



The 15th Annual Adams, Thompson & Blair Family Reunion is coming up so mark your calendars. It will be held on Carr Creek Lake in Knott County, just off Little Dove Road, at the dam site on Friday and Saturday August 2 & 3.

The bottom line is that if you were born on Blair Branch, or even have distant relatives on or from Blair Branch, you have to be related to one of these families. If you can't directly trace your ancestry to Blair Branch but suspect that you might be kin to someone who lives or used to live there, come on out. We won't be taking DNA samples.

In fact, the price of admission is a cozier full of something to eat. This reunion is the brainchild of my second cousin, Den Adams. For years it has been held at a massive, park-like development that Den spearheaded atop a mountain at the head of Still House Branch after strip mining created some useful flat land on property owned by his parents, the late Arthur and Helmer Adams. Still House is a tributary of Blair Branch and the story goes that, at one time, it was not unusual for the stream to run about 80 proof when the corn and sorghum cane crops came in.

But not in any of our lifetimes. It's been a long, long time since there was a still on Still House Branch.

Den, like the rest of us, is not a spring chicken anymore. Keeping up a mile long road with hair-pin curves and an elevation that almost defied gravity got too much for him. Vandalism of the property's electrical and wiring became aggravating. And besides that, most of Den's peer group on Blair Branch, who used to help out with the carpentry and wiring and moving and entertainment and all that have passed to The Great Beyond or they are simply too old to do hard labor anymore.

So the Adams, Thompson & Blair Reunion, like so many others, has been moved to more easily accessible accommodations instead of being held on the family farm. It, still, would not be happening if Den was not the brains and brawn behind it.

Den lives in Paulding, Ohio, 390 miles from Blair Branch, and he's been away from home since the very early sixties and finished a nice career in the automobile industry. Cancer has caused him to lose an arm. But ask him where his heart is and you find Blair Branch stamped indelibly on his soul.

It's on his soul (if not tattooed on the internal organ). What he does for the generations of all the families in this reunion is a labor and culmination of love that the rest of us too easily ignore.

I'm going to be at this reunion if I'm not in intensive care.

I'm going to show up on Friday morning with a kettle of cabbage soup. I'm gonna set it on the table and I'm going to have my camera out to take pictures of cousins I've never even met. I'm going to hug old Den and give him fifty bucks to help cover the cost of his phone calls and rentals and everything else he's done to make this happen. I'm sure he's been out a couple of thousand bucks.

I'm going to the homemade soup and chili supper on Friday Night, but I'm looking more forward to it than Adams and Blair's reunion.

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In the meantime, camping is available at Carr Creek. Call 606/642-3052 or 3308 for more information.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

I am writing about my purse that was taken from a closet at McDonald's on June 17th. I had \$460, all of my keys, license and personal things.

I don't know if you ever read the Bible, what it says about stealing, a woman come and told me. A woman and man were watching you and saw you go to the closet, then went to the bathroom, then back to the closet and to the car.

I know the hat you were wearing, you had on sunglasses and two other boys were with you and had something written on his shirt with a verse from the Bible. If you don't return my keys and personal items back to me, there will be more action taken. I know what kind of hat and clothes you had on, you don't know what you have put me through. There is someone who knows where you live and your mom, so if you will put my keys and purse where I can get it, nothing will be done.

Will you sit down and think of how you would like for someone to take everything you had and all of your money. I can't see how you can go to sleep. I know you will have to pay for all you have put me through. I work hard for my money, but God knows all about this and you will pay. All I am asking for is all my keys, purse and personal items back.

Charlene Reynolds
Mt. Vernon, Ky

Dear Editor,

This letter is to all that have an interest in the Red Hill Cemetery. We are starting a fund drive to raise money to erect a monument to honor and remember all the people that were the uniform of our country, that are resting in the Red Hill Cemetery. This monument would be four feet high, four feet wide at the bottom tapered to three feet at the top, four

inches thick. Names can be placed on both sides. We have been told there are 48 vets buried there. We will try to get all of the names and will put them in the paper. Then if you know of anyone please let us know. We don't want to leave any out.

The family of Eric Dell Ponder is donating a flag pole in his memory. What we want is to pour a concrete slab, and place the flag pole on one end, and the monument on the other end.

We think this monument is the honorable, and right thing to do if you all think so; send us some money and we will get it done. We will need approximately \$1,600.

Thank you and best regards,
Dell Ponder

P.S. This fund drive is separate from money needed to pay for the moving, and upkeep of the cemetery. That is a very big job and all of us should keep giving money and support to Mr. Ruppel for the good job she does.

