

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).

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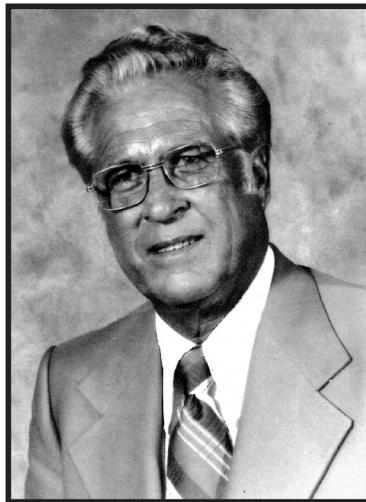
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NO. 6

IN MEMORY OF CLOVIS T. COOK 1914-2010

BY RONNY F. WADE

The spirit of Clovis T. Cook slipped quietly across the great divide, just short of his ninety-sixth birthday. He now resides on the far side Jordan. The early years of his life were spent in the state of Texas where he was born and raised. As a young man he worked in the cotton fields as did most of the rural boys of that day. He obeyed the gospel under the preaching of James R. Stewart and soon after began taking an active part in the work of the local church. His preaching career began in January of 1932 to the state of Missouri where he 23, 1935 he married Velma Oleta King. To this union one son Travis was born. King influenced him greatly, traveled together in meeting work Lebanon, MO they visited and he met Ervin Waters with whom he studied to better equip themselves historical material, studying the issues of the day caused them Ervin soon began a career that moderated for him. They became man of unusual wit and charm. In



met. He was master of the hyperbole, and you couldn't be around him without laughing and thoroughly enjoying every moment. Some of the happiest times of my life were spent with he and Velma as we traveled together preaching, debating or working together on the TV program “Let The Bible Speak.” I am truly going to miss him. He was about as conservative as a person could be, both in everyday life and religious convictions. You didn't have to wonder what he believed or where he stood on a particular issue. If he had to stand alone, he did. In February of 1992 Velma his wife of almost fifty-seven years passed away. He later, September 19, 1992, married Wilma Jones of Baton Rouge, LA. For almost eighteen years they had a happy life together. She became his caretaker on a number of occasions when he became ill. During the months leading up to his death no one could have cared for him better or more lovingly. I'm sure she will miss him greatly. His legacy lies in his convictions and faithfulness to the Cause he loved and preached for over seventy years. His works follow him.

at Jolly, Texas. Later he moved began full time work. On May King, daughter of Homer L. King. born. Through the years Brother becoming his mentor. They and when both were at home near studied together. Sometime later became friends for life. They both as preachers. Reading religious vocabulary, preaching style, and both to grow in spiritual stature. included debating some of the Clovis on numerous occasions true traveling buddies. He was a fact one of the funniest men I ever

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Editorial

AN OLD FRIEND IS GONE

By DON L. KING

On Friday, April 30, 2010, we received word that Clovis T. Cook had passed away. We had been expecting it because he had been failing for a while. It is difficult to really express my feelings now that he is gone. He was a unique person, one of a kind. For as long as I can remember, he has been one of my favorite people. He and Velma (my older half-sister) lived across the gravel road from the old Lees Summit church building, and we lived behind it in an old log house. We were perhaps within 300 yards of each other, and we saw one another every day. This would have been in the forties and fifties.

As a boy I would often go there in the evenings and play basketball with Clovis and Travis, or fish in their pond or one of ours. In fact, Clovis gave me my first real fishing rod, a nine foot fly rod and taught me to use it. He gave me a few lures and though he often claimed I was going to run him out of lures, because I would lose them; he always seemed to come up with a few more. Though he loved to act as though he was aggravated, I always knew he really didn't mind. He was just a generous sort of fellow and enjoyed helping a boy learn to fish. There are so many memories of camping trips made with the Lees Summit group, usually to Bennett Spring.

Clovis loved to preach the gospel, and he loved to hear it preached and be with other preachers. I recall when I first began trying to preach in 1960 I had gone to a congregation near Huntington, W.VA for a Sunday. I baptized a young woman that day in a near by pond. I will never forget it because when the young woman came up the aisle her mother followed her clapping her hands and shouting. Later, we visited Clovis and Velma in Kansas City and he and I slept in their basement that night. I told him about my experience, and he was very interested and asked many questions. I still recall the encouragement and advice he gave me along with the probability that it might be a while before that happened again. We talked long into the night about preaching and places he had been and experiences he remembered.

A few years ago I had been trying to put together a bit of history about the beginnings of our brotherhood. I had talked with Lynwood Smith at length while I was in a meeting at the New Salem congregation, near Brookhaven, MS and had received a great deal of information from him. He suggested I call Clovis; and after I came home, I did so. Clovis was able to tell me names of people I had heard of and also even the day of the week certain events took place. To say I was amazed is an understatement. This sort of information is now a

continued on page eight

THE QUERIST COLUMN

By RONNY F. WADE

Question: Is there biblical authority for having an invitation song in our services?

