

Voice of Baptists

CHARLES PATTERSON
RT 5 BOX 168
LAFAYETTE TN

37083

"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*

VOL. 6

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

MAY, 1983

NO. 2



DECENTLY AND ORDERLY

by the late C. B. Massey

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

I Cor. 14:40

(This article appeared originally in the "Independent Baptist Voice",
Volume 8 - Number 9, February, 1948.)

I fear that a large number of churches and people do not think very much of this divine advice from Paul. For the members of a church to not go to church when they can, is not treating the Lord decently or orderly, nor do such members treat their pastor with decency and order. Certainly it is not ORDERLY, neither is it decent to go to shows, Sunday ball games, fishing, hunting, or any worldly amusement in the place of going to church.

Paul said for men to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. It is not orderly for men to mistreat their wives in any way, and it certainly is not treating them decent to scold, abuse and drive them around. God didn't make man for the woman, but the woman for the man. Wives, you belong to your husband, he is your head. YOU are to obey him in **everything**. It is very indecent and entirely out of order for the wife to boss her husband. That dishonors the God who made the law by which they are to live.

MORE DISORDER

Drinking beer, wine, ale, whiskey, brandy or any other kind of strong drink is very indecent and certainly is not in order. Many fathers and mothers lock up their children in their homes and go out to beer and drinking parties. It is very much out of order and indecent for any christian to go to Road-Houses, Honkytonks, or any other Grogshop and

(Continued on next page)

MISSION FRUITS

Dear Brother Massey,

I am writing this letter to you and all of God's people scattered throughout this great land to thank you for your prayers and financial support for missions. I realize that many times it places a great burden on churches and individuals to support a mission effort with much of the time not even knowing what results have been attained. But God knows, and believe me the lives of those that have been changed by it know. It thrills my heart to know that wherever there is a genuine mission effort, there will be souls saved and lives changed.

I can think of no better way to impress my point than to record for you the changes that God has brought to my life thru the mission effort in West Virginia.

I was saved in November of 1962 when I was just under 14 years of age. I had a reasonably sound Baptist influence in my home life and early church attendance. But, when I was about 8 years old my parents moved into an area of West Virginia that had gone completely over to the modernist. My father was a young Christian at the time (he had been saved about 2 years) and when he moved to this area (Pleasants Co., West Virginia) he thought that because a church said "Baptist" over the door and it belonged to a Baptist Association that it must be sound. He hastily joined the local Baptist Church and his home church, being as naive as he was, granted him a letter of dismissal. Well, it wasn't long before dad realized that this Baptist Church sure wasn't like his home church, so, he took up the battle to return it to a sound church. He never did succeed in his attempts, but during all this time I, as a young child, was being greatly influenced by their modern doctrines. Throughout all of this time dad kept in

(continued on page 3)

YOUTH DAY '83

MEETING IN
NATCHEZ TRACE
STATE PARK

Wildersville, Tennessee
Exit 116 mile marker off I-40 between
Nashville and Memphis

SATURDAY, MAY 28th, 10:00 A.M.

* * * * *

This Year's Theme
LEARNING TO WITNESS

Special Music By
THE WILBURN FAMILY

Sponsored By: A Group of
West Tennessee Baptists

BRING YOUR LUNCH
SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P. O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor**STAFF WRITERS**

James H. Smith, Nashville, Tenn.

W. T. Russell, Nashville, Tenn.

F. W. Lambert, Westmoreland, Tenn.

Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, Tenn.

Jerry A. Reynolds, Davisville, W. Va.

Stephen M. Skinner, Springfield, Mo.

Keith D. Frieze, Springfield, Mo.

CIRCULATION STAFF

Julie and Lance Massey

Huntingdon, Tenn.

POSTMASTER: Return all mail to Voice of Baptists, P. O. Box 572, Huntingdon, Tenn., 38344.

****REVIVAL****

Beginning May 8, 1983 Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 9835 Hayes Ave., Detroit, Mich.

Pastor Eld. Kenneth Stapleton is to be assisted by Eld. Jerry Reynolds.

Services at 7:00 p.m.

DECENTLY & ORDERLY

Continued from Page 1

indulge with the world in the indecency they have at such places. The Bible says have no company with drunks (drinkers) but let your shine. I don't think one's light can be seen at these wicked places.

CHURCH OUT OF ORDER

Some churches will hear something on a brother or sister and will proceed with all their might to exclude them on hearsay. This is entirely out of order, it is not treating them brotherly. Paul said, if a brother be overtaken in a fault, you that are SPIRITUAL RESTORE such a one in the spirit of meekness. But the devil says, destroy such a one with all that you can rake up against him. This is out of order and is mistreating the one being charged.

