



METHODIST PROTESTANT FAITH

"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." JUDE 3
Volume LXI/Number 1 • January 2007



*Come now, and let us reason
together, saith the Lord:
Though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow.*

~~ Isaiah 1:18

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The Methodist Protestant Church
Organized 1828

We Believe . . .

. . . That God created the Heavens and the Earth

. . . That the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant "Word of God"

. . . That Jesus Christ is the Virgin-born Son of God

. . . In the Deity of Jesus Christ

. . . In the atoning blood of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins

. . . In Sanctification as a second definite work of grace subsequent to initial salvation

. . . In the bodily Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ

. . . In the soon return of Jesus Christ in power and great glory

. . . In a literal heaven, the reward for the saints, and a literal hell, a place of eternal punishment for the wicked

. . . In the sanctity of life

. . . In holy matrimony between man and woman

The Methodist Protestant Church
Headquarters located at
722 Hwy 84 West, Collins, MS 39428
1-601-765-0029

Rev. LaDon Dawson Appointed General Conference President



The Executive Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church met on Friday, December 29th to select a General Conference President following the resignation of Rev. Jerry Meggs. Rev. LaDon Dawson was selected to fill the remaining portion of this quadrennium. He will serve on a part-time basis, with office hours at the General Conference Headquarters on Tuesdays.

Bro. LaDon has served the Methodist Protestant Church in various positions since his ordination in 1972. He, his wife Darlene (Gerald) and family served as Missionaries in Belize for seven years. He has pastored several churches in the Mississippi Conference District, and currently serves as Pastor of Divide Memorial MP Church, Monticello, MS.

LaDon attended Whitworth College, Brookhaven, MS, preparing for the ministry. As a member of the MS Conference, he has served as President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a member of most of the committees. He has also served the General Conference as member of the Board of Missions, the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Publication and the Executive Committee. Bro. LaDon has the experience and knowledge to fulfill the duties of General Conference President, but the most important factor in this position is the ability to understand and follow the leadership of God for the advancement of the Methodist Protestant Church. Please pray for Bro. Dawson as he follows God and leads our denomination.

LaDon is the son of the late Rev. Luther Carlos Dawson, and Mrs. Eva Dawson. He has a brother, Rev. Bobby Dawson, who Pastors Forest Grove MP Church. His wife, Darlene, is the daughter of the late Rev. C.F. and Rev. Mrs. Rosa Gerald. LaDon and Darlene have 4 children, 8 granddaughters, with the first grandson due in February.

LaDon, thanks for accepting this position and may God bless you in your labors for Him and the Church.

Also, the Executive Committee appointed Rev. Mark Lambert to serve the vacancy created by Rev. LaDon's appointment. Bro. Mark is a member of the Alabama Annual Conference and currently serves as Pastor of Springfield MP Church, Thomasville, AL.

Bro. Mark and his wife, Cindy, served as Missionaries in Belize. He has served on various committees of the AL Conference, and has been very involved with the Youth Camp. He and Cindy both currently serve on the Board of Missions of the General Conference.

Bro. Mark, thanks for accepting this position and may God bless you in your ministry.

*Rev. LaDon Dawson, Rev. Bill Hearne, Rev. Reggie Smith,
Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Byron Carlisle, Robert Johnson, Dan Sellers,
Executive Committee of the Methodist Protestant Church*

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From the Executive Committee

General Conference Methodist Protestant Church

In a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee, the written resignation from Rev. Jerry Meggs, General Conference President, was read and accepted after much prayer and consideration. Bro. Jerry has served as President of the General Conference since November 2004, following the tragic death of Rev. Andy Jenkins. He was appointed as Interim President until the Special Session of the General Conference was held in May 2005, at which time he was elected to serve the remainder of the quadrennium. Bro. Jerry served with dignity, honor and respect, as he endeavored to bring healing to the denomination, and to guide the church into a more dedicated and committed role in the respective areas. Under his leadership, the Boards of the General Conference have met on a regular basis. The church has seen several new and exciting things as a result of these meetings. Several Leadership Training Seminars were held (with more to follow); new uniform Sunday School Literature was adopted and implemented with several churches taking advantage of this long-awaited project; the color copier for Faith Press and Bookstore was purchased; the mailorder Bookstore was started with good results; the Media Blitz, incorporating a new ad and brochure, was planned and promoted; a new sign installed at the MP Campground and Headquarters, (in conjunction with the MS Conference). This is a brief reminder of some of the things and events under Rev. Meggs' tenure as President of the General Conference. Bro. Jerry's desire to

see the MP Church grow and prosper will continue in the hearts and minds of the committees and boards that have served under his leadership.

May God bless him as he steps down from this position to follow the call of God on his life as a minister of the Gospel and to devote his time as pastor of the First Methodist Protestant Church in Kosciusko, MS. This church, under his leadership, is experiencing spiritual and numerical growth and deserves their pastor's full attention. Recent reports indicate that 'the young couples, youth, and children are taking over, with some of the senior members praising God that their church will continue'. This is not a problem but a blessing from God after seeking and following God's will and direction for their church. Every Methodist Protestant church should have this same desire and commitment so they might also enjoy the results.

Bro. Jerry, our prayers are with you as you serve God as Pastor of the church in Kosciusko. Please accept our thanks and appreciation for your service to the entire denomination as President of the General Conference. Only God knows the full impact and eternal results of your dedication and faithful service. We also thank and appreciate your lovely wife, Debbie, for supporting you during this time and sharing you with all of us. May God bless both of you in your ministry.

~ ~ *The General Conference Executive Committee
of the Methodist Protestant Church*

Calendar of Events

Jan 13 10 AM Board of Christian Education
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS

Jan 26 10 AM Board of Publication
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS

Jan 26 3 PM Gen Conf Executive Committee
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS

**Jan 26 6:30 PM Leadership Seminar
21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership continued
Rev. Jerry Meggs, Instructor**

**Jan 27 8 AM Seminar conclusion
Room reservations may be made by calling 601-765-0029. Meals and room are free of charge. You may attend this even if you were not present for the beginning session.**

Mar 16-17 WMS Convention
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS

Mar 30-31 General Conference Annual Board Mtg.
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS
(More details in next issue)

Apr 14 9 AM MS WMS Branch Meeting
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS

Apr 21 9 AM AL WMS Branch Meeting
Alabama MP Campground, Ashland, AL

Apr 21 9 AM LA WMS Branch Meeting
Yeager MP Church, West Monroe, LA

June 6-8 AL Annual Conference
Alabama MP Campground, Ashland, AL

June 13-15 LA Annual Conference
MP Campground & Headquarters, Collins, MS

June 20-22 MS Annual Conference
MS Campground, Collins, MS

GOD'S CALL TO HOLINESS

Like as He which called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy, for I am holy. ~ I Peter 1:15,16

There is not in Scripture a word more distinctly Divine in its origin and meaning than the word holy. There is not a word that leads us higher into the mystery of Deity, nor deeper into the privilege and the blessedness of God's children. And yet it is a word that many a Christian has never studied or understood. What multitudes of believing Christians there are who have none but the very vaguest thoughts of what holiness is! And of those who are seeking after it, how many who have hardly learned what it is to come to God's Word, and to God Himself, for the teaching that can alone reveal this part of the mystery of Christ and of God! To many, holiness has simply been a general expression for the Christian life in its more earnest form, without much thought of what the term really means.

The call of God is the manifestation in time of the purpose of eternity: *Whom He predestinated, them He also called.* 'Believers are *the called* according to His purpose.' In His call He reveals to us what His thoughts and His will concerning us are, and the life to which He invites us. In His call He makes clear to us what the hope of our calling is; as we spiritually apprehend and enter into this, our life on earth will be the reflection of His purpose in eternity.

Holy Scripture uses more than one word to indicate the object or aim of our calling, but none more frequently than what Peter speaks of here - God has called us *to be holy* as He is holy. Paul addresses believers twice as 'called to be *holy* (Romans 1:7; I Cor. 1:2). 'God called us,' he says, 'not for uncleanness, but *in sanctification*' (I Thess. 4:7). When he writes, 'The God of peace *sanctify* you wholly,' he adds, 'Faithful is He which calleth you, who also will do it' (I Thess. 5:24). The calling itself is spoken of as 'a *holy* calling.' The eternal purpose of which the calling is the outcome, is continually also connected with holiness as its aim. 'He hath *chosen* us in Him, that we should be *holy* and without blame' (Eph. 1:4). 'Whom God *chose* from the beginning unto *salvation in sanctification*' (II Thess. 2:13). '*Elect* according to the foreknowledge of the Father, through *sanctification* of the Spirit' (I Peter 1:2). The call is the unveiling of the purpose that the Father from eternity had set His heart upon: that we should be holy.

