

**Hickory Grove church of Christ**  
1131 Hickory Grove Rd.  
Almo, KY 42020-9332

**Return Services Requested**

**Sunday Services:**

*Bible Classes*

**Worship 10:00 a.m.**

**9:00 a.m.**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday:**

*Bible Study*

**7:00 p.m.**

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Almo, KY  
Permit No. 10

—*Reader Response Continued*

“Dear brethren, I am fascinated each time I have opportunity to see any copy of *Banner of Truth*. I am encouraged by your firm stand for the truth of God’s word. The few copies that I see I do read, pass it on to my friends, as many as want to read. I have never seen any current edition and am sure I will be the more blessed if I have access to these. The one I’m just reading was sent to another brother, and I’d say by chance, it is June 2002, Vol. 11, no. 6. I am interested in receiving copies from you and share it to others in this part of the world. I am a preacher of the gospel and just about five years old in the church. I have been a denominational preacher for about 25 years. I also have a radio program called ‘Moments of Truth.’ I discuss what I read from *Banner of Truth* on this programe. Great revival work is going on here right now and if your congregation is also interested in mission work in Nigeria, there is a great open door – **Samuel Agada.**” – **Nigeria.** *(We will be sending you some back issues of *Banner of Truth*, and also put you on our mailing list to receive each issue. We can send 16 copies each month if you can make use of them. – Editor).*

“Wish you all a happy & prosperous New Year 2004, from all the churches of Christ in Andhra Pradesh, South India, and especially at the Totamoola church of Christ. We are so glad to receive your ‘**Banner of Truth.**’ We thank you very much for sending. All the contents in your documents are very informative, and very useful. Your printed materials are helping my Bible knowledge to grow, handle the scriptures fairly, make difficult subjects easier to understand, very helpful for knowing how to live better, very helpful in handling Bible classes, church services, public gospel meetings. As a matter of fact, they are the good source to us to give answer to the denominational preachers and others. This is all because of your, cooperation, encouragement in the Lord. We appreciate you and your efforts, and services in our prayers to the Lord. Keep us in your regular mailing list. Our family members, church members, Bible Study Students, fellow-preachers and our friends are conveying their New Year Greeting and thanks to all. Convey our special thanks to the elders at Hickory Grove...” – **K.M. Ratna Kumar.**” – **South India.** *(Thanks for your letter. May the Lord richly bless you and the brethren in this New Year – Editor)*

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Visit BOT at David Lemmons’ web at:

<http://www.hcis.net/users/dlemmons/BOTlist.htm>

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**Is Your Address Changing???? - Editor**

*Vol. 13*

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*No. 1*

## **Twelve Year Reflections on *Banner of Truth***

For more than thirty years I have produced a church bulletin, during most of which time it was mailed to a number of people, usually not more than a few hundred at most. It has been my purpose to use this means as a teaching tool, not just an announcement sheet. There is much evidence that the printed page is still a most effective means of communication, as that which is in print can be read and studied year after year.

It has always been my practice to use as much of my original material as possible; not that we think we can do better than others, rather, it is a matter of putting material before readers that has not been circulated many times. When we do use the writings of others, it is gratifying when that material is original. There can never be too much original material if it is what it should be in view of New Testament teaching. We have been exhorted by positive reader response; some negative response is expected and some has been received.

Twelve years ago, *Banner of Truth* had its beginning, with a circulation of about 230. From its beginning the paper has grown. The

circulation is now just over 7,000, and continues to increase steadily. The size of *Banner of Truth* has increased to 16 pages.

The paper is now mailed to just about every state in the U.S., and to a number of foreign countries. Just within the past few days, we have received requests from Denmark and Nepal to be added to our mailing list. We have already been sending to people in several places in Africa, the Philippines, Malaysia, India, and other countries. Other modern electronic means of communication have worked well for us, too. Brother David Lemmons carries BOT on his website.

Our response from all countries and here in the U.S. has been most encouraging, being at least 95% positive, but probably more. We receive numerous requests for permission to copy material from the publication. We encourage our readers to use the material we publish.

From the beginning of producing a bulletin, we have intended to uphold God’s truth and to oppose that which is error. We believe this to be the pattern in the New Testament, and that it is still as valid now as it was then. ...Page 2

## BANNER OF TRUTH

Published by the  
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church of Christ

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Published monthly and sent free to interested persons. Made possible by the contributions of congregations and individuals. Our purpose is to: 1) Teach and uphold God's truth; 2) Encourage mission efforts to seek the lost; 3) Oppose that which is "contrary to sound doctrine" and not in harmony with the "doctrine of Christ."

(Continued from page 1)

Most of the criticism we receive is of a very similar pattern. That is, just broad charges are made against us, without pointing out specifically the error. The critic almost never refers to any passage of Scripture that has been violated. It appears that some do not like some of that which is contained in the New Testament. We welcome criticism from our readers, but we believe it is fair to show us our error as per Galatians 6:1. When in error we want to be informed.

Since twelve years ago changes within the Lord's church have continued at a rather rapid pace. We quite often give attention to these changes, which are in no sense of the term for the better. Integral parts of the New Testament are the warnings sounded about false teachings and teachers. Those warnings, we believe, are to be heeded today just as they were when written. We also give attention to encouraging people to stand up for the Lord's truth. From the corners of our country, and from foreign countries we receive notes of appreciation for our stand for the truth which we demonstrate.

From the beginning of *Banner of Truth* we have made it known that the publication is offered free to those who want to receive it. That will continue to be our policy. In the early days we made some requests for financial help, but that has now been years ago. Our brethren have been so good in supplying the financial needs necessary to make our work possible. We would not want anyone to fail to receive B.O.T. due to the cost of it. Our good brethren, both individuals and congregations, make it possible for us to send it free to those who request it. Our appreciation for those supporters will never wane.

The publication of *Banner of Truth* involves many many hours of work for each issue. It takes me about a week to get it ready to print, then two full days to print it. With four to six people working, and some times more, it takes several days to get it ready to be mailed. In addition to this, I spend a few hours nearly every day, in what we might call "office work." That is, many requests are received for information, which I try to supply if I'm able. For each issue of the paper we receive up to thirty "returns" from those who have changed their address and do not notify us. We also have requests to be added to our mailing list, and other correspondence.

We greatly appreciate the Hickory Grove congregation serving as our sponsor. Our printing press is located at the church building. We also appreciate those from Hickory Grove, and from the Dexter congregation, where I preach, for their help. Without this volunteer help, *Banner of Truth* couldn't be going out to more than 7,000 readers. We shall always be thankful for our "fellow helpers to the truth."

We also appreciate those who contribute articles. We have found that not a great many capable brethren are willing to take the time necessary to write. To me there is no doubt but that we reach many more people through the written page than we have ever reached directly from preaching. We believe that many individuals could be effective in reaching people they know by writing them, and sending them written material that might encourage study.

We are so thankful for the many prayers in our behalf that we might be able to continue our work for many years. We know the time will come when it has to end, but we trust it will yet be many more years. We end our comments by saying "Thank You" to all who make B.O.T. possible. —Editor

## FELLOWHELPERS

October, November, December 2003

Alhambra church of Christ	50.00
Mrs. John H. Brown	100.00
Shirley Taylor	10.00
Elmer Scott	140.00
Pine Ridge church of Christ	150.00
Charles Scott	25.00
Robert M. Price	600.00
Julia Stevenson	20.00
Norman Slate	25.00
Charles Marchbank	20.00
Nola Campbell	20.00
Vernon & Bernice Key, in memory of brother Don Shiflett	100.00
Larry Pennington	30.00
Maple Hill church of Christ	300.00
Saks church of Christ	180.00
Jimmy Clark	8.00
West Road church of Christ	200.00
Betty Cochran	10.00
Polly Johnson	50.00
Leroy McNeely	20.00
Anonymous	5.00
Received for paper	20.00
William R. Kirby	20.00
Anonymous	100.00
Fairview church of Christ	100.00
Paul H. McCollum	30.00
Jim & Jackie Patchell	100.00
Coe Coins	10.00
Laurel Grizzell	50.00
Clarence E. Hall	100.00
Harry Hass	5.00
Kenneth D. Pylant	50.00
Harold L. Blevins	100.00
Lord's Way church of Christ	50.00
Paul & Nina Skipworth	26.00
Total contribution	2,951.00

***That ye may be fellow-helpers  
to the truth" (3 John 8)***

We never cease to be sincerely thankful for our brethren who make our work possible. It is such an honor to have them as fellow-helpers in getting the truth to those who love it. —Editor

## Banner of Truth Financial Report

October, November, December 2003

Balance on hand Oct. 1, 2003	14,840.39
Oct., Nov., Dec. contribution	2,951.00
Total Funds Available	17,791.39
Oct., Nov., Dec. Expense:	
E-mail, three months	65.85
Mailing BOT three months	2,323.80
Phone	17.94
Labels	70.38
Printer ribbons	19.74
Paper	1,600.00
Total Expense	4,097.71
Total funds available	17,791.39
Less Sept., Oct., Nov. expense	4,097.71
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 2003	13,693.68

### —Readers' Response Continued

"Greetings from Cameron. I am a minister of a congregation of about 300 in number. I will be grateful if you can send regular supply of your most interesting teaching magazine to this congregation. The postal address is: ...Thank you very much for your cooperation. In His service, Tabi Martins Ameli" — **Cameroon, Cen. Africa.** (We will be sending you 16 copies of BOT each month. You are free to copy any of the material — Editor).

"May the peace, grace and love in the Lord continue to be with you as you serve Him daily. I hope this letter finds you well in the Lord, Amen. I am a preacher at New Town church of Christ in Akim Oda, Ghana. I am married with three children. My wife's name is Joyce. I graduated from Ghana Bible College in the year 1997 and since then preaching at the above stated congregation. Since my graduation I have planted three churches of Christ with the help of the local church. I would be very grateful if you could send me your monthly 'Banner of Truth' paper. I would be grateful again if you could be part in the Lord's work here in Ghana, by way of prayers and sending tracts and books, etc. Hope to hear from you soon — **Emanuel Osei.**" — **Ghana.** (Perhaps some of our readers might be able to send you some reading materials. Therefore, I will give your address: Akim Oda, E/R, P.O. Box 508, Ghana, West Africa. May the Lord bless your efforts. — Editor).

"Dear brother and sister Naomi. How are you doing? I wanted to write to let you know I enjoy Banner of Truth so much. I want to keep it coming to me. I am sending a small check to help with the mailing of Banner of Truth... I hope you and your wife are having a good year in 2004, so far." — **Nanny Mae Philpot.** — **TN.** — See next page

but they are not the church established on Pentecost. Another denomination will ultimately emerge from the conditions extant in the church—a denomination that will include churches like Quail Springs, Oak Hills and Rubel Shelly’s church in Nashville. The division is here, but many brethren just refuse to recognize it.

Institutions of higher learning led the division of the last century and that same pattern is being followed today. The path of history is littered with colleges that not only embraced error, but dragged the church along with them. Among those are Bethany College, The College of The Bible at Kentucky University, and every college among us today. It’s time for us to understand that the church can not only exist without such colleges, but would be much better off without them. No, I am not anti-college, but I am anti-the-kind-of-colleges we have today which are unduly influencing the church and leading people into error.

— 308 S. Oklahoma, Elk City, OK 73644

### ***“I Don’t Believe in Calling Names”***

Brother Doe, just what do you mean by calling names? Just whose name do you believe should not be called? Is it your name when it is called to receive a paycheck? “Well, no, that’s not exactly what I mean.” Are you against your name being called for your vacation? “Certainly not. I’m entitled to my vacation, and I want it.” Well, do you believe your wife should call your name as her husband? “Of course I do. She better not call some other man’s name as her husband.” What about those in the church? Do you believe in calling the name of your favorite preacher? “Sure I do. He is to be commended.” Bro. Doe, what about calling the name of that preacher who teaches error when he says he thinks some of those people in the denominations may be saved? “Now, didn’t I tell you to start with that ***I don’t believe in calling names?***”

Brother Doe, am I right in concluding that you don’t actually oppose calling names, at least not all names? Isn’t it true that when you say you “don’t believe in calling names,” that you actually mean you don’t believe in critically calling the names of those who are false teachers? “**Don’t you know you are judging, and that the Bible says it is wrong to judge?**” I speak after the manner of men. —Editor

### **READERS’ RESPONSE**

“Remove our name from your mailing list” – **Chapman church of Christ** –MS. *Thanks for letting us know. – Editor*.

