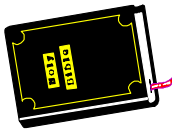


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40

WORD POWER

One of the lessons of the book of Genesis is that people organize themselves into groups based on affinity. The greatest apparent point of affinity among men is language. Nations are born out of the fact of a common language. Later in the Biblical text nations come to be known by the language they speak. The language we speak is a fundamental building block in the formation of society. The body politic is derivative of the people's use of language.

Americans have a way of understanding ideas that is held (or at least has been held until recently) by most people in the society. For example, we speak of freedom and independence. We know what we mean by these words. Other people use them differently. Dictators use the same words that are used by people in free societies. This contention is proved by the reading of Lenin and Hitler, to mention only two.

So we see that language is strong enough a power to form nations. But the student of the Bible knows that it can do more than this. The proper use of language can save souls. We quote Romans 10:17 all the time: “**So then faith comes by I and hearing by the word of God.**” The danger in being so familiar with a passage is that we overlook its power and profundity. Faith is essential if one is to ever come to God (Hebrews 11:6). This text tells us that this required faith comes from the Word of God. Now, this truth is embodied in words, the very things that are the components of language. Language can make nations and some of them free. More importantly, language can make souls free from sin.

— Continued on page 3

“**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**” - Hebrews 4:12

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VOLUME 32, NUMBER 19 May 7, 2006

RECORDS 4/30/2006

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 58
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 101
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 66
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 62
CONTRIBUTION: \$2195

SERMONS 5/7/2006

AM Scott Parker:
What Did You Expect?
PM Scott Parker **Easy To Mislead, or**
Dennis Johnson **India mission work**

"But we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:" - Romans 5:3

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM , 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study

Office Phone (803) 794-5320

*Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages*

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

ELDERS

Donald Klieves
Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

MINISTER

Scott Parker
Home: 740-2105 Cell: 348-6537
E-Mail: SavingTheSouth@sc.rr.com

Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

“THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK” - James 5:15

- **Eddie Sheppard** is back home from the hospital, recovering his strength.
- **Brother Cedrick Anderson** came forward Wednesday night asking the prayers of the church that he might be a better example to his students.
- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Ted Stidham, Beryl Parks, Ron Banks, Hagood Godley,** and our shut-ins **Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg,** and **Phyllis Johnson.** Also, **Nina Ruth Meadows** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **James Mathias** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), and **Jack and Elma Berrier.**
- **Remember also Margaret Herring, Ashley Williams and Bobby Giles.**
- **Kaitlyn Sheppard** has mono and isn't feeling well.
- **Tricia Parker** requests prayers for her dad, **John McCullum** in Missouri.
- Remember **Melissa Parks,** in Virginia, helping with her father **Jack Edwards.**
- **PRAY FOR ALL THESE AND THE CHURCH!**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;” - Psalms 103:2-4

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- **DEACONS WERE APPOINTED,** last Sunday following the morning assembly: **Gerald Boyd, Jones Gamble, Billy Geiger, Ken Parks and Eddie Sheppard**
- Remember these men and their families in your prayers.
- **Jon and Ishara Macon** have a new, 9 lbs. baby daughter, **Ann Ainslee.**

“ELDERS ... FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD” - 1 Peter 5:1,2

The elders delivered the following charge to the **deacons:**

In the presence of God, and before your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as witness today, we charge that you faithfully uphold the honorable office of deacon; that you recognize the commitment and responsibility involved, that you acknowledge the authority of the eldership, and that you will, to the best of your ability, carry out the assignments which they give you, in a manner which will build up the church and bring glory and honor to God.

The elders delivered the following charge to the **congregation:**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ we believe these men [deacons] meet the qualifications set forth by God in his holy word. In accordance with God's plan for his church, they have been appointed as deacons to assist the elders in the work here at West Columbia. We therefore charge you all, that you render them every assistance, consideration and encouragement so they might carry out the work we set them to do – all to the building up of the Lord's church, to the glory of God.

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:21

- **Spiritual Growth Seminar at West Columbia,** Friday and Saturday **June 16,17** on “The Deadly **TULIP—Calvinism,** exposed and refuted from the Bible”
- **Our VBS July 24-28,** Mon-Fri 7:00-8:30 PM—**The Bible is YOUR Book.**
- Sister **Marilyn Brooks** needs a ride to our assemblies. The **Sheppards** have been bringing her faithfully for quite awhile but with Eddie's illness we need someone else to pitch in and help. Marilyn lives on 109 Super Dr, West Columbia 29172. That's off Old Wire Road, off Charleston Highway #176 close to I-26 Carolina Eastman exit #119. Marilyn's phone number is 926-9899. She's in a wheelchair and needs help getting in and out of the car.
- **Dennis and Beth Johnson** have returned from their mission work in India. Dennis may be making a presentation of his work in India at the Sunday evening assembly. Details were still to be worked out as the bulletin was being printed.

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” - Hebrews 13:5

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” - Romans 15:4

WORD POWER (continued from front page)

We remember Paul from Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...” Language may be used for various ends. Its best use is as the gospel of Christ. The next best use of language is the presentation of that gospel to all who need to hear it. Preaching the gospel is the most significant use of language. If you do not think so, listen to Paul here:

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” and here “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-24).

Words have many powers. The greatest power of words is to save the souls of the lost. We must both know and share these words.

-Bill Irby, Evangelist, West Hobbs Street Church of Christ, Athens, Alabama