

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Tribute To A Great Work

Yesterday, March 10, 2015, at 11am, *Fort Payne Christian Radio* came to life. The Fort Payne church of Christ began broadcasting on **FM103.9** using call letters WFTP-LP after almost two years of hard work and prayer. In 2013, the Elders of FPCOC decided to take advantage of an opportunity provided by the FCC to obtain a low-power FM broadcast license. WFTP-LP now broadcasts the gospel message 24 hours a day to the Fort Payne area in conjunction with the **Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN)**. Fort Payne Christian Radio would not exist without the assistance of GBN. So, just who is GBN?

The **Gospel Broadcasting Network** is a Christian broadcast network, which transmits from satellite, simulcasts over the Internet over GBNTV.org, through its own Roku channel, on Android and iOS devices, and over the air. The network broadcasts a full schedule of Christian teaching, preaching and a cappella music 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The network began in November 2005 in a strip mall in Ringgold, GA under the oversight of the Elders at the Highland church of Christ in Dalton, GA. It remained at that location until it relocated to Olive Branch, MS, in 2012 and the Elders at the Southaven church of Christ (Southaven MS) assumed oversight. GBN is unique in the world of religious programming as its support comes entirely from contributions made by individual members and congregations within the Churches of Christ. The network does not solicit contributions on the air (thus there are no 'pledge' times or pleas for money).

GBN was started by the Highland congregation as a dream of **Barry Gilreath Sr.** in November of 2005. Bro. Gilreath served as its first Executive Director and in other management capacities until his death in 2011. Don Blackwell, who has been with GBN since inception, currently serves as the Executive Director. Programs include "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" with Mack Lyon/Phil Sanders, "*What Does the Bible Teach*" with David Sain, and the live-action children's program "*Digger Doug's Underground*" produced by Apologetics Press, among other programs that teach the gospel.

The *Preaching the Gospel* program with James Watkins is the flagship program of GBN. Beginning in December, 2011, this program has been seen airing on Dish Network and DirecTV every Sunday morning (7:30 am eastern), as well as in the local Nashville market. *Preaching the Gospel* is co-hosted by Cliff Goodwin, who

has been a very popular speaker on GBN for many years. The two speakers alternate presenting their material on new episodes.

In Search of the Lord's Way, one of the most widely distributed religious programs in the USA and the largest among churches of Christ, also broadcasts on GBN. Phil Sanders is the host of this program, which was created by Mack Lyon. The program continues to flourish in markets throughout the USA and has limited distribution around the world.

GBN also features the *GBN Special Presentation*. This program often includes material that has been recorded on-location or at special events. Additionally, many of the materials produced by **World Video Bible School** are aired as *GBN Special Presentations*.

With the addition of FM radio broadcasting in conjunction with 14 churches of Christ around the country, GBN has created a very unique broadcasting environment for spreading the Gospel of Christ to millions of people around the world. The addition of radio opens up a new realm of possibilities. Several years ago, GBN began broadcasting its weekly live call-in talk show – *GBN Live* – over the entire radio network as well as other live events such as debates and special events including keynote addresses at various lectureships within the brotherhood. The possibilities in the radio arena are truly unlimited.

When Bro. Gilreath passed away in 2011, **Jim Dearman**, former GBN Program Director and current host of the *Good News Today* program heard on radio each morning, wrote these words: *"In April of 2004, I received a phone call from a man with a dream. The man was Barry Gilreath, Sr., and the dream was to launch a 24-hour-per-day television network to reach the world with the gospel of Christ. Yes, Barry Gilreath, Sr., who passed from this life on June 7, was a dreamer; but he was a dreamer in the best sense of the word. His dream was to make the dream of God a reality in his lifetime. Now, seven years after that phone call in 2004, I say farewell to the friend whom the inspired writer describes as sticking 'closer than a brother.' Only eternity will reveal the souls who will be saved because Barry Gilreath, Sr., acted upon his dream to help make the dream of God a reality."*

You know how WFTP-LP started. I thought you might like to know how the **Gospel Broadcasting Network** started. Without Barry Gilreath's dream, this could not have been possible. Dreams sometime do come true.

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *"most of your minutes"* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland