## Truth

Magazine

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# As the Life of a FLOWER

As the life of a flower,
As a breath or a sigh,
So the years that we live
As a dream hasten by.
True, today we are here,
But tomorrow must leaveJust a grave in the vale
And a memory of me.





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## As the Life of a Flower...

by Mark Mayberry

Life is fleeting. David said, "Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. Selah" (Ps. 39:5). Asaph reflects, "Thus He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and does not return" (Ps. 78:39). Isaiah reminds us. "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isa. 40:6-8).

#### **Tragedy**

Recently, brother Carrol Sutton was killed in an automobile accident. He was well-respected, a devoted servant of God, and proclaimer of His Word.



Katie Klein offers these observations: "As a granddaughter of Carrol Sutton, I know I am exceedingly blessed to have had such a godly example of how to live as a Christian. Since his death, I have spoken to many Christians, some of whom I had never met, who knew Granddaddy and whose lives he impacted for the better. Some have said that they never met him, but read his monthly bulletin, or listened to recordings of his sermons. Others knew

him well and told me a story or two about Granddaddy I had not previously heard. Even after his passing, his godly influence remains, and my respect and love for Granddaddy continues to grow. Granddaddy was a humble man. He was never harsh or cruel, even with those with whom he disagreed, but he was firm and never held back in preaching the truth. It is hard to talk about Granddaddy without Grandmother because of how closely they worked together in the home and in the kingdom. Their love for each other and for the Lord is a beautiful example of the husband and wife relationship as God intended it to be. I have so much hope for Granddaddy because of the devoted life he lived as a child of God. Because of his life and his faith. I am more certain of his eternal home, and I can rejoice in that knowledge with the peace of God, which passes all understanding."

What about us? We know not what the future holds, nor what the day may bring forth. Life is a vapor. Are we prepared to meet our Maker? If you died tonight, where would you spend eternity?

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil (James 4:13–16).

#### **Terminal Conditions**

Thomas Keese reached the end of his earthly walk on January 8, 2017. He suffered from Multiple Sclerosis (MS), which progressively worsened through the years.

As Thomas recently celebrated his birthday on December 31st, Mike Willis posted the following to his Facebook timeline: "Happy birthday. Hope your



physical ailments allow that for you. Thank you for how much you have done for the Lord, the local church, the GOT Foundation, but most especially for your family. You have inspired me to do more."

Brother Connie Adams said, "Daphnie is truly a jewel who has patiently stood by Thomas and lovingly cared for him. Their two sons have also been a strong support. I will always be grateful for his work, not only to make *Truth Magazine* accessible but he also did the same for *Searching the Scriptures*. When his hands failed to be useful at his computer, he managed to do his work by voice control. Bobby and I have stayed in their home twice during meetings at Westside. What a blessing that was."

Ron Halbrook said, "I met Thomas Keese many years ago when holding meetings in the Wichita, KS area and immediately recognized his dedication to Christ and to the gospel. In 2007 I began Help A Neighbor as a means to help brethren who donate significant funds to the Philippine work so that they can have a legal tax deduction. H.A.N. is approved by the I.R.S. as a nonprofit charity. Thomas soon learned about it and out of the goodness of his heart volunteered to use his skills to create a website to provide information and reports about H.A.N. He has maintained the site http:// helpaneighbor.net/gratis through the years but relinquished this task to his son, Jacob, a couple of years ago as his condition worsened. This is just one example of the guiet but valuable work he has done for the cause of Christ. I can be a better Christian because of the example and influence of this good brother."

Mike O'Neal, who preaches for the Westside church in Wichita, KS where the Keese family worships, has been a close observer of the family as they evidenced faithfulness through trials.

He said, "Words are inadequate to express the depth and breadth of the love, respect, admiration and appreciation the brethren at the Westside church of Christ in Wichita, KS have for Thomas Keese and his faithful family. The reason for such regard is not because of all that he has suffered due to the MS that ravaged his physical body, but the result of his spiritual life, godly influence and humble devotion to the cause of Christ. Thomas, instead of allowing disease to hinder his service, found various ways to be actively engaged, including setting up and managing websites for several congregations and brotherhood publications. Articles written by Thomas have been a source of insightful, biblical teaching and great encouragement to many brethren and can be read on his personal website: http://4suchatimeasthis.org/. He also developed a very useful search engine http://seekye1st.net/for sermons, Bible class material and other publications. All (including myself) who have had the

privilege to know Thomas have been benefited and blessed spiritually by the experience. Paraphrasing the tribute given Dorcas in Acts 9:36 is certainly appropriate when referring to Thomas' life: 'full of good works and charitable deeds which he has done.'"

What about us? Life has no guarantees. Time and chance overtake all. If our lives are limited by some unexpected handicap or infirmity, how would we react? Would we wallow in despair, or make the best of a bad situation?

I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all. Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them (Eccl. 9:11–12).

#### **Transitions**

After forty years, Mike Willis has retired from editing Truth Magazine. Although he will continue to serve in other ways, those associated with the GOT Foundation wanted to say "Thank You" for his devotion, fidelity and long years of service. Accordingly, in the section of this issue normally reserved for theme articles, we include some expressions of appreciation that were offered to Mike at a surprise retirement party held in his honor on November 3, 2016. Because of space limitations, all could not be printed, but they are accessible at http://www. truthmagazine.com/.

What about us? What will we do with our allotted time? How will we employ our talents, and spend our energy? What will be our life's legacy?

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always

abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

#### Conclusion

Change is a constant during our earthly sojourn. Opportunities come and go; tragedy unexpectedly strikes; accidents and illness alter (or end) wellmade plans. Despite living in a world under the curse of sin and death, we are obligated to "redeem the time."

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:15–16).

Despite life's uncertainties, God does not change. Physical objects perish; human accomplishments are temporal. Yet, God's word endures to all generations. Let us, therefore, give thanks for His provision, precepts, and providential care.

He has weakened my strength in the way; He has shortened my days. I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed" (Ps. 102:23–26; cf. 1 Pet. 1:23-25).



Mark Mayberry Editor

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## The Preservation of God's Word

by Kyle Pope

How can we know the Bible is complete? Is something missing? Was something left out? Does Scripture offer any answers?

My grandchildren have some puzzles we keep in a box of toys in the room where they stay whenever they visit. They are simple puzzles with only about 20 pieces but occasionally one or two of the pieces gets misplaced. When that happens, even if all the other pieces are in place, it's not a complete picture—something is missing. We learned in our first lesson that the writers who wrote the Bible claim to have done so by the direct guidance of God. If we accept their claim, a question that immediately arises is how can we know that the Holy Spirit did not also inspire other authors to write other books not found in the Bible? Does the Bible have all of God's revealed word or is something missing?

## Three Facts About God and His Word

If we accept that God has revealed Himself through the written word we must notice some things God has revealed about Himself and His word.

#### 1. God is All-Powerful.

Unlike gods of mythology and false religion, the God revealed in the Bible is omnipotent, a word that means "all-powerful." Solomon declared, "our God is greater than all gods" (2 Chron. 7:5). Jeremiah wrote, "'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You" (Jer. 33:17). God is "the Maker of all things" (Jer. 10:16; 51:19),

and Jesus, God in the flesh, said, "with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). So that means while humans may try to resist God's will, they cannot overpower Him.

## 2. God's Word Accomplishes Its Purpose.

When God spoke to Isaiah, He compared His word to rain and snow that water the earth and cause growth. He declared, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:11). So if God sends forth His word and God is all-powerful, man cannot prevent God's word from accomplishing its intended purpose. As a result...

#### 3. God's Word Endures Forever.

All throughout the Bible, it is taught that God's word cannot pass away. David proclaimed, "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Ps. 119:160). Isaiah was told to, "Cry out!" the truth that "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades... but the word of our God stands forever" (Isa. 40:6-8). Jesus, God in the flesh, declared, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:34; Mark 13:30; Luke 21:32). Finally, Peter described the word of the gospel

of Christ as an "incorruptible" seed that is "the word of God which lives and abides forever" going on to quote Isaiah 40:6-8 (1 Pet. 1:22-25).

So if God is all-powerful, and His word endures forever, what does that tell us about whether the Bible is missing something? If man could successfully remove, destroy, erase, or delete something from the divine revelation God intended to preserve, wouldn't that mean human beings had overcome God? Yes. So along with the claim that the Bible is from God, we must also understand that it teaches the principle that God will preserve His word.

#### **Free Will and Providence**

How can that be true if we all have the freedom to choose right or wrong? I could make the decision right now to take a Bible and cut out all the pages that teach things I don't like. I could burn every bookstore that sells Bibles and force everyone I could to give up their Bibles to be burned. Wouldn't that succeed in destroying God's word? No. We'll see in future lessons that there actually have been times when people tried to do these very things, but even though human beings have free will (the right to choose right or wrong), an all-powerful God always exercises providence.

The word "providence" comes from a Latin word that means "to foresee." It refers to the ways God provides things

to His people. The Bible makes it clear that God knows everything that will happen long before it occurs. James declared, "Known to God from eternity are all His works" (Acts 15:18). Isaiah taught that God is One, "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done..." (Isa. 46:10). Imagine that you knew someone was about to hit you in the face—would you move your head to prevent him from hitting you? Would you take steps to try and make him change his mind about taking that swing? If you let him hit you would you put some ice nearby to soothe the pain? God is so far above us! God knows everything we will ever do, and can act in ways to make certain that even if people try to destroy His word, it will be preserved for those who need it or for the time when people will follow it.

## Examples of God's Preservation of His Word

Let's notice two examples of this recorded in the Bible. Near the final days of the southern kingdom of Judah, the Israelites had become so wicked they had given themselves to the most extreme forms of idolatry ever practiced in ancient times including child sacrifice and temple prostitution (cf. 2 Kings 23:7-10). Any remnants of true worship according to the Law of Moses came only from traditions held in the memory of the people. This happened because God's word fell into such disuse that the book of the Law had actually been lost! On one occasion when the temple was being cleared, Scripture records, "Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord, given by Moses. Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, 'I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.' And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan" (2 Chron. 34:14). When the law was read to king Josiah, he committed himself

to lead the nation in restoration of true worship of God according to His word.

Unfortunately Josiah's son, Jehoiakim, did not have the same respect for God's word. When the Lord led Jeremiah to send a message from Him to the king, the Bible records, "And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth. until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth" (Jer. 36:23). Because he didn't like what God said, Jehoiakim tried to destroy it! Did he succeed? No. God commanded Jeremiah, "Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehojakim the king of Judah has burned" (Jer. 36:28).

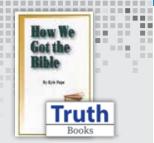
Even though people disregarded God's word so much that it was lost, God preserved it for the time when good hearts would obey its commands. Even though people tried to silence and destroy God's word, God preserved it for those who would respect it. Today we can trust that God has preserved His word just as He intended. Nothing is lost. Nothing is missing. It exists just as God intended. In future lessons we will see historical examples of this in God's providential preservation of His word through the ages.



Kyle Pope

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#### Books by Kyle Pope

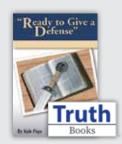


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## The Principle of the Learner (1)

by Aleta Samford

Teaching a Bible class can be one of the most rewarding things we do, unless we have poor listeners. At that point, everyone's time is wasted. God's word provides principles that help us all become better listeners.

We move now to the second principle of the mind, the Law of the Learner, which states, "The Learner must attend with interest to the material being learned." Our challenge is to make this truth a reality. "One may as well talk to the dead as to attempt to teach a child who is wholly inattentive" (John Milton Gregory, The Seven Laws of Teaching, 34). Our class periods are too short to plead with the children to cooperate.

The purpose of these next few articles is to emphasize the responsibility of the learner, but because they are young, adults are still responsible for the type of listeners they become. We continue the search for catalysts to motivate the mind and the will of our children to do what we need them to do because they want to do it.

Let us, like the Master, carefully observe a little child, that we may learn from him what education is; for education, in its broadest meaning, embraces all the steps and processes by which an infant is gradually transformed into a full-grown and intelligent man (Gregory, 7).

We can all understand this quote; we observe it every day. Imagine it in an illustration where we have two cliffs. We place the little child on one side and envision him as the transformed "full-grown and intelligent man" on the other side. The path from one side to

the other is made up of all the "steps and processes" it takes to get him there.

Our primary focus in the spiritual education of our children is that they one day walk with the Lord. The Scriptures are filled with this purpose for our lives, but I want to look at how the apostle Paul states it: "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:9-10).

In effect, Paul emphasizes the "steps and processes" that will help us walk worthy of the Lord, etc. He was concerned with the spiritual education and growth of the church then, and of course it applies to us today. For the sake of our illustration, I would like to suggest that these three aspects (knowledge, understanding, and wisdom) become the structural pieces needed to develop and improve our daily walk with God. Little children must take this path, and we must continue in it.

Just as God's word gives us principles to become the best teachers we can be, He continues to guide us in this next principle of the mind. We are

looking for catalysts; we are looking for beginnings: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..." (Prov. 1:7). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Prov. 9:10).

Fear is the divine motivation in the processes of gathering the needed information (knowledge), internalizing it (understanding) and applying it (wisdom). Spiritual education embraces these and transforms us into people of God.

In our next article, we will make specific application of these verses to our children.

#### Source

Gregory, John Milton. The Seven Laws of Teaching. Revised ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995).



Aleta is the wife of Gene Samford who preaches for the church that meets in Kemp, TX. She has taught Bible classes for forty years and, in an effort to help other women join the ranks, presents a series of lessons based on her own

experiences and The Seven Laws of Teaching. Her email address is aletas10@sbcglobal.net.

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## **Grace and Faith**

by David Flatt

We are saved by grace through faith. While often misunderstood and controversial, grace and faith are inseparable conditions for our salvation.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

There may be no clearer doctrinal explanation for human salvation than the above cite passage. Yet, despite Paul's clarity on the subject, there may be no greater doctrinal controversy than the nature of human salvation. What is the extent of God's role in salvation? What is the extent of our role in salvation? Does God do everything and we do nothing? If we do something, does that negate what God does? Whose role in salvation is greater? God's or ours? These are important questions to which the Bible gives answers.

