



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXV February 15, 2009 No. 6

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

This year in *Confidence Corner* we are examining how the inspired New Testament writers applied the passages from the inspired Old Testament writers so that our knowledge, faith, and therefore our confidence, will grow (Romans 10:17).

In Genesis 12:1, we read the LORD's statement to Abram, "Get thee out of thy land and from thy kindred." Here we read of the journey of a very special person. It is fascinating that a period of time that was no less than 1656 years is recorded in the first six chapters of Genesis while the time period of Abram's life, though only 175 years, has nineteen chapters devoted to it. God is obviously calling attention to Abram and his life.

A question that arises though is when did the appearance spoken of in Genesis 12:1 actually occur. The Hebrew text in Genesis could be interpreted a couple of different ways. The grammar allows the possibility of the verb *amar* to be construed in the pluperfect tense (designated completed action in the past). This is the rendering of the KJV, NKJV, and the NIV. In addition, chapter eleven could describe a more general thought only to have chapter twelve fill in the more specific details (see Genesis chapters 10-11 for example).

The New Testament application of this Old Testament passage is found in the speech by Stephen in Acts chapter seven. Critics of the Bible attempt to find many errors in this speech (call of Abram, dating error in death of Terah, 400 years in bondage, 70 vs. 75 years in migration to Egypt, etc.). They attribute the errors to either Stephen or Luke in an attempt to discredit the Bible.

Our concern this week is with the call of Abram. Stephen tells us through inspiration that the call he spoke of occurred in Mesopotamia. According to what is noted above regarding the Hebrew text, there is no contradiction here as some allege.

Let us focus upon some of the positives from the passage in Acts. Stephen tells us the glory of God appeared to Abram in Mesopotamia (Ur). This suggests some visible manifestation. Stephen among other things was stressing the faithfulness of Abram to the appearance of God. This was a challenge to Abram's faith. He was free to persuade others to go with him, but if none would go, he was to go himself—and this to a land God had not yet described. Abram was to leave all he knew for a land that God had only promised "to show him." Stephen gives us a great picture of Abram's faith, not a contradiction to diminish our faith!

JFB

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

Uplifting and edifying would be the two words to describe this year's lectureship at Freed Hardeman University. During the course of the week I had opportunity to sit and listen to some very practical, yet powerful lessons. It would be difficult to pick just one and say that it was the best. I would say my favorite lectureship theme series would be the Insights from the Psalms. The series dealt with facing life's problems. On Monday Joseph Ruiz spoke about life's disappointments. What is encouraging to me is the fact that less than one year ago Joe's son drowned while on a mission trip. Many of us have lost loved ones, but in Joe's family's case the body has not been found nor is there much hope that it will ever be found. That is what amazed me about his presentation.

As I mentioned Sunday night you may listen to the audio of the lessons online. The website is <http://web.fhu.edu/lectureship>. Follow the link on the left side of the page that says 2009 Schedule. Follow the instructions from there.



All young people going to CYC need to give Kay Pack \$15 by February 18 to cover the cost of meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. Each one will need money for supper on Friday and lunch on Sunday. You will also need money if you plan to purchase a sweatshirt or any other items.



We have been invited to attend Youth Focus 2009 at the South Green Street congregation on March 28th. The schedule can be found online at www.glasgow-coc.org. Click on the youth link and proceed from there. Make plans to attend as the discussion surrounds the thought of confronting culture. Joe Wells of Focus Press will be the featured speaker.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *God is My*
Psalm 18:1-3

P.M. - *Song Study: God is So Good*
Psalm 100:1-5

Lessons from a Storm

Anyone who lives in the general vicinity of Elizabethtown, Kentucky (or almost anyone in Kentucky or the surrounding states) is well aware of the problems the recent ice storm has brought to their lives. For my family for the most part, the storm was an inconvenience. We suffered some damage but nothing in comparison to what others endured (and some at the writing of this article continue to endure). For some, the storm is still very real, for this reason I want to be careful in my approach to this article. Yet I believe there are lessons that can be gathered from what we endure in a storm such as the most recent storm to hit our area of the country. Please allow me to share some of those lessons.

First, the storm reminded me that we live in a world cursed by sin. One of the results of sin entering the perfect paradise God originally prepared for man is natural disasters. It appears that the storms we now face were more than likely a consequence of the changed climate after God's global flood (remember God's inspired description of the world prior to God's global flood Genesis 6:5). Although insurance companies may word it as such, the storms we face are not an "act of God." The storms we face are the result of Satan's temptation and man's choice to give in to that temptation and sin (James 1:14).

The storm also served to remind me that in something that appears very beautiful may lie hidden dangers. As I traveled to Huntington, WV the Saturday after the storm, I could not help but look with amazement at the beauty of the snow and ice on the trees. Yet as I did so, I realized that underneath the beauty lies hidden ruin. Such a physical reminder helped to bring greater meaning to passages like Proverbs chapters 5 and 7.

From the storm I also have a greater appreciation of the biblical use of the term darkness. Whether used as a plague, as that which precedes a revelation from God (Gen. 15), as a hindrance to the Egyptians, as something hidden, as a judgment, as a reference to eternal punishment, or as a contrast between God and Satan my awareness of "darkness" has been heightened indeed. The passages that mention darkness therefore have an enhanced meaning as well.

