



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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Wreck In Chiang Mai

By Bill Lee

Recently, while on a trip to Thailand, we had a wreck in Bro. Anond's truck. We are thankful that no one in either vehicle was injured, but Bro. Anond's truck suffered major damage, including the frame being twisted.

Bro. Anond's truck had over 170,000 mile on it. These are not the average highway or city miles, but hard miles in and over the mountains

of northern Thailand, as well as through the jungles. Miles such as these are far harder on a vehicle than these other types of miles.

We have known for some time now that Bro. Anond's truck would soon need to be replaced, but we were not expecting to have to replace it this soon. Following the wreck, and as we considered the amount of damage to Bro.

Anond's truck, we saw no alternative but to purchase a new truck.

In case any one may ask why we did not consider buying a used truck, as we would in the U. S., the answer is simple. We did not want Bro. Anond to inherit someone else's problems. It is almost impossible to find a good used four-wheel drive truck in Thailand. By the time individuals there trade these in for new ones they are practically already worn out. It was decided that it would be best in the long run, as far as expenses are concerned, to purchase a new truck.

The total cost of this truck was \$22,500 U.S. We certainly did not have this kind of money in our Thailand Mission account.



**BROTHER ANOND'S OLD TRUCK
PURCHASED IN MARCH 2001**

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CO-EDITORS' ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Editor, Eld. Wayne Camp, may be reached at the address given above, or at his home address. His home address at present is: 3809 Strider Rd, Scobey, MS 38953.

Home: (662) 229-9578

E-mail address: rwcamp@gpp-5grace.com

Visit our Home Page on the Internet

<http://www.gpp.camps-computer.com/>

Editor, Eld. Bill Lee may be reached at PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38901-0876.

Editor Lee's phone number is 662-226-2715.

E-Mail Address: billandjan@cableone.net

PLANNING TO MOVE? If at all possible, please notify us three weeks in advance of your change of address so that we may keep your paper coming. It costs us up 75 cents to get your new address from the Postal Service and that may take long enough that two papers are returned at a cost of up to \$1.50 before we get the correction. This will mean you miss one or two papers. Your help in saving us this expense will be appreciated.

IF YOU ARE IN Grenada, MS, we invite you to attend our services:

Bible Study 9:45 A. M. Sunday

Worship Service 11:00 A. M. Sunday

Evening Service 5:00 P. M. Sunday

Mid-Week Service 6:30 P. M. Wednesday

You Are Welcome!

We are asking for your help. We depleted our Thailand Mission account, with Central Baptist Church making up the difference in the total price of the truck. Some have already heard of this need and sent help, and for this we are thankful. More help is needed! If you would like to help us get through this financial crunch, caused by us having to purchase a new truck unexpectedly, it would be greatly appreciated. Please send all offerings for this to Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 876, Grenada, MS 38902. Also please designate on your check

that it is for the "Thailand Mission Fund".

We know that our God is in control of all things. Even the wreck, as well as the unexpected expenses, will work together for good. We have absolutely no doubt about this. In and through this wreck our God will receive glory. We have absolutely no doubt about this. Our God has promised, and therefore our God will, supply all of our needs. We have absolutely no doubt about this. But I have found over the years that God usually does these things in and through His people.

Over the years many have asked me to let them know of any special needs in the Lord's work in Thailand. I have always appreciated this care and concern for the work in Thailand. I have always taken this very seriously and I would never abuse such confidence. I know that those who have shown this interest have done so with sincerity and love for the Lord's work, coupled with a sincere desire to help when help is needed.

Help is needed now, and I want to thank in advance those who join with us to fill this need.



OTHER TRUCK INVOLVED IN WRECK A WORD FROM BRO. CAMP

Several have asked me if anyone was hurt in the wreck. Thanks to the mercy and providence of God no one was hurt. Others have asked if I was in the truck that was wrecked. I was not in Thailand at the time so was not in the wreck. We thank God for his mercies on those who were.

THAILAND IMPRESSIONS

By Bro. Billy Holladay

Back in November, 2006, my son, Mark, invited me to accompany him on one of his business trips to the Far East. I accepted immediately and began to wonder if we would go to Thailand and, if so, would we be there during the time Bro. Bill Lee and his wife, Janice, would be there. Indeed, Mark and Bro. Bill were able to work things out, and I spent more than two weeks with the Lees and Bro. Anond Phoothaptim in North Thailand, May 10-27.

I had been in Thailand fifty years before but what I saw then, as a young sailor, bore no resemblance to what I saw and experienced in the highland villages of the Lahu, Lisu and Hmong people on this trip. I now understand what Bro. Lee, Bro. Camp and others meant when they wrote that it's an experience that just can't be adequately described in words on paper.

Anyone who has read this far has most likely read previous reports by Bro. Camp, Bro. Lee, Bro. Duplechain and others. Therefore, I will not dwell on descriptions of the villages, the countryside (breathtaking!), the roads (oh my!), the food, or even the people. What I want to do is the most difficult to do—that is to express some feelings and my perception of the work.

First, the work of the Holy Spirit is evident in all the churches we visited. Paul gives us precedent for taking note of different levels of spiritual maturity among churches and among God's people generally. These churches are no exception; the church at Pa Sak is one of the older assemblies and is more established and mature than the struggling young Kiew High church. But in all the assemblies there is that certain indefinable "something" that marks the work of the Holy Spirit. No, they don't speak in "tongues" or any such thing. But there is a sense of peace among them that their spirit-worshipping neighbors know nothing of. There is a desire among them to please God. There is a desire to learn more of God's Word and they are very teachable. They are very charitable also—they don't have much but what they have

they are willing, even anxious, to share. Socially and economically, there is a world of difference between these Hill Tribes believers and our average congregations, but it is so very easy to identify with them and to love them and to call them brothers and sisters in Christ. Be assured, the Lord is at work in the highlands of North Thailand!

"DOING MEDICINE"

Dispensing basic medicines and providing limited medical care/advise to our poor brothers and sisters of the Hill Tribes has been an important part of the Thailand work for several years. This was initiated by Bro. Lee and Janice (who is an RN) when they noted the utter lack of medical care in the villages, deplorable sanitary conditions and the poor state of health of so many believers.

It was a very touching experience to watch Janice put on her stethoscope after preaching services, open the medicine bags and start seeing "patients"! A particularly poignant case was that of a young woman who had suffered nerve damage from an IV needle during childbirth. Her hand on that arm was paralyzed and useless. She was looking for—hoping for—help from Janice. Many of you already know that Janice's own right hand is paralyzed from neck surgery gone wrong. That scene would have brought a tear to a glass eye! It certainly caused my eyes to well up! And, there was another, almost identical, case in another village.

For the last week of this trip, we were joined by Dr Bryan Darling of Tupelo, MS, and pharmacist Ricky Cash of Grenada, MS. This was Dr Darling's third visit to the region. Physical therapist Hope Greenlee of Gaylord, MI, arrived several days before the doctors for her second visit. All of these professionals were there at their own expense and donated their time and services. Ricky also furnished a supply of medicines.

Perhaps there are some who would criticize



GROUP IN THAILAND DURING JUNE, 2007

L to R: Janice Lee, Bill Lee, Grenada, MS, Dr. Bryan Darling, Tupelo, MS, Therapist Hope Greenlee, Gaylord, MI, Billy Holladay, Scottsboro, AL, Pharmacist Ricky Cash, Grenada, MS, Down Front, Missionary in Thailand

or low-rate this aspect of the work—but they may also have found fault with the church at Antioch for sending a shipment of food to the saints in Jerusalem (Acts 11), and with Paul's later extensive efforts among other churches to provide relief again to those same saints (1 Cor 16). We are talking mainly about our brothers

and sisters in Christ who are hurting for medical care and advice. The Lahu, Lisu and Hmong people are, in the main, tolerated by the government of Thailand, but they are not considered as being Thais. Consequently, they are not issued a citizenship card. That has the effect of denying them access to most medical

care.

An image etched in my mind and memory: A (comparatively) large bamboo house with a split-bamboo floor; no table or chairs. All four health-care professionals sitting on the floor or on their knees for hours on end, examining/treating those seeking their help, while others still waiting to be seen, sat in a semicircle looking on! Privacy? Forget it!

