

*Supporting the fighters,
Admiring the survivors,
Celebrating hope.*



Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 10 Number 43
Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



**13 I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH
CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13**



Morgan County  Today
Your Community. Your News.

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CITIZENS & VETERANS

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
AT WARTBURG, TN
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(15400)**



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Another Smelly Skunk

Good grief! Pap thought he got rid of our smelly invader because, he took it to the Wildlife Refuge. Now, that was a feat in itself.

Well, some relative of his has now made its way into our kingdom. Pap says he really dreads having to do that all over again.

We were lucky because it only sprayed when it realized it couldn't escape. Thank goodness, no one was outside when it released its pungent odor. Especially, since we couldn't get rid of that funky smell for a week! I can't imagine how bad it would have been if it had sprayed Ms Ivory, Pap, or me. So glad that didn't happen.

Any-woof, Pap is going to have to set the traps again so we can take him to the same area that he took his relative.

Let's just hope and pray that he doesn't get sprayed. You know, I have to admit Mr Skunk is kind of cute. If only he didn't stink up the place.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Early Voting for Nov. 5 State and Federal General Election Continues in Morgan County through Oct. 31

MORGAN, COUNTY Tenn. – Morgan County voters can continue to utilize the convenience of the early voting period to cast a ballot for the Nov. 5 State and Federal General Election.

“During early voting, Morgan County residents have the convenience and flexibility of evening and Saturday hours”, says Tim Sweat the Morgan Administrator of Elections. “I encourage voters to take advantage of this early voting opportunity and cast their ballot.”

Early voting runs through Thursday, Oct. 31. Morgan County residents can find hours, and polling locations and view sample ballots on MorganElections.com. or the Secretary of State’s website GoVoteTN.gov and the GoVoteTN app. The GoVoteTN app is free in the App Store or Google Play.

“We want all eligible Tennessee voters to cast a ballot during the early voting period,” said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. “Tennessee and our nation are stronger when every eligible voter participates. Head to the polls now and make your voice be heard.”

Morgan County voters need to bring valid photo identification to the polls. A driver’s license or photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Tennessee state government, or the federal government is acceptable even if expired. A student ID or out-of-state driver’s license is not acceptable. For more information about what types of IDs are permitted, visit GoVoteTN.gov.

For more information about early voting and other election information, visit your trusted source for election information, GoVoteTN.gov, or contact the Morgan County Election Commission at (423) 346-3190.

Oakdale School Veterans Day Program

Oakdale School will host our annual **Veterans Day Program** on **Monday, November 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** in the **Fred Snow Gym**. All veterans and members of the armed services are invited to attend. Following the program, a **special brunch** will be held in honor of all guests.







The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
GAS
UTILITY DISTRICT**
of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 29	74°/57°	
Wed 30	77°/61°	
Thu 31	76°/61°	
Fri 01	74°/58°	
Sat 02	75°/55°	
Sun 03	70°/49°	
Mon 04	67°/48°	


Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

ELECTION NOTICE

November 5, 2024, elections will be held in all precincts for US President and Vice President, US Senator, US Representative-3 rd Congressional District, TN State Senator- 12 th District, TN State Representative-41 st District.

Additionally, there will be Municipal Offices; City of Sunbright in Sunbright Precinct 5-1: Mayor, Alderman-1 seat At-Large.

Town of Oliver Springs in Coalfield Precinct 1-1: Alderman- Ward 3 -1 seat, Alderman- Ward 5 -1, seat Alderman- Ward 6 -1 seat

Referendums- City of Wartburg in Wartburg Precinct 3-1:

a referendum to authorize the consumption of alcohol on the premises in the City of Wartburg, and a referendum to authorize retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages in the City of Wartburg.

All voting precincts in Morgan County will be open between the hours of 9am and 8pm November 5, 2024. Below are names and address of each precinct polling place, absentee counting board, and provisional counting board.


Precinct Location

<u>1-1 Coalfield</u>	Coalfield Senior Citizens Bldg.- 1600 Coal Hill Rd., Harriman, TN 37748
<u>2-1 Oakdale High</u>	Oakdale High School- 225 Clifty St., Oakdale, TN 37829
<u>2-2 Oakdale</u>	Oakdale Town Hall- 204 Queen St.- Oakdale, TN 37829
<u>3-1 Wartburg</u>	Wartburg Civic Center- 1000 Howard St., Wartburg, TN 37887
<u>4-1 Lancing</u>	Faith Missionary Baptist Church- 109 Pemberton St., Lancing, TN 37770
<u>4-2 Deer Lodge</u>	Abner-Ross Center- 110 Corine Ave., Deer Lodge, TN 37726
<u>4-3 Chestnut Ridge</u>	Chestnut Ridge Fire Dept.- 4744 Nashville Hwy., Deer Lodge, TN 37726
<u>5-1 Sunbright</u>	Sunbright City Hall- 120 Melton Dr., Sunbright, TN 37872
<u>5-2 Burrville</u>	Faith in Grace Missionary Baptist Church - 388 Peters Ford Rd., Sunbright, TN 37872
<u>6-1 Kellys</u>	Union Baptist Church- 3615 Knoxville Hwy., Wartburg, TN 37887
<u>6-2 Petros</u>	Petros Seniors Bldg.- 1007 Back Petros Rd., Oliver Springs, TN 37840
<u>6-3 Mossy Grove</u>	New Life Apostolic Church- 1720 Morgan County Hwy., Wartburg, TN 37887
<u>Absentee Counting Board</u>	Morgan County Court House- 415 N. Kingston St., Wartburg, TN 37887 (Meeting November 5, 2024 at 4pm)
<u>Provisional Counting Board</u>	Morgan County Court House- 415 N. Kingston St., Wartburg, TN 37887 (Meeting November 8, 2024 at 1pm)
<u>Certify Election Results</u>	Morgan County Court House- 415 N. Kingston St., Wartburg, TN 37887 (Meeting November 19, 2024 at 1pm)


VOTERS ARE REQUESTED TO PLEASE CONTACT THE ELECTION OFFICE TO ALLEVIATE ANY DISCREPANCY OR QUESTION REGARDING YOUR REGISTRATION, ADDRESS, OR POLLING PLACE. ADDRESS CHANGES CAN BE MADE NOW, OR DURING EARLY VOTING, OR ON ELECTION DAY BY COMPLETING A FAIL-SAFE FORM. VOTERS MUST VOTE IN THE PRECINCT IN WHICH THEY RESIDE. A MAP OF THE CURRENT DISTRICTS AND PRECINCT BOUNDARIES CAN BE FOUND AT:


<https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/office-functions/pa/gisredistricting/redistricting-and-land-use-maps/redistricting-maps.html> AND <https://tn-cot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=a45bf122d3984cabb920ea396c4c6d0a> .

