

# Must We Change?

The following statistics were reported in the North Jackson, TN church bulletin in 2003:

## ***GROWTH OF CHURCHES THAT ARE CONSERVATIVE***

Creive Hall, Nashville, TN, in 2000—1,200. Now averaging 1,300.

Waterview, Dallas, TX, in 2002—1,100. Now averaging 1,250.

West Seventh, Columbia, TN in 2000-490. Now averaging 570.

Saturn Road, Garland, TX, in 2000-1,425. Now averaging 1,731.

## ***GROWTH OF CHURCHES THAT HAVE UNDERGONE CHANGES***

Madison, TN in 1998—3,006. Now 1,700.

West End, Nashville, TN in 2000—540. Now 375.

Skillman Avenue, Dallas, TX in 2000—775. Now 450.

Some claim the church must change in order to grow. They say modern methods must be used. Many even ridicule congregations that strive to follow the “old paths.” The foregoing figures demonstrate, however, that faithful churches do not have to diminish and that modern

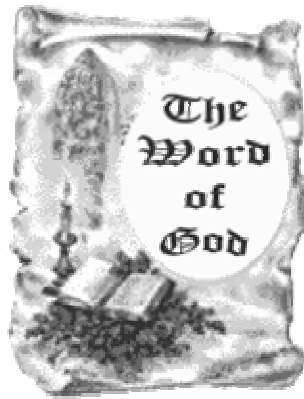
changes are no guarantee of growth. Let us walk in truth and God will give the increase!

— Alan Highers, via Bulletin Briefs

**Editor’s Note:** The Lord will bless those who abide within the confines of divine truth. The so-called “change agents” within the body of Christ who believe that the church must change to fit the pattern of modern denomination-alism in order to grow are wrong! Genuine and lasting growth will come only when the word of God in its pure and original form is preached and practiced in congregations of the Lord’s church. Let us be very careful that we do not give in to the empty promises of those who would change the divine pattern. As they Bible warns, “*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*” (2Pe 2:19).

May God help us as a congregation to continue to strive to follow the divine pattern which is the New Testament of Jesus Christ.

—Jonnie



# Liledoun Road ANCHOR

March 21, 2004

## ***Church of Christ***

240 Liledoun RD SW  
Taylorsville, NC 28681  
(828) 632-2998

[churchofchrist@w4aw.org](mailto:churchofchrist@w4aw.org)

<http://w4aw.org/church>

## **Schedule of Services**

### **Sunday**

Bible Classes – 10:00 am  
AM Worship – 11:00 am  
PM Worship – 6:00 pm

### **Wednesday**

Bible Classes – 7:30 pm

### **Elders**

Fred Watkins  
632-5542  
Ralph Lowtharpe  
632-6145

### **Preacher**

Jonnie Hutchison  
632-7344

## **How Do You Receive the Truth?**

***Dean Fugett***

It always excites us when anyone responds to a disagreement with one of our messages with the following statement: “I don’t agree with that, but I am going to study the Bible to determine the truth.” We can ask for nothing more. We never expect people to “take our word” for anything relating to so valuable a commodity as their souls and their eternal destiny. We are happy for them to “search the Scriptures.” So did the noble Bereans of Acts 17:11. “They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” We believe that a person with this attitude will either come to a knowledge of the Truth, or will respond by pointing out our own error, thus leading us to the Truth. To receive the Word with gladness is an admirable attitude. We are only

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## News and Notes

### To Our Visitors

It is always a joy to welcome visitors to our services. We are thankful for each one who has chosen to be present. A number of tracts and other materials are available in the lobby of the building. There is no charge for any of this material. If you would like to enroll in a free Bible Correspondence Course or an in home Bible study please mark that on your visitors card. We hope you will return and be with us at your every opportunity.



### Remember In Prayer

 Alvin Bullington, Ethel Watson, Dena Bishop, Kris Koko, Hubert Keys, James Walker, Dorsey Finn, Ken Koko, Eva Parker, Marshall Blankenship and Josh Philips (shipped out to Middle East).

### Upcoming Events

**Gospel Meeting** at the Wilkesboro church of Christ March 21-24, 2004. James Watkins from Lewisburg, TN will be the speaker.

The **Sixtieth Annual Carolina Lectures** are scheduled for April 4-8, 2004 at the Warner's Chapel church of Christ in Clemmons, NC.

**Gospel Meeting** at the West Jeffer-

son church of Christ, May 16-21, 2004 with Ed Floyd. Monday-Friday services are at 7:00 pm.

**Our Spring Gospel Meeting** has been scheduled for June 6-11, 2004 with Nelson Brockenborough preaching. Please mark this date and plan other events around it.

See the bulletin board for details concerning these events.

### *Lessons Today*

*Morning 11:00 am*

**“The First Principles”**

*Evening 6:00 pm*

**“The Religion of Islam 1”**

### **“I AM THAT I AM”**

God identified Himself to Moses by saying, “I AM THAT I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Paul declared, “By the grace of God I AM WHAT I AM” (1 Corinthians 15:10, caps supplied). The eternal God is self-existent. Being such, He is self-sufficient, and consequently all-sufficient to those who look to Him as the great “I AM.” Of Himself, as incarnate deity, Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). Consequently Paul could say, “I can do all things through Christ which [who] strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13).

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saddened that it is not always the case – even among brethren in the church.

On the other hand, there are some like those in Stephen’s audience in the Acts 7:55-59, “When they heard these things [with which they disagreed, DF]...they cried with a loud voice, and stopped their ears...” Some would probably like to follow through as they did. We must remember that their action removed the preacher, but it didn’t change the Truth he had spoken. I am reminded of the actions of some churches who think that because they have removed the preacher who was teaching the Truth about fellowship with denominations, fellowship with the Christian church, marriage-divorce-remarriage, Biblical discipline, holy living, Biblical giving, etc., that they have freed themselves of the responsibility of meeting the teaching in Judgment. The attitude of getting rid of the preacher and the preaching identi-

fies one with Stephen’s audience. Some would probably go as far as his audience did if they thought they could get by with it.

Then, there is a third attitude. “I don’t know and I don’t care.” This attitude seems to think that ignorance is bliss, and if we ignore the truth, it will go away. It will go away, but we will meet it again (John 12:48). Then, it will be too late to listen, read, investigate, or even consider – much less obey. I don’t suppose that I will ever cease to be amazed at the number who demonstrate this attitude by their absence at all but the Sunday morning worship assembly. We have never yet been convinced from the Bible that such behavior will get us to heaven. Luke records “they that gladly received his word were baptized” (obeyed), Acts 2:41.

Which attitude represents your attitude toward the truth?

—Cave City, AR

*“We stand the tallest when we spend more time on our knees.”*