“We appreciate the Banner of Truth so much. We are so thankful for men such as you that are willing to stand up for the truth and the true church – **Jim and Jackie Patchell.**” – AR. *(Thanks for the encouragement. We can’t afford not to stand up for truth and the true church. It is hard to understand why so many aren’t willing to do so. Thanks so much for your help with BOT. – Editor)*.

“Thank you for another excellent issue of *Banner of Truth*. And please accept the small enclosure as payment for postage. I realize we owe you much more than this. I really liked *Oh No! The Plains of Ono* by Brock Hartwigsen. In fact, I’m going to run off extra copies for our elders. A few years ago our elders declared our church building off limits for *BOT*, but I still distribute your 10 copies among those who want them. And, I mail 3 to other congregations. Thanks for producing a good paper. And I appreciate the fact that it’s done on plain paper — not glossy or flashy. It’s not cheap. It’s frugal, something we need to be with the Lord’s money... - **Daryl Tucker.**” – Canada. *(We appreciate your getting BOT into the hands of those who want to read it. Many sincere people would profit by reading the paper, as thousands do already. But we have some who refuse BOT. Some have been throwing it into the trash without the courtesy to let us know. As to the Lord’s money, we feel that we should handle it more responsibly than our own. Our paper is produced to get a message out to people, and we are greatly please with the response we receive from our country and others. –Editor)*.

“...I love the BOT, it is the best literature I receive and I always pass it on after reading it several times. I also order the videos of the Lectureship, but I’m not passing them on anymore. I’m 76 years old, and it passes time for me, as well as enlightening for me to watch them over and over. Please send BOT to...I have been sending her some of mine, and she loves it. We both try to follow the “old paths.” I would also like for Jody to receive the November 2003 issue. I told her about the ones that explained Islam. She was very interested, but I had already given mine to someone else. Thank you for the wonderful paper – **Ina Mae Widner.**” – AR. *(We are happy to know that BOT is worthwhile to you. It is also encouraging to know of our brothers and sisters who are still endeavoring to walk in the “old paths.” I receive many responses from people in our age range (I’m 78) who still want to follow the truth that most used to follow forty or fifty years ago .I can’t understand why many no longer have this desire. Only the truth will make us free. —See Page 16*

## **An Urgent Need For Spiritual Growth And Maturity**

***That the church is suffering due to a lack of spiritual growth and maturity is evidenced by the current conditions which exist when such is the case. Yet, the means for such growth have been provided and the use of the same has been commanded. This places a serious responsibility upon Christians and also provides a great opportunity.***

God created man a dual being, body and spirit (Jas. 2:26). Growth and maturity are expected in both areas, but there are considerable differences between the physical and the spiritual. Physical growth of the body reaches it zenith and then begins a decline, whereas spiritual growth is a continuing matter as long as life lasts. It should be pointed out that though spiritual growth reaches a state of maturity known as “full age” (Heb. 5:14), there continues to be room for spiritual growth, which brings about a greater state of spiritual maturity.

Though both the physical and spiritual aspects of man are discussed in God’s revelation, there is little connection between the two, with the exception of the fact that one must reach a certain state of mental development in order to comprehend the spiritual things that are necessary for spiritual growth. Paul said, “*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things*” (I Cor. 13:11). But the instances where spiritual growth is shown to be more important than physical growth are many.

King Saul was “*shoulders and upward*” higher than any of the people (I Sam. 9:2), yet he sadly turned out to be a spiritual dwarf. Samuel “*looked on Eliab, and said, surely the Lord’s anointed is before him*” (I Sam. 16:6) but the Lord said unto Samuel, “*Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him*” (I Sam. 16:7). Paul points out the temporary nature of our physical being when he said, “*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*” (2 Cor. 5:1). Peter realized that he must “*shortly*” put off this “*tabernacle*” (2 Pet. 1:14). John was concerned that brother hat Gaius would prosper in health but he gave emphasis to the importance of

spiritual growth when he said, “*even as thy soul prospereth*” (2 John 2).

Since our physical bodies are temporary and are soon to die, even with the best of treatment, our spiritual growth and maturity must be our chief concern. From time to time we hear about the tragic starvation that affects millions in other parts of the world. Our hearts go out to those who are thus suffering and many respond by providing food for the physical bodies. At the same time, however, we are not nearly as concerned about the spiritual starvation which is plaguing untold millions upon the earth today. Physical bodies are here for only a short while but the spiritual man will never cease to exist, either in heaven or in hell. Here in our “land of plenty” we seldom see physical starvation, but people are dying of spiritual starvation all around us, all the time. A fact that makes this even more tragic is that the means for spiritual growth and maturity have been amply provided through God’s saving power, the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16). Christians have an awesome responsibility to make this spiritual food available to “*every creature*” in “*all the world*” (Mk. 16:15-16). This responsibility should also be seen as a great opportunity.

### **MEANS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH HAVE BEEN ABUNDANTLY PROVIDED**

The greatest blessing to be enjoyed in this country is not, as so many think, the world’s highest standard of living, which includes food, clothing, shelter, transportation, communication, and many other “modern conveniences.” Our greatest blessing is God’s word and the privilege we have of knowing and practicing it in order to grow spiritually. Peter expresses it this way:

# Concerning Oklahoma Christian

Jerry Brewer

*“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:3-4).*

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH HAS BEEN COMMANDED

The apostle Peter, who emphasizes the need for spiritual growth, issues a direct command that should be considered carefully. *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”* (I Pet. 2:1-2). In view of the fact that these Christians had purified their souls *“in obeying the truth”* (I Pet. 1:22) it was necessary that certain things, which would prevent spiritual growth be set aside. Note some examples.

