

## Our daily walk with God

By FICKLEN GUIN  
Pastor and Columnist  
(Acts 25: 13-27)

God continues his walk with Paul in a very methodical manner, through God's plan for Paul, to eventually reach Rome, the Gentile world of that day.

Paul had stood in judgment before Felix and Festus, and now he stands before King Agrippa and his wife, Bernice, who will pass judgment on Paul. God has a plan for our world



that began in the beginning of time, and God continues to walk His plan day by day. We do not know the path of God's plan the way God knows it because we are part of the plan.

As we read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we can see the working of God's plan that is already happening.

We can see the directions of God's plan as it is told to us in God's Bible, about how everything took place in the Old Testament years and moved into the New Testament years.

As we continue to study God's plan in the New Testament, we must be careful not to make God's plan of work as we may believe it to be and want it to be.

The Apostles asked Jesus, when all the things He told them began to take place, what would happen to them and all of mankind, and Jesus let them know that everything was in Jesus' Heavenly Father's hands. In order for us to experience the fullness of God's blessings, we must completely trust in Jesus' words given to us in the New Testament, about God's future plans for mankind.

If we will surrender ourselves completely unto God in the Name of Jesus, through the power of God's Holy Spirit, who enters into us through our faith in Jesus Christ

as our Saviour from our sins, God will be able to bring all kinds of blessings into our lives while we are on Earth.

God has a plan for each one of us when we repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour. God uses us as a born again person to help spread God's plan throughout the whole world of mankind.

When we study Paul's life in the New Testament, we are able to see and understand what can happen in our lives, as believers in Jesus as our personal Saviour, liken unto Paul, whom God chose to give to us our way of salvation in Jesus.

That does not mean that all of us, as Christian believers, must go into a full time Christian service, but we must make a full surrender to Jesus Christ as our Saviour from our sins.

God is very interested in what we do in our lives each and every day, and He wants us to make the Name of Jesus by God's Holy Spirit within us, a part of our everyday lives. We see in Paul's life how completely God, in the Name of Jesus, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, can completely become involved in our everyday life.

When we let this become a normal happening everyday of our lives, as we live with our fellow humans, God becomes very pleased with us by God's Holy Spirit, in the Name of Jesus as our Saviour from our sins of our human life.

We see in the life of the Apostle Paul how God, in the Name of Jesus, became completely a part of Paul's life, through the spiritual baptism of God's Holy Spirit, in the Name of Jesus, as Paul's Saviour from his sins.

God chose Paul to be Jesus' Apostle to the Gentile world, through the power of God's Holy Spirit, and that is the reason we have God's churches of Jesus Christ all over our world today.

God's plan of salvation for the Gentile world is being carried out just as God planned. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

## The Mayor's Corner

### New housing development prospects

Last week several City Council members and I visited with a home builder to discuss the development of new residential housing in Washington. This developer and indeed all of us feel that Washington is prime for new housing.

We expect to be in active talks with several residential developers in the coming weeks. There is growing interest in the construction of new housing here. Washington needs to grow. We need more young people and young families. Our population has been stagnant at about 4,000 residents for a long

time. We are not shrinking, but we are certainly not growing.

This may be starting to change. The potential home development project we met about could lead to the construction of 35 to 40 new homes. This in turn could mean that 200 or 300 new residents might be coming to our City. While that does not sound like much, in a town as small as Washington it would have a significant impact.

I expect to participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony soon for the new Dollar General store on Whitehall, and there is talk of a new development

getting underway soon in the Depot Street area. New commercial activity will add to the momentum slowly building.

Growth is a slow, one step at a time process. Nothing happens overnight. However, there are good reasons to view Washington's glass as being half full and that Washington will indeed start growing in the coming years. If that were to be the case, the next issue would be how to manage growth for the best benefit of the City. But I get ahead of myself!

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



## VINTAGE WILKES

### Ficklen: Determined to survive

By SKEET WILLINGHAM  
Local Historian

Today as we drive down Sharon Road (GA Hwy 47) into Taliaferro County, we pass right through the middle of downtown Ficklen, Georgia.