When Noah got drunk after he came out of the ark, he acted very indecent and was very much out of order. If some people had had a chance at him they would have wound him up and sent him straight to Hell.

Once a man said to me, and he was a preacher, that he had heard a certain thing on another preacher and that he should be excluded. All this preacher knew about the tale on the other preacher was just rumors. I replied by saying, how many of God's preachers were excluded

from the Church on hearsays according to the Bible? The Bible says restore them if possible. If people would do as much to help a brother as some do to destroy him, all would soon be in better order. Any other way is not decent or orderly.

A Baptist church can not scripturally turn anyone out of the church on circumstantial evidence. The church must have as many as two witnesses who saw the brother commit the same crime at the same time, and they must face him together in the church. Anything short of this is indecent and out of order.

I know of a man that was turned out of his church a month before he knew anything about it. This gave him no chance and was out of order. We can't beat doing right. We should never get so straight that we lean backward. I believe in church discipline, but I believed in it being carried out in decency and in order. Any case that the church cannot handle will be taken care of by the Lord.

If someone tells me something on another person, but is not willing to face them in it, I know there is something wrong about the matter and their evidence bears no weight with me. Only a Baptist can testify against a Baptist in the church. Any evidence given by an outsider is out of order. There are many good people outside the Baptist churches, of course, but Baptists run their own business, and they let others run theirs. Baptist churches cannot afford to accept outside testimonies when dealing with their members. To do so is out of order.

Outside testimony put Christ to death. James was beheaded because of outside testimony. Paul was killed because of evidence from the outside. Peter was put in jail at Jerusalem by testimonies outside. Stephen was stoned to death by outside testimony. Millions of Baptists have been beheaded, drowned, dragged through the streets of cities, burned, skinned, cooked alive, thrown from bluffs, shot and put to death many other ways because of outside testimonies. They who did this claimed to be very religious. In the past twenty years, according to records, Russia, in various ways, has put to death more than ten million of God's children. As Baptist Churches, the true churches of our Lord, let us stick together and to redeem and restore our weak brethren and sisters and we will surely be in order.

OUT OF ORDER AGAIN

I have heard men ask sinners to come and accept Christ which is out of order. I ask, why will any preacher ask anyone to come and accept Christ? In John 1:12-13 we find that Christ came

unto his own and his own RECEIVED HIM NOT, but as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he POWER TO BECOME the sons of God. They were not sons of God, but he gave them POWER to become sons. If some present-day preachers had been at the house of Cornelius, in the place of Peter, I guess they would have said to him, Cornelius, accept Christ and give me your hand and you will be alright. But Cornelius was already calling upon the great God for salvation and Peter preached Christ to him, the six brethren with him witnessing to his message. Then did Peter say, give me your hand? NO, but he did say, "To him (Christ) gave all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." And as Peter was preaching, God saved Cornelius and he began shouting and glorifying God. Then Peter told him to be baptized.

The following is the order of getting saved: "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live" Is. 55:3. Then in verse 6, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." To whom is the Lord near? He is very near to all who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Note v. 7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." James 4:8-10 - "Cleanse your hands ye sinners, and purify your hearts ye double-minded. Be afflicted and mourn and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Isaiah 61:1-3, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; TO COMFORT ALL THAT MOURN; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

Mourners only get saved and they must ask in order to receive. They get the Holy Spirit by asking for it, Luke 11:13. First, the sinner must incline his ear. 1 Cor. 5:15, Begotten by the gospel. There is no birth without a begetting. Convic-

(Continued on Page 4)

MISSION FRUITS

Continued from Page 1

contact with a few preachers from his old home church and it was during a revival held by one of those preachers that the Lord saved me.

I was young and full of fire. I threw myself into the Lord's work and longed for Christian fellowship and encouragement. In that cold, spiritless modern church I found nothing to feed the inner man, and within a couple of years I had grown as cold and spiritless as those around me. I departed from the service of my Master and **tried** to take up abode in the world around me. For almost 15 years I turned my back on Him and tried to forget that I was not my own but was bought with a price. During that time, though I wandered far, the Lord was merciful to me and never left me. He blessed me with many worldly possessions as well as a wonderful wife and 2 beautiful children. I avoided all conversations on religion and would not attend church at all. As I sat in my worldly comfort in 1978 and **seriously** looked at my state of spiritual health, I would have given it all away if only I could have the great peace I had once known. That peace had been replaced by an awful feeling of shame and guilt for my conduct over the last 15 years. At this point in my life I tried the course of self cleansing. I cleaned up my life and started going back to church (different church but the same cold, modern, spiritless condition) and I became the perfect Pharisee. I went on this way for about 2 years never receiving that great peace I had once known.

