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**Morgan County Today**

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TOMMY LEE FRANCIS  
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

**EDITOR:**  
HEATHER FRANCIS  
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

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**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## Here A Snake, There A Snake

So, this must be the year of the snake. We have not had issues with the slithering varments like this, ever before!

This year though, they seem to have had a population explosion. Maybe, they need some birth control pills or something. If only there was such a thing!

Any-woof, I sure do hope that there are no more Nope-Ropes hanging around our kingdom. Mimi is worried that one might decide to bite Ms Ivory or me. That wouldn't be good at all. Ms Mary and Ms Felicia hate them, too! Come to think of it, I haven't met anyone who likes them. Pap says they are good to have around because they keep mice and things like that at bay. As long as they aren't the venomous kind.

I just realized the geese haven't been here a lot this year. Maybe, they are keeping them away, too. Hmmm, Imma thinking, I would rather deal with the geese...

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



**WEEKLY WEATHER**



**TUE** 5/19 **87°** 66°

**WED** 5/20 **82°** 64°

**THU** 5/21 **75°** 65°

**FRI** 5/22 **77°** 64°

**SAT** 5/23 **75°** 60°

**SUN** 5/24 **78°** 60°

**MON** 5/25 **79°** 61°



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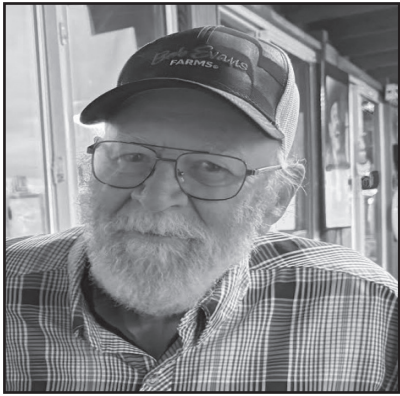
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## — In Loving Memory —

### Gary Lee Barnette, 77



Gary Lee Barnette, 77, of Lancing, Tennessee, went home to be with our Saviour, Sunday April 26, 2026, surrounded by loved ones, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Gary was a friend to everyone he met, always had a smile on his face, and could crack you up with his quick wit and infectious laugh. He loved his family very much and had a special love for his Grands and Great Grandkids. He was a member of Wartburg First Baptist

Church in Wartburg, TN, and traveled with Southern Gospel Music Group Eternal Heart for 25 years where he was known as Paw, Daddy, sound man, best friend, prayer warrior, bus driver, mechanic and biggest fan. He also taught Sunday School for many years at Calvary Baptist Church. Gary owned and operated Barnette Paint & Body Repair in Lancing for over 38 years. He had many loyal customers throughout all those years. He had a talent for making things look "brand new" again. Even though he was a diehard FORD man, he was also employed as the Body Shop Manager for Sexton Chevrolet in Harriman, Tn for nearly 10 years and Morgan County Road department for about 3 years.

Gary was preceded in death by the Love of his Life for over 58 years (wife) Judy Barnette, his

parents Lee W. II and Lucille Norman (Tx), his brother Mike Barnette (Tx), son-in-law Leon Kennedy (Deer Lodge), brother-in-law Roger Parker (Tx), sister-in-law Jeannie Parker (Ky), Mother-in-law-Charlotte Corley (Tx) and Father-in-law Louis Parker (Tx).

He is survived by his brother Lee III (Wendy) Norman (Wartburg), brother-in-law John Parker (Ky), sister-in-law Sharon (Dennis) McCallister (Tx), sister-in-law Sheryl Parker (Tx), sister-in-law Linda Frederick (Tx), brother-in-law Mike Parker (Tx), Daughter - Tammy (Jimmy) Giles of Oliver Springs, Son- Roy (Heather) Barnette of Wartburg, Daughter- Shelley Kennedy of Lancing. Grandchildren who knew him as "Paw", Maci Giles, (Dylan Henderson), Eli Giles, (Taylor Milen), Haley Barnette, Hannah Barnette, Noah (Raelee) Barnette,

Christian (Kayla) Redmon, and Lily Kennedy. Great Grandchildren Kolter, Hudson, Grayson, Brynlee, Lex, Salem, Lennox, Capri, Lucy, Teagan and Oaklynn.

The family will receive friends Saturday May 2, 2026 from 12-2pm at Schubert's Funeral Home in Wartburg, Tn. The funeral will follow at 2pm with Bro. Brandon Peters and Bro. Matt Ward Officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Clear Creek Cemetery in Lancing, Tn.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gary Barnette.*

### Vernon Ray Hawn, 74

#### United States Army Veteran, Vietnam War Veteran



Vernon Ray Hawn, a devoted son, brother, decorated veteran, father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at his home on April 22, 2026, surrounded by the family he loved so dearly. He was 74 years old.

Vernon's life was defined by a profound love for God, his family and his country. A proud veteran, he served with honor

in the 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam War. His bravery and commitment to his fellow soldiers were hallmarks of his character that he carried with him throughout his life. Whether in uniform or at home, Vernon was known for his steadfast spirit and his unwavering faith.

Vernon was a pillar of strength for his large and loving family. While his presence will be deeply missed, his legacy lives on through those he leaves behind. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Dominique Hawn; his parents, Oscar and Octavia Hawn; his brother, Doyle Hawn; and his sister, Vanessa Hawn.

He is survived by his wife, Susie Hawn; his children, Curtis Hawn (Dawn), Cole Hawn Sheperd (Tasha), and Kyra Hawn (Qua-

terrio). He also leaves behind his sisters, Cheryl Joyner and Michelle McCormick (John); his grandchildren, Erika Vibbert (Isaiah), Tierra Markley (Adam), Andres Rogers aka AJ, and Unique Sheperd; and his great-grandchildren, Tatum Markley and Eleanor Vibbert. Additionally, he is survived by many beloved nieces and nephews, and Margie Hawn Malicoat, a friend of 55 years, who was once his wife, who is the mother of his 2 oldest children, remained active in his life, remained faithful to their friendship, and helped tremendously during his illness, whom all will cherish his memory.

