



Number I—2018

# THE EAGLE

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# GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Dear Readers and Friends.

As I write, today is Monday, December 11, 2017. At breakfast at Cracker Barrel, I noticed a little girl about 5 years old with great excitement and expectation checking everything on the rack beside her while laughing and showing her Mother things she saw as beautiful! As I watched her bright eyes and pretty face, I thought, "Now, that is what Christmas is to children." I pray that the little girl's mother or father will teach her that Christmas is about a baby born from a virgin mother to be the Saviour of the world!

We still have, as always, those who mock, criticize, and try to oppose Christ and Christianity. I want to say that Christianity, or Judeo Christian values, have done more to civilize the nations of the world than any other faith, religion, or creed.

Christians are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes (Romans 1:16).

In the coming year, let us celebrate with joy the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our blessed Saviour: the life-changing Gospel message! God bless you.

In His Grip,

Tolbert Moore, Founder/Editor

het Moore

Thank you to those who have begun or have continued to send \$5.00 monthly to help with the publishing cost of *The Eagle* magazine. As we hear from you, we will add your name to the "Eagle Printed Copy" mailing list, and as funds permit will continue sending you *The Eagle* magazine quarterly. This amount will also allow us to send the magazine to a friend. For those who prefer reading The Eagle on the web, go to www.tolbertmoore.com where you can read each new edition quarterly as well as click on the hyperlinks to view more good websites.











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### I. THE MEANING OF THE WORD

The word "church" does not mean the building in which the congregation meets; neither is it as the Catholics say, the Papal system. Others contend that it is a company, or a club, just an organization. The Church is not an organization, but an *organism*.

The following may surprise most students of the Word, but nevertheless, it is true.

The word "church" cannot be found in the New Testament.

The word "church" is a rendition, and not a translation. This same word "church" is a rendition of the word ecclesia, which means a called-out company, or assembly. If we should call Bible things by Bible names correctly, we would call it the assembly of God in Christ, instead of the Church of God in Christ.

The word *ecclesia* always means a called-out company, or assembly. It refers to all classes of people; it is not limited to believers in Christ. There are three references in the Bible that refer to three different kinds of people. None of them are related, yet they are calledout companies, or assemblies.

# A. A Mob.

"When Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure

himself to the theater. Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly [ecclesia: that is a mob, and not believers] was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. . . . And when the town clerk had appeased the people, he said. . . . Ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches [this word means temple; it is not from the word ecclesia], nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. . . . But if ye inquire anything concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly [this is the same word ecclesia, and does not mean believers] .... And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly [again the word ecclesia]" (Acts 19:30-32, 35, 37, 39, 41).

# B. The Children of Israel.

Certainly the children of Israel were a called-out company from Egypt, but we know that they were not the body of Christ. Christ had not been manifested in the flesh as yet. "This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers who received the lively oracles to give unto us" (Acts 7:38).

# C. The Body of Christ.

By this we mean the body of believers in the Lord Jesus. The New Testament abounds with references to the *ecclesia*, the called-out company,

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or assembly, from the world to Christ. The following are a few: God "hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church [ecclesia, meaning called-out company, or assembly], which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22, 23). "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the *church* [ecclesia, meaning called-out company or assembly], and gave himself for it. . . . This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the *church* [ecclesia, meaning called-out company, or assembly]" (Eph. 5:25, 32).

# II. THE USE OF THE WORD

Knowing that the word "church" is a rendition from the Greek, *ecclesia*, meaning called-out company, or assembly, we shall turn our attention to those portions of Scripture dealing with the body of believers. The word *ecclesia* is used in the following ways:

# A. A Local Assembly (church)

"Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto *the church* of the Thessalonians . . ." I Thess. 1:1. "Unto the *church* of God which is at Corinth . . ." (I Cor. 1:2).

# B. Local Assemblies (churches)

This has reference to several local bodies. "Paul... and all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace" (Gal. 1:1-3).

# C. The Body of Living Believers (unnumbered).

We must explain that by this we mean a group of believers, living in a certain section, without reference to a local assembly, and without number. For instance, a minister may speak of the Church of Chicago, the Church of Denver, etc. We immediately know that he is referring to all Christian believers in these cities. The best illustration in the Word is: "Ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the *church* of God, and wasted it" (Gal. 1:13). Saul (Paul) did not limit his persecution to one certain assembly, or several local assemblies. He went everywhere, hailing into prison, and voting the death penalty for the early Christians. He considered all Christians as The Church.

# D. The Complete Body of Christ

The complete body of Christ is called the *Church*, and is composed of all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture. "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).

### III. WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT

# A. The Church Is Not Israel.

"As many of you as have been nor Greek, there is neither bond nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:27-29). The Church (Body of Christ) is

"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the When a Jew is Gentiles, nor to the church of saved, he ceases God" (I Cor. 10:32). Here is to be a Jew. revealed that there are three and becomes classes of people today: Jew, a Christian. Gentile and Church. When When a Gentile a Jew is saved, he ceases to be accepts Christ, a Jew, and becomes a Chrishe ceases to tian. When a Gentile accepts be a Gentile. Christ, he ceases to be a Genand becomes tile, and becomes a Christian. a Christian. baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor free, there is neither male

not spiritual Israel: "He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace" (Eph. 2:14, 15). The Body of Christ (Church) is a *new man*, and not Israel, whether spiritual Israel or revived Israel.

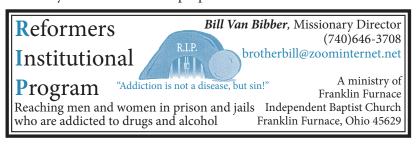
# B. The Church is Not the Kingdom.

Сниксн 1. No heirs of the Church.	KINGDOM 1. The Church is heir of the kingdom.
2. No receiver of the Church.	2. The Church is the receiver of the kingdom.
3. There are elders of the Church.	3. No elders of the kingdom.
4. No sons of the Church.	4. Sons of the kingdom.
5. Church called a temple (Eph. 2:21).	<ol><li>Kingdom never called a temple.</li></ol>
6. Church is here.	6. Kingdom is not here, for the King is not present (Matt. 6:10).
7. Church was never a subject of prophecy (Eph. 3:5, 9).	7. Kingdom is the one subject of prophecy.
8. Church is to be built up (Eph. 4:12).	8. Kingdom is to be set up (Acts 15:16).

### IV. WHAT THE CHURCH IS

### A. It Is a Mystery.

"By revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. . . . And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:3-6, 9). A "mystery" in Scripture means a "truth revealed for the first time." In the above verses, the Holy Spirit shows us that *The Church* (Body of Christ) was first revealed to the Apostle Paul, and that it was not known by the Old Testament prophets. The truth of The Church was



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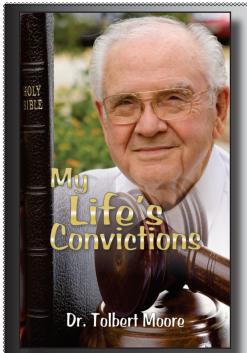
not hidden in Old Testament writings, but was hid in God.

# B. It Is the Body of Which Christ Is the Head.

"As the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is (the) Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. . . . That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (I Cor. 12:12-14, 25-27).

The Body is an organism composed of many members. All members do not have the same function. The Church is not a physical body, but a spiritual body. Believers in Christ are made members of that spiritual body by the Spirit's baptism. There are those who hold that I Corinthians 12:13 is speaking of water baptism, but this argument can easily be refuted by another Scripture. I Corinthians 12:13 says that we are made members of the Body by baptism (Spirit's), while Ephesians 3:6 declares we are made members of that Body by the Gospel. Both are correct. If I Corinthians 12:13 speaks of water baptism, then water baptism is an essential part of the Gospel of Ephesians 3:6. We know, however, that water baptism has no part in the Gospel whatsoever. The Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:1-4).

As is true of the physical body, so it is of the spiritual Body; when one member of the



# My Life's Convictions

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The truth of The Church was not hidden in Old Testament writings, but was hid in God.

If it were possible for a member of the Body of Christ to lose his salvation, then the Body of Christ would be mutilated, and this could never happen.

Body suffers, all members suffer with it. Not one Christian can suffer persecution without the whole Body hurting also. One member cannot grieve, but that the whole Body grieves with it. When the Body suffers, the Head also suffers. When we are persecuted, Christ is also persecuted: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4).

Remember that the Body is an organism and must be considered as such. A building, for example, can be repaired by replacing old doors and windows, and the like, with new ones, but when part of a body is removed, such as an arm, leg, eye, and the like, the part can never be replaced. If it were possible for a member of the Body of Christ to lose his salvation, then the Body of

Christ would be mutilated, and this could never happen. The following are four characteristics of the Body of Christ:

- 1. *Oneness*. A body is one, a complete whole, an organic unity, so is the Body of Christ.
- 2. *Deathlessness*. The Body of Christ will never die, for it is connected with a living Head.
- 3. Manifestation. The one purpose of the Body of Christ is to manifest, or reveal Christ. "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).
- 4. *Service*. The thoughts and the plans of the head are to be carried out by the body.



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Dr. Rex McPherson, Pastor

Likewise, the Body of Christ is to carry out the will of its Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. What He commands we must do. His will shall govern our movements.

### C. It Is a Building.

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Body of Christ is

to carry out the

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Christ. What He

commands we

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shall govern our

movements.

"Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2: 19-22).

The apostles and New Testament prophets are the foundation of the Building (Church). They were the first ones to believe in the Lord Jesus, and they were the first ones to proclaim the Lord Jesus.

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5). We believers are living stones of this new building of God. When the temple of old was erected, there was no sound of hammer, chisel, or saw. All materials were formed beforehand. So are we, for we were selected before the foundation

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of the earth was laid. The inside stones of the temple could not be seen, for they were covered with cedarwood and gold. Only the gold could be seen. We, the living stones of the Building of God, are not to be seen. Christ only is to be seen.

The building was erected of different colored stones; even so the Building of God is composed of black, red, yellow and white races. God dwelt in the temple, and He abides in us.

### D. It Is the Bride.

Some have contended that the Bride of Christ is the same as the Wife of Jehovah, who is Israel. However, there is one Scripture which disproves this theory, and that is Revelation 22:17: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." The above passage declares that the Spirit and the

Bride are extending the invitation to sinners to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. If the Bride is Israel, then it is the Spirit and Israel extending the invitation. We know that is not true, for the greater part of Israel is in unbelief today. Who is inviting, or urging people to accept Christ? It is the Church, not Israel. Therefore, the Bride is the Church, the Body of believers.

Ephesians 5:25-32 clearly points to the fact that husband and wife have the same relationship as that of Christ and His Bride, the Church. Especially we see this in verses 28-30: "So ought men to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hateth his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."

1. The Bride Is Purchased

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by Christ. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). See also I Corinthians 6:19, 20. In the Orient men purchased their wives; the price became her dowry. Christ bought His Church with His own precious blood. His blood is her dowry forever!

2. The Bride is Espoused to Christ. "I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have *espoused* you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2). The Oriental marriage differs greatly from marriage as we know it. The Eastern custom of marriage took place after the following manner: First, the bride was bought (we have been bought by Christ); second, the ceremony was performed, inaugurating the espousal period, which lasted about a year. During this time the bride was considered the wife of her husband, yet they did not live together. The one year waiting period was protection of the future home. If there were any blemishes against the character and conduct of the bride, they would come to light during this time. The Bride of Christ is now in her espousal period. During this interval the blemishes of the Bride, if any, will certainly manifest themselves. History has proved that there have been many who have had the form of godliness, but have denied the power thereof. These blemishes (these men) vanish away; finally comes the consummation of the marriage.