It needs no proof that it is of infinite importance to know aright what God has called us to. A misunderstanding here may have fatal results. You may have heard that God calls you to salvation or to happiness, to receive pardon or to obtain heaven, and never noticed that all these were subordinate. It was to 'salvation *in sanctification*,' it was to Holiness in the first place, as the element in which salvation and heaven are to be found. The complaints of many Christians as to lack of joy and strength, as to failure and want of growth, are simply owing to this - the place God *gave* Holiness in His call they have not given it in their response. God and they have never yet come to an agreement on this.

No wonder that Paul, in the chapter in which he had spoken to the Ephesians of their being 'chosen to be holy,' prays for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God to be given to believers, that they might know 'the holy of their *calling*' (Eph. 1:17,18). Let all of us, who feel that we have too little realized that we are called to Holiness, pray this prayer. It is just what we need. Let us ask God to show us how, as He who hath called us is Himself holy, so we are to be holy too; our calling is a holy calling, a calling before and above everything, to Holiness. Let us ask Him to show us what Holiness is, His Holiness first, and then our Holiness; to show us how He has set His heart upon it as the one thing He wants to see in us, as being His own image and likeness; to show us, too, the unutterable blessedness and glory of sharing with Christ in His Holiness. Oh! that God by His Spirit would teach us what it means that we are called to be holy as He is holy. We can easily conceive what a mighty influence it would exert.

'Like as He which called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy.' How this call of God shows us the true *motive* to Holiness. 'Be ye holy, for I am holy.' It is as if God said, Holiness is my blessedness and my glory: without this you cannot, in the very nature of things, see me or enjoy me. Holiness is my blessedness and my glory: there is nothing higher to be conceived; I invite you to share with me in it, I invite you to likeness to myself: 'Be ye holy, for I am holy.' Is it not enough, has it no attraction, does it not move and draw you mightily, the hope of being with me, partak-

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In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6

PORTRAIT OF A MAN

By: Ashley Crawford Lee

When you think of a man, what do you see?
 Do you see a tall, slim man dressed in his best clothing?
 Or
 Do you see a man dressed in what he can find?
 Does that man, in your mind's eye, have a finely crafted face?
 Or
 Is his face torn by age or the life that he lived?
 Is this man a well educated man, with several college degrees?
 Or
 Is he simply educated by what the world has thrown at him?
 Does the man in your portrait have a will of his own?
 Is he harsh with his mouth that only he listens to?
 Or
 Is he gentle with those around him?
 Can he talk to a child in a quiet and simple tone?
 Is the man in your picture, a man that buys his freedom with dollars and coins?
 Or
 Is he willing to go to a foreign land, and fight for not only his freedom, but yours, mine and some one that he may never know?
 I know of a man that I've never seen. But his portrait is one that we all must see.
 He is a man with all of these brush strokes and many more, that can never fully be painted.
 He is a man who is able to laugh, when I laugh.
 And
 When I feel a need to yell, he allows me to.
 When I talk, he will listen.
 When there is nothing to say, he will sit with me in silence.
 And
 When I cry, he will dry my tears.
 When I am lonely, he will be with me
 When I close my eyes and pray, he will open my eyes with his answers.
 When I fall, he will catch me.
 When I call his name, he will come running.
 This portrait of a man is worth more than any known work of art.
 Its price has already been paid.
 Do you know the man in this picture?
 Close your eyes and open your heart.
 Now...who do you see?

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Starts With The Letter T (All scripture is from KJV)

Find answers in: Exodus 33:7; Act 9:36; Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 2:4,5; Ezra 10:24; Acts 18:3; Exodus 20:3-17; Genesis 11:27; Mark 3:13-19; Matthew 27:29; Acts 28:15; Acts 16:14; II Kings 15:29; I Timothy 1:2; Ezekiel 24:17; Matthew 5:18; Judges 11:3; Leviticus 5:7;

1. The father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. _____
2. _____ is the Syrian name for Dorcas who lived at Joppa.
3. A station on the Appian Road along which Paul traveled from Puteoli to Rome. _____
4. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be _____.
5. Books of the Bible _____, _____, _____.
6. A place where Jephthah took refuge when expelled from home by his half-brother _____.
7. In a parable, the man sowed good seed in his field, and while he slept, his enemy came and sowed _____.
_____.
8. The tent or temporary building in which the Israelites performed religious exercises in the wilderness.
_____.
9. Paul called _____ 'my own son in the faith'.
10. A porter or doorkeeper of the Temple in the time of Ezra. _____
11. A minute mark used in writing to show accents or to distinguish one Hebrew letter from another _____.
12. The soldiers platted a crown of _____ and put it upon Jesus' head.
13. How many commandments were given to Moses? ____
14. Lydia, the seller of purple, lived in the city of _____.
15. An Assyrian king _____.
16. The Bible is divided into the Old and New _____.
17. An ornamental head-dress worn on festive occasions _____.
18. Jesus disciples _____, _____.
19. Paul's occupation was a _____.
20. The _____ and the pigeon were offerings in sacrifice.