Answer: Yes, I believe there is. First of all in Revelations 22:17 “And the Spirit and bride say ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” Ray Summers says “Verse 17 issues the invitation for men to accept the bounty which God offers. The Spirit invites; the bride invites; individual participants invite.” James Strauss says “The Spirit and the Bride” give the invitation by co-witness. Both, the Holy Spirit and the Church of Jesus Christ bear the same testimony...every single Christian is to issue the invitation.” John T. Hinds “The invitation is to come to Christ, and is based upon his right to our devotion and service.” But how does the church (bride) say come? Obviously that may be done in a number of ways. It can be done through preaching, through individuals speaking to sinners, it can also be done through singing an invitation song. Should someone say “there is no scripture that teaches we should sing to sinners.” Why not? Are we not commanded to teach sinners? Do we not teach through singing? Notice Eph. 5:19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Note: we are aware that these verses are talking about Christians admonishing one another in singing. However the very nature of singing, according to these verses, involves the principle of teaching. That is the point.) The word translated “admonishing” carries with it the idea of “warning” (Vine). The invitation song provides an opportunity for the bride to admonish (warn) sinners to repent. It seems inconsistent to me for one to claim the church has a duty to preach to sinners from the pulpit, yet deny that the same assembly cannot teach the same sinner through the medium of singing. Even in the Psalms, David addressed “Gentiles” Psalm 117. “Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles! Laud him all ye peoples.” Paul refers to this Psalm in Romans 15:9-10 when he says “and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written ‘For this reason I will

confess to You among Gentiles, and sing to Your name.’ And again he says: Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” The Psalm of David was directed to Gentiles who later would become the people of God. In 1Corinthians 14 when Paul was dealing with speaking in tongues he pointed out that when church comes together there are those who have “a psalm, (song) a teaching, a tongue, a revelation, an interpretation etc all things are to be done for edification.” That is everyone needs to hear and understand in order to be edified. In verse 23, he says “Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind.” The affirmation is that even an unbeliever has the right to know what is being said or sung, and what is being said or sung is for his learning and edification. How can an unbeliever be edified in an assembly? The answer is obvious, by both teaching and singing. In singing he is admonished to repent and obey God. For the above named reasons I believe that a song of invitation that is designed to warn and admonish the unbeliever to come to Jesus is scriptural. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. box 800337 LaGrange, GA 30240 or rf Wade@charter.net) Note: I currently have a backlog of questions. If you have sent in a question be assured I will answer it as soon as possible.

ARE YOU A GOAT?

By BILLY D. DICKINSON

If you were to be called an “old goat” by someone, would you take that as a compliment or an insult? While I can’t think of a circumstance where it would be complimentary, this is especially true from a Biblical standpoint! If there is one animal in God’s great and glorious creation that we don’t want to be compared to, especially in the day of judgment, it is a goat. It must be admitted that there are some good things that can be said about the goat as an animal. Did you know that globally, for example, more people drink goats’ milk than any other type of dairy product? Throughout the world goats play an important role in some people’s diet and economy. However, the Lord chose to use goats as a representation of those who are **lost**.

When Jesus comes again to judge the world in righteousness, there is a great **separation** that will take place at that time: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him,

then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left” (Matt. 25:31-33). This is serious business because those on the left hand (the goats) will be condemned to a place of “everlasting fire” (verse 41), while those on the right hand (the sheep) will receive “life eternal” (verse 46). The implication is that we make the choice in life to either follow Christ or refuse His invitation to discipleship. After all, Jesus gave the following explanation: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, **and they follow me**” (John 10:27). Spiritually speaking, here is the basic difference between sheep and goats- the sheep follow the “Good Shepherd” (John 10:11), while the goats go their own rebellious way.

STUBBORNNESS

It is a beautiful analogy that Christ used in comparing His followers to sheep, pointing us to certain traits that help us to understand what true discipleship is. But why are the lost compared to goats? Surely the Lord wants us to understand that we must not possess the same characteristics that make this animal a perfect representation of lost souls. First, the goat is a **stubborn creature** that will butt heads with just about anything... a gate, the side of a car, a bull, and even with humans. Since this is what they love to do best, goats sometimes stand on their hind legs and then come down with great force to butt each other. Do you know why they don't knock each other out? It's because they are **hardheaded**, so much so that they'd rather butt heads than anything else.

This is a perfect description of man's rebellion against God. Please observe how Jeremiah described it in his day: “O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return” (Jer.5:3). Sin always involves defiance of God's authority (1 John 3:4). Therefore, when we refuse to repent or in some cases won't even admit that we have sinned (Rom. 3:23), we are taking our stand with the “goats.” Frederick II, a 18th century king of Prussia, once went on an inspection tour of a Berlin prison where all the inmates protested their unjust imprisonment. No matter the crime they were charged with, everyone declared, “I am innocent. I didn't do it!” But the king finally asked

of a man who was standing in the corner, “Why are you here?” The reply was, “Armed robbery, your Majesty.” The royal visitor probed a little deeper, “Were you guilty?” The prisoner admitted, “Yes, indeed, your Majesty.” Frederick II then turned to the guards and commanded, “Release this man at once! I will not have him kept in this prison where he will corrupt all of these fine, innocent people who occupy it.”

