

The exiles dedicate the temple

MICHAEL ALEXANDER
Central Newspaper Services
Ezra 6:13-22

out the Old Testament time dedicated themselves to God and worshipped Him. God uses the willing.

IT IS FINISHED

And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospering through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

Ezra 6:14.

Just as they had promised, the remnant of God coming back from Babylonian captivity finished the temple of God. This verse indicates that the promise that God made in our text for last week had been kept. God had promised to prosper the people for their obedience and this He did.

God was using His prophets to communicate with the people and they were responding in the correct way. This scene is a beautiful picture of man cooperating with God. The

relationship between God and man was intended to be one of peaceful joy.

IT IS DEDICATED

And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy, And offered at the dedication of this house of God a hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of

the tribes of Israel.
Ezra 6:16, 17.

A very important act took place upon the completion of the temple. The people dedicated the temple to God. In this service, they sacrificed bullocks, rams, lambs and he goats. All of this was intended to please God.

The temple completion was an act by the Jews to please God with their obedience and the sacrificial offering was an act by the Jews to please God with their offering.

It is important for us to note that in our own lives, we cannot please God with just one or the other. If we give generously, but yet are not obedient, we are not pleasing God, nor is our gift of value. However, if we are obedient in our self-sacrifice and do not help with the furthering of the kingdom of God financially, we have not pleased God. God wants our sacrifice of self and resources.

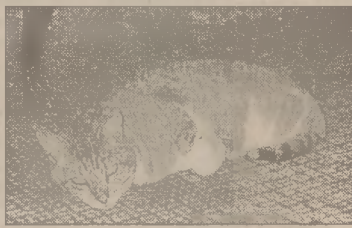
Lessons based on International Sunday School lessons

LOVING HOMES WANTED



He's being called Scooter, he's heart-worm free, and he has a collar, but not much else is known about this 38-pound dog that wandered up to the home of an SPCA member in Hertford. If he's your dog or you would like to adopt him, call 426-3720 or 426-6587.

This young and loving, female cat was found in downtown Hertford and is need of a good home. You can call 426-7387 Monday—Friday, 9-5.



Ellis Temple

Ellis Temple Baptist Church will hold revival June 25 - 27 and June 29. Services will begin at 7:30, June 25 - 27 and 3 p.m., June 29. Leading the services will be:

June 25: Minister Wallace Elliott, Associate Pastor of Ryan's Grove Baptist Church along with The Ryan's Grove Male Chorus

June 26: Rev. Charlie N. Moore of St. Paul Baptist Church, Sunbury along with his choir

June 27: Rev. Larry Moore of New Piney Grove Baptist Church, Gates along with his choir

June 29: Musical Program featuring Nation After God of Elizabeth City, Perquimans County Male Chorus, Serenity of Apex and Gospel Disciples of Edenton.

Jireh Ministries, an outreach program of Ellis Temple Missionary Baptist Church, will hold Sidewalk Sunday School on July 12, 19 and 26, 9 a.m. - noon, on

the corner of Catherine and King streets in Winfall. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Children ages 5 - 15 are welcome, younger children must be accompanied by parents. Call 426-7155 for information.

Services at Ellis Temple are held the first, second and third Sundays of the Month, 11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bible study is Tuesday, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Warwick

Warwick Baptist Church will host The Singing Laymen from Windsor in concert on June 29 at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 4314 Virginia Road, Hobbsville. A nursery will be provided. For more information, call 221-4375, 8:30 - 11:30 am.

New Hope UMC

New Hope United

Methodist Church will have an old-time gospel show with live picken' and singin' on Sunday, June 29 between 6 - 8 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The singspiration is free! The featured guests with vocals and instrumentals include local churches and singing groups. There will be refreshments at the end of the show. New Hope UMC is located at the corner of New Hope and Woodville roads.

Chapel on the Sound

Beverly Hills Baptist Youth Praise Ensemble from Asheville with 18 teens, under the direction of Mike Adcock, Music Director, and Timothy J. Long Jr. Youth Minister, will present the Sunday morning worship service

with skits, solos and choir performances at Chapel on the Sound at Holiday Island during worship service at 11 a.m. on June 29.

United

Pentecostal

Rev. Ismael Melendez and his wife Christina have accepted a pastoral appointment at United Pentecostal Church, Edenton. Special service to meet the pastor will be held on Sunday, July 1, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Notice

Items for the services/activities column should be submitted in writing by Friday at 5 p.m. either at our office at 119 W. Grubb Street, by fax at 426-4625 or by email perquimansweekly@earthlink.net.

SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

The Carpenter's Tools

The Verse Forgotten

Recently, I gathered with the family of Katherine Ashley in Chowan County to celebrate her life, commit her body to the grave, and her soul to the Lord. Friends and family were there. Beautiful flowers surrounded the graveside. We listened as a family member sang the classic of all Christian songs, "Amazing Grace". However, we heard a verse that we, too often, leave out of our corporate usage of this blessed hymn. It goes like this -

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.*

I suppose that's one of the verses that have skipped all these years. Yet, look at the truth of that verse forgotten. The songwriter focuses on the reality of our life here on earth ending, but true life beginning with the joy and the peace of God. Life truly begins for the Christian when it ends on this earth. Paul said, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Mrs. Ashley made my pastoral task so easy. Just days before her demise, we chatted openly about her funeral. She informed me that she did not want a sad funeral, but rather a happy one. God allowed us to experience just that; one moment we were crying, then we were all laughing. I think she would have laughed along with us. It was a memorable event. "The verse forgotten" in that old hymn brought comfort to me as I realized that though our mortal bodies may fail here, "we have a home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens".

Have a blessed week and never forget this verse - *Yea when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease. I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.*



By Wallace C. Phillips

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