

God provides opportunities for us

By FICKLIN GUIN
Pastor and Columnist
(Acts 24: 22-27)

God provides Paul an opportunity to witness the Gospel message about Jesus to those in high places.

Up to this point, Paul had some close calls upon his life as he worked God's plan for eternal life, spreading the Gospel message about Jesus Christ, mankind's Saviour from sin.

The world, during Paul's life, had difficulty understanding the life and witness about Jesus Christ by the Believers.

Also, the world in Paul's day had difficulty understanding that Jesus was God's only begotten Son, who had come down from Heaven to bring God's message of Salvation to mankind.

Even so, much of our world today still does not understand Christianity in this manner. Much of our world today sees Christianity to be just another religion, like all the other religions in our world today.

Paul believed in this manner until he met Jesus on the Damascus road, and then his life totally changed and he was never the same. On that day, Jesus became everything to Paul for the rest of Paul's life.

In this passage of scripture, Felix knew about Jesus and the way, but he did not fully understand, so he called Paul for help.

Many times, even today, we do not fully understand Christianity, therefore, we need someone to help us understand. God, in the name of Jesus, will send someone into our lives through the Holy Spirit of God, to help us under-

stand what Salvation from sin in our lives is all about. When they introduce us to Jesus as our personal Saviour, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, we come to understand Christianity.

We come to see life like Paul came to see life; opportunities to be a spiritually born again witness of the Gospel message of Salvation from sin. This comes to us when we repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ to be our Saviour from our sins.

Paul did not hesitate to tell Felix all about Jesus and God's way to salvation, by God's Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, when we repent of our sins and accept Jesus to be our Saviour.

As Paul journeyed through Jerusalem to Caesarea, God gave him an opportunity to be a witness to Felix, the Governor of the Providence. Today God gives to us opportunities to help people come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit of God.

Paul was glad to have this opportunity to witness about Jesus as mankind's Saviour from sin.

Paul told Felix all about Jesus being given by God to save mankind from sin while on Earth. He told him about being able to repent of our sins and accept Jesus to be our Saviour from our sins, by the Holy Spirit of God, before we die physical death.

But, like so many people today, Felix put Paul's witness about Jesus off until another day. We do not know if Felix and his wife ever repented of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The most important question for all of us today is, "Is today the day of salvation from sin for all of us?" We are all sinners in need of eternal salvation from sin, through Jesus Christ and God's Holy Spirit. We must let God's Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, lead us to our saving faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour from our sins.



The City of Washington Cemetery Committee requests all Christmas floral arrangements be removed

from graves in all city cemeteries: Resthaven, Old School, and City West, by the end of January. This is also to include any other out of date seasonal arrangements and all faded flowers.

The Roy L. Burns Senior Citizen Center schedule: January 5-Exercise at 10 a.m. January 6-Bingo at 10 a.m.

ACROSSTHE SAVANNAH

Noble ruin of the South

By TOM POLAND
A Southern Writer

When man abandoned it, the traffic diverted west, and the forest began to claim it. Today, sycamores, cedars, and oaks console it, and wind and water song replace the hum of tires. If you know when and where to look, you can glimpse this noble ruin of the South.

A mere second, my glimpse, but it whispered, "Take time to visit me," so I did. I knew the place would give me a good feeling, and it did. The place? The old U.S. Highway 25 bridge that used to straddle Turkey Creek.

"Used to, you say?"
"Yes, men cut away its mid-section."

Now like bookends, its truncated ends stare at each other across a westward-flowing creek. You won't see books suspended mid-air, but this place is a book, and it deserves to be in a book, and I just might put it in one.

In winter light, the north end looked Romanesque. The snow-white limbs of sycamores added brilliance to the dry brown of January, and the azure sky reigned perfect, not a cloud in the sky. Only man's orange safety netting, a band-aid of sorts, marred the setting. Rains had the creek swollen and muddy, a chocolate-colored torrent.



I like ruins. I've been to Rome's Coliseum. I like going to the Glendale Ruins up Sparkle City way. I've never been to Cumberland Island's Dungeness Ruins, but I will. Best of all I like the ruins beneath my nose, the ones no one cares about but me. And so it was I found myself walking toward this old bridge. On the way in I walked past coyote scat and a deer stand. A refugee from the Old West and primal instincts seek safe harbor here near this bridge to the past.

