



Mt. Carmel, Haifa, Israel,

When Does Church Membership Cease?

By Kenneth W. Massey

Membership in a Baptist Church ceases three different ways.

1. Death — The dead can have no place in any earthly congregation of the saints.

2. Exclusion — A church has the right, according to the Scriptures, and is under obligation to exclude from its fellowship any member who holds heretical doctrines, or lives inconsistently with the Christian profession.

"Dropping" or erasure of a member's name from the roll is "beating the devil around the bush", and will only introduce a further negligence toward church discipline.

Exclusion is never a pleasure, but must be maintained for the work's sake. A

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Missionary Report Elder Don Curtis wishes to make this

announcement to our churches concerning his mission work. He relates to us that the



Jewish consulate in Atlanta advised him to go to Israel and there apply for his visas. Upon his arrival in Israel he was refused entrance due to some misunderstanding between the Israeli officials in Atlanta and Tel Aviv.

Elder Don Curtis

Upon his arrival back home he went to Atlanta to investigate the situation and the Israeli consulate then began another procedure in his behalf to secure visas through that office.

Bro. Curtis appreciates the support he has received and is still receiving, and says he will keep the churches informed of whatever actions are taken.

Col. Harland Sanders' Christian Experience

By H. C. Vanderpool

While living in Louisville, Ky. I was privileged to meet Col. Harland Sanders and discuss with him his spiritual condition. He told me he was a Christian and how wonderfully God had blessed him.

In addition to his conversation with me, he gave some of the experiences of his life, and also his Christian experience, in a booklet to be used for the Glory of God.

Harland Sanders had put several years of back-breaking work into a small motel and restaurant business. The state decided to move the highway seven miles away and this left him high and dry, facing economic strangulations at age sixty-five.

Instead of giving up, he loaded his car with what he could salvage by way of capital and started out to sell his franchise idea, which today bears his name and picture from coast to coast.

His father died when he was five. He says, looking back, "I did the cooking, and

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Col. Harland Sanders

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COL. HARLAND SANDERS

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Mom did sewing for the neighbors. When I was seven I baked my first bread. I cared for the two youngest while Mother worked.

His mother was a God-fearing woman. "We went to Sunday School every Sunday regardless of weather. We walked there and back two and a half miles." At 10 Sanders was working as a hired hand for a neighbor farmer. At 11 he hired out to an elderly German at \$4.00 a month. Every evening there were cows to milk - 16 of

them, seven days a week. At 40 he had tried his hand at blacksmithing, running ferryboats, railroading, and selling. He reached a decision and that was - folk had to eat. He had not had much time for formal education. After he got up into the millions he quoted Will Rogers and said, "I don't know what all these college graduates are going to do for jobs if we eighth grade failures don't take care of them." He likes to say, "The Lord kept me on earth either to use me or punish me." He tells of various accidents in which he was connected, yet he always escaped. After he had gained wealth and fame the Colonel was asked to be a delegate for his church, and to attend a conference in Australia. During the trip he turned to his companions and remarked, "If this plane goes down, you fellows will go to heaven, but I'll go to hell. I hope I can find the peace of soul I need at this conference."

He did not find that peace in Australia. Back home he was paying tithes. He was particular about that. He learned at age 75 that tithing would not take you to heaven.

He had always been the preacher's friend. He helped many churches in their financial struggles, he had heard thousands of sermons, yet he didn't know the Lord. You can be in the church, and be lost, just ask Col. Sanders.

He enjoyed giving scholarships. Yet, he never sent a boy or girl to college who smoked or drank. All his life he tried to live by principles of decency, hard work, patriotism, and a high standard of morality. It was not enough. There was a void inside. An unanswered question with him was. How could a man know that his sins had really been forgiven?

While attending a service in Louisville and showing concern about his condition he was asked to bow and pray, asking God to forgive him, to have mercy upon him. "Suddenly the Colonel lifted his head," the pastor relates. "He looked at me and told me that it was the first time in his life he had ever experienced the presence of Christ within his heart."

Colonel Sanders' testimony today is this, "You can join the church. You can serve on committees. You can be baptized and receive communion. You can become the superintendent of the Sunday school - and not be saved. I know, it happened in my life. I needed to know something deep within my soul. There is an inner experience, a new birth, that brings peace. Morality and good works cannot accomplish it, it is the work of the Holy Spirit.'

So, after age 75, Col. Harland Sanders, a millionaire, found out that money, good works, good living, church membership, etc., would not save his soul and prepare him for heaven, that it took the power of God and the work of the Holy Spirit bringing about the new birth to give him peace of soul and prepare him for eternity. That is just what Jesus told the Jewish doctor in John 3.

I trust this testimony will help someone somewhere. I'm glad I had the privilege to talk to Col. Sanders and hear him with my own ears tell what God had done for him.



In answer to Elijah's prayer the Lord sends fire from heaven 1 KINGS 18: 17-40

Editor To Show Slides Of Holy Land

Elder H. C. Vanderpool will be showing color slides of a tour in the Holy Land and other Bible countries at New Bethel Baptist Church, Old Dickerson Pike, Goodlettsville, Tenn., on Sunday night, April 14, at 7:00 P. M. Everyone is invited to attend.

Singings In The Nashville Area

FIRST SUNDAY - APRIL Madison Missionary Baptist Church, Maple St., Madison, Tenn., 2:00 P. M. SECOND SUNDAY – APRIL

Rayon City Missionary Baptist Church, 205 Keaton Ave., Old Hickory, Tenn. The Gospelaires, of Paris, Tenn., will be the featured quartet. Service at 2:00 P. M. THIRD SUNDAY - APRIL

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Old Dickerson Pike, Goodlettsville, Tenn The Sherman Tomes Family, of Louisville Ky., will be the featured singers. Service time 2:00 P. M. FOURTH SUNDAY - APRIL

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 901 Lischey Ave., Nashville, Tenn., beginning at 2:00 P. M.

FOURTH SUNDAY NIGHT - APRIL

West End Missionary Baptist Church, West Main St., Gallatin, Tenn. Singing begins at 7:00 P. M.

"A Concise History of Baptists"

This History of Baptists has just been reprinted and is available again for those who are interested in "The History of Baptists from the Time of Christ to the Eighteenth Century," by G. H. Orchard. Ashland Avenue has sold thousands of these copies and we are glad again to receive word that it has been reprinted and is now available in paperback copy of 382 pages for \$2.95. Order from:

Ashland Avenue Baptist Publications 163 N. Ashland Avenue Lexington, Kentucky 40502

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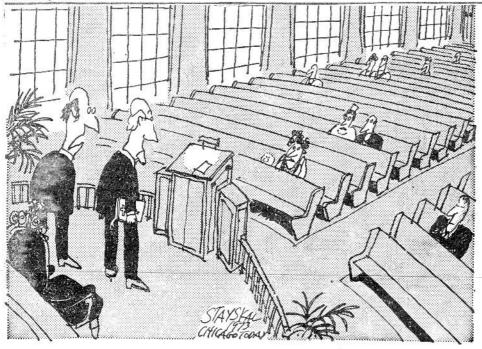
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BAPIISI BAINNEM



"I Thought The Ban On Sunday Driving Started About Three Years Ago."



By Ethelene Driver

Speak your words through my mouth, Lord.

Live your life in me.

Go where you want to go with my feet, Reach out, with my hands, to those you want to touch.

Embrace those you love with my arms, Distribute my possessions to whom you will.

Empty me and fill me with Yourself, Lord,

Let me no longer be, so you can be ALL in me.

Editor In School, Washington, III.

A series of study on the Baptist church and its history is to be conducted at Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church, Washington, Illinois, on Saturday night, May 4, at 7:00 P. M. and Sunday, May 5, at 10:45 A. M. and Sunday night at 7:00 P. M.

Elder H. C. Vanderpool will be conducting this study. Elder Raymond Hargis is pastor of Pleasant Valley Church and invites everyone in the Illinois and Indiana area who can come, to do so and to pray for the services

When Membership Ceases

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member is either in good standing or is not in good standing. There is no middle ground.

3. Letters of Dismission — It was common practice at one time to grant "letters of dismission" to the member himself without any question. Such practice has just about become extinct. The above practice should have never been started for the following reasons:

A. "Letters of Dismission" are courtesies between churches — sent from one church to another known church of like faith and order, but never to a member. Yes, our members have the freedom to join-up with the "campbellites" if they so desire, but we wouldn't grant them a letter knowing they were going to the campbellites. We should maintain the practice of "letters of dismission" for the protection of our churches, and, also, to protect any members who may not really know what the other church believes and practices. "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

B. "Trunk-Baptists" resulted from the error of this practice, but we all agree that no one can request to be removed as a member. Unless you believe in the "dropping" or "erasing" methods.

After an exhaustive and relentless search through many Baptist Church Manuels, some of which I hereby name, "Baptist Church Manual" by J. M. Bendleton "A Baptist Church Manual" by J. Newton Brown, "A New Baptist Church Manual" by The Judson Press, "The Baptist Church Directory" by Edward T. Hiscox, and "A Missionary Baptist Manual" by R. Y. Blalock, it is unanimously agreed that church membership terminates only in the three ways previously described.

The proper form of a "Letter of Dismission" should begin with addressing only another Baptist Church of "like faith and order". It should convey the status of the member, and conclude that present membership ceases when received into your fellowship. A person is never between churches, nor can they be members in two churches at the same time.

In conclusion, "Letters of Dismission" should never be granted to Pedobaptist organizations (any religious organization other than Baptists). In the event, one church grants a "letter of dismission" to another Baptist Church, and such letter is received and the uniting person becomes a member; and then, the granting church realizes or learns that the receiving church is in error (breach of the gospel or failure to keep the ordinances).

