

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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PRACTICING MISSIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD

by J. H. Smith
Nashville, TN

God didn't devise a plan just so that He could say that He has a good plan, but He made it to be put into practice. The Lord did a perfect work on His part to make a workable plan, but the weak link is on the part of His people, who are to be instrumental in carrying out His orders. Jesus built His church, and He built it of human beings, men as we are, men with capacity to go, and to speak for God. He promised to be with His people, His church, through the Holy Spirit, and by His power His work of spreading the Gospel to all the world can be accomplished. **"But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."** Acts 1:8.

God gives the power, but we must use it, it is the most useful item in preaching the Good News to lost men and women; but failing to move when God has said, "GO," will result into a cold and indifferent church, and the loss of millions to the devil and a burning hell. A church may write the word, MISSIONARY, a hundred times on the front of its building, but that doesn't make that church missionary. A missionary church is a going church, not one that sits and waits for lost men and women to come to the church. The church is to go to them. Jesus said GO, **"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations."** Matthew 28:19; **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel**

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THE MODEL CHURCH MEMBER

by Harold D. Carver
Buena Vista, TN

The aim of this article is to provide instructions for the Christian and an opportunity for personal examination. Please ask yourself the following question, "If every member of the church were just like me where would the cause of Christ be today?" If they all contributed as I do in: Effort, Dedication, Attendance, Prayer, Monetary contributions, and Soul winning would Christ receive honor and glory through His church?"

When we are saved we share the love of Christ for His church. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it," Eph. 5:25b. Our actions may not always bear out the love we should show, (God expects) for the Lord's body. We all want the church to grow and improve in attendance, soul winning, and spirituality, but it's really up to you and I. Dreaming is one thing and "doing" is another. James said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:22-25.

Let's now turn to II Timothy, chapter two and study some of the metaphors used by Paul. Paul is addressing Timothy, his dearly beloved son in the ministry, but we find also that these figures of speech are most suitable to describe the qualities that we must have if

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MISSION PREPARATION

The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will host a series of services on mission work to begin on July 29, 1983 at 7:00 P.M. and continuing at 2:00 P.M. on July 30, 1983 and concluding with the Fellowship Meeting of the Bethel Association Churches at 7:00 P.M. on July 30, 1983.

We, the committee, further recommend that the church invite: Elders Jerry Reynolds and Darrell Hicks to speak on the subject of: "RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF BIBLE TRUTHS AND DOCTRINES." "Gaining Confidence of People on the Mission Field" - Elder Jerry Reynolds. "Revealing Church Doctrinal Errors Through Historical Evidence" - Elder Darrell Hicks.

Elder John Thompson and Elder Vernon Roark to speak on the subject of: "CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE MISSIONARY," 1) prayer; 2) communication; 3) finance; 4) fellowship.

Elder Henry Smith to speak at the Fellowship Meeting on the subject of: "PREPARATION FOR AND DOING MISSION WORK (HOME AND FOREIGN).

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FINANCIAL REPORT

(March, April, May, 1983)

Balance March 8, 1983	\$1,137.38
Total Contributions	520.00
All Operating Expenses	677.36
Balance on Hand, June 6, 1983	\$ 980.02

REVIVALS

JULY 3 - PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH of Bruceton, Tenn. Pastor Arzelle Douglas will be assisted by Elder Marshal Gurley. Services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. You are invited!

JULY 10 - GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH of Hendersonville, Tenn. Pastor Elmer Perrigo will be assisted by Elder Jody McIntyre. Services nightly at 7:15 p.m. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

JULY 10 - INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH of Huntingdon, Tenn. Preaching by Pastor Kenneth W. Massey at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day. **ALL ARE INVITED, ESPECIALLY SINNERS.**

JULY 17 - OLD UNION BAPTIST CHURCH of Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Paul Bryson will be assisted by Eld. Neal Forshee. Services nightly at 7:30 p.m. Public is cordially invited.

JULY 24 - CLARKSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH of Clarksburg, Tenn. Preaching by Pastor Harold D. Carver at 10:30 in the morning and 7:30 in the evening. Your presence and prayers are coveted.

THE MODEL CHURCH MEMBER

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we are going to be successful servants of the Lord.

First, **BE STRONG IN GRACE.** Paul wanted Timothy to be strong in the Lord. What does it mean to be "strong in grace?" Does it mean muscular strength, monetary strength, or intellectual strength? The answer is certainly "NO" to all these questions. The strength comes from God through faith and we have access by faith into God's grace wherein we may stand with strength.

