

has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ" (Phil.1:12,13).

If we will but take the time to look at our lives, we'll often find what Paul found. Misfortune and adversity have resulted in positive outcomes. *"Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5).* —From *The Clay Tablet*

Prayer List

Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	James Howard
David Depew	Sara Nance	Herman McKenzie

Our prayers are with the Howard family with the passing of Sarah last week.

Gospel Meetings

7/9,16,23,30 at Somerville at 7:00 p.m. The Jule Miller DVDs.

7/5-10 at Parkway with Paddy Kendall-Ball, M-F at 7:00 p.m.

7/6-10 VBS at New Georgia with Greg Chandler, M-F at 10 a.m.

7/12-17 at Jones Road with Lowell Sallee and Bill Hall, Sun. – Fri. at 7 p.m.

7/16-18 VBS at Brookhill with different speakers.

7/18 Young People's Lectureship at Hughes Road in Madison with Jeff May, Edwin Crozier and Eric Reynolds

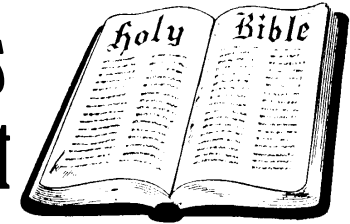
7/19-24 at Highway 157 in Cullman with Jeff May, Lessons on the Home and Family, M-F at 7 p.m.

7/19-24 at East Lawrence with Frank Jamerson

7/26-31 at Wooly Springs

7/26-29 Sugar Creek with Jim Deason

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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A Choice of Legacies

The week of June 21st saw the passing of three well-known celebrities, each seemingly more famous than the next. The first to pass was Ed McMahon, renowned for his long-standing supporting role on the Tonight Show introducing host Johnny Carson. Two days later, news broke that 70's sex symbol Farrah Fawcett had died after a long battle with cancer. Both of these celebrity deaths were trumpet in the news with the passing of Michael Jackson, the King of Pop.

If you had the choice, which of their legacies would you prefer?

Of the three celebrities, Michael Jackson is the most famous, but his legacy is also the most disturbing. Some will always cherish him for the music he performed, but disturbing changes to his appearance and alarming allegations of child abuse leave permanent scars on his reputation and memory. Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold." Though loved by some, his name could hardly be considered good.

Farrah Fawcett's struggle with cancer appeared on screen in a television documentary that aired just days before her death. Curiously, the role for which she is famous, her part in *Charlie's Angels*, is one she downplayed in the documentary. In one clip, she reminded her nurses that she

only appeared on the show for one season. For what, then, will she be remembered? She was beautiful. She was charming. But such things are fleeting. Proverbs 30:31 reminds us, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."

That leaves Ed McMahon. At first glance, few would choose the role of the sidekick, but his legacy is by far the best. He understood that his purpose was not bring attention to himself, but to support the host. In a way, this role is not far from what God expects of His people.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16). We let our light shine, not to bring attention to ourselves, but to glorify God.

Which legacy would you choose? Consider this, you are choosing your legacy right now.

—RAB

Where Would You Be if _____ Had Never Happened to You?

Steve Klein

Somerset Maugham, the English writer, once wrote a story about a janitor at St. Peter's Church in London. One day a young vicar discovered that the janitor was illiterate and fired him. Jobless, the man invested his meager savings in a tiny tobacco shop, where he prospered, bought another, ex-

panded, and ended up with a chain of tobacco stores worth several hundred thousand dollars. One day the man's banker said, "*You've done well for an illiterate, but where would you be if you could read and write?*" "Well," replied the man, "*I'd be janitor of St. Peter's Church in Neville Square*" (From Bits and Pieces, June 24, 1993, p. 23).

Many times in life the things that appear at first to be misfortune wind-up bringing us success or blessing in our lives. This is illustrated many times in the Bible.

- If Joseph had never been sold into slavery, falsely accused and then imprisoned, would he ever have been elevated to a position in Egypt that allowed him to preserve his family?
- Where would Daniel have been if he hadn't been taken into Babylonian captivity? Would he have had the opportunity to bring honor to the God of heaven before foreign kings?
- Where would Zaccheus have been if he were taller?
- Would the blind man in John 9 ever have become a believer in Jesus if he had not been "*born blind*"?
- What if the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment to be healed had not suffered a "*flow of blood*" for 12 years? Would her faith have been as strong?
- Would the centurion have come to Jesus if his son were not paralyzed and dreadfully tormented? (Matthew 8:6)

When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he was in a Roman prison. But he was able to see the good that had come from his circumstances. "*But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it*