Another lesson I learned in connection with the darkness is tied to those who came to our rescue. I have now found appreciation for the men who worked so hard to restore physical light to us. In talking with others I was made aware of the sacrifices they were making to serve others. Many of these men and women came from other states, separated from their physical families, slept in uncomfortable surroundings, and worked long hours (14 on and 3 off) all in service to us. I couldn't help but compare their sacrifice to the sacrifice I make to take the greater spiritual light to a world in darkness (which has enhanced meaning to me). I have to ask, how much "sacrificing" is involved in our efforts to take the spiritual light to the world—I think it is at least something upon which to think.

Lastly, I am reminded that all storms of life are temporary. Yes, some may think the effects of this storm may never end—it will. Perhaps that is little consolation to those still dealing with the after effects of the storm. Persevere and your faith will be better for it (James 1:2-4). If we maintain our faith we are promised that no matter what we suffer or how long—physical or figurative storms—the sufferings we have here, will not begin to compare to the glories of heaven (Romans 8:18ff). I am reminded, this world is not my home, and how thankful I am to look forward to eternity with God in heaven.

John F. Board
Elizabethtown, Ky.

News and Notes

VANESSA & CAMBRY PAUL, sister-in-law and newborn niece of Mike Parks, are in the hospital in Lubbock, Texas. Both have infections and are being treated with antibiotics. **CARLOS SMITH**, Sue Pence's nephew, will undergo cancer surgery in Houston Friday. **MELVIN YURT**, a member of the Lebanon Junction congregation, has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer and is in Norton's Audubon Hospital in Louisville.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Carl Mercer
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
Elonda Crafton	Nathan Nash
Dana Fox	Rosa Lee Norman
Howard Gardner	Joyce Pack
Chris Goodin	Grace Speer
Faye Guess	Gene Stough
Roy Johnson	Barbara Underwood
Ruby Keister	Lonnie Underwood
Kent Lane	Payton Walker
Diane Lewis	Lawrence Wells
J Martin	Jim & Dyrena White

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 McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Phillip Moore

Additional Prayer List: Charlene Akridge, Weita Anderson, Delsie Axton, Curtis Bradley, Sue Cantrell, Royce Goodman, Renee Green, Ginell Harris, Don Hatcher, Louie Hodge, Mike Lane, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, John Pawley, Willie Pence, Joe & Patsy Richter, David & Geneva Risinger, Carlos Smith, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Mary Stough, Jim Thomas, Juanita Tillery, Kevin Weaver, Kendell Whisenant, Sondra Woosley

Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Wilma McAlister and her family in the death of her mother, Alene Barber, who passed away last Friday. Her funeral was held in Bald Knob, Arkansas Monday.

Note

We are collecting garden seeds to send to our Ukrainian brethren in Donetsk. Please bring these and put in the box in the lobby by Sunday, February 15.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 2/15/09 Pkgs./Boxes of Rice

Thank You

E-town Church Family,
Thanks for your prayers for David's recent hip replacement and Geneva's stomach problems. Nearly 50 years ago we were married in the E-town church. We still feel it is one of our homes. We are both doing well. Thanks again for your prayers.

David & Geneva Risinger, TX

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BABY SHOWER** for Jaclyn McKinney, Sunday afternoon, **February 15**, at 4:00 p.m. in the South Wing. Jaclyn is registered at Wal-Mart.
- **CONGREGATIONAL SKATING PARTY/ YOUTH DEVO**, Sunday night, **February 15**, at Hardin County Roller Rink in Radcliff.
- **SWEETHEART DINNER**, Saturday, **February 21**, in the South Wing. Men are asked to prepare two dishes and to please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board. CSG #1 will be in charge of set up and decorations, CSG's #2 & #3 will have clean up duties, and CSG #4 will be in charge of the activities. Members are asked to bring a wedding photo or copy and give to Jason or Carrie White prior to the dinner.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **February 22**, at 3:00 p.m.
- **E-TOWN LADIES DAY**, Saturday, **March 21**, with Janie Gallagher from Fairmont, WV. Theme: Vessels of Clay.
- **FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS SEMINAR** at Lehman Avenue Church of Christ in Bowling Green, Saturday, **March 28**. A sheet with speakers and times is posted on the bulletin board.

New Address

Caroline Pence, 1707 N. Miles Street, Elizabethtown, KY 42701

OUR RECORD FOR

February 8, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	135
Sunday Morning Assembly	186
Sunday Evening Assembly	133
Wednesday Bible Study	120
Ladies Bible Class	13
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,783)	\$6,449

Elder/Coordinator for February
Rick Whobrey

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: What was the bounty to Delilah for discovering the secret of Samson's strength?

Last Week's Bible Question: I am the prophet who hid 100 other prophets in caves to protect them from Jezebel.

Who am I? The correct answer is Obadiah, 1 Kings 18:4.

Those who correctly answered the Bible Question are Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Joyce Pack, Mary Walker, Betty Bray and Katy Watson. Rick Eiler's name was left off last week's bulletin as correctly answering 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 by Tuesday afternoon.

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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Fax # 737-0491

Elders:

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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

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.etowncofc.org

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

1. Exodus 37-38; Matthew 23:23-39
2. Exodus 39-40; Matthew 24:1-22
3. Leviticus 1-3; Matthew 24:23-51
4. Leviticus 4-6; Matthew 25:1-30
5. Leviticus 7-9; Matthew 25:31-46
6. Leviticus 10-12; Matthew 26:1-19
7. Leviticus 13; Matthew 26:20-54

Feb. 15 — McKinney Baby Shower
Feb. 15 — Congregational Skating Party
Feb. 21 — Sweetheart Dinner
Feb. 22 — Singing at Atria
Feb. 27-Mar. 1 — CYC, Gatlinburg, TN
Mar. 21 — Ladies Day
Mar. 28 — Fundamental Truths Seminar

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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