



THE RAINBOW BEACON

July 9, 2008

Volume 40 Issue 28

NEVER TOO OLD

Old age is dreaded by many because it is often associated with loneliness, physical decline, and a retreat to inactivity. However, history records that many people made some of their greatest contributions to society after the age of 65.

- The Earl of Halsburg, for example, was 90 when he began preparing a 20 volume revision of English law.
- Goeth wrote Faust at 82. Galileo made his greatest discovery when he was 73.
- At 64, Winston Churchill became British Prime Minister for the first time and started the epic struggle against Hitler.
- At 72, Golda Meir became Prime Minister of Israel.
- At 80, Grandma Moses, who had started painting in her late 70s, had her first one-woman exhibit.
- At 81, Benjamin Franklin skillfully mediated between disagreeing factions at the U.S. Constitutional Convention.
- At 80, Winston Churchill returned to the House of Commons as a member of parliament and also exhibited 62 of his paintings.
- At 80, Nora Cydrus became a child of God.

You probably won't read about Nora Cydrus in the textbooks of history, but this week she made the greatest decision of all history; she became a Christian, a child of God.

Nora has a dear friend, another octogenarian, named Thelma Clark. Thelma cared so much about Nora that she wanted her to know

about Jesus Christ and how one can be saved from sin through Him (Ephesians 1:7). So, Thelma began to study God's Word with Nora and began bringing her to worship and Bible class. Then, this past Wednesday, a Christian from the Cox Boulevard church of Christ in Sheffield, AL, Julia Counts, teamed up with Thelma to teach Nora about how to respond to what Jesus had done for her (and for all of us). They studied about how Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross (Romans 5:8-10).

They read in God's Word that in order to receive the blessings of Jesus' sacrificial death, we must: believe in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Then, Nora Cydrus confessed her faith and was baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27) to have all of her sins washed away by the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16). She became a Christian, praising God for her salvation!

Are You a Christian? Both Nora and the Scriptures say, You are never too old and it is STILL not too late!

Won't YOU trust and obey him today?

David A. Sargent
Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL

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2 BAPTISMS FROM CORRESPONDENCE!

Kathy Overbey received some good news on her return from vacation! One of her correspondence students in Brent, AL wrote her of his baptism into Christ! He joins quite a few of her students, now Christians, at the Bibb Correctional Facility who meet for Bible studies and for worship. These men have to meet out in the yard of the prison. They make do with what they have.

Steve and Delores Worley asked us to use our courses to teach a man in the Ripley, Tennessee jail. This contact quit after studying a few of our courses, but others at the facility enrolled as a result of his study. One of these men was baptized by an elder from the Ripley Church of Christ this past Sunday. The preacher at Ripley, Robert Taylor, told us that they take a large



tub into the prison for baptisms. He said this new Christian, a young man, has real potential and they have been impressed with him. This babe in Christ lives in Ripley, so they will work with him to mature him and get him comfortably situated at the Ripley congregation when he is released soon. We also have a request for baptism from another student at Ripley, and Robert Taylor told us early this week that they will make arrangements for his baptism as soon as possible. The Ripley congregation teaches a class at the jail each Tuesday evening.

The Worleys, photo above, are former members here but now live in Savannah, TN. The Worleys spend six months in Jos, Nigeria each year where Steve is Director of Development for the School of Biblical Studies (SBS). Rainbow has been a part of the Jos school since its inception back in 1989. This school is probably the only church of Christ-oriented school outside the United States that offers an accredited Bible degree. We have often chronicled the story of the school which came about as a brain child of Steve and Solomon Aguh, now director of the school. It is a remarkable story of a great facility built without debt. The campus is impressive as it sits on a rocky outcrop in Jos, a major city in northern Nigeria, a region which is more than 90% Muslim. The Jos school has had a tremendous impact in the growth of the church in this region of more than 52,000,000 people. But its impact is international in scope. The student body consists of students from all over Africa and Asia and has already placed more than 150 evangelists and church leaders in the field. Take the time to read the latest copy of the *Jos Journal* on the bulletin board. You'll be amazed and thrilled.

