

Baptist Banner

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VOLUME 18

JUNE, 1983

NUMBER 1



BANNER BEGINS 18th YEAR

With this issue the BAPTIST BANNER begins the 18th year of publication. You will also notice the change in format.

A few months ago I asked our readers for their opinion of enlarging the paper. The response was so encouraging that we felt we should make the publication larger. While we are using smaller pages, we have gone from four to eight pages which is a compromise of the total
(Continued on Page 2)

MASSADA

By
Sami Awwad

About 2½ miles from the western shore of the Dead Sea, in the wilderness of Judah, stands the rock fortress of Masada. It is ½ mile long, 220 yards wide and rises 2,000 feet about the level of the Dead Sea. It is cut out of the mountain range by deep gorges which surround its base. Alexander Jannai, the High Priest, was the first to build a fortress on the summit of Masada in the middle of the second century B.C. In the year 40 B.C. Herod the Great built a huge, magnifi-

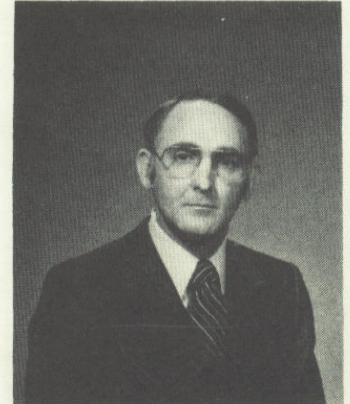
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PASTOR AND DEACONS

By
Don H. McDonald
Warren, Michigan

The beginning of this article could be called the two Scriptural officers in the Lord's Church. They are not essential for its existence, but they are necessary to its well being.

If the Church expects to grow and prosper it must obey the laws handed down by its head—Christ.



The New Testament teaches that the pastors and deacons are the only two permanent officers of the Church. Paul in his

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BAPTIST BANNER
P.O. Box 1001
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

ADDRESS LABEL

PLEASE READ BOTH LETTERS

Joe Morgan
Box 244
Holland, Ky. 42153

May 3, 1983

Dear Bro. Vanderpool:

Your article in the May, 1983 issue concerning me needs some clarification. I do not know where you received your information but some of those conditions do not exist. We did return from mission work in Idaho because of sickness in the family. At the present we have all been restored back to good health through the Lord's tender mercies. However, your statement that "he has more financial burdens that he can possibly handle," just does not exist. I appreciate the concern of the party or parties that have been informing the churches of our welfare, and I'm sure their intentions were good. But as it stands we have all our medical expenses paid and have been
(Continued on Page 3)

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**BANNER
18th YEAR**

(Continued from Page 1)

number of column inches of publication. This will give us increased space, allowing for additional news, announcements, information, etc.

The paper is now folded for mailing in a different form, and the space for the address label is designed to comply with postal



"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion"

Amos 6:1

Revival Reports

Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Bargsville, Ind. There were three professions of faith with four additions to the church. Pastor Lewis Holland was assisted by Elder Bobby Gann.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tenn. One addition to the church by baptism. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool was assisted by Elder Billy Moran.

Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn. One profession of faith with two additions to the church. Pastor Carthell Johnson was assisted by Elder Gordon Wheeler.

request. Also, with this size folded issues, you can easily place it into your Sunday School Quarterly or your Bible for convenient carrying.

The Missionary Baptist Literature Committee did not want to increase subscription prices at present. If any individual or church wishes to make a donation to help support the increased expenses, they may do so. It will be appreciated. Since so many elderly people subscribe to the BANNER, we didn't want to burden them with an increased price if enough

FOR SALE

Bro. Sammy B. Cornwell is offering his latest compiled song book for a special price. The book is "Songs To Remember - Number Three" and the price is \$3.00 per book plus postage. Whether you want a few books or a large number, you can get them NOW by contacting Bro. Cornwell. Write to: Mr. Sammy B. Cornwell, Route 1, Carthage, TN 37030; or call him at: (615) 735-2090.

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Three professions of faith with two additions to the church. Pastor Paul Bryson preached for the revival.

support came in otherwise to pay for all expenses. We will wait on this matter for the present.

Again, we thank ALL who have made it possible for this publication to continue through the years and now begins this 18th year. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

It is possible there will be times when some writer may give information or write on a subject, or make a statement which is for general information, but does not have editorial approval. —Editor

PASTOR AND DEACONS

(Continued from Page 1)

writings said, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Eph. 4:11, 12. Pastors or teachers, the same brethren, are the permanent spiritual officers of the Church. The office of a deacon is permanent and the only way he can cease to be a deacon is if he is excluded or by death.

