We have just finished this past week the 33rd Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship at the Getwell church of Christ. It was a glorious time for all who attended. We enjoyed thirty-six fine speakers from over our nation speaking on "Deuteronomy—Moses' Masterpiece," and they each did a masterful work. We enjoyed some of the finest singing this side of Heaven under the direction of Daniel Pat Phillips. We had in attendance people from many states beside our sister congregations in Memphis and the young preachers from the Memphis School of Preaching and the Brown Trail School of Preaching, who also were accompanied by many of their teachers, one of which was Brother Perry B. Cotham, who is now in his 96th year of life.

Special thanks are due to our elders, who were present for every session, and brother Gary McDade, who directed the lectureship in a great way. Others who played a great part are our fine secretaries, brother Ron Wallace who did many works, those who prepared and served the food beautifully, those who watched the parking lot, the ladies who welcomed our visitors, those who made the videos and audios, and those who took care of the lectureship books. For those whom we may have overlooked, but who did other work during the lectureship, we offer our sincere thanks. It certainly takes every member at Getwell to conduct this lectureship, and they do it with such willingness!

Our theme for next year was announced the last night of the lectureship: "LEAD ME TO CALVARY." We hope that all who read these lines will make their plans to be present the week of October 18, 2009, for the 34th Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship!
A fine young person who has obeyed the first principles of the Gospel in faith, repentance, confession of faith in the name of Christ, and baptism for the remission of sins (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Mt. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38) wrote on her attendance card, “There are a lot of young people who need to consider baptism; please direct something towards them.”

We commend the concerned interest of this young Christian in those who are lost and in need of directing their lives with the help of our Lord. Our interest in those outside of Christ is of utmost importance and should bring us to speak to these about their dangerous condition (Lk. 19:10; I Tim. 4:16).

Some Know

Some of our young people are more knowledgeable of the Bible than others who are much older. They have been taught the will of God from their earliest remembrance and, like Timothy, have had established in their lives “the unfeigned faith” (II Tim. 1:5; 3:15). This is not to suggest that infant baptism is scriptural, desirable, or acceptable, because it is not. Infants are safe and do not need to be baptized in order to be saved (Mt. 18:1-3; 19:14).

It has been my experience that most young people are of tender conscience and want to be right and safe. Until they come to the age of knowing right and wrong, there is no sin in their lives (Rom. 7:9; I Jn. 3:4). But, when sin enters, some put the action of obedience off and are prone to think that there will be plenty of time to change, but perhaps at some later time. Solomon wisely suggested that we should remember our Creator in the days of our youth (Ecc. 12:1).

Parents, Awake!

Some parents, instead of teaching and helping their young people to know Heaven’s will, discourage these who are old enough to know right from wrong and, therefore, are responsible before God. The young people are “put off” from obeying the Gospel when they ask their advice about becoming a Christian. Some parents are not ready and prepared for the questions with proper answers (I Pet. 3:15) and, therefore, refuse their approval out of shock that their young have come of age and are desiring to enter into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). Many have made eternal mistakes here that have been regretted for a lifetime! Some young people are so stunned by what seems to them to be a lack of interest or terse short answers from their parents that they never let it be known again that they have any interest in obeying the Gospel (II Thess. 1:7-9). These sad parents, though perhaps unintentionally, have made a colossal mistake in dealing with the matter.

Show Interest

How much better it would be to greet the request with profound interest in the precious souls possessed by our young people! (Mt. 16:25-26). It is not necessary that these know all of the more meaty or difficult passages of God’s revelation before obedience, as parents may think, for then they would not need the commands to study and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:18; II Tim. 2:15).

Do They Know?

What must be determined in each individual, young or old, is whether they are knowledgeable of the love and sacrifice of God and Christ for sinful man (Jn. 3:16) and whether these truths are believed with all of the heart. If they understand and then desire to obey the Gospel because of their desire for forgiveness, to enter the church of Christ, and in order that their souls may enter Heaven at last, be sure that they know the plan of salvation! If a parent does not know how to talk with the young person, let them get some of the elders, Bible class teachers, or preachers to help them with the wonderful request.

Should It Be Public?

Some young people wonder if they have to answer the invitation of the Lord before an audience of people. The answer is no. There must be two or more present to hear the confession of faith, since it must be “before men” (Mt. 10:32-33), but this certainly can be in a smaller gathering rather than a large audience, which is a problem for some (Acts 8:30-38).