Just as there are two parties in salvation, God and man, there are two elements in salvation: grace and faith. First, consider God's grace. Simply defined, grace is a gift. God's gift is offered in spite of the recipients being entirely undeserving. There are many examples of God giving an undeserving humanity gifts. God gives humanity air to breath and food to eat. He makes the sun to rise on the evil and good and sends rain on the unjust and just (Matt. 5:45). God has given humanity the gift of His word. We can understand God and His expectation for us as the result of the word of His grace (1 Cor. 2; Acts 20:32). Most significantly, God has given undeserving humanity the gift of His Son: "For God so loved the world,

that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The Son of God makes our salvation possible (Titus 2:10). None of these gifts can be earned. We are not owed anything from God.

Now, most do not question God's grace. Few would deny these examples of God's grace. The controversies surrounding the nature of human salvation do not concern what God has done. Rather, controversies surround how man is to respond to God's grace. What is our role in human salvation?

Many people object to placing conditions on human salvation. The theology of human salvation accepted by most of western society can be described in the following statement. "Jesus died; therefore we are saved." This is not a new concept. When the Gospel began to be preached, the Jews falsely charged Christianity as teaching a person could live in sin and be saved due to the grace of God. The Jews had the law to restrain sin. Christians had grace which only encouraged sin. Paul addressed this false charge: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom. 6:1-2). Evidently, there was more to salvation than simply receiving the grace of God.

Now consider our faith. Grace is God's part in salvation. Faith is our part

in salvation. Simply defined, faith is belief which affects action. Faith is a response to God's grace. For example, do we believe God gave humanity the gift of His Son? If we believe, how must we respond? How is this belief to impact our lives? Is there something we are to do in response to God's grace?

If we are to be saved, we must obev. We must act on our faith. James contended man was to demonstrate his faith by his works (James 2:14-26). Faith without works is dead. If we do not obey, we will be lost. God's grace demands action. For example, Paul wrote Titus, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

God's grace is instructive to a humanity dead in sin. Specifically, God's grace teaches that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. It teaches us we are to live soberly, righteously, godly, and with hope. If we deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, do we void God's grace? If we live soberly, righteously, godly, and with hope,

are we saved by self-righteousness? Will God owe us salvation? Absolutely not. God's grace simply demands a response. If we are going to receive the gift of God's grace, salvation, we must obey.

Obedience cuts to the nature of faith. God does not just want us to acknowledge His existence, or that He sent His Son for our salvation. James said even the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19). Of course, however, the forces of evil do not obey the God whose existence they acknowledge. Likewise, faith without works is dead (James 2:20).

God wants us to obey Him as a result of what we believe. The Hebrews writer illustrated example after example of people who acted on their faith (Heb. 11). By faith, Noah built an ark, Abraham left his homeland, Sara conceived, Moses endured suffering, the walls of Jericho fell, and Rahab helped God's people. None of these individuals would have received the blessings of faith, salvation, had they not acted on their faith. Their faith would have been dead.

Well, what does the nature of faith mean to us in receiving the grace of God? We must obey what God, His Son, and the inspired apostles have commanded. For example, the resurrected Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Jesus commanded faith and a condition in order to be saved. We must believe and be baptized to be saved. If we do not believe, we will not be saved. Now, most people are willing to accept we must believe to be saved. We must believe Jesus is the resurrected Son of God (John 8:23-24). This is true. However, many do not believe we must be baptized to be saved. Why? Why are people willing to accept part of Jesus' commands of salvation, but not all of

His commands? What is the problem? What is the issue regarding baptism?

The problem people have with Jesus' command is not in regards to the act of baptism. They may protest baptism and argue against many points related to baptism. However, the issue is not with baptism; rather it is a faith issue. Ultimately, people who reject what Jesus and the apostles have said regarding baptism do not believe. They lack faith. They lack the accompanying works of faith. Therefore, their faith is dead (James 2:24).

Dead faith has deadly consequences. Dead faith will keep us dead in our trespasses and sins. Paul described how the Ephesians had been in such a perilous condition. However, they were revived as they received God's grace through faith (Eph. 2:1-9). After Paul performed a miracle, Luke wrote, "And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them. and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver" (Acts 19:17-19). Did the deeds of the Ephesians nullify God's grace? Of course not. They served as evidence of their conversion.

In conclusion, we are saved by grace through faith. By God's grace, we can have faith. Without God's grace, faith would be impossible. Without God's grace, salvation would be impossible. We would be hopelessly lost. Even with our faith, salvation will always be God's gift. We will never be deserving of salvation. If we have done all we can do to faithfully serve God, we still will be undeserving of Heaven. Our righteousness will always be like filthy rags (Isa. 64:6). Only the Lamb of God

is truly worthy (Rev. 5:1-5). When we have done all we have been told to do, we will still be unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10). No matter how loyal and faithful, salvation will always be God's gift to undeserving servants.

What is especially sad about the controversies surrounding human salvation, is that most are in agreement regarding man's utter lack of righteousness. The controversies surround what God's grace demands of us. God's grace demands that we obey His commands. It demands that we abstain from sin (Titus 2:11-14). It demands that we direct our abilities towards the pursuit and practice of righteousness (Rom. 6:16-19). In the end, only those who have kept God's commandments and the faith of Jesus Christ will be saved (Rev. 14:12).

We must never pit doctrinal concepts against each other. We need to understand doctrinal concepts like grace and faith. We need to study and analyze them independently. However, we must also find how they fit together. Grace and faith are not opposing doctrinal concepts. They are companions of human salvation. This is how Paul presented them. They are inseparable. We cannot have salvation by one and not the other. We are not saved by grace alone. We are not saved by faith alone. Salvation calls for both grace and faith. We must learn all of what the Bible has revealed on any given doctrinal topic and then begin to draw conclusions. When two subjects are presented together, we must find out how they fit together. Hopefully, this study has aided in this vital process. T



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David Flatt

## **Commitment to Marriage**

by Mike Willis

Belief in the Lord's teaching on the permanence of marriage and commitment to live in obedience to His word saved our marriage.

From Sandy's lesson in the 2006 book, *God Give Us Christian Homes*, one would know that she and I had some rough times during the early years of our marriage. There were times when both of us were so exhausted, exasperated, and desperate that the temptation of the Devil made divorce appealing. Not all marriages start off with smooth sailing and continue without conflicts. At least, that is our experience.

#### **Commitment to Marriage**

What kept us together through these difficult years? Both of us had made a commitment to be obedient to the Lord Jesus and both of us understood Jesus' teaching on divorce and remarriage.

But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery (Matt. 5:31 32).

And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery (Matt. 19:9).

Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he

lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband (Rom. 7:1 2).

Both of us understood that Jesus allowed remarriage following a divorce only if one's mate were guilty of sexual immorality. One who divorces for another reason and marries another is guilty of adultery. Marriage is a commitment to one another so long as we both shall live. Our common commitment to live in accordance with the law of the Lord kept us together during those years of conflict and struggle.

The Bible teaches that one's relationship toward one's spouse is not determined by the emotional ups and downs of human circumstance. Marriage is a covenant that we make to one another. Isaac and Rebekah agreed to marriage without the American custom of courting in order to build sexual feelings and emotional bonds toward one another (Gen. 24:67). The covenants that one makes in life do not always lead to a warm emotional feeling. I made a covenant with my banker to pay him monthly payments on my car until I got it paid for and a covenant with my mortgage company to pay them so much every month for fifteen years to purchase my house. There were times when I did not really have a warm feeling about my obligations. However, I was obligated

to them and to God to honor those commitments.

Marriage is also a covenant between a man and a woman (Prov. 2:17; Mal. 2:14). Many show more faithfulness to their covenants to the bank and mortgage company than they do to their marriage covenant

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/ husband and to live with her/him according to the laws of God? Do you promise to love, honor, and cherish her/him in sickness and in health, in poverty and in wealth, and forsaking all others become and be to her/him such a husband/wife as God directs that one should be, until God shall separate the two of you by death?

God expects a person to keep his vows and that applies to marriage vows as well as any other vow. "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed" (Eccl. 5:4).

## **Commitment to the Teaching of Christ**

What enabled us to overcome our conflicts and difficulties? The Law of the Lord enabled us to work through these conflicts. Each of us had a commitment to Jesus to treat each other in accordance with the teachings of Christ. Several of the very basic principles of Christianity helped us.

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 7:12).

This "Golden Rule" of conduct toward others should begin in our relationship to each other. Though each of us was imperfect in obedience to this biblical instruction, it was one guiding star in our marriage.

The appeal to one's commitment to Christ is the means to resolve conflicts that occur between two people in marriage. What does God teach that you should do in this situation? If a person will not act in the way that one wants his/her spouse wants to act because she/he loves him/her, an appeal can be made to persuade them to act in obedience to the Lord's word. This is why it is so important to marry someone who has a relationship with God. There will be times when what the other wishes is trumped by what vou want and vice versa. In such times of conflict, the appeal to what Christ wants from each of us guides one through the conflict.

James Dobson wrote in one of his books about one's obligation to love his/her mate. As I recall what he wrote, someone came to him explaining his/ her intention to divorce his/her spouse because he/she did not love her/ him anymore. Dobson reminded the person about God's commandment to love one's mate: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph. 5:25) and "admonish the young women to love their husbands" (Tit. 2:4). The person protested, "I can't do that because I don't love her/him." Dobson continued by saying, if you cannot love your companion as you are commanded to do as a partner in marriage, love him/her as a brother/ sister in Christ: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34). If you cannot love the spouse because he/ she is a child of God, love him as a

neighbor, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39). And, if you cannot love your spouse as a neighbor, love him/her as an enemy, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). There is no escaping one's obligation to love his/her mate! This is my remembrance of what Dobson wrote and I hope that I have correctly recalled that he was the one who wrote this.

#### Conclusion

Beginning with these commitments and honoring the word of God enabled my wife and me to work through our problems and build a home that has already lasted more than fifty years, to rear two precious children who also married Christians and are rearing their own children to love and honor God.

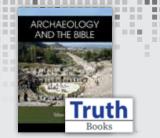
Do not walk away from your commitments in the heat of conflict. Submit yourself to God's will and to each other in the fear of the Lord (Eph. 5:21). Ask God to lead you through the difficult times and commit yourself to honoring Him in your marriage. You will be surprised with the blessings that He gives to His children.



Mike Willis served as editor of Truth Magazine for 40 years. He has been married to Sandy (Parson) for over 50 years and they have two children, Jennifer Mann (who is married to Robbie Mann, a deacon at the Decatur Township church in

Indianapolis) and Corey who is married to Meagan (Robbins) and serves as a deacon at the Jamestown, IN church. They have four grandchildren: Corbin and Ian Mann and Raven and Tori Willis.

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obby L. Graham

Bobby L. Graham preaches and is an elder for the Old Moulton Rd. church of Christ. He is married to Karen (Hodge) Graham and they have three children: Richard, Mary Katherine Winland (Darren), and Laura Paschall (Jeremy). He can be reached at bobbylgraham@pclnet.net.

**QUESTION:** Is it unscriptural to sing these songs because of the words: "Heaven Came Down" and "Kneel at the Cross"? A member states that heaven did not come down and we do not kneel at the cross. I do not take it literally. It is spiritual. Please help.

Many songs were written by denominational song writers who had a poor understanding of New Testament teaching. I believe the two songs which you named are among them. For this reason the songs might seem to express ideas in ways that do not conform to New Testament teaching. Compounding this problem is the use of figures of speech, which in themselves are not wrong because the Holy Spirit employed them widely in the Scriptures. We do ourselves and others a disfavor if we fail to acquaint ourselves with figurative language, so we can understand both the Bible and the many songs which use such language.

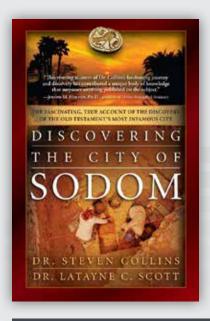
If there is adequate teaching as a background for such songs, God's people should then be able to sing them with scriptural meaning, though there are some songs so blatant in their conflict with Biblical instruction they should be omitted. Without

adequate teaching, such songs should be omitted.

When the song "Heaven Came Down" speaks of heaven coming down, it really refers to the One who resides in heaven, in a figure of speech known as metonymy. This figure sometimes puts the person for the place where he lives (or vice versa), the container for its contents (or vice versa), the cause for its effect (or vice versa), etc. God (Heaven) does "come down" figuratively (condescend to man) in His forgiveness of one obedient to the Gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). While the writer probably meant the coming down in a miraculous sense of heavenly glory sending a feeling or emotional overwhelming as evidence of pardon for one who merely believes (the usual denominational explanation of conversion), we can sing the song with proper teaching and understanding. It is always good for teaching to occur on such songs so we

can sing them with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15).

In the song "Kneel at the Cross," the song's writer likely meant that we kneel at the cross by praying the Sinner's Prayer to God for Him to save us. We must understand, however, that we do "kneel" (bow, submit) at the cross by believing in the Christ who died on the cross and responding to His will for us to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Likewise Christians who have strayed into sin or error must also bow or "kneel" for forgiveness and restoration by repenting, confessing their sins, and praying God for His forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24). All forgiveness of sins depends upon the intercessory work of Jesus Christ – His sacrifice for sins and the continuing power of the blood of Christ to atone for our sins (John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2). In this way "Christ will meet you there."





### **Discovering the City of Sodom**

by Drs. Steven Collins and Latayne C. Scott ISBN 9781451684384

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## **Sodom Has Been Found**

by Daniel H. King, Sr.

The location of ancient Sodom has long been assumed to have been south of (or beneath) the Dead Sea. Recent archaeological research, performed by Dr. Steven Collins, points in a different direction.

