

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 7-10):
 Sunday Bible Class. 53
 Sunday AM Worship. 63
 Sunday PM Worship. 58
 Contribution. \$1,704
 Wednesday PM Bible Class. 49
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU ?

Next Week's Lessons:

AM: Premillennialism's Pernicious Platform
PM: Tribulation, Second Coming and Signs

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.
The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning (Proverbs 16:21).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Euin Barrier was admitted to St. Bernard's Hospital Thursday with chest pains. She was kept over Friday night for observation.

Chris Parr has been admitted to Woodbriar (room 207, to be shared with ***Euin Barrier***) for nursing and rehab.

Georgia Barrett has to an apartment at 21452 Hwy 14 E in Harrisburg. Her phone number has not changed.

OTHER NEWS:

SUMMER CAMP: The Camp Tahkodah week with the Brookland church for those 8 through 18 years of age is July 31 - August 5. Information and application are on the bulletin board.

LECTURESHIP: The annual POWER lectures are scheduled next week, July 24-28 in Southaven on the theme "The Prodigal Son." Pick up a schedule from the foyer.

COUNTY FAIR: August 16-20 is this years date. A schedule is in the foyer for you to sign up for a time to staff the booth. Also, if you have suggestions for the decoration or operation of the booth, please let Al know.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Charlene Mears - Tuesday

FIFTH SUNDAY: Two weeks from today is the 5th Sunday of July. If you have questions that would like to have answered in the evening lesson that day, please submit them in writing (no need to sign them) to Al as soon as possible.



BE A DAILY BIBLE READER

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:
 Int'l Bible Academe;
 BEST (Cambodia);
 Confirming the Churches

Benevolence:
 Children's Homes, Inc.;
 Southern Christian Home

Maintenance Deacon
of the Month:
 Steve Whittingham
 578-2901

Be a Daily
 Bible Reader



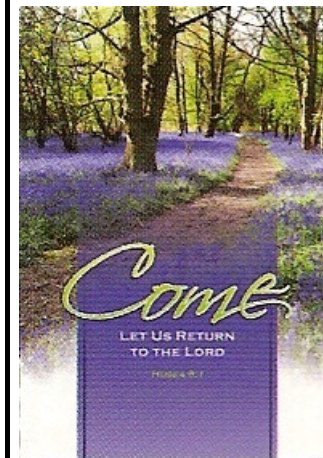
visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

July 17, 2011

GROWTH

If we want to be somebody tomorrow that we're not today, then we must grow. Really, that's what life is all about: growth. We were born to grow. And if we cease to grow, we start to die. As children we outgrew our clothes, and as adults we should outgrow the little spiritual garments that once covered smaller souls.

It is natural for every living thing to grow until it reaches the climax, and then the anti-climax comes. However, there is another kind of growth in which there should be no anti-climax – spiritual growth in which we get bigger and stronger with the passing of the years. Hence, there is no such thing as a finishing school; instead, the



growth process is to continue. Paul stated, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Corinthians 4:16).

[If I ever knew, I don't remember now who wrote the above. Still, isn't it a good idea to remind ourselves occasionally that what's living is growing, and if we're not growing in spirit we're spiritually dead? ALP]

WORDS IN SONGS BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES

An old and familiar song is Knowles Shaw's "Bringing in the Sheaves" (#56 in *Songs of the Church*). For generations it has been sung with great enthusiasm by Christians, both when assembled for worship and when all alone going about their daily chores. What an encouraging message it has for saints sincerely concerned about the souls of others!

Ecclesiastes 11:6 — *In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*

Seeds of kindness should always be sown by Christians. Of all the people in the world, Christians should be kindest (Ephesians 4:32; I Corinthians 13:4), for God our Father is kind unto all (Luke 6:35). More than that, the greatest kindness is that of plainly showing to another the only way to eternal life (II Corinthians 5:11; Romans 15:14).

Sowing in the morning ... in the noon-tide and in the dewy eves. God gives us the full day; we should serve Him in all parts of it (John 11:9; II Peter 2:13). He told the Israelites, *these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

I like the second stanza. Mr. Shaw reminds us what we should already know: that the work of the Christian continues regardless of the circumstances. In doing so, he encourages our perseverance when it is not easy. Sow your seeds **in the sunshine, in the shadows, fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze.** Paul encouraged the preacher this way: *preach the word; be instant in season, out of season* (II Timothy 4:2). It's easy to be out working when the sun shines, and sometimes Christians find opportunity to preach to folks who really want to hear the word, who listen eagerly and respond in godly fashion. Often, though, there are shadows over the evangelistic efforts. This might be due to doubt on the part of the hearer, or possibly to the fact that the teacher just doesn't feel all that much like teaching today. Sometimes we must face even the chilling breeze of hostility, or even outright persecution. If we wait until we feel 100% like the great apostle in his finest day, we won't give much service to the Lord. If we preach only to "the Ethiopian" who is diligently searching for the truth and

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A SHORT COMMENTARY FROM AL on Romans 10:16 (*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?*) – Isaiah lamented that few had believed the preaching of Christ (Isaiah 53:1). Paul commented by the inspiration of God that the evidence of their not believing is their not *obeying*. Many in this world claim to believe in God, believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and believe the gospel which Jesus brought. Many of them will proclaim in the judgment day that they have preached and worked in the name of Jesus, and yet will hear from the Lord, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23). He is already telling all of us the same thing in this and many other passages. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

quick to obey it, we likewise won't do much sowing. If we go out to proclaim the name of Christ, and salvation to the world, only when it seems "safe" to do so, it might well be questioned whether we have sufficient love either for Christ or for those for whom He died. We can't be afraid of the clouds or the chill; there will be lots of both. If it were not so, the world would not need the gospel or the preacher. Jesus was sent "to the lost sheep" (Matthew 15:24). So were the apostles (Matthew 10:6), and so are we (Luke 15:4).

Go then even weeping, sowing for the Master. This is not volunteer service; we have been bought with a price (I Corinthians 6:20; 7:23), commissioned to a responsibility (Matthew 28:19-20) and promised a reward (Matthew 5:11-12; 16:27; Colossians 3:24; Revelation 22:12). Even if we have to go when circumstances cause us weeping in our going, we go for Him, **tho' the loss sustained our spirit often grieves.** This service will cause us "loss," as many have learned and taught us (Hebrews 11:24-27), but Paul's attitude is encouraging. He wrote, *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ* (Philippians 3:8). While teaching our neighbor the gospel we may grieve the loss of time and opportunity to do other things instead. In the long run, though, the exchange will be a happy one, for **when our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

Go, teach and bring them in — and may God go with you all the way. — *Al Parr*

The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes

(Psalm 119:64):

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