

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

## HUNDREDS OF MILES OFF COURSE BECAUSE OF A TINY ERROR

Leon C. Burns

In every great restoration movement, whether it be religious or otherwise, there is always the danger that some will deviate from those principles that gave it its birth. This was true in the movement to restore New Testament Christianity in our country. This great movement had not been long under way until some men lost sight of the fundamental principles of the restoration, and were injecting into their teaching the opinions and doctrines of men. In this manner mechanical instruments of music and missionary societies were brought into the church. To some, these things seemed harmless enough at first, but they were steps in the wrong direction, and those who followed them, were led back into the realms of denominationalism. As we strive to keep alive the restoration movement, the extent to which our digressive friends have gone should be a constant reminder that any deviation from New Testament teaching, however slight it may seem, is a dangerous thing.

You will recall that during the last war, Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were forced to crash-land their plane in the sea, and drifted for many days upon the bosom of the deep. As Mr. Rickenbacker and his companions were taking off on their flight, a tire blew out, causing their plane to careen and crash into a plane standing close by. They were forced to transfer to another plane to continue their flight. In the crash, the navigator's instruments had been thrown against the side of the plane. The navigator checked these instruments carefully, and believing them to be undamaged, carried them with him into the other plane. By these instruments they set their course, and all seemed well until they reached the point where they should be sighting their destination. When they were

unable to do this, they sent out a radio message only to learn that they were hundreds of miles off their course. They had no choice but to land in the sea and trust that they would be rescued. These men were all experienced fliers and navigators, but they were completely lost. They had set their course by an instrument that was inaccurate. So small was this inaccuracy that it could not be detected by an experienced eye, but the farther they went into the distance, the farther they were from the course they thought they were following.

This story of Mr. Rickenbacker's experience is a good illustration of the dangers of digression that are ever present with us. The slightest deviation from God's simple truth, however unimportant it may seem at the time, will lead us farther from our course the farther we go into the future (James D. Bales, Editor, *The Harding College Lectures, 1950: Restoration of the New Testament Church—A Present Need*, Leon C. Burns, "Digression Within the Restoration," [Harding College Press, Searcy, AR, 1951] pp.168, 169).

*[Regarding the source of the fire for the incense offering, we are sure Nadab and Abihu thought it was an insignificant thing. Also, it must have seemed a small matter (possibly from man's perspective a commendable act) for Uzzah to take hold of the ark of God when the oxen pulling the cart stumbled. But in both instances God killed all three men for their conduct (Lev. 10:1-3; 1 Chron. 13:3-12; 15:2, 13-15). Paul said that such accounts were written for our learning (Rom. 15:4). That being the case, will we heed Paul or follow the direction of MSOP, GBN, OABS, AP, SWSBS, TGJ, et al., in dealing with the sins of Dave Miller, Stan Crowley and their friends?—Editor].*

### IN THIS ISSUE...

HUNDREDS OF MILES OFF COURSE: LEON C. BURNS.....	1
EDITORIAL—BUILDING WHILE BATTLING: DPB.....	2
TRUTH BIBLE INSTITUTE.....	7

GBN—A FOLLOW UP: KEN CHUMBLEY.....	11
MOUNTAIN CITY'S '07 UNITY FORUM: DARREL BROKING.....	14
2008 SPRING CFTF LECS.: UNITY—FROM GOD OR MAN.....	15
CHURCH DIRECTORY.....	16

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

David P. Brown, Editor and Publisher  
jbrow@charter.net

COMMUNICATIONS received by *CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH* and/or its Editors are viewed as intended FOR PUBLICATION unless otherwise stated. Whereas we respect confidential information, so described, everything else sent to us we feel free to publish without further permission being necessary. Anything sent to us NOT for publication, please indicate this clearly when you write. Please address such letters directly to the Editor-in-Chief David P. Brown, P.O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383. Telephone: (281) 350-5516.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS RATES

Single Subscriptions: One Year, \$14.00; Two Years, \$24.00. Club Rate: Three One-Year Subscriptions, \$36; Five One-Year Subscriptions, \$58.00. Whole Congregation Rate: Any congregation entering each family of its entire membership with single copies being mailed directly to each home receives a \$3.00 discount off the Single Subscription Rate, i.e., such whole congregation subscriptions are payable in advance at the rate of \$11.00 per year per family address. Foreign Rate: One Year, \$30.

## ADVERTISING POLICY & RATES

*CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH* was begun and continues to exist to defend the gospel (Philippians 1:7,17) and refute error (Jude 3). Therefore, we are interested in advertising only those things that are in harmony with what the Bible authorizes (Colossians 3:17). We will not knowingly advertise anything to the contrary. Hence, we reserve the right to refuse any offer to advertise in this paper.

All setups and layouts of advertisements will be done by *CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH*. A one-time setup and layout fee for each advertisement will be charged if such setup or layout is needful. Setup and layout fees are in addition to the cost of the space purchased for advertisement. No major changes will be made without customer approval.

All advertisements must be in our hands no later than two (2) months preceding the publishing of the issue of the journal in which you desire your advertisement to appear. To avoid being charged for the following month, ads must be canceled by the first of the month. We appreciate your understanding of and cooperation with our advertising policy.

MAIL ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, P. O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383-2357. COST OF SPACE FOR ADS: Back page, \$300.00; full page, \$300.00; half page, \$175.00; quarter page, \$90.00; less than quarter page, \$18.00 per column-inch. CLASSIFIED ADS: \$2.00 per line per month. CHURCH DIRECTORY ADS: \$30.00 per line per year. SETUP AND LAYOUT FEES: Full page, \$50.00; half page, \$35.00; anything under a half page, \$20.00.

*CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH* is published monthly. P. O. Box 2357, Spring, Texas 77383-2357 Telephone: (281) 350-5516.

Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder  
August 3, 1917-October 10, 2001

## Editorial...

We are off and running in a new year—2008. We certainly wish for everyone a happy and prosperous new year, especially in spiritual matters. We continue to covet your prayers for our efforts on the pages of *CFTF* as well as our other work for the Lord. Let us take heart in our service to God. Let us be more determined than ever to stay the course in pleading and laboring for the cause of Christ.

Since our last issue of *CFTF* we have received communication from our readers in various forms. Yours words of encouragement and your willingness to financially support our efforts to seek and ask for the old paths of God's Will and Way are appreciated by us more than words can express. May God bless all of you in your faithful efforts to serve Him. You too are in our prayers as we labor together in the vineyard of the Lord.

The following material originally appeared in the 2007 Bellview Lectureship book, produced by the Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL, Michael Hatcher, director. We have edited it for printing in *CFTF*. We believe it to be fitting for our first editorial for 2008.—DPB

## BUILDING WHILE BATTLING

The inspired apostle Paul taught that the Old Testament Scriptures “were written ... for our learning” (Rom. 15:4). Thus, in thinking about the approach to take in studying this timely and important subject, my mind ran to Nehemiah 4:1-23. Herein one finds God's people doing the thing that is the subject of our study—“building while battling.” Therefore, we begin our study with what Nehemiah came to realize as he sought to build the walls of Jerusalem—*there can be no correct building for God without, at the same time, battling those who oppose God's building and His builders.*

Nehemiah was in the business of restoring Jerusalem for the purposes God intended for the city under the Law of Moses. In order for the Jews to be safe in their efforts to accomplish the restoration of all things according to the Law of Moses, the principle of “first things first” demanded that the Jews have the necessary protection from the evil influences and outright attacks of their enemies. But, the Jew's enemies recognized this fact as much as Nehemiah did. Therefore, they set about to stop the building of Jerusalem's wall.

Because the Jews faced a constant threat of, and actual, opposition to their work, they became profoundly weary and at times discouraged. However, because “**the people had a mind to work**” (*which attitude on their part also included a mind to fight*) according to God's Will, they completed the wall and were victorious over

their attackers (Neh. 4:6b; 9, 16-23).

