

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where in the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste, places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

VOL. LXXX

LEBANON, MISSOURI • SEPTEMBER 2006

NO. 9

THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND WOMEN TEACHERS

BY JOHNNY ELMORE

In the same way that the spirit of innovation introduced instrumental music in worship and Sunday school for teaching the Bible, it also brought about women as teachers in the church. The proponents of Sunday school or its twin sister, Bible classes, would argue that classes are not the church, but what is the church? Isn't it an assembly, met either to worship or to receive instruction? And aren't classes made up of the same people but divided into classes? Today among those who employ Bible classes, women attend their lectureships and address the women in their own lectures. But it was not always so.

Campbell on Women Teachers

In 1970, Lorraine Lollis, a member of the Christian Church, wrote a book tracing the history of women's activities in that body. She wrote: “Prevailing attitudes and practices in the churches were based firmly on Paul's requirement that women keep silent in the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 14:34-35) and on the prohibition of teaching by women found in 1 Timothy 2.” She laments: “Women found no outlet for the use of their talents, no means for the expression of their concerns. In the church they were sentenced to a life of submissiveness and idleness” (*The Shape of Adam's Rib*, p. 20.) She then referred to a response by Alexander Campbell to a brother who asked: “Have the sisters a right to deliver lectures, exhortations, and prayers in the public assembly of the church of God?” Campbell replied: “Paul says, ‘I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man; but to learn in silence.’ 1 Tim. ii. 12. I submit to Paul and teach the same lesson” (*Millennial Harbinger*, 1940, p. 44).

McGarvey on Women Teachers

J.W. McGarvey barred women from admission to The College of the Bible until 1904 when he yielded to pressure from the president of Kentucky University, of which it was a part, and admitted a young lady who was preparing for foreign missionary work. He laid down several rules that she had to follow and later in the President's Annual Report he wrote: “Someone remarked, after we had admitted some of these [women], that we will soon be turning out female preachers; but I

replied, that by the time they studied the Scriptures with us they will learn that women are not to be preachers” (Lollis, p. 20).

But they did not learn. In 1953, Dr. Riley B. Montgomery, then president of The College of the Bible wrote in answer to a letter from Mrs. James D. Wyker: “The College of the Bible accepts women for the Bachelor of Divinity degree because we believe that women should have the opportunity to share equally with men in Christian work and leadership. Among Disciples of Christ churches, women may accept calls to churches as ministers and perform all the responsibilities that are called for in the pastorate of churches” (*Church Women in the Scheme of Things*, p.14).

Arguments Made For Women Preachers and Teachers

The arguments used to counter the force of New Testament teaching on the subject of women teachers would be amusing if the consequences were not so tragic. Mrs. Wyker wrote: “We remember two statements given by a respected leader of the church, ‘Slaves, be obedient to those who are your earthly masters,’ and ‘Wives, be subject to your husbands.’ We know today that the first statement is obsolete, and we are beginning to believe the other is also.” According to her, wives do not have to be submissive because there are no slaves. She records another argument by a Methodist preacher: “Biblically, if God selected a woman to be the mother of Christ, I do not see why He cannot use other women to minister to the Body of Christ.” What logic! Of course, there is the old hackneyed argument by a Disciple preacher: “The same Paul who admonished women to be silent in the church also said that ‘there is neither male nor female, bond nor free, Jew nor Greek.’” No doubt this is the same logic that has caused some of these denominations to endorse same sex marriages—after all, if there is “neither male nor female” what difference does it make?

The real activating principle behind the innovation of women teachers and preachers is seen in a statement by Mrs. Wyker about the apostle Paul: “The same leader ordered women not to cut their hair and told them always to wear veils in public. Certainly few women who today enjoy the comfort of short hair would want to go back to those hallowed days of long tresses” (Wyker, p. 9).”

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription One Year..... \$13.00
Also On The Internet
Published Monthly by **Old Paths Advocate**, Lebanon, MO

A.C. Brockman, 2033 King James, Lebanon, MO 65536
periodical postage paid at lebanon, MO 65536
Send Form 3579 to **Old Paths Advocate**
1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550.

All articles published in **Old Paths Advocate** contain the view of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and publishers. If you have any questions, please direct them to the author listed at the heading of the article.

Editorial

AND THE BUSH WAS NOT CONSUMED

By *BENNIE T. CRYER*

Moses had fled Egypt to save his life. His flight to safety took him to the land of Midian where he married and had children. One day as he tended the flock of his father in law an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: *and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.* Exodus 3 :2. Now, for a moment, I want you to think of the bush as The Church of Christ and the fire in the midst of it the attacks of various kinds made against the church as the fire. The fire burns brightly but the bush is not consumed. The flames of persecution and false doctrine have burned in the midst of the church but the church has not burnt. If God can make a bush that will not burn though a fire is in the midst of it he has surely made a church that will not be consumed though different kinds of fire might be in its midst. He has made such a church.... *Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Matthew 16:18. Satan gave the church his best shot to try to crush it but it was built. It was not consumed. The church that Christ built is still attacked today with the fires of false doctrine along with other things. But it will not be *consumed*. It still stands.

The New Year's Meeting in Oklahoma in 1973 had as its theme *The Church...Still It Stands*. Lynwood Smith published a book in 1975 by that title that has the subjects of that New Year's Meeting in it. In the preface of the book Lynwood wrote about what I am trying to say. No one could have put it in a better way. He loves the church and that love comes through in these words: ... *THE CHURCH,--Still it Stands. There was a reason for choosing this particular theme at this time. It was due to a tendency among a few who were seeking, we feel, to downgrade the Lord's church by esteeming it no more and no higher than the man made denominations of our land. Some who were members of the church were fellowshiping and working with the same. Some were referring to the church of our day as a "splinter group " and other such defaming terms. Some were trying to convey the thought that the church has sort of dissipated into a meaningless conglomeration of beliefs, where one was as good and as 'true " as the other.*

This false teaching jars heavily upon the ears of the men who still preach the Gospel and stand up for Truth and Right. Such discordant crys [sic] shall not go unnoticed and may the advocates thereof never over estimate themselves nor their teaching so as to think themselves able to cast the Lord's people into disarray. We believe and still preach the church is as true and as
continued on page six

THE QUERIST COLUMN

By RONNY F. WADE

Question: Under what scriptural circumstances would someone need to be baptized a second or third time? Would a divorce and remarriage be 'washed away' with multiple baptisms? If not, how should we deal with congregations who accept those who are in unscriptural marriages?