Who in modern times has not read the account of the destruction of ancient Sodom in Genesis 18 and not been left to think: "I wonder whatever became of that once great city?" Over the last two generations it seems that perpetual frustration has beset the biblical archaeology community on account of the identification of the city with Bab edh-Dhra (and Gomorrah with Numeirah in the same area) and the fact that this site seemed an impossible match for the location of the city of sin to the south of the Dead Sea. Neither of those sites date from the right era, and their destruction was 25 years apart rather than contiguous with one another as the Bible affirms.

This false identification in the south even had Russian archaeologists searching the seabed beneath the Salt Sea for the remains of the complex of cities, all to no avail. (Although, it has rightly been observed by some modern scholars that at the present time, the Sea is lower than it has ever been in its entire history, so a location beneath the waves of this body of salty water is not very probable.)

G. Ernest Wright and William Foxwell Albright, along with others who shared their way of thinking about biblical sites during the time of Abraham, originally placed its location at the south end of the Sea. Their view was taken as undeniable by most modern researchers until recently. Dr. Steven

Collins changed all that, even though there are still some holdouts who question his identification of the site. That number is growing smaller, however.

According to his own account of events. Collins went to the approximate area where Abraham and Lot stood prior to the nephew's departure for the vicinity of Sodom, i.e. in the foothills between Bethel and Ai. From that point he looked across to the East to the kikkar of the Jordan, the flat round disk of earth at the end of the Jordan River valley as the river enters the plain and empties into the Dead Sea. The Bible says that Abraham watched as the cities of the plain were terminated. He saw clearly the column of smoke as it rose to the heavens. If Abraham could see it from there, then he ought to be able to see it from there also, Dr. Collins reasoned.

Collins observed that he could not see the south end of the Dead Sea from that perspective, but that the north end of the Jordan rift valley was easily visible from that angle. Additionally, several other features of the biblical description were met by that area. The text says that the region was "well watered like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt" (Gen. 13:10), which is characteristic of the sector north of the Dead Sea, but not south of it. As well, it is alluded to as the "kikkar of the Jordan," which associates it

naturally with the north of the Sea but not south of that body of water (Gen. 13:10). Moreover, when Lot travelled in the direction of Sodom, the Bible says that he went "toward the East" (Gen. 13:11), which again fits the northern area nicely but does not work with the area beneath the Sea, which is mostly in a southerly direction.

So Professor Collins decided to travel to the area and scout the locations present which might represent potential candidates for the once mighty city of the plain. In his book Discovering the city of Sodom (2013), Collins describes his logic in approaching the search for the city. By a process called "sherding" wherein the sherds of ancient pottery were examined from each of the potential sites, he knew that he was looking for a Middle Bronze Age site (more specifically, MB2, a fact generally recognized on account of the nature of the cultural indicators regarding the Abrahamic Age in the Bible), so those that did not contain sherds of pottery from that age would be immediately bracketed out. Those that did would be placed on a list of possible candidates.

Also, Sodom is always listed first in order of seeming importance when it is described with a list of other cities in the Bible, so he reasoned that it must have been a major city of very large dimensions as well as relative importance as compared with others

in the area. After much time spent examining every potential site north of the sea in the *kikkar* region, he settled upon a single location, described as Tall el-Hammam ("hill of the hot baths").

The most interesting feature of this location was that it fit the biblical description perfectly, with a settlement period up to MB2 and a long period of desolation for seven centuries afterward, with an interesting configuration of other ancient cities nearby. A second smaller site which could potentially be identified as Gomorrah stood not far away, and two other sites, a major one (most likely Admah), and a double city that matched Zeboiim (the name is a Hebrew plural), both stood off to the northeast. As might be expected, a great number of small ancient villages also dotted the area round about.

When Dr. Collins visited the mound where the city once stood, he was impressed by the sheer magnitude of the massive ancient city that had once been there and wondered that no archaeologist up to now had ever considered that it might be the location of ancient Sodom. "The wonder is that it has escaped the notice of most Bible-focused archaeologists, all but virginally untouched for most of the one-hundred-plus years that modern archaeology has existed," he wrote (23). Collins noted that "ten of the City of David would have fit inside Sodom's city walls, with room to spare." It's towering height gave it a visual vantage point, and subsequent excavation has shown that, over its history, there is no indication that it was ever destroyed by a military enemy. "Somewhere between 150 and 200 million mud bricks formed a rampart around it that made its great height virtually

unscalable. With a 35-degree incline, and covered over with a smooth layer of dried clay, no human being or beast could climb up it without great, hunched-over, vulnerable struggle" (36).

The city is associated with an extensive field of megalithic stone circles, menhirs (large upright standing stones), and more than 500 bench-like stone dolmens (covering several square kilometers and aggregately larger than the landscape of Stonehenge). Tall el-Hammam has also been identified as Abel Mizraim (Gen. 50:11) of Joseph's era, and Abel Shittim, the final camping sites of Moses and the Israelites before they crossed into Canaan (Num. 33:49). It was obvious to Collins from the start that this site represented one of the largest Bronze Age cities in the southern Levant during that historic era. It has both an upper and a lower city. The upper one is one hundred feet higher and less than half the size of the lower one. The Tall proper spreads over almost 90 acres, all apparently within the ancient city's fortifications.

Surveys and subsequent excavations have confirmed that there existed in this location a general occupational footprint at this spot from as far back as the Chalcolithic Period through the Middle Bronze Age, some 1500 years total. Significant later occupation on many parts of the site are evident during the late Iron Age as well as the Roman period. Collins and his excavators have been working the site for over a decade now, with very exciting results.

For more information, please visit http://www.tallelhammam.com/.

#### Source

Collins, Steven and Latayne Scott.

Discovering the City of Sodom: The

Fascinating, True Account of the Discovery of the Old Testament's Most Infamous City. Howard Books/Simon & Schuster, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1451684308.

Dr. Steven Collins is Executive Curator of the Museum of Archaeology and Biblical History, Dean of the College of Archaeology and Biblical History at Trinity Southwest University, and Visiting Professor of Archaeology at Veritas Evangelical Seminary.

See the ad for this book on p15.



Daniel H. King, Sr.

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## He Taught Me about Work

by Corey Willis

Frankly, I didn't think my father would retire, ever. I always pictured him as one of those guys who would die on the job. It sounds simply awful to say, but let me put it another way. If you do what you love, your work is important and it provides you the opportunity for life-long learning, why would you ever stop? God intended work to be a blessing, not a curse. He put Adam in the garden of Eden "to work it and keep it" (Gen. 2:15). Solomon wrote, "I perceived that ... everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man" and "there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot" (Eccl. 3:12, 22).

#### **Do What You Love**

I've watched my father do what he loves and enjoy his work. Don't get me wrong, I know that he hasn't loved every aspect of his work, but he would have studied, learned and written about God, His people, their history, archaeology, surrounding ancient civilizations, Christianity and our service to the LORD regardless of his occupation. We didn't have a lot of conversations in my parent's household about work/life balance. What's the issue today about work/life balance? It's that work can consume us and take us away from what's important in life. Dad had the fortune and foresight to be consumed by work that improved his life, family and relationship with the LORD. No one accused dad of being fashionable. I don't expect to see stylists encouraging us to sport a red editing pen in our shirt pockets nor the

large ink stain from where you forgot to cap it. However, I do encourage others to "geek out" about what you love and find a way to align your passion with your occupation.

#### **Important Work**

Another lesson I learned from my father about work is to engage in something that has both substance and significance. I whole-heartedly appreciate the Guardian of Truth Foundation and what they provide brethren. They provided a forum for discussions among brethren who were appealing to Bible authority and study materials for Christians. Long before there were internet forums, there was a need to discuss issues and present opposing perspectives for rightly dividing the Word of God. When approached to become more involved with the Foundation, he resolved to meet the need and to stand for the truth. This philosophy has impacted me greatly throughout my life. Be willing to stand for what's right and use your abilities to meet the needs of those around you, especially when you're not sure whom else can or will do it. If you're going to spend time working, spend it on something that makes a difference.

#### **Life-long Learning**

If given the option, my father would be a perpetual student, constantly pursuing various graduate degrees and doctorates. With glee, he would tell me about the next language he was learning to read. He wanted to read

what a particular German or French commentator had written or read what had been written by Christian contemporaries in Greek. His thirst for knowledge has never been satiated and we are the beneficiaries. In his quest to better understand God's Word, we've received articles, books, lesson books and commentaries. He taught me that work is about life-long learning.

#### Conclusion

I am so thankful for my dad, his work, and grateful for what he taught me about work. The work he's done is truly important, allowed him to do what he loved and fulfilled his need to continue learning. I'm confident he'll continue to write and expect to see him publish works in the future. The work of the Foundation was far too important not to pass the torch, but his contributions cannot be overstated. I aspire to retire from a career and work that is as important and rewarding as my dad's. Dad, thank you for what you've done and what you've taught me as a result!



Corev Willis

Corey Willis and his wife, Meagan, have been married for 18 years and have two daughters: 10 and 12 years old. Corey oversees business operations for an electric utility in Indiana, serves on the board

of Friends of Indiana Youth (FIY) and as a deacon for the Jamestown church of Christ. He can be reached at truthmagazine.coreyw@neverbox.com.

## A Tribute to My Dad

by Jennifer Willis Mann

This year marks my Dad, Mike Willis, 40<sup>th</sup> year of work with *Truth Magazine*. I was in kindergarten the year Dad began his work at the magazine. Because many years Dad worked from a home office or very close by, I was fortunate to closely observe him in his day-to-day work.

The first real office I remember Dad having was his home office in Dayton, Ohio. Dad was more of a morning person than Mom, so he was the one who often was up before anyone in the house. He made sure my brother and I were up and ready for school. When we headed down for breakfast, you could always find Dad in the same place—his chair. He always had two things in that chair—a book, often the Bible, and a red pen.

As the years passed, regardless of where we lived, I could always find Dad in the early morning or in the evenings reading with a red pen. Today, I know those were a few of the many times he was working. Because of two important jobs he held as preacher and employee of Guardian of Truth Foundation, Dad balanced his time carefully—making sure his day included appropriate time to work, time with his family as well as time for personal study. Over the years, I have learned several lessons watching my Dad:

## The Value of a Strong Work Ethic

In the Willis family, there is a joke that hard work is just part of the "Willis" genes. O.J. and Wilhelmina

Willis taught their seven children the important lesson of hard work. Hard work was just a way of life. This wasn't a family born with any money or silver spoons. Rather, O.J. and Wilhelmina provided for their home by working long hours, running a small store, tending to a garden as well as managing the normal chores of the home. Each child was expected to do his or her part. Through this work, the lessons of childhood ultimately translated into a strong work ethic in adulthood. In fact, using each of their own strengths, each one of the Willis children achieved success. I truly believe this success was due in part to learning the importance of work during their formative years.

With the flexibility of working from home, Dad could have maintained a slow or easy pace. He could have neglected work, taken advantage of the flexibility or recorded time he didn't work. In all his years with the magazine, I am not aware of Dad ever missing a deadline. Instead, week after week, month after month, year after year, his work ethic was clearly demonstrated. Magazines went out on time, commentaries and class literature were written, and when he worked with a local congregation, he prepared sermons. Bible classes and met the needs of the local body.

While Dad had a strong internal drive instilled from childhood, I believe this work ethic was also firmly tied to Biblical teaching. As Paul directed the church of Colossae, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,

as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward" (Col. 3:23-24). Solomon also spoke about work when he said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10).

Dad seemed to always do his best in his work. If he had worked in the public sector, his work would have been easily recognized. His employer may have moved him up the ladder resulting in raises, promotions, bonuses and accolades. Dad worked just as hard as anyone who worked in the public sector. For Dad, he didn't work hard for these rewards. He simply was a hard worker who believed doing his best was his foremost job as a Christian in the workplace.

#### **Leading by Example**

The very first job I ever remember having was with the magazine. At the ripe age of 7-8 years old, I was paid to stuff flyers into magazines for a penny a piece. I remember stuffing magazines while watching the *Electric Company*, 3-2-1 Contact, and Happy Days. My focus was simple—I was looking for the almighty dollar.

Obviously, working for a non-profit and a church isn't something you pursue to get rich. You work in these arenas because of a different drive. I always remember Dad having passion for his work. In fact, if you were to ask him today, he would tell you that he never worked a day in his life. What drove his passion? He was passionate about learning God's word.

As we know in Acts 17:11, the Bereans were of noble character because of the way they eagerly examined the Scriptures daily. Dad had that same eagerness for the Word. If he didn't have a Bible in his hand, he had a commentary or another reference book to deepen his understanding of the Bible. While I was in school learning my ABCs, Dad was teaching himself Greek and Hebrew. He hungered to learn God's word.

As a preacher of the gospel and the editor of *Truth Magazine*, I believe Dad understood the magnitude of his work. He knew the importance of teaching the truth, all the truth and only the truth. He focused on "rightly dividing the truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). He knew he would be judged more strictly because of teaching the truth (James 3:1). In no way did he want to make others stumble.

Through his diligence and yearning for the Word, I learned the importance of Bible study. He taught me the importance of not just taking the words I hear from the pulpit as "gospel." Rather, if I hear something I don't understand or that doesn't sound right, I study. While this takes time and effort, the importance of study is clearly demonstrated in 1 Peter 3:15 which states we should "always be prepared to give answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

## Navigating the Challenges with Work

Every job has its challenges. With the magazine, the challenges weren't as simple as making a deadline. Often the challenges Dad faced came as a consequence of writing the unpopular. Dad didn't shy away from identifying dangerous trends emerging in the church or calling out brethren introducing false doctrines. When these were brought to light in the magazine, Dad often became the target. As a bystander, though I didn't

always understand what was going on, I certainly understood the pressure that Dad faced.

Dad could have easily gone a different route. He could have opted to publish only positive and encouraging articles. He could have gone the route of "tickling the ears." He certainly would have been more liked and perhaps popular. Dad chose differently. He chose the route of standing for truth and for exposing error at any cost.

In the workplace, each and every one of us faces fork-in-the-road moments. In these moments we have to make decisions. Will we follow Christ and take a stand, or follow our own will? In most workplaces, forks in the road may be something similar to these:

- Will we choose to walk away or say something instead of laughing at an offensive joke?
- Will we stay silent or choose to love the sinner while speaking up when asked about our beliefs regarding homosexuality, adultery or living together before marriage?
- Will we choose to bend the truth or choose honesty even if honesty costs us an important sale or relationship?
- Will we remain silent or choose to share the gospel when a moment arises?

Though the challenges we face are different, I believe the Bible is clear about how to manage these challenges. Paul taught us he was "not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 1:16). He spoke boldly and refused to compromise a stand for truth, even in the face of persecution. When I face work challenges, I pray for boldness and courage to do what's right, to show Christ in my actions and to stand for truth. I pray I am unashamed to share the gospel, come what may.

As a Human Resources leader, I have been privileged to celebrate when employees reach work anniversary milestones. It's certainly rare in today's workplace to see anyone who has given 40 years to one company. I am blessed to be part of this celebration to recognize Dad's 40 years of work with *Truth Magazine*. While I've shared only a few lessons I've learned, I'm thankful for the many more I've observed and for his labors through the years.

It's a joy to pick up a commentary Dad has written or study from one of his class books. These moments give me an opportunity to see my Dad through a different set of eyes as I gain more understanding of a Biblical concept. Now that I have my own children, it's also a pleasure to watch my children's eyes light up when they see something their "Papaw" wrote.

Over the last 40 years, Dad has not only impacted my life, his work has impacted the lives of many Christians. Most importantly, He leaves us with an vital legacy—an unwavering stand for the truth even in the face of difficult consequences.

Dad, thank you for your years of service, your powerful example in the workplace and most importantly, teaching truth through your actions!



Jennifer Willis Mann

Jennifer Willis Mann is the daughter of Mike and Sandy Willis. Jenny and Robbie Mann and their two children, Corbin and Ian, reside in Avon, Indiana. Jenny is also the Chief Human Resources Officer for Damar Services, Inc., a non-profit

dedicated to serving adults and children with developmental and behavioral disabilities.

## Forty Years and a Mountain of Work

by Connie W. Adams

When Mike Willis, as a young man, took on the editorship of *Truth Magazine*, it was at a critical time. His studious habits and strong work ethic helped to right the ship. In the years following, there have been a number of critical issues to confront. An editor's chair is often an uneasy place to sit. There are always Monday morning quarterbacks who know exactly how each issue should be handled.

Yet, while many other periodicals have gone out of business, *Truth Magazine* has survived. It was my good pleasure to serve as Associate Editor for several years. During that time, Mike and I discussed many things. We did not always agree but there was never a time when we became disagreeable with each other.

Mike's work involved far more than editing the magazine. His editorial work includes the publishing of many study books for Bible classes, various books and the monumental task of editing and publishing the Truth Commentary series which includes commentaries on every book in the New Testament and several in the Old Testament. These are major study tools which will be around for many years to help teachers and preachers and other Christians in their study of the Bible. He has also guided the process of making these available in digital form. When I look at the shelves in my library and see the

number of books and study tools which Mike has edited, I stand amazed.

For several years Mike and Sandy have led tours to the Bible lands. Bobby and I were able to go with them to Greece, Italy, Turkey, Egypt and Israel. These were not just fun trips, but rewarding learning experiences. His careful advance work provided us with material each day as to what we were to see and the historical and Bible reference to study. The joy of singing daily with other Christians, and learning more about the places where Bible events took place created memories to last a lifetime. There were times when guides would defer to Mike to explain what we were seeing and the historical background of events. He knew many things which they did not.

Now, after forty years, he is laying aside his editorial pen. I know something of the emotions this involves for I came to that place after twenty years of editing a paper. But forty years! With Mike's studious inclination, I have no doubt that he will produce even more material to benefit Bible students for years to come.

Well done, my brother. And now, Mark Mayberry takes pen in hand and becomes the new editor of the paper. He is a man of integrity, knowledge of the Scriptures, balance and good humor. The latter he will need in abundance. When Yater Tant edited

the Gospel Guardian during turbulent times, someone wrote him and said, "I'll be glad when you are dead so I can spit on your grave." To which Tant replied, "Get in line and wait your turn." I commend the Foundation for choosing Mark Mayberry to carry on this work.





Connie W. Adams

Connie W. Adams still holds a few meetings as he has opportunity and for the last five years has served as one of four elders with the Hebron Lane church near Shepherdsville, KY. He and his wife, Bobby, live in Louisville. He can be reached

at conniewadams85@gmail.com.

## In Appreciation of Mike Willis

by Kyle Pope

As a young preacher I came to appreciate the work of Mike Willis long before I ever met him. Unlike some preachers, I did not have the privilege of working in a training-program or studying the Bible with sound teachers in school. When I began to preach, it was with smaller churches with no elders. That can be a rather lonely kind of experience. Advice from those older in the faith is valued as you struggle to answer tough questions, try to figure out how to resolve difficulties within a congregation, and determine sound positions on various issues.

Before the internet, it wasn't always easy to find good sources for sound material. A subscription to *Guardian* of Truth and Christianity Magazine became vital spiritual nourishment. I would comb through every issue to consider what I could learn about this topic, that biblical text, or how to apply God's word to our lives. It didn't take long to realize that there wasn't very much out there that Mike Willis hadn't written about! Whether it was the challenging problems one encounters in First Corinthians, or practical challenges faced by an evangelist seeking to preach the gospel—Mike was never afraid to tackle even the most controversial of questions.

Probably the first time I saw Mike was when he and brother Ed Harrell engaged in an open forum discussion at the *Florida College Lectures* over issues concerning fellowship and false doctrine on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. I know some grew

discouraged over battles fought on such subjects, but I saw it much differently. A few years before I started preaching I had come out of an institutional background. In my experience, there had been few with whom I worshipped that would ever be willing to standup for and test any doctrines. To me it was a breath of fresh air to see men love the Lord and the truth enough to defend it as they understood it. Somehow during those years Mike found an article I wrote entitled "Spanking and the Inspiration of Scripture" and published it long before we had ever even carried on a conversation.

Years later I got a call one day and it was Mike Willis. He had seen my website and we talked about various issues and I began to send him articles from time to time. This ultimately led to a request from him to write a Romans workbook and a commentary on Matthew. Along the way he also edited a few other books I submitted to him and commissioned me to draw dozens of maps and other artwork for Truth Publications.

Unfortunately, I have never had the opportunity to spend much time with Mike face to face for any extended period. We have always lived anywhere from 6-15 hours away from each other. Even so, you don't work with someone on over 20,000 pages of material without getting to know him pretty well. Mike and I have not always agreed on everything, but in all things I have found him to be

conscientious and respectful. He is a man seeking to demonstrate love for God and obedience to His word. Even when he and I have a different understanding of a particular issue, he has always been willing to consider my position and explain his own based on his understanding of Scripture—not his preferences or personal desires. Because of this, I value him as my brother in Christ and friend. I am grateful to God for the work he has done in the Lord's kingdom and the blessing he has been in my life. I know he has been a blessing to many (like me in the past) who may never have met him in the flesh but grown because of the good work he has done. Thank you, Mike for the years you have devoted to *Truth Magazine* and the mountain of articles, books, and lessons you have produced in service to our God.



Kyle Pope

Kyle Pope preaches for the Olsen Park church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas. He has written several books published by Truth Publications including How We Got the Bible. He can be reached at kmpope@att.net.

## A Life's Work

by Daniel H. King, Sr.

All of us, if God grants us the opportunity while still on this earth, will someday be able to look back upon the life we have lived and take some accounting of what we have accomplished. Some of us will not be very happy with what we have done with our time here. We may simply think of it as "much time wasted," or else, "most of it wasted."

At any rate, our own personal glimpse back over our years and whatever we may have done with them will most likely be assessed in terms of what could be summed up under the heading, "Productivity." In other words, what we have been able to accomplish and whether or not it was, in the final analysis, worthwhile. Many people will feel a sense of utter frustration at how little they have done that will endure, if they are that thoughtful about such things; while others will know the profound satisfaction of having spent their years doing what may have genuinely made a difference.

In my view, Mike Willis will fall into the latter category. His work has been considerable, especially when viewed over the long term. Forty years ago, he began work with *Truth Magazine* and the Cogdill Foundation (as it was known then) as editor and CEO. Over the years he has continuously edited the magazine as well as editing the various works published by this organization.

The paper itself went through a number of different iterations as has

the Foundation itself. The journal was at first weekly, then bi-weekly and later (as is the case now) a monthly publication. Mike was the editor of all of those issues and headed up the publishing business at the same time, along with being a member of the board of directors and helping with the functioning of the attendant bookstores (CEI Bookstore and Truth Bookstore).

In our view, the literary endeavors that have been produced under his aegis represent an impressive array of works on a whole range of subjects. It would, in fact, be very difficult to tally the full number of books, tracts, pamphlets, and other materials that have passed through his hands and have been edited and corrected by him over those many years. Of course, many have gone out of print over time. But the current portfolio of titles is, in and of itself, impressive indeed. Just take a look at the present catalog of Truth Publications. Most every one of those titles was personally edited by Mike. The Bible Text Book and Truth Commentaries alone are major accomplishments. Mike has written many titles himself over the years. What he has not written, he has profoundly influenced by his editorial

On a personal note, Mike has edited all five of the commentaries that I have in print, along with the other books printed and sold through this publishing organization. From my perspective as a writer, I am

qualified to say that he has been both an encouragement at times and an aggravator at others. Getting authors to produce what they have promised is not always easy, especially when they are preachers and already have busy schedules! That is where the aggravation comes into play.

It has always been a pleasure to work with him, and I hope that he will enjoy both good health and long life to be able to do more good work in the future as he changes from editorin-chief to his new role as an associate editor with the group.



Daniel H. King, Sr.

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## Mike Willis: Soldier of Christ and Friend

by Ron Halbrook

I have known Mike Willis since 1965 when he brought Donna Bell to Florida College from east Texas, singing "Kansas City Star, that's what I are, Yodeldeedle ayhee, You oughta see my car." Though united in Christ, none of us had previously known each other, but we soon became fast friends. Donna and I have now been married 49 years. Mike and I have worked closely together as staff writers for Truth Magazine (since Nov. 7, 1974), board members of the Guardian of Truth Foundation (since 1976), and local preachers for the Knollwood church of Christ in Beavercreek, Ohio (1978-82).

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:2-3, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Soldiers form special bonds as they share the experiences of warfare, and Christians and preachers form such bonds as they share in the battle for Christ, for truth, and for souls. "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Again, "there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 17:17; 18:24). It is a privilege to share the bonds of fellow soldiers and friends with Mike Willis.

Our friendship became deeper and stronger as we shared the preaching duties at the Knollwood church. We were often together with our wives and children in family activities. We engaged in home Bible studies, conducted debates together, and labored on an hour-long call-in radio program every Sunday morning. This program allowed us to interview people in the news. Once we interviewed a Pentecostal preacher in Missouri who had his wife's mother preserved in ice at a funeral home while he attempted to raise her from the dead. During Mike's debate with Primitive Baptist preacher Eddie K. Garrett, they exchanged five questions at the end of each session which were to be answered the following night. Garrett announced that he would be sleeping like a baby while Mike would be sweating over his questions during the night. Larry Hafley instantly learned over and whispered to us, "How does a baby sleep? Sleeps five minutes, wakes up and cries, sleeps five minutes. wakes up and cries." People who heard the radio program over a period of time appeared at the services ready to obey the gospel without further study such as Jeff Conover and his wife, who are still faithful saints.

Mike and I kept trying to impress a new convert from Catholicism named Steve Wallace about the importance of attending all the services. He always thanked us but always showed up only for the Sunday morning service. Finally, after a morning service he excitedly approached us in the vestibule with his eyes open as big as pancakes to announce, "I'm supposed to attend every service! Did you know that? I am really supposed to attend

every service." He had just made an astounding discovery! We learned an important lesson about patience in teaching.

Our relationship was not all-workand-no-play. On a Sunday afternoon I covered the chalkboard with my outline including the notation, "Do Not Erase," then we met with the elders about something in a classroom until a few moments before the evening service began. When we walked in, Mike had instigated someone to flip the board over to the blank side so that it appeared the outline was erased - I had a heart attack on the spot. There were also ghosts at work. Dale Rix put a commode out for the garbage truck, but it miraculously showed up on the front porch at my house and then at Mike's house-complete with a dried flower arrangement. When a ghost whose initials are Steve Wallace hung a dead groundhog on my back porch (which I witnessed through a window thanks to the barking of Poochie), it later ended up on Mike's roof, as became apparent when the aroma of well-done carcass was detected on a hot summer day.

I must confess that Mike can be obscure at times. Once he promised that a preacher named Bo Derek would join us for the Florida College Lectures. I asked where brother Derek preaches, but Mike never would tell me and I have not met brother Bo to this day! I should have asked Sandy—what Mike doesn't know, Sandy tells him!

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (Prov. 27:17). Mike and I have shared a rich and rewarding relationship as confidants. We have wrestled with difficult points in Scripture, local church problems, brotherhood issues, challenges in the affairs of the *Guardian of Truth Foundation*, and even family and personal matters. Counsel and criticism have been exchanged in brotherly love with never a cross word between us.

When Mike and I began writing for Truth Magazine, we could not have imagined or measured what a blessing it would be for us to stand side-by-side as soldiers of Christ while sharing in the use of this medium for spreading the gospel to saints and sinners through the years. The paper has been an effective tool for proclaiming the gospel of Christ in its original purity and simplicity. It has been an effective medium for exposing error and false doctrine. The Word of God has always been the focus of our faith, not the Foundation or the paper. They will surely pass from the scene someday, but God's Word will stand forever. Still, by God's providence this Foundation and this journal have been useful tools for spreading that Word in our generation. Those who have benefitted from them owe a debt of gratitude to Mike. I have been blessed by Mike's life and work. Generations yet to come will be blessed as well.