Malice is *“Badness in quality.”—Vine’s. Lightfoot* defines it as *“The vicious character generally.”* Guile carries the idea *“To catch with a bait.”—Thayer. Lenski* says it means, *“intent to deceive and mislead others to their own hurt.”* Hypocrisies involve *“play acting.”* This is often seen when people say one thing and do another, or act one way outwardly when inwardly they are otherwise. Envy is defined by *Vine’s* as *“Displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantages or prosperity of others.”* Evil speakings involve things that are designed to do the individual harm. Lenski states it this way: *“All speaking against others that runs them down.”*

When people possess such attributes, it interferes with spiritual growth. In these *“perilous times,”* when the ideas of liberal brethren are prevailing in many areas, the above characteristics are often evident. A front of *“love”* is put on when in reality there are efforts to lead people astray. Those who stand solidly for the Truth are some times addressed in a mean spirited way. On a few occasions I have received vicious and mean responses from readers of *Banner of Truth* when there was no effort whatsoever to kindly point out wherein I was in error. Evidence of brotherly love was completely lacking. More than a few brethren are *“play acting”* and by their efforts great harm is being done to the cause of Christ. Spiritual growth and maturity are waning, not increasing at all.

The ideal for spiritual growth is to *“desire the sincere milk of the word,”* just as a newborn child

God has given us the above means of His word. The same is referred to by Paul as *“the gospel of Christ”* which is *“the power of God unto salvation”* (Rom. 1:16). Jesus refers to it as *“the truth”* which *“shall make you free”* (Jno. 8:32). Peter tells how souls are *“purified”* by God’s word, and this is indeed spiritual growth, without which spiritual maturity can never be reached.

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”*

In view of what God has done for us, the making of excuses for failure to grow spiritually is simply without any valid basis. The means have been provided and it is up to us to make use of those means whereby we may grow toward a mature state, and thereby fulfill our responsibility toward the lost of the present world, and toward the weak and unfaithful brethren who are in Christ.

Since God has demonstrated His concern for man in that He *“commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom. 5:8), and since God has provided us with the means for spiritual growth and maturity, and is *“not willing that any should perish”* (2 Pet. 3:9), it is understandable that such growth would not only be desired, but also commanded.

**Editor’s Note:** For some time brethren in Oklahoma, and others, have been concerned about the Oklahoma Christian Lectures. In an effort to let their concerns be known, the meeting in the following article was arranged. Note the following discussion:

The forum conducted by Oklahoma Christian on Feb. 13th was interesting. Shon Smith, VP for Church Relations laid the ground rules, saying the forum was about the lectureship and only comments about the lectureship would be allowed. Each person who indicated he wanted to speak when he registered was given 3 minutes. Those who attended the lectureship were allowed to speak first, and then the rest of us were given 3 minutes each. Smith told the gathering of about 200 people that no questions would be answered by the university—that they would only listen.

OC President Mike O’Neal welcomed the group and spoke at the end of the 3-hour meeting. His concluding remarks brought to mind John F. Rowe’s comments on the digressives of his day: *“So much sophistry in so small a space we have not, in a long time, lessen in a sectarian sheet of the deepest dye”* (An Apology For Sectarianism,” Christian Leader, Feb. 21, 1888, p. 4).

O’Neal said the college wants to include *“all those in the non-instrumental branch of our Restoration heritage.”* While he didn’t elaborate, that must include those who hold the A.D. 70 Doctrine, the anti-Bible class faction, the anti orphan home faction, the Premillennialist, etc., ad nauseam. After all, they are part of the *“non-instrumental Restoration Heritage.”* His Ashdodic language in reference to the Restoration is straight out of the liberal manual that denies the church is a divine institution established on Pentecost, and is merely a *“movement”* begun on the American frontier in the 19th century. Rowe also addressed that in his day: *“Alas, alas, the ‘Grand Restoration’ is only a ‘movement,’ and another denomination has been added to a troop of phantasmagoria”* (ibid.)

I was surprised that so many opposed to the error promoted and taught at OC were permitted to speak. Two speakers, including myself, spoke about the use

of Mark Henderson on the lectureship. Henderson preaches for the apostate Quail Springs church which fellowships Baptists, and he was a member of Billy Graham’s Executive Committee during Graham’s *“Mission Oklahoma City”* in June 2003. I quoted Henderson from the Daily Oklahoman in which he said, *“Billy Graham has preached the gospel to more people in the last 50 years than any other person.”* I pointed out that one who believes Graham preaches the gospel is either ignorant of Graham’s teaching or is a false teacher. That probably didn’t set well with the Quail Springs representatives who were there. I also point out that despite the claims of university officials the college is a *“resource and ally of the church,”* the college isn’t the church and the church isn’t the college. The college is not an adjunct of the church, but of the home.

Concerning David Padillo, who had been scheduled to speak, Rick Popejoy asked Smith and university officials if the exclusion of Padillo of Max Lucado’s Oak Hills *“Church”* was prompted by the fact that Padillo is a false teacher, or if it was just *“for the good of the university.”* Of course, they didn’t answer his question.

Another point brought up was the denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures in Glenn Pemberton’s class and Pemberton’s allegation that Moses did not author the book of Genesis. Of course, the officials didn’t answer that question either.

What I saw at the meeting was a microcosm of the church in our country today. A great gulf exists between those who have gone out from us and those who still hold to the ancient order. That was exactly what existed in the gathering. Brethren, we need to understand that such division exists. The *“official”* division that occurred in 1906 was many years in coming. It began in the middle of the 19th century, but was not officially recognized until 1906. Those same conditions exist among us today. The division that so many fail to recognize began in the late 1950s and 1960s and has now reached fruition. Churches such as Quail Springs bear no resemblance to that you find in the pages of the New Testament. They may call themselves a *“Church of Christ”* —Page 14

# A Super Bowl of Indecent, Vulgar, Trashy, Obscene, and Provocative Activities

The above descriptive words, and a number of others, have been used to aptly describe the content of the Super Bowl halftime show, put on by Viacom Inc., CBS and MTV. Though some of the above words are somewhat overlapping, additional words could well have been used; such was the content of the deplorable activities.

To people who still maintain a moral standard of decency this will no doubt mark a new beginning of immoral forces to completely obliterate what remains of our one time upright standards of decency. Those who would like to see serious efforts to change the course of our society must not overlook the boldness of this concerted effort.