Of course, there were a number of hard cases that were beyond this limited help, but many were helped and were thankful—thankful, not only to Dr Darling and the others, but to God, giving Him the glory. Were any unbelievers seen and treated? Yes, of course. The spirit worshippers are hurting for medical care the same as believers, and some of them get in line when they find out what is going on. They know in whose name the care is being provided, and they know that no one of their own belief is providing anything for them. I think I might apply 1 Peter 2:12 ***Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.***

Besides direct medical care, the health-care professionals also conducted a day-long training session for the pastors, their wives and others on how to diagnose and treat certain ailments that are common in the villages. A medicine box of antibiotics and other commonly prescribed medicines is entrusted to each pastor.

A source of safe drinking water is an ongoing problem in a number of the villages. Dead animals were floating in one freshly-dug well. Other villages are downstream from where elephants urinate and defecate in the water that villagers ultimately drink. The doctors are continuing to investigate simple and economical ways of purifying the drinking water.

CHURCH SERVICES

Above all else, I enjoyed the preaching services in the different churches we visited. Just as it is among sovereign grace Baptist churches in the U.S., there were differences

from church-to-church and, at the same time, a sameness. Numbers varied greatly, as did their buildings. Some had choirs, which sang beautifully. Some buildings were bamboo with thatched roofs and dirt floors, while others were of more permanent materials and tile floors. But the central thing that all shared was the emphasis on the preaching of the Word.

Bro. Anond had consulted with the pastors in advance and they had predetermined which churches would be visited each day. As would be expected, the pastors wanted Bro. Lee to preach, and he did. Although he studied and prepared his sermons ahead of time, he changed his mind and preached extemporaneously when, upon arrival, the pastor told him of some matter that needed to be addressed. This happened more times than it didn't. I'm not a preacher and I can say without blushing, I admire and have great respect for God's ministers who can deal with matters Biblically, in an impromptu way, as the need arises. Bro. Lee does so without usurping the pastors' authority or position in any way. That is, he readily discusses all matters of concern from a Bible perspective, while studiously avoiding any idea that he is "the bishop over the churches."

Most of the churches are young and they all started at ground zero. No doubt, nit-pickers could find something to carp about in any of them. However, they are anxious to learn, they are learning and most are making good progress from a milk diet to more solid spiritual food.

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Over the years, much has been written about the children's center. I will try not to be too repetitious in sharing my own "take" on it. It is, in fact, an orphanage; it is presently home for more than forty Lahu and Lisu orphan children. The question might be asked, why are mission funds being used to take care of orphans? But once one sees the conditions in the villages and understands the plight of orphaned children, the question becomes, how could those who are able **not** provide some relief for them?!

It has to do with long-standing custom among

the hill-tribes people. They will give food to orphan children but they will not take them into their own homes and families and raise them, as we would. Seeing these dirty, unloved little waifs in village after village, Bro. Lee decided something needed to be done for them. Personally, there is no doubt in my mind that it is the Christian (Christ-like) thing to do.

The present children's center has evolved from initial efforts to help those neglected little street urchins. Compared to what the children would have without it, it is very nice. But, by our standards, it certainly is not a Holiday Inn Express!

Being a career military man, I went into the boy's dormitory expecting to see neat rows of cots, ala a barracks. Wrong! Imagine a five-foot wide shelf, eighteen inches above the floor, and running down opposite walls the entire length of the room. The shelf is covered with rice-straw mats and each boy has about a three-foot section for his own. That's his bed and his storage area for what little he owns. The girls' dorm is essentially the same. I expressed some surprise and Bro. Lee told me the children themselves prefer that arrangement, which is used in the villages, to cots or bunk beds.

Reveille comes early for the children; Bro. Anond conducts a devotional at 6 AM! There are also chores and breakfast before school. A fair amount of the necessary food is produced by the children on the grounds of the center. They raise hogs, catfish and papayas. [Ed. **Note: There is also a mango orchard.**]

The children must be able to communicate in the Thai language in order to attend school. Since they know only Lahu or Lisu when they come to the center, they are taught Thai before starting school. Some of the early residents of the center have gone on to earn college degrees – an amazing accomplishment for **any** of the hill-tribes people, much less orphans!

