

# ROCKY MOUNT CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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**VOLUME TWENTY EIGHT**

**JUNE, 2011**

**NUMBER SEVEN**

## **The Mind of the Christian - a Servant**

"Let this mind be in you..."(Philippians 2:5) Jesus came into the world as God manifest in the flesh, but he 'emptied' himself to become a servant. He became what he created but his Deity never diminished. He had to humble himself to serve his own creation; so it must be with us if we are to have the mind of Christ. Jesus came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others. The world promotes a 'me first' attitude and tells us to reject the idea of submission and subjection. In his submission to the will of his Father, Jesus subjected himself to death on the cross. What humility! What commitment! What love! Can we think for a moment that God does not expect the same humble submission from us? If you are one of His, you have been bought with a price and you are not your own. We need to recognize that true peace and contentment comes not from serving ourselves, but from serving one another. To the world, life is about 'me' but for the Christian it is peace, joy, and righteousness in the Holy Ghost, and submission to God. **Matt Jordan, pastor**

## **Sister Imalene White Ballew**

Sister Imalene White Ballew, 79, of Union Grove, passed away on Monday, May 16, 2011. She was born in the Eddy community near Arab to Cliff and Lora White. She was married to Edgar Ballew for 63 years. She lived her life fully, dedicated to walking the life she professed through her strong Christian beliefs. She was a loving wife and mother, an involved grandmother, a church servant, a retired chemistry teacher of 29 years, a competitive team player, an avid camper, a great listener, an analytical reader, an excellent conversationalist, and a wonderful friend.

Although born and raised in the Eddy community near Arab, she traveled beyond the boundaries of Alabama and the United States with Edgar and sometimes with family and friends.

Rocky Mount Primitive Baptist Church, where she joined on September 6, 1959 was where she rooted her spiritual training, resulting in her desire to serve. Her true love of God resulted in works where she always put forth her very best efforts, whether in her Sunday chicken 'n dressing, or in the enthusiasm she displayed in whatever tasks in which she was involved.

Her funeral was at 2 PM, Wednesday, May 18 at Rocky Mount Primitive Baptist Church with Matt Jordan and Ralph Johnson officiating. Internment followed in the Arab Memorial Cemetery, directed by Gober Funeral Chapel.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Edgar Ballew, two daughters and sons-in-law, Sheila and Daniel Knox, and Marsha and Michael King; three granddaughters, Cassie Speegle, Danielle, and Leslie Knox; and sister, Sadenya and Lavon Smith.

Pallbearers were Keith Jones, Tracy Kelly, Bryan Tatum, Steve Hallman, Mike Simpson and Larry Gregory. Honorary pallbearers were Terry Farris, Gaylon Chafin, Dan Hawk, Earl Jordan, Roy McGraw, Royce Brittain and Jeff Saylor.

In lieu of flowers she requested that you honor her by making a donation to one of the following places: Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, 14 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 1400, New York, NY 10122, or Rocky Mount Primitive Baptist Church, P. O. Box 288, Arab, AL 35016, or Russell Hill Cancer Foundation, Attention: Donna Johnson, 3601 CCI Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805.

## Immortality

The subject of immortality will always be an interesting subject to us poor mortals here in time. The fact that immortality under perfect conditions of love and peace is promised by our Heavenly Father, who cannot lie, to all who love him and long for His coming, is the most important fact in our lives. Human curiosity prompts us to ask many questions concerning the conditions under which we will enjoy that wonderful blessing, and we will find no sure answer for many of them; but God, in His mercy has revealed all that is necessary for us to know here in time. Instead of disputing over the hidden mysteries to our hurt and the hurt of others, we are to remember that revelation tells us that when we awake in His likeness we will be satisfied. So, instead of discussing these unnecessary questions, I just want to sum up some of the evidence given in the Bible that God's people will really live on beyond the grave.

By a God given faith, Abraham *"looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.."* Hebrews 11:10. His real hope was not himself possessing the natural land of Canaan, but of living in the spiritual and eternal city beyond this earthly life. Again (Hebrews 13:14), *"for here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."* As this faith to seek the heavenly city is God given, so that city is sure to be inhabited by those seekers. *"But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which is spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."* -- Matthew 22:31, 32. *"Enoch walked with God; and he was not; for God took him."* Genesis 5:24. Again, in 2nd Kings 2:11, *"and it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."* Here are two men in living bodies of flesh who, without dying, have gone on into the world above. Do they live on? They certainly do, for we read of Elijah in the New Testament (Luke 9:30, 31) where on the Mount he appeared with Moses, who also had long been gone from earth, and they both talked with Jesus concerning his crucifixion which was soon to be. Then Jesus also is plainly risen from the dead, and became the first fruits from the grave or death. His body was also included, as it not only was not found in the sepulcher, but for forty days He appeared from time to time in that body in which he was crucified and which was now made spiritual, and He said, *"Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."* As He was the first fruits from the grave, even so those whom He shall raise up from the grave shall be raised as He was. And as He was the same person after His resurrection that He was before, yet in an entirely different condition, and fitted for an entirely different environment, so shall His people in their resurrection, be like Him!

