

# God Allows Us to be Heard

By FICKLIN GUIN  
Pastor and Columnist  
(Acts 24: 1-21)

God gives Paul an opportunity to be heard before his accusers before an impartial judge, by the Holy Spirit of God.

Paul was going according to God's Plan when he came to Jerusalem after many years on the mission field, proclaiming the Gospel message about Jesus Christ. When Paul got to Jerusalem, he was met with many false accusations from his Jewish brethren. This all happened because he had been preaching the Gospel message about Jesus all over Asia.



Now he comes back to his home territory and he meets with all kinds of accusations from the Jewish High Priest and Elders of the Temple. Paul's message about Jesus went against the Jewish belief about God, our Creator of the Old Testament.

The same thing happens today if our witness goes against the standard way of how we see the way of our Christian faith. We see this happening even in our old standard denominations, such as Baptist, Methodist, and others.

This all happened because Paul was walking according to God's plan, under the direction of God's Holy Spirit.

In these verses we see a trial of believers in Paul's witness take place, and God makes sure Paul has a fair trial. Just like it was in Paul's day, God will work things out for us in our day and time.

We see samples of this when the Southern Baptist Convention and other major Christian beliefs meet in their meetings to consider their plans for our Christian movements across our land.

In verse 5, the Jews falsely accuse Paul, and in verses 10-21, Paul gives defense before Felix the Governor. In verses 10-13, Paul makes his opening statement before Felix and Paul's accusers.

In verses 14-21, Paul gives his testimony about his faith in Jesus and Christianity; given to him and to us today, by Jesus, as our Saviour, dying on the Cross for mankind's sins and resurrecting from the dead.

Whenever we try to do our best to proclaim the Gospel message, there will be those who do not see things the same way we see them, concerning faith in Jesus as our Saviour.

All we can do is make sure we are doing God's will for Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit of God, concerning our belief and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour from our sins committed during our human life on this earth, liken unto the way Paul lived his life, by his faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour from his sins committed during Paul's human life on Earth. God gave us Paul to be our Apostle of Jesus to the Gentile World.

For our sake, liken unto Paul, let us look verbatim at verses 14-21 in Chapter 24 of the Book of Acts:

"But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things, which are written in the law and in the prophets; and have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. And herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward man. Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation and offerings. Whereupon certain Jews from Asia, found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult, who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me. Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council. Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them. Touching the resurrection of the dead, I am called in question by you this day."

In these verses, Paul seeks to spiritually nail down the truth by Jesus Christ, that we will resurrect from the dead if we have repented of our sins and accepted Jesus as our Saviour.

# The Mayor's Corner

## Updates on housing development and the Cherry Grove schoolhouse

By WILLIAM DEGOLIAN  
Mayor



There is good news for the City of Washington as we close out 2021 and look to the new year. First, the City is the beneficiary of 28 acres of land on Andrew Drive donated by Dr. Rahul Garg of Rome. Dr. Garg had purchased this property some three years ago anticipating that he might develop it. Due to several unanticipated factors including the onset of COVID, he decided against developing the land himself and instead has given this property to the City.

It is unclear yet what the City of Washington will do with this property, other than we definitely wish that it be developed for housing, of which the City has a great need. The details are to be worked out as to when the housing would start and who or what developer would put the housing in. However, this is a significant step for our City. We now have a site that can be developed into a nice neighborhood for residents wishing to move to Wash-

ington and for locals wishing to buy a new home. They say "Build it and they will come". I think that will be the case here.

In line with the prospect of new housing in Washington, it is my hope that the City and the Urban Redevelopment Authority can work out agreements to get development started on the old high school site on Gordon Street. Our thought is to repurpose part of the old high school for community development purposes and develop housing in and around the rest of the site.

Next, I am delighted to report that the Payroll Development Authority has worked out a way to help support the restoration of the Cherry Grove School House. The school house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a rare surviving one-room school for African-Americans in Georgia that was built on church grounds. It is located on the 4-acre campus of the Cherry Grove Baptist Church at 1878 Danburg Road (Route 44. North), in the area known as Cohentown, which had been a rural Afri-

can American farming community.

The building had been the site of a school for students in grades primary to 7th grade. It was built in 1910 but has been out of use for many years. If not for the rescue efforts of the Friends of Cherry Grove School, the building would be falling down. The Payroll Development Authority will be making a donation to the Friends of Cherry Grove to help pay for the ongoing repair work and thus save a historic structure of significant tourism value for Wilkes County.