Answer: There are no scriptural circumstances that call for a second or third baptism. There may be situations, however, when a person is baptized for the wrong reason, which would render the act unscriptural. Examples would be a baptism in order to get someone to marry them or a baptism just because others were being baptized, where no sincere repentance was involved. Often people request re-baptism because "they didn't understand what they were doing at the time they were baptized." That raises the question of just how much one must know in order to be scripturally baptized. Those in Acts the second chapter had heard only one gospel sermon. From this they learned they were guilty of assenting to the death of Christ, and hence sinners. Upon learning this they asked "what must we do?" When they were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, they yielded and were baptized. Their knowledge about the church, its worship and work, the duties of the Christian life etc was extremely limited or basically non-existent. From this I conclude that every sinner needs to know he/she is lost, that Jesus died for their sins, and that in order to be forgiven they must turn away from sinful conduct and be baptized in water for the remission of their sins. I can't imagine why anyone would baptize a person who did not know that, or why one would want to be baptized who did not know that. For sake of discussion let us suppose someone is baptized young in life and later decides that they did not have sufficient knowledge the first time they were baptized and desires to be re-baptized because of that fact. Then later decides they need to be baptized again a third time because they didn't understand what they were doing the previous time. Something is wrong here. In such cases baptism becomes a mockery. Such actions are totally inconsistent with bible teaching and practice.

The second question deals with the re-baptism of a person in an unscriptural marriage relationship. For example: an individual obeys

the gospel and is baptized. Some time later they divorce their companion for something other than fornication and marry again. Later they want to be re-baptized because they say they didn't understand what they were doing when they were baptized the first time. Since baptism washes away all sins, they now claim that their unscriptural marriage is sanctified and scriptural: I cannot agree with such a conclusion. The law of God that governed this marriage when it was contracted, is the same law that governs its duration and any grounds for its dissolution. Re-baptism was never intended to make an unscriptural marriage scriptural. I cannot judge the heart of the person wanting to be re-baptized, however, he/she should understand that such an act on their part is not going to mean that their marriage is now acceptable to God. Any person who holds out such a prospect to anyone in this situation is doing them a great disservice in the opinion of this writer. It should also be noted that repentance is to precede baptism. Repentance means one stops the practice of sin and changes their life. The drunkard stops drinking, the thief stops stealing, and the immoral cease committing immorality. Whatever conduct that was sinful before baptism has to be abandoned. Baptism never allows one to continue sinful behavior.

Churches that harbor and condone people in unscriptural relationships, do them a great disservice. Had the Corinthian brethren continued to approve and shield the unscriptural relationship of that brother in 1 Corinthians 5, he would have been lost. Due to their dealing with the matter in a forthright and scriptural fashion, he was saved. Any church today that "looks the other way" or openly justifies and condones unscriptural marriage relationships will have to answer to God for so doing. The words of Paul sound a warning for all time "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, not even to eat with such a person" I Corinthians 5:11. Unfortunately today some churches have allowed unscriptural marriages to go unchallenged and undisciplined, others like Corinth seem to be "puffed up and have not mourned." The results of such situations will come back to haunt us, both now and in eternity. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade 2254 E. Raynell St. Springfield, MO 65804 or clockronny@aol.com)

THE PLAN OF SALVATION: FAITH

By GREG GAY

This series covers: hearing the word of God, deciding to believe or have faith in God, repenting of sins, confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, being baptized for the remission of sins, followed by living a Godly life, in order to be saved. This article is on deciding to have faith in God.

A desired and natural result of hearing the word of God is to have faith in God. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

By reading and meditating upon the scriptures we can reach the logical conclusion that God is who the Bible reveals him to be. We can then choose to believe in him based on the evidence of his existence.

Also, when we participate in private Bible studies or attend the worship services of the Lord's church we hear the Word of God explained. We can compare the explanations of the preacher with our own understanding and gain knowledge to help our faith become established and grow. The Bible tells us faith in God is necessary in order for us to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Yet, God still blesses those who do not believe him. "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

It is interesting that the universe itself is designed to point mankind to God. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..." (Romans 1:20). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalms 19:1). "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

This teaches us that looking at the earth and pondering the vastness of the universe should be a springboard to believing in more than just accidental happenstance for all that exists.

While God gives earthly blessings to all, whether or not they choose to believe in him, he reserves eternal blessings for those who believe, obey, and serve him in this life. Hopefully that makes sense to us. Why should God bless a person with salvation in the afterlife if they refuse to acknowledge the clear evidence of his existence and refuse to believe in him in this life? The miracles recorded in the New Testament are for the purpose of convincing all to believe in Christ and trust what he said to do. "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that

believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

Faith helps us with the many things of God that are beyond our ability to comprehend. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Faith is so important that without it the word of God does us no good. "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it" (Hebrews 4:2).

In other words, without faith the Bible is just another book, no more useful than any other collection of writings. Oh, but with faith, the Word of God comes alive to us, revealing God's will for our lives, and motivating us to serve him.

Faith is essential in order to be saved. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

When the gospel is preached, hopefully all that hear will believe and he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16).

A sad end awaits those who choose not to believe in God. "But the ...unbelieving...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

Dear friend, please consider the great irrefutable evidence of God. Look around at the greatness of God's creation. Read and meditate upon the scriptures. Come to worship to hear the scriptures explained and make the choice to believe and obey! 1820 Casterbridge Dr., Roseville, CA, 95747, papagreg@aol.com

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 1147 Sherry Way
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FAMILY SUGGESTIONS

By RANDY CANTRELL

Strong families create strong local congregations. In our local congregation we've got young families, middle aged families and young couples about to embark on creating their own family. These suggestions are intended to help families grow strong in the Lord. They're hardly exhaustive, but perhaps you'll find them helpful.

Read The Bible Together

Families should try to read the Bible together, especially when children are smaller. It's a good habit to maintain throughout your life.

