

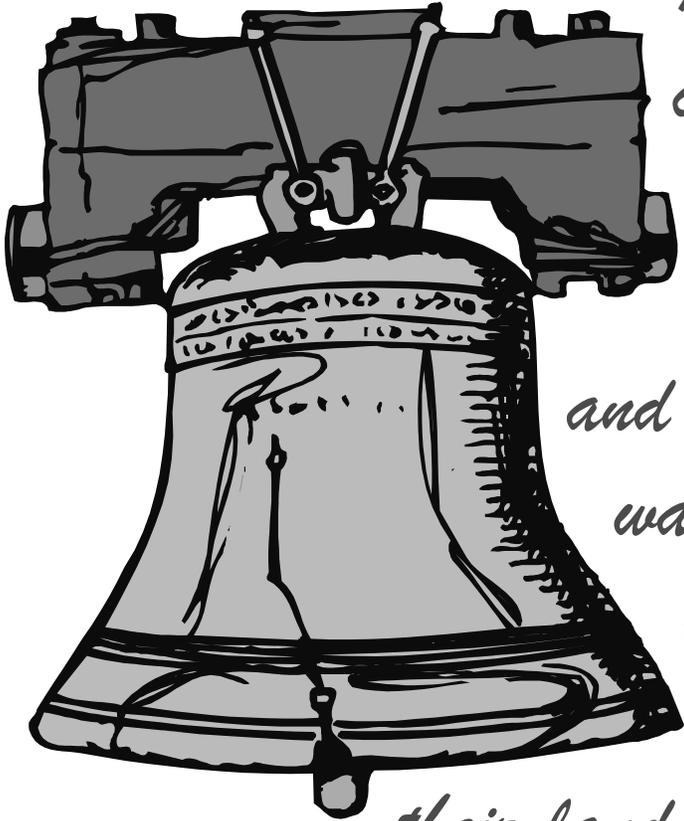
# The Methodist Protestant Faith

The Official Publication of the Methodist Protestant Church

*Providing Bible-Based, Christ-Centered, Holiness Material.*

Volume LXII/Number 6

June/July 2008



*If my people, which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

**II Chronicles 7:14**

During WWII, there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every night at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace. This had an amazing effect as bombing stopped. There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America .. The United States of America and our citizens need prayer more than ever!!!

If you would like to participate: each evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (to be clear) (9:00 PM Eastern, 8:00 PM Central, 7:00 PM Mountain, 6:00 PM Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, for Israel, the up-coming election, that the Bible will remain the basis for the laws governing our land and that Christianity will grow in the U.S.

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The Methodist Protestant Church  
Organized 1828

Our Motto . . .

*Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.* Jude 3

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 divine nature of Jesus Christ

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

. . . In Sanctification as a second definite work of grace

. . . That believers may know the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit

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

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

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

. . . In the sanctity of life

. . . In holy matrimony between man and woman

# President's Message -



Rev. LaDon Dawson, General Conference President

It is a thrill to read of Paul's excitement about the church of his day. In writing to the church at Philippi, he declared in Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." How blessed we are to be a part of the Methodist Protestant Church here in the twenty-first century. Like Paul, I challenge you to "Rejoice in the Lord always:"

Three of our four annual conferences have concluded. Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi have all met, Belize will be meeting the last of July. We feel that God intervened and these conferences were a blessing to attend. How great it is to be in different places and see the power of God at work. The good news of today is that "Jesus loves me" and what a message to declare to the world. We trust that as you read this that God will Bless You really good.

Our churches in Oklahoma will be a part of the Louisiana Conference until they grow sufficiently to be set aside as their own conference. On August 1, 2008 we will be in Oklahoma for a special service that night as we ordain Allen Mitchell as Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church. It is a thrill as well to hear from other parts of the country from men that their desire is to possibly associate with the Methodist Protestant Church. Pray for God's leadings in these situations.

You may contact me by calling 601-587-4147, writing to 4 Divide Road, Monticello, MS 39654, email: [ladondawson@bellsouth.net](mailto:ladondawson@bellsouth.net) or calling General Conference Headquarters 601-765-0029 on Tuesdays - 9 AM-5 PM.

