



October 2004 Newsletter of The Mid America Sisterhood of Churches Vol. 4 No. 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Meeting Our Sister Churches

Youth Campout by Meagan Eakins p. 2

Eagletown Baptism by Marsha Chadwick p. 3

Historical Sketch—*S.N. Haskell* by Bankhead p. 3

Witnessing

Healthful Living Seminar in Mena, AR p. 4

Gary Dalrymple's Report p. 5

MASC Financial Report p. 5

Foreign Missions

India p. 6

Feature Article

The Trinity or the Godhead? by Trey Shurley p. 7

Sharing Bulletin Board p. 9

Information p. 10

NEW!!!!!!

MASC website: www.MidAmericaSisterhood.org

The Bugle can be downloaded in printable format here!

Check it out!!

The Bugle is a quarterly publication with the purpose of facilitating communication and cooperation amongst the sisterhood churches. It seeks to uplift, edify and encourage by sharing how God is working in each of our fields of labor.

Subscription information: A donation of \$5-\$10 per year is suggested. Send subscription requests to the Bugle editor and the donation to the MASC Secretary (see info on last page).

The Mid America Sisterhood of Churches is an organization founded to facilitate the unification and cooperative effort among the scattered home and independent churches of the Historic Adventist movement. For more information or a membership packet contact the MASC

Appetizer



It is that time of year when all nature is preparing for the coming of Winter. The old timers in the area are predicting an especially severe one. We are approaching another kind of Winter; one which the Bible declares will be the worst this earth has ever experienced. The Lord has promised the refreshing later rains to prepare us for this time just as we have been experiencing this recent bountiful, soaking rain after eight weeks of no rain.

As we read in this issue, about the activities our brothers and sisters have been involved with, about the outreach, the witnessing in our local areas and the foreign missions, I pray that it will inspire each of us to work harder for the Lord and to hasten His coming.

For our Feature Article this time, we divert from our continued study on Lessons On Faith, to touch on a subject that has been stirring in the home church movement. Trey Shurley gives us an overview of the history of the doctrine of the Trinity and especially how we relate to the Divinity of Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit.

Do check out our new web site at www.MidAmericaSisterhood.org More about it on page 2. - editor

MEETING OUR SISTER CHURCHES

Fall Youth Campout

By Meagan Eakins

On the weekend of September 24th, some of the members from the Boardcamp, Antlers, and Eagletown churches headed to Mount Magazine State Park. Once there, we set up camp and prepared for sundown worship. We had a wonderful time singing, and everyone shared the blessings that they had received that week.

The next morning, Anna Becker led out in Sabbath school, and Scott Eakins had the sermon. In the afternoon, we went to the nature center. The monarch butterflies were migrating and were suppose to fly over Mt. Magazine, but the wind was blowing the wrong direction so they were west of us. Later we went for a hike, and David Arbour showed us a lot of edible plants. We even got to eat some! After having sundown worship, some of us went for a night hike.

The next morning, the hawks were migrating through. We went to the bluffs to watch as groups of hawks would gather and then catch the thermals gliding in circles, higher and higher till they were nearly out of sight. Then they would fly off together on their migration. We saw about four hundred hawks. The dragonflies were also migrating and we saw hundreds of them. Shortly after we all headed our separate ways.

We plan on having another campout at Devil's Den State Park in April 2005. Hope to see you in the Spring!



The New MASC Web Site A Ready Resource for the Sisterhood of Churches

- Tells the Purpose, Goals and History of the formation of the MASC
- Lists the Member Churches with contact information and directions
- Lists upcoming Local Events and gives reports of past events
- Gives contact information for all MASC officers
- Camp Meeting page gives report of last camp meeting and developments for next
- Lists our Summary of Doctrinal Beliefs
- Gives the Bugle in a full color printable format
- Gives the Membership Packet in a printable format

Be sure to submit your e-mail address to receive notification of updates to the web site and new issues of the Bugle. If you would be willing to get the Bugle on the Web and don't need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know, as that will save us mailing and printing expense.