The family will receive friends and loved ones to celebrate Vernon's life and honor his service

at the Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg on Friday, May 1st from 5pm to 7pm, officiated by Brother Doug Morgan. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at 11am at the Mossy Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, where Vernon will be laid to rest with military honors.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Vernon Ray Hawn.*



— In Loving Memory —

**Florence E. Potter, 97**



mel and Clyde Potter, Summer Williams, Cheyenne Williams, Robby Williams, Dillon Williams, Maddie and Nick Duncan, Gracie and Reed, Riley Parton. She is also survived by her great great grandchildren Kathy Haney, Axton Williams, Wrenley Williams, James Duncan, Oakley Williams, Beckett Reed, Brynlee, Reece, Nevaeh Brady; step grandchildren Austin and Corey Keathley, T.J. Hall and Autum, Jonathan Curl and Victoria, Amber, Greyson and Lydia Schlatter.

Florence E. Potter, age 97, a loving mother, and grandmother passed away April 21, 2026 at her home after a short illness.

She is preceded in death by her husband Lester Potter.

She is survived by her son Martin Potter and daughter Elizabeth Williams; grandchildren Shawn Hummel, Vanessa Potter and Brandon Potter, Robert and Bridgett Williams, Tony and Stephanie Williams and Patrick Haney, Jay and Bobbie Williams, and Nikki Williams, and David Parton; great grandchildren Danica and David, Potter Seth, Noah and Nathan Hum-

The family will receive friends Saturday at Schubert Funeral Home from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Mitch Hawn officiating. Interment will follow in the Old Potter Chapel Cemetery in Lancing.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Florence E. Potter.*

**Lydia Allene Lawler Garrett**



She dearly loved her husband Wayne Garrett, her (6) kids, Damon Soles (Ariel Soles), Rickey Soles, Michael Lawler (Maria Lawler), Jason Lawler, Chris Garrett, and Dana Duvall, her (13) grandkids; Kendra Soles, Damon Soles, Jr., Kurtis Soles, Callie Soles, Addilee Lowrance, Luke Soles, Austin Wise, Carlie Willis, Nicolas McDowell, Dominic Lawler, Daniel Lawler, Andrew Garrett, and Ashley Garrett, her (4) Great Grandkids: Carter, Elo-die, Kilian and Kaysin.

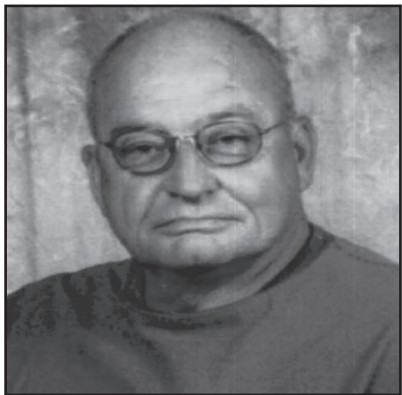
Mrs. Lydia Allene Lawler Garrett, born July 14, 1961, in Phoenix, AZ. She was a loving daughter to her parents, Dewey and Alice Lawler. She was a loving caring wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She loved singing, cooking, being outdoors, and absolutely loved her fur babies. Her favorite season of all is fall, but what she loved most of all in the whole world was her family and getting them all together to make sweet memories. She would always bring a smile to everyone's face.

She was a loving Daughter-in-law to Mildred and Freddie Garrett, a loving sister to her (5) siblings, Susan, Mark, Lee, Michelle, and Eric. She was a family woman who put God and her family first above all. She passed away peacefully in her home on April 11, 2026, surrounded by her family. She will forever be loved and in our hearts.

She was the best wife, mom, and mawmaw in the world.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lydia Allene Lawler Garrett.*

**Garry R. Seabolt, 76**



Garry leaves behind son, Garry "Joe" Seabolt; daughter Lora Parris; grandchildren Kelsey Gage Seabolt, Larry Kenneth Parris, Jr., Amanda Lynn Parris, Amelia Rochelle Parris; great grandchildren Maverick Parris and Mason Crady; special cousin and friend Roy Freels and a host of extended family and friends.

Garry R. Seabolt, age 76 of Sunbright passed away April 9, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

Garry was known for working on and driving motor freight trucks. He could sit for hours talking about trucks.

He is preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Verd-ie Seabolt; infant son Jarrod Seabolt; wife Betty Ward Seabolt; great granddaughter Dakota Grace Crady and son-in-law Larry Parris.

The family will receive friends Monday, April 13, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Terry Potter officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Garry R. Seabolt.*

**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.**



— In Loving Memory —

**Marvine Cox Rainey, 97**



Marvine passed away peacefully after 4 years of Alzheimer's.

A special thank you to Alexander Guest House staff and UT Hospice care givers.

In lieu of flowers contributions can go to Wounded Warriors Project.

Marvine Cox Rainey, age 97, of Oliver Springs passed away April 25, 2026 at the Alexander House in Oak Ridge.

She is preceded in death by her parents William M. Cox and Ellen (York) Cox; sister Ruby Smith, brother Charles Cox, brother Harvey Lee Cox, sister Maxine (Cox) Harris; nieces Margaret Ann (Harris) Wallis and Donna (Smith) Hester; nephews Don Cox, Infant Charles Cox, Bobbie Lee Harris, and husband Louis Rainey.

She is survived by niece and care giver LuVena (Harris) Ware, Pat (Cox) Davey, Gene Hester, LeAnn (Jeremy) Griffin, Amy Hester, and Jace.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 30, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow with Bro. Roy Langley officiating. Interment will follow in the Petros (COG) Cemetery in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Marvine Cox Rainey.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Marvine Cox Rainey.*

**Clara Luanna "Snookie" Steelman Shearer**



Special Aunt and Uncle Chester and Judy Huling. She has 2 grandsons, 1 granddaughter and a great granddaughter as well as a host of nieces, nephews and cousins who loved her very much.