A Laymen's Point Of View -

Larry Davis, General Conference Laymen's President

Working Together in the New Year?

As we begin a new year as a church family of faith, our goal should not be to just be a good church. Our desire should be to become a great church. Let us consider what it means, or may not mean, to be a 'great' church. A great church is not a big church or a church that sings certain songs or worships a certain way. A great church is not one that is in the news or involved in media ministry. A great church doesn't even have to have lots of programs. A great church may have some or more of these things but these things don't make a church great.

A great church is one that represents God effectively in the world. A great church is made up of people who are involved in ministry and not just worship. A great church is made up of people who love the Lord with a passion that fuels their lives. These are churches that change their community. Some of these churches are known only to the Lord. Some are big, some are not.

In the year ahead, may we pursue this kind of greatness. But, first of all, let us begin our pursuit with a look at Romans 12:3-8.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

**GOD DESIGNED US
TO WORK TOGETHER**

The Bible uses two primary images to describe the function of the church in the world. The first image is that of a family. God designed the church so that members need each other, and would 'belong to each other'. Christians think of each other as a 'brother' and 'sister' in Christ. We call God our Heavenly Father. The Bible likens Christ to a bridegroom and the church to a bride. We consider the new converts as 'children'. Salvation by faith, or conversion, is called the new birth. The family image describes the church.

Each family may have its share of 'oddballs, complainers and troublemakers'. The church may also have this kind of members. The family accepts and loves these people in spite of their differences. The same should also be true of the church.

The second image the Bible uses for the church is the human body. The body has many different parts working together to survive; so in the church we have different functions, interests and personalities that must work together to be 'healthy'.

In the human body, the heart keeps the blood pumping, the lungs keep oxygen coming into the body, the stomach digests food, the nose helps us breathe and smell, the ear helps us hear. We know that our kidneys eliminate toxins from our body, the pancreas regulates our insulin, the liver secretes bile, which aids in digestion. We can go on and on . . . the point is that every part of the body has a job. And every job is important. That's the image that Paul wants us to understand. In the church, everyone has a role to play.

(Continued from page 6)

WE MUST KNOW OURSELVES

The apostle Paul tells us that we must not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think but should think with sober judgment as God has given each a measure of faith.

In order to think with sober judgment, we have to correct a common misconception. In Ephesians 2:10 we are told that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Do you notice something about this verse? We are not told that we DO the workmanship of God. We are told that we ARE the workmanship of God.

God has designed us and equipped us for a particular purpose. He has fashioned us and given us a role to play in His kingdom that is just as He determined it to be. We are His masterpiece!

With this in mind, look at the command in Romans 12, 'do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think.'

Do not think more highly than you ought to think. His first caution is against arrogance. The human condition being what it is, we all have a tendency to think that we are the center and everything else revolves around us. We have a tendency to think that our perceptions are the correct ones and our thinking is the most enlightened.

First, we must not be arrogant in our salvation. We must constantly remind ourselves that we are sinners who have been saved by grace. We are not more 'worthy' of salvation than anyone else. A true Christian should never act as a snob (that doesn't mean some Christians don't act as snobs).

Second, we must not be arrogant about our own contribution to the Kingdom. Each one must be reminded that should we die today, we would be replaced in the work of God's Kingdom. No one is indispensable . . . not even the Pastor. It is not OUR work . . . it is HIS. We must always keep in mind that we are one member of a team.

Some of us have watched a good deal of football lately. One thing that should be apparent: even the most gifted players can't be successful without their teammates. The running backs need the line, the quarterback needs protection, the receiver needs a good pass, the linebacker needs the line to help him pursue the runner, the cornerback needs the line to put pressure on the passer, and the coach needs the team to execute the plays.

We could use many other examples: you could have a skill-

ful violin player, but if your French horn player is tone deaf, the orchestra will make noise rather than music. You can have an assembly line of people putting together a world class engine but if one person on the line fails in their job of aligning one small gear the engine will not be fit for anything but the junk heap. We need each other!

The solution to these problems is to have an accurate understanding of our role in the body of Christ. We must recognize our strengths and our weaknesses. Humility is being able to see your situation accurately. The truly humble person is able to say, 'God has given me the ability to do _____, and if I can use this for His glory, I am willing'.

Let me conclude with some simple suggestions:

First, take your role as a part of your church seriously. Refuse to be a mere spectator in the ministry of your church. Refuse to be content with the church being a good church but strive to help it to become a great church. Dare to believe that God can do greater things than we can even imagine, through our church family.

Second, be attentive for ways you can do that which God has equipped you to do. Dare to think 'outside the box'. Be creative. Dare to see what hasn't been done before. Refuse to let the perceived obstacles stop you from developing a new ministry.

It may be that you will never be able to 'put a name' to your particular gift. So what! Find the place where you can serve God enthusiastically and joyfully and don't look back. Be a part of the adventure!

Finally, take God at His word. Believe Him when He tells you that every child of God has a ministry . . . believe Him when He tells you that you have a significant place in the work of His church. Believe Him when He tells you that He loves you, and believe Him when He tells you that He depends on you to help make His Church! Not just good. - but great!

**Happy,
Prosperous
New
Year
In
Christ!**

The Missionary Record

Mrs. Dianne Reid, Woman Executive Secretary, Editor

*(submitted by Carol Jackson (AL), Blitz
Coordinator)*

How many times have you heard someone say “God’s time is not our time?” I am frequently amazed when I look back over events that seem to be so chaotic as to never obtain any possible goal, and then “*Bam!*,” just the right spice is added at the last minute and things come together. Not only is the goal obtained, it is such a masterpiece, that you have to stop, look back and realize that only the hand of God could have brought about such a plan.

When I look at the events that led to my taking on the coordination of the Blitz this year, I can hear God’s laughter. Sometimes I can even make out a “Gotcha!” My first trip on the Blitz came in July of 2002, but it really all began back in October of 1998. I had wanted to go on a Caribbean Cruise for years, and finally I broke down and made the reservations for a trip for two. As much as I had looked forward to the trip, my husband Paul had dreaded it.

Well, as you have probably guessed by now, Paul had the time of his life on the trip, and I stayed in the cabin seasick. Thankfully the boat did stop everyday, and we could explore the various islands. The cruise people kept pushing these snorkeling trips at us until we finally broke down and gave it a try. That was when God set the hook.

I loved it! So much so, that I booked our second cruise for a little over a year after that. We toured the southern Caribbean and marveled at God’s underwater creations. The Mark Lamberts had returned from Belize, and begun their ministry at Springfield by this time. Their son,

Wesley, rode to school with me every morning, and nearly every day something was said about their time in Belize. He told me all about the reef system and the cayes.

I had never had much interest for the Blitz before that time. In fact, I really never gave much thought to any missions program, because I felt there was plenty of folks right here at home that needed an introduction to Jesus. Listening to Wesley’s stories made the people and the mission more real to me. Another set of ears was also closely following the tales, those of my son, Windham. So when I mentioned that I would like to go on the Blitz, Windham began a campaign worthy of a presidential nomination. The result was that Paul, Windham and I, signed on for the Blitz in 2002.

God had me in the boat by this time. I was doing things that I never would have dreamed that I could, and I was loving it. We talk about focusing on God and letting other things go, but it is really hard to do on an everyday basis. The Blitz gave me the opportunity to truly focus on God for the first time. In other words, leave those dishes 1500 miles away, and focus on doing what God asked of me for a week.

Sounds like a vacation, right. Wrong! Accommodations are meager at best, rest is a “four letter” word, and comfort zone may as well be the twilight zone. Did I mention — sharing one bathroom with a minimum of 6 other people, and hot water is only a distant memory. In fact this year we had fourteen people staying in the Sand Hill mission house, with little or no “personality conflicts.” Well, except for Robert (Andrews-Vicksburg) and Abbie (Andrews-Springfield), who we decided were long

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**Only
the
Hand
of
God!**

WMS PRAYER CALENDAR

JANUARY - Secretaries of Life, Memorial, and Perpetual Membership; Missionary Deputation Work;
Bus Ministries; Community for Christ - Mark 16:15

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Secretary of Life Memorial, and Perpetual Membership: Explain purpose of program.
Secretary of Missionary Education: Promote the Ella Smith Memorial Fund.

(Continued from page 8)
lost brother and sister.

I guess that I was a “keeper”, because this year God decided to skin me and throw me in the frying pan! Coordinating the Blitz is very similar to herding cats. You realize very quickly that you can control very little in this world, and how great our God really is. Many times, I called Florene (Carlisle) just to ask, “Is this normal, or should I be worried.” My plans were all falling apart! Everything seemed to be working against us, but what was really happening was that God was adding that *Bam!*

The final roster included 19 team members from Springfield, 6 from Union, 5 from Vicksburg, 3 from Wimberly, 2 from Divide, 1 from Brookhaven, and 1 from Lettsworth. I can’t speak for the others, but I do know that I worked harder than ever, both before and during the trip. I returned physically and mentally exhausted. Spiritually, I was on top of the Mountain of God. I experienced a revival of my heart and a renewal of my faith.

Every time that I have been on the Blitz, I have returned with a song in my heart. I can remember getting home one year and climbing up on the roof of our house to help Paul nail down the sheathing. I would sing “*God’s not dead, NO, Heeee’s Alive!*” then I would swing the hammer at the nails “Wham! Wham!” This year the song was “*You don’t have to serve the Devil!*” Well, I don’t ever want to serve Satan! I want to feel God in my hands and feet and all over me!

I think the best way to do that is to truly focus on Him and what He is doing **for** you and **with** you! I guess for me it will be out of the frying pan and into the fire.

*.....Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name;
You are Mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you
For I am the Lord your God....*

Isaiah 43:1-3

On that note, I would like to thank all of those people who made themselves available to God for use on the Blitz 2006. Not just those who were team members, but everyone who helped make the trip possible through financial donations and prayer. The final team is listed below, please be sure to ask any of them about the Blitz when you see them!

Springfield:

Mark, Cindy, and Wesley Lambert; Paul, Carol, Windham, and Callie Jackson; Abbie Andrews; Brenda and Chris Byrd; Tracey, Adam and John Sims; Joy,

Lauren and Jake Kiracoffe; Sherry Bagley; Tiffany Green; Catherine Sumerlin

Union:

Brad and Trena Lemons; Dan and Mary Morrison; Frank and Dena Robinson

Vicksburg:

Robert Andrews; Larry and Terrie Southern; Ashley Gibson; Joel Libramento

Wimberly:

Jami Ballard; Angela and Morgan Bonner

Divide Memorial:

Richard Garrett; Jessica Rutland

Brookhaven:

Charles Osmun

Lettsworth:

Tammy Jeansonne-Clark

Belize Medical Team

The Belize Medical Team trip in November was a great success. Tim Castellaw, a physician’s assistant from Georgia did a great job answering sickness questions and illustrating treatments for the teachers and the health workers. We started on Monday with the San Lazaro teachers, Tuesday at Sand Hill School, Thursday on to Punta Gorda where approximately 35 health workers participated in our workshop. Each participant received a copy of the book “Where there is no Doctor.” The teachers, health workers, and health officials of Toledo District were very appreciative of our efforts. I also met with the hospital officials to discuss the building of a Maternity Center that would give expectant mothers a place to stay before and after their delivery. The building would be constructed behind the Punta Gorda Hospital facility on property owned by the hospital.

I am thankful to the Board of Missions for the support given toward this ministry. Also, the support of Donald Ray with the use of the Rodeo on the field, was a tremendous help to me. I am excited at what God is doing in Belize. With His blessing and our commitment to His will, I am confident of great things in Belize.

~~ Charlie Joe Green

(Continued from page 4)

ers of my Holiness? I have nothing better to offer - I offer you myself: 'Be holy, for I am holy.' Shall we not cry earnestly to God to show us the glory of His Holiness, that our souls may be made willing to give everything in response to this wondrous call?

As we listen to the call, it shows also the *nature* of true Holiness. 'Like as He is holy, so be ye also holy.' To be holy is to be Godlike, to have a disposition, a will, a character like God. The thought almost looks like blasphemy, until we listen again, 'He hath chosen us *in Christ* to be holy.' In Christ the Holiness of God appeared in a human life: in Christ's example, in His mind and Spirit, we have the Holiness of the Invisible One translated into the forms of human life and conduct. To be Christlike is to be Godlike; to be Christlike is to be holy as God is holy.

The call equally reveals the *power* of Holiness. 'There is none holy but the Lord;' there is no Holiness but what He has, or rather what He is, and gives. Holiness is not something we do or attain: it is the communication of the Divine life, the inbreathing of the Divine nature, the power of the Divine Presence resting on us. And our power to become holy is to be found in the call of God: the Holy One calls us to Himself, that He may make us holy in possessing Himself. He not only says 'I am holy,' but 'I am the Lord, who makes holy.' It is because the call to Holiness comes from the God of infinite Power and Love that we may have the confidence: we can be holy.