The hope of heaven is brighter and stronger for Donna and me because of the life, love, example, and influence of Mike and Sandy Willis. May God bless you both and make you a blessing for many years to come.



Ron Halbrook

Ron Halbrook has shared preaching duties at the Hebron Lane church of Christ in Shepherdsville, KY since August of 1997. David Dann and Ron have worked together there since April 2016. He has made 63 trips to the Philippines.

#### THE WORKS PRODUCED BY MIKE WILLIS

#### **BOOKS AUTHORED**

Truth Commentary: 1 Corinthians Truth Commentary: Galatians Archaeology and the Bible

#### **BTB WORKBOOKS**

Genesis Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Exodus Job
Leviticus Ecclesiastes
Numbers Mark
Deuteronomy Luke
Joshua, Judges and Ruth
1-2 Samuel 1 Corinthians
1-2 Kings 2 Corinthians

1-2 Chronicles

#### **TIL WORKBOOKS**

Christians in a Secular Age

Great Bible Characters: Abraham

Harmony in the Home

Passing the Torch

The Intertestament Period

The Work and Qualifications of Elders
and Deacons

Then Comes the End

We Gather Together

A Christian Is ...

#### **TEENAGE WORKBOOKS**

Building on a Rock

#### **BOOKS EDITED BY MIKE WILLIS**

40 Years of Truth Magazine TIL Workbooks: 71 Titles BTB Workbooks: 41 Titles Truth Lectures: 13 Years

- 2003: Fire in My Heart
- 2004: The Renewing of Your Mind
- 2005: The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible
  - 2006: God Give Us Christian Homes
  - 2007: Great Texts of the Old Testament
  - 2008: Great Texts of the New Testament
- 2009: Great Truths from Historic Controversies
  - 2010: A Crisis in Leadership
  - 2011: Can Christianity Survive in America?
  - 2012: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs
- 2013: Building Strong Families for Strong Churches and a Strong Nation
- 2014: Recapturing the Spirit and Power of the Golden Age of Preaching
- 2015: Refocusing on Evangelism: An Examination of Evangelism in the 21st Century

Books: 60+

## **Mike Willis Tribute**

by Steve Wolfgang

I first knew Mike when we were both students at Florida College—back in the long ago—when his head was covered with hair!

Mike is a native Texan, successfully transplanted to the Hoosier state, where, believe it or not, he became something of a Bobby Knight fan—especially on those *rare* occasions when they beat the Kentucky Wildcats!

While not flaunting his degrees, Mike has pursued formal education well beyond the level of many of his peers. After Florida College, he received his undergraduate degree at Butler University, with graduate degrees from Christian Theological Seminary and Indiana University. While his educational path is similar to my own, I hasten to point out that he is *much* older than I am!

Working together with Mike during his editorial tenure with *Truth Magazine*, I have come to know him as a level-headed leader, deliberate in making decisions while avoiding temptations to rash judgments.

A man of true conviction, Mike is stalwart in defense of the truth—but good-natured, with a ready smile.
Quick to laugh, he loves a good joke—even about his hair (or lack thereof), or otherwise at his own expense!

Another of Mike's sterling qualities is that he accepts criticism gracefully,

whether from what Daniel Sommer once described as "friendly friends" or "unfriendly friends." Too many Christians, even preachers, seem too often to lack this ability, but Mike is a model which many of us could well emulate.

To me, one of Mike's most admirable qualities is his unwillingness to think ill of another brother unless there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Even so, once convinced, he is willing to rebuke or expose the false teaching even of friends, if it becomes necessary to do so.

Mike's devotion to Sandy and to his children is exceeded only by his devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ—which is the best tribute one can give to any man!



**Steve Wolfgang** 

Steve Wolfgang has preached the gospel since 1966 in local churches in Atlanta, Nashville, Louisville, and elsewhere, and in diverse places overseas, including Europe, Australia, Russia, and China. Since 2008 he has worked with the church

at Downers Grove in suburban Chicago. Steve taught history at the University of Kentucky for nearly two decades, and is a co-editor of the new hymnal, *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs.* He can be reached at *stevewolfgang@aol.com*.



## **Appreciation for Mike Willis**

by Tom Mitchell

At the time of this writing there now have been a number of occasions where I have been able to associate and work with Mike Willis. I met Mike personally for the first time on July 13, 2004 which was the first full day of the annual Truth Magazine Lectures in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Up to that date I had known of Mike for many years through his teaching and editing work in the *Truth Magazine* and Guardian of Truth Foundation in Bible class materials and other such like spiritual teachings in print. Having been cautioned and even warned by a few of my brethren out west that Mike teaches error on certain issues, I was pleasantly surprised to find Mike to be a man that truly does seek the truth without partiality or false justification and one who was very willing to take all the time necessary to discuss with me the issues that I sought to know as to where his convictions were grounded. He never was offended with my questions, but rather sought the truth and authority for his teachings from the word of God. Even on the first opportunity I had, following an evening lecture when there were dozens of Christians mingling and greeting each other, Mike took the time to deal with my concerns with an open Bible in his hands.

Mike is a country boy, born into a family much like my own. On occasion I've had the opportunity to sit in company with Mike and two of his brothers, Lewis, and now deceased, Donald, as they ribbed each other about fond memories of the past. One story that tickled me, reminding me of my own childhood with my two brothers, was how Mike, being the youngest of the four boys, was nearly always low man on the totem pole. If

my memory is correct, the Willis family had a calf they were raising to butcher and the boys thought that they ought to be able to train the calf to be ridden. As the older boys would try to ride him they would get pitched off in the barn yard. So they got the bright idea that they could use Mike as a training tool. Two of them could hold the calf real still while the other one would put Mike on the calf and tie a rope to his foot, then pulling it tight under the calf's belly they would tie it to his other foot. Once this was accomplished, the two holding the calf still, turned loose to an exciting and unpredictable bunch of barnyard commotion. The commotion of whooping and hollering was loud enough that their Mama came running from the house demanding the older boys hurry and catch the calf because her baby boy was no longer on top of the calf as he had slipped around to the belly-side where the hooves and dust were flying, among other particles, fogging the center of attention.

I don't know for sure if it was Mike's being a country boy that helped him learn to "get up early and get-at-'em" or if in his careful Christian walk he learned that time is a gift from God, and it is to be used wisely. In more than one occasion in our motel stays at the *Truth* Lectures I have witnessed Mike, fully clad in his appropriate nice clothes for the day, in the motel lobby with his Bible open, his computer or electronic tablet, writing utensil and pad, hard at work long before the rooster crowed for the first time in the day. It has always amazed me how much this man can get accomplished and what a great value his accomplishments are. I believe he does this by good old fashioned country-boy hard work ethics coupled

with a love for the Lord and a love for the souls of all people.

I just have a hunch that as Mike Willis steps aside and retires from the Editor responsibilities of *Truth Magazine* he will be directing his abilities and devotion to the Lord in other directions, and in doing so, I truly want to wish him well and tell him I love him and thank him for all the good influence he has been to me, my wife and family.



om Mitchell

Thomas E. Mitchell (Tom) was born September 26, 1950 in Fort Collins, Colorado. He grew up in a Christian home with his parents, Alfred and May. Tom was the middle son of three boys. His parents were hard working "blue -collar"

workers. After graduation from high school in 1969, Tom was drafted into the Army and served as an infantryman in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. He married Kathleen A. Wilson on May 26, 1972 and moved to Pocatello, Idaho in 1977 to attend a vocational school to become a professional welder. They have three children who were all born in Idaho. Their oldest son, Chad is married to Kassandra and they have four children. Chad and Kassandra are members of the Blackfoot church of Christ. They live in a rural community outside of Blackfoot, Idaho near Tom and Kate's small farm. Their middle child. Angela Woodside is married to Timothy and they have one daughter. They are living in a little town north of Reno, Nevada and are members of the Sparks church of Christ in Sparks, Nevada. Their youngest son, Casey, passed away at the age of 19 as a result of a bad auto accident in September, 2002. Tom is the CEO of a metal fabrication company that he and his wife started in 1993. Their company specializes in stainless steel modifications and upgrades in the potato processing plants along the Snake River Valley in Eastern Idaho. They presently employ around 45 employees and Chad is now one of the partners. Tom and Kate have been members of the church of Christ in Blackfoot, Idaho since 1979 where Tom has served as an elder in the past and now preaches and teaches on a rotational basis. Tom has been fortunate to be able to serve on the Board of Directors for the Guardian of Truth Foundation for approximately the last eight years and has truly benefitted from his association with a good number of strong, faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Reflections upon Mike's Retirement

by Mark Mayberry

In the spring of 1979, Sherelyn and I moved to Groveton, Texas and began laboring with the Hwy. 287 Church of Christ. Although the congregation was small, it was composed of larger than life personalities. Two of our favorite folks were O. J. and Wilhelmina Willis, the parents of Cecil, Don, Lewis, Ouida, Sue, Mike and Barbara. We spent many hours in their Woodlake home, listening to stories, laughing, singing, eating, enjoying the bonds of faith and friendship. From time to time, various of the children would come to the Pineywoods for a visit with mom and dad. We were often invited to these gatherings, and they were always entertaining and uplifting.

Mike Willis made a favorable impression upon me from the start. While we are separated in age by only ten years, at the time, he seemed an older preacher. Much older. A significantly older preacher.

The Willis home in Woodlake filled with laughter, especially when Mike and Sandy came to town. One usually knows Mike is in a room before you walk through the door. How? Just listen for the laughter. If its sound signature could best be described as "the wheezing sound of an asthmatic cat," Mike Willis is inside.

From the beginning of our relationship, when I was still in my early twenties, Mike took a personal interest in my work, asking me to write occasionally for *Truth Magazine*. In the years that followed, our friendship

grew, and the respect that I felt for Mike deepened. I am honored to be entrusted with continuing the work that he so loved, and to which he has shown such dedication.

Despite his considerable ability, Mike is a humble and unassuming man. As a result, he is readily approachable. Mike is a man of faith and conviction, open-minded and honest. If someone asks, "What do you think about 'this' or 'that'?" Mike will share his faith and convictions. Yet, he is also willing to listen, and welcomes the input of others.

Mike's family is a reflection of his good and godly life. Psalms 127 opens by affirming, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."

Over multiple generations, the Lord has been the architect of Willis homes. As a result, they have enjoyed God's protection and provision. Others have been blessed through their influence.

Mike, thank you for the years of faithful service, to your Lord, to your family, to the local churches of which you have been a member, to the brotherhood of believers, and to this Foundation, its mission and its legacy. May God bless you with health and happiness. Enjoy your family. Enjoy your relationship with Sandy, the wife of your youth, a faithful companion who has stood beside you throughout the years.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, may your hopes and dreams soar as your children (and grandchildren) continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 127 & 128).





Mark Mayberry Editor

Mark and Sherelyn have labored with the Adoue St. church of Christ in Alvin, TX since 1998, where he serves as the evangelist and an elder. His website is http://markmayberry.net/ and his email is mark@truthpublications.com.

## Reflections

by Sue Willis Morris

Mike and I came from a family of seven children (Cecil, Don, Lewis, Ouida, Sue, Mike & Barbara). Sadly, over the years we have lost Cecil, Ouida and Don. We had a wonderful life growing up in Woodlake, Texas. We loved each other and looked out for each other. Mother, Daddy, and our Grandmother taught us the Truth and how to live in the ways of the Lord. What more could you ask for?

Our daddy hauled logs for a living. He left home before daylight and came home after dark. Mother had to deal with all of us kids all day long. We lived on a country dirt road and in the summer we played outside all day. In the evening, we heard Dad's truck as it turned off of the highway onto the dirt road to our home (about two miles). Mike, Barbara, and I would start running to meet him. Whoever got there first got to sit on Daddy's lap and drive the truck the rest of the way home. The other two kids had to stand on the step of the truck and hold on at each window. What fun! Then when we got home, if Daddy had any coffee left in his thermos, he would let us drink it. For the girls, he told us it would make whiskers. I tried it once and have never drunk coffee since. Mike must have liked it a lot because he had lots of whiskers. In fact, he was as hairy as a bear. That is, except on his head. He took after Daddy in that respect because he didn't have hair on top of his head either.

When Mike was about eleven or twelve years old, Mother and Daddy bought the country store in our community. We moved to the house that was connected to the store. Daddy still hauled logs, so we had to help mother run the store. Mother told us that we could only have one ice cream cone a day. So we came up with a plan. We would put as many dips on the "one" cone as we could. Then, throughout the morning we would eat the ice cream off until we got down to the cone. In the afternoon, while mother was taking a short nap, we would put as many dips of ice cream on the cone again! So... we would have ice cream all day long. Genius thinking, wasn't it, Mike?

One summer when Mike was twelve, he was mowing the yard. The mower hit a wire and threw it into Mike's upper arm hitting an artery. He ran inside screaming with blood shooting everywhere. In fact, he nearly died. After that, he was Daddy's "perfect child." You know what that means... Daddy called on him for everything and Mike came running.

When Mike was seventeen years old, on the night he graduated from high school, he left home to drive to *Florida College* to follow in his three brothers' footsteps to preach the gospel. I was married to Forrest by then and we convinced Mother and Daddy to let us follow him to Florida to keep him safe on the trip. Our plan was for Barbara to ride with Mike and help keep him

awake. The plan was for Forrest and me to follow behind.

We got about twelve miles down the road. Mike pulled over and said Barbara was already asleep. So, we put Barbara in the car with Forrest and I rode with Mike. We drove to Pensacola, Florida and Mike convinced us that he would be o.k. to make the rest of the trip by himself. He said we were nearly there. I didn't know it then but later found out that we were only half way to *Florida College*. Mike must not have wanted anyone to see us with him.

We all grew up, and Mike met and married Sandy while they were at Florida College. She brought "life" to our family again. She picked at Daddy—he picked at her and she just fit perfectly into our family. Every time we got together we laughed the whole time. We have many wonderful memories together with them.

