

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN  
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN  
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY  
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

As we begin June, we are entering a busy time here at Getwell. A long serving member of the staff has stepped down. Brenda Smitherman, the church secretary, will be spending more time with her 5 grandchildren. Brenda has served for approximately 40 years in this important position. Annette Prater has assumed the position as church secretary. She and her husband, Huston are faithful members at the Olive Branch Church of Christ. They have two grown daughters and two grandchildren. If you have a chance come by the office and say hello.

Also, in mid-June our new preacher, Bradley Smith begins work here at Getwell. Be sure and make Bradley feel welcome.

Our summer series begins Wednesday, June 5. The theme is Heroes of the Old Testament. Ryan Manning is our first speaker. His hero is Noah.

Long time neighbor and friend of Getwell, David Isom passed away last week. I had the privilege of participating in his funeral service. Mr. Isom was a veteran of two wars, Korean and Vietnam. He served with distinction and was the recipient of several medals including the Purple Heart. He was a long-time businessman in the Memphis area. Although in his 80's he didn't retire until recently. At 75 years of age a thug tried to rob him. With a gun to his head, he wrestled the would be robber to the ground, got shot twice and chased the robber out the door. I asked Mr. Isom about this incident, he replied he was having a bad day. He was married to Kay Pedigo Isom, a member of the Lord's church who visits with us frequently. I have known Mr. Isom for over 30 years, I numbered him as one of my more colorful friends.

Ron Wallace

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# “There Is But One Way”

Gary Colley

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Jesus' own words (Matt. 7:21-22).

**T**here is a song that should be in all the song books of our day, but it is found in only a few. It scripturally points out “the old Cross road” as the one and only road that leads to eternal life. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus the Saviour of the world said, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

## Many Reject the One Way

As sad as it is, few are finding, entering, and continuing in the narrow way today. Many seem to think that if they object to there being just one Way, they may go to eternal life even in the broad way! All of the “ways” made by men, which claim that one does not have to be where they are to be saved, are in the broad way! Again, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6). Some may even plan to argue with the Lord in the Judgment, according to

## Notice the Scriptural Ones

Please take your Bible and read the following references for the saving of your soul.

You will find:

“One God”	Ephesians 4:6
“One Lord”	Ephesians 4:5
“One Spirit”	Ephesians 4:4
“One faith “	Ephesians 4: 5
“One repentance”	Luke 13:3, 5
“One confession”	Acts 8:37
“One baptism”	Romans 6:3-4
“One body” (church)	Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4
“One hope”	Ephesians 4:4
“One mind”	I Corinthians 1:10
“One name”	Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26
“One unity”	John 17:20-21
“One rule”	Philippians 3:16

“There is just one way!” Are you in that way? May we assist you in entering that way today?

## LYDIA - EUROPE'S FIRST CONVERT( ACTS :11-15)

In Acts 15 Paul and Barnabas have concluded their first missionary journey and are considering a second journey. The purpose of this journey was to go back to revisit the churches that had been established and encourage them. This was a worthy mission, however a few things got in the way. First Paul and Barnabas had a falling out over Mark and ended up separating. This was not a bad thing as neither of them was necessarily wrong and the result was two missionary teams with Titus going with Paul. The next unexpected turn was when Paul was not allowed to enter Asia(Acts16:6) So, trying to do what he thought was expected, "They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them" (Acts 16:7). It was at this point that Paul got the message—literally! Vs. 9 says "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'". Instead of going back and strengthening existing churches, Paul was about to go establish the first church in Europe in the city of Philippi.

Philippi, being a Roman outpost, likely had the usual rules about unauthorized religions, but this did not stop Paul from looking for worshipers nor Lydia from being a person who worshiped God. Upon arriving in this "foremost city of that part of Macedonia," Paul went "out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there." This tells us a great deal about the woman who is the subject of this article. She was meeting with a group of ladies outside of the city where prayer was a big part of their lives. When you have a group of ladies who meet regularly to pray together, you likely have an extraordinary group of ladies. It is also worth noting the among this group of ladies, only Lydia is mentioned by name. Perhaps that also tells us something about her.

Lydia was a successful business lady which is extraordinary within itself. She was from the city of Thyatira, a city in the kingdom of Lydia, from which she likely derived her name. It was a Roman colony during the first century which was laden with heavy taxes. However, Lydia also had a home in Philippi which was large enough to accommodate a missionary like Paul (Acts 16:40). The area of Thyatira is well known for producing a certain dye from which garments were made that catered to the more prominent citizens. Lydia was a seller of this dye which may indicate to us, along with the possibility of two homes, that she was a lady of some means. These things tell us about what she did but not who she was. How sad it is that we often mistake what we do for who we are. It is easy to get caught up in a demanding job that takes our time, energy and often our zeal for God. It seems that there are only so many hours in a day and since our jobs defines who we are to society, it gets the majority of our time and attention. However, listen to the rest of the testimony as to who this wonderful lady was.

When Paul spoke, the Lord opened her heart to the things being spoken by Paul This new teaching about Jesus Christ and the resurrection must have been very strange to her. She did not allow her lack of knowledge keep her from listening and obeying the truth when she heard it. The first recorded convert in this great city was a woman who had the means to help further the Gospel. She was baptized as a result of Paul's preaching, but this new convert did not stop at being baptized. She then tells Paul if he has judged her faithful to allow her to extend hospitality. He must have so judged her because it is said that she persuaded the. Hospitality has become a lost art to many in the church today. For whatever reason, we just do not practice having others in our homes or even out to a meal together somewhere outside our homes. How much we have missed on getting to know one another so that we can strengthen and encourage one another. Lydia was a great lady who could teach us a great deal about Christianity today.

So, Paul's missionary journey to Philippi begins with a woman convert and a jailer he converts after being thrown in jail for preaching the Gospel. Hardly what we might consider a successful start. Paul says in addition to this that was spitefully treated in Philippi(I Thessalonians 2:1) Again, not a very good beginning to his journey.

Yet Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:1 that his coming to Macedonia was not in vain. In addition to that testimony is the book of Philippians in which he uses the word joy repeatedly to describe the church there. One other possible piece of testimony would be 1 Corinthians 8 where Paul used the churches of Macedonia as an example of proper giving.

Paul's work in this region began with a woman, a special woman. Even though some difficulties followed this conversion, Paul no doubt found encouragement to move forward with the Gospel from this lady named Lydia. May her tribe increase!

Randy Pyle

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