

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
JANUARY 31, 2021

REJOICE: **Sheila Massey** came forward last Sunday morning. Let us encourage her and keep her in our prayers.

SYMPATHY: Please continue to remember **Cody Hadley** and his family in the loss of his cousin.

SICK/TEMPORARY: **Reese Kinney, Karter Shamblyn, Carolyn Stanford** were hampered early this past week due to various health issues. Continue to pray for **Crystal Brown**, niece of **Paul** and **Suzanne Brown**, who has been suffering from flesh-eating bacteria—she has really shown improvement the past week! **Monica La Rock's** surgery went well Monday.

PROTRACTED: **Janice Bailey**—Alzheimers; **Scooter Birmingham** (friend of **Destiny Clayton**); **Brian Brown** (**Paul Brown's** nephew)—epilepsy; **Shelly Cates**—fibromyalgia; **Gladys Marie Elrod** (**Mary Ray's** son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; **Addliae Farrow** (**Tabatha Clayton's** great niece)—heart; **Bubba Farrow** (**Emma Farrow's** son)—Alzheimer's; **Jimmy Ferguson** (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; **Kaylie Hadley**—UCTD; **Paula Harrison**—Meniere's Disease; **Wanda Jackson**—a-fib; **Monica La Rock** (granddaughter of **Orelia Ferguson** and mother of **Noah**); **Garrett Lentz** (son of a co-worker of **Cody Hadley**)—seizures; **Sheila Massey**—Bell's palsy; **Easton McCullough** (**Grayson Hadley's** best friend)—Bell's Palsy; **Becky Munns** (**Tabatha Clayton's** aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; **Shelby Peyton**—knee; **Robert Rawson** (preacher at **Crockett**)—diabetes; **Ray Reynolds** (**Sheila Massey** and **Mary West's** dad)—memory trouble; **Brett Rutherford** (**Dan Cates'** friend)—MS; **Tammy Turner** (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; **Francis Wallace** (friend of **Mary Ray**); and **Jerry Worthington** (neighbor of the **Hounshells**)—physical and emotional difficulties.

CANCER: **Clifton Angel** (preacher at **Coldwater**)—thyroid; **Sherry Brown** (retired MSOP secretary); **Alicia Busby** (from the community); **Gary Darnell** (**Ella Darnell's** son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; **Brenda Davis** (a grandmother of **Edra** and **Ryan Farrow**); **Nathan Jones** (the **Hounshells'** neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; **Sara Kiestler** (an **FHU** student)—Hodgkin's; **Wade Loggins** (member of congregation in **Elkmont, AL**); **Dorothy Mosher** (wife of an MSOP instructor); **Carol Ogelsby** (family of **Sonny Stewart** and the **Browns**)—stomach; **Tommy Pierce** (the **Browns'** friend); **John Riley** (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; **Tiffany Taylor** (the **Browns'** friend); and **Tabby Waters** (**Tabatha Clayton's** sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: **Marie Crockett** (home), **Emma Farrow** (in a care facility in **Sardis**), **Orelia Ferguson** (home), and **Annette Cates** (**Dan Cates'** mother who is at home in **Pensacola, FL**).

SERVING: **Dylan** and **Maggie Cooper** (**Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.**), **Cameron Hadley** (**Grayson Hadley's** dad—**Marines, Hawaii**). Also, please continue to pray for **Kyle Embrey** (**Syble Embrey's** grandson—**policeman**) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live “quiet and peaceable” lives (I Timothy 2:1,2).

Independence Church of Christ
8543 Highway 305
Coldwater, MS 38618

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

www.independencechurchofchrist.org

Services: Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

Ministers: Every Christian

Elders: Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

Evangelist: Dan Cates (662-560-8045; dsmccates@yahoo.com)

Missions [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

Independence Mission Fund (next: tbd)

Memphis School of Preaching

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Save Asian Souls (Providing physical and spiritual aid)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]

School of Biblical Studies (Jos, Nigeria)

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

NOT A FAN, BUT A FOLLOWER

Jonathan J. Exum (second year MSOP student)

Are you a fan or a follower? A fan is defined as "a person who has a strong interest in or admiration for a particular person or thing". A follower is defined as "an adherent or devotee of a particular person, cause, or activity". What does it mean to be a follower? What's the difference between a fan and a follower? It is my goal to help us answer these questions, and to help us focus on what it truly means to be a follower of Jesus. "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. " (Matthew 16:24, NASB). We will learn three ways we can be followers. First, we must deny ourselves. Second, we must take up our crosses. Third, we must follow Jesus.