Schedule a time each night to read a little bit of the Bible together aloud. Take turns reading a certain number of verses. The length of the reading or time isn't so important, but make sure you're reading with a purpose in mind. In other words, have some method or plan that you follow. The simplest method is to simply start with the book of Matthew and begin reading.

As your children grow older the readings may take longer because they'll have questions. You're going to want to know the answers or at the very least, you'll want to be able to find the answers in God's Word.

When children are very small, tell them Bible stories. The Bible is full of wonderful stories that teach your children valuable lessons. Tell them about Moses, Noah, Abraham and Jesus. Teach them about the characters of the Bible. Use the Bible to teach them lessons about how they should behave.

Don't let anything get in the way of your nightly reading. Make it a priority.

Pray Together

Children should hear their parents pray and parents need to hear their children pray. Of course, God matters most in our prayers, but there's something powerful about hearing the members of your family pray aloud. Parents, it will teach your children how to pray. It will also teach them that prayer is an important part of your life.

Feel free to let your children hear your prayers about them. Pray about those things you face as a family. Be open and honest with your kids as they see you place burdens on the Lord through prayer. You don't have to share every financial woe or every trouble you've got as a family, but it's important to let your children know that you lean on the Lord to help you in life. Teach them that the Lord is bigger than any problems you may face as a family.

Attend Church Regularly Together

Show you children, and God, that worship is a priority in your life. Demonstrate that rest, work or play matter more and you'll reap the reward of that priority. Demonstrate that God comes first as the Word commands and you'll reap a far better spiritual reward.

Let your family see that public worship is what you do as a family - unless you are physically hindered from attending. If you slip and decide that you don't feel like attending, ask yourself if God will excuse your absence. If you think the answer might be "no," then go to Church

anyway. Staying away from the services for every sniffle and every pain isn't the way to show God that worship to Him is important. We all have aches and pains. Do everything humanly possible to attend the public worship services and make it a goal to put the Church first in your family's life.

Worship in Spirit and in Truth When You Do Worship

Parents of small children are notorious for wanting to sit at the rear of the auditorium because they don't want to disrupt the services. The way to make sure your children don't disrupt the services is to properly discipline your children. Make them behave in the public worship and sit wherever you'd like.

Don't bring the toy box with you to church when you have small children. Worship isn't play time. Your children need to learn that. Teach them to be still and quiet. Give them their own place to sit and make them sit there. Naturally, small children may need something to occupy them, but limit that to one or two Bible story books. Because children are visually stimulated you may want a Bible picture book. There's nothing wrong with using these to occupy your children during worship, especially when they are very small. However, bring too many books and you'll just be provoking your kids to see the worship as "play time" instead of worship time.

Don't bring food to the worship services with toddlers. Bottle feeding an infant is not what we're talking about. We're talking about small children, not infants. The worship service doesn't need to be considered a place where we play and snack. It's a time to sit still, pay attention (as much as children are able) and be quiet.

Don't pass the child around like a football during worship services. The first time a child gets fussy he might get passed to someone else. That works for awhile, but when he gets fussy again - new arms are sought. Don't do it. Give your child his spot, his own seat. Make him sit there and behave. Much could be said about how this can be accomplished, but suffice to say - train your children at home to sit still and behave from time to time. After all, when you go out in public you don't want your child to create chaos. Train your child at home and when you arrive at the public worship - they'll be better prepared to behave in worship.

Don't play with your children in Church. This is a major problem with some first time parents, especially when their child is an infant. What starts out as innocent behavior may be difficult to stop, however, when the infant is a toddler (and they become even more fun to play with). Resist the temptation to play with your kids in the public worship.

Focus on the worship. Listen. Follow along with the speaker by using your Bible. Take notes if you'd like. Do the things necessary to remain focused on the service so your worship can be acceptable to God. Show your family how they ought to behave during worship.

Just a note here about the contribution. There is nothing wrong with teaching a child that on the Lord's Day we lay by in store as God has prospered us. One minor suggestion.

give the child a dollar bill to put into the basket. Coins get dropped and create commotion. Fold up a dollar bill and teach your child to NOT play with it or open it up and wave it around. Teach them to put it into the basket at the appropriate time.

Discuss the items of worship with your kids when you are at home. Make sure they know why we worship as we do. It's important for them to understand God's pattern for public worship.

NOTE: In public worship we all must be aware of our impact and influence on others. We all want to respect each other and help each other worship correctly. However, there are two critical times when many public assemblies let down their guard and fail to help the other members. One of those times is in the final moments of the communion service. Paul told the Corinthians to "tarry ye one for another." The communion service is not concluded until the last person has partaken of the cup. It's inappropriate to be fishing around for your contribution when there are others in the congregation who have yet to partake of the cup. Be still and wait. You'll know when the communion service is over. You'll have time to prepare for the contribution.

Another time when some audiences disrupt a service is at the close of a sermon. Be mindful that the invitation of the gospel is a time when some may need to give serious consideration to obeying. Don't spoil the moment with commotion. We're not saying it's wrong to pick up your songbook, but we are saying that the invitation is an important part of the service. It's an opportunity for people to make themselves right with God. Your disruption might just disrupt the focus of someone who is giving serious consideration to a public response to the gospel. Consider your actions and how they might affect others. Perhaps you are not in need of the invitation, but that may not be the case with someone sitting near you.

Put God First In All Your Life Decisions

Job changes, moves and all other important life decisions should seek God first. Make sure your family sees that God matters most in these decisions. Do what is best for your family SPIRITUALLY. Don't put your bank account or anything else before God. Your kids will see that.

Let your children know that you consider God in all your decisions. As you teach your children to obey YOU, let them see that there is a higher authority than mom and dad. It's GOD. Teach your children to submit to God's authority at an early age.

Make God and Church an integral part of your daily life. God's plan will determine where you allow your kids to go, who you allow them to go with, and what you allow them to do. Teach them at an early age that they are different. They might as well learn it early so they can get accustomed to it.

