



**Anderson  
church of Christ**  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, AL 35610

The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Upcoming Events	Page 2
What Manner of Child Shall This Be?	Page 3
See What God Hath Done	Page 4
Crossword Answer	Page 6

# THE GOSPEL POWER

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..."* **Romans 1:16**

**Volume XVIII, Issue 04**

**April/May 2011**

## FELLOWSHIP

*Bob Walton*

I receive a number of church bulletins each week from several sections of the country. I appreciate them being sent to me; for the most part I have profited from reading them. One of the things I have particularly noticed has been the frequent use of the word "fellowship." Not only have I noticed the use, I have observed both the overuse and abuse of this word. To illustrate what I mean: An article in a church bulletin received last fall stated in part, "periods of fellowship are a source of strength to this congregation." But in the very next sentence we were told what this "fellowship" was -- it was a "Halloween party in the fellowship hall of the church building." Also, a recent bulletin to cross my desk announced -- "members are reminded to bring sandwiches and drinks to the fellowship hall and stay for

an hour of fellowship following the services on Sunday evening."

The word "fellowship" is a good word; it is a Bible word; however, I know of no passage that uses the word to describe social meals or recreational activities. I do realize that the word is used in a modern sense to identify social and recreational activities, but it is apparent to the Bible student that there is a vast amount of difference between the modern, secular use and the Bible use of the word.

The Bible definition of the word is, "communion, partnership, sharing in common, or participation with." But what did the early Christians share? They were together; they "shared" in prayers, the Lord's Supper, and the teaching of God's word (Acts 2:42). The

*(Continued on page 7)*



**UPCOMING EVENTS  
AT ANDERSON  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**The Book of James**

**12TH AT 10:00 AM Chapter 3**

**15TH AT 3:30 PM GOSPEL SINGING**

Join us as we, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,"

- *Ephesians 5:19*



*"a motivational story full of powerful ideas..."*

**GETTING TO  
DID!**



HOW TO GET RID OF YOUR BIG BUT  
AND LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT REGRETS

EDWIN CROZIER

**In Home Bible Study**

**15TH AFTER  
GOSPEL SINGING**

Please join us as we discuss what to do when it seems our life is crumbling apart.



**Please read: *The Professor***

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**July 10th–15th 2011**

**Anderson church of Christ**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Classes for ALL ages.

Adult Class taught by David Cox



*Shaping Hearts for God Vacation Bible School Series*

# “WHAT MANNER OF CHILD SHALL THIS BE!”

*Gardner S. Hall*



This is what the neighbors said when they saw the wonderful events connected with the birth of John the Baptist. In the King James version it is represented as an exclamation. As if to say, **“What a child this will be!”** In town I saw a mother in very brief attire pushing her baby around in a stroller. The thought came to me, **“What manner of child shall this be!”** What kind of training will a child get from a mother like that?

I visited a home where there were little children – fine, health, children. But parents don’t go to church services, and the children don’t. My thought was, **“What manner of children shall these be!”** As I look back at my community where I was reared, I seem to get an answer. We had a few families there who rarely attended services. Some of their children and grandchildren constitute the delin-

quency problems now. People are afraid to leave their homes at night because of some of them.

I saw a mother and child in a store near the check-out counter. The little boy, about four, picked up a bag of candy, about a pound bag. **“No, you can’t have it, put it back!”** said the mother. **“Wah, waah, WAAH, WAAAAAH,”** said the boy, in the meantime jumping high and stomping the floor. Open came the mother’s purse and the tantrum immediately ceased. My thought: **“What manner of child shall this be!”** Thoughtless, thoughtless parents!!

I see some parents who attend all the services and who help with all the responsibilities of the members. Their children attend the classes and the parents help them prepare their lessons. I hear them singing; I hear them quote passages. I think: **“What manner of children shall these be!”** Also, **“What manner of youths and**

**men and women shall these be!”** There are two big hurdles for them., One is education, the other is marriage.

Schools are not content to prepare children and youths for serving humanity and God and making a living. They want to take over their social life and attend to their cultural and physical development. And O, the foolish, silly, worldly things they want them involved in. Children are tempted, because they by nature dread being different. Beauty contests, popularity contests, ministering to vanity and destructive of any sense of modesty; these temptations go with “modern education.”

Many drift away from the church through the influence of a worldly companion. Boys need so much

*(Continued on page 7)*

# SEE WHAT GOD HATH DONE

*Donald P. Ames*

In Psalm 139:14, David says, "I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it well." Looking at the nature and functioning of the human body, one cannot help but say, "Amen," to that statement.

There is no way one can honestly evaluate the working of the human body and then conclude it all developed by mere chance.

Our stomach, for instance, in the process of normal digestion, produces hydrochloric acid strong enough to burn a hole in a rug, yet it does not consume our own body while in the process of digesting our food. As for our lungs they are busy exchanging the carbon dioxide in our blood for fresh oxygen, and though they only weigh 3½ pounds, they contain 600,000,000 air cells. In fact, if the air sacs alone in our lungs were laid out flat, they would cover 2,600

square feet. Yet, they are compacted within our chest cavity along with the heart, etc. The blood in our body weighs about 7 pounds per 100 pounds of body weight, and composes about 5 quarts. Yet, it travels through 100,000 miles of blood vessels in our body, returning to the heart in about 60 seconds (a distance equal to 5 round trips from New York City to Sydney, Australia). And, although about 250,000,000 blood cells are destroyed and replaced daily, yet the volume remains constant at between 5 and 6 quarts. Although the heart weighs but 2 ½ pounds, and is about the size of one's fist, yet it does enough work in 12 hours to lift a 65-ton tank car one foot off the ground! Beating at the rate of 70 times per minute (100,800 times per day), yet if you count the time between beats, it finds enough time in a 24-hour day to not only do its work but to also rest 15 hours daily (I wonder if there is a message there?). In one year, as it pumps the 5 quarts of blood through our body, it pumps from 777,000 to 1,600,000 gallons (depending on our activi-

ties), which is enough to fill from 97 to 200 tank cars of 8,000 gallons each. And then add to that the fact that nerve impulses in our nervous system travel from the point of impact to the brain at the speed of 155 miles per hour – without destroying the brain on impact. And note the complex nature of the brain is so vast that, though it weighs but 3 pounds, it would require vast computers to even begin to equal it in function. And then add to that the fact automatic reflex action of our body (as the eye blinking before we even have time to see what is actually coming) shows purpose and careful planning.