Julie Shurley, Web Site Coordinator
julieshurley@juno.com
479-394-4014



Blank - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites

MASC Mid America Sisterhood of Churches

Home
About Us
Member Churches
Local Events
Campmeeting
Missions
Beliefs
Newsletter
Contact Us

welcome

Thank you for visiting our new Web site!

The Mid America Sisterhood of Churches (MASC) is an organization founded to facilitate the unification and cooperative effort among the scattered home and independent churches of the Historic Seventh-day Adventist believers.

The MASC is committed to the Seventh-day Adventist message and the spreading of the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14. We are in spiritual unity with, and seek to support any individual or group that is doing the Lord's work and following the truth.

Statement of Purpose

1. To maintain the foundational pillars of historic Seventh-day Adventism and to uphold Gospel Order.
2. To provide a network of churches that are on this foundation.
3. To draw the attention of the popular churches to the Law and the Sabbath.
4. To encourage people to take personal responsibility for their own salvation.
5. To encourage the return to the Spirit of Prophecy blueprint for Health and Education.

For the July edition of our newsletter, *The Bugle* (a quarterly publication), Click here to download now! (241KB)

Is your church or home group of like faith and interested in joining the MASC? Click here to download a membership packet. (228KB)

Stay Informed!
Register your e-mail address here to receive update notices from our Web site!

Submit

Useful Links
Amazing Facts
Ellen G. White Estate
Hartland Institute
Hope International
Steps to Life

Home | About Us | Member Churches | Local Events | Campmeeting | Missions | Beliefs | Newsletter | Contact Us

Copyright 2004 Mid America Sisterhood of Churches. All Rights Reserved.
Web site design, development, hosting and maintenance by Intelligent Web Solutions.

My Computer

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Another faithful and active Advent pioneer worker was Stephen Nelson Haskell, better known as Elder S. N. Haskell. He was born near South Lancaster, Mass. in 1833. He married very young- just under 18. At the age of 19 he became a First-Day Adventist preacher. A year later someone gave him a little tract entitled "Elihu on the Sabbath". He took the tract into the woods where he spent the entire day considering Sabbath observance. By the end of the day he was fully convinced and began to keep the Seventh-day Sabbath. Two years later he invited Joseph Bates to visit them. Joseph Bates spent ten days there teaching the message and preaching to the members of his little church. S. N. Haskell and his members promptly became Seventh-day Adventists.

In 1868 he visited Battle Creek, Michigan and there met Elder James White and Sister White. As he listened to their earnest appeals calling for every believer to take an active part in the work, he resolved to do all in his power to forward the cause of truth.

For the next 53 years he was very active in the Lord's work, serving in many capacities in several parts of the U.S. and also in Europe and Australia. He organized the first "Tract and Missionary Society" in many of the places. His first wife died in 1891. Elder Haskell spent 1896-1899 laboring in Australia. While there he married Hetty Hurd who was several years younger. She was a very good Bible student who for many years taught other women to be Bible instructors.

The last years of his life were spent in California. He remained active in the Lord's work by conducting Bible study classes at camp meetings and at other large assemblies. It was at some of these meetings that Sister Bankhead's father and mother heard him speak. His presentations were marked by a quiet earnestness. The people felt that they were definitely fed spiritually by attending his meetings. When he could not remember a text, Hetty, his wife, would come to his assistance.

In his later years, he would explain that when he was still a teenager that the Lord gave him a wife who was older than he who helped him to "grow up". Then after her death the Lord gave him a younger wife to be as a daughter to assist him in his old age. He lived to be 90 and was active to within a short time of his death.

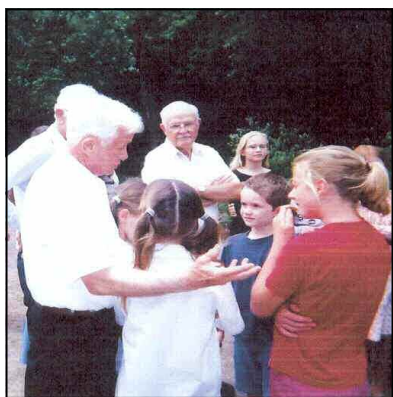
His published writings include *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, *The Seer of Patmos* and *The Cross and its Shadow* which are all very inspirational as well as informative. His conclusion in the book *The Cross and Its Shadow* is very timely. Here is part of it:

"Each one is the architect of his own character. To all the call is given, 'Look unto Me, and be ye saved.' The one who will keep his mind on God, by beholding will be changed. Day by day a transformation will take place in the soul, which will cause angels to marvel at the work wrought in humanity.

"The same Christ who once walked the earth, clothed in human form, will by His divine Spirit, dwell in every human being who will open wide the door of his heart and bid Him enter. He who will meditate upon Christ, and study His sinless life, by beholding the glory of the Lord will be 'changed into the same image from glory to glory.'" p.377, 8

Eagletown Fellowship Baptism

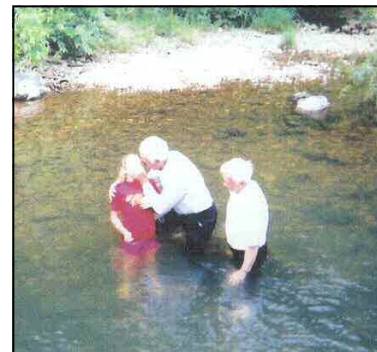
By Marsha Chadwick



It was a beautiful spot on the Mountain Fork river where friends and family met for the baptism of four children. Sunni and Bonni Lovell, daughters of Rodney and Christine Lovell; Hunter Conatser and Sarah Janey, children of Sharon and David Conatser, gave their lives to Jesus. It was good to see children wanting to give their lives to the Lord.

Bonni and Sunni love to sing and have special music at church. Hunter has a big responsibility of being the only boy in a family of five sisters and another one on the way. Sarah is mother's helper at her house, helping with baby sister.

These children wanted to dedicate their lives on June 5, 2004. They are members of the Eagletown Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventist Believers. They are a blessing to their church and families. We are thankful for the blessing of the many children.



MEETING OUR SISTER CHURCHES

WITNESSING



Health, Science and the Bible, in which he shows how the Biblical teachings on health are validated now by scientific research. He touched on fat, blood, clean and unclean meats, carbohydrates/sugars, unrefined plant foods and the original diet.

The technology that the Lord has provided to be able to get the message across with such visual impact is wonderful. At the same time it can be a source of tremendous stress! This was Trey's first time to use Power Point, which works with a lap-top computer and a digital projector to produce a digital slide show of the graphics for a presentation. On top of trying to learn how to use the programs to produce the presentation, Trey's lap-top computer started acting possessed, literally! It would open all sorts of menus and dialog boxes without you even raising a finger. This made it impossible to work on. Trey finally moved the programs to the desk-top computer to build the presentation, while at the same time trying to run down the problem on the lap-top so he would be able to give the presentation. With much prayer and many late nights, the problem with the lap-top seemed to be resolved by sundown Friday, Sept. 12. With Trey scrambling to finish preparing the program Sunday morning, he had not double checked the lap-top to see if it really was running fine. Ten minutes before the program was to begin, he was trying to get the lap-top set up and the projector hooked up with the help of Larry Weathersby, and the lap-top started doing funny things again! With only five minutes to go and no plan B, we all knelt around the equipment and asked the Lord to just hold His hand over it and make the program go smoothly for His glory. God answered our prayers. The program went off without a hitch.



We had an attendance of about 20. Scott and Meagan Eakins greeted and passed out health questionnaires to the participants. Joan and Shandra Swope assisted Kyong Weathersby as she gave the cooking class after Trey's presentation. We had met Kyong when she put on a cooking class at the Mena SDA church the end of April. She attended our May health emphasis and then came to the MASC Camp Meeting. She gives a very professional presentation and is an excellent cook. Everyone really liked the food they got to sample after the class.

Our next health outreach is scheduled for the second Sunday in November. The health presentation will be on Fats and Cholesterol and Kyong will be demonstrating healthy holiday cooking including pumpkin pie and vegan turkey!

Healthful Living Seminar

By Julie Shurley

In May of this year, the Three Angel's Chapel in Mena, Arkansas hosted a month of health classes by Tony and Nora Ricono. The response from the community was so positive that we wanted to continue with health outreach and not loose the momentum.

On the second Sunday in September we had our first health seminar on our own. The Union Bank in Mena has a community room which is very nice and is free of charge for programs that are free to the community. This gives a very neutral location that does not excite fears and prejudice.

Trey Shurley gave a power point presentation entitled,



WITNESSING

Gary Dalrymple's Report of his Bible work in Dover, OK

We just finished up having a booth at the Kingfisher Fair. We gave out 122 "Passion of Love" and around 35 NSL books. We inserted a card for free Bible studies in each book. Almost all were interested in the Passion movie and were delighted to receive a book covering the same ground and more.

One gentleman in his early twenties that was sitting at a booth a couple of tables down from ours came and got a NSL book. He sat back down at his table and began reading. He read for about a half-hour or so and then left for the day. He came back the next day and asked me what denomination I belonged to. I told him I was a Seventh-day Adventist. He asked me what we believed. I told him of our doctrine. He then told me he was a Baptist and worshipped on Sunday but that he believed every day was holy. I gave him a little Bible study on the Sabbath and on the history of Sunday worship, then finished up with 2 Thes. Chapter 2 and the Man of sin. He knew quite a bit of history dealing with the Reformation and the Catholic Church. I gave him a Great Controversy and asked him if he was going to have a booth at the Cheese Festival. He told me, he would be there. I told him to read all the Great Controversy and we would have another discussion together at the Cheese Festival. He was very appreciative of the book, he said he would read it and talk with me about it at the festival and he thanked me for giving him some food for thought.

An Elderly lady came by our booth picked up a NSL and asked me if I was a SDA. I acknowledged that I was. She said, she was surprised, she hadn't heard about SDA in a long time, she thought we had given up on there being a National Sunday Law. I told her nothing had changed and then we discussed a little bit about the Christian Church today and where they are headed. She acknowledged the Church has been very liberal but that it was now making a push to be more conservative. I hope we notice what is happening as well. The end time events mentioned in the Great Controversy are happening right before our eyes. Do you have on the wedding garment, is your light trimmed and burning and is it sitting upon a hill for all to see? This lady told me she was a SDA for twenty some years and then became a Baptist. She said, she could debate with me about the NSL but would not do it there. I have found out where she lives and I am going to pay her a visit and listen to her side of the story and hopefully share some of our old time truth with her and pray God can put a spark of light back into her heart and draw her back into the 3 angels messages.

May the Lord bless you all. Remember these two dear people in your prayers and all that received the books.

MASC Financial Report

Cost of May 2004

MASC Camp Meeting

Advertising	\$132.92
Insurance	\$195.00
(printing and postage)	
Campers lodging & food	\$3,559.91
(paid for by the campers)	
Speakers Expenses	\$3,486.00
(travel and lodging)	
TOTAL	= \$7,373.83

Balance in Campmeeting fund

Speakers Expenses	\$1630.65
Campmeeting Exp.	\$ 477.57

Needs for 2005 Campmeeting	
Speakers Expenses	\$2,000 +/-
Campmeeting Exp.	\$ 0 +/-

The Bugle fund

Previous Balance	\$ 50.00
Received in 3rd Quarter	\$ 185.00
Total	\$ 255.00
Expense (April & July Bugle)	\$-146.67
Balance:	\$ 88.33

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the Bugle fund.