The drift into moral corruption has been ongoing for the past few decades, but never with the present speed. That this disgraceful event has stirred up a number of people, including legislators and other officials, is indeed encouraging. Surely some will be spurred to action, other than just increasing some fines, which mean little to those involved. If this doesn't stir up those with any remaining moral sensibility, surely nothing else would. Their morals have already been banished.

While the activity has stirred up some people, and thank God for them, those who feasted on this moral scum constitute valid evidence as to just how far our society has already gone. Years ago, when emphasis upon sex began to increase rather rapidly, someone said: "No matter what time off day it is, it is always **sex o'clock**." The emphasis upon sex then, was only a drop in the bucket when compared with the present emphasis upon sex.

Our society appears to be fast becoming a "sex-mad" generation. In some circles sex seems to be the only thing of importance. TV programs, Movies, and various forms of entertainment constantly push sex. The clothing worn by many women, especially the younger ones, including teenagers, has never been so provocative as it is now. Even commercials on TV often use sex as a major part of their ads. Just take a look at the magazine stands, and take note as to how many of them are pushing sex. It seems that different

sources are vying for the position of who can emphasize sex in the raunchiest way.

The Sex Super Bowl is by no means the only sign of what is taking place in society with regard to morality. A major item in the news the past few days has been the multitudes of homosexual men and lesbians vying for a place in the lineup to buy marriage license and go through a marriage ceremony. If they were consistent, those politicians seeking a chance to run for the presidency would be among those homos to get more attention as to what they stand for. A note about this pretended marriage is that it is breaking the law and yet nothing is being done about it. Even the Governor offers not comment. If God dealt with homosexuality in a physical way now, as He did in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, a large part of San Francisco might well slide into the Pacific Ocean, or be destroyed by fire.

The saddest thing about the moral breakdown is that it represents the strongest evidence of a complete departure from belief in God. The goal of more and more people, including judges and politicians, is to completely secularize our nation. Opposition to God is being seen more and more in virtually every area of our society. In many places God is out and just about anything immoral is in. Our nation was built on a foundation of belief in the existence of God. Why is that same belief so evil today?

When God is thrown out of society, most anything is in, that can be done without being punished. The way our courts are going, it will not be long until it will be difficult to find anything wrong or "against the law." The ACLU is really taking advantage of this moral breakdown to speed up our drop to the level of heathenism, as their ungodly influence is swaying more and more people to reject God.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people [nation]" (Prov. 14:34). As righteousness disappears, sin reigns and the reproach is increased. It is a time for God-fearing people to pray for our country, and to do our part by standing strong for God's will that our nation might be exalted; greater still that souls may be saved. —Editor

desires the nourishing milk. The word desire carries the idea of earnest desire: to long for. When Christians grow tired of the wholesome, life-giving milk of the word spiritual disease or sickness is present. Death may come, and will come, if the appetite is not restored. A slackening of the spiritual appetite is evidenced by a desire for milk that has been diluted or adulterated, and does not provide spiritual growth. The prophet, Isaiah, described the Israelites as "*rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, prophecy deceits*" (Isa. 30:9-10). The "*sincere milk*" is the pure milk; it is the whole counsel of God. It has not been adulterated by the doctrines of men, nor has it been "watered down" until there is little strength left. It is only the pure milk which will bring about proper spiritual growth, and it is easy to tell when people want to grow; they want the pure milk of the word and nothing else.

The writer of Hebrews emphasizes the need for spiritual growth while at the same time warning against the danger of the lack of that growth:

*"That when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (5:12-14).*

The Hebrew Christians had not grown spiritually as they should. They should have reached a state of maturity that enabled them to teach others, but they were still on a "*milk*" diet. They were unskilled in the word, could not use "*strong meat*" and could not discern between good and evil. They were not without blame in their failure and neither are we if we fail in the same manner. Their example of failure to reach "*full age*" can be found in many places today, even when there is such great need for teachers within the church who are able to distinguish right from wrong. It is the "*faithful men*" who are to teach others, and the faithful are those who are growing spiritually. Paul told Timothy: "*And the things that thou has heard of me*

*among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" (2 Tim. 2:2). Those who have the potential to become mature, faithful teachers of God's word and fail to do so are hindering the progress of the Lord's church in a time when it is at a standstill in carrying out the Lord's purpose of propagating the "*one faith,*" "*once delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3).

Peter warns those who had "obtained like precious faith" against being "led away with the error of the wicked," and fall from their own "steadfastness." To guard against that threat he exhorts, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:17-18). In recent times an increasing number of our brethren are being led away from the truth by one means or another. Spiritual growth would have prevented this tragedy.

God, in His goodness, has blessed us abundantly in that He has provided us with the means for spiritual growth. Having thus done, and being desirous of our salvation (Jno. 3:16), He has commanded that members of His family grow. When we are disposed to be ungrateful to God, not availing ourselves of the means of spiritual growth and failing to heed the command to grow, we are inviting our own spiritual disaster and contributing to the many problems that are currently facing the body of Christ due to spiritual immaturity. A consideration of some of these problems should instill within us a greater desire for spiritual growth and maturity.

## WHEN SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS LACKING

Viewing the multitude of problems that are plaguing the church today, brethren are asking, and rightly so, "What is our problem?" If we reduce it to a single problem it would be, a lack of spiritual maturity. To this one problem may be attributed a wide variety of problems, a few of which we shall consider briefly.

**1. ENVYING, STRIFE, DIVISIONS** resulted in the church at Corinth due to carnality. Paul had fed them with "*milk*" because they were not able to take "*meat.*" They had not grown spiritually as they should (I Cor. 3:1-3). When brethren "*walk as men*" today the same results will follow as in the days of Paul. Truth does not produce strife and division; it is when truth is replaced by the ways of men —Page 6

that such occurs. Spiritual maturity respects God's truth and it is the lack of such maturity that has fostered division in many congregations of God's people.

**2. FAILURE TO WALK WORTHY** may be attributed to the absence of knowledge and respect for God's will. Paul prayed for and desired that the Colossians "*might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing; being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God*" (Col. 1:9-10). The lack of study which is necessary to gain the proper knowledge of God's word (2 Tim. 2:15) is having a telling effect. Coupled with the lack of knowledge is a lack of respect for that which is known. Self deceit results when people are not "*doers*" of the word, but "*hearers only*" (Jas. 1:22). People used to ask, "How could Pat Boone go into Pentecostalism?" He had enough knowledge to know better, but evidently did not have proper respect for what he knew. This happens quite often. It is hard to believe that some of our brethren today do not have the knowledge to know that their actions are not in harmony with the teaching of God's word.

