

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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NO. 1



WHO WAS THE SAVIOR?

(Designed for Children's Understanding)

by Jerry A. Reynolds
Bowling Green, KY

Jesus was not half God and half man. He was both God and man in one package. He was God incarnated, which means, God in a flesh and blood body. His body was in every way like ours except for our nature of sinfulness, but his spirit was God. The God who created the universe is a God existing in three persons. He is the only true, living, and eternal God. In time, these persons have become known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit because of the works they have done in creation and salvation of the human race. Before time began they were three eternal persons in whom there was complete agreement among themselves in all thoughts, purposes, and deeds, and they are in such love and unity that there can never be a note of discord among them in the future. Together as one they planned to provide salvation for all fallen sinful people who would repent and believe in Jesus, the eternal God made flesh. One of these persons agreed to become a man and live in the sinful world as a man in order that a man might keep God's law without sin. This agreement was made by God who knew all things from the beginning, with himself, before the beginning of the world. That person of God came to earth as a tiny baby named Jesus. His mother was Mary, a pure young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, but he had no earthly father. In this manner the man Jesus was born the only begotten Son of God. This means that this one man was the Son of God by natural birth, whereas, through his sacrifice our sins can be forgiven and we can become the children of God by a spiritual birth which he provided.

Paul said of his incarnation, in his letter to the Philippian church, Chapter 2, verses 6-8, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made

himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Paul was saying that this wonderful person, very much unlike Satan who was created by God a mighty angel but later tried by robbery to become equal to God, was God in the beginning; but he emptied himself of all his Godly powers when he came to earth so that he might suffer the temptations and trials we all suffer. Never once did he use Godly powers to make his life easier, but as the Father in Heaven gave him power to help others he used it and gave the Father all the praise for it. The Father delivered him into the hands of sinful people to do with him as they desired and they killed him. According to the agreement made before the worlds were created, he never asked to be delivered from the hands of wicked men, but rather he willingly laid down his life for their sins. Only sin brings death, and it was the sins of people like us that were laid upon the Son of God as he hung on the cross. Those were our sins that killed him. Because of our sins which he took upon himself, the Father separated himself from him and turned his back on him for a space of three hours while he suffered and died. During that three hours of darkness Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The Father had indeed forsaken him, and the man, Jesus, died the death of a lost sinner without the comfort of God. In this death he experienced not only natural death, which is separation from the body, but spiritual death also, which is separation from God. As soon as he died the

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OLD GLORY

SPEAKS

by Amos F. Hurley
Montclair, CA

I am the flag of the United States of America. I was conceived in the dreams of liberty, and in the hopes of freedom. I was designed by the hands of Betsy Ross and her sewing basket was my cradle. Though I was never an orphan, I was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777 and proclaimed the national emblem of a nation newly born on the continent, fighting valiantly for survival and destined to bring to all mankind a new concept of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I have been many places and have seen many things, I have witnessed every event of American history. I was there when they fired the shot heard around the world. I was there in the late twilight at Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the immortal "Star Spangled Banner," now our national anthem.

I saw Molly Pitcher take the cannon swab from the hands of her dead husband and help carry on the fight for freedom. I felt the biting cold at Valley Forge, and gave warmth and comfort to General Washington and his tired and hungry Continental Army.

I rode with Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. I saw the signal that started the midnight ride of Paul Revere.

I was flown above the decks of Old Ironsides and from the masts of the Yankee and the China Clippers. I blazed the trail with Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. I led the settlers coming west and crossed Death Valley in a covered wagon.

I was carried through the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli by the United States Marines. Once I fell to the ground at Custers Last Stand and there were no living

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OLD GLORY SPEAKS (Continued from Page 1)

hands left to pick me up. I galloped up the slopes of San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders of the United States Calvary. I stayed with the boys until it was over, over there, and on the battlefields of the Marne, Chateau-Thierry, St. Mihiel and the Argonne forest. I saw many of the youths and manhood of our Nation fall and lie still in death. They had given their last full measure of devotion. The war was over for them forever, and I kept my lonely vigil over their graves and stayed to watch the poppies grow amid the crosses, row on row, in Flanders fields. I was raised by five brave men during the "Hell" of Iwo Jima. I waved farewell to the four immortal chaplains who went down with their ship and to honored glory.

I am many things to many people. I am an inseparable link in the chain that binds men to God and Country; each link welded in the fires of purity by the sacred hands of God, Himself. And because I am on the side of God, the godless would destroy me, but they dare not, because I am protected by the might land armies of the Nation, the powerful and deadly fleet of the Navy and the screaming eagles of the Air Force, watching and waiting to swoop down and destroy anything that could harm me.

