Swords are in their lips, for, they say, "Who hears?" But You, O Lord, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations

During the bombardment in September 1814 this magazine was hit by a British bombshell. The miraculous lack of an explosion may have been due to the angle of the hit, the pouring rain, or a combination of both. Following the battle the outer walls of this building were enlarged to their present size. The photograph above shows the reinforced roof.

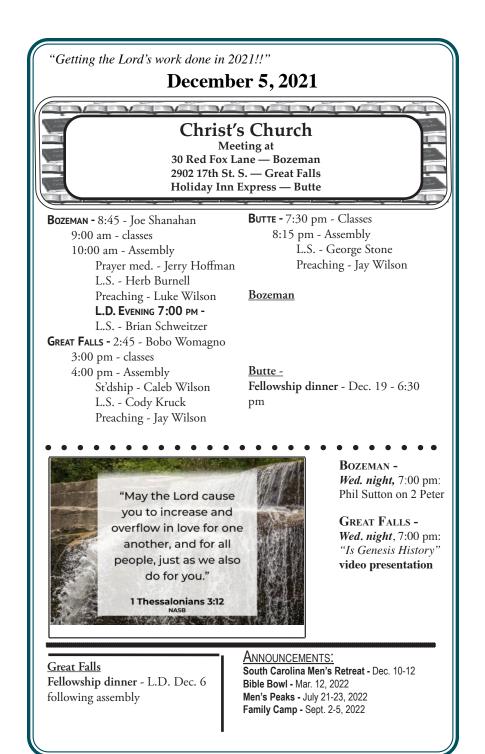
Composition of gunpowder:

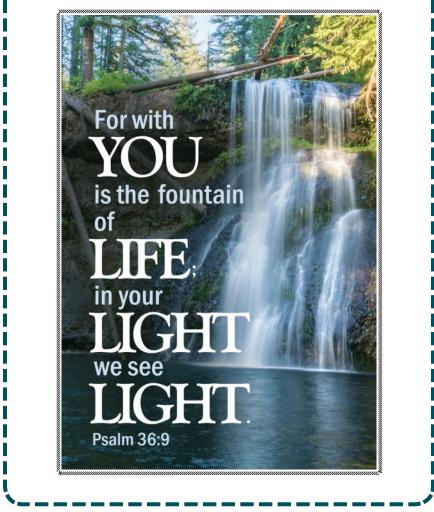
75% Saltpeter (Potassium Nitrate) 15% Sulphur 10% Charcoal

Display at Ft. McHenry near Baltimore. If the bomb had exploded, it would have exploded the powder magazine, which would have blown up the fort, which would have allowed the British to take Baltimore, which probably would have resulted in the loss of America and the loss of American liberty. "Miraculous" lack of explosion, or Divine Providence?

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

John 10:11





Question of the week:

What prophet's scrolls was Daniel reading that let him know that the 70 years of desolation was about to come to an end?

Last week's question: When bosses (including Christians) withhold the pay of their laborers, the cries reach the ears of whom? *Answer: "the Lord of Sabaoth [hosts, armies of heaven] (James 5:4).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 84 Morning Assembly – 108 Evening Assembly – 54

Wednesday Night (12/1) – 64 Butte Lord's Day – 14 GF Lord's Day – 73,80, *Wed.* - 55



Acts Alive ...

Converting a King?

Paul, the imprisoned preacher, stood before King Herod Agrippa II and the governor Porcius Festus. Informed that he was permitted to speak for himself, the apostle stretched forth his hand with his characteristic gesture and made his defense.

1. He said he was fortunate to appear before Agrippa, because the king was an expert in the customs and questions among the Jews. "I beg you," said he, "to listen to me patiently" (Acts 26:3),

2. Paul was brought up as a Jew and lived as a Pharisee "according to the strictest sect of our religion."

3. Then he brought the proceedings immediately to the key point the resurrection from the dead. Expressing it in these terms, Paul said, "I am standing trial for the *hope* of the promise made by God to

our fathers." Festus knew that Paul claimed that Jesus was raised from the dead, this is ultimately the thrust of Paul's statements. "And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by the Jews. Why is it considered incredible among you if God does raise the dead?" (Acts 26:7,8).

- 4. Paul himself had done many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. He locked up the holy ones, voted to put them to death when he sat in the Sanhedrin, punished them in the synagogues—trying to force them to blaspheme—and, furiously enraged at them, he pursued them to foreign cities, eventually at Damascus.
- 5. As Paul approached Damascus with the full backing and authority of the chief priests, he met with a Higher Authority. Jesus met him, blinded him, informed him of His resurrection from the dead, and commissioned him.
- "For this purpose I have appeared to you," said the eternal King, "to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you" (Acts 26:16).
- Jesus would deliver Paul from the hands of the Jews and also the Gentiles, to which He promised to send the apostle.
- Paul would "open their eyes so that they might turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith" by Jesus (Acts 26:18).
- 9. Having this "heavenly vision," the apostle started hammering the message home—first at Damascus, then Jerusalem and Judea, and among the Gentiles—that they all should repent and be converted, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. "For this reason," the apostle informed the King, "Jewsseized mein the temple and tried to put me to death" (Acts 26:21).
- 10. "And so," he said in conclusion, "having obtained help from God, I stand to this day, testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place—that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:22,23).

Festus couldn't take this talk about resurrection any longer. But he didn't call Paul stupid or "back-woodsey." "Paul," exclaimed the governor, "you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad."

Paul's response: "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of *sober truth*" (Acts 26:25). "The king knows about these matters," he added, "and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner" (Acts 26:26).

And turning to the king he said, "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do" (Acts 26:27). Agrippa answered, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." "I would to God," replied the apostle, "that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become as I am, except for these chains" (Acts 26:29). And that's the desire which carries the gospel into all the world.

"I would to God that ... all who hear me today become as I am... "

JAY WILSON