

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

3 March 2014

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: The Crucifixion
(John 19:17ff)

A.M. Lesson: The Thief on the Cross
(Luke 23:32-43)

P.M. Lesson: Guest Speaker: Wayne Hall
Wednesday: Singing

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

If you didn't repent, you weren't saved

I recently read a book with the intriguing title *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart*. The writer had some interesting thing to say. He noticed there is a problem with the cook-book method of salvation – which is, to say the sinner's prayer. He noticed from Scripture that there is more to it. A person must be sincerely repentant – sincere enough to make a big commitment change in life. Unfortunately, while he sees true repentance a condition for salvation, he stops short of seeing any other salvation condition, motivated by true repentance, to be required; so I cannot enthusiastically recommend the book. Here are some choice quotes. -ns

You can “ask Jesus into your heart” without repenting and believing, and you can repent and

believe without articulating a request for Jesus to come into your heart.

Repentance and faith are heart postures you take toward the finished work of Christ. You might express the beginning of that posture in a prayer. But don't make the mistake of equating that prayer with the posture. The sinner's prayer is not a magic incantation or a recipe you follow to get a salvation cake. The real stuff – the stuff that matters – is the posture of repentance and faith behind the words you speak. The prayer is good only insofar as it verbalizes the posture.

Placing an overemphasis on phrases like “ask Jesus into your heart” give assurance to some who shouldn't have it and keeps it from some who should (8).

If you follow Jesus in 99 percent of His teachings but deliberately hold back 1 percent, you have not repented (56).

Children that grow up in unbelieving homes will likely have a memorable conversion to Christ where they pass from darkness to light. But I want my kids to *grow up* in the light. Personally, I'd prefer they NOT have an “exciting” testimony that involves years of rebellion, foolishness, and unbelief. I want each of my kids to have a nice, “boring” testimony; to be kids who spend their whole lives enraptured with what God did for them in Jesus (49).

J. D. Greear, *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart* (Nashville: B&H, 2013).

Police raid Bible society for using 'Allah'

MALAYSIA – The debate over who in Malaysia gets to call God *Allah* escalated with the first known government raid on Christians. Religious police confiscated more than 300 Bibles from the Bible Society of Malaysia. In response, evangelical leader

Eugene Yapp counseled his 2,500 churches to deny police entry without warrant. "To allow one religion to be able to monitor and regulate how another religion is to be practiced is a distasteful recipe for disaster," said the Christian Federation of Malaysia. The Malaysian consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, and taoism agreed. Christianity Today. March 2014.

The Changing Distribution of Christian Believers

	Number of Christians (millions)			
	1900	1970	2010	2050
Africa	10	143	493	1,031
Asia	22	96	352	601
North America	79	211	286	333
Latin America	62	270	544	655
Europe	381	492	588	530
Oceania	5	18	28	38
TOTAL	558	1,230	2,291	3,188

Source: World Christian Database, <http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd>

Little Brown Church in the Vale

Hymn 961

The Little Brown Church in the Vale sits in a beautiful park alongside Highway 218 in the town of Bradford, near Nashua, northern Iowa. But it wasn't there when the song was written.

A New York native named William Pitts, about twenty-seven, was traveling by stagecoach from his home in Wisconsin to Fredericksburg, Iowa, to see his girlfriend. It was a bright afternoon in 1857. When the stagecoach made a pit stop in Bradford, Pitts took a stroll among the trees to stretch his legs. The gently sloping hills formed a slight valley, and the Cedar River flowed peacefully by. That grove of trees, it seemed to Pitts, would be the perfect setting for a church.

Unable to erase the scene from his mind, Pitts returned home and composed the words and music to "Little Brown Church in the Vale." Nothing came of his song, however, and he filed it away.

Five years later, Pitts, now married to his sweetheart, relocated to Iowa to be near his elderly in-laws and to teach music at Bradford Academy. Imagine his surprise when he saw a church building sitting in the very spot he had previously envisioned it. Christians in the community, growing tired of meeting in abandoned stores, had determined to

build a church. The Civil War was raging and times were hard; but by 1862, the building was up. It had to be painted using the cheapest color – which was brown.

When Pitts saw the little brown church in the vale, he rushed home and found "Little Brown Church in the Vale," packed among his papers. He sang his hymn at the building's dedication in 1864. Soon afterward, he sold his manuscript to a publisher in Chicago for \$25. He used the money to enroll in Rush Medical College, and William spent the rest of his life as the town physician in Fredericksburg, Iowa, about fourteen miles from Bradford.

Today the Little Brown Church boasts a membership of about 100, but it's best known for the hundreds of weddings and thousands of tourists who flock there each year to see the church in the valley by the wildwood, the little brown church in the vale.

Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul: Book 2* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004), 87.

News

The Duncan church will have a guest speaker on Sunday, March 9 at 11 A.M. The speaker is Ken Leonard. He is Associate Director Of Development at Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc. in Nashville, TN.

Cody Bo Brooks and Dakota Maples are scheduled to be married today at 4:30 at the Lion's Club Memorial Park in Fort Thomas.

Prayer List:

Healing: Della Phillips, H.L. Boling, Jerry Robinson's mother Norma, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

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