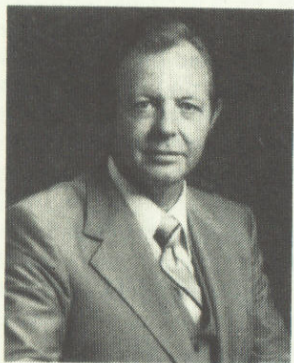
We would like to discuss these two important offices in their proper order.

What are the qualifications of a pastor? Well, we want to call your attention to the word of God. "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity, (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 1 Tim. 3:1-7.

Now then we notice that he is referred to as an undershepherd. The Lord Jesus being "The great shepherd of the sheep" says to his undershepherd to "Feed my sheep", "Feed my lambs". Jesus spoke these words to the apostle Peter after He had questioned Peter three times "Lovest thou me"? Jesus is plainly saying to Peter that if you don't love me I cannot entrust you with my spiritual sheep and lambs. Of course the love of God MUST be regarded as the supreme qualification of the pastor. All other qualifications are worthless or of no value if love is absent.

What is the work of the pastor? Paul says "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." Yes this (Continued on Page 5)

ALL DAY FELLOWSHIP SERVICES IN INDIANAPOLIS



Elder Eugene Brown

On Saturday, June 11, there will be all day fellowship services and sermons day at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 222 Epler Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana. The services are to begin at 10:00 A.M.

Those preaching sermons will be Elder Henry Smith, Elder D. C. Barton, Elder Odus Cummings and Elder M. V. Hammack. There will also be a time during the day when Bro. Hammack will be recommended to sister churches for the mission work he is soon to be engaged in over in Arkansas (Acts 15:40).

Lunch will be served at the noon hour. A good day is being expected. Elder Eugene Brown, Jr., the pastor, and the church wish to welcome everyone.

GOSPEL TRUTH HOMECOMING

On Sunday, June 12, there will be an all day homecoming service at Gospel Truth Missionary Baptist Church, 14th St. and Stratton Ave., Nashville, Tenn. Sunday school at 10 o'clock and preaching at 11 o'clock by the pastor Elder Luther Tuttle. This will be one week after the beginning of their revival.

Lunch will be served at noon and there will be singing in the afternoon. Everyone is invited to attend.

ENON CHAPEL HOMECOMING

On Sunday, June 12, there is to be an all day homecoming service at Enon Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Highway 231 and Hartsville Pike in Trousdale County, Tenn. Sunday school at 10 A.M. and preaching at 11 A.M. by Elder Bobby Gann, the pastor.

Lunch will be served at the noon hour. Singing in the afternoon by the Spiritual Crusaders. The revival begins that night. The public is invited.



Elder and Mrs. M. V. Hammack

A mother's patience is like a tube of toothpaste. It's never quite all gone.

— Keene (N.H.) Shopper News

PLEASE READ

(Continued from Page 1)

blessed financially. We are also now working steady.

We have no intentions through this letter to hinder or deprive any church or anyone from receiving a blessing from God through supporting the Lord's work. The apostle Paul preached ministerial support (II Cor. 1ff), received ministerial support (II Cor. 11:9), and taught the churches to distribute to the necessity of the saints and to be given to hospitality (Romans 12:13). We, therefore, do not intend to discourage the churches in what the scriptures are so clear in teaching. We only wish to inform you that the need does not exist. If anyone desires to give anything unto us, it will be most gratefully appreciated. We too can then rejoice in the Lord with you knowing that it was a gift given "not of necessity," and "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7).

Thanks for all your prayers and support that we have received from you in the past. It is because of your prayers and support that we now can joyfully share with you God's blessings upon our lives. May God continue to bless each of you. Paul wrote concerning the church at Phillippi who had been ever so faithful in supplying his need, "my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." So to you that have been so faithful toward us, I have utmost confidence that my God will do the same for you. Has one of His promises ever failed?

In Jesus' Name
Bro. Joe Morgan

EDITOR'S REPLY

Dear Bro. Morgan and BANNER readers:

Since I felt Bro. Morgan's letter was being published so all BANNER readers who may have read the announcement last month, would have the opportunity to hear him, also I should give a reply here so both sides of this situation could be made known.

