



England Hill Chronicles

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

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Page 1

The Trinity

Of all the subjects in the Bible, the Trinity may be the most difficult topic to present. No matter the amount of time and effort we spend in reading and studying, we will never be able to do the subject justice. Even though we can't completely comprehend the Trinity we should still attempt to understand this concept. After all, the Bible tells us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). In order to give an answer we must, to some degree, have an understanding.

Where would you turn, in the Bible, to find the first reference to the Trinity? Would it be in the "Great Commission" - *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost* (Matthew 28:19)? Maybe you would look to the "Apostolic Benediction" - *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.* (2 Corinthians 13:14)

While the above verses are both presented to establish and support the doctrine of the Trinity, we see that the Trinity is evident from the very beginning of the Bible. In the very first book, in the very first chapter, the scriptures tell us, "And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:26)

Please note the bolded words in the above verse, clearly God is speaking for more than one when He uses the words "us" and "our". Before we can completely accept this verse as presenting the Trinity we must first understand a difference between the English and Hebrew languages. In the English language a word can have either a singular (one) or plural (more than one) form, but in the Hebrew language a word can have a singular (one), dual (two), or plural (more than two) form. The words translated as "us" and "our" are plural (more than two) in form, therefore God is speaking for more than two persons - He is speaking for the Trinity.

Another evidence of the Trinity from Gene-



sis 1:26 is that the verse says, "let us make man in our image". If the Godhead is made up of three persons, and we are made in His image, then man must be a triune creation, and so he is - body, soul, and spirit.

Even though the Bible clearly teaches the doctrine of the Trinity, it almost seems to contradict itself.

One God:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD (Deuteronomy 6:4)

there is none other God but one (1 Corinthians 8:4)

Three Persons:

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost (2 Corinthians 13:14)

But knowing that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, we know that it cannot contradict itself and we must believe what God says about Himself even if it is difficult for our minds to comprehend. There are a number of illustrations that have been used over the years that attempt to explain the Trinity although all fall short. One such illustration is that of a freshly baked cherry pie. Pull it from the oven, put a knife to it and cut it into three equal pieces. Looking at the crust, you see three distinct pieces of equal size, but as soon as the knife passed through the cherry filling it oozed back together. The crust - three piec-

es; the filling - one essence. Looking at the filling you can't tell where one piece ends and the next begins.

Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse". In other words, the world around us declares the glory and power of God and man is not excused from recognizing God's existence and His nature. Therefore, if the world declares God's divine nature we should be able to find natural examples of the Trinity. One example is the states of: solid, liquid, gas. Whether in the form of an ice cube, a drop of rain, or steam from the tea kettle - we know that all three are water.

Sadly, even though it is clear that the Bible teaches a triune God in three persons but of the same essence, man in his limited understanding and feeble attempts to explain the Trinity has perverted the doctrine.

Some, such as the Jehovah Witnesses, teach that Jesus is a created being and the Holy Spirit is a power or force like radar. If you were to take a look at John 1:1 in a Jehovah Witness bible you would find that the verse has been changed to read:

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was **like a God**.

Many passages in the New Testament declare that Jesus was God and equal with God:

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:18)

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God (Philippians 2:5,6)

Jesus Himself did not deny His deity or equality with God:

(continued on page 4)



Christian



Growth



By: Justin May

Isn't it difficult seeing your children grow up! Maybe you're a child yourself and you don't want to grow up! I'm not a father, but my whole life I've heard "They grow up so fast." Parents want their children to be the best they can be! They want to see their children achieve success.

Just as parents want these things for their children, God wants these things for his children! In fact, the Bible describes God in one instance as being our daddy! Romans 8:15 says: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Abba has been researched and proven the Aramaic translation to be defined as daddy. Daddy! How personal! He wants to be in every aspect of our lives! He wants to teach us His habits and watch us grow up!

Many people in the church have given their life to Christ, received awesome grace, and become children of God! When this moment happens, we start as babies born right out of the womb. There are certain moments we know that God is watching us, caring for us, and feeding us. Though it may take time and effort we do start growing up. I don't mean in a literal sense of getting older (which is part of the flesh), but I'm talking in a spiritual sense. He wants to see us advance into a mature Christian!

The Bible talks in Hebrews 5 of a group of Christians that was not yet ready to fully digest God's word. This was a group of Jewish-Christians that were caught up on ancient traditions, and they had trouble understanding Jesus Christ being the High Priest. The writer of Hebrews even says that some of them should have been to the point of teaching, but they could not because someone would have to teach them basic principles all over again!

