

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
Isaiah 40:3

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PASSING OPPORTUNITIES

By James H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto the household of faith."

Galatians 6:10

There are many opportunities that come to us and pass right before our eyes, but we fail to see them, or just ignore and let them pass forever, never to come our way again. This is sad, deplorable, and sometimes we regret them ourselves when we realize what has been done, or left undone. We live in time, but time will run out, and when time of life ends our opportunities to do good in this world comes to a close, we won't live this life again. Paul speaks of redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16). This means to buy up time, don't let it go to waste, use it while you have it, and take advantage of the opportunities that it affords. It seems that I have heard a song, "Wasted Years" Well, if those years have been wasted, they are gone, we can't go back and relive them.

DO GOOD UNTO ALL MEN

We should very well know that opportunities many times impose obligations, and of course this could be one of the reasons that some people ignore their opportunities. We live in a time when some people would seize upon every opportunity to receive something, if it is absolutely free, no work, no effort to put forth, and no responsibility on their part. In our text the Apostle is having reference to doing something; and he is not speaking of salvation, for that is not of works, but he is saying do good to all men, "As you have therefore opportunity".

Now, somebody would ask: Are we

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THE EASE FOR A TROUBLED HEART

By Rufus L. Chandler
Huntingdon, Tenn.



"LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED: YE BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME. JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME."

John 14:1 & 6

In this land and country in which we live today, there are many troubled hearts because of various circumstances, but the most troubled heart is the one of a person lost in sin. Most troubled hearts will mend or heal in time, but the sinner's heart must be touched by God, the Great Physician, if ever made whole.

Unsaved friend, if your heart is troubled as the Holy Spirit knocks upon it, there is only one way to mend that sick soul and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ, In verse five of John 14, the question was asked, "and how can we know the way?" Jesus answered the question by saying, "I am the way." Luke writes in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

In our text, Jesus said, "you believe in God," but you also must believe in me. He continued and taught them that he is the life and also the truth. Christ tells us in this passage that he is the Mediator between the Father and us, for we can't come to the Father but by Him. Christ expressed this in His own words.

Christian friends, we need to wake-up out of our sleep and look about us at all the lost souls with troubled hearts that are seeking to find ease through dope,

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SISTER GAMMON CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

Sister Gammon, 1235 Bridge St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46221, celebrated her 100th birthday April 15, 1979. Approximately 200 relatives and friends gathered in Indianapolis to join her in this celebration.

On November 20, 1899, The Lord saved our friend from the bondage of sin, and she was baptized the following week by Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Tennessee. She came to Indianapolis in 1942, and shortly thereafter united with Bethel Missionary Baptist Church where she is presently a member.

It has been my pleasure several times to listen to Sister Gammon relate some of her many experiences along life's way.



Sister Mary Gammon and Editor Massey

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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SPECIAL BULLETIN TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP US

We, the Missionary Baptist Church at Mt. Calvary, are in the process of trying to build a house of worship; but we are small in number, and we find it to be extremely expensive in these days of soaring prices. So we are thinking that perhaps some of our well established churches might be in a position to help us in this endeavor. We believe in the faith process, that is, faith in God; and in view of this we only ask that you pray for His leadership, and whatever He leads you to do in this matter would be right, of course. If He directs you to send something to help us build it would be highly appreciated, whether little or much.

Mt. Calvary is trying to build up a church strictly on the Word of God, and we don't have anything to boast about. Progress is slow, and we are not telling anybody that we are setting the woods on fire, but the dear Lord has blessed us with steady progress, for which He deserves all honor. The church has a good building sight, free of debt, and some money in treasury. We thank God for all that He has given us.

If the Lord leads you to send us any help on our building, you may send it to Colin Dyer, 658 Tobyllynn Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.

Henry Smith, pastor

With Colin Dyer, COMMITTEE

OHIO CHURCH CALLS PASTOR

Liberty Missionary Baptist Church of Norton, Ohio has called Elder Ronnie Galloway as pastor. Elder Galloway was ordained by Lyons Church May 19th. He succeeds Elder Berlon Roy as pastor.

SISTER GAMMON

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She recalled on one occasion the night the Lord saved her Daddy at home in the bed. Also, she told of the night her son, Gener, came home from revival service at Williams Church and was hollering for his Mother saying, "I've got religion." This son along with Elder Willie Gammon have both gone to be with the Lord.

During the birthday festivities, Sister Gammon's two favorite songs ("Amazing Grace" and "I'll Fly Away") were sang. Following an humble and touching prayer by her grandson, Elder Willie Gammon, Jr., the honoree of the day stood and boldly expressed her hope of an immortal glory, warning her posterity to prepare to meet her on that fair shore where the faithful part no more. She also expressed her thanks to everyone for coming, for their gifts and all the beautiful cards. Sister Gammon received either greeting or telegram from President Jimmy Carter and Roselyn, Congressman Dave Evans and Senator Birch Bahye.

Some live to be 100 years old, but not many. And even fewer reach that ripe old age as elegantly, gracefully and beautifully as Sister Mary (Mammy) Gammon. May God bless her life with many blessings as she begins her second hundred. You really should know this God-fearing, sweet, christian lady.

EASE FOR A HEART

(cont. from page 1)

alcohol, bodily lust and even hate manifested toward another person. We can love these people to the extent of telling them about the Saviour of the world. Some don't want to listen and even hate you in a sinner's way, but remember they don't know the true way. When and if they do find it, they will love us for it. The writer of this article has seen and heard others tell of this fact.

Lost friend, you may be one of the most moral persons around where you live. This has been true many times, and you may be letting the devil use this to temporarily comfort your heart, which is one of his tricks to damn your soul for hell. Life is short, but eternity is forever and ever.

The next time you feel the Holy Spirit striving at your heart's door, turn to the Lord and seek salvation. When He sends the Holy Spirit of promise into your heart, He will guide you into all truth providing great ease for that troubled heart. This scripture can be used to point sinners to Christ for salvation.

To all of the saved, who read this article, isn't it great to know there are better things ahead?

JUNE REVIVALS

June 1 - FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Fairview Ave., Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor W. T. Russell will be assisted by Elder Bernard Skaggs. YOU are invited!

June 3 - McFERRIN AVE. MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - 1208 McFerrin Ave., Nashville, Tenn. Pastor Howard G. Taylor and Evangelist Harold D. Linville of Hartsville, Tenn. will alternate in the preaching. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

June 3 - NORTH CARTHAGE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Carthage, Tenn. Pastor Charles A. Gentry will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all.

June 8 - LIBERTY MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Maco Drive, Norton, Ohio Pastor Ronnie Galloway and Liberty Church extends a welcome to everyone. Services begin each evening at 7 p.m.

June 16 - FREEDOM MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - 350 N. Fuller Dr., Indpls., IN. Pastor Odus Cummings will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services begin nightly at 7 p.m. EVERYONE WELCOME!

June 24 - MT. LEBANON MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Boyce Rd., Alvaton, Ky. Pastor Don Curtis will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Paul Bryson, Bro. Duncan Houchens will be in charge of song service. Everyone is invited to these services beginning at 7:30 each night.

June 24 - BETHEL MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - 1501 Pleasant St., Indpls., In. Elder Billy L. Moran has been selected as evangelist. At the time of this printing, the new pastor had not been chosen. Services begin at 7 p.m. each night. ALL ARE INVITED!

EDITOR ACCEPTS NEW PASTORATE

Effective July 1, 1979, I will begin a new pastorate with Independent Missionary Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tennessee. Elder F. L. Ray is the former pastor of this church. Several preachers have done supply work with Independent Church since the death of Bro. Ray. A generous "thanks" is sent to each one of those brethren. Our new address is: 123 Skyline Drive, Huntingdon, Tennessee 38344. Your prayers for God to help us serve in an acceptable way would be most welcomed. A special invitation is sent to everyone to visit the services. Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed by preaching and worship service at 11 p.m. each Sunday with Sunday evening services at 6 p.m. Mid-week Prayer Services begin at 7 p.m.