There was fun time, too. Hope Greenlee brought a big suitcase of Frisbees, water guns, water balloons (what glee when one burst on Bro. Lee's midsection!), and personal-care items for the girls.

Reflecting upon the plight of these children without the children's center, one can only thank

God for those who, moved with compassion, initiated it and who keep it going. A new washing machine and dryer were purchased and installed during this trip. What a blessing—until now, the children had washed their clothes by hand, on a concrete floor with scrub brushes! (Their clothes will now, no doubt, look better and last longer) There are many improvements that yet need to be made, as funds permit. Renovations need to be made in both the girls' and the boys' dormitories. Now, in heavy rains, as occur during their rainy seasons, rain blows into the dormitories. Screening also needs to be installed on both dormitories to protect the children from mosquitoes. The Thai government has discontinued their subsidy of school fees for orphaned children. That has about doubled the cost of maintaining the children's center.

BROTHER ANOND

Anond Phoothaptim is a very remarkable man. I met him when he came to the United States in 2003 and visited in our home and church. I also heard him speak at a couple of Bible conferences and came to not only like him but to hold him in high regard for the work he was doing among the Lahu and Lisu people. Now, seeing him operate in his own environment in Thailand, I was simply amazed! He is one of those rare individuals who is not only at ease himself in **anybody's** company, high or low, but **they** are also comfortable talking to him. He is equally at home squatting on the dirt floor of a humble bamboo hut in a remote village, or teaching children to sing a new song in a small church building, or sitting in conference with high government or business leaders in their air-conditioned offices.

Most everyone who reads this will know that Bro. Anond was a successful engineer and architect who was well traveled in Far Eastern countries. He gave it all up to preach the gospel among the hill tribes of Northern Thailand.

Some have likened Bro. Anond to the apostle Paul as to his work ethic and his concern **“for all the churches”** that he has had a part in organizing. Without quarreling with that, I would

liken him to Barnabas. Barnabas was a man who could and did assume the role of leader when such was called for and who was equally ready to fall back and follow when God appointed another to the role of leader. He was willing to give away all he had for the benefit of others. Bro. Anond is a most capable leader who steps in and takes charge when the situation calls for it. Another time, he can almost embarrass one as he assumes the role of a servant and tries to make others comfortable and do for them. To a fault, he spends much of his own money on the children's center and various church needs. Once every year or two (and this was one of those years) Bro. Lee takes him shopping for new clothes—left to himself he would wear threadbare duds and spend the money on others.

Bro. Anond is an indefatigable worker. Some days we were up at 5 AM, drove to a remote village, and didn't get back to the hotel until 8:30 or 9 that night. Tiring! But, after dropping us off at the hotel, Bro. Anond still had a 30-minute drive to the children's center, where he has a two-room apartment. Before going to bed, he met with the administrator to go over how things had gone there, and checked on his year old "daughter," Sarah (more on Sarah in a moment). Sometimes Sarah kept him awake well into the night, but he was still up before 5 to go to the market to buy fruits and vegetables for the children. (He says you get better prices at the early market) Then, back to the hotel to pick us up and start another long day to a village or two. Whew!

Not only were Bro. Anond's work days extra long, he worked extra hard throughout the day. He speaks five languages and was the translator in all meetings. When Bro. Lee preached, Bro. Anond preached—sometimes translating the same message into Lahu and Thai! When Janice and Dr. Darling saw patients, Bro. Anond translated back and forth for both patients and doctor and nurse and pharmacist! When medicines and other supplies were purchased, Bro. Anond was in the midst of it. No wonder he had begun to look a little tired toward the end!

Perhaps some have not heard about Sarah.

A little over a year ago, a young woman in one of the villages was pregnant and her husband was sent to prison. She must work to support herself and decided she could not do so with a baby to take care of. She decided to kill the baby as soon as it was born. Somebody got word to Bro. Anond and he went to see the woman. He agreed to take the baby himself if she would not kill it. "It" turned out to be a "her" and Bro. Anond has had Sarah as his own daughter for a year now. She is a doll and he is devoted to her. Of course, he has to have help from other children's-center personnel during his frequent absences from the center. They, too, are devoted to her, as are the other children.