Area Gospel Meetings

Ragland Church of Christ will be having their Gospel Meeting July 27th—July 30th at 7:00 pm. Mark Martin, minister of the Lincoln Church of Christ, will be the speaker.

Sand Rock Church of Christ will be holding a Gospel Meeting Sunday, July 13th through Wednesday, July 16th. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday and 7:00 pm nightly. Brother Jerry Jenkins from Roebuck Church of Christ will be the speaker.

Berea Church of Christ will be having a Gospel Meeting Sunday, August 3 through Saturday, August 9th. Services will be held nightly at 6:00pm. The guest speaker will be Brother James Watkins.

The **Creation vs. Evolution Seminar** will be Saturday, August 16th at the Cultural Arts Center in downtown Gadsden. Registration will begin at 9:30 and the seminar will run from 10am though 3 pm. Lunch will be provided at no charge. Eric Lyons, of Apologetics Press, will be conducting the seminar. If you would like to help out in any way, please see Chris Mikle.

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation! A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing Algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers.

"Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?"

"Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the Mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!



BLAKE'S BOX

*With all humility and gentleness,
with patience, showing tolerance for
one another in love being diligent to
preserve the unity of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:2-3

Teen Devotionals

This is just a reminder to our teens and parents about our weekly devotionals, every Thursday night. This Thursday, **July 10th**, we will be going to play putt-putt at the falls. The cost to play will be **\$5 per game**. We ask you eat before you come. After we have played putt-putt we will enjoy a time of devotion at the falls.

The church van will be leaving the building at 6:00 p.m. and I will be more than happy to take anyone home who needs a ride. We encourage all of those going into the 6th grade and up to come along and bring their friends.



The Revival Continues...

This past Sunday two dear sisters responded to our Lord's invitation. **Cheryl Amberson** and **Megan Brooks** both responded asking for the prayers of the church. The week before **Virginia Lasseter**, **Kathy Overbey**, and **DeAnn Hayes** also responded requesting prayers.

I am so thankful for these women and the wonderful example that they have set for us all. Their desire to be who God wants them to be is a powerful one. I pray that we all follow their example and strive to be who our Lord wants us to be every day. Like they, we will not be afraid to do what is necessary to live a life of obedience to our Lord.

Let's all continue to be praying for these ladies and encouraging them in every way we can.

Remember In Prayer...

Elizabeth & Alton Jacobs, Nola Hampton's sister and husband, are battling several health problems.

Betty Long fell while on vacation and injured her arm. She will begin rehab in the coming weeks.

Charles Bell is in Gadsden Regional Room 725 and is not doing well at this time.

Wilson Jones is at McGuffey's Rehab Room 428 recovering from foot surgery.

Beth Blisard is now recovering at home following surgery.

Joyce Flynn is recovering well from Tuesday's surgery and should get to go home in a couple days.

Perry Hathcock is in need of our prayers at this time.

Bernie Cranford is now at home recovering from heart surgery.

Bobby Golden is in need of our prayers as he is going through a tough time.

Rita Bowdoin is suffering from terrible migraines. She is currently working with a headache specialist.

Sarah Simmons, mother of Gene & Doug Brown, is not doing well at this time.

Catherine Bowen, Paige Buckner, Kim Clay, Carol Golden, Mitch Dover, Betty Campbell, Jennifer Davis, Kathleen Honeycutt, Gene Mayhall Sr., Ruth Mayhall, Arlie Neal, Redda Norton, Don Parker, Ron Patterson, Max Pruett, Jerry Reeves, and Berry Shirley.

Shut In Members: Martha Austin, Leona Chance, Sarah Foote, Gurnie Foote, James Gardner, Dot Greenhaw, Vennie Guyton, Betty Jones, Butch Jones, Cathy Langston, Hassie Moon, and Inez Quarles.

At any moment in the life of any given church, there are those tottering on the border of departure. But if you quit, will you be happier? Will your children be thereby improved? Will those who know and love you be encouraged? And will the angels in Heaven weep or rejoice? There is no more essential ingredient in life than that of simple **perseverance**.

