

The Banner of Love

“He Brought Me to the Banqueting House, and His Banner Over Me Was Love” — Songs of Solomon 2:4

“Thou Has Given a Banner to Them That Fear Thee, That it Might Be Displayed Because of the Truth” — Psalms 60:4

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Elder Bernard Gowens is retired and a resident of Friona, Texas. He has pastored numerous Primitive Baptist Churches throughout West Texas.

The revealed creation of the future new universe

BY ELDER BERNARD GOWENS

Revelation 21:1 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

This 21st Chapter of Revelation opens up to the Apostle John the glorious visions of the end-time when the Lord will return the second and final time.

The Apostle Paul pronounced this end-time period in the book of Hebrews when he wrote in Hebrews 9:27-28, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

Peter spoke of this same “look,” as did Paul, when he wrote “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God”, 2 Peter 3:12. As Paul thus stated, the Apostle Peter also addressed this end-time period in 2 Peter Chapter 3:10. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in

the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

Peter’s context here has no reference whatsoever to the first coming of the Lord Jesus when He set up His gospel church on earth and to establish in it the gospel kingdom for the people’s admonitions to be the Lord’s humble servants and to be obedient to the rules and regulations of God in Heaven. When Jesus came to the earth the first time “to bear the sins of many”, He didn’t come as a “thief in the night.”

At His first coming, incarnated in the flesh (John 1:14), He came as a little babe born of the virgin Mary and laid in a manger. His coming birth had been made known, being published even before His birth occurred. For their privacy and protection, Joseph and Mary with the little child Jesus had to depart to Egypt (Mt. 2:13-15).

Opposite to the occasion of the foreknown and

-- See Back Page please

Sometimes, bad news comes in bunches

By ELDER LARRY WISE

Sometimes it seems that bad news comes in bunches. When the washer goes out, it seems like it isn’t long before the dryer or some other appliance goes on the blink.

We have had a series of illnesses in the church I serve the past several weeks that caused great concern and heartache. There have been battles against cancer, unexpected surgery, battles against the Covid virus, stroke, debilitating pain, and several other maladies. What do we do when the bad news keeps mounting? The sweet Psalmist of Israel, David, must have experienced such times as these as he wrote, “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” (Psalm 61:2)

Our hearts may be overwhelmed by all the adversity, so we need someone who cannot be overwhelmed, and that is the Lord Himself. He is higher than we are. His ways are higher than ours and His thoughts higher than ours. However, He knows our down sittings and uprisings and

is able to provide. Imagine how Job felt when the bad news just kept coming, one after the other. The Sabians took away all his oxen and asses and killed his servants. More bad news came as he was told the fire of God came from heaven and consumed his sheep and servants that kept them. Then Job heard that the Chaldeans carried away all his camels and killed the servants with the sword. The last news may have been the worst of all; he was told that a great wind had destroyed the house where his sons and daughters were and all ten of them had been killed.

This surely was an overwhelming time for the heart of Job. How did Job react? Did He blame God and strike out



Elder Larry Wise

-- See Back please

SENDING EXTRA

Please accept the “extra” in memory of my husband, William Goodale Jr. Bill passed away last year. He enjoyed reading *The Banner of Love*.

My check is enclosed for my subscription and additional funds for 10 additional subscriptions for those in need. You may use it for whomever as needed.

Thank you,
Anita Goodale

GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH

Brother Don,

I appreciate your labor and effort. May God continue to bless you with guidance and strength.

Love, Brother Ronald Lawrence
Goodslettsville, Tennessee

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES

Brother Richards,

Please renew my subscription to the paper.

I enjoy the *Banner* so much. I enjoy your articles every month and the articles by Brother Crocker, Brother Nowell, and the many elders that write for the *Banner*.

Pray for our churches in north Mississippi and West Tennessee.

Elder Ricky Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

REMEMBERING GRANDFATHER ROWELL

Dear sir:

My grandfather, Elder Jacob Abraham Rowell, taught me to “do right” and my mother, Elmira Rowell Calhoun Chapman had this subscription to *The Banner of Love*.

First, I would like to continue receiving *The Banner of Love*, so I am sending you a check for these past issues that I am late in paying, as well as for continuation. Please use all I am sending. It is the best I can do at this time while I can. My cousin, (Elder) Ward Rowell and (Elder) Mark Daniel Rowell are carrying on the family traditions that I am unable to do.

Love in Christ,
Rebecca S. Calhoun
Blanco City, Texas 78606

PLEASE RENEW

Please renew my subscription to *The Banner of Love*. God bless you all. I love the Primitive Baptists!

Larry Payne
Akron, Alabama



TWO BAPTIZED AT NORTH NEW GARDEN, MISSOURI -- North New Garden Primitive Baptist Church near Excelsior Springs, Missouri, was blessed with the addition of two sisters, Allison and Kimberly Crowley, who were baptized recently by Elder Darle Siegel. Due to age and health reasons, Elder Siegel resigned as Pastor of North New Garden Church at the end of 2020, and the Church recently called Elder Jesse Halbgewachs as Pastor. They are daughters of Brother Richard and Sister Joyce Crowley, and granddaughters of Brother Rayford and Sister Carol Crowley. Assisting at right if needed is Brother Richard Crowley.



SNYDER, OKLAHOMA ANNUAL MEETING -- The New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church of Snyder, Oklahoma held their 2021 Annual Meeting the first weekend in June. Elder Norman Jones, pastor of the Church said the Spirit abundantly blessed their meeting. Ministers attending, from left: (Back) Elder Don Wynn, Elder Scott Bass, Elder Mark Hatcher, Elder Philip Blankenship, Elder Terry Roach, Elder Norman Jones (pastor), Elder Don Martin, Elder Phil Jones, Elder Barry Norman, Elder Eddie Hicks, Elder Tim Janes, (Middle) Elder Dennis Krie, front row Elder Dale Turner, Elder Mike Hughes, Elder Brad Wynn, Elder Steve Porter and Elder Bill Pollard. Not

Gospel of Grace

All saved are drawn by grace

Did Jesus have a separate will from His Father? One might think so because Jesus said, "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will on him that sent me" (John 6:38).

No doubt, in His sinless human nature, He had no pleasure in suffering and death. It is written, "he endured the cross, despising the shame..." (Heb. 12: 2b).

Isaiah 53 describes in some depth the great suffering of Christ as He performed His Father's will in suffering the pains of hell in behalf of His children. As he faced this greatest of all sufferings, Scripture tells us the reason He willingly did His Father's will: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross..." (Heb. 12: 2).

The joy set before Him was to ultimately have all His children with Him in eternal glory. This could only be by Him paying their sin debt.

There is no disunity between the Father and the Son. When Jesus agreed to perform the will of His father, it became His will also.

We are not left to guess about the will under consideration: "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:39).

Did the Father give all humanity to Jesus? Does each individual make a decision to accept or reject this work of Christ?

Jesus gives the answer: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (verse 44).

All the saved are drawn by grace.

For info. or comments call 205-292-1338 or email waynecrocker41@yahoo.com



Elder G. Wayne Crocker resides in Cottondale, Alabama and serves as the pastor of the Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church in West Blocton, Alabama.



Elder Clayton Nowell is pastor of the Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church located in Headland, Alabama. He writes a weekly inspirational and doctrinal article entitled: "Food for Thought For Your Week."

Food for Thought

Singleness Of Devotion For Light

May I have your undivided attention? Thank you. It is much easier for you to get what I am saying when you are not distracted. In fact, the Lord taught us this lesson as part of the Sermon on the Mount.

In Matthew 6, we read, "22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" And then in the next verse, He says, "24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

In these verses, the Lord teaches us of the importance and effectiveness of keeping our focus and devotion "singularly" upon Him. You CANNOT serve two masters – even though we often ignore this truth and think we can. In reality, divided devotions put forth as "service" to Him does not yield the level of mature fruit as we could otherwise render.

Other things take away from its effectiveness; and thus, God is not glorified as He deserves. Remembering how good the Lord has been to us should help us do a better job of single-mindedness in serving Him.

Perhaps verse 24 is easier to grasp than the previous verses. However, a similar lesson is contained in them. For one's eye to be "single," and for that singleness to provide light to the body, there needs to be that "appropriate devotion" to the Lord as your Master, your wisdom, and the source to whom you look for all you need.

When our heart is set upon Him in this way, (i.e., in looking to Him) we will be blessed with light for our way. And, the more we keep our focus upon Him, the more of that light we will have. On the other hand, when our focus drifts away from the Lord, we begin to lose the light that we have. Every choice has its consequences; and, the evil spoken of in verse 23 is when we seek satisfaction from things other than the Lord's will and ways – mainly, selfish pleasures.

May we give Him our undivided attention. And then, may we continue to seek His will daily. This is what will give us the light we need to "see" how to make good choices; and which, will bring us the most joy in this life. Then, we'll have light to shine before others.

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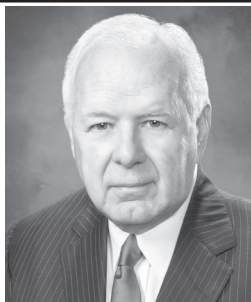
Don R. Richards
Publisher and Editor

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Satan enjoys your stress

Don R. Richards

I found I was surprisingly interested in a news reports of the 2020-covid year reviews regarding how people's behaviors had been impacted by stress. It seems the large majority of us allow various levels of stress effectively to control much of our days.