**3. THE WEAK ARE NOT RESTORED OR STRENGTHENED** by the spiritually immature. Paul commands: "*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness...*" (Gal. 6:1). Note that it is the "*spiritual*" (mature) brethren who have the responsibility, not the weak brethren. If all those who have grown weak and died (spiritually) could be restored, as we have the responsibility to try to do (Jas. 5:19-20), the church buildings in many places would not hold the crowd for services. But there are not many spiritually mature who are devoting their efforts to the task.

**4. WRONGDOING IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE** when brethren are spiritually weak. When members of the church do that which is wrong there is evidence of spiritual sickness. Spiritual sickness, if not cured, will result in death. The spiritually immature cannot be counted upon to apply God's remedy. "*All the counsel of God*" (Ac. 20:27) is not applied in the proper dosage. "*False brethren*"

may be "*Given place by subjection*" (Gal. 2:5), thereby not "*allowing the truth of the gospel to continue.*" Man's wisdom often refuses to solve problems by "*nipping in the bud*" for fear of making someone unhappy. It is tragic that the immature are often willing to offend the Lord rather than offend some wrongdoer, but so it goes. When wrongdoing cannot be corrected, God's remedy is "church discipline," even to the point of withdrawing fellowship. Note such passages as: Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 5; Thess. 3:6; 2 John 9-11. But this "forgotten command" is not likely to be obeyed by the immature, and there are few who are mature enough to respect God's will in this important matter.

**5. A LACK OF LOVE WHICH "REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY"** (I Cor. 13:6) is evident among the spiritually immature. Pure love, that which we are to have for God and our brethren, has no pleasure in that which is error, much less rejoices in it; it rejoices in the Truth. Peter says, "*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently*" (I Pet. 1:22). A lack of this love is often reflected in a lack of love and appreciation for God's truth. Love, in its highest form, is often replaced with a perverted love which condones evil rather than oppose it. John says, "*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments...*" (I Jno. 5:3).

**6. A LACK OF STABILITY** is a sure sign of spiritual weakness. James says, "*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways*" (Jas. 1:8). To be "*double minded*" is to be unsteady, fickle and undependable. One of the qualifications of a deacon is that he be "*not double minded*" (I Tim. 3:8). The one who lacks maturity is likely to sway with the wind, to follow the majority, and be conspicuously absent when there is a need to "*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3).

**7. "THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS"** may seem reasonable to those who have not grown spiritually as they should. Some think that if the motive is right and the end is right, all means are permissible. There is little doubt but that those with

## "You Say It Best When You Say Nothing At All"

Alan Adams

Alison Krauss and the *Union Station* sing a beautiful song, the refrain of which uses the words of our title. In this article, however, we have a bit different application in mind as intended by the song, but a pertinent one nonetheless.

We cannot infer from a person's absence of something meaningful to say that he is not going to say anything; rather, that seems to be the very occasion to which many rise to say the most.

When news of the Pentecost events (Acts 2:1-6) "was heard, the multitude came together" where the apostles had an unusual speaking engagement. The auditors reasonably assessed certain facts: **A.** The speakers were "all...Galilaeans" (7), and **B.** The speakers were addressing the multitude using the various native languages of those gathered so that "every man heard them speaking in his own language" (6), and **C.** The speakers were fluently addressing some heady thoughts about the "mighty works of God" (11). Equally reasonably, the auditors could not pass this off as some purely natural event, rather they were "confounded," "amazed," they "marveled," and were "perplexed" (6,7,12). And most reasonably they asked, "What meaneth this?"

What did it mean? A reasonable person would conclude that the event was impossible in the course of nature, and therefore a supernatural event. But, not all people are reasonable. Perhaps not liking the subject matter and its application to themselves, some actually suggested that this immediate linguistic fluency of these Galileans had been induced by their being "filled with new wine" (13). There you have it: Absent something meaningful to say, just say anything.

A friend of the BOT has written with grave concerns over the "weak and sickly" churches in his area. He has visited many congregations seeking a home, and place to worship and serve God, yet has been frustrated by the seemingly ubiquitous liberal doctrines and practices among us. He has, to no avail, pleaded with brethren "to confront the liberal movement." He says that "more than once" he has been told, "We don't want to give them publicity."

Here is yet another case of the just-say-anything approach to the Word of God. In light of Bible teaching, it makes no sense at all.

The Bible speaks of: "false: Christs, apostles, prophets, teachers, and brethren" (Mk 13:22; 2Co 11:13; Rev 2.2; 1Jno 4:1; 2Pe 2:1; Gal 2:4); "deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ" (2Co 11:13). It addresses the reality of those that "are causing division and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned" (Rom 16:17); it describes their beguiling ways: "they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent" (v. 18). The Spirit records for all posterity and, I might add, *publicity* the very names of such destructive brethren: Demas, Alexander, Hymenaeus, Philetus, Phygelus Hermogenes.

How does a reasonable person just dismiss such a serious obligation by saying, "We don't won't to give them publicity?" Is that supposed to just trump all that the Bible says on the matter? What do these passages mean? Do you listen to yourself speak? Do you think at all about what you say? *Publicity* has to do with bringing something to the attention of people. Have you never read, "mark them," or "when ye are gathered together...deliver such an one unto Satan" (Rom 16:17; 1Co 5:4-5)?—*Don't want to give them publicity?*—Indeed.

Why shouldn't really reasonable people simply conclude that this whole *Don't-Want-to-Give-them-Publicity* is simply an ostensible attempt to show concern for things all the while retreating from serious duty and obligation?

