

## Information and Reminders—

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing health battles or other trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians whom Satan will certainly attack (Matt. 13:20-23).

The men meet on the first Sunday of the month to discuss our work and duties. There is a sign-up sheet at the back for items needing their attention.

### **Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.**

- Can you post Scriptures on our signboard during Oct, Nov, or Dec? Sign up!
- Prepare for our fall meeting with Wayne Goff-- **September 22-27**.
- Future gospel meetings: Brett Hogland (Spring 2014), Ron Halbrosk (Fall 2014), Donnie Rader (Spring 2015), Jimmy Stevens (Fall 2015).

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

Church of Christ—Quail Valley  
4104 E. Harrison St.  
Batesville, AR 72501  
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelist:  
David Halbrosk 569-4491

# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

September 1, 2013

[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## ***I AM A SOUL WINNER***

*Thomas Hickey*

I am happy to be a soul winner because more than anyone else in the church I, and thousands of others like me, insure that the church of the Lord will continue to exist in our communities.

No matter how great or polished a speaker may be, the churches of America today will cease to exist if we are to depend solely upon the effect of pulpit preaching within the four walls of our meetinghouses.

Little is known about Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, but that he heard John the Baptist identify Jesus of Nazareth as the "Lamb of God" and went immediately to tell his brother (John 1:41).

Philip achieved early notoriety by searching out Nathaniel and telling him, "We have found Him, of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth..." (John 1:45).

Jesus commissioned the twelve apostles and sent them out to preach only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 10:1-15). He later sent out seventy (Luke 10:1). After His death and resurrection He expanded the commission—"God into all the word and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). This latter plan was mapped out at the Ascension when He said, "You shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The apostles worked from house to house, and the number of the disciples was increasing daily (Acts 2:46-47; 5:32). The apostles thought improper to neglect the word of God, but rather used their time in prayer and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:2-4), "and the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly" (Acts 6:7).

Even those who were scattered by violent persecution went about preaching the word, and people "were being baptized, men and women alike" (Acts 8:4, 12).

Although the church of the first century grew by great additions, and proceeded further even to multiplications, the people did not beat a path to the doorway of the apostles. Rather, the apostles and others had to carry the gospel to the people. They were like salesmen for the Lord, presenting the message of the gospel to the people, and “asking for the order.” People had to be persuaded with reasoning about righteousness, self-control and judgment to come (Acts 24:25). Not everyone obeyed, just as not all obey the Lord today. Learning to accept rejection is necessary for salesmen and soul winners! When one person declines, it is necessary to go on to the next one. Good and honest-hearted people like the eunuch, Cornelius, Lydia and the Philippian jailor are waiting eagerly for an opportunity to obey the gospel, but we need soul winners to teach and persuade them.

There is a growing spirit of professionalism on the part of some of our preachers by which they deem it improper to go out to win souls. They feel rather that they should do the studying, and the members should bring others to them. Even some elders see themselves serving only in an “advisory capacity.” Such attitudes lead to the death of the local church. Soul winners must carry the banner forward, for only soul winners can blaze the trail which leads to growth and expansion in the kingdom of Christ.

Soul winners save souls from death, and cover a multitude of sins (James 5:19-20).

As a soul winner you can do more to insure that they church will be here for your children and grandchildren than anyone else. Soul winning fills the pews. Standing in the forefront of the battle for truth sharpens our skills, strengthens our personal resolve to do right, and exposes our weaknesses like nothing else will or can.

“I want to be a soul winner for Jesus every day; He does so much for me!”

[*Searching the Scriptures* Oct. 1991, p14 (518)]

--Editor's note: This article was written by Thomas Hickey, who works among the church of Christ in LaPorte, Indiana. He, along with the rest of the church there, has continued encouraging Allen Kolberg, who obeyed the gospel here in November 2012 and moved to be with family in Michigan. Continue praying for these men and the church there. Allen's address is posted on the bulletin board, and David Halbrook has Thomas Hickey's address. Consider sending a few words of encouragement to these men who are trying to serve God in difficult circumstances. And, consider what you should do today and each day as a soul winner!

## ***“BUT FIRST...”***

*James Hahn (The Belleville [IN] Messenger, 8-18-13)*

When Jesus called upon a certain one to follow him the individual replied, “*Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father*” (Luke 9:59). Another said, “*I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house*” (Luke 9:61). These are like so many today. They affirmed that they would follow Jesus but there were other things that must be done “first.” Those who affirm such soothe their conscience by declaring their intent to follow Jesus even though something else may be more important to them.

Several years ago I talked with a man who was opening a business in the town where I lived. In studying with him he came to recognize that he was lost and needed to obey the gospel. However, he never did. Why? He said that he had to first get his business established and on “firm footing” before he considered anything else. Like so many others, he said, “I will follow, but first...”

Jesus said, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness*” (Matthew 6:33). In fact, there is no such thing as putting God second in your life. He is either first or not at all. He will only accept whole-hearted service. Jesus said, “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*” (Matthew 6:24).

So many allow jobs, recreation, family or other interests to become so important in their lives that they fail to faithfully serve the Lord. They seem to think that since these things are not evil activities (and may even be good) that they are doing well. These things may have a place in our lives but it must not be more important than faithfulness to the Lord. Yes, so many have too many “But, firsts” in their lives.

-----  
*Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret--it only causes harm. (Ps. 37:1-8)*