

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
APRIL 4, 2021

SICK/TEMPORARY: Shelly Cates has a stomach bug. Last Sunday, Cody Hadley was having difficulty with dizziness and shaking perhaps due to blood pressure medication. Kaylie Hadley will see her new doctor April 8th. Fern Beltz, aunt of Sheila Massey, is to have surgery on her spine on April 12th. Bobby Stewart will have hip replacement surgery in late May. Erica Swindoll, daughter of the Masseys, will have oral surgery April 13th.

PROTRACTED: Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; 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; 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: Janice Bailey (home); Marie Crockett (home), Emma Farrow (in a care facility in Sardis), Orelia Ferguson (home), and Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is in a care center 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

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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)

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

"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD,"

Part 5

Don Walker [from the 2016 Power Lectures at Southaven]

Habakkuk, The Prophet

In the opening chapter of his prophecy, he questions Jehovah. His first question centered on the wickedness in Judah and just how long God would tolerate such. Before God revealed His plan that He was going to use the Chaldeans to punish His people, He let Habakkuk know that he was not going to believe it even when God told him what He was going to do concerning that wickedness. That was absolutely right. Habakkuk responded, "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?" (Hab. 1:13).

Habakkuk is setting before Jehovah a very serious charge. Though Habakkuk stated a valid truth, he failed to recognize the full picture. So he accused the Great Sovereign of inconsistency in dealing with His creation. Fortunately, the beginning of the second chapter reveals to us His attitude and motive are pure and sincere. Ultimately, the book closes with a psalm which acknowledged the majesty and power of the One Who rules in the kingdoms of men.

Our Heavenly Father not only exercises His right to rule, but He has revealed to men what it takes to please Him. He has also expressed exactly what His response will be to both the obedience and disobedience of the nations of this world. Blessings and curses are Jehovah's reaction. Thus with great resolve, the Psalmist can proclaim, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" (Psa. 33:12).

Righteousness Exalts A Nation

Solomon wrote, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Pro. 14:34). The blessings of God upon a nation are predicated by the fact that that nation has recognized the import for justice in its dealings. Israel was told: "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph" (Amos 5:14-15).

There is a standard of right and wrong and the rulers of the world are obligated by their Creator to follow that standard. One needs simply to begin reading the book of Amos to see that there is none left out as far as the rebukes are concerned. Even though the main thrust of

Amos' burdens were addressed to Israel, we recognize that the Gentile nations are not ignored, nor is Judah. It is adherence to the standard of righteousness that exalts a nation and brings the blessings of God. This conduct of our God should be no surprise to us if we consider the true nature of the King of kings. Zechariah prophesied of Christ in chapter nine of the book that bears his name. We have no question that Zechariah wrote of Jesus, for the writers of the Gospel accounts quote the passage and apply it to Him. The passage in consideration is Zechariah 9:9 where we read, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." (*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 is that "without which no man shall see the Lord"?

Last week's question: What did Jesus use as currency to purchase the church?

Last week's answer: His blood (*Acts 20:28*)

SERMONS: A Strong Church, Part 2 (*Romans 16:16*)

"All the Counsel of God": Death

DAILY BIBLE READING (April 5-11):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
2 Samuel	5-8	9-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	
						Psalm	1-3

SCRIPTURE READING (APRIL): Cody Hadley (Ephesians 4:11-16)

(MAY): *Conor Cates*

PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING (APRIL): Thomas Massey

(MAY): *Dan Cates*

ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (APRIL): Conor Cates and Mark Peyton

(MAY): *Ray Stanford and Paul Brown*

CLEAN BUILDING (APRIL): The Masseys

(MAY): *Suzanne and Katie Brown*

PREPARE COMMUNION (APRIL): Suzanne and Katie Brown

(MAY): *Tabatha Clayton*

PANTRY NEEDS: Canned goods of any kind

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

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.