Dell Ponder
PO Box 238
Livingston, KY 40445
453-4341
Clifton B. Bond
PO Box 239
Livingston, KY 40445
453-9508

Dear Editor,

A distinguishing characteristic of the Church of Christ is its teaching upon the subject of baptism. The church teaches that in accordance with the scriptures, baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus which results in a person's sins being removed by the blood of Jesus Christ. The Bible shows that it is at the point of baptism where contact is made with the saving blood of Jesus.

This baptism is necessary for salvation is clearly and plainly stated by none other than our Lord Jesus Himself. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved." Here, Jesus plainly and clearly states two requirements which must be met before a person can be saved. Jesus said that in order to be saved a person must first believe and then be baptized. Failure to meet either of those does not fulfill what Jesus Himself said. The faithful church has no choice but to comply with what Jesus, the Head of the church commanded concerning salvation and what must occur to receive it. How could Jesus have said it any more clearly? To refuse to understand or accept what Jesus said is to go beyond the realm of reasonableness.

Baptism is not a work which merits a person's salvation. There is no work that a man can do in order to be saved. If we are saved, it is only by the grace of God. This grace involves a plan by which our sins could be forgiven even though we ourselves can do nothing to merit this forgiveness. Paul said it well in Ephesians 1:3-10: "For by grace you have been saved through faith... not as a result of works, that no one should boast." The grace of God in the sending of Jesus to die for our sins is the reason for our salvation. It is our responsibility as individuals to respond to God's grace.

When we choose to believe the gospel of Christ we make a response to God's grace. When we choose to repent of past sins and turn toward God we make a response to God's grace. When we choose to confess Jesus Christ as Lord we make a response to God's grace. When we choose to be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins we make a response to God's grace. In each response we comply with what the scriptures say are necessary in order to be saved: to believe (Mark 16:16); to repent (Acts 2:38); to confess (Romans 10:9); to be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

Why would some view baptism as a work and therefore not needed for salvation, but would not view believing, repenting or confessing as a work, something needed to be done in order to be saved? This view does not come from Scripture. If these numbers would mean anything there are far more passages connecting baptism with salvation than belief,

repentance and confession combined. Yet the Lord needs only mention it once to remove any question.

Baptism is a response of faith. We believe and place our faith in Christ and therefore we obey His direction to be baptized. As we read the scriptures it is of vital importance that we do so with an open mind that we may clearly see what they speak to us.

Rowland Moore
London, KY

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the following business, community leaders, parents and individuals for their support to Project Graduation Celebration 2002. We greatly appreciate each and every one for helping to make this a huge success.

A+ Check Advance, Carolyn and Charles McKinney, Citizens Bank, Community Trust Bank, Mary Ida Jones, Shirley Clements, Joseph Clontz, CPA, Clontz & Cox, LLC, Bradley's Barber Shop, Young's Pharmacy, Broadhead Lions Club, Marvin Owens Home for Funerals and Monuments, Daniel Whitaker, Broadhead Arcade, Collins Respiratory Care, Adams Feed & Supply, C&H Storage, Rockcastle County Ministerial Association, Mt. Vernon Lions Club, Kwik Mart, Wallilla Grocery, Britton Chevy-Olds, Branner Studio, Dr. John Palgans, Juanita Norris Country Peddler, Rockcastle Embroidery, Marsha Peltier, Bullock Muffler Shop, Town & Country Motors, Dabney Feed & Supply, Lonnie & Teresa Vanzant, J. P. Smith, John Eord, Attorney, E. Howard Sayler, Perry's Body Shop, Mink Builders, Broadhead Farm Equipment, Ford Brothers, Roy Todd Builders, Inc., Shirley and Linda Smith, Marlene Lawson, LLC, Buckeye Christian Church, Heritage Furniture Gallery, Integrity Mold & Die, LTD, J&J Auction, Edwards Chiropractic, Inc., Rockcastle Veterinary Clinic, Inc., Auto Sales, Sparks Flowers & More, Jeffrey T. Burdette, Flowers, Etc., Inc., J&J Cabinets, Robert M. McClord, CPA, J&L Inc., Singleton & Associates, Inc. Wm. E. Taylor and Mary, Inc., Mt. Vernon PTA, Clarence & Louise Carter, John Hamm Bank & Trust, Advance Auto, Davidson Kennels, R&J Excavation, Carpenters Custom Building, Kentucky

