

Mankind's special opportunity

By FICKLEN GUIN
Pastor and Columnist
(Acts 28: 1-31)

God gives Paul a special opportunity to do a great work in the Name of Jesus for mankind. God delivers Paul and his fellow comrades from the shipwreck to an island of barbarous people. They were not Romans, not educated, and not civilized, but they were people who needed to be introduced to faith in God.



If we walk in God's footsteps, we will travel where there are great needs in mankind's life. God wanted Paul to have the opportunity to witness to the people on this island. Paul was going to Rome, but God had another stop for him.

We never know where God will lead us when we are working God's plans for mankind. God gave Paul a special opportunity and the people did all they could to make Paul and his comrades comfortable.

God caused the barbarous people on the island to be kind to Paul, but it seems as if the devil is always present when we try to do God's will. However, we can be successful because God's Holy Spirit is more powerful than the devil. God made it possible for Paul to gain the people's confidence and the people cooperated with Paul. (verses 2-7)

After performing a miracle of healing the sick, God gives Paul an opportunity to minister to all the island people. Then God gives them an opportunity to return favor to Paul and his comrades, and Paul gains the people's confidence because of God's special work.

It is always good and worthwhile to walk in God's footsteps in God's plans for mankind's life on Earth. The people gave everything needed for their journey to Paul and his comrades as they left the island.

Because of this spiritual awakening of the island people, God is able to finally bring Paul to His promised destination, to Rome to preach the Gospel of Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles.

After Paul's spiritual conversion on the Road to Damascus, he had gone all over his known world, preaching the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Whenever Paul went into a new place, he tried to reach his Jewish brethren with the Gospel message and then he would reach out to the Gentiles. Paul wanted his Jewish brethren to have the hope God had given him through Jesus Christ.

Paul said, "For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you and speak with you, because that for the hope of Israel, I am bound with this chain." (verse 20)

Some of the Jewish brethren be-

lieved Paul's message and some did not, but he did not let that stop him from preaching the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. When we study these words of Paul, we must not give up when we try to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to our world of today.

Paul said, "Be it known therefore unto you that the salvation of God is sent to the Gentile world that they will hear it." (verse 28)

That is the reason we have the Gospel message of Jesus Christ being preached all over the United States of America today. The Apostle Paul, many years ago, heard the call of Jesus Christ for him to go everywhere in his known world, preaching the eternal salvation of mankind through faith and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour from our sins. Because of this, we have our Christian churches today.



Letters to the editor

Praise for Wills Memorial Hospital

To the Editor:

Normally, I would write a letter to the News-Reporter only on an issue that I thought was very detrimental to our community or for an opportunity to address a subject that merits commendation. Fortunately, the latter is the subject of my letter.

Yesterday, I received a phone call from the son of a recent patient of Wills Memorial Hospital who had received physical therapy as the result of a devastating stroke. He was transporting his father by vehicle to a western state. The son had forgotten the pneumatic pump that inflates the compression socks worn by his father. I was requested to find the device at their former residence and forward it as expeditiously as possible to their destination.

I needed a little help, so I consulted the physical therapy department at Wills for suggestions concerning the proper packaging of the device. To my relief, the therapists at the hospital volunteered to pack the device in a manner that would ensure its safe arrival in New Mexico. This act of compassion was accomplished after the patient had been discharged several days earlier. Again, this act of kindness illustrates the value of having a dedicated community hospital such as we have in Washington, GA.

May God bless our hospital. This thoughtfulness would not have been forthcoming from a large hospital with no community connection. Wills must remain solvent. There are methods by which we can help.

Robert C. Johnston

The Mayor's Corner

Washington's progress is encouraging



There were two events in town last week that spoke well of where Washington is these days. First, there was a polite public meeting to discuss the proposed renaming of Lexington Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue. As to be expected, many of the speakers at the meeting were residents of Lexington Avenue. The clear majority of them were opposed to the idea. It was not that they are opposed to naming something in the city after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. they just do not want it to be their street.

There are other reasons as well. Lexington Avenue is a State Highway and cannot arbitrarily be renamed without State approval. It actually predates the establishment of the town of Lexington itself. It was one of the first roadways from when Washington was founded in 1780. For over two centuries it has been known as Lexington Avenue. There is a lot of work and cost in renaming a street, including changing address names, stationary, online accounts, new

street signs, revising city maps and otherwise.