Sadly enough, many Christians today are in the same boat as the early church. Some Christians are on pacifiers, some on bottles, and some on meat. God never intended for us to have pacifiers! Pacifiers give no nutrients or substance. Many Christians come to church, fill the pew, and play the part; however, they have no growth spiritually. Then something happens or the preacher presents a sermon that doesn't go along with

their feelings and they start crying as if they are Pharisees. Pacifiers can only keep a baby from crying for a short time.

Those on Milk do get some nutrients from the Word, but still need to be watched and cared for. Being on milk is not always a bad thing, in fact it is healthy for new Christians to get the proper foundation and grow. Your parents would never give you solid food before you have teeth! God treats us the same way. He wants to see you succeed and accomplish the goals in your life, but you have to walk before you can run! The Christians that are digesting the meat are the strong towers of the church. Not only can they take the taste of the meat, but they also digest it. Hebrews 5:14 says that those with strong meat are able to exercise their senses and discern both good and evil. These are the Christians that have wisdom and knowledge that must be present in the church to help lead those that are still growing. They can teach us great lessons and prevent us from making mistakes.

Don't give up if you feel like you're not a spiritual giant! You too can learn to digest the meat of God's word just like anyone else. Through my Christian life I have found several scriptures to help me grow spiritually. Here are some verses that you may enjoy and help you move toward a more spiritually grown up Christian:

Mark 12:30

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Love your God! A simple commandment with huge responsibility!

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Study the word of God! Never take someone's word for it! When in doubt check it out! Nothing will help you grow more than the study of God's word!

Philippians 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by

prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Pray! God loves to talk with his children! Notice the words every thing. God wants to hear it all, when you're happy, sad, hurt, and afraid!

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Be part of the church! Not just attend, but get your hands dirty! God wants us to support each other!

Matthew 18:7

Woe unto the world because of offences! for it

(continued on page 4)

England Hill Chronicles

England Hill Chronicles is a quarterly newsletter published by England Hill Free Will Baptist Church. All submissions, questions and comments should be directed to the following email address.

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All scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, come from the King James Version of the Holy Bible

God's People Prayed - God Answered

By: David Viars

The following is an e-mail update from David Viars, pastor of Big Branch Church in Chesapeake, OH. This is the last of several e-mail updates that he has shared with his friends about his battle with cancer. This is published by the permission of Pastor Viars in hopes of reaching those dealing with illness or for those who have the need of encouragement. It has truly blessed me and I pray that it blesses you! -Justin May

Blessings in the name of the Lord!!!

My final radiation treatment session was on June 1st. That week my tongue actually had blood oozing out in places on the top surface, along with many raw places and quite a few ulcers inside my mouth. By last week the surface of the tongue was better but tender and remains so. The ulcers are healing and the raw spots are slowly reducing. My skin is peeling as if sunburned on the left side of my face and neck and to a lesser extent on the right side. My neck is sore externally on the left side down into the shoulder, and my throat is still sore and saliva production in my mouth is still reduced. Most of my taste sensation has not come back but I can taste bread and butter and to some extent things that are not naturally sweet, sour or bitter. Those parts of taste have not returned yet. That's the current physical status.

The current spiritual status is another matter. I am soaring as if with the eagles and ever mindful of my blessings. I want to review some of them in an effort to praise God, creator of all that is, author and finisher of our salvation, the only true door to heaven, who takes time to love even me and who answers the prayers of His people. In the beginning I was told that I may face surgery so radical that I would lose my voice box, could have paralysis of the face, and loss of most of the tongue. After prayers and further tests I was still told that radical surgery was still possible and that speech impediment was highly probable. I was told that there is an excellent center in Cincinnati that could help with the speech rehab. People kept praying, God answered. My surgery turned out to be rather modest compared to the previous prognosis and I talked so much afterwards that the surgeon was concerned that I might pull some stitches! God is Good! The surrounding tissue showed cancer free and this initial elation quickly crashed with the report that the cancer had invaded a vessel. Radiation follow up was advised. People kept praying, God answered! The statistics of surviving at least 5 years were about 75% with no fol-



Radiation Therapy Machine

low up and 95 - 98% with the radiation. I felt that God had made it available to me so I went ahead with it. In between I had to have some teeth removed that would be in line with the radiation beam and would be killed or badly damaged in the process. There were complications and delays but the Lord got me through it. Finally, delayed by 6 weeks, I started the treatments. They had to be halted once to give my body a 4-day break and then resumed. The nurses told me that it was almost unheard of to take this kind of treatment without having to be fed through a stomach tube. I needed no such thing because God's people prayed and God answered! My wife made arrangements at her work place to be able to drive me to treatments when things got to be overwhelming. I drove myself there every time! With the exception of about 4 days toward the end, I did hospital visitations every day. The Edwards Cancer Center is at Cabell-Huntington Hospital and I simply walked next door and visited, then drove over to St. Mary's and visited if "one of mine" was there. It has not been a walk in the park but it has been rather mild compared to what it could have been. The difference is that God's people prayed and He answered! Oh What A Savior!!!

