

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home. ~ Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, **Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Steven Crunk's niece, **Abby Vandiver**, is seriously sick with a blood, disorder. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer. ~ **Erica Crunk** continues her recovery. ~ Willodean and Wynell's Brother, **Clifford Kelley** passed away last Sunday. The funeral was held on Tuesday. Let our hearts and prayers be with this family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. **Others on the sick list include: James Campbell**, Virginia Lovell's father ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is not well enough to get out. ~

THANKS: Thanks to Bro. Cecil Cox for preaching and teaching Bible class and Bro. Kevin Chancellor for preaching while I was recovering from surgery. Thanks to everyone at Anderson for your love, support, calls, visits, cards, and especially your prayers during my recovery process. It has made ALL the difference for my family and I.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group B". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of December 7th)

Sunday:	
Bible Classes	96
Morning Worship	117
Evening Worship	62
Wednesday:	
Bible Classes	70

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes9:45 AM
 Morning Worship10:45 AM
 Evening Worship6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Evening.....3:30 PM
Wednesday
 Bible Classes7:00 PM

Elders
 Michael Clemmons...(256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode.....(931) 565-3391

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) 247-5068
 Office...(256) 247-5539
 email: aaronandrews@me.com

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

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

Return Service Requested

Gospel Power



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

December 14, 2008
 Volume XV No.49

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

Anderson church of Christ
 5900 Highway 207
 Anderson, Alabama
 Visit Us On The Web
 Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve For the Week of Dec 14th:

BIBLE CLASSES
Song Leader – Brian Word
Bible Reading – Jimmy Glass
Deuteronomy 30:1-10
Prayer – Phil Pressnell

MORNING WORSHIP
Song Leader – Brian Word
Prayer – Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding – Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting – Aric Butler
Serving – Rodney McCrary,
 Jerry Dickey, Corey Goode,
 Michael Word
Closing Prayer – Ronnie Phillips

EVENING WORSHIP
Song Leader – Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading – Rocky Rose
Deuteronomy 30:11-20
Prayer – Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper – Eddie J. Hammond, Aric Butler
Closing Prayer – Andrew Gatlin

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES
Song Leader – Cecil Cox
Prayer – Brian Word
Bible Reading – Aric Butler
Deuteronomy 31:1-8
Invitation – Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer – Brian Blakely

Hide It Under A Bushel? No! Bubba Garner

The book of Acts is a book of conversions. It is the historical record of the apostles fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ, "go into all the world and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). They did so in Jerusalem, Samaria, Caesarea, and in the uttermost parts of the world. They did so with great success.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were on the Second Missionary Journey and came to Troas. There, Paul received a vision in the night of a man who said, "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (Acts 16:9). They set course immediately. While in Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia, they taught and baptized Lydia and her household. This initial success was quickly countered with an altercation with the local law enforcement. Though Paul and Silas were put in jail, they were not set free from their responsibility to preach the gospel of Christ.

Jesus said to "let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Everyone has a light, one that is not meant for hiding but shining. Never is this more clearly seen than through Paul and Silas' behavior in their dark prison cell.

What can we learn from their shining example?

Your will face many temptations to turn your off your light. Paul and Silas had every right to be discouraged. Their robes torn off of them, they were beaten with rods with "many blows," thrown into the inner prison, the most secure cell, and their feet fastened in stocks (Acts 16:22-24). This was a device used to spread the legs as far apart as possible, to ensure cramps and

discomfort. What was their reaction in all of this? Did they grumble and complain? Did they threaten to quit or surrender? "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God" (Acts 16:25). Their candles were literally burning the midnight oil.

The darkest times are when you must shine even brighter. Your attitude reveals a great deal about your character. Christians ought to be people who respond differently to tragedy and calamity than the rest of the world. We see the bigger picture. We know God is still in control. We believe He has the power to work everything together for good.

