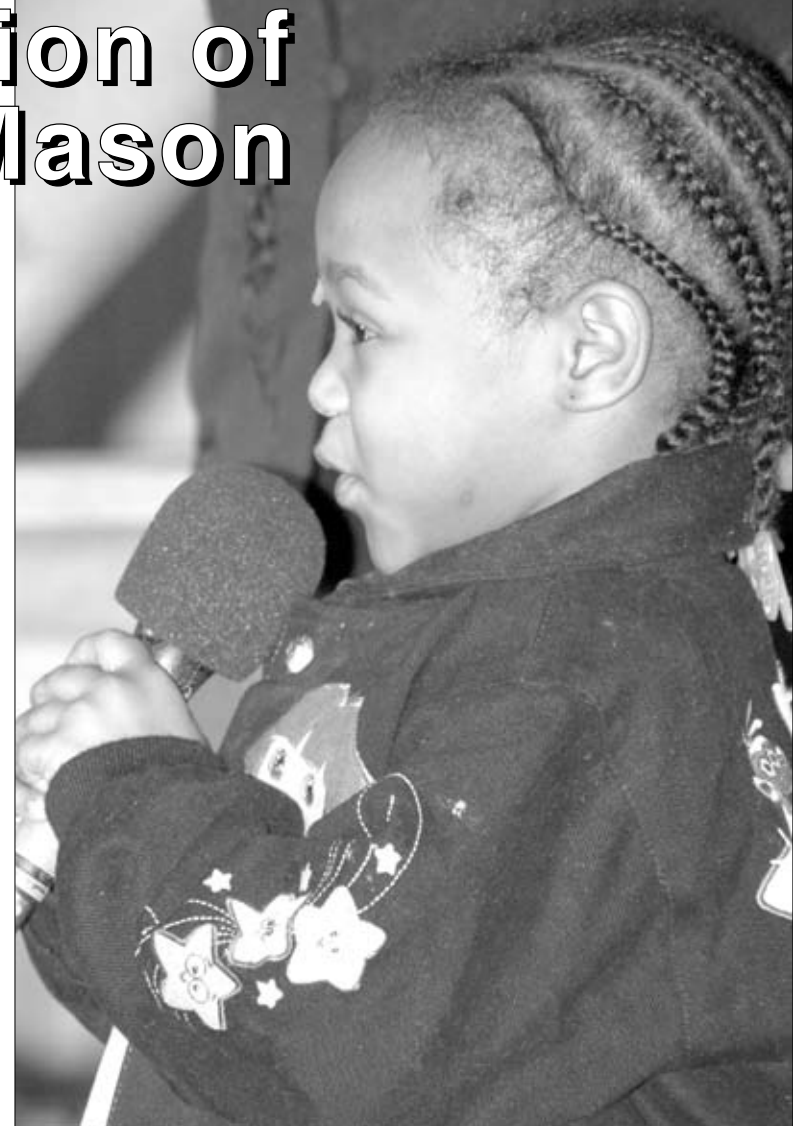
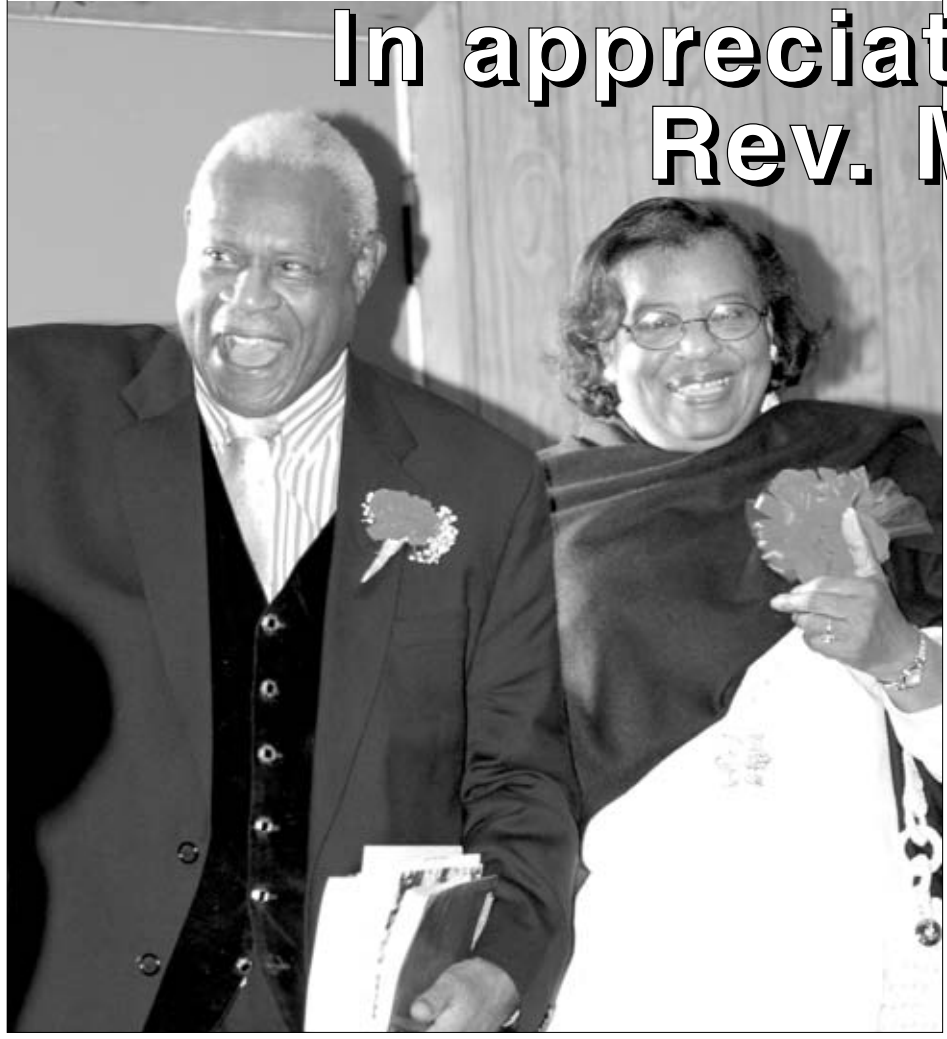


