



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
Vol. XXXV March 23, 2008 No. 11

## Confidence Corner

John F. Board

As we continue on our life long journey of building our faith, let us consider some thoughts from the creation account of Genesis chapter one. One does not have to read very far in the Hebrew text before they arrive at a point which will determine greatly how they view the creative work of God.

The first clause in the Hebrew Bible has been interpreted in two different ways. There is the interpretation that most all of our standard translations have adopted—In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth— and then there is another interpretation based upon an argument from the “suggested” grammatical construction of the Hebrew text. Can we have confidence that our standard translations have it correct?

The alternate translation given since medieval times is as follows: “When God began to create the heaven and the earth, the earth was without form and void.” This view makes verse one a dependant clause, considers verse two a parenthetical statement, and notes verse three as expressing the main thought. The implications of such a translation are very serious indeed. God's creation would not be “out of nothing” rather it would merely be the alteration of pre-existing material. How do they arrive at such an interpretation? Is such a translation credible?

Those who suggested an alternate translation, did so based upon what they thought were problems with the Hebrew text. Because of the construction of the sentence in the original they felt there needed to be a change in the second word of the Hebrew text from *bara* (created) to *bero* (began to create). Those who did so failed to recognize, that although the construction of the sentence in the Hebrew seemed to present problems, further investigation would show that the way the sentence was worded in the Hebrew was a characteristic of genuine Semitic usage. They also claimed that the Hebrew term translated “In the beginning” really did not contain the article (the); they argued the first phrase should be translated “When God began to create...” Failure to examine all of the evidence led to an assumption that did not necessarily follow. In reality, the term translated “beginning” (and similar Hebrew terms) when used adverbially, the article, almost without fail, is missing. In other words, the translation “In the beginning God created...” is correct when all elements are considered.

## Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

### Tract of the Week

#### “Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak”

Continuing our thoughts from James 1:19 this week we want to look at the second phrase “*Slow to speak.*” This week's tract deals with the why and how of being slow to speak. We all have said things that we regret saying, perhaps as the words were spoken or at some later point in time. Words spoken can never be taken back, and we must live with the consequences of what we say.



Taylor Christian Camp and Horizon's applications are now available. Please note deadlines for applications. Applications and appropriate fees are to be given to me. I will mail all applications at one time. Applications not turned in on time may result in your inability to attend. Space is limited at both Taylor Christian and Horizon's. We want all our young people to have the opportunity to attend these summer camps. If anyone is in need of financial assistance please see me so arrangements can be made.

**Applications for Horizon's are due by May 18th. You are responsible for \$100 of the cost. The balance will be provided by the congregation.**

**Applications for Taylor Christian Camp are due April 20th. Please include the full fee due with your application.**

Thanks to Jon & Holly Walker for opening their home for the monthly youth devotional last Sunday night. We had 32 folks in attendance, and that is one of the largest crowds we have had in recent months. Those of our young people not attending are missing out on great periods of praise and fellowship.

### Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*  
*Luke 22:66-69*

P.M. - *Mechanical Instrumental Music*  
*Colossians 3:16-17*

# Sick of Home, Then Homesick

Many of you may recognize that the title of the lesson is simply another way to refer to that third parable told by our Lord to illustrate God's love for the lost. Jonathan Jones in his excellent lessons last week referred to this parable a couple of times, and I used it to illustrate to our young people at the devotional the dangers of making the journey into "the far country." Of the three parables told by our Lord on this occasion, the parable of the prodigal son most closely represents God's love for the Christian who has chosen to travel away from God. Here the son was a part of the family whose father was God. Although he had all the blessings of his father's house to enjoy (something he did not realize until later), he rebelled against his father, demanded what was his, and he departed into a far country. In the parable it is obvious that although the boy had chosen to depart from his father's house, his father longed for him to come home and be restored to full fellowship. Such full fellowship was not realized though until the boy came to himself, acknowledged his sin, and took action that showed his true repentance.

As we noted above, the father in the parable, God, is always waiting with open arms and a willingness to forgive, for those of his children who have journeyed into the far country (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9). But the father, God, who has such a love for those who have departed from Him, has not left the return of those who have departed to chance—He has revealed in Scripture His plan to restore those who have left the family of God.

In Galatians 6:1-2 God has given the responsibility to faithful Christians to restore those who are overtaken in a fault. In addition James writes, "My brothers, if **any one of you** is led astray from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know, that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and cover a multitude of sins" (5:19-20 McCord's Translation). Like His plan to take the gospel into the world, God's plan to restore those who have fallen away lies with you and me as Christians. When efforts to restore have failed, most often then the final step in God's restoration process must be implemented—the withdrawal of fellowship.

It is after this final step of love that Christians often become confused as to how they ought to act toward those from whom fellowship has been withdrawn. In Bridgeport, our elders on more than one occasion had to lead the congregation in this process in an attempt to save the soul of one who had rebelled against God. Some of the members, because they needed taught, thought they were responding properly when they told me, "I saw so and so at the store the other day, and I immediately turned away from them and went to another aisle." Others, when they had contact with a disfellowshipped individual would act as if everything was perfectly fine; such actions not only cause mature Christians and elders great sorrow, they also undermine the plan of God. As is usually the case, what God intends for us to do is somewhere between the two extremes. Consider the following thoughts based upon principles from God's word.

First, when we see someone who is out of fellowship with God, we ought to be happy to see them. It is only through seeing them that we can fulfill the responsibility placed upon us by God to admonish them as a "brother." But what is entailed in our **responsibility** to "admonish" them? Often this is misunderstood because the underlying principle of God's plan of restoration, the salvation of the soul, is forgotten. To "admonish" is to "warn" or as Vine's states, "to minister the Word of God to saints, that...they shall depart from unrighteousness." This is to be done with an attitude in accordance with God's Word (Eph.4:15) but nonetheless, it is our **responsibility** to the erring. May we lovingly help them to be "homesick" so that they will return home to a loving father. May we not tire in doing good (2 Thess. 3:13-15).

