

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

“...‘THE NAME OF
 GOD IS BLASPHEMED
 AMONG THE
 GENTILES BECAUSE
 OF YOU,’ just as it is
 written.”

— Romans 2:24

**Servants during April:**

Songleader: Larry (3), David (10),
 Peter (17), Stanley (24)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Peter, David, Robert, Marty

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (6), Larry (13),
 Stanley (20), Kris (27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (3),
 Marty (10), Stanley (17), Larry (24)

Area Meetings: Gooch Lane Singing (1);
 Gooch Lane, 3pm (3,10,17,24);
 Eastside, Red Bay (3-8);
 Jordan Park, (3-7);
 Helton Drive, (3-7)

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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“Christian” Propaganda?

By Kris Vilander

A lot of folks are concerned about propaganda being spread regarding the war in Ukraine. Well, the definition of propaganda is, “ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one’s cause or to damage an opposing cause,” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed*). It deals with agenda, not necessarily the truth of a matter—and not necessarily the agenda of the one forwarding the information: one can spread propaganda without intending to be a propagandizer. The fact is that social media has made it easy for well-meaning but ill-informed folks to forward stories about Ukraine that may or may not be entirely true, and photos or videos that may or may not be associated with this war at all—is it propaganda? Not all, but surely some of it would fit this definition.

I was reminded lately of an e-mail that was forwarded to me some years ago by another Christian; and although I know they meant it to encourage, the story it told was entirely false: someone had found Joshua’s “lost day.”

The report was said to be recently related by a Mr. Harold Hill, supposed president of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and consultant for

the NASA space program. While performing routine date calculations to determine potential satellite orbits, NASA’s computer suddenly failed; the failure was found to be due to a day apparently missing. Not to worry; an employee that was a Christian provided the data needed to account for the error: 23 hours and 20 minutes (about a day) from Joshua chapter 10, plus another 40 minutes (10 degrees) from 2 Kings 20—all told, twenty-four hours, or a full day.

It turned out that the story was anything *but* recent: I got an e-mail in 1998, but the story had been circulating before 1970—almost 30 years! Several publications have been named as its source, including many church’s bulletins and several newspapers (in different states). After an article was published in the “Bible-Science Newsletter” in April of 1970, several readers wrote to Mr. Hill, in care of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland; but the letters were returned stating that there was no such company in Baltimore. Another article was written in the July 1989 issue of the “Bible-Science Newsletter” referencing the previous article, stating that eventually some did receive a response: a

form letter from Mr. Hill stating that he did not write the original article. Apparently one reader was able to personally contact Mr. Hill, and found that Hill disavowed the article as written, and could not remember where he received the information the article was based upon. The same "Bible-Science Newsletter" reports that the NASA office in question knew nothing of Mr. Hill, and were unable to corroborate the "missing day" story. The entire sordid saga is covered in an article still available in "Reason & Revelation," May, 1991.

Sadly, the premise upon which the tale was based (the computer "finding" a day to be missing) is not technically possible. Not only would we have to have accurate data concerning both the date and the hour of (preferably) several astronomical occurrences, both before and after Joshua's battle and Hezekiah's sign from the Lord; we would have to have a reliable way to correspond the calendar and clock of the peoples recording the event to our own—and we simply do not have this data available. Nor would NASA use it, even if it were

available, to track potential satellite orbits.

Consider this, brethren: when a story today regarding Ukraine is revealed as false or hyperbole, it undermines the cause of the Ukrainian people. The same is true of any unreliable story we pass along—such as the "NASA discovers Joshua's lost day" account—regardless of how well-meaning we may be. Christians lose credibility in the eyes of the unbeliever, and God's name is subject to blasphemy, Rom 2:24.

Propaganda is often based in exaggeration or lies—but not always. If I understand the definition, the key is that what is said is "spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause." If we are going to be accused of spreading propaganda, let it be for spreading the truth in the cause of Christ in our war against Satan. If we want to support God's word with extra-biblical information, use the vast amount of real evidence available: scientific, archeological, bibliographical, etc... But, remember, it is the gospel that is the power of God for salvation, Rom 1:16,17.



The Commitment of the First Christians

By Jim Haynes

As a church, our goal is to follow the New Testament pattern, not just concerning the worship and work of the church, but also concerning the depth of commitment the individual Christians made to Christ. Consider the following examples...

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to sell your home and possessions and put the proceeds in the collection plate on Sunday morning? In Acts 4 we read of a man named Joses who sold his land and laid it at the apostles' feet. Why? His brethren were in need! If a necessary

situation arose today, we should do it.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING never to again eat meat if doing so hindered another man from being a Christian? The Apostle Paul said, "If food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat," 1 Cor 8:13. Eating meat is not an issue today, but what if it was? Would you be willing to give it up for the sake of another's soul? Are you willing to give up other things you enjoy?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to go to the house of the most feared anti-Christian militant in town and ask if he needs help understanding Jesus? In Acts 9 we read about a man named Ananias who was told to do just that. He was reluctant at first, but with the Lord's encouragement he went and talked to Saul of Tarsus about the gospel.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to let your son join a preaching tour that was facing constant, violent opposition? How would you feel if during a recent visit to your own city, one of the preachers had been stoned and left for dead, and now your son wants to join up? Evidently Eunice, the mother of Timothy, had to make that decision, Acts 14:19.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to say to the police, "I must obey God rather than men"? In Acts 5 Peter and other apostles had been brought before the council and

asked why, in spite of being commanded to never again preach in the name of Jesus, they continued to do so. Peter said, "We must obey God rather than men." Persecution was a real experience for the first Christians.

What if one of our number had recently been executed because he was a Christian, and the others were being taken to prison. The suggestion is made to call the church together to pray. *WOULD YOU BE WILLING* to host that meeting in your home? In Acts 12 we read of a woman named Mary who was willing to do that!

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to take an unpopular stand against all of your friends and associates because you believe that is what God wanted you to do? In Acts 10 and 11 we read about Peter's willingness to go to a Gentile household, talk to them about the gospel, and finally to baptize them into Christ. His attitude was "who was I that I could withstand God?"

Why did these people do these things? This is the impact a genuine faith in Jesus will have on our life. Have we truly restored the zeal and commitment of the New Testament church?

—Edited, via the **Boston Street Bulletin**, 11/24/91

Remember in Prayer

Carolyn's nephew, **Rusty Griffin**, had his second biopsy of a mass in his lung; both have come back negative for cancer—now he must go to a specialist in infections.

The **Beddingfield's** and **Emerson's** often suffer health issues, also; pray for them. **Carolyn's** doctor finally cleared her after having removed a cyst from her

larynx some time ago. **Joyce** continues to deal with her cancer; **Dot** struggles with her health as well.

Please continue to pray for those affected by the war, as well as the leaders of nations, particularly in Russia, Ukraine, and our own, 1 Tim 2:1,2; and persecuted brethren throughout the world, 1 Thess 1:2,3,6.