Faith

In appreciation of Rev. Mason



Choctaw Sun photos by Dee Ann Campbell
A crowd of supporters turned out on Sunday afternoon to say 'thank you' and 'happy birthday' to Rev. Joseph Mason during his First Radio Appreciation Day and 78th Birthday Celebration at St. Mary United Methodist Church in Lavaca. Rev. Mason has been sharing the gospel through his daily radio ministry on WPRN 107.7 since June, 2002, and regularly reaches hundreds of listeners each day.

Little Miss Asia sang Happy Birthday to Rev. Mason, while others gave testimony to what his radio ministry has meant to them through the years.

Well-known evangelist to led Mosley Bridge revival

By Janice Brown
Mosley Bridge MC

MOSLEY BRIDGE -- Pastor Hal Daigre will lead the Mosley Bridge Congregational Methodist Church in revival services from February 4th - 7th. Pastor Daigre is a sought-after evangelist who has a heart to pastor and a desire to see people saved and filled with the spirit of God. Pastor Diagre's church has grown from 19 members to well over 250 in the 20 years he has served there. We at Mosley Bridge Church would love for you to join us in revival. It is God's will to revive our hearts not only during our week of revival, but in our daily walk with Christ. Come join us at Mosley Bridge Church as we worship the Lord God Almighty in spirit and in truth. It is our prayer that you are touched by the presence of God and you experience His miracle working power. Pastor Daigre will lead us Sunday, Feb. 4th at 11 a.m. with lunch served immediately following. Sunday evening service will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday services will begin at 7 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us despite race, gender, denomination, or where you are in life. We are called to love one another with the love of Christ, which is unconditional. If you are in need of transportation to our church for revival or any of our worship services, please call one of the following numbers. If no answer, please leave your name and phone number: 205-459-2536, 601-398-7446 or 205-843-5125.

Warmed by glowing embers

By Mel Ann Sullivan
Guest columnist

Principal Question: What four ways do we keep the Spirit's embers burning?

Daily Delight: Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. I Thess. 5:19-22.

As the temperature rises in the story, Luke's account of Peter's denial is preferred for today's study. Please read Luke 22:54-63. Even though Peter followed at a distance, he was following. Comfortable but costly, following at a distance can make us distant followers. I'm convinced it is the last thing Peter wanted to do, become distant and detached from his Lord.

As soon as they seized Jesus and led Him away, we see Peter lagging behind. We can be tempted to judge Peter more harshly than the others. By the way, where are they?