Surely the King of kings has the right to demand that we humble ourselves before Him, as we seek the forgiveness of sins by the terms of His gospel (Rom. 1:16). Spiritually speaking, here is the difference between the sheep and the goats! The sheep look to the “Good Shepherd” for guidance, while the goats feel **self-sufficient**. As Jesus declared in John 10:9, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” This statement implies that if one does not have a strong desire for salvation, he will never see the need to enter into Christ's “sheepfold” (John 10:1).

STUBBORN DELINQUENTS

It could be argued, I suppose, that the goat is a more capable animal than the sheep. In fact, goats are probably the most **independent** of all grazing, foraging livestock. The problem is that they are so independent that it is difficult to keep them within enclosures. That's the reason why they will keep you busy repairing fences, breaking out at all hours of the day and night and going where they're not suppose to. Please read how one young man described his experience with this animal: “Ok... It all started when I got my summer job as a corral assistant at a summer camp. I got to take care of animals, chickens, ducks, cats, rabbits, a miniature horse, and twenty goats. Now, goats aren't the easiest creatures on earth to control, and with twenty of them, they can destroy pretty much anything they put their mind to. Well, one day one of the ‘head’ goats broke the fence in the back of the corral that conveniently looks over a five-foot cliff, that goes out to a four-foot ledge, that extends to a twenty-foot drop down to the beach. Well, it lead six other goats off the cliff with it, down onto the ledge. So, my friend had to crawl down unto the ledge and literally throw the goats up to me.” What a harrowing experience that must have been!

While sheep may be helpless creatures that sometimes get randomly lost, they do not deliberately run away from the shepherd. An

escaped goat, however, will stare at you while you talk softly to it, then it will turn its head side to side and run like crazy in the opposite direction. No wonder the Lord had a preference for sheep! Spiritually speaking, we must be like sheep who realize their need for the shepherd's care and are like submissive children (John 10:2-4). Do we see the need to "**abide in Christ**" (John 15:4) or do we feel the need to strike out on our own and declare our independence? Are we like those who don't abide in the "doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9) or are we doing our best to "keep the ordinances" as delivered by inspired men (1 Cor. 11:2). We need to respect the boundaries of God's word and "learn not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Cor. 4:6/ASV).

EAT THE WRONG THINGS

Goats will eat just about anything! Sometimes people will put a goat in the yard, hoping that it will eat the weeds or keep the grass down, but that often turns out to be a mistake. If the animal gets loose, it will become a disaster area, as it goes about eating flowers, shrubs, small trees, etc. It might even gnaw on the siding of the house. It just isn't too particular about what it eats.

This is a major difference between Christ's sheep and the goats. We feed in His pasture and listen to His voice (John 10:27). We desire the milk of God's word that we might grow thereby (1 Pet. 2:2). While goats aren't happy with "**sound doctrine**" (2 Tim. 4:3) and feed their souls on just about anything the world has to offer, we hear His voice and we follow Him. After all, nothing else is satisfying to our souls! Remember the warning of the Good Shepherd: "Take heed what ye hear" (Mark 4:24).

LET'S CHANGE WHAT WE HAVE DONE

By P. DUANE PERMENTER

Introduction

During the last three articles, we have been discussing the Bible pattern for work around the world. Our goal in this article is to conclude with some suggestions that will help to promote scriptural work into the 21st Century. We should prayerfully seek out wisdom from above that we may make wise decisions in the way we use the Lord's money and do His Divinely appointed work.

Use Experienced Men to

Prepare and Train Others

Paul told Timothy that he had the obligation of training others to do the work he had been trained to do (2 Tim 2:2). Paul was inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit (Eph 3:1-5); nonetheless, Timothy was a second generation and what he learned and understood came from Paul and the written page. Timothy was not inspired and he depended on the written text to be his authority. In fact, all three epistles (letters) Titus, I and 2 Timothy were written not because Titus or Timothy had to be told what to do—they knew from Paul. These letters were given to them that the brethren would understand the responsibility and work of an evangelist. In turn, they are given to tell us what our obligation as a gospel preacher is today. The epistles were written that the church could understand their relationship toward the evangelist. This part of the Bible was given to help the preacher understand what his relationship to the church is.

We Need Congregations Who Take More Responsibility

The training and developing of evangelists is to be done through a team of the local congregation and an older evangelist (Act 16:1-5; 1 Tim 4:14). One of the things we need to do in foreign work is for congregations to take that responsibility more seriously and get involved on a local basis. We need to be actively teaching and preparing men for work in the field. We have a few older preachers and several congregations who are experienced in foreign work, and we need to use that experience to train men for the future.

Set Goals with the American Evangelist

Decide before we start just exactly what we plan to accomplish. What steps do you think it will take to accomplish this? What must happen to reach this goal? Sometimes I wonder—if when we are sent out, we have the idea that we are privates serving in the army, and when our tour is over, we are finished. It is time to go home. The fact is, we are qualified to lead. We are officers in the army of the Lord not privates, and we all want to promote the work into the future. We need long term goals from the beginning. These goals need to be clearly understood and outlined before we start. We need short term goals that help us reach overall desires and long term hopes. This does not mean we cannot change them in the process, in fact, it will be necessary to change from time to time. This does not mean that every evangelist works and does the same thing. Each person has his ability and will contribute his part to the work. This

could determine who goes and who does not go at a particular time. If we all have the same goals in mind, and are working toward them it will be much more effective. We will not realize after a number of years have passed that we have not developed as we should.

Congregational Involvement

One of the mistakes a congregation has made is they do not visit the work they are supporting. There needs to be a connection between the supporting congregation and the men they support. We need to visit in their home and talk with them face to face in the field of work. We need to meet some of the local brethren. We should have serious discussions about reaching the goals and the strides that are being made in that regard. What works-what does not work? The evangelist needs to be sending monthly reports about his work, people, successes, losses, and whatever else could be said about the work.

In a foreign work it is hard to understand this from America, but the evangelist is not just developing a preacher, or congregation. He is developing a brotherhood! Zambia is larger than the state of Texas, and we have over 300 congregations. I am not laboring with one congregation but 300! We must do all we can to promote unity and development among all the congregations in the way the Lord wants.

Character Development

When we convert people from the world, the character they have is from the world. God took Israel out of Egypt in one night; nonetheless, it took God forty years to get Egypt out of Israel. The point is, when we start a work, we do not really know who we are dealing with until some time passes. We must remember that! It may take years to find out things about people that we need to know. In fact, the church may have to become mature before evil is ever revealed in a person one is dealing with. Oftentimes, we speak a different language; we think differently; we may have different value systems; and all these things must be considered as we work among and develop the Lord's people around the world.

Conclusion

Clearly, we are involved in the greatest work that can be done. Let us rise up and build. If you are a leader in a local congregation, become active in training men for the future of the work. Choose an older evangelist you have confidence in and

communicate with him about this. Choose a young man to start with and encourage in the work. The world is smaller than it has ever been in our generation because of several reasons, and now, is the time for us more than ever before to get involved. I think the question of the hour is: Are you reaching out to your potential in God's great kingdom? We love you everyone and God bless is our constant prayer. Duane_and_laurie@yahoo.com

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

By Paul O. Nichols

God wants all of His children to grow spiritually, and all Christians should want to grow in the knowledge of the truth. The apostle Peter says in 1 Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby". It is a command of the Lord. "... Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). And Jesus promised His followers, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6).

Two things are necessary if we want to grow spiritually -- food and exercise. These are necessary in the natural scheme of things and also in the spiritual realm. Proper diet is essential to good health, both physical and spiritual, and then exercising what we learn.

In spiritual matters three kinds of food are specifically mentioned in the Bible. We read of "milk" (1 Pet. 2:2), "bread" (Matt. 4:4), and "meat" (Heb. 5:13). If we feed our spiritual man on this balanced diet we will grow as Christians.

The apostle Paul when writing to the Hebrew brethren expressed disappointment in the lack of development and growth of these Christians. He said, "For 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 every one 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" (Heb. 5:12-14). Growing in knowledge of God's word is essential for one to be able to discern what is good and what is not. If Christians are "ignorant of

Satan's devices" (2 Cor. 2:11) they can make serious mistakes while trying to live a righteous life.

The apostle Paul established the congregation at Corinth and remained with it for a year and a half, during which time he sought to root and ground the members in what was right. But in spite of their excellent teacher and the inspired instruction he gave, they did not grow as they should. After he left for other fields of labor he wrote and told them, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (1 Cor. 3:1, 2).

While our Lord was on earth and teaching among men he would say, "Let him that hath ears to hear, let him hear." This implies that one can hear and yet not hear. The apostle Paul wrote in Heb 4:2, "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." Under such circumstances the message does not profit the hearer. The teaching does not contribute to his spiritual growth, because it is not received in faith. On the other hand the Bereans were commended. The Bible says, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed..." (Acts 17:11, 12).

If a Christian wants to be successful in living the Christian life and is determined to serve the Lord faithfully, he proves this by studying the word of God. When the Gospel is preached he listens with open ears and a receptive heart. He makes changes in his life as he learns he must in order to go to heaven. In short he grows spiritually and prepares himself for the time when he must die so that he will be saved forever. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6).

Meddling Preachers

No person is more despised than a preacher who meddles in the private affairs of others. After all, liberty is not delegated to him to invade the privacy of church members without limitations. He should stay within the proper bounds of his ministry to seek the good will of all persons, and not antagonize them with "witch hunting" where he has no business.

Now take that preacher, Paul, for instance. He encroached upon the academic freedom at Corinth without any apparent reluctance. He took second hand information from the house of Chloe and proceeded to legislate about their religious beliefs, telling them that they could not believe different things, but all had to believe the same things (1 Cor. 1:10,11). He tried to legislate about their sexual behavior in one family, telling a son that he could not have relations with his step-mother (1 Cor. 5:1). He also told the Christians there that they were not to socialize with members of the church who were guilty of certain sins or were immoral (1 Cor. 5:11). He insisted on marriage and condemned mate-swapping (1 Cor. 7:2). He censored divorce and told widows to marry Christians only (1 Cor. 7:39). He even told the Corinthians when, with what attitude, and how much money to give (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:7); And he told another preacher (Timothy) to try to tell the women how to dress (1 Tim. 2:8,9).

"MEDDLING PREACHERS" will save the church! We had better do less criticizing and start shouting some "AMENS" to this "OUT-DATED" preaching. And we had better start NOW!

-- *Selected*

A True Story

One Lord's day morning several years ago a couple attended a service of the church in West Dearborn, Michigan. For some reason they were not impressed with the service, and planned to go to a denominational church the next Lord's day. They had no intention of returning to West Dearborn.

But on Friday evening of that week, two men from the church visited the home of this couple. These men had no idea of the good they were doing. The people were so grateful for the visit they decided to return the following Sunday. They did, and kept coming. A short time later they were both baptized into Christ.

The man and woman are now pillars in the Lord's church in a distant city. It would be impossible to calculate the tremendous good they have done during the years since they were converted. And why were they converted? Their salvation and all the good they have done since, hinged on one visit that seemed insignificant at the time. That one call you will make (or neglect to make) this week might just be that important.

I Wonder -

CLOVIScontinued from page two
little more out of reach. No one of my generation can remember those days personally. That was long before our time. As I think about all of the years I spent near Clovis, I realize I had a wealth of information at hand.

Clovis and I became even closer after I began publishing the paper in June of 1976. Nearly every Saturday we spoke by phone about the paper and what needed to be done. For many years he took care of the finances of the paper and could tell you to the penny what was available at any given time. In 1982 we published a special issue to celebrate 50 years of **Old Paths Advocate**. In order to get all of the material sent in by brethren, Ronny and I added extra pages which increased the cost that month. Clovis was very concerned and warned me that “you boys are going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.” However, we managed to get the bills paid and all agreed later that it was a good issue. Clovis served as an editor of the paper from February 1963 until his death, a period of 47 years. He, Edwin Morris, and Ronny Wade had all gone on as editors at the same time. Don McCord had been an editor since November of 1959 and later served as publisher from October 1963 until June, 1976. Clovis loved the paper and worked hard for it. He would mention the paper in his meetings, take cash for subscriptions and then send a check to cover what he had taken for the paper. He once had to write a fair sized check for all of the subscriptions he had taken cash for and remarked that “this paper is going to break me.”

To say I loved Clovis is an understatement. In many ways he was like a father to me, and I will never forget him. I will miss him. DLK

Announcements

NEW SONGBOOK & CD

The new songbook “Glory Echoes” is now available for purchase. The book contains 238 old and new songs. You will find new compositions from some of the great gospel music writers of our day that are fresh and challenging but suitable for good congregational singing. The cherished hymns of the past are included and there are a number of favorites from the 1960’s -1980’s that have not been in one of our books in many, many years. They will bring back wonderful memories for many of us and be new to the newer generation. The book is \$5 plus shipping. There is also a CD including 45 songs from the book available for \$10 postage paid. For more information, contact me at (334) 618-1550, legacymusicpublishing@gmail.com, or logon to www.legacymusicpublishing.com. It is my hope the book will rekindle our interest in good singing

throughout the brotherhood! May it be used as a vehicle to glorify God and build up the church!
- Kevin W. Presley



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

To Whom It May Concern:

I cannot take part In military service In any form, directly or indirectly, in combatant or noncombatant service. Below are listed some of the reasons:

1. My duty and obligation to God Is superior to all other obligations (Acts 5:29; Matt. 23:37).

2. My God in the Bible forbids that I engage in carnal warfare in the following references: “Put up again thy sword . . . for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.’ (Matt. 26:52); “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal” (II Cor. 10:3-4); ‘Turn the other cheek” (Matt 5:39); “Recompense to no man evil for evil” (Rom. 12:17).

3. To enter any military service, combatant or noncombatant, I would be compelled to “swear” (take an oath), but the Bible forbids that I do so. “Swear not at all” (Matt. 5:34).

4. To enter any military service I would be compelled to be yoked with unbelievers, which is forbidden. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (II Cor. 6:14).

5. To be in any branch of the military service in any way, I would be a part of an organization and would therefore have fellowship in the service, but such Is prohibited. “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11).

6. To serve in the military service in any way, I would be deprived of obeying the command to assemble on the Lord’s Day to worship God in the Bible way, at least part of the time, hence would disobey God. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7; I Car. 16:1-2).

Therefore, I cannot conscientiously engage In carnal warfare in any form or branch, and for the above reasons, I ask that my name be listed in support of the above principles.

SIGNED: Kelsey Marshall Green (19)
Carter Leon Green (17)
Both of Seneca, MO

Our Departed

WHIGHAM - James Samuel "Sammy" Whigham unexpectedly departed this life on May 6, 2010 after suffering a massive stroke. He was only 58 years old. He was born September 22, 1951 in Florida but spent the greater part of his life in the Kinston, AL community. Sammy was a long time faithful part of the Earlytown Church of Christ along with his family. He was married to his wife, Jill, for 36 years. Two daughters and a son were born to this union: Leslie, Kelley, and Lee. He is survived by Jill and all three children. A large crowd gathered to remember Sammy and console his family. This writer was honored to conduct the service. He was laid to rest in the old Earlytown cemetery to await the resurrection of the blest. Sammy's death came as a great shock to everyone and serves to remind us of the words of the old hymn: "True, today we are here but tomorrow may see just a grave in the vale and a mem'ry of me." May we all live so as to be ready for the unknown hour of our departure. - Kevin W. Presley

COOK-Clovis T. Cook, 95, departed peacefully on April 30, 2010 at home with his wife, Wilma, in Springfield, MO. He was born in Halsell, TX on June 18, 1914, to Huey Allen and LaVada Fancher Cook. On May 23, 1935, he was united in marriage to Velma Oleta King, and to this union one son was born. Velma passed away on February 9, 1992. On September 19, 1992, in Denham Springs, LA, Brother Clovis married Wilma Lou (Holt) Jones. They shared nearly eighteen years together. Clovis was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Aubrey and Leo Cook; and two sisters, Autrey Cline and Juanita Woodruff. Brother Clovis is survived by his wife, Wilma; a son, Travis L. Cook, and his wife, Shirley of Bolivar, MO, and their two sons, Marty Cook, and his wife Carrie of Bolivar, and Kendall Cook,



and his wife, Nicole, of Republic, MO, and their two sons, Karsen and Kole; three step-daughters, Patricia Jones, of Springfield, MO, Nancy Hager, and her husband, Mike, of Lebanon, MO, and Janet Wolfe, and her husband, John, of Nemo, SD; eleven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Jirl Cook, and his wife, Betty, of Wichita Falls, TX; four sisters, Novel Odom, of Nacogdoches, TX, Estelline Voyles, of Wichita Falls, Johnnie Harmon, and her husband, Bill, of Fort Worth, and Delle Kirtley, of Dallas; a number of nieces and nephews. Clovis was a faithful member of the Lord's church for just under eighty years. Thousands were touched by his influence during his seventy-plus years of preaching the gospel. Brother Clovis held a position on the editorial staff of the Old Paths Advocate for many years. He also played an important role on the TV program out of Springfield for years, assisting Ronny Wade with a Question & Answer segment and by following up on leads in the Ozarks. Clovis was one of the primary voices that recommended that we introduce the new congregational singing on Let the Bible Speak that has since received rave reviews from viewers. Clovis took time to mentor and encourage many younger preachers. I'm thankful to have been among them in recent years. I was so impressed with his attitude and clarity of mind even three days before his passing. In our last visit, he spent the bulk of our conversation speaking kind words to me about other younger preachers (I guess that doesn't narrow it down much!) and helping me with suggestions for the TV program. He never complained about his health and only discussed it when I brought it up. What an example! Hundreds, including a host of gospel preachers, came to honor his memory and to pay their respects to the family at the visitation and funeral. I was humbled and greatly honored that Clovis asked me to stand alongside his grandson, Kendall Cook, and Allen Bailey to officiate at his funeral service. Kendall also lead the beautiful congregational singing. Remember Wilma and the Cook family when you pray. May the Lord bless us with more men like Brother Clovis T. Cook.

- Brett Hickey

Field Reports

Johnny Elmore, 419 K SW, Ardmore, OK 73401, johnnyelmore@att.net, May 8 – I have recently heard Jimmy Cating in a meeting at Ratiliff City, OK and Don Jackson at Wichita Falls, TX. We are currently engaged in an evangelistic program here with good congregational cooperation. We have had two restorations recently and hope to have results from our evangelistic efforts. I expect to be at Houston, MO May 23-30 and at McAlester, OK June 2-6. I have heard words of approval and commendation for the last issue of the OPA and encourage our editors to keep up the good work.

P. Duane Permenter, 1705 Pecan Dr., Cleburne, TX, May 2—What a privilege to be in the home of Randy, Kathy, and Caleb Ballard in Houston, TX. Last night it was my privilege to give an overview of the work in Zambia to a good group gathered for that purpose. The audience was very attentive and excited to hear of the good work going on the other side of the world. A couple of weeks ago we were at Rogers, AR. for a few days once again to give a report about the work going on in the country of Zambia. We stayed with Don and Diane Pruitt and enjoyed our visit a great deal. Laurie and I want to thank everyone for the support and encouragement we have received everywhere we have gone. Unfortunately, the medical facilities in Zambia are very much lacking and it was necessary for us to come back to the states for some tests and physicals. Everything done so far has turned out good and we praise God for that. I will return to Zambia in June for about one more year and then we plan to move home the Lord willing. Please continue to pray for us as we for you. God bless the brotherhood! Duane_and_laurie@yahoo.com

