

Times of Service

Sunday Morning
Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Night
Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night
Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

November Birthdays

November 9
Reta Grinstead

November 10
Chris Royse
Caleb Eadens

November 14
Nick Secula

November 17
Brandon Peay

November 19
Ruth Hughes

November 22
Chris Meeks

November 23
Kendra Meredith
Kristie Lee

Anniversary's

November 25
James & Rowena
Francis

Three Forks Church of Christ

November 2009

The Lamp

... as a light shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19



Biblical Accuracy Set in Stone

Writing about a rock that was discovered almost 150 years ago certainly would not fit in a current "in the news" section. In fact, since 1868, so much has been written about this stone that very few new articles pertaining to it come to light. But the truth of the matter is that even though it was discovered more than a century ago, many Christians do not even know it exists, and need to be reminded of its importance.

The stone is known as the Moabite Stone (or the Mesha Inscription). A missionary named Klein first discovered the stone in August of 1868 (Edersheim, n.d., p. 109). When he initially saw the black basalt stone, it measured about 3.5 feet high and 2 feet wide. Upon hearing of Klein's adventure, a French scholar named Clermont-Ganneau located the antiquated piece of rock and made an impression of the writing on its surface. From that point, the details surrounding the stone are not quite as clear. Apparently, the Arabs who had the stone thought that it was a religious talisman of some sort, and broke it into several pieces by heating it in fire and then pouring cold water on it. The pieces were scattered, but about two-thirds of the original stone has been relocated, and currently resides at the Louvre in Paris (Jacobs and McCurdy, 2002).

The written inscription on the stone provides a piece of "rock-solid" evidence verifying the Bible's accuracy. Mesha, the king of Moab, had the stone cut in about 850 B.C. to tell of his many conquests and his reacquisition of certain territories that were controlled by Israel. In the over 30-line text composed of about 260 words, Mesha mentions that Omri was the King of Israel who had oppressed Moab, but then Mesha says he "saw his desire upon" Omri's son and upon "his house." The Mesha stele cites Omri as the king of Israel, just as 1 Kings 16:21-28 indicates. Furthermore, it mentions Omri's son (Ahab) in close connection with the Moabites, just as 2 Kings 3:4-6 does. In addition, both the stele and 2 Kings 3:4-6 list Mesha as the king of Moab. The



Continued on Page 3

Small Steps

The term growth is one we often hear from pulpits, bible classes and even in prayers. We hear a desire to grow “spiritually and in number.” These are great thoughts and certainly good things to be talking about. There is a question left for us to answer, are we providing ourselves to God to be used as an answer to those prayers? It may be that we consider the idea of growth and believe that responsibility is on others, maybe teachers or preachers or even those we look up to as pillars in the church. Or maybe we just don’t know what we can do to be a part or do our part in seeing growth come about.

I’m going to assume that we share in the desire to see the great commission fulfilled, which also assumes that we are desiring to see others come to a knowledge of Jesus. That should be some safe assumptions. And I’m going to assume that we realize each of us have a part in seeing that great commission fulfilled. So... below are some ideas where you might find ways that you can take part in helping to see the kingdom borders expand and, in doing so, see your own spiritual walk grow. These are small steps, but remember every great journey begins with a single step.

1. **The Two and Two Challenge:** The idea of this challenge is simple, people won’t come in the doors unless they are invited in. To do this challenge requires stepping out of our comfort zone but in a non-threatening way. Choose two people each week that you come in contact with. Share with them two things. First share with them something positive about your Christian walk. This could be something about God, about Jesus, about the church, ladies class, youth event bible class, a lesson, the singing, etc. Second share with them an invitation to experience that positive aspect. By challenging yourself to speak to two people each week in this fashion you will extend 104 positive affirmations of your Christian walk and 104 invitations for others to learn of the same. Imagine if 50 people accepted just this one challenge. That’s 5200 invitations in a year. If 10% of those invitations were accepted that is 52 visitors that would otherwise not be with us and may not be here about the gospel of Jesus.
2. **A Meal For Jesus:** There is something pretty universal about what we all do after morning services, we eat lunch! This step can be done in different ways but here are some possible suggestions. You can use the meal as invitation, ex: “Come join us Sunday morning for services and we can grab a bite to eat afterward.” You can use the meal as opportunity to encourage visitors. Watch for visitors. When you see someone visiting invite them over for lunch after services. Hospitality is a powerful way of sharing the love of Jesus with visitors and a great way to share a part of your love with your neighbor.
3. **A Card:** We live in a world of modern technology of emails and text messages. The art of writing has long left our regular lives. Very few personal notes or cards

are handwritten and sent these days, which makes the receiving of such a great encouragement. (We should keep this in mind when dealing with members as well.) Pay attention to visitors. Greet them and share your name and see if you can get their names and possibly their address or at least where they are from so you can look it up. Send them a card thanking them for visiting and inviting them back the following week. (This may also be an opportunity to add a Meal for Jesus).

4. Facebook: It is a modern age and Facebook is a very prevalent form of communication. Write about positive things happening here at church. Send general invites by posting them to your wall regarding services. This would be a great step to add to other steps also mentioned above.

These are just a few ideas and by no means the only ones we could pursue. However, they are a great starting point and a way to take a step in our life and walk with Jesus while at the same time influencing someone else to take one with you.

By: Nick Secula

Biblical Accuracy Set in Stone

By: Kyle Butt, M.A.

Continued from Page 1

stele further names the Israelite tribe of Gad, and the Israelite God, Yahweh. Taken as a whole, the Moabite stone remains one of the most impressive pieces of evidence verifying the historical accuracy of the Old Testament. And, although this find has been around almost 150 years, it “still speaks” to us today (Hebrews 11:4).

REFERENCES

Edersheim, Albert (no date), *The Bible History—Old Testament*, book VI (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans).

Jacobs, Joseph and J. Frederick McCurdy (2002), “Moabite Stone,” *JewishEncyclopedia.com*, [On-line], URL: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=680&letter=M>.

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WOW Women of Worth

The WOW ladies class meeting will be Nov. 20th at 7:00pm. This month’s lesson will focus on Criticism and Lack of Encouragement as self-esteem destroyers. Please join us for this study and let us uplift each other in the Word of God! If you would like, you can bring finger foods of some kind and join us for fellowship after class.

PRAYER LIST

Sick

Vivian McDaniel
Cane Kinser
Cassie Dubree
Wilma Lawrence
Tammy Edwards
Billy Burnett
Phillip Ginsler
Ruth Ann Cayton
Lana Young
Jackson Blackford
Juliete Butler
Serena Probst
Mark Decker
Riley Daniels
Dustin Heegans
Ryder Bagby
Brent Houchens

Soldiers

Theo Raymer
Jason & Melonie Jones

Mission Work

India
Athens
Disaster Relief

Shut-Ins

Warren Lindsey

Special Requests

Bonnie Lamberson for
Strength

SERVICE LIST

Announcements

Don Mills

Waiting on Table

*Terry Crabtree *Wade Cole
Leonard Lee Brandon Eadens

Reading

November 1 - Payton Staples
November 8 - Thomas Watt
November 15 - Patrick Staples
November 22 - Keith Grinstead
November 29 - Ryan Cole

OCTOBER

Average Attendance:

Sunday Morning Worship: 83

Contribution

Sept. 27 - Oct. 18
\$5493

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

November 2 at 6:30 p.m.

S.W.A.T.

SEEKING WISDOM AND TRUTH

There will be a SWAT meeting on
Sunday, November 15, following morning services
at Nick and Tiffany's house. Lunch will be served.
This meeting will be a time for reconnecting
and planning for next year.

The logo features a stylized cross on the left, followed by the text "THREE FORKS" in a large, serif font, and "CHURCH OF CHRIST" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

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