On January 1, 1980 my brother came to my home and with tears in his eyes and a heart full of love he told me of the wonderful things the Lord had been doing in his life. It was that day that I fell upon my knees, repented before the Lord, threw myself on his mercy and pleaded for him to return to me the peace as I had once known. The Lord chastised me greatly for my fling out into the world, but he was merciful and kind and did restore that peace and fellowship I had once known and cherished.

I was on fire again. I threw myself into prayer and a study of the church that led me thru the blood stained pages of history and made my heart break when I looked about me and saw the condition of these modern churches. The more I studied the more I could see that this cold modern Baptist church I was attending was **not** the pillar and ground of truth that had been preserved at the cost of so many precious lives. I began to long for fellowship with God's people and searched in vain for those people in the locality in

which I lived. I took the local church to task and tried to reform it (as my dad before me had done) but with no success. I remember sitting in my home and feeling all alone not knowing what to do. I remember thinking that surely I must be the only person in the whole world that believed these things that were written in my heart. It was there in my living room that I remembered God's words to Elijah "I have reserved 7000 to me that would not bow the knee to Baal," and I knew that somewhere there were people who believed as I believed. I resolved then to go in search of those people.

Through a series of events, that I now know were the hand of God, I met Bro. Jerry Reynolds and Bro. Darrell Hicks. The Lord immediately impressed my heart that these were His men and I should listen to them. It did not take long to realize that these men believed the same things I believed. I learned of the Old Time Baptist Church at Elizabeth and even attended a couple of revival meetings held there by Bro. Charles Patterson. Although I knew in my heart that the Lord had led me to this church I would not yield and seek membership because it was a great distance from my home. One evening in Sept. of 1980 my brother, Chuck and Bro. Reynolds were at my home discussing my state of turmoil when my wife began to cry and said that she couldn't hide it any longer, she was lost and needed to be saved. I realized then that I did not have a choice, the very life of my wife and children were at stake and I would have traveled to the end of the world if need be to get them under the sound preaching of the gospel. But thank the Lord I did not have to travel that far. God had known my needs and those of my family and had sent His missionary here long before I even had need of them. I joined the Old Time Missionary Baptist that very month and the Lord has blessed me for it ever since.

My wife sought the Lord continually from that time until March 8, 1981 when God gloriously saved her in a service that lasted from 10:00 in the morning until 4:00 that afternoon. We have since seen many such services and the Lord has blessed each of us here in West Virginia with the assurance that we have a sound church in which to teach and rear our children and bring our loved ones to seek the Lord.

We are now in the basement of our new building and we have been having visitors almost every service. The community seems to realize that we are here to stay and our prayer is that the power of God will be so great in our services that the lost cannot resist coming

and seeking salvation.

I will close with a simple "Thank You" to all of God's people and may He receive all the glory and bless you and yours as much as He has blessed me and my house through your charity.

A Brother in Christ,
Danny Chandler
Belmont, West Virginia

NEWS FROM LOUISIANA

As I noted in recent **Voice of Baptists**, several names of states, I didn't see Louisiana. So here is a small amount to keep it going. This is a personal donation. Sorry to have waited so long.

In August of '80, I had a ladder fall and broke my right arm. So must use both hands to do this. I am 85 years old so this stopped my climbing. Retiring is the hardest job yet.

Zion Church is so weak, but this is where God has led us. January 1976, a few of us came from Missouri and God gave us a foothold. In March of '80, we organized this church with 9 members. We have had a struggle but God has blessed our efforts. Some come from time to time but they say we are different. This state is Catholic, Free Methodist, Pentecost and with Jehovah's Witness. They say we are different. So we say "Thank God for that." We are glad it shows. We bought 2 houses to get the one we wanted. Our loan has about 1 year more to go. When it is paid, we hope to do more for missions. We are personally acquainted with brothers J. Reynolds, Steve Skinner, Keith Frieze and enjoy the little paper. I wish I could write but I have had a rich life. But am ashamed of the crooked path I've travelled.

God bless you all. We have Clyde Bough (Boo) now in a meeting at present. Sorry I can't write more. I hope you can read it.

Pray for us. My son Clarence R. Gorden is pastor.

Yours Truly,
Elder Frank Gorden
Zion Old Time
Missionary Baptist Church
Pineville, LA

DECENTLY & ORDERLY

Continued from Page 2

tion must take place in the heart and make a broken spirit. The word of God, the sword of the Spirit, is sharper than a two edged sword and cuts to the dividing of soul, spirit, joints and marrow. 1 Peter 1:3, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever."

