

## CAN YOU HELP?

Northpoint has supported **Joshua Aidoo** in Ghana for 6 years. His evangelistic work is greatly hampered because of transportation difficulties—he has no vehicle. When he goes into new areas with the Gospel he takes a team of men with him. Having either to hire a driver with a van or rent a van is expensive and at times unreliable. Northpoint began the fund for the used vehicle he needs (costing a minimum of \$16,000.00). The elders of the Bellview Church (which also supports Joshua) are handling these funds. We invite brethren to help us help this good man. Please send your contributions to:

**Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526.**

[Thanks to the generosity of various ones, the fund now totals \$11,609.00. DM]

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

- John Dickison**—fighting heart failure (Gospel preacher)
- Jerry Douglas**—fighting bone and lymph cancer (Danny Douglas’s twin brother)
- Alice Haddon**—fighting cancer (Sheri’s friend)
- Terry Hightower and family**—Death of Vicki (Terry’s wife)
- Debbie Post**—fighting cancer (wife of Doug Post, Gospel preacher)
- Judy Reid**—sister in NJ, planning to move here
- Brian Ritter**—fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Jeff Simmons**—“our boy” in the US Navy (Saratoga Springs, New York)
- Don Smith**—faithful brother in Ohio prison, ordered to cease teaching fellow inmates
- Stephanie Tigner**—who has been restored to Christ (Kourtney’s sister)
- Joshua Aidoo**—Gospel preacher in Ghana we support
- Samuel Bagsangi**—Gospel preacher in Philippines we support
- Danny Douglas**—Gospel preacher in US we support

### Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	12
Contribution	\$925.00
Contribution average (2017)	\$1,750.81

### Internet and YouTube Sermon broadcasts...

- Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, [www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com).
- Our **YouTube** channel at *Northpoint Church of Christ* has a growing collection of Northpoint sermons available for viewing.

Preacher  
Editor, *The Lighthouse*

Phil Smith  
Dub McClish



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

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## “It Fills a Space”

I have been reading church bulletins more than six decades. I have served as editor of church bulletins more than four decades. At one time the mailbox of the congregation where I preached received approximately 150 such bulletins each week. I have literally seen almost everything there is to be seen in church bulletins. Among these a few years ago, I received a bulletin containing an article (actually, a “non-article”) that prompts me to make a few observations (admittedly non-expert and partly subjective) on the subject. I quote a few excerpts from said “non-article”:

One of the great “privileges” of being a minister is getting to write a bulletin article every week. [When you forget to write your article] . . . you run up to the nearest typewriter, pray for few mistakes, and start writing an article about writing articles which has little, if any significance, but at least it fills a space. It’s a lot like eating “Fruity Pebbles” for breakfast—little if any nutritional value, but at least it fills your tummy.

The writer quoted above thought he was being humorous, but tears would be more appropriate than laughter at the immaturity and silliness his pitiful lines evince. Whose fault is it when bulletins contain material of “little, if any significance”? Could it be the fault of editors (almost always preachers) who are too lazy to make the mental effort and take the time to write (or select) anything to edify the church? The preacher quoted above need not have bothered; his readers would have been at least as well off if he had written nothing.

The article from which I pulled the excerpts is, however, illustrative of much of the material in bulletins I have received over the years. So much of it is space-filler, and that is about all (at least the writer quoted above was honest about his grudging attitude toward what, to him, was a nuisance). So many bulletins contain little of merit, little to instruct, little to edify the soul—and many of them do so very unattractively. Some are even worse—teaching error and/or publicizing activities and events that brethren should be opposing with one voice rather than announcing and encouraging.

Like so many other things, a church bulletin can be a great tool for Truth and righteousness, or it can range anywhere from a colossal waste of time, paper, ink,

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**Sunday**  
Bible Class 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Worship 1:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

and postage to being a tool to weaken and destroy the church. Should I write a book titled, *Church Bulletins for Dummies*, I would offer the following suggestions for bulletin editors/preachers in chapter one:

1. Use the bulletin both as a teaching medium and a news medium.
2. If you are not talented at writing, reproduce good material others have written.
3. Make sure that it teaches only the Truth (both in the articles you write and borrow), that you reproduce articles only faithful brethren have written, and that you publicize only Scripturally authorized activities.
4. Make the bulletin attractive—it represents the church of the Lord. If you do not have layout/formatting skills, seek help from those who have them. Use of color and various type styles create eye appeal (however good the content may be, appearance that discourages readership makes for useless effort).
5. Give it the time and attention any worthwhile project deserves, and it will teach, edify, and encourage.

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

**[Editor's note:** Through the years I have endeavored to follow the foregoing guidelines for the bulletins I have edited/produced. With this edition of *The Lighthouse*, I bring my work as a bulletin editor to a close. A few weeks ago I requested my Northpoint brethren to relieve me of this responsibility, thus enabling me to devote more time and attention to *The Scripturecache.com*, my Website. I have yet much time-consuming work to do in order to complete it and make it as effective and widely known as possible.

## An Abomination to God

**J**esus was once warning His disciples about the peril of riches and materialism when the money-loving Pharisees heard His teaching and ridiculed Him. He responded:

Ye are they that justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God (Luke 16:15).

It is obvious in the context that the Lord referred to their love of money when he spoke of that which was “highly esteemed among men.” Perhaps more souls (both worldlings and God’s people) will forfeit Heaven because of this sin than because of any other. No wonder the Bible persistently warns about dishonesty, materialism, and greed, and exalts honesty and generosity. Nor should we wonder at Paul’s proverb, “For the love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Tim. 6:10). *Materialism* is a synonym for *covetousness*, “which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5). It is abominable to God for perhaps many reasons, but its root is Godless and unbridled selfishness that will corrupt the soul here and damn it at last.

Notice now the broader application of the Lord’s principle: Merely because a thing is highly esteemed by men does not mean that God favors it. Actually, history reveals it to be almost axiomatic that if most men esteem something highly, God does not (Mat. 7:13–14). Consider some illustrations:

- Teeming millions highly esteem the Muslim religion, but it is an abomination unto Jehovah, representing error, sin, and blasphemy. The Christ alone (not Christ **and** Mohammed) is the only way to God and salvation (John 8:24; 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5–6; et al.).
- Millions of professed believers “highly esteem” the doctrine of salvation by faith alone is, but it is an abomination to God. Men are saved by faith and cannot be saved without it (John 3:16; Rom. 10:9–10), but not by faith apart from our obedient response to the Lord’s Word (Mat. 7:21–23; Rom. 1:5; Jam 2:17–26), which includes baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; et al.).
- Vast numbers of men (including many non-Catholics) “highly esteem” the Roman Catholic pope, who claims to be the “successor” to the apostle Peter. Such pomposity and assumed authority is abominable to the lowly Galilean (Mat. 20:25–28; 3 John 9–11).
- A host of our fellow-citizens “highly esteem” the atrocity of murdering infants in the womb (and some even in the process of birth). The ancient Canaanites committed an “abomination” in murdering their offspring to placate their pagan deities (Deu. 18:10). One is worse than an unbeliever who does not provide for his own kindred (including protection for the defenseless) (1 Tim. 5:8). God’s Judgment is upon those who are “without natural affection,” a fitting description of the abortion advocate (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3).
- Increasing numbers of people have come to tolerate and even sympathize with—if not to “highly esteem”—homosexual behavior. God for all time expressed His attitude toward this abomination in His destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 13:13; 2 Pet. 2:6). God “gives up” those who engage and persist in this sin (Rom. 1:26–27).

The foregoing list is barely the beginning of such items men “highly esteem” in our time. The only things God “highly esteems” (and that we ought likewise to do) are those things that He authorizes in His Word (Col. 3:17).

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Things I've Learned

**I**ve learned that, no matter what happens, how bad I have it today, life does go on, and someone else has it worse.

I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I’ve learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you’ll miss them when they’re gone from your life.

I’ve learned that making a “living” is not the same thing as making a “life.” I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

I’ve learned that even when I have pains, I don’t have to be one.

I’ve learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you, but if you focus on God, your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

— Author unknown