AT THIS WEBSITE, VOTERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHECK THEIR STATUS AND PRECINCT WITH A MAP OF POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS. Morgan County Election Commission: Telephone (423) 346-3190 FAX (423)346-4350 EMAIL: Morgan.Commission@TN.Gov WEB-SITE: MorganElections.com OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 8:00am-4:00pm (Excluding Holidays) Gary Massengill- Chairman, Mike Gunter- Secretary, Wayne Brown, Kathy Carroll, John Pemberton. Tim Sweat-Administrator **WEBSITE: MorganElections.com**



Public Notice





The City of Wartburg City Council meeting
scheduled for November 11, 2024, has been
rescheduled to November 18, 2024.

Mayor Phil Vespie

Alderman Bacel Gunter
Alderman Wendell Laughter

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR MORGAN COUNTY
STATE AND FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON
November 5, 2024

Precinct NEWSPAPER
Page 1 of 2

Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice.

STATE AND FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION

PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES
Vote for One (1)

Electors for DONALD J. TRUMP For President and JD VANCE For Vice President Republican Party Nominee

Electors for KAMALA D. HARRIS For President and TIM WALZ For Vice President Democratic Party Nominee

Electors for JAY J BOWMAN For President and DE D BOWMAN For Vice President Independent Candidate

Electors for CLAUDIA DE LA CRUZ For President and KARINA GARCIA For Vice President Independent Candidate

Electors for RACHELE FRUIT For President and DENNIS RICHTER For Vice President Independent Candidate

Electors for ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. For President and NICOLE SHANAHAN For Vice President Independent Candidate

Electors for JILL STEIN For President and SAMSON LEBEAU KPADENOU For Vice President Independent Candidate

Write-in

UNITED STATES SENATE
Vote for One (1)

Marsha Blackburn Republican Party Nominee

Gloria Johnson Democratic Party Nominee

Tharon Chandler Independent Candidate

Pamela Jeanine "P." Moses Independent Candidate

Hastina Robinson Independent Candidate

Write-in

UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
District 3
Vote for One (1)

Chuck Fleischmann Republican Party Nominee

Jack Allen Democratic Party Nominee

Jean Howard-Hill Independent Candidate

Stephen "Scooter" King Independent Candidate

Write-in

TENNESSEE SENATE
District 12
Vote for One (1)

Ken Yager Republican Party Nominee

Charles Hutson II Independent Candidate

Write-in

TENNESSEE HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
District 41
Vote for One (1)

Ed Butler Republican Party Nominee

Joel Derek Hawn Democratic Party Nominee

Write-in

**Reminder: Early Voting for Tennessee’s Nov. 5 Elections
Ends This Thursday, Oct. 31**

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) — Morgan County AOE today reminded all Morgan County residents to utilize the flexibility of the early voting period to cast a ballot for the Nov. 5 State and Federal General Election.

“Early voting is a convenient and secure opportunity for all registered voters to cast a ballot,” said Tim Sweat, Morgan County AOE. “Don’t wait until Election Day; head to the Morgan County Courthouse now to let your voice be heard.”

Registered Tennessee voters can find hours and polling locations, view sample ballots, and more by visiting MorganElections.com, GoVoteTN.gov, or by downloading the Secretary of State’s free [GoVoteTN app](http://GoVoteTN.app).

“If you have not yet cast your ballot and want to avoid longer lines on Election Day, there’s still time. Head to the polls today and vote,” said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. Tennesseans voting early or on Election Day should remember to bring valid photo identification to the polls. A driver’s license or photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Tennessee state government, or the federal government can be used even if they are expired. College student IDs are not acceptable.

For more information about early voting and other election information, visit your trusted source for election information MorganElections.com, GoVoteTN.gov, or contact the Morgan County Election Commission at (423) 346-3190.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR MORGAN COUNTY
STATE AND FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON
November 5, 2024

Precinct NEWSPAPER
Page 2 of 2

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
Town of Oliver Springs

ALDERMAN
Town of Oliver Springs
Ward 3

Vote for One (1)

Char-Lee Bailey

Kenneth T Brown

Write-in

ALDERMAN
Town of Oliver Springs
Ward 5

Vote for One (1)

Terry Holland

Write-in

ALDERMAN
Town of Oliver Springs
Ward 6

Vote for One (1)

Becky Devaney

Write-in

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
City of Sunbright

MAYOR
City of Sunbright

Vote for One (1)

Karen Melton

Write-in

ALDERMAN
City of Sunbright

Vote for One (1)

Pam Bentley

Write-in

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
City of Wartburg

RETAIL PACKAGE STORES REFERENDUM

To permit retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages in City of Wartburg.

Not to permit retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages in City of Wartburg.

CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES REFERENDUM

For legal sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in City of Wartburg.

Against legal sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in City of Wartburg.

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"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches"
Proverbs 22:1



**Tom Redmon
Columnist**

In the Path of Hurricane Milton

As I sit here in my daughter's and son-in-law's home, I have the TV on, warning all citizens in Florida about a hurricane named Milton with a CAT-5 storm. In the Tampa Bay region, it is predicted that the storm is expected to have eight to twelve feet surges which has never happened before.

We just had a hurricane two weeks ago and the clean-up hasn't been completed. The Tampa Bay area was damaged by the storm surge of 6.5 feet. This hurricane could be the worst to ever hit Florida in recorded history. As a matter-of-fact it was in 1921; over a hundred years ago when Tampa had a direct hit from a hurricane.

They are warning the people who are in low lying areas: here they are called zones A, B, and C with A being the lowest. There is a mandatory evacuation for the people who live in those zones. They estimate that over 1.5 million will have to leave their homes.

We are now at Scott and Dawn's house near Plant City. Dawn is still working at Chick-fil-a and Scott is helping us get settled. Others in our family are on their way here. They live in Sarasota and their house is closer to the ocean. When hurricane Debbie came through the street in front of their house was like a river. Boys were paddling boats down the street.

The news we have now tells us that Milton has slowed down and will not make land-fall until about 2:00 am, Thursday morning. The storm surges will be ten to fifteen feet around Bradenton and Sarasota.

I really hate to see the destruction this monstrous hurricane will leave us. Helene was bad enough but this one will be like none we have seen in over a hundred years. In 1921 the last hurricane to hit Tampa (directly); none of us were here. But this area called Tampa Bay, has grown so much in the last 102 years that Bradenton, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Plant City, Lakeland, and many smaller towns and cities have increased this area so much that they have doubled the population many times over. They now have professional teams in football (Buccaneers), baseball (Rays), hockey (lighting), and recently have gotten pro soccer. New roads and streets have been built in all these counties since traffic has increased three-fold or more in the last twenty years. It is unbelievable and this is when both hurricanes Helene and Milton is hitting at the moment.

