

# 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

VOL. 9

HUNTINGDON, TN

FEBRUARY, 1988

NO. 7

## MINISTERING KEPT EFFECTIVE!

by Kenneth W. Massey

Though our ministries may vary there are some mutual guidelines for us all. I'd like to suggest a few ways we may keep our ministering the most effective.

**1. RECOGNIZE CHANGES**—Some of these will be good; some will be bad. We need to retain the good and discard the bad. When I first started doing church bulletins, I had an old Rex Rotary ink duplicator and a manual typewriter. Today, I have a word processor and a 20 copies a minute Canon copier. I spend only a fraction of the time I once spent in preparing church bulletins.

Pastors many years ago would spend thirty minutes talking before preaching an hour. Today, if we expect them to come again, we'd better get up, speak up, and know when to shut up. It takes twice as long to deliver a half prepared message. I know by experience!

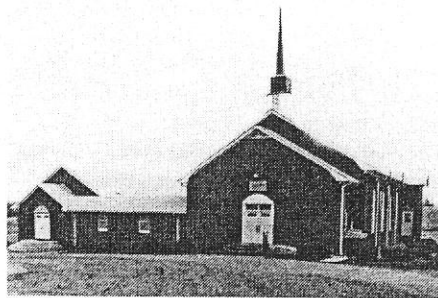
**2. MAKE ROOM FOR NEW HELPERS**—Did you ever see a person in the church who was afraid someone else might get his job? This kind of an attitude prevents training and encouraging new or young members. I'm so happy the older pastors made room for me, and helped me in every way I would let them.

**3. SIMPLIFY**—Maybe "organize" would be a better word here. Keep things in a precise manner. The Bible teaches us that the Devil is the author of all confusion.

**4. SLOW DOWN or SPEED UP**—While some may be serving so hurriedly they are neglecting their own families, others are serving so slowly they are neglecting God's work. Pace yourselves so you may run with patience the race set before us.



## OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTER'S SCHOOL



March 23-25, 1988

All ministers are urged to attend the annual seminar hosted by Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

An outstanding slate of speakers and subjects have been arranged for this session. A large attendance is expected, so write today and make your reservation for this most memorable time of instruction:

Write to: Old Union Baptist Church  
Old Union Church Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

ATTEND  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
AND  
WORSHIP SERVICES



## INVISIBLE AND TRUE CHURCH IDEAS COMPARED

by W. T. Russell  
Goodlettsville, TN

It is absolutely certain that Christ now has a visible kingdom in the world; and if there is an invisible kingdom that has existed in the hearts of people now dead and still exists in the hearts of people now living, which is to be set up a visible one in what is termed a millennial age, it follows that God will destroy the present kingdom to make room for the new kingdom, otherwise he will have two kingdoms at the same time. But Christ will not have two kingdoms, neither will he destroy the present kingdom which has been bought with his own blood; therefore the stone kingdom is the present visible kingdom of Jesus Christ carrying out the commission of Jesus Christ to earth's remotest bounds.

This is in keeping with the increase of the stone; it was small at first, cut out of the mountain without hands. It was not a great mountain (kingdom) at first, but it finally became a great mountain (kingdom) and filled the whole earth. If the new theory be correct that the stone kingdom is to be organized or set up of the resurrected dead, of all the redeemed righteous, then it would be a great mountain (kingdom) to begin with—don't you agree? If you agree, then you must admit that this is not in harmony with the idea of the stone becoming a great mountain. This gradual increase of the stone is in perfect harmony with the increase of the mustard-seed kingdom.

The present kingdom is known to be the bride, though her fidelity has been tried in the fires of persecutions; but when Christ the bridegroom shall come, this same bride the Lambs wife will be taken to himself from among all the saved of earth and exalted to

Continued on Pg. 2

## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P.O. BOX 572

HUNTINGDON, TN 38344

**KENNETH W. MASSEY, EDITOR**

### STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith, Nashville, TN

W. T. Russell, Goodlettsville, TN

Jerry A. Reynolds, Bowling Green, KY

POSTMASTER: Return all mail to VOICE OF BAPTISTS, P.O. Box 572, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

## INVISIBLE AND TRUE CHURCH (Cont. from Pg. 1)

the marriage supper to wear the crown with Christ the head. Christ will never forsake his bleeding, hated, and persecuted bride, and marry another. No.

Why have all kings and tyrants always regarded Baptists as enemies to their thrones, if there was no visible kingdom whose doctrines did not tend to the overthrow of their governments? And why have Baptists been hated of all nations, if there be no visible organization, the preaching of their principles being antagonistic to such nations? Every Baptist will admit that the universal prevalence of our principles would destroy all monarchy and tyranny. This work was not intended to be accomplished by carnal weapons. Just as far as despotism and tyranny have been unsettled or overthrown, just that far has the stone kingdom performed its work on the image. The preaching of "soul liberty" strikes at the very feet or foundation of all despotism. That is what brought her out of the wilderness of obscurity after the dark ages and gradually granted her liberty to spread the gospel through missions throughout the world.

