



# P A T H S

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• Issue 2

This particular newsletter is sent out as a token of praise for the Lord's goodness to us during this first quarter of 2008. Let me begin by praising Him for the good health I've enjoyed and the strength to keep all my teaching and preaching engagements. I realize afresh that I have nothing to glory in except the enabling life of Jesus. With the Psalmist, I confess, "If it had not been the LORD Who was on our side . . . the waters had overwhelmed us." Using more of his words, let me add, "Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth" (Psa. 124:1, 4, 8).

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Lord Jesus for the great meetings thus far in the year. I'm grateful for those who have come to the Savior, for those who have experienced spiritual restoration and renewal, and for those who have been encouraged in the journey. In several meetings over the last month, there have been special times of divine intervention and interruption. It is wonderful to experience "times of refreshing . . . from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19), refreshing of such nature that no one can be praised except "the God of all grace" (1 Pet. 5:10).

It's in my heart to also give thanks for friends like you. It was a joy to see our friends across the Atlantic in Northern Ireland and England again in February. Recently, my wife and I spent a few days with friends from our days of training for the ministry and were blessed by all the pictures, stories and memories of those days. To have been in meetings this year with pastors who have been my friends for 30-40 years has been more than a special treat. Furthermore, the opportunities of service with younger pastors, and the privileges of ministry and fellowship with the students at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, are not taken for granted either.

Date	Church	Location	Pastor
May 4-6	Colonial City Baptist Church	Mt. Vernon, OH	Rev. Dan Whisner
May 11-13	Bethel Baptist Church	Marion, NC	Rev. Jimmy Upton
May 16-18	Grace Community Fellowship	Ramseur, NC	Rev. Kenneth Huggins
May 21-23	Transylvania Tent Meeting	Brevard, NC	Rev. Ray Aiken
May 25-26	Double Island Baptist Church	Burnsville, NC	Rev. Rick Woody
June 1-4	Friendship Baptist Church	Saluda, NC	Rev. Henry Vegter
June 8	Freedom Baptist Church	Martinsville, VA	Rev. Chip Coleman
June 9-13	Riverview Baptist Church	Marshall, NC	Rev. James Briggs
June 15-17	Calvary Baptist Church	Lake Park, GA	Rev. Carlton Allen
June 19-22 AM	Faith Missionary Baptist Church	Temple, GA	Rev. Randy Clarke
June 23-27	Taylorsville Baptist Campmeeting	Taylorsville, NC	Rev. Stephen Dagenhart
June 29	Gunnings Baptist Church	Blountville, TN	Rev. Bob Ferguson
July 1 AM -3 AM	Monte Vista Baptist Campmeeting	Weaverville, NC	Dr. Tom Wagoner
July 6	Trinity Baptist Church	Drexel, NC	Rev. Scott Moneyham
July 13	Victory Baptist Church	Bristol, VA	Dr. Austin Cook
July 20	Lakeview Baptist Church	Pickens, SC	Rev. Mike Belcher
July 27-30	Crestview Baptist Church	Winston Salem, NC	Rev. Ottis Hurst
Aug. 3-6	Calvary Baptist Church	Lenoir, NC	Dr. Alan Carr
Aug. 10-12	Center Baptist Church	Candor, NC	Rev. Mark Moore

***"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of God might have free course" (2 Thess.3:1).***

## A Portrait Of God As A Poet

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

Our youngest grandson, Samuel, loves to compose little poems and rhymes. Recently, when his grandmother couldn't insert the key into the keyhole of the front door (because she refuses to wear her glasses), he took the key, opened the door, and as he walked through the living room he chanted:

*Pawpaw can't hear, and Mawmaw can't see;  
We're going to have a ca-tas-tro-phe!*

According to the first phrase in our text, our God is a poet. The word “workmanship” (*poiema*, Gr.) is the word from which we get our term poem. Literally, the statement proclaims: “We are His poem.” The divine Poet, of course, is beyond the human level, but He is writing a poem in our lives. Several thoughts come to mind from this perspective.

First, realizing the setting of our origin, we observe that we are:

### 1. A Poem from the Poet's Heart

Poetry does not begin on a piece of paper or on a computer screen. It has its origin in the heart of the poet. As God's poem, our genesis was in His heart. *We represent what was felt in God's heart.* Before the world was, there was a place for us in His heart. We were engrained in His deep affections, embedded in His eternal love. In ages past, the poem was already in the great Poet's heart. *We represent what was formed in God's heart.* As His poem, we are not only His heart-felt concern, the objects of His emotions, but we are the productions of His heart. God didn't just think about us, but His thoughts became substance. *We represent what was forthcoming from God's heart.* As a poet's feelings are eventually expressed in some written form, what was within the divine Poet would eventually be manifested. Thus, we read, “we are His workmanship.”

Along with the truth of our spiritual origin, we must realize that we become:

### 2. A Poem in the Poet's Hand

A poem is a highly organized and compressed form of expression. To be read, however, it must be transferred from a poet's heart to his hand. Using metaphors, imagery, and symbols in varied rhyme and stanzas, the poet pens his words in one of three forms: a narrative poem, a lyric poem, or a dramatic poem. *We may be a narrative poem in God's hand.* A narrative poem tells a story—sometimes simple, at other times complex. Our Poet has been known for telling His story through the lives of His people. *We may be a lyric poem in God's hand.* A lyric poem is a poem that in some manner takes on song form. We know these as sonnets, odes, and elegies. At times, the heavenly Poet is pleased to develop His song in some of His people. *We may be a dramatic poem in God's hand.* A dramatic poem involves another character besides the poet acting out the poem. How wonderful to think that God might use us to display His heart and mind.

From one other vantage point, it could be said that we are:

### 3. A Poem for the Poet's Hearers

Poems are not written to be put in drawers and cabinets. They are written to be read and heard. Likewise, as God's poem, believers are the channels through which God's heart is heard. Paul explained that we are “epistles, known and read of all men” (2 Cor. 3:2). God speaks to others through our lives. *God's poems are appointed for certain hearers.* If we are His poem, we can be sure that someone will hear our testimony. God will use us as a means to speak and minister to them, to influence them for His glory. *God's poems are accepted by certain hearers.* It is true that not everyone is receptive to a Christian witness. In due season, however, in God's special way, He stirs up the interest of desperate hearts. *God's poems are appreciated by certain hearers.* Those who take in what God is saying in and through us are grateful for the good news of the gospel declared and displayed in our lives.

I confess my interest in poetry has not been of a devoted nature in years gone by. In the light of this text, however, I am very interested in the subject. “We are His workmanship,” or “We are His poem.” God is the Poet, we are the poem. God is the Producer, we are the product. God is the Author, we are the printout. Oh, may we clearly set forth His nature, His heart, His purpose.



Alethea, Akaiasha & Angela



Monthly audio sermons are available.



## Prayer Requests

### Family's of deceased members

- Rev. Jerry Knight
- Rev. Craig Hughes
- Rev. R.A. White
- Rev. J.C. Chapman
- Rev. Jerry Orr
- Dr. Joe Hester
- Mrs. David Parker

### Personal

- Cindy's parents
- Tom's parents
- Safety in travel
- Revival meetings
- Prepared hearts
- Salvation of souls