To those of you who cannot claim Jesus as your personal savior, please consider Him today. I saw other patients during my treatment visits, some rather tranquil and some utterly terrified. The terrified ones did not have the Lord. Don't question why this happened to me -- there are positive reasons: Christians are not immune to negative things in this world but they have the benefit of God being with them all the way. A Christian testimony given when everything looks good can be effective but a testimony given from the middle of a dark time, when things don't look too good, is always attention catching and powerful. The other major positive reason is that when we have gone through something, we are better

equipped to be a help to others who may experience the same thing. I have been invited to be a volunteer at Edwards, to be one of those who is there for others going through therapy for cancer. Many have no family nearby, no Jesus, no hope.

If you have no hope today why not seek out a Christian friend nearby, they could be as close as a family member or co-worker. If you would like to talk about this man called Jesus, please email or call me. I am willing to come to you and personally explain God's love for you and His plan of salvation for all who will accept Him.

God Loves You and So Do I.

Sincerely,

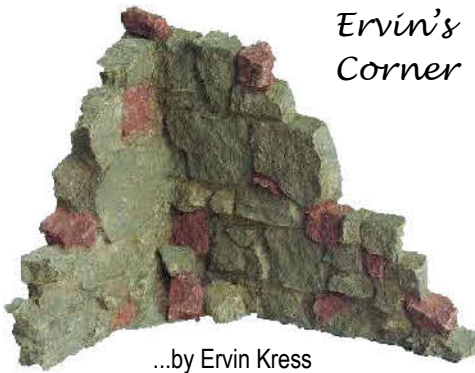
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Editor's Note: What a great testimony. Many churches hold one of two extreme views. Either God isn't in the healing business anymore -or- God is our healer and to rely on doctors and hospitals shows a lack of faith in God. Pastor Viars recognizes that God is the ultimate source of healing, but believes and trusts that God can deliver his healing through a variety of means. He understands that bathing the situation in prayer frees God to perform a miracle or guide the hands of those who treat him - whether those individuals are believers or non-believers. And finally, Pastor Viars has chosen to use a bad situation to be an encouragement and help to others experiencing similar health issues. Let's keep Pastor Viars in our prayers and thank God for testimonies like this that give us hope.



Edward's Comprehensive Cancer Treatment Center



Ervin's Corner

...by Ervin Kress

Well it's time to go down memory lane again and I give the Lord praise that he has permitted me one more time in this life to do it.

I am going to relate how the devil tried to keep the church from progressing at different times.

I was told that the devil tried his very best to keep the people from building the church. Some of the neighbors said they didn't need a church in the neighborhood, but the people felt it was God's will that they build the church and God has blessed it these many years.

Another time we had planned to have a revival beginning on Sunday night but when we came to church for Wednesday night prayer meeting we found the whole ceiling down on top of the pews. All the members began to ask what were we going to do about the revival. So we went to the basement and prayed to God for the answer. WE GOT THE ANSWER. Brother Bob Duvall was one of our faithful trustees and a carpenter by trade. He said he would bring down two helpers in the morning to get ready to put up the new ceiling. It was agreed that the men who could and those who worked evenings would help in the morning. So the people had a mind to work and the job got done on time before Sunday. We had the revival and God did bless.

Another time the church voted to put new carpet in the sanctuary before our homecoming. I do remember that the ladies chose the orange carpet.

For some reason the installers didn't come until Saturday to put the carpet down, but they promised it would be done by Sunday morning services.

Brother Henry Bluebaum, a deacon and trustee of the church, lived just up the street from the church. He happened to awake about 1 a.m. And saw that the lights in the church were still on. He came to the church to find the workers passed-out on the floor, and it wasn't from carpet fumes. Brother Bluebaum called the owners of the company and told them the problem. They sent out a new crew. "Thank GOD IT WAS FINISHED FOR SERVICE.

Praying my memory is correct. May God Bless.