Snookie was an avid basketball player and enjoyed her high school years at Sunbright. After high school she joined the United States Airforce where she met her husband, William Shearer. When their son was born in England she decided to leave the Airforce. After moving back to the states, she began a career in financial administration where she remained until retirement age. Snookie's last place of residence was Crossville, TN.

Clara Luanna "Snookie" Steelman Shearer born May 5, 1952 went to her heavenly home April 27, 2026.

Snookie is preceded in death by her great grandparents Lige and Leann Williams, Mindy Ann and Leo Ooten; grandparents Marvin and Edna Steelman, Clara Lee (Clint) and Floyd Coots, and parents Vance Claude "Pete" and Anna Kathleen "Katie" Steelman and brother Micheal Dwayne "Mick-e-y" Steelman.

Snookie has two surviving children, Clayton Lee Shearer (Holly) and Chandra Leann Pate (Mark). Snookie is one of seven children: brother Rick (Rita) Steelman, sisters: Cheryl Bishop (Freddy) and Terri Ryon (Rick), younger twin brothers Tom Steelman and Tim Steelman (Trish) and sister-in-law Kathy Steelman.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Mike Hammond officiating. Graveside services will Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Lavender Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Clara Luanna Steelman Shearer.*

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

**Psalm 123:1**

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

**J. Harold Johnson, 78**



He is survived by his devoted wife, Wanda Johnson; his two children, Terri Johnson and Jeff (Kat) Johnson; and two precious grandchildren, Anson and Maverick Johnson.

The family will receive friends Tuesday April 28, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with the funeral to follow at 1:00, Bro. Mike Jones officiating. The graveside service will immediately follow at Friends Chapel Community Church Cemetery in the Chestnut Ridge Community.

J. Harold Johnson died on April 25, 2026, in the early hours of the morning at Cumberland County Medical Center. He was born on June 29, 1947 to Clifford and Edna Johnson.

Harold was a kind man who would gladly give those he cared for the shirt right off of his back and was also a loving husband and father.

"We love you, Daddy, and we'll miss you very much! Be happy and have fun riding those old cars you love so much down the streets of gold. Rest in Peace."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Edna Johnson; and his brother, Ferrell Eugene Johnson.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of J. Harold Johnson.

**Nola June Armes Ritter, 82**



Bailey (Jon) Fuller of Maryville, TN and Sydney (Brett) Boling of Knoxville, TN; great-granddaughter and the light of her life, Sloan Fuller of Maryville, TN; brothers-in-law: Mitchell Wilson, Russell Shields, and Gary Ritter; sister-in-law, Linda Shields; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A very special thank you to cousin, Randi Clay.

Nola June Armes Ritter, age 82 of Maryville, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday May 16, 2026 at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. Nola was born and raised in Petros, TN where she was a member of Petros Baptist Church. She later moved to Knoxville, TN where she was a long time member of Farragut Firsts Baptist Church where she served as the pianist for many years.

The family will receive friends Monday May 18, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00, Dr. Jim West officiating. The graveside will immediately follow at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg, TN.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Anderson "Dock" Armes and Oma Lee Armes.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Nola June Ritter.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Harold of Maryville, TN; son, Jim (Tammy) of Louisville, TN; granddaughters,

— In Loving Memory —

**Jimmie Hawn, 87**



He is survived by his daughters Teresa (David) Pierce, Cathy (Don) Potter; brothers-in-law Bill (Cheryl) McGowan, Don McGowan; grandchildren Crystal (Bart) Pierce, Sarah (Adam) Guy, Jonathan Pierce, Karen Pierce, Cassie, Don, and Chad Potter; sisters Carol Armes and Wanda Young.

The family will receive friends Monday, May 4, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Caney Branch Cemetery.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jimmie Hawn.*

Jimmie Hawn, age 87, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on April 28, 2026. He was a life long truck driver. He loved listening to trade time and always wanted to by another truck.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 54 years Barbara Hawn; mother and father Maude and Virgil Hawn; children Jimmie, Oscar and Karen Hawn; brothers Alonzo, Gene, Bobby and Randall Hawn; sister Jeanette Bunch.

**Elmer Phillips, 58**



and Wilma (Joe) Higgins; sister-in-law Lori Phillips; brothers Jimmy Phillips, Reno Jr. (Brandy) Phillips and Randy (Cindy) Phillips and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Elmer loved working outside and making bird houses and many other things out of wood.

Elmer Phillips, age 58, of Sunbright went to his heavenly home April 29, 2026 at his home. He was born April 18, 1968.

He is preceded in death by his father Reno Phillips; brothers Robert, Jessie, Charles (Duke), Eddie Phillips; sister-in-law Robin Phillips and brother-in-law Paul Jones. Grandfather Johnny Hummel and grandmother Pearl Kelly.

Elmer is survived by his mother Wilma Phillips; 3 sisters Betty Jones, Brenda Phillips,

The family will receive friends Monday, May 4, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. David Dial officiating. Interment will follow in the Byrd Cemetery in Sunbright.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Elmer Phillips.*

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

**Maeagile Morgan Stringfield, 82**



Emily Gunter, Carl Morgan, Vance Morgan, Harl Morgan, and Reba Gibson.

Maeagile is survived by her devoted companion and caregiver, Harold Stringfield; and his siblings, Frances Denney, Marvin Stringfield, and Arlene Paxton. She also leaves behind her loving children, Joey (Marcia) Stringfield and Jolene (Kevin) Hamby.

Her legacy continues through her cherished grandchildren: Lucas (Jonna) Pittman, Olivia (Ethan) Broadus, Eli Stringfield, Ryan (Sierra) Hamby, Aaron (Danielle) Hamby, Jenna (Hunter) Capps, Jozie Shelton, Julianna Shelton, and Karson Hamby. As well as her beloved great-grandchildren: Theo and Ellie Pittman, Judah Broadus, and Neyland, Leland, Casen and Nolan Hamby.

She is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved dearly—each proudly claiming the title of “Aunt Madge’s favorite.”

