Mo.

Bro. Tommy McCord of Pilot and Sis. Carol Cowan were united in holy matrimony May 20 by Bro. Boyd Morgan at his home. All of us wish this young christian couple the very best in life. They are making their home in St. Louis where Tommy is now employed.

The Mammoth Spring congregation was made to rejoice over the recent baptism of Bro. Bernie Hutchinson's Mother. Sister Hutchinson is eighty and joined the Methodist church when she was fifteen and later in her early married years joined the Free Will Baptist church. She learned the truth by listening to the radio programs. We welcome her to the number and pray God's blessings to ever rest upon her.

While Bro. Morgan was in the meeting at Viola, Bro. Woodward preached the first Sunday evening and Bro. Clovis Ragsdale the next Sunday morning and Bro. Holloway on Sunday evening, for us at Mammoth. We are proud of our preachers, and enjoyed their lessons.

Recently Bro. Harold Jackson returned to his old home at Myron and preached for them while there. We had a very good report

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Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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Elders; Hubert Taylor
Lester Martin

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

EDITORIAL

VIOLA

Though we had no baptisms, I believe this was one of the best meetings I have ever had the privilege to be engaged in. If I mistake not this was the 104 meeting for me and several times I have assisted in organizing congregations. But the prospect of a prosperous church is brighter in this vicinity than any of my experience. Nineteen members have been brought together and a congregation organized. Services will be conducted regularly in Viola each Lord's Day hence and an opportunity to hear the true gospel will through these efforts be presented to this community. Who can measure the good, the souls that will be redeemed, the praise that will be given God, and the christian influence of his church that has been made possible through these efforts?

While this meeting, that began Sunday night May 24 and continued through June 2, was under the direction of the elders of the Mammoth Spring congregation the meeting was by no means the affair of Mammoth only. Here was an example of cooperation by brethren all over the county. Seats were brought in from several churches. Singers came from almost everywhere,

various song directors conducted singing, words of encouragement were given and assurance of future assistance was made to the brethren there.

The church at Elizabeth transported their entire congregation to meet with Viola on Sunday May 31. Bro. George Stephens waited on the Lord's table and made a short talk relative to it's importance. Services were conducted in the tent provided by Mammoth Spring, song services were led by Bro. Delson Stephens of Mammoth. The contribution was \$26.72: the Sturkey congregation brought \$25.00 and the Hatfield, Mo. church brought \$25.00. No money was taken from this by any one for any services rendered for the meeting. All labor was contributed and all expenses were paid by those involved except for \$5.00 given to the Mammoth Church by Bro. Guffey to cover a small part of their expenses. The Mammoth church continued my pay as minister as though I was at home and helped me on expenses incurred. All the above mentioned money except the \$5.00 was left with the Viola church to give them a start.

We have been offered three building sites free of charge in Viola. Names of prospective donors are withheld at this time. One of these will be selected as the site of a building for the church there and we will build a building as soon as possible. We have had offers of timber and rock from persons in the community. Bros. Stephens of Elizabeth has agreed to get lumber out from their mill at the lowest possible cost and Bro. George Stephens has agreed to oversee the construction of the building. It is estimated that a nice suitable building can be constructed with all the help that is donated

for about \$1400.00. All of us feel obligated to help in this move. Nothing will give the church in Viola permanency as much as a meeting house will. All churches are requested to give this consideration and to be as generous as possible in this mission effort. Mail your contribution to Bro. Lon McCarty, Viola, Ark.

One sister was located who was a member that had been attending sectarian churches because there was no church for her to go to. God forbid that this be continued. Several members that are erring, having quit the church from negligence, were found. Pray that they be restored. The faithful had attended Cross Roads or Flint Springs congregations. The Flint Springs church of approx. eight members will disband and meet with the Viola church. Flint Springs is about two and a half miles east of Viola.

Mention should be made of the good assistance given by those outside of the county. On several occasions we had visitors from West Plains, Mo.: from Hatfield, Mo., who rendered invaluable service and joined in bringing seats and helped financially, and Mountain Home, Arkansas.

For the present the brethren in Viola have rented a nice store building. Crossroads church gave them some seats, and some were loaned by Welcome Hill and Mammoth. The meter has been installed and services are now being held each Lord's day at 10:00 A. M. The brethren are still to be assisted and we realize we must act as a guardian for some time that they be not discouraged in any way. **THIS WORK WILL SUCCEED.** With the help of God, we will not let

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DOING HIS WILL

Amos M. McCord... Mammoth Spring

The apostle Paul said in the first three verses of the tenth chapter of the letter to the saints in Rome, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Paul was concerned about these people. He knew that although they were a zealous people, they were worshipping God ignorantly. He also knew that God was not going to accept such worship else he would not have been praying God in their behalf.