## PLEASE NOTICE!

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Articles must be received by 20th of month

for next issue or will be held

for the following issue.



## Mark Your Calendar

### MS YOUTH CAMP

July 13-18, 2008

### *HIS TRUTH ENDURETH*

### *TO ALL GENERATIONS*

#### *Classes for PreSchool - Adult*

The Evangelist will be Dr. John E. Neihoff, Jr. Dr. Neihoff is an ordained elder in the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association, and has been a member of the KMHA since 1991. John serves as an evangelist, song evangelist, Bible College professor and administrator. John's evangelistic ministry has taken him to numerous states. John thrills to preach and sing of the message of full salvation.

John and Beth are members of the Lafayette Church of the Nazarene, Lexington, KY. John received the AAR from Kentucky Mountain Bible College, a BA from Asbury College, and an MA and PHD from the University of Kentucky. In addition to serving as Vice President of Development at KMBC, John teaches communications. Since 1998, John has pastored the Mount Carmel High School Church, Vancleve, KY. John is married to Beth who is the Library Media Specialist at the Jackson Independent Schools, Jackson, Kentucky. They have two children: Katie (21 & married) and Nathan (19).

Bro. Kenny Southerland, Associate Pastor at Divide Memorial Methodist Protestant Church, will be the Children's Evangelist.

A special ministry team from Kentucky Mountain Bible College, New Hope, will be singing at the services and interacting with the campers in various areas of ministry.

The 11 am services will focus on the Youth - music and

ministry. Adults are welcome to attend these services. The evening services will be styled 'Camp Meeting', something for everyone. Bring your family for this exciting time!

\$75.00 per person (includes meals and Tshirt). Several recreational activities have been planned including a trip to the Water Works Park in Collins. (Permission form required to attend.)

Homecoming Day will be Wednesday, July 16. A banquet will be served at 6 PM and the program will follow at 7 PM.

For more information you may contact the Director, Rev. Bobby Dawson: 601-587-0157 or email: [bldawson@wb4me.com](mailto:bldawson@wb4me.com)

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## YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

There will be a Youth Leadership Summit held on Thursday, July 10th, at 7:00 pm at the campground in Collins. Pastors and youth leaders are encouraged to participate. Jane Pertuit will cook gumbo for the night and we need to know how many will attend. Please let me know before July 7th 2008.

To this I encourage all to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn something new. An added benefit is the opportunity for you to come enjoy some good gumbo. Jane knows how to make it right. You will not be disappointed.

Rev. Newton Pertuit, the MS Conference Director of Church Planting, will be in charge of the meeting. Please be sure to let him know if you are planning to attend. Email address is: [ypjkjcq@wildblue.net](mailto:ypjkjcq@wildblue.net).

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### ***The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord - Psalm 37:23***

On May 24 at 8:48 PM, God saw fit to stop the steps of Rev. Harold Jackson as a result of a stroke. Harold is the editor of this publication and pastor of Hickory Grove MP Church, Sumrall, MS. He has been a patient in the Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, MS since the stroke. God is providing daily healing for his body. His speech has improved and is almost 'normal' - just an extreme southern drawl at this time. His steps are gradually coming back with much strenuous therapy and exercise, and with the assistance of equipment and therapists. Just a few days after the stroke he had pneumonia and with antibiotics has recovered from that. We appreciate all the prayers, calls, cards, love gifts, and visits. We have witnessed the power of prayer and God answering those prayers. Thank you all and may God bless you for praying for us!

# Be Perfect

Matthew 5:48 *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Jimmy Williams, Associate Pastor Yeager MP Church, West Monroe, LA

**P**erfection; is it possible? What's wrong with wanting to be perfect? Can I be Holy and not be perfect? Will God love me if I'm not perfect? How will I know if I am perfect? In this lesson, we will begin the process of understanding perfection from the view of God.

The terms "holiness" and "Christian perfection" are closely related. One of the greatest challenges most disciples face when embracing holiness is the command to "be perfect."

First, they realize that they do not have it in them to be perfect, or without flaw. Second, there is a challenge with the word "perfection." A person who seeks perfection is often perceived as doing so by their own strength, and is seen as "self-righteous," or as a perfectionist. Most interpret this as pride, which directly contradicts the humility Jesus taught.

Seeking spiritual perfection is not the same as being a perfectionist. Dr. Steven Hendlin, a clinical psychologist in Irvine, Calif. says a perfectionist is "someone who habitually thinks that anything short of perfection in his or her performance is unacceptable. The perfectionist is motivated by fear and focuses on his failure, while the achiever revels in the moment of victory and uses the good feeling to fuel further successes." An example would be the golfer who won a tournament, but felt bad because he didn't beat his own personal best. Instead of building on the success, the perfectionist pushes him/herself to achieve a goal that is usually impossible to define, let alone reach.

The churches of today are filled with legalistic perfectionists (Pharisees) who look at every shortcoming, every failure, every effort that misses the mark of "perfect beyond improvement" as sin. Like the perfectionists described by Dr. Hendlin, they only see the failures and ignore the success that is achieved. This does not conform to New Testament teaching.

II Peter 3:11-12,14 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.

Peter tells us that Holy is the way we should be. He

describes it as spotless, blameless and at peace with God. That is a pretty good definition of Christian perfection. But notice in verse 14 that he says, "make every effort to be." Peter is saying that we should look at our successes and build on them instead of dwelling on our perceived shortcomings.

The key to understanding Christian perfection is understanding that it is about the heart, not the total body of work. While the physical body will remain frail and damaged by sin (and age) until we enter eternity, the spiritual heart can be made whole, or perfect, right now.

The person who is living in sin has not accepted Jesus' cleansing baptism with the Holy Spirit, so they will continue to fail. Sin is about rebellion; perfection is about achieving the greatest possible level of Christ-likeness. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to live above sin. Does this mean we have reached perfection if the Holy Ghost lives in us?

Philippians 3:12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.

We all know that Paul was not living an immoral life. He was saved on the road to Damascus, and filled with the Holy Spirit in Damascus. But Paul accepted his own shortcomings and worked every day to overcome them and reach that perfection. As we grow as Christians, our eyes will be open to our own shortcomings. But with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can and will overcome them.

II Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

"Perfecting" implies an incomplete process. Here again Paul looks forward instead of backward. Christian perfection does not imply there is no more room for improvement. It implies that the individual is making every physical and spiritual effort on their part to live a Holy life, drawing on the strength given by the Spirit.

The heart will be perfect when it is cleansed by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit; the mind and body take a little longer. It is expected that the perfect heart will still find room for improvement, and that it will make those

(Continued on page 7)

# Tribute to Rev. Bobby D. Bateman

Tiffany Lynn Lollar, Granddaughter

## My Heart's Desire

I visited you yesterday, on the green hilltop beside the little church,  
 The sun was warm on my face as the wind whistled you a lullaby through the pines,  
 And in that musical moment I'm sure I heard the chorus of "Amazing Grace"  
 There were deer treading softly, a squirrel or two playing tenaciously and chattering through it all,  
 A crow flew over head, trying to find a place of its own to rest,  
 There were other loved ones there, some I'd met before and others I'd only heard stories about,  
 I sat down by a beautiful bouquet of fall flowers and resented the tears that would not come,  
 I wanted so desperately to shed my aching heart and finally put it to rest beside you where you lay,  
 But the tears would not fall  
 I spoke your name in anguish and for a brief moment it sounded foreign on my lips  
 As if struggling to remember  
 And in that instant, fear gripped a hold of my heart  
 For it had only been but a short time ago you had left us  
 I longed to remember every word you'd ever spoken, ashamed I had not listened so carefully before  
 I recalled laughing at the little things like "Americer the Beautiful"  
 Your arm passionately charging through the chorus of "Oh How I Love Jesus"  
 The damn in my heart broke and the tears began to fall  
 And with it, the treasure box of memories burst open wide;  
 Your hands were so large and strong but yet so tender  
 Your voice boomed with the gospel of Christ but yet was so sweetly compelling to my heart  
 Your tears spoke volumes of words you never thought the world could hear  
 And in your moments of weakness, there were those who found their strengths  
 I was never afraid of making you angry;  
 But my soul seemed to almost rupture at the thought of doing anything that might break your heart  
 The poetic way you spoke of Jesus, the way you taught of his mercy and his grace  
 And to all of those who listened;