1979 OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

During March 28-30, 1979, sixty-eight ministers representing a nine state area met for the seventh annual session of the Old Union Baptist Ministers School. Those attending are listed in alphabetical order as follows: Thomas Armstrong, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; Dexter A. Bacon, Jr., Glasgow, Ky.; D. C. Barton, Lafayette, Tenn.; James W. Briley, Portland, Tenn.; Bobby E. Brooks, Bethpage, Tenn.; P. H. Brooks, Nashville, Tenn.; Eugene Brown, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Paul Bryson, Alvaton, Ky.; Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, Tenn.; Rufus Chandler, Huntingdon, Tenn.; Charles Chapman, Clarksville, Ga.; Del Compton, Germantown, Tenn.; Morris Cothron, Dixon Springs, Tenn.; Don Curtis, Westmoreland, Tenn.; Douglas Curtis, Westmoreland, Tenn.; Kenneth Davis, Louisville, Ky.; Dallas E. Derossett, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Marvin E. Emberton, Indpls., In.; Michael E. Faulkner, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Terry Foster, Grandview, Mo.; Roger Fowler, Camden, Tenn.; Larry Galloway, Louisville, Ky.; Joe P. Greer, Washington, Ill.; Billy W. Green, Lafayette, Tenn.; A. G. Gregory, Gallatin, Tenn.; Truman Hedges, Camden, Tenn.; Darrell Hicks, Cleveland, Tenn.; Jimmy Hogue, Louis-

ville, Ky.; William House, Nashville, Tenn.; Rex Hunt, Fountain Run, Ky.; Ottis Jones, Lafayette, Tenn.; F. W. Lambert, Westmoreland, Tenn.; Landon C. Long, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Landon J. Long, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Larry McClain, Kokomo, In.; Marvin Y. McClanahan, White House, Tenn.; Don McDonald, Warren, Mich.; Kenneth W. Massey, Greenwood In.; Doug Matthews, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Floyd Mince, Kokomo, In.; Billy Moran, Beech Grove, In.; Gary Nicholas, Hendersonville, Tenn.; W. R. Overton, Madison, Tenn.; Kent Parson, Santa Paula, Calif.; Calvin Perrigo, Indpls., In.; Pete Porter, Gallatin, Tenn.; E. F. Prince, McKenzie, Tenn.; Vernon Roark, Alvaton, Ky.; Dee Russell, Gallatin, Tenn.; W. T. Russell, Bowling Green, Ky.; Wayne D. Shoulders, Danville, In.; William Shoulders, Indpls., In.; Terrell Simmons, Baldwin, Ga.; Bernard Skaggs, Louisville, Ky.; H. Allen Smith, Gallatin, Tenn.; J. H. Smith, Nashville, Tenn.; L. W. Smith, Goodlettsville, Tenn.; Jimmy Sorrell, Goodlettsville, Tenn.; William R. Stewart, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; D. W. Story, Nashville, Tenn.; Ray Sutton, Hendersonville, Tenn.; John W. Thompson, Phil

Campbell, Ala.; Danny R. Tomlinson, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; H. C. Vanderpool, Goodlettsville, Tenn.; Richard Vineyard, Ventura, Calif.; Jackie Wilburn, Carthage, Tenn.; Kenneth Woodall, Gallatin, Tenn.; Nathan York, Indpls., In.

Some excellent subjects were very capably taught by Elders F. W. Lambert, W. T. Russell, James H. Smith and H. C. Vanderpool. Elder Paul Bryson and the entire school committee rendered a large contribution to the success of perhaps the greatest session yet. Much enthusiasm prevailed with the addition of many young preachers in attendance.

A beautiful appreciation plaque and sketch of Elder F. L. Ray was presented to his wife, Sister Estelle Ray, during this year's school.

To me, the highlight of our three days together was the spiritualness manifested by both teacher and student. A great degree of receptivity reigned throughout.

Let me take this opportunity to urge every God-called preacher to begin making his plans now to attend the eighth session in 1980.

PASSING OPPORTUNITIES*(Continued from Page 1)*

to do good to just anybody, even to those who do us wrong? Exactly, This is what the Bible teaches us to do in very simple terms. "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him, if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:20-21. It is very easy to do good to those who do us good, but it takes a pretty strong effort to do something good to somebody who has done us wrong. One thing it takes is the giving up of our pride. When someone mistreats us, it might be the best opportunity to do good to that person that we would ever have, it would open up the way to show the love of God. Even sinners return favors for favors, but God's children must act different from Sinners, if we expect to win sinners.

ESPECIALLY UNTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

God is jealous of His children, and He wants us to do them good and never evil. When we do good to one of His, we do it unto Him, even if it is a little thing as giving a cup of water to a disciple in His name. "Whosoever shall give you a cup of water in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." Mark 9:41. Our Lord loves sinners, and He died to save sinners, but He has a very special love for His children; so much so that He won't let anybody mistreat one of them and get by with it forever. "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a milstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea." Mark 9:42. I was made to realize how severe this could be when I saw one of these ancient milstones while traveling in Israel a few years ago. It sure was a heavy looking thing, and to have one of these tied to your neck and be cast into the sea would mean the end for you. We can't be too careful when dealing with one of God's dear children. Do them good and be blessed, do them evil and suffer the consequences. This would apply to a church or an individual.

God has some very weak children, whom Jesus called lambs. These need tender care; they need to be fed, led and guarded. Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs." John 21:15. One of the good ways of showing that we love the Lord is to do good unto one of His little ones. In the 6th chapter of Galatians, where I got my text for this article,

Paul speaks of a weak brother, overtaken in a fault, "Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1. Many times the first thing we hear about a brother who has been overtaken in a fault is something critical, and of course that doesn't restore anybody, if anything it drives the weak brother to do worse. I realize some people can't be restored, but we must try. When we have done our best our heavenly Father will bless and reward us, and the person that we have tried to help must bear his own responsibility, if he fails to take heed. So when we see the spiritual babe tottering, and the weak brother slipping opportunity is presenting itself.

CONCLUSION

Doing good to the children of God is a healthful exercise, but to do the opposite can make us sleepless and miserable. If you want to throw an obstruction into the way of prayer and fellowship with God, then just touch one of His to do him harm; or even hold a grudge, and that will do the job. We can be happy by making our brother or sister happy. Yes, and furthermore we can rejoice the heart of our Saviour by so doing, for He said, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40. His child is a part of Him, and He is going to be affected when we are; show affection to one of His and we show affection to Him.

God's people need each other, but too many times we are inclined to think: well, brother so and so has never done anything for me, so why should I help him out now? We nor brother so and so had ever done anything for Jesus Christ either before He saved us, but when we called upon Him, He did the best thing for us that has ever been done, He saved us from sin and death, and will one day come to receive us unto Himself that where He is there we may be also. He does good to us, who don't deserve the least of His favors. So we are to imitate Him.

Ruth 1:16 & 17

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

"REALLY MEANT TO GO"

I planned to go to church some day,
But other things got in my way
Like that man who on Sunday
was pious and mee
But swore like the devil the
rest of the week.
I swore that I would never sit
In the same pew with a hypocrit.
Oh, there were people I knew quite well
Who, I was sure, were bound
for hell;
But every Sunday to church they'd go
And seat themselves in the very
front row.
So I just decided to stay at home
And worship the Saviour all alone.
I told myself it was best for me
Just to hear all the sermons on TV.
So thus I reasoned as the years sped by
Now on a bed of pain I lie.
I would give every penny I have,
and more,
If I could just walk through
that old church door.
As the pastor preaches and the
choir sings,
And feel the joy good
fellowship brings.
For that wonderful fellowship
I've yearned
But a little too late my lesson
learned.
Now I realize that I was wrong
At the church is where sinners belong.
And those hypocrites need preaching too
Perhaps a lot more than me or you.
Now I shall regret it evermore
That I never entered a church
house door.
Forgive me, dear God! I am sure
you know—
Some day I really meant to go.

FAITH

A heathen philosopher once asked a Christian, "Where is God?" The Christian answered, "Let me first ask you, Where is He not?"
Aaron Arrowsmith

HONESTY

I grew convinced that "truth," "sincerity" and "integrity" in dealings between man and man were of the utmost importance to the felicity of life; and I formed written resolutions, which still remain in my journal book, to practice them ever while I lived.

Benjamin Franklin