Their mission was accomplished because Nehemiah and his countrymen realized that it was not a case of working **or** fighting; to the contrary, it was one of working **and** fighting. If Nehemiah and the people had not realized this fundamental principle of what is involved in getting the Lord's work done and acted accordingly, their efforts to restore all things according to the Law of Moses would have failed. *Thus, the time for building is also the time for battling.*

Today, Christians are working to build the walls of spiritual Zion—the church of Christ (Let us emphasize that we mean by the terms *Christian* and *church of Christ* what the Holy Spirit inspired writers of the New Testament meant when they employed such terms in their writing of the New Testament). This work pertains to the saving of those souls of mankind who are accountable to God for their actions (Rom. 14:11, 12). Such persons are separated from God by their sins, cannot save themselves, and, therefore, must be saved by someone else (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Isa. 59:1, 2; Ezk. 18:4b; Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 2:2). That Savior is none other than Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the only begotten Son of God (John 1:1-14; Col. 1:14-22; John 3:16; 8:24; 12:48; 14:6; Matt. 28:18, 19). Further, it is the case that Jesus saves the lost *only* through His Gospel as men believe it and obey the terms of pardon set out only therein (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9 1 Pet. 1:22; Heb. 5:8, 9; John 14:15; Luke 8:11 James 1:18; Rom. 10:17; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:41, 42, 47). Thus, we are to be always busy preaching the Gospel to the alien sinner (those who remain alienated from God because of their sins against Him—Rom. 3:23; 6:23), edifying (spiritually build up) the church by teaching the Truth of the Gospel pertaining to the church's work, organization, worship, Christian conduct, and the final eternal reward in Heaven for the faithful members of the same (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 5:19-26; 6:1, 2, 7-9, 10; James 1:27; Rev. 2:10; 2 Thess. 3:13). To think that we can be busy builders, building according to the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17), and not have opposition and persecution from Satan's crowd in and out of the church, is to live a pipe dream, deny reality and ignore the teaching of the Scriptures pertaining to the same (2 Tim. 3:12).

### **IF YOU ARE GOD'S BUILDER, TROUBLE KNOWS WHERE TO FIND YOU**

It should be obvious from only a cursory reading of the New Testament books of the Gospel that as Jesus went about doing good (building) he was embroiled in various battles with His own people (Acts 10:38; John 8:12ff). In

fact, part of the good our Lord did was done through His spiritual battles caused when He confronted, exposed, rebuked and refuted those who were steeped in error. To His disciples in general and His apostles in particular, Jesus plainly forewarned them of the persecution that would be their common lot as they went about preaching the Gospel, defending the New Testament system, and living Godly lives (Matt. 5:10-12; John 13:36).

For some strange reason, many in the Lord's church have bought into the false idea that if we can somehow learn to do good in the correct way, there will be no opposition, hence no controversy, and, thus, no persecution. In view of all that is in the Bible that contradicts such an absurd concept, why many church members have been duped by it is beyond me. However, the fact that certain church members have been deceived into believing such a ludicrous and false doctrine is further proof that if the Bible boldly teaches one thing, certain people are bound and determined to run contrary to it.

For emphasis we note again that Paul wrote to Timothy concerning the certain persecution that would accompany their good works when he penned, **"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"** (2 Tim 3:12). If no other Bible references existed but the previously quoted one regarding Christians suffering for their faithful service to God, Paul's statement to Timothy would suffice to clearly show us that if one works for the Lord one must expect some kind of persecution from God's enemies.

However, to Timothy he also wrote, **"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"** (2 Tim. 2: 3, 4). Paul saw Timothy for what a faithful preacher of the Gospel actually is—a soldier in the army of the Lord. But, he saw nothing in Timothy that he had not first observed in himself. In coming to the end of his life, he wrote to Timothy declaring, **"I have fought a good fight,..."** (2 Tim. 4:7). Paul understood the same thing as did the apostle Peter when he wrote regarding the devil's disposition toward Christians as they go about building for the Lord. Peter declared: **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"** (1 Peter 5:8). We too must understand what Paul and Peter did in carrying out their faithful service to the Lord, specifically, that *as builders for the Lord, we are actually inviting the devil's agents out for a fight.* May we correctly conclude then, that the greater the worker (builder) one is for the Lord, the greater attention Satan is going to give to such a person? That being certain, the words of Paul to Timothy previously quoted, along with passages of

like sentiment, further show the importance of Christians learning the following fact—that *in order to build as God directs such building, one must be prepared to do battle with Satan's troops.*

### THE APOSTLE PAUL, ONE WHO BUILT WHILE BATTLING

To more fully emphasize the importance of our topic we want to examine the attitude and life of the apostle Paul. Among mortals there has not arisen a greater servant or builder of God than was Paul. However, in reading the New Testament about Paul's work in building for the Lord, we quickly see that the apostle to the Gentiles was a battling builder. For his tremendous sacrificial service to his Lord, Paul received horrendous persecution from the enemies of Christ from alien sinners and false brethren alike. However, no matter the person who persecuted Paul, he declared to the Philippians that he was, **"...set for the defence of the gospel"** (1:17b). As if to emphasize the preceding point, the apostle to the Gentiles also wrote, **"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries"** (1 Cor. 16:9). With the many opportunities Paul had to build up the kingdom, he recognized that with those opportunities came the Lord's adversaries—in the case of the **"great door and effectual"** he mentioned in the previous verse, there were **"many adversaries."**

*I truly believe Paul never met an adversary he did not like.* Here is what I mean by the previous sentence. Paul looked upon opposition by the Lord's adversaries as a great expeditious instrument whereby he was afforded the opportunity to proclaim and defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Notice Paul's attitude and conduct in the book of Acts when he was given the opportunity to defend himself before the mob, the Jewish council, Felix, Festus, and Agrippa (Acts 21:37—26:25). Moreover, we have no reason to believe when Paul stood before Caesar to give an account of himself that he changed his message from what it was when he stood before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa.

One of the things we learn from God's faithful first century servants is the fact that God providentially used adversaries to spread the Gospel. In view of the previous statement, notice what Jesus told Paul, **"Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome"** (Acts 23:11). If we do the good works necessary for building up the church, building that was characteristic of the faithful members of the Lord's church of the first century, the devil will see to it that we will be confronted by his henchmen. When this confrontation happens, for the faithful, this means only one thing—the battle is on and there is no retreat to be sounded by the faithful soldier of the Lord. The church of the first century un-

derstood the preceding point—in order to build where error is ruling, error must be attacked and destroyed before Truth may reign in error's stead. Since it is so clearly taught in God's Word, why is it that many Christians today (if not most—many of them preachers and elders) do not see this important aspect of faithful service to God? Could one of the principle reasons for such blindness on the part of brethren be for the same reason that denominationalists (though they possess the same Bible as Christians do) reject the Bible's teaching concerning the plan of salvation, especially its teaching about baptism and the Lord's church? Among the denominationalists their principle reason for rejecting the Bible's teaching on baptism, the church, et al., is simply this—their *preconceived notions about salvation will not allow them to accept all of what the Bible teaches on such subjects.* We believe we are on the right track when we conclude that many members of the Lord's church reject the Bible's teaching concerning **"all who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"** for the same reason that denominationalists reject Bible's teaching on baptism and the church—it *does not fit in with their concept of what is involved in preaching the Gospel and living the Christian life.*

### THE SUCCESS OF THE MILITANT CHURCH OF THE FIRST CENTURY

Of the early church's growth Luke recorded, **"But the word of God grew and multiplied"** (Acts 12:24). This is inspiration's way of declaring that the faithful brethren were busy building for the Lord—as the church taught the Scriptures and the people believed and obeyed them, the Word of God through their belief in and obedience to it radically changed their lives. This is the result of the early church taking Jesus seriously concerning His commission to them to teach the Gospel to others (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:12). They preached the Gospel to the alien sinner, edified the saints with the Truth, and in their benevolent activities built up the church as they kept their lives holy. They were truly practicing **"pure and undefiled religion"** (James 1:27; Gal. 6:10).

*We must take space to emphasize that those first century Christians discharged their obligations to God without a single tool that many in the church today claim we must possess in order to be successful in building for the Lord today.* Let us note some of the "tools" that many church members today think are imperative for us to have if the church is to grow, which tools the early church did not have?

