

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
Speaker, Robert Emerson
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

What will you do with
 Jesus? Mt 27:22



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**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Larry (4), David (11),
 Chandler (18), Dwight (25)

Reading: Robert

Announcements: Marty

Table: Larry, Buddy, Mike, Lakin

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (7), Mike (14),
 Larry (21), Stanley (28)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Billy

(4), Marty (11), Stanley (18), Robert
 (25)

Singing: Mrs. Leopard's, 19404 Elton
 Road (7/25)

Area Meetings: Vinemont (4-7);
 Needmore (Haleyville, 18-20)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." - 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Two Churches Want to Grow

By Bill Hall

Two churches want to grow, but their attitudes toward growth differ greatly.

The first church looks upon growth as its primary purpose. Goals are placed before the membership: "We want to double our membership within the next three years," for instance. Success (or failure) is judged almost entirely on the basis of that congregation's numerical growth.

The second church looks upon the saving of souls as its primary purpose and any growth in membership is just a natural result of that primary purpose. Members of the second church are infused with the value of immortal souls rather than a sense of congregational pride.

Members of **the first church** become eager to get people to the water. Baptism is the point at which people are added to

the membership list; consequently, it's going to take so many baptisms to keep pace with their goal of doubling their membership. They must not only get them to the water, they must get them there within the time period that has been arbitrarily set by their leaders.

Members of **the second church** are far more eager to get people to repent. Their concern is for additions to the Lord's body rather than additions to a membership list. Their approach is to bring sinners to a consciousness of their sin and the consequences of remaining in sin. If they can do this in one study, great! But if considerable time is required to uproot false concepts and to plant the true seed of the gospel, they patiently accept this. Their only sense of urgency grows out of the uncertainty of life and its duration. But they know that shortcuts are not the answer; that baptism without

repentance is worthless; and that once people are brought to true repentance, having been properly taught, baptism for the remission of sins will follow. So they wait with longsuffering until the gospel brings about its desired effect in the hearts of those whom they are teaching.

Members of **the first church** will be tempted to use questionable tactics in their approach to people. The old methods and approaches don't seem to be effective any more. New and more positive approaches must be found. So the members of the first church make their appeal to the pride of people. They persuade them of their self-worth; they build their self-image; they tell them how valuable they would be to the congregation. "We need you," they tell their prospects. They might also extol the virtues of the congregation, persuading their prospects of the value of being a part of such a vibrant, growing group of people. So, people "become members," and they conform to the rules that are placed before them for acceptance within the group, but there may have been little grief over sin; in fact, they might even still believe they were Christians before they "became members."


The members of **the second church** recognize that the gospel never makes its appeal to the pride of people. They bring people to see their spiritual bankruptcy; that they have "nothing to pay"; that their true worth is not to be found in self, but in Christ; that they must humble themselves and look to Christ for their exaltation; that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation; that their only hope is to be found in Christ. They would bring them to say, in the words of Mrs. C. H. Morris:

*Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
Naught as an offering to Jesus my King,
Only my sinful, now contrite heart;
Grant me the cleansing His blood doth impart.*

The first church may become compromising in its teaching. Its elders intend to maintain doctrinal soundness, but there is the pressure to produce, to maintain the growth rate set before the congregation. When doctrinal soundness becomes an obstacle to that purpose, the elders may succumb to the pressures and ease up on its teaching. **The second church** faces no such pressure, for in its concern for the spiritual wellbeing of people, there is desire for truth on every subject vital to salvation.

The emphasis of **the first church** is organizational and institutional; the emphasis of the second is spiritual and heavenly.

We commend **the second church** to our readers. Serious problems can result when churches see growth as their primary purpose. If goals are to be set—and goals can serve a good purpose—let them focus on the number to be taught rather than the number to be baptized. If new approaches are needed, let them be conceived only if they are compatible with God's wisdom. In efforts to reach others, let all determine to know nothing "except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." When churches thus become really serious about saving souls, God will give the increase and growth will take care of itself.

—via *Two Men: Articles on Practical Christian Living*, pp22-24. 

A Woman's Question

By Lena Lathrop

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the Hand above?
A woman's heart, and a woman's life—
And a woman's wonderful love.

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dash of a boy.

You have written my lesson of duty out,
Manlike, you have questioned me.
Now stand at the bars of my woman's soul
Until I shall question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,
Your socks and your shirt be whole;
I require your heart be true as God's stars
And as pure as His heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef,
I require a far greater thing;
A seamstress you're wanting for socks and shirts—
I look for a man and a king.


A king for the beautiful realm called Home,
And a man that his Maker, God,
Shall look upon as He did on the first
And say: "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose may fade
From this soft young cheek one day,
Will you love me then 'mid the falling leaves
As you did 'mong the blossoms of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and true,
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds heaven or hell
On the day she is made a bride.

I require all things that are grand and true,
All things that a man should be;
If you give this all, I would stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot be this, a laundress and cook
You can hire and little to pay,
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not to be won that way.

This is a touching poem that should give a man pause before so lightly asking for a woman's hand in marriage. It was found reprinted in the book referenced in the sermon this morning, I Kissed Dating Goodbye, by Joshua Harris, pp186,186. As with many a book written by men, there is much good to be found, even if the man is found to be deficient. 

Remember in Prayer

Shirley has had a biopsy for a persistent rash, and expects result shortly; **Pam** had a relatively serious cut on one of her fingers; and **Robert** is grieving the loss of another one of his friends. Please also remember our

sisters **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and continue to pray for **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim and Dot Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 