During the Old Union Baptist Ministers School at Bowling Green, Ky. the last week in March, the announcement was made from the pulpit about Bro. Morgan and his family's situation concerning both their health and financial needs. Before leaving the school, I was standing, talking with someone, and a minister brother came by and handed me a note with Bro. Morgan's name and address so I might use it to make the announcement to our churches. At the time of the announcement, there were approximately 65 to 70 of our Baptist ministers present who heard the announcement.

I have been told by some that they had sent or had taken love offerings to this family at Holland, Ky.

During the past 17 years that I have edited this publication, I have been called upon several times to make announcements of this nature, and was told later that several hundred dollars, and in one case several thousand dollars were given. Some sent "thank you" notes for publication, and others we never heard from at all.

It is often very difficult for me to know when I'm doing right, or doing wrong in these situations.

If I have offended Bro. Morgan and his family, or embarrassed them in any way, I AM SORRY. My heart and intentions were sincere. I made my announcement upon the basis of the information I received, and the plea that was made.

In Christian love,
H. C. Vanderpool, Editor

A SURE FOUNDATION IN ZION

By H. C. Vanderpool

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Isaiah 28:16

INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of time, man has endeavored to justify himself before God. He has desired to be something that he isn't. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:3. Paul is teaching that a person trying to be something, or exalting himself as being righteous before God, he is deceiving himself.

As we studied last week, God gave a law to Adam and Eve, with a penalty of death should they break that law. They did violate that law and forfeited their right to remain in paradise. Adam and Eve, their children, and all other generations through the history of time, have been unable to merit redemption through themselves by any works or religious activities. However, we find in the scriptures that mankind has tried anyway to do just what the Bible teaches he cannot do. In order for lost humanity then to become righteous before God, to have his spiritual house well founded, it took the work of God. Again, referring to our last lesson, we can know why God promised to provide that eternal security for the human race.

THE WAYS OF MAN

In the first portion of today's lesson, we read of those who said, "we have made lies our refuge." How many times have people tried to hide their sins, cover up their mistakes, or tried to impress someone that they were something better than what they were by telling lies? Offenders of the law try to avert punishment by lying about their crimes. So, as stated in this lesson, many have used lies for their protection instead of turning to God for forgiveness and having peace, joy and happiness.

Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. We will be studying the 55th Chapter of this book next month, but I wish just here to give one verse, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. Then following that statement, the prophet makes it plain just how much difference there is between the ways of man and the way of God.

TWO FOUNDATIONS COMPARED

Let us listen to one of the great lessons, taught by our Lord during his ministry on earth. He was speaking to people whom he said would claim in the day of judgment that they had done many wonderful works and had done so in his name. Jesus declared that he would tell them at that time to depart

from him, that he never knew them.

Then he taught them how important it was to have a sure foundation. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:24-27.

Taking the above scriptures under consideration, we can see that a foolish person is willing to risk his eternal destiny and spiritual house upon the sand, which represents his own righteousness and false religious doctrines. But the person who searches out the truth, and builds his spiritual house upon a sure foundation, the Rock, the Lord calls him a wise person.

THE FOUNDATION STONE LAID IN ZION

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

A TRIED STONE: In the given

(Continued on Page 6)

NEW BETHEL HOMECOMING

On Sunday, June 19, New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1080 Old Dickerson Pike, Goodlettsville, Tenn. will have all-day homecoming services. There will be Sunday school at 10:00 A.M. and preaching at 11:00 A.M. by the pastor Elder H. C. Vanderpool.

Lunch will be served at the noon hour. There will be singing in the afternoon by the Canaanland Quartet and also congregational singing.

The church will be celebrating her 189th anniversary, having been organized in 1794. The church and pastor welcome everyone for the services throughout the day. A new Church Directory is being published and is expected to be re-

leased to the membership and those attending the church at this time. The directory will have photos of those attending the church, photos of a number of events in recent years, names, address and phone numbers. If a former member or anyone else wishes to obtain a copy, please let your request be known to the church. The price will be announced later. Write to: New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1001, Goodlettsville, TN 37072, or call: (615) 859-5780.

Come and be with us on this homecoming day. Enjoy the worship, fellowship and all that "Good ole country cooking."

SUBSCRIBE TO BAPTIST BANNER

Information Wanted

We have a request for information concerning an old fashion Missionary Baptist Church that might be located some 25 miles south of Birmingham, Alabama around the city of Montevallo. The one looking for such church is Sister Priscilla Threadgill, 208 Connie St., Montevallo, AL 35115. We received a letter from her sister asking for the information. Anyone who might have the information being asked for can either contact Sister Threadgill, or her sister, Mrs. Kay Lunsford, 204 Kennett Rd., Old Hickory, TN 37138, or call her: (615) 847-5570. Any information on this matter would be appreciated.

