

# MARKET STREET



*"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)*

## MESSENGER

**Market Street  
church of Christ**  
514 West Market Street  
P.O. Box 388  
Athens, Alabama 35612  
Phone (256) 232-1525

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No. 5

### *Profile In Sacrificial Giving?*

**David Tant**

*"And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on'" (Mark 12:41-44).*

Merces Marques came to America from Bolivia when she was nearly 80 years old. She came with few possessions and evidently acquired little while here. She did acquire one great possession through a benefactor. His name was Jesus Christ. she learned and obeyed the gospel at the age of 87. she was so grateful for this gift, that she served him tirelessly right up to the last day of her life just short of her 100th birthday.

An elder from her congregation in Miami, Florida wrote the following:

Our congregation just lost a saint, who was a benefactress, although she dies with only \$57 in her checking account, and yet had her offering for the Lord's Day already written out ahead of time for \$55. on the envelope she had written, "Thank You gift for Lord Jesus!" She had nothing, and gave it all away! She arrived each week an hour before most of us and had the Lord's Table prepared. She also insisted upon coordinating clean up after our Sunday services in our borrowed meeting place because she wanted it to be done in a way that reflected deep appreciation for those who shared their school for our congregation on Sunday's. I asked Merces one Sunday why she worked so hard when she came to the gatherings. Her response was, "I am making up for lost time, because the Lord Jesus found me only 12 years ago, and this is my way of saying, 'Thank you, Jesus.'"

At 99 she was still working six days a week, and yet she received no public assistance. At 6:27 a.m. on a recent Tuesday she was struck by a speeding young driver. She died on the scene. Our little congregation claimed her body because we were the only "next of kin" she had. She was buried in a borrowed grave and all the funeral expenses were paid

#### **Schedule of Services**

##### **Sunday**

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 5:00 p.m.

##### **Wednesday**

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

#### **Elders**

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737  
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

#### **Deacons**

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147  
Tommy Coblentz ..... (256) 232-3212  
Joel Hamm..... (256) 230-6223  
Larry Mitchell ..... (256) 230-0185  
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304  
Russ Wulfekuhl ..... (256) 683-9396

#### **Evangelists**

David A. Cox ..... (256) 233-8910  
Cell: (256) 614-3757  
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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#### **MARKET STREET MESSENGER**

*is published in the interest of New Testament  
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Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

by donations from Christians. Mercés was much of the heart of our congregation of less than 100 members. Almost three times that number attended her funeral, however; people from all over the city who were served by her hands as she worked 60 hours a week weeding gardens, cleaning houses, and caring for both little children and older disabled men and women (who were much younger than she). On the Lord's Day following her burial, one of our shepherds placed two special offerings onto the Lord's Table - they were Mercés' check for \$55 (still in its envelope) and her coin purse, which was found among her few possessions, with \$1.37 inside. The congregation burst into tears!

And that brought tears to my eyes as I read the story of this dear sister. Does this remind you of someone in the Bible - like the widow who gave all she had (Mark 12:41-44)?

1. How much time and effort do I put into serving the Lord as an expression of my thanksgiving for the great gift he has given me? How did Paul describe it? Well, Paul said it was really hard to describe. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15) How can we find adequate words to explain the fact that God became a man and gave up heaven's glory to live for 33 years among men, not as a king in a palace, but as a servant, for he said "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).
2. How many people will attend my funeral? That may seem like a strange question, but it relates to the influence Mercés had on those she came in contact with in her daily life. With respect to influence, Jesus said we are the light of the world.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

Evidently Mercés had a pretty bright light, and the fact that so many people came to her funeral is a testimony to the fact that she touched many lives. Unless the Lord comes first, we will all attend our own funeral. The number of people present will in one sense be a reflection on the number of people we touch in our daily lives. the neighbor we helped in a time of trouble; the waitress to whom we showed kindness; the family

we took in when their house burned; the travelers we helped when their car broke down; the runaway teen we took in who escaped from abuse at home; the lost soul to whom we shared the gospel of Christ.

