

New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Volume 19, Issue 2, March/April 2013

Is it I?

*By Elder Dolph Painter, Pastor, Roanoke PBC,
Roanoke, VA*

Jesus spoke as He ate the Passover meal. He told His disciples, "One of you shall betray me." The disciples' immediate reaction was to ask, "Lord, is it I?" – Mark 14:18-19. The one asked, "Lord, who is it?" – John 13:21-25. [It was] soon to be followed with, "Lord, who shall be greatest?" – Luke 22:21-24.

The disciples' questions began in self examination but led to the examination and comparison of others. The amount of time for this transition was remarkably short. I suspect our tendencies are more like the disciples than we care to admit.

When we first began courting our spouses and a misunderstanding occurred how quick we were to ask, "What did I do to offend?" Then after a few years of marriage and

misunderstandings occur, think how quick we are to point out our spouse's faults. Interesting progression, huh?

When we first realized all that was secured by the blood of Jesus how many of us asked, "Could I possibly be a child of God?" then after a few years of religion think how quick are we to ask, "Is that one a child of God?" or "How about the one three doors down?" Interesting progression, huh?

The novice historian says, "The Romans slung the whips, drove the nails, and raised the cross. They were responsible for Jesus' death." Another historian says, "The Jews brought the false accusations and demanded His crucifixion. They were responsible for Jesus' death." But the humble saint says, It was I, for my sins are responsible for Jesus' death.

Like the disciples, let us be quick to ask the question, "Is it I?" Unlike the disciples, let us be longsuffering in asking the question, "Is it I?" ■

A good number of Florida youth were able to attend the Defending the Faith Conference held at Bethany PBC. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meeting greatly.

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Sunday 10:30am
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:30pm

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Pastor's Letter

Elder Glenn Blanchard

To those of you who responded to my recent Pastor's Letter about this Newsletter I want to say a sincere Thank You. As yet, we do not know where we will stand on the Newsletter, but will let you know later. Sister Reba Marsh wrote me a wonderful letter which is in this Newsletter.

We are always busy here at Winter Garden PBC. With services on Sunday, Bible Study on Wednesday night, birthday parties for members, memorial services of others, and many, many other daily tasks that are before us, plus many of my members, are at the church frequently! We do our own lawn mowing,

building upkeep, inside cleaning, the Newsletter, tape ministry, and all that goes into taking care of a church sitting on five acres. Thankfully, we have quite a few members who are willing to help in these jobs.

For those of you who contribute to this Newsletter, in any way, let me say again, thank you. Elder Phelan and Elder Painter have been very generous in allowing us to reprint articles/books they have written. ■



Some of our youth at Winter Garden gathered to serve breakfast to the families lodging at the Orlando Ronald McDonald House on Jan. 3. Their willingness to serve is appreciated by these families.

Serving at McDonald House



Meeting Notices

Smoky Mountain Spring Meeting, Pigeon Forge, TN

The 2013 Smoky Mountain Spring Meeting will be held, beginning on Monday night, April 1st, and continue through Thursday morning April 4th. It will be held in the Grand Ball Room of the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. The Convention Center is on the Parkway at the South end of town. It is almost directly behind the Cracker Barrel. Rooms are available at the Ramada Inn next to the Convention Center. The motel and the Convention Center share the same parking lot, so the meeting place is easy to get to. The price of the rooms is \$45.00 per night. The reservation's number is 1-800-523-3919. Be sure to tell them you are with the Primitive Baptist Meeting. If you need a first floor room you need to make your reservation before March 1st. For further information you may call **Elder Harold Hunt** at 865-982-3012

Zion Rest PBC Annual Meeting, Jasper, AL - Elder Blanchard Appointment

On April 26, 27, and 28, 2013 I plan on being with Zion Rest PB Church in Jasper, AL for their Annual Meeting. There address is 1305 Viking Drive, Jasper, AL. **Elder Charles Kitchens** is the pastor there. We hope many of you who live in Alabama (or other states nearby) will attend this meeting. They are gracious hosts and would enjoy your attendance. Please contact **Elder Charles Kitchens** at 205-384-4831 for more information.