It is not a direct overlay, but stress is a very close friend of worry. They seem to be traveling companions. The focus of the news report was how stress impacts our physical and mental well being. Jesus warned us that stress and worry do us no good: Mat. 6:24-27.

I'm not really a scientific expert or a medical expert on how stress or worry impact us mentally or physically. But I do know one thing: the devil enjoys it when we suffer. Our stress makes Satan's day, while destroying us.

If we want to address the daily stress in our lives, we first need to address its cause:

"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

There are a lot of things each of us needs to address to reduce or eliminate stress; but the first thing we need to do is recognize that Satan is the root of the problem.

I am not an medical analyst, or a clinical psychologist, but I can recommend a few things about our need to recognize that ALL our sins and problems originate with Satan and his temptations, his allusions, his sleight of hand, etc. If we know the origin of stress (Satan), we can help ourselves tremendously by relying on the one source that knows how to help us address the wiles of the devil: the Word of God. Here are some immediate suggestions:

1. Start every day with the Lord. Begin every day turning to the Lord. Make time to pray, read your bible, turn you problems over to Him. *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness . . ."* Matt. 6:33. Ask for His help with Satan's temptations. Make a list of what you can control, and those things you cannot. Focus on what you can change, and turn over to the Lord those things you cannot. God is bigger than any problem we face. He can handle what we cannot.

2. Do unpleasant, but necessary, tasks early. Put things in proper priority. Our temptation is to postpone those most important, but sometimes tough or unpleasant, jobs until the end of the day or week. Tackle the tough jobs early; it will make the rest of your day/week better and more productive. Avoid temptation to put off tough tasks. *"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for*

when he is tired, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12.

3. Control anger. Anger is a natural emotion. We get angry with our friends and family, angry with ourselves, and angry at circumstances – even those out of our control. Anger makes us say and do foolish things we will regret. *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."* Eph. 4:26. Some righteous indignation may be appropriate, as when Jesus angered and threw the money changers out of the temple.

Matt. 21:12. Are you mad at all the political strife and the political foolishness. *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."* Prov. 21:1. In a stressful life, we need to control our temper. *"A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."* Prov. 15:18. *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."* James 1:19-20.

4. Do not become a slave to tv, phones, social media. Modern technology is wonderful. It allows us fast, wide-spread communication. It also plays into our worst instincts, our over-reactions, and to Satan's temptations. The worst of hate speech is delivered over electronic media. Stop and meditate before hitting "send". Don't be a slave to your cell phone, and electronic media. Fast yourself from social media from time to time. Control your time with TV, cell phones, and social media; or they will control you. These modern-day devices bring stress. The Lord brings peace. *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Phil 4:6-7.

5. Remember always, the Lord is in control. There is great inner peace in understanding the "Big Picture". The Apostle Paul was locked in a cold, underground prison with rats and roaches when he wrote: *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."* Phil 4:11. He understood the problems around him, but he knew the Lord was in control: *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33.

Are we being reminded that neither man nor government can fix our problems . . .



Elder Norman Jones is a resident of Elk City, OK, and currently serves as pastor of the New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, Snyder, OK., and serves at the Elk Creek Primitive Baptist Church near Elk City, and the Bethesda Primitive Baptist Church at Mt. View, OK.

By ELDER NORMAN JONES

In Heb 1 we see Jesus our King sitting on the throne to reign, having by himself purged our sins.

Heb 2 begins *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

What Paul is teaching us is that we can forget that our Jesus is King and that he has all authority and power in our lives. When we do let the things which we have heard slip, then we do receive a just recompense. As a nation and as the people of God. God deals with us to turn our hearts and minds to him.

We see Jesus the man that was sent to redeem his people and how God was mindful of him and visited him. How God strengthened the man, how God testified of him at his baptism, and at the mount of Transfiguration. How he sent an angel to strengthen him in the garden.

Now Jesus Christ is mindful of all his children, and he does visit us, sometimes in correction, but always in mercy and love, for the purpose of changing our hearts and minds from looking to the world and idols of the world for our help, to look to our God and our King,

who is able to do abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, In bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

As Jesus learned obedience through the things which he suffered, can you see how we learn obedience in suffering.

Are we being reminded that man or government can't fix our problems nor deliver us from evil? Is it time for us to humble ourselves, and turn our hearts and minds from the idols of the world and approach our great King calling on him, glorifying him, praising him, worshipping him?

Take time to read Psalm chapter 8, and Hebrews chapter 1 and 2

Obituaries



Linda Joy Kelly

LINDA JOY (JONES) KELLY
March 28, 1942 -- May 5, 2021

The Elk Creek Primitive Baptist Church, near Elk City, Oklahoma, is saddened by the passing of a dear member Sister Linda Kelly. She was loved by all and will be greatly missed by her friends and relatives.

Linda Joy (Jones) Kelly was born March 28, 1942 to Wilce and Mildred (Nunnelley) Jones in Dill City, OK and passed away early Wednesday morning, May 5, 2021 in the Clinton Alliance Health Emergency Room.

Linda was raised in Dill City, OK and graduated from Dill City High School in 1960. She married Melvin P. Kelley August 13, 1960 in Dill City, OK. They made their homes in Evansville, IN and Elk City, OK before moving to Clinton, OK in 1964.

She was employed at the Clinton Sherman Air Force Base doing administrative and secretarial work before becoming a stay at home mom with her children.

She is a member of the Elk Creek Primitive Baptist Church; she enjoyed working in her flower garden, traveling, reading, swimming and especially the time spent with her family; she was an artist and enjoyed oil painting.

She is preceded in death by her parent's, infant sister; Elizabeth Jones, three brothers, Noel Jones, Gerald Jones, and Lloyd Jones.

She is Survived by her husband, Melvin, of the home, two daughters, Cindy Maley and husband, Charlie Boemgen, Weatherford, OK and Gayla

Brown and husband, Jason, Clinton; three sisters, Wilma Gathright and husband, David, Elk City, Doris Gerner and husband, Curt, Custer City, OK and Wanelda Hinkle, Bethany, OK.

She is also survived by two grandchildren, Josh Blackwell, Clinton, OK and Emily Foster, OKC, OK.

Graveside Services for Linda Kelley, 79, Clinton resident will be held 10:30 A.M., Friday, May 7, 2021 in the Clinton Cemetery, officiated by Elder Don Martin and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



June Walker

VATIS JUNE (HALLIBURTON) WALKER
June 24, 1927 - June 5, 2021

Vatis June (Halliburton) Walker, peacefully passed from this life on June 5, 2021 and entered Heaven's immortal glory.

Mrs. Walker's health suffered greatly in recent years, including a stroke in September of 2018. We give the Lord the praise for her life and bow in humble submission to His will understanding that she never again suffer, as she basks in the presence of our Lord.

Vatis June Walker was born June 24, 1927 to Samuel M. and Ida lola (Hollandsworth) Halliburton in Sperry, Oklahoma. June grew up in Turley, Oklahoma and graduated from Cherokee High School. She later met the love of her life, Donald Ray Walker; they were married February 21, 1947. They were together till Donald passed in January of 2017, sharing almost 70 years togeth-

er. June and Donald had three loving children, Kathie, Sam and Angel.

June worked for Sooner Pipe and Supply for many years, retiring in 1992 as the Executive Secretary to the company's President, Mr. Henry Zarrow.

June was active in the Hominy Garden Club for many years. She loved quilting and gave many of her handmade treasures to family and close friends. Her greatest passion was her family. June enjoyed traveling with her dear husband Don. They traveled all over the world, including Italy, England, Australia, Ireland, Scotland, Venice, and China.

The family lived in Black Dog, Oklahoma and farmed for a living.

Mrs. Walker was preceded in death by her parents, husband Donald and several siblings.

June is survived by daughter and her husband, Sis. Kathie and Elder David Wattenbarger; son and his wife, Clifford Samuel Walker and Lori; daughter and her husband, Angela (Angel) Michelle Gabal and, Roger; several grandchildren and great grandchildren whom he loved dearly and they returned that love to their "Mimi" and "Aunt Corkie"; many nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

What's in your will?

Do you have a 'Last Will and Testament'?

If so, what's in it? Have you taken this good opportunity to leave a small part of your estate to the church?

A will is an excellent opportunity to help provide for the future needs of the church. A small contribution to the church on the event of your death could be used to offset the church's expenses for funeral, but also provide for long term needs for the church building or assistance to the other church members.

When you have your will prepared, or updated, consider making the church one of your inheritors.

THE TRUTH IS – God's ALL-KNOWING embraces all events, times, places, things; however His FOREKNOWLEDGE only embraces His People. His PREDESTINATION (Pre-determines destiny which only embraces His People) - Matt. 1:21; Rom. 8:29-30. There is a great multitude which no man can number of all nations, kindreds, people and tongues - Rev. 7:9. – Hulan Bass

Obituaries



Ann Martin Williams

ANN (MARTIN) WILLIAMS
August 19, 1940 - June 19, 2021

Ann Williams age 80 died Saturday, June 19, 2021 in Odessa, Texas. She was born August 19, 1940 in San Angelo, Texas to Elder K.B. & Lorene (Riley) Martin. She married Marshall "Catfish" Wayne Williams in Floydada, Texas.

Ann was a member of the Muleshoe Primitive Baptist Church. She loved quilting, sewing, and cooking. She attended Watson Business College in Plainview.

Funeral was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at the Muleshoe Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Cleveland Bass and Elder James Baker officiating.

Sis. Lorene (Riley) and Elder Kenneth Battle Martin welcomed the arrival of their daughter Sonjia Ann Martin on August 19, 1940 in San Angelo, Texas. She was the middle of three children, two years old than her brother, Elder Don Martin. As a child, the Martin family lived in several places, including Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Texas towns of San Angelo, Slaton, Hale Center, Ralls and Floydada. Sis. Ann was about 7 years old when her father, Elder Kenneth Martin was ordained to the ministry.

Elder Kenneth Battle Martin was born to William Nathaniel and Kibbie Ellen (Compton) Martin on April 2, 1915 in Handley, Texas. The Martin's were blessed with a total of four children, Fowler, Rollie, Bro. Kenneth and his twin sister Kythe. The

family lived in New Mexico in 1923, before moving to Slaton, Texas (south of Lubbock) in 1924. It was there he met and married Lorene "Rene" Riley on December 24, 1935. Along with Sis. Ann, the Martin's were blessed with two other children, William David (Billy) and Kenneth Don Martin. Sadly, their oldest child William David died of diphtheria at the age of 3.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband Marshall "Catfish" Wayne Williams, her parents; and one brother William David "Billy" Martin

Elder Martin had the sweet privilege of baptizing a large number of saints during his ministry and certainly none were more sweet than baptizing his daughter. Sis. Ann came forward and joined the Hale Center Primitive Baptist Church in 1950 and was baptized by her father, Elder Kenneth Martin. The baptism actually took place in the First Baptist Church's baptistery, because the Hale Center Church did not have a baptistery. Sis. Ann would later move her membership to the New Salem Primitive Baptist Church in Floydada, Texas.

She was a proud graduate of Floydada High School in 1958. It was during her senior year in High School that she met a strapping young man from Ralls, Texas named Marshall Wayne Williams. Marshall (also known as "Catfish") was born on February 10, 1939 in Rockdale, Texas to parents Clara Jane and Howard Williams. Ann and Marshall fell in love and were married on March 27, 1959. The wedding ceremony took place at the Floydada Primitive Baptist Church and was officiated by Elder Dennis Taylor.

Ann is survived by daughters; Kim Smith and husband Keith of Spicewood, Texas, Marsha Davis and her husband Donnie of Odessa, Texas, Suzanne Wilhelm and her husband Ken of Plainview, Texas; one brother, Elder Don Martin and his wife Sandra of Amarillo, Texas; Three Grandchildren, Garrett Davis, Joseph Wilhelm, and Nathan Wilhelm.

The family suggest memorials be sent to Muleshoe Primitive Baptist P.O. Box 36 Lazbuddie, Texas 79053.

KEVIN NEAL BOEN SR.
July 31, 1963 - June 17, 2021

Kevin Neal Boen, age 57 of Fordyce, Arkansas, died Thursday, June 17, 2021 at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

He was born July 31, 1963 in Hamlin, Texas. He owned and operated a trucking in Kingsland, Arkansas.

He was the son of Sis. Ella and Elder Freddy Boen of Fordyce, Arkansas.

He is preceded in death by one nephew, Zachary New. He is survived by his wife, Martha Passmore Boen of Fordyce, Arkansas; parents, Elder Freddy and Sis. Ella Walker Boen of Fordyce, Arkansas; four children, Neal Boen (Heather) of



Kevin Neal Boen Sr.

Fordyce, Arkansas, Rachel Landers of Fordyce, Arkansas, Sherry Pelt (Jim) of Camden, Arkansas, Donny Riley (LaDonna) of Alma, Arkansas.

He is also survived by a brother, Ken Boen (Kimberly) Fordyce, Arkansas; two sisters, Kathy Nall (Wayne) of Evansville, Indiana, Kristy Frankell (Daniel) of Waco, Texas; five grandchildren, Emma Landers and Marissa Landers of Fordyce, Arkansas, Brittany Webb (Randy) of Camden, Nikki Raybon of Fordyce, Arkansas, Cassidy Harris (Austin) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; three great grandchildren, Laila and Hunter Webb of Camden and Alexa Ramey of Fordyce, Arkansas.

Funeral services were private, with arrangements by Benton Funeral Home of Fordyce, Arkansas. To sign the online register visit www.bentonfuneralhome.net.

NOTE REGARDING OBITUARIES

Because of the number of obituaries received by the Banner of Love, the patience of our readers is requested in publication of these memorials.

Priority is given each month to more timely articles and meetings notices in the limited amount of space each month. However, we do strongly desire to publish obituaries and memorials, and may, from time to time, delay publication until a later issue; and accumulate them to be published as space permits. Thank you.

The stranger and the Word

“I am a stranger in the earth: hide not Thy commandments from me.”

-- Psalms 119:19

By BROTHER DAVID GREEN

“I am a stranger in the earth: hide not Thy commandments from me.”

-- Psalms 119:19

To be a stranger, alone, unknown, unfamiliar to others and in a strange place, is not a comforting situation. The Psalmist, however, indicates no desire to alter this predicament; only to never lose sight of God's commandments while in it.

Without reserve, he testifies his soul is estranged while he yet remains within the boundaries of this world. His citizenship is not of earth but in heaven. He has no continuing city here. His desire and his destiny is the abode of his Father's house, wherein are many mansions of Holy splendor!

Furthermore, the true kindred of the Child of God are those who look for the same. And the longer they remain in their original estate of a body of sin and death upon this earth, the more precious to them becomes the full attainment of their possession and treasures of a sinless life with their Saviour in a new heaven and a new earth! (2Peter 3:13)

As the saints are themselves strangers to this earth, so is the pathway they walk. While they remain on earth, they abide in a wilderness of troubles. From the moment of their spiritual awakening, a conflict begins. Constant wars and struggles within their own carnality, and outward oppressive wickedness, grapples with them to win the advantage of their soul. They live the Paulician contest of mastery between the flesh and the Spirit (Romans 7:14-25).

They moan and become confused and discouraged at their own frailty and lack of understanding, conviction, and commitment. They witness what seems to be a plethora of inconsistencies and hypocrisies of their life. As they encounter failed plans of life, personal conflicts with others, sickness,

death, injuries to their body, to their emotions, or to their souls, they discover just how impoverished they are from this world's dowry.

How can they who are strangers to the earth ever be comforted and find hope in such a pitiful plight?

First, the great Godhead have not left their purchased possessions bereft and aloof of their wondrous love and heavenly inheritance. He that searcheth the hearts of those within whom He has placed His Spirit, likewise knoweth what is the mind, or purpose, of the Spirit. For that Spirit is Christ's and He ever lives to make intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8: 27; 2Corinthians 3:8,17,18), and these intervening prayers of the Saviour are not lost upon those for whom He paid the price of eternal punishment for their sins and possession of their souls!

Their salvation is complete in every regard! To the fullest! Secured in Heaven and effectual upon the earth declaring, “Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee”. Yea, nothing can separate the child of Grace from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. This was a personal realization from the chief of sinners (Romans 8:39).

And just as they are kin to Paul as a redeemed sinner, like Paul, saints of God struggle mightily. But they do struggle. That which has life, has motion. The enlivened spirit and the flesh are never dormant towards one another. This being by design as well as nature.

The Redeemer of God's chosen people sits as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” (Malachi 3:3). At the hand of the Almighty, through each infernal trial of purging, they effectually suffer and grieve. But the end is a golden refining.

Like Paul, they too are made to rejoice in the final

analogy of their conflict, crying, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...”; and as Job being heavily tested writhing with conflict and pain, “I am escaped with the skin of my teeth; have pity upon me, have pity upon me...”, yet, in that broken hour he confesses, “...I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.” (Romans7:24,26; Job 19:20,21,25).

God has not left his sons and daughters, Jew and Gentile alike, without a witness. “Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and a commander to the people. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God...;The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father (Isaiah 55:4; Romans 8:14-16; Galatians 4:6). Which brings us to the second means of the faithful love and kindness the Lord provides for His estranged children to this earth:

Ah yes. The saints know their Redeemer lives; they run unto the LORD; and cry unto the Father. The wonderful testimony and witness of the Lord to the heart and soul of his people is not left indistinct, mystical, aloof without a definable object (John 10:1-16; 15:15; 1Corinthians 1:9; John 1:1-18; 6:37-45; Isaiah 55:4; Romans 8:14-16; Galatians 4:6; 2Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:8). Being ultimately not of this world, they become separated to it. And they reach out for help and guidance. I am a stranger in the earth: hide not Thy commandments from me. While in the earth, the Lord has given and preserved an indelible standard of unerring verity to His people.

The commandments of God are that lasting friend for life, reliable guide through life, and the only competent teacher of life. God's word. It alone magnifies

Him even above His own name (Psalms 138:2). It is the highest means and Divinely appointed medium by which the born again Child of God through the in-working of the Holy Spirit is brought to Christ, strengthened in doctrine, shaped in character, and made to confirm the gospel while being confirmed by the gospel (Acts 17:11,12).

Through it they are assured in their own souls of that grand announcement made upon the Saviour's birth, peace upon earth and good will toward men. Being convinced of their depravity, learning the truth of the filth of their sins which they can neither push out of their consciousness nor forgive themselves of their crimes, the commandments of God, the word of salvation through a risen Saviour, refreshes their parched and withered souls:

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country (Proverbs 25:25). Oh, how marvelously does the Lord dispatch within His holy scriptures the depths of His love for His saints and the certainty of His saving grace. There is nothing more profound for the assurance of the sinner's hope to be forgiven and saved from sin, than what is contained in word of God.