The Trinity

(continued from page 1)

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (John 14:1)

he that hath seen me hath seen the Father (John 14:9)

Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me (John 14:11)

Therefore, either Jesus is a liar and the Bible in error, or those who believe that Jesus is a lesser god are still lost in their sins and have no hope of salvation.

The Bible has the following to say about the Holy Ghost:

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. (Matthew 12:31)

But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. (Mark 13:11)

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?(Acts 5:3)

If, as the Jehovah Witnesses say, the Holy Spirit is just a power or force like radar: when was the last time you heard anyone blaspheme radar, when was the last time that radar spoke through you, and have you ever been able to lie to radar? Obviously the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Godhead.

The Pentecostal Oneness theory of the Trinity states that there is one God who has presented Himself as God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit at different times down through history. Like an actor that finds himself playing different roles throughout his career. If that were so, explain the following verses:

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.(Luke 3:21,22)

Here we have God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Ghost all present at the same time and place.

To summarize, the Trinity is one God in

three persons, coequal in power, nature and eternity: The Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We may not be able to understand it completely this side of Heaven, but in the end, the Bible teaches it and we must believe it.

If you think on this subject and it begins to stress you, remember the theologian's joke:

"Anyone who denies the Holy Trinity is in danger of losing their salvation, or soul. But anyone who tries to understand the Holy Trinity is in danger of losing their mind."

Christian Growth

(continued from page 2)

must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

People are going to hurt you! Don't let them keep you from experiencing all God has to offer! If someone does offend you forgive him or her and forget about it!

Philippians 2:14

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Don't complain, gossip, and argue. If you think of them, pray for them!

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Spread the Gospel! Get out of your comfort zone! Don't just live it, share it!

Ladies Aid

by: Sharon Shaffer

I have been a member of our ladies aid for 28 years, ever since I rededicated my life to the Lord. As in life, there are highs and lows. Most of the highs come when we have new ladies join us. They add their own unique talents and personalities to our group. The lows usually happen when we lose special ladies. I will never forget Ola's sense of humor, or Annie's ability to do just about anything! We always have room for more!

We work hard to support our church as a whole, and each lady individually. There are many ladies who have a hard time speaking in church, but when they are with other ladies they are able to open up. We pray together, worship together, work together, and have fun together. What more could you ask for!



The Kress Library

by: Lorie Chaffin

Isn't it wonderful that the Lord has blessed us and allowed us to be able to enjoy another summer. Those long summer evenings on the porch are a perfect time to enjoy a good book. Its a perfect time to sit back and let the goodness of the Lord sink in. Wishing you all a wonderful summer with lots of time to read.

We have new books coming soon from:



Karen Kingsbury

Karen Kingsbury has several million books in print, including one which was made into a CBS Movie-of-the-Week, Karen's books are regularly bestsellers and include the Firstborn Series, Redemption Series, Red Glove Series, Sunrise Series, and the series dear to her heart, 911 Series. Karen Kingsbury and her husband live in the Northwest with their six children.



Beverly Lewis

Beverly Lewis has written over 80 books for children, youth, and adults, many of which have appeared on bestseller lists, including USA Today and The New York Times. The Brethren won a 2007 Christy Award for excellence in Christian fiction. Beverly and her husband, David, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Beverly Lewis' series include The Courtship of Nellie Fisher Series, The Annie's People Series, Abram's Daughters Series, The Heritage of Lancaster County, several "stand-alone" novels, and her newest adult series, Seasons of Grace. Her children's series include Holly's Heart Series, SummerHill Secrets Vols. 1 & 2, Girls Only! Series, and the highly acclaimed, Cul-de-Sac Kids Series.



Sharlene MacLaren

A Christian for forty+ years, and a lover of the English language, Shar has always enjoyed dabbling in writing—poetry, fiction, various essays, and freelancing for periodicals and newspapers. Her favored genre, however, has always been romance. She remembers well the short stories she wrote in high school and watching them circulate from girl to girl during government and civics classes. "Psst," someone would whisper from two rows over, and always with the teacher's back to the class, "Pass me the next page."



Tracie Peterson

Tracie Peterson is a prolific author with over seventy books to her credit. Romance and historical fiction are her specialties and include Broadmoor Legacy Series, Ladies of Liberty Series, Alaskan Quest Series, Lights of Lowell Series, Bells of Lowell Series, Westward Chronicles Series, Yukon Quest Series and Desert Roses Series.



