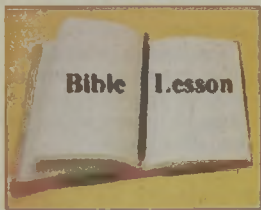


8B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Facing the Sanhedrin

Acts 4:1-4

A crowd had gathered as Peter and John explained the source of power that had given the once lame man the ability to walk. Peter told the listening Jews that Jesus Christ, whom they had crucified, had caused the man to walk. Additionally, he extended an invitation for them to repent of their sins and accept Christ personally.

The apostles' preaching and gathering crowd attracted the attention of others including the captain of the Temple, the priests and the Sadducees.

The captain of the Temple was the leader of the Temple police who guarded the temple. The guards were stationed throughout the Temple and were responsible for informing the priest when things were out of order. The priest were relatives of the High Priest because they came from the tribe of Levi and were given special responsibilities and influence in the Temple. The Sadducees were a powerful group of Jewish leaders who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead (Matthew 22:23). Through their cooperation with the Romans, the Sadducees profited financially and were given unlimited authority in some issues as they related to the Temple. Members from these three groups primarily were responsible for engineering the arrest and crucifixion of Christ. One can imagine their frustration as they approached the gathering crowd and learned Peter and John were preaching about the same Jesus they thought they had gotten rid of.

Peter and John's teachings irritated the Sadducees for two primary reasons. The apostles' teaching regarding the resurrection of Jesus was directly opposed to one of their fundamental beliefs. The second reason is the teaching challenged their authority as religious teachers. If the Jewish people began to believe in the resurrection of the body as well as the other teachings of the apostles, this would undermine the church council and they would be unable to exercise authority over them. As opposed to the way God has our best interests in mind, the Sadducees only thought of themselves and their earthly power: They had no concept of an almighty God.

Obviously, the Sadducees felt they had to do something about the two trouble making preachers. Their solution was to lay hands on the apostles.

Please see ACTS 4:1-7B



Cyberspace home for the faithful

Web site is an online community for Christian fellowship, prayer

By Cheri F. Hodges
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If God had a web site, what would it be and would you click it?

Father and son Charlie and Kevin Parker launched a web site, www.christianhangsuite.com with the goal of meeting the spiritual needs of young Christians. The site has over a million hits and thousands of subscribers, according to the Parkers.

The site is akin to Blackplanet.com with a Christ-

ian feel. There are sections for careers, fashion and message boards.

But unlike the secular Blackplanet, there are also sections for prayer requests and live sermons of the week. Then there's the Internet radio station, WCHS Radio FM, which is hosted on the Live365 network.

The Parkers, who live in Washington, D.C., started the site in late 2004 and the father and son are in charge of the day to day operation of the site.

"It's not too bad," Kevin Parker said in a statement. "We don't really see it as work. This is something that we both enjoy doing. At the end of the day I'm confident that someone has been blessed by our site."

The site allows like-minded Christians to communicate with each other on its interactive message boards where members discuss Bible studies and Christian fraternities and sororities. There are more than 30 different sections

on the web site to chose from.

Members of the web site can also create a personal page, post event, request prayer, post testimonies and access a wealth of information from the lifestyle section.

Some of gospel's hottest artists are also on the site like Byron Cage, J. Moss and others.

"We're going to continue to go in the direction that God leads us," said Charlie Parker.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/WADE NASH



Local group destined to be big

Dennis Reed & Gap
Water Walker
Dennis Reed, producer
Pablo Productions



It's exciting to hear a local group that's going to be big, and I mean big. Let me introduce you to Dennis Reed & Gap.

Reed is an extremely gifted songwriter, singer and arranger - a triple threat. He has assembled a talented group of singers and given them some memorable material.

Reed has obviously been schooled by some gospel masters. I can hear traces of Richard Smallwood, D. Lawrence and even John P. Kee. Yet, Reed has an undeniable sound that shines through. He has the potential to be as good and successful as his contemporaries.

This CD is very youth-oriented, but has something to offer every listener. Traditional listeners will enjoy "I Got My Joy Back," a rousing, foot-stompin' praise fest. Dennis gets his mother Jerri to sing lead and she eats up the spotlight. She makes these kids sing! Praise & worship fans should find the Smallwood-influenced "Holy Spirit" more than satisfying. It's uplifting without being repetitious.

There are times when Reed is brutally honest in his lyrics, which may make some listeners cringe, and others rejoice. "Necessary" - one of the most honest songs of the past 10 years - is such an instance. "The times we got drunk/The times we smoked weed/When she got pregnant/You still loved me" won't play well in a lot of churches, but young (and some not so young) folks will hear their situation and be comforted in knowing what has happened was "necessary." What a message, what a ministry.

If a major label ignores this project, it will only support my belief that the powers that be in gospel are as clueless as those in secular music. This is a project that should not go unnoticed. To get a copy, log on to www.dennisreed.com or dennisreedandgap.com.

Black S.C. cemetery to be preserved

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANAHAN, S.C. —A black cemetery here containing at least 70 graves will be preserved amid the construction of about 200 homes in the area.

Members of a citizens group also want to raise money for a historical marker at the cemetery. And the group, Goose Creek Concerned Citizens, plans to extensively search this fall for a second cemetery that might be nearby.

Residents of the Foster Creek Road

area said their ancestors, some of whom were slaves buried along with the memories of slave history in lower Berkeley County, were laid to rest in the cemeteries.

The roughly 1-acre gravesite that has been found is commonly called Bee Cemetery. It had been slated for residential development in an area where nearly 5,000 homes have been built in recent years.

But the developers, who have planned about 200 homes on a 77-acre tract that includes the cemetery, said they will preserve the site. A few

graves at the edges might be relocated inward, said company president E. Lee Barnes III.

"We are going to do our best not to move any of the graves if possible," Barnes said.

The citizens group and community hopes to raise about \$1,500 to have a historical marker erected at Bee Cemetery.

"The plantations, they are recognized and honored, but the people who made them, the laborers who made the owners rich, they are for-

Please see CEMETERY/7B

McKinney is back at Mount Zion

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE —The Rev. Samuel McKinney, who for years was a preeminent force in Seattle's religious community, returned to the pulpit Sunday at Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The 78-year-old McKinney led Mount Zion for 40 years before retiring in 1998.

He's filling in now after the July resignation of the pastor who had replaced him, Leslie Braxton, who had faced a vote in the church over the conduct of his ministry.

Mount Zion is Seattle's largest historically black church. McKinney was a leader of the black community and in the civil-rights movement, having been a college classmate of the

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

McKinney said he's not coming out of retirement, but agreed to be the church's preacher while church officials search for a permanent replacement for Braxton.

"My job is to try to make them whole," McKinney said of the congregation. "To try to end their hurts and pains."

Political leaders paid their respects to McKinney Sunday. Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels showed up for McKinney's second morning sermon, as did members of the City Council, the King County Council and the School Board.

"The stature he has today really comes from 50 years of service," Nickels said after the service. "He

Please see MCKINNEY/6B

Ratings	
Classic	★★★★★
Excellent	★★★★
Good	★★★
Fair	★★
Why?	★
No stars - A mess	

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for church announcements is 5 p.m. on Fridays. Fax information to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your announcement to cheri.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

Ongoing

Chappell Memorial Baptist Church will open its Clothing Closet to families in need every first and third Saturday of the month. Families can come to the church, which is located at 110 Bradford Drive, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information, call (704) 394-5615.

There is no charge for the clothes.

- Plaza Baptist Church, 3321 The Plaza, will host an eight-week video study by Bruce Wilkinson designed to show how the Prayer of Jabez can release God's favor. The series begins nightly at 7 p.m. For more information, call (704) 334-3913.

September 24

South River Baptist Church, located on S.

Chippley Ford Road, will host Youth Reloaded. Iranian Evangelist David Nasser will be the guest speaker. Admission is \$1 and doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, call (704) 876-1520.

- The District III Ushers will hold their quarterly meeting at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, located at 517 Baldwin Ave. For more information, call (704) 372-5338.

- Memorial Presbyterian Church will host a class titled "Two Shall Become One" Marriage in the Bible Old Testament: Monogamy and Polygamy? The class begins at 10 a.m. The church is located at 2600 Beatties Ford Road. For more information, call (704) 392-4752.

September 25

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church, located at 4700 Beatties Ford Road, will celebrate Homecoming to mark its 120th anniversary. There will be a special worship service fol-

lowed by a picnic on the grounds. Please bring a picnic basket to share. Event will happen "rain or shine."

- New High Springs Baptist Church, located at 811 South Dalton St., Gastonia, will celebrate its homecoming at 3 p.m. with guest speaker

Pastor John Howze of the People's Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

- The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, located at 3001 Beatties Ford Road, will celebrate Lutheran Women's Missionary League at 4 p.m. Vilma Leake, a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education will be the guest speaker.

- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will be celebrating its pastor's 35th anniversary at 3 p.m. The speaker will be the Rev. Dennis Williams from Faith Memorial. The church is located at 517 Baldwin Ave.

- H.O. Graham Metropolitan Presbyterian Church will hold its annual revival service through Wednesday. Services begin Sunday at 6 p.m. with guest speaker the Rev. Richard Baxter of Sumter, S.C. For the rest of the week, services begin at 7 p.m. For more information, call (704) 375-2116.

September 26

Memorial Presbyterian Church will host a class titled "Two Shall Become One" Marriage in the Bible New Testament: Teaching of Jesus and Writings of Paul. The class begins at 10 a.m. The church is located at 2600 Beatties Ford Road. For more information, call (704) 392-4752. The class will also be held on October 1st.

October 2

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, located at 3001 Beatties Ford Road, will host its annual

Please see MONEY/6B

