
A NEW TEACHING TOOL

The elders have expressed their desire for the church to begin publishing a bulletin as another means of teaching. The purpose of teaching is to build up the faith of the saints and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

The name *Benton Banner* is drawn from Benton, AR, the city in which we meet, and “banner,” a word that begins with the same letter “b” as an associative memory device (alliteration). “Bulletin” was too plain. “Beacon” would have been good as a metaphor of a light that guides and illuminates, and light is a common metaphor for knowledge (which is our aim in this endeavor).

I decided on “banner” after looking up passages where the term “highway” was used, since we are the “Highway 5 church of Christ.” **Isaiah 35:8** immediately came to mind, where Isaiah prophesied concerning the highway of holiness. I ran across another good highway passage, **Jeremiah 31:21**: “*Set up signposts, make landmarks; set your heart toward the highway...*” **Isaiah 62:10**, seen at the top, seemed the most appropriate.

All three of these passages are prophecies of the new covenant and the way in which we as members of the body of Christ are to serve God. All three passages express different aspects of this service this very well.

As the Highway 5 church of Christ, we should be interested in *building up* the *highway* of God (this local congregation in particular). This involves removing stones as **Isaiah 62:10** commands. Some of our teaching must be to remove the obstacles (bad attitudes, false doctrines, etc.) to receiving the truth. The same verse also says to lift up a *banner* for all people. We must teach others, and this publication is a *distinctive* banner to draw them to Christ, our true banner (**Is. 11:10**).