



BATTLEFIELD NEWS

ONE ARMY

The Official Publication of The Whole Body of Christ Alliance

JESUS CHRIST SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

By: Richard Dean

Prayer mats on the floor? Are these people Muslims? Nope, they just take reverence of the Lord seriously. People meet before the service and get on the floor on their knees and on their faces before the Lord and pray aloud. "The Bible shows us how to pray," says Apostle Billy Boronat, the school's founder, "like in Psalm 95:6. When we humble ourselves and praise Him, He will be there with us."

This reporter has been present with this body of believers on many occasions and, in fact, had the hearing restored in his right ear after the first visit to JCSM. Miraculous healings are common at this place. Leaders of the school include Pastor Russell Page and the profit Lawrence Jeffers. It is located behind the Kawasaki dealer on Hwy 53. Contact may be made at (770)572-1068 or www.mightywind.us.

SANCTUARY OF PENTECOST

By: R.D. Hempton

Spirit filled worship will always be found at this church, whose pastor, J. Vander Etheridge, demonstrates both a superior knowledge of scripture and a deep love for his flock. This reporter worshiped with this church on several occasions and always witnessed a profound dedication and love for the Lord and for others.

The music of the praise team is contemporary, extraordinary, and accomplishes the dual purpose of glorifying God and providing the heart injection of music that one can lie down and float upon in the spirit. The praise team is powered by Richard and Allianna Smith on the piano and bass guitar respectively; percussionists Josh Meechum, Ken Swilley and Jeremy Poole; vocalists Sister Geneva Bottley, Mark Holder and the pastors daughters, Jessica and Hillary. Hillary is the music coordinator. (cont pg 2)

CROSS OF CHRIST

By: R.D. Hempton

Cross of Christ Ministries is a counseling ministry and, as such, does not have a large congregation. The congregation consists of the eight or ten that attend the Tuesday evening Bible study, unless we count those on the board of directors. If all the people the ministry has helped, however, the number would be in the thousands. Despite its size this is a very powerful ministry headed by Pastor Jeffrey Carr. He is very direct, pulls no punches and his history demonstrates that he is very good at what he does.

The story of the ministry would make a great movie. Jeff Carr left a job as Executive Vice President of Sales with the WANG Corporation in May of 1987 to fulfill his calling. He was trained as a Christian mediator with a mediation and arbitration organization. (cont pg 2)

A CALL TO WORSHIP

By: Richard Dean

Pastor Rick Warren, founder of Saddleback Church, one of the largest churches in the country began the church in his living room. There are few church experiences more homey than a real, honest-to-goodness house church. This reporter has happily attended several. A call to worship, pastured by a young, talented, on-fire-for-the-Lord, evangelic preacher, is such a church.

Pastor Alicia Brown began preaching as Assoc Pastor of In His Service Word of Faith Church, where she and her husband, Michael, also a gifted preacher, were members for four years. From In His Service, she pastured at Jesus Christ School of Ministry until she and her husband founded A Call to Worship in 2010. She attained her bachelor degree in Health Education and her masters at St. Francis University. (cont pg 2)

VICTORY DELIVERANCE CENTER

By: Richard Dean

Zeal for the Lord will be seen and felt at gatherings of this body of believers. "Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with joyful songs" (PSALM 100). These folks do just that.

Prayer warriors are to be feared by the powers of darkness and this platoon of warriors is no exception. Led by Pastor Michael Smith and Co-Pastor Brenda Smith, this unit of warriors make things happen. It has been said that when the people of God assemble the demons tremble. This unit of the Army of Jesus Christ exemplifies that statement. "These people just keep growing stronger in the Lord" says Pastor Smith, a man who demonstrates his Zeal for the Lord in his preaching and teaching as well as in his excitement about his flock. (cont pg 2)

KINGDOM COMMUNITY WORSHIP CENTER

By: R.D. Hempton

The VFW Hall at 73 Lee Street in Winder is the building where a company of about ninety believers assembles just before 0900 each Sunday morning. They worship with excitement and great enthusiasm for the Lord. The believers in this body, lead by Pastor Kenneth Cooper, are free in their worship. Some sit quietly and worship, some are on their knees others dance for the Lord. Some people stand with their arms raised loudly praising God, while others may be on their faces before the Lord. The worship is very energetic.