Kevin W. Presley, 94 Sandalwood Trail, Brookhaven, MS 39601. May 10, 2010; It was good to be back with the good brethren at Ada, OK in April. Ada was home to me when I began preaching the gospel on a full-time basis. My wife also lived there for several years while attending college. I can never repay the debt of love and gratitude I owe the church there for the training, encouragement, and support they have provided me over the years. Spending time with Bro. Joe Hisle and Bro. Carl Johnson made the meeting all the more enjoyable for me. My next meeting was with the fine little church at Mitchell, IN. I could not have been treated more

warmly than I was by these brethren. The meeting was an encouragement to me and I pray them, also. I anticipate being with the church in Covina, CA (May 19-23); Weatherford, TX (June 2-6); and Pleasant View in Springfield, MO (June 19-20). The Pleasant View brethren plan a big singing the night of June 19th and also the afternoon of June 20th to learn and enjoy the new songs in the brand new book "Glory Echoes". The book has just been released and you can find information for ordering in the announcement section of this journal. We look forward to seeing many of you at our summer meetings, Lord willing.

Darrell Crawford 208 E. Baldwin Rd. Unit S Panama City, Fl. 32405 bugz1955@hotmail.com. May 5, 2010 Greetings to the faithful everywhere! We have returned from our trip to Oklahoma the first of April. Our last stop was with the 21st Cong. We were privileged to be able to speak there. We dearly love and respect the brethren there they are blessed with such great Leadership. While there we had some visitors, a man I went to Jr. High school with, and his wife. They were impressed with the worship and have asked us to study with them "long distance". We are hopefully optimistic about this situation. Here at home we are still conducting as many home studies as we can, trying to strengthen the church here. Lord willing in June we will be starting a weekly newspaper article trying to spark some interest. Please pray for the work, not only here, but everywhere that the borders of the Kingdom may be increased. May the Lord bless His church everywhere!

C A Smith--casmith810@suddenlink.net

The brethren who meet at the Hwy. 53 church of Christ, North of Healdton, Oklahoma have completed their new meeting place, and wish for any of you who have friends, relatives or acquaintances in the nearby towns of Ringling, Loco, Waurkia, Comanche, Velma or Alma to notify them, by so informing me, and I will let them know. They plan to evangelize all of these towns in the near future, so it is a great opportunity to spread the gospel in this area of the country and establish the cause elsewhere. They plan to have a Gospel Meeting, beginning Sunday, July 4, thru Sunday July 11th, with Bro. Johnny Elmore and myself. Johnny and I are both very familiar with this part of the country and we believe that much good can be accomplished

for the Lord's cause. This is especially meaningful to me, for my Father, Tom Smith, in 1918 held his first Gospel Meeting nearby in a school house, the beginning of a life time for him, in preaching the gospel. It will be thrilling for me and others, some eighty-two years later to have the opportunity to do the same.. Please mark these dates down on your calendar and attend the meeting, if you possibly can.

Phillip G. Prince, 12025 Turkey Rd, Jacksonville, FL, April 27, 2010, email: philpgp@comcast.net
The congregation here in Jacksonville continues to press on in peace. We have shown some growth both spiritually and physically and we thank God for this. We started April off with a meeting in Hernando, FL and we pray some good was done. It was great being with this congregation again. It is always good to be with those who fervently desire to hear the word of God and study all His precepts. We next went to Fieldstone, MO where we had a great time working with that congregation in a gospel meeting. These brethren are working hard for the cause of Christ, not only here in the states, but also in Africa. Everyone there was certainly willing to listen to God's word being preached and was very encouraging in all the kind things they had to say. I made my home with John and Von Unger and I could not have been treated any better. It was certainly a privilege to be there and I came away better for having spent my time with them. The work in Panama City, FL is going well as well as is the work in Walterboro, SC. Here at home, we are getting ready for our "Southeastern Memorial Day Meeting" being conducted by Brother Jerry Dickenson. This will be his first time here and we are really looking forward to hearing him preach the word of God for us. Right after the meeting ends, I will be leaving for the summer with the singing schools that we do each year. We are hoping for a fun filled summer and if you are able to attend either of these schools, there is still time and space available and we would certainly be glad to have you come and be a part of the schools. Our next efforts will be in Levelland, TX, July 25-August 1, Birmingham, AL, October 10-17 and North Bedford, 1N, November 10-14. If you are in any of these areas, we would love to have you come

by and be with us during these meetings. May the Lord bless the church every where.

