

MARKET STREET

"And this the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612

Volume I

January 18, 2009

No. 3

One Hundred People

Ed Harrell

In a recent book, historian Leo Braudy estimated that the average person in medieval society saw only about one hundred other people in the duration of his or her lifetime. That statement astonished me. When I ran it past two of my historian friends who teach courses on the middle ages, they gave me another tidbit. The average person during those centuries never journeyed more than ten miles from home.

These pieces of historical trivia pretty well destroy romantic notions of chivalry and courtly elegance. Throughout most of human history, life has been grim, provincial and short.

Think of the problems of living in such a society. How did you find someone to marry? Of the one hundred people encountered by the average person, half were probably kinsmen. Half of the remainder would be of the same sex, and no more than a quarter of the rest would be near your age. That leaves five or six girls for the average boy to choose from. What if they were all homely? Maybe you would have to marry your cousin, as people frequently did.

Thinking on the harshness of medieval life should cause us to reflect on modern opportunities. I know thousands of people, perhaps tens of thousands. In some hours of some days I encounter hundreds. The same is true of most modern people.

We live in the most mobile time in history. I can remember preaching to farmers in the rural churches of Middle Tennessee who had never left the county of their birth. But I have not had that experience lately. Most everyone has traveled to the next county, and the state beyond, and the state beyond that. Many have visited foreign nations.

Such thoughts highlight our opportunities and responsibilities. I remember thirty years ago going through Harold Dowdy's card file where he kept a hundred names all the time of people that he was trying to teach the gospel. And I know of churches today that are teaching several hundred people at a time through correspondence courses and

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty Adams(256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand(256) 233-7343
Tim Craig(256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire(256) 232-7887
Frank Noblitt(256) 777-0725
Stuart Wilson(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910
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MarketStreet-church.org

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

home studies. It is possible today to be acquainted with Christians in many lands. In just a few hours, one can go places that would have taken weeks only a hundred years ago.

I have wondered lately what a medieval Christian would have thought when he read the Great Commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). In the profound personal confinement of the middle ages, could one even imagine the dimensions of that command?

Surely no generation in history has been better able to comprehend the Great Commission. "All the world" and "every creature" are a part of our consciousness. We know they are there, and, within certain limits, we have access to the world and its creatures. It is fitting that good men in our time show a growing concern about taking the gospel to other lands.

In some ways, however, our world is not so different from that of the middle ages. While we encounter thousands of people during our lives, we do not deeply influence many. One hundred might be a good number to keep in mind. If you come truly to know that many people, if you can share with them the things that you deeply believe, that probably will be a productive lifetime's work.

Technology, modern communications and transportation rightly set our minds to soaring about the contemporary potential to spread the good news. On the other hand, your life, like the lives of medieval people, is made up of a few years composed of twenty-four hour days. You will fill it up with one personal encounter after another. Live life wisely. Make those personal relations worth something. If you significantly touch one hundred lives, you will have done pretty well.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN – 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

The Power of Influence

(Matthew 5:13-16)

Kyle D. Massengale

Being a good manager of what God has given you is called "stewardship." One of the primary things that we have the responsibility to manage for God is our ability of getting others to follow Christ. Everyone has influence. "You are the salt of the earth." What is your influence like? A mother took her young son shopping. After a day in the stores, a clerk handed the little boy a lollipop. "What do you say?", the mother said to the boy, to which he replied, "Just put it on my credit card!" Like it or not that mom had influenced that little boy by her actions in his presence.

Leadership principles – To influence people in the right direction:

1. Make a decision to lead others in the right direction. (vs 13). "You are the salt of the earth..." One of the remarkable things about salt is that it preserves things. If you salt meat, it will last a lot longer and still be good. If you want to influence others, you've got to make a decision what kind of influence you're going to be. Have you ever noticed that it's easy to be good when you're with some people? Have you noticed that it's easy to be bad with others? What direction have you chosen to influence? Are you an influence that prevents decay and rot in others, or do you go right along with it?

2. Get close to those you want to influence. (vs. 13) "You are the salt of the earth..." Salt doesn't do you any good sitting on your table in your saltshaker. It's got to get out of the saltshaker, and onto the food to make it taste better. In the same way, it's difficult to influence people from a distance. You've got to get out of your little world, and into theirs to influence them. Today, people are saying, "Don't **tell** me - **show** me!" Here's what I know about influencing others...if you try to **tell** people what's right, they won't listen. If you get into their lives and **show** them, they'll hear you!

3. Be a strong Christian (vs. 13) "but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." The starting point for influencing others is not what you **do**, but what you **are!** "Halfway" Christians don't influence anyone like they could. They

end up **being** influenced by everyone else. That's like salt that lost its flavor – it's not worth anything. Jesus said, "You might as well throw it in the trash can." So if you want to influence your family, friends, co-workers, children, etc., you've got to stay close to God – talk to Him daily, read and study His word daily, and obey Him in everything.

