

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
FEBRUARY 7, 2021

SICK/TEMPORARY: Paul Brown was struggling with a cough this past Sunday. Continue to pray for Crystal Brown, niece of Paul and Suzanne Brown, who is now in a private room.

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

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE ON THE OFFENSIVE, Part 1

Victor M. Eskew

Before Jesus left the earth, He gave the apostles “marching orders.” “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20). The actions Jesus commands are fourfold: go, teach, baptize, and teach. If these were the orders given to those who occupy the highest human position in the church, surely they must apply to those who are under the ambassadors of Christ. In other words, these orders apply to all members of the church today.

The church should take these orders seriously and carry them out as diligently as she possibly can. We should be on the offensive when it comes to taking the gospel to the lost within the world. Every day we should go, teaching, baptizing, and teaching others. These actions should not be something we have to be begged to do. We should know what our duties are and carry them out to the utmost our ability. Yes, we should be on the offensive when it comes to spreading the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus.

Unfortunately, the church in most places is not on the offensive as far as the local membership is concerned. There seem to be three positions that most members have taken instead of being on the offensive. First, they have retreated from the battlefield. Other than battling their personal spiritual battles, most members of the church do not see themselves as evangelists who should be sounding out the message of salvation. They contribute their money to the church so others can do that work. They just want to see the positive results that their money is supposed to bring. If those results do not happen, they change their personnel. They try to find those who will take the field of battle for them.

Another position that some have taken is a defensive player. They are not actively spreading the gospel, but they will defend the gospel from time to time when others speak out against it. Occasionally, these individuals will get into a religious conversation with others because they have been attacked. The discussion usually surrounds salvation issues, worship issues, or moral issues. These individuals may not speak out until they are pushed into a corner. At least, they have some courage to stand. Seldom do they convert their opponent. Most of the time they just shut the mouth of the naysayer.

A third position that is taken by members of the church is as an apologizer. An apology is “expression of one's regret, remorse, or sorrow for having insulted, failed, injured, or wronged another.” These individuals apologize to others because of the teaching and practices of the church of Christ. This is sad because these doctrines and practices are set forth in the truth of the gospel. One wonders why these individuals continue to be part of the church of

Christ. They apologize to others because they do not believe many of the doctrines of the church themselves. Most stay in the church because of their family tradition or because they are comfortable. *(To be continued next week)*

“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: Where does the spirit go when the dust returns “to the earth”?

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

Last week's answer: They were “full of new wine,” that is, drunk *(Acts 2:13,15)*

SERMONS: Man's Most Valuable Stock *(Matthew 16:26)*

“All the Counsel of God”: Confidence

DAILY BIBLE READING (February 8-14):

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

Exodus 38-40

Leviticus 1-4 5-7 8-10 11-13 14-16 17-19

SCRIPTURE READING (FEBRUARY): Dan Cates *(Matthew 16:24-27)*

(MARCH): Thomas Massey

PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING (FEBRUARY): Cody Hadley

(MARCH): Carl Hounshell

ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (FEBRUARY): Ray Stanford and Mark Peyton

(MARCH): Paul Brown and Sonny Stewart

CLEAN BUILDING (FEBRUARY): The Hounshells

(MARCH): Tabatha Clayton

PREPARE COMMUNION (FEBRUARY): Kim Arrington

(MARCH): Shelly Cates

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

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

February 11

The MSOP **MOST** classes begin. Times are 11, 2, and 6. One can watch the classes and even take part at msopmost.org.

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.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are honored to have you with us today. Please take a few minutes and fill out an attendance card for us so that we can have a record of your attendance.