Are you ready?  
 For Jesus is coming soon!!!  
 There has been no greater example of love  
 No greater example of sacrifice of what it means to truly love thy neighbor as thyself  
 As Jesus loved all the little children  
 So you desperately sought to love all the world  
 I pray and ask God for just one thing; one wish  
 Strangely it is not to see your face again nor feel your touch nor hear your voice  
 It can only be this;  
 That I might humble myself before Jesus the way that you did so that one day, I too, could be a mighty disciple of Christ  
 For if I may accomplish that feat as you have, surely your voice, your words will echo through my heart and form upon my lips for all generations to come  
 That I may see your face and touch your hands and feel your embrace in that wonderful heavenly home you taught about for so long  
 The clouds are rolling quickly through the sky and the birds have taken flight  
 I no longer hear the sounds of many creatures rushing through the forest as I had heard upon my arrival  
 And where my heart felt utterly numb upon kneeling at this place  
 I have peace;  
 Peace that passeth understanding  
 For I cannot and do not understand why you are there and not still here with me  
 A mighty wind rushes through the pines that freely flowed before  
 And I look up at the sky trying to gaze into the heavens  
 Into the face of God  
 A dove flies over head in just that moment and my spirit soars as I hear the words echo through my soul from the heavens above as I look down at your name once more etched in stone  
 But smiling this time; I hear so softly  
 "Well Done My Good and Faithful Servant, Bobby D. Bateman"  
 Written: In memory of the greatest man I've ever known.  
 From your grand daughter's heart - Tiffany Lynn Verbois Lollar. April 21, 2005

# General Conference

The General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church met at the MS Campground on May 21-23, 2008. Delegates from Alabama, Arkansas, Belize, Louisiana, and Mississippi were present to conduct the business of the General Conference and to hear the inspiring devotions and messages. It was a pleasure to have Bro. Allen Mitchell and his wife Shirley, Bro. Larry Devers, and Bro. Daniel Devers from the Methodist Protestant Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. This is the newest church and everyone made them welcome and were excited about their work in Oklahoma. They have been made a part of the Louisiana Conference and will receive encouragement and support from them.

The following officers were elected for the next quadrennium:

Rev. LaDon Dawson, President  
Mrs. Carolyn Jackson, Secretary  
Rev. Bobby Dawson, Assistant Secretary  
Mr. Byron Carlisle, Treasurer

## Executive Committee

Rev. LaDon Dawson  
Rev. Bill Hearne  
Rev. Mark Lambert  
Rev. Reggie Smith  
Dr. Thomas Calhoun  
Mr. Byron Carlisle  
Mr. Frank Robinson  
Mr. Robert Quimby

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Rev. Harold Jackson  
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Rev. B.F. Gerald  
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Mrs. Florene Carlisle  
Mrs. Cindy Lambert  
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Rev. Harold Jackson

## Co-Editor

Mrs. Carolyn Jackson

## Laymen's Fellowship

Mr. Larry Davis, President  
Mr. Richard Garrett, Vice President  
Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Secretary/Treasurer

## Home Mission Team

Appointed by the Board of Missions

Rev. Newton Pertuit  
Rev. Robert Andrews  
Rev. Nate Ballard  
Bro. Jimmy Williams

**PRAY FOR  
EACH OF THESE  
FOR THE NEXT  
FOUR YEARS!!**

# ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi Annual Conferences are now history. The Belize Conference will be meeting in July. Each Conference has reported that God blessed and people were encouraged and determined to make this next year even better for the Methodist Protestant Church. There is a lot of work to be done for the churches to grow, but each one knows that God is on our side and if we follow Him, He will answer our prayers.

## ALABAMA OFFICERS

Rev. Benny Crawford . . . . . President  
 Rev. Mrs. Martha Headley . . . . . Secretary  
 Mrs. Florene Carlisle . . . . . Treasurer

## LOUISIANA OFFICERS

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 Mr. Jimmy Williams . . . . . Publicity Agent

## MISSISSIPPI OFFICERS

Dr. Thomas Calhoun . . . . . President  
 Rev. Bobby Dawson . . . . . Secretary  
 Mr. Robert Quimby . . . . . Treasurer

# NAZARENE S.A.M. RETREAT

Nearly a year ago I was asked to plan a "seniors retreat" for the Mississippi District of the Church of the Nazarene. It was to be a time of fellowship, fun and inspiration for the older folks from our churches across the state.

We began (my wife, Connie and I) to look for a suitable place, as the Church of the Nazarene had sold its campground several years ago. We had noticed the Methodist Protestant Headquarters and Campground several times as we passed by and had commented upon its attractiveness . . . meaning to stop sometime and visit our "close holiness" relatives. But, as so often happens, we seemed to always be in a hurry to get to our destination. Finally we did stop by, and were very impressed with what we saw.

Arrangements were made to rent the facilities for a Friday night and Saturday morning in May, and what a great time we had! Our MP hosts provided us with a beautiful place to stay, wonderful food, and a lovely tabernacle in which to worship and great fellowship with a number of them.

A special vote of gratitude goes out to Rev. and Mrs. Harold Jackson who anticipated, it seems, not only our needs but desires as well. Our retreat, by the way, was the week before the General Conference of the MP Church.

With the beautiful, restful and spiritual atmosphere of the campground and buildings, the most helpful attitudes of the people, and the overall quality of the experience we enjoyed there, I am certain that all who attended count it a spiritual highlight in their lives.

Fred Cook, SAM Director

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# *A Layman's Point Of View -*

Larry Davis, General Conference Laymen's President

## God Does Not Forget a Single Bird And He Will Not Forget You



**O**n my way into work the other day, a bird darted in front of me. I heard it bounce off my truck and, in my rear view mirror, I saw it as it fell to the side of the road. The Lord immediately spoke to me about that little bird. He impressed it upon my heart that He had seen what happened and He was totally aware of it. And here are some more thoughts that were pressed deep within my heart.

God doesn't forget a single bird. God's creation is valuable to Him. As a part of His creation, He is concerned with you and me. In fact we are His chosen vessels to complete His will on earth.

Sometimes we all feel as if we've been "left out in the cold". We feel like God must have His attention elsewhere and He didn't see that problem that came up or realize we needed a quick resolution. Just like that bird that darted in front of me, we often ask why God doesn't intervene in our lives, why didn't God make him zig instead of zag?

But of course, God does intervene as we yield to Him.

God really does care about us. God really does see all the problems. God really is on the job, hearing our prayers and taking care of what we need.

We have to stay focused. We hear a variation of that all the time. The world says, "Just stay focused", as if that will make our entire decision making process okay. Or they say, "Work through it," as if all the poor choices we've made can be corrected by force of will. God wants us to focus on Him.

And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't He more surely care for you? You have so little faith! And don't worry about food - what to eat and drink. Don't worry whether God will provide it for you. These things dominate the thoughts of most people, but your Father already knows your needs. He will give you all you need from day to day if you make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

He will give us everything we need if we make His Kingdom our focus. We have to learn to rely on Him to take

care of the issues in our lives. How many times have you tried to interject yourself in a situation, fully intending on doing the right thing, and yet it turns out so wrong. We always want to do things our way and yet half the time that's the very reason we're in that position in the first place. Our free will is not free reign to wreak havoc. In fact, that's what God is trying to get us to see, Yield To Him And He Will Take Care Of You.

If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your dwelling. For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will satisfy them with a long life and give them my salvation.

He will protect you, rescue you, be with you, answer you, honor you, satisfy you, and give you long life and His salvation, if you make God your refuge and your shelter! We just have to trust in Him and He gives us all that. What a bargain!

Don't fret! God sees all the little birds that fall by the wayside, and He sees all you are struggling with today. He wants you to know that He loves you with His everlasting Love. He wants you to know that He alone knows all about you and every hope and dream you hold so dear. He alone knows the issues in your life. He alone knows the way it will all turn out - But You Must Yield To Him. God's plan is the best plan. His plan will enable you to be more skillful in His calling. His plan for you will enable you to go forward with confidence. His plan will prevail.