Maeagile was known for her strong work ethic and dedicated many years of service to Roane Hosiery Mill, Red Kap, and later to Tricor at the Morgan County Regional Correctional Complex.

She was always willing to roll up her sleeves and assist in whatever was needed. Above all, she poured her heart into her family, and her children and grandchildren were her greatest joy.

In her retirement, she enjoyed traveling or simply relaxing on the porch, taking in the quiet beauty of the evening.

She was guided by her faith and attended several churches throughout her life, most recent-

ly Redemption Baptist Church in Lansing, Tennessee, where she attended until her health no longer allowed.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding care provided by Quality Hospice.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the fellowship hall of Redemption Baptist Church in Lansing on: May 16, 2026, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Friends and family are invited to drop in at any time to share stories and honor her life.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Maeagile Morgan Stringfield.*



## — In Loving Memory —

### Wesley Kainan Wade Hamrick, 28



Wesley Kainan Wade Hamrick, age 28, passed away suddenly on May 2, 2026 at his home in Oliver Springs, TN. He was born July 7, 1997 in Cortez, Colorado to Laura Sword and Wesley Hamrick, Sr.

He was known as Wesley to friends and coworkers but his family affectionally called him Kainan. Kainan loved to travel and he loved nature. He was stubborn and strong-willed but would give you the shirt off of his back. He loved to camp,

fish, and hike. He felt deeply for the people around him and called most people his friends. Kainan loved his dog, Timex, and his cat George. He was charismatic and bright and always made us laugh.

Kainan had no wife or children but was survived by six sisters and two brothers. He is also survived by his mother, father, stepparents, maternal and paternal grandparents as well as his maternal great grandma.

The family is having a Celebration of Life, Friday, May 8, 2026 at the American Legion Hall in Wartburg from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wesley Kainan Wade Hamrick*

### Brenda Sue Phillips, 67



Brenda Sue Phillips, age 67 passed away suddenly on May 5, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge with the family by her bedside. She was born June 13, 1958 to Reno and Wilma Phillips

She is preceded in death by her father Reno Phillips; brothers Elmer, Robert, Jessie, Charles (Duke), Eddie Phillips; sister-in-law Robin Phillips and brother-in-law Paul Jones. Grandfather Johnny Hummel and grandmother Pearl Kelly.

Brenda is survived by her mother Wilma Phillips; 2 sis-

ters Betty Jones, and Wilma (Joe) Higgins; sister-in-law Lori Phillips; brothers Jimmy Phillips, Reno Jr. (Brandy) Phillips and Randy (Cindy) Phillips and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 8, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. David Dial officiating. Interment will follow in the Byrd Cemetery in Sunbright.

Brenda loved going places even if it was just to the doctor's office. She loved eating KFC and going to Partners Pizzeria for the salad bar.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Brenda Sue Phillips.*

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

### Jimmy Lee Taylor



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Jimmy Lee Taylor of Sparta, TN after a long, courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jimmy is survived by his loving wife, Tiffany Elaine Taylor, daughter, Naval Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Katrina Ivora Moore, and son, Kaleb Mikel Taylor. Father and mother, Sammie & Ollie Taylor of Petros, TN, Mother in law Tamie Moore, future father in law, David Wolfenbarger, Brother, Steve Taylor & wife Karen of Crossville, TN, Brother, Jesse Taylor & wife Amanda of Lenoir City, TN, Sister, Angela Yarber & husband Ron of Coalfield, TN, Sister, Theresa Billingham & husband Walter of Knoxville,

TN and Sister in law, Lorine Moore.

He is also survived by Niece, Krislyne Hope Yarber, Nephews, Walter Billingham II, Tesla Billingham, Brandon Billingham, Derrick Taylor, Cody Taylor and Riley Taylor. He's also survived by close friends who were like a brother & sisters to him, Stephen Price & wife Not Kelley and Robin Rose and Kim Collins. Jimmy is survived by and loved by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is preceded in death by father-in-law Gary Moore, and brother-in-law Gary (Beeper) Moore Jr.

He had a varied professional career working as a Phlebotomist, a CNA, a morgue technician, assembler at Flowers bakery, assembler at Aisin, assembler at Delbar, as well as a corrections officer for Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

Jimmy had a quick wit, a generous heart, and a knack for making everyone laugh. He was known for his practical jokes,

big personality, and unwavering dedication to those he loved. Jimmy's legacy of laughter, loyalty, and love will be carried on by those who knew and adored him. Jimmy found joy in his life-long love for bowling, fishing and hunting. He was a proud member of the bowling team Ghost Ryders which included team members Bob Young & Dave Whaley, his son Kaleb and wife Tiffany.

He loved being a part of and cheering for an Exceptional team of young bowlers some of which are part of God's Angel Choir which he was a big fan of.

Special concert and road trip buddies included Vance Milliken & Carolyn (Stitch) Byrum, Bowling friends included Robin Rose, Kim Collins, Michael Rose, Katy Collins, Breanna Sells, Heather Bouchillon, Bradley Styer, Lindsey Boles, Ivan Overstreet, Lori Moore, Kristine Atterberry, Tina Wofford, Destiny Young, Ellis Taylor and Libby Miller. He was a fan of NCIS and loved watching it with his friends Hazel Newman and Solomon Maadox.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 8, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. EST with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. EST with Pastor Steve Tiebout officiating. Singers will include Preston Lowe and an ensemble from God's Angel Choir. Interment will follow in the Union Cemetery in the Joyner Community.

Pallbearers will be Steve Taylor, Jesse Taylor, Katrina Moore, Kaleb Taylor, Walter Billingham II, Tesla Billingham, Stephen Price, Billy Lowe, Kaeleb Kettle, BJ Lowe, Phillip Bartylak, Vance Milliken, Cody Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Mike Johnson, and Sebastian Schlau.

Reception will be held after the interment at Coalfield Senior Citizens Center 1600 Coal Hill Road, Coalfield, TN 37748.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jimmy Lee Taylor.*



— In Loving Memory —

**James Kelly Hamby, 61**



by, Nathan (Darlene) Hamby, Jimmy (Monica) Hamby; sisters Joann Clark, and Bobbie Sue Johnson; In-laws Johnny Shannon, Nadine Hamby, Karen Brown, Bobbie Gail (Eddie) Forsythe, Tub (Andrea) Shannon, Matthew (Sydney) Lamance, Debbie Lamance, and a host of extended family and friends.

James Kelly Hamby, age 61, passed away on May 10, 2026.

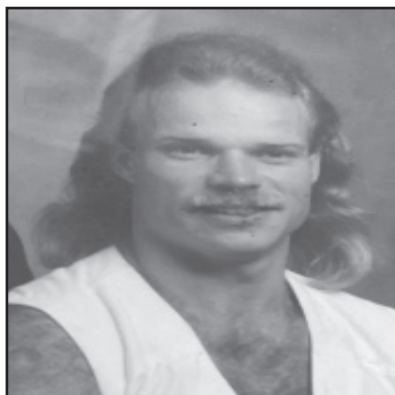
He is preceded in death by his parents Ray & Hattie Hamby; sister Mary Lou Shannon; brothers R.P. and Steve Hamby; brothers-in-law Sydney Clark, William Johnson, and William Brown.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years Pamela; son Aaron (Madison) Hamby; granddaughter Vada; brothers Burnis (Brenda) Hamby, Roger (Terri) Ham-

The family will receive friends Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Jeff Beard officiating. Graveside services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Hamby Cemetery in Lancing.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of James Kelly Hamby.*

**Michael Ray Potter, 59**



He is survived by his mother Brenda Howard; brother Larry Potter; sister April Padgett; aunt Kathy Howard; special niece Kayla Potter and a host of other nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will have a graveside service Friday, May 15, 2026 at High Point Cemetery in Deer Lodge with Bro. Bill Durham officiating.

Michael Ray Potter, age 59 of Crossville passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

He is preceded in death by his father Jerry Potter; brothers Jerome Potter and Stephen Howard.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Michael Ray Potter.*

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

**Christy Koblenz, 52**



dren deeply, as well as all of her siblings. She enjoyed being at the lake, making people laugh, and joking around with everyone she loved. Christy had a kind heart and shared a special bond with her mother and father. She will be deeply missed and forever loved by all who knew her.

Christy Koblenz, age 52, passed away May 8, 2026 at her home in Oliver Springs.

Her favorite song:

“If I leave here tomorrow, would you still remember me? For I must be traveling on now, cause there is too many places I’ve got to see, but if I stay here with you, things just couldn’t be the same. Cause I am as free as a bird now, and this bird you cannot change.”

She is survived by her sons Andrew (Connor) Turpin, and Alex (Amber) Turpin; mother JoAnn Vann; brothers Bucky Nance, Larry Nance, and Mike Nance; aunt Betty Dyer; grandchildren Kayden Turpin, Braxton Turpin, Braydon Turpin, and Bristol Turpin.

The family is honoring Christy’s wishes to be cremated. No services have been scheduled at this time.

She is preceded in death by her father Irvin Vann; brother Ricky Nance.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Christy Koblenz.*

Christy passed away peacefully at her home on May 8, 2026. She was a mother, daughter, grandmother, and sister. She loved her sons, and grandchil-

**Cheryletta Gail Williams**



Newport; grandchildren Maria Pride, Sarah Pride, Samantha Pride, Erin Williams, Kyle Williams, Edith Williams, Hunter Williams, Justin Newberry, Asher Smith, Jayce Smith and a host of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Cheryletta Gail Williams departed this world for her heavenly home on may 1, 2026.

She is preceded in death by her parents Lamual & Velva June Newport; daughter Jennifer Pride; grandson Ajax Pride; brother Brad Newport and special uncle Theodore Taylor.

The family will receive friends Saturday, May 8, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00 p.m. Graveside services will be Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the Coal Hill Cemetery.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cheryletta Gail Williams.*

She is survived by her sons Donald Williams, Ronald Smith, Jr. and daughters Amanda (David) Newberry; sisters Carol Miller, Joye (Todd) Busser and brother Carey (Martha)



# Historically Speaking

## Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Oppenheimer Hearing, Part 1 (1953)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

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

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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). The responsibility of his position during World War II 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.

Following the war, Nichols kept close watch over the MED's production facilities as well as atomic weapon stockpiles until handing over responsibility to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). In New York, assisting the American representative to the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission, Nichols made numerous presentations to UN delegates on certain treaty provisions that were very successful in gaining support for international control of atomic energy.

Ordered back to Washington D.C., Major General Nichols was key in developing doctrine with the Pentagon and the U.S. Congress for the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons to protect our nation and allies. Serving as Chief of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP), Deputy Director of Guided Missiles, and other key positions, General Nichols played a major role in the development of missiles for delivery of nuclear weapons and what is today called anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense.

Serving as General Manager of the Atomic Energy Commission 1953-1955, Nichols remained a fierce advocate of peacetime development of atomic power to meet and exceed our nation's growing energy needs. He assisted with the Atoms for Peace project and helped formulate the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

In this twenty-eighth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we begin to learn of his role in Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance issues after World War II.

General Nichols gave multiple recommendations for Dr. Oppenheimer when called upon, especially after World War II. Nichols, wrote, "After World War II I had been questioned several times about Oppenheimer's earlier Communist associations. Whenever his record was reviewed by Army or Air Force security, they raised the issue of not clearing him.

"Eventually the matter would reach the Secretary level and on several occasions, I was called in and asked if I knew about Oppenheimer's questionable record and did I recommend clearing him. Invariably I answered, I probably know Oppenheimer's record as well as or better than anyone else. He could be considered a security risk by almost any reasonable security standards, but I think that in spite of his record he is loyal to the United States.

"If you consider his services essential, as

[General Leslie R.] Groves and I did during the Manhattan Project, I recommend that you clear him. He is one of our most outstanding scientists."