1. A preacher who is a great speaker, a people-Mixer, a glad-hander, possessing a formal education with a desire for big everything and hopefully

capable getting as much money out of the brethren as possible;

2. A beautiful building in a fine location in the right area of the community—with lots of money in the church treasury to pay for “the church plant/campus;”

3. The community’s acceptance of the church, especially those who are socially and culturally influential, possessing large bank accounts and drawing large salaries;

4. Successful businessmen or their equivalents in the leadership of the church who are generous with their money;

5. Freedom of religion and good economic conditions;

6. A wealthy nation at peace;

7. Good weather at the right time of the year and plenty of money to spend on various functions, most of them designed to appease biblically ignorant and materially spoiled church members, etc;

8. “Good prospects” for conversion with well-heeled bank accounts;

9. Everything pertaining to the work of the church offered in a convenient season for the members who have plenty of money to spend on food and frolic;

10. Spoiled and unruly young people who are rallied, entertained, encouraged to participate in such para-church organizations as “Lads to Leaders” while their mentally adolescent parents do as they please;

11. “Youth ministers” and a lot more money.

12. So-called “Christian education” that takes much money always from every direction for ever;

13. Brotherhood projects (radio, TV, etc.); With lots of money.

In the previous points there are things that within themselves are not wrong, such as spreading the Gospel through radio, etc., higher education conducted by the brethren, sacrificial giving on the part of the brethren, and the like. However, there are other matters within the preceding points that are wrong, such as the organization “Lads to Leaders”, continued support of the universities (as well as other institutions) operated by apostate brethren; the *attitude* that says we *must* have money, good weather, “good prospects,” formally educated preachers, successful businessmen in the eldership and everything convenient before the Lord’s work can be accomplished. We have put them together because this is the way such things exists in reality. Elderships rarely examine loosely, much less scrutinize, what is presented to them for support. They basically support things on the basis of (1) it has always been done; (2) a favorite

preacher or such like recommends it; or, (3) they simply like the sound of it. Further, they determine they will *not* support other things where the aforementioned points do not exist. Rarely do elders or church members examine anything as to whether they should or should not support it (financially or otherwise) on the basis of it being authorized by the Bible and that the brethren who are involved in the work are Godly in their conduct.

Some churches have developed the extreme attitude of the Federal Government—if there is a problem, the solution to it is simply more money. The other extreme thinking in such matters is that if there is a problem, we will quit financially supporting anything. Of course, both of these extremes are not supported by the teaching of the Bible.

In studying the New Testament, we see that the faithful members of the early church did not think that before the Lord’s work could be done the church coffers had to be running over and each Christian at least a part of the upper middle class of society. How many members of the Lord’s church today in the United States could truly say along with the apostle Peter, “**Silver and gold have I none**” (Acts 3:6), and not allow their lack of money to hinder or completely stop their part in the Lord’s work? On the other hand, there were those brethren who had wealth and God expected them to use it to the furtherance of the Gospel and in defense of the faith (2 Cor. 8:7ff; 9:6ff; James 2:1-9; 4:1-3, 13-17).

### WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH POSSESS THAT MADE THEM SUCCESSFUL IN THE LORD’S WORK?

Let us note some of the things the first century church had with which to accomplish the task of preaching the Gospel to every creature and edifying the church (Mark 16:15).

1. Most of the preachers were of a mediocre background academically and otherwise. By his enemies even the highly educated Paul’s speech was said to be contemptible (2 Cor. 10:10). Our requirements for formal education would rule out the fishermen apostles from Galilee.

2. The cause of our Lord prospered without any building owned by the church at all.

3. On various occasions first century Christians were run out of town rather than the community receiving them with open arms. In First Corinthians chapters one and three, we learn that they were considered as fools and offscouring of the earth for the cause of Christ.

4. The church was a “growing church,” doing its work under the harsh rule of the Roman Caesars. But, as the opposition mounted, the more the church grew. The first century church had everything but peace. Where do we find any first century Christian praying:

“We are thankful we are gathered here without fear of molestation?”

5. What about good weather and opportune times? These items seemed to be of no consequence to those faithful brethren of the first century (Acts 20:7; 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:31).

6. They had neither prospects nor conveniences as we have come to know and expect them. Their prospective members were such fellows as the Philippian jailor, Saul of Tarsus, the ruler of the synagogue, and the wicked Corinthians—persons that would not be considered to be “good prospects” for a Bible study or possible conversion by many modern day church members.

7. They had no baptistry, heated or otherwise, no air conditioning, no heat, no baptismal clothing, etc.

*No matter, the early church preached the Gospel to the whole world in their generation (Mark 16:15; Col. 1:4-6, 23).*

In order to be successful builders as the first century church was, we need to notice the marks of their attitude that is lacking today. Consider the following:

1. We must forget about being popular with all facets of society. Jesus said, **“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets”** (Luke 6:26).

2. We must realize there will come times when we must make a clear distinct choice for God and His system but against men—in and out of the church (Acts 5:29).

3. We must have fearless preachers of the Word of God; preachers who will sacrifice their lives to preach and defend the Gospel because they love God, the Gospel, the lost, and the church. And, yes, they are willing to do their work for God whether they are paid well or not. We need stalwart soldiers of the cross who are willing by faith to enter Lion’s den of Satan and beard him therein.

4. We do not need “good humor,” “hand-holding,” “baby-sitting” denominational pastors filling the pulpits of the church and conducting business as public relations men. Indeed, “as goes the pulpit so goes the church.” Elders are you listening?

We have developed and are cultivating a sectarian denominational clergy mentality and approach to the preacher’s work, rather than looking to the teaching and example of Christ, the Old Testament prophets, His apostles and the early evangelists to learn how to be effective preachers of the Gospel. If one desires to know how to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, look to the aforementioned persons to see how it is done—then do it with all your might.

Further, we need to look to those early 19th Century restorers of the ancient order of things; those great individualists of faith who trusted in God and not man;

then, later in the same century, those faithful brethren who by their strict adherence to the New Testament Pattern kept a remnant faithful, heading them off from the headlong rush of many brethren of that day into the apostasy that brought forth the Christian Church and the Disciples of Christ—we need to follow such brethren as they followed Christ. But sadly and to the church’s great hurt, these great brethren are not used as examples of how to do the work of faithful evangelists. If anything they are repudiated and held up by this generation as the prime reason for the division in the church of yesteryear. None of the universities can really be fully trusted to take young people fresh out of high school and further their education in the ancient New Testament order of things. A few of them are possibly better than others of them, but none of them are where Freed-Hardeman College was in doctrinal teaching and Godly conduct in the days of the late N. B. Hardeman’s presidency. These institutions of higher learning are all too often tools of Satan and enemies of the cross of Christ. And, in view of recent happenings in the church certain preacher training schools are toddling along in their more refined academic elder sisters’ footsteps.

Why would any New Testament Christian desire to eat the same old warmed over denominational soup that is offered in the spiritual cafeterias of the institutions of higher education operated by the brethren? The answer to the preceding question is understood when we realize why Israel of old wanted a king—*it was more important to them to be like the people round about them than to be as God demands for His people to be.*

5. If the church is to remain faithful, there must be in every child of God a great dependence on God. So much so that we will be a praying people as the first century brethren were admonished to **“Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”** (1 Thess. 5:17).

6. Further, we are not developing spiritually because many of us lack faith, vision and optimism in the Lord’s work. How many of us are examining the area where we live with the desire and intent to expand the influence of the Gospel in the lives of our neighbors? We have all manner of options to use in discharging our obligations to teach the Truth to the world—radio, TV, the Internet, CD’s, home Bible studies, newspapers, Bible correspondence courses, Gospel meetings, VBS, lectureships, printed matter, etc. Why are such aids not being used effectively by each congregation of God’s people according to their several abilities?

In view of what the First Century church did without all that we think we must have today to accomplish the work of the Lord, what would the First Century church

(Continued on Page Eight)

# TRUTH BIBLE INSTITUTE...

is an educational institution without walls helping others to learn to teach God's Word (2 Timothy 2:2). All courses are taught over the internet through MP3 recordings. Study the Bible and Bible related subjects at your own pace under a qualified and experienced faculty in the privacy of your own home. If you are prepared to work, is it not time that you studied with us?



