

RAINBOW BEACON

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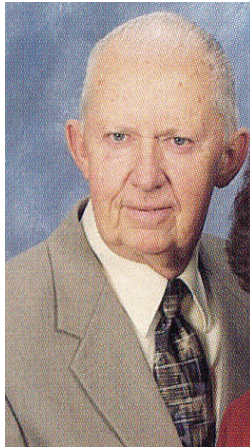
Thursday, September 13, 2007

Volume 39, Issue 38

1,781 BAPTIZED IN INDIA; ONE IS STUDENT OF BOBBY GOLDEN

We always look forward to reports from our missionary in India, **Amaravarapu Abraham**, because he tells us of huge numbers who have obeyed the gospel! This time is no different and even more exciting because one of the baptisms was of a WBS student taught by **Bobby Golden**! All told, Abraham reported **1,781 baptisms** between May 25—September 10.

The numbers are so staggering, we like to explain the simple method used in bringing so many to Christ. Abraham heads a team of about 25 evangelists who conduct continual meetings in three districts of southern India. Usually, about a dozen people attend with 2 or 3 baptisms at each meeting. During this period, 20 preachers conducted 945 gospel meetings with the 1,780 baptisms. If you do the math, there were roughly two baptisms for each meeting. That brings the total to date in 2007 to **5,248 new Christians**.



Bobby Golden



Amaravarapu Abraham

Bobby's student lives in the Warrangal District. Abraham had two Bible studies after the student, George of Hanamakonda, traveled to Abraham's home. Abraham says, "***I taught him the truth about baptism, and he yielded to the truth and was immersed on Sunday, September 2.***"

Abraham reports construction is in progress of a church building at Nrecuharla, his home congregation! He and the Christians there are excited about this and ask you to pray for its completion as soon as possible.

PLANNING SESSION SCHEDULED

Rainbow's eldership is gearing up for 2008 and the years following, and they are asking your help! The first priority on the agenda is a congregational planning session set for **Sunday, October 21**. The session will be held following evening worship in the auditorium.

The elders want *your* input, particularly suggestions for 2008 concerning things Rainbow can do to increase our growth numerically and spiritually. We're close to smashing through the **300 barrier in attendance**. This is a recognized obstacle by church growth specialists. This is your opportunity to present ideas you may have to overcome this mark and propel Rainbow to an even higher plateau.

You are urged to give this real thought and be present on Sunday evening, October 21 and speak your piece. Rainbow's elders are receptive to good ideas. They plan to spend October 26-27 at a Retreat to consider suggestions presented at the session with Rainbow's members and develop plans for 2008.

CLAY COUNTY CLASSES UNDERWAY

Bible classes began on schedule at the Clay County Detention Center this past Thursday despite the fact that **David Rozelle**, evangelist for the Ashland Church of Christ, was hospitalized at the Anniston Medical Center. **Blake Jones** and **Ray Cox** conducted the first classes in David's stead. There were **35** in the women's class and **22** in the men's class. All **57** in the classes enrolled in our 10-course correspondence courses as well!

David is out of the hospital, feeling much better now and plans to take over the teaching this week. The Ashland congregation members will handle the correspondence teaching, and **Clarence Johnson** from **Ironaton** will assist David with the teaching.