The praise team, lead by a master on the keyboard, Brother Brutus Brooks, hardly ever stops. Even when the pastor is preaching, the musicians play softly lending spirit and color to the message. (cont pg 3)

Sanctuary of Pentecost

(from pg 1)

Church leaders include Jerry Haney, Master of Ceremonies and Allianna Smith, Sunday school coordinator.

The church has Sunday prayer at 1430 (2:30 pm) and worship at 1500 (3pm). Church prayer is also on Tuesday at 1900 (7pm) with worship at 1930. Thursday evening at 1930 will also find the members of this staff combat unit in intense prayer. The powers of darkness will steer clear of this company of believers.

This reporter has spent multiple Thursday evenings being personally taught by Pastor Etheridge, whose instruction would be considered radical by some but is completely scriptural and applauded by this radical follower of Christ.

Pastor Etheridge had pastored in Jackson, Ms; Houston, Tx; and in Coalinga, Ca and was twice a missionary in Tanzania, East Africa.

They hold a revival once monthly with a guest evangelist and, when all are present and/or accounted for, number about sixty.

This unit presently assembles in Hoschton, Ga. At the Hoschton United Methodist Church at 12 Mulberry Street but is seeking a new location. Contact with this unit can be made at (770)519-5398 or sanctuaryofpentecost.com.

Cross of Christ (from pg 1)

The company had 3 to 4 arbitrators per office and 41 offices in operation. They were to legally mediate cases between Christians in such things as divorce, child custody, and the like. Beginning in the late 80s, Jeff's purpose was to mediate divorce peacefully but, as the decade neared an end, an unusual thing happened – over half the marriages were being reconciled and, in 1990, ninety of the 140 divorces that Pastor Carr arbitrated resulted in the reconciliation of the marriages. The entire remainder of the company only succeeded in reconciling 4 to 6 marriages annually. The calling had been unveiled.

Cross of Christ counsels on the basis of the word of God and operates on donations only. Clients are referred by word of mouth. The clients include troubled individuals, addicted people, clergy, people who feel that they are

not walking in their calling, and married couples in trouble, or couples that just want to move forward in their calling within the body of Christ.

This is a ministry that asks the right questions. Do not ask, "What is causing this marriage to fail?" The right question would be, "What is preventing this marriage from being reconciled and growing?" "Where is the bad fruit from the root of bitterness that is preventing the problem from being removed?" (Heb 12:15).

Cross of Christ Ministries is, thus far, the only ministry in Gwinnett County reported on in this publication but Pastor Carr travels to Barrow and Jackson Counties on a regular basis along with other members of the ministry and is a strong supporter of The Whole Body of Christ Alliance.

The Tuesday Bible study is at 1900 (7pm) and currently is employing the use of *The Harmony of the Gospels* and *The Chronological Bible* to compare Genesis to the Gospel of John – "In the Beginning."

Cross of Christ Ministries is at 4132 Annistown Road, Snellville, Ga. 30039 and may be contacted at (770)985-1235 or marriageenders.com.

Cross of Christ Ministries "Transforming lives, restoring marriages, and unlocking destinies by the power of the cross."

A Call To Worship (from pg 1)

She is currently pursuing her doctorate. This reporter has heard the preaching of both Pastor Alicia Brown and her husband, Michael Brown on several occasions. The doctrine at this church is sound and the preaching is definitely not the kind that will allow you to fall asleep. A word that Pastor Brown loves to use is "application." She will consistently give the word and then, unlike many preachers, point out application in real life.