**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2008 SPRING TRIMESTER IS CLOSED.**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY FOR THE 2008 SUMMER TRIMESTER. APPLICATION FORMS ARE LOCATED ON THE TBI WEB SITE.**

TBI's instructors are consistent and steadfast in affirming and proving that the Bible is God's sole and all-sufficient means of instructing people regarding the salvation of souls. Also, much emphasis is placed on the fact that the Bible is the absolute, complete, infallible, objective and final standard by which God expects all men to learn of Him and their duty to Him in this present world (Titus 2:11,12; Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:6-9; James 1:25; 2 Peter 1:3, 4). Further, all aspects of TBI uphold the Bible to be the standard whereby God will judge the world at the end of time (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2:15; John 8: 31, 32, 17:17; Luke 8:11; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; John 12:48; Acts 17:31; Romans 14:10b, 11, 12; Revelation 20:11, 15).

## TBI'S FAITHFUL, QUALIFIED AND DEDICATED FACULTY

<b>Darrel Broking</b>	<b>Kenneth D. Cohn</b>	<b>Dennis "Skip" Francis</b>	<b>Lester Kamp</b>	<b>Lynn Parker</b>
<b>David P. Brown</b>	<b>Daniel Denham</b>	<b>Michael Hatcher</b>	<b>Andy McClish</b>	<b>Gary Summers</b>
<b>Ken Chumbley</b>	<b>Danny Douglas</b>	<b>Terry M. Hightower</b>	<b>Dub McClish</b>	<b>Paul Vaughn</b>
<b>John West</b>				

Prepared by education and experience as faithful teachers of the Word of God, our faculty members lean neither to the right nor left of Bible authority in general and New Testament authority in particular (Colossians 3:17). To the contrary, they seek to remain on the "mountain top of Truth." The faculty is determined to avoid all things not authorized by God's Word, as well as what the Bible condemns. Being faithful Christians, our teachers are duty bound to expose all error and uphold all truth regarding moral and spiritual values as they teach the text of the Bible (Deuteronomy 4:2; 5:32; 12:32; Galatians 1:8-9). *Liberalism* (loosing what God in His Word has bound upon us) and *anti-ism* (binding on man certain rules where God has loosed us from them) are earnestly opposed (Proverbs 17:15; Jude 3). In TBI God is exalted, Christ magnified and the Word that has been revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit is diligently studied.

**THE WORK OF TBI IS NOT TO CREATE AND CULTIVATE A BLIND LOYALTY TO THE SCHOOL OR ANY OTHER EXPEDIENT THAT SERVES AS AN AID TO PROPOGATE AND DEFEND THE GOSPEL. NEITHER DOES TBI ENCOURAGE ANYONE TO ACCEPT MEN'S PERSONS ABOVE THE TRUTH ON ANY SUBJECT. TO THE CONTRARY, TBI'S GOAL IS DIRECTED TOWARD TEACHING OUR STUDENTS AT ALL TIMES, SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES TO BE FAITHFUL AND LOYAL ONLY TO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD. THUS, THE DESIRED RESULTS OF OUR LABOR IN TBI IS TO PRODUCE GRADUATES WHO AT ALL COSTS WILL SEEK FOR AND ABIDE IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER REASON FOR SUCH A SCHOOL TO EXIST.**

## TBI ADMINISTRATION

**DARRELL BROKING**  
ACADEMIC DEAN

**DAVID P. BROWN**  
DIRECTOR

**JACK STEPHENS**  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO OUR WEB SITE OR WRITE US:**

**[www.truthbibleinstitute.org](http://www.truthbibleinstitute.org)**

**TRUTH BIBLE INSTITUTE ♦ P. O. BOX 39 ♦ SPRING, TEXAS 77383 ♦ PHONE: 281.350.5516**

(Continued From Page Six)

have accomplished in their efforts to spread the Gospel with these great modern tools? But the real question is what are we doing with such tools? We actually have these marvelous tools for our use in spreading the Gospel—tools of expediency (advantage) of which we doubt they could even dream.

But what did our brethren of 2000 years ago possess that many modern Christians sadly lack?

1. They possessed love of and faith in God and His Truth. They full well knew that their actions had to be authorized by the Lord and that obedience to His Will was the only true proof of their love for and faith in the Christ (John 14:15; Col. 3:17; Heb. 5:9).

2. Our brethren of old were convicted by the Truth of the Gospel, thus, they were converted and sanctified solely on the basis of the Word of Truth. Therefore, they possessed a fervent zeal to do their duty to God no matter the cost to themselves (John 8:31, 32; 17:17; Acts 2:37; Phil. 3:12-15).

3. Those ancient saints were thankful for their own salvation and they deeply loved lost souls and the church. So much did they love them that they gave their lives to reach them with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and to edify the saints (Acts 7:54-60; 8:4, 5; 20:17-35; 2 Cor. 4:15; Phil. 1:3; 4:1).

4. They also knew that they were pilgrims and strangers in this present world (Heb. 11:9, 10; James 4:14; 1 Peter 2:11). They, therefore, did not attempt to “put down roots” in the affairs of this present age. Many members of the church continue to suffer many disappointments because they continue to look for permanence in this ever changing and transitory world, that in time will cease to exist altogether (2 Peter 3:10-14).

Having noted the previous important points regarding the work of the church then and now, we do not desire to run to the extreme of causing anyone to think that money does not have its place in the building up of the church. The Bible has much to say regarding its correct use. However, the Lord’s church does not have to possess money or these other tools many people today think they must have before we can do what God requires of us in building and battling for Him. That is our point at this place in our study.

What is said of the Macedonian brethren regarding why they gave of their means as they did (though they had little when compared to the Corinthians) is another important point we desire to make and emphasize. Of the Macedonians’ reason for giving more than what Paul thought they could give, he wrote that they, “...**first gave their own selves to the Lord...**” (2 Cor. 8:5). Until every Christian realizes that the church is built up *only* when each member loves the souls of those lost in sin (as well as loving the brethren) to the point of desiring to teach

them the Gospel, we will never accomplish what the first century church did. The key ingredient for being faithful servants of Christ and thereby God’s battling builders is seen in Paul’s statement to the Corinthians when he wrote that Christians must “**abound in every good work**” (2 Cor. 9:8). When each Christian abounds in good works (as the Bible defines and uses “**every good work**”), the church will be “building as well as battling.”

It is sad but true when it comes to building for the Lord that some of us are convinced that the “cheapest way is the best way.” Because brethren love “their” money and material things, it does not take much to convince them that the cheapest way is the Lord’s way. *Thus, the amount of some brethren’s faith in God is directly proportionate to the amount of money in the church treasury.* Have we ever given any serious thought as to how the Lord at His coming is going to view church coffers full of money—money that is not out working to spread and defend the Gospel? *Remember, the one talent man was not condemned because he had only one talent, but because he did not use it properly* (Matt. 25:24-30).

### THE CHURCH MILITANT

The church is Christ’s army. Thus, Christ’s army faces a battle—a fight. Hence, Paul told Timothy to “**...endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus**” (2 Tim. 2:3; Also see Eph. 6:10-17). The church of Christ, therefore, must be a militant church. By the word militant we mean “engaged in warfare: Fighting. Aggressively active: combative; Syn. Aggressive.” Thus, as we turn to focus on this aspect of the church’s conduct,

## FREE CD AVAILABLE

*Contending for the Faith* is making available a CD-ROM free of charge. Why is this CD important? ANSWER: It contains an abundance of evidentiary information pertaining to Dave Miller’s doctrine and practice concerning the re-evaluation/reaffirmation of elders, MDR, and other relevant and important materials and documents directly or indirectly relating to the Brown Trail Church of Christ, Apologetics Press, Gospel Broadcasting Network, MSOP, and more.

To receive your free CD contact us at *Contending for the Faith*, P. O. Box 2357, Spring, TX 77383-2357, or email us at [cftfdpb@gmail.com](mailto:cftfdpb@gmail.com).

If you desire to have a part in the distribution of this important CD you may make your financial contributions to the Spring Church of Christ, P. O. Box 39, Spring, TX 77383.



we understand that the church is to oppose error and in doing so engage the enemy in spiritual warfare. We are to do this by aggressively obeying the Captain of our salvation in (1) preaching the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15, 16) and (2) not permitting the advocates of error free course in or out of the church (Acts 15:1, 2; Gal. 2:5).

