

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
APRIL 2, 2023

PRAYERS REQUESTED: The **Houses'** court date has been moved to April 13th. Also, the MSOP students, including **Savion Rayson**, are in Missouri on campaigns this week. Also, **Ray Stanford** has especially asked for prayers.

SYMPATHY: **Jerry Baldwin** (niece of Allene Baldwin) passed away recently; also **Robert R. Taylor, Jr.** (a preacher and friend of many here) passed away Wednesday night; the funeral was Friday.

SICK: **Janice Bailey** continues to be in need of our prayers having suffered more seizures and cheyne strokes; let us also continue to pray for the **Arringtons**. **Jeffrey Clayton** was sick this past week. **April Kinney** continues to recover from surgery at the Haas's house. **Karter Shamblin** will have surgery to remove his tonsils and adenoids and to put tubes in on April 18. **Neil Bennett** (an MSOP alumnus and friend of **Dan Cates**) has just returned from M.D. Anderson where he received treatment for thyroid cancer. **Erica Swindoll** (the **Massey's** daughter) is pregnant, but there is high risk; the due date is early October.

PROTRACTED: **Kim Arrington**—elbow; **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; **Janet Daniel** (sister of **Melinda Haas**)—lupus; **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; **Jane Haas** (**Wesley Haas's** mother)—hip; **Melinda Haas**—Lyme's Disease; **Cody Hadley**—Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; **Kaylie Hadley**—UCTD; **Paula Harrison**—Meniere's Disease; **Lorraine Hounshell**; **Jason House**—intestine surgery on March 14th; **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; **Denae Miller** (occasional visitor)—recovering from surgeries; **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's** friend)—MS; **Francis Wallace** (friend of **Mary Ray**); **Anthony** and **Rita Stacks** (nephew-in-law and niece of **Allene Baldwin** and **Syble Embrey**)—strokes and Alzheimers, respectively; and **Jerry Worthington** (neighbor of the **Hounshells**)—physical and emotional difficulties.

CANCER: **Neil Bennett** (friend of **Dan Cates**)—thyroid; **Alicia Busby** (from the community); **Tish Clarke** (wife of the MSOP director)—melanoma; **Gary Darnell** (**Ella Darnell's** son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; **Nathan Jones** (the **Hounshells's** neighbor's son)—brain; **Sara Kiestler** (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; **Wade Loggins** (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); **Trina McKinney** (**Mary Ray's** grandson-in-law)—prostate; **Dorothy Mosher** (wife of an MSOP instructor); **Carol Ogelsby** (family of **Sonny Stewart** and the **Browns**)—stomach; **Tommy Pierce** (the **Browns's** friend); **Ruby Reynolds** (**Sheila Massey's** mother); **John Riley** (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; and **Tabby Waters** (**Tabatha Clayton's** sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: **Janice Bailey** (at the **Arringtons's**), **Orelia Ferguson** (home), **Annette Cates** (**Dan Cates's** mother who is in a care center in Pensacola, FL), **Lorraine Hounshell** (home), and **Ruth House** (**Lawayne House's** mother who is at home).

SERVING: **Cameron Hadley** (**Grayson Hadley's** dad—Marines, stateside before long). 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

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)

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

Savion Rayson (903-742-1187; savionrayson1@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

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

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

Jamie Long (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 XXXI: Obadiah

(Continued from last week) As for the author of this book, nothing is known of Obadiah other than that he authored this book (Oba. 1:1). His name was a common one, shared by perhaps a dozen other Old Testament persons; it was a compound Hebrew word which tied together the idea of work or service with the name of God, thus meaning something like "servant of the Lord." It is reasonable and likely that Obadiah was prophesying against the aforementioned Edom (Oba. 1,2) from Judah after 586 B.C. This date is likely due to the conditions of Jerusalem and Judah at the time of writing, destroyed and captivated (Oba. 11-12,20).

Since Edom had not only not helped Judah but had actually aided Babylon, Obadiah wrote to show the punishment due Edom's continued pride (cf. Psa. 137:7; Isa. 34:6-9 [Bozrah was capital of Edom (Amos 1:12)]; 2 Chr. 20:22 [Seir is another name for Edom (Gen. 32:3)]). As one of this writer's beloved instructors, Richard Curry, would paraphrase God's answer for Edom's pride in Obadiah 4, "Though ye be as the eagles, I will bring thee down."

The key words are "pride" (while only used once and another time in the form "proudly", its presence permeates the whole) and "shouldest" (used seven times). While the Edomites should have cared for their brother Judah, not spoiling her and rejoicing at her destruction and assuring the thoroughness of it, their pride led them to what would ultimately be their own downfall (Eze. 35). That downfall is seen in the key phrase "cut off" three of the four times it is used; the other key phrase "in the day of their distress/calamity" (twice and three times, respectively) goes back to Edom's unconcern at the suffering of Judah. It seems that every verse of this packed book is a key one, but Obadiah 15 stands out due to the sure, immediate, and just threat upon Edom, "For the day of the LORD *is* near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head." Perhaps the key passage of the book is Obadiah 3,4 with its combination of Edom's pride and God's promise, "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD."

Though the book is small, Obadiah yet contains some important lessons; some of those worthy of special note are these: first, pride is destructive (Oba. 3-4; cf. Pro. 29:23; 16:18); second, not to be allied with God and His people is to be His enemy (Oba. 11); and, third, one reaps what he has sown (Oba. 15; cf. Gal. 6:7). Like dynamite, which the writer's mother

would often say "comes in small packages" but has great power, so this small book has great potency and is worthy of study today!

"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 two men passed by the man the Samaritan helped?

Last week's question: Unto what did Paul tell the Romans he was separated?

Last week's answer: "The Gospel of God" (Romans 1:1)

SERMONS: A.M.: Three Rules (Luke 10:25-37)

P.M.: Jackie Feng of **Save Asian Souls** will be here to tell us about that work.

DAILY BIBLE READING (April 3-9):

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

1 Samuel 29-31

2 Samuel 1-4 5-8 9-12 13-15 16-18 19-21

READ SCRIPTURE (APRIL): Dylan Cooper (Luke 10:30-35)

(MAY): Thomas Massey

PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (APRIL): Savion Rayson

(MAY): Cody Hadley

ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (APRIL): Sonny Stewart and Conor Cates

(MAY): Dylan Cooper and Ray Stanford

CLEAN BUILDING (APRIL): Suzanne Brown and Katie Brown

(MAY): Thomas and Sheila Massey

PREPARE COMMUNION (APRIL): Shelly Cates

(MAY): Suzanne and Katie Brown

PANTRY NEEDS: A list of **Children's Home** needs is in the foyer.

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

This week (April 2-5)

Southaven hosts a Gospel meeting with Steve Higginbotham preaching. Times include 7:00 Monday through Wednesday nights.

April 16

Youth devotional after evening services.

April 25

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

June 4-7

We will host our **Gospel meeting** with Billy Bland preaching.

July 23

The Crockett Church of Christ begins their **Gospel meeting** which will have various speakers.

WELCOME VISITORS!