What do we do? Do we rescind the person's letter and bring him back? Yes, if you could. But remember, his connection with you was completely severed, when received into the other church. You have NO JURISDICTION over him. If you can rescind him out of that church, you could rescind him out of church membership. And to rescind-him-out would introduce a brand new fourth method for church membership cessation.

"Rescission Motions" should be avoided as much as possible, and are absolutely ineffective when involving related action by two local church authorities. Therefore, "letters of dismission" granted to any church cannot be rescinded beyond the conference in which the letter was granted. This can be done, because they have not been received into any other church at this time. In other words, after being granted but prior to being sent, it can be rescinded. To introduce the method of "rescinding" members out of their present church back into their former church, in any case, would be as prudent and effective as attempting to reinstate a deceased member. Churches, not individual members, are responsible for knowing to whom their "Letters of Dismission" are going. Let's LOOK before we LEAP! After a church commits an error as we have discussed, caution in the future must be exercised to satisfy God and His Dear Son. "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die." Rev. 3:2a.

SUGGESTION

Some churches have chosen someone from the church to make reports, announcements, etc. to the BAPTIST BANNER when there was need to do so. This is a good way to get your church news printed. I suggest that each church do this and to those selected, I would ask you to send these articles for the BANNER to me so I can receive them by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Editor



Pictured above are some of the young people who meet on Wednesday nights and sing at New Bethel Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tenn. With them are Bro. John Dossey, Sister Juanita Dossey and Sister Elaine Ballou, who are the directors. These young people are appreciated by their church and they join in on the Sunday singing services. It is regretted that several were sick and were unable to be present when this picture was made.



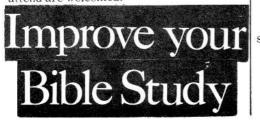
The women in the Adult Bible Class at New Bethel Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tenn. meet the second Wednesday of each month in the assembly room of Goodlettsville Bank and make several hundred Tray Favors to distribute to the hospitals in the Nashville area. Due to illness several regular workers were absent last month when the above picture was made.

Those present were left to right: Sisters Delcie Evetts, Gracie Durham, Charlotte Woodard, Mildred Porter, Irene Mercer, Alta Vanderpool, Gertie Chambers, Irene Cole, Sue Russell and in the foreground are Misses Nancy Woodard and Tammy Russell.

Editor In School At Hendersonville

Elder H. C. Vanderpool is conducting a series of lessons at Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 323 Old Shackle Island Rd., Hendersonville, Tenn.

The Eighteen Articles of Faith or the Declaration of Faith are being studied. Classes are being held each Thursday night, beginning at 7:00 P. M. All sister churches or any individual wishing to attend are welcomed.



My Special Friend

By Debra Olds

Lord, you are a special friend, When trouble is all I see. When I'm alone and in despair. I know you're here with me.

When no friends down here can I find, I know one up above. You're always here when I'm in need, You're one I'll always love.

Your friendship means so much to me, There's nothing else so dear. As the love and kindness you have shown

When troubles I face down here.

Tomorrow, a new day dawns, More problems I will face; Although I have some friends on earth, NO ONE can fill your place!



Announcements

FIRST SUNDAY - APRIL Southside Missionary Baptist Church, 1850 E. Sumner Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. Pastor James Jones is to be assisted by Bro. Nathan York, of Indianapolis. FRIDAY – APRIL 12

Lyons Missionary Baptist Church, 904 Gagel Ave., Louisville, Ky. Pastor Kenneth Davis is to be assisted by Elder F. L. Ray, of Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Piper's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Portland, Tenn. Pastor Cordell Earps is to be assisted by Elder James (Pete) Porter, of Gallatin, Tenn.

THURSDAY - APRIL 18

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Kenneth Massey doing the preaching. Services daily at 7:30 P. M.

FOURTH SUNDAY - APRIL

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1501 Pleasant St., Indianapolis, Ind. Pastor Billy Moran is to be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey, of Bowling Green, Ky. FIRST SUNDAY - MAY

Parkwood Missionary Baptist Church 244 Ewing Lane, Nashville, Tenn. Pastor L. W. Smith is to be assisted by Elder W E. Massey, of Lafayette, Tenn.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Fishers, Ind. Pastor Hugh E. Hudson is to be assisted by Elder Larry Taylor, of Milford, Illinois.

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

As the BANNER goes to press, final preparations are being made for the second annual session of the Old Union Baptist Ministers School at Old Union Baptist Church, Highway 240, Bowling Green, Ky

A special meeting was called for the school committee and teachers which was held in Bowling Green, Ky. on March 19, at 7:00 P. M.

School classes were to be held on March 27, 28, and 29. A complete report will be made of the school activities in the May issue of the BANNER.

RADIO BROADCAST

Elder James (Pete) Porter and Elder-James W. Briley are conducting weekly radio broadcasts over WHIN, Gallatin, Tenn. This is 1010 on the radio dial.

These broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 8:00 A. M. Everyone is invited to listen to these radio programs.