

## News & Notes

Sunday, June 22, 2008

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Venetta Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Mary Ann Duke; Penny Ford Huckabee; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Shirley Judge; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; Wayne Kidd; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Willie Mae Needham; Kaylee Northrop; Larry Price; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Bobby Russum; Jonell Rutledge; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

**Sympathy** is extended to the families of Charlotte Diamond and Betty Tuscana.

**Pantry item** for the month of June is sugar.

**Janice Winstead** responded to the invitation repenting of sins.

**Area Events:** Beginning today: The North Green Street church of Christ in Tupelo will have a gospel meeting with Steven Thompson;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: The Work of an Elder

PM: Our Responsibility to Elders

### For the Record (June 15, 2008):

Attendance: 81      Contribution: \$1166.00      Budget: \$1452.00

### *The Ashland Church of Christ*

P. O. Box 25  
Ashland, MS 38603-0025  
www.ashlandcoc.org  
acoc@ashlandcoc.org

#### Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Worship 5:00 PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### Shepherds:

Barney King  
Carrol Street

Romans 11:33

# ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

Increasing in the Knowledge of God



## Why Study Church Organization?

The Bible prophesied a falling away from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1-5). Some would change the true Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). The apostle Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus that they should take heed to the flock over which they were overseers (Acts 20:28). He told them to feed the flock (teach the members of the church) because false teachers would come. They would lead away disciples from the church which Christ purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28-30).

We learn from church history that this prophecy was soon fulfilled. Men began to depart from the faith. False teachers led away followers. Church leaders began to rule in ways God never intended. They began the type of organizations found in the Roman Catholic Church and other denominations. Just as Paul had foretold, the leaders of the church were the first to be corrupted.

One of the first ways that men left the Bible was in the matter of church organization. Elders began to rule over more than one church (1 Peter 5:1-4). Then “bishops” began to rule over the elders. Men continued to change the Bible plan of church government until finally a Pope was elected. There is no Pope in the Bible, but men had departed from the faith. There is still the danger that men will corrupt the true organization of the church. Whenever departure comes, it usually begins with the leaders.

Pride is the desire for self-glory. It is a great temptation to any leader. When someone has a position, he wants a greater position. When a leader has some power, he wants more power. This is why leadership in the church is so easily corrupted. Pride is a danger to every person. The mother of James and John wanted her sons to sit next to Jesus in His kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28). Human nature has not changed. Men still want positions or prominence.

This is why the danger of corrupting God's plan for governing the church is a present danger. Men sometimes enter the church today in hope of being leaders. Others are not satisfied to be humble servants of the Lord. Instead, they seek the greatest power they can attain. They will corrupt God's plan in order to make a big place for themselves. Human pride easily corrupts church leadership.

The apostle Paul realized this as he called the elders from Ephesus to speak to them (Acts 20:17-30). He knew that if churches follow good leaders, they will become strong. If they follow bad leaders, they will become weak. This is why the Holy Spirit's plan is for there to be **qualified** elders in every church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-9). Strong leadership makes a strong church. Weak leaders will make the church weak.

Hard work and much effort are required in order to have good leaders. The leaders of God's people must be well-trained because their work is the most important work on earth.

Paul instructed Timothy: "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2Timothy 2:2). Teaching men who can teach others is God's plan for making leaders.

-Truth for the World ([www.tftw.org](http://www.tftw.org))

## A Lot Can Happen in a Year

Tom Moore

A woman was once found guilty of a crime against the king and sentenced to death. As the soldiers carried her off to the executioner she cried out, "But sire, I can teach your horse to fly."

"Halt" cried the king. "What did you say?"

"Sire, if you give me but a year before executing me I can teach your horse to fly."

"So be it" replied the king. "You have one year to teach my horse to fly or else you will be executed."

As the woman was led away to her prison cell one of the soldiers commented on how stupid she was, for it is impossible for a horse to fly.

"True" replied the woman, "but a lot can happen in a year. The king could die or the horse could die or I might die. And who knows, maybe the horse will learn to fly?"

A life lived with a sense of unknown but potential possibilities are open to the possibilities of God. The apostle Paul declared, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Or Lord also taught, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). With the many uncertainties facing us this year progresses - let us not lose confidence in the promises of God. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Think About It!