3. The Bride Is Married to Christ. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Rev.

19:7, 8). "Then shall the Realm of heaven be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom and the bride" (Matt. 25:1 — Moffatt). This is the consummation of Christ's marriage to His Church. The espousal period is over; she is now with her husband, and so shall she ever be with Him (I Thess. 4:17).

# V. THE GIFTS TO THE BODY

"Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When He ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. . . . And he gave some apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:7, 8, 11).

# A. Apostles.

This was the first gift to the Church (Body). Upon the Apostles was built the early Church.

The word "apostle" in the Greek is the same as the word "missionary" in Latin, meaning "the sent one." Of course, the Church has missionaries (sent ones) today, but no apostles.

# B. Prophets.

To these men God gave His revelations. At the first, the Church did not have the New Testament, yet it needed to know the doctrines of God; therefore, God gave to men His unwritten Word; these in turn gave it to the people. The Church has no prophets today for we have God's complete revealed truth, the New Testament.

# C. Evangelists.

Another gift to the Church was evangelists. These men fervently heralded the Gospel. They were men of humility, burdened for the lost. The pastor is told to do the work of an evangelist (II Tim. 4:5). The day of the evangelist is not over, and

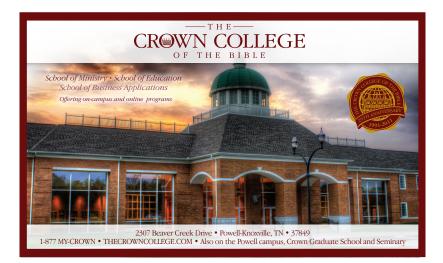
In the Orient men purchased their wives; the price became her dowry. Christ bought His Church with His own precious blood. His blood is her dowry forever!



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Dr. Brad Davis, Pastor





will not be until Christ comes to reign upon the earth.

### D. Pastors and Teachers.

The word "pastor" means "shepherd." The pastor is to be the shepherd of his sheep, looking after his flock, weeping and rejoicing with them. The crying need of the Church today is for pastors. Blessed is the man who has a pastor's heart. A pastor is not only called to preach three sermons a week, but he is called to pastor, shepherd, look after, care for, visit, love, protect, instruct the sheep. Every pastor, while doing the work of an evangelist, which is winning souls, should also be one who is able to *teach* the Word to his flock. Where will the church members get the Word if not from the pastor? All of the truth some people will get will be at a Sunday service.

Some distinguish between the pastor and the teacher, believing that there are those who are called only to be teachers. This may be so, but we know that all pastors are to be teachers also. All teachers may not be pastors, but all pastors *must* be teachers.

# VI. The Local Church

While we believe that the Body of Christ is composed of all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, we do stress the importance of the *local* church, or assembly. The local assembly is the physical body by which the Body (Church) is manifested. God stresses the importance of the local church by giving it officers and ordinances. He who is ashamed of the local assembly is ashamed of that which was established at Pentecost. The local church, as well as the Body of Christ, was established at Pentecost.

# A. Its Organization.

The Scriptures indicate that there was some organization, but not as that today. It was not copied after the synagogue.

It was entirely different.

# B. Its Officers.

1. *Deacons*. I Timothy 3:8-13 gives the requirements for deacons. The deacons were not chosen to run the church, but to minister to the church.

2. Bishops and Elders. There

is a vast difference between the early Church and that of today as to bishops. The early Church had *many* bishops in one local church; today, we have one bishop over many local churches. The elders were called by that name because they were the oldest in the family. If the father were dead, the first son took his place. An elder was an elderly man. Titus 1:5-7 says, "For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I appointed thee: if any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre." According to this, the elder and bishop were the same. The word "elder" refers to the person, while the word "bishop" refers to the office. Every bishop was an elder, but every elder was not a bishop. The word "bishop" means "overseer." The "overseers" of the local churches were old men. This group of bishops composed what is known as the presbytery (I Tim. 1:4).

# C. Its Purpose.

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God in the building up of the Body of Christ in the holy faith; and to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth, winning, baptizing, teaching.

# VII. DISCIPLINE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Even though it is true that the Church is under grace rather than law, the flesh is still in the believer, and the Lord has laid down rules of discipline for His local church. There were three steps in Church discipline, and they are as follows:

# A. Judgement by Self.

"If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged"
(I Cor. 11:31). The believer
knows when he has sinned and
should immediately confess it to
God (I John 1:9). If he confesses
that sin, he has judged himself. It is forgiven, and he shall
never be judged for it again.
Let us stress the word "confess" however. Confess does not
mean to admit it, that is, to own
up to it; that is implied, but it
goes deeper than that. It means
to take one's stand against.

# B. Judgement by the Church.

If a sinning brother will not judge himself, then he must be judged by the local church. I Cor. 5: 11, 12 says, "I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?" Yes, fellowship in the local church should be withheld from the erring brother as judgment. Some term this "back-door revival." This extreme judgement should be meted out only after the effort to restore him. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ve which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness: Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

# C. Judgement by God.

If the fallen brother does not judge himself, and the Church will not judge him, then God will judge him through chastisement (Heb. 12:5-13). ❖

(\*Due to space limitations, point #8, "Ordinances in the Local Church," was omitted.)

The crying need of the Church today is for pastors. Blessed is the man who has a pastor's heart. A pastor is not only called to preach three sermons a week, but he is called to pastor, shepherd, look after, care for, visit, love, protect, instruct the sheep.

