

# The ENDS OF THE EARTH

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A work of churches of Christ

# Who Is A Christian?

*Editors Note:* Guy Caskey (founder of Mission Printing) wrote the following article which was published in the July 1993 issue of "To The Ends of The Earth." We believe it is still applicable today (almost twenty years later).

I would rather God would call me a Christian than anyone else. It is nice to have the love, respect and confidence of brethren in Christ, family and friends. No higher commendation could be paid me than for those who know me to say, "He is a Christian." This is far better than for them to acclaim, "He is great!" Or, "He is talented." Or, "He is rich and handsome." For God to call a person a Christian is the most wonderful of all compliments. God called the disciples in Antioch "Christians" for the first time (Acts 11:26).

The prophet Isaiah said, "The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name" (Isaiah 62:2). This was fulfilled in the New Testament in Acts 11:26, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." The word for *called* in this passage is not the common word used for call in the New Testament. This word is krematizo and is used nine times and Thayer says of its meaning, "In the New Testament, to utter a divine communication." Four times it is translated warned of God, once it is rendered revealed by the Holy Spirit, once it is phrased admonished of God. You will note that whether, warned of God, revealed by God, admonished by God or called by God, that it was always God's doing, His action. So, these early disciples were called Christians by a Divine utterance. God gave them this name.

The world has many standards by which it measures a Christian. The world thinks that a man who is good morally is a Christian. Morality is important, but there were many good moral people before Christ came and gave Himself for the sins of mankind. Others think that a man who is honest, truthful, upright in his morals and provides well for his family is a Christian. While all these things are commendable, and even necessary, they do not make one a Christian. In this lesson, we are interested in who a Christian is when measured by God's standard.

Peter gives us a full and satisfactory answer to this question of *Who Is A Christian*? in the first chapter of his first letter.

**1. One who is an obedient child of God.** "As obedient children" (v. 14). *The Twentieth Century New* 

*Testament* renders this, "Be like obedient children." This means *respect for authority, to hearken, listen to, total submission* to the will of God. This person is like a child in submission to and dependence upon his parents. One has not been converted to Christ, hence is not a Christian, who has not surrendered himself, resigned his own will, to the will and pleasure of God.

We are living in a time when there is a great poverty of respect for authority in the home, school, society and the church. It is a monstrous sin to "do that which is right in their own eyes." People of today, the world over, set up their own standards, fulfill their own desires, and walk in their own ways without respect or regard for constituted authority.

**2. One who is holy.** "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (v. 15). This word means "separate from the common, one who has been set apart from the world and its evil," The person who is a Christian is one who has been called out of the world and lives a life of purity, benevolence and service in God's family.

Jesus said, "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you" (John 15:3). In Chapter seventeen, He continues in His prayer to God, "Sanctify them through Your truth; Your word is truth." So, when one has been made clean, separated from the world and lives a segregated life, he is a Christian, according to God's definition. His behavior and deportment are now fashioned after God's standard set for him. His life is now committed and dedicated to the service of the Savior. He is a new creature (Romans 6:4). Now he is easily distinguished from the man of the world.

**3. He is one who calls upon God as his Father.** "And if you call on the Father. . ." (v. 17). This is one of the answers, Peter tells us, of *Who Is A Christian*? There are two apparent truths in the divine answer: (1) One must have the *right* to call God his Father and (2) He must exercise that right. Who has a right to call upon God as his Father? The answer is simple —the one who is in His family, either by birth or by adoption.

I have two children. They are in my family. They were born into it. Because they are in my family, they have a just claim to call me their father. It would be a moral reflection upon me, and upon my character as a Christian, for anyone who is not in my family to call me *father.* 

(continued on next page)

Some years ago while visiting and preaching in Haiti, children would follow me along the streets and ask for gifts of money. One of these children thought he would have the advantage and would touch a respondent chord of my heart by stepping out in front of me and addressing me as *father*. He was not my child. I had never seen him before, and I did not know his mother. No man has the right to call upon God as his *father* who cannot produce the evidence of his sonship. "... unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom *of* God" (John 3:5). This plain statement of Jesus is *exclusive* and *inclusive*. It excludes those who do not submit their lives to the will of God by being born again and includes all who will do so with all of their hearts.

