



# Faith

## Moody Radio raises record amount during Share 2007 fundraiser

DIXONS MILLS — Moody Radio South with stations in Dixons Mills and Tuscaloosa, AL, and Forest, MS, reached their goal of \$245,000 in the annual "SHARE" fund-raiser last week.

Rob Moore, Station Manager of the three-station group, said the stations received a total of \$245,531 in 1,299 gifts.

"This is a record year for us in terms of donations and givers," Moore said.

The stations are non-profit, non-commercial stations owned by the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

Moore thanked all of those who gave, plus the many volunteers that helped and those that provided food and drinks during the event.

## Remembering what really matters

By Rev Arthur Hudson  
Guest Columnist

Recently I returned to Mobile for a visit with my parents and brother for a few days. Having grown up in Mobile in the 1960's, I often went to Mardi Gras parades with my family. Since neither of my parents were drinkers of alcohol, we went to the parades strictly as a fun family outing.

I look at such gatherings as an opportunity to see people as they really

are. After all, Jesus ministered to the woman who had the issue of blood on a crowded city street. When the woman touched the hem of Jesus' garment she was instantly healed (Mark 5:29).

I had not been to a Mardi Gras parade in Mobile for many, many years and I took advantage of the opportunity to go on Mardi Gras Day.

I parked my car about two miles from downtown and walked to Broad Street, the place where my father would

often hold me on his shoulders when I was a little boy.

When I arrived on Broad Street, the parade left me empty. Yes, there were thousands of people near me, but since I was by myself there was no opportunity for me to enjoy myself with family or friends. After about 15 minutes I left.

Immediately afterwards, I went to the nursing home where my 82-year old father currently lives. My father has Alzheimer's disease

and is confined to a wheel chair. Upon arriving, I was greatly surprised to see an old friend who I rarely see. As we talked I learned that he had just placed his 91-year old mother in the same nursing home where my father lives.

It turned out to be the highlight of my trip. God showed up in an unexpected way as He so often does! It was indeed the highlight of my trip to Mobile, to see an old friend and to talk about what really mattered.

## Presenting a credible testimony

By Dan Nixon  
First UMC, Butler

BUTLER -- What kind of lives should Christians live in order to present a credible testimony to the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord and the Savior of the World? John Wesley, in organizing what later became known as "Methodism", set down certain rules for members of the movement he formed. These rules are:

Christians must give "evidence of their desire for salvation." "First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced ..." Jesus Christ did "no harm". Jesus did not take the Lord's name in vain or profane the day of the Lord. Jesus did not get drunk, fight, quarrel, take people to court, and did not engage in uncharitable or unprofitable conversation.

Jesus, did not "cuss out" his neighbor, steal from him or do him bodily injury. To the contrary, Jesus kept his own golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them to unto you." Jesus

did not do anything that did not bring glory to God. Jesus did not do anything to cause those around him to doubt his mission, his testimony or to take glory away from God. Christians are to do the same.

"Secondly: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible to all ..." Here is the other side of the coin, not only are Christians to do no harm, they are to do good. What good is to be done? Physically, as far as it is possible, Christians are to give food to the hungry, cloth the naked, visit those in prison and those who are sick. Spiritually, Christians are to instruct, correct, and urge everyone to comprehend and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To the household of faith, the people of God are to help each member in their walk of faith and by supporting each other in business, trading with them, and employing them. Christians are to deny themselves and take up their cross daily by

being willing to take on any persecution that comes from being a Christian.

"Thirdly: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are: The public worship of God. The ministry of the Word either read or expounded upon, the Supper of the Lord, family and private prayer, (and) Searching the Scripture." This is where believers "work out their own salvation." The first two exhibits of the Christians "desire for salvation" deal with conduct toward society. The third "exhibition of the desire for salvation" is on a more personal level. Disciples of Jesus cannot grow in Christ without personal spiritual development. They cannot feed others while they, themselves are starving to death. A Christians can not help others "work out their salvation" when they are not working on their own.

These are the standards established by the Bible and incorporated by John Wesley for all Methodists. If these standards sound reasonable to you, come join in our worship.

## Is religion losing its influence?

By Roy Henry, Associate Minister  
Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church, Silas

SILAS -- What happened to the Christian Church? In my mind I can go back to when I was a child. The saints, they just didn't look like saints, they were saints. I mean they were on their jobs. They lived the life a saint was suppose to. If someone in the church or the community got sick, you could just call on one of the elders in the church and they would come and labor with you, not just in the church but at your home also. Back then you didn't see so many ungodly sins.