If a sinning brother will not judge himself, then he must be judged by the local church.



# **Christian Fellowship**

The Eagle's Claw...

by Dr. Tolbert Moore



will begin in I John 1:1-4 that reads: "That which was from the beginning, which ve have heard, which we have een with our eyes, which we nave looked upon, and our nands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us:) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our *fellowship is with the Father*, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

Two things I want to mention here:

- 1. We are talking about eternal life. We are talking about being born again by the Spirit of God and having fellowship with John and others who have fellowship through the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. That is Christian fellowship.
- 2. Religious fellowship is not necessarily spiritual. Religion is manmade, sometimes by very good men. Sometimes men, to a certain point, are led by the Holy Spirit, but we have to realize that religion of every kind is, to a great extent, a creation of men without the Holy Spirit and without the complete teaching of the Bible in fellowship.

In I Corinthians 2:9-16, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with *spiritual.* But the natural man receiveth not the things of the *Spirit of God: for they are fool*ishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Christian fellowship is not of the natural man. It is of the Spirit, the spiritual man that has been born again. The man that has not been born again has no way of fellowshipping with the Spirit. He may cry out to God. He may cry out to Christ for mercy, and when he receives it, be born again, but until then, he cannot fellowship with the Spirit of God or in the Spirit of God. Neither can his religious fellowship be spiritual because he is not spiritual. When men refuse to fellowship with other born again Christians, they are being carnal. They are not being spiritual. They are not even being biblical although they claim that they are. They misrepresent what the Bible says.

In the Acts of the apostles, the apostle writes to the Ephesian elders in chapter 20:30, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." That has to be carnal, of the flesh, of the natural man and not the spiritual man.

The fellowship of the Spirit of the Lord, with the Father, the Son, and other brothers and sisters who have been born again is a sweet fellowship. That fellowship is like the writer said in Psalm 133:1-3, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

Real spiritual brethren can have genuine Christian fellowship. Sometimes those who are born again are carnal, and they act like the natural man in their actions, judgement, and hatefulness. I think it wise to trust the Holy Spirit to lead in everything. The Holy Spirit will never contradict the Holy, written Word of God. Let us praise the blessed Holy Spirit, love everyone, and be sure of the right fellowship in the Spirit. †

When men refuse to fellowship with other born again Christians, they are being carnal. They are not being spiritual. They are not even being biblical although they claim that they are. They misrepresent what the Bible says.

# CHOICES— Do They Really Matter?

by Jerry Schock



Without the morning Bible reading and prayer time, there is not a chance of a decent day.

The last four words that man ever spoke to me were, "I can't help it," and six months later we were in chapter 13 bankruptcy.

74, I have made a lot of choices in my life. Many were wrong. Growing up, Mom would say, "You know the right thing to do, but if you make the wrong choice, just be sure you are willing to take the consequences." I'm so grateful today for a wise mom. I'm even more grateful for a Savior Who gives us a willing spirit to listen as we are led.

God gives us all the right to **CHOOSE**. Each morning you have a choice to help determine how your day will go. Believe me, it ALL depends on how you choose to start it. However, if you feel like you "have to" do it then your heart is not willing. If your attitude is I "get to" do it—things change. We do not "have to" start our days with the Lord but we "get to," and it will make a difference both in the way the day goes and in us. Don't get me wrong, the day is not always smooth. At times it gets downright crazy, but the right CHOICE makes it a lot easier in the rough places.

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Dr. Dennis Petty
Dr. Bobby Roberson
Dr. Ralph Sexton, Jr.

I CHOOSE TO READ THE SCRIPTURES and PRAY

DAILY before I do anything. If I sleep later than normal, it does not, cannot, matter. Without the morning Bible reading and prayer time, there is not a chance of a decent day. The sign in my office everyone sees when they walk in reads "A day hemmed in prayer seldom unravels." Frankly, I will not even take a chance anymore. I wish I could tell you it has always been that way, but that would not be true. Lesson learned, choice made.

As part of my daily routine at my previous job of thirty years at Roberds, we had morning prayer in my office before we started the day. About ten of us would join hands and pray. One afternoon in June of 2000, a call came from our CFO in Ohio. He said he understood I was having prayer meetings in my office. I told him, "Yes, we pray for each other and the business." He said, "Jerry, you know I love you (and I knew he did) but I cannot let you do that. If I do, then I have to let others do their thing." I well remember the conversation. I said, "Bob, if you take God's hand off this



business, we will lose it." The last four words that man ever spoke to me were, "I can't help it," and six months later we were in chapter 13 bankruptcy. Twenty-eight stores in four states were done, and thirty years of work went down the tubes. He made the *CHOICE*. I remember telling the Lord when I came home that last day, "I never want to be in the furniture business again." But the Lord always knows what we need and where we are at our best.

Six months later, God *CHOSE* to send me to Underpriced Furniture. (It was Home Styles then). My entire life took a turn for the better that morning, November 7, 2000, as I *CHOSE* to say yes to the invitation to join the team. At Thanksgiving time, we were having our get together in the breakroom when Mike Hall, our owner, asked me to pray, and I almost broke out in tears.

As I pulled up to the showroom a few months later, I remember telling the Lord, "Thank You for not listening to me." I have told Mike that on more than one occasion. Whoever dreamed 18 years ago that the Lord would lead



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Kevin Hembree, Pastor

me to a place where I could be what He wanted me to be and on a job? But He did and has.

**Underpriced Furniture** is a dream come true for me. Prayer is a thread throughout the company. Before every Saturday morning meeting, they CHOOSE to pray. Before our Christmas get together, our owner CHOOSES to pray. As I work with new employees the last thing I CHOOSE to say is, "Whether you like it or not, when I go home tonight, your name will go on my prayer list. With the Lord's help, every Saturday morning your name, along with all 160 of our employees, will be called out to the Lord."