Concerning religion, the first century populace was a society that was largely indifferent regarding religion. The church was declared by those who were opposed to it as having **“turned the world upside down”** and as **“every where ... spoken against”** (Acts 17:6). Nevertheless, as we earlier noted, the Lord’s church impacted that long ago world for good in a great way. In a very brief period, the first century church (as the Lord had commanded them to do, Mark 16:15) had discharged their obligation to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the world—**“to every creature which is under heaven”** (Col 1:23). How was the church able to do so much for the Lord in such a short period of time?

The church of the first century was unwilling for the one true and living God to be just another god among the gods (Eph. 4:4-6; Acts 17:22-29). They knew that preaching in kindness and love did not mean compromising the Truth to any degree or that such forbade them from frankly, candidly, pointedly, and where necessary, very bluntly telling people the truth about their false beliefs, erroneous conduct and their lost condition (Eph. 4:15). Further they understood that love is always subservient to authority and never rises above, alters in any way, or makes null and void God’s authority (Col. 3:17; John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-5; 5:2, 3). “Uncertain sounds” did not describe the preaching done by the apostles and evangelists (Notice the plainness of Paul in Eph. 4:4-6 and in Acts 17:24-31; Also see 2 Cor. 3:12).

Christ was not presented as a savior among many saviors. Paul declared but one Savior, Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:5). Notice how the church followed the apostles’ example in so doing, declaring that men could be saved only through Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 3:19-22; 4:12). Those Christians did not compromise the truth of John 8:24.

The world was **“turned upside down”** (their ungodly world was in actuality turned right-side up when people believed and obeyed the Gospel) because the church contended that the Gospel was the one and only message that could save man from sin and keep him saved (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4). No matter how small a thing it may have seemed to some, those faithful brethren did not allow any tampering with the Gospel message to go unchallenged, unrebuked, and uncondemned (Gal. 1:6-9; 2:4, 5, 11, 14).

They aggressively rejected and opposed the false idea

that “one faith is as good as another.” They preached that there is **“one faith”** (Eph. 4:6; Jude 3). Steadfastly and consistently, the first century brethren contended for the genuine source of faith (Rom. 10:17; John 8:31, 32; 17:17; Luke 8:11).

Though they were persecuted for boldly preaching the Gospel, as they fled from their persecutors they **“went every where preaching the Word”** (Acts 8:4). They attacked the Jewish authorities with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). They challenged any and all to refute their message. To the highly learned Greek Philosophers, they preached **“Christ the wisdom of God.”** Their soldier lives were not dear to them in the battles they fought for their King. They were willing to give themselves away because they had learned that to live for the Lord was to die to the world (2 Cor. 5:17-19; Rom. 6:3-5). They knew the Lord had taught, **“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it”** (Luke 9:23, 24).

Because of their love of and trust in God they kept the army of the Lord pure (Acts 5:1ff; Gal. 6:1; Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor. 5: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-13; 2 Thess. 3:6). The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride or vain glory of life was not permitted to abide in the soldiers of Christ’s first century army (1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:1-8).

Unlike today the people of the first century either

**DVD’S OF THE FIRST  
THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF CFTF  
ARE READY FOR YOU TO  
ORDER.**

**THE DVD SELLS FOR  
\$50.00 PLUS S&H.**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR DVD  
ORDER TO:**

**Contending <sup>FOR THE</sup> Faith™**

**P. O. Box 2357**

**SPRING, TEXAS 77383-2357**

loved or hated the church—there was “no in-between.” It was the subject of conversations, discussions and debates all over the world. We need to ask ourselves, “Have we restored the aggressive nature of the Lord’s church?” Are there efforts being put forth by weak and insipid brethren to thwart the restoration of spiritual aggressiveness in the Lord’s body? To ask these questions is to answer them—indeed there are such efforts being made. It is being done under the guise of Godliness, love, and kindness, that in reality, are false concepts of the same. Love declares the Truth of God’s Word in no uncertain terms. It also exposes false doctrine for what it is—soul damning error. It also marks the false teacher to be an enemy of God’s Truth and the church of Christ. The world must learn that not only does the Gospel of Christ differ from the doctrines of men, but that the difference in the Gospel and man’s doctrine is a heaven or hell difference for every responsible person living today.

For some ignorant but well-meaning brethren to object to the previous important points that are seriously lacking in today’s church by stating: “We must make a positive approach; we must not build up prejudice by preaching any negative matters,” we must militantly respond to their false views by directing them to our Lord and his apostles’ teaching and practice in preaching and defending the Gospel. Will our modern day “positive” and “balanced” preachers willingly ignore the candor and frankness of the Christ and his apostles in their proclamation and defense of God’s Word? With many of them the clear and concise answer is, “Yes, we will ignore such relevant Bible teaching.” It is one of the few things they are bold enough to emphatically and dogmatically declare. Obviously they are quite negative to some things, are they not?

There will be no building according to the Lord’s plan except there is the disposition of mind in every builder to battle as well as build. In fact, as we have studied, a significant and very important part of spiritual

building is spiritual battling. Thus in that which was written afore time for our learning (Rom. 15:4), we read about the Jews in Nehemiah’s day:

**And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me (Neh. 4:16-18).**

In closing this brief study of “Building While Battling” remember the good and faithful words of Caleb of old when, concerning entering the land of Canaan, he declared: **“Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are able to overcome it”** (Num. 13:30). Our Lord has not commanded us to do that which we are unable to do. When our mind-set is the same as Nehemiah and his building, battling Jews, today’s church will get the attention that will set it apart from all other religions—of course the persecution from many adversaries will follow, but with each adversary will come a new opportunity to spread the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Men will then understand that we are serious about doing the Lord’s Will. But until then we are merely playing “at church.” And, in the eyes of the Lord such “play” will not bode well for us.

—David P. Brown, Editor



## Past Contending for the Faith

### Spring Lectureship Books In Print

2006 *Anti-ism-From God or Man?* – \$17.00 ♦ 2005 *Morals-From God or Man?* – \$17.00  
 2004 *Judaism-From God or Man?* – \$17.00 ♦ 2002 *Jehovah’s Witnesses* – \$16.00 ♦ 2000  
*Catholicism* – \$16.00 ♦ 1998 *Premillennialism* – \$14.00 ♦ 1996 *Isa. Vol. 2* Chap. 40-66 – \$12.00  
 1995 *Isa. Vol. 1* Chapters 1-39 – \$12.00 ♦ 1994 *The Church Enters the 21st Century* – \$12.00

**Add \$3.00 per book S&H TX residents add 7.25% tax**

SEND ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT TO:

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

**P.O. BOX 2357**

**SPRING, TEXAS 77383-2357**

# GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK & “GOOD STEWARDSHIP”—A Follow-Up

Ken Chumbley

When my previous article was prepared at the beginning of November, the website for the Gospel Broadcasting Network only had newsletters for January and February posted to the website. After that article appeared, I checked the website again and found that newsletters had now been posted through November. These newsletters raise more questions about the matter of stewardship, as referenced in my previous article. Thus, I will address these concerns in this follow up article.

