

## The Well and the Bucket

As anyone familiar with the Bible could tell you, wells serve as a backdrop to many narratives. It was Isaac who "dug again" the wells of his father Abraham, after the Philistines had stopped them in their jealousy (cf. Genesis 26:15, 18). Isaac's son, Jacob, was the proprietor of a well that would later be the centerpiece of a famous New Testament discussion between the Savior and a Samaritan woman (cf. John. 4). It is a decidedly less-famous well in rural Alabama, though, that I wish to briefly make reference.



My paternal grandfather was born in 1909. He grew up in the South and was already a young adult by the time of the Great Depression. He married in 1933 and would go on to raise six children. Having spent much of his life on a farm, he had many interesting anecdotes to relate. While he relished sharing his stories with anyone who would listen, especially did he enjoy regaling his grandchildren with tales from the past. One choice nugget involved the well from which the family drew their water.

Those who have sampled "well water" often comment upon its superiority to tap water, due to the fact that water from underground sources seems to be colder and crisper. After growing accustomed to such water, and knowing the source from which it springs, the slightest change in its taste can be immediate cause for concern.

Along those lines, perhaps after noticing a pungent taste in their water, and realizing the family cat had been missing for sometime, my grandfather's children came to a rather unsettling conclusion. For the sake of brevity - and decency - I will allow the reader to put the pieces of this puzzle together. Suffice it to say, the country maxim, "What's in the well will be in the bucket" never rang truer.

Today, it is not out of the question to ask, "What's in your 'bucket'?" What we say when caught off guard or in heated moments can often be a ready indicator of our spiritual well-being, or lack thereof. As Christ indicated, it is "out of the abundance of the heart" that "the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34).

Oftentimes, the "Sunday speak" of those who profess to be Christians is far different from their workplace vernacular. It is beyond embarrassing to admit that at times it is hoped some will never confess to being a member of the "church of Christ" lest others believe all Christians conduct themselves in similar fashion. As James would say, "My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).

Should we happen upon a police officer while traveling a mile or two per hour faster than we should, what sentiments are first and foremost in our hearts? Should we hit our thumb with a hammer, what is our reaction? It might be best for a few to "swear off" the use of all power tools, lest they "swear off," literally. Others resort to milder, though similar, forms to express their displeasure. It seems never to have occurred to some to simply say, "Ow."

As Christians, we are to "let [our] speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that [we] may know how [we] ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:6). We should utter "sound speech, that cannot be condemned" (Titus 2:8), refusing to let any "corrupt communication proceed out of [our] mouth" (Ephesians 4:29).

This is by far the wisest course to pursue, especially in view of the fact that for "every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36). Do we have "honest and good" hearts (cf. Luke 8:15)? As Christ could have told us, what's in the well will be in the bucket.

- Brandon Renfroe, Ashville Church of Christ - Ashville, AL

*You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.*

### News & Notes

**SYMPATHY:** To Gene Miller & family at the passing of his sister-in-law, Joan Miller. God bless and comfort the family.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Any of the ladies are welcome to help with this work preparing stuffed bears for children.

**PANTRY:** Oatmeal & cereal. Please do what you can to help restock the pantry for those in need.

**ENCOURAGE:** Michelle Hanlon, Blondenia Orr.

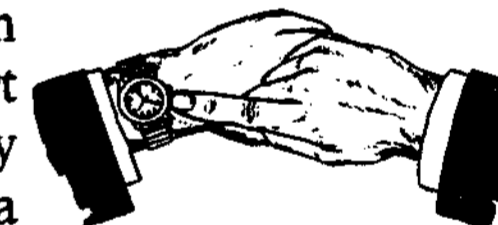
**THOSE WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS:** Michelle Hanlon (*dislocated shoulder, broken ribs from a fall*), Dan Williams, Margaret Board, Yvonne Price, Carl Miller, Blondenia Orr, Jenny Rhodes, Pauline Clutter, Bette Gentry, Bob & Scharlotte Cyphers. **Others confined to their homes and in nursing homes are listed on the bulletin board.**

#### LECTURES & MEETINGS:

Greater Kanawha	Aug. 5- 8	St. Albans, WV
Ohio Valley	Aug. 18-21	(Harmar Hill) Marietta, OH
East Liverpool	Sept. 7-10	Terry Varner
CHESTER	Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Steve Higginbotham

## I Was Lost ... You Were In A Hurry

I attended your church this morning. The church sang hymns about a living Lord that made my heart beat faster. I felt a tight choking sensation in my throat as your minister described the condition of a lost person.



"He is talking about me," I said to myself. "Being saved must be very important."

The minister finished his appeal and you began to sing another of the beautiful songs you know so well. I swallowed a lump in my throat and wished I knew the joy of which you sang. Your minister looked at me and started telling me how I could have this joy—but his words were drowned out ...

When I glanced around you were putting on your little girl's coat and telling her to get her things. I looked on my other side and saw you touching up your lipstick and rearranging your hat.

Looking in front of me I saw you frown at your watch as if time were running out. Suddenly, I didn't want to look at any more of you. You really didn't care - you only wanted to get away.

I waited until the service was over and walked out among you — alone — lost!

- Author Unknown - via Tanner Church of Christ, Tanner, AL