I could write much more but this is a report and not a book! It is easy to tell that I'm an admirer of Bro. Anond. I'm honored to call him friend and brother. I can't imagine a man that would be better suited to that work than that God-called man.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Because of the great social and economic difference between those Hill Tribes people and us, the thought could come to mind, why go to so much trouble and expense for just a comparative handful of people like that? An even worse thought would be that we are somehow more worthy of God's favors and blessings than they. Some of God's elect are among them—that's reason enough for whatever trouble and expense may be involved. Paul's words to Timothy are relevant, ***I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory*** (2 Tim 2:10). To take only slight liberty with Romans 10:12, ***'For there is no difference between the American and the Lahu: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.'***

I was both humbled and encouraged by the time I spent with our hill-tribes brothers and sisters in Christ. In his sovereignty God puts one work on the heart of one church and another work on the heart of another church so that all have support. I am thankful to be a part of this work.

THIS LITTLE CHURCH WENT TO MARKET

by Dr. Gary Gilley

Published by Evangelical Press
Reviews written by Eld Dan Cozart
 Grace Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas

Dr. Gilley has done an outstanding job in showing how the modern church is fast selling out while reaching out. Many churches have gone to market with an approach and selling technique which is enticing and exciting to the world. Entertainment, a market-driven philosophy, and psychology have replaced the true Gospel, the importance of Bible exposition, and the New Testament Church. Fun and programs have been tailored to make people feel good about themselves.

Gilley points out the guiding principle of the emergent church is: "Big is good....Small is bad". The theme that the end justifies the means has become commonly accepted. To be successful, a pastor must give the people what they want to hear. This includes changing up the music, the worship, and the preaching.

Many churches have fallen victim to this rationalization. There is a call for churches to wake up before it is too late.

I highly recommend this book to any and all who are willing to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.

THIS LITTLE CHURCH STAYED HOME

by Dr. Gary Gilley

Published by Evangelical Press

This is a sequel to another book by Gary Gilley entitled: ***This Little Church Went to Market***. This follow-up book speaks to the faithful church in deceptive times. Not all churches have sold out by "going to market". Some have faithfully stayed home; however, even these churches will be faced with many pressures and temptations to remain faithful.

Gilley goes into great detail on the authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures, and points out the dangers of looking to other sources, programs, and modern trends. This book is filled with information and instruction which would be most helpful to pastors and teachers. I recommend both books without reservation.

“REVIVAL RESCHEDULED” (I)

From the Pastor: M. J. Seymour, Sr.

As I was traveling the other day I passed by a church building that had a sign with a comment board; and in the comment area I read the words "Revival Rescheduled." I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. It would have been funny if it had not been so condemning. Those words have haunted me ever since.

My wife works for a doctor, and sometimes they have to reschedule patients. At times it is because of the doctor and at times it is because of the patient. So naturally my mind begins to think: Did God have something come up that He couldn't make it? Did God have an emergency to attend to, or maybe He was over booked, or perhaps He got sick, or maybe He just didn't feel like having it the appointed day? Did God have to reschedule or was it the people of that assembly? Did the people find it an

inconvenient time? Did they have something better to do? Just why did they find it necessary to reschedule their time for a so-called "revival"? Humanly speaking, I found it to be somewhat puzzling.

Biblically speaking, I found it to be disgraceful and slanderous against the sovereignty of our eternal God. The God of the Bible is NOT rescheduled at the whimsical desires of men. Can man control and order the wind? Jesus said: ***"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and wither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."*** (Jn. 3:8) It would be easier by far to have charge over the wind of the earth than to dictate to the Holy Spirit of God when, where, (See REVIVAL Continued Page 12, Left Col.)

ANOTHER OLD BAPTIST WRITES OF THE SCRIPTURAL CONSTITUTION OF A CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIS

Spilsbury: The Constitution of The Church

This will be further cleared in the **constitution of the Church**, which now follows, which constitution is the **orderly collection of conjoining of persons into the New Covenant or visible union with Christ their head**, as their mutual faith and agreement in the truth to the practice of it, and so consequently **into an orderly body among themselves**; wherein the *Saints are the matter*, and the *covenant is the form*; from which these two concurring, the Church arises, and is by them constituted, as Ezek. 16:8; Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10; Gal. 3:18, 29; Heb. 6:17; Zech. 1:3, 9; with Deut. 26:16, to 19; Deut. 29:12, 13; & Romans 9:8; with Gal. 4:28. By which it appears, that it is the **promise, or the Covenant of Grace**, that *produces a Christian*, and gives him a being in such an estate of grace, and so consequently the Church itself; for that which is true in a part, is the same in the whole.