Operating Expenses fund

New fund, to be used for website costs and other operating expenses as needed.

Previous Balance	\$ 0.00
Received in 3rd Quarter	\$ 410.00
Expenses in 3rd Quarter	\$- 14.95
Balance:	395.05

Contributions should be properly

marked as to what they are for and mailed to:

**MASC
Route 2 Box 329AA
Mena, AR 71953**

FOREIGN MISSIONS

"GREEN PASTURES"

INDIA

BY ANITA THARASINGH -- PRINCIPAL



On Sabbath we went to the Vellore SDA church to share the Spirit of Prophecy books with believers who have been requesting the same. We found one very keen observer who seemed to be searching for the truth. She was a convert from the catholic faith until two years ago she was given a Bible study by a Baptist who told her that she was in the wrong church. Her mentor went on to study from Daniel 7 and about the little horn power. At first she was infuriated and provoked, but later, on introspection and searching she found out that her Baptist friend was indeed speaking the truth.

The Holy Spirit was wooing her, and one day as she was watching the T.V. she saw a very interesting program on 3ABN on the "Life Sketches" of Ellen White. She found Sister White to be a person who gave all glory to God, and turned her to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Very soon she went searching for the book, and her steps invariably led her to an SDA pastor. All this took place in ASSAM.

This sister was so happy to meet us, and receive many of the SOP books, and we were happy to share the same with her and with others. She said that she wanted to work along with us as she wants to do the same things we are doing. We are praying about this, and asking the Lord to lead us as we want to be able to have an outpost in the North.

While talking to one of our doctors, we were informed that since the Christian Medical College at Vellore has a sea of patients floating in and out, it would be a wonderful idea for us to place books on the racks for visitors and family of patients to read. On an average, we would be needing 300 books a day. I wonder if we could meet the demand. The whole idea is overwhelming, but what a wonderful way to get the Three Angel's Messages out to the masses in India. The people who visit come from all over India, and sometimes from neighboring countries even as far as the Middle East.

Presently it seems that we (Autumn Leaves) are the only SDA bookstore in India promoting primarily the SOP books and the New King James version Bibles, together with present truth literature....We are also freely copying and distributing CD's for children donated by Sister Patricia Temple, and used SOP books donated by Sister Gwen Hawkins of Country Garden Home School. We are running out of stock, and we need replacements. May the Lord impress on your generous hearts to give to India, and spread the Word among starving millions before it is forever too late.

Another **urgent** need is a van for our school children who are planning to tour the South in the month of December to preach the message in sacred song in hospitals, schools and churches during the Christmas season. They have been doing all their visits in the local buses which are very crowded, and the children have to endure the ear-splitting cinema music for hours, not to mention the swearing from alcoholic passengers who misbehave with the young ladies. In spite of all the inconvenience they bravely make weekly visits to the student's homes for prayer and fellowship.

We humbly request for a keyboard, video projector and farm implements (some funds already sent for basic farm needs) to help us in our outreach work as well as the agricultural work.

We had an interesting meeting with the manager of the Horticultural Farm who gave us much information on farming techniques, which included vermiculture, rotation of crops, procuring organic manure, providing temporary labor, and a sketch on what plants to grow etc....He says he will counsel us on how we can get all our vegetables for the school on just one acre of land. We were surprised, but he seems quite confident of what he is saying.