Don't follow the world. Teach your family that sometimes the world will view them as "different." Teach them that it's okay, in fact - it's necessary. Teach them what it means to be sanctified or set apart for God's service. - Randy Cantrell, 3820 Welwyn Way, Bedford, TX 76021

THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND WOMEN TEACHERS

continued from page one

The desire for something new and socially acceptable is the driving force. An indication is another statement: "Concern grew among leaders of the ACMS. They saw Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians about them fully engaged in the greatest missionary movement of all time, and they longed to awaken their fellow Disciples from apathy" (Wyker, pp, 23, 24). The fear that other denominations were getting ahead of them drove them to accept women preachers.

I have the greatest respect for godly women and they have affected my life profoundly. I have been blessed by a mother, a wife, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters who have lived godly lives. Some of the greatest acts of kindness and encouragement ever to bless my life have come from godly women in the church, but that came from the kind of ministry that women do so well and not from their standing before me and others teaching or preaching a didactic discourse.

The word "teach" in Titus 2:4—the passage that some want to go to for authority for women to preach and teach—is rendered "train" by A.T. Robertson, and "wisely influence" by Benjamin Wilson. Those godly women who are doing what the apostle commands in 1 Timothy 5:14 and Titus 2:4, 5 have a built-in audience with plastic minds that they can impact for all eternity.

A preacher once held a meeting that the brethren pronounced a failure because only one girl was baptized. But that girl grew up, married, and raised four boys who became gospel preachers and baptized hundreds of people. We must not be carried away with the spirit of innovation. I agree with N.B. Hardeman who once said: "When the everlasting terror, vengeance, and wrath of God Almighty shall come to pass, I have an idea that those only will stand accepted in God's presence who have stuck to the old landmarks and followed God's due order." - 419 K SW, Ardmore, OK 73401, bookman@brightok.net

AND THE BUSH WAS NOT COVERED

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real today as when Paul left the earth nineteen hundred years ago. We believe that time has not passed her by and can never do so. We know that her truths and teachings are as modern as this day's headlines and as timely as this mornin's [sic] dew drops....Be assured that "THE CHURCH—Still it Stands."

The church is facing similar challenges to those in the 1960's and 70's. Not long ago I heard that a few, including a preacher or two, were teaching that it is alright for women to trim their hair and that it is alright to drink socially. As Lynwood Smith wrote: *This false teaching jars heavily upon the ears of the men who still preach the Gospel and stand up for Truth and*

Right. Knowing courageous men in our brotherhood such teaching (That it is alright for a woman to cut her hair or drink socially) will not go unnoticed and is being opposed and will be opposed. Such doctrine and practice may come in our midst and burn for awhile but the church is like that burning bush. It will not be consumed because God is in our midst also.

There have been schisms, apostasies, corruption, and persecution in the history of the church but our faith is in “the bush” and the Holy One that was in it. It was not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. Those who may teach discordant doctrines in the 21st Century need to *turn aside*, and *see* why the Lord’s church has persevered through all the past centuries though its history in plagued with false teachers such as them from the beginning until now. Is it not because the church is the temple of God? God is in the church as he was in the bush that would not be consumed. Furthermore, we are informed by one of God’s old prophets in Jeremiah 23 :29, *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?* Beware of mishandling the word of God. It does consume its adversaries. But isn’t it a *great sight* to see that the church has not been consumed? May God continue to bless her with his presence!

Bonds of Matrimony

Pemberton - Zahnter

On the afternoon of July 9, 2006 Brother Joshua L. Pemberton and Sister Pricilla L. Zahnter exchanged wedding vows before a gathering of friends and relatives in the church building at Brumley, MO. Josh is the son of Joe and Lisa Pemberton of Iberia, MO. Priscilla is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Zahnter also of Iberia, MO. The couple will make their home near Iberia and attend church services at the Brumley congregation. We wish them much happiness and the Lord’s greatest blessings in the Christian home they have established. The writer was honored to officiate.
- Dan Wissinger

Announcements

TUSCON, ARIZONA NEW YEAR MEETING WITH WAYNE MCKAMIE

December 28 - 31, 2006
at Wrightstown Elementary School
8950 E. Wrightstown

Thurs. - Fri.: 7:30 p.m.
Sat.: 2:00 p.m. - young men speak
6:30 p.m. regular service
Sun.: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Contacts: Troy Seals (520) 762-1468
Randy Seals (520) 883-8605

FIFTY YEARS

The children of Jack and Norita Cutter are honored to announce their parent’s upcoming 50th Wedding Anniversary. Jack and Norita have been richly blessed with many years dedicated in service to the Lord. Jack currently works with the Broken Arrow congregation in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area. They have been blessed with four faithful children, three son-in-laws and a daughter-in-law, who has given them seven wonderful grandchildren. There will be a celebration on October 7, 2006 with family and friends at the Radisson Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma to commemorate this special occasion. Jack and Norita were married on October 9th, 1956 by Paul Nichols at the Church of Christ in Huntington, West Virginia.



Our Departed

FOWLER - Lella Fowler, long time member of the church, in Andrews, TX. She was born November 6, 1922, and departed this life July 24, 2006, at the Permian Residential Care Center in Andrews. At the time of her passing, she had sojourned here in this life for 83 plus years. As long as Sister Lella could, she faithfully attended every service of the church. She was an astute Bible reader, and did her best to put into practice those precious truths she learned from reading her Bible. To her credit, she memorized a great many Scriptures, and it was a delight to talk with her about the Bible and its teachings. She requested that I say the final words at her funeral. I was honored to do so, since I held her in high esteem as my dear Sister in Christ. I asked Bro. Kevin Fox to read the obituary, the 93rd Psalm, which was one of her favorites. Kevin also led congregation singing of songs she herself had requested, one of which was really appropriate and touching, “Faith Is The Victory.” She lived a life of faith to the fullest, and one day her faith will end in sight. Praise God for faithful Christians such as she. She was such an inspiration to all. . . She left behind

to mourn her passing, 4 children, 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Her seat will be empty here in Andrews, and we will all sorely miss her, but have faith that we shall see her again. Truly, "Heaven's Getting Sweeter All The Time." - *C.A. Smith, 810 NW 6th St., Andrews, TX 79714*

