

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
MARCH 24, 2024

PRAYERS: The Houses continue to covet our prayers.

SICK: **Karter Shamblin** and **Ray Stanford** have both experienced health challenges recently. **Cody Hadley** is scheduled to see the cardiologist April 11th. **Sawyer Leeton** (son of a cousin of **Katie Brown**) will have cleft surgery May 6th. **David Jones** (**Shelly Cates**' father) will have a biopsy on April 2. **Brandon MacNeil** (son of **Karen Tuttle**) is facing more tests due to a nodule on his lung. **Mark Ray**, **Mary Ray**'s son, is facing back surgery. **Nestor Silva** (second year MSOP student) is in Costa Rica having had a 25mm tumor discovered in his head. He is facing more tests. **Dayton Williams** (**Shelly Cates**' grandfather) is recovering amazingly well following his recent stroke.

PROTRACTED: **Brandi Beavers**—fibromyalgia; **Scooter Birmingham** (friend of **Destiny Clayton**); **Brian Brown** (**Paul Brown**'s nephew)—epilepsy; **Lauren Brown** (niece of **Paul Brown**)—heart; **Suzanne Brown**—arthritis; **Shelly Cates**—fibromyalgia; **Shelby Cooper**—facing mitral valve prolapse surgery between eight months and two years from now; **Janet Daniel** (sister of **Melinda Haas**)—lupus; **Martha Clayton** (**Tabatha Clayton**'s mother-in-law)—congestive heart failure; **Addliae Farrow** (**Tabatha Clayton**'s great niece)—heart; **Ella Cobb**, granddaughter of the **Houses**—seizures; **Elizabeth Ferguson** (wife of former preacher here)—dementia; **Jimmy Ferguson** (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; **Melinda Haas**—Lyme's Disease; **Cody Hadley**—Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; **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; **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; **Francis Wallace** (friend of **Mary Ray**); **Anthony Stacks** (nephew-in-law of **Allene Baldwin** and **Syble Embrey**)—strokes and Alzheimers, respectively; and **Jerry Worthington** (neighbor of the **Hounshells**)—physical and emotional difficulties.

CANCER: **Alicia Busby** (from the community); **Tish Clarke** (wife of the MSOP director)—melanoma; **Gary Darnell** (**Ella Darnell**'s son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; **Pablo Horna** (missionary)—carcinoma; **Nathan Jones** (the **Hounshells**' neighbor's son)—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; **Priscilla Patterson** (mother of a friend of **Dan Cates**)—breast; **Tommy Pierce** (the **Browns**' friend); **Ruby Reynolds** (**Sheila Massey**'s mother); **John Riley** (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; **Laykan Rutherford** (cousin of **Shelly Cates**); and **Tabby Waters** (**Tabatha Clayton**'s sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: **Annette Cates** (**Dan Cates**' mother who is in assisted living in Pensacola, FL), **Orelia Ferguson** (home), **Ruth House** (**Lawayne House**'s mother who is at home). **Karen Tuttle** has two uncles which are both in hospice care in Indiana.

SERVING: **Cameron Hadley** (Marines), now stationed locally. 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 (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

Independence Church of Christ

8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

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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)*

Evangelists: *Dan Cates (662-560-8045; dsmccates@yahoo.com)
Chris Cook (318-558-0458; christophercook308@gmail.com)*

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

Kakinada, India [Providing Bibles and Overseeing Funds]

Memphis School of Preaching (Chris Cook)

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Tri-Cities School of Preaching (David B. Jones)

Jason Moore (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Warm Heart Missions (Roger Chambers)

Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

School of Biblical Studies (Jos, Nigeria)

Save Asian Souls (Providing physical and spiritual aid)

Other one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Daniel F. Cates

Part LVII: Philemon

Slavery was rampant in the Roman Empire. Through the centuries, slaves numbered in the millions, perhaps accounting for a third of the population [some sources would posit higher or lower percentages]. Slaves served in many fields from those who were used for sport, to those who performed menial tasks, to those who were well educated. One could be enslaved in any number of ways including being born into slavery, becoming slaves through debt, being made slaves after being conquered, or others. The Bible actually speaks of "menstealers," those who enslaved others or sold others to be slaves (1 Tim. 1:10). The words for "servant" in the New Testament may refer to ones who serve (like *διάκονος*, *deacons*, or *θεράπων*, *therapon*) or one who is a slave (like *δοῦλος*, *doulos*, or *οἰκέτης*, *oiketes*) or both (like *παῖς*, *pais*). Some slaves are specifically mentioned in the New Testament, the one most recognize is Onesimus; he was a *doulos* (Phm. 16). Unfortunately, he had apparently fled slavery (Phm. 15), being unprofitable (Phm. 11) and perhaps even undermining (Phm. 18).

Paul had converted Onesimus, and thought of him as a son (Phm. 10)--as he did Timothy and Titus. Paul (Phm. 1,9,19) wrote to Philemon (Phm. 1) [a loving and encouraging brother (Phm. 5-7) who allowed the church to worship in his home (Phm. 2) {apparently in Colossae (compare Col. 4:17)} and who may have been converted by Paul (Phm. 19)], because Onesimus had escaped from him and was now being returned. Paul hoped that Philemon would not only accept Onesimus back (Phm. 12), but would accept him as a brother in Christ (Phm. 16). Perhaps Onesimus was an amanuensis as the uninspired postscript says—that would depend upon the exact meaning of “written it” in Phm. 19; likely at least is that Onesimus is the one who had to carry the epistle to Philemon. Imagine the dread and fear that could have accompanied that letter; perhaps Paul and Onesimus trusted in Philemon's longsuffering, however (Phm. 21). Paul himself was writing from a Roman prison (Phm. 1,9,10,13,23). The time would have been around A.D. 57-59, the same time as Colossians which was carried by Tychicus and Onesimus to Colossae, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (Phm. 1,9,10,13,23; cf. Acts 28:30-31). (*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: What do false teachers serve?

Last week's question: Who was the "firstfruits of Achaia"?

Last week's answer: Epaphroditus (Romans 16:5)

SERMONS: A.M.: *Discouragement's Causes and Cures* (John 14:1-3)

P.M. Devotional: *Cameron Hadley* will deliver this evening's message.

P.M.: *The Beginning of Our Confidence*: Chapter 42: Family Relationships.

DAILY BIBLE READING (March 25-31):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
1 Samuel	1-3	4-7	8-10	11-13	14-16	17-20	21-24

READ SCRIPTURE (MARCH): Carson Kinney (Matthew 11:28,29)

(*APRIL*): *Thomas Massey*

PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (MARCH): Dylan Cooper

(*APRIL*): *Carl Hounshell*

ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (MARCH): Gavin Arrington and Wesley Haas

(*APRIL*): *Paul Brown and Sonny Stewart*

CLEAN BUILDING (MARCH): Melinda Haas and April Kinney

(*APRIL*): *Thomas and Sheila Massey*

PREPARE COMMUNION (MARCH): Shelly Cates

(*APRIL*): *Suzanne Brown and Katie Brown*

UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE:

<i>March 24</i>	<i>Cameron Hadley</i>	<i>March 31</i>	<i>Carson Kinney</i>
<i>April 7</i>	<i>Carl Hounshell</i>	<i>April 14</i>	<i>Dan Cates</i>

UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING ROTATION:

<i>Sun:</i>	<i>March 24</i>	<i>Dylan Cooper</i>	<i>March 31</i>	<i>Cameron Hadley</i>
<i>Wed:</i>	<i>March 27</i>	<i>Carson Kinney</i>	<i>April 3</i>	<i>Ray Stanford</i>

SARDIS LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP:

Registration is open for session 2 of SLCC (June 16-22). If your children want to go, please see Dan or Carl.

PANTRY NEEDS: Please see the list of needs for the children's home.

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

Saturday (March 30)

Youth Day at Forest Hill beginning at 9:30.

Next week (March 31-April 4)

Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship on *Righteousness Exalts a Nation*.

We have been asked to provide 25 cakes for Monday.

April 5-7

Lectureship at New Albany.

April 23

The truck from the **Tennessee Children's Home** will be here.

April 27

Teachers Appreciation Dinner in the evening. More details will follow.

WELCOME VISITORS!