In Acts 17 beginning with verse 22 and reading through verse 25, we hear the same old peerless apostle as he stood in the midst of Mars Hill and said, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Here again was a people trying to worship God according to their own thoughts and desires and not as God commanded. Paul called this ignorant worship and said that God did not

need such worship and was not so worshipped.

Again hear Paul in Colossians chapter two beginning with verse eighteen. He says, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." Verse 20 "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances. (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men. Paul here warns against being subject to ordinances and things of like manner and tells us to let no man beguile us of our reward.

Sometimes folks reason that we are alright so long as we are honest and also that we just cannot see the Bible alike. I know that Eve understood what God had said to her by her telling the devil that God had said that she would die if she ate of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. Just as God told Eve his will, so has God told us. Paul tells us in I Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore let him, that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Eve transgressed and was put out of the garden. Our failure to keep his commandments will cause us to miss heaven.

Now note this example "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgement." II Peter 2:4 How will we today escape unless we do his will? The Bible contains God's will to us and we CAN understand it. Too many just make no effort and say, "I read the Bible but can't under-

stand it." When in reality they read it and just leave it up to the preachers. Do they not know preachers are only men? Yes, you can understand. Have you really tried? The Bible is where God has revealed his will to you and by that will you will be received or rejected. Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven".

When will men cease to believe they can be saved and heed not the will of God.

Baptism; As Taught in the Bible
Lemuel Martin—Welcome Hill

When the Lord commanded men to be baptized did he command a thing that was unreasonable or that cannot be done? If the Lord commanded it, why do men say it is not necessary. If Jesus said as he did "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" Mk. 16:16 why do men say that you can be saved first and then baptized because you are saved. Why not practice baptism as taught in the Bible? If God taught that baptism is a burial as he did in Col. 2:12 why do men teach that sprinkling or pouring is just as well. Why not do as taught in God's word?

Acts 22:16 "And now, why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Then let us teach that baptism washes away sins.

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." How can we draw near in full assurance of faith and teaching that we do not have to be washed in order to be saved?

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Baptism—Continued from page 3
Why not teach as the Bible teaches?

Some may say, "Well I don't see how water can save us. "Water alone will not. But the Lord will when we obey his commands. I Pet. 3:21 says that baptism saves us. Now it either does or does not. The man who has true faith says it does. Why do men not teach as the Bible teaches?"

The Lord taught not to take away or to add to His Word. If man is listened to one or the other will be done. I ask you to let God answer your questions about baptism. Study every passage on the subject and see what God teaches in His Book.

"THE CAMPBELLITES ARE COMING"

Note; This is an editorial by T. Sherrom Jackson, son of D. N. Jackson Baptist preacher and debater, published in the AMERICAN BAPTIST Dec. 20, 1952.

"Thirty years ago the Campbellites were represented in the Great Little Rock area by only a handful of people. There were perhaps a dozen families who believed this heresy. Today they have a number of large and growing churches, with several thousands of members. In downtown Little Rock they have completed a beautiful building which seats 1200 people. This congregation has about 1000 members, pays its pastor \$9000.00 per year, and is growing every day. Other congregations in the city are growing and have built lovely buildings. In Pulaski Heights, one of the best residential sections, they have built a \$75,000.00 building, and we do not have a church or mission in that section.

"Next summer, all the churches are uniting to bring a high-

powered Negro Evangelist from Nashville, Tennessee for an open air meeting. They will pay him \$300.00 per week for his work, and he has the reputation of being to convert more whites than blacks. The sponsors here anticipate crowds up to 5,000 to hear this man. And to top it all, a young Campbellite evangelist from Abilene, Texas, raised \$250,000 among his churches to pay for a nation wide radio program for one year over the American Broadcasting Company. He is only twenty four year old and is currently raising money for next years program."

"They do not have associations, yet they have cooperation. Their zeal and determination are remarkable. It makes me tremble to think of the responsibility of true missionary Baptists and the lack of zeal and determination on our part, collectively and individually.

"And I didn't mention all the colleges the Campbellites have built in various sections of the nation. In Searcy, Arkansas, alone, they have a school that is nationally recognized. And one of their churches in the small town of Searcy seats 1,500 people. We Missionary Baptists have the truth—and we've done a pretty good job of keeping it.

"The Campbellites are coming, and with the man army of unbelievers. There is so little time, and we have done so little. Oh, may the Lord burden our hearts for more praying, soul-winning, cooperation, sacrifice giving and living. We must be in times last hour.

Editors note to above; In spite of the lack of courtesy shown the church of Christ (and here let me say that the sects do not treat us with more than a fractional part of the courtesy that we show them) the fact that Mr. Jackson is moved, perplexed, and bewild-

ered by the rapid growth and zeal of those he calls, "Campbellites." Well any way the baptists have noticed us, they make so little effort to notice any Bible argument. It is peculiar to many how doing things God's way does work.

Boyd E. Morgan

JESS LEMMONS

Jess Lemmons born June 20, 1900 to B. M. Lemmons and Elizabeth Slaton Lemmons. He died May 24 at Salem, IN, at the age of 52 years and 11 months.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Tressie Tharp Lemmons, six children, Mrs. Marvin Ed Berry, Mammoth Spring, Mrs. Jess Mullins, Centralia, Ill., Mrs. Gary Thompson of Decatur, Ill., Harold Raymon and Rox; five grand children, two sisters, Mrs. Tom Griffith now in California; Mrs. Mettie Wyatt of Paris, two brothers, Homer Lemmons of Tulsa, Okla., Cecil Lemmons of West Plains, Mo.

He was baptised at the age of 12. His father was a minister of the Gospel for fifty years.

Funeral services were conducted by Leroy Miller, Wednesday at 2:30 at the Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring.

Pall bearers were: Paul Stephens, Ira Smith, Orville Buchanan, Earl Berry, Sam Smith and Arthur Kerby. Honorary pall bearers: Hoid Kerby, John W. Smith, Harry Berry, Sant Lunn, Mont Ragsdale, B. Humparey.

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

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

Editorial—Cont. from page 2
it fail.

On June 7, Bro. Clovis Ragsdale of Moten preached for them. Bro. Delson Stephens of Mammoth Spring conducted song services. Bro. George Stephens of Elizabeth taught the Bible class. This was all arranged beforehand. At the time of this writing Bro. C. H. Cavin of Sturkey is to preach there June 7; the Salem church is to provide a singer and Bro. Earl Tucker of Salem will teach the class. Arrangements are being made for preaching each Sunday. Bro. Woodward, Bro. Holloway, and Bro. Jackson of Mammoth have all expressed willingness to help. Come over and visit with Viola. If you will help by teaching the class, etc. please advise us. This is a work we can all participate in.

We wish to thank personally all who helped by work and attendance or in any way in this good effort and ask your prayers and efforts for continued success. Many churches have promised financial help. May God's blessings rest upon all. All this was done scripturally, worshipfully and to the praise and glory of God and to the edification of our souls.

In addition to the churches who have been regularly supporting this gospel paper we have had several individual contributors. Four one dollar and one two dollars and one five dollar contributions have been received. In addition to this Union Hill for the last several months has regularly paid five dollars each month on the expenses. Gospel news is now printing and distributing eleven hundred copies monthly.

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

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Clovis Ragsdale . . . Moten

Under the heading of the history of the church we shall, during the next several issues of this paper, study briefly the fortunes of the church from its beginning until the present day. For you, who may be interested in this subject sufficiently, I suggest that you keep copies of the paper during this time so you will have a brief outline of church history. This knowledge will help to more perfectly understand why we have so much division in the religious world today. We shall learn how men departed from the true system of worship, about the "dark ages", the "reformation", and the restoration of the New Testament Church.

The church originated in the mind of God before the world began. II Tim. 2:9.

The prophets of old spoke of the church in glowing terms of the kingdom. Dan. 2:44; Psalms 145:11-13. As men reckon time, God was a long time preparing the church. In any great undertaking that men endeavor to perform, they generally spend much time planning for it and much time in preparing for the doing of it. God, first had to prepare the people of the earth for his great institution. Three things teach us of it's greatness; (1) The cost of it. Acts 20:28. (2) The length of the preparatory period. (3) It was to be and is everlasting and would fill all the earth.

During the reign of Tibereous Ceasar (14 B. C. -37 A. D.) there came a man named John who was called "John the Baptist". He came preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 3:1,2. He was called the Baptist because he was the first to preach and

administer the rite of baptism. Note that the angel Gabriel, who announced his birth said that his name should be John. Luke 1:13. This John preached that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. The term "kingdom," is often used to designate the church. At hand, means close; nearby; or nigh unto. The first time the word church is used in the entire bible, it was used by the Saviour in Matt 16-18. Here, too the church was spoken of as yet future for He states, "I will build." In Mark 9:1 Jesus tells his disciples that some of them would not taste of death until they should see the kingdom come with power. The church was not in existence as yet, and did not come into existence while Jesus was upon the earth. The first time the church is spoken of as being in existence was on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:47. There the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Thus far we have learned that the church originated in the mind of God but was not established upon the earth until after the death of Jesus Christ.