The Bible is not at all unclear as to the disposition of false doctrines and their purveyors. For people who evidently do not understand, or do not intend to do what the Bible says, the noble—no, make that the *least* ignoble—thing for them to do is to just say nothing; but alas, they seemingly just cannot bring themselves to do that. A fair assessment of, and admonition to such people is: "You say it best, when you say nothing at all." —1653 Pine Lane Dr., Cantonment, FL 32533

—Cont'd from page 9

Christian doctrine and Gandhi's methods to shake the foundations of a cruel and discriminatory system that denied a good portion of this nation's people their God-given rights.

His success came at the price of his life on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, where the leader had traveled to stand in support of striking sanitation employees.

"He was a 20th century prophet of social justice, a blazer of trails who died for what he believed," Stevenson said.

"The children of Israel kept a record of God's dealing with them. So, lest we forget from whence we came, we should always recall Dr. King's birthday," he said. Martin Luther King, Jr. had seen signs of victory. He revealed that in his speech. He longed for justice for all mankind, sanctioned by God Almighty. And we will keep struggling for that."

Following the service, those attending enjoyed a luncheon prepared and donated by Wal-Mart and served by members of the church." [End of article].

EDITOR'S NOTE: The right of citizens to celebrate the birthdays of people they consider to be of importance is one of the rights we still maintain in this country. The birthdays of several well-known people of our country are celebrated, in addition to that of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Things we have the freedom to do in the civil realm are by no means approved as acts in the realm of the spiritual, as is revealed in the New Testament. The first day of the week is a day on which our Lord Jesus Christ is to be remembered, but by observing the Lord's Supper, but not as His birthday (I Cor. 11:25-26). We celebrate July 4th but not in the realm of religion.

The Exchange Street congregation's *activity* was a transgression of New Testament teaching relative to the work of the church. It comes under none of the three God-approved works: Evangelism, Edification, or Benevolence. This would have been going beyond the "doctrine of Christ" if it had involved only the members of the church at Exchange Street.

There is another important aspect to be considered. God has a law on fellowship. That law is to be respected as well all the other laws of God for people in this Christian dispensation. Where is the authority for being a part of and having fellowship with those of a "ministerial association"? To fellowship

those of the Missionary Baptist Church is to bid "God speed" to them. This implies that these people are true Christians, as well as those of the Lord's blood-bought church. To equate a church bought by the blood of God's Son (Acts 20:28) with a man-made religion is a serious affront to God and His Son. When such as the above occurs, our Lord must surely be brought to tears. If not, why not?

As sad as the above example is, that our brethren are turning to the denominations and engaging in fellowship with them, sadder still is the fact that this is happening more and more all over the country. Due to my work with *Banner of Truth* I am much more aware of this tragedy than are most members of the church. Some, but not nearly all, members of the church hear of such things as Max Lucado and his congregation removing "Church of Christ" from their church building. There is also Rubel Shelly that has gone full course for denominations. There are many others less well known.

Of note was the rather recent action of the Reidland church of Christ, here in West Kentucky. The small add below appeared in a newspaper religious section: It said:

"All Reidland churches are invited to an evening of thanksgiving at 7 p.m. Tuesday at **Reidland Church of Christ**, according to the RUMC Weekly Newsletter of **Reidland United Methodist Church.**"

A version of the above ad appeared in a publication of the "**SALT AND LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH**"—

Reidland Churches

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This Year, The Annual Community Thanksgiving service will be held at the **Reidland Church of Christ.**

Reidland Church of Christ is located at 5500 Kentucky Dam Road. The Service will be held on

**Tuesday, November 25th, and will begin at 7 PM**

a right motive have contributed greatly to the variety of unscriptural innovations that are now seen within the church. Due to a lack of knowledge they are not aware that we must have scriptural authority for that which we practice. What a great blessing it would be if all our brethren would take note of what the apostle Paul said in Colossians 3:17: "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*" This rules out everything that is by the authority of Christ. We must never act upon the basis of what pleases us, but rather upon *that which pleases God*. The spiritually mature recognize this. However, not all who practice the philosophy that "the end justifies the means," are unlearned in the word. A case in point is seen in the efforts of some of our brethren to uphold the use of women translators before mixed audiences. Their attempt at justification is in some instances, "If we don't use them, we can't teach." When "the end justifies the means" philosophy is practiced, there is evidence of a disregard for God's word as our only source of authority in religious matters. This is spiritually immaturity at its worst.

**8. LACK OF COURAGE TO REPENT** may characterize the spiritually immature. Though the necessity of repentance is clearly set forth, it is not unusual for supposed repentance to be nothing more than a farce. For example, when one says, "If I have done anything wrong," a lack of acknowledgement of sin is evident. True repentance acknowledges sin. True repentance does not try to uphold wrong or justify sinful action. Neither does it try to justify any wrongdoing by blaming someone else.

Brethren, we need to get back to THE BOOK. We need to rely upon the "*sincere milk of word*" to produce spiritual growth. We, as God's people are being "*destroyed for lack of knowledge*" as in the days of the prophet Hosea (4:6). Until we commence to grow spiritually our problems can only increase and become more pronounced.

As society generally goes, so the church is going in indifference and inattention to those thing which are of the greatest importance. We have been so abundantly blessed with the means to grow and mature in the faith by which we are saved.

—Walter W. Pigg

## Notice! Notice!

This note is being written February 2, "Ground Hog Day." My reason for writing is to explain why we have been so late in getting the December issue of *Banner of Truth* in the mail. The method that I have been using for years to make my plates for printing on the offset press, has become obsolete. This hit me by a big surprise. Since I learned of this problem, I have been trying to find another method of making plates for printing. I thought I had things worked out here in Murray, only to learn the person that was to make the plates didn't know how to do them. At this time I am expecting to receive the plates, made by our brother and good friend, Jimmy Bates, of Nettleton, MS.

This is the January issue of BOT, and I want to be able to get it out soon after the December issue. I still have good intentions of catching up in my work, but this has been a setback.— *Editor*

## Fourth Annual (2004) *Banner of Truth* Lectures Murray, KY June 14-17 Theme: God's Inspired Word A Discussion of Bible Texts

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### Speakers Confirmed:

**David Lemmons, Don Greene, Leon Cole, Michael Willey, Paul Curless, Richard Guill, Rick Knoll, Joe Spangler, Bill Willard, Jimmy Bates, Jeff Bates, Lindon Ferguson, Roger Campbell, Alan Adams, Ken Burleson, and others pending.**

**Bible texts to be discussed will be stated in the next issue of *Banner of Truth*. Make plans now to attend this spiritual feast.**

**It's day one the world is dark, God made light:** Close your eyes and ears and tell me what you see and hear. Before God made everything the world was dark. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of creation, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God divided the light from darkness and called the light Day and the darkness Night.