4. Realize that your life is on display. (vs. 14) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." What does light do? It shows the way. To influence others, you've got to show them the way to go! You know that your life is always on display. If your life is one of a real Christian, you are the glow that lights up the night and you can't hide that! Is your life making the darkness deeper, or spreading the light?

5. Have strong beliefs, and state them boldly. (vs. 15) "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house." What Jesus is saying here is very simple: Light was meant to be seen! How silly it is for you to turn on a lamp, and then put it under something that blocks its' light. In the same way, how silly it is for you to live a Christian life, but never make those beliefs known. Jesus did not say, "You are the light of the church." He said, "You are the light of the world." That means it's not just important when you walk through those doors into this church that your life spread light...it's most important when you walk back **out** those doors! What are you doing with the light of your life? Are you hiding it, or is it a part of what you are everywhere you go?

-via *The Reminder*; Birmingham, Alabama.



O Wretched Man

Bill Robinson, Jr.

The horrors of sin are as incalculable as they are unfortunate. When the Bible speaks of the wages of sin as death (Romans 6:23) it speaks of a wretched condition.

Sin is never committed in a vacuum; nor are its

consequences controllable. Even worse, we cannot extricate ourselves from our sins. If we should be able to keep them hid from human sight, we cannot hide from God and conscience. Where shall we go? As Augustine noted, "at times a man's slave, worn out by the commands of an unfeeling master, finds rest in flight. Whither can the servant flee? Himself he carries with him wherever he flees. An evil conscience flees not from itself; it has no place to go to; it follows itself. Yea he cannot withdraw from himself, for the sin he commits is within. He has committed sin to obtain some bodily pleasure. The pleasure passes away; the sin remains. What delighted is gone; the sting has remained behind. Evil bondage!" Yet, even if we could flee from our conscience when we sin, the Psalmist raised the most penetrating question of all regarding sin, with respect to Jehovah, when he asked, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:7; cf. Jeremiah 23:24).

In spite of the terrors of our sin we can be filled with gratitude to the resounding praise of God, "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God; through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25). Christ is our only hope! Why not follow Him and be saved (John 6:66-69; Hebrews 5:8-9; Luke 6:46; Mark 16:15-16).

-via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Lifford Abernathy; Hillside Hospital, Pulaski, Tenn.
Mike Sherbert, son of Wendell & Yvonne; UAB

At Home:

Wendell Sherbert	Margaret Vaughn
Jerry Gilbert	Hazel Toone
Carl Hargrave	Leigh Ann McGlocklin
Robert Beasley	Mot Beasley
Gladys Johnson	Janet Berryhill
Martin Casteel	Peggy Taylor
Jeff Waddell	Kennedy Pepper
Uyles Reed	Ashley Beasley
Doris Reed	Janet Goosen
Virginia Lovell	Angela Green

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 108 Jerry Tucker rm. 99
Rosella Pugh, rm. 33 Mary Smith, rm 85
J.D. Clanton, 11E

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17
Mae Alesi, rm. 35

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens , rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Clara Lewis, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Mauvis Phillips, at home
Majorie Lambert, at home
Fred Varnell, at home
Ellis Dunnivant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that away serving in the military for our country. Those among us that are serving away from home:

Cody Brown; Iraq

MARKET STREET WEBSITE: The Market Street website is now up and running. Take some time to visit the site and let us know what you think. The site is still in a period of construction with many things planned for the future. The web address is:

MarketStreet-church.org

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill will be this afternoon at 4:30 in the small on auditorium. I hope that all of our children will plan to be present.

DUTY ROSTERS: The duty rosters have been placed on the tables in the foyers as you come into the building. Be sure to get a duty roster and fill it out and turn it in to **Rusty Brand** or **Joel Hamm**.

OUT OF TOWN: **Ida Nell Griffin** is on a trip with a group that Ferrell Jenkins is taking to the Palestine area. Let remember her and pray for their safe journey.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of January 11th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 136
Morning Worship 141
Evening Worship 117

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 95

Remember the Children's Bible Drill at 4:30 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Steve Bradley
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marion Mitchell
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Danny Johnson
..... Russ Wulfekuhl..... Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching Rusty Brand
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday January 18th:

Usher Rusty Brand
Work Sound System Frank Noblitt

Wednesday, January 21st:

Song Leader Frank Noblitt
Bible Reading (Proverbs 5:1-14)
..... Marty Adams
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Albert Bowers

Sunday, January 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Steve Bradley
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Albert Bowers
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Delmer Carter..... Larry Mitchell
..... Marvin Putman..... Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Albert Bowers
Closing Prayer Tim Craig

Other Assignments for Sunday January 25th:

Usher David Terry
Work Sound System Danny Johnson