Elder Glenn Blanchard

Church News

Little Union PBC, Lithia, FL

Little Union PBC was pleased to baptize Brother Koby Evans this past Sunday. He has been attending for the past few months with one of the young members and recently decided to join. We are very thankful to God for His blessing!! This is our 9th new member in the past 8 months. *(Photo on right with Elder Chris Crouse, performing the baptism.)*



Winter Garden PBC Annual Meeting, Winter Garden, FL

Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church will be hosting its Annual Meeting Friday Evening, May 25th through Sunday Morning, May 27th, 2013. Meeting will start at 7 PM Friday evening and end Sunday morning at noon. We invite all who can to come and be with us and share in this 95th Anniversary of the Primitive Baptist Church in Winter Garden, Florida. The invited minister/ministers will be announced in a later Newsletter.

Sister Becky Fields was accompanied by her daughter, Pam, for Sunday services.

Answers to This Month's Quiz

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. beauty, Est. 1:11 | 5. destroy, Est. 3:9 |
| 2. cousin, Est. 2:7 | 6. fast, Est. 4:16 |
| 3. orphan, Est. 2:7 | 7. sleep, Est. 6:1 |
| 4. Jewish, Est. 2:10 | 8. ring, Est. 8:2 |
| 9. Purim, Est. 9:19,26 | |



Little Union PBC, Lithia, FL

Sis. Shelby Lawrence (granddaughter of Elder Ronald Lawrence) joined Little Union Church during our recent January meeting with Br. Lawrence. She was baptized by Br. Lawrence on Saturday morning and was able to participate in her first communion service Saturday night. Little Union rejoices to receive Sis. Shelby and we pray the Lord will greatly bless her in her discipleship. (photo on left)

Recent Baptisms, Harmony PBC, Donaldson, AK

Harmony Church [Donaldson, AK] rejoiced in the recent baptisms of Linda and Murray Draper. Linda and Murray came forward on November 25th and gave a wonderful testimony of their faith in Christ and their love for Harmony. Let us encourage them along the way and show them how much we appreciate their fellowship. (Copied from the Harmony Newsletter; Pastor Neil M. Phelan, Jr.)

“He Hath Chosen Us”

— Reprinted from Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr. Book: “The Daily Record” - The First Year in Retrospect

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”
— Ephesians 1:4

There is no scripture in all of the New Testament that sinners will find more comfort in than the first chapter of Ephesians. It is a hiding place, a city of refuge for the afflicted soul. And one does not have to be a theologian to understand the simple truths that Paul sets before the believing Ephesians. These simple truths place our feet on solid ground, on the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ. If we ever forget who we are, where we are going, or who saved us from our sins, let us remember “he hath chosen us.”

According to the Apostle Paul, I did not choose God, He chose me. The Pharisee will not rejoice in such a doctrine, for he has made the mark, he is righteous in his own eyes. But a bankrupt, guilty sinner will find great comfort in such words. The old hymn, written by Josiah Conder, expressed it this way:

“My Lord, I did not choose You,
For that could never be;
My heart would still refuse You,
Had You not chosen me.

You took the sin that stained me,
You cleansed me, made me new;
Of old You have ordained me,
That I should live in You.

Unless Your grace had called me
And taught my opening mind,
The world would have enthralled me;
To heav’nly glories blind.

My heart knows none above You,
For Your rich grace I thirst;
I know that if I love You,
You must have loved me first.”

We received a blessed message from Brother Tim Gerke, a dear brother of ours, from Bethany PBC.



That, I believe, is the gospel in a nutshell. Simple enough that even a child can understand it, "He hath chosen us".

And when was this choice made? Was it made when the "us" joined a church; prayed a prayer; accepted a doctrine; participated in an ordinance; or did any thing? According to Paul, this choice was made by God "before the foundation of the world." Therefore man can not take any credit in it. All of our theology must agree with this statement.

But who are the "Us"? C.H. Spurgeon once said something like this: "These little words like 'we' and 'us' are like the door of Noah's ark: they shut out and they shut in." They offer comfort and security to the poor. Now, as we read this verse, do we find a preacher involved in this choice? Do we find a particular denomination? Do we find any merits on the part of those chosen? But we *do* find God. Then the door is secure!