Truly, the body is "fearfully and wonderfully made." And yet some say there is no God? David says down in our soul we now otherwise. God has indeed born testimony of His existence!



*(Continued from page 1)*

Christians at Corinth were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9). Paul wrote about the help of the Corinthian Christians to needy saints and called it "the fellowship of the ministering to the saints" (2 Cor. 8:4). The Philippian Christians were praised for their "fellowship (with Paul) in the furtherance of the gospel" (by their contribution to him) (Phil. 1:5). Our fellowship is with one another by "walking in the light" (1 John 1:7), and this is the fellowship the Christian should be interested in. These are but a few of the more than twenty New Testament passages that allude to the fellowship, partnership, or joint participation in religious matters by early Christians. And by a careful study of these references, it is evident that they all refer to spiritual matters and never to recreational, social, or secular activities such as Halloween parties, church suppers, or ball games.

Incidentally, in reference to the church that met in the "fellowship hall of the

church" (building) for an hour of fellowship following the services on Sunday evening; I wonder if there was any "fellowship" in the service itself? Was not the fellowship with God by the church as it met together to sing, pray, study, etc.? Was there no sharing nor joint participation in religious matters then - - rather than in some social activity following the period of worship to God?

My friends, the error all begins when the word "fellowship" is taken out of its scriptural context and made to apply to social, recreational, or entertainment activities, which is not the Biblical use of the word. And a second grave spiritual blunder that often ensues is to build and maintain a fellowship hall to carry out this unscriptural practice.

I do encourage the fellowship of Christians in public worship to God, in evangelism, and in benevolence to the needy. I also encourage social and recreational activities among Christians; that these activities be carried out by the individual and be a part of the activities of the home, the center of such activities for the Chris-

tian.

I, however, stand opposed to social and recreational activities and/or facilities for these activities being financed with the Lord's money, called "Bible fellowship," and labeled "a good work of the church."

Brethren, let us call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways! *(via Cahaba Heights Bulletin, April 1980)*

---

*(Continued from page 4)*

to learn to look more than a pretty face or form; and girls need to learn to look for more than a popular athlete or a big spender.

Parents, your greatest concern should be that your children be faithful to the Lord and active in His service. If you rear that manner of children you should find great joy in them. Otherwise they will be heaviness of heart, if you yourself are a spiritual person.

– *From Gospel Guide, August 1979*

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:45 AM  
AM Worship 10:45 AM  
PM Worship 6:00 PM  
3rd Sunday 3:30 PM  
Worship

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

### ELDERS

Michael Clemmons  
(256) 247-0836  
Scottie Goode  
(931) 565-3391  
Cecil Cox (256) 627-5349

### DEACONS

Jimmy Glass  
(256) 247-0571  
Eddie J. Hammond  
(256) 247-3038  
Mark McIntyre  
(256) 729-8316  
Steve Parker  
(256) 247-7843  
Phil Pressnell  
(256) 232-8509  
Rocky Rose  
(256) 247-0011  
Brian Word  
(931) 565-3799

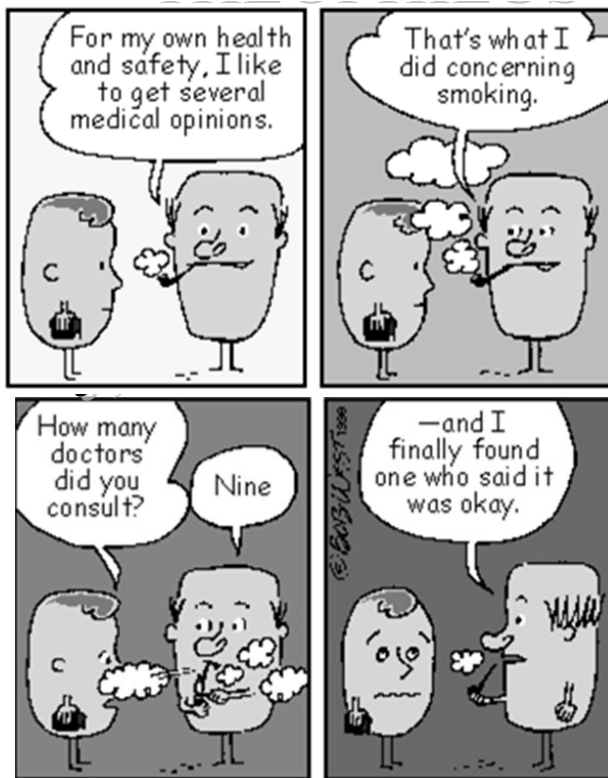
### EVANGELIST/EDITOR

Aaron C. Andrews  
(256) 349-8911  
Office: (256) 247-5539  
aaronandrews@me.com

*Anderson church of Christ*  
P.O. Box 66  
Anderson, Alabama 35610

U.S. Postage  
Paid Bulk Rate  
Anderson, Alabama  
Non-Profit  
Permit #6

Return Service Requested



THEOPHILUS

Check us out on the web at: [www.anderson-church.org](http://www.anderson-church.org)