

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

September 25, 2011

Remember in your prayers:

- **Evan Thomason** (5th grader @ McAdory, passed away on Thursday morning. Continue to remember his family in your prayers. **Gracie Brister** (teammate of Maci Swindle) will have surgery on 10/6 to remove a brain tumor. **Velma Whitehead** (Lance’s grandmother) fell yesterday and broke her hip. She was scheduled for surgery this morning. **Rhonda Knowles** continues to need our prayers
- **Macon Horne, Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xavian Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice,** and **Marvin Dryer’s mother,** as they battle cancer. **Frances Flowers** (Alzheimer)
- **Heather Flowers,** who is away at college., **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley & all of our servicemen** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel;** especially those who labor under hardships.

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00
- **Gospel Meeting:** Sun- Tues, October 23-25, 2011; Philip Owens

Area Gospel Meetings:

Edward’s Lake church of Christ...Gary Kerr...Sept. 25-30.....M-F @ 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
Sayre church of Christ.....Terry Benton.....Sept. 25-30.....M-F @ 7:30 P.M.



DON’T LOOK BACK

On May 6, 1954, Roger Bannister became the first man in history to run a mile in less than four minutes (3 min 59.4 sec). Within two months, John Landy broke his record with a time of 3 min 57.9 s. On August 7, 1954, the two met together for a historic race described as “The Miracle Mile.” Landy led for most of the race, building a lead of ten yards in the third of four laps. As they moved into the last lap, Landy looked back over his left shoulder to see where Bannister was – just as Bannister decided to pass him on the right, taking the lead. Bannister won the race in 3 min 58.8 s, with Landy 0.8 s behind in 3 min 59.6 s. Landy later told a Time magazine reporter, “If I hadn’t looked back, I would have won!” A bronze sculpture of the two men at this moment was created and stood for many years at the entrance to Empire Stadium. Regarding the sculpture, Landy said, “While Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt for looking back, I am probably the only one ever turned into bronze for looking back.”

Landy lost the race when he took his eyes off the finish line and looked back for Bannister. Lot’s wife lost her life when she looked back at everything she had to leave behind in Sodom (**Genesis 19:26**)? To truly follow the Lord there are some things you must leave behind, not looking back to them again. Jesus warned, *“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (**Luke 9:62**).

Remember John Landy. *“Remember Lot’s wife”* (**Luke 17:32**). Don’t look back.

The Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ
1235 Alliance Rd; Alliance, Alabama
436-4477

“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4

Editor:

Van Cooper

Schedule of Services

Lord’s Day

9:30 A.M. Bible Classes
10:25 A.M. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 P.M.

5:00 P.M. Worship

Elders

Philip Jacks 436-3055
Truman Wallace 483-7016
Van Cooper 491-9695

Deacons

Keith Chaney 491-1596
Roger Key 491-3723

Evangelist

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

Who We Are: The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man’s only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at (WWW.blackcreekchurch.com)

DEATH IN THE POT

And Elisha came again to Gilgal. And there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and boil pottage for the sons of the prophets. And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage; for they knew them not. So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot. (2 Kings 4:38-41)

There are many valuable lessons to be learned from this biblical event—let us consider a few.

As there was a famine in the land during the days of Elisha, so is there a famine of

the word of God in our day. Amos writes, *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord Jehovah, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Jehovah. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of Jehovah, and shall not find it”* (Amos 8:11-12). Friends, such seems to describe our day as well. In many places the word of God is not found. Sadly, even in the Lord’s church (at least in many places), little of the word of God is found. Many of our pulpits are preaching more “philosophy” than they are the word of God—that’s a spiritual dearth! Can you hear the prophet’s cry, *“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge”* (Hos. 4:6)? *Will you heed the prophet’s cry? “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Pet. 4:11).

The world, too, is starving without the gospel message. We need to provide the “bread of life” so the world will not hunger or thirst spiritually (John 6:35). Friends, do you care enough for your family, your friends, and your neighbor down the road to help them in their spiritual famine?

Will you be involved in teaching to help stop this terrible spiritual starvation?

But, let us beware lest we be as the servant of 2 Kings 4 and gather wild gourds and poison the pot. Many in our day think they are being fed good spiritual food but in many places, “there is death in the pot!” There is “death in the pot” because false doctrine is being taught. It is the pure word of God that saves—not the doctrines of men. False doctrine is deadly whether it is a little or a lot. This is why Paul warned that “a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6). In rat poison, over 99% of the ingredients are good, but it is the other 1% that kills the rat. Friends, spiritually speaking, this is why we need to be concerned that we are true to the teaching of the Bible in every point.

But, consider this about the servant that gathered the poison gourds—he was sincere in what he did, but still he poisoned his fellows. The servant “thought” he was doing the right thing, but he was fatally wrong. Many today are sincere in what they believe, but they are sincerely wrong. This is why it is so important that we

examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5). What we think or what we feel in our hearts is not the test of truth—it is strictly what the Bible says.

We also need to be careful because just as the gourd looked good, and yet, was poisoned, so error can go around disguised as truth. Do you remember the warning of Jesus? “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are *ravenous wolves*” (Matt. 7:15). Things may not always be as they appear. Friends, if there is “*death in the pot*,” then let us use the “meal” of God’s word to remove the poison. Add the “meal” to the pot and “serve it to the people” and you will find nothing “harmful in the pot.” Be careful lest there be death in the pot!
By **Tom Moore**