When I got to the old bridge, right off I noticed that missing midsection. I noticed, too, two strange steel towers, green moss, white quartz embedded in gray cement, and those dazzling sycamores—a majestic setting for majestic ruins. This bridge speaks to me. "Like you, I was younger and essential once, but to see me is to see your future."

Time and something called progress leave many a bridge behind. Many get razed, like the vanquished Silas N. Pearson/Cooper River Bridge. But the old Highway 25 Bridge stands still, and it gives me that ancient Rome

The Mayor's Corner

Ingles, Ingles, wherefore art thou Ingles?

By WILLIAM DEGOLIAN
Mayor

Are you as tired as me of rolling a shopping cart across the parking lot at the Ingles Shopping Center here in Washington? It is treacherous! Pity the poor shopper that has just purchased a dozen eggs! I recently wrote a letter complaining of this to James W. Lanning, the president and chief executive officer of Ingles Markets, Inc. I have yet to receive a reply.

My wife BJ and I are longtime customers of the Ingles Supermarket. Ever since the Bilo Store closed, Ingles has had a virtual monopoly on the large supermarket business in Washington. Fortunately, it is not the only show in town, as Terry Thornton continues to run his fine IGA grocery store.

VINTAGE WILKES

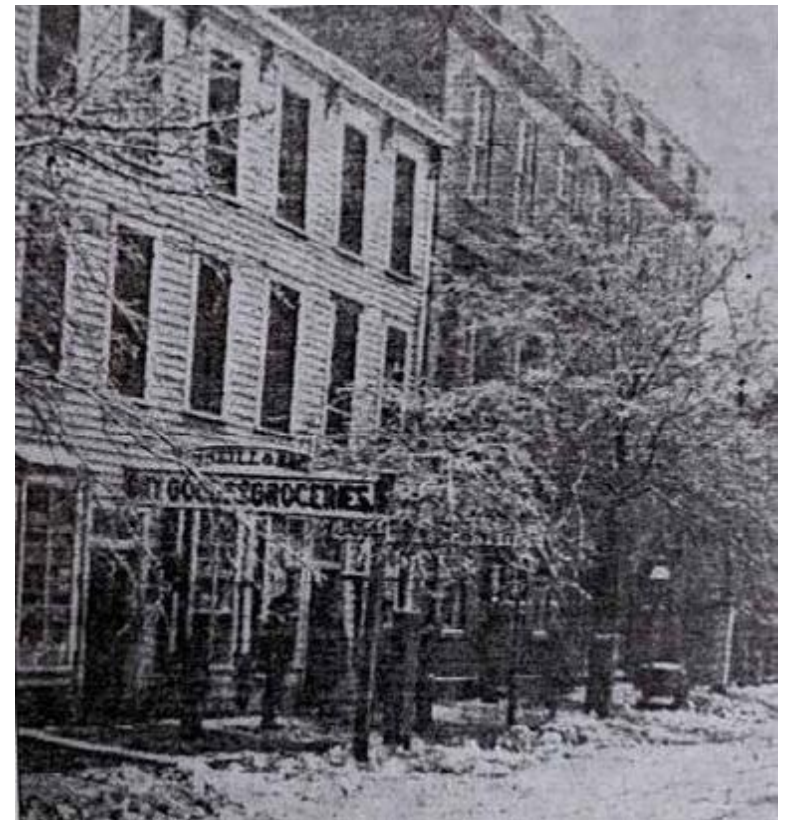
Marcus and Abraham: civil in war time

By SKEET WILLINGHAM
Local Historian

Recalling a day over 155 years ago, let us reflect on a simple instance of friendship between two men of diametrically different backgrounds and experiences: Lot Abraham--Iowa farmer and Union officer; and Morris Marcus--Jewish merchant and Georgia Reb.

Capt. Abraham, commanding the Federal Army occupying force in the town of Washington, wrote in his diary on that May 17th (a Wednesday) in 1865, "Got a very polite invitation to dinner today. Accepted of course. Went away down to the south part of town [now where South Alexander intersects with Chapman Street, the Chapman-Russell-Hoge-Peddar house] to the residence and of M. Marcus,--a jolly old [Marcus was about 48] Jew. Got a good dinner & stayed with him 2 hours. Then left with an invitation to call often--come and live there if I wanted to." He returned on the 22nd and brought Lieutenant Schaeffer with him for another fine supper.