God wants to bless you right now. He is giving you strength for this day and hope for the future. He is giving you peace. Just receive all that He has for you! Rest in the fact that He is looking upon you with graciousness and favor. You are His beloved.

In HIS Service, *Larry Davis*

# *The Missionary Record*

Mrs. Jane Boyd, Woman Executive Secretary, Editor

## 2008 Blitz on Belize

Mrs. Cindy Lambert, Coordinator

**H**ave you heard the expression what's done is done so just forget it? I wish I could live by that but I know there are some things still to be done to get 30 people ready to invade our churches in Belize with VBS 2008. I would like to start this update with a BIG thank you to Florene Carlisle and Rev. Claudio Leal for their help in pulling this all together. I am extremely green when it comes to organizing such an endeavor.

Our theme this year is Knowing Christ, and our theme song is "Digging Life in Jesus Christ". I am anxious to see our team members teach and perform this song along with its animated motions to the various churches in Belize. It should be entertaining! We currently have 29 people signed up to go. The break down is as follows: eight (8) from the Louisiana Conference, one (1) from the Mississippi Conference, and twenty (20) from the Alabama Conference. Four others from Alabama will be traveling down separately and conducting VBS in other villages such as Shipyard. This is a sacrifice for all those going but I know and trust that God will reward their willingness to be stretched outside of their comfort zone to be an instrument of spiritual healing.

The first question I am always asked is "how much money do you need?" Well, money is not the first priority, although it is in the top two. My first request is for prayer support. I know that some of our churches meet weekly for prayer times. Please put our team at the top of your list for the week of July 17-25. We will be teaching, preaching, fellowshiping and playing for 7 days. We need God's protection and His anointing for this to be more than just a trip to a foreign land. We want it to be a spiritual renewal for

everyone. God wants to bless. We just need to ask and make ourselves available.

The second need is for financial contributions. Each team member was expected to raise \$1160 for their own personal expenses. This figure did not include the actual expenses for the VBS such as teaching material, crafts, refreshments, and such. Those costs have to be covered by donations. The actual VBS expenses break down to \$5.00 per child; however, whenever you total up all the express of this trip, I mean the plane tickets, food, VBS supplies and everything, that figure jumps to \$23.00 per child since we have ministered to nearly 1500 children during any given summer. I hope these figures help you see the magnitude of such an endeavor. The people who volunteer to go should not share in these costs alone. So, I am asking each church, WMS auxiliary, or Girls and Boys Club to consider sending in a donation to our General Conference treasurer, Mr. Byron Carlisle.

I also want to thank those churches who have stepped up and said they would cover the cost of their pastor if he or she desired to go. Those churches are Newton Methodist Protestant Church, Springfield Methodist Protestant Church, and Wimberley Methodist Protestant Church.

May the Lord bless you as you consider your role in giving others the opportunity to know Christ through this venture.

## July 17-25

### If you can't go - PRAY!

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### WMS PRAYER CALENDAR

**JUNE** - Vacation Bible Schools; Bible Camps/Camp Meetings; Belize Youth Camp; Denominational Quizzing Program; Board of Christian Education; Secretaries of Christian Education; Campground Expansions; Construction of New Churches and Schools; Christian Men; Christian/Religious Education - Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**JULY** - America for God; Leaders of Nation; Men and Women in Armed Services; Christian Citizenship; Secretaries of Scholarship and Workers; Lady of the Year Program; Blitz on Belize and Blitz Coordinator - II Chronicles 7:14

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS: June** - Secretary of Christian Education: Promote Programs of the General Board of Christian Education: Promote Children's Day Program.

**July** - Secretary of Scholarship and Workers: Promote the Lady of the Year Program.

# Future of the Methodist Protestant Church

Rev. Newton Pertuit

Would the world be made a lesser place if the Methodist Protestant church did not exist? Does the Methodist Protestant Church have a future? What do we need to do for growth in the Methodist Protestant Church?