It's a survivor with a jewel of a Presbyterian Church and Mr. Byrum's house -- many years ago he was the "railroad man." And there's the Depot which kept Ficklen going for so many decades. There are a few other homes and even Silas Mercer's graveyard is not far away.

The "community" originally was a working farm of eventually well over 2000 acres owned by Dr. Fielding Ficklen. Dr. Ficklen (1801-1869) was a Virginian who, after receiving his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, came south to Wilkes County in 1824. He



married Frances Wingfield and settled just south of Little River. Taliaferro County was created the next year (1825) placing his property no longer in Wilkes but in that new county. Ficklen and his family moved to Washington about 1830 retaining the farm but bringing the main house to town with them! He bought and reconfigured the home that would become known as "Holly Court" on South Alexander Avenue. His land on Little River which stretched from Harden's Creek to Buck Branch was reattached to Wilkes County when the railroad line was built to Washington in 1853. A train stop was established there not long after.

It was the railroad line and depot that attracted the interest of L.M. Wells of Lumpkin County who, in Oct. 1906, agreed to purchase 2301 acres known as the old Ficklen estate. Wells subdivided the property into plots of 70 to 200 acres and induced 20 families from Lumpkin, Dawson, and Jackson Counties to locate here. Now it was a real settlement with Ficklen as its name. In March 1907 a post office was established with L.M. Wells as its postmaster. In the transition the USPS misspelled the town "Ficklin" and so it remained for its whole postal career until ceasing in 1953.

Sawmills were buzzing, run by Wells and J.W. Rider. J.S. Caruth and New Jersey investors organized the Georgia Creosoting Company. A.C. Barnett opened a modern Brickyard. Wells had a general store next door to the newly built Georgia Railroad Depot. John F. Pleyte of the Ficklen Floral Company had a huge greenhouse operation, the only one between Atlanta and

Augusta. He also provided the original design to formalize the Square in Washington for the Wilkes County Commissioners in 1908.

A two-story schoolhouse was opened in July 1907 with Mattie Shipp as the teacher. An Odd Fellows Lodge occupied the second floor.

Ficklen was incorporated in the fall of 1907 with J.W. Rider as its mayor. A year later 35 town lots were sold at auction. First houses erected in the "city" were those of M.W. Berry, J.W. Cain, and J.S. Carruth's 14-room dwelling. Mercantile stores for the Ficklen Company and W.H. Linenkohl were built and a hotel opened. Grady Ledbetter began a grocery store. By 1910 Ficklen was hopping! Baptist and Methodist churches were worshipping. The Presbyterian congregation would come in 1927.

But there were difficulties. Fire destroyed the Ficklen Spoke and Handle Company only two months after it sold its first order. Mr. Wells' store burned in Feb. 1910. Wells packed up and left in 1918. Of the "original" settlers, only J.M. Tanner remained there. On Apr. 30, 1924, a violent tornado almost obliterated the village. Sterling Harrison suffered a broken leg and Gus Patrick was lifted up from the post office and delivered 300 yards away, fatally injured. Though school, church, and houses on the hill to the west were spared, the plucky little town would not recover.

The Depot, though, still stands as do remnants of the high water trestle over Little River with railroad ties and construction courtesy of the Georgia Creosoting Company, along with the houses of some delightful local residents.

## ACROSS THE SAVANNAH

### Crow tastes pretty good in snow

By TOM POLAND  
A Southern Writer

My last column criticized I-20 as a barrier to snow in the classic South. "Winter after winter, radar reveals blue, pink, and white blotches rolling north of I-20. Below it? Green blotches of rain. Southerners who live along or south of that band of asphalt can forget snow. It's a latitude thing."

The weather gods headed my lament, and down came the flakes. So I'll take a smidgen of credit or blame (in the eyes of some) for the January 21-22 snow.