Finally, I would like for our City to mark the 240th anniversary of its founding in 1780. We need to commemorate and celebrate this! The COVID precluded our doing this in 2020, but hopefully we can put together such a celebration in 2022. If interested in helping organize this, please let me know!

There are many good things underway in Washington. Let's make 2022 a big year for our historic gem of a City!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor!

## VINTAGE WILKES

### Uncovering Wilkes County's basketball history

By SKEET WILLINGHAM  
Local Historian

It's mid-winter and basketball season is fully upon us now that we can congregate to watch that wonderful sport being played. We can view and cheer, looking in awe at the amazing athleticism, shot-making, and defensive moves that often leave us wondering how she or he made that play.



Wilkes County hasn't historically had the basketball tradition that some other places have had, but our fan base and support has been around for a long, long time. We've had our share of hoop stars,



too: Jeff Binns, Gyvonne Pinkston, Lazarus Chennault, Roger Stokes, Mary Virginia Blackmon, Tyrekus Bowman, and quite a few more.

The game itself only dates from 1891 when James Naismith "invented" it as a physical education activity at Springfield College Massachusetts. The following year it became a women's sport at Smith College. The rules were quite different from the fast-moving high-intensity games of today. 1896 saw the first high school girls' contest.

And it was the girls' game that first caught on here in Wilkes County and what we focus on today. Baseball was still all the rage with boys and would stay that way into the 1930s.

Even before the "Saturday Evening Post" featured a woman basketball player on its October 1906 cover, Washington High School had formed a team. In September of 1905 our local girls had organized and played both a fall and spring season during that school year. There was no gymnasium, so games were outdoors. Who they played was anybody's guess!

The goal was literally a "basket." In fact, it was 1918 before the bottom of the basket was removed so the ball could actually drop through. In Georgia, generally, it was the 1970s before girls even played the game full court. Before that six girls comprised a team, three on each side of the centerline which they could not cross, though teams were allowed two "rovers" who could. Why we didn't automatically find this bizarre still amazes me. Thank goodness for progress.

By 1910 Washington High had boys and girls teams which played in the auditorium on the second floor of what we now call the North Alexander School. The low ceiling made for interesting shot selection.

Rayle, Danburg, and Tignall also had girls' teams by 1916 playing winter-spring schedules and, with football on the fall scene, WHS joined that routine as well. The first noted score was from 1915, WHS losing to Elberton 10-12.

The newspaper in 1918 recounted Washington's 15-12 win at Union Point "despite the fatigue of a long cross-country trip." They celebrated with a moonlight picnic at Daniel Springs on the way home. The 1920s saw Hogue and Met-

asville forming teams with Hogue gaining legendary status for their prowess on the court. Located in the vicinity of Clark's Station Church, the Hogue girls of 1928-29, coached by Fred Blackmon, lost nary a game winning by outrageous scores: 36-1 over Lincolnton, 76-9 over Washington High, and 111-0 (yes!) versus Fortsonia. Stars were Edna Echols, Vannie Luceford, Ruby Echols, and Madge Bunch. Others on the team were Cynthia Mae Collins; Christine, Lucille and Lucy Echols; Elizabeth Luceford; Hilda and Wilda Norman. The Hogue girls were undefeated from March 1928 until February 1932 when they lost by one point to Danburg-Floral Hill.

The 1926-27 Washington girls won the North Georgia High School Championship beating Clarkston 12-10. Playing for the Washington "Bearcats" (the nickname before Tigers) were Ethelyn Arnold, Elizabeth Nash, Sarah Nash, Marjorie Neal, and Frances Smith.

In these days before integration, the Black high schools throughout Wilkes County, especially Washington, Centerville, and the Rosenwald school at Tignall, all had developed competitive teams by 1933.

Under Coach Virginia House, the Danburg Yellow Jacket girls in 1936 defeated not only Washington and Elberton, but also Athens High and Augusta Junior College. The Tignall girls romped to the Class C District Tournament Championship for 1939 defeating Hephzibah, Union Point, Leah, and Loganville along the way. Basketball was sporting and social. It fostered community pride. It transcended tough times to thrill, to excite, to give hope and joy. And it still does!

## ACROSS THE SAVANNAH

### Miss Lucy, a childhood legend

By TOM POLAND  
A Southern Writer

Small towns have that one eccentric person people long remember. Lincolnton, Georgia, had Miss Lucy Glaze. As I write I see a woman dressed in black, like Granny Clampett, racing down the sidewalk brandishing a rake. My crime? Being a kid.

For years a battle raged around the corner of Humphrey and Dallas Street down past Sunrise Drive and the old Green Building, a legend also. The rake-wielding years? The Great Time of Bedevilment? That was in the 1960s. To this day, if you want to excite folks back home say, "Do you remember Miss Lucy?"

Stand back because an arm-waving, hyperventilating soul is about to time travel back to a shrubby-hidden home near the Green Building. Miss Lucy lurked across the street and if you approached her house, she'd pounce on you like a cat on a lizard.

I don't use exclamation points. Elmo Leonard, said, "You are allowed no more than two or three per 100,000 words of prose." The "selfie" of punctuation, exclamation points populate this column. Well, that's okay. They testify to the memories Miss Lucy elicits years after her passing. Right out the gate, Eddie Drinkard shares a memory colorful in more ways than one.



"Sunday Mornings—1964. As soon as Mr. Freeman and Coach Bunch's Sunday school class ended, Gerald Smalley, Tommy Bunch, George Richard, and I would strike out for Mr. Maurice Banks station up on the corner. There was a 20-minute window to load your Sunday pants pockets with Mary Jane's and Fire Balls and get back before preaching



started. The best seats for eating candy were the back two rows under the balcony. No problem, but about twice a year, after church was about full and Preacher Buice was about to start, in walks Miss Lucy, walking stick and red hat with mesh on top.

"She could have walked straight in and got a good seat in the open sanctuary with the old folks, but no, she always turned left and took a seat on the front row under the balcony. You could hear an 'Oh Shucks' murmur go through the congregation! The only other sound was we boys unwrapping Mary Jane's and Fire Balls. I remember a couple times when a giggle and snicker from our row would agitate her and she'd tap the walking stick on the floor, mumble, and walk out. Sigh of relief for the back row!"

Cathy Bufford Brantley remembers how kids loved throwing sand poppers on Miss Lucy's front walk to make her come out raising hell. "Lord, we tortured 'Heeeyyyyy, Miss Lucy! Ohhhhh, Miss Lucy!"

Cathy recalls Miss Lucy as an infamous flower bulb thief. "My grandmother, GG, caught her many times giggling up bulbs in her yard." Coach Jimmy Smith's widow, Joan, recalls that as well. Joan's son, Randy, according to his wife, Jeanie, bought the cane she chased and hit him with.

Priscilla A. Estes has carried a Miss Lucy story for 50 years. "When my mother, Lib, owned

The Little Shop, manager Hollie Cartledge changed the window displays to reflect the seasons. One day Hollie left female mannequins unclothed while she took care of customers. I was in the store that day, working or pretending to. We heard banging out front, loud and fast. There was Miss Lucy. She was dressed in black and used the tip of a matching black umbrella to rattle the display window. Hollie, mom, and I stepped into the entrance. "Miss Lucy! Whatever are you doing," said Mom.

"Heathens! Heathens!" Miss Lucy shouted, brandishing her umbrella. 'Nekkid women in the windows! Shameful! Disgraceful! Cover up those nekkid women! Heathens!"

"I'm sure my mother, a Methodist minister's daughter, chuckled inwardly. 'Of course, Miss Lucy. Miss Lucy watched as Hollie assembled the quickest window display of her life. Only then did the town character wander on."

Miss Lucy returned to Lincolnton after working in New York City as a maid for the wealthy. Did Northerner's cranky ways rub off onto her? Maybe. Aggravating kids didn't help, but they made her a legend. Was she the tyrant we remember? Probably not. Eddie Drinkard remembers that "as disruptive and scary as she seemed to us kids, she would come across the street and sit with our grandmother Blanche who was in a wheelchair for years."

## Super Crossword

### Answers

CASHES	ODS	PGA	CAPFUL
CITATO	REUTERS	ALTEIN	
CRENNA	EARHART	MOLTEN	
IFANAR	BOREAL	RODENT	
OKIA	LOTT	ORE	NBA
WTHAB	USHYTA	JHASBEEN	
ALA	SON	ROVE	ARAT
SISR	EXTREME	LYRTUOUS	
TRAY	RENE	DIJOM	
UTAH	ADSENSE	RFK	VAT
THROUGH	OUTIT	SLIFETIME	
EYE	ROE	ESTATES	ENID
ANGRY	RE	NCAIA	
WHAT	SHOULD	ITENTR	IKE
HIRE	LAOS	RTE	GIN
AFTER	IT	EXITS	THIS
MIS	EDD	A	WOL
REL			
THE	SQUIR	RELLY	GATES
ANDREA	UNCODED	WONTDO	
REVEAL	IT	TEMED	CIANGEIN
CADETIS	ZOE	SEN	ADISTE