

Schedule of Meeting Times:

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

Preacher / bulletin editor:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

—1 Peter 5:8

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: David (1), Peter (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), David (29)

Reading: Robert

Announcements: Marty

Table: Larry, Mike M, Peter, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (4), Stanley (11), Kris (18), Larry (25)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

Larry (1), Kris (8), Marty (15), Stanley (22), Robert (29)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” –1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 4

August 1, 2021

Number 13

Brother Johnson's Singing

By Edwin Crozier

Years ago, the elders and deacons had met about brother Johnson's singing. He was loud and off-key most of the time. They didn't want to discourage brother Johnson, but some of the brethren had complained that his singing was sometimes distracting. Brothers Smith and Buford were elected to talk to Johnson and see if they could teach him how to sing more appropriately.

Brother Johnson was an old-fashioned fellow. So, when they pulled up, he was working in his field, plowing behind his mule. They pulled up in a cloud of dust and walked on to the field. They could hear Johnson's singing broken by various commands to the mule. Buford, who had drawn the short straw, started to speak, "Brother Johnson, we don't want to discourage you, but we have had some complaints about your singing ..."

Johnson cut in, hanging his head, saying "I know, brethren. I sing too

loud. I never had no training, so I'm off key. I can't carry a tune in a bucket. I tell myself each assembly that I'm not gonna sing that loud 'cause I know it bothers people."

"But I'll tell you, brothers, every day I come out here and work this land. I see the sun rise over those mountains over there. I hear the birds singing in the trees and see the fish jumping in the creek. At night I watch the stars sparkling down on me and the moon shining. I just can't stop thinking about this great world God has made. And how He lets me live in it and work it."

"Then I think about heaven and how great it must be if it is better than all that. I think about my parents, who died a couple years ago, singing around God's throne. I think about the voice I will have there. I think about how much I want to go."


"Then I think about how bad I have messed everything up and how Jesus left heaven to come down to

this world. I can hear those Jews shouting, ‘Crucify Him!’ I can see those Romans beating Him with that scourge. I know He did that for me.”

“Well, then I just can’t help it. I have to sing. I want God to know how much I love Him. I want my brothers to know how much God loves them. In fact, just thinking about it now makes me want to sing right now. Could you hold these reins for me? I just gotta let God know how great He is.”

With his tear-filled eyes looking skyward and his hands lifted up,

Johnson began to sing “How Great Thou Art” as if his only audience were God Himself. He was loud and off-key. But Smith and Buford had never heard anything more beautiful. They couldn’t help but join in. When they finished, they thanked Johnson, hugged him and left.

At the next elders and deacons meeting, brothers Smith and Buford reported they thought it might be a better idea if they had Johnson teach the complainers how to sing more appropriately. 

Toying with Deception

By Kris Vilander

It is not unusual for those that reject the truth of Scripture to suggest, “All those animals simply could not fit into Noah’s ark—it HAS to be fiction!” And I have to admit that to some degree early on, it was disturbing to me.

It wasn’t until much later, when we were home educating our children and required them to outline the real dimensions of the ark—at least 450’ long, 75’ wide, and 45’ (three stories) high—that I understood just how much space God gave Noah. I already knew the dimensions, because I had read them many times before—but the only visualizations I had came from childhood, such as the toy that looked like a fishing boat outfitted

with a shack on the deck, and filled with huge animals (still available today at Wal-Mart, minus references to Noah or a flood). Interestingly, a toy that was meant to familiarize me with God’s word actually became a cause for doubt!

The “Ark Encounter” in Kentucky is a full scale replica, designed to demonstrate the believability of the Genesis account. One of the displays uses a series of panels in the context of a wall of books and toys to consider this very real issue—and they call it, “the 7 D’s of Deception.”

“Disregarding God’s Word: *The Bible explains that the size of the Ark was 300 x 50 x 30 cubits. Using artistic license and stylizing the Ark is not*

necessarily sinful, but these cute arks drastically distort Scripture and make the account look like a fairy tale.”

“Distorting the Message: *Fairy tale ark stories often focus on cute animals on a fun boat ride. But the flood account is about the righteous and holy God judging an exceedingly sinful world with a cataclysmic Flood while showing mercy to Noah’s family and the animals.”*

“Deceptively Cute: *Many of the fairy tale arks are extremely cute and were surely drawn with good intentions. However, cute things are not necessarily innocent or harmless, and good intentions can lead to disastrous consequences.”*

“Discrediting the Truth: *Many atheists and other skeptics love to use fairy tale arks to mock the Bible. Christians should be defending the truth of God’s Word against skeptical attacks rather than providing ammunition to the enemies of our Lord.”*

“Destructive for All Ages: *The cute fairy tale arks are not only marketed to children; thousands of items featuring whimsical arks have been made for adults too. The abundance of these fanciful objects attacks the truthfulness of scripture.”*

“Disorienting the Reader: *Some*


children’s books send mixed messages by citing the Biblical dimensions of the Ark while displaying an image of a fairy tale ark. Presenting contradictory information confuses readers rather than properly instructing them.”

“Defaming God’s Character: *By treating Noah’s Ark and the Flood as fairy tales rather than sobering reminders of divine judgment on a sin-filled world, these storybooks frequently trivialize the Lord’s righteous and holy character.”*

There are some—perhaps many—that would argue that this is not really a big deal; “We are talking toys and children’s books!”

Two final panels illustrate the seriousness of this well-meaning but unfortunate thinking, the first of which is surrounded by a sinister three dimensional serpent (a reminder of our age old enemy, Gen 3:1; 1 Pet 5:8): “If I can convince you that the flood was not real, then I can convince you that Heaven and Hell are not real.”

The final panel merely notes, “And everyone died except the 8 people in the ark. Genesis 7:23.”

Brethren, how we train our children is a big deal. 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to remember the McNatt’s brother-in-law, **Mark Horton**; as well as our sister, **Joyce**.

Also, don’t forget **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Tim and Dot Hice**. 