In the March 2007 issue of the Newsletter, it is announced: “Gospel Broadcasting Network has signed an agreement with Charter Media to air two hours of GBN programming on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, in the following areas;” It goes on to list several communities, mostly in Tennessee with a few in Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia (the most notable in Georgia being Dalton). Additionally, they state: “Up to eight hours of GBN programming will be available “on-demand” in the areas listed and in Birmingham and Decatur, Alabama.” From this they intimate that there would be a “TOTAL OF APPROX. 297,530 NEW HOMES.” The article continues: “Those who are Charter subscribers in these areas will see 30-second GBN promotional spots on Charter affiliate networks and MainStreet Channels. These “promos” are intended to direct viewers to GBN programming on Charter and to the GBN website, where the network broadcasts 24/7, programming is archived, and there are links to Bible study materials.”<sup>1</sup>

The very next issue, April 2007 has the grand announcement: “*GBN Expands into Larger Facility in August 2007.*” The newsletter goes on to state that the elders of the Highland church had “made arrangements to lease a facility of some 30,000 square feet to provide adequate necessary housing for GBN” The newsletter carries a graphic of the new facility with the sign on the building “GOSPEL BROADCASTING

NETWORK WORLD COMMUNICATIONS CENTER”<sup>2</sup> and goes on to show a floor plan of the facility and further information as to the usage of the facility. More information is given in the June issue of the newsletter seeking funding for the project. The headline on the newsletter states: “Preparing to reach the world from a new 30,000 square foot facility near Exit 353 of GA Interstate 75” Inside is a letter signed by Barry Gilreath Sr., elder of the Highland Church of Christ and Executive Director of the Gospel Broadcasting Network. In that letter he states: “Remodeling and equipping the new facility will entail some cost.” The newsletter goes on to list those costs, totaling \$640,000.<sup>3</sup> No information is given, in either newsletter, regarding the cost of the lease or how long the lease agreement is to last. Remember, they were planning the move into the new expanded facility in August and in June they are seeking funds for the cost of “remodeling and equipping” the facility. The June Newsletter has the following addition to its normal title, “A Special.” No wonder it is “a special” when they are desperately in need of funds for the new facility! Is this “Good Stewardship”?

In the August issue (there was no July issue of the newsletter), the headlines feature “A Review of the Ryman” and “Million Dollar Goal for ‘Fifth Sunday’ in September to fund DirecTV and Dish Network Opportunity.”<sup>4</sup> Inside this extended issue, a review of the Ryman meetings is given as well as a plea to hear from people about the effort under the heading: “‘GBN RETURNS TO THE RYMAN’ June 29—July 1, 2008.” In that plea, it is stated: “GBN has future similar nationally ‘linked’ events on the drawing board, such as a ‘National Youth Day.’ We trust that satellite television, with cable, internet, and direct-to-home downlinks, is the most efficient means to reach the ever increasing population, and to reach and assist brethren in areas where the church is weak or few in number. May God be with us and bless

## HELP US GROW!

Sign up at least five new  
subscribers to CFTF in  
2007

Send subscriptions to:  
P.O. Box 2357  
Spring, Texas 77383

THE 2006 BOUND  
VOLUMES OF CFTF ARE  
READY FOR YOU. WRITE,  
PHONE OR EMAIL US  
TODAY FOR YOUR COPY.  
WHY NOT ORDER AN EX-  
TRA COPY FOR A FRIEND?

us all in our work for Him.”<sup>5</sup> Also in the August issue is “A Contribution Authorization Form” for use through a bank account or credit card.<sup>6</sup> Note, all of this is given without any indication of the costs of the 2007 Ryman meetings or the amount that would be needed for the 2008 meetings, the DirecTV and Dish Network funds, or other “linked events” such as a “National Youth Day.” Again, is such “Good Stewardship”?

The September Newsletter bears the headline “One Hour of GBN Now Seen Daily on DirecTV and DishNet” with page two announcing, “GBN REACHING THIRTY MILLION DIRECTV AND DISH NETWORK SUBSCRIBERS—POTENTIALLY 50 TO 60 MILLION SOULS!” Under the headline it is stated:

“Practically since the inception of GBN, we have dreamed of airing on the two major satellite television providers, DirecTV and Dish Network. We negotiated for many months with both entities, to no avail. Had we been able to acquire channel slots, the cost, almost definitely, would be well beyond our current base of support—many millions of dollars a year!

Now, the Lord, in His providence, has made it possible for us to acquire one hour of time on both DirecTV and DishNet for about 1/4 the cost of an hour on DirecTV alone. Now, those who subscribe to one of these providers can see some of GBN’s best programming—and they may want to see more and order the direct-to-home satellite system!

Also, now, cable subscribers may have more “clout” with their cable providers. When requesting one’s cable provider to carry the network, one may add, “At least I can see an hour of GBN on DirecTV or DishNet. I can’t see any of GBN on my cable system!”

We hope the Lord, through His people, will provide the funding necessary to keep this great effort going and growing, and that the gospel preaching and teaching going forth from GBN will reap a harvest of converted souls, edified congregations, and spiritually-strengthened Christians. We pray our efforts will help to stem the strong tide of liberalism, radicalism, and materialism that threatens to destroy the church in many places as the Lord would have it this side of eternity.<sup>7</sup>

Did you note that no indication is given of the cost of this effort and GBN hopes that the funds will be forthcoming? This need is in addition to the need for the leased facility (no indication of cost given) and the funds needed for “remodeling and equipping the new facility,” estimated, according to the June Newsletter at \$640,000. Also, in this September issue, under the headline “New Editors Join Technical Crew” the following is stated: “Tyler Gilreath and Barry Gilreath, III, are the newest faces among our technical crew. With the increased demands of the DirecTV and DishNet venues, they are a vital part of the work of editing GBN programming for broadcast.”<sup>8</sup> Again, no indication of the amount needed to support these two Gilreath family members as part of the “Technical Crew.” Sadly, we ask again, “Is this Good Stewardship?”

Now comes the October newsletter. A front page headline reads: “URGENT NEED FOR YOUR FINANCIAL HELP.”

On the next page, the headline is “EXPANSION OF GBN COVERAGE & FACILITIES WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!” Information is then given about responses followed by a subheading; “BUT WE CAN’T KEEP IT GOING WITHOUT YOUR HELP!”<sup>9</sup> Under this it is stated:

“HOWEVER, this endeavor is costly, and we are struggling financially to make it happen. Already we have made cutbacks—and more may be needed. We have cut staff, salaries, and our Charter Media coverage. We believe we need to focus on the opportunity to reach millions more souls via DirecTV and Dish Network. We are producing network programming exclusively out of the Chattanooga studio, where the offices and editing departments are using a “skeleton crew.”

We have in our hands a wonderful tool, a blessing from God, to reach a great many souls with the gospel, and to help local congregations across the brotherhood at the same time. But, we need caring, concerned congregations, elderships, and individual Christians, who can see the value of GBN, on the personal, local, national, and worldwide level, to make a difference, not only in the number, but in the spiritual strength of the Lord’s “army” of believers.

Encourage your elders to consider supporting GBN, and help as you can individually, also. If we all do what we

## **Gift Subscriptions**

**Do you know of an individual or a church that needs to be made aware of the false doctrines and teachers that are troubling the Lord’s church today? If you do, why not give them a subscription to CFTF?**

### **SUBSCRIPTION PLANS**

**Single subs., One Year, \$14.00; Two Years, \$24.00; Five One-Year Subs., \$58.00. Whole Congregation Rate: Any congregation entering each family of its entire membership with single copies being mailed directly to each home receives a \$3.00 discount off the Single Sub. Rate, i.e., such whole congregation subs. are payable in advance at the rate of \$11.00 per year per family address. Foreign Rate: One Year \$30.00.**

### **MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:**

**P.O. BOX 2357**

**SPRING, TEXAS 77383-2357**

cut here→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→

1 Yr. 2 Yrs.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

can, no matter the amount, when we “pull” together and pool our resources, we can accomplish great things for the Lord.”<sup>10</sup>

Brethren notice what has happened here. They have tried to expand rapidly, without adequate funding, and now are pleading for financial help! The Charter Media cable was added early in the year. This was quickly followed by the announcement of moving into new leased facilities by August 2007. The only indications of cost were for the “remodeling and equipping the new facility.” The August issue indicated plans for the repeat of the Ryman meetings with other special “linked” events in mind. September came the announcement of the Satellite opportunities and the hiring of additional “Technical Crew.” Then comes the October “bombshell”! The Charter Media program has been jettisoned overboard (How much did that cost to get out of these contracts?—no information is given). Additionally we are told they have also cut staff and salaries. This, just ONE month after they had hired new “technical crew.” They mention they are “producing network programming exclusively out of the Chattanooga studio.” Is that the old studio? (It is not specifically stated). If it is, what happened with the new leased facility at Ringgold, Georgia? Is all of this “Good Stewardship”?