How then, may we identify the 'us'? Listen to the old prophet, he will tell us, "The



Sister Jamie Engel enjoys a visit with school friend, Caitlyn Emery.

Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" – Jeremiah 31:3. The 'us' are those that God loves with an everlasting love. Those are the ones that Christ came for. Those are the same ones that Jesus Christ perfected upon the cross of Calvary. Those are the same ones that will live with God in glory one day. And all of this came about because, "He hath chosen us." We thank thee Lord, for thy divine favor!

Elder Jim Turner Obituary

Elder Jim Turner, Jr., 77, of Little Rock passed away February 7, 2013.

He was born September 22, 1935 in Russellville, Arkansas to James B. Turner, Sr. and Meda Pearl McCain Turner.

He was a veteran of the Arkansas National Guard, past president of the Kiwanis of Pulaski Heights also was Lt. Gov. of the Missouri/Arkansas District of Kiwanis.

Elder Turner served as pastor of New Hope Primitive Baptist church of Little Rock for many years.

He served as a volunteer Chaplain at Hospice Home Care.

Preceded in death by his parents, he is survived by his wife, Owreta Turner; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Lawrence and Ola Mae Patton of Russellville, AR; nephew, Douglas Patton (Mary) of Tulsa, OK; and nieces; Janice Sue Peeler (Matt) of Russellville and Terri Shaw (Arnold) of Chester, Virginia.

Interment; St. Paul Cemetery, Dover, Arkansas.

Elder Harold Stumbaugh and Elder Larry Watson officiated.



We welcomed Patsy, from Ocala, a friend of Brother Perry Terrell.



**Elder Bob Mitchell
of White, Ga.
surrounds himself
with his family at
Christmastime.**

Letters

Tues. Jan. 22, 2013

Dear Precious Brother in Christ,

First of all, I want to tell you that I enjoy your New Hope Newsletter very much. I read every word of it and appreciate the info about where meetings will be held and parts of sermons and all of it. I am 79 years old, (baptized at 63), and have a kind of leukemia that is not common. I'm not saying this for sympathy. I'm just getting close to home! But who knows, I'm not in charge of my Ticker! I said that to say that my most favorite thing to do is get in bed about 9 PM at night and listen to sermons from wherever I can order them. Your letter tells us where that special meetings, etc. are. You were so kind in your pastor's letter in your way of informing us that you are getting few donations and will be forced to cut back and not send but six times a year.

Well, dear brother, I'm not as kind as you!

I know there is a downturn in the economy but if each one of us Old Primitive Baptists that receive this letter would send just a few dollars, you wouldn't have this problem. And we can! Hopefully, we (who have so blessed to be given the understanding of grace and how we are saved eternally and in this life) will respond in a positive way, then I will be forced to eat some "crow" for being a little negative about our giving. I just remember how it was when I was a child and no one gave the old preacher any money at all even if he had a car for travel, or anything.

I'm sure you've heard stories. I could go on and on!

I'm so thankful that more of our churches are paying our pastors' salaries, and they can be free to study, etc. etc.

May God's richest blessings be yours in all your efforts to serve Him.

Brother Blanchard, I wanted to get this check in the mail, not feeling so "swift" today and intended to re-write in a letter these notes I penned last night. Just want you to know I do appreciate and enjoy your newsletter very much! Please forgive me for the messiness of the notes, but thought, Oh! Well, I'll just stick the notes in anyway and maybe you can get the gist of what I was trying to say.

May God be with you, your family, your church, and all your efforts and service for His Cause.

A Sister in Christ,
Reba Marsh, Point Remove PBC, Russellville, AK
P.S. Come visit us and preach for us!