KITE - Hollis Kite was born September 5, 1923 at the Beebee Community west of Ada to Preston and Dovie Hood Kite. He died July 17, 2006 at an Oklahoma City hospital. Hollis married Mary Frances Whitson on March 6, 1947 in Ada. He was a long deacon in the Galey, Oklahoma congregation. Hollis is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Darlene and husband Ron, and two sons, Don and wife Pam and Steve and wife Kathy. He is also survived by four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one sister, and two brothers. I had known Hollis as long as I can remember. I always knew that when I visited the Galey congregation that Hollis would be present in the assembly. He was a consistent source of strength and stability to the congregation. I respected him as a devout church leader and I loved him as a friend. Brandon Stephens did an excellent job in his eulogy of Hollis and in his words of warning to the survivors. I assisted Brandon and conducted the graveside service. May God bless the family and the congregation in this time of great loss. - *Carl M. Johnson*

WOODRUFF - Juanita "Nita" Woodruff was born in Deer Creek, Clay County, Texas on September 13, 1918 to Huey and Lavada Cook, and peacefully departed this life July 19, 2006 in Wichita Falls, TX. She and Jack Woodruff were married August 19, 1939. Survivors include her daughters, Jan Warwick and husband Ted of Wichita Falls, Judy Goble and husband Mike of Woodson, TX, four sisters, Delle Kirtley, Novelle Odom, Esteline Voyles, Johnnie Harmon and husband Bill, two brothers, Clovis Cook and wife Wilma, Jirl Cook and wife Betty. Survivors also include grandchildren Kelli Tate and husband David, Heidi Sears and husband Chuck, Grant Goble, and Brandi Menard and husband Richard, and nine great-grandchildren. Juanita was preceded in death by her husband in 1989, brothers Aubrey and Leo, and a sister, Autry Cline. Her uncle, Dow Fancher, baptized her into Christ in a cow pond at the age of thirteen in Jolly, TX. For the next 74 plus years of her life she never at one time regretted that day, nor did she ever leave the faith. The great beauty of Nita was her constancy. A constancy that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren always knew what she believed, where she was and what she stood for - and if ever they left - they could always come home because they always knew where home was. The love of the church, family and friends took priority in her life. Her greatest wish she expressed in a letter written to her two daughters, Jan and Judy, was that they would pass the Faith on to their children and grandchildren. One of her favorite verses in the Bible was Joshua 24:15, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." She loved to read, but

the Bible was her favorite book. Her Bible was marked with notes she took during the preaching service, placing the name of the speaker, chapter, verse and topic of the speaker in her Bible. A testimony of her admiration and respect among God's people was the number of phone calls, inquires, e-mails, and cards she received from Christians here and abroad, with many stating that "Nita touched my life in a positive way". Truly "she may now rest from her labors, and her works follow her." But more importantly to Nita, her name is "written in the Lamb's Book of Life." We simply take it for granted way too often that we will always have each other around, and we fail to appreciate the incredible special people that God places in our lives. Nita was that special person that God placed in our lives, and especially so in my life for almost fifty years. It was an honor to have been her son-in-law. She will be missed, "because her seat will be empty." Without question, "Her children rise up and call her blessed." At Nita's request Charles Goodgion directed congregational singing. James Cating and I considered it among our highest honors to have been asked by Nita to conduct her memorial service. - *Ted M. Warwick*

Field Reports

C.A. Smith, 810 NW 6th St., Andrews, TX 79714, casmith810@cox.net - It was a genuine pleasure to work with Brother Allen Bailey in the Annual Sulphur Meeting this year. He proved to be a true yoke-fellow, and together, with God, we did the very best that we could, to facilitate a good and beneficial meeting. Of course we made mistakes, as did all those who have gone before us. If we were not able to get some of the preachers a time to preach, it was not an oversight. Remember, the meeting was much shorter this year, and in that sense we were not able to get everybody on. Overall, the meeting was a good one. Good, sound, Bible preaching was heard, night after night. No questionable teaching, whatsoever was done. The singing out of Brother Lynwood's new books was great. Singing some of the songs that we cut our spiritual teeth on years ago, was truly enjoyable. All owe Lynwood a hearty thanks for his work with the song books over the years. Though I am not a professional historian, I did attempt to give a brief, yet comprehensive history of the Sulphur meeting. Many told me that they would like to see it in print. Perhaps, in the future I will do so, and even expand it somewhat, by getting fellow preachers, to relate something they think would add to the historical setting of the Annual Sulphur Meeting. I also sounded a warning that the welfare of the meeting depended by and large on its scripturalness in planning, expediting, and financing, since, ". . . whatsoever we do in word or deed, must all be done in the name of the Lord Jesus (i.e. by His authority) giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:17). May God richly bless His children, and may His children love and serve Him with all their might.

Jonathan Bunner, 6900 Meier Ln., Liberty Township, OH 45011 - May family and I have returned to Ecuador from our trip to Lima, Peru. We had a wonderful time with our brethren in Lima. We arrived in Lima on the evening of July the 21st and left Peru on the morning of July the 28th. The congregation where brother Motta preaches just recently built their building. They invited me to help them inaugurate their nice building. While in Lima I preached every evening from Saturday to Wednesday. Each evening there were around thirty people at the worship. On Sunday morning there were close to forty people present. The meeting was uplifting to all of us that were present each day. On Sunday three men came forward during the invitation song. Two of the men were brothers that had not been attending services for a while. The third man expressed his desire to obey the gospel. So after worship services I baptized him. Brother Motta is doing an excellent job in Lima. Thankfully there are several young men who help with the worship services. His two sons also participate in leading songs, prayer, and teaching. The day before our departure from Peru the brethren planned a cook out for all of us. Back in Ecuador we are now awaiting the arrival of brother Murl Helwig. Lord willing, he arrives this evening (Aug. 2) and will be here until August the 22nd. It is our prayer that his visit will be beneficial to the work. These past few weeks the work has not been going well in Ecuador. I am thankful that brother Helwig is coming to work with us. A couple of weeks ago I sent out a prayer request for the brethren in Ambato. The volcano close to the city is erupting and sending ash and rocks to communities close by. I received many e-mails from many brethren in the USA asking about our brethren in Ambato. Thankfully, everyone is safe. The problem they have now is all that ash is in the air, so they are breathing that ash into their systems. Yesterday I talked to brother Villacis's daughter who said that mose everyone in Ambato has sore throats and fevers. I remember us having that problem when we lived in Ambato. So remember our brethren in Ambato in your prayers.

