westcolumbiachurchofchrist.org WEB

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Tuesdays 10:00 AM LADIES CLASS

<u>Sunday</u> 0:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Assembly 6:00 PM Assembly <u>Wednesday</u> :00 PM Bible Study

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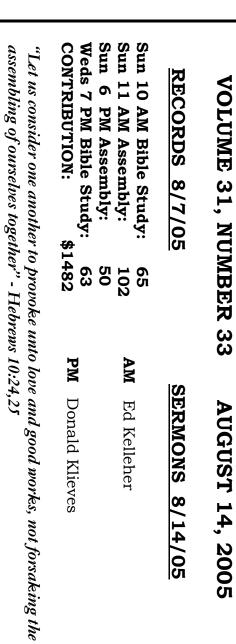
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"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." JOHN 8:32

Minister Resigns

We regret to announce the resignation of our long time minister, Ernest J. Richards, Jr., effective Sunday August 7, 2005. Brother Richards started working with us in November of 1989. During his almost 16 year tenure, Bro. Richards was an able and sound pulpit minister. However, at a regularly scheduled monthly Men's Business Meeting, a majority of the men expressed their dissatisfaction with his performance in other areas. Bro. Richards then resigned his position as minister at the West Columbia church of Christ, stating that he would not stay where he was not wanted.

We wish Bro. Richards well. It is particularly difficult to separate after such a long association. Some were hurt. We ask your prayers that the hurt be healed and the work here not be hindered, but prosper. We pray the Lord will be able to use Bro. Richards in the furtherance of His kingdom.

We are presently looking for a full time Evangelist and personal worker to assist with the work here. If you have any leads, we'd appreciate your referring them to us. We are determined to press on as the apostle Paul set us example:

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:13,14

"<u>AND LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING</u>"

Now, more than ever, we need for *everyone* to pitch in and help! We need to **increase our giving.** We all must *want* to grow in love for one another *and* in numbers as the Lord has commanded. Pray for us as a congregation and be sure to pickup up a copy of the *"Lord's Work"* sheets we'll be passing out this Sunday to see in what areas *you* can help us all grow in Christ.

"<u>REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE</u>"

Don Klieves returned safe, but tired, from a very successful missionary trip to **Surinam**, Monday evening at 10PM. Many from the congregation were there at the airport to greet him with a big banner proclaiming, "**Welcome Home Christian Soldier!**" Unfortunately, poor Donald had to go to work first thing next morning. Let's remember to pray for those new Christians in Surinam. Pictures of Don's welcome at the airport are up on the church website.

"<u>WEEP WITH THEM THAT DO WEEP</u>"

• Unfortunately, some were deeply hurt by the resignation of Bro. Richards. Pray for these brethren that their hurt may be healed and they will join with us as we forget those things which are behind and press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Patricia Kelly has misplaced her favorite red bible at the church building.

"<u>IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU?</u>"

- Remember in prayer: MARGARET HERRING, VIOLET BRUNSON, BUDDY PARSON, BERYL PARKS, ETHEL SMITH, MARY HONEYCUTT, and our shut-ins JESSICA HERRING, ZUDORA CLEGG, PHYLLIS JOHNSON. Prayers are also requested for SCOTT MAY (Anna Porter's nephew), NINA RUTH MEADOWS (Marcella Klieves' mother), JAMES MATHIAS (Tommy White's brother-in-law), MIKE STOCKMAN (a co-worker of Larry Tramel), KATHYRN HALL (Melissa Parks' sister), and REGINA GIST (Jimmy Gist's mother).
- Remember Don, Don Jr. and Nancy Fields as Don is away on a trip to Florida.
- Remember Jan and Julia Kelleher as they travel to Nashville for Julia to start the Fall semester as a sophomore at Lipscomb University. Also please remember Sarah Kelleher who has been attending summer school at Lipscomb and will start the fall semester as a senior, graduating in May, 2006—Lord willing!
- Remember Elgene Sanders who is to have cataract surgery Tuesday.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18

The Facts of the Gospel

1 Cor. 15:1-8 — Whatever else the Christian system unfolds in the New Testament, it is first of all a record of historical facts. It is a divine revelation, an unveiling of man, a body of ethical precepts — it became a religious system. In these scriptures a story of fundamental, primary facts are found.

"That Christ died." This is recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The fact of His death, like the fact of His life, is universally conceded. The apostle Paul takes us back to the saddest scene ever enacted upon the earth, to the darkest day in the world's history. But, the greatest blessing ever offered mankind became available because of what happened that day.

(a) As a sacrificial victim: "For our sins." Jesus did not die merely as a martyr, but also as an expiatory offering on account of our sins. John 1:29; 1 John 3:5; Gal. 1:4; Titus 2:14.

(b) As a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy: "According to the Scriptures." It was not just the will of wicked men, but also in fulfillment of God's divine plan for saving man from our sins, that Christ died, Isa. 53:1-8

"That He was buried." Jesus Christ, being human as well as divine, touched life at every point. He began as an infant at Bethlehem, and ended in a tomb just outside of Jerusalem. He was buried in a borrowed tomb — another point in His humiliation.

(a)In a place of beauty. The tomb was in a garden, a lovely spot fashioned by the hands of a rich man. John 19:38-42.

(b)In a place of purity. It was "in a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid." Matt. 27:60. He who came to resurrection and life, even his body did not see corruption. Psalm 16:10.

"That He has been raised." Jesus' resurrection is declared in Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20. (a) "On the third day". Jesus foretold this in Matt. 16:21. On the first day of the week, which became the day of worship for Christians. Acts 20:7, I Cor. 16:1-2

"**That He was seen.**" By Cephas, by the twelve – by over 500 brethren, by James, by all the apostles, and the last by Paul. All of these were eye-witnesses to His resurrection.

•Believe in Christ, John 8:24;

•Repent Acts 2:38;

- •Confess Christ publicly, Matt. 10:32;
- •Be baptized into Christ, Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5.
- •Live faithfully Rev. 2:10.

Then enjoy the blessings of eternal life ...