



There Is No Such Thing  
As An  
“Inactive Member”

This will be a lengthy article but I hope each member will read it carefully. As I begin my 20<sup>th</sup> year as your Pastor here at Westmoreland Baptist, I want to share something with you all that needs to be said.

Long before I came here, there have been four categories of membership on our church membership rolls.

**Active Members** – obvious connotation

- Born Again Baptized Believers
- Regularly attend services
- Financially Support the ministry of the church
- Taking part in some “relational” small group Bible Studies
- Actively Involved in Some ministry of the church

**Homebound Members** – Again, self explanatory. Members who, are homebound and physically unable to attend services

**Non Resident Members** – College Students who are in school away from our area, members who are away in the military, folks who are temporarily working out of town, or those who may be temporarily full time caregivers for a sick family member, or someone who has moved away but has not yet joined another church (as our Church Covenant requires) etc.

**Inactive Members** – My question has long been, “*What in the world is that?*”

In our last Business Meeting the church clerk reported that our **Inactive membership number was 197**. We will discuss that further, but first let me share what the Bible says about being a church member.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13 ESV)

This passage speaks of the UNITY we have in Christ, and the

continued on page 2...



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Ryan Smith

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**Inside This Issue**

Pastor's Corner.....	1,2
Birthdays.....	2
From The River.....	3
Happy New Year.....	3
20 <sup>th</sup> Year .....	4
Announcements.....	4
Persecuted Church.....	5
Winter Bible Study .....	5
Hymn of the Month .....	6

...continued from page 1

DIVERSITY of gifts that the Holy Spirit has given each of us. It speaks of how **EVERY part of the body is important**, likening the Body of Christ to the human body. A body that is complete in its various members, each doing their cooperative work. Now note this!

**“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”** (Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV)

Now let’s think of that **“Inactive Member”** status on our church roll. This needs to be revisited. Now don’t get me wrong. We all understand that there are issues that may cause any of us to be **temporarily** less active in the local church. Illnesses, job issues, family situations, etc. but these are **temporary!** Extended issues in this category Should morph over into the **“Homebound”** and **“Non Resident”** categories. Our church roll has 197 “inactive members” and MANY of these have not attended or supported our church for YEARS. This needs to be addressed, and it will be this year.

Church staff and our Membership Committee will be working actively this new year to identify and clarify what would be an honest criteria for the “Inactive Member” category. Researching and identifying who these “inactive members” are and paring down that list to those who legitimately are temporarily inactive. Even “Inactive Members” can support the church financially and even take part in some ministries of the church such as prayer ministries, or staying contact with the church. We will certainly be prayerful and careful in how we accomplish this task. But those who have absented themselves, and taken no part in being their part of the Body of Christ are not going to be continually listed as “Inactive Members”. Those who fit into that category will eventually be either moved into another valid category or removed from our membership roll. An old credit card commercial used to say **“Membership has it’s privileges”**. This is true, and it also has it’s **responsibilities!** Those who are temporarily inactive due to providential reasons will continue to be considered “inactive members” but this will be special criteria with some sort of time limit.

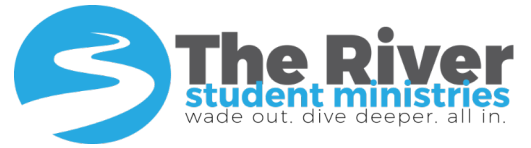
Rest assured we will NOT consider most of these nearly 200 people as members. Most of them simply ARE NOT. We plan to bring the revised list and proposed new criteria for “inactive members” to our March Quarterly Business Meeting for consideration by the church body.

Thank you for reading to this point. Be praying for us as we seek to accomplish this task, for the Glory of God, for honesty and biblical integrity of our reporting, and for the well being of the Body of Christ that meets at Westmoreland Baptist Church!

C. J. Adkins







## UPcoming EVENTS

February 12 - Valentine Parent's Night Out 5-8pm

March 4-5 - YEC Most Likely Virtual with a Lock-in

Church Service

June 18-22 - Lifeway Ridgecrest Fuge Camp

June 27-July 1 - West Virginia Summit Camp

GHBA Youth Rally- TBD

Youth & Teamkid Bonfire Night-TBD



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Well 2021 has been a year of change for all of us. My prayer each of us are NOT the same person we were a year ago. Prayerfully each of us have grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord!

This has been a year of change for Sue and I.

First, I resigned after 35 years as a pastor to respond to the call as Association Director of Missions for the Greater Huntington Baptist Association.

Second, we became members of WBC. And a new church family in which we are growing in love for each.

Third, moving my study to my new office on the second floor here at WBC. THANKYOU WBC for providing this blessings! Not ready for an open house yet 😊😊

Fourth, a wonderful association dinner for pastors and staff. Pictures provided speaker was missionary, Todd Kincaid, and music by Damian and Ashley Southard. You know the others 😊😊😊

Fifth, an exciting introduction of Ted Duty as our new state DISASTER RELIEF DIRECTOR. We are planning training for association people for this ministry.

Lastly, I am praying for this upcoming year with possible association involvement that will allow us to know each other and make an impact for the Kingdom!

Again, thank you for allowing us to be a part of the WBC FAMILY AND MINISTRY.

*Brady & Sue Lipscomb*

2 Timothy 2:2



Pastor Begins 20th Year Here At Westmoreland Baptist



Pastor C.J. and Linda Adkins have officially been here 19 years, effective the second Sunday this past December. C.J. came to us after 8 years as Pastor of Ashland Baptist Church. The search committee who recommended him to our church included, June Ashworth, Charley Dygert, Steve Howerton, Rachel Lackey, Rick Rakes, Hope Smith, and Sam Wellman. The vote to call him as pastor on the second Sunday of December 2002 was 98%.

During his 19 years as our Pastor he has preached more than 2000 sermons and Bible Studies, Baptized 161 individuals, Married 32 couples, conducted 213 funeral services, and made a large, but unknown number of hospital, home, bereavement and nursing home visits, at all hours of the day and night. He has also written thousands of letters, cards, and

electronic messages to members and prospects alike. He is the longest tenured Pastor in the history of this church.

Most know that C.J. has been a 17 year survivor of two different types of “incurable” stage four cancers, yet has served faithfully throughout various treatments such as Chemotherapy, radiation and immunotherapy. Linda is also a breast cancer survivor. C.J. refers to his nearly two decades of ministry here at WBC as his *“Most fulfilling of my 51 years of Pastoral Ministry”*.

Ordained into the ministry in April, 1971 Pastor C.J. has been well respected outside our church family as well. He has served two terms as West Virginia State Convention President, several terms as Moderator of the Greater Huntington Baptist Association. C.J. served ten years on the Board of Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, nearly half of which were as Chairman of the Instruction Sub Committee. He has served on various committees on the State, Local and National level in the SBC. He has also made numerous mission trips at home and abroad and worked in Disaster Relief in Mud Outs, Chain Saw Crews and preparing meals in New York City for first Responders the week after the attacks of 9-11. He has also served as a State Disaster Relief Chaplain, and several years as a Volunteer Chaplain at the former Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital.

C.J. and Linda celebrated 50 years of marriage June 19, 2021. They are the proud parents of two sons, Jay, a Pastor in New Orleans, LA, and Benji, a teacher and coach in Ashland, KY. Jay and wife, Michelle, have two sons, Quint (an ordained minister, himself) a graduate of Loyola University and enrolled in NOBTS, and Canon, a junior in (2) High Schools (Patrick Taylor Academy, and the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts). Both Quint and Canon are accomplished musicians who write and record music and are worship leaders in the New Orleans area.

Benji and wife, Leigh Anne, have three sons. Will, who plays football and golf at Glenville State College, Asher, a Sophomore and Basketball player at Ashland Paul Blazer High School, and 10 year old Nathan who also is a three sport athlete. All five Grandsons are also academic honor students and are active in many academic and extracurricular activities.

Please continue to remember Bro. C.J. and Linda in your prayers as he begins his 20th year of service today here at Westmoreland Baptist Church.

Deacons of the Month



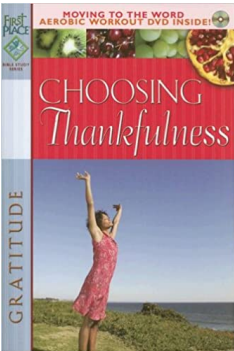
Josh Adkins  
(304) 563-8654



David Spurgeon  
(304) 521-8453



First Game Saturday, January 8, 2022



Ladies, you are invited to join a new session in our First Place Bible Study:

"Choosing Thankfulness"

10 weeks

Introduction Week will be Wednesday, January 19 - 1 pm.

To sign up, please contact the church office or leave Janora a message at her home:  
304-429-5240.



# The Persecuted Church

From "The Alabama Baptist Paper"

## Two Unrelated Attacks in India Leave a Boy Dead and a Man Unconscious

**New Delhi, India** – A Christian youth died from being set on fire and a Christian man was beaten unconscious by Hindus in unrelated attacks in India, according to two reports.

Three Hindu extremists threw a liquid on Nitish Kumar and set him on fire, August 11 near Katma Nagar village, reports Morning Star News.

According to the human rights group International Christian Concerns, Kumar died September 26 at Apollo Hospital, 46 days after being set on fire.

Kumar’s family has faced hostilities since leaving Hinduism for Christianity two years ago, says the victim’s brother, Sanjeet Kumar.

In Kamaraj Najar in a separate incident, hard line Hindus threatened to kill Sabtish Kumar, age 35, if he told anyone about Jesus, The Morning Star reported. Santosh Kumar was beaten unconscious and spent 17 days in Karur Government Medical College Hospital.

One attacker filed a false charge claiming Santosh Kumar had sexually harassed a mentally disabled woman, states The Morning Star.

India is number 10 on Open Doors’ 2021 World Watch List of places most difficult to be a Christian.



New Delhi, is the capital of India and a part of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. New Delhi is the seat of all three branches of the government of India, hosting the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, and the Supreme Court of India. Although colloquially Delhi and New Delhi are used interchangeably to refer to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, these are distinct entities, with both the municipality and the district of New Delhi forming a relatively small part of the megacity of Delhi.

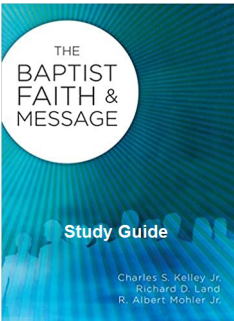
### Religions

Hinduism 79.8%	Sikhism 1.7%
Islam 14.2%	Buddhism .7%
Christian 2.3%	Jainism .4%

## Special Announcement

# Sunday Night Winter Bible Study

Beginning January 2 at 6:00PM



This study will be a great foundation for newer Believers, and a great strengthening tool for more mature Believers. We will be looking at the “fundamentals of our faith” – Why we believe, what we believe. Our Text will be God’s Word and we will explore it in the form of our Statement of Faith, “The Baptist Faith and Message 2000”.

Everyone will receive, free of charge, the pocket size BF&M which contains the articles of our faith and the scriptural references that form them. We also have a couple of dozen, or so, BF&M Study Guide and Workbooks which allow us to go deeper into the Study. The “Study Guide/Workbook” will not be required for the study, but it will be most helpful in going deeper. The “Study Guide/Workbooks” cost the Church \$10.00 per copy. We will make them available to anyone who would like to have it – with a suggested donation of \$5.00. Now, if you want the book, and just don’t happen to have the money right here at Christmas time, we will gladly give you the book (as long as copies last) and you can make your donation toward the cost later. If you just DO NOT have the money, we still want you to have one. Just see Pastor C.J. privately and it will be kept in total confidence.



So remember – this will be a Sunday Evening Winter Study. Free pocket copy and the Study Guide and Workbook only \$5.00. We want everyone to take advantage of this study and hope that you will plan on attending on Sunday nights. Even if you are involved in Student Ministry or TeamKid on Sunday night, you could still use the Study Guide and Workbook on your own. Study begins on Sunday, January 2nd.



## Another Year Is Dawning

Frances Ridley Havergal (12/14/1836 - 6/3/1879)

Frances Ridley Havergal enjoyed New Year's Day. It was a day of promise, looking forward in faith to God's blessing in the coming twelve months. She had such a positive spirit that she entered a room, it was said that she brought a "burst of sunshine"!

One New Year's Eve, when Frances was twenty three, she and her sister Maria sat together listening to the church bells. Maria said that her Bible verse for that year would be, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be" (KJV). Inspired by her sister's reading, Frances composed this poem: "As thy days thy strength shall be: this should be enough for thee. He who knows thy frame will spare burdens more than thou canst bear."



New Year's Day was also the source for today's hymn, "Another Year is Dawning", which she wrote on a card she was sending to a friend.

Frances Havergal died when she was only forty-three. Even at the end of her life she remained steadfast in reminding Christians that "fresh glory" is just as important as fresh air and fresh water. We need to celebrate God's glorious mercies each new day as well as each new year!

Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV) **The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

### Another Year Is Dawning

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;  
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;  
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.*

*Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training for holier work above;  
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