The constituting causes which God ordinarily uses to effect this work are:

Now for the constituting causes by which God ordinarily uses to effect this work, they are these:

1. **The Word of God, which is to fit and prepare the matter for the form;**
2. **The Confession of Faith, which is to declare the fitness of the matter for the form;**
3. **The free and mutual consent and agreement of the particular persons, upon the practice of the same truth believed and confessed, as aforesaid.**
4. **And lastly, the Spirit of Christ, uniting and knitting up their hearts together, in and by the same truth; and of each of these a word.**

First, of the Word of God, fitting and preparing of the matter; and this appears in the Ministry of John the Baptist, who was to go before Christ in the spirit and power of Elisias, for to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedience unto the wisdom of the just, and to make ready a people prepared for the Lord, as

Luke 1:17, compare with this Luke 3:4, 5, 6; where he is said to prepare the way of the Lord, and to make His paths straight. And now the manner how this is to be done, is to fill up every valley, and to bring down every mountain and hill, and to make the crooked ways straight, and the rough ways smooth. And so verse 6, the valleys are to be understood of such whose hearts were possessed with fear, either of God's displeasure against them for sin; or fear of the dangers, straits, and difficulties, that attend the Gospel of Christ, in the true profession of the same. From both which the hearts of such are to be freed, that are fit to follow Christ, and prepared subjects for His Kingdom, Luke 14:26. In which sense the Gospel is a preparative means to fill up such valleys, by pouring in the great abundance of God's rich grace, and free love in Christ towards all such as believe and His all-sufficiency to preserve such as suffer for His name's sake. And for laying low the Mountains and hills, that is, to humble and bring down the proud heart of man, that exalts himself, and cannot submit unto the simplicity of the Gospel, and to that low and mean condition of Christ upon His cross, as Isa. 2:11, 22; with 2 Cor. 10:4, 5,6; And for the crooked to be made straight, that is, the crooked and Serpent-like nature, and evil dispositions of men, these shall be changed; and made conformable to Christ. And so for the making of the rough smooth, that is, the hard and rough turbulent spirits of men, that will admit of no rule, order, or peaceable society, at all, shall by the Word of God be made soft, smooth, and of such a meek temper of spirit, as that all such shall live together in love, innocent and harmless, with unity, peace, and uniformity to Christ in all things, as Isaiah 11:6, 7, 8, 9. All which Christ Himself often affirmed, that except a man deny himself, he cannot be His disciple. All which charge thus upon the hearts of men, is by the power of the Word of God, by which they as matter are fitted and prepared for the form, James 1:18.

The **second** constituting cause, is the

confession of faith, which declares the *fitness of the matter for the form*; which **confession of faith** is produced by the power of the Gospel, shining into the heart of man, and **draws away the same after that which is by the gospel revealed**. Which **truth is of such a working nature**, that it **will not be kept in**, but like unto leaven which so **seasons and sweetens the whole man**, that as fire at length it breaks forth and discovers itself, or rather such as have it, and not only so, but it brings them together by which they come now to confer about the same, so that at length they come to be **one and the same mind and judgment in it, and withal convinced of their obedience thereunto**.

And upon this, here follows a **third constituting cause**, which is their **free and mutual consent and agreement upon the practice of that truth so by God revealed, and by faith received**, as His will in their **obedience thereunto**; which agreement is **between God and them in His truth, Who by His power subjects them to Himself by the same, and where this is in truth**. *Matt. 3; Mark 16; Acts 2; Acts 8; Acts 10; Psa. 110:3; Eph. 2; Eph. 4; Col. 2.*