ELK CREEK HOMECOMING

On Sunday, July 3, Elk Creek Missionary Baptist Church, located 7 miles north of Erin, Tenn. on Denmark Rd. will be having all-day services. The revival begins one week earlier (see revival announcements). On this day there will be Sunday school at 10:00 A.M. and preaching at 11:00 A.M. by the pastor Elder Benny Maggart. Lunch will be served at noon and the Wilburn Family will be the featured singers. The public is invited to attend.

HAGGAI 2:4

... and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts.

WHITE HILL HOMECOMING

White Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Louisville Highway, Goodlettsville, Tenn. will be having all day homecoming services on Sunday, June 12. Sunday school at 10 A.M. and worship services at 11 A.M. with Pastor C. B. Massey preaching.

Lunch will be served at noon. Singing in the afternoon will be

BIBLE SCHOOL

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 921 10th St., Bowling Green, Ky. will have their Bible School June 6-10. Classes will be conducted each evening at 6:30 P.M. for all age groups. Elder Jimmy Hogue is the pastor. Everyone is invited.

by the Anchormen and the Cockriel Family. Everyone is invited to attend.

PASTOR AND DEACONS

(Continued from Page 2)

is truly a good work, but also a rewarding work as well. There is nothing more rewarding or satisfying than working in the vineyard of God and seeing lost souls being saved by the grace of God. The salvation of the soul of lost people are to be the first priority in the heart and mind of the pastor and the church members if success is accomplished.

The word "BISHOP" comes from the greek word "EPISKOPOS" which means, an overseer, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian, or superintendent. Also, the superintendent, head or overseer of any christian church. Thayer pp 243. See Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:7.

Under the foregoing statement we are not to suggest or even imply that the bishop or pastor having charge over a number of churches in a certain district or area. A bishop was a pastor of a Church, and the New Testament is far from encouraging a plurality of churches under one pastor, but we can find in at least two instances of a plurality of pastors in one church. See Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1.

It is plain, therefore, that a pastor's work is the spiritual oversight of the flock, the church he serves. He must care for the sick and the feeble as well as the healthy and the strong. Some he will be able to feed with strong meat of the word and others on the sincere milk of the word. Young converts are to be nourished along and then as they grow, be fed on the strong meat of the word. This is to be done with much love and concern on the part of the pastor if he expects them to grow in the doctrine. I'm sure that each individual can relate back to the time he or she got saved and then see how our pastors began to teach us on the simple things with their love and concern for our growth in the word and doctrine. I can well remember that after I got saved how my former pastors helped me and the utmost concern for me. Today, I am most appreciative of their work and labor of love in the word.

We notice in 2 Tim. 2:15 the pastor must "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". To rightly divide the word of truth depends much upon the prayerful study and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. If these are neglected, the pastor will find himself wanting for spiritual leadership among the flock.

The administration of the ordinances as well as the preaching the word of God is the proper, yes proper, business of the pastor. He does this by virtue of the office he holds in the church.

Now then we want to consider the authority of the pastor. He is to rule in accordance with the law of Christ. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the lord, and to admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake". 1 Thess. 5:13. Also, "Let the Elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine". 1 Tim. 5:17. Also, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God". Heb. 13:7. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls, as they must give account". Heb. 13:17.

In these scriptures. the pastors are entrusted with authority not belonging to any other church member. He is not to rule with an iron fist or dictatorship. He is not to be the boss of the church but to be the servant of the church. Sometimes he will be asked to give advice on various matters and he should do so if he is acquainted with those matters. Churches in choosing their pastor should do so voluntarily and by love show him respect in the performance of his duties.

Also, while the proper exercise of pastoral authority is essential to the spiritual welfare of the church, pastors should be careful of trying to assume powers or authority which do not belong to them but to the church. "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." 1 Pet. 5:3. They should by all

(Continued on Page 6)

CUMBERLAND VALLEY SCHOOL OF GOSPEL MUSIC



The Cumberland Valley School of Gospel Music will hold its first annual session this summer June 20 - 24 and June 27 - July 1. Intensive gospel music education will be offered to all ages and skill levels from beginners to advanced. Some of the best gospel music instructors available anywhere have been obtained to teach the classes which include music theory, harmony, sight reading, ear training, conducting, song writing, and teacher training. Areas of special interest, such as voice, quartet, trio, duet, and solo training will be available, as well as piano, guitar, and other instrumental instruction.