I am writing this on Wednesday, October 9th, in Plant City, Florida and the wind and rain has increased greatly. The hurricane is still a stage 4 but will be a 3 when it hits shore somewhere in the Tampa Bay area. It looks like it will be around a little south of Sarasota. I have grandchildren who have chosen to stay in their homes in the areas that Milton will hit. We have kept in touch with them by phone. It is now 4:12 PM, Wednesday, October 9th and although things are looking bad it is nothing like it will be tonight and Thursday morning.

At 4:45 PM Governor DeSantis has just given his last announcement of preparation and told people to stay off the streets and roads. It is too late to get out of the area where the storm is predicted to affect which is large and will get larger before it makes landfall. It looks like most of Florida will get a little of Milton. I have been in Florida off and on for fifty-three-years and I have never experienced a hurricane here in the Tampa Bay area.

Back to our great Governor DeSantis, he has to be the best leader in the U.S. He has stayed awake ever since the power of these latest two hurricanes were announced. I have never seen a leader that loves his people as much as this man does. When he appeared on TV it looks like he can barely keep his eyes open. He had dedicated his life to this state. Here at 7:50 pm, Wednesday the governor is giving another update on Hurricane Milton.

Landfall, 8:00 pm, Wednesday night – Hurricane Milton has hit between Sarasota and Venice. We will not know how much damage as been done until the storm is over. I'm hoping and praying for the best. We know this was a stage 3 hurricane when it came ashore and it was predicted it would be a stage 2 when it reached Orlando and a stage 1 when it reached the East Coast.

The governor has announced a total of 19 tornadoes have touched down in Florida. No word of damage was reported. Wind speed of storm is 115 mph as the storm wall moves on shore rain will exceed 16' in places.

12:00 pm, Thursday, October 10th – It was a rough night for a lot of people, not only in West, Central Florida and even the West Coast. There are no deaths reported at this time. The total number of houses without power is over three million. Manatee and Sarasota counties were had the most homes without power. One of the major problems all over the areas was downed trees over roadways and some fell on houses. I am thankful to report that all my children and grandchildren endured the hurricane without death or injury. My daughter's house's roof and fence were damaged but we hope to go back tomorrow. My grandson's roof was seriously damaged and some of the interior will have to be replaced. I would say we were lucky. Tornadoes broke out in Central Florida and East Florida and killed several people. St. Lucia in the East Coast reported five deaths from tornadoes.

If there's one thing that I have learned from this horrific storm it is

that they know how to build homes and schools that can survive hurricane forced winds. My son's home that we stayed in, in Plant City was hit by

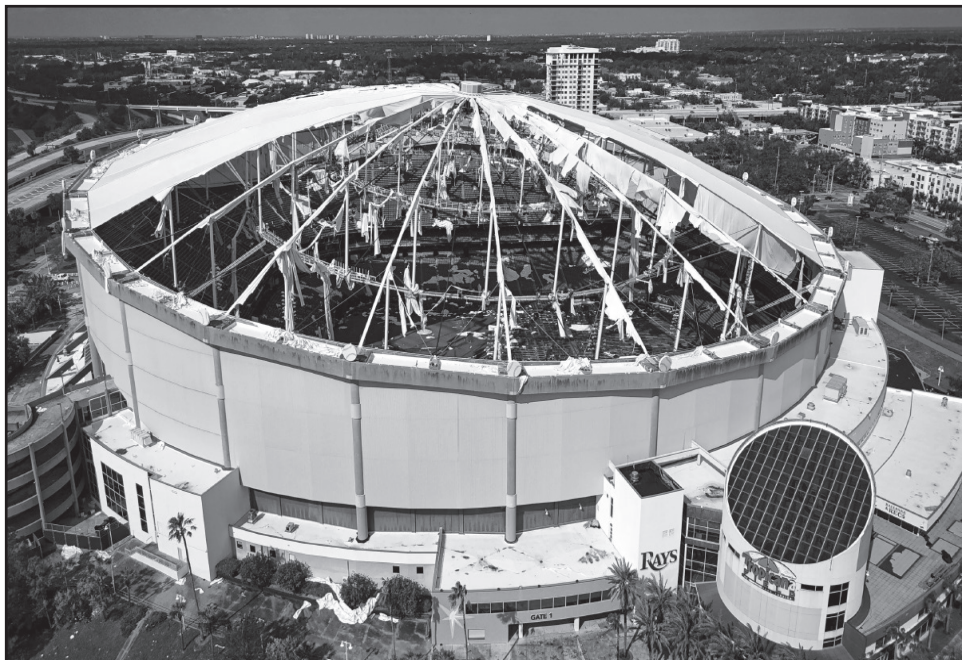


strong state 2 or 3 winds between 85 and 110 mph and escaped damage. Their store was also undamaged.

It has now been confirmed that at least twenty-one deaths have been reported. I'm pretty sure this total will rise. I thank the governor and officials in every county did a great job which kept fatalities down.

I have tried to keep the folks back home abreast of the happenings here in Florida. I haven't got to travel around yet but I think I have done an accurate job of reporting.

A couple of things I failed to tell you about was that Tropicana Field lost most of its roof. That is where the Tampa Bay Rays play baseball and



Tampa Bay Ray's Stadium

special events are held. Also, a crane blew over onto the streets of St. Petersburg. No one was injured in either accident but I feel sorry for St. Pete because of the damage these two storms did to that city.

Aftermath – I feel that many of you up there in paradise have tuned in to follow hurricanes Helen and Milton.

First of all, I am thankful that all my children and grandchildren are safe and their homes are repairable. I have seen the damage done on our drive from Plant City to Bradenton and it will take a long time to get back to the way it looked when I returned. The beaches are in terrible shape, especially on Bradenton Beach. This is not a good time to visit Central Florida.

The folks who live by or close to rivers are still in danger, especially along Hillsborough River. The best thing that happened during the storm if there is a best thing is that the ten to fifteen feet surges that were predicted did not come about but the winds did the damage as expected.

The tornadoes that hit Central Florida came in great numbers and many of them were on the East Coast. Several deaths can be contributed to these killer tornadoes. People who weathered these storms said they were not like Florida tornadoes of the past but they looked more like the one's from Oklahoma.

I am now in Bradenton watching ballgames on TV. I just wish I was able to go out with churches to help people who were not as lucky as my children were. My heart goes out for these people. Some didn't have insurance and some just came to Florida and lost everything.

Someone in Tennessee asked me how they could help these people. I said I guess give to the Red Cross and pray for all of these people who were hurt by these two hurricanes in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and East Tennessee.

God Bless!

Re-Elect ED BUTLER



State Representative
DISTRICT 41

Early Voting
October 16th-31st
Election Day
November 5th

A Christian,
Navy Veteran,
Conservative,
2nd Amendment
supporter,
Proven servant
leader, husband,
father, small
business owner,
farmer,
that brings
fresh, new &
innovative
ideas to serve
District 41.



