

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:**

Euin Barrier, Bernice Beeson,  
Terry Cantrell, Ora Cash,  
Dickie & Joann Crouch, Emily Devereux,  
Richard Faulkner, Jimmy Hall,  
Eva Lee, Ken & Mabel Lock,  
Melvin & Ruth Messer, Bobby Mills,  
Bill Parr, Sophia Sears,  
Earline Smith, Linda Smith,  
Barbara Staten, Joann White  
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,  
Darlene Wilson, Geneva Wortham,  
and those engaged in teaching the lost.

**If you notice someone’s absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help.**

*Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands (Proverbs 14:1).*

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:  
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

**PRAYER LIST UPDATES:**

**Jason Blake’s** knee surgery was successful. He is at home, but taking regular physical therapy.

**Chris Parr** is still in St. Bernard’s hospital and still awaiting biopsy results.

**Elizabeth Price** had successful eye surgery, avoiding the danger of the loss of sight in that eye.

**THE RECORD SPEAKS** (week of 4-11):  
Sunday Bible Class ..... 80  
Sunday AM Worship ..... 94  
Sunday PM Worship ..... 70  
Contribution ..... \$1,865  
Wednesday PM Bible Class ..... 70  
**WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?**

**Next Week’s Lessons:**

**AM:** Modern Concepts Regarding Hell

**PM:** Give Attention to Singing

**OTHER NEWS:**

**GOSPEL MEETING:** Today through Wednesday Heath Rhodes is scheduled to preach in the meeting of the Broadway Street church in Marked Tree.

**RECEPTION:** The church in Egypt invites those who shared in the Panama mission by means of material donations. A dinner and program are planned to thank you: 6:30 PM Tuesday, Egypt City Hall (see the board).

**LADIES’ DAY:** Nettleton Church of Christ this Saturday, 10:00-noon plus lunch.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Deanna Farr (tomorrow)

**INTERNET:** Our web site has attracted another student of the Bible, and our Facebook page has added several more members. Please promote these pages in all your communications.

**Welcome**  
to the Assemblies of  
**Harrisburg**  
**Church of Christ**  
P. O. Box 266  
(504 N. Brooks St)  
Harrisburg, AR 72432  
(870) 578-2965

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes 9:00  
Worship 9:45; 6:00

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes 7:00

**Elders:**

Ray Blanchard 578-2559  
Bill Mears 578-9650  
Mark Weston 931-2790

**Evangelist:**

Al Parr 578-9154  
(Cell) 903-721-0332

**World Evangelism:**

- ◆Cape Town, S.A.;
- ◆Int’l Bible Academe;

**Benevolence:**

- ◆Children’s Homes, Inc.;
- ◆Southern Christian Home

**★REMEMBER★**

Study your Bible lessons  
every day

Be a  
Daily Bible Reader



visit [www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com)

April 18, 2009

## HUMPBACK EVIDENCE

Humpback whales are about 40 feet long at maturity and weigh about one ton per foot. They carry a thousand pounds of barnacles, and when they jump or “breach,” they extend themselves totally in the air, and then free-fall back into the ocean. You can see the splash five miles away.

Humpback whales travel down to Hawaii from Alaska every year to calve in the warm Hawaiian waters. Year after year, each family comes back to the very same place around the island. When the calves are born (they weigh about five tons), they are born breech – or tail first. If they were born head first, these air-breathing mammals would drown during the birth process. As a baby whale is born, another humpback whale comes alongside and pushes it to the surface to help the baby take his first breath of air.

The humpback whale sings a *song* that can be heard more than 50 miles away under water. Every one of these whales sings the same song. Each year, the song changes slightly, and every humpback whale in the world will sing that year’s song. Amazing! Incredible! What a display of the wonderful creative power of our God!