To some, I am yesterday, today and tomorrow, to others I am a glorious child, to some a grand old man or a most gracious lady. I have several names. I am called the "Red, White and Blue," "The Star Spangled Banner," "The Stars and Stripes," but I am most commonly known by a nickname given me by an old sea captain, who called me "Old Glory."

I have been changed much in my one hundred and ninety-three years. I still have my original thirteen stripes, but as each state came into the Union a new star was proudly added to the constellation of my blue field. It started with thirteen stars, now there are fifty.

Many more things I would like to tell you, but we haven't time, but I do want to see you again. I am easy to find. I am everywhere. I am in the homes of the poor, in the mansions of the rich, in Independence Hall with the Declaration of Independence and the Liberty Bell, I am in the White House with the President, I am in all the churches, cathedrals and synagogues, in the council of the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, in all the schools where they pledge allegiance to me.

I draped the caskets of our Nation's heroes, borne to their last resting place, the caskets of Presidents, Generals, Admirals, humble privates and the unknown soldier. Wherever free men gather, wherever there is justice, equality, faith, hope, charity, truth or brotherly love there too am I.

A short while ago I was flown over the Nation's Capitol, gazing proudly across the land of the free and waving to the homes of the brave, then I was lowered and given by a grateful Nation to a great Congressman who brought me across the continent to the shores of the Pacific and presented me to a group of veterans of World War I at Patriotic Hall in the City of the Angels to become their official flag and with fitting ceremonies, was carried by tired old hands and posted in a place of honor near the Holy Bible and there I shall remain until (like the old soldiers) I'll just fade away and be retired by time alone and may history NEVER write MY obituary for I am the Stars and Stripes FOREVER.

I AM OLD GLORY.



WHO WAS THE SAVIOR?

(Continued from Page 1)

natural death, his Spirit returned to the Father in heaven, but his body stayed separated from his Spirit and from the Father's presence for three days and three nights. When that time was past his Spirit returned into his body and it was resurrected from the dead. There are two things it took for him to satisfy the anger of God toward sinners. It took the anguish of the sinless soul of that sinless man (see Isaiah 53:11), and the death of his sinless body (see Hebrews 10:5). Jesus was that sinless man who sacrificed himself for our sins that we might be saved. Although he was always God and always will be, he came to earth as a sinless man, and it was as a sinless man that he died the death of a condemned sinner.

This message is the Gospel, which should show us how hateful our sins are, that they killed the only perfect man who ever lived, the very Son of God. The salvation he provided is given to all who allow the Godly sorrow which the truth brings upon their hearts to work repentance in their souls so deep they completely despise and forsake their love of sin and turn to God, asking and trusting Him to save them through (and only through) the goodness of his only begotten Son. The Holy Spirit is in the world, and He works through the church and God's children to convince people of these things, and He works directly on the hearts of lost people to make them feel the weight and pain of their sins. He provokes and moves the heart to trust and obey until the soul who is seeking to please God is made able by His power to do so in believing fully in God and his Son, Jesus Christ. When this faith is complete, God works an everlasting change in the heart, the burden of sin rolls away, and the soul is at peace with God.

Jesus was God, who became a perfect and sinless man, who died the death of a lost sinner in our place, and by this sacrificial death he conquered death for us who are saved and all of those who will be saved. When he had conquered death for us he reclaimed his body from the grave and went in that body into Heaven to prepare a place there for us to live forever there with him. He is still God, and he is still man, and he will be both forever in one body. That is why he was, and still is, and will always be, our Savior.



HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Small Congregation Continues Traditions

by Clarice Beaman

This article was originally published in the "Cedar County Republican," Stockton, Missouri. Hopewell Church is the home church of Staff Writer Elder Keith D. Frieze.

The ink is browned in the old record books, but the pages are still remarkably legible. They tell the story of the Hopewell Baptist Church from its start on Feb. 18, 1867, to present times.

Hopewell now is housed west of Stockton in a building completed in 1895, and has Sunday school every week and preaching on the first and third Sundays of each month. The Rev. Otis Turner is pastor and Rex Jones, a descendant of one of the founding families, is Sunday school superintendent. Though church membership stands at 123, attendance usually runs "about 20," Beulah Douglas, another descendant, said. Many of the members now live in other parts of the country and cannot attend regularly, and death has claimed others.

The church's original name was Mt. Carmel, and its first pastor was the Rev. T.R. Casky. John Vaught was the church clerk at that time, and recorded the organizational meetings at the Hudson district schoolhouse. It is believed that a church of some sort had existed even before this 1867 recording, but the records were lost during the Civil War.

In January 1868, the congregation had grown to the size where a permanent home was needed, and they moved to a log cabin and 40 acres of land on Cedar Creek, formerly owned and occupied by Baptists. The name of the church was changed from Mt. Carmel to New Hopewell, according to the early records.