The school will be held at Cumberland College, in Lebanon, Tennessee, about 30 miles out of Nashville. Students may stay on campus, or commute to either day or night classes for very reasonable prices. A wide variety of activities are planned, and all will be completely supervised, from morning devotion, to classes, to recreation.

Efforts have been made to keep the school costs very affordable. Students attending and staying on campus will be charged a one time registration fee of \$20 plus \$55 per week room and board. Daytime commuters pay \$20 for registration plus \$10 per week, which includes noon meal each day. Night class commuters pay only the \$20 registration fee for both weeks. Private lessons are extra. We will accommodate those wishing to attend but are unable to afford school costs.

It is highly recommended that each and every church sponsor some of its prospective singers, song leaders and piano players to improve their skills, and thus be a help to the church. Financial help from churches, groups or individuals is necessary to help us offset student costs. Your financial contributions and prayers are earnestly solicited. The CVS GM is a non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

To request a brochure about the school, obtain applications, further information, or make contributions, please write: The Cumberland Valley School of Gospel Music Inc., in care of Key Dillard, president, Route 7 Rucker Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37150.

Registration is June 19, 1 - 4 p.m. MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND!

PASTOR AND DEACONS

(Continued from Page 5)

means be an example to their flock and to the community and world as well. The pastor and preachers should conduct themselves in a manner that their influence will be far reaching to those who are well acquainted with them and those who hear of them. The world is looking at him and to him for spiritual guidance, and if he has that good influence, he will be able to help someone. If not, he will be a hinderance to the cause. Also, his work and the work of the church will most surely suffer.

In choosing or calling a pastor, the church should make an indefinite call and if after a sufficient time the work prospers, well. If after a sufficient time there is nothing being ac-

complished, let them resign.

Now, we would like to call your attention to the office of deacon and see some things about his qualifications and duties. This is the second scriptural office in the Lord's church. You will find the qualifications for a deacon recorded in 1 Tim. 3:8-13. The word "Deacon" comes from the greek word "DIAKONOS" which means ministrant or terms such as, "To be a servant, attendant, domestic; to serve, wait upon. A deacon, one who by virtue of office assigned him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes money collected for their use. Thayer, pp 137, 138.

In the book of Acts Ch. 6:1-7 we find the reason and purpose for the church to ordain deacons in the early church.

The pastor could not give his time to all that was needed. The church was prompted to ordain deacons because "The number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration." The members of the church at Jerusalem "Had all things common", and the distribution was made out of the common stock "As every man had need". This was probably done first under the immediate direction of the apostles; and the large increase of the church interfered with the impartial distribution of the supplies. The apostles saw that, if they made it their own personal business to "Serve tables" that would greatly hinder their work in its spiritual aspect. They said "It is

not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables; wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word". Acts 6:1-4.

The creation of the office of a deacon suggests or recognizes the duties of the pastor are spiritual; and they should not be burdened with the secular interest of the church. Some have the opinion that the deaconship should be temporary and not permanent. In the first place, they (the church) cannot retract the ordination of the deacons. I do know of some so called churches who ordain

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A SURE FOUNDATION

(Continued from Page 4)

scripture, the stone referred to as being laid in Zion, is called "a tried stone." So often we hear someone recommending something, and saying it is alright to buy or to use, because they have tried it and found it to be satisfactory. If the stone of Isaiah 28:16, is a tried stone, then certainly it had been proven to be satisfactory as a foundation stone earlier. Let us again look at scripture, this time, our Devotional and Background Study.

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.

A PRECIOUS CORNER STONE: When we speak of something as being precious, we think of it as being very valuable, rare, unique or much in demand. There are so many ways in which the Bible teaches us that Jesus is precious that we must limit our references in this lesson.

However, I wish to give a few. First, I go to John's record as found in the last book of the Bible. John saw the Lord sitting upon the throne and in his hand a book written on the inside and on the back side. He then heard an angel proclaiming with a loud voice, asking, "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?" In addition to the writing, it was sealed with

seven seals. The seven being symbolic of completeness. A search was made in heaven, in the earth and under the earth. No man was found who was able to open the book and to read therein. John says that he began to weep over this situation because no man was found who was worthy to open the book and to read what was written in it. Then one of the twenty-four elders said unto

him, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof." Revelation 5:5. We can readily see why Jesus, the Stone, is precious. No other being in all the universe could have satisfied God's broken law and brought to mankind a way of redemption.