WE MUST DENY OURSELVES.

Paul wrote to those in Rome, "Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God." (Romans 10:1-3, NASB). These Jews refused to deny themselves. They did have a zeal for God, but it was not according to the correct knowledge. They rejected the message of Christ (Romans 1:16), and sought to go about their own way of justification. Have we sought to go about our own way of being justified? The denominational world is guilty of this. They are zealous of God, but are not following the way God wants to justify. These Jews in Rome could not be put in a place where God could justify them because it was not in line with God's will. If we are to be true followers of Christ, we must deny ourselves. If we seek to be in a position where God can justify us, we must deny ourselves.

WE MUST TAKE UP OUR CROSSES

This thought continues from the previous. To deny oneself and take up one's cross is synonymous. The word take up means "to raise up, elevate, lift up; to take upon one's self and carry what has been raised up, to bear; to bear away what has been raised, carry off" (Thayer, E-Sword Module). In order to be true followers, we must take the cross upon ourselves and carry it until we die. We can deny self, but we must not stop there. We must take up our cross and move forward. In sports you have different types of fans. You have the fair-weather fan which is defined as "a person who stops being a fan in times of difficulty." You have the bandwagon fan which is defined as "only showing interest and support for a sports team based on recent successes or popularity". Then, you have those that are inactive fans. These are fans that simply don't care about the outcome. There are many "fans" of Jesus, but how many followers are there? Many people can deny themselves, but not take up the cross when times get tough. Many people take up the cross only when there is success in their life, but then drop it when life brings failure. We must be those that are true followers to the end. We must take up our crosses every day no matter how difficult it may be. Are you taking up your cross?

WE MUST BE WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS.

Jesus Christ is not a celebrity, athlete, or any other such person. He is the Son of God who gave His life on the cross for our sins. There is no other One that can position us for salvation. It is only in the gospel. Just like we must deny ourselves. Just like we must take up our crosses. We must follow Jesus and none else. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."" (Acts 4:12, NASB). "Jesus said to him, "I am

the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. " (John 14:6, NASB). Who will follow Jesus? Who are you following? Follow Jesus today!

CONCLUSION

There are many things of which we are fans. We are fans of sports, actors, athletes, celebrities, etc. Many people today are fans of Jesus instead of followers. Are you a follower of Jesus? Have you denied yourself? Have you taken up your cross? Are you following Jesus? Every one must answer these questions for himself. Let us seek to follow Jesus every day!

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:14,15)

BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: What was the reason some people gave for the Apostles' speaking in tongues?

Last week's question: In what city did the Lord open a door for Paul?

Last week's answer: Troas (2 Corinthians 2:12)

SERMONS: "I Am ..." (Romans 1:16)

"All the Counsel of God": Confession

DAILY BIBLE READING (February 1-7):

Mon. Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun.

Exodus 14-17 18-20 21-24 25-27 28-31 32-34 35-37

SCRIPTURE READING (JANUARY): Carl Hounshell (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

(FEBRUARY): Dan Cates

PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING (JANUARY): Dan Cates

(FEBRUARY): Cody Hadley

ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (JANUARY): Conor Cates and Cody Hadley

(FEBRUARY): Ray Stanford and Mark Peyton

CLEAN BUILDING (JANUARY): Suzanne and Katie Brown

(FEBRUARY): The Hounshells

PREPARE COMMUNION (JANUARY): Tabatha Clayton

(FEBRUARY): Kim Arrington

PANTRY NEEDS: Please see the sheet with Children's Home needs.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Kennadee Arrington February 17 Joey Hadley February 18

UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):

January 31

Tonight, we will have our **potluck** and answer any Bible questions presented.

April 1

The **Tennessee Children's Home** truck will be here. A list of their needs is in the foyer.

May 23-27

MSOP Lectures (moved from March). We are asked to provide 25 cakes for Monday, May 24.

June 6-9

Gospel meeting with Brian Stewart.
