

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

APRIL - 1966

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want to get involved or because it will cause us to sacrifice in order to do it? Most of the children who enter foster homes need love, security, Christianity and training rather than so many of the externals we usually think about. Many of the homes or agencies will even arrange to help pay for hospital expenses or education if a family cannot afford it.

The following children's homes and - or agencies sponsored by churches of Christ have Foster Home Care programs. Others will be joining their ranks as soon as they are able to meet state requirements. Why not offer your services and live a more abundant life?

- Children's Home of Lubbock  
Lubbock, Texas
- Children's Home  
Paragould, Arkansas
- Children Homes of Abilene, Inc.  
Abilene, Texas
- Christ's Haven for Children  
Keller, Texas
- Madison Homes  
N. Madison, Tennessee
- Maude Carpenter Home  
Wichita, Kansas
- New Mexico Children's Home  
Portales, New Mexico
- Paradise Friendly Home  
Farmington, Kentucky
- Potter Orphan Home  
Bowling Green, Kentucky
- Tennessee Orphan's Home  
Spring Hill, Tennessee
- Tipton Home  
Tipton, Oklahoma
- Turley Children's Home  
Tulsa, Okla.
- W. Don Fike, Minister  
Overland Park Church of  
Christ  
6701 Woodson  
Overland Park, Kansas

The kind of ANCESTORS we have had is not nearly as important as the kind of DESCENDANTS our ANCESTORS have.

## News Notes - -

There will be a meeting at the church of Christ in Ravenden, Arkansas with Orbie Robbins doing the preaching. The date is June 10-19, 1966. All are invited to attend.

There will be a meeting at the church of Christ in Camp, Arkansas with Paul Watson doing the preaching. The date will be May 23-28, 1966. Brother H. O. Weaver will be leading the singing in this meeting.

There will be a lecture program at the Welcome Hill church of Christ April 25-30, 1966 with a different speaker each evening. The meeting time will be at 7:30 p.m. Speakers and subjects are: Monday - Harlan Hurd - What is the Christian Life; Tuesday - Dwayne Warden - Responsibilities of Christians to other Christians; Wednesday -- Neal Phipps - The Speech of a Successful Christian a n Life; Thursday - James Jarrett - A Christians Personal Responsibility in the Church; Friday - Bill Richardson - What is your Love and Worth to the Church; Saturday -- Landon Saunders - How to make the Church Strong.

In that Brother Clovis Ragsdale is busy out of town a good deal of the time lately, you are asked to address any correspondence concerning the Fulton County Gospel News to either the paper itself at Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554 or to Richard England. When you send any contribution to help in the expenses of the paper, please make any check payable to the FULTON CO. GOSPEL NEWS. Thank you.

Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction -- probably because few people have been introduced to it.

## Contributions for March - 1966

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

Sitka .....	\$ 5.00
Elizabeth .....	5.00
Salem .....	5.00
English Bluff .....	5.00
Franklin .....	5.00
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R. R. Hicks .....	2.00
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Mrs. L. D. Karns .....	1.00
Ike Dawson .....	1.00
Noble McFann .....	2.00
D. D. Collier .....	2.00

"The man who does not read the Bible has no advantage over the man who cannot read it."

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Perhaps one thing wrong with the "Battle of Life" is that there are too many generals and not enough privates.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
FREE SUBSCRIPTION

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID  
MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

SUPPORTED BY:  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:  
CLOVIS RAGSDALE  
RICHARD ENGLAND

## Practicing Christianity

From a recent survey it was learned that approximately 2,300 homeless children are being cared for by members of the church. The larger part of these live in about 50 children's homes scattered over sixteen states and Mexico. This figure does not include those who are in foster homes or who have been adopted by Christian couples. In regard to adoptions the Tennessee Children's Home has placed about 1,000 in the past few years, the Children's Home of Lubbock places about 75 each year, Christ Haven has placed 165 since 1960, Turley Home has placed 27 with Christian Homes of Abilene placing 52 during the past year and the New Mexico Children's Home, 13.

Many others have no doubt been placed by other homes and agencies of which we have no record. From the same survey it is estimated that there are three hundred or more in foster homes.

The above facts plus the beginning of several new plans for child care are very heartening. Our hats are off to the many who have labored so diligently to make this possible. These really believe in

the practice of "pure religion" but their number is far too few. Every child of God needs to be involved in the work of benevolence.