A SURE FOUNDATION: When Paul was writing to the Corinthians, he spoke to them about the way one should build. He then said, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11. If there is no other foundation existing upon which mankind can build his spiritual house, and it be secure, other than Christ, then Christ is "The Sure Foundation."

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 2:19-20. Paul wrote these words to Gentiles, he was a Jew.

THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

One of the most misrepresented and mistaught scriptures in all the Bible, is Matthew 16:18. When Jesus came into Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples as

to whom men said he was. In their answer they said some would say he was John the Baptist, some Elias, some Jeremiah or some other prophet. But Jesus wanted to know what they thought. Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said that flesh and blood did not reveal it unto him but the Father in heaven. Then Jesus spoke in answer to the answer Peter had given him, "And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

To say the church was founded upon Peter, is to say it had a weak, sinful foundation. It is taught by a great world religion that Peter was the foundation and also the first Pope. This writer has written documents in his files with proof that Peter's tomb was found in Jerusalem, and that no evidence has ever been given to prove that Peter was ever in Rome. Furthermore, Popes are not to be, or cannot be married men, and Peter was a married man. Matthew 8:14.

Let us examine Matthew 16:18 a little further. The word Peter means a stone, but the word in the Greek is "petros" while the word rock in Peter's confession of Christ is "petra" and means a larger rock or stone. The correct reading of the verse means that the rock, that is Christ, was the foundation stone of the church.

MAN'S INABILITY TO SAVE HIMSELF

In closing, notice the last verse of our lesson. This means that whatever man tries to use as a spiritual rest, it comes up too short. Whatever he tries to use for a covering for his sins, it is too narrow. We can only have eternal rest and peace in Christ, the Rock of Ages!

BRO. LONG WRITES

1502 Calvert Ct., West
Gallatin, Tenn. 37066
1-615-451-2397

April 18th, 1983

Dear Brother Vanderpool,

We will be leaving for our trip to Johnstown, Pa. on June six or seventh. We are traveling there in response to a letter received by the Old Fashioned Gospel T.V. broadcast. We will stop in West Virginia and work in a weekend revival with Brother Jerry Reynolds on June 10th, 11th, and 12th. We find we are in need of financial support for this trip. Anyone who would like to help us in this work for the Lord, please send their help to Elder Landon C. Long, 1502 Calvert Ct., West, Gallatin, Tenn. 37066.

We will also be holding a weekend revival in Tipton, Ind. on our way back from Pa.

Your Brother In Christ,
Elder Landon C. Long

"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" applies to vacation Sundays as well as the rest of the year.

MASSADA

(Continued from Page 1)

cent fortress on the top of Massada, and, by his own account, "fortified it to protect himself from the Jews should they try and depose him."

He embellished it for use as a residence in case he was removed from his kingdom by Mark Anthony. The fortress had been strongly fortified by an 18 foot high wall with 38 towers, each 75 feet high. Inside there were store houses, barracks, arsenals, large cisterns filled by rain water and all kinds of royal accommodation. It was a master-piece of engineering. Massada has become a shrine for the Jews, as it is the site of one of the most dramatic episodes in their history. It is the symbol of courage and heroism and of the choice of death over slavery. In the year 70 A.D. when the Roman legions subdued the whole of Palestine and Jerusalem was beaten into the dust, a band of Jewish patriots, led by Eleazar Ben Yair, marched on Massada, overwhelmed the Roman garrison and captured it. Joined later by a few surviving patriots who evaded capture in Jerusalem, they were determined to continue their fight against the Ro-

mans and made Massada a base for their guerilla strikes. In the year 72, Silva, one of Titus' generals, decided to destroy this outpost at all cost.

He marched on that great rock with his best soldiers, the 10th legion, auxiliary troops and thousands of prisoners carrying water and provisions. Silva prepared himself for a long siege and built a wall 3 miles in circumference around the fortress. At strategic points around the base, he established eight military camps whose remains can still be distinguished. The blockade was complete and the besieged were cut off from the rest of the country. For many months the Romans tried to storm the fortress but were beaten back as it was well fortified and defended. Then they built a ramp, and moved a battering ram up the ramp directing it against the fortress wall until they finally made a breach.