Finally, brethren, there is a quote from the SOP that surely describes our condition here at the end of time. "We are on the very verge of the time of trouble, and perplexities that are at work to keep minds diverted from eternal realities. The enemy has arranged matters to suit his own purposes. Worldly business, sports, the fashions of the day-these things occupy the minds of men and women. Amusements and unprofitable reading spoil the judgment. In the broad road that leads to eternal ruin there walks a long procession. The world, filled with violence, revelling, and drunkenness, is converting the church. The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect." 9T, 43,44

What has been the influence of her writings? In our experience and in the lives of thousands of witnesses, her writings have created a deeper, and a more profound love for the Bible and thirsting after righteousness and holiness of life, after the indwelling of Christ in the heart, the fullness of the Spirit's power, and a greater zeal for the salvation of the lost, than they had felt before. So, we think what a wonderful blessing the SOP has been, and agree wholeheartedly with the earnest admonition of Jehoshaphat of old; "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall we be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper."

The Trinity or the Godhead?

By Trey Shurley

There are several views regarding the Godhead and it seems worth while to pay some attention to the subject so as to understand the truth.

First of all it is helpful to know that disagreement on this subject started during apostolic times and has continued to this day. Initially the argument surrounded Jesus. Peter stated that Jesus was “The Christ, [Messiah] the Son of the Living God.” Matt. 16:16. Paul said simply Jesus is the Lord (Strong’s—Supreme in authority, God. Gr: Kurios, the Hebrew equivalent being Yahweh—SDA Commentary Vol. 5 p. 912) 1 Cor. 12:3. Unfortunately, there were others who claimed that God did not actually come in the flesh. This idea is called Docetism, a Greek word that means “To appear.” There were various forms of Docetism insinuating themselves into the early Christian Church. The Ebionites were Jewish converts to Christianity who emphasized that Jesus was literally Joseph’s son, but was accepted by God as the Messiah because of His strict observance of Jewish rites and Laws. One group of Ebionites, the Elkasiotes taught that Christ had been literally begotten of the Father in ages past, and was thus inferior to Him. (Ibid. p. 913). To them Christ was merely an addition to their own self-righteous observance of Jewish ceremonial law. These Jews then attempted to force their views on the new gentile converts. Paul chided the Galatians saying, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another ;...Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? But now after that ye have known God,...how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain.” Gal. 1:6,7, 3:3, 4:9-11. To the Philippians Paul said, “[I] have no confidence in the flesh, Though I might have confidence in the flesh....But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ....for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:...that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:” Philippians 3:3,4,7,8,9

On the other end of the Spectrum from the “saved by your works” Ebionites, were the “saved in our sins” Nicolaitanes, who were Gnostics. The Gnostics denied that Christ was a human at all. To them Christ was just a phantom. Jesus himself gave evidence against such belief when He said to His disciples, “behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a Spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.” Luke 24:39 Also, the apostle John stated that: “Many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” II John 7. As I stated before, these views mainly depict Jesus as being less than God. The Apostles effectively countered these views of God, but the larger subject of what God is to us has been a major source of contention through the centuries. For more about Jesus being “fully God” I refer you to pages 9-11 in Doug Batchelor’s booklet *The Trinity*, And to chapters 8-10 in the book *Winds of Doctrine* by Colin and Russell Standish .

During the fourth century forty five separate councils were held on the relationship between Christ and the Father. Thirteen were against Arianism (a teaching that reduces Christ to being, not God, but the highest created being), fifteen in favor of it, and seventeen for semi-Arianism. Finally the Roman Clergy seized upon the Greek word Homoousios as a word to describe their belief that the three persons of the Godhead were “Three persons in one substance,” or “one being in three distinctions of being.” *Van Harvey handbook of Theological Terms*. They felt that “The personality of the Trinity were not confounded (or blended) and yet their substance was not divided.” *Truth Triumphant* p. 91 In the Catholic Encyclopedia we read, “In this Trinity of Persons the son is begotten of the Father by an eternal generation, [yet the Bible plainly applies this to the incarnation (Hebrews 1:5,6,) and more specifically to the resurrection (Acts 13:33, Revelation 1:5).]and the Holy Spirit proceeds by an eternal procession from the Father and the Son. Yet, notwithstanding this difference as to origin, the Persons are co-eternal, and co-equal: all are alike uncreated and omnipotent. This, the Church teaches, is the revelation regarding God’s nature which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came upon earth to deliver to the world: and which she proposes to man as the foundation of her whole dogmatic (doctrines strictly adhered to) system.” www.newadvent.org/cathen/. It may amuse you that dogmatic also

refers to something that is asserted without proof. Though we have not gone into the Pagan/Babylonian connections to the Catholic view of the Trinity we have briefly seen that the term Trinity encompasses unbiblical absurdities.