Ronny F. Wade, 2254 E. Raynell, Springfield, MO 65804, clockronny@aol.com, August 15 - Since last reporting to the paper we have enjoyed meetings at LaGrange, GA, Houston, MO, Marietta, GA, and Bandy, KY in all of these places it was our privilege to work with sincere and dedicated brethren. It is our hope that we in some way rendered encouraging and edifying service to each of them. They certainly blessed our life and gave us hope for the future. Our next work, Lord willing will be in Paris, Texas, Aug. 26 - Sept. 3, then on to Ada, Ok Sept 17-24 and Hartwell, AR Oct. 6-8. May the Lord bless us all as we endeavor to live righteously, soberly, and Godly in this present world.

Kevin W. Presley, 106 Whiffletree Way, Dothan. AL 36303, kpresley@graceba.net August 13, 2006 - The first half of 2006 has been a busy and rewarding time in the Lord's work. I have been privileged to preach for a number of churches in the south as well as conduct several meetings across the nation. My family and I enjoyed being with the brethren in Piedmont, AL, McGregor, TX, Ada, OK and most recently Jasper, TN. Each congregation was an encouragement because of their commitment to the Lord and his cause. In Jasper, five people were baptized. The congregation worked hard to bring visitors to the meeting and they are working to encourage their young people as well. Lord willing, I begin this Lord's day (August 20-27) in Blue Springs, KY. I then will be with the little church in Panama City the weekend of September 15-17. Phillip Prince labors with the brethren there one week out of the month and our television program receives a lot of response from Panama City and surrounding towns. We are hoping the meeting will draw a lot of interest. If you can come help us, it would be a big boost to me and the small congregation there. In October, I am scheduled to be in Lebanon, MO and Fort Worth, TX and that will conclude my schedule for the year. The work at home is going well. We continue to generate consistent response from our television broadcast which soon enters its tenth year. We are looking forward to a meeting with Reggie Kinser (Sept. 6-10) and then our annual New Years meeting. We expect it to be the biggest yet and we hope you are making your plans to attend. Let us all keep our eyes on the goal and may the Lord bless all of our efforts everywhere.

Kiason Turner, 203 NE 6th AVE, Mineral Wells, TX 76067, kiason_joni@yahoo.com, (817) 597-8824, August 1 - It was my privilege to preach at Sulphur, OK during the 4th of July meeting this summer. While there I baptized a young lady from Cameron, TX. It was a good meeting and I enjoyed seeing so many brethren in one place. I preached at a number of congregations this summer and was met with the kindest hospitality. We have a loving brotherhood to be thankful for. Here at home our hearts are filled with joy for the souls that have turned to follow Christ. I studied with Denese Couch on Saturday and last night we baptized her. Also, earlier in July our prayers were answered when a lost brother was restored to the fold. The Word of God truly has the power to convict and to save! We have had some visitors from the community as a result of our evangelistic efforts. I have studied with one of them, but I hope to set up some Bible studies with the others. The preachers' study in Mexico is the week after Labor Day. This will be my first trip to Mexico and I'm looking forward to meeting the brethren there. Also, I'm looking forward to being with the brethren in La Marque, TX (Galveston) for a weekend meeting October 27-29. May we always keep our focus on the goal and doing God's will.

Gregory S. Robbins, 7440 Hwy. 6 Apt 1012, Hichcock, TX. (409) 986-4749 - I have just returned from holding a meeting in Pottsville Ark, we had several come and worship with us, many from our sister congregations in the area.. My sincere thanks go out to Forrest and Betty Spitsler for allowing me to make my home with them during the meeting. Thursday night came as a great surprise for me because my fiance' Allison and Her parents Ronnie and Sadie Wallace, came in for the meeting, their love and support encouraged me a great deal. It is my prayer that the gospel that was preached, will not return to God void. My work in La Marque TX, is going well. I am still conducting studies with some cup and Sunday school brethren, it is still my hope that they will see their error; there because of a change of heart and love for the truth, will come and worship with us.

Douglas T. Hawkins, 409 Worthington Pl., Richmond, KY 40475, (606) 271-0529, douglast@alltel.net August 2, 2006 - I've recently been with the churches in Hartwell, AR and Brookhaven, MS at Hwy 84. I enjoyed my time in both places and pray that some good was done. It was a treat to be at the Fourth meeting in Lebanon, MO. We went away encouraged and renewed in zeal. My time this summer with Niles Stein and Austin McConnell has been well spent. Both of these young men are earnest and have a desire to serve the Lord. I've enjoyed the opportunity to share some basic but fundamental doctrines of the Scripture with them. I hope their experience stays with them from now on and that they continue on the course they've started. Our next meeting will be in Bakersfield, CA (Brundage) Sept. 10-17. I very much look forward to it. May the Lord bless us as we continue in his service.

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, old_paths@juno.com, August 15 - We have just returned home from Brookhaven, MS where we greatly enjoyed a meeting with the New Salem congregation. The meeting resulted in the restoration of a brother. Crowds were very good most of the week with a number of visitors present at times. Area congregations attended well which helped the crowds also. This is the home congregation of Brother Lynwood Smith, a great preacher and publisher of our songbooks for many years. We enjoyed spending some time visiting with him during the week. It was also nice to visit in a number of homes for delicious meals. Southern hospitality is alive and well there. We look forward to a short meeting with Greg Gay this coming weekend at Fremont, Lord willing. Preachers, don't forget to send your reports and articles, please.

Bennie T. Cryer, 4635 Larkin Rd., Live Oak, CA - Since last reporting I have preached at Auburn, Escalon, Stockton, and Bakersfield. It was a pleasure to be with these congregations and to enjoy their hospitality once more. July 9-16 we were with the Covina congregation in a series of meetings. It was a delightful experience to be with Bro. Don McCord in this meeting. We also enjoyed

meeting old friends once more and making new friends as well and benefited from sharing in their hospitality. There was one confession of faults in the meeting. We are still working with the church in Olivehurst. Our attendance has been good. We are looking forward to the study in Fair Oaks the latter part of this month and the Labor Day meeting in Sanger. May God bless all of you in your work in the kingdom.

Roger L. Owens, Neosho, Missouri - Greetings to the faithful in Christ. The spring and summer have been very busy for me. The work in Cassville ended in June of this year following three years of effort in that community. The congregation has three good men able to carry on the work. In June brother Johnny Elmore held Cassville a great meeting prior to his going on to Lebanon for the fourth meeting. Johnny and Sally were such a treat to have in our home we love them so very much. I enjoyed the fourth meeting and was delighted to hear some great sermons by many good preachers. In July I enjoyed most of the meeting in Neosho with brother Bill Ferguson of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Then I was off the Blanchester, Ohio for a week long meeting. What a treat to be in the home of Michael Kidd and family. On the way we stopped to be with Cecil Smith and the brethren in Mitchell, Indiana. I found the congregation warm and full of spirit. During our meeting at Blanchester a number of preachers and visitors came from as far away as Chapel Grove, Tennessee. Brian Burns came a number of nights, Stan Owens was there for the first night. The meeting was just wonderful with visitors from the cups and Sunday school in the assembly every service but Sunday morning. This is a small but on fire congregation for the Lord. I was deeply saddened that brother Barney Owens was not able to be with us, I longed to see him. My return trip home was painfully interrupted by the news of sister Dorothy Barker's passing. Dorothy was a member of the Neosho congregation, 42 years of age. I got back in time to help with the service. Pray for this family as two teenage girls will now have to go on without their mother. The next weekend I was off to Scotland, Arkansas to be with Miles King and what a wonderful meeting we had. There were a good number from the cups and Sunday school out at every service. It was good to be with Miles and his family again. While there Cecil Smith and his family were able to be with us on the opening night. I am very impressed with Cecil and his stand for the Lord. I am back home for now getting ready for Bruce Roebucks meeting starting Aug. 5th here in Neosho. Sue and I have moved into our new home and we are so thankful for everyone's support. This past year has been very difficult but God has blessed us with good health and the means to go forward. Please pray for us as we move into our late summer and fall work. New address is 16128 Grand Ridge Lane, Neosho, MO. 64850, 417-455-9081. Please pray for us as we continue to do what we can for the cause of Christ.

Virgilio O. Danao, Sr., 94-371 Ikepono St., Waipahu, HI 96797, July 31, 2006 - Through God's blessings and help, my recent trip to the Philippines, covering the period from June 14 to July 25, 2006, was fruitful for which I am very grateful to the Lord. On June 13, our family left for the Philippines. We arrived in Manila on June 14. On the 21st, Eduardo Danao and I flew to Dipolog City, where Bro. Conrado Libertino preaches and resides. The following day, we left for General Santos City. We were in a hurry to catch up the time when Bros. Glenn Ballard, Bod Loudermilk and Bro. Daniels were still there. We wanted them to be present and be witnesses to the general meeting, we were to propose, with preaching brethren in the area, particularly to clarify some things, and to thresh out possibilities of ironing out the problem that divides the work in the area. Although I was told before we left Hawaii that Bros. Ballard, Loudermilk and Daniels were to spend about three weeks in the Philippines, we were not able to meet them during our stay there, from June 22 to 25. The proposed meeting was pursued, as scheduled, where several preachers brethren were present. It was unanimously indorsed that the wall of partition that now divides the Lord's work in the area must be demolished and destroyed, once and for all, so that peace, love and unity may be restored. A written declaration of this desire signed by those who were present is in our possession. From South Cotabato, we went to Makilala, North Cotabato, and that day the brethren in the area already gathered waiting for our arrival. We conducted studies there, and in the evening, at Bro. Rodrigo Aguan's place in Saguing, Makilala, North Cotabato. While there, we witnessed 11 preachers from the no-exception, (including Bro. Arcadio Ambag who led them) who courageously made public their stand with us in the issue of marriage, divorce and remarriage. Of course, this has been made possible because of the dedication and uniting efforts of Bro. Aguan for the Lord's work there. On June 28, in the evening, we were back in Dipolog City, and the following day, went to San Francisco, Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte, to visit the brethren and Bro. Claudio Ypon who works in the area. Early morning of July 2, I arrived in Roxas, just in time to prepare for the Sunday worship service. I preached, I was requested to preach again on June 9. Two souls were immediately baptized. In the afternoon, Bro. Florencio Granil and I studied with two preachers of the Grace Bible Church of Christ on the subjects regarding the Lord's Supper, Music in Christian worship, Sunday School, etc., and they agreed our stand on the issues are Scriptural. I invited them to attend the preachers' meeting to be held on July 19, in Roxas. Bro. C. Libertino arrived in Manila from Dipolog on July 10, the day I arrived in Manila from Roxas too. Because the flights were fully booked, so it was on July 12 that we - Bro. Libertino and I - flew to Palawan. Bros. Teddy Beltran and Samson Dalit, our two supported preachers in Palawan, met us at the airport, in Puerto Princesa, then we traveled to Salogon, Brooke's Point. July 13, preachers in Palawan gathered in Salogon for a day study, where the basic teachings were, once again, lectured to ground them in the faith. We personally visited about twelve congregations there, some of which have been