Well does the Psalmist pray hide not thy commandments from me. The words of Jehovah are light, direction, hope, help, truth, correction, delight, joy, understanding, yea, they perfectly furnish the child of God with every good work. And they pre-eminently testify of Christ's work of eternal salvation and rescuing sinners from eternal punishment! This word God has commanded to a thousand generations. It is pure, enlightening the eyes and illuminating the path and is so useful to strangers in their pilgrimage (Psalms 19:8; 105:8).

The earth is the Lord's creation (John 1:1-3). It is given as an inheritance to God's people who being meek ought to possess in like manner (Matthew 5:5). Nevertheless, to that which they possess, it is a strange land (Hebrews 11:9).



Brother David Green is a member of the Brentwood Hills Primitive Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texa, where the pastor is Elder Ward Rowell.

The saints today are given the same help as Israel, “arise, go over this Jordan...unto the land which I do give... I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land...Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest do according to all the law...that though mayest prosper withersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:2, 5-7).

May we pray with David that the commandments of God are not hid, but rather shown unto us; that we might know His way and not wander out of it; sojourning as a stranger in the land, yet, walking circumspectly as children of light. “For Thy word is a lamp unto my feet. And a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105).

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day – Proverbs 4:18

PBC internet sermons into your home

Listed below are Primitive Baptists which "live stream" their services; or make video sermons available over the internet.

Eastern Time Zone --

-- Elder Chris Couse at Little Union PBC in Lithia, Florida stream Sunday at 10:30 am ET / 9:30 am CT on Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/pg/littleunion/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder David Crawford, Macclenny PBC in Macclenny, Florida streams Sunday at 10:30 am ET / 9:30 am CT on Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/pg/macclennypbc/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Jonathan Cook, Old Carroll PBC, Sunday - 10:30am ET / 9:30am CT, Point of Rocks, Maryland
https://www.facebook.com/pg/ocpbchurch/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Jerry Williams, El Bethel PBC, Tampa, Florida, Sunday - 10:30am ET / 9:30am CT
https://www.facebook.com/pg/elbethelchurchoftampa/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Chris Taylor, Antioch PBC, Vero Beach, Florida, Sunday - 10:30am ET / 9:30am CT
https://www.facebook.com/pg/AntiochPBC/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Bryce Lowrance, Mount Paran PBC, Good Hope, Georgia, 10:45 a.m. ET Sundays on Facebook. See mppbc.com

-- Elder Ray Blanchard, Winter Garden PBC, Florida. Sundays at 10:30 a.m. ET on church Facebook page

Central Time Zone --

-- Elder Mark Richards, pastor of the Littlevine PBC in Austin, Texas will livestream Sunday morning at 11 am CT.
<http://littlevinepbc.org/recordings-march-2020/>

-- Elder James Baker, pastor Borger PBC, Borger, Texas, Sundays at 11 am CT.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Primitive-BaptistMeetings/videos/>

--Old School PBC (Kennedale, Texas) and the Farmersville PBC (Farmersville, Texas) Sundays at 10:30 am CT.
https://www.facebook.com/pg/FarmersvillePrimitiveBaptist/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Mike Rodgers, pastor of the Bethany PBC, San Antonio, TX, Sundays at 10:30 am CT.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCO-ztlun-VtiaaSmR0hS8QA>

-- Elder Sam Bryant, Vestavia PBC in Vestavia, Alabama, plans to stream a sermon / message live at 10:30 am CT on Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/pg/VestaviaPBC/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Vernon Johnson, pastor of the Denton Primitiive Baptist Church in Austin, Texas will livestream a sermon message on Sunday morning at 11 am CT.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2461100634200034/videos/>

-- Elder Larry Webb. The Indian Oaks PBC in Fort Worth, Texas plans to stream Sunday at 10:30 am CT on Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/iopbc/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Ben Winslett, live stream from Flint River PBC, Brownsbro, Alabama
flintriverpbc.org

Elder James Isaacs, Reveille PBC, Magazine, Arkansas, Sunday - 10:30am CT
https://www.facebook.com/pg/reveillepbc/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Bruce Crawford, Elder Randy Crawford, Sunday - 9:45am CT,
https://www.facebook.com/pg/burnetpbc/videos/?ref=page_internal
Sunday - 10:00am CT on Facebook

Elder Ricky Myers, Antioch PBC, Brookhaven, Mississippi
<https://www.facebook.com/layna.myers.7/videos>

-- Elder Joe Nettles, Sulphur Springs PBC, Caledonia, Mississippi, Sunday - 10:30 am CT
https://www.facebook.com/pg/sulphurspring-spbcms/videos/?ref=page_internal

-- Elder Trey Collier and Elder Jeff Moseley, Gulf Coast PBC, Alvin, Texas, Sunday - 10:45am CT
<https://www.facebook.com/Gulf-Coast-Primitive-Baptist-Church-215292775194014/>

-- Elder Chris McCool, Zion PBC, Zion Alabama, has a website and a podcast for persons interested: www.zionpbc.com
People can subscribe to the podcast through the website. They can also subscribe to the website itself, which will then email them automatically each time I add something.
A sermon is posted every Sunday and every Wednesday, which can be accessed through either the website or the podcast; other ser-

mons during the week. In addition, a devotion each week on Mondays called "Monday Minutes With Pastor Chris McCool," which can be found on the website as well.

Pacific Time Zone --

-- Elder Joe Holder of the Little Zion PBC in Bellflower, California will stream Sunday morning, beginning at 11 am PT / 1 pm CT.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/151988544483572/videos/>

Bellflower. In addition to the Sunday morning message, a Wednesday evening service is at 7:30 PDT virutal service. These services are streamed on Facebook from the "Little Zion Pastor's Corner" page.

-- Elder John Wallace Thrower, Glorious Kingdom Church in Oakland, also does Sunday morning at 11 a.m. PST and Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. PDT streamed messages on Facebook and another streaming app.

-- Elder Jerry Anstey, Golden Gate Primitive Baptist Church, hosts a Sunday morning, 10:30 service on Zoom. With Zoom, people will need to have the code to listen live. He is now posting these messages on Facebook, though the folks who want to listen live will need the code for Zoom. You may contact Elder Anstey for the weekly code at jcanstey83@gmail.com.

-- Elder Matt Sonstegard, Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in Lindsay, CA hosts a Sunday morning service, at 11:00 PST, on Facebook.

-- Elder Tracy Frederickson, Little Hope PBC, Madera, California, Sunday - 10:30 am PT / 12:30 pm CT on Zoom. The Meeting opens at 10 a.m. PST, Song Service at 10:30 a.m. PST.
<https://us/j/4109315000?pwd=RFFrajIQZUZqcGx5ZFRvMEVNNgdfQT09;MeetingID:4109315000;Password:717302>
Mobile +16699006833,,4109315000#,,717302# US (San Jose); +13462487799,,4109315000#,,717302# US (Houston)

Available anytime 24/7 --

-- Grace Alone Radio: <http://gracealoneradio.net/connect>

-- Primitive Baptist Sermons: <https://primitivebaptistsermons.org/>

-- Primitive Baptist Digital Library: <http://www.primitivebaptist.net/Video/video.htm>

The Banner of Love

Meeting Notices...

Send in your advance meeting notices

Internet:

banneroflove@aol.com

Mail: P.O. Box 93123

Lubbock, Texas 79493-3123

- July 2021 -

CHAMBERS CREEK ASSOCIATION SET AT INDIAN OAKS PBC, FT. WORTH 1ST SUNDAY

The Chambers Creek Association will be hosted by the Indian Oaks Primitive Baptist Church in Lake Worth, Texas (July 1-4, 2021).

Services will begin Thursday night before the first Sunday in July. There will be three services on Friday, Saturday and the meeting will conclude with Sunday morning worship services. We would like to extend an invitation to all of our fellow brothers and sisters to come and worship with us. The Church is in north Fort Worth, at 3229 Shawnee Trail.

The phone number is 817.237.8441 and their pastor is Elder Larry Webb.

ANNUAL 'JULY 4TH' MEETING PLANNED FOR JULY 3RD THIS YEAR AT SHOAL CREEK PBC

Shoal Creek Primitive Baptist Church at Newborn, Georgia, has an annual "July 4th" worship service. Since the 4th of July falls on Sunday this year, we will celebrate on Saturday, July 3, 2021.

Worship service begins at 10 a.m. followed by lunch; and afternoon service. We welcome all who desire to come and celebrate with us and thank God for all His blessings.

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP MEETING SET FOR JULY 9-11, 2021, BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

Zion Primitive Baptist Church, in Brunswick Georgia will host the Southeast Georgia Primitive Baptist Fellowship Meeting.

Services are as follows: Friday at 10 a.m. (lunch), and 1:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10 a.m. (lunch), and 1:30 p.m.; and Sunday at 10:15 a.m. (lunch).

There will be no evening services Friday or Saturday. Please pray for this meeting and make plans to come.

BETHLEHEM PBC, OKLAHOMA CITY, PLANS MEETING THE 2ND WEEKEND IN JULY

Greetings from the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. We cordially invite you to gather with us at the Bethlehem Church in Oklahoma City on the second weekend in July of this year to hear the glorious gospel proclaimed.

Services will begin Friday night (July 9) at 7 pm, Saturday morning (July 10) at 10 am, Saturday afternoon at 2 pm and Sunday Morning (July 11) at 10 am.

We have changed the format from an open meeting, and instead have invited Elder Carl Staten from Rogers, Arkansas, and Elder Gary Harvey, from Russellville, Arkansas, to be our featured speakers.