It is not needful than an individual give God their strength but to allow God to give them His grace. We need to learn and remember this great fact about God: "God supplies every need to meet every command to be made of us." The commands of God are always accompanied by the power to carry them out. Then if we are to have a strong church we must be strong in the Grace of God.

Second, **STEADFAST AS SOLDIERS.** In verse three Paul likens a good servant to a good soldier. What are the main distinguishing characteristics of good soldiers? They are well trained and well disciplined. They are ready to endure hardness, sacrifice, and to suffer for the cause of their enlistment. God's people need to learn this simple truth, "it is impossible to serve without sacrificing and suffering." If you are looking for an easy way out, forget it. The children of Israel made their way by the grace of God to the "Land Flowing with Milk and Honey." The journey will involve many tears, much suffering, and sacrificing for the cause of Christ.

In verse four we note another desirable quality of a soldier. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life." Paul is speaking of separation from the world. Separation is a necessity for the soldier. He must leave his former life behind when he enters the military. Likewise a good church member must leave the former life behind. The things of the world must be crucified. We can't be half-hearted and please God. Jeremiah 29:13, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Too many of God's children today are double-minded. James said, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." A strong church is made up of strong soldiers who are willing to lay everything aside and take Jesus Christ and Him only.

Third, **STRIVE AS ATHLETES.** Paul teaches in verse five to "strive for masteries." Masteries here means to excel in power, become an expert, and to be skillful. An athlete must do all of these

things. They must strive for the mastery. The professional athlete who is sincere and dedicated must practice long, hard hours and must follow strict rules to remain competitive. The athlete strives for a "worldly crown" while the Christian should strive for a "spiritual crown." How great and glorious would a church be if all of Her members strove as hard to be good members as athletes strive to be good athletes? The good church member needs to strive spiritually as the athlete strives physically in order to succeed. We must become submissive to the rigors and rules of God's word to receive the reward. We must become "spiritual athletes" to be strong members of the Lord's church.

Fourth, **LABOUR AS THE FARMER.** In verse six Paul refers to the husbandman that laboreth. An individual cannot be a good farmer without working. A farmer cannot expect a bountiful harvest without first labouring through long hours in preparation, planting, and plowing. This same principle remains true in spiritual work as well. There is a law of the harvest that we cannot escape nor ignore. "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully," Cor. 9:6.

There can be no real success in church work without the proper preparations, planting, and cultivation. This involves a dedicated labour of love. If you want a "spiritual crop" then go to work. The hands of a Model Church Member are covered with "spiritual callouses."

Fifth, **KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE WORD OF GOD.** In verse 15 we find this metaphor, "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth."

As good servants of God we must be knowledgeable in the Word of God. God's people need to become readers of the Bible. You need to learn the Bible. It's wonderful to enjoy the freedom and privilege of owning a Bible and to have them in our homes. However, the needful thing is for our hearts to become saturated with the Word of God. Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God."

Where would the cause of Christ be if His people gave the same attention to His word that they do to the multitude of secular printings which are available today? Do you read the Bible with the same interest that you explore the reading materials of the world?

There are many excuses given for not reading and studying the Word of God; "I just can't understand," "I'm too

old," "I'm not smart enough," "My eyes are bad," and many other reasons are given, but we get out of it what we put into it. The Model Church Member digs in God's Word for nuggets of "spiritual gold."

Sixth, BE USEABLE VESSELS. In verses 21 and 22 Paul presents a figure of speech illustrating that God will not employ vessels that are tainted with sins of the world. He said, "In a great house there are vessels of gold, silver, wood, and earth." This teaches that God can and will use any of these but **will not** use a dirty vessel. God will not entrust the ministering of His precious Gospel to an instrument that is filthy and corrupted with sins of the flesh.

David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me," Psalm 66:18. But John says this about forgiveness of sins, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," I John 1:9. A Model Church Member is conscious that spiritual purity is a necessity for a joyous fellowship with Jesus Christ and will not allow unconfessed sins to accumulate until the vessel is corrupted beyond use.

Seventh, A SUBMISSIVE GENTLE SPIRIT. Finally in verses 24 and 25 Paul defines the Christian nature which will touch the hearts of the unsaved World. The ideal Member has the wisdom not to strive but to be gentle, patient, and meek in approaching those that oppose them. They understand the beauty of a cooperative spirit but also have the dedication to never compromise the truth. If the battle for the Lord against the powers of darkness is not won through a gentle, meek, humble, and loving spirit then the wise Child of God will not experiment otherwise. The model member will always in every circumstance, regardless of consequences, stand fast for the Lord without compromise.

If all God's children would make a conscientious effort to learn and practice these seven rules, what number would measure the engathering of lost souls and how great the honor and glory redounding to Jesus Christ through His Church?

**IF EVERY MEMBER
 OF MY CHURCH
 WAS JUST LIKE ME
 WHAT SORT OF CHURCH
 WOULD MY CHURCH BE?**

COLORADO CHURCH SENDS THANKS

Dear Bro. Massey,

We would like to list and thank all the churches that have helped us with our Building Fund. This list is from the time we organized:

Salem Miss. Baptist Church	\$200.00
Longview Miss. Baptist Church	100.00
Pipers Chapel Miss. Baptist Church	150.00
Maces Hill Miss. Baptist Church	100.00
Rayon City Miss. Baptist Church	100.00
Eastside Miss. Baptist Church	450.00
Grace Miss. Baptist Church	200.00
Faith Miss. Baptist Church	425.00
McFerrin Ave. Miss. Baptist	500.00
Enon Chapel Miss. Baptist Church	100.00
Harmony Miss. Baptist Church	100.00
Pleasant Hill Miss. Baptist Church	1,000.00
Maple Grove Miss. Baptist	500.00
Lafayette Miss. Baptist Church	376.49

TOTAL DONATIONS \$4,301.49

Many individuals have donated. We would like to send you a list the first of each month so we can list everyone. Also we know there are many that cannot send money for various reasons but we desire their prayers. It helps so much to hear that people and churches are praying for us.

We know the great task we have set for ourselves to build a new church in this area. But we also know all things are possible with the Lord. We have already been told that we must be born-again, saved people to be zealous enough to start such a project with only 16 members. We believe that a properly located facility is a must, and that we will not grow as a church nor reach the lost until we have such.

Bro. Gary Duncan has moved on the field to serve the church as pastor. Pray for him and his family.

Bro. Ottis Jones will be moving to Hendersonville, Tennessee this week. We will miss him and his family very much, but we know he has to go when and where the Lord sends. We thank them very much for the time and service they have given us. Pray for them.

We thank you,

Colorado Miss. Baptist Church
 Doreen Brown - Clerk

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, 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." Matt. 25:40

NEWLY ELECTED PASTORS

Parkwood Baptist, Nashville, Tenn.
 - Bro. Tom Armstrong has recently been elected to serve this church.

Mt. Juliet Baptist, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
 - Bro. Charles Patterson has been called to pastor this church.

Liberty Baptist, Barberton, Ohio
 - Bro. Berlon Roy has been called to serve Liberty.

A BRIEF TIME-LINE OF RECENT BAPTIST HISTORY

- 1633 - First Baptist Church organized in America - Newport, R.I.
- 1707 - First Baptist Association in America - the Philadelphia Association
- 1785 - First Association in the West - Elkhorn in Kentucky
- 1786 - Union of Regular and Separate Baptists to form "United Baptists"
- 1792 - Birth of Conventionism in England - the Baptist Missionary Society
- 1806 - First Church organized west of the Mississippi - Bethel Church in Missouri
- 1814 - Beginning of the Tri-annual Baptist Convention in America
- 1820 - Daniel Parker begins the Anti-missionary or "Hardshell Baptists"
- 1821 - First Baptist state convention - South Carolina
- 1830 - First use of term "Missionary Baptists"
- 1833 - New Hampshire Confession of Faith
- 1845 - Creation of the Southern Baptist Convention & Northern Baptist Convention
- 1846 - J.R. Graves begins editing the "Tennessee Baptist"
- 1851 - Cotton Grove Resolutions
- 1854 - Publication of "An Old Landmark Reset"
- 1856 - Use of term "Landmark Baptists"
- 1859 - Southern Baptist Convention rejects Landmark Baptist positions
- 1891 - Beginnings of the "Whitsett Controversy"
- 1894 - Gospel Mission Movement breaks with SBC

"Preach the gospel in regions beyond you." This was Paul's hope. It should be ours, for the great outside world is in need of the gospel of Christ.

PRACTICING MISSIONS

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to every creature." **Mark 16:15.** First He said GO, and then He tells what to do when we go, not go just to see the world and the sights, but go and be a witness for the Master. Jesus said when He sent the Twelve on the limited commission, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, "**As ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" **Matthew 10:7.**

Jesus didn't set up His church just so we could preach on the setting up of the church, the perpetuity of the church, the history of the church, etc., but He built His church for a great purpose, and this must be emphasized very strongly; for this is His plan to get the Gospel out to the lost tribes of the earth. We feel proud of our Baptist history, just like the Jews feel so proud of their history, but we can live too much in the past, we are living in another period, and God will hold us responsible for the time that we now have, and He will reward us for what we do in our time, and not for what our forefathers have done. His command in the commission is His marching orders.