The touching story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) centers around helping the needy and illustrates how that two who feigned religion refused to get involved and "passed by on the other side." During the past year or so it has been reported that on the basis of the number of members of the church and the number of homeless children being cared for it takes 1,235 members of the churches of Christ to care for one child. If this be anywhere near correct, comparatively few of us are involved. It seems that some are willing to give a pittance or hand-me-downs but don't really want to get involved.

One way of really getting involved is via the foster home plan. I do not pose as an authority; however, after being involved for the past year with the Maude Carpenter Home and one of their children, we recommend it. (Many others have been involved much longer.) Just as it cost the Samaritan something to care for the unfortunate man, it will cost one something to bring a foster child into his home. That which costs nothing however is worth little. Getting involved with a foster child will cost one sleep, convenience, possibly some luxuries and money. There will be wear and tear on the nerves and emotions. One will cry with and for them. It will mean repeated school conferences, extra trips to the doctor, dentist, etc.; however, there are definite rewards which begin immediately. It is sheer music to hear them tell you they love you or thank God for their homes, parents, etc. Too, one learns greater unselfishness, patience and the art of truly giving of one's self. One's own children learn what it means to share and to love. It is worth so much more than the few worldly possessions or pleasures one has to deny themselves or their own children. As one sees them grow spiritually, physically, socially and mentally he is thankful to God for the privilege of helping one of HIS LIT-

TLE ONES. Foster parents can also be encouraged in the fact that they are truly practicing Christianity and laying up treasures in Heaven. True enough, it isn't easy but where did we get the idea that "brighten our pathway in this world of darkness, it only can keep us from taking this first wrong step."

### THE WATER OF LIFE . . .

By Bill Graddy

From Christ, the Fountain, crystal clear,  
Flows the Water of Life ever so near.  
Between two men for sins He bled  
Giving His life til He was dead.  
Flowing freely from His pierced side,  
Blood mingled with water where He died.  
Three days and nights in the grave He lay,  
Waiting the coming of His glorious day.  
On the first day of the week He came,  
Victory over death by power of His name.  
Forty days on earth He was seen of men,  
Departed to heaven His kingdom to begin.  
Now with His Father upon the throne,  
For men as High Priest ever to atone.  
He sent the Holy Spirit to organize  
Twelve apostles He promised to baptize.  
With Power the Spirit came on Pentecost day,  
To start the church, the Way, to pave.  
Apostles preached the gospel of the crucified man,  
His death, burial, and resurrection made the plan.  
World wide in scope the church grew,  
Of the multitudes were added not a few.  
As many as drank from the Fountain Head,  
He promised to raise them from the dead.  
When the Son descends from heaven on high,  
Those who have drunk shall never die.

tell the amount of good that can be accomplished through a wholesale program of foster home care. Can we afford to face the judgment being indifferent and excluding ourselves because we don't want to get involved or because it will cause us to sacrifice in order to do it? Most of the children who enter foster homes need love, security. Christianity and training rather than so many of the externals we usually think about. Many of the homes or agencies will even arrange to help pay for hospital expenses or education if a family cannot afford it.

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## How to Become Rich

"You may give until you are rich and you may keep until you are poor." It matters not what the wealth may be - material substance, mental skill or business sagacity. It becomes unhallowed power when you attach your own label and erase the name of God.

You can never see life in the radiant glow of its greatness, its dignity and its privilege until you recognize it as a stewardship before God. Life itself is but the individual stewardship of time.

Our age is troubled because we have become better off without being any better. We live our lives on the cafeteria plan: self-service only. The work of the church is hampered by a surplus of bystanders and a shortage of standbys. The greatest cemetery is the one where unused talents are buried. Less "tele" and more "vision" would help. You are honored by God with his image. Christ has come to save you. To be wealthy, be willing to be wanted for the Lord. Remember "Life's heaviest burden is to have nothing worthwhile to carry."

"It is not what we take up but what we give up, that makes us rich."

Virgil R. Trout

## Christ Controls Christian Conduct

Many have a warped infatuation with Christianity as a doctrinal system rather than a living loyalty to a living Lord. What Jesus taught is doctrine. What the Bible teaches is doctrine. It is important, but only when we enthrone Christ. By thus enthroning him we become willing to pay the price of self-denial. Paul exclaimed, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me;..." (Gal. 2: 20a). It is impossible to get people to see Christ in our verbal preaching when they see the devil in the preaching of our daily

lives. I would just as soon talk about a good sinner as talk about a bad Christian.