The call no less reveals the *standard* of Holiness, 'Like as He is holy, so ye also yourselves,' or 'Like the Holy One, which calleth you, be ye yourselves also holy.' There is not one standard of Holiness for God and another for man. The nature of light is the same, whether we see it in the sun or in the candle: the nature of Holiness remains unchanged, whether it be God or man in whom it dwells. The Lord Jesus could say nothing less than, 'Be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.' When God calls us to Holiness, He calls us to Himself and His own life: the more carefully we listen to the voice, and let it sink into our hearts, the more will all human standards fall away, and only the words be heard, Holy, as I am holy.

And the call shows us the *path* to Holiness. The calling of God is one of mighty efficacy, an effectual calling. Oh! let us but listen to it, let us but listen to Him, and the call will with Divine power work what it offers. He calleth the things that are not as though they were. His call gives life to the dead, and holiness to those whom He has made alive. He calls us to listen as He speaks of His Holiness, and of our holiness like His. He calls us to Himself, to

study, to fear, to love, to claim His Holiness. He calls us to Christ, in whom Divine Holiness became human Holiness, to see and admire, to desire and accept what is all for us. He calls us to the indwelling and the teaching of the Spirit of Holiness, to yield ourselves that He may bring home to us and breathe within us what is ours in Christ. Christian! listen to God calling thee to Holiness. Come and learn what His Holiness is, and what thine is and must be.

Yes, be very silent and listen. When God called Abraham, he answered, Here am I. When God called Moses from the bush, he answered, Here am I, and he hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. God is calling thee to Holiness, to Himself the Holy One, that He may make thee holy. Let thy whole soul answer, Here am I, Lord! Speak, Lord! Show Thyself, Lord! Here am I. As you listen, the voice will sound ever deeper and ever stiller: Be holy, *as* I am holy. Be holy, *for* I am holy. You will hear a voice coming out of the great eternity, from the council-chamber of redemption, and as you catch its distant whisper, it will be, Be holy, I am holy. You will hear a voice from Paradise, the Creator making the seventh day holy for man whom He had created, and saying, Be holy. You will hear the voice from Sinai, amid thunders and lightnings, and still it is, Be holy, as I am holy. You will hear a voice from Calvary, and there above all it is, Be holy, for I am holy.

Child of God, have you ever realized it, our Father is calling us to Himself, to be holy as He is holy? Must we not confess that happiness has been to us more than holiness, salvation than sanctification? Oh! it is not too late to redeem the error. Let us now band ourselves together to listen to the voice that calls, to draw nigh, and find out and know what Holiness is, or rather, find out and know Himself the Holy One. And if the first approach to Him fill us with shame and confusion, make us fear and shrink back, let us still listen to the Voice and the Call, 'Be holy, as I am holy.' 'Faithful is He which *calleth*, who also *will do it*.' All our fears and questions will be met by the Holy One who has revealed His Holiness, with this one purpose in view, that we might share it with Him. As we yield ourselves in deep stillness of soul to listen to the Holy Voice that calls us, it will waken within us new desire and strong faith, and the most precious of all promises will be to us this word of Divine command:

BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY!

(Adapted from "*Holy in Christ*" by Andrew Murray)

An early Christmas

Church gives young widow and her sons a new roof



Haley Rollins and her two boys, won't have to worry about the rain coming through their crumbly, old shingle roof — not after some neighbors got together and put on a shiny new green metal roof in December.

Haley, 26, is a widow whose husband Jason died of a brain tumor in 2003 at the age of 29, leaving her with two small children, Blake 5, and Dylan 3. They live in a trim brown concrete block house on New Hope Road at the edge of the Homochitto National Forest outside of Gloster, MS. Haley is an assistant teacher for kindergarten through fourth grade at Amite School Center in Liberty, MS.

The new roof left her nearly speechless. "There's no words to thank them," Haley said of her benefactors. "I said thank you about 15 times."

In October, Haley mentioned to her neighbor, Barbara Whitehead, that her roof was leaking. Rain had stained ceiling tiles above the fireplace and forced Haley to keep a bucket in the bathroom to catch the drips.

Around that time, a guest speaker with a construction work ministry visited New Hope Methodist Protestant Church, where Barbara and Doyle Whitehead attend.

