

# NEWSLETTER

## No. 200

January 23, 2008

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# TWO HUNDRED

It's not all that important, but reaching the mark of **200** in anything has to be considered an achievement. **200** isn't big enough to be awarded a milestone; so, we aren't going to set up any pillars.

Yet, the fact that we have written mostly about the Word of God for **200** articles has been a happy endeavor. From 3/17/04 to 1/16/08, a Newsletter a week has been presented without a gap. Expressed in terms of years; that's **3.8 years** of Newsletters without missing one scheduled article.

From its beginning, the Newsletter purpose was to explain verses of Scripture in an easy to understand manner, hoping to make doctrinal concepts as clear as a bell. Although hampered by weak - but, getting better, writing skills, we have been regular, at least.

Reaching Number **200** is special to me. So, I looked for some Biblical passage to commemorate this issue; not in celebration, but just to mark off the **200th** issue in some way. I wanted a Bible verse or Biblical motif, fitting the occasion of a **200th** issue.

What will it be? I looked for anything that was significant to the number **200**. I took a look at **Gematria**, a system that substitutes a number for a letter in the Hebrew alphabet, giving interpretation and insight to sacred writings.

I also pulled out an old book entitled, "**The Numerical Structure of Scripture**" by F. W. Grant. However, years have past since studying these subjects and frankly, I did not want to spend a lot of time searching out the number "**200**."

If it's not readily available, I thought I would simplify the process by going to Young's Concordance. However, the number "**200**," it seems, is more significant to me and this Newsletter than to Holy Writ. I found no appropriate passage.

"**200**" is there, all right. It's just that I couldn't figure out how to incorporate it in a fitting way to mark off the 200th issue of the Newsletter. To me, each reference of "**200**" - and, there are not that many, stand alone, within its own particular Scriptural setting.

One verse mentioning "200" was the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand in Mark 6:37. "Shall we go and buy **two hundred** penny worth of bread and give them to eat?" the Apostles asked. I suppose, with imagination, the verse could be used, but I drew a blank.

Maybe I could break it up and use number **two**, along with number **one hundred**. The number **TWO**, by itself, is everywhere and might be used in many applications. However, the Bible doesn't say, "**No man can serve two hundred masters.**" So, for me, that was too big of a stretch, even for a **200th** issue.

Then, I thought of observing the **200th** issue by **highlighting** some past issues - a kind of, "**BEST OF THE TWO HUNDRED.**" Yes! That's it! I'll use that approach.

**It all began** back in March 17, '04. In the first Newsletter, I suppose that I wanted to show everyone I am a Missionary Baptist. So, after a few introductory facts about me, I followed with an article on the doctrine of baptism.

Baptists and baptism are one, Scripturally speaking. The union of the two came about because, as history shows, early church believers were strict on the doctrine of baptism. They required **Church Authority**, as well as, the proper mode of immersion when administering the ordinance.

Religious leaders considered these sticklers on baptism as their enemies, calling them Anabaptists (re-baptizers). But, Baptists would not change; even, when they suffered harsh treatment of banishment and death. The name, "Anabaptists" would forever label members of churches who stood for the "once delivered faith."

Although, the "Ana" has been lopped off, the name "Baptist," and their stand on Biblical principles, has stuck to the people of God through the years. So, as a Baptist, I was compelled to inaugurate the first Newsletter with an article on the subject of baptism.

Then, just after three issues are out, my son, Justin Burks, was called to pastor Landmark Missionary Baptist Church at Palmdale, Ca. To me, personally, it doesn't get any better than that. It was a great Newsletter!

**Newsletter, No. 7**, was about Mariah Yanes needing a heart transplant. The Lord was gracious to this 10-year old church member (now, 14). It was determined that medication would sustain Mariah's heart. No operation was needed and she came home to the joy of her family. Many brethren sent offerings to the Yanes family at this time. Also, a spaghetti feed and an auction brought in money to support travel expenses to Stanford Hospital in the bay area. (Mariah is doing very well, presently. She is as pretty as a picture.)

Other than one **Newsletter** entitled, "**Controlling The Flesh Is Like Riding A Green Broke Horse**" (No. 29), the articles focused upon Jesus and/or service, for the most part of the remaining '04 year.

In '05, some "**pet peeves**" were tackled. **Newsletter 65** was about an invitation I received. Somebody wanted to give me drama lessons for church programs. I entitled the Newsletter: "**Drama, Who's Acting Now?**" My spiritual tummy still turns and churns every time I think of this.

Also, a few personal experiences were expressed. **Newsletter 60, "A Plastic Foundation,"** covered the death of a friend whom I had lost track of for a long time. In earlier years, we were in the radio business together. But, spinning 45's was such a life of superficiality, I decided not to pursue it. I did not want to build my life on a plastic foundation. In my heart, I wanted a Rock to build upon.

In '06, there are two block busters in a row. **Newsletter 106** dealt with the tremendous working of the Lord in His REGATHERING ISRAEL, bringing Jews from all parts of the world back to Israel. Then, **Newsletter 107** hammered home **OSAS, "Once Saved Always Saved."** I printed some difficult verses, pointing out that they must be read through Kingdom Glasses. There is more to being saved than just escaping hell. There's a kingdom to inherit. You might want to re-read this one. It's **Newsletter 107, @TrinityMBC.Com.**

In '06 we had a play on words, calling the **No. 117 Newsletter, "Global Warning."** **Newsletter No. 114** was a really good article, dealing with "**Top Ten Types.**"

In **Newsletter No. 134, "And So, We Look Beyond,"** was based on "Theodore Tilton's poem, "**Even This Shall Pass.** It emphasized that this life shall also pass. Everyone must ready himself for that which shall never pass; that is, Jesus and His eternal words. As the **Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,** Jesus announces, "**It is done,**" Rev 21:6,7. Our Lord speaks of an inheritance waiting for those who overcome - "**The overcoming ones.**"

**Nos. 144-149** gave information about God's Reign, the promise of the future and the present joy of the Kingdom. **Newsletters 160 and 161** were on God's Economy, showing how man walked within God's dwelling place, the Tabernacle, within the Old Economy. Then, the "**good news**" of the New Economy reveals that God indwells man, dispensing Himself in man, in the Person of Jesus. Further, God continues to live on earth, indwelling the Church, the body of Christ, through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

The year of '07 was a real learning experience about the Covenant idea. We learned that a covenant was made with Abraham; which, pictured the work of Jesus in substituting Himself for fallen man. In the circumcision of Jesus, a

cutting away occurred; not of the foreskin of man as in the Old Economy, but the whole body. An entire removal of the body took place at the cross, in Jesus Christ, which God accounts to every repentant person. Like Isaac, every sinner that repents is **"Taken In Another."**

Then, **Newsletter, No. 198** sort of sums up the entire 3.8 years of writing on Biblical subjects. It has been an experience of **"Knowledge and Full Knowledge"** for this sinful writer, who is saved by grace. I have learned much more than I can adequately express in the **Newsletters**. Yet, as I **"grow in grace and in knowledge,"** 2 Peter 3:18, I am encouraged. With each weekly **Newsletter**, I grow closer to the Lord. Obviously, in terms of time, all of us should grow closer, but prayerfully, in fellowship, too.

As the Lord allows, let us all continue in His service of witnessing of God's love, worshipping the LORD of heaven through His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray for me that the next 200 issues - that those 3.8 years, will be as profitable as the first. God Bless everyone.