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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)*

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## THE MISSION WORK CONTINUES

Brother Tim Eldridge and I walked into a local bank last week to send monthly support to the Philippines and money to help feed the hungry in Malawi and Mozambique, who are suffering as the result of floods. We were both unknown to the ladies we met there, but we had an instant connection. In the months that he had been doing business there, they had grown just as fond of Brother Harry as all of us. His spirit and the way he conducted himself meant that anyone who walked in to carry on "his" work was automatically welcome.

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



Brother Harry Cobb's passing left work that must continue but shoes that cannot be filled. No one man or even several can do exactly what he did, and that is OK. God made us all individuals and gave us our own unique talents. Some of us will now have to step up to assume more responsibilities and perhaps step out of our comfort zones. But as Brother Harry would be very quick to remind us, this work was not important because it was his work, but because it is HIS work.

Brother Harry worked tirelessly to involve many of us in his labors over the years. Some support the work financially, some physically by traveling to faraway lands, and many more through advice and prayer. He did not leave us a blueprint to follow, but he did leave many dedicated and caring servants of the Master determined to see the work move forward.

According to Brother Harry's records, there are many congregations and individuals who provide support on a regular basis, some on an irregular basis as they are able, and still others who would give when he needed funds and made a specific request. We appreciate your generosity as do the people who receive it. I was with Brother Harry in Africa two years ago and people were constantly thanking him for sending money to aid them during the floods a few months before. He was always quick to set the record straight. "I am only the messenger," he would say. The people back in the United States who gave the money are the ones who need to be thanked.

Brother Tommy Holmes of the West Broad Street Congregation here in Wedowee was trusted explicitly by Brother Harry and his name is already on all of the bank accounts used for the overseas work. Brother Tommy has graciously agreed to receive and deposit into the appropriate accounts

all future contributions made for the African and Philippine work. He will maintain a record of money received and its intended purpose. We will also maintain records of where every dollar is spent and will always be happy to give anyone a detailed account of exactly how and when their donation was used.

If money is sent for a stated purpose, then it will be used for that purpose. We understand that it is not our money, but yours. We are merely the messengers relaying the funds to those who need it. Paul spoke of individuals carrying money from Corinth to the Church in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:3). Paul himself carried money from Antioch to Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30) and from Macedonia and Achaia to Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25-26). And Paul was on the receiving end when the Philippian Church sent money to him multiple times (Php. 4:14-16), at least once by the hand of a man named Epaphroditus (Php. 2:25).

I heard Brother Harry teach on the scriptural pattern for the distribution and use of money by churches many times over the years. I personally agree with his interpretation of the scriptures on this matter. A church may assist individuals in need. A church may assist evangelists, elders, or others who are travelling or otherwise incur expenses because of preaching the Gospel. A church may also send money to another church to help the needy in that area. What we do not see in the scriptures is a church serving as a central point where money flows into it and then is sent elsewhere. Nor do we see the formation of any type of group or organization to oversee the collection and distribution of funds. The individual and the church should send money "directly" to the need they wish to address. "Directly" does not mean that the individual or

church must personally hand the money to those they intend to help. Nor does it mean that there are necessarily specific, named individuals who are to be helped. When the money was sent to Jerusalem it was to help the "poor saints" (Rom. 15:26, 1 Cor. 16:2). Most who were sending the money probably did not even know the individuals who would be receiving it. Consequently, they were in no position to name the individual recipients of the funds. In like manner, most who give to the African and Philippine work today have never been there and do not personally know the people involved. It then makes sense for evangelists who have been to those countries to assist in getting the money to capable and trustworthy men in those countries. When money is sent to feed the poor it may go from a brother here to someone there. That brother may, in turn, divide the money among other brothers who will assist in distributing it to those in need. Even the men we send money to may not personally know every individual in every congregation who has need.

The individual or church donating money should have as much control over their money as they desire. The place where the money is to be sent as well as the purpose for what it is used is at the discretion of the giver, not the one relaying the funds. One person may give money and specify that it be used for the Philippines but not specify a particular use. The evangelist can then use the money in the Philippines to support a local evangelist, to help buy food in a time of need, to help repair homes damaged in a typhoon, or other important need. Another person may simply give money for Bibles. The evangelist could then buy Bibles in the Philippines, Malawi, Mozambique, or other country where Bibles were needed. Still another may give money to

help evangelists with the expenses incurred while travelling to and in these countries to teach and otherwise help the brethren.

I intend to return to Africa this summer if it is the Lord's will. I feel it is important to reassure the people there, as well as here, that our commitment to them did not end with Brother Harry's passing. It will also allow me to further my knowledge of the people and their needs, both physical and spiritual.

Advice, criticism, and especially prayers are always welcome. Brother Harry helped to greatly expand God's Kingdom in other areas of the world. I feel compelled to do what I can to help make sure these gains are not lost or diminished through neglect.

Those who wish to continue to contribute to this missionary work, or to contribute for the first time, please make checks payable to "Church of Christ." All donations should be sent to:

Tommy Holmes  
209 County Road 603  
Wedowee, AL 36278

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

TONY WHIDDON  
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Roanoke, AL 36274  
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## APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Do prophets still proclaim the divine message of God today?

ANSWER: God's word is complete.

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (2 Pet. 1:3)*

*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 1:3)*

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*

*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Rev. 22:18-19)*

*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words states "the 'prophesying' of the NT 'prophets' was both a preaching of the divine*

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counsels of grace already accomplished and the foretelling of the purposes of God in the future." From this it seems that one can be a prophet today in the sense that one preaches the divine counsels of grace already accomplished. But from the afore mentioned scriptures, one cannot be a prophet today in the sense that one can foretell the purposes of God in the future.

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did Joseph instruct to be put in Benjamin's sack?
2. Which female judge described herself as a "mother in Israel?"
3. Whose mother took him a little coat once a year?
4. Who did the men of Athens ignorantly worship?
5. According to James, what happens if you break one commandment of the law?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. From which land did Isaac tell Jacob not to take a wife? CANAAN (Genesis 28:1)
2. Peacocks were imported by which king of Israel? SOLOMON (1 Kings 10:22)
3. What was the fate of the man who had no wedding robe at the parable of the marriage feast? CAST INTO DARKNESS (Matthew 22:13)
4. What was the color of the robe placed on Jesus by the soldiers? SCARLET/PURPLE (Matthew 27:28/John 19:2)
5. When Paul was shipwrecked on Malta, how many people on the ship drowned? NONE (Acts 27:22, 44)

# Gospel Meetings

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<b>DATES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
March 27 - 29	Verona Verona, KY	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
March 29 - April 1	Gilstrap Morgantown, KY	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
April 3 - 5	Valley Valley, AL	Donald Thompson Wedowee, AL
April 9 - 12	Junction City Junction City, KY	Aaron Keeton West Liberty, KY
April 10 - 12	New Bethel Cullman, AL	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
April 20 - 24	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
April 24 - 26	Ephesus Ephesus. GA	Mark Carpenter Woodland, AL
April 26 10:30 a.m.	Bangor Hayden, AL	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
April 26 2:00 p.m.	New Bethel Cullman, AL	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN

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