

**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, a2nd call to see if there is some additional way you can help.**

*Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good. (Proverbs 6:3).*

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:  
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

**THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 7-4):**

Sunday Bible Class ..... 67  
Sunday AM Worship ..... 96  
Sunday PM Worship ..... 48  
Contribution ..... \$2,289  
Wednesday PM Bible Class ..... 71

**WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?**

**Next Week’s Lessons:**

**AM:** What do You Need?

**PM:** Are There Degrees of Reward & Punishment?

**BE A DAILY BIBLE READER**

**CHURCH NEWS:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Billy Sears - Monday  
Harrison McGee - Friday

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (June):**

Greg & Ami Biggers - Monday  
Kenny & Donna Mills - Thursday

**Send Us Your “Hand-me-Downs”**

Children's Homes is happy to pick up your used clothing (in good condition). Used clothes – again, in good condition – can be used to clothe the young people in our care, and garments that are not used for that purpose are sent to our Thrift Store, where they’re sold (and the proceeds come back to us).

If you are within driving distance of Children’s Homes, we invite you to donate clothing items at our Community Involvement Center on our main campus. This may be done Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Our grocery pick-up truck will also pick up clothing items. We ask that each container of clothing be marked with the donor’s name and address so that we can send a thank-you note. (This note can also serve as a receipt if the donor elects to claim the donation as a tax deduction. Please note that Children’s Homes cannot assign a dollar value to donated items.) [That truck is due a week from tomorrow.]

**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★**

Elders & Deacons meet  
tonight

Be a  
Daily Bible Reader



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

July 11, 2010

*And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead? (Isaiah 8:19)*

**SHOULD NOT A PEOPLE  
SEEK UNTO THEIR GOD?**

Isaiah prophesied when Israel was trusting in its idols against the attacks of neighboring nations. The People cried out to those idols as if stone and wood could hear and help. The cried further to those who had “familiar spirits” (a living person who was supposedly chosen by the spirit of dead person for purposes of communication). They cried to those who peep and mutter. Isaiah was to say to them, “Should not a people seek unto their God?” It was God in heaven who gave them their land and made of them a nation; why should they turn to others to sustain their place in that land?

Isaiah was not talking to us or about our time, but his words have an application to us in our time. They were “written for our learning, that we ... might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). His words were “written for our admonition” (I Cor. 10:11). People around us are crying out as Israel did around Isaiah: to anything and everything but the only God who can help them.

(Cont’d)

## FROM “GHOST-BUSTERS” TO “HARRY POTTER” AND BEYOND

America’s books and movies have for the past quarter-century been turning to the occult. “Ghost-Busters” seemed silly when it was first released in 1984, but many take it very seriously. To some it has all the marks of a religion. “Harry Potter” books and movies have made authors, publishers, producers and actors a lot of money. “Lord of the Rings” seemed like harmless fantasy as a book. Then it became a major movie phenomenon with emotional and spiritual appeal. To multiplied thousands.

America’s people are more and more turning to the black arts. For years the “Psychic Hot Line” was heavily advertised on TV. Then it was “Miss Cleo” and her taro “readings.” On “Crossing Over with John Edwards” viewers were promised opportunity to “talk with your loved ones” who have died. The “Teen-age Witch” had her run on TV, and 40-year-old “Bewitched” is still popular in reruns. The “Dungeons & Dragons” game of the 1980’s has returned to encourage witchcraft among today’s youth generation. “Wicken,” a popular occult religion in Texas and Arkansas, was honored by the Dallas city council in 2000.

Children are especially vulnerable, and are targeted by those who promote such interests. When the Bible is denied people, souls will always worship what they can find. When the Bible is ignored people practice what is evil.

### IT’S AN OLD STORY

Egyptians in Joseph’s day trusted in magicians (Gen. 41:8). Egyptians in Moses’ day practiced black arts (mimicking true miracles, Exod. 7:11, 22). The peoples displaced from Canaan had practiced black arts Deut. 18:9-14. Balaam is one well-known example (Num. 22:6; 23:23). Egyptians of Isaiah’s day practiced it (Isa. 19:3), as did the Assyrians in Nineveh (Nahum 3:4-5) and the Babylonians (Dan. 2:2, 10, 27-28). Even the New Testament shows that the practice of occultism was not unknown in the Roman Empire (see the record of Simon, Elymas, Philippian Damsel; vagabond Jews and the sons of Sceva).

### GOD CONFRONTED THE BLACK ARTS

**ASTROLOGERS.** Isaiah 47:13 declared to Babylon that astrologers were impotent to help them against God. Judah was warned against consulting them (Jer. 10:1-2). Nebuchadnezzar found that inspiration of God is “10 times better” than anything the astrologers could advise (Daniel 1:20).

**MAGICIANS** (literally, a horoscopist, as drawing magical lines or circles). Some people appear to work miracles (Exod. 7:11, 12, 22), but God has consistently shown His superiority and their lie (Exod. 9:11).

**NECROMANCERS** (those who profess to tell the future by alleged communications with the dead). God told Israel (Deut. 18:9-11) that some around them would practice this “black art,” they were to refuse to participate in it. In our text, those who “peep (or chirp) & mutter” refers ventriloquists who pretend to speak with the dead. One commentator asked, “Should a people on behalf of the living seek to the dead, or wouldn’t that be plainly preposterous?”

**SORCERERS** (sorcery: to divine or determine by an alleged assistance of evil spirits). God plainly commanded (Deut. 18:10), “There shall not be found among you any one that useth divination ... or an enchanter.” Malachi warned that God will judge them swiftly with other sinners (Mal. 3:5).

**WITCHES** (the word literally means to whisper a spell; inchant; practice magic). Exodus 22:18 bluntly commands, “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.” King Saul, in his good days, had banned them (I Sam. 28:3). Paul identified their behavior as a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20).

**WIZARDS** (conjurers). God taught Israel that to go to such an one is to be defiled by them (Lev. 19:31). It was so important that He said, “I will even set my face against that soul and will cut him off from among his people” (Lev. 20:6). The faithful were required to put them to death; stone them with stones (Lev. 20:27).

In Isaiah’s day the people who had been saved and supported by God cried out to the dead to save them from oppression. God reasoned with them: “Should not a people seek unto their God?”

To turn to another is senseless. To turn to another has been shown to be useless. To turn to another is blasphemy. Trust God in everything. *-Al Parr*

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*I have not departed from thy judgments:  
for thou has taught me*

(Psalm 119:99):

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

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