He loved us before time. He loved us in time and gave Himself for us. He will love us after time, for His love is everlasting. That love requires that all that He loved and died for shall live with Him after time, for the Bible tells us (1Thess. 4:17, 18) *"and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."* Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:4. *"To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."* As that inheritance is in heaven, even so the heirs must be there to receive it; so the next verse (1:5), *"who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

Surely all who hope in his mercies will be there and continue in that endless and perfect life beyond the grave. With this wonderful hope we look forward and in prospect see all the sorrows and tears of earth gone forever, and peace and loving companionship with our Savior, and all who love him will be ours forever. It is better to be, if necessary, a pauper on earth with this wonderful hope and its sure fulfilling in God's time and by His grace, than to have all of everything that earth and time can give and be without it. Let us talk it over with our spiritually minded friends more often, for it is better to look at than all the baubles of earth. Let us talk more often of the wonderful Friend that has given it to us, and try harder to follow His commands.

**Yours in the humble hope, Elder Leon H. Clevenger, Excelsior Springs, MO.  
The Primitive Baptist, March 4, 1954**

## Hope

Last Sunday my pastor spoke on 'Hope'. After thinking about his message for several days, I began thinking about how we lose sight of the control that God actually has. We have hope in God, the Son, and the

Spirit, but do we embrace the entirety of that hope? Hope is the belief that something will come that cannot yet be seen. We have hope, because God gives us hope. He gives us hope through his Son, who was born into this world, became sin (yet never having committed sin of his own) and died on the cross to cleanse us of our sins, was raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven. He gives us hope through the messages of His word. He gives us hope in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Yet, with hope, we seem to forget that God is in control. Does God, who foreknew us, predestinated us, and calls us, stand aside and leave control to us? Is there hope in God not being in control? Can we, then, say God knows everything that has, is, and will ever be, he knows everything about us and everything we will do, yet he is not in control? God knew that Adam would sin, before there was an Adam. God knew that His Son, Jesus Christ, would die as sin, and cleanse us of ours, before He ever created Adam. Is that not God in control? We lose sight of God's control at times, most of the time Satan tries to hide it from us with guilt and fear. God has a way of bringing his control back to light. He chastises us: he separates us from our so-called friends, he separates us from money, he separates us from our children; all to bring us closer to him. No matter what God separates us from, nothing can separate us from God. Nothing. Is that not hope? Is that not God being in control? If God be for us, who can be against us? It's time that we embrace our Hope, Embrace God's control.

After Elder Asbell finished his message, the congregation was gathered in fellowship for lunch. A sister and Elder Asbell were having a short discussion about feeling low-in-spirit. I didn't hear the entire conversation, but I did hear our sister say that sometimes low-in-spirit felt more like lacking in the Spirit. Elder Asbell countered her statement, saying that being low-in-spirit, is when you know the Spirit is there. If the spirit wasn't there, you wouldn't be feeling anything-in-spirit. I don't think she quite knew how to take what he had said, but, once again, it made me think. When we are feeling low-in-spirit, it is God ministering to us. He is separating us from the world, to make us humble, to show us the only way is to walk with him. Satan tries to use that time to make us push God away, he gives us guilt, fear and confusion. Satan uses the world to make us ignore God. Satan uses television, he uses our friends, he uses our jobs, our hobbies, even our kids and spouses, to separate us from our walk with God. So what does God do? He starts taking those things away. He knows as long as those things are there, then we forget He is there. Sometimes He brings them back, sometimes we don't enjoy them as much or in the same ways. The point is, God is in control, he knows everything. He knows everything that was, is, and will be, but also, and think about this, he knows everything that won't be. God doesn't chastise us to only take things away from us that keep us from serving Him, he gives us something better in return.

A part of faith is letting God handle the things we can't control. When we stand aside and look at the world around us, we see there is very little we actually are in control of. Instead of worrying about what tomorrow will bring or take away, keep your faith before you in everything that you do. Give your worries and fears to God, turn to God in your times of need. We have a faithful Father, we have a loving Father, and we have a Father that is always in control, even when we forget He is there.

