

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
JUNE 27, 2021

SYMPATHY: Emma Farrow passed away on Tuesday; the funeral was yesterday. Thanks to those who help to provide the meal for the family. Please remember MSOP student **Jonathan Exum** and his family; his mother, **Sharon**, passed away last Sunday.

SICK/TEMPORARY: Lawayne House was not feeling well mid-week. Carson Kinney was sick with a stomach virus midweek. Karter Shamblin was diagnosed with a double ear infection.

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; Bobby Stewart—needing hip replacement surgery; 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 (in the nursing home in Senatobia), 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

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

HOW CAN THE CHURCH BE COUNTER-CULTURAL?, Part 1

Phil Sanders

The word "culture" refers to a group's common way of life, beliefs, customs, laws, art, and morals. Culture changes with the times and with various influences on the group. Since the people of God live within a culture made up of those who do not share their beliefs or values, they must learn to live as followers of Christ and avoid the broad way (Mt. 7:13-14).

While the word "culture" does not appear in Scripture, the Bible does warn us worldly influences can ruin our spiritual lives by twisting our beliefs, morals, and practices. The history of Israel reveals how often the people of God followed the idolatrous nations around them. An unbelieving and immoral culture can exert constant temptation on the church to compromise and fall prey to the schemes of the devil. God never intended for the church to mirror the culture of the world.

It should never surprise us that the world is worldly, filled with selfish ambition, lusts, and the desire to overthrow the rules God lovingly placed upon us. Many have cast off the teaching of God in Scripture for their own opinions, their own morals, and their own desires. It should not surprise us that this leaves our society in a mess. Peter advised the early church, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you" (I Pet. 4:12, NKJV). What can the church do to reflect the teaching of Christ rather than the culture of this world?

Hostile Cultures Have Always Existed

The faithful have always had to face the challenges of a world that does not understand or appreciate them. In the days of Noah, "the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Joseph and Moses lived much of their lives in pagan Egypt. The judges faced the constant threat of the surrounding nations invading their land and bringing their idols with them.

Sadly, Solomon "loved many foreign women," and "his wives turned away his heart" from God (I Kgs. 11:1-4). Solomon's compromise opened the door for centuries of religious conflict in Israel. The weeping prophet Jeremiah faced forty years of opposition and disbelief. False prophets filled Judah and spoke "a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD" (Jer. 23:16).

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to live as aliens in Babylonian exile. The early church had to face a "great persecution" and scattered (Acts 8:1). As they spread, the church faced a Gentile world that did not know God (I Th. 4:5). The Way was thought to be a sect, and "everywhere it is spoken against" (Acts 28:22). The seven churches of Asia faced fierce persecution at the hands of the Romans (Rev. 1:9; 2:10). Paul reveals, "Yes, and all who

desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). It should not surprise us that we, too, face a hostile world that asks us to change our faith to agree with their sinful values. *(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: On what Creation day was the first life created?

Last week's question: What nationality was the man in the vision Paul had in Troas?

Last week's answer: Macedonian (*Acts 16:8,9*)

SERMONS: AM: "Why Did God Create Mosquitos?" (Exodus 20:11)

PM: *All the Counsel of God: Faith (Believe)*

DAILY BIBLE READING (June 28-July 4):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
2 Kings	14:26-29			15-17			
Amos	1-3	4-6	7-9	Hosea	1-4	5-7	8-10

READ SCRIPTURE (JUNE): Carl Hounshell (Exodus 20:11)

(JULY): Dan Cates

PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (JUNE): Cody Hadley

(JULY): Carl Hounshell

ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (JUNE): Sonny Stewart and Mark Peyton

(JULY): Lawayne House and Conor Cates

CLEAN BUILDING (JUNE): The Hounshells (*perhaps someone could help bare this load*)

(JULY): Tabatha Clayton

PREPARE COMMUNION (JUNE): Kim Arrington

(JULY): Shelly Cates

PANTRY NEEDS: Canned goods of any kind

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Paul Baldwin	July 8	Ella Darnell	July 10
Carson Kinney	July 19	Kim Arrington	July 21
Sonny Stewart	July 28		

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

Next Sunday (July 4)

Heath Stapleton of the Brown Trail School of Preaching will be with us during evening services to **report** on that work.

July 10

The Looxahoma Church of Christ will have a **Vacation Bible School** from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.

July 14-16

The Nesbit Church of Christ will have a **Vacation Bible School** at 7 P.M. nightly.

July 17

The Olive Branch Church of Christ will have a **Vacation Bible School** from 9 A.M. until 3 P.M.