I still smile as I remember a time in 2015 when we had hired a lot of new people for our delivery teams. Mike introduced me to the new employees. Before he turned the meeting over he said, "The last thing Jerry will tell you is your name is going on her prayer list," and he gave me a big hug. Glory to God! My door is never closed as I pray with our people when they have a need. Today I firmly believe our business enjoys the success we do because we pray and give God the credit.

I CHOOSE TO TITHE and give as the Lord leads knowing it is scriptural and knowing that He blesses us so that we may care for others. Ephesians 4:28, "... working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." There is no way it can be explained but the more that is given, the more that is received. There simply is no way to out give God, and believe me I keep trying. Every year as I pray the New Year in, I ask the Lord to help me give more than last year, and He never fails to show up and do just that. I CHOOSE to lay up treasure in Heaven. Matthew

6:20a, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."

I CHOOSE TO PRAY **FOR OTHERS.** As part of the **CHOICE** to pray for others, God continues to enlarge the prayer list for Saturday prayer time. It is three Excel workbooks full of missionaries and preachers God has led my way because Preacher Moore had a vision for the GPA and full of folks the Lord allows me to work with daily or brings my way. I never used to tell anyone I was praying for them. However, something was troubling Miss Bertha one Sunday morning and I told her I prayed for her every day. She said, "You need to tell people you are praying for them. It is encouraging to know that. It helps me, so it will help others." She is in Heaven today, and I thank the Lord for her gift to me. Several years ago when I was still in the choir. Cindy, our choir leader, said, "Miss Jerry, I know if no one else is praying for me, you are." What a privilege and responsibility to pray for others! It is

not to be taken lightly. In July this year, Bryan Allen joined our team and after telling him the benefits we offered, I asked if we could have prayer. He said yes. He and his wife are Christians, and he recently told me that was such a great blessing for him to start his **first** day that way. We never know what effect our prayers have on others.

Today the world seems to have forgotten the Lord. Prayer and the Bible are the last things many think about until they are in trouble. People around you should know where you stand. "If you do not stand for anything, you will fall for everything". Sadly, many say they are Christian and live for the world. I remember Mom telling us, "Your actions speak so loudly, I cannot hear what you are saying." It is a privilege to stand apart from the world as a Christian and for others to know you have CHOSEN to live for the Lord. It should be second nature and not a struggle to do so. What do your actions say about your choices? &

Today I firmly believe our business enjoys the success we do because we pray and give God the credit.

Prayer and the Bible are the last things many think about until they are in trouble.



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Dr. Victor Bledsoe, Pastor

# LETCHER INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

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# Hindered Plans?

by Dr. Travis Sharpe

Like any other mission trip, our days were numbered and our activities were tightly scheduled. There was little, if any, room for veering off course.

t was a cold January morning in 2014 when I left Alabama with my wife and son for an unexpected trip to southeast Asia. Two months earlier, Typhoon Yolanda had struck the Philippines and left a trail of destruction and death. It was the deadliest storm to make landfall in the island nation, killing at least 6,300 people and leaving thousands more homeless and in dire need of aid. I was invited on this medical and evangelistic mission that had been quickly put together by GPA representative Todd Crusenberry. My role was to tie in a disaster relief aspect to the rest of the mission. Excitement and nervousness battled for supremacy

in my mind as our twentyfour-hour journey from the United States concluded when we touched down in Cebu.

Like any other mission trip, our days were numbered and our activities were tightly scheduled. There was little, if any, room for veering off course. In order to reach our final destination, we were required to take a two-hour ferry ride across the Philippine Sea. But when we arrived at the rustic shipping port, we regretfully learned that all trips had been canceled due to another typhoon. Disappointment set in.

After spending the night in a dismal, dirty hotel, we arrived at the port early the next morning only to find hundreds of frustrated travelers who were still stranded because of the angry seas. As another round of disappointment set in, one of the pastors suggested that we make the best of the situation and pass out tracts. Then, our Filipino partner decided to hold an impromptu church service for the weary travelers. After singing some hymns, much to my surprise, I was asked to preach to the agitated crowd. Reluctantly, and nervously, I stood and began to share the plan of salvation. As I preached, I noticed some who were listening, some who were sleeping and some who were obviously trying their best to ignore

what they were hearing.

There was, however, one



curious young man who stood out from the crowd. I noticed him as he leaned against the dirty block wall to my left and hung on every word that came across my foreign lips. I could tell he was intrigued, and I began to sense that God might be speaking to his heart. When we gave the invitation, he was the first to rush toward the makeshift altar. Confessing that he needed Christ, he trusted the Lord as his Savior. His name was Gilde (pronounced Eldee). We learned that his wife was a Christian and had been praying for him to be saved for several years. Come to find out, Gilde lived on the same island where our team would be working. We introduced him to the church where he made a public profession and was baptized.

I had the privilege of returning to Bantayan island in January of 2017 and visiting the church and the families that we helped on that trip. It was a pleasure to be reunited with Gilde and his family and to learn that he has become a faithful Christian. The experience of leading Gilde to Christ taught me that sometimes God will interrupt our schedule in order to seek out one soul who is in need of him. I've learned to be sensitive to God's leading and not to complain when my plans are hindered. God might have another plan in mind! **†** 



Dr. Gary S. Moore

# of the Associate Editor –

# A NEW DAY for the GPA

"... for ye have not passed this way heretofore." Joshua 3:4



remember the very day I graduated from Liberty University. I remember the people that were with me, the speaker at commencement, the great crowd gathered for the occasion, but most of all I remember the feeling. I felt full of anticipation like I was standing at the door about to enter something wonderful, meaningful, new, and exciting. All of that was true. My life since then has had some low points but serving the Lord has been filled with more excitement and joy than I could have ever dreamed possible.

As we start this new year, I feel the same way about the ministry of *The Gospel Preacher* Association. I look at all the new missionaries who have joined us over the past year, the vision they have to reach a lost world with the Gospel, and the new, exciting opportunities that await us in the year ahead. I know in my heart we are about to move ahead as never before. We are going to have new ministry doors to open. We are going to touch more lives than ever, and we are going to find innova-

tive ways to carry the good news of Jesus to people who have never even once heard the story of redemption. This is the year to make a difference.

I trust you will take the time to keep up with what Christ is doing through this ministry of the GPA. There

are so many ways to follow us. There is a website for *The Eagle* magazine, The Gospel Preacher Association, GPA Mobilization Ministries, and GPA Youth Missions. You will also find that many of our missionaries now have their own individual websites as well. We have Facebook pages for *The Eagle*, Youth Missions, GPAMM, and almost every missionary working with us. Of course, we also have partner ministries such as Unsheltered International and BEAMS ministry. There

> are also opportunities to serve in short term mission work whether you want to serve a few days or two years. What I'm say-

ing is that there are more ways to serve and stay informed than anyone would have dreamed possible just a few years ago. You can know just how to pray for the work.

The outreach ministry of the GPA is alive and growing. Come along and join us on this journey of service for Christ. In 2018, we are going to go where we have never been before! \$\frac{1}{2}\$





We are going to touch more lives than ever. and we are going to find innovative ways to carry the good news of Jesus to people who have never even once heard the story of redemption. This is the vear to make a difference.









# **UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS**











# January 28-February 2, 2018: Evangelistic Campaign

We will be partnering with Billy Sampson and Unsheltered to minister to the needy in New Orleans, LA with preaching the Gospel, medical screenings, and feeding the homeless in the community.

# February 8-17, 2018: Honduras Evangelistic Trip

GPA Mobilization Ministries will be taking an evangelistic team to Comayagua, Honduras to work with Missionary Arvil Smith in his Christian school, church and children's home. For more information, www.gpamm.com

# March 15, 2018: 10th Annual GPA Mission Partner's Dinner

The Palm Court-DoubleTree Resort, 7:00 PM Admission is FREE, but you must request tickets For more information, mercyproject@live.com

# April 28, 2018: Resource Clinic at City Gate Rescue Mission

GPA Mobilization Ministries will again partner with Unsheltered International. Together we will provide Gospel preaching, prayer, and counseling for the homeless and poor in the City Gate Community.

# June 11-14, 2018: GPA National Camp Meeting

Galilean Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, GA Dr. Tolbert Moore, Moderator—Dr. Rex McPherson, Host Pastor For more information, call 770-995-7045

# June 21, 2018: 10th Annual GPA Golf Tournament

1:00 PM tee off

Pilgrim's Oak Golf Club, 1107 Pilgrim's Pathway, Peach Bottom, PA 17563 Visit www.gpamm.com for more information

Dr. Garv Moore, Pastor

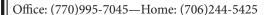
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Dr. Dennis Petty



# Just What You Need by Dr. Gary S. Moore

hrough the years I have been to a lot of mission conferences, some as a pastor hosting the visiting missionaries, some as a missionary seeking support, and many as a speaker, invited in because of my current role in the GPA. More than once, I've heard a pastor say, "I've never met a missionary who didn't have a need."

I understand what is meant by that, but the real truth of the matter is everyone has a need. As humans, we are needy creatures. In our lives we will often reach out to those we know and love to help supply the need we have, whether that need is physical, emotional, or spiritual, because in our need we naturally reach out.

The wonderful truth in all this is that God in Christ Jesus has made provision to meet every need we have or ever will have. Our need-meeting God stands ready to supply the needs that seem to be weighing us down. I know that feeling of weakness. The Scripture reminds us, in that time in life when we feel vulnerable and hopeless, that our God shall supply all our needs.

Our Lord is not only there to meet our needs, He is also there to identify our needs. God has a design to meet the genuine needs of our life, but He is more than just a resource to fill a need. Our greatest need is not financial. It cannot be supplied by those people with wealth,



Our needmeeting God stands ready to supply the needs that seem to be weighing us down.



One of the biggest problems we face is that often we misidentify our need. We are asking for one thing when really we need something else.

influence, power, or prestige. It's not something a loved one, a spouse, or a close friend can supply for us. Our greatest need is Christ Himself. We need a Saviour and Redeemer. a Divine Friend, a love that goes beyond human ability, and a peace that passes understanding. We have a need that is as deep as the soul, and only God through Christ Jesus can meet that need. Once saved, we need to remain aware that Christ is still the answer to our need all our needs of life. Through the Holy Spirit abiding in us, we find guidance, understanding, and hope in every situation and circumstance we face.

One of the biggest problems we face is that often we misidentify our need. We are asking for one thing when really we need something else. These are the times when Christians get frustrated because it appears to them that God is not answering their heartfelt prayer. They examine themselves to make sure they are not harboring some unconfessed sin. They review their method of approaching God in prayer. They wonder if they just don't have enough faith to break through to the Father. After all this soul searching,

they decide God is either not listening or not interested in their struggle. Discouragement sets in, and if not addressed it will soon turn to bitterness.

All through this process God is waiting and working to reveal to them that the answer they seek addresses the wrong need. The Holy Spirit will then reveal what the real need is, then the answer may be right before their eyes.

This may be a poor illustration but I'll use it nonetheless. When a person has wasted themselves in an addiction to their drug of choice, the high no longer satisfies, and only pain and ruin come from their uncontrollable desire. When down in the gutter, broke, sickly, and near starvation, they long for another fix. They are sure this is just what they need and will even say to anyone who will listen, "You know what I need!" But, of course, we all know that the thing they long for, the thing they will steal or, in some cases, even kill for is not what they need. Until they realize that they have misidentified their need and seek help in breaking the addiction, they remain sick and frustrated. I believe that often it takes Divine intervention in that life to awaken them and restore their health and well-being.

This new year (2018) let's stop trying to force God to supply our self-designed needs and let Him reveal what the real needs are. Then, as we pray in faith, we will find that "... God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." He knows just what you need—every time. "



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# Gospel Preacher Association Missionary Journal

"As an eagle stirreth up her nest..." Deut. 32:11

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# Introducing the newest GPA Missionary . . . Don Weeks

# EXTREME MI

M

# EXTREME MISSION EVANGELISM AS A PRAYER

Missionary zeal is a fervent, compelling desire to reach the uttermost for Christ, to preach where no one is preaching and to reach where no one is reaching. It compels us to win the isolated soul who has not heard about Jesus, and will not hear, unless I personally go and tell them. I want to be an EXTREME MISSION EVANGELIST.

# EXTREME MISSION EVANGELISM AS A VISION

Where there is no vision, the people perish, but the people come alive when there is a vision. God allowed me to envision a young girl on the edge of the jungle washing her clothes with her mother. Who is going to tell her about Christ? Here I am. I've been serving as pastor in the United States for the past seven years. That little

girl has grown up in that time, and no one yet has told her about Christ. There are plenty of people here who can take my place as pastor. Is anyone willing to go and tell that

young woman about Christ?

EXTREME MISSION

# Evangelism as a Calling

What if I simply got on a plane and flew to the jungle?

What if I had to drive a few hours and then hike through the jungle to reach the young woman on the edge of the jungle? Perhaps I would have to find an interpreter to help me communicate with her. Maybe she wouldn't know how to read. Maybe she would not be receptive to my message. But I could try, couldn't I?

# EXTREME MISSION EVANGELISM WORKS

I did it. I got on a plane, and I found the girl on the edge of the jungle. She was a very young mother and had just given birth. There she was, rocking her newborn baby. The interpreter introduced us. He said that I was going to talk to her about something important. Then I told her about Jesus Christ. She said she understood what I was saying about Jesus. She bowed her head and prayed. I am not God, so I cannot tell you what happened in her heart, but she prayed with me. I gave her the Gospel. We gave her sparse, isolated community a Bible. In just a few days, we had walked hut to hut, village to village, and preached Christ to the isolated and hard to reach.

Here's how the most recent campaign came about. I called my GPA missionary friend, Moisés Melendez in Panama. I asked him if he knew of some people who had little to no Gospel exposure. He said that he did and that he would be willing to take me to them. He said he had a Christian friend who spoke the indigenous language. So Moisés, his friend Rogelio, and I spent the next two days in two separate, isolated villages preaching Christ. Some to whom we spoke were skeptical. Some were standoffish, and some, praise God, accepted Christ!

# EXTREME MISSION EVANGELISM AS A CATALYST

I spent one week in Panama. I left and returned. Life seemed exactly the same in our church. There were plenty of people to fill the pulpit and plenty of people to be a witness in our community. Some people didn't even know I had left. But in that short time, I had lived another lifetime. I had given the girl I had envisioned on the edge of the jungle the Gospel. She had a chance to bow her head in prayer, an opportunity to open her heart to Christ.



Not only her, but dozens of others who are isolated and hard to reach were introduced to the glorious Gospel for the first time and maybe the last time.

# **EXTREME MISSION EVANGELISM FULL THROTTLE**

My dear church knows it's best if I go full time. There are plenty of other folks who are willing to stay, but I am willing to go. I am the kid sitting in the corner of the classroom with his hand waving to the teacher, "Here am I; send me!" The Teacher is Christ. The field is the world. There has NEVER been a better time for a ministry like Extreme Mission Evangelism. There has never been a greater need to get Christ to the isolated and hard to reach.

# EXTREME MISSION **EVANGELISM TRIAGE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**

Life is short. Hell is real. We must treat those worst cases without Christ first. We live in a land where Christ's cure is available and easily within reach. I seek to take the remedy to those isolated and hard to reach. I hope to take the cure where no one else is even thinking of ministering. Why? I do it because God has placed it in my heart.

# **EXTREME MISSION** EVANGELISM LIKE A CIRCUIT RIDER

A circuit-riding preacher would mount his horse and



wave goodbye to his dear wife and children for weeks at a time. He would plow off into the wilderness to bring the Gospel to the isolated and hard to reach of his day. My circuit is global. I've traded my horse for a jet airliner. My calling is to seek the isolated few, or that isolated one, and to preach the Gospel to them personally. With the help of God in Heaven, and His people here on earth, I will reach a few isolated souls before it is eternally too late.

# **EXTREME MISSION EVANGELISM AS A WITNESS**

There is nothing, I repeat, NOTHING more exciting than living for Christ. I want Extreme Missionary Evangelism to be a witness to our generation that Christ is fully alive. I, especially, want our young people to see that Jesus is not only on the cutting edge of what's happening in our lives, He is the cutting edge.



He is the double-edged Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets, and even pro-athletes are living boring lives compared to those in the

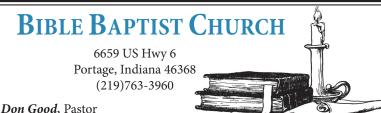
Lord's service. I am thankful for those who have served to keep our country free, but I shout, "Praise God!" for "Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:26). Every extreme sports enthusiast ought to be jealous. Every NFL athlete should feel like they went into the wrong profession. I want all believers, especially our younger generation, to see that serving Christ is meaningful, exciting, relevant, and fulfilling. Through Extreme Mission Evangelism, I seek to reach the isolated and hard to reach around the world for Christ. I also hope to inspire another generation to live for Him with 110% of their heart, soul, strength,

and mind. Does that sound

extreme? I sure hope so! ₺



There is nothing, I repeat, **NOTHING** more exciting than living for Christ.



# SANDY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH Dependable-Fundamental-Premillennial

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Byron A. Lee, Pastor

# Mercy's Vessel Update

by Captain Buddy Puryear



We started in March with the overhaul of the port propulsion diesel. We did an in-place overhaul replacing the pistons, rings, liners, and bearings. Jay Edwards and I then worked on aluminum corrosion in the main cabin. There was a good amount of it, and it took us quite awhile, but the cabin is much stronger now as a result of this work. The shipyard repaired holes in the steel decking in the main cabin, moved the support columns to prepare for rebuilding the cabin, and then moved the rear wall to increase the size of the main cabin. Next the shipyard worked on re-routing the diesel exhaust. We switched the exhaust from a dry exhaust to a wet exhaust system to make more room for the interior construction. Our propellers were removed and sent to a vendor to be cleaned, checked, and polished. The shafts were removed to allow the bearings to be replaced. Two five-hundred-gallon tanks to hold our freshwater were installed, and two more were put into the sanitary compartment to act as our septic tanks. The waste water tanks required a valve to be put

at sea and a separate valve to allow pumping the tank in port.

Frank Olafson from Neuse Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, agreed to build the new interior of the main cabin and the second deck that we volunteers added to the boat. Paul Pecou from Sardis Lake Baptist came to the boat in June and worked until the end of October. Paul did our plumbing, built the second deck, worked on re-wiring the diesel instruments, and put in new instruments in the pilothouse. These two men were an answer to prayer. Mike Woznak from Neuse Baptist was there frequently to assist Frank and to do a lot of odd jobs that needed to be done. Mary and I did a lot of deck grinding on the interior and exterior in addition to working on every other aspect of the project. We just went where we were needed.

Later in the summer, the shipyard finished work on the fuel tank expansion, and we were able to close out the tank. The shipyard welder welded the seams on the upper deck. (We built it out of galvanized steel tubing clad with aluminum sheeting. We riveted the aluminum to the steel but then welded the aluminum sheets together and to the aluminum deck.)

Four churches came for a week each to help work on the boat. They were Centerville Baptist of South Boston, VA, Good News Baptist from Chesapeake,



VA, Unity Baptist from Ripley, MS, and Sardis Lake Baptist from Sardis, MS. Unity and Sardis Lake also sent two men for several days each earlier in the year. Volunteers also came for a day at a time from Nottingham Missionary Baptist in Nottingham, PA, and the Christian Life Center of West Grove, PA. These folks were a tremendous blessing and were a great encouragement to those of us who worked long term on the boat.

In September, we sandblasted the hull and then put on primer. Additionally, we put the anti-fouling paint on the bottom of the hull. Later in October, we sandblasted the deck and inside of the splash rail and primed those areas.

We have stopped work for this year. The boat can be put in the water now, but in the spring, we will have about six weeks of work to make it ready to sail. Volunteers should be able to do just about all the work leaving little, if any, work for the shipyard. Praise the Lord! 🕆





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# FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH



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in to allow draining the water



# Prophecy

by Dr. Edwin G. Moore European Director for the GPA

t seems much prophecy preaching is concerned with every gnat that falls dead in Israel. I have heard that buzzards are being born by the thousands supposedly to clean up the carnage from the battle of Armageddon. I have heard the antichrist was this man or that man from Henry Kissinger to Barack Obama. I have lived through about six "ends of the world" and have heard about four dates for the rapture. The prophecy preachers were all excited about the red heifer. As it turned out, after all the hype about its prophetical meaning, it had a white hair. Some have said you can no longer spend US dollars in Israel. I plan to visit Israel soon, and the tour guide tells us to bring fistfuls of dollars. It seems we have a hunger for the sensational at the expense of revealed truth.

The Babylonian captivity gave rise to Gentile world governments. It was as if God said, "Time out, Iew. Time in, Gentile." We have witnessed the rise and fall of those Gentile world governments. Babylon was the head of gold, the best. Then came the Medo-Persian empire represented by the silver but inferior to gold. Then arose the Greek (brass) empire followed by the iron legions of Rome. All passed as prophesied. Where are we today? We are living in the toes of iron and clay, and it stinks.

Daniel's clear prophecy seems to have been put on the back burner, and yet we are currently witnessing the clearest fulfillment of it as any in Scripture. In Daniel, we see clearly that Gentile governments are going to become more and more inferior from the head of gold down to the iron and then the clay. All we have to do is look at Gentile governments today to see that they are in a mess. Corruption is rampant. The citizens are up in arms. Our leaders fiddle while Rome burns. In the USA, if it was not so serious, it would be laughable. Congress is like a group of kids on the ball field. They are not interested in anything but staying in power. If the Democrats are for it, then the Republicans won't have it and vice versa.

In Daniel chapter seven, we see the four beasts also representing Gentile governments beginning with an eagle and devolving to a terrible beast. We have witnessed much change in governments today. It seems heathenism, murdering citizens by gun, gas, and starvation is in vogue. Riots, looting, and

murder taking place in our cities have become commonplace, and authorities seem helpless. One is nervous about attending public events for fear of life.

II Timothy 3:1-7 describe living in the toes. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection. trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

All these prophecies seem to be fulfilled. The world is looking for a man with the answer, and I believe the world is ready for the antichrist. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus. ₽

Where are we today? We are living in the toes of iron and clay, and it stinks.



# Rev. Jerome McNeese

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"As an eagle stirreth up her nest . . . Deut. 32:11



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