Face the fact, many churches have changed their style, some proclaim themselves as (non-judgmental), giving the idea that God accepts any type of conduct. They offer entertainment, excitement and even have dance classes to attract the youth, rather than obey the instructions of the word of God. WAKE UP SAINTS! It's not going to

work. If God's word doesn't change you, nothing else will. Man is always trying to find an easier way out....guess what (IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK) The Bible says man shall become lovers of themselves. Don't get me wrong, all of this stuff happened back then too, but they were good at hiding it. Today people have lost their fear in God, and have lost their respect for the church. That's why we have to take back the respect for God's people again. Now they even sell things for personal reasons in God's house. God Is ANGRY Back then Jesus got so mad he overturned the tables.

WAKE UP SAINTS! Let's get back in God's word. Some church-goers see the changes as needed adaptations to the modern day world. Many sincere people wonder whether the churches are straying from the mission that Jesus gave. A true Christian shining in the darkness... Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the light and no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

## Is divorce a sin?

By Don and Wendy Francisco  
Brother of the Son Ministries

CEDAREDDGE, Colorado — It is impossible for all divorces to be automatically sinful because God Himself has been through divorce. That's right, check it out in Jeremiah 3:8: "Lo I had put her out and given her a certificate of divorce" ... He is speaking of Israel.

Whether you consider this a literal divorce or not, if ALL divorces were a sin, you can bet those words would never have escaped Him. There is no place in the Bible where God Himself states, "Lo I committed adultery with her", or "Lo I lied to her", or "Lo I cheated on her." That's because those things are sinful — all the time.

Both marriage and divorce can be sinful depending on the circumstances. In an absolutely perfect world, the union between a man and a woman would be perfectly initiated by God and there would not be any destructive forces tearing at the bond. Marriages would never break down.

But this isn't a perfect world and some marriages become so emotionally, spiritually, and/or physically destructive that divorce can be life saving. That is why it is dangerous to slap a guilt-load of critical legalism onto yourself or others.

The Bible does not forbid divorce, but God does call us to examine our hearts and to follow His specific leading. God wants us to live abundantly in His blessings. He will not entrap us, or force us to stay in our own traps to uphold an institution. The institutions of our loving God are never more important than the people within them. If He directs you to restore your marriage, then He has in mind a complete restoration of your relationship so that you can grow together and even exceed the love you had when you first met. Most marriages that fail do so for silly reasons when an attempt to reconcile would bring healing, health, joy, and strength.

God's idea of restoration is not just that you stay in the same house miserable just so that things look good on the outside. God's idea of a marriage is an active thing where

both people support, build, cherish, and nourish each other in Him. In fact, where exactly does the Bible say that marriage is an institution? If I had a choice between institutional food and a home cooked meal, I think I'd choose option "B". I would rather think of a marriage as an ongoing love relationship that is so deep that many ministries and much abundance springs from it.

Galatians states that we are no longer under law, but under grace. It is monumentally unhealthy to contend for a marriage on the basis that it is the legalistic and religiously correct thing to do. The greatest reason to contend for a marriage is that it is a love relationship. What we want is not so much to keep a marriage intact to outside appearances, but to genuinely heal the love. Then, we want to guard against that love being attacked and torn down again.

Churches should not be controlling people's decisions about marriage and divorce. Leaders should not be enforcing heavy loads of false doctrine that they have no part in carrying. As a Body, we should support our close friends and help each other make honest decisions. In troubled times, it's a good idea to get feedback from those who know us best and to seek God's leading. Ultimately the decisions are up to the individuals involved because they are the ones who will have to live out what they set up for themselves in the future.

(ED. NOTE: This is the first in a series on the topic of marriage and divorce by Don and Wendy Francisco, both internationally-known Christian singers/songwriters and Bible teachers. Their "Brother of the Son Ministries" is located in the Colorado Rockies, and readers can visit their website at [www.donfrancisco.com](http://www.donfrancisco.com). Don is the writer/performer of such classic Christian songs as "He's Alive!" All of their songs may be downloaded from the website. Readers may email Don and Wendy with comments at [cracknoon@earthlink.net](mailto:cracknoon@earthlink.net). We appreciate Don and Wendy giving permission for us to print their articles in the Sun — Tommy.)

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**KEEP, KEEP, KEEP THE PACE!**  
**- RUN THE RACE. KEEP THE PACE.**  
**KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!**

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