INSIDE

RALPH GILMORE IS HOMECOMING SPEAKER
E. C. MURPHREE AND ROY HARRIS RECEIVE ROSE OF THE WEEK
MEMORIES FROM RAINBOW'S PAST

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NEWS AND NOTES: We rejoice that **Wayne Gobble** and **Gary Murphree** responded to the invitation on Sunday and have confessed weakness, made themselves right with the Lord and rededicated their lives to Him. Wayne is one of our deacons and does a tremendous job with our sign ministry. Gary is the son of **E. C.** and **Malbert Murphree**. Gary has been away from the church for many years, and there is great rejoicing over him coming home. We will have a photo of Gary in the *Beacon* soon and tell you more about him. . . . We have some people who need your prayers. **Tyler Graham**, **Dawn's** son, suffered severe 2nd degree burns from his face down to his stomach this past week. Two of our elders, **Mike Bowdoin** and **Eugene Brown**, are undergoing medical tests and need your prayers. **Wilson Jones** had his PET scan last week and was to get the scan results Wednesday of this week. Pray that Wilson is still in remission. **Carol Golden** is doing okay but still needs your fervent prayers. We continue to rejoice that **Arlie Neal's** heart blockage was corrected without open heart surgery. But Arlie has lots of health problems so keep him in prayer. **Bill Brothers**, **Julie Lorren's** father, is recovering from heart surgery. Julie asks your prayers for him. **Steve Lorren** asks your prayers for an employee, **John Bassett**, who is recovering from surgery to remove a cancerous kidney. **Gayle Bellew** asks your prayers for her daughter, **Connie Lemons**. Connie has lots of health problems, so please pray fervently for her. . . . We want be seeing as much of **Jason** and **Leslie Keener** for the next year. These two live in Birmingham but they have been at Rainbow most Sundays. However, Leslie, who has a Ph. D., is now teaching three days a week at Jefferson State and then two days a week in Montgomery at Huntingdon College. Jason works in Birmingham, so their schedules will limit their visits up here. We must be patient for a year. . . . Rainbow will be well-represented at the **NewLife Behavior National Conference** in Dallas on October 12-13. Speakers on the men's program are **Tony Cleveland** and **Ray Cox**. **Cheryl Bowling**, **Rita Bowdoin**, **Betty Hale**, **Jane Watkins** and **Dawn Graham** are all speaking as a part of the women's program. And **Jimmy Large** and **Deborah Foshee** are attending their first National Conference. We'll have more about this as the Conference nears. . . . The next **Joint Worship** is on Sunday, **October 14**, 6 p. m., at the East Gadsden church of Christ building. **David Shannon**, long time preacher for the East Gadsden congregation, will be the speaker. David is a favorite of everyone who knows him, evangelistic, enthusiastic, knowledgeable . . . You'll certainly want to hear David. This is another great opportunity for friendship evangelism. Bring people you know. The singing is great. The crowd huge. Come!

The Difference Between Live and Dead Churches

by **Andrew Connally**

There is no doubt most of us want to be members of a live, growing church. Most of us can easily tell the difference and so can the Lord!

- ◆ Live churches have all kinds of problems—parking problems, lack of classroom teachers, etc. They always have more work, programs, mission opportunities, and other things that they can take advantage of—dead ones don't!
- ◆ Live churches make constant demands on time, talent, and money. There are fellowships, services, and classes to attend. There are people to visit, delinquents to reclaim, drifters who need encouragement and admonition—dead ones don't!
- ◆ Live churches are filled with people who are weak, neglectful, forgetful, and who need attention, but they are growing. They are concerned, prayerful and giving—dead ones aren't!
- ◆ Live churches have preachers who are Book and people oriented. They have preachers who preach hard, exhort often, and know what's going on in the world, the church, and in the lives of many brethren—dead ones don't.
- ◆ Live churches have elders who stretch the Budget yearly to help the congregation grow. They have programs, sermons, classes, papers, missions, plans, and hopes to take every member to greater heights of service, sacrifice, and finally heaven—dead ones don't!
- ◆ Live churches have deacons that are pushers, vitally involved to improve everything the congregation is doing. They are out front, serving and helping the entire program to get more done—dead ones don't!
- ◆ Live churches have members that respond to challenge—the challenge of new programs, budgets, missions, and always the Word! They have people who evangelize rather than fossilize—dead ones don't!
- ◆ Live churches fight error and know where it is found. They are compassionate and kind. They are not only gentle and loving, but also bold and brave and afraid of nothing! They love God and hate sin—dead ones don't!

RAINBOW HOMECOMING

The **Rainbow Annual Homecoming** is almost here! It is on Sunday, October 7. The speaker is **Ralph Gilmore**, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and of Bible at Freed-Hardeman University. Ralph also is Assistant Director of the F-HU Lectureship and handles the Q & A Session, the Lectureship "hot spot" each year.

He will speak at Bible study, worship and at the Sunday evening worship (5 p. m.). We will have a Fellowship Meal following morning worship. Line up family and friends now to come with you for Homecoming.



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

Are We Like Uncle George?

The children of a well-to-do family decided to give their father a book containing their family's history for a birthday present. They commissioned a professional biographer to write the book, carefully cautioning him about the family's "black sheep" – their Uncle George had been executed in the electric chair for murder, and they felt that it would be best if the biographer left Uncle George out of the book.

"No need to do that," said the biographer. "I can report the situation in such a way that there will be no embarrassment to your father or to you. I'll merely write that Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest ties, and his death came as a real shock."

How would a biographer write about your life? Would they have to disguise the truth? What would people say about you once you pass from this life? If we can honestly answer these questions, it helps us see the life that we are living right now.

The Bible teaches us that once we die, there is nothing else to do but meet God. "*And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27).

It doesn't really matter what people write or say about us to make us look good or even better than we really were. God knows the truth and we will all be judged by Him.

MURPHREE-HARRIS GET THE ROSE

E. C. Murphree and Roy Harris are two master craftsman who save Rainbow a lot of money! Case in point, two air conditioning units, to the auditorium and hallway,



E. C. Murphree and Roy Harris

went on the blink in recent days and estimates were more than \$6,000 in repairs. E. C. and Roy repaired them for \$2,000 saving the congregation \$4,000! We thank these two, and we are sure you will agree they are more than deserving of our Rose of the Week! Salud!!!