**David Dyess II, March to Zion Website** ([www.marchtozion.com](http://www.marchtozion.com))

### **Sin Unto Death**

*“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.”* I John 5:16

On various occasions, I have been asked if I knew what the sin unto death is. In the past 50 years, I've heard and read a good many ideas concerning this, but when I look at this verse, a particular thing leaps out at me. “I do not say that he shall pray for it.” That line is very important and here is why. In the book of Jeremiah, God charges the prophet no less than three times not to pray for the sins of Israel: Chapter 7:16, Chapter 11:14 and Chapter 14:11.

God's reason for doing this stands clear for God had sent Jeremiah to them to tell them how to face the coming of Nebuchadnezzar and what to do. The people flatly refused to listen. God had made a decree that Nebuchadnezzar would rule the world and that the children of Israel should submit peacefully to that decree. On two occasions in the chapters listed above, God gave a specific reason for this decree; that being that King Manasseh of Israel had sacrificed children to idol gods. God had already made it clear to Abraham in Genesis,

Chapter 22 that children were not to be sacrificed even to Him, let alone to idols. God has a reason for that too, for you see, He sacrificed His Only Begotten Son for us and we are not to pollute that offering. So then, when Israel refused to hear Jeremiah, God said “Don’t pray for them. I will not listen.” Sounds like a sin unto death to me.

In this day and age we must be very careful that we don’t sacrifice our children to idols. We will lose them to the world if we are not very diligent to teach them the truth of God’s word. This just got as serious as a heart attack, didn’t it?

Now, I don’t want to belabor the point, but get down to what we can do about the situation. The clearest answer I have is found in Isaiah 58:13 and 14. *“If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my Holy Day; and call the Sabbath a delight, THE HOLY OF THE LORD, HONORABLE; AND SHALT HONOR HIM, NOT DOING THINE OWN WAYS, NOR FINDING THINE OWN PLEASURE, NOR SPEAKING THINE OWN WORDS: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN IT”*

**Dan Hopper, Eva, AL**

### **Comments from the Pastor**

Rocky Mount Church is so very grateful for the outpouring of assistance witnessed in this area in the aftermath of the devastating April 27<sup>th</sup> storms. While the community immediately surrounding the church was not seriously affected, many nearby and in every direction around us suffered greatly. A few of our own members had to deal with some structural damage and debris but thankfully, no personal injuries. Our congregation responded admirably in providing supplies and various items to the local shelters and individual families. Some spent many hours working in the local shelter while others worked long hours assisting their neighbors. I don’t boast in man for these things but I thank God for the willingness and desire in the hearts of His people to minister to those in need, both spiritually and physically. To those outside our congregation who assisted in various ways, we say “thank you and God bless you”. We hope to share a more detailed note with you personally very soon to let you know how your assistance was used. And let our prayers be lifted up for those in other parts of the country suffering from the same kind of devastating storms in recent weeks.

Our primary purpose as a church body is to worship the Lord and magnify Jesus Christ through the preaching and ministering of his word. We should be always ready to demonstrate what we believe by how we treat our neighbor, especially in times of need. In his earthly ministry, Jesus consistently tended to the physical needs of those to whom he ministered. After all, people are much more willing to hear what you believe if they see your faith in action; for without works, our faith is dead. And we see this principle borne out not only in the lives of the saints individually, but in the church as well, collectively as a body. The initial impression people form is rarely ever based on beliefs and doctrine and how well you understand Scripture. The vast majority of the time, the most formidable and therefore the most lasting impression people form about you is what they observe in your manner of life. If that initial impression is positive, they are more likely to begin to inquire about the motivation behind your actions --- your faith and your belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. But let our motivation to help others be simply that --- a genuine desire to minister to the poor and needy; not an ulterior motive of trying to get more people to come to our church.

We were blessed to enjoy the beautiful wedding ceremony of Sam Owens and Brianna Thompson, Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to open our church facilities to this wonderful young couple and their families. We are excited about another wedding Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Savannah Kelly and Jason Mann will perform their wedding vows at 3:00 in the afternoon at the church. Also recently, I was blessed to be a part of the marriage ceremony between Kaleigha Moore and Eric Cramer.

Congratulations to these young couples and we pray God’s blessings will be theirs most abundantly!

Remember to visit our website from time to time: [www.rockymountpbc.org](http://www.rockymountpbc.org) You will find sermons you can listen to or download, articles, singing and other information of interest, including other links to websites we think you will enjoy. ~ Matt Jordan, pastor