

*In
search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

**Vol. 01
No. 48
07/01/
2007**

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

**A publication
of the
Wellsburg
church of
Christ**

"And She Prevailed Upon Us" The Story of a Certain Woman

By: Jason Moore

Part 2—

"Me and Mr. Strong"

Jennifer and I were driving back from Tennessee on Wednesday, July 12 when the call came from the church secretary. "A lady called who says she needs to talk with a preacher about baptism. She doesn't live in Birmingham—she's only visiting for the day. Can you make it back to meet her by five o'clock today?" We made it back.

At five o'clock, the young lady who requested the appointment, called the building. She was caught in southbound traffic on I-65, but wasn't far from the Lakeshore exit. "Do you know your way okay?" I asked. "I drove by the building earlier today to make sure I could find it," she said. At ten minutes after the hour, the young woman whom we'll call "Lydia" walked into the office.

She quickly came to the point. "I need to be baptized for the remission of my sins," she said. "I'm a Baptist. I was baptized in my youth but *not* for salvation—I was taught that I was *already* saved *before* being baptized."

I had many questions. But now was not the time to satisfy my curiosity. Right now the urgent matter was to satisfy her desire for God's salvation. We headed to the baptistery.

"Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?" I asked. "Yes, I do," she answered. "On the basis of your faith, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit for the remission of your sins and into Christ. Amen," I said, before immersing her. It was a quiet celebration in an empty auditorium. I trust that the accolades of heavenly hosts more than made up for

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Classes* 10:00 AM
AM Worship 10:45 AM
PM Worship 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)



From the editor's desk: This is the second of seven in a series of articles written by Jason Moore. This is the record of the conversion of a young lady and the effect it had on those around her. *TRH*

This Bulletin is published by the:

**Wellsburg
church of Christ**

which meets at:

**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422**

the lack of earthly witnesses to the spectacle of Lydia's redemption.

Afterwards, there was time for my questions. "How did you come to the conclusion that you needed to be baptized?" I asked. "I read my Bible," she said and smiled. We both laughed. She explained further, "A friend challenged me a few years ago about my beliefs. She made me mad. So I took my *Strong's Concordance* and studied every passage I found on salvation. It's been a year and a half. I really knew what I needed to do before now—but I'm a little stubborn." We laughed again.

The more I've learned about Lydia, the more fascinating her story. She grew up an Independent Baptist, but has been attending Southern Baptist churches since her marriage in 1997. She's been disenchanted with contemporary sermonizing that she describes as "less preaching" and more "just talking." And she's missed the self-governing simplicity of the Independent Baptist churches. "I don't like somebody else deciding for our church where to do mission work," she said. "I think the Holy Spirit agrees with you," I answered.

Her father was a professional counselor, and also functioned as a counselor on the staff of Baptist churches in Huntsville and Troy. He passed away just two years ago of a heart attack. He was just in his early fifties. Lydia's mother was killed tragically in a car accident in 1991, the same year that Lydia graduated from high school. She described her father and some of his wise advice to her through the years. He was an impressive, fair-minded man with great wit and wisdom and balanced counsel. "I wish I had known him," I said. "I wish he was still here to give me advice," she answered.

"Who is the friend who challenged your beliefs?" I asked. "She's a friend from Huntsville. Her husband is in the Air Force and they've been stationed in Guam. They're due back in another month." She continued, "We were in school together at Tuscaloosa and kept running into each other. We became friends. We had many discussions about our religious differences. To nearly any issue she raised, I replied, 'Oh, that's *minor* doctrine!' Finally, she said, 'Everything's *minor* doctrine with you! Is there *any* major doctrine?' 'Salvation,' I said. When she challenged me to give a Bible answer for my beliefs about salvation, I couldn't do it. I could explain to her what I *believed* about salvation, but I couldn't *defend* it from the Scriptures. And when I set out to prove what I believed *by* the Scriptures, I found that they didn't teach what I believed." She added, "I don't like being wrong." We laughed again.

"I'm curious—why did you call *us*?" I asked. "I just looked on the Internet," she said. "I was in Birmingham visiting a friend, a cancer patient at UAB. I called the building Tuesday night hoping to get a recording with directions and a man, one of your members, answered. So he gave me directions to the building. I called back today and talked with the secretary." "I'm glad you did," I said.

"Well, now I have to work on 'Once saved always saved,'" she declared, now heading for the car. "Me and Mr. Strong," she added. "I'll be anxious to hear how your study proceeds," I replied. "Your humility and earnest curiosity to know the Lord better is refreshing," I said. "I don't know—I'm pretty stubborn," she answered. "But I want to know the truth."

In the parking lot, Lydia said, "By the way, you might want to take that University of Tennessee tag off the front of your vehicle—I thought I'd come to the wrong place. The next person who drops in to be baptized might just turn around and leave!" We laughed big.

That's how I met Lydia. Not even half of her story has been told. Suffice it to say, she's a young lady of immense faith and character. I wish you could know her and appreciate her the way I do. May her example inspire you and me to seek others to bring to the Lord or prompt us to seek Him more earnestly ourselves.

Steady or Irregular?

By: Shane Williams

Via, The Lilbourn Light, Vol. 8, No. 1

How would you describe your spiritual life? Is it marked by steady growth as you walk in fellowship with Jesus and learn from Him each day? Or is it more like a roller coaster going up-and-down with times of intensity followed by periods of indifference?

Too many people are religious in cycles. A brook may flow abundantly during a shower and become only a trickle a little time afterward. Under normal circumstances, however, they will remain quite dry until the next storm. That should not be the life of a Christian. We should be like a stream which flows from a spring. Though it may be increased by a shower of rain and reduced in times of drought, yet it constantly runs or flows. It is steady and dependable as a source of fresh water.

If someone were to monitor our lives, would our discipleship be characterized as "in cycles" or like "a stream from a spring"? Could it be said of us, like Enoch, that we "*walked with God*"? (Genesis 5:22). "*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*" Ephesians 5:15,16).

If our Christianity has been more like a series of peaks and valleys, we need to prayerfully begin a steady walk with our Lord.

News N Notes

Please remember these in your prayers:

Sick/Surgery:

- Terry Smith, Jr., Terry and Lora Smith's son in his recovery and any future treatments
- Dorothy Sams, Linda Marshall's mother
- Susan and Scott Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's daughter, and their baby.
- Continue to remember—
 - Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
 - Amanda Dowdy
 - Vicki Renshaw
 - Terry Smith's brother George
 - Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
 - Ed Roberts father
 - Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
 - Marie Roberts
 - Cindy North
 - Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Rhea Henthorn
- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap