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It is a group of Christians determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord’s word teaches. If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

Come and see.

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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Valley Tidings

Set For The Defense of the Glad Tidings

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“Man Shall Not Live By Bread Alone” (Luke 4:4)

It is said that hunger and great thirst are the most intense passions that seize man’s being. A normal man, about to starve, would give all he had for something to eat. When Jesus was suffering from hunger after his forty day fast, the devil said to him, “If thou art the Son of God, command this stone that it become bread.”

By complying with the devil’s suggestion, Jesus would be putting himself under the dictation of the devil, but he did not propose to be influenced by the devil in any way. He relied on what was written rather than on the suggestion of the devil. And so he answered, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matt 4:4)



If man were a mere animal, he would need no other food than that which sustains animal life; he would need the care for only his body. But man’s spiritual nature needs food; and the word of God is the food that sustains spiritual life. It is also our guide, the guide by which the child of God must live. If a man delights in the word of God, he will feed upon it. “And I will give you shepherds according to my heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jer. 3:15) Meditating on the goodness and faithfulness of God is food to the soul. (Psa. 37:3).

The Old Mulkey Meeting House

John Mulkey arrived in Kentucky in 1798. He set about organizing the Mill Creek Baptist Church. The church first met from house to house or in the open. Then in 1804, the old meeting house was erected in Monroe County, Kentucky. The earliest records of the church show that about April 15, 1804, a building committee of seven was appointed. At a meeting of the church on May 11, 1804, “the committee reported that the meeting House is to be 50 feet long, 30 feet wide, shingled with wood shingles, five windows and three doors. A man is to be hired to build it and paid in trade by subscription” (Minutes of the Mill Creek Baptist Church).

The Restoration in Kentucky

During the years between 1800 and 1809, as John Mulkey ministered to the Mill Creek Baptist Church, important events were occurring a hundred miles to the north. It was in August 1801 that a great revival meeting was held at Cane Ridge (forty miles east of Lexington, Kentucky), with thousands in attendance. Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist ministers joined in the revival. They all preached that God’s free grace makes it possible for all to believe and be saved, a position that alarmed orthodox Calvinists in the Presbyterian Church. The unrestrained emotionalism, described



as “the exercises,” at Cane Ridge was also disturbing to the Presbyterians.

Two years later, in 1803, the five Presbyterian revivalists withdrew from the Synod of Kentucky and organized their own Springfield Presbytery. The following year they concluded that there was no scriptural authority for a presbytery and dissolved their organization in the famous document “The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery.” They took the name “Christian” to the exclusion of all others and their congregations began to be called “Christian Churches” or “Churches of Christ.”

There is no way of knowing just how early John Mulkey became acquainted with the ideas of Barton W. Stone or with David and Rice Haggard, preachers of the Stone movement, who lived in southern Kentucky near Mulkey’s home. We do know that by 1809 Mulkey was having misgivings about the Calvinistic theology of the Philadelphia Confession of Faith, which many Baptist churches accepted. On one occasion, he was preaching on the subject of predestination, using John 10 as his text, when he became convinced that his own arguments were not valid and his resulting confusion was obvious to the entire congregation.

Separation from Baptists

As Mulkey’s break with Calvinism became known in the Mill Creek church, dissension arose. A meeting was held to allow Mulkey to present his views, but the meeting ended indecisively. It was then agreed that another meeting would be held in October and that representatives from other Baptist churches would be invited to attempt to moderate the dispute. However, the mediators were unable to reach a decision and they recommended that Mulkey and his congregation attempt to come to some

understanding.

It was soon evident that the differences were so serious that they could not be healed. The church held a meeting on Saturday morning, November 18, 1809, attended by about 200 persons. John Mulkey proposed that the only thing left to do was for the two groups to divide and go their separate ways. Mulkey stated that he would stand with him to leave also. As Mulkey walked out of the building, about 150 followed him. Since a majority of the congregation stood with Mulkey, they continued to worship in the old meeting house. But, no longer a Baptist Church, the congregation soon became associated with the Restoration movement.

After the division in the Mill Creek Church, John Mulkey was destined to become an influential leader in the work of restoration in southern Kentucky. A letter has been preserved which Mulkey received from Barton W. Stone, dated Georgetown, October 10, 1817:

My dear brother John, I m here living and well. How are you? Are you yet on the red hills? I wish you were in a better country. Dear John, we have good sessions in this country. Many are professing religion, many seeking — bro. Boyd can tell you. We have a communion at Cane Ridge last sabbath in this month. Can you come? Be steadfast, great is the power of truth and shall prevail. You see I am hurried. I only drop these to show my love for you remains unabated, and to elicit a line from you. My love to you and yours. Barton W. Stone.

John Mulkey continued to preach for more than fifty years in southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee. During this half-century, he is said to have delivered 10,000 sermons and to have baptized 10,000 converts.

And the old meeting house still stands, bearing Mulkey’s name, and reminding later generations of the love of spiritual freedom that gave birth to the restoration movement in Kentucky. The old Mulkey meeting house still stands today where it was erected – Monroe County, Kentucky. (Adapted from an article in the Firm Foundation, May 25, 1976, written by Bill Humble.)

There was a Man who dwelt in the East centuries ago and now I cannot look at a sheep or a sparrow, a lily or a cornfield, a raven or a sunset, a vineyard or a mountain without thinking of Him. - Chesterton



Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith Jehovah, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls: but they said, We will not walk therein.