HIS PLAN IS FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

God's mission plan should be acted upon by all the church, not just the God called preachers, as some people seem to think. There are men, and always have been, whom God has given a special call to preach His Gospel, and this is the life's work of such men; but all church members should give out the Gospel. I would like for you to notice something here: The church at Jerusalem was scattered abroad after the death of Stephen, except the apostles, they remained at Jerusalem, but the Bible says, "**Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word**" **Acts 8:1-4.** So in this case the church members who were scattered went everywhere giving out the Good News about the Christ, the Saviour of men, while the preachers, the apostles remained in Jerusalem. I have heard it said that only a God-called preacher can preach the Gospel so that it will convict sinners, but the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and it's not the preacher that preaches it. Conviction comes from the Word, the Holy Spirit using it as its sword (Ephesians 6:17). Once I heard of two preachers in a meeting together and a little boy got saved, and these men were discussing which one they thought might have preached the sermon that convicted the boy; and they decided to ask the little boy which one of them preached the message that convicted him, and the boy said

neither, that somebody prayed a prayer that convicted him. I have heard prayers prayed that were full of the Gospel, and so have you.

Missions slow down for the lack of Bible knowledge, and men act in the wrong way, having a lot of zeal to do but not knowing just how to go about it. Zeal without knowledge can do some rather adverse things in matters of religion. Those who enter the mission field should have a pretty good knowledge of the Scriptures, and then use that to teach men and women the ways of the Lord. What is needed most is positive preaching, there must be a foundation laid of plain, simple preaching. It is a mistake to go into a destitute field and begin to lambast everything and everybody right off the bat. I know that negative preaching is sometimes necessary, but we need to wait until the proper time. It is the Gospel that God uses to convict sinners, and our trying to add on something doesn't help any. I have been guilty of trying to press people too hard who didn't believe as I did, especially in my early ministry, when I was a very young preacher, and people were driven away. If I had gone on and just taught what the Bible says and left off some of my negatives, I might have won those people over to the whole truth. But at least I have tried to profit by such mistakes and not go on repeating the same things. We learn as we go along, and such knowledge comes from the Word of God, "**The entrance of Thy Words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.**" **Psalm 119:130.**

IT IS WHAT PLEASES HIM

The Bible says: "**It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**" **1 Corinthians 1:21.** God reaches out to sinners to save them, but it is through His chosen means that He does save, it pleases Him to deliver men and women from the penalty of sin by the way that He has chosen to do it. When Jesus died on the cross He was thinking of the joy that He would have in saving sinners, it is written of Him: "**Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**" **Hebrews 12:2.** His suffering on that old rugged cross was so severe that we cannot conceive of its depth, but He was thinking of the joy and the glory that He would have with the great host of sinners that would come to God by Him. So He patiently endured His suffering, and entered into His glory, and it pleases Him to cleanse the vilest sinners with His precious blood.

Our message for the world, and to the world, is about this loving Saviour. It

is a mission message, the Gospel that we are sent to deliver to a lost world that cannot be saved without it. "**And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?**" **Romans 10:14.** There are different ways of getting the Gospel out: the printed page, radio, television, etc., but the most effected way is for God's servants to go and make personal contact. Go into destitute places, visit, witness, and when people get saved, try to organize them into Baptist churches; and then when the missionary leaves that place the work of witnessing can continue. This is the way that the Lord intended it, and the way that pleases Him most. God is glorified by the work done in His church, "**Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end.**" **Ephesians 3:21.**

CONCLUSION

Our actions will determine what we are, and not what we say we are. Those who look on will say, Practice what you preach, if you have so much to offer, then give it out. Certainly we have a tremendous lot to offer, and we must make it known. I heard of an infidel in England who said that if he believed what Christians do he would walk all over London on his knees telling everyday about it. The infidel, I suppose, was just trying to throw off on Christians, but the thought does make a point, and a sharp point at that. We have a glorious message, it is so rich and full of blessings! It is the Good News of One who out of mercy and compassion took our sins and bore them on the tree of the cross. Oh, what matchless love is this! We should lose ourselves to tell the story of Him at home and unto the uttermost parts.

ELDER HAMMACK BEGINS MISSION IN ARKANSAS

Mission services will begin August 7, 1983 with an eleven o'clock service. The mission is located in Pleasant Plains, Arkansas.

After August 7th, please send all correspondence to this address: Elder M. V. Hammack, 766 Sidney St., Batesville, Arkansas 72501.

Everyone is welcome to these services. If you have friends or relatives living in this general area, we will be happy to welcome them to our mission.