

Privileged to Serve

Speaker Tom Fair
 Announcements/Prayer.....
 Song Leader..... Andy Duncan
 Attendance.....Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer
 Lord's Supper

*

*

Closing Prayer.....

Evening

Opening Prayer
 Lord's Supper

*

*

Closing Prayer.....

Communion Preparation

Month of June Rachel Wilkerson
 Month of July.....NEED VOLUNTEER

Nursery Attendant; Backup

June 14 Angela Duncan; Lara King
 June 21Glenda Rives; Brandie Madison

Wednesday Evening – June 10, 2020

Prayer/Announcements.....
 Song Leader.....
 Devotional.....

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

ANDY DUNCAN (662) 416-2222

TOM FAIR (601) 681-8298

Deacons

LAMAR KING (601) 604-2656
 BUILDING/GROUNDS

BYRON MADISON..... (601) 227-1374
 YOUTH

RANDY RIVES..... (601) 513-4785
 EDUCATION & WORSHIP

ALBERT ST. CLAIR (601) 626-7815

Works Supported

Robert Martin

Stacey Ferguson

South Pacific Missions

Pine Vale Children's Home

Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	cancelled
Sunday Morning Worship in-house	30
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	41
Sunday Evening Worship	*
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	*
Wednesday Bible Study	*

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,490.00

*Figures Unavailable



June 14, 2020

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

Believers & Thinkers

Ravi Zacharias, a prominent theist and defender of belief in God, recently died of cancer. Through his speaking and writing, he had challenged the thinking of the “new atheism”—the radical, aggressive form of atheism as seen through the speeches and writings of men like Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens (deceased) and Richard Dawkins.

At his death, a memorial service was held in his honor. During one of the tributes to Zacharias, the statement was made that he wanted to “make believers think and make thinkers believe.” That statement continues to resonate with me.

As I think of the goal to “make believers think” I am reminded of the ease of with which we sometimes carry within our minds the set of beliefs that we come to accept. I think of the time when a high school teacher walked in our classroom and challenged each of us to tell him why we believed in God. Each student stumbled in thought and speech as we tried to give a legitimate reason for our faith. The two most common answers (the first of which was really no answer at all, but was likely derived from the second) were: “because I have always believed in God” and “because my parents do and have taught me to do so.” He went on, during that year of study, to teach us reasons for believing.

The matter of belief cannot be simply passed down through generations, or passed off to acquaintances. Believing is a personal act which no one else can do for us. There are solid lines of evidence for us to believe and we should be able to articulate some of those reasons to those who seek to know why (1 Peter 3:15).

In the desire of attempting to “make thinkers believe,” there must be acknowledgement of the hard work of persuasion. Just as I mentioned above, I choose to believe or not to believe and I must own either decision. However, I can articulate my thoughts in such a way as to make clear my beliefs along with my desire for the other person to embrace those beliefs as well.

The one thing that must be in the forefront of the thoughts of a potential defender of one’s faith is consistency between belief and practice. Far too many unbelievers have been turned away, not by bad arguments, but by bad living on the part of the one who sought to persuade them.

In the words of another very wise speaker, “The adversary may answer my arguments, but he cannot answer my life.” (Jim Gardner, lecture, “Engaging Our Culture: How Paul Reached Others With God’s Message in Acts 17, 2/26/2018)

Lance Cordle ♦ The Encourager ♦ Calvert City Church of Christ, Calvert City, KY

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