

# That Piece of Clay

A little child has often been likened to a piece of clay that can be molded into whatever type of pottery that the potter (parent) has in mind. A little child is so pliable, so willing to be molded and so trusting. This can either be a fantastic opportunity or a tragic consequence depending on what the potter does. Solomon expresses this truth vividly when he says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (**Prov. 22:6**). This is why Paul urged parents to "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (**Eph. 6:4**).

By Forrest D. Moyer When clay hardens, it is too late to mold it as you desire.

So it is with children. In their young and tender years they can be taught and guided into the way of the Lord, but as they grow older, they become set and fixed in the mold that was cast. You can't wait until a child is a teenager to mold him. It begins before he is born. It takes place while he is a baby, while he is toddler and while he is a pre-schooler. Do you realize that most of a child's molding has already taken place by the time he starts to school? Potters (parents), how are you molding your child?



# The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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## Lead Me to Some Soul Today

By Larry Rouse



### Thoughts to Ponder

We Christians are debtors to all men at all times in all places, but are we so smug to the lostness of men? Are "living in Laodicea", lax, loose, and lazy? Why is there this criminal indifference to the lostness of men?

**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
Call (334) 734-2133 or  
E-mail:  
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

One of the first thoughts bursting from the heart of a new Christian is how he might personally reach others for the Lord. Words cannot fully express the joy of salvation and the impact that joy has in creating a crystal clear sight of the real condition of this world. Just as our Lord did 2,000 years ago, anyone today can see this world as lost, dying and desperately in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." (**John 4:34-36**)

One of my favorite songs is "Lead Me To Some Soul Today." This song reflects the thoughts of every Christian who sees these white fields. "Lead me to some soul today; O teach me, Lord, just what to say; Friends of mine are lost in sin, And cannot find their way. Few

"Lead me to some soul today; O teach me, Lord, just what to say; Friends of mine are lost in sin, And cannot find their way. Few there are who seem to care, And few there are who pray; Melt my heart and fill my life; Give me one soul today."

there are who seem to care, And few there are who pray; Melt my heart and fill my life; Give me one soul today." How are you doing in this great work of harvest? Is your sight clear to see what this careless world cannot?

When I first became a Christian, I was blessed to be associated with a young man of great faith. Immediately after my baptism I was placed in a class he was teaching on evangelism. That class met three times each week and every student was expected to memorize 10 passages of scripture before the next week. We practiced together how to teach

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### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Last Men's Class at the Davis'	<b>Wednesday 10 AM</b> Ladies Class at Darla Hahn's	<b>Wednesday 6 PM</b> Prayer Meeting at the Building	<b>Friday 6-8 PM</b> 1st-8th Grade Class at TBA
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### Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Lee Steptoe (William Herd's cousin)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins' Grandfather)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's Uncle)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Dale Wilkes (William Herd's Uncle)	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)

### April Birthdays

- 1 - Melissa Harrell
- 2 - Melanie Smith
- 2 - Missy Toombs
- 3 - Sharon Bailey
- 6 - Maci Guthrie
- 6 - Bethany Coulston
- 7 - Mike Johnson
- 7 - Mary Catherine Burns
- 8 - Hanna Owen
- 8 - Laura Humphrey
- 14 - Kaylee West
- 14 - Jesse Roberts
- 16 - Carson Fowler
- 18 - Spencer Sullvanne
- 18 - Taylor Godwin
- 18 - Joel Black
- 20 - April Jerkins
- 21 - Timothy Jones
- 23 - Anna Miller
- 24 - Bob Simpson
- 25 - Elizabeth Mosley
- 28 - Lynsey Armstrong
- 29 - Lottie Kate Smith

### News and Notes

- Holly Law's father had surgery on Friday.
- Let us remember the family of Ed Mort in our prayers as he passed away recently. He was a friend of the Bailey's
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers: Anne Morton and Jana Hall.
- Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden and Tim Morton in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- Larry Will be away next weekend in a meeting in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- Mike and Debbie Johnson have moved back to Athens due to a job change. We will miss them!
- Group meetings are tonight.
- Paula Davis lost her great Aunt, Ola Howie, this week.

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the lost. Within two weeks I was off and running. That semester a good friend obeyed the gospel. Within a few months my brother took the great step of putting the Lord on in baptism. These first steps led me to a life of talking with others with the goal of getting hearts opened around the word of God.

How can we today accomplish having more Christians involved in this great work? The answer is found in the ministry of Christ and that answer may disturb you.