(Sister Reba, your letter AND notes made my day! What encouragement you give me. Do wish more PBs felt like you do, because, it is my deepest belief, that God would reward them far above their giving. He is a generous God! I am printing your entire notes and letter because your thoughts are beautifully expressed.) GB



**We were pleased to
welcome Brother
Lloyd Wilkinson
from Bethany PBC,
Atlanta area.**

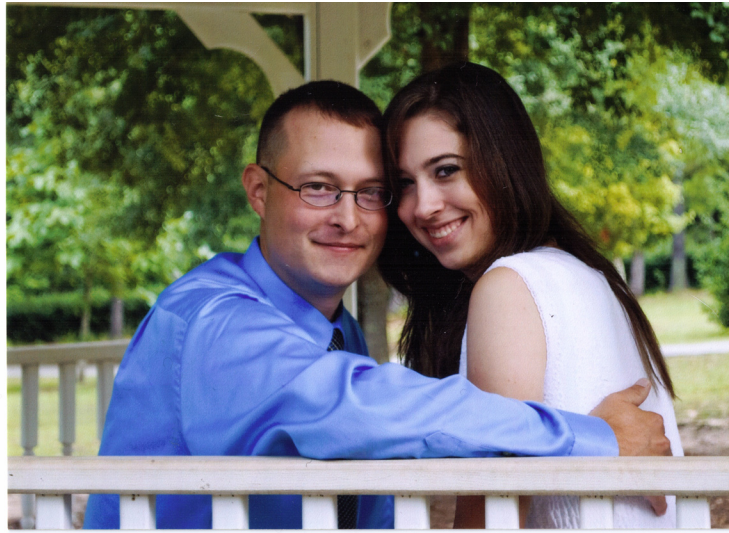
Brothers and Sisters,

We hope this letter finds you all well and rejoicing in the blessings of Christ. We wanted to just take a quick moment to thank you all for everything you do for His cause, and to let you know just how much we appreciate your efforts.

We always look forward to the newsletter and CD's, and want to apologize for not writing you regularly to let you just how wonderful these ministries are. Hope to see you soon.

In Christ,

Fred and Jeanne Herrmann,
Hoover, AL



Loss of a Dear Sister

When I was a child, there was a saying that when a Godly person died and it rained, that it was the earth weeping over the loss. It rained during Margaret's funeral and is still raining on the second day afterward. While that was just a saying, it expresses the sentiments of us who are weeping over our loss, for Margaret was certainly a Godly person.

E. W. McDonald

Margaret Alice Garlington Earnest McDonald passed away on 2/7/2013 in Louisiana. She is the beloved wife of Brother E.W. McDonald, deacon at Winter Garden. Margaret was born on 3/31/1926 and walked closely with the Lord. She was a shining example to all who knew and loved her. Sister Margaret will be greatly missed.

Sermons at Winter Garden PBC are now available online in video format. Full color newsletters are also available at the church website: wintergardenpbc.com.

Please let us know if you would like to access either CD's and/or newsletters in this manner in the future so we may remove you from the mail list. You may contact us by emailing the webmaster on our website. wintergardenpbc.com

Upcoming Wedding

Sara Lynne Abernathy and Kenneth Elvin Nowell were wed on February 16, 2013 at Piney Grove PBC in Headland, AL. Sara is the daughter of Elder Buddy and Sister Tina Abernathy and Kenneth is the son of Elder Clayton and Sister Nancy Nowell. God Bless you on your special day!!

Contributions

Jim Stevenson
Brent Coleman
Reba Marsh
Bruce & Renee Mandolfo
Larry Jones
M. L. & Sheila King
Elder Don & Emma Farris
Joan A. Morgan
Sammy & Brenda Candle
Quinton Varnum
others whom we appreciate!



Frequent visitors,
Selena Taylor
and daughter,
Aanyah Lovett,
have endeared
themselves to
us at Winter
Garden.

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Please come visit us!

New Hope Newsletter

Kid's Corner

Esther

1. The king wanted the people to see Queen Vashti because of her great _____.
2. Mordecai was what relation to Esther?
3. Mordecai treated Esther as his daughter because she was an _____.
4. Esther had not revealed that she was _____ when she won the contest.
5. Haman planned to _____ all the Jews.
6. Esther asked the Jews to _____ for three days and nights before she spoke to the king.
7. The king read his records and discovered Mordecai's good deed because he couldn't _____.
8. After Haman's death, the king gave Mordecai a _____.
9. To remember this event, the feast of _____ was established.