**On day two He made the heavens in the sky:** Have you ever looked up in the sky at the clouds and pretended that the shapes were different animals? Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of creation there were no clouds in the sky. God divided the waters and made the sky and the clouds in the sky. "When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:" (Prov. 8:27-29).

**Day three brings plants and trees, and the grass that we see:** How would you feel if you looked outside and nothing was growing? Think of all the things we wouldn't have to eat or be able to do. Do you have a bicycle? Did you know that some bicycle tires were made from a rubber tree? On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of creation God also gathered the waters in one place and let the dry land appear. He called the dry land Earth and the waters Seas.

**Day four God made the Sun and Moon and Stars:** Can you see better with the light from the sun or from the moon? God made the greater light, the sun, to rule the day, and the lesser light, the moon, to rule the night. The sun serves another purpose. Did you know that our bodies get vitamins from the sun? The plants get their green coloring from the sun. The sun and moon are also signs for day and night, for seasons, and years. (*Have you ever heard the story of the day the sun stood still? Joshua was in a battle against the Amorites and the Lord made the sun stand still until the battle was won.* (Joshua 10:12-14).

**Day five God made the fish and birds:** Do you like to go fishing? When God made the fish, He made them so that they could breathe in the water. Just like us, fish need oxygen to survive. God made them gills that absorb oxygen out of water. (*Do you know the story about the big fish that swallowed a man? He stayed in the belly of the fish for 3 days and 3 nights.* (Jonah 1:17). God also made the birds on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of creation. Have you ever wanted to fly like a bird? God made them special so they could fly.

**Day six God made the animals and man:** On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation, God made puppy dogs and kitty cats. He made elephants and tigers and lions; cattle, beasts, and all creeping things. God wanted to make man in His image to rule over the animals. He made man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nose the breath of life. God then brought all the animals to the man for him to name. Did you know that a cat and other animals are called what they are because the man (Adam) named them? God wanted Adam to have a helper. Do you know of anyone who has ever had surgery? A doctor will put them to sleep and operate. God put Adam in a deep sleep and while he slept took one of his ribs and made a helper for him. Adam called her Woman because she was taken out of man.

**God saw that all was good, as He looked at all He made; and the 7<sup>th</sup> day was time for God to rest:** EVERYTHING we have is because of what God did for us. God made every animal so that it would be able live in its environment. When you grow up there may be teachers or friends who will tell you that there is no God. What a foolish thing for them to say. God made EVERYTHING from NOTHING and any other explanation of why we exist starts with something. God is the ONLY power capable of making something from nothing.

**Editor: We ask our readers to let us know what you think of "Children's Corner"? It is only on the basis of the extent of interest that we would consider carrying it.**

## Does Christ Weep Over Things Which Are Now Happening In His Church?

One of the most touching times in the account of our Lord's efforts to reach the souls of men occurred when he had come near the city of Jerusalem. Though our Lord's presence brought rejoicing on the part of "the whole multitude of disciples," it was far different with the Jewish rulers of the city. Their stance was a complete rejection of the Son of God. In response to this sad condition, Luke says, "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it" (Lk. 19:41). The heart of our Lord was broken. *Lenski* says of Jesus' weeping, that he "burst into sobs." Yes, Jesus does care, and greatly.

If Jesus wept (sobbed) over Jerusalem because the people rejected Him, is it not true that the same Jesus who lives in our day, weeps when we turn away from Him and engage in things which are contrary to His will? When we reject Christ's will are we not rejecting Him, as those in Jerusalem were?

As a case in point [one of many], consider the material below, which is from *The Messenger* of Union City, Tennessee, Dated January 20:2004. The entire article is reproduced, with the exception the two pictures, one of which shows four members from the Exchange Street Church of Christ. Under the picture of four brethren are the following words:

**"DREAM SING** — Exchange Street Church of Christ members (from left) Fred Hancock, Jason Kendall, Ted Foster and James Bruce provided the music for Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. The church hosted the event, which was sponsored by the Obion County Ministerial Association."

—The headline and the entire article are as follows:

***MLK Jr. Day: Large crowds reflect, while looking to the future***

**By GLENDA H. CAUDLE Special Features Editor**

"It was a day of celebration, thanksgiving and hope.

Celebration of a life sacrificed in the pursuit of justice and equality; thanksgiving for a nation changed radically in the lifetime of many of those assembled for the service;

hope for a future that will complete the dream for all mankind.

One of the largest crowds to attend a Martin King Jr. Day celebration locally assembled at Kiwanis Park and , with brisk temperatures to encourage them on their way, marched and sang down Union City streets to Exchange Street Church of Christ for a noon service honoring the slain civil rights leader, whose 75th birthday was marked recently.

Sponsored by the Obion County Ministerial Association and hosted by Exchange Street Church of Christ, the service began with rousing hymn singing led by James Bruce, a member of the church.

Brad Carman, minister at exchange Street, welcomed the diverse crowd and introduced church elder Fred Hancock, who led the group in prayer and then joined Bruce, Ted Foster and Jason Kendall in special music.

In years past, area residents have been invited to repeat the "I Have a Dream" speech that gives voice to Dr. King's hopes for his nation. This year, a video tape of the minister of peace issuing his call for freedom and justice was played for the audience.

At the close of the speech, which brought the congregation to their feet in praise and in support of the realization that Dr. King's dream, the Rev. A.E. McCadney, pastor of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church and vice president of the ministerial association, introduced Ray Stevenson, a minister at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Martin and a Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. associate.

Stevenson began his address with a reminder that men have yearned to be free since the beginning of history. He said the civil rights struggle in this nation had its genesis in the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott that resulted in the selection of Dr. King to intercede on behalf of his people for freedom and justice and freedom that had been promised every man by this nation's founders.

He recalled King's exposure to the teaching of Gandhi, the Indian practitioner of non-violence, as a tool of social change. King laid hold of —Page 10