Paul and Silas were singing "hymns of praise" in prison. It's as if they were thanking God for the privilege of persecution. When disaster strikes, don't look for the "off" switch. Press "on."

You never know who can see your light. The Lord was not the only one hearing their prayers and songs. "And the prisoners were listening to them" (Acts 16:25). The sounds in their cell were as important as the words of their sermons on the streets. Remember, Paul and Silas had received a vision to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called them to go preach the gospel there. And they were not about to quit preaching. Even in jail, they saw an opportunity to turn these prisoners into bond-servants of Jesus Christ.

People are watching you, too. In your neighborhood, in your classes, on your team, at your work. They notice that you are different. They don't hear the same words coming out of your mouth that they hear from other people. They don't see you going the same places and participating in the same activities as those in the world.

Or do they...?

God has called all of us to preach. Not just with our words but with our example, how we live our lives. The purpose of letting your light shine is so men will "see your good works and glorify your Father" (Matt. 5:16). They've already seen plenty of bad ones. Give them something good to watch. Let them see Him who is source of light.

You can't be a light without sending the light. Souls were saved the night Paul and Silas shone. After the earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison, the jailer awoke to find all the doors opened. When he learned that none of the prisoners had escaped, he ran and fell before the feet of Paul and Silas and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved" (Acts 16:30)? The jailer must have been listening to their songs and prayers along with the prisoners. He went to them with a question he knew they could answer. He could see that they were living the kind of life they were preaching about.

You have souls to rescue, souls to save. Make sure that people know where to find you. If they can make no distinction between you and the rest of the world enslaved to sin, what reason would they have to ask you about salvation (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15)? And make certain you're prepared for the opportunity. Paul and Silas "spoke the word of the Lord to him" that night (Acts 16:32). How much would their flame had been extinguished had they not been able to answer his question of eternal life?

There are some people whom you alone can reach. Be sure to leave the light on for them.

The same jailer who had fastened the feet of Paul and Silas in the stocks was baptized and set free from the

bondage of sin. Think about him the next time you are tempted to hide your light under a bushel. — **END**

Toning It Down

Robert Turner

A "country meeting" had gone exceedingly well, and elders from another community asked the preacher to work with them the following year. He came at the appointed time, and found his reputation had spread, and the building was packed. The elders met him at the car, told him they had never had such a gathering of Methodists, Baptists, and no-church folk, so he must be very careful lest he offend someone with his forthright teaching.

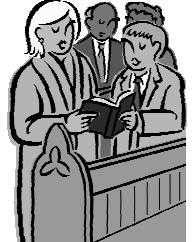
Being young and brash, and having no more tact than to tell the truth, he reminded them of the undiluted lessons that had been given at the neighboring church in the previous year. He said that since he had not been in that section of the state before, the previous year's work must have drawn this year's crowd; and certainly was the reason he had been asked to come. He concluded, "If you expect to hold and convert these people with something other than the kind of preaching that brought them together, I'm afraid you have the wrong man. I'll get back into my car and go home."

With much confusion — "Oh no, you must have misunderstood us" etc., the preacher was persuaded to stay, and the meeting began. The preaching was strong, and seemed to get a little stronger; but the people continued to come, and several were converted.

I do not now believe, nor did I then, that "skinning the sects" is good

preaching. Some folk will turn away from straight, plain truth, no matter how fairly we seek to present it. But we are dead wrong in thinking we can convert people to Christ with anything other than the Bible message. It will convict the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; and many won't like that. But we are looking for the "few" who will like it, and will genuinely turn to God. "Toning it down" will produce only "toned down" members of a "toned down" church. You may keep the money, the politicians, and silk-stocking row; but you will lose the backbone and fiber that is necessary for a church to prevail and please the Lord. And if "members" are not interested in pleasing the Lord and saving souls, why bother with any preaching at all?

Join us for a
GOSPEL SINGING



December 21, 2008
at 3:30 PM.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

In every generation the Bible will challenge the values of the age and its definition of success.