Running for President on the Republican ticket, Dwight D. Eisenhower's platform included a strong American defense, containing the spread of Communism, and fiscal responsibility. Harry Dexter White was accused in 1939, 1945 and 1948 of Soviet espionage while serving in the Treasury Department and the International Monetary Fund under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. Alger Hiss was convicted in January 1950 of espionage for Soviet Russia while he was serving in the State Department under President Roosevelt. Klaus Fuchs' arrest in early 1950 for Soviet espionage activities led to the discovery of an American spy ring of Harry Gold, David Greenglass, Morton Sobol, and Julius & Ethel Rosenberg working in the Manhattan Project. These stories held national attention for months and candidate Eisenhower vowed to rid the federal government of Communists.

On April 27, 1953, President Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450. Nichols summarized the impact of the Order was to "eliminate security risks from government services, and all government agencies were to review personnel files to determine those who might be security risks. Eisenhower emphasized that just being a 'security risk' was the basis for not granting clearance. It was not necessary to prove disloyalty. The [1946] Atomic Energy Act was similar; under it, it must be determined that clearance of an individual will not endanger the common defense or security. As a result, well over a thousand individuals had left government service either as a result of a hearing or by resignation."

On Friday, October 31, 1953, Maj General Kenneth D. Nichols resigned from the military as directed by President Eisenhower (see article 27) and was sworn in as General Manager of the Atomic Energy Commission on Monday, November 2, 1953. He had to hit the ground running as the AEC required his full attention. His time required for the AEC's ongoing business would have to be stretched to include the J. Robert Oppenheimer matter.

Nichols' first month with the AEC (November 2 – December 2, 1953) entailed numerous days (amounting to half that time) away from Washington D.C., traveling to the original Manhattan Project sites, now AEC nuclear sites, around the nation (Idaho; Hanford, Washington; Berkeley and San Francisco, California; Albuquerque, Los Alamos and Santa Fe, New Mexico; Denver, Colorado; Kansas City, Kansas; Burlington, Iowa; and Savannah River Plant in South Carolina) for many meetings and briefings. His days in Washington D.C. were busy reaching out to many individuals to recruit their services for AEC; negotiating contracts (e.g. Sandia nuclear arsenals) and other pressing matters for the AEC.

On November 7, 1953, William L. Borden, Executive Director of the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy and a Democrat, wrote a letter to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI.

Nichols wrote, "Borden was seriously apprehensive about the derogatory information in Oppenheimer's personnel file... He outlined the factors that gave him concern about Oppenheimer. . . .

"Borden then stated: From such evidence, considered in detail, the following conclusions are justified:

Between 1929 and mid-1942, more probably than not, J. Robert Oppenheimer was a sufficiently hardened Communist that he either volunteered espionage information to the

Soviets or complied with a request for such information. (This includes the possibility that when he singled out a weapons aspect of atomic development as his personal specialty he was acting under Soviet instructions.) More probably than not, he has been functioning as an espionage agent; and More probably than not, he has since acted under a Soviet directive in influencing United States military, atomic energy, intelligence and diplomatic policy."

On December 3, 1953, Eisenhower met with AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss regarding the Borden letter and directed, "that a 'blank wall' should be placed between Oppenheimer and any further access to secret or top-secret information until a hearing had been completed," wrote Nichols.

December 3rd also marked Nichols' one-month anniversary on the job. He was in meetings all that morning; Strauss then met with Nichols in the afternoon. Nichols' Daily Log records: "1:15 – Mr. Strauss. He informed me re JRO matter and President's directive". The "JRO matter" is the J. Robert Oppenheimer matter and included the Borden letter.

Nichols recalled, "There was essentially nothing in the letter that I had not heard before from one source or another except for Borden's conclusions, in which I did not concur." Strauss and Nichols decided that the AEC "would comply with Order 10450 and follow our own [AEC] procedures. The first step was to prepare a letter listing all the derogatory information about Oppenheimer. William Mitchell, who was our general counsel, was responsible for doing this.

"He was to give consideration to Borden's letter but was to base the list of derogatory information on what was in our files or on what might be furnished by the FBI. I did not intend to sign the letter until Oppenheimer returned from Europe and until Strauss and I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with him. Oppenheimer might decide to resign. That would make the matter moot."

That evening, Nichols traveled to Portsmouth, Ohio, and was fully occupied with AEC nuclear matters December 4 – 10 at the Portsmouth Plant (where he met with U.S. Congressmen from Ohio Thomas A. Jenkins and James Gould Polk); Lockland Plant (Evandale, Ohio); Fernald area in Ohio; Mound Laboratory (Miamisburg, Ohio); Paducah area in Kentucky; and finally, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Upon returning to the AEC office in Washington D.C. on December 11th, Nichols attended several meetings in the morning regarding the Oppenheimer matter that included the FBI. That afternoon he was dealing with his own security clearances; salary issues for personnel; a nuclear reactor program; and other ongoing AEC business.

The following day, Saturday morning, December 12th, found Nichols in his office clearing his desk of paperwork that had accumulated during his recent trip. He received phone calls from the FBI regarding Oppenheimer's return to the United States. Late that morning, he called general counsel Mitchell but Mitchell was not in the building. Instead, he met with Harold Green, Esq., a member of Mitchell's staff, regarding the Oppenheimer matter and the AEC's letter to Oppenheimer. Nichols and Green barely knew each other; perhaps they first saw each other at an AEC "Meet the Management" meeting on November 6th when Nichols first joined the AEC.

On Monday and Tuesday, December 14th and 15th Nichols attended staff meetings

- Continued on Next Page

## Historically Speaking

### Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Oppenheimer Hearing, Part 1 (1953)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

with Mitchell and Green about the AEC's letter to Oppenheimer. On the afternoon of the 15th, he again conferred with Mitchell followed by a commission meeting to inform them about the letter's contents.

Nichols wrote, "They approved the letter. The final letter listed the derogatory information concerning Oppenheimer's support of Communist organizations, his association with Communists, the employment of Communists, the Chevalier incident, his veracity, etc. I was not happy with the inclusion of a reference concerning Oppenheimer's opposition to the hydrogen bomb development. Green had inserted it on his own initiative on Sunday, the day after he talked with me. I would not have done so.

"His argument for including it pertained to the question of veracity. That appeared to be a sound reason so I finally concurred with the draft but worried about the possibility that we would be accused of trying to control the thinking of our scientists. I was assured that the way it was written would avoid such an accusation. I had my doubts.

"It was a fine grammatical point concerning paragraphing, but it lost its significance when The New York Times subsequently printed the letter with the reference to the hydrogen bomb divided into four separate paragraphs instead of combined into one, as Green had drafted it. I don't know who was responsible for this editing – Oppenheimer, his attorney or The New York Times – but the change supported the adverse effect that I had feared, and judging by subsequent events was deliberate.

"Before we presented the letter to Oppenheimer, the FBI also checked the letter to be certain it did not compromise any of their confidential sources."

The rest of Nichols' week consisted of numerous staff and commission meetings related to nuclear issues, personnel recruitment and security clearances.

The following week, on Monday, December 21, 1953, Strauss and Nichols met with Oppenheimer mid-afternoon. Nichols wrote, "I had agreed with Strauss that he should do most of the talking and that I would write a memo for the record concerning the meeting." The Memorandum prepared by Nichols dated December 21, 1953, and held in General Nichols' archives represents the only known first-hand eyewitness account of the meeting of these three individuals. It is worthy of attention.

Nichols summarized his Memorandum when writing his book as follows:

"Strauss explained to Oppenheimer: the reason for the meeting; the President's Order 10450; that a former government employee had written a letter to the FBI calling attention to Oppenheimer's record; that the FBI had informed the President, who had ordered in writing that we take the necessary action to resolve the matter.

"We were complying with Order 10450.

"A letter containing the derogatory information and explaining our procedures and options open to Oppenheimer had been prepared for my signature; I had not yet signed it. After Oppenheimer read the letter, he consented to including the sentence, 'This classification (Con-



**Atomic Men, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer points to a picture of the atomic bomb explosion over Nagasaki, Japan, as Brig General Kenneth D. Nichols (first left) and Dr. Henry D. Smyth (second left), look on. (Courtesy of American Chemical Society Exhibit on atomic energy, Grand Central Palace, 1946. Public Domain. Provided by Barbara Rogers Scollin)**



**President Dwight D. Eisenhower receives a report from AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss on the hydrogen bomb tests (Operation CASTLE) in the Pacific, 30 March 1954. (Courtesy of <https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/media/2997> White House Albums, National Park Service (Abbie Rowe): Photographs. Provided by Barbara Rogers Scollin)**

fidential) has been discussed with Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, and he presently desires that it be maintained."

"... Oppenheimer... asked if the case would be closed if he resigned. Both Strauss and I assured him that it would be. Oppenheimer further discussed the merits of resigning versus a hearing but did not indicate any decision. ... I noticed that both Strauss and Oppenheimer were composed and polite. Oppenheimer betrayed no emotion other than regret at the possibility of severing his relations with the government."

Later that evening, Oppenheimer phoned Nichols at home. Nichols wrote, "That evening Oppenheimer called me at home and asked me for my advice concerning the course he should take. He specifically asked, 'Should I resign?' Although I hoped that he would resign, I replied, 'Oppie, even though I am your friend I am also now officially your accuser, so I no longer can advise you on this matter. You will have to make the decision.' Perhaps if I had been certain that he did not have a recorder or another person listening on the line I would have given him my advice. However, [AEC's lead counsel William] Mitchell had strongly advised me at no time to advise Oppenheimer to resign."

Next up: The Oppenheimer Hearing, Part 2 (1954)

Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; D. Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bi-

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Thanks for this Historically Speaking column and series goes to Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols.

# 1 Corinthians Chapter 4 and 5



Melvin Howard

(1 Corinthians 4:1-5) Stewards of divine mysteries: the apostle continues his admonition concerning the common human tendency to over-exalt religious leaders. Including himself, Paul says, "Account us as ministers of Christ." "Ministers" denotes a subordinate acting under the authority of a superior. Christ is to be exalted, not his servants. Those who teach his word are "stewards" (one who manages the property of another) of the "mysteries of God." These mysteries were the purposes, plans, and previews of the gospel, as progressively made known in

subdued forms of Old Testament Scripture, but fully

revealed in the gospel of Christ. How dangerous it is to be an irresponsible steward in the mismanagement of sacred truth! A steward must be faithful in his role.

Paul has little concern respecting what others thought of his ministry, whether from someone at Corinth or an outside critic. Not even his own assessment would carry more than human testimony. Though he knows nothing that would condemn him, he realizes the Lord is the final judge (v. 4). In view of these facts, they are to cease the type of judgment they have been rendering. At the proper time, the Lord Jesus will judge (at the time of his coming), and hidden secrets will be brought to light. The true content of hearts will be exposed, and God will praise those who truly warrant such (v. 5).

(1 Corinthians 4:6-13) A sharp rebuke: the apostle now reveals the "code" language he previously had employed. The names of Paul, Apollos, and Cephas had been symbolically employed to temporarily shield the faction leaders. How very gracious of the compassionate Paul. They must recognize, however, the serious error of going "beyond the things which are written," the Scriptures. The authority and limitations of sacred text must be respected---an admonition desperately needed in every age. Paul sternly rebukes those who, in their puffed-up pride, exalt themselves over others (v. 6). Who assigned the faction leaders their august roles? No one! None of us is independent of the influence of other---especially God's; we need not act as though we are self-made.

The apostle addresses the pride of those who fancy they are "filled" and "rich" (Rev. 3:17). He wishes they all could reign together in a spiritually regal sense (Rev. 1:6, 9). This has nothing to do with an alleged "millennial reign" on earth at the time of the Savior's return, but certainly may allude to the heavenly phase of the present reign of the Lord (2 Tim. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:11). What the egotists at Corinth needed to realize was that the pathway to glory is through suffering. They wanted the former without the latter.

While the sect leaders wanted center stage, God's perspective was different. The apostles, the true heroes, have been put on a worldwide stage and made a "spectacle"---like fighters in the arena---to be doomed to death ultimately. They are treated as "fools" for the honor of serving Jesus. With stinging sarcasm Paul congratulates the glory-seekers as wise, strong, glorious, and honorable---as they perceive themselves to be. In contrast, the Lord's men suffered hunger, thirst, deprivation of clothing, were beaten, had no certain place to live, worked hard with their bare hands, were persecuted and treated as the filth of the world. What a contrast to the Corinthian glory hogs.

(1 Corinthians 4:14-21) Paul's relationship to this church: The apostle recognizes that his language is strong, though not abusive. He has been tough because such was needed for the welfare of the church. His sternness was not to humiliate, but to correct them, even as a parent has to do with children on occasion. A person may have many teachers in life, but he loves these people as a father, for by the proclamation of the gospel he had "begotten" them by his teaching (1 Pet. 1:23). This declaration reveals that the gospel is the power of God to save (Rom. 1:16), without a direct operation of the Spirit. They are encouraged to consistently follow Paul's example (v.16). This is not arrogant boasting; it is wise advice written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Hoping for better things from them, the apostle has sent Timothy (v. 17), who likely was en route (16:10). Timothy was Paul's convert and entirely trustworthy; he would remind the Corinthians of the apostle's Christians conduct and his teaching, which was consistent in every church. This was a testable claim since this document was to be circulated among others (1;2) who could vouch for Paul's credibility.

To that festering group who were evolving into a band of factious detractors, and who increasingly would come under censure in the second letter, Paul suggests, likely due to a report (1:11) that they were arrogantly puffed up. They probably thought the apostle was afraid of them; hence, he had sent Timothy instead of coming personally (v. 18). That was far from the truth. He pledged to come soon, if it was the Lord's will. If that occurs, he will "know" (the term has a judicial thrust) the disposition of his critics. He would measure their boastful words by their real power. Will God be supporting these men with divine demonstrations? The reign of God does not manifest itself in mere claims, but in sacred power (v. 20). The apostle issues a clear warning (v. 21). Do they want him to come with a "rod," putting a knot on their theological skulls, or will they mellow out and allow him to deal with the situation in loving gentleness? The choice is theirs.

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 5

(1 Corinthians 5:1-5) A serious moral problem: In addition to the division that plagued the Corinthian church, a moral cancer was eating away at its vitals. There was a "buzz" stirring the congregation because a brother was liv-

ing in fornication with his father's wife (his stepmother). The conduct was so outrageous that in some respects it eclipsed Gentile debauchery. Perhaps even more shocking was the fact that the church was not deeply saddened by this sordid situation; instead, they were "puffed up" (4:18). The same kind of pride that fueled their divisiveness was at the root of their immorality. The offender should have been dealt with already by means of a disciplinary action, but such had not been done (v. 2).

Paul thus asserts his apostolic authority. Though he was not there to orchestrate the discipline, he had sufficient information to "judge" (render judgment) the matter. The brother was guilty! This is a clear example that illustrates not all "judging" is wrong (Jn. 7:24). Some is mandated! Therefore, by the authority of Christ (Mt. 18:20) the church was to assemble, and in a formal way remedy this problem. Paul's leadership in the implementation of the procedure was consistent with the power of Christ, not by his independent initiative.

The offender (nothing is said of the woman; presumably she was not a Christian) was to be "delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh." What is the meaning of this phrase? (a) It is not capital punishment for church heretics which was practiced by historical Catholicism and early Protestantism. (b) It was not physical death, as many commentators allege. (c) It was designed to save the spirit of the person (v. 5). (d) The procedure was the equivalent of "putting away the wicked" person, and withdrawing one's fellowship from the individual (9, 11, 13, 2 Thes. 3:6). (e) The ultimate goal was that the fornicator might "destroy" his ungodly, "fleshly," urge and reclaim a life of purity (see also 1 Tim. 1:20). It apparently produced a positive result (2 Cor. 2:6).

(1 Corinthians 5:6-8) The church must act: The church must desist in its "glorying" (puffed up) (v. 2) and get serious about morality. Did they not realize that the entire church could become infected, just as leaven permeates dough? As the Old Testament Passover required the purging of all leaven, Christ is our Passover, and in our lives we must rid ourselves of malice and wickedness, and pursue the unleavened bread (figuratively speaking) of sincerity and truth.

(1 Corinthians 5:9-13) Principles of operation: In an earlier (unpreserved) epistle, Paul had admonished the Corinthian saints to "have no company with fornicators." He had not meant to include those who were pagan. Christians cannot avoid all associations with the world. While we are to have no fellowship with the world's sinful practices (Eph. 5:11; 1 Pet. 4:4), we are not to isolate ourselves as hermits, in monasticism. Instead, our "light" and "salt" must be allowed to influence others (Mt. 5:13:16).

The matter is different with renegade church members. After formal disciplinary action, the faithful Christian is "not to keep company" with fornicators (those engaged in illicit sexual intercourse), the covetous (brothers obsessed with materialism, either to obtain or retain), idolaters (those who place things or persons above God), revilers (verbal abusers), drunkards (people who become intoxicated---to whatever degree), and extortioners (those who take from other by force or inordinate pressure). These are specific actions worthy of radical "surgery" (v. 9-11). While we are not licensed to discipline the world (God will handle that), Christians do have the moral responsibility to check outrageous sinfulness in the church (v. 12-13). The impenitent wicked are therefore to be expelled from church fellowship (v. 13).

Matthew 15:19-20 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor perverts, nor homosexuals, nor the greedy, nor thieves, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God. And these were some of you; but you were bathed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God." M.L.V.

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