I appreciate your

VOTE



— In Loving Memory —

Wanda Galloway Daugherty, 76



She is survived by one daughter and son-in-law: Rhonda Hamby and Tobey Farmer. Five grandchildren: Joshua Simpkins, Kobey Farmer, Amanda Staten, Alisa Staten, and Allison Staten. Two great grandsons. And three sisters: Shirley Underwood, Faye Amstuz, and Pat Rymer.

Mrs. Wanda Galloway Daugherty, age 76 of Petros, passed away, Monday October 14, 2024, at her home.

She retired from the Morgan County Regional Correctional Facility.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Jimmy Daugherty. One daughter: Pam Hamby. Her parents: Orvil and Drucilla Hall Galloway. Her brother: Harold Galloway. And one sister: Claria Makens.

Family and friends will meet Thursday October 17, 2024, at 2:00 PM in the Daugherty Family Cemetery, 419 Armes Road, Petros, TN 37845.

Davis Funeral Home in Wartburg is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Wanda Galloway Daugherty.

Condolences may be sent to the family at: www.davisfuneralhomes.com

Betty Lou Williams Brewster, 94



one son, Shirley Seabolt of Campbellsville, KY, Ellen Boils and husband, David, of Campbellsville, KY, Cindy Orick of Oneida, TN, and Tim Brewster and wife Teresa of Powell, TN. She is also survived by two sisters and five brothers: Rebecca Carson, Wanda Henry, Don Williams, Phillip Williams, David Williams, Danny Williams, and Terry Williams; 12 grandchildren (7 grandsons and 5 granddaughters); 27 great grandchildren; 5 great-great grandchildren; along with a host of extended family and friends.

Betty Lou Williams Brewster age 94, of Campbellsville, KY formerly of Burrville, TN, entered her eternal rest on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at the Green Hill Rehabilitation Center in Greensburg, KY.

She was a member of Brewstertown Church of God for many years prior to her move to Kentucky, where she became a member of Faith Alive Ministries for the past 10 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnny Clarence Brewster; one son, Johnny Michael Brewster; and one daughter, Lynda Carol LaRue, all of Tennessee.

She is survived by one daughter-in-law, Lousie Baird of Robbins, TN, three daughters and

The family will receive friends Thursday, October 24, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. with Bro. David Boils and Bro. Randy Burns officiating. Interment will follow in the Brewstertown Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Lou Williams Brewster.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Roy Thrasher, 65



Jennifer Simpson, and Sherry Cashmore; nephew Gerald "Beau" Cashmore, Jr.; great nieces Georgia Cashmore and Faith and Rebeccah Daugherty; great nephew Christian, Walker, Ian Aydelotte and Wesley Cashmore, Titus and Charlie Cashmore; good friends James Aydelotte, and Kenneth Simpson and a host of family and friends.

Mr. Roy Thrasher, age 65 passed away suddenly on Friday, October 18, 2024 at his home.

He is preceded in death by his father Bruce Thrasher; mother Dorothy Clemons Goodman; sister Dorothy "Jane" Mullins; grandmother Maggie Clemons.

He is survived by the love of his life, Gena M. Thrasher; nieces

The family will receive friends Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Roy Thrasher.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

Relda Mae Oney, 81



nephews: Harold Oney, Jr., Pat (Greg) Kinman, Brenda (Bruce) Windedahl, Donnie Oney, Sandra Lankford, Belinda McCampbell, Janet (Bobby) Bright, Tina, Cheryl, and Barbie Oney; special niece, Betty Maden; her beloved pet, Moe; along with a host of extended family, church family, and dear friends.

Ms. Relda Mae Oney age 81 of Wartburg, passed away Saturday October 19, 2024 at her home in Wartburg surrounded by her loving family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar Oney, Sr. and mother Eva Collins Oney; brothers: Harold Oney, Herschal Oney, Earl Oney, Oscar Oney, Jr., and nephew Randall Oney.

She is survived by sisters-in-law: Wanda Oney and Christina Oney; beloved nieces and

The family will receive friends Monday October 21, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, funeral service to follow at 3:00 with Bro. Matt Ward officiating. The graveside will immediately follow at the Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Relda Mae Oney.



— In Loving Memory —

Joseph H. Hembree, 58



Joseph H. Hembree
Age 58, Born April 16th, 1966
Son of the late Joseph E. Hembree Jr and Goldie Mullins Hembree. Entered into rest on October 15, 2024.

He is preceded in death by his father Joseph E. Hembree Jr, two sisters Teresa "Sissy" Hembree and Sheila Moore, Grandparents Joseph E. Hembree Sr and Lillie Hembree Phillips, as well as Carlettie and George Mullins.

He is survived by his mother Goldie Mullins Hembree, one brother Glenn "Mummies" Hembree, and one sister Vicki Sexton, a special niece Rebecca Watters, his special friend

Tim "Boss" Melhorn, Ashley Smith, Mike Duncan (Turtle Man), as well as a multitude of nieces, nephews and many other family members who all loved him dearly.

Eddie was a very special man as well as a beloved son to his mother. He dedicated his life to helping her in any way he could. Always lending a helping hand to family and friends. His heart was pure and anyone who met Eddie knew of his love for the Dallas Cowboys, Chevrolets, Elvis and above all else money! He will be incredibly missed by those who knew him in this life, but we will be reunited in the next life.

Services to be held at Jackson Funeral Parlor Sunday October 20th. Receiving of friends and family from 2-3 pm with funeral service at 3pm followed by grave side service.

Service officiated by Reverend Keith Massengale.



Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.





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**FIGHT
LIKE A GIRL**

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Bill, Brent, & Blake Dunlap, Pharmacists



Scott County Pharmacy
Mike Baker, Brent & Blake Dunlap, Pharmacists

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Erika is native to Scott County and lives here with her two sons, Greyson and Emerson. When she is not in the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and coaching little league soccer. She is excited to continue to serve her hometown and looks forward to seeing new and familiar faces. Erika is currently accepting new patients and accepts most insurances.



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David Zubler
Columnist

IRS penalty relief

The IRS can impose significant penalties if you fail to file or pay your taxes on time. If the IRS claims the failure to file is fraudulent, the late filing penalty can be as high as 75 percent. However, the penalties can often be forgiven by the IRS if you know the rules for having them removed.

The IRS can impose penalties for failure to file, failure to pay, and failure to deposit employment taxes, but all of them can be abated.

The IRS offers first-time abatement of penalties if you have a good tax compliance history.

Relief is available for anyone who didn't receive any penalties for the same type of tax return in the three previous years. You can still qualify if penalties were removed during that period, so long as they were for anything other than first-time abatement.

First-time abatement can be achieved by simply calling the IRS and requesting it. The IRS will look at your history for the three previous years to determine if you are eligible. You can also retrieve transcripts for the last three years online to decide whether you qualify before making the call. Be sure to write the IRS employee's name, badge number, and the time and date of the call anytime you speak with the IRS.

If you don't qualify for first-time abatement, you may meet the requirements for reasonable cause relief. However, you will need to provide a valid reason.

There are many reasons for qualifying for reasonable cause relief, including:

- Inability to obtain records needed to file the return
- Death or serious illness of an immediate family member
- Fire, casualty, and natural disaster

When claiming reasonable cause relief, you must provide a detailed explanation of the events, the dates, how you were impacted, and how you complied with the law. Provide as much information and documentation as possible to make a compelling case. If you are in a region officially designated as a disaster area, please include that information.

Claiming that you forgot, made a mistake, or were unaware of the law is not considered a valid reason for reasonable cause. Additionally, blaming your tax preparer for failure to file or pay does not justify reasonable cause relief.

You can request a refund using Form 843 if you already paid the penalty. The request for a refund must be made within three years from the filing date or two years from the penalty payment date.

If you are denied abatement of penalty the IRS will send you a letter explaining how it can be appealed. Don't be afraid of filing an appeal; there is nothing frightening about the process. An appeals purpose is to offer a fair and unbiased review of your case. If you believe you have a valid reason, you should consider submitting an appeal to have your case reassessed. The appeal process is usually conducted through an informal phone conference. Appeals Officers tend to be quite easy to work with.

Requesting a first-time abatement of penalties is relatively simple. To effectively pursue a reasonable cause abatement, it's beneficial to research your specific case type. If the penalty is large, you might consider seeking help from a tax expert to resolve the issue.

David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.

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Historically Speaking

Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge Manhattan

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols continues her series on his life.

Ample reasons, most notably leadership skills, personality traits and qualifications, led to choosing General (then Colonel) Kenneth D. Nichols as Deputy District Engineer and subsequently as District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). In this capacity he had supervision of the research and development connected with, and the design, construction and operation of all plants required to produce plutonium-239 and uranium-235, including the construction of the towns of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington.

The responsibility of his position was massive as he oversaw a workforce of both military and civilian personnel of approximately 125,000; his Oak Ridge office became the center of the wartime atomic energy's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

In this fifth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of his early work with General (then Colonel) James C. Marshall, the S-1 Committee, and the Manhattan Engineer District that reflects his unique leadership skills in a quickly changing environment.

1939 found Captain Kenneth D. Nichols looking forward to commanding combat engineer troops as soon as war broke out. But Colonel James C. Marshall intervened. Marshall had been one of Nick's West Point instructors and Marshall "thought greatly of him".

As District Engineer in charge of most military construction in New York state and Pennsylvania, Marshall requested Nichols handle all construction for the new Rome, NY, Air Depot, a military airport servicing the Air Corps. Promised no interference from Marshall, full authority, choice of personnel and a \$25 million budget (~\$550M in 2024), Nick agreed. It would be his first construction assignment and the first time other officers were reporting to him.

As Area Engineer and (just promoted to) Lieutenant Colonel, Nichols started 'from scratch' acquiring the land, determining design and hiring construction contractors. Politics entered the picture too. He remembers, "We had to get along with the town and newspapers. In other words, you had the problem of meeting all the objections of people and handling the Congressmen that wanted to investigate it."

Soon, Marshall expanded Nichols' responsibilities, "... later when after the war started the district got the [construction of a new TNT plant, the] Pennsylvania Ordnance Works [in White Deer Creek Valley in Northern Pennsylvania] and Marshall wanted me on it. He said 'You take over the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works, also handle the Rome Air Depot, and eventually I will try to get somebody for the Rome Air Depot because it's well on its way, and you start the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works. You started one project, and here's another one you start from scratch'. ... I was running both, commuting back and forth."

Nichols was promoted to Major in October 1941. Already working quickly to build the air depot when war was declared by America in December 1941, he was told to "expedite it". Si-

multaneously Colonel Leslie Groves came back into the picture. Nick recalls, "I'll always remember a piece of advice he gave me. He said, 'Now remember, on this one [the TNT ordnance work] the designs are complete.' In other words, ...if you have people that know what the hell they're doing, don't interfere with them. But again, you had to handle all the problems."

Supervising construction and procurement of materials, Nichols worked with Groves as well



Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols Deputy District Engineer, Manhattan Engineer District
(Photo by Ed Westcott. Courtesy Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt)

as Stone and Webster (construction contractors) and DuPont (designers). This team was critical in the upcoming Manhattan Project.

In less than three months, Marshall contacted Nichols yet again. The rapid chain of events follows: President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved Dr. Vannevar Bush and Dr. James B. Conant's report of recommendations to the Policy Committee on June 17, 1942. (The Policy Committee members were Vice President Wallace, Secretary of War Stimson and Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall.)

Colonel Marshall met June 18th with Major General Styer, Deputy to General Somerville, head of the Army Service Forces. At the meeting Colonel Marshall received the Bush/Conant report containing the conclusion that the Army should take over responsibility of construction of facilities to produce uranium and plutonium for atomic weapons.

Colonel Marshall then contacted Nichols on June 19th, and they met shortly thereafter and said, "I've just been assigned a new technical project. It's very, very important. It'd be a development project that may end the war... Nick, I am giving you fifteen seconds to volunteer for a very important technical project, or be drafted... With volunteering settled, Marshall handed me a large envelope that contained most of the top secret information he knew about the new project."

Soon Nichols recalls, "Marshall and I met at the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) with the S-1 executive committee, Vannevar Bush and General Styer. After listening to members of this distinguished committee (three of them were Nobel Laureates) outline the status and scope of the proposed atomic development program - and the significance of winning or losing the race with Germany - I quickly realized that working with these men on such an important project was a unique opportunity. I had volunteered properly."

Nichols describes the reasons behind the selection of Marshall and, in turn, Marshall selecting him: "The Chief of Engineers selected Colonel Marshall to direct the construction intended to make the bomb a reality because of his fine reputation and his previous construction experience, which included a good track record for starting projects. As he had demonstrated to me in beginning the Rome Air Depot and then Pennsylvania Ordnance Works, Marshall was a great organizer who delegated both authority and responsibility well. He also was an astute judge of personnel. He would have to summon these skills promptly, since he did not have the luxury of time or the facts available to plan the entire operation before beginning the construction phase. This is where matters stood when he brought me into the picture."

And, "The reason he selected me I think was because I had a Ph.D. and he talked Styer into the idea that he needed somebody with my background, with a technical background, to handle the scientists. And Styer agreed that for one year I would be available. In other words, you have to find out from the scientists what the hell they wanted - thought they wanted - to build. We knew that the job was to translate their desires to an architect engineer and engineering outfit to design and construct the plants... Another officer would not have had [the status a Ph.D. gave]. Some [military officers] get along fine even though they don't have a Ph.D., but many officers tangle with them. Scientists are difficult people to work with."