It was the beginning of the end. The defenders built an inner wall of earth encased in wood but the Romans set it on fire by using firebrands. Their leader, Eleazar Ben Yair, knew that the Romans would overrun them finally the following morning. He gathered his men around him and delivered one of the most dramatic speeches in history.

"Life is the calamity for men, not death. All men are equally destined to death, and the same fate attends the coward as the brave. Can we think of submitting to the indignity of slavery? Can we behold our wives dishonoured and our children enslaved? While freedom is our own and we are in possession of our swords, let us make a determined use of them to preserve our liberties. Let us die free men, gloriously surrounded by our wives and children. And let us be expeditious. Eternal renown shall be ours by snatching the prize from the hands of our enemies and leaving them nothing to triumph over but the bodies of those who dared to be their own executioners."

This is how Josephus describes the heroic and dramatic end of 960 people who decided

to die by their own hand rather than surrender to their enemies. "While they embraced their wives and children for the last time, they wept over and stabbed them in the same moment, taking comfort, however, that this work was not to be performed by their enemies . . . There was not one man who was wanting in the necessary courage . . . They then cast lots for the selection of ten men out of their number to destroy the rest. These being chosen, the devoted victims embraced the bodies of their deceased families and then ranging themselves near them, resigned themselves to the hands of the executioners. When these ten had discharged their disagreeable task, they again cast lots as to which of the ten should kill the other nine. The nine devoted victims died with the same resolution as their brethren had done. The surviving man, having surveyed the bodies and found that they were all dead, set fire to the palace and threw himself on his sword among his companions."

At dawn the next day, the Romans attacking the fortress was astonished at the lack of opposition. On entering the fortress they saw the bodies and heard the story from two women who had hidden themselves with five children. Josephus wrote - "Far, however, from exulting in the triumph of joy that might have been expected from enemies, they united to admire the steady virtue and dignity of mind with which the Jews had been inspired, and wondered at their contempt of death by which such numbers had been bound in one solemn pact. For the Romans it was a hollow victory."

Excavations of Massada started only in 1955-56 when Professor Yigael Yadin, with volunteers from many countries, excavated the entire summit of Massada. Very important and interesting remains have been found and some of the writings of Josephus, thought by many scholars to be legendary, were confirmed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

Missionary Baptist Churches across the United States are now using this material. It has grown from year to year and we continue to have additional churches order each quarter. The schedule of quarterlies are as follows: **Spring Quarter:** (March, April, May); **Summer Quarter:** (June, July, August); **Fall Quarter:** (September, October, November); **Winter Quarter:** (December, January, February).

NURSERY Ages 0-3
KINDERGARTEN Ages 4-6
PRIMARY Ages 7-9
INTERMEDIATE Ages 10-12
JUNIOR HIGH Ages 13-15
SENIOR HIGH Ages 16-18
ADULT Ages 18-Up

Any church wishing to investigate this material and would like for us to send samples, please write to the address below, or call, (615) 859-5780.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST LITERATURE COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 1001

Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072

PASTOR AND DEACONS

(Continued from Page 6)

deacons and they serve one year. But the conclusion is, that the pastors and deacons are the only permanent scriptural officers of the Lord's church.

The words "Men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom", applied to the first deacons, indicates that they were men of unblemished reputations, an ardent piety, and good common sense. Certainly these qualifications should be sought in all who are to be ordained as a deacon. The phrase, "Full of the Holy Spirit", is an admirable description of fervent, elevated piety; and in their being selected as deacons their spirituality **MUST** be regarded. They should be "PILLARS OF THE CHURCH", and have the respect of the body.

They are to help the poor and to distribute the charities of the church. Deacons should not perform these duties in a formal manner, but must inquire into the spiritual as well as the worldly circumstances of those who receive the church's gifts. When the occasion arises, they should report such circumstances to the church so that special attention may be given to the various needs. I have experienced people coming to

the church building and ask for assistance and was told that "we will go with you and buy groceries for you and your family". They would reply, "NO". They were not sincere in their efforts but wanted financial help for some other means.

Deacons were first appointed to "serve tables", and there are three tables for them to serve: 1. The table of the poor. 2. The table of the Lord. 3. The table of the pastor. The various supplies to enable them to serve are to be furnished by the church.