The speaker, Tony Lambert of Brooklyn, Miss., is a ministerial student who owns a construction company. He devotes one day a week to charity work and asked if church members knew anyone in need of construction.

"I eased my hand up and said, 'I know of someone,'" Barbara said, recalling her conversation with Haley about the roof. "It's like God had told her to tell me that."

New Hope enlisted help from other Methodist Protestant churches. And members of a couple of Amite County Baptist churches, Zion Hill and Mount Pleasant, heard about the project and offered their services.

"The end of October she (Barbara) told me they would do

the roof if I would supply the materials," Haley said. "The first weekend in November she called and said they would do it free of charge. They had raised enough money so I wouldn't have to pay anything."

Haley, who doesn't even attend New Hope — she's a member of Gillsburg Baptist Church on the far side of the county where she was raised — was flabbergasted.

"I cried. I jumped for joy when she told me. I went from one emotion to the next. I'm still speechless."

On Friday night, the Rev. Max Foreman, Pastor of Royal Chapel Methodist Protestant Church, which had raised some donations, held a prayer service to prepare for the work.

On Saturday morning, December 2, with the temperature in the 20s and frost on the roof, Doyle Whitehead cooked breakfast for the men, who included Lambert's team plus volunteers from New Hope, Zion Hill and Mount Pleasant.

"They ate breakfast at 6:30. At 12 o'clock they were cleaning up the yard. They had teamwork," Barbara said.

"Before I could get my gumbo made, they were through."

"It went beautiful," said Doyle. "It's just a bunch of guys getting together and working and laughing and joking and having a good time, as cold as it was. You can tell it's not a job where somebody's put there working for a living. You can tell it has the inspiration of God mixed in it."

"You don't get as cold as you expected to get and you don't get as tired at the end of the day as you expected to get, because God helped you."

When the crew left, leaving not a trace of debris, Haley was in a state of near shock. "I didn't think anybody was nice anymore, that anybody cared enough to do something so tremendous," she said.

"It leaves me...," she paused, choking back tears. "I guess with all the regular holiday stress and financial stress around the holidays, it gives me one less thing to worry about. I can put up my leak buckets."

New Hope and other churches raised \$700 of the \$2,400 that the materials cost and will continue to raise funds. "Whatever doesn't come in, our church is going to make up the difference," Barbara said.

Many of the volunteers plan to join Lambert on future projects as well, including one in January at Laurel.

You are invited to go to Laurel MP Church on January 20th to help with some much-needed repairs on the Church building from Hurricane Katrina. Work will begin at 10AM with tools and material on site. Food will also be available for the workers. Come and help with this project. God will bless you for your efforts, and the people at the Laurel MP Church will be grateful for your coming and helping repair their Church. The Church is located on 1st Ave in Laurel, MS. Call Tony Lambert at 601-695-4407 for more information.

✚ CHURCH NEWS ✚

NEELY (MS) - Neely Methodist Protestant Church celebrated its Centennial on November 19, 2006. Rev. Reggie Smith, Pastor, introduced the singing. Lisa Anderson, Glynda Powell and Carmen Cochran sang *I'll Fly Away*. Mrs Juanita spoke about related incidents regarding her

family being members of the church for a long time. Rev. Charlie Joe Greene and Mike Cochran spoke about their times here at Neely MP Church. Rev. John Gerald, former Pastor, spoke of his 11 years as being some of the happiest years in his life. Mrs Doris Walley spoke of Mrs Babe Greene and the positive influence on her life. She said that Mrs Babe

planted a lot of spiritual seeds in her time. Mrs Lois Byrd spoke of Mrs Ina Byrd. Dr. Thomas Calhoun, President of MS Annual Conference, presented a plaque from the MS Annual Conference to honor the first 100 years at Neely. An offering was taken for missions. Special music was presented by *Answered Prayer*. A good meal and more singing completed a wonderful day.

Paula Hillman, Church Reporter



Dr. Thomas Calhoun presents plaque to Mike Cochran and Rev. Reggie Smith

NEW HOPE (MS) - The members of New Hope MP Church, Gloster, MS, recently were involved in a special community project. They, along with some other churches in the area, became 'good samaritans' and worked to provide a new metal roof on the home of a young widow and her 2 boys. The labor, headed by Bro. Tony Lambert, was donated and contributions were received for the material. (See page 11 for complete story) You may send contributions to:

New Hope MP Church, 5721 New Hope Rd., Gloster, MS 39638.

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