When Corey and Megan were married we came to the wedding on January 1, 1999. It was cold when we left Houston, but when we arrived at Indianapolis, it was really cold. During the wedding it started snowing and they ended up having a "blizzard" that weekend with temps dropping to 17 below zero, and it snowed all weekend. At their house Forrest and I stayed wrapped up in blankets to stay warm and Sandy was running around barefoot with pants and a sleeveless top! So, Sandy convinced Forrest to go outside and make snow-angels. Mike and I were "fuddy-duddy's" so

we stayed upstairs and watched. They were laughing so hard because Sandy couldn't get up. Mike and I came out to help. I'm sure we all looked silly but it was very funny. Also, at that same visit Mike needed to run some errands. He and Forrest headed out in the car. There was snow and ice everywhere. All of a sudden Mike asked Forrest if he wanted to have some fun. After he said that, he turned into an empty parking lot and started doing "donuts" over and over. They looked like two little teenagers.

One time Mike came to our area to hold a Gospel Meeting. After it was over Forrest was taking him to the airport to catch his flight back home. They started off and Forrest asked him if he wanted to get something for breakfast on the way. Mike said that he wasn't hungry, but thanks anyway. Well, about a mile up the road Mike hollered out "Shipley Donuts! Turn In!" We stopped and got him some donuts even though he wasn't hungry. We all got a big laugh out of that, but... we do love our Shipley donuts!

Enjoy your retirement, Mike. We love you and are looking forward to making more memories.

Love ya,

Forrest & Sue



Sue (Willis) Morris is married to Forrest Morris and lives in Alvin, Texas where he is a deacon at the Adoue Street Church of Christ. They have three children (Carey, Karen, & Leah) and Sue Willis Morris | twelve grandchildren.

### UPDATE: DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY



### DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY

## now by **Truth** Publications

Several weeks ago we announced the pending purchase by Guardian of Truth Foundation (aka Truth Publications) of the popular Discovering God's Way Bible class curriculum from Religious Supply Center (RSC). We're happy to report that the transaction was successfully completed on December 7, 2016. From that date forward, Guardian of Truth Foundation (aka Truth Publications) is the publisher and primary market provider of this curriculum. Discovering God's Way is designed to provide solid Bible teaching for all ages, including adults. The authors and editors are trustworthy and skilled Bible teachers from all over the USA. The material for the younger ages allows them to go through the entire Bible multiple times by the time they are teenagers, at which point a balance of textual and topical material is introduced. For more information, visit

### CElbooks.com/discovering-gods-way

We welcome RSC customers to the Truth family! We're here to meet all of your current and future needs for Bible study material to help you, your family, or your local congregation grow closer to God. We're looking forward to serving you and those in your family and church. Please call us today at 855.492.6657 to learn more about all that we offer to assist you in your learning or teaching of God's word.

## A Tribute to Mike Willis

by David Dann

"Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men" (Prov. 22:29).

As one who has preached the gospel for more than fifty years and who has served as the editor of Truth Magazine for the past forty years, our brother Mike Willis may be fairly characterized as one who excels in his work. Nearly twenty years ago, I was blessed to have the opportunity to work alongside and learn from brother Willis in a preachertraining arrangement. Through this experience I was placed in the unique position of being able to observe his work at close range. During the time that I was working with Mike, I found myself in a private conversation with one older preacher who knew him especially well. "Mike's work ethic puts me to shame," he candidly said. One would not need to observe brother Willis at work for any great length of time in order to understand why such a statement would be expressed by one of his peers.

The apostle Paul writes, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:23-24). In addition to diligently laboring in preaching the gospel in connection with local churches and in gospel meetings, Mike has been a prolific producer of original Bible class literature, has written full-length

commentaries on books of the Bible, has authored thousands of articles, and has spent countless hours proof-reading and editing material written by others in preparation for its publication by the Guardian of Truth Foundation. It is astounding to consider the amount of time and concentrated effort he has devoted to such tasks.

Without minimizing the intellectual fortitude, linguistic skill, and hard-charging dedication involved in properly accomplishing the task, perhaps one of the most outstanding qualities brother Willis has displayed in his work as an editor has been that of endurance. "Also do not take to heart everything people say," cautions the inspired wise man (Eccl. 7:16).

The occupant of the editor's chair often finds himself on the receiving end of criticism, ranging from criticism of a wide array of editorial judgments that are made, to criticism concerning particular articles and views expressed in the periodical, and even extending to personal criticisms of the man himself. Not everyone is up to the challenge of weathering such criticism while steadily continuing to perform the necessary tasks at hand. But Mike has been able to endure "what comes with the territory," so to speak, while maintaining a singular focus on fulfilling his responsibilities year after year, and decade after decade. (And that is to say nothing of the constant criticisms he has continually received even from his friends who

have been kind enough to point out his every flaw, imagined or otherwise. Indeed, what may be said of one who selectively declares himself to be lactose-intolerant one day and then shamelessly indulges in a large bowl of ice cream the next?)

Thank you, Mike, for your many years of dedicated service!



David Dann

David Dann has been working with the Hebron Lane church of Christ in Shepherdsville, KY since April 2016. He and his wife, Cynthia, have been blessed with six children. The church website is http://www.hebronlane.com/. He may be reached at ddann1@ hotmail.com.

## Thoughts for Mike Willis' Retirement

by Gary Watt

Mike has been patiently putting up with me in my new role with the Foundation for a few months now. Truly, he has the patience of Job and the gracious concern of the Good Samaritan.

Our paths have briefly crossed several times in years past, but the most recent period is our closest working together. I've now seen firsthand what many have known for years and that's Mike's love of God's Word and his diligence to share it with others. His tireless work on behalf of the Foundation for so many years, both as its leader and as a prolific author, is truly remarkable. Well done, Mike!

Since my wife's maiden name is Willis and I'm presently researching our families' genealogy, Mike asked me recently if we're related. All I can say at this early stage of my investigation is, "Mike, be careful what you wish for!"

I retired from full time employment in December, 2015 and my advice to Mike is, "This retirement gig is OK." And with that I say, "Very best wishes for your retirement, Mike, and thank you for your 40 years of service to the Foundation and Bible students everywhere."

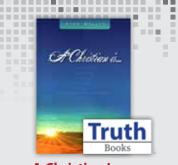


Gary Watt

Gary Watt was born in Austin, TX in 1947 and remained there through graduation in 1970 from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in mechanical engineering. Early in his college years, he met Joan Willis, a Christian from Houston, TX,

and they married in 1970. Due to the example and influence of his wife, Gary obeyed the gospel at the Norhill church of Christ in Houston in 1974. Gary's father-in-law, the late Dan Willis, served as his elder role model during his many years of service to the Norhill congregation. As a result of numerous career transfers over the years, Gary and Joan have been members of churches in Aurora, CO; Bristol, England; Houston, TX; and the Chicago, IL area. Gary served as a deacon at the Kleinwood congregation in the Houston area in the 1990's and as an elder at the Downers Grove church of Christ in Downers Grove, IL from 2001 through 2015. Gary and Joan are the parents of two sons: Dan Watt who, with his wife Summer Fleener Watt and four children, lives in Spring Hill, TN, and Jason Watt who, with his wife, Katy Brewer Watt, lives in Spring, TX. Their sons and daughters-in-law are active Christians in their local congregations. Gary is a recently retired sales and marketing executive and Joan is a former high school mathematics teacher and current math tutor. They now reside in League City, TX and are members of the Bacliff church of Christ.





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For more books by Mike Willis, visit CEIbooks.com/authors/mike-willis and see the ads on pp13 and 26.

## Thoughts for Mike Willis' Retirement

by Phillip Stuckey

Mike, some time ago I was speaking with a brother and he remarked that vour retirement is a momentous occasion. For the first time in at least sixty years, a Willis will not be editing Truth Magazine. That was a fascinating observation. Our "brotherhood papers" have had many detractors over the years. There have also been many who have supported such efforts. Endeavors of this kind have provided exposure to the truth about issues which might have gone unchallenged in many places in years gone by. Amid so much history I am sure there have been some mistakes. And yet, at the same time, I know much good was and will continue to be accomplished. This is because men such as yourself took the time to produce and publish materials about Bible subjects and issues.

A brother once made the comment that what we write lives on long after we have passed. That is true for better or for worse. Writing gives us the opportunity to influence others to obey the Lord and to faithfully trod the old paths long after our own race is over. I am glad you were one who was willing to do so. I would like to thank you for all the years of hard work you have put into contributing to the teaching that has been done upon the pages of Truth Magazine. The many articles and books that were penned long before I was born and even before I became a Christian have been, and continue to

be, helpful to me in my study of God's word and in my growth as a Christian.

May God bless you in your retirement. May God continue to open doors for you to serve Him faithfully in the days and years to come.



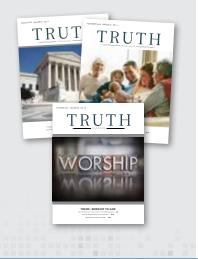
Phillip Stuckey

Phillip Stuckey labors with the Robison St. church of Christ in Edna, Texas. Their website is http://ednachurchofchrist.org/. He can be reached at philstuckey@gmail.com.

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## **Thoughts about Mike Willis**

by Steve Niemeier

Mike is retiring from *Truth Magazine*? Mike is not going to be editing? What will Mike do? All of these thoughts came to me when Mike told me at a breakfast meeting that he would be stepping aside from being the editor and face of the Truth Foundation. Having known Mike for over fourty years the thought of him stepping aside from what had been entrusted to him and that he was so dedicated to for so long caught me off guard a little bit. Then it came to me his first love all along was working for the Lord in whatever way he could to benefit the cause of Christ. That cause he was not stepping away from; that cause has been his life and will be his legend.

In Mike's time here on earth he took the time to study and gain the education he wanted to become an editor as well as a writer of many books and class material to assist others in their quest to know about the Lord. He dedicated himself to teaching and preaching every opportunity he had to further the cause of Christ. He took time to teach the younger men who sought his assistance. Yet in all of this maybe his greatest accomplishment is found by his choice of the virtuous woman he married and their upbringing of two children who are faithful servants of God, married to faithful Christian spouses and as grandparents influencing their grandchildren in a positive godly manner.

There have been times in Mike's life that he has been the forefront of many conversations. Some very positive, and some not so. He has never backed down from what he thought the Scriptures taught and yet has admitted his error when he needed to re-study an issue. Mike has been understood and misunderstood in his long tenure as a gospel preacher, editor and writer. I suppose all who have served in one or more of these positions have experienced similar opportunities. The one trait Mike stands out greatly in my mind is his ability to be approached on issues that one might disagree with him on.

Mike has displayed great patience with me in the time we have known each other and has taught me many things. He is presently trying to work with me in writing a workbook to assist congregations in growing from within. Words cannot express how much his efforts and patience in this process are appreciated. This is the Mike I know best. He can be direct, even be forceful at times—yet with love and concern that is displayed in the manner in which he talks to you.

In every relationship there are humorous stories and events that can be related. This may seem surprising to some, but the relationship that my wife Connie and I have with Mike and Sandy has been filled with a brotherly and sisterly love for one another and a deep respect for one another centered

on the cause for Christ. As such we have experienced numerous times where we all four have laughed and enjoyed the company. Time and space would not allow for us to recall all of them and yet none of them stand out above the other. This is our relationship and we would not change it. We wish Mike and Sandy the best and know that their work for the Lord will continue to move forward in the years the Lord allows them to have on this earth.



Steve Niemeier

Steve Niemeier was born in Glasgow, KY to Denver and Mildred Niemeier. He started preaching in 1972 and has preached for almost 45 years in and around Indianapolis, IN. He has also served as a deacon and an elder. Steve worked

with congregations in helping them to grow – first spiritually which encouraged the members to be at ease in going out to spread the gospel of Christ to others. Steve also had a successful business career assisting companies in improving their struggling operations. He has also assisted in the start up of a successful government contract identity.

## **CHURCHDirectory**

The following congregations have paid for advertising in *Truth Magazine*. Inclusion of churches in this list is not an attempt by *Truth Magazine* to certify their faithfulness to God. We do believe the vast majority are striving to uphold the Word in faith and practice.

