

Privileged to Serve

Guest Speaker.....Artie Collins
 (Bill Collins' dad)
 Announcements.....Randy Rives
 Song Leader.....Tom Fair
 Attendance.....Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer.....Al St. Clair
 Lord's Supper
 Charles Dooley * * Byron Madison
 Ethan Clopton * * Terry Dyer
 Closing Prayer.....Dwight Callens

Evening

Opening Prayer.....Dick Vinson
 Lord's Supper
 Charles Dooley * * Byron Madison
 Closing Prayer.....Shannon Finley

Communion to Shut-Ins

None at this time

Communion Preparation

Month of November.....Sandy Vinson
 Month of December.....Sara Dooley

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.

Elders

DWIGHT CALLENS.....(601) 527-7149
TOM FAIR.....(601) 681-8293

Deacons

ALBERT ST CLAIR.....(601) 626-7815

Preacher

BILL COLLINS.....(337) 515-2385

Works Supported

Robert Martin
 &
Stacey Ferguson
 South Pacific Missions

Pine Vale Children's Home
 Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	48
Sunday Morning Worship	90
Sunday Evening Worship	35
Wednesday Bible Study	28

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,893.86

*Figures Unavailable



November 15, 2015 ~ *Meridian Messenger* ~ *Welcome Visitors!*

Understanding the Soil

The truth of matter is that the only way to build up the church is to actively reach out—in word and deed—to the people that God places in our lives. While understanding the mission itself is not difficult, the reality is that seeking after the lost, the primary mission of the church, is an endeavor that is filled with many difficult questions. Why are some more receptive to the gospel of redemption than others? Why are some of those so initially receptive of the gospel also the fastest to fall away? Why are there some Christians that just never seem to mature in their faith? And most importantly; what is the best way for the church today to reach out in fulfillment of the mission to “make disciples of all nations?”

One of the most important KEYS to reaching the lost is for us to understand the nature of the hearts we are planting the seed of the gospel in. It is the failure to consider this information that inevitably leads to some of our greatest frustrations in the evangelistic process. If we first take the time to do a little soil analysis it will accomplish two important things. First, it will keep us from getting too discouraged when we are unsuccessful in reaching others. Second, it will show us what kind of preparation the soil needs before we plant the seed to begin with.

In the Parable of the Sower/Soils (Mt.13:1-8, 18-23) Jesus reveals that there are 4 basic soils/hearts into which the gospel seed can be sown. In reality, although it is often referred to as the Parable of the Sower, the parable is actually less about the sower of the seed than it is about the soil or heart into which the seed is sown. It is by understanding the nature of the soil/heart into which we are planting—who they are, where they are from and what their life experiences are—that we gain valuable insight into how best to reach that person.

With this in mind, Jesus again, says that there are four types of spiritual soil/hearts. There is first the Hard Heart which is represented by the wayside in the parable. This refers to the individual who, for whatever reason, is biased against the message of the gospel and the seed does not therefore penetrate their hearts and minds. This kind of person will be the hardest to reach and will require a lot of softening of the soil/heart first.

~continued inside~

A weekly publication of the *Meridian church of Christ*

2229 Highway 19 North ~ PO Box 3476 ~ Meridian, MS 39303-3476 ~ **Phone: (601) 482-5318**

www.meridianchurchofchrist.org ~ Email: churchofchristme@bellsouth.net