



Faith

Churches need godly leadership

By Rev. Roy Henry
Pleasant Chapel MBC

SILAS -- My brothers, sisters, and friends, I would like to share something with you. We are witnessing so many things that are going wrong in the church today, starting with the leadership.

The church takes on the personality of the pastor, that's why it's so important that our leaders have the filling of the Holy Sprit and seek God for guidance. Many members put their trust in their pastor. You look around and see so many leaders that are failing God.

I wondered why God called me into the ministry at the age of 44. Why did he wait so long? Then it dawned on me that God started calling out "emergency preachers". So I had to answer the "911" call, because so many leaders are failing God, but I thank God for choosing me. He knew I am bold enough to speak the truth and humble enough to live it. (ED. NOTE: Rev. Henry is also a Missionary who serves the Ala. Line Association.)



A time to unite in prayer



Choctaw Sun photos by Marcus Gates and Dee Ann Campbell

County observes National Day of Prayer

GILBERTOWN, BUTLER -- Local residents gathered at both ends of the county last Thursday in observance of the National Day of Prayer. ABOVE: Citizens gather in a circle to pray in front of Gilbertown Town Hall. ABOVE RIGHT: Rev. J.D. Weed delivers the NDP message at the Courthouse Square in Butler, and BELOW RIGHT: Probate Judge Dwayne May reads a proclamation naming May 4 as Choctaw County's Day of Prayer.



A mother's rules for raising kids

By Dan Nixon
First UMC, Butler

BUTLER -- Since Mother's Day is celebrated this Sunday, I thought this article would be appropriate. This article came from "Family of Destiny.com".

"One of the most terrific mothers of all time was Susannah Wesley. Susannah's father was a minister and she was born in England in 1669 as the youngest of twenty-five children! Susannah was married at 19 to Samuel Wesley, also a minister and, not to be outdone, she had nineteen children herself. Her husband was always gone for church meetings, planting, and revivals, so the responsibility of raising kids was hers. She always wanted to do big things for God but her biggest contribution was raising children to serve God. Her two sons, John and Charles Wesley, prac-

tically changed the world. John was the founder of the Methodist movement and Charles was the celebrated composer who was probably the finest hymn-writer, musician and composer of all-time in England. His songs included such classics for Easter as "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," for Christmas as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and for Sundays "Rejoice, the Lord is King."

With so many children, Susannah devised a way to spend time with them. She decided to spend one hour each day praying for her 19 children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. She also expected each child to be able to read the Book of Genesis by the time he or she was six years child.

Here are her famous 16 rules of raising children:

1. Eating between

meals not allowed.

2. As children they are to be in bed by 8 p.m.

3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.

4. Subdue self-will in a child, and those working together with God to save the child's soul.

5. To teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.

6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.

7. Give them nothing that they cry for, and only that when asked for politely.

8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented of.

9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.

10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.

11. Comment and reward good behavior.

12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly per-

formed, should be commended.

13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.

14. Strictly observe all promises.

15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.

16. Teach children to fear the rod."

I can't help but wonder what our society would be like today and in the future if every parent and grandparent lived by and enforced these 16 rules. Many would say "I don't have time to implement these rules." Or "Times have changed; these rules are too old fashioned."

Remember, Susannah Wesley had 19 children. She had no washer or dryer, no microwave, no car, and no grocery store to buy prepared foods.

She had the time because she made the time.



Pastor's 9th anniversary

SILAS -- Rev. Ennis Rankin celebrated 9 years in the ministry during a special event in his honor held at Shiloh Baptist Church on Sunday. Rankin is pictured with his wife.

Photo by Sherry Taylor

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See them next week in the SUN!