Marshall and Nichols worked together on the BIG issues for what would be named the Manhattan Project:

- Funding;
- Administration;
- Prioritization of work;
- Procuring materials from around the world;
- Visiting sites vetted by the S-1 committee for production plants; and,
- Locating headquarters in New York City (hence the name 'Manhattan').

They chose Stone & Webster to be the overall contractor because Nichols had worked with them in New York. Bush and Styer laid all the groundwork to obtain AAA priority. (Colonel Groves completed obtaining authority.) Nichols recalls, "When we first got into the business, the scientists thought they were all ready to go. We found they were not. We engaged Stone and Webster to make an initial engineering study, to where we have an engineering force to appraise some of these ideas. We soon found there was nothing ready to go. That although the report to the President [FDR] was, we were ready to build plants, [in reality] we were still some ways away from it."

Of particular interest to Oak Ridgers - Marshall, Nichols and Colonel Blair spent 3 days in Tennessee, July 1 - 3, 1942, accompanied by TVA's Colonel Parker and Stone & Webster's representative August Klein. They viewed the Elza site of 26,000 acres and chose it as the best site for production needs. The S-1 committee approved their choice on July 30, 1942. Marshall named the new area Oak Ridge. (This comes from Colonel James C. Marshall's interview on November 4, 1965, by Stephane Groueff, which is in the Atomic Heritage Foundation's Voices of the Manhattan Project: <https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/voices/oral-histories/colonel-james-c-marshalls-interview/> Ray)

Historically Speaking

Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge Manhattan

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

On July 6 th they met with Dr. Arthur Compton at the Metallurgical Lab at the University of Chicago. Nichols saw the overcrowding there; on his own initiative he established a new experimental site in the Argonne Forest (Argonne National Laboratory).

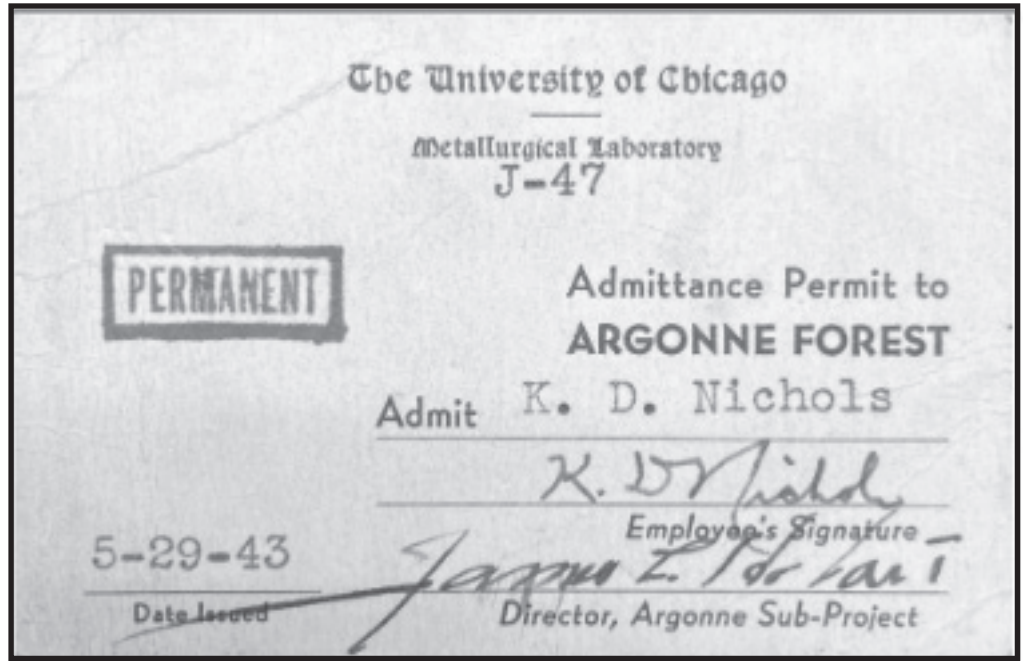
Marshall presented Groves, acting in concert with the Chief of Engineers, a general order draft dated August 11, 1942, that formed a new district they decided to call the Manhattan Engineering District (MED). Marshall was the 1st, Virginia Olsson, his secretary, the 2 nd , and Nichols the 3 rd government employee to sign on to the MED.

The Chief of Engineers issued Order No. 33 on August 13, 1942, establishing the military district without territorial limits to supervise projects assigned to it by the Chief of Engineers. The MED was tasked with quickly building four production plants to separate uranium and produce plutonium. Marshall served as the original District Engineer with Nichols as Deputy District

Engineer, forming a lifelong friendship. As indicated in the organizational chart, the MED was quite organized by early 1943 thanks to Marshall and Nichols.

Next up: The Manhattan Project, Early Steps Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.

As I have stated, this column is written by Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General



Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols' University of Chicago's Argonne Forest Met Lab ID Card (Courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History)

Kenneth D. Nichols. She is doing extensive research and bringing to light many details of Major General Nichols life that have not been available recently. This series will continue and will help put much needed details in place regarding Nichols and his value to Oak Ridge and more.



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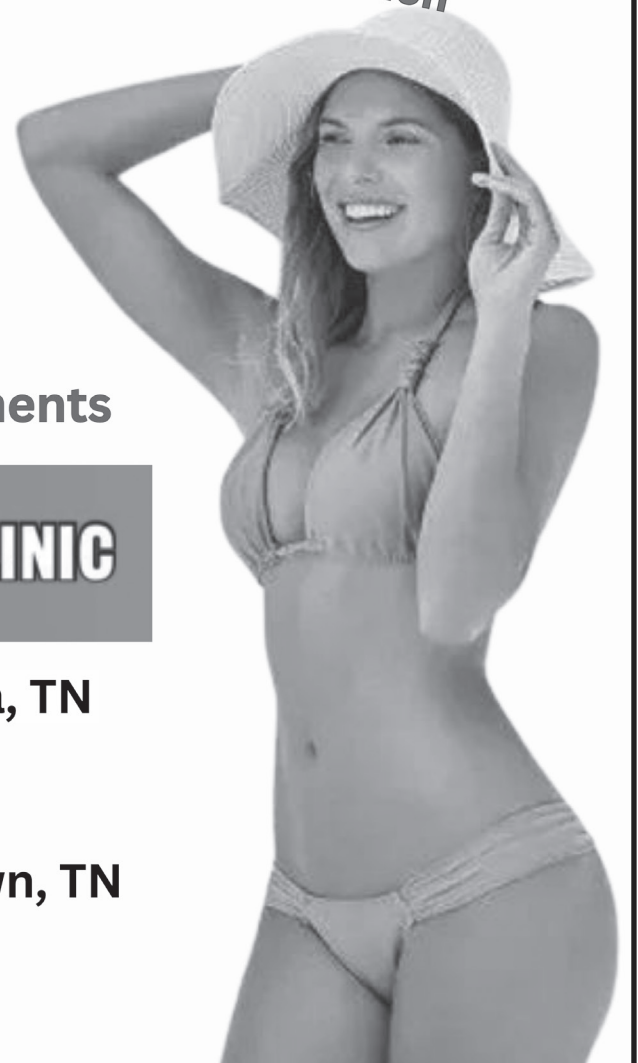
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Becoming the Qof, Psalm 119 Vs. 145- 152



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Vs. 145 I cried with my whole heart, Oh Lord: I will keep thy statutes.