"A few landmarks from that church remain," Ruth Hickman said. "The church cemetery, called Saterfield Cemetery, a hand-dug limestone-walled well in a grassy

hollow and old roadways can still be seen." That location is on the Beulah Douglas farm, a quarter mile north of the present church.

In 1887, plans for a larger building got underway. The Lige Whitehorn family donated land for the new church house, and the log cabin and 40 acres were sold to raise money for the new structure, which was completed in 1895. "They did it all themselves," Mrs. Hickman said. "People were pretty poor in those days and it took them awhile to get it done."

Jim Hartley, a member who owned a sawmill, furnished and sawed all the hard lumber for the church, and the church members who united their labor and finances to make the new church possible included the families of Jefferson Jones, W.T. Hickman, M.A. Chambers, Elbert Frieze, Andy Montgomery, Bill Cox, Bill Douglas, Sam Grant, Henry Barnard, S.E. Williams and N.C. Simmons.

With the move to the new building, the church changed its name again, to Hopewell. The Rev. M.A. Chambers was called as the church's first pastor. He is the grandfather of the Rev. Denzil McCall and the great-grandfather of the Rev. Donald Mick, both still active in the local ministry.

Sisters Beulah Hickman Douglas and Della Hickman Frieze grew up in Hopewell Church. Their mother, Reba Hickman, joined the church in 1900, and their involvement from childhood on is recorded in the church records, now in safekeeping at the Douglas home. They remember seeing the church full and "people standing outside looking in the windows," Mrs. Douglas said.

"Of course then there was a farm every 40 acres and everybody had a drove of kids," Mrs. Frieze added.

Unlike some other neighborhood churches, Hopewell never served as a community center. "They always felt like if you were a church you had church there," Mrs. Frieze said. The schoolhouses of the community served as the social gathering places. Mrs. Hickman remembers weddings and some Christmas activities at the church, but in general it took itself pretty seriously as a church.

The early records show that church members were expected to take themselves seriously, as well. Members in the 1800s – and as late as the 1950s – were "excluded for unChristian conduct," and some were charged with "walking disorderly" or even "drinking whiskey and playing cards." If a member didn't show up for church on Sunday, a committee was dispatched to check on him.

The visits, though partly to ensure Christian conduct, also had a more benevolent purpose. "In the early days they looked after each other," Mrs. Frieze said. "If a family didn't show up for church, they might be sick or something."

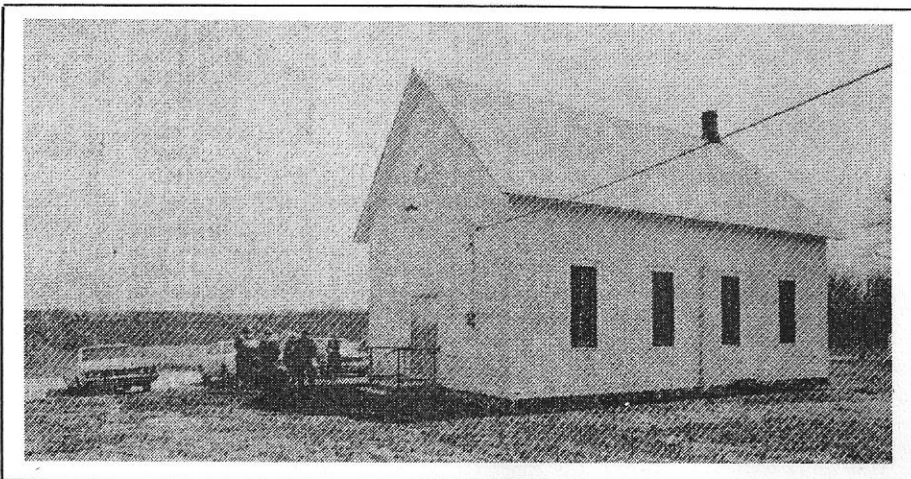
Though the early 1800 records are quite specific as to members' conduct, they also show that the remaining members could be forgiving. "If you read far enough, things usually turned out all right," Mrs. Frieze said.

Mrs. Douglas remembers stories of "protracted meetings" where other Missionary Baptist congregations were "extended the hand of fellowship," to use the terms of the old records. Most weekends until fairly recent times, church members spent the bulk of the weekend at the church, with ministers holding services beginning Saturday night. "That's because most of them came from long distances," Mrs. Douglas said. "They came in Saturday night and were here until Monday morning."

Minutes of a November 1894 meeting show the minister's salary being raised to "\$50 a year – to be paid quarterly," and later ministers were paid through free-will offerings, so the congregations got their money's worth.

Though the community has dwindled and taken with it the church's membership, some things remain the same. Baptisms are still held where they were in the 1800s, in Cedar Creek just down the hill from the church. The original pulpit still graces the church. And there are still Hickmans, Friezes, Douglasses, and Joneses active in the church. Della Frieze sums it up.

"We've been part of it so long, we just hate to give it up."



REVIVALS

July 21

OLD UNION BAPTIST CHURCH – Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Jerry A. Reynolds will be assisted by Elder Neal Forshee. Services each evening at 7:30 p.m. EVERYONE WELCOME!

August 4

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH – 921 E. 10th St., Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Jimmy Hogue is to be assisted by Elder Doug Curtis of Westmoreland, TN. Services each night at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited!

YOUR COMMENTS

Wish we could visit with you but since we can't, we enjoy the "Voice of Baptists." Enclosed is a donation. God bless you in carrying on your work.

Otis and Helen Dearing
Alvaton, KY

Enclosed is our monthly donation to the "Voice of Baptists."

Friendship Baptist Church
Columbus, IN

I have just been reading the "Voice of Baptists," and I really enjoyed it. I pass it on to my aunt. She reads everything in it and looks forward to getting it. I am sending you a little money for it. Hope you can keep the good work going.

Virginia Copas
Bowling Green, KY

We enjoy the "Voice" and want to see its work continued. Enclosed is a check to help with your expenses.

Lloyd and Deva Steinshouer
Springfield, MO

Hell and Your Face

Charles H. Spurgeon was emphasizing to his class the importance of making the facial expression harmonize with the speech.

"When you speak of Heaven," he said, "let your face light up, let it be irradiated with a heavenly gleam, let your eyes shine with reflected glory. But when you speak of Hell – well, then your ordinary face will do."

Tithing Surprises

The Christian who tithes will be surprised:

- (1) At the amount of money he has for the Lord's work;
- (2) At the deepening of his spiritual life in paying the tithe;
- (3) At the ease in meeting his own obligation with the nine-tenths;
- (4) At the ease in going from one-tenth to a larger percentage;
- (5) At the preparation this gives to be a faithful and wise steward over the nine-tenths remaining.
- (6) At himself for not adopting the plan sooner!

How Each Apostle Died

All of the apostles were insulted by the enemies of their Master. They were called to seal their doctrines with their blood and nobly did they bear the trial.

Matthew suffered martyrdom by being slain with a sword at a distant city of Ethiopia.

Mark expired at Alexandria, after being cruelly dragged through the streets of that city.

Luke was hanged upon an olive tree in the classic land of Greece.

John was put in a caldron of boiling oil, but escaped death in a miraculous manner, and was afterward banished to Patmos.

Peter was crucified at Rome with his head downward.

James the Greater, was beheaded at Jerusalem.

James, the Less, was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club.

Bartholomew was flayed alive.

Andrew was bound to a cross, whence he preached to his persecutors until he died.

Thomas was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel in the East Indies.

Jude was shot to death with arrows.

Matthias was first stoned and then beheaded.

Barnabas of the Gentiles was stoned to death at Salonica.

Paul, after various tortures and persecutions, was at length beheaded at Rome by the Emperor Nero.

Such was the fate of the apostles, according to traditional statements.

CHRISTIAN INDEX

Diminishing Age of Salvation

Nineteen out of every twenty who become Christians do so before they reach the age of twenty-five.

After twenty-five, only one in 10,000
After thirty-five, only one in 50,000
After forty-five, only one in 200,000
After fifty-five, only one in 300,000
After sixty-five, only one in 500,000
After seventy-five, only one in 700,000

Hymns and Heart

We sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and are content with 5-10 minutes a day.

We Sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and wait to be drafted into His service.

We sing "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and don't use the one we have.

We sing "There Shall be Showers of Blessing" but do not come when it rains.

We sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and let the least little offense sever it.

We sing "Serve the Lord With Gladness" and gripe about all we have to do.

We sing "I Love to Tell the Story" and never mention it at all.

We sing "We're Marching to Zion" but fail to march to worship or church school.

"When I Preach"

by Rick Jones
Paragould, AR

Help me O' Lord When I Preach
To take off the shoes from my feet.
Help me not at your word to stumble,
Rather make my heart ever so humble.
O' Lord, my God, please be my guide,
Let thy Holy Spirit on me abide.
When I stand upon your Holy ground
Let the gospel in Power so abound.
Help me declare in each Holy place
Salvation not of works but by grace.
Help me to stand on my own two-feet,
Let not O' Satan sift me as wheat.
Help me always to feel unworthy,
Not puffed up by my own glory.
Help me not to boast on What I've done,
Rather declare! Where my help cometh from.
So help me O' Lord I now humbly repeat;
When I stand before thy mercy seat,
To take off the shoes from my feet
and,
"Help me O' Lord When I Preach."