Our only claim to the right of existence is in the restoration of pure New Testament Christianity. Questions:

1. Does your life agree with your profession?
2. What is your attitude toward sin and righteousness?

Can there be a more noble aspiration than having the conduct desired by Him who bought us with a price?

Ronald Milton  
Tulsa, Okla.

## Persons Nobody Admire -

Nobody admires a QUITTER -- A person who begins some task or work and then does not have the courage, zeal and energy to complete it. Demas, at one time a companion and helper of Paul, was a quitter. Of him Paul said: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved the present world." Nobody admires Demas for being a quitter. Yet many of us are quitters also. Love of the world and the pleasures thereof cause us to quit being faithful to the Lord and His church.

Nobody admires a SPONGER -- a person who will gladly accept and enjoy all the benefits and pleasures of some activity and let others pay all the expense thereof. Still there are people who attend worship, where they enjoy the benefits thereof and the comforts of the building, and let others pay the expenses thereof.

--Basil D. Shilling

Are you a real Christian or just a "pretender in disguise"?

When Jesus chose His disciples, He selected busy men, but not too busy to put first things first.

We should use candid (but not candied) speech in teaching the truth.

## "The First Wrong Step"

Harold Turner  
Cabool, Missouri

In the first Psalm of David, we have a picture of how man's life gets out of harmony with God. This Psalm presents the same warning which Jesus taught in Mat. 7:13, 14. Our Lord warns against entering the wide gate and the broad way, whereas David speaks more about how this way is entered. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful". The word, counsel, as used here refers to advice, thus walking in, or accepting the advice of the ungodly. This is the first wrong step in man's departure from God's way. In Prov. 1: 10, 15 the wise man wrote, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path;" How desperately our youth needs this advice today. How they need to be warned and guided to keep from taking this first step.

Walking in the counsel of the ungodly many appear in a number of ways, but to be sure, it will present itself in a most innocent form. Choosing the wrong friends and companions is often an influence into this way. "Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners" 1 Cor. 15:33. This simply suggests that evil friends will corrupt good morals. So often our young people are forced to choose friends which are not Christians. We can have friends which are not Christians, but care must be exercised in choosing them. Too many times Christian boys and girls are enticed by their worldly friends to take this first wrong step. They are offered their cigarette, the first step to an expensive habit which makes them a slave. The first drink, just socially, one can't hurt you, but where does it lead? The first dance, so innocent; will it ever become indecent, Will it ever come under

the sinful heading of lasciviousness? Will the friends we choose ever force us into a situation where we must act and dress indecently? Parents owe it to their children to help them maintain the purity which is constantly threatened. Parents should know the type of friends their children have this may prevent much heartache for their children.

"It can't happen to me", this is only the voice of encouragement to take that first step. The apostle Peter was confident that he could not deny his Lord, no doubt he considered this an utter impossibility. But notice, he just wanted to warm himself by the fire which the enemies of Jesus had built, but at this fire he was forced into an embarrassing situation. Peter did not intend for things to happen as they did, for had he done so, he no doubt would have never come near the fire. Young people never plan to go as far as they do, they have confidence they can stop things before they get out of hand. The tragic thing is, as long as they believe they can stop they don't want to.

The counsel of the ungodly also persuades church members to become unfaithful. This advice suggests to them that all the church assemblies are not important, as long as they get to services on Sunday morning in time to take the Lord's supper this is all that is important. Where does the bible teach that the Lord's supper is more important than any other act of worship? They convince themselves that studying the bible is for the preacher, and that prayer is just a waste of time. Many believe they have hired the preacher to do their work for them. It seems that many have concluded that all they have to do to reach heaven is to be baptized and take the Lord's supper. If these thoughts have hammered at your conscience it would be wise to consider the source of such information. This is the counsel of the ungodly speaking to your conscience. There is a need to practice the Lord's statement of Mat. 16: 23 "Get thee behind me, Satan; thou art an offense unto me; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but

those that be of men".

How can we keep from taking this first dangerous step? Let God's word be the meditation of our heart day and night. Hide it in our heart that we might not sin against God. Only God's word can brighten our pathway in this world of darkness, it only can keep us from taking this first wrong step.

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