Via “Old Paths Bulletin”

**BE A DAILY BIBLE READER**

## WORDS IN SONGS BEULAH LAND

We firmly believe that the Christian must sing (Ephesians 5:18, 19), that singing is a method of teaching (Colossians 3:16) and that all teaching – including the words we sing – must be truth (II John 9). It is also essential that the singer *understand* his words to be truth (I Corinthians 14:15). For these reasons and others we began this series of articles on WORDS IN SONGS. According to these convictions we continue through each article in the series, and shall endeavor to remain true to them in consideration of this song as well.

**It is also essential that the singer *understand* his words to be truth.**

Probably the first song to arouse this writer's thinking, as a young Christian, about the scriptural content of songs frequently used in the worship of the church was "Beulah Land" (#480 in *Songs of the Church, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition*). The chorus seems to make it clear that the church is the theme of the song (the singer is looking away toward heaven). Why (by what authority) is the church spoken of in such terms as are written in this song?

The best-known version of the song begins, "I've reached the land of corn and wine..." It was hard for a young sailor fresh into the body of Christ to accept the idea that Christians could sing of "corn" (whiskey?) and "wine" (alcoholic?) as "sweet," or to believe that such beverages could be consumed by the church. Some discreet questioning discovered the fact that various "experienced" members also had trouble with the song. In fact, no one *seemed* to know what other meaning could be attached to it, and yet the song continued to be chosen by the song-leaders and heartily rendered by the members. How could so many enthusiastically sing what they did not understand?

Well, they shouldn't! The passages of inspiration to which we referred in the beginning of this article make it clear that Christians are to understand what they sing, and to sing only the truth. Can this song be shown to teach the truth? Open the Bible, and we'll see. (As we begin we should mention that "Dwelling in Beulah Land," #627 in *Songs of the Church, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition*, is based on the same idea and has much the same message.)

Isaiah 62 is God's prophecy of Judah's return from Babylonian captivity. The land and the people, it says, would be "married" to one another once again. The Hebrew word for "married"

is carried over into the English translation: "beulah." The people would eat their *own* "corn" (a better translation is "grain," probably referring to wheat and barley) and drink of their *own* vineyards the "wine" which their labor had brought forth but which had hitherto been taken and consumed by their captors.

**Heaven's words are in the Bible.**

Neither in this chapter nor in any other reference, is there any apparent authorization to apply this prophecy to the church. God's prophecies sometimes have dual meanings, but when they do there is always an inspired statement to that effect somewhere in the Bible. Because some feel the freedom to make *any* "religious" application of any particular verse of scripture, and because of the pre-millennial interpretation often given to many Old Testament prophecies, such songs as this are written. But God spoke through Isaiah concerning the return of the Jews to their homeland from Babylon. To say that God was speaking of any other event or time is to "put words in God's mouth."

Even if the church may be referred to as "Beulah Land" the song has severe errors in it. It is in Heaven, not here in the church, that "night has passed away" (stanza 1, second line). Referring to the first line of the second stanza, "My Saviour comes and walks with" no one, as He is now in Heaven and shall be until the Father sends Him in the clouds for all to see at the end of time (Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7). And, how do we know that "Ever-vernal (green) trees, and flowers" which are "never fading," "grow where streams of life forever flow" (stanza 2)? There is nothing like this in any verse of scripture in the King James Version of the Bible. Stanza 3 may have a poetic and figurative intent, but it so near the religious belief of many as to imply a false doctrine. We don't know whether angels may accompany "the white-robed throng ... in the sweet Redemption song," but "Zephyrs" (gentle breezes) do not carry "sounds of Heaven's melody" to anyone on earth today, either in the church or out of it. Heaven's words are in the Bible (Galatians 1:8, 9); Heaven's sounds are reserved for our pleasure upon arrival in Heaven (Revelation 14:1-3; 15:1-3).

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God... And... whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 10:17; 14:23). Brethren, this song is not of faith. *-Al Parr*

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*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day*

(Psalm 119:97):

**B** **E** **A** **D** **A** **I** **L** **I** **Y** **B** **I** **B** **L** **E** **R** **E** **A** **D** **E** **R**