WHAT IS PERSONAL WORK?

by Richard Jones

1. It is discussing Christianity with a friend.
2. It is giving him an article on a particular subject.
3. It is telling and showing your neighbor the happiness of being a Christian.
4. It is inviting the postman to worship with you.
5. It is ringing doorbells in the name of Christ.
6. It is teaching or hosting a cottage class.
7. It is visiting in the home of a student in your Bible class.
8. It is gathering the neighborhood children into your home for a Bible class.
9. It is bringing a friend to Ladies Bible Class.
10. It is telling an employer about Jesus.
11. It is planting the Word in someone's heart.
12. It is writing a letter to a loved one expressing your interest in his soul.
13. It is having a prospect in your home for fellowship and dinner.
14. It is the encouragement given to a new member or a visitor to worship.
15. It is any deed that shows the Love of God working through you. "*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and works.*"

7 THINGS YOU WILL NEVER REGRET

1. Showing kindness to an aged person.
2. Destroying a letter written in anger.
3. Offering an apology that saves a friendship.
4. Stopping a scandal that is wrecking a reputation.
5. Helping a boy to find himself.
6. Taking time to show your mother consideration.
7. Accepting the judgment of God on any question.

After all, it is not what we have, but what we are, that makes us really happy.

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DEACONS

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 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.
 Ladies Bible Class meets each
 Wednesday at 10:30 A. M.

WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE

www.rainbow-coc.org

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CONTACTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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RAINBOW RECORD

SUNDAY MORNING	271
BIBLE STUDY	NC
SUNDAY EVENING	156
MIDWEEK STUDY	159
LOCAL BAPTISMS	15
OTHER RESPONSES	31
WBS/JAIL BAPTISMS	104
ZIMBABWE BAPTISMS	118
INDIA BAPTISMS	5,247
CONTRIBUTION	\$7,013

MEMORIES

10 YEARS AGO: Kristy Williams was immersed into Christ. Bobby Golden, Master Gardener, was praised by Rainbow Omega for his work there. Jerry Weldon, Bobby Golden, E. C. Murphree, Wilson Jones & Ray Cox donated 2 days work on the church building at Edison, GA.
25 YEARS AGO: Michelle Horton, Jennifer Pritchett and Leigh Ann Vansandt were baptized into Christ.
30 YEARS AGO: Bobby and Carol Golden and their children, Vickie, Christy and James, joined the Rainbow family.

SERVANTS

SUNDAY, September 16, 2007

Welcome Blake Jones
 Scripture Reader Adam Brown
 Opening Prayer Chris Mickle
 Closing Prayer Tim Parker

MCGUFFEY CLASS: Group No. 1, David Lasseter, Leader.

SUNDAY EVENING

Opening Prayer Chester Hicks
 Closing Prayer John Bowling

WEDNESDAY, September 19, 2007

Announcements David Wallace
 Prayer Wilson Jones

SERVE THE FAMILY

Berry Shirley, Presiding

Doyle McCarver Elmus Scott
 John McCullars Gerald Yenkey
 Darrell Thompson Chris Mickle
 John Lengyel Roy Helms

USHERS: Bernie Cranford, Steve Lorren, Will Stroup and Mark Gentry.

GREETERS: Mike and Nita Simmons

SUNDAY AM COMMUNION CUP PICKUP: Ken, Kathy and Kellie Overbey.

NURSERIES:

BABY: A. M. Karen Krienke
 P. M. Debby Rode

TODDLER: A. M. Alyssa Krienke
 P. M. Kim Masters

COMMUNION PREPARATION: September — Norman and Joyce Flynn

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

Well, we slacked off a bit this week with only **13** of our **teachers** active. They taught our Lord's gospel to **357 people**. These are the names of the teachers and the number of people each taught:

KATHY OVERBEY	121
THE BROWN TEAM	55
BOBBY/CAROL GOLDEN	11
RAY COX	80
BETTY LONG	25
JOYCE FLYNN	4
TONY/JANE CLEVELAND	43
ANN GENTRY	1
TINA QUARLES	2
JAN HAMRICK	11
CLAIRE WALKER	9
SHEROLD BORDENAVE	10
CRAIG/CINDY KING	28

Teachers, you should be on our new system by now. Remember, on referrals, we are sending a letter plus a return postal card, not the first course. Also, when our students complete the **God's Salvation Course**, we enroll them with WBS and send **A Complete Faith**. If you have any questions, see **Bobby Golden** or **Ray Cox**.