

## News & Notes

Sunday, July 27, 2008

**Remember in Prayer:** Juanita Akin; Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Dot Ketchum; Dawn Givens; Christie Hurt; Wayne Kidd; Earl Liming; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kaylee Northrop; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

**Sympathy** is extended to the families of Debbie Orman Presca and Sammy Orman.

**Pantry item** for the month of July is pasta.

**Ashland Events:** Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM, Fellowship meal after evening service; August 6: Wednesdays in August;

**Area Events:** Beginning today: POWER lectures at Southaven church of Christ; July 29: Summer Tuesday series at the Somerville congregation; August 8: Lock-in at Holly Springs church of Christ;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: Things that are Not Good Bible Study  
PM: Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Singing

### For the Record (July 20, 2008):

Attendance: 99      Contribution: \$1668.00      Budget: \$1452.00

### *The Ashland Church of Christ*

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#### Sunday:

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

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### Shepherds:

Barney King  
Jeff Roberson  
Carrol Street

Romans 11:33

# ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

Increasing in the Knowledge of God



## The Second Coming of Christ

Max Patterson

The scriptures clearly declare: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Mat. 25:13)

Despite this and other plain passages, there have been those who have been bent on setting a date for the Lord's return.

Consider the following:

1. Montanism, during the latter half of the 2nd century, preached the near approach of the millennial reign of Christ, and that the age would soon end. (Maximilla, A.D. 179 stated, "After me there is no more prophecy, but only the end of the world.")
2. Joachim of Fiore (1132-1200), supposedly derived from Rev. 11:3 and 12:6, that 1260 forward was supposed to be the age of the H.S., the everlasting gospel, a time of rest and peace for all. Francis of Assisi moved this date to 1300 A.D.
3. Johann Heinrich Alsted, a German Calvinist of the reformed theology, believed the second coming would be in 1694.
4. Hans Hut gave the date as 1528.
5. Melchoir Hoffmann gave the date as 1533.
6. Samuel S. Snow gave the date as 1844.
7. Leonard Sale-Harrison (1875-1956) tried to match all the scriptures with the life and times of Mussolini. To him tis seemed to indicate the late 1930s or early 40s as the end of

the age. He finally pinpointed the end as coming in 1940 or 41.

8. Elijah Muhammad, a leader of the Black Muslims, said in the 1960's, that Allah had revealed the U.S. would be destroyed in 1970. The Christian era would expire no later than 2000 A.D.
9. Since 1937, Herbert W. Armstrong has predicted three dates for the return of Christ: 1937, 1972, 1975.
10. Jim Jones prophesied the end of the world by nuclear holocaust on July 15, 1967.
11. William Miller, the originator of the Seventh Day Adventist group, predicted that the world would end in 1843, 1844, and 1845.
12. Hatley Frere insisted that the Jews would be back in Palestine with a rebuilt temple by 1865. Roman Catholicism would be destroyed by 1864, and all of these things were signs of an immediate return.
13. The Jehovah's Witnesses have predicted the end several times. In 1891, Charles Taze Russell, founder of the JWs, said, "thus we found the time of our Lord's second advent clearly proven to be in 1874 — in October of that year... And now he has come! The Lord is indeed present." -SITS, Series III, pp 124-133.
14. In 1962 half of India sat up all night waiting for the end of the world based upon an astrological prediction. -Readers Digest, May, 1969, p. 244
15. Hal Lindsey predicted it would end by 1995.

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## Conviction Crises

Phil Sanders

*"Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (Luke 22:41-42)*

*"For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13-14)*

Jesus and Paul demonstrated their deep conviction and devotion to God by their willingness to suffer and die to do the will of God. Many early Christians like Stephen and James gave their lives for the cause of Christ. One wonders if American Christians today would sacrifice their lives for the Lord.

According to the U.S. Religious Landmark Survey published last week by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, there are a number of puzzles about religious convictions in America and in the churches of Christ.

While 98% of members of churches of Christ and 88% of all Americans are certain or fairly certain of God's existence, while 96% of members of churches of Christ and 82% of all

Americans say their faith is very or somewhat important to them, and while 94% of members of churches of Christ and 81% of all Americans prayed to God at least a few times this month, far fewer showed strong convictions in their beliefs and practice.

For instance, only 73% of members of the churches of Christ attended church at least once in the last month (compared to 54% of all Americans).

Only 39% of members of the church of Christ would say their religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life, while 56% said many religions lead to eternal life. I read this fact broken-hearted. Do brethren doubt what Jesus said in John 14:6 and what Peter said in Acts 4:12? Are there not one gospel, one body, one faith, and one baptism?

Among members of the church of Christ 35 percent felt abortion should be legal in all or most cases (compared to 51% of all Americans). Among churches of Christ 31 percent felt homosexuality should be accepted (compared to 50% of all Americans). Why this lack of conviction? Why does our profession of faith in Christ not also pertain to beliefs and practice?

Among all Americans only 29% rely mainly on their religious beliefs for guidance regarding right and wrong. Most trust their personal experiences. Why do people inside and outside the church compromise their convictions? They do so because they are listening to man and the culture but not to God.

We need conviction if we are to pass our faith on to the next generation. We can no longer sit silently while the world succeeds in the decay of our faith and morals. Let us speak up for the Lord with love. Let's help people to see that God's way is the right way and the best way. Let's not let a crisis of compromised convictions destroy us.