But let us not forget that a Christian is one who can *call* on God as Father, and who will exercise that right as a child of God daily. Far too many who have that right do not avail themselves of the wonderful privilege of talking to Him regularly. Do I give thanks for His goodness and invoke His blessings that I might be a better and more faithful child of His?

**4. One who is a sojourner.** "... conduct yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear" (v. 17). A sojourner is a stranger, pilgrim, a temporary resident in a foreign land. It is a fleeting stay one spends in this life. Christians must not loiter on the way; they must press toward the goal. They are colonists who will soon be called to the mother country. Our deepest affinities connect us with heaven, for that is where our citizenship is.

It is unfortunate when we do not recognize that we are pilgrims passing through this world on our way to a better land. Some get so wonderfully attached to this world, as though it were their home, they have no wish to leave it. Some get so involved in the affairs of this life that they prefer to make this their permanent dwelling! If asked, they may tell you that heaven is their home, but they are not *homesick* yet.

I read somewhere this statement: "Were the happiness of the next world as closely apprehended as the felicities of this, it were martyrdom to live." And another statement: "Two men may embark in one ship—the one full of good cheer as the ropes are loosed and the first turn of the screw begins to move her from the pier; the other sad because he leaves all that is familiar and dear. The one is going home from exile; the other is being borne into banishment in a strange land, whose speech he does not know, whose kind he does not serve. Which shall I be when death comes?'

5. One who has been redeemed in the blood of Christ. "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct ..., but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (v, 18-19). *Redeem* means "to set free, deliver from bondage for a ransom." Once we were slaves to a selfish life in which we lived for personal gratification, the free indulgence of our appetites and passions. We were under the control and dominion of *sin.* But Jesus gave his life as a ransom for us (Matthew 20:28; I Timothy 2:6). Now we are free in Christ and he charges us to "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free."

6. One who believes in God who raised Christ from the dead (v. 21). Belief in God who raised Christ from the dead is fundamental to our being Christians. In the so-called Christian world today, there are many who affirm their belief in Christ—that He was a great man, a wonderful teacher and one who formulated the highest system of ethics of anyone who ever lived. But in the same breath, they deny that He was raised from the dead. The New Testament is replete with statements of His resurrection, and if we do not believe in the word of God on this subject, why accept it on any other? "And killed the Prince of life, whom God has raised from the dead" (Acts 3:15). No man is a Christian who does not believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

"Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole" (Acts 4:10). Paul told the Romans that He "was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). He had already told these Christians: "If we believe on Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead."

**7.** One who has purified his soul in obeying the truth —(v. 22). There are three words in this passage to which we should give attention: (a) Obedience. The meaning of this word in the New Testament is that of hearing— listening and being submissive to the will of Christ. It also points up personal responsibility. They had a part in bringing about their purification. (b) Truth. A familiar statement of Jesus is: "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Knowing and obeying the truth Jesus taught will make men free. (c) Purified. This word describes the moral and spiritual state into which they entered when they obeyed, and in their continued obedience they continued to be purified.

8. One who has been born again (v. 23). The new birth has often been presented as a mysterious, inexplicable process beyond human grasp. But Peter explains what the new birth is and how it is brought about. He tells us in this chapter that we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. That's God's part in our salvation. His next step is that we have been purified in our obedience to the truth. This is man's part. Redemption in the blood of Christ and purification of our souls in obedience to the truth constitute the new birth, for it is the same verse that says, "being born again" of the living and abiding word, the gospel which has been preached to us.

**9.** One who entertains the hope of an eternal inheritance (v. 4). When one becomes a Christian by being obedient to God's word and continues faithfully in the Christian life, he entertains a hope of a home in heaven. What a wonderful promise! What a sustaining expectation! It is an inheritance immortal, deathless, imperishable, unfading. The permanence, the everlastingness of this reality should prompt faithfulness in all of us. -- Guy Caskey

# **TOUCHING THE WORLD** Letters and Emails From The Field

### Zimbabwe, Africa

My brother, thank you very much for sending us a box full of biblical tracts. The attached picture shows our student helper Prisca collecting the parcel from Morningside Post Office. If you have more tracts, please send them over because we aim to recruit 1000 students at the Zimbabwe International Trade fair in April this year. May God bless you.