John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, Ky

# News and Notes

**TRACY BRAY** was seen in the ER at Hardin Memorial Monday night with back problems. **JOHN D. BOARD**, John's dad, underwent a heart catheterization Monday in Ohio.

## MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Henry McAlister
Neil Burden	J Martin
Larry Clack	Johanna Morgan
Elonda Crafton	Tom Morgan
W. C. Davis	Herb Pence
Dana Fox	Marie Rose
Howard Gardner	Terry Showers
Bernard Gillim	Grace Speer
Faye Guess	Wilma Stull
Nellie Hart	Barbara Underwood
Diane Lewis	Lonnie Underwood
Kent Lane	Lawrence Wells

**Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:** Dave Fulbright, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan Blair, Nathan McClain, Willie Mitchell

**Additional Prayer List:** Jan Allen, Weita Anderson, K.C. Avery, Christa Bradley, Grace Brown, Martha Brown, Sue Cantrell, Betty Davis, Evelyn Davis, Sydney Dover, Ellen Duvall, Berna Jean Goff, Betty Goheen, Priscilla Gratton, Renee Green, Terry Griffin, Jane Hack, Louie Hodge, Rose Johnson, Beulah Lasley, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Bruce LeFevre, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Lucinda McCune, Terri McDonald, Julie Murphy, Riley Nelson, Lynn Parsons, Joe Pawley, John Pawley, Ann Peters, Patsy & Joe Richter, Paul Jacob Sells, Florence Stull, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Nora Wilkins, Butch Yates

## One Restored

Rosie O'Bryant was restored last Wednesday night. We welcome Rosie back to her church family here at Elizabethtown. Her address is 307 Diecks Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701 and her phone number is 765-4305. Let each of us be an encouragement to Rosie.

## Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 3/23/08                      Boxes/Pkgs. of Rice

## 5th Grade & Under

Those interested in participating in this year's Bible Bowl in Madisonville in August, please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board. The students will be studying the book of Mark.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **DINNER TRIP** to Stephen Foster Restaurant in Bardstown, Tuesday, **March 25**. The bus will leave the building at Noon. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.
- **FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS SEMINAR**, hosted by the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ in Bowling Green, Saturday, **March 29**. Speakers: Mike Greene & Tom Holland. The bus will leave the building at 8:30 a.m.
- **5TH GRADERS & UNDER "SPRING CELEBRATION & EGG HUNT"**, Sunday morning, **March 30**, immediately after services. Parents are asked to sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board to bring food items/drinks and also items to fill plastic eggs. Any questions, please check with Ken or Monica Bybee.
- **ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS MEETING**, Sunday, **March 30**, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 10.
- **5TH SUNDAY NIGHT SINGING**, **March 30**.
- **LADIES NIGHT OUT**, Saturday, **April 5**, 4:00 p.m., Etown Bowling Lanes. Cost is \$3.50/game and plans are to bowl at least two games and possibly go out to eat together.
- **SENIOR SECRET SISTERS GET-TOGETHER**, Sunday, **April 13**, at 4:00 p.m. in the South Wing. See Laura Muncy for details.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **April 14**, at 10:30 a.m.
- **MEN'S RETREAT**, **April 25-26**, at White Mills.

## Thank You

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for your prayers during my illness and also for the many lovely cards that brightened my days. The flowers were beautiful. Thanks to Ray for his many visits and to the elders for their visits and prayers. Everyone was such an encouragement to me. I appreciate each one of you very much. Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christian Love,  
Lawrence Wells

### OUR RECORD FOR

March 16, 2008

Sunday Bible Study	128
Sunday Morning Assembly	208
Sunday Evening Assembly	172
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	15
Wednesday Bible Study	118
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,905)	\$6,866

**Elder/Coordinator for March**  
**Ron Carter**

## Bible Question

*This Week's Bible Question: What type of person is better than the mighty?*

*Last Week's Bible Question: Name the priest of Bethel who tried to drive Amos away. The correct answer is Amaziah, Amos 7:10-13. Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Joyce Pack, Bloria Taylor, Mary Walker and Betty Bray correctly answered the question.*

*Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to [ray.pack@kvnet.org](mailto:ray.pack@kvnet.org) by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.*

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Elizabethtown Church of Christ  
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Church Office: 765-6446  
Fax # 737-0491

### Elders:

Ron Carter	358-5792
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

### Ministers:

John Board	763-1677
Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

### Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Email: [churchofchrist@kvnet.org](mailto:churchofchrist@kvnet.org)

Visit us on the World Wide Web:  
[www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG](http://www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG)

## Are You Part of the PARTICIPATION

Mar. 29 — Fundamental Truths Seminar  
Mar. 30 — 5th Grade & Under Spring Celebration  
Mar. 30 — Elders/Deacons/Precursors Meeting  
Mar. 30 — 5th Sunday Night Singing  
Apr. 5 — Ladies Night Out, Bowling  
Apr. 13 — Senior Secret Sisters Get-together  
Apr. 25-26 — Men's Retreat

### Daily Bible Reading Schedule

1. 1 Samuel 5:1-9:10
2. 1 Samuel 9:11-12:18
3. 1 Samuel 12:19-14:42
4. 1 Samuel 14:43-17:25
5. 1 Samuel 17:26-19:24
6. 1 Samuel 20-22
7. 1 Samuel 23:1-25:31

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