Church leaders include the Reverend Michael Brown, Operations Manager/Trustee; Elder Boadicia Wright, Missionary Director; and Cheryl Sims, Assistant Missionary Director.

Presently, this brand new church has not more than a dozen praying, warriors for Christ. They love the Lord and take their relationships with him seriously. This Christian prayer warrior detachment gets results.

Prayer for the Burns family resulted in a house as well as a car, both of which they were in need of. Prayer resulted in a husband returning to church after being unchurched for over a year. Elder Wright was working far too many hours and, through prayer, her hours were cut back and she was able to devote more time to ministry for the Lord. Through prayer, the church obtained a projector and screen for church use, as well as hard wood floors and cabinets for the new church location that they pray to be in by the first of February.

Pending church activities include Sunday 19 December- an outreach mission at Jackson EMC, where people will be eating and Cheryl Sims will give the message. Friday 24 December there will be a Christmas program. There will also be an evangelism day some time in January. The details will be announced. In addition, as mentioned earlier, this unit will be moving to their new building in February.

A Call to Worship is located at 39 Tyler Circle, Jefferson, Ga 30549 and may be contacted at (706)983-9096. Sunday morning worship is at 1000 and Wednesday Bible study is at 1900 (7pm). In addition, the second Saturday of each month is set aside for women's ministry at 1000 and the fourth Saturday for men's ministry at 1000.

A Call to Worship Ministries, "Empowering others through the love of God."

Victory Deliverance (from pg 1)

This reporter has twice attended this church and seen these things first hand. Pastor Smith demonstrates a zeal for the Lord, a zeal for his people and a zeal for fellowship with other bodies of believers in Christ.

When fully mustered, this unit numbers about thirty and the results of the prayers of these saints are seen. For instance, at a recent revival, there were two people healed, including one lady with back problems who was healed instantly.

A young man, David, asked for prayer to receive a job. The following week he received one. A husband and wife had both been out of work for over a year and asked for prayer for work. The young lady, Sister Belinda got a

job and, within three weeks was made a supervisor. Her husband, Brother Terrance was hired at the same place the week after his wife.

Church leaders include Tyran Phillips, Youth Minister and Deacon Eddie Mahaffee.

Sunday service is at 1145 weekly and in December, Pastor Smith has been and will continue to minister on giving- giving above and beyond tithing, and not just giving of money but giving of one's self and giving of those things, including spiritual things, which the Lord has given us.

On 31 December (New Years Eve) the church will be having their annual Watch Night beginning at 2130 (930 pm). On the first Tuesday in January a prayer meeting/Bible study will begin and will continue each Tuesday evening.

The church building is at 223 Georgia Avenue, Winder and may be contacted at (770)868-7416.

Kingdom Community (from pg 1)

This reporter has worshipped with this body of believers on several occasions and the energy is thick.

Pastor Cooper is also an energetic preacher, coming down from behind the pulpit to walk among the congregation and involve individuals, often calling them by name, in his sermons. This pastor is very available to his flock, more available than many pastors this reporter has seen.

Church leaders include the Reverend Montique Foster as well as the Reverend Theron Sharpe, who has recently planted another church.

Besides the Sunday morning service, Wednesday Bible study is at 1800 (6pm). There will be a Christmas program on Sunday 19 December just after morning service around 1100. There will also be a New Years Eve Watch Night gathering at 2100 (9pm) and after the first of the year a Tuesday drug education program.

This unit may be contacted at (678)963-5799 or kingdomcommunity.org.

Note: The opinions of those in this publication who share do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editors or the Whole Body of Christ Alliance. Comments or opposing views may be mailed to Battlefield News 115A Center Street, Winder, Ga. 30680 or e-mail to jstevens 1055 @ live .com or drrd hempton @ Hotmail .com.