Jesus had just encountered a man who was possessed by such a great number of demons that when Jesus asked the name of the demon they replied: "My name *is* Legion; for we are many" (**Mark 5:9**). The people of that area knew this man as one who "had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the shackles had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones" (**Mark 5:3-5**). Jesus has mercy on this man and cast out the demons that afterwards went into a nearby heard of swine who immediately ran into the water and drowned.

The people of this area, having heard these things, immediately went to Jesus and begged Him to leave. They did this because they did not know Jesus and now they feared Him (**Mark 5:17**). How was Jesus ever going to reach this community?

The formerly demon-possessed man, was now "in his right mind" and very thankful to our Lord. This man seemed to have no future here, having a reputation that surely would keep him from having any significant relationship. He naturally began to beg that Jesus would let him into the same boat that He was departing on. Jesus had a plan for this man, a plan that you

or I would have thought ridiculous and unworkable. Jesus instructed him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you. (**Mark 5:19**)" Did this man not need further instruction? How would he be effective without special classes on speaking, overcoming objections and the many other possible challenges that such a work might bring? How could a man with this little ability and with such a bad reputation accomplish anything?

Who would hear this man? "And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled (**Mark 5:20**)." Did these men need to hear more than this new convert could give? They did, and when Jesus returned He had an audience that was ready to hear Him. "So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him (**Luke 8:40**)."

There are some disturbing conclusions for us to draw from this account. First, the driving force behind one who is effective in evangelism is the realization of "what great things the Lord has done for you." A genuine understanding of that will melt the heart, put our bodies in motion and give us a message that will be effective. When these things are lacking in a Christian, you can rest assured that his heart is not filled with the joy and love of what Christ has done for him. One of the hard lessons I have learned over the years is that many of those who have their names on the church rolls have become cold and stale. They are like the tongue-tied preacher who, while trying to quote Matthew 20:16 which reads "many are called, but few chosen," instead said "many are cold, but few frozen." Sadly, I have discovered that there is no point in even mentioning evangelism to these people. They need to be converted themselves!

How about you? Do you have a clear view of what the Lord has done for you? It is time to get to work. By the way, remember to pray for more laborers!



## Alexander Campbell and the church of Christ

By Wayne Jackson

Members of the Lord's church are sometimes erroneously referred to as "Campbellites." What exactly is behind such appellation?

It is a tiresome thing to have to respond, again and again, to the same misguided (and frequently dishonest) charges. But one is compelled, from time to time, to do so.

First, Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) never started a church (or claimed such), even though reference works frequently refer to him as "founder" of the "Christian Churches" and "Churches of Christ."

It is a tragedy that the man who labored the bulk of his adult life with a view to encouraging others to abandon sectarianism should himself be accused of being the head and founder of the "Campbellite" church. The reformer utterly repudiated the designation. In 1826 Campbell wrote:

"Some religious editors in Kentucky call those who are desirous of seeing the ancient order of things restored, "the Restorationers," "the Campbellites" ... This may go well with some; but all who fear God and keep his commands will pity and deplore the weakness and folly of those who either think to convince or to persuade by such means" (The Christian Baptist, Vol. IV, pp. 88-89).

In 1828 Mr. Campbell responded to the question: "What is Campbellism?" in the following fashion:

The fact that some, therefore, delight in using the term "Campbellite" to refer to those who choose to be called simply "Christians," rather than wearing humanly-devised titles, is more of a commentary upon their characters than anything else.

"It is a nickname of reproach invented and adopted by those whose views, feelings and desires are all sectarian — who cannot conceive of Christianity in any other light than an ISM" (Christian Baptist, Vol. V, p. 270).

It is a matter of historical record that there were churches of Christ — both in Europe and in America — before Alexander Campbell

had a clear concept of what primitive Christianity was all about. Leslie G. Thomas has documented New Testament churches in Scotland, England, and Ireland, dating between 1778 and 1810 (The Restoration Handbook, p. 73). Historical accounts reveal that the Old Philadelphia congregation of the Lord's people, which was near Morrison, Tennessee, was organized in the year 1810. Alexander Campbell was not baptized until 1812, and he continued to be affiliated with the Baptists until the 1820s.

Churches of Christ do not owe their origin to Campbell or any other human leader. The fact that some, therefore, delight in using the term "Campbellite" to refer to those who choose to be called simply "Christians," rather than wearing humanly-devised titles, is more of a commentary upon their characters than anything else.

Why is it that so many religionists have such a difficult time being comfortable with the name "Christian," and that alone (**cf. Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16**)? The use of human titles is sinful (**cf. 1 Cor. 1:10ff**).