We will have an evening meal together at 5:30 pm

on Friday, lunch and evening cookout meals on Saturday, and a lunch meal on Sunday.

It would be a great joy if you could come be with us as we endeavor to worship the Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father this weekend. If you cannot attend, please pray for us regardless, as we will for you.

In Christian love, Elder Randy McCarthy, Pastor; Elder Allen Daniels, Associate Pastor; Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church; 9010 S. Fairview Drive; Oklahoma City, OK 73159-6408; www.pbokc.org.

LITTLE UNION PBC, LITHIA, FLORIDA TO HOST ANNUAL JULY MEETING, JULY 8-11, 2021

The Little Union Primitive Baptist Church is pleased to host their Annual July Meeting over the 2nd weekend in July. The dates are July 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2021.

Elder Mark Quarles and Elder Mark Rowell have promised to be with the Little Union Church during their meeting. Elder Quarles is the pastor of the Providence Primitive Baptist Church in Stringer, Mississippi and Elder Rowell is pastor of the Snyder Primitive Baptist Church in Snyder, Texas.

There will be services on Thursday night at 7 pm. Then Friday, there will be supper at 5:30 pm and services again at 7 pm. Services will begin at 10 am on Saturday morning, followed by lunch and then Communion Service at 7 pm Saturday night.

The meeting will conclude with regularly scheduled services on Sunday morning beginning at 10 am. Elder Chris Crouse is the pastor of the Little Union Primitive Baptist Church. The church is located at 15510 Hwy. 39S. It is 13 miles South of Plant City on Route 39.

NEW BETHEL PBC, TYLERTOWN, MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED JULY 9-11

The Annual Meeting at New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church on Highway 98 will begin on Friday night, July 9, at 7 p.m.

The meeting will continue with two services on Saturday beginning at 10:30 with lunch to follow. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. with service at 7 p.m.

The meeting will conclude with service on Sunday morning with service at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will follow.

Elder James Isaacs is the invited minister.

NYC OLD BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING SATURDAYS before 1st and 3rd SUNDAYS

The New York City Old Baptist Fellowship has services Saturday before the first and third Sundays of each month.

Please call Elder Steve Bloyd (410) 937-8888 when you plan to visit New York City, and come worship with us.

ELIZABETH PBC, MARVEL, ARKANSAS TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING JULY 10-11, 2021

The Elizabeth Primitive Baptist Church near Marvel, Arkansas will hold its annual meeting the 2nd Sunday weekend in July (July 10-11).

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 10 with Elder Tony Lester from Mississippi as the guest speaker. All elders and others are invited to attend.

Lunch will be served both days.

For more information contact Brother Nick Long at (870) 768-5514.

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP PLANNED FOR JULY 9-11, 2021

Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Brunswick, Georgia, will host the Southeast Georgia Primitive Baptist Fellowship Meeting. The full dates of the meeting will be announced soon.

OLD HARMONY PB ASSOCIATION PLANNED AT LAMKIN, TX 2nd SUNDAY WEEKEND JULY

The Old Harmony Fellowship Meeting will be held the Saturday and Sunday of the second weekend of July. The dates are July 10 and 11.

The meeting will convene with the Union Primitive Baptist Church in Lamkin, Texas. There will be services on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

For more information please contact Sister Janice McCullough at mcculloughcattle@cctc.net or visit the Old Harmony website: <http://oldharmony.pbpage.org/oldharmony.cgi>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP MEETING SET 2nd WEEKEND IN JULY 2021 (July 9-11)

The Rocky Mountain Fellowship in Colorado Springs, CO will be held over the 2nd weekend in July, 2021.

Here are the specifics we have at this time:

Rocky Mountain Fellowship Meeting 2021 July the 9th, 10th, and 11th. All three days of the meeting will be held at Local 58 Plumbers and Pipefitters Hall located at: 2870 Janitell Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906; and services will also be broadcast virtually (all Zoom links below are for the same Zoom ID so it works for all meeting times and services.

Updates will be at the Pikes Peak Primitive Baptist Facebook Group . The Zoom link for all meetings will be <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6909166217> Auto-connect Meeting ID: 690 916 6217]

Sharing this information is greatly appreciated.

Phil Kastelic, Deacon; Friendship Primitive Baptist Church, Denver, CO., (303) 808-9888

Meetings . . . page 2

ANTIOCH PBC, BROOKHAVEN, MS ANNUAL MEETING 3RD SUNDAY WEEKEND IN JULY

The Annual Meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Mississippi, will begin on Friday night, July 16, with supper at 6 and service at 7.

Two services will be held on Saturday with service beginning at 10:30 a.m., lunch, then an afternoon service at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting will conclude on Sunday, July 18, with service at 10:30 and lunch following the service.

Elder Adam Green is the invited minister.

2021 ANNUAL CAMP MEETING PLANNED JULY 15-18 AT BETHEL PBC, MCMAHAN, TEXAS

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in McMahan, TX will host the 2021 Camp Meeting on July 15-18, 2021.

Bethel's physical address is 5544 FM 713, Lockhart, Texas. Services will begin Thursday night with a sandwich supper and continue through Sunday Morning.

There is a Best Western Hotel in Lockhart and several good hotels in Bastrop, Texas. There are several RV camping hookups at the Church.

Come praying that the Lord will be with us, and it will be a time of great fellowship.

For information you can contact Bro. Tom Owen 512-398-6075 tommaryowen@gmail.com or Elder Sonny Huckaby 512-398-4265 sonhuckaby@att.net

LUBBOCK, TX PBC TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING 3rd SUNDAY WEEKEND IN JULY

The Primitive Baptist Church of Lubbock, TX will host its annual meeting the 3rd Sunday weekend in July.

The meeting will begin with a 5:30 p.m. supper on Thursday night July 16th, followed by worship services at 7 p.m. The meeting continues with Saturday morning service at 10 a.m., lunch and an afternoon service. There will be no Saturday night service. The meeting concludes with a Sunday morning service at 10 a.m.

Invited ministers are Elder Norman Jones of Elk City, OK, and Elder Vince Hardy of College Station, TX.

The church building is located at 4401 north University Avenue, Lubbock, Texas. For more information contact Elder Kenny Venable (806) 777-3119.

HOPEWELL PBC, RANDOLPH, MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL MEETING JULY 16-18, 2021

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2021 (July 16-18).

Services Friday night, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 17, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, July 18, at 10:00 a.m. with communion and lunch afterward. Elder Bobby Howell, Amory, MS is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

OLD SCHOOL ORIGINAL TOWALIGA ASSN. JULY 23-24, 2021 AT FOREST PBC, GEORGIA

Forest Primitive Baptist Church in Georgia will host the 183rd session of the Old School Towaliga Association. We will have morning and afternoon services both days with lunch. Please make plans to be with us.

PILGRIM'S REST PBC, DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA ANNUAL MEETING JULY 23-25, 2021

The Pilgrim's Rest Primitive Baptist Church of Duncan, OK, would like to invite you to our annual meeting to be held the 4th Sunday weekend in July, the dates

being July 23, 24 and 25th 2021 starting on Friday evening and continue through Sunday.

Elder Dale Turner, Knox City, TX; and Elder David Montgomery from San Antonio, TX, will be with us.

Supper will be served Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. with services at 7 p.m. Worship services will start Saturday morning at 10 a.m. with lunch following. We will have two preaching services in the afternoon starting at about 1:30 p.m. and after a brief break, a second service will begin about 4 p.m.. Supper will be served at 5:00 or 5:30. There will not be a night service.

Sunday service will begin at 10 a.m.

We have electrical plugs and room for RV's in the parking area. There are several hotels in town and our homes will be open to you.

The Church is located at 317 S. 15th in Duncan, OK. For more information, please contact Elder Dennis Kreie at 580-255-3239.

In Christian love and fellowship,
Elder Dennis Kreie Pastor,
Sister Emma Jean Newman Church Clerk

CORTEZ, CO -- BLOOMFIELD, NM MEETING SET 4th SUNDAY WEEKEND JULY 23-25

The Annual Meeting of the Cortez Primitive Baptist and Desert Hope Primitive Baptist Churches will be held the fourth weekend in July, beginning Friday night.

The meeting will start Friday night, July 23rd with supper being served around 5:30 p. m. services begin at seven. It will continue through Sunday noon, July 25th. Lunch and supper will be served Saturday, with lunch on Sunday.

We extend a welcome to all who can come. If you cannot come pray the Lord to bless us in our efforts.

For more information contact the pastor of the Cortez Primitive Baptist Church, Elder Cleveland Bass (jcdf-bass@fone.net).

There are some R.V. hook-ups at the Church, and several motels. We are small in number, but will try to have some in our homes. The Church at Cortez is located at 900 S. Oak Street, just 8 blocks south of Main Street (Highway 160).

UPDATE: Baymont Inn offers a reduced rate on rooms for the meeting, when they register or make reservations that they are in town for the Primitive Baptist Meeting. For further information. 970-565-3400.

UNION PBC, RUTH, MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL MEETING 4TH SUNDAY WEEKEND JULY

The Annual Meeting at Union Primitive Baptist Church in Ruth, Mississippi will begin on Friday morning, July 23 with service at 10:30 and lunch to follow.

Supper will be served at 6 p.m. with service at 7. Saturday's services will follow the same schedule. The meeting will conclude with morning service on Sunday, July 25, with service at 10:30 and lunch to follow.