I am sorry I never met Mercés, but she has touched my life. I hope she has touched yours, as well.

~via *Family Items*; Athens, Alabama

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## *Noah's Boys and Lot's Girls*

**Russ Bowman**

It would have been nice if God had offered a detailed account of the rearing of some godly man like David or John the Baptist. Did Jesse approve of David's music? Did Zechariah set a curfew? However, God didn't record such a comprehensive account because I'm not raising David or John. I'm raising Haley (and beginning in August. The Lord willing, her sibling).

Consider two families—Noah's (Genesis 5:32-10:32) and Lot's (Genesis 19:1-38). Interestingly, there are a number of similarities. Both dwelt in ungodly environments. Both had righteous men at their head. God delivered both from cataclysmic events. Yet Noah's boys and Lot's girls appear far dissimilar in the end.

**Spiritual wisdom is important.** In Genesis, Lot focuses upon the cities of the plain of Jordan. The citizens of Sodom were "exceedingly" wicked in God's eyes, and Lot was personally appalled at their lawlessness (2 Peter 2:7ff). Yet he took his wife and children into such a godless place simply because it was a good business move. He was motivated more by temporal wisdom than by spiritual concern. Some of his daughters died in Sodom (Genesis 19:14-15); his wife died looking back (Genesis 19:26); his two surviving daughters sacrificed their virginity to and bore children by their father after they enticed him to drunkenness (Genesis 19:30ff). What happens to this family had Lot been more spiritual in his choices?

**Active faith makes an impact.** Noah spent years proclaiming righteousness and preparing to save his family from an event absolutely unimaginable (Gen-

esis 7:11). His boys saw a father who trusted God so completely that he built an incredible boat to receive an unbelievable menagerie. Imagine the ridicule and scorn they must have endured. Yet Noah was resolute and his faith must have inspired some trust in young Shem, Ham, and Japheth, for God delivered the boys and their wives as well. Contrast Noah's active faith with Lot's fear and hesitation. Granted, Lot was righteous (2 Peter 2:7ff) but he gravitated repeatedly toward men (Genesis 13:12; 14:12; 19:20ff), attempted to appease the Sodomites with his virgin daughters, hesitated to leave Sodom, and begged God not to send him to the mountains "lest some evil take me, and I die" (Genesis 19:19). God delivered him, yet his faith was far from monumental. It is little wonder that his wife and daughters did not appear to share his abhorrence of ungodliness, and that his sons-in-law ridiculed him. We must do more than simply despise evil.

**Parents must guard their character constantly.**

Lot's girls seem to have been exposed to a pattern of inconsistency. How would you feel if your father offered you to a mob of sexual perverts? His sons-in-law considered his warnings a joke. He hesitated to leave. He couldn't stop his wife from looking back. He was afraid of the mountains though God had delivered him. He allowed himself to become drunken before his girls.

Perhaps their incest and sinful reasoning shouldn't surprise us. But Ham, in Genesis 9:18ff, manifests contempt and disregard for Noah in response to one mistake. No doubt Ham already harbored some dishonor for his father, yet Noah's intemperance offers the opportunity for him to display his irreverence and mockery. Perhaps Ham was looking for inconsistency in his father, but Noah had apparently offered no ground for such criticism - until now. Parents, we must guard our character constantly. Our kids are watching.

A child eventually chooses his own character. It's difficult to tell whether Noah's boys, before the flood, were righteous like their father, Perhaps God saved them for Noah's sake, though I believe otherwise. Shem and Japheth appear to imitate their father's godliness in their reverence in Genesis 9:18f. Ham is another story. He is over 100 years old, with at least four boys of his own when he revels in his father's sin. His character is now his own to pursue, and he pursues ungodliness on this occasion. Perhaps this is an indication of his moral fabric as a grown man. Though Noah was wrong in his

drunkenness, Ham was old enough now to choose his own path. Noah had provided a godly example for his boys. "God saved my Dad from the flood. Who else could make such a claim? But as with Noah and Ham, parents can only provide their children the foundation of faith, instruction, evidence, examples, and admonition. There are no guarantees that they will trust God. We can't give them our faith. How frustrating! Yet my little girl needs to love God by her choice, not by mine.

There are other lessons here and elsewhere. God knows that parents need help with their children and that children need help from their parents. Let's work hard to offer our boys and girls every opportunity to survive this world. We owe it to them. We owe it to our folks. We owe it to God.

~via *Christinity Magazine*; June 1998, Vol. 15 No. 6.

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:**

Alvis McLemore	Marvin Putman
JoAnn Gilbert	Gwen Bullock
Gilbert Hardy	Mary Ruth Gardner
Wynell Casteel	Wayne Gooch
Bruce Mordecai	Una King Currier
Ronald Harrison	David Hartsell
Abby Gilbert	Betty Faye Holt
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Carrie Miller
Charles Burns	Shelia Dunnivant Douglas

***Athens Convalescent Care:***

Beulah Pope, rm. 100    Mattye Murray, rm. 60

***Limestone Health Facility:***

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B    Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B  
 Albert Norton, rm. 36    J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E  
 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

***Limestone Lodge:***

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

***Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:***

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

***Shut-In:***

Reba Adams, at home  
 Lola Colwell, at home  
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**BAPTISMS:** We are rejoicing this week of the baptism

of **Krysten Scott** this past Sunday evening at our evening service...Also, we rejoice over the baptism of **Alex Crabtree** on Wednesday evening after our Bible Study. We appreciate the desire of Krysten and Alex to obey the Lord and pray that they will have long and faithful lives as children of God. May we encourage them and may we all use our lives to be an influence for Christ in this life.

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS:** Remember the Ladies' Bible class that meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are continuing the study, "*The Barnabas Factor*". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

**POLLY DAVIS (1926 – 2013):** It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister Polly Davis this past Friday evening. Sister Davis has been missed at our services at Market Street the last 2 or 3 years, as her health failed, and she was unable to attend services. Sister Davis love the church at Market Street and was always eager to hear news about the church here. We want express our deepest sympathy to all of her family. Her funeral will be this afternoon at Spry Funeral Home at 2:00 p.m. The burial will be in Minor Hill, Tennessee.

**ANNUAL SINGING:** Remember our 2nd Annual Singing will be on Friday, February 22nd. **Jim Deason, Steve Klein and Mark W. White** will be back again this year to lead the singing. There are cards on the table for you to take and give to those you invite. Also, for those on Facebook there is an event to share with others and you may invite your friends through that medium. We will need a number of men to help greet, usher and move chairs. If you would like to be involved in this way, please let me know.

**WORK GROUPS:** Work Group one will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group tonight.

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL:** The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present this evening for the Bible drill.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for Week of January 27th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 132  
Morning Worship ..... 172  
Evening Worship..... 120  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 103

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, February 3rd:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Ronnie Locke  
Assisting ..... Marion Mitchell  
Serving ..... Kenneth Adams ..... Mot Dollar  
..... Paul Hasting ..... Harold Davis  
Closing Prayer ..... Dwaine Allfrey

#### Evening Worship

Announcements ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge  
Prayer ..... Jonathan Keenon  
Preaching ..... Jordan Lovell  
Lord's Supper ..... Ronnie Locke  
Closing Prayer ..... Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 3rd:

Usher ..... Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System ..... Nathaniel Adams

### Wednesday, February 6th:

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
Bible Reading ..... Isaiah 60:1-9  
..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
Prayer ..... Todd Williams  
Invitation ..... Jordan Lovell  
Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

### Sunday, February 10th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements ..... Tommy Coblenz  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer ..... Marcus Morris  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Assisting ..... Marty Adams  
Serving ..... Keith Hinkle ..... Larry Mitchell  
..... Tommy Burns ..... Terry Andrews  
Closing Prayer ..... Joel Hamm

#### Evening Worship

Announcements ..... Tommy Coblenz  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Closing Prayer ..... Mot Dollar

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 10th:

Usher ..... Keenon Currier  
Work Sound System ..... Landon Adams