Fried Chicken, Lee's Famous Recipe, Thompson Gutter Shop, Richmond S. Eycare, Lovell's Gun Repair, Dr. Kim Cornelius, Dr. Michael Hamilton, Dr. Kevin Rowe, Dr. Karen Sayler, Dwan Adams, Garard Stockyards, Madison, Stock Yards, Hall's Printing, Godfather's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Carpenter's Farm Equipment, Burkman Feed, Wendy's, Cutting Edge, Mt. Vernon Drug, James E. Miller, Sam Stallworth, Roberts Barber Shop, Mt. Vernon Automotive, Thelma Mullins, Kentucky Utilities, Pat Allen, Janice Dooley, McDonald's, Marlene Phelps, Lumber King, Ashland Hospital, Touch of Class,

Renfro Valley Entertainment, J.R. Reed, Barnett Cycle Shop, Hair Unlimited, Geraldine Robbins, Pam Taylor, Wm. Robbins, Burdette Hardware, Merritt's Garage, Car Quest-Bere, Anderson Blackwell & Dozer, Harde's, Morgan's Plumbing & Repair, Mobley's Electric Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Randall Durham's Greenhouse, Preston Parrett, Brindle Ridge Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon Pentecostal Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Conway Baptist Church, Country Sam's, Bishop Tire Service and Jerry's Laundry Mat, D&L Variety & Grocery, Pizza Hut, State Farm Insurance Agency Teresa Jackson, Mt. Vernon Plumbing, Darla Queen, ALCA Aluminum, Pleasant Run Baptist Church, Cox Funeral Home, Broadhead Christian Church, Climax Christian Church, Cinat Corporation, Berea Lodge #617, Kentucky Rockcaveage, Kismet, TACO, PPG Industries, Hunt Poly House, Mike Smith, Magdalene Collins, Carter's Market, McKinney's Tire, X-treme Fitness and Dr. Tony Arvin, Brock Studio, J. & J. Barber Shop, Poynter, Livingston Market, Livingston Fire Dept., Sam Stallworth, Country Homes, Hogg Enterprise, Inc., Broadhead Fire Dept., ALCA Aluminum, Pleasant Run, Willis Coffey, Clayton Foundry, B&H Tool, Crossroads Assembly of God, Jenny Bray, Appliance Service, Sayler's Furniture, WRVK Radio, Louisville (In Memory of Suzanne Grace), Rockcastle County Schools, Dowell & Martin Funeral

(Cont. to A4)

Mount Vernon Signal

Publication Number 366-000

Periodical Postage Paid in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456
606-256-2244

Published every Thursday since November, 1887, Offices in the Mt. Vernon Signal Building on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456. Postmaster, send address changes to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456.

James Andrikin, Jr., Publisher Emeritus - Richard F. Andrikin, Editor
Purlina M. Andrikin, Managing Editor

Paige Benge, Advertising Manager - Jessica Lawson, Circulation Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In County - \$16.75 Yr. Out-of-County In State - \$21.75 Yr.
Out-of-State \$30.00 Yr.

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JobStart Center Hours

Rockcastle County Senior Citizens and Day Health Care Center hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mon-Fri.

First Baptist Church, Food and Clothing Mission's hours are Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Mission is located on 30 Church St., Mt. Vernon.

Classroom Auction 1997 (Gooding Chapel) RCSS. To respond to interest in a class reunion, please visit www.classroom.com. It will be 10 years.

Seccer Sign-Up Lunel Opus Youth Soccer sign-up thru 2002. Youth soccer sign-up from 10:00-2:00 at the Lunel Opus sign up on West Hwy. 60. For more information call (606) 578-0418.

Flights Needed Last call for flights and participants in the Crab Orchard area of July party being held July 26-28, 2002. All participants are asked to be at the Old Howard Funeral Home lot no later than 11:30 on Sat. June 29th. Judging will begin at 12:00 noon. If you are not able to attend, please call Victoria Daulton at (606) 335-2664 or (606) 335-3073.

Rockcastle County School District has completed its Comprehensive District Improvement Plan. This plan will be viewed at the Central Office, 245 Richmond St., Mt. Vernon, until July 2, 2002.

Called Meeting Rockcastle Elementary School will hold a special called meeting on Monday, July 1st at the school. The regular scheduled meeting will be July 5th at 10 a.m. Sponsored by the VFW, Post 245, Lions Club, WYV, WYVW and Mt. Vernon Signal.

Smoker Detectors Rockcastle Hospital Health Unit with the assistance of local volunteers has distributed 1000 smoke detectors to the citizens of Rockcastle County who are over age 60 or disabled, and do not have a smoke detector in their home. To view, something needed to be done in order to be saved? This view does not come from Scripture. If these numbers would mean anything there are far more passages connecting baptism with salvation than belief,