This is something that the City Council in discussions with Washington residents will continue to look at. We will find the appropriate place or street or park in Washington where a renaming in honor of Dr. King will best work for the city.

Of interest too last week was the historic places tour that was led by Command Sergeant Major (retired) Sam Jenkins, a Washington-Wilkes native who now lives in Augusta. Sergeant Major Jenkins, who is in his 80's and retired from a long and distinguished career in the U. S. Army, has deep knowledge of and love for Washington. He led a tour group that included Reverend Ed Anderson, Skeet Willingham, Reverend Larry Hill, City Councilman Maceo Mahoney, City Councilman Andy Anderson, and Washington History Museum curator Stephanie Machia. Frank Fulbright, a new resident of Washington and a history lover, chauffeured the group in the First Methodist Church van. They drove around

for five hours!

With Sam Jenkins' guidance, the group visited places of that are significant in the history of African Americans in Wilkes County. As to each location, Sergeant Jenkins described important events that had taken place there or significant buildings that had once stood there. The information has been saved and noted and will be put together as a historic tour for visitors to Washington, particularly those interested in Washington's Black history.

This will dovetail nicely with the historic Cherry Grove Schoolhouse, which is in the final stages of restoration and which was visited recently by representatives of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. The Friends of Cherry Grove have been awarded a Callahan Incentive Grant, a program established by Les and Barbara Callahan of the Georgia Trust to help fund the preservation of important historic properties in Georgia.

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

The Great Reset

novel coronavirus. This was two months before the COVID outbreak in China became news and five months before the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic, and it closely resembled the future COVID scenario, including incorporating the idea of asymptomatic spread."

"The CLADE X and Event 201 simulations anticipated almost every eventuality of the actual COVID crisis, most notably the responses by governments, health agencies, the media, tech companies, and elements of the public. The responses and their effects included worldwide lockdowns, the collapse of businesses and industries, the adoption of biometric surveillance technologies, an emphasis on social media censorship to combat "misinformation," the flooding of social and legacy media with "authoritative sources," widespread riots, and mass unemployment."

"The Great Reset aims to usher in a bewildering economic amalgam—Schwab's stakeholder capitalism—which I have called "corporate socialism" and Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben has called "communist capitalism."

"Just as Schwab and the WEF predicted, the COVID crisis has accelerated the Great Reset. Monopolistic corporations have consolidated their grip on the economy from above, while

socialism continues to advance for the rest of us below. In partnership with Big Digital, Big Pharma, the mainstream media, national and international health agencies, and compliant populations, hitherto democratic Western states—think especially of Australia, New Zealand, and Austria—are being transformed into totalitarian regimes modeled after China."

<https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/what-is-the-great-reset/>

Please read this article from The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute "Communism's Challenge to Christianity"

"Let us begin by stating that communism and Christianity are at the bottom incompatible. One cannot be a true Christian and a true Communist simultaneously. How then is Communism irreconcilable with Christianity?"

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/communisms-challenge-christianity>

Will the Great Reset will require voter fraud in 2022 and beyond, obedience training like vaccine mandates, an enemy like Christians and Trump supporters are terrorists, conservatives discharged from the military, and a fake insurrection where an unarmed conservative military vet was murdered in plain sight. And what about a country where a corporation can tell the government to arrest someone and seize all of their assets without a court order much less a trial. Can't happen in America, right?

FBI Seized Family's Assets Without a Single Charge, All Because Amazon Claims the Dad Wasn't Giving 'Honest Services'

"Yet the family's life was turned upside down when the FBI suddenly seized nearly \$1 million from them over an unproven allegation."

https://www.westernjournal.com/fbi-seized-family-assets-without-single-charge-amazon-claims-dad-wasnt-giving-honest-services/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=AE&utm_campaign=can&utm_content=2022-02-21

Terry G. Diggs

ACROSS THE SAVANNAH

Miss Emily's Oak

By TOM POLAND
A Southern Writer

She planted the oak some sixty-eight years ago. Miss Emily was around twenty-six then. The years passed, the tree grew, and today it's a setting Normal Rockwell would have appreciated. A classic Southern scene, it possesses the requisite charms. A quaint barn sits at the edge of woods. Oak limbs shade a wooden picnic table. A rocker faces a swing hanging from the oak. Somewhere in the oak's massive limbs I suspect resurrection ferns grow. A fence partitions the pasture from the yard, and cast iron plants prosper next to the fence. And there's that stretch of pasture, still green despite February's cold touch.



