

## NEWS

**Pat and Relda Marshall** made another trip the early part of last week to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston for her regular checkup. Seeing her doctors was delayed because of the flooding in Houston. They stayed an extra day and were able to get a procedure done that was scheduled for August. They came home Wednesday evening—**Stacy Rogers** is approaching time for her delivery, is not feeling well and was not in our service Wednesday night—**Enoch Waldrep** has been suffering from kidney stones recently and this has (continued on page 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 563-2977  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

### DEACONS:

**Ron Burns** 577-9978  
**Ricky Davis** 572-9428  
**Ken Ferguson** 572-4135  
**Pat Marshall** 572-9347

### SERVICES:

#### Sunday

**Bible Study** 9:45 AM  
**Worship** 10:30 AM  
**Worship** 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

**Ladies Class** 10:00 AM  
**Bible Study** 7:00 PM

### PREACHERS:

**Jared Rogers** 717-3788  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**June 7, 2015**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Pat Marshall

**Jerry Wildman**      **Ken Ferguson**  
**Chris Stone**        **Enoch Waldrep**

##### Sunday Evening

**Jerry Wildman**      **Ken Ferguson**  
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### PRAYERS

**Sun. AM—Thomas Hockaday (Opening)**  
—Tom Davis (Closing)  
**PM—Kenneth Amerson (Opening)**  
—Colton Fulmer (Closing)  
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A.M.—Leon Goff**  
**P.M.—Bob Arnold**  
(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

**Think It Over**—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside  
Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 242  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

# Southside Church of Christ

## Bulletin

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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

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## Rebellion at Babel

By Terry Slack

In today's world there are some 200 different languages and more than 2000 dialects spoken. Many linguists concur that initially there was just one language. So how did we go from one to two hundred? As one might expect, the most popular response theorizes that human languages evolved along with man, thus as the millennia passed humanity moved from grunts to words and from a single language to several. The Bible, however, paints a much different picture. In Genesis 11:1-9 we are not only told how, but even more importantly, why the many languages came to be.

Following the flood God gave specific instructions to Noah and his sons. They, like Adam and Eve, were to be "fruitful and multiply" and "fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1,7). This "filling" would eventually transpire, but not because of man's cooperation. Instead of spreading over the earth in keeping with God's commands, man believes he has a better idea. Earth's residents rebelliously make up their minds to settle down in one place--and to do it without God. They decide to build *their* city and *their* tower in order to emphasize *their* name!

Surely these people were aware that God had previously judged human disobedience by means of a universal flood, weren't they? But while the names and faces may differ, the same attitude of defiance remains. This new generation will function according to the same personal ambition and human pride that marked previous generations. They, too, would choose their own will over the revealed will of God.

Facilitating their rebellion is the fact they "used the same language and the same words" (Genesis 11:1). They did more than speak the same tongue, they employed the same vocabulary. Because Americans speak English, there are a lot of places we can travel in the world and still communicate with those who are foreign to us. But while we may speak the same language, we will quickly discover there are

numerous variations in how certain words are used. For example, our flashlight is a torch in England and where we instruct people to form a line, the British are told to queue. But for folks in Genesis 11, not even these small barriers existed; with no barriers to communication, there were no obstacles to a unified effort of rebellion. Instead of scattering, they chose to journey east and together settle in the land of Shinar (v. 2).

It is here we see the ingenuity of human enterprise. Had they been somewhere else, stone might have been the building material of choice, but Shinar doesn't have much of that; what it does have is an abundance of clay and tar. As they move forward with their objective using bricks and tar mastic, they demonstrate a keen understanding of architecture, engineering, and mathematics. They look to build a city they believe will prevent them from being scattered. They make plans to build a tower, but not a watchtower to provide defense (there aren't any enemies to attack them), but a structure connecting them to heaven (the emphasis is on its purpose, not its height). Finally, they desire to make a name for themselves; that is, they refuse to recognize God's authority with the intention of establishing their own. They want to leave their mark on the world, to be remembered after death, to outlive their life!

God responds by "coming down" to view the results of their efforts (v. 5). Moses isn't suggesting that God didn't know about it. His point is that in spite of their ingenuity and diligence, they didn't get close to heaven! God's perspective of this project is much different than humanity's. What man believed to be glorious, was in the eyes of God so insignificant that He had to descend from His lofty

place to even know it existed!

But God also recognized they had crossed a line. This was not sin on an individual level as had been true in the days of Noah (Genesis 6:5). This was sin resulting from a concentrated and collective human effort! Hence, their success in this act of defiance would only produce greater levels of rebellion and more tragic enterprises. They have huddled together in one place, but God will prevent the achievement of their sinful objective in a way they never would have conceived.

By altering their languages God confounds their wicked imaginations. One minute they're conversing, making further plans, and marveling at the grandeur of their tower—then suddenly they can't understand someone they've known their entire life! Confusion becomes fear, and fear rapidly accelerates to utter panic. The noise of unintelligible speech compels them to search out those of common language, thus separating them into much smaller groups. The power of a unified yet rebellious humanity is shattered, leaving behind an unfinished tower as a testament to their failure. A name is given, Babel, a Hebrew word meaning "to mix up, confuse." The multiple earphones used during meetings of the United Nations stand as a lingering testament to the rebellion of an earlier generation.

What can we learn from Moses' record of this ancient account?

**We certainly see the power of unity.** "Nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them" (Genesis 11:6). If that is true regarding men in rebellion, how much more so would it apply to those who seek to walk *according* to God's will? Is it any won-

der that we are so frequently called upon to be of the same mind (Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10). How much more could we achieve in the kingdom if we genuinely and diligently sought to preserve the unity of the Spirit in a bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)?

**Also, we find many in our world who reflect the same kind of defiance.** Like their ancient predecessors, they seek greatness apart from God. They look to build a world marked by human achievement, a utopia of their own design—but all they create is an atmosphere marred by conflict and hostility. But for those who are Christians, we know of a place of lasting fellowship, where unity is to be the rule, where race is a non-issue, where peace is to prevail, and love is ever-present. Those things aren't found in a world where God isn't, but rather in a "body" of people where God is. And it is here that humanity is able to find the very thing sought for so long ago—a name that is eternal.

—*Focus Online*, 5/20/15

## One Baptism

**Dane Stansell** was baptized into Christ last Sunday morning. We rejoice with him and commend him for interest in being a Christian and serving the Lord. He is the grandson of Judy Hinson. He has been attending with her for some time. Welcome Dane!

## Monthly Ladies Class

Will meet next Thursday evening, June 4th, at Alma Goff's home at 6:00. All ladies are invited!

## Vacation Bible School 2015

**June 29 — July 2** are the dates for our Vacation Bible School this year. There will be Bible classes for all ages including adults. The sessions will be from **10:00 to 11:30 AM** each morning. We need to begin making our plans to be in each possible session, and we need to be inviting all we can. Let's all benefit from this series of studies.

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**News** (continued from back page) caused him to miss recent services—**James Johnson** was in our service Wednesday night after missing recent services due to not feeling well—**Charles and Dorothy Kyle** are visiting their son in Missouri—**Clayton Bellamy** went home from the hospital this past Friday—**Deborah Brown** saw the doctor in Colorado and he is taking her off of some medications she is presently taking and they plan to try a different chemo to treat the new brain tumor—**Valerio Marchi**, Gospel preacher we help support in Italy, has informed us that a health problem he has had for a few years has flared up again and he is requesting our prayers—Remember **Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford**, and **Judy Hinson**—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Lenelle Latimer, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*