

Harmony Newsletter

Web Site: www.harmoniypbchurch.org

HARMONY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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"Come thou with us, and we will do thee good..."-Numbers 10:29

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WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?

Through the centuries, more ink has stained the pages of history to describe One person above all others. Of course, that person is Jesus Christ. More has been said, and written about Jesus than any athlete, movie star, performer, king or conqueror. I remember John Lennon making the statement that the Beatles were as popular as Jesus. I talked to a young person the other day and they had never heard of the Beatles.

While some have, in their integrity, attempted to portray Jesus as honestly as they could, others have used their credentials to misrepresent, defame and deceive their audience. You may be one of those. So let's put Him to the test. "Will the real Jesus please stand up?"

Some claim that Jesus was not God. He was just an angel. Really? Did they get that in the Marvel comic book or something? Angels are created beings. Jesus claimed He was "I AM", which means that He had no beginning nor has an end...and He proved it. Again, angels do not bleed. Angels cannot be nailed to a cross. The word angel means messenger. In that sense Jesus was an angel. But He was also the bright and morning star as well as a hundred or more other adjectives that were used to describe the Indescribable. So, I guess we could call Him a star if we would call him an angel *only*.

Some have said that Jesus was just a good man. Good men are hard to find. The Bible says there are none. Yet, they say *He* was. Yet, how could Jesus be a good man if He lied His whole life? He said He was God. He said He came down from heaven. He said He had a kingdom. He said, He said, He said. No, if Jesus was only a man he was the biggest liar that ever lived. Shallow thinking.

Some say that Jesus was God, but that He was not a part of the Holy Trinity: the *Son* of God. I am not sure why that bothers people but when you see three people, and two of them are talking at the same time, as they did when Jesus was baptized, it is only logical to assume that there are three Persons present. Either Jesus did a lot of talking to Himself, or he was a good ventriloquist...or he was the *Son* of God.

The most popular fad is to say that Jesus was only a prophet equal to other prophets of other religions. Well, He did prophesy, which, by the way, was another adjective used to describe Him. Yet, there was something about this prophet that was different from other prophets that he is compared to. This prophet prophesied His own death, burial, and resurrection. The other prophets have graves that you may visit. His prophecies came true...

...theirs didn't. Wouldn't you say there was more to Jesus than just a *prophet*?

Some say that they refuse to believe in a God they cannot explain, or fully understand: Jesus being God, and man? So they defame Jesus to something simple enough for their tiny brains. They can't understand quantum physics, but they think they should fully understand the God that created it. Do you think the human brain can fully comprehend the One that created the human brain? That is like asking the light bulb to comprehend Thomas Edison.

There is a common thread that runs through all of these. Some people just don't like the real Jesus. Yet, His record *stands*. He *stands* as the most famous person in all the universe. He is loved by millions. He has a kingdom. He stood up from the grave. He has stood up in the hearts and lives of millions in their times of trials, difficulties, and losses. He stood for His people when no one else would. He has stood the test of time, the test of slander, the test of false witnesses. That is the most wonderful thing about Jesus...He *stands*.-NMP

BIBLES TO AFRICA-Continued

Dear Brother Neil,

Greetings in Jesus name. I am happy to let you know that the bibles you sent have arrived. They are very precious types. I am short of words but I want to tell you that this bibles are greatly appreciated. God is aware of this great service and hand of fellowship you have extended to us and great is your blessings. Tears of joy flows out of my eyes as I opened and saw the wonderful bibles. I wish I could see you face to face to shake your hands but I know we shall meet in Heaven if not here on earth. We spent much time interceding for you, the bibles came in yesterday afternoon. We are greatly blessed, Thank you, thank you and thank you!!!! SHALOM! I pray that the Father shed His marvelous light upon you, as it is written: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side." Isaiah 60:1-4.