Would the world be made a lesser place if the Methodist Protestant Church did not exist? I believe that the world would be the worse if we would lose the Methodist Protestant Church. We have a Bible base belief that shines bright compared to other denominations. Listen to what is being taught in other churches that is being passed off as Bible belief. One church, the preacher tells his members to leave their Bible at home, he will tell them what they need to know. Another, if we can get our kids to get up and dance to music, they will become Christians. How many churches are now teaching “oneness”, or speaking in other tongues is a requirement for salvation? Or once saved always saved? How many of you agree with what you see on TV being sold as religion? One said that if you send \$25.00 to him, he would send you a plastic horn, and if you blew it over a sick person, they would be healed. How many televangelists are being investigated for miss-use of money? Some will even teach that to be saved, you need to first send money to their ministry. My favorite that was on TV, - he was invited to preach at this church, he would say a few words in an unknown tongue and then laugh for a long period of time, then say a few more words then laugh again for a long period of time: he did this repeatedly. The preacher of the church explained that this man was given the gift of laughter by the Holy Ghost (find that one in the Bible under gifts). My reply to myself was that he was laughing at the congregation for listening to him. How many churches are accepting the homosexual movement? Read what I have said above, and look for yourself, and tell me that a Bible based church is not needed in this world? To those who would say we are not the only Bible based church, you are right, but they are less and less each day. Keep in mind that 4,000 churches are started each year, but 7000 churches close each year. How many are Bible based leaving more and more churches that are not!

Does the Methodist Protestant Church have a future? The future of the Methodist Protestant Church is in our hands. It has been left to us by past generations and we will be judged by what we do with it. Yes, it can have a future! Ask the people in Belize how important a conservative Bible believing church is, or ask the folks in Oklahoma. Yes, it is easy to find fault, but we need to look on the positive aspect of our denomination. 1. We have equal representation for laity and ministers; 2. We have elected lead-

ers; 3. We have a discipline to guide us; 4. Our beliefs are spelled out for all in the discipline; 5. We have a method of certifying our ministers; 6. We have the right to appeal; 7. We have a good base of faithful laity and ministers; 7. We have a great campground.

Are we perfect? NO. Do we have room for improvement, Yes! I have been to a number of workshops in other states that included different denominations. One of the things I came away with is that they are all trying to find methods to improve themselves. None of these had heard of the Methodist Protestant Church, but after discussion, many were inquiring about how we operated. One of the Baptist Missionary wanted to know how we certified our ministers, another wanted to know how we elected leaders, another, the Congregational Methodist, wanted to know how we assessed our churches, again the Baptist Missionary wanted to know how we handled property titles, I gave them a copy of the discipline. The point of the above is that there is no perfect denomination (if you find one let me know).

We are needed in this world to hold the line for Christ, too long have we put our light under a basket and made excuses. Methodist Protestants have a lot to be thankful for and we need to shout it from the roof top. When I first came to a Methodist Protestant church, I, like many, did not know what the Methodist Protestant Church was and did not recognize the importance of it. But after being saved and called to preach and looking at the direction the world was going, I drew a line in the sand that I was a Methodist Protestant and I would not let the world cross that line in victory over me or the Methodist Protestant Church.

What do we need to do to grow the Methodist Protestant Church? First off, we need to put feet to our prayer life; too long have we prayed for God to send someone to do the work when all along he was calling us! ‘We never did it that way before’ cannot be our battle cry anymore. Contending for the faith is our motto; it needs to be our battle cry. Get up out of your pew and get busy. First look to your own church to see what needs to be done. Do you need Sunday School teachers, song leader, visitation teams, someone to drive the youth on trips, youth leader, prayer teams? You can do anyone of these jobs. (Luke 14:18) After the work in your church is covered, look to other Methodist Protestant Churches, can you help them? Visit to lead singing? Help with Sunday school? Support with your wealth? Start a work team to go and work on other churches that may not have the manpower to do their work. Pick

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Pick a community need and tackle it. Did you pray for our elected denominational leaders today? If not, why? When the denomination is sponsoring an event, even if it is not of your interest, attend anyway to support the work of the conference.

Next and most important to me is that we unleash the power of our young people. Sunday school is great, but they need more, give them at least one Sunday a month to have the whole service either morning or night. (Preacher can get by with one less message). Train them in the offices of the church and encourage them to attend meetings, listen to them if they have input. Sit down with them and LISTEN to what they have to say about their church. Be open to their ideas - they are the future of the Methodist Protestant Church and if we don't train them, what then? Give them all the time that is required. A living, growing church needs a lot of workers. Are you working? Find work for the young people, take them visiting with you, go to the hospital with them to visit. Go to their school activity to show your support.

If the Methodist Protestant Church fails it will be our fault not the worlds!

(Perfection - Continued from page 4)

take a little longer. It is expected that the perfect heart will still find room for improvement, and that it will make those improvements. The perfect heart is one that has the perfect love of Jesus as its source and strength, and shares that perfect love with all.

Holiness and Christian perfection are the cure for perfectionism, not the cause. When we see ourselves as God sees us, we see the effort and successes, not the shortcomings of immaturity. The perfectionist depends on self; the Christian depends on the Holy Spirit. Our goal as a disciple of Christ, is to pursue Christian perfection by depending on the Holy Spirit instead of self, and always moving forward to our final perfection in Heaven.

- Is it possible to have a perfect heart before God?
- Do you suffer in your failures alone, or do you enjoy your successes with God?
- Can a sanctified person still find room for improvement?
- Can you think of any reason why or find any scripture that says you should not pursue perfection?
- Are you satisfied that God is satisfied with your pursuit of Holiness?

## News From Home Mission Team

The Board of Missions has appointed the following to serve on the "Home Mission Team" - Rev. Newton Pertuit, Bro. Jimmy Williams, Rev. Robert Andrews, and Rev. Nate Ballard.

As a new team, they have no job description, no agenda, no strategic plan - but they have been meeting and it won't be long until all of these things will be in place and working. Bro. Newton has asked for suggestions from other Methodist Protestants so that they will have an idea of the work to be done in various areas of the denomination. He requested at the General Conference that each church display a sign stating: Pray for the Home Mission Team. Please do this and put them on your church prayer list. Bro. Newton has a burden for Home Missions and is seeking God's direction in this new endeavor.

Watch for updates! We will keep you informed as to the progress of this team.

You may contact Newton Pertuit by calling 1-601-587-2679 or email: [ypjkjcq@yahoo.com](mailto:ypjkjcq@yahoo.com).

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# Church News

**YEAGER, West Monroe, LA** - Yeager Church experienced a Covenant Renewal weekend a few weeks ago. Our resident Jewish descendant, Doris Williams, wife of our Assoc. pastor, Bro. Jimmy Williams, prepared a Seder Passover meal, complete with roasted lamb, and other Jewish items. Bro. Jimmy used the typical ceremony that the Jewish father might use for the family Passover. Kosher Matzo and grape juice communion completed the Passover ceremony. On Saturday, Pastor Bill Hearne taught a seminar on commitment involving a spiritual assessment, growth potential, and lessons on holiness as taught by Paul in his Epistles. The group charted their spiritual growth, and their desire for future growth. They placed their growth chart in a sealed, self-addressed envelope and these will be mailed to them in six months. The Sunday service was a Covenant service as written by John Wesley, but in today's terms. Both Bro. Jimmy Williams, and Bro. Bill Hearne participated in the presentation, and a time of commitment was offered. The Lord's Supper was served which concluded the service and the Covenant Renewal weekend.

On Mother's Day, a group of men from 1st Baptist

Church in West Monroe, blessed our hearts with their Southern Gospel Quartet. One of the members, Ricky Evans, is the son of Yeager member, Molly Evans. It was a great day as we honored mothers, and recognized the oldest and youngest mother present.

Then, May 18th brought the West Monroe Air Force ROTC with their honor program of the five Branches of Service, and a special time of remembrance for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to their Country for our freedom. This was a very impressive service as hats from the Branches were presented at the altar. Bro Jimmy Williams, the Assoc. Pastor and a 10 year ex-marine recruiter, brought the morning message. One of the ROTC participants was the grandson of members Janet and Glen Smith. Our guests and families were invited to join us for lunch afterwards.

## PRAY FOR THE HOME MISSION TEAM

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