The deacon should be very much concerned about the poor, the sick and those who are experiencing misfortune. They are also required to prepare and administer the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. They are to serve the pastor's table. They are not to decide for themselves or for the church how liberally it shall be supplied. The church as a body must make this decision, and every view should be taken when it is done. There may have been instances where that all the pastor was interested in was his salary. If so, he is in the wrong work and place. Should this ever happen, the church

The deacons should be solemnly ordained according to the example given in Acts 6:6 "When they prayed, they laid their hands on them". Prayer is in order at all times and all occasions. The laying on of hands is a token of designation to office. Some seems to think the laying on of hands is the conferring of the Holy Spirit on those being ordained, but the first deacons were chosen because they were **ALREADY** "Full of the Holy Spirit".

Finally, the pastors and deacons hold the two highest offices in the land. Their work, should be done with the greatest concern for the cause of God and to the church for which they serve. The church places the greatest responsibility on the pastor and deacons and they should give their best to the work. The actions of the pastor and deacons should be as stated by our Lord "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven". Matt. 5:16.

**BIBLE LANDS TOUR****OCTOBER 25-NOVEMBER 1, 1983**

Write To:

PASTOR H. C. VANDERPOOL • HOST
P.O. Box 1001, Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072
Phone: (615) 859-5780

REVIVALS**FRIDAY - JUNE 3**

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1150 Fairview Ave., Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Billy Moran is to be assisted by Elder Paul Bryson. Service each night at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

SUNDAY - JUNE 5

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Woods Ferry Rd., Gallatin, Tenn. Pastor Jimmy Suttle is to be assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool. Services nightly at 7:30 P.M. The public is invited to attend.

Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Highway 52 on north side of I-24, Manchester, Tenn. Pastor Bobby E. Pitt is to be assisted by Elder A. G. Gregory. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. The public is invited to attend.

Dripping Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Metcalfe County, Ky. Pastor Rex Hagan is to be assisted by Elder Dexter Bacon, Jr. Time of services to be announced.

Gospel Truth Missionary Baptist Church, 14th St. and Stratton Ave., Nashville, Tenn. Pastor Luther Tuttle is to be assisted by Elder Curtis McClanahan and Elder Rodney Boyd. Services on Sunday night at 6:00 P.M. and weeknights at 7:00 P.M. You are invited.

Old Paths Missionary Baptist Church, Watertown Rd., Lebanon, Tenn. Pastor Edgar Copeland is to be assisted by Elder Hilman Duncan. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited.

SUNDAY - JUNE 12

Rayon City Missionary Baptist Church, 209 Keaton Ave.,

Old Hickory, Tenn. Pastor L. W. Smith is to be assisted by Elder Kenneth Davis. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

West End Missionary Baptist Church, 440 West Main St., Gallatin, Tenn. Pastor William E. Massey is to be assisted by Elder James "Pete" Porter. Services nightly at 7:30 P.M. You are invited to attend.

Enon Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Hartsville Pike at Highway 231, Hartsville, Tenn. Pastor Bobby Gann is to be assisted by Elder Doug Curtis. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. The public is invited.

SUNDAY - JUNE 19

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Rose and Burbank Sts., Nashville, Tenn. Pastor A. G. Gregory is to be assisted by Elder Charlie Patterson. Services nightly at 7:30. Everyone is invited to attend.

FRIDAY - JUNE 24

Rock Bridge Missionary Baptist Church, Sumner County, Tenn. Pastor Ray Sutton is to be assisted by Bro. Willie Phillips. Services each night at 7:00 P.M. You are invited to attend.

SUNDAY - JUNE 26

Lula Missionary Baptist Church, 17th St. and Batts Blvd., Springfield, Tenn. Pastor James Gardner is to be assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool. Services each evening at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

Elk Creek Missionary Baptist Church, 7 miles north of Erin, Tenn. on Denmark Rd. in Stewart County. Pastor Benny Maggart is to be assisted by Elder Paul Bryson. Services at 7:30 P.M. each night. The public is invited to attend.

ATTENTION!

The BAPTIST BANNER wishes to be helpful in any of various work endeavors of our Missionary Baptist Churches. That is, if you have reports, announcements, articles or any information or news items concerning Revivals, Debates, Singings, Ordinations, Special Meetings, Singing Schools, Announcements for help, or assistance in any of these endeavors, Works of Charity, Associations, Church Organizations, Missions, Mission Reports, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Ministers Schools or Meetings, T V Work, Radio Programs, etc. **YOU ARE INVITED** to send them to the BANNER for publication. They should arrive in the BANNER mailbox by the 10th of the month preceding publication. - Editor