

The Last

by Wayne Goff

I love writing. It was something I had to learn to do after I began preaching. But I've always had a bulletin of one kind or another everywhere I have preached. In Yellville, Arkansas, I called it "Sound Words" (2 Timothy 1:13). In Morrilton, Arkansas I called it "Gospel Shield" (Ephesians 6:16). In Searcy, Arkansas I called it "Pillars of Truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). In Kilgore, Texas I called it "Grace & Peace" (Romans 1:7; et.al.). Here at the Roanridge Church of Christ, I simply followed the name of the existing bulletin "Roanridge Reader" which was the name Bill Sexton, the previous preacher, gave it. It takes a lot of work to produce a bulletin, but I must say that computers and color copiers have certainly made the task easier! Let me thank the elders and the church here for supporting this work by leasing the copier. God bless you!

How many people read this paper? Probably not very many. We do e-mail out a .pdf copy of the bulletin now. Some have said they do not pick up a paper copy because they just read the electronic version of it. I do e-mail a number of copies out to a couple of fellow preachers, some family, and friends.

This is the last issue of **Roanridge Reader** that I will be editing. Our new evangelist, Andrew Jonas, will be doing any future bulletins.

"Retirement" is not a biblical word. Jeremiah tried to retire(?) I suppose, **Jeremiah 20:9**. Elijah was retired by the Lord after his conflict with Jezebel (**1 Kings 19:16**). The apostles all "retired" by martyrdom, except for John. He was banished to the Isle of Patmos for a time and still wrote the book of Revelation!

Preachers see the word "retirement" and think "he quit" or "he gave up his calling." Preaching isn't what a preacher does, it's who he is! So how do you retire from that? In reality, I'm taking a "Sabbatical." I won't be the "paid" preacher at this congregation any longer. But I'm excited about "the next chapter" in my life and the hoped for "freedom" it affords. I can preach by appointment anywhere I might be invited. I can teach individuals or small groups in my home. I am not retiring from serving the Lord. But I am taking a break for now. Hopefully for about six months.

I do plan on putting out an electronic bulletin which I can e-mail to those who want to read it. If you're interested, then please send me your e-mail address and I'll add it to the group list.

"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" - Acts 20:32.

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