Whole Body of Christ Alliance

By: R.D. Hempton

Most churches, even within a particular denomination are isolated. We are **all** at war with the powers of darkness. Our enemies are highly intelligent, highly organized, numerous and powerful. They are not more powerful than our Lord but they are more powerful than any of us **in the flesh**. The powers of darkness do control people, some of them very powerful people (see Daniel 10:12-13). Regardless of our denomination or lack of one, regardless of our variation in interpretation of scripture, our enemies are coming after **all** of us. There are atheists, antitheists, the godless that control most of the mainstream media and hundreds of organizations and power fronts that want God's people destroyed or silenced at the very least. Below is only a partial list of organizations that are doing everything in their power to silence us and remove even the mention of God from the public square. Many of these organizations are responsible for bringing some of the most ridiculous law suits in history.

Some of those who have declared war on Christians:

The American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Americans for Freedom from Religion, The American Atheist Society, The American Communist Party, The American Socialist Party (which has branched into several suborganizations whose members are already in power in congress), Radical Feminist and Racist organizations, lobbyists and pressure groups, organizations that support and promote sexual perversion such as the Gay-straight Alliance and the North American Man/Boy Love

Association. This is only a very abbreviated list. **Our enemies are much more powerful than our differences.**

I can work with anyone who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that he suffered and died for my sins 2000 years ago and that God raised him from the dead. I cannot work with someone who teaches that we kill those who do not believe as we do, that theirs is the only church that is going to heaven or anything else that crazy. **Our enemies are much more powerful than our differences.**

For the most part, we are all isolated companies, platoons, and squads on the front lines but this platoon does not know what that platoon is doing. We are not working together as we should. The most obvious consequence of this isolation is that we are easy targets. Another consequence, however, is that, when we are isolated, we run the risk of our programs, our outreach and even our worship becoming inbred, ethnocentric, chauvinistic, perverted or even cultish- a phenomenon I like to call the Jim-Jones-Kool-Aid syndrome. I John 1:7 tells us that if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we will have fellowship with one another.

Love is Spoken Here

By: Zell Zellinger

"Love is spoken here." This phrase is printed on the side of one of the church busses at Living Hope Christian Fellowship. It is also on a sign inside the building. The reason for this phrase becomes apparent when one visits this congregation of about 50 believers.

Just as the mindset and attitude of the employees in a retail outlet reflects that of the manager, the personality and heart of the pastor of a church is reflected in the hearts of the flock. Pastor Allen Stevens of Living Hope 62 Pearl Industrial Ste. A, Hoschton, Ga. 30548, is this kind of pastor. The love exhibited in this congregations becomes apparent immediately when one visits this church, from the hugs they give each other and visitors to the way they help one another during the days other than Sunday. This body of believers is the real thing. One does not get a feeling in this place that he is

among a group of people wearing masks, a group of people that pretend that they never do anything wrong. On three separate occasions when visiting, reporter witnessed members of this body stand before the entire congregation and admit something they had done recently that was wrong and apologized or ask forgiveness.

This church may not have the largest or fanciest sanctuary, the most elaborate music or the largest budget but they have something that is so rarely seen in most churches- a spirit of brokenness and honesty, even when honesty is painful. They are not condemning nor sanctimonious but loving, forgiving and understanding. They seem to have Galatians 6:1 in mind ("Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted").

The church began in January 2009 in the living rooms of the two founders of the church, William Pirkle and Allen Stevens and continues to grow. All of the members are available to each other, not just the pastor.

Sunday bible study is at 1000 and worship is at 1100. The worship tends to be somewhat traditional musically, with standard hymns being sung. In addition, one never knows what will happen at one of these services. The Holy Spirit has free reign. People have unexpectedly given their personal testimonies, guest singers or musicians have just shown up and played, People have been prayed for and been healed on the spot. Frances Bradley's left ear was healed instantly and another lady was healed of breast cancer after prayer. The services always seem to this reporter to be too short.

Wednesday brings another service at 1900 (7pm). The church building is open on Saturday morning at 1000 and people pray there at least until 1200. Saturday will probably see pastors from other churches meeting there and ministering to one another after the first of the year. December began a Sunday evening advanced teaching night at 1800 (6pm).