Vs. 146 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep your testimonies.

Vs. 147 I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried; I hoped in thy word.

Vs. 148 Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

Vs. 149 Hear thy voice according to thy lovingkindness; Oh Lord, quicken me according to thy judgements.

Vs. 150 They draw nigh that follow after mischief; they are far from thy law.

Vs. 151 Thou art near Oh Lord, and all thy commandments are truth.

Vs. 152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old. That thou hast founded them forever.

Today we encounter the Hebrew letter Qoph {pronounced, cough}. It is the 19th letter of the Hebrew alphabet with a numerical value of 100. It translates as the nap of the neck.

It is a paradoxical letter that is understood as an eye of a needle. In ancient Jerusalem, shepherds were required to bring sheep through the narrow gate defined as the eastern gate or shepherds' gate. It has been walled shut until now! Is the return of Yeshua to claim his bride imminent?

Jesus Christ used the alliteration of being easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to inherit Christ's coming kingdom. For the camel to fit in the narrow gate, on the narrow path, the shepherds first had to unload all of its burdens.

The choice between serving the world and serving only Jesus Christ is a free choice that never earns money. Only Judas got paid for the message of God. Why would God establish his church upon the monetary foundation of the world? We are called completely out of the world.

The Qoph is our teaching tool. The numerical value of 100 begs the question? Do we have one foot in heaven and one in the world we have been called out of? The nap of the neck is another teaching tool as to how Christ pulls those he loves upon their feet and places them on the narrow path of redemption.

King David has given us an amazing view of the mind of God through the Hebrew alphabet, 22 characters, 8 verses in each scripture subset. Each verse beginning and ending with the Qoph. The Qoph is equivalent to the English letter q.

How many of you can find 16 different words beginning and ending with the letter Q? I cannot, but Daniel under the anointing of the Holy Spirit has done this for us. All as a lesson in how God views the importance of his two-edged sword we call the Bible.

Bible literacy is more important than church attendance. The Bible laid out every day in human history to keep believers grounded in the blessed hope of his imminent return to receive his virgin bride unto himself. The narrow path requires we become Berean Christians.

Luke, in Acts 17 teaches us the path to Berean nobility. For the Bereans searched scripture daily to find out if what Paul teaches is true. Do you spend time being chastened by scripture daily?

Nobility is the foundation for monarchy. If Christ our King returns today, are you ready to rule the world as his co-regent? Now is the time to ask God for forgiveness for not committing 100% to the great commission. Have you followed carefully devised Roman fables in Church?

It is no coincidence Qoph has the numerical value of 100. How much of your life have you committed to scriptural correction about prophetic patterns dealing with the covenant people of God in Israel? Have you

sat under a pastor who separates Christ's humanity from his divinity?

Do you follow only a New Testament Theosophy based upon the allegorizing of scripture? Do you believe God separated Israel from her promises and replaced Israel with Gentile western believers?

You cannot understand the book of Revelation if you believe the bride of Christ goes through the coming tribulation. Revelation 4-21, occurs while the bride is in heaven receiving her mansions and her crowns for faithful evangelism to the lost world. No pew sitters will inherit the kingdom.

Religion has monetized the message of the Bible and denominational Christianity screams of exclusion, while the message of the true Gospel is all inclusive. Has God begun to separate the sheep and the goats?

Will pastors heed the prophetic warnings to those who add to or take away from any letter or word in scripture? We are living in the apostate era of the Laodicean church where comfort found in possessions has led to the prostitution of grace, completely devoid of the unending mercy of God.

As if God saves certain people to make them sin referees? I thought all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God? I myself have only Paul's testimony over my own life. For I am chief amongst sinners and nothing but the baptism of the blood of the Lamb of God can cover mine iniquity.

Faith requires a voluntary response to the love of God on Calvary. His love manifests as 100% dedication to preparing to rule and reign with Messiah in his coming kingdom. To qualify for that kingdom, one must submit 100% to scriptural correction found each day in personal Bible study.

Our Messiah loves sinners of which I am the greatest. Because he loves me, he must chasten me. He must sanctify me before he can one day glorify me in his coming kingdom. He alone, supplies all of my needs according to his riches in glory. No need of earthly possessions or property.

Mans' riches are temporary and have no place in the coming kingdom of our God. Harness yourself to every letter of scripture and begin a new love affair with the word of God who purchased our redemption on Calvary. You cannot love one while serving the other.

Let him who has ears hear what the Spirit is saying.

John Burns 10-01-2024

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word while sharing his faith with a dying world.



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Luke Chapter 2



Melvin Howard

(Luke 2:1-7) The birth of Jesus: Luke explains how Jesus' birth happened to occur in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2), instead of Nazareth. Augustus Caesar (31 B.C. 14) issued a taxation decree obligating citizens of the empire (called "the world") to enroll. This is identified as occurring when Quirinius was governor of Syria (v. 1-2). Critics have charged Luke with an error, but various possible solutions have nullified the allegation. Sir William Ramsay, after years of investigation, declared that Luke was "unsurpassed" in his "trustworthiness." This first-century historian certainly had access to better information than today's self-described "scholars."

Joseph and Mary thus begin the trip "up" from Galilee to Judaea (note the elevational accuracy). It is rather amazing, in view of Mary's condition ("great with child"), that she accompanied Joseph on a seventy-mile or so journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem (either by walking or by donkey). While she was obligated to pay taxes, she was not required to go in person. She doubtless knew, however, that prophecy must be fulfilled (Mic. 5:2). While in Bethlehem, Mary delivered her "firstborn" (Mt 12:46-50). Since there was no room for them at an inn, they took refuge in a stable. Justin Martyr (A.D. 150) claimed it was a cave. Many still have "no room" in their lives for the Savior. Again, we must remind ourselves how compelling it is that a medical doctor endorsed the idea that this "virgin" gave birth to a child. Only the most compelling evidence could justify that conclusion.

(Luke 2:8-20) The Bethlehem shepherds: Somewhere near Bethlehem, the city of David, shepherds were watching their flocks. Out of the darkness of night, an angel appeared, surrounded by the light of divine glory. They were terrified, but the angel instructed them to "stop being afraid," for he was bringing them "good tidings" (the basis of our word "gospel"). A child has been born in the village; he is the "Messiah," the "Savior," and our "Lord" (v. 11)---three powerful thoughts! The shepherds were instructed how to find and identify the child. It would be a unique situation.