with us for the past several years, but most of them have newly been converted from the digressive church of Christ, through the efforts of their respective preachers, who made public their stand with us during the time we were there, such as, Rudy Baagin, Randy Castillo and others. There were thirteen baptisms there: Calumdanum - 9; Salogon - 3; and Aborlan - 1. In Aborlan, we met a long time leader of a denomination, who said he was confused because of the many existing religious bodies today, and he wanted to know which of these is the true Church. We took the chance to study with him about the Church revealed in the Scriptures. As our study came to the close, we appealed to him and invited him to simply follow what the Bible teaches, no more no less. He was immediately baptized in a nearby river, even if twilight was beginning to dominate the remaining hour of the day. What a manifestation of an honest heart who was willing to humbly submit to the will of God! We flew back to Manila on the afternoon of July 17, and the following day, Bro. C. Libertino, my son and I traveled to Roxas, in my son's car. Brethren from different provinces were already arriving when we reached Roxas. Our preaching brethren and some leaders of the Church who attended the meeting on July 19 came from ten (10) provinces: Isabela, Cagayan, Quirino, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Apayao, Mt. Province, Pangasinan, Zamboanga del Norte (Mindanao) and Mindoro (where Bro. Rodel Baagin, one of our supported preachers, resides), and from Metro Manila. Lectures, followed by open forum, were: The Unchanging Kingdom In The Changing World (F. Antonio, Ilocos Norte); Acceptable Worship (B. Salamanca, Isabela); Church Polity & Local Autonomy (D. Estabillo, Ilocos Norte); The Lord's Supper (C. Libertino, Dipolog City); Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage (E. Danao, Makati City), Bro. I. Pataueg preached Tuesday evening; I preached Wednesday evening. The two young preachers, Alan Apostol and Esmerito Tanguilan, from the Grace Bible Church of Christ, whom I mentioned earlier, attended the meeting, and were immersed later in baptism, showing they were sincere and humble enough to simply submit themselves to our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that they will continue to be faithful and firm in the faith. The warmth, and happiness of the brethren, as we associated and had fellowship with them, brought our recollection back when we were with them. A feeling of nostalgia suddenly was felt in our innermost. We worshipped in Makati City on July 23, and left for Hawaii on July 25. With all the medical treatments we had while in the Philippines, and the medication we brought with us here, Lucena, Anna Marie and I seem to have a better and sound health, than before. We earnestly pray that God will continue to provide us good health everyday. The Church here in Waipahu continued her regular activities during Sundays and Wednesdays, through the efforts, most of the time, of Bro. Eric Stone and Bro. Edimar Daguio, during my absence. I appreciate and am grateful for the dedication of Bro. Eric to the work. He is knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and we continue to pray for him and his family. The Lord's work here continues to be at peace. God bless the faithful everywhere!

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THE BACK PAGE...

TWO VIRGINIA GIANTS

BY CARL M. JOHNSON

Last week on August 1st my brother Benny and his wife Sondra joined my wife Phyllis and me on a tour of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, the country's third president and author of the Declaration of Independence. Located on a small mountaintop near Charlottesville, Virginia, Monticello (Italian for "little mountain") was Jefferson's "essay in architecture," and reflected his passion for "putting up and pulling down." Beginning in 1768, and continuing for nearly 40 years, Jefferson determined virtually every detail of its design, construction and remodeling. It was to Monticello in 1809 that Jefferson finally retired from the "hated occupations of politics," and focused his attention upon his family, his farm, and his books.

As we entered the premises I was reminded that Alexander Campbell was not so impressed with Monticello when he made his last visit to Jefferson's home in October of 1839. Jefferson had been dead only twelve years and yet his country estate was in such a state of disrepair that Campbell viewed it as having "the appearance of a splendid failure." Campbell was shocked and incensed by what he saw. The farm was nonproductive and the mansion had a "patchwork appearance." The tomb of Jefferson and its surroundings were in ruins. The fence was dilapidated, the monument tottering, and the tombstone broken and trodden underfoot by hogs.

Campbell had mixed feelings about Jefferson. He was disappointed Jefferson's brilliance had not led him to become a true Christian, but he often paid public tribute to Jefferson for his contributions as a Founding Father of our country. Yet, as Campbell visited Monticello on this occasion it was as though Jefferson had become a forgotten man.

However, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, a private nonprofit corporation established in 1923, has done a commendable job of restoring Jefferson's magnificent house, gardens, and plantation. I am confident Campbell and even Jefferson himself would be pleased with the appearance of Monticello today.

There are many interesting points of similarity between these two Virginians (Campbell's home in Bethany was part of the Virginia Commonwealth until the formation of the state of West Virginia).

Jefferson and Campbell both had impressive libraries and were voracious readers, influenced especially by the writings of John Locke and Francis Bacon. After the federal library was burned to the ground during the War of 1812, Jefferson offered his own library of approximately 6,500 volumes to form the heart of the Library of Congress. Later, after contemplating his empty bookshelves he wrote John Adams and confessed, "I cannot live without books." He immediately began to build another library and accumulated over 2,000 volumes by the time of his death in 1826.

Campbell's attitude toward the world of ideas and learning was very similar to Jefferson's. All one has to do is thumb through the many volumes of the **Millennial Harbinger** or take a look at the remains of Campbell's personal library at Bethany College to appreciate the broad scope of his interests.

When the religious beliefs of our Founding Fathers are mentioned today, Jefferson is invariably identified as a deist—one who views God as the Great Architect of the universe, who does not interfere with the creation or in any way involve Himself in human affairs. It may be that Jefferson was not so much a deist as much as he was opposed to Calvinism, that teaches the sovereignty of God controls every facet of our lives and that we can make no choices concerning salvation.

Jefferson knew Calvin was a religious despot who fined people for not going to church, jailed them for wearing jewelry and lace, and burned them at the stake if he concluded they were heretics. Jefferson viewed Calvin's teachings as blasphemy that condemns the use of reason and portrays God as a "demon of malignant spirit." Because Calvinism was the predominant religion in America in Jefferson's day, it was easy to label him a deist—the extreme opposite of Calvinists. It is hard to distinguish between Jefferson and Campbell when they were speaking of the evils of Calvinism, the corruption of the clergy, or the confusions caused by the creeds of men.

Jefferson and Campbell each founded a college, published a version of the Scriptures, entertained the elite of society and the common people in their mansions, raised Merino sheep, farmed, and strived for the religious freedom of the people.

Jefferson was 45 years older than Campbell and it is probable that they never met personally. It is possible, however, that Jefferson had heard of Campbell because his writings had been circulating throughout Virginia for three years before Jefferson died at age 84. Maybe Jefferson had Campbell in mind when he spoke before he died of the need to restore primitive Christianity, and expressed hope that younger men would come along and accomplish that great work. If Jefferson had lived longer he most likely would have found Campbell's teachings appealing because the two men were passionate about so many of the same things. We can only imagine the impact such a development would have had on American history today. carlmj@cableone.net