

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.”

— Luke 22:26

**Servants during January:**

Songleader: Larry (5), Dwight (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike M

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 7

January 5, 2025

Number 31

Commitment

By Jim Haynes

As a church, our goal is to follow the New Testament pattern, not just concerning the worship and work of the church, but also, concerning the depth of commitment the individual Christians made to Christ. Consider the following examples...

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to sell your home and possessions and put the proceeds in the collection plate on Sunday morning? In Acts 4 we read of a man named Joseph who sold his land and laid it at the Apostle's feet. Why? His brethren were in need! If a necessary situation arose today, we should do it.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to never again eat meat if doing so hindered another man from being a Christian? The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 8:13 *“if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat.”* Eating meat is not an issue today, but what if it was? Would you be willing to give it up for the sake of another's soul? Are you willing to

give up other things you enjoy?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to go to the house of the most feared anti-Christian militant in town and ask if he needs help understanding Jesus? In Acts 9 we read about Ananias, who was told to do just that. He was reluctant at first, but with the Lord's encouragement he went and talked to Saul of Tarsus about the gospel.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to let your son join a preaching tour that was facing constant, violent opposition? How would you feel if during a recent visit to your own city, one of the preachers had been stoned and left for dead, and now your son wants to join up? Evidently Eunice, Timothy's mother, had to make that decision, Acts 14:19.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to say to the police, “I must obey God rather than men”? In Acts 5 Peter and other apostles had been brought before the council and asked why, in spite of being commanded to never again

preach in the name of Jesus, they continued to do so. Peter said, “*We must obey God rather than men,*” v29. Persecution was a real experience for the first Christians.

What if one of our number had recently been executed because he was a Christian, and the others were being taken to prison. The suggestion is made to call the church together to pray. **WOULD YOU BE WILLING** to host that meeting in your home? In Acts 12 we read of a woman named Mary who was willing to do that!

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to take an unpopular stand against all of your

friends and associates because you believe that is what God wanted you to do? In Acts 10 and 11 we read about Peter’s willingness to go to a Gentile household, talk to them about the gospel, and finally to baptize them into Christ. His attitude was “...*who was I that I could stand in God’s way,*” Acts 11:17?

Why did these people do these things? This is the impact a genuine faith in Jesus will have on our life. Have we truly restored the zeal and commitment of the New Testament church?

—via *Boston Street Bulletin* 11/24/91 

The Stranger

By Keith Currie

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind each member had a special niche. My brother Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play “big brother” and to develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors—Mom taught me to love the word of God and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily conversations. He would hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening. If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, seemingly could predict the future.

The pictures he could draw were so lifelike that I would often laugh or cry as I watched. He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill, and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were

deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular. The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn’t seem to mind but sometimes Mom would quietly get up—while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places—go to her room, read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave. You see, my Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt any obligation to honor them.

Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house—not from us, from our friends, or from adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four-letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge, the stranger was never confronted. My Dad was a teetotaler who didn’t permit alcohol in his home—not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (probably much too freely) about sex. His comments were blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationships were influenced by the

stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave. More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him TV.

[This article was written years ago; but things are not better—rather, much worse. The Stranger is much more graphic, much more radical. He fritters away precious time, leads children by the hand into pornographic slavery, calls evil, good and good, evil. Today, we would call him internet; or Netflix, Hulu, Facebook, Youtube, etc., and justify all his wickedness by noting that “he does good, too...” In view of the previous article—WOULD YOU BE WILLING to leave the wicked entirely behind? Even if the only way you could personally do it was to get rid of the Stranger, whatever his name? —kv]

—via *The Way of Life* 

Remember in Prayer

Mike B was admitted to HH late last night for trouble breathing and high BP, and is undergoing tests. **Betty, Pam,** and **Shane** have all been pretty sick from some form of virus; **Kathy M** is

recovering from pneumonia. Pray also for **Barbara; Carolyn; Faye; Hazel; Joshua V; Kathy M; Mark Horton; Mike B and his family; and the Pollard Family.** 