It's possible that the initial invitation was given with the assumption by Marcus that "Lot



Abraham" was a fellow member of his faith, but that would have been cleared up quickly. Marcus was hospitable, as was his whole family: wife Sarah [Moore] and six children, including a most attractive 17 year-old daughter also named Sarah (called Sallie). The handsome Captain Abraham noted "had a good time with Sallie!"

Morris Marcus was a native of "Prussia-Poland" as it was then denoted (that part of Germany which now is Poland), the town of Posen, Wielkopolskie. He had arrived in Washington, Georgia, by the early 1840s, married Sarah Moore here in 1845, and maintained a thriving mercantile business into the 1870s. He served with Gen. Robert Toombs in the 3rd Regiment of Georgia Cavalry (State Guards) Co. C outside Atlanta during Sherman's March through the state. His youngest son was even named Garland Wingfield Marcus. Wilkes County had made its mark on this industrious immigrant. Daughter

monopoly that Ingles enjoys in the supermarket business, it should put a higher priority on its Washington/Wilkes customers and repave the parking lot.

Send Ingles a letter! The more letters it receives from its Washington/Wilkes customers, the better. We are tired of unrequited love! The address/store reference is

Mr. James W. Lanning
President / CEO
Ingles Markets, Inc.
2913 U.S. Hwy 70, West
Black Mountain, North Carolina
28711

Re: Store #429, 110 Ann Denard Drive, Washington, Georgia.

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

Sallie married Abraham Franklin, who took over Marcus' store before 1880. Also Jewish, Franklin and family lived in the home now Betsy and Charles Wagner's on East Robert Toombs. Franklin Street is named for him. Marcus retired to Kentucky where other family members lived, including Jacob Marcus, possibly a nephew having been born in the same town in Poland in 1846. Jacob's children, Carrie Marcus Neiman and Herbert Marcus, would establish Neiman-Marcus, one of the great department stores of 20th century America, just a tad more elegant than Morris Marcus' dry goods store in Washington. That building burned in the Fire of 1897 on the south side of the Square and was replaced by the Simpson building, what more recently has been Pop-Lahr Possibilities.

History is with us in so many ways--from great events of the Civil War to simple stories of just being "civil" to one another.

Back in the day

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been named a TIME magazine quality dealer award winner for 1972. Johnson, who is president of Darrell Johnson Inc. in Thomson and a native of Wilkes County, is one of only 75 dealers in the entire nation selected for its honor.

25 Years ago This Week

Even as plans are being made for developing a recreational complex on the former Wilkes Academy property, an unknown arsonist has caused major fire damage to the one building that was considered usable with minimal renovation. The fire was discovered about 3:20 Sunday afternoon, January 12, by Lt. Jerry Hackney of the Washington Fire Department. Hackney was off duty at the time and observed the fire from his residence nearby on Lexington Avenue. He went to investigate the smoke and found the former athletic field house in flames.

The sludge spill on the Tignall Road at North By-Pass last week calls attention to a new method of solids disposal being introduced by the City of Washington. The sludge was collected at the city's wastewater treatment plant city for disposal by spreading, it on farmland as fertilizer.

"We are improving education all the

time, but we never seem to arrive at where we want to be. I want sometime to get there." Dr. Jim Parker, Wilkes County superintendent of schools, summarized his goals for local public schools with that statement when he addressed the Washington Rotary Club Thursday afternoon, January 9.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners considered two requests for lighted baseball fields at its regular meeting Tuesday evening, January 14, and came away with a split of the "double-header." Lights for a Little League field at Ashley Park were approved, but it was lights out for a similar proposal for the full-size baseball field at the W-WCHS Tiger Stadium sports complex.

Sons and daughters of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) members who will complete their high school education this year should apply now for scholarship funds available through Georgia's electric cooperatives. This annual program is in honor of Walter Harrison of Millen, a pioneer of rural electrification who was one of the people most responsible for the growth and success of an industry which has resulted in the creation of approximately 1,000 co-ops in 47 states as well as in several foreign countries.