Who does not over the long haul, get tired, bored, discouraged, or hurt? The pressures become overwhelming and the futility of our labors often seem all too real. But don't quit! Instead, seek time alone with God and good people. Think through once more the real issues of time and eternity. "Run and not be weary....walk and not faint." Running or walking, weariness or fainting, do not quit!

Author Unknown

**Rainbow Church of Christ
2201 Rainbow Drive
Gadsden, AL 35901
Phone (256) 547-3731**

ELDERS

Mike Bowdoin 442-0389
John Bowling 442-6608
Eugene Brown 547-1673
Norman Flynn 413-1688
Craig King 442-1630
David Wallace 546-0642
John Wallace 442-5887

MINISTERS

Norman Flynn 413-1688
Blake Jones 442-0988

DEACONS

Jeff Birchmore 547-3718
Tony Cleveland 538-5295
Wayne Gobble 613-3500
Steve Lorren 442-8192
Chris Mickle 413-1038
Tim Parker 442-4877
Bruce Phillips 549-1236

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Worship Hour 10:30 A.M.
Worship Hour 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday morning Ladies
Bible Class will resume
meeting in the Fall.

OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESSES

rbowcoc@bellsouth.net
tracyedmonson@bellsouth.net
raycox1927@bellsouth.net

BUILDING LOCKUP FOR JULY

Polk King / Ray Harris

CONTACT ELDER FOR JULY

John Bowling - 481-0599

INTERNET LINKS

Church Website: www.rainbow-coc.org
Beacon Online: www.rainbowbeacon.org
Joint Worship: www.jointworship.info
Zimbabwe Info: www.zimbabwe-report.info

RAINBOW RECORD

SUNDAY MORNING	258
BIBLE STUDY	185
SUNDAY EVENING	118
MIDWEEK STUDY	144
LOCAL BAPTISMS	9
OTHER RESPONSES	14
WBS/JAIL BAPTISMS	79
ZIMBABWE BAPTISMS	109
INDIA BAPTISMS	905
CONTRIBUTION	7,501

MEMORIES

10 YEARS AGO: Our World Bible School teachers sent out 62 lessons during the week. The teachers were: Germaine Bynum, Betty Long, Ray Cox, Mary White, Ben Greehaw and Ivadean Dale.

15 YEARS AGO: Tom & Darlene Horton placed membership at Rainbow. They were the new parents for the Billingsley Home.

30 YEARS AGO: A wedding shower was given for Mrs. Susie Lankford Gobble in the fellowship room.

SERVANTS

SUNDAY, July 13, 2008

Welcome Blake Jones
Scripture Reader Sam Wallen
Opening Prayer Selton Long
Closing Prayer Mike Wallen

MCGUFFEY CLASS: Group No. Four
Leader: Jeff Birchmore

WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2008

Announcements Craig King
Prayer George Elliott

SERVE THE FAMILY

Paul Baker, Presiding

Corbin Parker Will Stroup
Kevin Gobble Collin Jarbo
Tyler Daniel Jeremy Krienke
Chad Kinsey Alex Wallen

USHERS:

Larry Naler Allen Krienke
Mike Simmons Shawn Williams

GREETERS: Donnie & Rochelle Keener

SUNDAY AM COMMUNION CUP PICKUP:
Allen Krienke Family

NURSERIES:

BABY: A.M. Cheryl Amberson
P.M. Nikki Amberson
TODDLER: A.M. Tara McDonald
P.M. Pam Thompson

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Mike & Nita Simmons

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

We had another super week as our Rainbow WBS teachers taught 397 people the gospel of Christ! This means that, on average, our teachers taught 57 people a day! 13 Rainbow teachers taught last week and these are the names and number of people each taught:

Bobby/Carol Golden	4
Alan Gentry	2
Tony/Jane Cleveland	26
Ray Cox	25
Tina Quarles	36
Joyce Flynn	41
Eugene/Barbara Brown	76
Jan Hamrick	35
Betty Hale	23
Kathy Overbey	129