

The Good News

Newsletter— September 2016

A Publication of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of the Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace.

In a world where difficult issues remain, University Baptist Church continues its commitment to be a church where “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for (we) are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Jane and I want to express our deepest appreciation for so many notes, letters, and cards over the past months (years, really) that so many of you in several MDOC facilities have sent expressing your love, concern and prayers for both of us, but particularly for Jane because of her many health issues. You cannot imagine how much that kind of love means to both of us. I especially want to mention the beautiful card that Jane received from the guys on 29-J at Parchman. The card was designed and drawn by Justin and it was signed by eleven people. Thanks guys! And above all, thanks for your love and your prayers!

Dick Allison
UBC

Know Thyself
First John 4:13

We know that God lives in us and dwells in our souls.
God's love is complete our love is not.
Help us to share your love.
God is love.
His love cast out fear.
There should be no fear in love.
God's love is perfect.
Our belief in God gives us courage.
Whom should we fear.

By Jesse Kinermon

TO THE WRITERS,

It has been awhile since I have appeared in this publication and I almost opted out again this month. There are many reasons why I haven't written in the last few months, but they all boil down to busyness! I haven't been submitting articles because I have been busy with other pursuits. That isn't an excuse that I accept from others so you can imagine the laugh the man in the mirror had when I realized the double standard.

So here I am once again in the pages of the newsletter that means so much to me and my supporters. I sat down this morning to write about the busyness of life and how easily it can lead us away from what's Important (Luke 10:38-42). That lesson may appear in a future issue but not today. I am being led to simply say, "Thank you." I have been encouraged by the writers, both new and old, and all of your wonderful, thought provoking articles in which you clearly express your views, struggles, triumphs, and revelations given to you by the Holy Spirit. They are a treat to read and use in conditioning my own faith. I am reminded that we are separated by many things, but not separate. I take strength from knowing that you all, my fellow travelers, are at my side.

As one of the "founders" I have been receiving comments every month for many years. People all over the world are reading the Good News, and I can promise you that your articles are changing people's perspectives and enriching lives. All of the comments are incredibly positive and can be summarized by a single word: HOPE.

My dear friends, your writings and prayers offer the readers around the world hope. You give others hope both in and outside of the prison system. If we, in a hostile environment, struggling under the pressures of incarceration, even the sentence of death and long-term solitary confinement can find forgiveness, peace, joy, and love in Christ, then anyone can. Our strength and struggles provide a pillar, cemented in Jesus, for people to lean upon. We can show everyone how Jesus works in the lives of suffering saints by sharing our hearts in this newsletter.

You all give me Hope and on behalf of myself and all those to whom I minister I say, "Thank you!" Keep praying and keep writing. May God grant you the grace to know the power of Christ's love and to walk confidently along the way that leads to everlasting life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

In Christian Solidarity,

Roger Gillett
Parchman, D R

We will be chastened by Him

Hebrews 12:6. For whom the Lord loves, He chastens and scourges every son He receives.

The following was written by Stephen P. In 2001.
He suffered two strokes and currently has an aneurism in his brain.

We, as believers, know that it is true that Jesus Christ chastens those whom he loves, just as a father chastens them that he loves. We know that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, must chasten us for that sin or sins that we do or have done, because he loves us. We need to watch out for the devil or demons trying to tell us that we have done nothing wrong and don't need to be chastened for that sin or those sins. We, as believers, need to tell everyone when they does something that is displeasing to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, not to worry when they start to suffer. Jesus is only chastening them because he loves them and will help them, but they've got to repent from their sins. When we are suffering from our sins, we need to remember that Jesus bore our chastenings when He was on the cross and died for all of our sins and the sins of the world. We, as believers, need to tell everyone that we all need to accept Jesus' chastens for awhile instead of having His chastens for eternity. The devil and his demons tell us to be rebellious when Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, chastens us. But if we are rebellious of Jesus' chastens, we will be hurting ourselves and end up just like the devil and his demons did when they were in Heaven, that is the reason we are not in Heaven now because of being rebellious. We need to be more like Job when he was suffering from the loss of all that he had; but he didn't despise the chastens of the Lord and neither should we. The Lord chastens those that he loves. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. And amen

Brother in Christ
Stephen Elliott Powers

The Providence of Proverbs

For gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. Proverbs 1:2-6

The first several verses of Proverbs 1 express numerous benefits to the Bible student who embarks upon serious study of the scriptures. All Scripture is divine and each book or books serve a specific purpose. Genesis depicts the beginning, Revelations reveals the end. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John introduce the ministry of Jesus. The Psalms teach us to praise. Proverbs instructs us on wisdom.

Wisdom does not indicate knowledge in abundance, rather, it is the application of what knowledge one possesses. The knowledge that a stove is hot renders nothing if the applicant endeavors to touch it . The wise choice is to handle with care. Most of us have ample knowledge of the Scriptures. We are familiar with the Ten Suggestions (a popular euphemism for the general employment of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17)). But if we fail to apply Scripture to our daily lives, we gain nothing.

From the Proverbs we discover divine discipline. We learn the ability to conform to the perfect will and standard of God. We learn to match practical righteousness . We discern judgment which influences our interaction with others. And we find how to live an altogether fair and pleasing life.

Proverbs speaks in riddles and parables. We can engage in the customary rapid-fire sayings and simply get out of it what is on the paper, but the writer's intention is that we actively engage our minds and ponder the perplexities of life. The best way to study Proverbs is one verse at a time, donating sufficient time to each one. The immense wisdom of which you will inherit is well worth. The more we learn about God and His Word, the more we realize how much we need God and His Word.

The central theme of Proverbs is expressed in verse seven, and is a motto we would do well to remember: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs. 1:7

Matt Wilbanks

My Easter Blessing: Jesus!!!

This ole prison house shackles my bones and cages my skin, save my soul it shall never own: for God hath purchased thee by a blood ransom paid in Royalty. The grave may to itself collect my essence, but my existence shall forever elude her grasp – being executed bothers me not, but what does trouble me is that at my death the prison will convey me to its boneyard of molten clay because my family claim not my murderous body. Oh well, one bed is as sufficient as another I suppose, whether in chains or out, and besides, through God's supreme providence, superiority and splendor, can't no grave hold my body down nor any killing agent snuff out my candle, for I am of the Hallowed Fold and do hear our Father's voice. . .

Soon, I shall with the angels sing the language of the sun, moon, and stars, and through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter's morn, I shall forever burn bright my glorified candle light with Heaven's Family of Love. The ten thousand year mark will only be the beginning of forever – thank you Jesus for my Royal Easter Blessing.

In Jesus name – Amen
by Jesus and David Cox
Death Row

Runners on your Mark, Get Set . . . Obey!

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Lethal Injection

It was May of 1995 when we first
crossed hairs, (crossed hairs)
You hadn't long transformed yourself from
electric chairs (electric chairs)

I can remember when the judge first
called your name,
An irritating prick that rose to
colossal fame.

Lethal injection as the judicial system
would like to say,
Death by a mixture of cocktails in
a heinous way.

You've punctured mankind and poisoned the
hearts of society,
Smiling at the destruction of families during
these improprieties.

A fixture to some states while puncturing
the skin,
Without resolute, distributing yourself to a
lethal end—

Ending the very life that God nurtured
from the womb,
To bring forth justice or at least that's
what you assume.

What would Jesus do if He stood there
in your place?
Would He inject me with malice or save
me by His grace?

Justin H. Underwood

A Note to the Writers of Good News:

Due to copy write issues, we are not able to print stories or writings submitted from other published works. However, we can print personal stories that contain shorter quotations within them.

Thank you.