Any church claiming to be established before the day of Pentecost would not be the church of the New Testament, and any church brought into existence after the day of Pentecost would be in the same category?

On hearing a certain preacher state that he believed every word of the bible, a skeptic replied, "Certainly you don't believe that old story about the whale swallowing Jonah." "I certainly do", replied the preacher. "And when I get to heaven I'm going to ask Jonah all about it." "But what if he isn't there," the skeptic sneered. "Then you ask him," the preacher retorted.

The young people are publishing a bulletin every two weeks. Plans are being made to mail it to those who may want it.

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Bro. Jess Lemmons who was buried in the Pilot cemetery May 27. The funeral service was conducted at Mammoth by Leroy Miller of Paris, Ark.

Bro. Ray Miller of Poteau, Okla. will begin a meeting at Motel. Saturday night June 20 and will continue through Sunday night June 28. Services will begin at 8 P. M. each evening. A Bible School will be conducted for children and young people Mon. through Sat. 9-11 A. M. You are invited to attend any or all these services.

You are cordially invited to bring your family and friends to meeting in the Mountain Home, Ark. Church of Christ, located one block East of Highway 5 and 62, by water tower, 110 East 3rd St. June 21 through July 1 with Evang. Glen Shaver of Damascus Ark. doing the preaching each evening at 8:00 o' clock and Lord's Days at 11 A. M.

The Salem brethren welcome you to their meeting which is to begin July 5 with Bro. Frank Puckett of Calico Rock doing the preaching. This is your opportunity to hear this splendid speaker through a series of meetings. Remember this date, the day after the fourth. The meeting will continue for 10 days at least.

Send in the news of the meeting where you attend and let us advertise it for you in this paper.

The Welcome Hill meeting will start July 1, with Hazy P. Hartsell of Benton, Ill. doing the preaching. Brother Hartsell has been preaching since he was fifteen. He held a meeting at Welcome Hill last year and all are anxiously awaiting his return. You are cordially invited to come and hear the gospel. Anyone within reasonable distance needing transportation to the meeting see either one of the elders; Bro. Lester Martin or Bro. Hubert Taylor and a way will be provided for you to come. We have a number of cars that will pick up those that will come.

We also invite anyone who will come to all our regular services. Bible study each Wednesday evening at 7:30; Sunday Morning at 10:00 and preaching at 11:00. Bro. C. H. Cavin preaches the 1st Sunday in the month; Bro. Marvin Ed Berry the 2nd; and Bro. Ira G. Woodward the 4th.

The Gary Thomason family from Decatur visited with us the 5th Sunday. Bro. Thomason preached for us.

Bro. Frank W. Gould of Pocahontas, Ark. will begin in a meeting at Heart the third Sunday in July. Bro. Gould is well known in the county and many are looking forward to this meeting. We want you to attend and believe that those that have heard Bro. Gould will want to and those that have not are urged to begin with us in the beginning so you will not miss any of his lessons.

Last Minute News

Saturday morning, Bro. Earl Tucker called me [Boyd Morgan] and asked if I could come to Salem and go over to Viola with two brethren from Oklahoma

whom he said had expressed desire to help with the new building for the brethren there. He said they believed they could help \$500.00 with their own and other contributions they could raise. Immediately I started and stopped for Bro. Mont Ragsdale. He had his hat and was ready about as fast as a man going to a fire. Arriving in Salem we were introduced to Bro. Henry Harber of Seminole, Oklahoma and Bro. T. E. Burch of Wewoka, Oklahoma. Both were former residents of the Viola community. Together we proceeded to Viola and talked with brethren there and looked over possible locations for the new church building. To our joy and surprise instead of \$500.00, they pledged themselves to raise \$1000.00 for this work, providing that we (the brethren of this section) will erect a building comparable to the other buildings of the community. Such a building was estimated at \$3000.00 This leaves us a very reasonable sum to raise. The Viola church met Sunday with 35 present. This was their first service since the meeting. Already they have \$110.00 in the treasury with rent paid and lights installed. There will be some money contributed regularly. So to have very nice building for this section we have less than \$1900.00 to raise. This surely will not be too difficult a job. Read the editorial for further information, and thank God for such brethren as Bro. Harber and Bro. Burch who are disposed to see our need and come to our assistance. God will reward them.

The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.... Frank C. Ross