Gilbert Morris

Gilbert Morris was a pastor before becoming an English professor and earning a Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas. Gilbert has been a consistent bestselling author in the Christian market for many years and one of the most prolific authors in Christian fiction with over 200 books currently in print. He and his wife live in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Sunday School, Then And Now

by: Lois Harris

Dear Readers,

When I was a child, in the 1950's, I attended England Hill Free Will Baptist Church. My brother, Billy, and I walked to Sunday School. Everyone usually arrived at least thirty minutes early so they could fellowship. The steps of the old church would be lined with men leaning or sitting on the rails of the sidewalk talking and children would be laughing and playing outside waiting for the bell to ring (knowing this was time to enter the church and be seated). If you were lucky enough, sometimes you would get to pull the rope and ring the bell.

Most important, we were eager to learn about God. Our teachers were always smiling and well prepared to teach our lesson. They made learning fun with Bible drills, songs, and sometimes doing something special with their class outside of church. We had wiener roasts, scavenger hunts, or just a get together at our teacher's home.

These are a few of the cherished memories that I have, and I want our children today to have wonderful memories of their Sunday School teachers and experiences they have had and will have to pass on to their future children.

Sunday School is a wonderful time to learn of God's word. It's taught on the child's level through many different approaches. If you have children, please take advantage of this golden opportunity for your children to learn about God.

Ere a child has reached to seven
Teach him all the way to heaven;
Better still the work will thrive
If he learns before he's five.

It's springtime now,
 Everything is beginning to grow
 Trying to keep the bird houses full
 As the different birds come and go

The garden has been planted
 Don's waiting to see if it does well
 The deer are waiting patiently
 Very soon time will tell.

I remember as a child
 They would say the days are getting longer now
 I never did understand this
 The when or the how

All I knew was we had more time
 Time to wade the creek or play red rover
 We played until we were tired
 We played outside until daylight was over

Sometimes it was even later
 Playing hide and seek, catching lightning bugs
 galore
 Sometimes I wonder about this
 Do children do this anymore--

Don't jump the creek today children
 The creek is up where it rained
 To some of us (me) that was like waving a red flag
 I later endured some PAIN

A few months ago I saw an old childhood friend
 She laughed about the trouble I seemed to find
 She talked about that old creek I often jumped
 She said you closed your eyes, I thought you were
 out of your mind

That's just a few precious memories
 Life seemed so simple then, we made our own fun
 We didn't have to worry at school
 About some kid with a knife or a gun

God's word says these times will be
 He doesn't tell us just when
 We can surely see the changes
 In a world so full of sin

As I sit here at my window
 I'm watching a mamma robin
 She is hunting food for her babies
 Their little heads are just a bobbin

They made a safe nest
 The male robin watches, they are really quite a pair
 I am reminded, that is how God does
 He watches over us always with loving care

Spring is a time of renewal
 A time to look to tomorrow
 Let us do it with patience and love
 Be a friend to those in sorrow

Love and blessings to all of you,
 Lorraine

Billboard

Top 10 Christian Songs for 7/11

This Wk	Last Wk	Artist Name Title	Peak	Wks On
1	1	Matthew West The Motions	1	32
2	2	Tenth Avenue North By Your Side	2	46
3	3	Newsboys In The Hands Of God	3	24
4	6	Phillips, Craig & Dean Revelation Song	4	10
5	4	Chris Tomlin I Will Rise	4	23
6	5	Brandon Heath Wait And See	5	16
7	8	Jonny Diaz More Beautiful You	7	13
8	7	Jeremy Camp There Will Be A Day	1	43
9	10	Jars Of Clay Two Hands	6	19
10	9	Francesca Battistelli Free To Be Me	1	27

From Your Deacons

by: Fred Lester

Due to the illness, back surgery and time in the hospital, our Pastor has been limited in his ability to stand for long periods of time. Therefore the Deacons have been leading the services. We prefer our Pastor to be able to lead our services as we are sure you would also. Mostly we prefer our Pastor's health to improve so he can do this.

We will continue to do the best we can with God's help.

Pray for Brother Willie
 Pray for your Deacons
 Pray for one another

If you need help or if you need a visit or if you know anyone who needs a visit, a sick friend or family member, our Pastor can't be everywhere, please call a Deacon. We will try our best to accommodate you.



Destination Heaven

(Church Bus Ministry)

By: Topper Spry

The bus has really been rolling these days. We have been to three cottage prayer meetings and have had two baptized. We've also had some good times at a local restaurant and shared some ice cream. There are already some other things planned for summer.

Remember all you have to say is crank it up. I'm ready!