To make changes to your ad, contact: mark@truthpublications.com

#### **ALASKA**

#### ANCHORAGE

Rose Street church of Christ 3124 Rose Street Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: David Webb (907) 350-8358

#### **ALABAMA**

#### **BIRMINGHAM**

Pine Lane church of Christ 3955 Pine Lane Bessemer, AL (N. side of Exit #6 at 1459) Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: David Deason (205) 425-2352

#### BIRMINGHAN

Vestavia Hills church of Christ 2325 Old Columbiana Rd. (near I-65 & Hwy. 31) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelists: David Banning and Doy Moyer (205) 822-0018 or 822-0082

#### FLORENCE

College View church of Christ 851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M., Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Kenny Moorer (256) 766-0403

#### HUNTSVILLE

Chapman Acres church of Christ 2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, right on Maysville Road left on Chapman Avenue, right on Penhall Drive) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Isaac Muñoz, www.chapmanacres.org

#### MOBILE

West Mobile church of Christ 129 Hillcrest Road Worship 9-9:30 A.M., Bible Study 9:30-10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30-11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (251) 342-4144 or 342-2041 Ken Sils - Minister (765) 307-8048

#### MONTGOMERY

Eastbrook church of Christ 650 Coliseum Blvd. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Wednesday 6 P.M. Contacts: Brian Moore: (334) 279-1077 Charles Martin: (334) 283-2983

#### PARRISH

McArthur Heights church of Christ, 5082 Hwy. 269 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (205) 686-5978 or 686-5620

#### SCOTTSBORO

Eastside church of Christ John T. Reid Pkwy., (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35) Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 P.M., Wednesday Summer 7 P.M. Wednesday Winter 6 P.M. Evangelist: Aaron Andrews (256) 574-1603 or 575-2664

#### **ARKANSAS**

#### CONWAY

Hwy. 65 church of Christ 271 Highway 65N Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Bruce Reeves, Bldg: (501) 336-0052

#### CONWAY

Eastside church of Christ 1540 E. Oak Street 72302 Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 6 P.M., Wednesday Bible Classes 7 P.M. www.conwaychurchofchrist.org

#### CONWAY

Prince Street church of Christ 2655 Prince St., (Hwy. 60) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (501) 339-6917

#### FORT SMITH

South 46th St. church of Christ 2323 South 46th Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: John Hagenbuch Bldg: (479) 782-0588

#### HARRISON

Capps Rd. Church of Christ 407 Bella Vista Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell www.cappsroad.org 870-741-9104 or 870-741-5151

#### JACKSONVILLE

church of Christ 1807 McArthur Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (501) 982-6413 - church bldg (501) 533-8801 - Jason Lankford www.mcarthurdrcoc.com

#### JONESBORO

StoneRidge church of Christ 514 Airport Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Dick Blackford (870) 933-9134 rlb612@aool.com

#### LITTLE ROCK

church of Christ 7115 West 65th Street Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Don McClain, Res. (501) 847-6677 Study (501) 568-1062

#### MARVFII

Marvell church of Christ Highway 49 • Marvell, AR 72366 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (870) 714-1472 or (870) 338-1833

#### PINE BLUFF

church of Christ 4700 W. 28th Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 6 F.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Clarence W. Fell (870) 879-2097

#### POCAHONTAS

Westside church of Christ 3644 Hwy 90 West + P.O. Box 43 Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M. Afternoon 1 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Herbert Starr, Evangelist

#### TEXARKANA

church of Christ 2301 Franklin Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Rick Boswell

#### **ARIZONA**

#### GLENDALE

church of Christ 6801 N. 60th Avenue Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:40 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Chance Ruffino

#### TUCSON

church of Christ 145 N. Country Club Road Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Hugh Delong (520) 326-3634 or 722-3179

#### **CALIFORNIA**

#### BELLFLOWER

Rose Ave. church of Christ 17903 lbbetson Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (562) 866-5615, http://www.roseavenue.org

#### **CANOGA PARK**

(San Fernando Valley) church of Christ 7054 Winnetka Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Afternoon 2:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Minister: Bruce Evans (818) 795-5566 Spanish congregation (818) 701-0112

#### FOLSOM

church of Christ 900 E. Natomas St. • P.O. Box 492 Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M., Sunday Bible Study 4 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: David Posey (530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866 www.folsomchurch.com

#### LONG BEACH

church of Christ 3433 Studebaker Road Bible Study 9:50 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. JP Flores (562) 420-2363 Mark Reeves (562) 377-1674 www.JustChristians.org

#### OCEANSIDE-VISTA

church of Christ 2020 Sunset Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (760) 940-8003

#### COLORADO

#### **GRAND JUNCTION**

church of Christ Western Slope 2923 North Ave., Unit 3 Grand Junction, CO 81504 Worship 10:30 A.M., Evening 5 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study 6 P.M. www.churchofchristwesternslope.com

#### LOVELAND

Poudre Valley church of Christ 4202 North Garfield Avenue Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Afternoon 1:30 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 667-0469 www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org

#### MONTROSE

San Juan church of Christ 1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 1:30 P.M., (970) 249-8116

#### **DELAWARE**

#### MILTON

Lighthouse church of Christ 14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1 Worship 9:30 A.M., Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M., (302) 644-7379

#### **FLORIDA**

#### DECTIN

South Walton church of Christ 64 Casting Lake Road Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (850) 622-3817 www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com

#### FORT LAUDERDALE

Northside church of Christ 912 NW 19th St. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (954) 763-1404

#### FORT MYERS

Southside church of Christ 13641 Learning Court Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: David P. Schmidt (239) 433-2838 or 482-2158

#### FROSTPROOF

Frostprooof church of Christ 40 W. "A" St., Frostproof, FL 33483 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M., (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278

#### GENEVA

church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. (407) 349-9998

#### JACKSONVILLE

Marietta church of Christ 8150 Driggers Street Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden, (904) 781-5704 or 693-0432, www.mariettacoc.com

#### KEY LARGO

Key Largo church of Christ 100695 N. Overseas Hwy. 33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194

#### MARY ESTHER

church of Christ 6 Lane Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222

#### MIAMI

church of Christ Eglise du Christ de Miami 8343 NE 3rd Court Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295.

#### MIAMI

Flagler Grove church of Christ (Nearest to Airport), 500 N.W. 53rd Ave. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: John Buttrick (305) 634-5924

### Church Directory

MIAMI church of Christ 12780 Quail Roost Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Clark Pace (305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437

Anthony church of Christ 9778 N.E. Jacksonville Rd., Anthony, FL 32617 Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Greg Cruz (352) 629-5505 www.anthonycofc.com

#### ORLANDO

Azalea Park church of Christ 6800 Lake Underhill Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (407) 277-7931

#### ORLANDO

church of Christ at S. Bumby 3940 S. Bumby Ave. Sunday Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M. Worship w/ communion 10:55 A.M. (No Evening Service), Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Adam Willingham Office: (407) 851-8031

#### ORLANDO

Pine Hills Church of Christ 890 Hastings Street Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M., Sun. Worship: 11 A.M. Sun. Evening Worship: 6 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 P.M. (407) 293-2851 or (407) 290-8650

#### **PALMETTO**

Palmetto church of Christ 1575 14th Avenue W. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. www.palmettochurchofchrist.com (941) 722-1307

#### PANAMA CITY BEACH

Beach church of Christ 8910 Front Beach Rd. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (850) 234-2521

#### PENSACOLA

East Hill church of Christ 2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Hal Hammons (850) 479-2130 or (850) 602-8420

#### SEFFNER church of Christ

621 E. Wheeler Rd. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297 www.seffnercoc.org

#### **GEORGIA**

#### CENTERVILLE

Centerville church of Christ 250 Collins Ave. (Near Robins AFB) Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: J. Wiley Adams (478) 922-1158

#### COLUMBUS

River City Church of Christ 3900 River Road, Columbus GA 31904 Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelists Jeff McCrary & Bo Couchman (205) 451-9028, rivercitychurchofchrist.com backtothebible@rivercitychurchofchrist.com

#### CONVERS

Rockdale church of Christ East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Building (770) 929-3973

#### PINE MTN. VALLEY

church of Christ Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens) Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tommy W. Thomas (706) 628-5117 or 628-5229 www.pmvchurch.com

#### SAVANNAH

Coastal church of Christ Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. (912) 344-1687 coastalchurchofchrist@outlook.com

#### VALDOSTA

church Of Christ 4313 North Valdosta Rd. (Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off I-75) Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M. Communion 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(229) 244-8630, www.northyaldostacoc.com

#### **IOWA**

#### GRINNELL

church of Christ 1402 Third Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. (641) 521-6485, (641) 236-3883 www.grinnellcoc.com

#### **DES MOINES**

church of Christ 1310 N.E. 54th Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:40 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M., (515) 262-6799

#### **IDAHO**

#### BLACKFOOT

church of Christ 370 N. Shilling • P.O. Box 158-83221 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (208) 785-6168 or 681-1552

#### **ILLINOIS**

#### CHICAGO

church of Christ 1514 West 74th Street Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: James E. Scott Bldg. (773) 224-9279, (708) 339-6126

#### DOWNERS GROVE

church of Christ 1236 63rd St., (1 and 1/2 mile E. of I355) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (630) 968-0760 • www.dgcoc.org

#### GLENN ELLYN

Glen Ellyn Church of Christ 796 Prairie Ave. Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137 Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Sunday Evening 5 P.M. Evangelist: Keith E. Brown (630) 858-2290, (630) 377-3990

#### MATTOON

Southside church of Christ 1100 S. 17th Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (217) 234-3702

#### SOUTH HOLLAND

Southeast church of Christ 16224 S Vincennes Ave. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Hawkins, (708) 339-1008 www.southeastchurchofchrist.com

#### **INDIANA**

#### CLARKSVILLE

Clarksville church of Christ 407 W. Lewis & Clark Parkway, 47129 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brian Anderson (812) 944-2305 or (812) 948-9917 www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

#### GREENWOOD

Greenwood church of Christ 371 W. Main Street Sun. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelists: Neil Tremblett (317) 888-8288 www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

#### HOBART

church of Christ 300 N. Liberty Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Cleek (219) 942-2663

#### INDIANAPOLIS

Castleton church of Christ 7701 East 86th St., 46256 Sun. Worship 9:30 A.M., Bible Study 10:25 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M. (317) 710-1204

#### JAMESTOWN

church of Christ Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday7 P.M. Evangelist: David McPherson (765) 676-6404 or (270) 994-4397 www.jamestowncoc.com

#### MARION

South Marion church of Christ 3629 S. Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Alan Jones (765) 922-7602 www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org

#### OOLITIC

church of Christ 400 Lafayette Ave. • P.O. Box 34 Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. (812) 279-4332

#### PEKIN

church of Christ (First St. & Karnes Ct.) Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jeremy Goen (812) 967-3437 or 967-3520 www.pekinchurchofchrist.com

#### PI AINFIFI D

church of Christ West 2028 Stafford Rd., Ste. C.,(Marsh Shopping Cntr.) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Johnie Edwards (317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769 www.churchofchristwest.org

#### SAINT LEON, IN

Church of Christ 7140 Hyland Rd., Guildford, IN 47022 174 exit 164 1 mile south on SR 1 Bible study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. 812-637-1252 or 513-367-7871

#### SALEM

Westside church of Christ 2000 West State Rd. 56 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (812) 883-2033, www.westsidechurchofchrist.net

TRAFALGAR
Spearsville Rd. church of Christ, 6244 S. 500W.
(1.2 mi. S. of Hwy. 135)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Ed Rangel. (317) 878-5969 www.trafalgarchurch.com

#### **KANSAS**

#### TOPEKA

17th Street church of Christ 5600 SW 17th St. Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. (785) 235-8687 or 273-7977 www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org

#### **KENTUCKY**

#### AUSTIN

Peter's Creek church of Christ 856 Thomerson Park Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M. Evangelist: David Cox (270) 579-8074 or (270) 646-0498, www.peterscreekcoc.com

#### BEAVER DAM

church of Christ 1235 Williams St. Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study After Worship Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Thomas (270) 274-4451 or 274-4486

#### BRANDENBURG

Brandenburg church of Christ 612 Broadway Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Charles J. White (270) 422-3878

#### CAMPBELLSVILLE

Sunny Hill Dr. church of Christ A.M. Worship 9:30 A.M., A.M. Bible Study 10:30 A.M. A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Lee (270) 789-1651 stevelee4510@windstream.net www.sunnyhillcoc.com

#### CANEYVILLE

Caneyville church of Christ 103 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 233 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 589-4167, (270) 274-3065 or (502) 724-2231

#### DANVILLE

church of Christ 385 E. Lexington Ave. Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study 11:15 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Scott Vifquain (859) 236-4204

#### FRANKLIN

31-W North church of Christ 1733 Bowling Green Road Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Monts, (270) 586-3978 www.31wchurchofchrist.com

#### HODGENVILLE

Hodgenville church of Christ 613 S Lincoln Blvd. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Don Brady (270) 358-6053 Dbrady1295@aol.com

#### LEITCHFIELD

Mill St. church of Christ 733 Mill Street, Highway 62 E. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Hardin (270) 259-4968 or (270) 300-3239 www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org

### —— Church Directory

#### LOUISVILLE

Valley Station church of Christ 1803 Dixie Garden Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822

#### **LOUISIANA**

#### GONZALES

Southside church of Christ 405 Orice Roth Road, 70737, (Baton Rouge area) Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: R.J. Evans (225) 622-4587 rjevans@eatel.net

#### MANY

MANY
Lakeside church of Christ
12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.)
12 miles west of Many
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (318) 256-9396

#### STONEWALL

N. DeSoto church of Christ 2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (318) 925-2733

#### **MARYLAND**

#### SEVERN

Southwest church of Christ 805 Meadow Rd. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brandon Trout (410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549 www.swcofchrist.com

#### **MAINE**

#### PORTLAND

church of Christ • 856 Brighton Ave. Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48 (Breakwater School) Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Second service immediately following morning worship. Mid-week Bible Study. Please call for times & places. (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409

#### **MICHIGAN**

#### CEDAR SPRINGS

W. Michigan church of Christ Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park Street (Grand Rapids Area) Worship 11 A.M., Bible Study 12:30 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell, (616) 975-2778 westmichcofc10@yahoo.com

#### **MINNESOTA**

#### DULUTH

church of Christ 4401 Glenwood St. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Bible Study 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Taylor Ladd (218) 728-3233

#### ST. CHARLES

church of Christ 636 Whitewater Ave. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Bible Study 2:15 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M., call for location FREE Bible correspondence studies Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

#### BOONEVILLE

Oakleigh Dr. church of Christ 101 Oakleigh Dr. Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Building: (662) 728-1942

#### CLINTON

McRaven Rd. church of Christ 301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard White (601) 925-9757 or 924-2645

#### MERIDIAN

Grandview church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Sun. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 482-0543, (601) 479-3394 or (601) 934-3675 Contacts: Ron Cooper & Jim Young youngins@comcast.net

#### MERIDIAN

7th St. church of Christ 2914 7th Street Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. (601) 483-3101

#### SOUTHAVEN

church of Christ 2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55), (Memphis area) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: James A. Brown (662) 342-1132 - church Building

#### **MISSOURI**

#### **BLUE SPRINGS**

Southside church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M. Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262

#### CAPE GIRARDEAU North Cape church of Christ

121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Sunday Bible Study 9:15 & 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M., No Evening Service Wednesday 6 P.M./CST, 7 P.M./DST Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673

#### DONIPHAN

Southside church of Christ Hwy. 142 E. 1/2 mile (P.O. Box 220) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (573) 996-3251 or 996-3513

#### FAIR GROVE

church of Christ 217 N. Orchard Blvd. Bible Study 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M. Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or (417) 736-2663

church of Christ 703 Harrison St. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (573) 888-6778 or (870) 650-1648 Nolan Glover, Preacher www.westsidechurchofchrist.us