New Years Eve will be a Watch Night service of singing and fellowship will begin 2100 (9pm) and will include finger food. Pastor Allen promises a surprise for those in attendance

Church leaders include William Pirkle Associate Pastor and Filipe Perez, Ancillary Preacher. The church is training a number of other preachers and leaders who teach and preach on a regular basis as well.

Contact with this church can be made by calling (706)654-2931.

"Hypocrites"

By: Zell Zellinger

There is an unacknowledged presence that, unfortunately, permeates too many churches. Lost and worldly people often refer to this attitude as being, "holier than thou." It is the presence that causes those that are not in the body of Christ almost without exception to use one word to describe everyone they know who go to church. That word is "hypocrite." This word is usually used to describe people who speak one ideal with their lips yet live in a completely different way.

Isaiah 29:13 states, "...this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men."

Make no mistake. Many lost people are lost by choice and use the labeling of the people of God as hypocrites as an excuse not to embrace the truth. Be that as it may, however, too often such a label fits. Pastor Kenneth Cooper of Kingdom Community Worship Center calls the people who fit into this category, "church folks." The term is used to describe people who honor God with their lips inside the sanctuary but take off their masks when they leave the parking lot.

How many times have we watched a person make an angry face, scream obscenities, or make obscene gestures at us in traffic and then we see the outline of a fish on the back of their car?

When a church body is together and the presence that can almost be physically felt is one of never being guilty of sin, of never having been one who has partaken of illegal drugs, gotten drunk, been arrested, or been sexually immoral, one of never having lustful thoughts, condemning or hateful thoughts about others, envious, spiteful or self-righteous thoughts, then we find ourselves surrounded by

the very "church folks" spoken of above.

It is wonderfully refreshing to be with a body of believers who admit their shortcomings, how they have recently stumbled, and what they need to work on of themselves instead of expressing their disdain for others who "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23), as if they, themselves never do. I have experienced the refreshment of such congregations, for instance, those at Living Hope Christian Fellowship. Unfortunately, however, they seem to be the exception rather than the rule.

In America and other geographically Christian nations, it is "church folks" that are responsible more than anything else for being the barrier to lost people.

Rather than point my finger at "church folks," however, I must do something more effective, and more tangible. I must address the tiny portion of the body of Christ that I have control over- namely, me, Big Zell. I do not have any control over "church folks." I must address those things in me that are incongruent with what Jesus wants in me and encourage (not insist or command) others to do the same. In the process, however, I must not be so introspective that the bulk of my attention is on me, lest Christ not be able to use me at all (this is called balancing).

If we are aware of "church folks," the best way to attack the problem is to attack the problem within ourselves. Let us die to the "church folks" inside of ourselves.

James 5:16 reminds us to confess our faults to one another and pray for one another that we might be healed. James is not telling us to go into a confessional or other secluded place with a "Brother forgive me for I have sinned." Instead, we must be open with each other about what we know is wrong with us and those things that we have done recently (even if only in a general way) that we can strive to do better in the future. Be open and painstakingly honest. When we are wrong we must promptly admit it. We must also be absolutely honest with God in our prayers. Do not avoid the issue with him in prayer. We may feel like running away from him when we are sinful but, instead, we must run to him. (continued on pg 5)

DEVIL'S TOWER OF BABEL

By: Pastor Allen Stevens

Genesis 11:4 "...let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:7 "...let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

We see today all the aspects and effects of the confusing of the languages and how mankind has suffered as a results of what God did at the tower of Babel. Their building was stopped: *They left off building the city.* This was the effect of the confusion of their tongues; for it not only incapacitated them for helping one another, but probably struck such a damper upon their spirits that they could not precede, since they saw, in this, the hand of the Lord gone out against them.

It is natural for man to seek to be distinguished and as natural to seek it in a wrong way and for a wrong end. In doing this he will be disappointed. If he would be truly great, and permanently honored, he must seek these blessings, not in the indulgence of selfish gratification, but in learning and doing the will of God.

Unless the blessing of God is present, from which alone we may expect a prosperous issue, all that we attempt will necessarily perish. God declares that he is at perpetual war with the unmeasured audacity of men; anything we undertake without his approval will end miserably.

Now the devil tries to duplicate all the things God does but for his own purposes. I sometimes wonder what he might do in this particular situation. Let's say man has chosen to build a mighty work for the Lord God Almighty, Being in one accord, in His wonderful will, everything is really coming together for Jesus and his church. What could the devil do to corrupt this plan?

What would happen if Satan started to whisper into the thoughts of a man little things like, "you should always kneel down on your knees to pray the way God wants you to pray.?" Yes, this man looks up scripture and there it is in the bible about people kneeling down on their knees to pray to God. Because the bible says it, he thinks it must be done this way to be effective.

He convinces all around him to pray in this manner. A stranger comes by where this group is kneeling down praying to God. He doesn't kneel. He is confused because he believed people showed more reverence praying to God while standing with their hands raised and he thinks, this way is the best way to pray.

With encouragement from the devil, the second man decides to start a prayer group that prays like he does and the first denomination of God's people is formed.

Over the next several thousand years, it seems man comes up with many, many things that he and his brother do not agree upon. Is there anything wrong with this? I don't think so. People's differences are what the Creator has given us to make the great mixture we call the wonderful family of God. Besides, if God has a problem with what someone is doing, I am sure he can take care of any problem without my help. All I'm suppose to do is love and help those who God is dealing with. God doesn't really need my help cleaning them up.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Satan has used everything (dress, baptism, marriage, eating, drinking, singing, preaching, Santa, etc) to separate his people. We must see

through his ploys and not let our individual differences separate us any longer.

With this publication we hope to bring God's children closer together and Praise our Lord as we lift him up and tell about the wonderful things he has always done for his children and is still doing for his church today

ONE GOD, ONE PEOPLE, AND ONE WAY... **JESUS CHRIST, AMEN**

May God Bless
Merry Christmas
Pastor Allen, Living Hope

Hypocrites (from pg 4)

Let us not be labeled "hypocrites." If a person is a hypocrite, then there is no better place for them than church. But, keep in mind that we cannot truly be hypocrites simply by having an ideal that we are incapable of living up to. I can only be a hypocrite if I claim or act as if I am claiming that I **do** live up to the ideal and, **then** hold your feet to the fire because you do not.

Whole Body of CHRIST

Alliance is a group of Believers from many churches, ministries and denominations that work toward the unification of the body of Christ; not as one congregation under one pastor but individual organs and organ systems within the body. As one body, as the Bible instructs us, we are to work together and not against each other, nor are we to attempt to be completely independent of one another. No organ operating on its own will survive for very long at all- ever.

This organization seeks talented individuals to help in this mission, which also includes **the mission**, in other words in the Great Commission. The whole Body of Christ Alliance is in need of resources, especially the most valuable resource- people. You do not need a degree. What is required is a true desire to serve Jesus Christ without dogmatic constraints (i.e. believe that your denomination is the only one that will be in Heaven) and

that you be ready to be absolutely sold out to Jesus (not to this alliance or to your denomination). There are no racial or socioeconomic barriers. The people in the ministries mentioned in this publication as well as the editors of BATTLEFIELD NEWS are made up of **all** kinds of believers.

If you have a desire to glorify the name of Jesus and help further his kingdom, contact us. (404)414-0656 or drop us a post card to BATTLEFIELD NEWS 115A Center Street, Winder, Ga. 30680. If you have a talent, we will strive to find a use for it in the body of Christ.

If you wish to have an article published in BATTLEFIELD NEWS or have a comment on anything you saw in the publication, contact us. Your article may be accepted for publication. Make sure you keep a copy since your article will not be returned, neither will there be any financial compensation for it. We are here for the cause of Christ. We are not here to make money.

There is no copyright held for anything that appears in this first issue of BATTLEFIELD NEWS. Any ministry is welcome to reproduce all or any portion of it. There is no plagiarism in the body of Christ.

In addition, if the Whole Body of Christ Alliance has not yet contacted your church or pastor and your body of believers wants to be included, we will get to your church eventually on our own, but you need not wait for us. Contact us.

Doing What Jesus Did

By: Mozelle Davis-Weeks

There is a church in Straussbourg in France. During World War II it was bombed and the roof fell in. Inside the church was a large marble statue of Jesus with his hands outstretched. The statue was still there after the bombing but one of the rafters had fallen on its hands and both had been broken off. The people of the church contracted a sculptor to fashion and attach a new set of hands for the statue. The sculptor met with the church board and gave them an estimate for the repair.

There was an old man in the church. He rarely spoke. He was not one of the prominent members of the church but he entered the room where the board

was meeting after the sculptor had gone and began to address the church board.

The next day the board informed the sculptor that they had declined his generous offer. They informed him that they, the church were to be the hands of Jesus.

You are to be the hands of Jesus-you and me. Take a second and let that sink in- the hands of Jesus. What did the hands of Jesus do? **That** is what we are to do. **We** are the body of Christ. We are his eyes as well.

In Matthew 6:22, Jesus said, "The lamp of the body is the eye; if, therefore, your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light."

The eye: What do we see? What are our minds occupied with? We feed our bodies through our mouths but also through our eyes (i.e. what we learn). Garbage in- Garbage out. What music do we listen to? What do we watch on TV? What are we reading? Garbage in- Garbage out.

We have enough garbage coming in from the world to let in any more on purpose, let alone go looking for any. We need to, as the door mouse said, feed our heads. We need to dine on his word, watch it on TV, listen to it on the radio. We need the fellowship of one another.

When we truly realize and understand that we are the body of Christ- when we realize what that truly means, we will stand up and **do what Jesus did.**

I Cor 12:12-13 says, "for even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members are of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

"For by one spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one spirit."

What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?

Does it mean that we kneel somewhere and say, "Jesus come into my life?" and that's it? That is a great start but it seems that far too many forget that its just a start. The world is filled with people who have taken that step and either decided that was all they needed to do or nobody told them that was just the beginning.

What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?

Does it mean that we show up at some church once or twice a week, sing songs and talk about God, participate in bake sales and sing in the choir? It's a great way to hang out but, if this is all we do, we are just hanging out with other church folks.

The Lord did not call us just to hang out. The book of James tells us that faith without works is dead.

Why would a submarine have a screen door? It wouldn't. Why would God need folks to have bake sales, fall festivals and hang out? He wouldn't. There's nothing wrong with this stuff. Godly fellowship is a wonderful thing but it is not supposed to be the end in itself.

What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?

It means we need to do what Jesus did. Jesus had disciples that did what he did even to their own deaths.

We are supposed to be doing what Jesus did. We are supposed to be his hands and his feet and his eyes and his mouth. We are supposed to love as he loved, help as he helped, preach as he preached, be compassionate as he was compassionate, work as he worked and even carry out the same sort of signs and wonders as he did. Don't for a second think that those things happened only with the early church as some well-meaning but sadly mislead church folks would have you believe. Lets look at John 14:12- Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.

Mark chapter 16:17-20 has even more detail. "And these signs will accompany those who have believed: In my name they will cast out devils, speak with new tongues, pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them, lay hands on the sick and they will recover."

These are not just things for us to read about in the Bible. All these things we are supposed to be doing right now-today.

We are supposed to do what Jesus did. We are supposed to be his hands and feet, his mouth and his eyes, and I hope that we never forget that we are also supposed to be his heart.

God bless you all and Merry Christmas.- Mozelle