The gospel convicted one will seek the Lord with weeping, mourning and prayer, and will seek until they find him. This kind doesn't need a preacher or someone else to tell them when they are saved. God gives the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins.

Christ, our Lord, is the only man between the convicted sinner and God. No handshake, no question, no pool of water, creek or river is necessary. He must be born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.

In my fifty years in the ministry, I have met with a large number of people who had taken the preacher by the hand and accepted Christ, who later learned they did not have salvation, after which they sought the Lord in the Bible way and were saved, joined the church and I baptized them. Some of these were of a ripe age while others were young. Not very long ago I baptized a fine young lady who had been made to believe by a Baptist preacher that she was saved when she was not. After she was saved, she asked her pastor if her baptism was alright and he told her it was. She asked me about it and I told her that her baptism was no good and that she did not even belong to the church of the Lord, just had her name on the church book and that was all. She came to church that night, presented herself for membership, told a good experience with the Lord, the church received her and I buried her in baptism the bible way.

People, and especially preachers, let's go strictly the Bible way. The world may not give you such a big evangelistic name, but you will surely be standing with the Lord. You may not get as much money for your service, you may be carried down by the world and a thousand lies may be told on you, but the records in heaven will show that you have been faithful. Do not try to please the world or even an individual. You are my friends if you do what I command you, so said the Lord.

God bless every true preacher and give grace to stand. Salvation is wholly by grace.

DON'T TATTLE

Many people, I am sure, who do not

drink, commit adultery, gamble, steal or commit many of the gross sins, are guilty of taking up a reproach against a brother or sister and peddling it out, whereas, they should be trying to help them. God says such a one is a tattler and of course they are very much out of order. The tattler, according to the Bible, separates friends. To get drunk is not as bad as that. Any one of the common sins does not do as much harm as the talebearer. He involves the whole community. He is just about as much out of order as he can be. He mistreats the one he talks about and he mistreats the entire neighborhood.

FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER

by Gary E. Fisher

Eph. 1:15-16, "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers." In these two scriptures we find the Apostle Paul writing to the church at Ephesus praises for their love and faith. A study of the remainder of the epistle exhibits an exhortation to Christian unity. This is evidenced through God's plan of salvation, a universal plan available to all by grace through faith (Chapter 2). Also in Chapter 4:7-16 Paul speaks of the diversity of gifts but unity in one body of Christ.

The Apostle had a great love for the Ephesians. This is shown with tremendous force in the 20th Chapter of Acts. Paul, concluding his third missionary journey, by-passed Ephesus (verse 16) because he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Paul knew he would never see these people again and I am sure he felt that if he stopped at Ephesus he would find it difficult to leave. He did, however, call for the Elders to meet with him at Miletus. At this meeting Paul prophesied of apostasies at Ephesus. In verses 29 and 30 we find, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Did these words fall on dumb ears?

Approximately 35 years later, John the Revelator wrote the words of Christ to the seven churches of Asia. Revelation, Chapter 2:1-7 was written to the church at Ephesus and I would ask that

you review these scriptures. Jesus Christ acknowledged the Ephesians' good works and how the church had "tried them which say they are apostles." We know from verses 2 and 3 the church was "doctrinally sound," but what was then written? Verse 3: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." The greatest tactic the devil has is to vex our spirit with contempt. God cannot commune with a legalistic heart. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This is the commandment of the Lord. Being doctrinally sound does not automatically bestow power with God. This is evidenced by the Ephesians being told their candlestick would be removed lest they repent. The Ephesians had not heeded the words of the apostle Paul, "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears." Acts 20:31.

Let us take heed lest we fall. Everywhere one looks today, someone is preaching a salvation that does not require humility before God. How can a lost and dying world be saved in the midst of these deceivers? Only by the unity of the Lord's churches, fitly framed together, WITH THE POWER OF GOD. A power bestowed upon those with the right heart.

ORDINATIONS

HAUSER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of North Bend, Oregon is having ordination service to ordain Bro. Mike Highfill to the full work of the ministry. May 29th - 1:30 P.M. EVERYONE WELCOME!

KOKOMO MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Kokomo, Indiana will meet Saturday, May 7th at 6:00 P.M. to consider ordaining Bro. Ron Cook to the full work of the gospel ministry. Bro. Cook has been called to pastor Beech Grove Miss. Baptist Church of Tipton, Indiana. ALL ARE WELCOME!