

# *The Gospel Herald*

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“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by  
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## *Seeking a Pastor*

*The little flock at Slippery Rock Church convened into a conference meeting on a given Sunday. The moderator spoke up and said, “Brethren, we have been trusting the Lord for some time to send us an elder who would have a mind to serve this little church, and I have received a letter from a dear brother whom we all know. He has made himself available to us if we would see fit to call him. Let me read y’all the letter and see what you think.”*

*The letter reads as follows:*

*“Dear beloved of the Lord at Slippery Rock Church, Understanding that your pulpit is vacant, I should like to offer myself as the Lord shall direct. I have been a preacher for some years, traveling about as an itinerate minister among various factions as y’all know.*

*I have done a lot of writing in time regarding the scriptures though and have helped establish some Churches along the way. I was baptized by a devout man, a follower of Christ, and I never was “officially” set apart as an elder by any Church. Yet, I am persuaded that God has ordained me to the ministry. I have never had no membership in any local Church assembly as well.*

*I am over 50-years-old in age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places, I have left town after causing riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing.*

*My health is not to good, though I still get around fairly well. The churches I have preached in have been small, though in large cities. I’ve not gotten along well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not to good at keeping records. I have been known to forget who I have baptized.*

*However, if y'all can use me, I shall do my best for you"*

*The moderator paused and looked around at the little group of aged folks, and said, "Well, what do y'all think? Shall we call him?"*

*The members were aghast. One ole stately gentleman spoke up and said, "an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded, ex-jailbird?" And the rest all shook their heads in agreement; another little sister spoke up and said, "while we'd be crazy to call that one to serve our church, what in the world is his name? she requested.*

*The moderator sitting there with a solemn demeanor upon his face, replied, "It's signed The Apostle Paul!"*

*August 21, 2006*

*Author unknown, revised.*