

Privileged to Serve

PreacherBill Collins
 Announcements.....Al St. Clair
 Song LeaderPaul Guy
 Attendance Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer Terry Dyer
 Lord's Supper

Presiding

* Charles Dooley

Assisting

Randy Rives * Tommy Beech
 Stan Raley * Gene Hurst

Closing Prayer Mike Cumberland

Evening

Opening Prayer.....Andy Duncan
 Lord's Supper

Randy Rives * Tommy Beech

Closing PrayerJack Mears

Communion Preparation

Month of October Cindy Harper

Month of November..... Sandy Vinson

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Evening Worship5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study6:00 p.m.

Elders

DWIGHT CALLENS (601) 527-7149

TOM FAIR..... (601) 681-8293

Deacons

LAMAR KING..... (601) 604-2656

BUILDING/GROUNDS

BYRON MADISON (601) 934-1213

YOUTH

RANDY RIVES (601) 513-4785

EDUCATION & WORSHIP

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 36

Sunday Morning Worship 72

Sunday Evening Worship 41

Wednesday Bible Study 40

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,303.00

Daily Bible Readers

Oct 16, 2016 22 = 30.55% of attendance

*Figures Unavailable



October 23, 2016 ~ Meridian Messenger ~ Welcome Visitors!

“He’s GONE!” ...But Where?

It was Saturday afternoon on May 1, 1971, when we landed in our small Cessna airplane on a private strip in Merryville, Louisiana. Coming out to meet us, as we walked from the plane, was Hubert Franks, an uncle, my Dad’s youngest brother. After more than 46 years, as we greeted each other, I can still hear his voice as he sadly stated, “He’s gone! He’s gone!” “...Gone....”

Now, I understood the word; I knew its meaning; but, I did not want to believe what I had just heard. It was, however, all too clear what he meant. What was slowly sinking in was that while we were flying from Yazoo City, Mississippi to Merryville, my dad had died. Now, he was gone. Somewhere.

Understandably, our immediate family was shaken and saddened. My earthly father, Lovis Franks, had suddenly departed this earthly life. Way too early! I thought. At the young age of 59. But, God knows best! Death had never gotten so close to home, to my heart. This time, it was my daddy, the man responsible for my life, my upbringing, and who had blessed my life immeasurably for 32 years. Now, he was gone.

He had met his appointment with death, just like the Bible says, “It is appointed unto all men once to die... (Heb. 9:27). Something within his physical frame, that had given him life, had departed. I know that his spirit had separated from his body; but, I didn’t really understand. Still don’t. But, as the Bible says, “...the body without the spirit is dead” (James 2:26). My father was dead; he was gone. But, where?

The Bible provides the needed and true answers to “Gone, But Where?” The Old Testament provides a few glimpses into what happens after death. For example, death is described in the writings of Solomon as “when man goes to his long home.” After death, Ecclesiastes chapter 12 continues, “Then shall the dust [body] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Verses 5,7). Not much is revealed in the verse; however, I do find it comforting to read that the “spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

In contrast to the Old Testament, a careful study of New Testament teachings provides, in much greater detail, information on what follows death. For instance, an inspired historian, Luke, recorded the teaching of Jesus where He related what, I believe evidence indicates, is an actual event. Jesus told the story of two “certain” men [Jesus said there was a “certain rich man.” He also said there was a “certain beggar...”]. Jesus even identified by name one of the men; i.e., Lazarus. (He was the beggar.) And, while the other man’s name is not given; yet, Jesus identified him as a “certain rich man.” Our Lord said that these two men lived and died. And, then Jesus clearly told where they both went after they were gone.

~continued inside~

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

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