The Roman Clergy, puffed up in their own wisdom, intruded into things they had not seen (Colossians 2:18) and have speculated on the mechanical makeup of God down to the atomic level rather than acknowledge that “the secret things belong to the Lord our God” Deuteronomy 29:29. They made up for their lack of Biblical proof with the persuasion of persecution.

“Seventh-day Adventists reject the concept of the Godhead as homoousian....one undivided substance and personality. This is neither Seventh-day Adventism nor, more important, is it biblical. Neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit were part of Christ in His humanity. Nor were they so previous to the incarnation.” *Winds Of Doctrine* p. 89

Before we go further it should be noted that there is the view (known as Modalism, Unitarianism or Oneness theology) that all of the names for God, including Father, Son and Holy Ghost refer to one being as He fulfills various aspects of His work. Unitarians correctly see that Jesus is the Yahweh of the Old Testament as attested to by texts such as Isaiah 45:23, and Philippians 2:10-11 in which every knee bows to Yahweh/ Christ respectively. In various places in the Old Testament Israel is told that “the Lord is one Lord” (Deut 6:4), or that “there is only one God” (Isaiah 44:6,8). In that same vein Jesus says, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). Likewise there are texts such as Galatians 4:6, and Philippians 1:19 which talk about the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Is God three persons in one substance (Trinitarian), or if not is the plan of salvation the story of one being, fulfilling various duties throughout time (Unitarian). Or, as some say, is the Holy Spirit just a force, the mind of the Father and the Son. Finally, if none of these is true what is the oneness of God. Since the Bible is God’s word to us (1 Thessalonians 2:13), and is profitable for doctrine, and instruction (2 Timothy 3:16), it behooves us to determine the overall theme of our subject by comparing scripture with scripture.

Our first view of God is the creation story of Genesis 1:1,2 which says: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth....And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Later, in verse 26, God is recorded as saying “Let us make man in our own image.” So here we find a plurality of persons, with the Spirit being specifically mentioned. John 1, Colossians 1:16, and Hebrews 1:1-3 all comment on Christ’s creative, cooperative involvement in our creation, with Hebrews saying: “God,...Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Not only do we find two distinct persons in this text, but we find them in each other’s company. Over 80 times Jesus identifies Himself as distinct from the Father. A few examples include Luke 22:42 “Father, if thou be willing remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.”; Luke 23:46 “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:”; John 17:5 “...Father, glorify thou me with thine own glory which I had with thee before the world was.” and John 20: 17 “...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”

The Jews rejected Jesus because they refused to accept that He was God their Saviour. The main reason that they frequently sought to kill Him was because He repeatedly identified Himself as God, either by the designation “I am” (John 8:58), or by identifying Himself with His Father (John 5:17-47). In John 5:38-47 Jesus pointed out to the Jewish leaders that their failure to perceive His identity was that God’s word did not abide in them. He then admonished them to search the scriptures to find out about Christ. Finally, He said, “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.” John 5:45 Later on the road to Emmaus Jesus “...beginning at Moses and all the prophets,...expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:27

Could the Jews have realized that Jesus was God from a study of the Old testament? Isaiah 48: 16,17 presents all three members of the Godhead “Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go (also see Deut. 18:15-19 and compare it with Acts 3:12-26). Likewise Daniel 7:13 says "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days,..."

Regarding the Holy Spirit we find that the Spirit is a being that has a mind, and like Christ, submits to the will of God. "...the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26,7. Matthew 4:1 informs us that the Spirit led Christ into the wilderness. Christ speaks of Him as a separate being when He says; "...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:13-15

In the preceding paragraphs we have seen that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are contemporary to each other as opposed to being sequential, and that they are distinct beings that interact with each other. Yet, what do we do with the very definite statements, not only from the Old and New Testament, but even from Christ himself that "the Lord our God is one Lord." Mark 12:29 The only appropriate thing to do is to rest our case on the evidence provided in the Bible. In Jesus' prayer for His disciples (John 17) He asks God to sanctify them [make them holy] through the truth that they [and we] may be one in God, just as Christ and the Father are one. Their oneness is similar to that of a husband and wife whose care for each other is such that they are described as being of one flesh (Ephesians 5:22-33, Genesis 2:24, Mark 10: 6-8,). Catholicism has preoccupied itself with determining the physical makeup of God to the point of being ridiculous. In fact, speculation about God's physical nature is the preoccupation of all of the divergent theologies. In John 6 we find that many of Christ's disciples abandoned their faith in Jesus because they murmured against eating His flesh and blood. And even though verse 63 clarifies that it is God's word that we must imbibe, Catholicism's cumbersome theology has left them blindly creating God out of bread and wine. Once a Catholic friend of mine pitied me because I didn't believe in the Mass because to her it was the only way to "get Christ in you." Colossians 1:27. Unfortunately the form of godliness, from which we should turn away, had made my friend unable to grasp the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5); the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12).

Jesus said that Life eternal is to know, really know, God, and Christ (John 17:3). The new covenant places His laws in our hearts, and minds so that we all shall know Him (Hebrews 8:8-12); not just about Him. Satan wants to divert our attention to things God has not revealed about Himself (Deut. 29:29), endless genealogies, and vain jangling rather than godly edifying in the faith (1 Tim. 1:4,6). We can know from what God has revealed in scripture that the Godhead is three distinct, coexistent persons, and that they are one because they are united in purpose. In this same way we are to become one with God (John 17:21), having the mind of Christ by submitting our will to His. (Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Corinthians 2:16)

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." 1 Cor. 13:14.


BULLETIN BOARD

Support for the **school in India** may be sent to:
SALUTE Ministries
P.O. Box 337
Bismarck, AR 71929-

SABBATH SCHOOL QUARTERLIES For Senior Classes and **Junior classes** available from **Seeds Of Wisdom Ministries**
HC 76 Box 394
Eagletown, OK 74734

Support for Africa may be sent to:
Ebenezer Mission
132-4531
Clarksville, AR 72830
Phone: 479-754-3927

The Bugle
MASC Newsletter
176 Polk 61
Mena, Arkansas 71953
479-394-4014



Download **The Bugle** in
full color on the
new MASC website:
www.MidAmericaSisterhood.org

INFORMATION

DATES

**Next Sisterhood Meeting -
February, 2005**

Bismarck Church

Sunday only starting at 9:00 AM

For accommodations call 501-865-3974.

Important Note:

Each church must inform the MASC
Secretary who will be attending as their
elected delegates, no later than **January**.

Deadline for next Newsletter entries:

December 30, 2004

ADDRESSES

Newsletter Editor

Julie Shurley

176 Polk 61, Mena, AR 71953

479-394-4014

julieshurley@juno.com

Secretary

Scott Eakins

881 Polk 59

Mena, AR 71953

479-394-7599

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Everett & Marsha Chadwick

Route 2 Box 329AA

Mena, AR 71953

918-651-3281

Assistant Treasurer

Joan Swope

114 Polk 406

Cove, AR 71953

870-387-5053

Next MASC meeting Chairman

Scott Eakins

881 Polk 59

Mena, AR 71953

scotte@menamedical.com