If you had been one of the disciples, fear gripping you, would you have been more likely to deny or hide? You and I have no idea how we might respond in a precarious predicament like this, a real threat in every way. We live in what's known as the Bible belt, where professing your faith is acceptable. In our workplace, most of the employees are Christians. Praying before group meals and meetings is not only a tradition, it's preferred. Though that may

change one day for our company, many Christians already live in eminent danger.

Deny or hide. Neither choice is good. Perhaps following at a distance was the only thing Peter knew to do. Not wanting Christ's words to be true, he still feared for his life. To his credit, he went further than the rest as he stepped into the courtyard of the high priest's house. You and I might have done the same thing, just slip into the crowd hovering close by to stay in the know.

Then, the moment of recognition comes. As Peter warms by the fire, its glowing embers reveal his identity to those who are close by. Verse 56 says that the servant girl looked closely at him. We'd be good Christians if people weren't looking so closely. Figuratively, Peter was standing too close to the fire and the temperature was rising in his life. By this time, the embers weren't the only cause for the flush face of this passionate follower, standing alone in the courtyard. Who is looking closely at your life? As they look intently into your life, they see something. It's either the glow of a fire from Christ in us or the glow from the world's fire as we stand close enough to blend in and stay warm. It's plain for even a servant girl to see the difference. Just as Peter was speaking, the rooster crowed. Some accounts indicate that upon hearing the rooster crow, Peter remembered the

words of the Lord. But Luke records more detail. What does Luke 22:61 say happened next? Have you ever felt the Lord turn and look straight at you, and then you remembered the word the Lord had spoken to you?

Read Hebrews 4:12-13. As sharply as it slices, we want the word of the Lord to judge us rather than others. It's exploratory surgery of the best kind. A pure sword can cut into our hearts and make them pure. Only Jesus knew the heart of His friend.

As we close, Luke 22:62 tells the end of the denial. Why do you think Peter wept bitterly? Like me, perhaps you've wept bitterly a few times. Though bitter to us, these tears are sweet to the Lord. What does Psalm 51:17 say good about a heart in this state.

The Lord requires a heart like this before He can turn that heart back to Himself. There, at the brokenness, Peter wept bitterly because what he said would never happen, happened. Terribly disappointed and saddened, Peter probably wanted to die. Just as Christ gave Himself in death, He wants us to die to ourselves so that He can live through us. In Christ, embers of the Spirit's fire burn, but we must keep vigil that the smoldering ashes of our sinful nature are not easily fanned to flames again. I Thessalonians 5:19-22 tells us how to keep the Spirit's embers burning in our lives.

The true intent of the Golden Rule

By Dan Nixon
First UMC, Butler

Jesus said, "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12) Most interpret this "Golden Rule" as "Treat others the way you want to be treated." In the book Chicken Soup for the Soul, by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, there is an article by an unknown author entitled "Golden Rules for Living". It states: "If you open it, close it. If you turn it on, turn it off. If you unlock it, lock it up. If you break it, admit it. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can. If you borrow it, return it. If you value it, take care of it. If you make a mess, clean it up. If you move it, put it back. If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it, get permission. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. If it will brighten someone's day, say it. If it will tarnish someone's reputation, keep it to yourself."

When Jesus stated his "Golden Rule," He meant for each of us to do much more than to treat others the way we want to be treated. Notice the last part of Matthew 7:12; "for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." The "Law and Prophets" is the Old Testament. If the Bible could be summarized into one short concise statement it would be this; "for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His son into

the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him," John 3:16-17.

In order for God to fulfill His own "Golden Rule", He had to be aware of the fact that the world needed to be saved. God had to have the concerns of humanity on His heart and in His plans. God did not say, "I want the world to love me, so I will treat them as if I loved them so they will love me back." No, God saw humanity lost in sin, bound for eternal darkness and in need of a Savior. Because of His love for us He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. In the same way, it is out of our love for God that we treat our neighbor with love, kindness, mercy and respect. "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you ..." answers the question "How can I express God's love to those around me?"

The "Golden Rule" is the means through which we can examine our relationship with God and our relationships with others. If we look at the "Golden Rule" only as a rule or code of conduct, we have not understood its true intent.

Looking for a church home? Black Creek Baptist Church has open doors! Come join us this Sunday at 11 a.m.

Revival
Mosley Bridge Congregational Methodist Church
February 4-7
Sunday services -- 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Monday through Wednesday evenings -- 7 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m
Everyone is welcome

Got news from YOUR church? Send it to the Sun!

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