Let me share with you about all we have been doing since the past two weeks. The Muslims quarters here again had much flooding. That area of town is valley so most times flood water destroys things there. The heavy rain that fell last Thursday killed 2 persons there and destroyed many buildings. I encouraged our church and few days ago we went to help in any way we could like removing debris and helping to stand some wooden building. We went again yesterday. Most of the Muslims are amazed to see us coming to help despite all the persecution from them. We tell many about Christ when necessary and many are won, six families. Again many Christians around us criticize us for doing this simply because the Muslims do not show sympathy of Christians but killed Christians around Nigeria. I know for myself, it is definitely challenging to love people who may be hostile towards us, but God calls us to love our enemies and He will supply us with the love to do it if we surrender to Him. For God is love. And we can only love because He first loved us. And His love is only made complete in us, when it transforms our hearts and outflows into every facet of our lives. (1 John 4:7-21). God has been showing me how He calls us to do what is impossible for man, because it shows us that we can only have victory through Christ alone. And the act of loving our enemies can be done through Christ. God is amazing, and He provides an endless source of love! We will continue to reach out in love to those Muslims because of the love of Christ in us.

We thank you because through you we have a testimony that God's love knows no boundaries, whether through earth or sea, His love stretches beyond all of that. "Have not I commanded thee Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid neither be thou dismayed for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever - Joshua 1:9" We believe that God will pour his love and abundance of blessings on His people who serve him with such humility and courage. Continue to aid and assist the people around you, as we remember that each and every one of us are made in the beautiful image of God, and thus all of us are creations of God, loved dearly by Him. I wish I can share all about us with you. Thank you! 2 Thessalonians 3:1- Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you. I wish you could visit us and see all that we are doing in Christ. Let us know. Looking unto Jesus- Hebrews 12:1-2 -Brother John

THE SIMPLICITY OF EVANGELISM

Most of us have the innate ability to make something complicated out of something simple. You have heard the acronym that encourages us to keep things as simple as possible: K.I.S.S. This, of course, means: "Keep It Simple Stupid." Or, to say it in a nicer way: "Don't complicate things." I was at a meeting a few years ago and I had to laugh when a preacher changed the letters of the acronym to a church setting. He said,

"Keep It Simple Saints!" Yes, even the saints can complicate things from time to time. Of course, when we complicate things, people become confused, and little gets done.

It seems to me that there is nothing that we, as Christians, tend to complicate more than the simple exercise of evangelism. It usually goes like this: "Let's start a drive, let's send out letters, let's get a movement, let's have a big meeting, let's do all these complicated things and we will get some results." Rather than all of that complicated stuff, why don't we just bring someone to church with us? That's pretty simple. Anyone can do that!

That is what evangelism really is. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others. It is simple. You may not be able to preach, but you can share what you know about Jesus, and you can bring someone to church with you.

That is how it all began. Jesus called the apostles, and they began to share Him with their family and friends. Not all of those who shared Christ were preachers. But God crowned their efforts with amazing results. As Jesus said in a parable, the kingdom started as a little mustard seed. Then it grew into a great tree, large enough for birds to make their nests in the branches thereof. (Matthew 13:32). Marilyn and I have a place on a branch at Harmony. It all began with a simple invitation from one of our relatives. I really do not remember who it was. But someone believed in evangelism. I encourage every church member to begin by praying, then bring someone to church with you in the coming months. That is how revivals begin!

MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Our September meeting is rapidly approaching. It will start on Friday night, September 21st. We will have soup and sandwiches at 5:30, singing at 7 P.M. with preaching following. We will also have services on Saturday afternoon, Saturday night and Sunday morning. This has been a wonderful time of fellowship with our sister churches. We hope to use several of our local ministers that we seldom get to hear for this meeting. Let us be praying for this meeting, that our Lord will be with us. Also, let us remember that any special meeting incurs additional expenses: "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift."

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Norma Phelan
- Louise Beason
- Lori Carlisle
- Brenda Stafford
- Elder Charles Sandage and family
- Ella Boen
- Sister Cindy Hughes
- Those persecuted by the Muslims