If you are a young person, or older, and have not entered into God’s fold of safety through forgiveness in the new birth (Eph. 1:7; Jn. 3:5), please think seriously about your eternal future. We stand ready to help in any way possible.
We sure had a great week last week during the 33rd Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship: “Deuteronomy—Moses’ Masterpiece.” I can honestly say I now have a greater appreciation and understanding of this great book plus I think I can now spell the title of that book.

It was so encouraging to see the spirit of cooperation that existed last week here at Getwell. I know we have done this for 33 years, but the lectureship always runs like a finely tuned machine. I thank all who helped make this lectureship a success.

I will take a liberty and express appreciation to three individuals who came from outside the congregation and contributed their talents and efforts to the lectureship. The first is Marie Street, who brought a very tasty cake. Sister Street is now a member at Forest Hill. She was a long time member here at Getwell in years past. She was the wife of David Street, now deceased, a long time deacon at Getwell. I grew up with her son, David, and Getwell history has it that her daughter, Judy, was the first baby born at Getwell.

The other two individuals were George and Nell Barber, who now reside in Mississippi. They were in the kitchen and fellowship room every day helping in every way possible. More than the physical chores they helped with, I was impressed by their willingness and their Christian attitude that has always been characteristic of the Barbers. Thanks again go out to the Barbers and Marie Street.

In other news, I am in need of a 4 and 5 year old teacher on Wednesday nights. Let me clarify myself. I do not need a teacher who is 4 or 5 but a teacher of 4 and 5 year olds. If you can help, please contact me as soon as possible.

My next series of questions for “Sharpening the Sword” will be over events that occurred in various chapters of the Bible. I truly enjoy composing these questions because it helps in my own Bible study. I hope they aid you as well.

Answers to 9/29/08 Questions
2051. I John
2052. Revelation
2053. II John
2054. Jude
2055. III John

Creation Fact #48
Evidence from Common Sense

“Imagine that you are the child of the famous painter, Michelangelo. You grew up watching your father paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Each stroke of the brush revealed his love, creative genius, and masterful perfection.

“Years later, as you're walking beneath your father's great work, a guide enters leading a group of tourists. As they stand in awe under the grandeur of the artistic work, you hear the tour guide boldly state that the ceiling occurred by naturalistic processes over countless years as water leaked through the roof and stained the plaster. The people are told by their expert guide that what appears as an intentionally designed work of beauty is strictly a chance occurrence.

“Would you not, as Michelangelo's child, rise up in righteous indignation at the telling of such a flagrant lie? If the guide said that your father had used the random procedure of dripping water through the plaster to create the masterpiece, would that lie have been any more palatable?

“The modern ‘tour guides’ of our world are evolutionists who would have us believe that all of the purpose, eloquent design, and astronomical complexity of life just happened as chance naturalistic processes (such as mutations) formed life over billions of years. Liberal theologians would have us believe that God used such a process to make things.

“Should not Christians boldly proclaim the truth so that more people may come to know the true Master Artist and come to trust His written revelation to mankind (the Bible)?” (Source: A Closer Look at the Evidence by Richard & Tina Kleiss)

—Ron Wallace
Please remember with your cards, calls, and prayers brother Eddie Hagstrom, who is very ill at home. Also, please continue to remember those of our number who are confined at home or in nursing homes: Hazel Bizzell, 3910 Stuart Rd. Apt. 701, 38111, 452-2679; Nell Brandon, Quince Nursing and Rehab Center, 6733 Quince Rd., Room 2006A, 38119; Emma Brotherton, Landmark of DeSoto, 3068 Nail Rd. W., Room 310B, Horn Lake, MS 38637; Frances Collins, 4779 Amboy Rd., 38117, 682-6917; Mary Haynes, 274 S. Highland, Apt. 808, 38111, 327-2127; Addie Nelms, 4007 Dunn Ave., 38111, 743-7554; Skipper Schulz, 139 Magnolia Dr., 38117, 683-3049; and Minnie Wayne, Gallaway Healthcare Center, Room 106, 435 Old Brownsville Rd., Gallaway, TN 38036, 317-4590.

**Sympathy**

We extend our love and sympathy to Maxine Ward in the recent passing of her sister-in-law Earline Taylor.

**Placed Membership**

Douglas M. Miller, Sr. 4189 Atwood, 38111 (3) 378-5897

**Time Change**

Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening for the end of Daylight Saving Time.