Virgilio O. Danao Sr., 94-371 Ikepono St., Waipahu, HI 96797; vdanao@hawaii.rr.com May 10, 2010:-
Greetings to all the saints everywhere. For the past months, we were blessed for the presence of several faithful brethren from the mainland U.S. during Sundays. On March 7th, Steve and Ronda Cozby, from Manteca, CA, were with us. Bro. Cozby granted our request to be our speaker in the morning service. I translated for him in the afternoon study. I appreciate him for he easily has adjusted himself speaking with a translator. On March 14 and 20, Joe & JoAn Norton and Jimmy & Sis. Carolyn Franklin, from Springfield, MO and Mansfield, TX, respectively, worshipped with us. Bro. Norton spoke for us in the mornings of March 14, and 20, and taught in the afternoon study. Bro. Chris Allen was also our speaker when he, and Sis. Allen, worshipped with us on April 18. When Bro. Norton informed us about his visit here, I immediately requested him to be our speaker on both Sundays that he was here. He granted our request, for which we are grateful. The same is true with Bro. Allen. We appreciate their willingness to preach the word of God. We were strengthened and edified by their worthwhile and sound preaching. It is indeed a blessing to listen to capable brethren preached. There were still other faithful brethren -from the states of Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and California- who worshipped with us in March, April and up to date, but space does not permit us to mention them all. But God knows who you are and may He bless you all. Since Bro. Norton and Bro. Allen told us in advance their visit here, we tried to invite others to come and hear them preach. But it seems men have no time for religion! Are men today like those who lived during the time of Noah? But we are not discouraged! We continue to exert efforts in the dissemination of the gospel of salvation, and entrust to God our works, Who gives the increase! The Church is at peace, though our attendance is affected because of the brethren who are presently vacationing in the Philippines. I urge you please mention the Church here, especially my health, in your prayers! May God bless us all!

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THE BACK PAGE...

A WORD FITLY SPOKEN

BY CARL M. JOHNSON

Solomon says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Pr. 25:11). The expression "apples of gold" refers to a decorative motif in jewelry—a beautiful piece of artwork that includes jewels or precious stones inlaid on a silver frame. Solomon uses this analogy to illustrate the effects of spoken words that are perfectly suited to their occasion. When spoken aptly, words are a beautiful piece of artwork. As I reflect upon the life of the late Clovis Cook, I am reminded of this proverb.

In October of 1974, Orville Lee Smith participated in a four-night public debate with Elmer Moore of Kerrville, Texas. The first two nights of the debate dealt with the Lord's Supper and the second two nights dealt with Sunday Schools and women teachers. The debate took place in McAlester, Oklahoma, and Clovis, who was to moderate for Orville, was unable to attend the first night.

During that first session Orville attempted to establish that Jesus took one cup, blessed it, gave it to His disciples, commanded them to drink from it, and that they all complied by drinking from it. Moore denied Orville's proposition and argued that the Scriptures never mention a "literal" cup or drinking vessel in reference to the communion. Moore was a very skilled debater and I was impressed with his ability to confuse what I knew to be a clear-cut issue. After the first night, I worried that Orville might be overmatched, and I believe Moore felt the same way. He exuded confidence. He had the look of a man who believed the battle had already been won.

Clovis arrived in time for the second night of the discussion and his presence made Orville feel more at ease. Clovis was very much at home in the moderator's seat, having moderated numerous debates for Ronny Wade and others. Clovis and Bill Dickinson of Deer Park, Texas, suggested to Orville that when debating someone like Moore it is necessary to "debate the man" in addition to debating the issues. In other words, Orville should exercise his own strengths and exploit the weaknesses of his disputant. Clovis asked Orville, "How much Scripture can you quote?" Clovis knew full-well that Orville was like a walking Bible. He had an amazing ability to quote voluminous amounts of Scripture in rapid-fire succession, to tie them all together in a simple, systematic way, and to arrive at an easily-understood and eye-opening conclusion. With Clovis' encouragement, that is precisely what Orville did.

When Orville took the floor he began by quoting virtually every passage in the Bible about the Passover and then he tied those passages to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 5:7, showing the type/antitype relationship between the paschal lamb and the Lamb of God (Christ). He pointed out that as the one lamb in the Passover was a type of Christ's one body, the one bread in the communion is also a type of Christ's one body (Ex. 12:3-4; 1 Cor. 10:17). Orville's presentation was stunning. The audience was spellbound. The previous night Orville had appeared somewhat inept, but this night he was transformed. The look on Elmer Moore's face was transformed also. A look of wide-eyed, open-mouthed amazement replaced his look of self-assuredness. When he took the floor to give his rebuttal speech he was visibly rattled and he protested, "We are not here for a preaching contest!" Undoubtedly, some of the credit for the turn in the events of that night goes to Clovis' fitly spoken words to Orville.

A couple of years later, Clovis' home congregation in Springfield, Missouri, called me for a gospel meeting. Clovis was 62 years-old at the time and still seemed to be in the prime of life. He was tall, athletic-looking, tanned, and had a head-full of impeccably groomed white hair. He emitted an air of reserved dignity. When he preached, he enunciated his words clearly, used excellent syntax, and even quoted Greek derivations of significant words in the texts. He was also an excellent singer and song leader. He was a part of the quartet that sang regularly on the "Let the Bible Speak" television broadcast. I had been preaching only a few years at that time and I was nervous about having Clovis, Ronny Wade, and the many other preachers from the area in my audiences night after night. Midway through the meeting, however, Clovis pulled me aside and gave me some much needed reassurance. In a manner reminiscent of the way he assured Orville Smith in his debate with Elmer Moore, he put his arm around my shoulder and said, "Carl, you have what it takes to be a successful preacher." He then itemized my assets and told me specifically how I could improve.

Clovis offered similar advice to many young preachers through the years, and he may not have even remembered his brief talk with me. However, the confidence he aptly expressed in me that night remains in my heart as "apples of gold in pictures of silver." carlmj@cableone.net