I stayed up past midnight watching flakes tumble past floodlights. They stuck, as we say, and I knew I'd better write an apology column. It's one I'm glad to write. I like a snow or two but year after year we get none where I live. That changed overnight.

I'll confess a little crow marinated in snow tastes pretty good. Come daybreak I went onto my deck with a yardstick—three inches. That qualifies as a blizzard in the land of green blotches of rain. As the coffee percolated this morning the laughter of children playing in snow drifted through woods, and that brought back childhood memories. On those rare, snow-blanketed mornings when I happened to awaken first, I could tell something was different. The world seemed muted. A strange, soft silence reigned. Peeking through the window, I got a jolt. Snow had fallen throughout the night, and I had missed the show.

Few things rival the spellbinding beauty of quarter-sized flakes cartwheeling through the air. Back in boyhood, mesmerized by tumbling flakes, I knew good would come from those non-iden-



tical crystals. No school. A snowman. A friendly snowball fight. Skim a layer off the car roof into a bowl, mix in sugar, vanilla extract, and milk and, voilà, ice cream.

A snowfall made for a time of adventurous survival too. Those rare days of childhood snow sometimes knocked out the power. That meant tomato soup warmed over gas space heaters. It meant too wet clothes and freezing hands and toes. And even that misery held its own peculiar brand of joy.

No matter how much or how little snow we got, it merited movie making. Somewhere a brittle strip of film sits in a canister. My Dad, as many dads did in the '50s, bought a Bell & Howell 8 millimeter camera and made home movies. To this day, I can see a snowfall he captured on film. It's April 8, an amazingly

late snow. Our dog, Duke, romps in the snow. Mom holds up a handmade sign giving the date and the snow's depth of eight inches. The film jerks and swings wildly. Suddenly someone else is filming and my father runs into the camera: red from the cold, his heavy 5 o'clock shadow evident. Closer he comes, his face near the lens. Mom always said that shot made him look like an escaped convict. He was but 32 years old. He was a boy playing in the snow. Snow makes children of us Southerners. That's its true beauty.

Sixty-four years later in the South Carolina Midlands, we're children once again. I should have known that as soon as my I-20 no snow column hit the presses it'd snow right away. It did, and I am glad, and I'll say it one more time. Crow tastes pretty good when you're looking over a rare Southern snowy landscape.

## Back in the day

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to open a district office in Washington in the very near future. It will be one of only two such offices in the entire Tenth District.

Several college students from this area have been named to the dean's list at their respective colleges and universities. Tom Nash Jr. and Shirley Elaine Brown were named at the University of Georgia; and Carolyn McLendon and Undrail Dewitt were so honored at Spellman College. Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Hendricks Jr. won an airplane trip to Augusta at the Lions Club cake walk. Airport manager Jim Smith took them on the flight.

**25 years ago this week** County Line WMU needs recipes for cookbook. The County Line WMU is sponsoring publication of a cookbook in conjunction with the bicentennial being celebrated by the church this year.

Owen Hoffman of Washington will lead a series of meetings at the Washington Chapel at 808 E. Robert Tombs Avenue beginning Sunday, February 2, and continuing through Sunday, February 9. The meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. with a special illustrated message on Saturday February 8. Anyone

interested is invited to attend.

Lindley Taylor Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Hall of Rayle was eight years old on January 25 and celebrated with two parties. Lindley celebrated the day before her birthday with her classmates at Washington-Wilkes Primary School as she shared cupcakes, candy and grape drinks with them.

Members of the Woman's Club of Washington are busy finalizing plans for the John Duggan Memorial Scholarship Luncheon to be held Wednesday, February 12, at 12 noon at the clubhouse.

As a result of continuing investigation, along with identification of new witnesses or new information from an unexpected source, criminal cases may be solved months or even years after the original crime. During a period of "Relatively quiet" criminal activity, two such

Finishing touches are being made on plans for a 4-day evangelistic religious crusade for Wilkes and Lincoln counties in March, City of Washington residents may expect to see an increase in the cost of electricity on their next utility bills, but at least it's a modest increase.