#### LILBOURN

church of Christ P.O. Box 270 • 211 Benton St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Shane Williams, (573) 688-2234 or 748-5204

#### RAYTOWN

Sterling Ave. church of Christ 5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jerid Gunter (816) 356-3096 or (270) 585-4331 www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org

#### ST. JAMES

church of Christ 685 Sidney St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628

#### ST. JOSEPH

County Line church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 3 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (816) 279-4737 www.countylinechurchofchrist.com

#### **NEBRASKA**

church of Christ • 7th and Bell Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M., 233-4102 or 228-3827 www.churchofchrist7bell.com

#### **NEW JERSEY**

#### VAUXHALL

church of Christ Milbourn Mall Suite 6., 2933 Vauxhall Rd. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Contact: Harry Persaud phone: (908) 964-6356 • cell: (908) 964-8570

#### **NEW MEXICO**

#### ALBUQUERQUE

Heights church of Christ 7801 Zuni Road, S.E. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evanagelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577 www.heightschurchofchrist.com

#### **NEVADA**

#### RENO

Central church of Christ 2450 Wrondel Way, Stuite A Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (775) 786-2888

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

#### CHARLOTTE.

Charlotte church of Christ 5327 S. Tyron Street Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10: A.M. Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (704) 525-5655

#### OHIO

#### BEAVERCREEK

Knollwood Creek church of Christ 1031 Welford Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M. Afternoon 3 P.M., Wednesday Afternoon 1 P.M. Wednesday Evening 7 P.M. (937) 426-1422 www.knollwoodchurch.org

#### CINCINNATI

Blue Ash church of Christ 4667 Cooper Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. (513) 891-3174 www.blueashchurchofchrist.com

#### CLEVELAND

Lorain Ave. church of Christ 13501 Lorain Ave. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (330) 723-0111 or (330) 590-0227 or (216) 322-9392 www.lorainave-churchofchrist.com

#### COLUMBUS

Laurel Canyon church of Christ 409 McNaughton Road Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (614) 868-1375, www.lccoc.net

#### DAYTON

West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street, 45449 Early Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162 or 848-3779, www.wc-coc.org

#### FRANKLIN

Franklin church of Christ 6417 Franklin-Lebanon Rd. 45005 Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M. Sun Worship 10:45 A.M. Tues. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Josh Lee (937) 789-8055 or (937) 746-1249, www.franklin-church.org

church of Christ 3361 W. State Street, 1 mi. W. of Fremont on U.S. Rt. 20 Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (419) 849-3340 or 849-2980 www.fremontchurchofchrist.com

#### HAMILTON

Westview church of Christ 1040 Azel Ave. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Eugene Ford (513) 856-9288

#### HILLIARD

church of Christ 4840 Cemetery Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (614) 876-4089

#### MANSFIELD

Southside church of Christ 687 Mansfield-Lucas Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 5 P.M. James Bond: (419) 526-2868 Leon Bond: (419) 525-3684 church: (419) 522-8982

#### NEW LEBANON

New Lebanon church of Christ 1973 W Main Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M., Evening 6:30 P.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M. Evangelist: Bruce Hastings (937) 687-7150 or (937) 478-0367

#### MARIETTA-RENO

Marietta-Reno church of Christ 80 Sandhill Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Daniel Ruegg: (740) 222-9160 or Steve Foutty: (740) 473-9028

#### NORTHWOOD

Frey Road church of Christ 4110 Frey Rd. (Toledo Area) Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Jarabek (419) 893-3566, (567) 694-5062

#### UHRICHSVILLE

church of Christ 638 Parrish Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 6:30 P.M.

### Church Directory

#### **OKLAHOMA**

#### **MCALESTER**

North A St. church of Christ 2120 No. A Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Rob Lungstrum, Cell: (918) 931-1362 Office: (918) 423-3445

#### OKLAHOMA CITY

Seminole Pointe church of Christ 16300 N. May Avenue Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189 or (405) 513-6691, www.seminolepointe.church

#### **OREGON**

#### **SWEET HOME**

Church of Christ 3702 E. Long Street, Sweet Home, OR Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 7 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Building: (541) 367-1599

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

#### PHILADELPHIA church of Christ

7222 Germantown Ave., 19119 Bible Study10:15 A.M., Worship11:15 A.M. Tuesday night 7 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 www.mtairvchurchofchrist.ora

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

COLUMBIA Lower Richland church of Christ 3000 Trotter Rd. (Hopkins, SC) Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (803) 730-0452, http://lowerrichlandchurch.org

#### SUMTER

Woodland church of Christ 3370 Broad St. Extension Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023

#### WEST COLUMBIA

Airport church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302) OUR WEB SITE DISPLAYS OUR CURRENT ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE.

Evangelist: Seth Mauldin, Bldg. (803) 834-6978 http://airport-church-of-christ.com

#### **TENNESSEE**

#### COLUMBIA

Mooresville Pike church of Christ 417 Mooresville Pike (.8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 3:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (931) 388-5828 or (931) 381-7898 www.mooresvillepikecoc.com

#### COSBY

Cosby Church of Christ
489 Hooper Hwy., 37722
(15 mi. E. of Gatlinburg on Hwy. 321)
Bible Study 10A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Olie Williamson (423) 487-5540 or (423) 748-0844

#### JACKSON

Sunset View church of Christ 3618 Hwy 70 East (Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 967-0590 or 968-9851

#### JOHNSON CITY

Brookmead church of Christ 2428 Lakeview Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Kay (423) 282-6251 or 426-1836

#### JONESBOROUGH

11-E church of Christ 240 Headtown Road Bible Study 10:30 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Evangelist: David Wheeler (423) 557-9119 or (423) 948-6464 www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com

#### KINGSTON SPRINGS

Kingston Springs church of Christ 350 North Main Street Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Walker, www.kscoc.com

#### MT. PLEASANT

Locust St. Church of Christ 108 Locust Street • Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474 931-379-3704 or 931-964-3924 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Daniel H. King, Sr. www.lscoc.com

Kingsport church of Christ 4938 Fort Henry Dr. • P.O. Box 554 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel, Bldg.# (423) 239-3979 or (423) 579-2002 • www.kptcoc.org

Smokey Mt. church of Christ 2206 Montvale Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230 Lon Spurgeon (865) 388-8749 http://tinyurl.com/smchurch

#### MEMPHIS

Rocky Pt. Road church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. rockypointchurch@gmail.com www.rockypointchurch.org

#### MURFREESBORO

Cason Lane church of Christ 1110 Cason Lane Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (615) 896-0090 (Building) www.casonlanechurch.ora

MURFREESBORO, TN Northfield Blvd. church of Christ 2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200

#### NASHVILLE

Hillview church of Christ 7471 Charlotte Pike Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318 Evangelist: Lee Wildman

#### NASHVILLE

Perry Heights church of Christ A23 Donelson Pike Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118 http://perryheights.faithweb.com

#### PIGEON FORGE

King Branch Road church of Christ 560 King Branch Road Worship 10 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Facilities available for Sunday evening services upon request. Evangelist: Roger Williams (865) 430-5980 www.KingBranchRoadchurchOfChrist.org

#### SHELBYVILLE

El Bethel church of Christ 1801 Hwy. 41-A North Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader (931) 607-9099 dvrader@live.com

#### SHELBYVILLE

Shelbyville Mills church of Christ 1222 W. Jackson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff Curtis (931) 607-9118 djcurtis1963@hotmail.com

#### **TEXAS**

#### ALLEN

West Allen church of Christ west alten Church of Christ 1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles west of Hwy. 75) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443 Building phone (972) 727-5355

#### ALVARADO

ALVARADO 1-35 church of Christ E. Service Rd. off I-35, N. of Alvarado Bible Study 10:00 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 295-7277 or 790-7253

Adoue St. church of Christ Adoue St. Church of Chins. 605 E. Adoue Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953 or (832) 837-9038

#### AUSTIN

Schultz Lane church of Christ Faber Rd. & Schultz Ln., Pflugerville, TX 78660 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 2 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Lehde

#### BAYTOWN

church of Christ at Pruett & Lobit 701 North Pruett Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:40 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jesse Flowers (281) 515-8939 Building: (281) 422-5926, Weldon: (713) 818-1321

#### BEAUMONT

Dowlen Rd. church of Christ 3060 Dowlen Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelists: Max Dawson & Benjamin Lee (409) 866-1996

#### CONROE

Woodland Hills church of Christ 410 Woodland Hills Dr., 77303 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. phone: (936) 756-9322 www.conroechurch.com

#### CLEVEL AND

church of Christ 310 E. Houston Street Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676 www.clevelandchurchofchrist.org

#### CORPUS CHRISTI

CORPUS CHRISTI
Hwy. 9 church of Christ
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study 11 A.M.
Worship 12 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Call for location: Keith Kalies (361) 776-2304 or Patrick Frazier (361) 235-1990

#### DICKINSON

church of Christ 2919 FM 517 Road E. Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 9:45 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M., (281) 534-4870 www.dickinsonchurchofchrist.org

#### DALLAS

Methodist Street church of Christ 211 Methodist St. • Red Oak TX, 75154 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: D. LeRoy Klice (972) 576-3119 or 363-7672 www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com

#### DUNCANVILLE

Whispering Hills church of Christ 2126 S. Main (South Dallas) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (214) 874-5701, info@whchurchofchrist.net

church of Christ 301 Robison Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (361) 782-5506 or 782-2844 Elders: J. Mercer & S. Mercer

#### EL PASO

Eastridge church of Christ 2377 Pendleton Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (915) 855-1524

#### FORT WORTH

West Side church of Christ 6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114 Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (817) 738-7269

#### GRANBURY

church of Christ 4313 Old Granbury Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M. , Wednesday 7 P.M. 817-913-4209 or 817-279-3351

#### HOUSTON

Fry Rd. church of Christ 2510 Fry Road (77084) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Bob Pulliam: (281) 832-4633, www.fryroad.org

#### HOUSTON

Spring Woods church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Road Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M. Worship 11 A.M., Evening 6 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist (713) 419-1750 www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com

Westside church of Christ 2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to DFW Airport) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131 www.JustChristians.com

#### LANCASTER

Pleasant Run church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1708 or 227-2598

#### LUBBOCK

Indiana Avenue church of Christ 6111 Indiana Avenue Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (806) 795-3377 www.lubbockchurch.com

#### LUFKIN

Timberland Dr. church of Christ 912 S. Timberland Drive Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7: P.M. Evangelists: Harold Hancock & Reagan McClenny (936) 634-7110 or 632-7070

### ChurchDirectory

#### MANSFIELD

Northside church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160

#### NACOGDOCHES

Stallings Dr. church of Christ 3831 N.E. Stallings Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelists: Randy Harshbarger & Jay Taylor

#### ΡΙ ΔΝΟ

Spring Creek church of Christ 2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy., (North Dallas Suburb) Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 517-5582, www.planochurch.org

#### SAN ANTONIO

Grissom Rd. church of Christ 5470 Lost Lane at Grissom Rd. San Antonio, TX 78238-2700 Bible Classes 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday (Ladies Class) 10 A.M., Wednesday (Bible Class) 7:30 P.M. Terry Starling, Evangelist www.grissomroadcoc.org

#### SAN ANTONIO

Pecan Valley church of Christ 268 Utopia Avenue, (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143

#### SHERMAN

Westwood Village church of Christ 314 N. Tolbert Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Smelser

#### TEMPLE

Leon Valley church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jason Garcia yourfriendjgar@gmail.com www.biblemoments.org

#### WACO

Sun Valley church of Christ 340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco) Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Marc Smith (254) 666-1020 or 420-1484

#### THE WOODLANDS

Woodlands church of Christ 1500 Wellman Road • P.O. Box 7664 (77380) Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (281) 367-2099 www.woodlandschurchofchrist.ora

#### **VIRGINIA**

#### CHESAPEAKE

Tidewater church of Christ 217 Taxus Street Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Schlosser (757) 436-6900

#### CHESTER

Chester church of Christ 12100 Winfree St., (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights) Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. church Building: (804) 796-2374, (804) 385-2725 or (804) 271-0877

#### NEWPORT NEWS

Harpersville Rd. church of Christ 315 Harpersville Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

#### RICHMOND (METRO)

Courthouse church of Christ
Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct.
(2.2 miles S of Rt. 288)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangalist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629
www.courthousechurchofchrist.com

#### BICHMOND

Forest Hill church of Christ 1208 W. 41st Street Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959

#### RIDGEWAY

church of Christ 2970 Old Leaksville Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (276) 956-6049 www.churchofchristatridgeway.com

#### ROANOKE

Blue Ridge church of Christ 929 Indiana Avenue N.E. (5 min. from Roanoke Convention Center) 1st Lesson 9:15 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M. Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (540) 344-2755

#### VIRGINIA BEACH

Southside church of Christ 5652 Haden Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574

#### **WASHINGTON**

#### BELLINGHAM

Mt. Baker church of Christ 1860 Mt. Baker Hwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960 www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

#### CHARLESTON

Oakwood Road church of Christ 873 Oakwood Road Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637 oakwoodrdcoc@suddenlinkmail.com www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com

#### CLARKSBURG

Westside church of Christ Davisson Run Road Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. (304) 622-5433 www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net

#### FAIRMONT

Eastside church of Christ 1929 Morgantown Avenue Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (304) 363-8696 or (304)844-2437

#### GLADESVILLE

Gladesville church of Christ 2906 Gladesville Rd., Independence, WV 26374 Sunday Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M. Sunday 7 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M. (304) 864-3078

#### MOUNDSVILLE

Moundsville church of Christ 210 Cedar Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tony Huntsman (304) 845-4940

#### PARKERSBURG

Marrtown church of Christ 825 Marrtown Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 422-7458 or 893-5227

#### **WYOMING**

#### RANCHESTER

Ranchester church of Christ Hwy. 14 West, Ranch Mart Mall Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563

#### **CANADA**

#### CALGARY, AB

Northside church of Christ 803 20A Avenue NE Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 7 P.M. +1 (403) 452-5116 www.churchofchristcalaary.com

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