The latest issue of the newsletter posted on the GBN website is for November 2007. The banner headline over pages 2 and 3 reads: “GOOD NEWS TODAY—AND EVERY DAY ONE HOUR ON DISH NETWORK AND DIRECTV.” Under the heading of: “MAGAZINE-TYPE PROGRAM FEATURES THE BEST OF GBN” the following is written: “‘Good News Today,’ GBN’s hour long flagship program, featuring some of the best the network has to offer, airs daily on Dish Network and DirecTV. [During football season, DirecTV is preempting Sunday programs.]”<sup>11</sup> This is the **first** indication that the programming has not been aired seven days a week since the contract started. Even at the time of writing (December 26, 2007) the home page of the GBN web site does not indicate this. Further, there has still been no response as to whether the time will be preempted for other sports and, to this point, no football has aired. Additionally, you cannot find any information about the program by checking the DirecTV website, or programming information for channel 323 and very little other programming is on that channel. It is further stated: “The Direct and Dish broadcasts cost \$20,000 a month—a lot of money, but less than .07 cents per subscriber! Please cooperate in this effort—WE NEED YOUR HELP!”<sup>12</sup> It might only work out at “.07 cents per subscriber” but unless subscribers can find the programming, they will NOT watch. The only way DirecTV subscribers can find out anything through the satellite network is by “surfing” at the time the program is airing.

When are the elders of the Highland church in Dalton, Georgia and the “Management Team” of GBN going to deal with the matter of “good stewardship”? At this writing (December 26, 2007) we are not aware of any statement that deals with this issue any more than they have dealt with the matter of “good stewardship” as it applies to the matter of fellowship with known and unrepentant false teachers, contrary to II John 9-11. The elders and “management team”

have a responsibility to deal with these matters concerning “good stewardship” since they expect the brotherhood to support the efforts.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> “Potential US Cable-Viewers Nearing Half Million,” Good News, March 2007, page 1, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>2</sup> “GBN Expands into larger Facility in August 2007,” Good News, April 2007, page 3, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>3</sup> Good News, June 2007, page 1-3, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>4</sup> Good News, August 2007, page 1, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>5</sup> “GBN Returns To The Ryman” Good News, August 2007, page 6, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>6</sup> Good News, August 2007, page 7, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>7</sup> Good News, September 2007, page 1-2, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>8</sup> Good News, September 2007, page 2, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>9</sup> Good News, October 2007, page 1-2, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>10</sup> Good News, October 2007, page 2, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>11</sup> “Magazine-Type Program Features The Best of GBN” Good News, November 2007, page 3, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.
- <sup>12</sup> “Magazine-Type Program Features The Best of GBN” Good News, November 2007, page 3, Gospel Broadcasting Network, Highland Church of Christ, Dalton, Georgia.

—535 Clearwater Road  
Belvedere, SC 29841-2574  
kjchumb@gmail.com

## 2007 SPRING CFTF LECTURES CD'S, DVD'S, MP3, & VIDEO RECORDINGS

ORDER FROM:

**Jim Green**

**2711 Spring Meade Blvd.  
Columbia, TN 38401**

**PHONE: (931) 486-1364**

**www.jgreencoc-video-ministry.com**

**email at jgreencoc1986@yahoo.com**

# Mountain City's 2007 Unity Forum

Darrell Broking

## A Strange Set of Circumstances

Is it correct to label as “strange” (foreign to Christianity) many of the events happening in the church since 2005? The question can be argued in at least two ways. 1) Consider the words of Peter: **“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you”** (1 Pet. 4:12). Suffering for the cause of Christ is a natural consequence for being loyal to King Jesus. **“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”** (2 Tim. 3:12). As noted by Paul, suffering for the cause of Christ actually provides an opportunity for the Lord’s faithful ones to receive God’s stamp of approval: **“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you”** (1 Cor. 11:19). Suffering for Jesus is not something strange. Uncomfortable, yes! Strange, in this sense, not at all! 2) In another sense, there is an element of strangeness in all of this suffering. God executed Nadab and Abihu because they offered **“strange fire before the Lord”** (Lev. 10:1-2). The men of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they **“went after strange flesh”** (Jude 1:7). In the previous verses the word **“strange”** refers to that which went beyond God’s Word; hence, sin. The trials the church in Mountain City and the church in other places have endured are the result of the strangeness of men who refuse to honor the teaching of Christ; men who seek to build empires for themselves at the expense and hurt of the Truth and all brethren who oppose their evil ways.

## The New Babel

There was a point in history when men united in evil and said to each other, **“... let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name ...”** (Gen. 11:4). History has a way of repeating itself. As the Dave Miller saga has evolved, men have united around the Miller episode to build their empires (MSOP, GBN, Tri-Cities School of Preaching & Christian Development, OABS, et al.). This they have done in the spirit and power of Babel. Because the elders at the Mountain City Church of Christ refused to support the Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN) and attend gospel meetings preached by GBN supporters, an apostate member Dean Gouge started an exodus from the Mountain City church. With the help of other apostates and the Tri-Cities area preachers (who are 100% aligned with the GBN), a systematic effort was and is being made to destroy the Mountain City church. *It is highly important to note that John Arnold, one of the leaders of the apostate church in Mountain City, is in full fellowship with the apostate preacher Jeff Walling (John’s son-in-law is one of Walling’s elders). Further, Arnold has worked with the ultra liberal Al Maxey while trying to destroy the church in Mountain City.*

The redoubtable Wesley Simmons, long time preacher in the tri-cities area, presently the preacher for and one of the elders of the Stoney Creek, TN church and the director of Tri-Cities School of Preaching and Christian Development, has led many in the Tri-Cities area to believe that the Mountain City church has been experiencing a “local problem.” Regardless of the previously noted influence from false teachers, men that even Simmons has and does oppose, he has charged that Mountain City’s

elders are unqualified to serve. On that false basis he offers aid, advice and massive support to the apostates. Why does Simmons so conduct himself? Because Simmons’s personal Babel would begin to crumble if he did not so do. Thus, with the force of the mighty “Jesuits” (those preachers who willingly support such false teachers as Arnold) and with his “papal signet,” (Simmons long time influence in the churches of this region of the country), the infamous Simmons labors to keep brethren in the dark on the facts while he grows his mighty Babel.

The common mode of operation and the chain that links all of the key players in the Dave Miller saga (the Gilreaths, Simmons, Curtes Cates, AP, et. al.) is how they deal with these problems. *At all costs they avoid any kind of fair and open public discussion about these specific problems that are dividing the Lord’s church. Their efforts are employed behind the scenes and are designed to malign characters and thereby crush and destroy all opposing voices.* This is well documented in the 2007 unity forum. The key players rallying around Dave Miller are the embodiment of the false teachers denoted in Second Timothy 3:1-6—teachers who **“creep into houses”** to wreak havoc in their clandestine campaign of destruction. *These false brethren are afraid of the truth and will by hook or crook avoid publicly facing it!*

## A Public Discussion about the Miller Saga and the Division in Mountain City

Between November 30 and December 2, 2007, the Mountain City Church of Christ hosted a unity forum during which these matters were discussed. An invitation was extended to all brethren of this region, including the apostates in Mountain City and those in Simmons’ “diocese” to come and face the brethren at the Mountain City Church of Christ for the purpose of informing the Mountain City church why it needs to dry up and blow away—an invitation which they naturally refused. Simmons and friends know that their undermining work must go on behind closed doors because they cannot successfully argue their case publicly from God’s Holy Word. *However, Dub McClish and Michael Hatcher accepted Mountain City’s invitation to come and discuss the Dave Miller saga. From Scriptures and the facts bearing on the matters involved these two faithful brethren presented their material in a scholarly fashion as the Christian gentlemen, and faithful brethren they are. Fifteen sessions were recorded and are available for future study.*

On the Sons of Demas internet discussion list, brother Chuck Arnold recently posted the following about the forum material dealing with the Dave Miller saga: “I believe it is the clearest information put out to date.” Others are replying with similar comments. We urge you to listen to the forum and judge for yourselves. **The material can be accessed at [www.mtncitycc.com](http://www.mtncitycc.com).** The forum page is password protected. The user name is the word *church* and the password is the word *faithful*. For additional information, write us at the address appearing at the end of this article.

—Mountain City Church of Christ  
512 South Church Street  
Mountain City, TN 37683.