Now comes the **cause in the last place**, which *effects and concludes* the whole work, and that is the *Spirit of grace and power*, going forth in their hearts by faith, **uniting and knitting them up together in one, for the manifestation of their obedience to God**, in their *practical subjection to Christ in the said truth*, by them received and agreed upon as aforesaid, and this is the Covenant that forms the Church, which ever goes in order before the external administration of any other ordinance than the matters agreement together for **orderly practice**; for persons must be **informed** of the truth in judgment, and **bound** by the same in conscience, and **agree** upon the practice, before the same can *orderly be put into execution*; **which union is the Holy Ghost's conjoining and uniting the said persons together in one and the same truth by faith, and so consequently into an orderly body among themselves, immediately under Christ their Head**. Which conjunction is called in Scripture the **unity of the Spirit, Eph. 4:3**; and the **gracious covenant**, by which God becomes their God, and they His approved people in such a visible relation, *Gen. 17*; as *Deut. 29:12, 13*; with *Deut. 26:17, 18*; *Ezek. 16:8*; *Jer. 31:3*. This is called also a **joining to the Lord**, as *Jer. 50:5*.

They shall ask the way to Sion with their faces thither ward, saying Come let us join ourselves unto the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten. And the son of the stranger that joins himself to the Lord, to serve, Him, and to love His name, and to be His servant; &c. Isa. 56:6. And he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit, I Cor. 6:17. And of the rest durst no man join himself unto them, Acts 5:13. And when Paul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself unto the Disciples, Acts 9:26. And the whole body fitly joined together, &c. Eph. 4:16. And fitly framing of matter together for a house or habitation of God, as *Eph. 2:21, 22*. All which is the Saints entering **covenant with God**, which covenant is their form that gives them a being in such a relation or fellowship, *Isa. 43:21*; *I Peter 2:9*. And so much in brief of the **constitution of a Church, and the causes producing the same**.

___Spilsbury. *Lawful Subject of Baptism*, p. 72. ___

In another article along the same line, taken from the *Wikipedia Encyclopedia*, the following information is found. I would especially call the reader's attention to the last paragraph in this exert from the *Wikipedia Encyclopedia* article.

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Spilsbury's first work, *The Lawfull Subject of Baptisme*, also dealt at length with the particular task of fitting and preparing the matter, that is how sinners are made fit for constituting a church.

In the final analysis, Spilsbury saw four elements that merged together in the constituting of a "New Testament church."

First, he argued, must come the Word of God "which is to fit and prepare the matter for the form." The preaching of the Word assaults the pride of man, smooths his "hard and rough turbulent" spirit, aligns his "crooked and Serpent-like nature," and brings him humbly to embrace the "low and mean condition of Christ upon His cross."

Second, Spilsbury said that this same Word so convinces the sinner of its truth that its leaven "seasons and sweetens the whole man." The Word operates like a "fire that breaks forth and discovers itself" with such clarity in "such as have it," that they delineate specific truths from that Word. A confession of faith consisting of particular doctrines naturally develops. Others so prepared "come to one and the same mind and judgment in

it."

Spilsbury said that this leads to the third "constituting cause" of a church. The believers so fitted by the Word now covenant to be a body of believers joined by "free and mutual consent and agreement upon the practice of that truth so by God revealed, and by faith received." This voluntary covenant precedes the ordinances.

He said that the fourth cause follows, the Spirit's work in knitting and uniting their hearts together in truth. A corporate witness to propositional truths provides the only clear evidence that such a work of the Spirit has, in fact, occurred.

He wrote:

Their practical subjection to Christ in the said truth, by them received and agreed upon as aforesaid, and this is the Covenant that forms the Church, which ever goes in order before the external administration of any other ordinance than the matters agreement together for orderly practice; for persons must be informed of the truth in judgment, and bound by the same in conscience, and agree upon the practice, before the same can orderly be put into execution.

Spilsbury believed that once such agreement in conversion and truth was ascertained and the "matter," converted and convinced persons so constituted has covenanted with fully informed consciences to be the people of God, the covenant is sealed with baptism. "Thus being in Covenant with God by faith in Jesus Christ, in which their state consists, and so the agreement made, and the covenant passed between them, now the seal is set to. Which is the outward ordinance of Baptism, to confirm the same," he wrote.

Professions of faith:

The point must be made clearly and without equivocation that the earliest Particular Baptists, as well as General Baptists, established their churches by agreement to a confession of faith.