Suddenly, a heavenly chorus breaks forth in praise. Three magnificent ideas are expressed: (a) God is to glorified for the gift of his Son. (b) Peace will come as a result of the mission of this person. (c) The peace is available only to those "in whom he is well pleased." The peace is conditional. No universal salvation here. Peace, objectively considered, is being in harmony with God (Rom. 5:1); subjectively viewed, it is an inner tranquility (Phil. 4:7). The shepherds were determined to see this child; hence, they made their way into the village and found the manger. They then spoke of this matter to others (v.17). This is evangelism. Those who heard this report were astounded.

Mary treasured all these things in her heart and thought deeply about them. A thousand questions must have flooded her mind. The shepherds returned to their flocks (which may have been awaiting sacrifice in the temple), praising God (to him) and glorifying him (to others) for the things they had seen and heard.

(Luke 2:21-40) The journey to the temple: Jesus was always obedient to the law of Moses, and that training started when he was eight days old. All male Jews were administered the rite of circumcision when they were eight days of age. This was a parental obligation extending back to the time of Abraham. Joseph and Mary started Christ's life of service in right way. It was at this time the Savior was formally given his name, "Jesus." This signified he was the one to fulfill the entire thrust of God's promise to Abraham (v. 21).

Perhaps at this point a word should be said regarding the rite of circumcision, since critics of the Bible frequently mention this practice as an indictment of the sacred volume. Consider the following facts: (a) "Circumcision" translates the Greek word, peritome, "to cut around." It has to do with the surgical removal of the loose skin (prepuce) of the male sexual organ. (b) The procedure was not unique to the Hebrews; the ancient Egyptians practiced it (Herodotus 2:37), as did other nations. (c) Among the Hebrews, it was designated as a sign in the flesh reflecting their covenant relationship with Jehovah (Gen. 17:11). (d) It also may have been intended to symbolize Israel's need for sexual purity and the abstention from pagan worship, since heathenism was often intertwined with immoral sexual activity.

The Mosaic law demanded a thirty-three-day period of ceremonial "purification" following the circumcision (Lev. 12:3-4). A sacrifice was then required at the temple. Joseph and Mary's sacrifice, two birds, revealed their lack of prosperity (Lev. 12:8). Note that the expressions "law of Moses" and "law of the Lord" are used interchangeable (v. 22-23). This nullifies the modern sabbatarian quibble that while the law of Moses was abrogated, the law of the Lord (containing the Sabbath) was not. The distinction is false.

In the temple they encountered a devout and righteous man whose name was Simeon. This man was a serious student of the Scriptures, hence, had been looking for the "consolation of Israel," the fulfillment of the messianic hope. Previously, he had been granted a revelation from the Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. By the guidance of the Spirit, he had entered the outer region of the temple (probably the court

of women); the timing was divinely orchestrated! Simeon met the holy couple, took the baby in his arms, and thanked God.

In a brief hymn of praise, Simeon declares: (a) He is ready to die now that he has seen him in whom the key to salvation resided. His death will be peaceful indeed. (b) This divine period of preparation ultimately had in mind "all the people"; even the Gentiles would be illuminated. (c) This child was the "glory of Israel." How tragic that so many of them rejected him (Jn. 1:11).

Joseph and Mary were amazed at the things spoken concerning Jesus. The incredible truths to which they earlier had been exposed had not been fully absorbed. Can any of us even yet fully appreciate them? Simeon prayed for them and gave Mary an ominous word of caution---the first clue of the tragedy to come. Her Son would be a separating influence in Israel; some would rise, others fall. And a "sword" would eventually pierce through Mary's soul (v. 35). An accelerating hatred culminating in the rage of crucifixion was in the future. Jesus would be the cause of bringing to light the condition of many hearts---revealing the good in contrast to the bad. After their obligations to the law were fulfilled, Joseph and Mary went to Nazareth in Galilee. The Child grew and became strong in all dimensions. He was filled with wisdom and the Lord's favor was constantly with him.

Another interesting person is introduced---Anna, of the tribe of Asher. Some of the northern kingdom had returned from Assyrian captivity. She was a devout woman who was continually in the temple. She had been a widow for eighty-four years but was far from useless. She is described as a "prophetess." In describing the temple, Josephus (War of the Jews 5.5.2) says: [T]here was a partition built for the women" that separated them from the men; this was "the proper place wherein they were to worship." She obviously ministered to Hebrew women. She worshipped with prayers and fasting day and night. She came upon the scene and thanked God for his Son. She spoke about Jesus to those who were looking for the "redemption" of Jerusalem. They were looking for political deliverance; the Messiah would provide the opportunity for spiritual deliverance (v. 36-38).

(Luke 2:41-52) In the temple with the doctors: Being devout servants of the Lord, it was Joseph and Mary's practice to attend the Passover feast every year. Jesus was now twelve years old and they all went up to the holy city together. After the seven days of festival (Ex. 13:6), Joseph and Mary began the three-day trek home, assuming Jesus was somewhere in the caravan. At the end of the first day's travel, they searched for their son but could not locate him. Hence, they returned to Jerusalem, "seeking for him." The Greek participle indicates a sustained, fretful search (v. 45). Finally, they found him in the temple compound, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. Moreover, he was amazing those who assessed his "understanding" and the "answers" he supplied to questions.

When his parents came upon the scene, they were both "astonished" and grieved. Mary issued a rebuke: "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you, sorrowing" (v. 48). "Sorrowing" is an expression of great pain. Jesus responded (his first recorded words) with respect, but perhaps with a boy's lack of appreciation for a mother's anxiety: "Why were you searching for me?"---as if to suggest, did you not realize where I would be? "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Note" (a) He anticipated that by this time his true nature should have been understood. In spite of previous revelations, the full force of his mission had not been perceived. (b) He operated under a divine compulsion---that imperative "must." (c) The expression "my" father reveals a unique relationship enjoyed by none other upon the earth.

But they simply did not understand the full thrust of his response (v. 50). They all returned home and Christ was an obedient son. Mary continued to hold these thoughts in her heart, doubtless pondering them many a night. In the meantime, Jesus matured: in wisdom (intellectually), in stature (physically), in favor with God (spiritually), and with men (socially). It may be wondered how a perfect person can grow in favor with God. As his capacity for the spiritual increased, his favor with the Lord did so as well. God's expanding appreciation is an example of anthropopathism, where the Lord accommodates himself to the human level to make an important point.

Verse fifty-one and fifty-two summarize the next eighteen years of Jesus' life. No strictly human writer would have bypassed these years; but inspired authors were constrained by the Holy Spirit in restriction their material to areas of redemptive interest. This is a subtle evidence of diving inspiration.

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