**2008 SPRING CFTF LECTURES**  
**“UNITY—FROM GOD OR MAN”**  
**FEBRUARY 24—27**

*David P. Brown, Director*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

9:30 AM	David P. Brown	<i>“Union in Diversity” Contradicts New Testament Unity</i>
10:30 AM	Darrell Broking	<i>Immorality and Unity</i>
<b>NOON MEAL PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION</b>		
5:00 PM	Steve Yeatts	<i>A History of Unity Movements in the Church of Christ</i>
6:00 PM	John West	<i>The Lord’s Supper and Unity</i>

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

9:00 AM	Dub Mowery	<i>The Influence of the Colleges on Scriptural Unity</i>
10:00 AM	Michael Hatcher	<i>Worship and Unity</i>
*10:00 AM	Sonya West	<i>How “Christian Women” Destroy Unity</i>
11:00 AM	Wayne Blake	<i>The Godly Home and Unity</i>
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		
1:30 PM	Skip Francis	<i>Is the Church in Crisis?</i>
2:30 PM	Paul Vaughn	<i>The Restoration Principle and Unity</i>
3:30 PM	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
<b>DINNER BREAK</b>		
<b>CONGREGATIONAL SINGING</b>		
6:30 PM		
7:00 PM	Daniel Denham	<i>Sound Doctrine and Unity</i>
8:00 PM	Jesse Whitlock	<i>Bible Versions and Unity</i>

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

9:00 AM	Johnny Oxendine	<i>The New Hermeneutic and Unity</i>
10:00 AM	Ken Chumbley	<i>An Informed Membership and Unity</i>
*10:00 AM	Sonya West	<i>How Christian Women Build Unity</i>
11:00 AM	Geoff Litke	<i>Causes of Division</i>
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		
1:30 PM	Jack Stephens	<i>How Does Repentance Relate to Unity?</i>
2:30 PM	Gene Hill	<i>Money and Unity</i>
3:30 PM	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
<b>DINNER BREAK</b>		
<b>CONGREGATIONAL SINGING</b>		
6:30 PM		
7:00 PM	Danny Douglas	<i>God’s Plan for Unity (Eph. 4)</i>
8:00 PM	Lynn Parker	<i>Is the Church of Christ a Sect?</i>

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

9:00 AM	Tim Cozad	<i>Music in the Worship of God and Unity</i>
10:00 AM	David Watson	<i>Gospel Preachers and Unity</i>
11:00 AM	Gary Summers	<i>The Autonomy of the Church and Unity</i>
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		
1:30 PM	Paul Middlebrooks	<i>Church Discipline and Unity</i>
2:30 PM	Bruce Stulting	<i>Godly Fear and Unity</i>
3:30 PM	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
<b>DINNER BREAK</b>		
<b>CONGREGATIONAL SINGING</b>		
6:30 PM		
7:00 PM	Lee Moses	<i>Love, the Authority of God’s Word and Unity</i>
8:00 PM	Dub McClish	<i>The Elders and Deacons Responsibility to Keep the “Unity of the Spirit”</i>

**Lunch Provided by the Spring Congregation • Hardback Book of Lectures Available**  
**R. V. Hook-Ups • Video and Audio Recordings • Approved Displays**  
**Elders: Kenneth D. Cohn, Buddy Roth and Jack Stephens**

**SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**1327 Spring Cypress Road**  
**PO Box 39 Spring, TX 77383**

# Directory of Churches...

## -Alabama-

**Holly Pond**—Church of Christ, Hwy 278 W., P.O. Box 131, Holly Pond, AL 35083, Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., (256) 796-6802, (205) 429-2026.

**Tuscaloosa**—East Pointe Church of Christ one block from Exit 76, off I-20, I-59, Sun. 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed., 7 p.m. Abiding in God's Word—The Old Paths. U of A student, visitor, or resident? Welcome! (205)556-3062.

## -England-

**Cambridgeshire**—Ramsey Church of Christ, meeting at the Rainbow Centre, Ramsey, Huntingdon. Sun. 10, 11 a.m.; Wed. (Phone for venue and time); [www.Ramsey-church-of-christ.org](http://www.Ramsey-church-of-christ.org). Contact Keith Sisman, 001.44.1487.710552; fax:1487.813264 or [KeithSisman.net](http://KeithSisman.net). Research Website of 1,000 years of the British Church of Christ; [www.Traces-of-the-kingdom.org](http://www.Traces-of-the-kingdom.org) and [www.Myth-and-Mystery.org](http://www.Myth-and-Mystery.org).

## -Florida-

**Ocoee**—Ocoee Church of Christ, 2 East Magnolia Street, Ocoee, FL 34761. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Wed. 7:00 p.m. David Hartbarger, Evangelist, (407) 656-2516, [ocoechurchofchrist@yahoo.com](mailto:ocoechurchofchrist@yahoo.com), [www.ocoeecoc.org](http://www.ocoeecoc.org).

**Pensacola**—Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526, Sun. 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Michael Hatcher, evangelist, (850) 455-7595.

## -Georgia-

**Cartersville**—Church of Christ, 1319 Joe Frank Harris Pkwy NW 30120-4222. 770-382-6775, [www.cartersvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.cartersvillechurchofchrist.org). Sun. 10, 11a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m. Bobby D. Gayton, evangelist- email: [bdgayton@juno.com](mailto:bdgayton@juno.com).

## -North Carolina-

**Rocky Mount**—Scheffield Drive Church of Christ, 3309 Scheffield Dr., Rocky Mount, NC 27802 (252) 937-7997.

## -Oklahoma-

**Porum**—Church of Christ, 8 miles South of I-40 at Hwy 2, Warner exit. Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. Allen Lawson, evangelist, email: [lawson@starnetok.net](mailto:lawson@starnetok.net).

## - Tennessee-

**Murfreesboro**—Church of Christ, 837 Esther Lane, Murfreesboro, TN, Sun. Bible class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m., Fellowship meal 11:00 a.m., Devotional 12:00 p.m.; Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. For directions and other information please visit our website at [www.murfreesborochurchofchrist.org](http://www.murfreesborochurchofchrist.org). evangelist, Steve Yeatts.

## -Texas-

**Denton area**—Northpoint Church of Christ, 5101 E. University Dr. (Greenbelt Business Park). Mailing address: Northpoint Church of Christ, Greenbelt Business Park, 5101 E. University Dr., Box 12, Denton, TX 76208. E-mail: [northpointcoc@hotmail.com](mailto:northpointcoc@hotmail.com). Sunday: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00; Wednesday 7:00. Contact: Dub McClish: 940.323.9797; [tgjoriginal@verizon.net](mailto:tgjoriginal@verizon.net).

**Houston area**—Spring Church of Christ, 1327 Spring Cypress, P.O. Box 39, Spring, TX 77383, (281) 353-2707. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:30 p.m., David P. Brown, evangelist. Home of the Spring Contending for the Faith Lectures beginning the last Sunday in February. [www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com).

**Hubbard**—105 NE 6th St., Hubbard, TX 76648, Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Delbert J. Goines; [DJGoines@Valornet.com](mailto:DJGoines@Valornet.com).

**Huntsville**—1380 Fish Hatchery Rd. Huntsville, TX 77320. Sun. 9, 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. (936) 438-8202.

**Hurst (Fort Worth area)**—Northeast Church of Christ, 1313 Karla Dr., P.O. Box 85, Hurst, TX 76053. Sun. 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:30 p.m. (817) 282-3239.

**New Braunfels**—225 Saenger Halle Rd. Sun: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m. Lynn Parker, evangelist. (830) 625-9367. [www.nbchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nbchurchofchrist.com).

**Richwood**—1600 Brazosport, Richwood, TX. Sun. 9:30; 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. (979) 265-4256.

## -Wyoming-

**Cheyenne**—High Plains Church of Christ, 421 E. 8th St., Cheyenne, WY 82007, tel. (307) 638-7466, Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., Tel. (307) 514-3394, evangelist: Roelf L. Ruffner

*Contending For The Faith*  
P.O. Box 2357  
Spring, Texas 77383

PRSRST STD  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DALLAS, TX  
PERMIT #1863