When I look at this setting, "pastoral" comes to mind. Synonyms for pastoral include rural, rustic, sylvan, and a word few utter these days, "Arcadian," a literary way of saying "idealized country dweller." And indeed a country dweller does live near this fine oak, Miss Emily.

I know some nice gatherings



have taken place beneath this oak. Some great conversations too. It's inviting, one of those places people gravitate to. I see what appear to be Meadowcraft rockers and an old chair. Winter cold has the chairs and swing empty, but come a summer afternoon six people could gather here with glasses of tea, and even more people if the picnic table comes into play. Or just one person could sit beneath this oak and swing and think. That's what I'd do. Swing and think.

An interesting history accompanies this peaceful setting. Miss Emily created what would become a fine Southern scene when she brought an oak seedling up from Charleston all those years ago. In talking with her, I surmised the young oak was maybe knee high

when she planted it. From little acorns grow mighty oaks goes the saying. Here we see literal proof that mighty things do indeed grow from little acorns.

But, what else grew from this acorn that fell from a tree long ago down Charleston way? A place where Miss Emily's family gathers. In a day when few people sit on a front porch anymore, Miss Emily's tree provides a gathering place. I find that not only Southern but also comforting. Her family refers to the oak as the "Retirement Center," and why not. "Let's retire to the swing and chat for a while."

Miss Emily and I might have never met had it not been for coincidences and good fortune. We've long known of one another's family because we're from the same small town in Georgia. But many

years had to pass before my words brought us together. She had been reading my weekly columns and a magazine feature or two. Our friendship began with a phone call and later a visit.

On a cool and windy Saturday in February I parked near her Retirement Center, that is that fine oak. Miss Emily invited friends, family, and a retired high school English teacher to share lunch with her. The teacher had taught Pat Conroy down in Beaufort.

"How was Pat as a student?" He gave me a knowing look. "Pat read paperbacks in class." I got the message.

All of us talked for hours and enjoyed more than a few good laughs. We talked books, writers, back roads, history, and some true characters of the Southland. What Dad used to enunciate as "care-actors."

No, we weren't sitting beneath Miss Emily's tree. The February day had a bite in the air, and a nice long chat inside seemed wise, but sure as the sun rises I see a summer day coming when that swing will be swinging and we'll be talking and a laughing and sipping tea. We'll do so beneath an oak spirited away from the Holy City by a Georgia girl who'd end up in Georgialina, same as me. Miss Emily and I are Georgialinians, and we both love trees, especially stately oaks.

Super Crossword

Answers

W	I	S	E	O	F	E	B	A	S	T	I	L	L	E	A	G	A	R
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	O	B	S	I	D	I	A	N	R	E	L	O
R	E	A	R	E	D	A	L	Y	A	N	K	O	V	I	C	F	R	A
E	M	S	N	O	D	S	N	Y	M	A	T	O						
L	A	M	E	N	T	S	R	H	I	N	E	C	O	O	L	E	R	
S	A	U	S	A	G	E	S	M	O	A	N	A	N	U	D	E	S	
R	I	G	H	T	G	L	O	V	E	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	I	O
A	S	S	E	Z	F	A	T	M	E	A								
O	C	T	R	A	T	E	A	L	O	N	G	T	I	M	E			
I	N	S	C	H	O	O	L	I	A	M	A	T	E	A	S	E	R	
G	E	T	A	R	A	I	L	B	L	U	B	B	E	R	R	E	N	O
O	B	I	S	P	O	M	O	O	D	S	I	N	A	P	P	E	A	S
R	O	C	K	I	N	G	P	A	P	E	R	S	O	L	E			
G	A	R	A	E	C	I	M	A	C	S								
R	O	T	T	E	R	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	B	R	I	D	G
K	O	R	E	A	M	E	E	S	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C		
R	A	I	D	I	N	G	P	O	O	L	D	R	O	V	E	T	O	
A	N	O	L	O	L	S	O	U	P	I	M	P						
M	O	L	E	R	U	T	C	O	U	L	D	B	E	E	T	T	E	R
E	K	E	S	G	E	O	M	E	T	R	O	N	A	L	D	O		
R	E	S	T	E	D	G	I	N	E	S	S	A	D	E	V	E	S	