

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
JULY 17, 2022

PRAYERS: The Houses ask that we remember their court date tomorrow in our prayers; it concerns Ella's custody.

SICK: Shelly Cates has been sick with Covid symptoms, but she has not yet tested positive. Cody Hadley has been diagnosed with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. He is looking at from six weeks to several months before he is back to full health.

Mary Ray has been under the weather recently. Keith Bailey (Kim Arrington's father) continues to have colon and bladder problems. Michelle Cates (Dan Cates' sister-in-law) is awaiting a second surgery due to a perforated stomach.

Jane Haas (Wesley Haas' mother) is in rehab recovering from her broken hip.

PROTRACTED: Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Lauren Brown (niece of Paul Brown)—heart; 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; Bubba Farrow (Emma Farrow's son)—Alzheimer's; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Melinda Haas—Lyme's Disease; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Lorraine Hounshell; 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; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray); and Jerry Worthington (neighbor of the Hounshells)—physical and emotional difficulties.

CANCER: 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); Tommy Hensley (uncle of Paul Brown)—liver; 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); 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' friend); 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'); 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 (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 XV: Ezra

(Continued from last week) The key words of the book fit the mission of Ezra: "Law," used 9 times, reminds the reader of what Ezra sought to restore; "decree," also used 9 times, reminds the reader of the Persian allowance of the Jews efforts but also of the supreme, unalterable Persian rule (cf Est. 1:19; Dan. 6:15). The key verses, back to back in Ezra 7:9,10, are those showing Ezra's return and, more significantly for the Christian, Ezra's preparation; respectively, these verses read, "For upon the first *day* of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first *day* of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him" and "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." The key passage, Ezra 1:1-4, is the aforementioned decree of Cyrus with verse 4 giving more of Cyrus decree than is recorded in the close of 2 Chronicles. Ezra added there, "And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem." That decree also sets off the key chapter, with the rest of Ezra 1 showing the response of the captives to Cyrus' decree and Cyrus' own aid for their efforts--the return of the goods "which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem" (2 Kin. 24:13; cf 2 Kin. 20:13,17).

Numerous wonderful lessons (much more encouraging than those in the preceding generally sad books from Judges through 2 Chronicles) may be gleaned from the book of Ezra. Among them are these: first, God's prophecies come to pass (Ezra 1:1-4), for the return had not only been the subject of prophecy (Jer. 29:14), but a century and half before his birth, Cyrus had been named (Isa. 44:28); second, the ten tribes were never "lost" (Ezra 2:70; 7:7; 8:29,35), as has already been demonstrated; third, that which rightly belongs to one should be no other's (Ezra 1:7-11), as in the return of "the vessels of the house of the Lord"; fourth, God works providentially (Ezra 7:9), as shown by God's "good hand" directing the return of Ezra; fifth, obedience begins in the heart (Ezra 7:10), as was shown by Ezra's preparation which included seeking, doing, and teaching "in Israel [God's-DFC] statutes and judgments."

"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: Who was beaten "before the judgment seat" in Corinth?

Last week's question: Where was Aquila born?

Last week's answer: Pontus (Acts 18:2)

SERMONS: Savion Rayson will preach this morning

"All the Counsel of God": Suffering/Grief

DAILY BIBLE READING (July 18-24):

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

Isaiah 34-36 37-39 40-42 43-45 46-48 49-51 52-54

READ SCRIPTURE (JULY): Gavin Arrington (John 14:9)

(AUGUST): Cody Hadley

PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (JULY): Carl Hounshell

(AUGUST): Thomas Massey

ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (JULY): Wesley Haas and Ray Stanford

(AUGUST): Paul Brown and Conor Cates

CLEAN BUILDING (JULY): Tabatha Clayton

(AUGUST): Melinda Haas and April Kinney

PREPARE COMMUNION (JULY): Shelly Cates

(AUGUST): Suzanne Brown and Katie Brown

PANTRY NEEDS: Please see the flyer of children's home needs in the foyer.

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

Saturday (July 23)

We will have our **youth day**. It will last from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Evan Manning, the associate minister at Forest Hill, will be the speaker and Ben and Britney Williams, second year at MSOP, will be teaching a couple of classes. The theme is *Social Media and the Christian Young Person*. There will be some activities as well.

Schedule:

10:00 Welcome and singing	12:00 Lunch
10:20 Class (Ben [boys] and Britney [girls])	12:45 Singing
10:55 Activity (older) or crafts (younger)	1:05 Activity (older) or crafts (younger)
11:25 Main lesson (Evan Manning)	1:40 Singing and final thoughts

July 24-28

Gospel meeting at the *Crockett Church of Christ* with John Hall preaching.

Times include 1:30 Sunday and 7:30 Monday through Thursday nights.

October 16-20

Spiritual Sword lectures on *Powerful Passages of the Pentateuch* at Getwell.

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. Once you have filled out a card, please hand it to one of the members, or lay it onto the pew.