Elder David Crawford is the invited speaker.

LAODICEA PBC, LAFAYETTE SPRINGS, MS ANNUAL MEETING JULY 25-25, 2021

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS the 4th weekend in July, 2021 (July 23-25),

Services Friday night, July 23, at 7 p.m., no supper.

Saturday, July 24, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services immediately thereafter.

Elder Darrell Chambers from AL is invited minister. Sunday morning, July 25, the annual communion ser-

vices will be observed. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

NEW HOPE PBC, LAMPASAS, TEXAS TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING 4TH WEEKEND IN JULY

The New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Lampasas, Texas will endeavor to hold their 2021 Annual Meeting the fourth weekend in July.

The meeting will begin on Saturday morning with singing at 10 am. There will be lunch and both services Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening.

The meeting will conclude with regularly scheduled worship services on Sunday morning. The Church extends an invitation to those ministering servants that the Lord may direct their way.

Elder Bruce Crawford is pastor of the New Hope.

The Church writes: "The Lord and His people have blessed us abundantly in these trying times to provide our little church a way to rebuild and restore. We long to worship again with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. May God richly bless you, is our prayer."

New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, 3160 South Hwy 183, Lampasas, Texas 76550

- August 2021 -

PB ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS AT SPRING GROVE PBC, TOMBALL, TEXAS 1st WEEKEND AUGUST

The 139th session of the Primitive Baptist Association of Texas will be hosted by Spring Grove Primitive Baptist Church in Tomball, Texas, the weekend of the 1st Sunday in August.

Worship services will be held on Thursday evening (July 29th, 2021 at 7pm), then Friday and Saturday (10am, afternoon and evening services) and the meeting will conclude with services on Sunday morning (10am, August 1st). The Spring Grove Primitive Baptist Church is located on the far northwest side of Houston, Texas, at 14002 Alice Street, Tomball, Texas 77377.

Please pray the Lord will abundantly bless this meeting and make plans to attend and worship with us.

OLD GOOD HOPE PBC, MAGEE, MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL MEETING 1ST WEEKEND IN AUGUST

The Annual Meeting at Old Good Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Magee, Mississippi, will be held the weekend of August 1.

Elder Ricky Harcrow is the invited minister.

MULESHOE PBC, TEXAS SETS ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1st WEEKEND IN AUGUST

Lord willing, the Muleshoe Primitive Baptist Church will host our annual meeting the first weekend of August starting July 30, 2021 through August 1, 2021.

There will be supper served Friday & Saturday at 5:30 pm, lunch both Saturday and Sunday. We invite all Ministers as well as church Brethren to come.

We do have a few hook-ups at the church and there is a free RV park on the west side of town. Motels:

- Irish Inn-(806) 272-4500 and if you mention "Primitive Baptist Church Meeting" there is a discount. 1 bed = \$69 / 2-bed = \$79

- Heritage House Inn-(806) 272-7575

If you need any further information, please contact Ken Wilhelm at (806) 774-1011 or Elder Don Martin at (806) 341-2173.

Meetings . . . page 3

ANTIOCH PBC, OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI PLANS ANNUAL MEETING 1ST SUNDAY WEEKEND

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, Mississippi, the 1st weekend in August, 2021 (July 30-Aug.1).

Services Friday night, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, Aug. 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Elder Joe Nettles, Caledonia, MS is invited minister. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Antioch.

LITTLE FLOCK PBC, BURNSVILLE, MS ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 6-8, 2021

The Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church of Burnsville, Mississippi is planning to hold its Annual Meeting on the weekend of the second Sunday in August.

Services will be held Friday night, August 6, and Saturday night, August 7, at 7 p.m. each night.. Supper will be served each night at 6 p.m.

Elder Tim Cunningham, pastor of New Hope PBC in Hatley, MS is the invited minister. We pray the Lord will bless with His Spirit.

The church is located on County Rd. 265 in Burnsville, Mississippi. Contact Elder Jonathan Wise, pastor of Little Flock, at 662-419-2721 if needing more information.

RICH MOUNTAIN PBC ASSOCIATION PLANNED AUGUST 12-15, 2021 AT HURRICANE GROVE, AR

Lord willing, the Rich Mountain Association will convene at the Association grounds (Tabernacle) in Hurricane Grove, Arkansas, just outside of Mt. Ida on the third weekend in August.

The meeting will begin on Thursday night and continue through Sunday morning.

The Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church and the Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church will be privileged to co-host the meeting. Several camper hookups are available on the Association grounds and there are motels just a few miles away.

For more information, please contact Bro. Mason Tillery (mtillery@hotmail.com)

LITTLE RIVER AUGUST MEETING IS PLANNED AUGUST 12-14, 2021 AT BOILING SPRINGS, GA

We will host the Little River August Meeting August 12-14 at Boiling Springs Primitive Baptist Church at 1200 Birmingham Road, Milton, GA.

Services are as follows: Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (supper at 6 pm); Friday at 10:00 a.m. (lunch), afternoon, (supper at 6 pm) and 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (lunch), and afternoon.

We encourage everyone to come and be a part of this wonderful meeting. Contact: Elder Randall Cagle 770.630.7150

CHEWALLA PBC, POTTS CAMP, MISSISSIPPI HOST ANNUAL MEETING 3rd WEEKEND AUGUST

Everyone is invited to the meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 3rd weekend in August, 2021 (Aug. 13-15).

Services Friday night, Aug. 13, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at 10:30 a.m. with no lunch. Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, Tennessee is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

CLEAR SPRINGS PBC, MABEN, MS ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 2021

Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, Mississippi, will have their annual meeting on Saturday, August, 28, 2021.

Services start at 10 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon at 1:30 p.m. This is an open meeting.

The church is currently without a pastor but Elder David Wise will be assisting during the meeting.

HOUSTON ANNUAL AND MEETING ORIDINATION SET FOR 5th SUNDAY WEEKEND IN AUGUST

Houston Primitive Baptist Church has voted to host a 5th Sunday meeting in August 2021 beginning with evening services Friday night August 27th and concluding with services Sunday morning August 29th.

We will have the Ordination of Bro. Andrew Rowell to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. The ordination will be held following lunch on Saturday August 28th.

We invite you to pray for the meeting and the ordination and for you attend the services if the Lord permits. Please pray for Bro. Andrew and his sweet wife, Morgan, not only for the ordination but also for the birth and health of their daughter who is scheduled to join them in July.

-- Elder Brian Ramsey

BURNET, TX PBC PLANS ANNUAL MEETING 5th SUNDAY WEEKEND IN AUGUST 28-29

The Burnet Primitive Baptist Church in Burnet, Texas will endeavor to host their Annual Meeting the 5th weekend in August.

The meeting will start on Saturday morning, with services at 10 am. There will be lunch served, followed by an afternoon service. The meeting will conclude with regularly scheduled worship services on Sunday morning at 10 am.

The Church has invited Elder Danny Wisner to be with them during their meeting. The meeting house is located three miles east of Burnet, Texas on Highway 29.

Elder Randy Crawford is pastor at Burnet.

- September 2021 -

BETHEHEM PBC, PURCELL, OKLAHOMA ANNUAL MEETING 3rd WEEKEND SEPTEMBER

The Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church in Purcell, Oklahoma will hold its 2021 Fall Meeting, the third weekend in September, beginning on Friday evening with supper and services.

Services will continue Saturday and through noon on Sunday. The Bethlehem Church invites all who can, to come and worship the Lord with them.

The Bethlehem Church has invited Elder Mike Montgomery, pastor of the Old School Primitive Baptist Church in Kennedale, Texas and Elder Daniel Montgomery, pastor of the Farmersville Primitive Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas to be with them.

There are several members welcome visitors to stay in their homes, a couple motels in the area and several R.V. hookups at the Church. If we can help with any information, please call Elder Mike Hughes, Pastor (405-760-7773). The Bethlehem Church address is 16958 Horse Ave., Purcell, Oklahoma 73080.

From I-35 take highway 74 west / south. Turn left on Horse Avenue and continue south until you see the Church on the left. It is just past 170th Street.

FISHING RIVER PBC ASSOCIATION PLANNED AT NORTH NEW GARDEN PBC SEPTEMBER 23-26

The 2021 Fishing River Association will Lord willing, be hosted by the North New Garden Primitive Baptist Church in Excelsior Springs, Missouri over the weekend of the fourth Sunday in September.

The schedule of services are outlined below:

Services begin with supper on Thursday at 5:30, followed by evening service; 3 services on Friday, with breakfast, lunch, and supper served at the Church; 3 services on Saturday, with breakfast, lunch, and supper served at the Church. Sunday morning service followed by lunch to conclude the meeting.

For more information - or minutes from our previous meetings, please contact Brother Stephen Crowley, cell# 816-564-4952, email: spc76@hotmail.com

FIRST PBC DALLAS TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING 4th WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

The First Primitive Baptist Church of Dallas will host their Annual Meeting the 4th weekend in September.

Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. on Friday night, with services following. There will be services on Saturday morning, afternoon and evening, with services at 10 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday morning. They will probably try to start our preaching services on Saturday night around 6:30 p.m.

The Sunday worship services will be immediately followed by our Communion service. They would love to see visitation from their sister Churches, as well as ministering servants that the Lord may send their way.

- October 2021 -

DIXIE PBC, WHITESBORO, TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED OCTOBER 1-3, 2021

The Dixie Primitive Baptist Church outside of Whitesboro, Texas will host their 2021 Annual Meeting the first weekend in October.

The meeting will begin on Friday evening with supper at 6 p.m., service at 7:30 p.m.. Saturday service around 10 a.m. and afternoon service, but no evening service.

The meeting will conclude after Sunday morning worship with lunch to follow.

The Dixie Primitive Baptist Church is located north of Whitesboro, Texas on Highway 377. Exit Highway 82 in Whitesboro onto Highway 377 and proceed about 2.4 miles. The Church building across the highway from the Dixie cemetery.

ROME-MIDWAY PBC, ROME, GEORGIA PLANS ANNUAL FALL MEETING OCTOBER 8-10, 2021

The Rome-Midway Primitive Baptist Church, Rome, Georgia will endeavor to host their Annual Fall Meeting the second weekend in October (8, 9 and 10, 2021).

Elder Sonny Huckaby, pastor of the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in McMahan, Texas and Elder Mark Quarles, pastor of the Providence Primitive Baptist Church in Stringer, Mississippi have promised to be with the Church during their meeting. Services will begin on Friday night, with morning and afternoon services scheduled for Saturday.

The meeting concludes Sunday morning services at 10 am. Elder Joe Hayes is the pastor of the Rome-Midway Primitive Baptist Church. The church is located at 5585 Martha Berry Hwy NW, Rome, Georgia 31078.

ABILENE PBC, TEXAS, SCHEDULES ANNUAL MEETING FR OCTOBER 8-9-10, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Abilene Primitive Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas will be October 8, 9 and 10.

Our meeting will begin Friday, October 8th with supper

Meetings . . . page 4

at 6 p.m.; services at 7 p.m. Saturday will start at 10 a.m. with lunch. Saturday afternoon services are scheduled for 1:30 with no Saturday evening services are planned. Sunday morning we will begin at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served following to conclude our meeting.

Elder Larry Webb, pastor of the Indian Oaks Primitive Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas, Elder Mark Rowell, pastor of the Snyder Primitive Baptist Church in Snyder, Texas and Elder Mark Richards, pastor of the Littlevine Primitive Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, have agreed to be with us during our meeting.

The Church meeting house is located at 3565 Hickory, 2 blocks north of I-20. For more information or questions contact: Elder Barry Brown 817-718-6571 Barry.L.Brown@icloud.com, or Brother Ron Hale 325-668-8285 rhale@taylorlortel.net

EAST AMITE ASSOCIATION AT ANTIOCH PBC SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14-17, 2021

Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, will host the East Amite Association at Brookhaven, Mississippi beginning on Thursday night, October 14, with service at 7 p.m.

Services will be held all day Friday and Saturday and will conclude on Sunday, October 17, with lunch to follow.

BRENTWOOD HILLS PBC, FORT WORTH, PLANS ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 15-17

The Brentwood Hills Primitive Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas will host their Annual Meeting the third weekend in October.

Supper will be served on Friday evening around 5:30 pm, services on Friday night, continuing with three services Saturday and on Sunday morning. Saturday song service no later than 10 am.

The Church has invited Elder Adam Green, pastor of Old Union Primitive Baptist Church in Lonsdale, AR and Elder Danny Wisner, from Vidalia, LA to be with them during their meeting.

Elder Ward Rowell is pastor of the Brentwood Hills Church. Brentwood Hills Primitive Baptist Church, 1451 Handley Drive, Fort Worth, TX.

For more information, please contact:

Elder Ward Rowell: wjrowell@sbcglobal.net

Bro. Ronnie Mallow: RonnieM227@aol.com

Brother Tim Lowrance: lowrancetd@gmail.com

Brother Jeff Lindsey: jeff@jlindseyfamily.net

Or visit the Brentwood Hills Primitive Baptist Church website at:

<https://www.facebook.com/bhpbpc/>

<http://www.bhpbpc.org>

Coming from the EAST (Dallas): Take the Cooks Lane exit and turn left. Turn right onto Ederville Road. Then turn left onto Nottingham Blvd. The Church will be on the right.

Coming from the WEST (Fort Worth): Take the Bridge-wood Drive exit and turn right onto Bridgewood Drive. Turn left onto Brentwood Stair Road. Then turn left onto Handley Drive and then right onto Isham Street, just beyond the post office. The Church will be on the left.

SNYDER TX PBC PLANS ANNUAL MEETING FOR 5th SUNDAY WEEKEND IN OCTOBER

The Primitive Baptist Church of Snyder, Texas will host its annual meeting fifth Sunday weekend in September. Elder Bill Moseley, pastor of the Squaw Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Doss, Texas and Elder James Mose-

ley, from the Littlevine Primitive Baptist Church in Austin, Texas have agreed to be with us during this meeting.

The meeting will begin on Friday night, October 29 with supper being served at 6 p.m. The meeting will continue on Saturday with morning, afternoon and evening services and conclude on Sunday morning. Meals will be served throughout the meeting.

The Church is located at 2001 Avenue M. For more information please contact Thomas Strayhorn 325-573-8034, or (325) 280-8101; or tvstrayhorn@sbcglobal.net.

Elder Mark Rowell, Pastor

Sister Patricia West, Church Clerk

- November 2021 -

ANNUAL SMOKY MOUNTAIN FALL MEETING SET NOVEMBER 3-5, AT PIGEON FORGE, TN

The 2021 Smoky Mountain Fall Meeting is scheduled to be held November 3 through November 5, Wednesday evening - Friday evening.

Morning services begin at 10 am and evening services begin at 7 pm. It will be at the Norma Dan in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

If there are any changes, we will announce ASAP. Address and info:

Norma Dan
3864 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
1-800-219-6809
865-453-2403

Tell them you're with the Smoky Mountain Primitive Baptist Meeting and you will receive a reduced rate, which includes breakfast.

Please help announce this meeting by sharing on Facebook and making it known to the Church you attend. If you have any questions or need info, contact me (Elder Ronnie Loudermilk) at elderrbl@gmail.com or here on Facebook. Lord willing, we will have a new Smoky Mountain Meeting website up very soon, which will include announcements, pics from past meetings, and sermons.

LONE PILGRIM PBC, MESA, ARIZONA MOVES ANNUAL MEETING TO NOVEMBER 5-7, 2021

We, the Lone Pilgrim Primitive Baptist Church of Mesa, AZ, have voted to change our annual Anniversary meeting in April to the first weekend of November, 2021.

Since we had to change our meeting last year to November due to the Pandemic, we voted to keep it in November this year.

It will start on Friday, November 5th and continue through Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Bro. Vernon McWhirter, Church Clerk

LITTLE UNION PBC, LITHIA, FLORIDA TO HOST FLORIDA FELLOWSHIP NOVEMBER 12-14, 2021

The Little Union Primitive Baptist Church, Lithia, Florida is pleased to host the Florida Fellowship Meeting in 2021. The dates for the meeting are November 12, 13 and 14, 2021.

Lord willing the meeting will begin on Friday morning, with three services on Friday and two services on Sat-

urday (morning and afternoon). The meeting will conclude with Sunday morning worship services at 10 am.

Elder Chris Crouse is the pastor of the Little Union Primitive Baptist Church.

- Friday, November 12, 2021: 10 AM - Service; 12PM - Lunch; 2PM - Service; 5:45PM - Supper; 7PM - Service

-Saturday, November 13, 2021: 10AM - Service; 12PM - Lunch; 2PM - Service

- Sunday, November 14, 2021: 10AM - Service; 12PM - Lunch

Little Union Primitive Baptist Church

15510 County Rd 39

Lithia, Florida 33547

Recommended Hotels: Comfort Inn; 2003 S. Frontage Rd, Plant City, FL 33563 813-707-6000

Holiday Inn Express; 2102 N. Park Rd; Plant City, FL 33563 813-719-3800

Hilton Garden Inn; 3839 Don Emerson Drive; Lakeland, FL 33811 1-863-647-0066

Fairfield Inn & Suites; 4307 Sterling Commerce Drive; Plant City, FL 33566

For more information, please see the church website (www.littleunion.com), or contact their pastor, Elder Chris Crouse. Church Office - 813-634-4754; Cell Phone - 813-765-2818; Email - cgcrouse@gmail.com

MACEDONIA PBC, ACKERMAN, MS MOVES ANNUAL MEETING TO NOVEMBER

The Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church of Ackerman, Mississippi, has decided to move its annual meeting to the 2nd Sunday weekend in November, 2021. (It was previously held the 1st weekend in October.)

More information will be available later, but the meeting will be November 13-14, 2021. Elder David Wise is pastor of Macedonia PBC.

INDIAN CREEK PB FELLOWSHIP BEGINS NEW MEETINGS MONTHLY

In their October conference, the Denton Primitive Baptist Church voted to extend an arm to a group of Primitive Baptist's meeting near Leonard, Texas.

They are calling themselves the "Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Fellowship" and will began regular worship services last October. They will now meet every Sunday each month, with singing at 10:30 am and preaching at 11 am.

The meeting house is located on Highway 78 (22903 S. State Hwy 78 Leonard, TX 75452) about halfway between Blue Ridge and Leonard.

Appointments are: Elder Vernon Johnson (2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays) (972) 832-5630 vernon@denton-pbc.org; and Elder Kemmey Morris (1st and 4th Sunday) (575) 910-7593 kamorris77@sbcglobal.net

The Indian Creek Cemetery or meeting location is: 18 miles from Farmersville, Texas; 22 miles from Bonham, Texas; 27 miles from Greenville, Texas.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

If you are having a good meeting, good singing, good fellowships, baptisms or special visitors, please send reports to The Banner of Love and allow us to share your good news.

Did Jesus speak to any but Peter?

“And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not: from henceforth thou shalt catch men,” -- Luke 5: 10

Simon had seen a great display of the Lord's power, and fell down at Jesus knees saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

Jesus was by the lake. A great multitude pressed upon Jesus to hear him. He entered into a ship, and prayed Simon that he would thrust out a little from the land. This was done and Jesus taught the people out of the ship.

After this he said to Peter, launch out into the deep, and let down your net for a draught of fishes. Peter said, master we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at thy word I will let down the net. Peter had not known the Lord before this so far as we have any report. When they had done this they enclosed a great multitude of fishes, and their net broke. They then beckoned to their partners in another ship to help them.

This they did, and filled both the ships so that the ships began to sink. It was this display of Christ's power and mercy that humbled Peter. The wisdom of Jesus to tell Peter what to do, and his goodness in so filling their vessels with fish, so overwhelmed Peter with fear that it at once brought to his mind the superiority of Jesus that he fell at Jesus' knees and said, depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord. Peter loved the Lord in some sense. But sense of his own sinfulness now had the mastery; for he had not learned the depth of the love of God in Christ Jesus. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance. It is when we fail that his mercies appear so great to us.

Here is a display of the Lord's blessed power and faithfulness which showed Peter that all they who trust in the Lord are the blessed ones. When he commands us to obey him it is not a vain command. Peter had toiled all night and caught nothing. He had failed. The display of Christ's power appeared the more wonderful in contrast with his own failure. It is when we fail then the Lord takes us up. Not that he does not begin the work of salvation until then.

Before this he begins by sending a famine or trouble and distress. It is the consequence, the due reward of our sins, and honest conscience, or that feeling that we deserve this- what we never felt or saw before as now- operates in us, and we endeavor to make amends, and to do better, but we find we cannot deliver ourselves, nor live in that wretched state. Then like Peter we feel vile and unworthy of the least of God's mercies, and feel we are not fit to be in his presences, because we are so sinful. In this condition we do not hate the Lord, but we hate ourselves.

Jesus did not leave Peter, but said to him Fear not: from hence forth thou shalt catch men. Elsewhere he said to Simon Peter and Andrew his brother, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

In this instance it is a personal call, and an individual call to each one. Jesus said to Peter, Fear not: thou shalt catch men. It is always a personal, individual call. It is not that one comes first to Christ, after making up in his own mind, that he will be a Christian, and then after this the Lord calls him when he finds he will make a good hand to work, or a good preacher. No, Jesus called whom he would, or whom he pleased, and they then come to him.

Jesus causes Peter to catch men-not to make them- to feed sheep-not to make them. No fisherman creates the fish he catches. The wonderful work of Simon is to catch men. What a



Elder P. D. Gold (1833 - 1920) served as pastor of many churches in the southeast U.S.. He resided at Wilson, North Carolina and served for 50 years as Editor of “Zion's Landmark”, one of the earliest Primitive Baptist publications.

great draught he enclosed on the day of Pentecost; yet the net did not break.

Preaching the gospel is the most wonderful work a man ever does. Naturally a fish does not know what the angler means, nor does he desire to be caught. Its hunger which it cannot control compels it to bite, nor does it see the danger. In vain the fowler spreads the net in sight of the bird. In natural fishing or hunting the catching of game means death to the game. In the more wonderful fishing that catches men death attends, but not a natural death. The Lord prepares his people. They are quickened by his spirit-cut in the heart, and cry out under the sense of their vileness, and the great glory of the Lord. They love the preacher as they never have before. The thoughts of their hearts are told to them, and the enmity of nature is slain. They fall down and worship God, and speak. God is in you of a truth. They are caught- drawn by the cords of love, and are made willing in the Lord's day in the beauties of holiness.

After the Lord calls Peter, it is not except as he in the crucifixion of Jesus turns back in his feelings, thinking it is all a mistake, and he says I go a fishing – as he fished before the Lord called him. But again, he toils all night and catches nothing. Again, the Lord appears to him and tells him to cast the net on the right side of the vessel. They did so and enclosed a great multitude of fishes, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus said to Peter, Simon son of Jesus, lovest thou me more than these? These what? It may be answered, everything. Do you love me more than you do this fishing business, money, the world? You said though all men forsake thee yet will not I. Do you love me more than others do?

Feed my sheep. What a blessed business.

– P. D. G.

The revealed creation . . .

From Page 1 --

expected first coming of Jesus, His second coming will be as "a thief in the night" as Peter has expressed. Some of His faithful servants will be looking for His second-time appearance, at which time Jesus will not be coming as a sin bearer, but to finally and forever deliver the total of His purchased possession (Eph. 1:14) unto their exalted eternal salvation in the New Universe.

Nevertheless, at His second coming, He will come unexpectedly as a thief in the night. Then the old heavens shall pass away and melt with a fervent heat and the old earth and all the works within shall be burned up. This will all occur after the final judgment (see Rev. 20:11-15). Peter then tells us in 2 Peter 3:13 that we "look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." We do not know when that will occur, but we shall still look and expect it. The "coming of the day of God" (2 Pet. 3:12) refers to that great and final judgment day, and it has not yet come.

The term "new heavens and a new earth" is referred to by many theologians as the New Universe. Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious belief. This term "universe" is so used by theologians, in that the Hebrew language did not contain the word "universe," so the universe is expressed in Scripture as heavens and earth.

Neither does the Inspired Word, translated into English, contain certain other words that are commonly used in the theological field of expressions, such as "sovereignty", "depravity", "trinity", "militant", as are many other words used in various biblical writings. Nevertheless, the Bible adequately and purposely teaches such pure truths.

In Revelations 21:1, the Apostle John saw that New Universe, for which Peter, John, Paul, and others were looking. John said, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." John presently was shown the vision of these events that will occur in some future time and revealed it to the servants and to the seven churches of Asia as he was so commanded (Rev. 1:1; 11).

The seas of the first universe divided the lands, the countries, and separated the many nations of people. In the New Universe, there will be no more sea to make any kind of division, for in this New Universe "dwelleth righteousness" (3 Pet. 3:13). No more sea, no divisions, no separations, no defilements, no wickedness, no ills of any sort whatsoever in the New Universe (Rev. 1:27).

Verse 27 gives the conclusive results of there being "no more sea" to cause any sort of interruptions, divisions, or separations in this New Universe, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are

written in the Lamb's book of life."

This language is right opposite to what other scriptures, including Jude 4, etc., etc., teach regarding error, backbiting, unbelief, and various kinds of wickedness that are all too often found in the gospel church kingdom within this first created earth. Such is certainly contrary to the established purpose of the glorious gospel church.

Such wrongs are very negated in purpose and should never be present in this timely, most precious gospel church of which Christ Jesus is the Head (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23; Col. 1:18). It is so sad that such wrongs and wickedness exist all too frequently in and around the gospel church in this life, but the church on earth is composed of sinners, which we all are until we leave this old world.

Bad news comes in bunches . . .

From Page 1 --

against others? No, he did not. The Bible says that after this life changing news, "Then Job arose and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job. 1: 21-22) Job knew that the Lord knew the way he would take and was made to cry out, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15) He surely was led to the Rock that is higher than Job.

The bad news did not stop for Job after the death of his ten offspring. He was afflicted with sore boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head so that he took a potsherd to scrape himself. The wife of Job reacted to all this news by exhorting him to just curse God and die. How did Job respond to his wife's exhortation? "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." (Job 2:10) We always like a good ending in any story. Well, Job's story has a good ending; He is blessed twice as much in the end than at the beginning and is mentioned in the New Testament as a man of patience and recipient of the mercies of God.

If our house is founded on the solid Rock of Jesus Christ, we will be able to withstand the onslaught of bad news because we are led to the Rock that

Such does realistically occur here below because of the fallen nature of sin in man. For this reason, the children of God stand and appear daily at the judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 2Cor.5:10). The gospel church just was not filled with the indwelling of all righteousness, as will be dominant in totality in the New Universe of which Peter speaks.

In the New Universe, there will be "no stones to be gathered out." Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 62:10, prophetically concerning the gospel church, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people."

Lord Jesus, come quickly.

is nigher than us. David had committed a grievous sin with Bathsheba and the child of that union was very sick. David fasted and wept for many days for the child. His servants were fearful of telling him when the child finally died for fear of what David might do to himself. David, however, perceived the child was dead and how did David react? David changed his apparel and came into the house of God and worshipped. David explained, "And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (II Sam 12:22-23)

David had many adversities as a result of his sin with Bathsheba so he knew first hand about needing help from the Lord. There is seemingly nothing worse than family trouble. David had family trouble and much of it because of his adultery with Bathsheba. He lost the child of that union with her. He lost a son Amnon who was killed by his brother Absalom for violating his sister, Tamar. He lost Absalom who tried to usurp the kingdom from David. He lost a fourth son, Adonijah, who proclaimed himself king and later put to death by Solomon. David did indeed restore fourfold for his adulterous sin.

We never know for sure how we will react when the bad news keeps piling up one after another. We trust we would be as Job and trust the Lord who is faithful who will not suffer us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear. (I Car. 10:13)

(Elder Larry Wise is publisher of "The Glad Tidings, a Primitive Baptist newsletter, from which this article is taken. Elder Wise is pastor of Bethany Primitive Baptist Church of Pontotoc, Mississippi)