I encourage the reader to go to the following URL and read more about John Spilsbury. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Spilsbury_\(Baptist_minister\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Spilsbury_(Baptist_minister))

Dear Reader, you should notice that not one time did I interject my own thoughts into this article by John Spilsbury. Spilsbury was a leader among the Particular Baptists (Sovereign Grace Baptists) for many years. History reveals that he established a Particular Baptist Church about

1648 and that he lived until at least 1699 (some say longer). But he was a true Baptist and is recognized as such by most Baptists.

I invite the reader to find one single reference to the necessity of a linked chain or to the Essential Mother-Daughter concept of church succession in Spilsbury's discussion of the orderly manner for forming a New Testament Church. Read carefully his four essentials for constituting a church and find where he mentions the necessity of a Mother church.

So that you do not have to go back, I reprint them for you here.

- 1. The Word of God, which is to fit and prepare the matter for the form;**
- 2. The Confession of Faith, which is to declare the fitness of the matter for the form;**
- 3. The free and mutual consent and agreement of the particular persons, upon the practice of the same truth believed and confessed, as aforesaid.**
- 4. And lastly, the Spirit of Christ, uniting and knitting up their hearts together, in and by the same truth; and of each of these a word.**

Brethren may write about their "New Light Baptist History" and cavil and carp about those who do not hold to their Mother Church-Daughter Church necessity but here is an old Baptist who lived, wrote and established at least one Sovereign Grace Baptist church over 350 years ago and when he set forth the four essentials of constituting a New Testament Church he makes not one single reference to the necessity of a mother church. In the eyes of some brethren John Spilsbury would be classed as a New Light Baptist Historian. Of course he was not as wise as many modern-day Baptists are. He did not have the insight that many modern Landmarkers have. I suspect that if Bro. John Spilsbury were alive today and if he were given to name calling, he would be calling some modern-day Landmarkers New Light Baptists.

DEMANDING RETRACTIONS AND APOLOGIES

I do not know where some get the authority to demand that an independent Baptist Missionary

who is also an independent Baptist Editor authorized by and independent Baptist Church withdraw anything from their Web Site or retract anything written in the paper published by that independent Baptist Church. Of course, I guess I am just a novice and do not understand independent Baptist practices and ways. After all I have only been a Baptist for 56 years and have only preached and pastored for 49 ½ of those years so I guess I am too new to the faith to understand.

I want to say in closing that I do not have the illimitable temerity, the unmitigated gall, the egotistical effrontery, or the unimputed impudence to think that I am so perfect and mature in my understanding of God's word that I can tell my peers what they can and cannot write and publish either in their papers or on their Web Sites.

Some remind me of the Catholic Bishop or Cardinal, I cannot remember off hand which, and am in Suriname as I write this and cannot access the information, who, upon reading a book by Bro. Albert Garner called *The Devil's Masterpiece: The Roman Catholic Church*, wrote to Bro. Garner demanding that he mail him all remaining copies of the book so that he could burn them. I believe Bro. Garner's response was that he would sell the man all the copies he had in stock at the going price and would use the money to print more.

I do not mind someone taking issue with something I write. That is his privilege just as it is the privilege of the editors of this paper to publish what we feel needs to be published. But when someone starts demanding apologies, retractions, and removals, he has gone beyond the bounds of his authority. ***Matthew 20:25-27 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.***

(REVIVAL Continued from Page 8) and how of ignorant and corrupt men may rule in His stead? If He did not yield it to Lucifer, do we dare presume that God would just give way to man? Man cannot rule over his own life and affairs, how do we presuppose he can

command the affairs of an omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God?

Need we remind ourselves who is sovereign over whom? The timing and the power of revival are not left to the scheduling of men and their assemblies; it comes by the order and the awakening power of God. Who can withstand the moving breath of the Almighty?

SPECIAL MEETING AT MT. LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH

Fayette, Alabama

July 22-25, 2007

**Meeting will begin with a meal at 5:00 PM on
Sunday evening with a Service at 7:00 PM**

**Morning services Monday-Wednesday 10:30
Evening services Sunday-Wednesday 7:00**

Preaching: Eld. Bill Lee

Pastor of Central Baptist Church, Grenada, MS

Pastor: Jimmie Davis

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