### WHEN WAS THE KINGDOM SET UP?

I give you a quotation from D. B. Ray: "We answer, that the setting up of the kingdom, with its laws and ordinances, was not an instantaneous but a gradual work."

John the Baptist was sent before Christ "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17. John did not set up the kingdom; but he preached the gospel and prepared materials for the setting up of the kingdom. (John was visible and the materials prepared by him were visible.)

Jesus Christ was the God of heaven manifest in the flesh; and in fulfillment of the prediction of Daniel, he did set up the kingdom of heaven. He delegated this work to no man or group of men. He set up his own kingdom. Soon after his baptism in the Jordan

river, the Saviour chose the first members of the organization called Church or kingdom of God. Soon after this seventy others were chosen as his disciples, and in Luke 12:32 the Saviour said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

It must be remembered that the 12 who were chosen from the company of the disciples and ordained apostles as recorded in Luke 6, were first chosen disciples and were later placed in the office of Apostle. I concur that the 12 apostles were the first chosen members of the church, but they were members of the church together with others at the time they were chosen from the rest to the office of Apostle.

As Moses came down from the mount after he had fasted forty days, so Christ, after he had fasted forty days during his temptation in the wilderness by the devil, commenced to deliver the laws for his kingdom, for the government of spiritual Israel. The Saviour continued to deliver these laws to his called out company till the night he was betrayed. After the Supper was instituted, which was the last institution given, then he delivered the kingdom, as now a complete organization, to the disciples in the following words: "And I appoint unto you a kingdom as my Father hath appointed unto me, that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." Now, soon after, in the dedication prayer, he said: "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." John 17:4.

I want to emphasize here that the called out company was visible, the bread and wine of the Supper was visible, the Head and founder of the kingdom, Jesus Christ, was visible, which is so plain a fact that to deny that the kingdom was a visible organization, to me is the very essence of stupidity. Let us go further: It had a visible king in the person of the Messiah, visible subjects, visible laws, visible ordinances. The essential elements of the kingdom so existing, to talk of it being invisible is sheer nonsense. The Saviour confessed before Pilate that he was king, and had a kingdom before his death. "Pilate, therefore, said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." Yes, Jesus bore witness to the truth that he was a king in that gloomy hour of trial, though this confession cost him his life. Will anyone presume to say that Jesus assumed the title of king before he was king in truth? He also claims a kingdom at this same time; for he says, "My kingdom is not of this world." In this he certainly did not leave the impression that his kingdom was invisible, but simply that it was not of the world, even though it was in the world.

The Jewish temple was a type of the church

or kingdom of Christ. The temple was not reared in one day or night; the work progressed gradually. First, the materials were prepared and collected on the ground; and then the temple was reared and completely arranged for the service of God before it was dedicated, or set apart to the service of God by prayer and the shedding of blood. And in like manner the materials for the kingdom were first prepared by John; and Christ received his work, and in person set up the kingdom, completed the organization, before he dedicated it to its glorious work by prayer and the shedding of his own blood.

In the erection of the Jewish temple, the stones from the quarry must have been visible material for each stone was hewn to exact dimension so as to fit perfectly in the foundation structure of the building. The timber from the forest of Lebanon was cut down, trimmed and hewn, and cut to exact proportion before it was delivered to the place of erection, so that there was no need of the use of an axe or hammer or any instrument in putting it together. All materials were visible on the site, and the temple was a visible building when erected, as everyone must admit. It was completely erected before the blood was shed for its dedication, and the prayer of Solomon at its dedication. Not only so, but it was not until its complete erection that the cloud filled the temple. Likewise, the church was completely set up when Jesus shed his blood on the cross of Calvary. It was, in all respects, the visible kingdom of God when the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, which was the anointing of the most holy place.

### CAN ANYTHING ORGANIC BE INVISIBLE?

The kingdom of God is either organic or inorganic. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines "Organic" as, "likened to an organism in organization and development." What is an organism? Definition: "Any living individual, plant, animal, etc. These are all individualistic, fixed, organized and local, developed and visible.

Paul in Romans 12:4,5, likens the church to a living human body (organism), "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Therefore, just as the human body is visible and organic, so is the church. We, therefore, conclude that if the church were invisible, it would of necessity possess neither organic life nor the products of organic life. It would be artificial, lacking system or structure.

If the church was an invisible something, it would of necessity be inorganic and lack the ability of movement in operation; therefore, incapable of development in growth

which could result in no other way than through carrying out the commission of carrying the gospel to the nations of the world according to the authority of Christ.

Jesus said of the church, "Ye are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." How can anything that cannot be hid become invisible?

Jesus gave the rules of discipline to his visible church. Just for simple example let us consider this one. "If thy brother have ought against thee, go and tell him of his fault; if he hears you, you have gained your brother. If he will not hear you, take with you one or two more that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he will not hear them, take it to the church." If the theory of Christ's kingdom being invisible be true, just how could this rule of discipline be carried out?

Paul in Hebrews 10:24,25, said, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good words: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." How could an invisible church assemble? How could provocation to brotherly love be accomplished in an invisible church?

Now, if the local church is a visible institution and the local institutions make up the kingdom of God, how could the kingdom of God be invisible?

**THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA**

A man would have to be blind and lack any sense of direction or location not to be able to see that the churches Christ directed John to write to were local, and each church was independent of the other. Not only so, but no two of these churches had the same problems altogether, which proves that each several church was responsible to God as a unit or institution. Simply speaking, the church at Ephesus could not answer for the church at Sardis, neither was she responsible for the errors of Sardis but only for herself.

More than the above, how could a letter be sent to an invisible something? How could a letter be recieved and the contents examined by an invisible pastor. And where can we find seven invisible churches with seven invisible pastors, with seven groups of invisible members. Even the angels that John saw which represented the pastors of the seven churches, I am sure appeared in some form visible to John.

Even at the presentation of the bride (Christ's kingdom) each church will have to answer for herself to the bridegroom before the marriage. All scripture dealing with this subject bears this out. Paul in 2 Cor. 11:2 said, "I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused (engaged) you to one husband, that I may present you as a

caste virgin to Christ." If the church at Corinth (a local body) is to be presented to Him individually, and when each one has been measured by the standard of the principles of the doctrine of Christ, those that are worthy within these churches will make up the general assembly—the Kingdom of Jesus Christ—and he will be married to her. Even then, she will be visible as Jesus was visible on earth.

Let us not become confused between the family of God and the Church as an institution. All the regenerated and born-again have their names recorded on the Lamb's book of life, but only such as follow their Master in that which he has commanded belong to the Lord's church and have the chance to be in the bride. I am persuaded that not all who have been saved and even scripturally baptized and have eaten at the Lord's table will be in the Bride, but this is another subject.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

This publication is published by donations received from churches and individuals. We will hereby acknowledge the latest donations:

- Lyons M.B.C. .... Louisville, KY
- Freedom M.B.C. .... Speedway, IN
- Victory M.B.C. .... Hendersonville, TN
- Friendship M.B.C. .... Columbus, IN
- Crossroads M.B.C. .... Camden, TN
- Mt. Calvary M.B.C. .... Nashville, TN
- Old-Time M.B.C. .... Elizabeth, WV
- Calvary M.B.C. .... Bolivar, MO
- Bethel M.B.C. .... Albany, OR
- Faith M.B.C. .... Roseville, MI
- Elder & Mrs. Jerry Crain .. Lebanon, MO

Thank you for your love offerings to advance the Cause of Christ through this means.

**EDITORIAL  
"GO FORWARD"**

Has your church moved forward at the same pace as your home and your community? Do you offer your children a college education if they wish to go? Are you looking forward to retirement and a nice pension? Is this the "good old days" or have they passed long ago? Can we conscientiously criticize progress and heresy simultaneously?

At the Red Sea, Moses said to the children of Israel, "go forward!" Jesus gave the church a great commission and the first word of it is, "Go." It takes cooperation at any level of work to accomplish results for God. A divided church will not be able to have a spirit for worship much less an influence over the unsaved and unchurched. I know of a certain church with good attendance that only has preaching two Sundays a month. Is that going forward? The pastor is willing to preach every Sunday. Many members want preaching every Sunday. Why do we often times allow the minority to dominate the course? We shouldn't. God isn't pleased with it. Anyone that will hinder a man from preaching on the Lord's Day needs to get his heart right.

Do our children need more education than we offer our ministers? What college would you recommend for a young preacher who wants to do God's work? Someone says, "if God called him, God will give him something to preach." Bro. F. L. Ray would reply to that with this, "God will fill his mouth full of hot air if he fails to study." I say Amen.

About two thousand years ago the Apostle Paul held what we would call a junior college session (two years). Notice - "But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 19:9, 10)

People, we need a college for the called to learn and make a life-long commitment to the vineyard of the Lord. Men could be taught and trained for whatever God has chosen for their lives, be it missionary, pastor, teacher, etc. If we can be successful cooperating together to sponsor an Orphans Home, then we could cooperate together for the establishing and maintaining of an educational facility. I know of Baptists who would be glad to make such facility the beneficiary of their wills. We must start to go forward! "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16.

*Jesus Christ Saves Sinners!*

# BIBLE STUDY

## WEST END MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MAIN STREET  
GALLATIN, TENNESSEE  
BEGINNING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - 7 P.M.

EACH TUESDAY & THURSDAY NIGHT

THE BOOK OF  
REVELATION

TEACHER — ELD. W. T. RUSSELL

*EVERYONE WELCOME*