#### In His service,

Velaphi Mlangeni, in Bulawayo Zimbabwe



### Zambia, Africa

Dear Saints,

Re: Spiritual reading Materials for Evangelism work and for building Christians

Best regards to you all in the mighty Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the only source of life everlasting.

I want at this moment cry for help of spiritual reading materials which can help both the old and new converts understand God's will and make them grow in Christ. Again as we all know that it is our task and duty to reach the lost and without commitment we cannot manage, but let us all remember that we have it and have to do it on behalf of God. I as well appeal for few copies of Bibles with "Not for Sale Tag" and Tracts too.

#### God bless you all,

Kamushele David Smart, Evangelist - Kaunda Square Church of Christ

### Johannesburg, South Africa

We are knocking doors, distributing gospel tracts, talking to folks about the church. I will highly appreciate it if you folks can pray for us as we will reachout in our community speaking for the Master. We sincerely want to ask for a large amount of gospel tracts, Bibles if available, and song books. We supply our sister congregations around Johannesburg with tracts and other material since many in our congregations and communities are unemployed, and we are planning to have a tract drive in each term in 2012 which means we are going to run out of material. We will highly appreciate any tracts, Bibles, song books to the furtherance of the gospel in our community and surrounding areas in our country. Thank you so much for your prayers, love, support, appreciate you folks so much.

Your fellow servants, Phillip & Michelle King

### Cambridge, England

Brian Chadwick (right) and his wife are handing out Mission Printing tracts as well as World Bible Correspondence Courses to help those in the U.K. learn more about God and His Church.



#### Uganda, Africa

We have planted another congregation here in Kamplala and they have no song books. The work here is progressing, but it's still hard to sustain the young men we are sending there to preach and mature the young congregations we are planting. Please keep us in your prayers, Mwizerwa Emmanuel



Alice Walker and her husband, Lloyd, moved to Arlington in the early 1980's and shortly became volunteers at Mission Printing. Lloyd was a regular and faithful printer, and it was a great loss when he passed away in 1991. Alice became a devoted full time volunteer for our operation, and continued on a full time basis for about twenty-five years. Alice filled several roles such as: secretary, bookkeeper, office manager, editor, and did proofing and preparing material to be printed. Early on, she learned how to use computers for word processing and typesetting. As our printing systems advanced and became more computer based, she learned the new software and became our "expert" at using the Quark typesetting program.

Due to failing eyesight and other health problems, within the last two years or so, Alice is no longer able to perform many of the tasks she did so well. However, she is not deterred and continues to come to Mission Printing on Tuesdays with the College Hill group. The bus stops by to pick her up and then takes her back home. She is still dedicated to the Lord's work.

We wish Alice a "Happy Birthday" and want to thank her for the many years of service to the Lord's work here at Mission Printing. Her enduring dedication to this work is undoubtedly responsible for much of our success.



**Dot Dawdy** 

Mission Printing has been and continues to be blessed by many wonderful volunteers, without which our work would be impossible. These dedicated people give of their time and talents to send the gospel to the ends of the earth. In this issue we highlight two of these longtime faithful volunteers who will celebrate their 90th birthday in April.



**Alice Walker** 

Dot Dawdy and her husband, Bink, moved to Arlington in the early 1980's. After his retirement in 1983, Bink became a full time volunteer for Mission Printing and served several years as President of the Board of Trustees until his death in 1995. Dot also became a regular volunteer, working at least two days a week. She worked in the mail room, reading letters from the field and filling requests for materials. She addressed shipments to be sent to destinations all around the world and kept records of the shipments. Dot also did collating and assembly of booklets and tracts.

Dot has been one of our most dedicated volunteers and supporters. This godly woman exudes a congenial spirit and positive attitude and is a joy to be around. Not only has she given us many years of her time and talents, but she also has generously supported us with monetary gifts. Mission Printing could not have grown to be what it is today without fine Christian people like Dot Dawdy.

Dot moved to The Woodlands, TX about a year ago to be nearer to her daughter. We miss her greatly at Mission Printing and hope she is enjoying her new home. "Happy Birthday" wishes go out to Dot and may God bless her in all her future endeavors. We will forever be grateful for all she has done for the Lord's work here at Mission Printing.

### Memorials & Honors

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(DECEMBER 1, 2011 TO MARCH 31, 2012)

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Vess, Judy

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(**R** - Regular Financial Supporter, # of members follow each congregation)

Angleton Church of Christ (Angleton, TX) 200 Bedford Road Church of Christ (Bedford, TX) 100 Bellville Church of Christ (Bellville, TX) R 73 Brown Trail Church of Christ (Bedford, TX) R 350 Clinton Church of Christ (Clinton, MS) 80 College Hill Church of Christ (N. Richland Hills, TX) R 380 Crestview Church of Christ (Waco, TX) 550 Crockett Church of Christ (Senatobia, MS) 60 Downtown Church of Christ (Cedar Hill, TX) R 140 East Tallassee Church of Christ (Tallassee, AL) 160 Emory Church of Christ (Emory, TX) R 133 Fourth & Stewart Church of Christ (Brownwood, TX) R 120 Hartford Ave. Church of Christ (Ponca City, OK) 200 Highland Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) R 208 Hiwasse Church of Christ (Hiwasse, AR) R 55 Howe Church of Christ (Howe, TX) R 165 Ivanhoe Church of Christ (Ivanhoe, TX) R 36

Keller Church of Christ (Keller, TX) R 428 Lakewood Village Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) 65 Liberty Hill Church of Christ (Liberty Hill, TX) R 90 Longmire Rd. Church of Christ (Conroe, TX) R 200 Longview Church of Christ (Longview, TX) R 200 Nettleton Church of Christ (Jonesboro, AR) R 500 New Cross London Church of Christ (London, England) New York Ave. Church of Christ (Arlington, TX) 300 North Hills Church of Christ (San Antonio, TX) Pecos Church of Christ (Pecos, TX) 120 Seven Points Church of Christ (Seven Points, TX) 75 Smithfield Church of Christ (N. Richland Hills, TX) R 50 South Main Church of Christ (Weatherford, TX) R 480 Terlingua Church of Christ (Terlingua, TX) 7 University Church of Christ (Tyler, TX) R 150 Velvet Ridge Church of Christ (Bald Knob, AR) 150 Woodland Oaks Church of Christ (Spring, TX) R 330

### Congregations With Volunteer Support At Mission Printing in 2011

Bedford Road Church of Christ (Bedford, TX) Beltline Road Church of Christ (Irving, TX) Brown St. Church of Christ (Waxahachie, TX) Bridgewood Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) Brown Trail Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) College Hill Church of Christ (Hurst, TX) Cowley Church of Christ (Crowley, TX) Downtown Church of Christ (Crowley, TX) Downtown Church of Christ (Cedar Hill, TX) Emory Church of Christ (Emory, TX) Freetown Road Church of Christ (Grand Prarie, TX) Grandbury Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) Handley Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX)

Hillsboro Church of Christ (El Dorado, AR) Keller Church of Christ (Keller, TX) Lewisville Church of Christ (Lewisville, TX) Longmire Rd. Church of Christ (Conroe, TX) New York Ave. Church of Christ (Arlington, TX) North Davis Church of Christ (Arlington, TX) Northwest Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) Ovilla Church of Christ (Ovilla, TX) Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ (Arlington, TX) Robinson Road Church of Christ (Grand Prairie, TX) South Main Church of Christ (Weatherford, TX) Woodland Park Church of Christ (Mansfield, TX)

### Congregations With Mission Printing Workstations In Their Buildings in 2011

Beltline Road Church of Christ (Irving, TX) Birdville Church of Christ (Haltom City, TX) Brown St. Church of Christ (Waxahachie, TX) College Hill Church of Christ (N. Richland Hills, TX) Downtown Church of Christ (Cedar Hill, TX) Emory Church of Christ (Emory, TX) Highland Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) Keller Church of Christ (Keller, TX) Lakewood Village Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX) Midway Church of Christ (Denton, TX) South Main Church of Christ (Weatherford, TX) University Church of Christ (Tyler, TX) West Freeway Church of Christ (Fort Worth, TX)

## PLEASE NOTE

**If you are not on our regular mailing list and you make a memorial donation**, you will receive the issue of the newsletter in which your memorial appears. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please let Mission Printing know by contacting Mary Carroll. If we do not hear from you, your name will be removed from the mailing list. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause. We are attempting to reduce any expense that is not needed. Thank you for your support and prayers.

IN MEMORY OF			IN HONOR OF		
(Please print all information)			(Please print all information)		
Mr./Mrs./Miss			Mr./Mrs./Miss		
Please send notice of this gift to: Mr./Mrs./Miss			<ul> <li>Anniversary</li> <li>Birthday</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Please send notice of this gift to:</li> <li>Mr./Mrs./Miss</li> </ul>		
Mailing Address			Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip	City	State	Zip
Donor(s): Mr./Mrs./Miss			Donor(s): Mr./Mrs./Miss		
Mailing Address			Mailing Address		
City <u>\$</u> Gift Amount	State	Zip	City \$ Gift Amount	State	Zip

### Weekly News from Mission Printing Through Email

Mission Printing is building an email database of our volunteers and supporters. If you would like to receive periodic news about Mission Printing through email, please send your email address to: <u>missionprinting@gmail.com</u>.

Our printed newsletter will continue to be mailed to you, or we can deliver it to you by email as a PDF attachment. If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, send your request to <u>missionprinting@gmail.com</u>.

Please help Mission Printing continue this good work for God by praying for us and considering us in your contributions to spread the gospel.

# **Mission Printing**

2707 Medlin Dr. Arlington, TX 76015

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### **Shipping Container News**

On December 22, 2011, Mission Printing shipped 40,000 pounds of materials (about 750,000 tracts) in an ocean container to Biodun Owolabi in Abeokuta, Nigeria. The container was delayed two weeks, before its arrival at Lagos port because of the eight day Nigerian nationwide strike in January. Clearing customs for the container entry into the country finally occurred on Monday, March 26th. The total cost was \$11,485 for this shipment. If we would have mailed this amount of tracts using USPS, it would have cost Mission Printing \$160,000. In 2011, God blessed Mission Printing with a \$20,000 grant from The White Rock Fund to pay for two container shipments through the oversight of the Belt Line Road Church of Christ eldership. This grant paid for the Cape Town, South Africa shipment and this one to Abeokuta. This year, The White Rock Fund has given Mission Printing another \$20,000 grant (with oversight of the Belt Line elders) to pay for two more containers. The White Rock Fund is a group of Christians who have combined their financial resources to fund world evangelism. May God bless each one of them.

The container's final destination, West Nigeria Christian College and School of Biblical Studies is expected in a few days. Biodun will be the Mission Printing Volunteer Distribution Manager for his area. He has agreed to be responsible for the tracts and make material available to those who request it. Biodun will also utilize his students to distribute the material throughout western Nigeria and Benin. As Biodun attends lectureships, gospel meetings, conferences, preaches to various towns and villages, he will distribute our material to other ministers. They will take boxes of Mission Printing materials back to their home congregations to be distributed by their members to their loved ones, neighbors, and co-workers. This distribution style of networking is happening everywhere we have delivered containers of tracts. All of our foreign managers are volunteers and are very capable of reaching thousands of other Christians to help spread God's word. Mission Printing prints and distributes about 2,000,000 tracts per year, possibly reaching 5,000,000 souls. Only God knows the exact number, and He is aware of each one as they study His word.

Mission Printing plans to ship the next container before May to Accra, Ghana to be split between Willie Gley and Ed Mosby (Ed has offered to pay for half the container costs). Hopefully in August, we will send a container of tracts to South Africa to be split between Rohan Jones and Paul Gerber. God willing, we will make our third 2012 shipment in December to Monday John Akpakpan in Abak and the other half to Reuben Egwu in Abakaliki. Please pray for Mission Printing as we strive for "World Evangelism by the Printed Page".

#### **Mission Printing, Inc.**

32 years of commitment

<u>1979-2011</u> <u>address</u> 2707 Medlin Dr

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#### **Board of Trustees**

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### **Office Administrator**

Mary Carroll department communication, mail, volunteer supervisor, newsletter, email, shipping, bookkeeping, etc.

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOMED! Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM