

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
AUGUST 2, 2020

SYMPATHY: Bill Burford's mother-in-law, Annie Lee Jamison Walker, passed away this past Wednesday; service was yesterday. Thomas Massey's aunt, Lucille Hall, passed away recently; the funeral was Monday in Corinth. The son of John Linton, a neighbor of the Hounshells, committed suicide recently.

SICK: Keegan and Kennadee Arrington were sick past weekend. Garrett, Riley, and Madison Young all experienced symptoms of Coronavirus this past week and were tested mid-week; Riley tested positive.

PROTRACTED: Janice Bailey—Alzheimers; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Gladys Marie Elrod (Mary Ray's son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; Addliae Farrow (Tabatha Clayton's great niece)—heart; Bubba Farrow (Emma Farrow's son)—Alzheimer's; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Jerry Floate (of this community)—liver transplant; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Stan Jones—Meniere's Disease; Monica La Rock (granddaughter of Orelia Ferguson and mother of Noah)—recovering from a brain bleed and awaiting further surgery; Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; Sheila Massey—Bell's palsy; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Robert Rawson (preacher at Crockett)—diabetes; Ray Reynold's (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 Madison Young—laryngomalacia.

CANCER: Clifton Angel (preacher at Coldwater)—thyroid; Sherry Brown (retired MSOP secretary); Alicia Busby (from the community); Earl Carlton (son of a friend of Syble Embrey)—esophageal; Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Brenda Davis (a grandmother of Edra and Ryan Farrow); Tom Gordon (Cody Hadley's grandfather); Nathan Jones (the Hounshell's 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); Tiffany Taylor (the Browns' friend); and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: Marie Crockett (home), Emma Farrow (in a care facility in Sardis), Orelia Ferguson (home), and Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is at home in Pensacola, FL).

SERVING: Dylan and Maggie Cooper (Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.), Cameron Hadley (Grayson Hadley's dad—Marines, Hawaii), Jacob Petrowski (grandson of former members here—Marines, soon to be let out). 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)

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

Garrett Young (334-663-2509; gty021@gmail.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 (Jonathan Jenkins)

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Costa Rica) [Overseeing funds]

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

WHAT IT MEANS TO TRUST GOD, Part 2

Hiram Kemp

(Continued from last week) **Trusting God does not mean we do not alter our public services for the time being.** Many congregations are now live streaming their services because of the imminent threat of contagion among large gatherings. These congregations are not unfaithful nor are they faithless—their shepherds are doing what they can to love their neighbors and keep the members safe. On one occasion Paul was let down in a basket to preserve his life (Acts 9:23-25). Paul knew if he died it was for his ultimate benefit, but he also wanted to live as long as he could to serve his God (Philippians 1:21).

Trusting God does not mean that we just accept things as they are and fail to pray. Sometimes people say in times of hardship “Things are happening the way they are because God wants them to and there’s nothing we can do.” The truth is there *is* something we can do. The Bible teaches that if we pray, God may intervene and circumstances can change (James 5:16-17).

Trusting God does not mean that we are not concerned. On one extreme, we cannot be paralyzed by fear (Isaiah 41:10). On the other extreme, we should not be totally oblivious to the things taking place in our times. People who read articles, watch the news, and remain informed are not failing to trust in the Lord. When a famine was going to sweep through the Roman Empire in the first century, the prophets informed the church so that they could respond accordingly (Acts 11:27-30). Being informed does not mean one has surrendered faith.

How to Trust God

Let me now give a few ways we can affirm our trust in God during these times of pandemic and be sure we do not surrender our faith when we need it the most.

Continue to Give Financially to the Lord’s Work. If we really believe that God gives all good gifts, and that everything we have is from Him, we will continue to give even in these economically uncertain times. Many people are losing their jobs, the stock market is plummeting, and many are fearful of how the economy will suffer as a result of this pandemic. Kingdom work still must go on and this will only happen as faithful Christians continue to contribute (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). Like the widow who gave what she had and trusted that God would take care of her, we evidence our trust when we continue to give to God in times of scarcity and times of surplus (Mark 12:41-44).

Serve Those Who Have Needs. Many people start to look inward and focus on their family and their needs when things get rough. God’s people must continue to look for ways to serve our neighbors and help those who are in need. One way we do this is by considering those who may be elderly in our community and afraid to go out at this time (Galatians 6:10). We show our trust in God when we continue to serve others as He said we should and not allowing ourselves to be hardened due to the current crisis.

Speak Confidently about the Future. While we do not know exactly how things will turn out, we know that eventually they will improve. When Paul was in prison and his future

was unknown, he spoke in positive terms of his release and was optimistic about his future (Philippians 1:19, 2:24). We should preface all of our plans with “if the Lord wills,” but we must reject the pessimism which behaves as if we will live under a perpetual grey cloud (James 4:15).

Look at Past Deliverances. One of the problems with the present is that it fools us into thinking we have it worse than anyone ever has. It also can cloud our vision about what God has done in the past. We can trust God if we look backward at all that God has done in the past and trust Him for the future (2 Corinthians 1:9-11). In both the Old and New Testaments, we find God delivering His people from terrible things. Also, in our own lives we know of valleys from which God has rescued us, and we can lean on those memories for hope. All things work together for God’s ultimate good for His people (Romans 8:28)—and we need to remember that.

Jesus told His disciples that they would have trouble in the world, but because He overcame, so could they (John 16:33). I know it is cliché, but remember to trust in God. “Trust in God at all times” (Psalm 62:8).

“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: How many swords did the disciples have?

Last week’s question: What does fainting "in the day of adversity" show of one's strength?

Last week’s answer: It is small (Proverbs 24:10).

SERMONS: “Lord, Lord” (*Matthew 7:21-23*)

We will not meet on Sunday evenings or Wednesday nights for the foreseeable future.

DAILY BIBLE READING (August 3-9):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Habakkuk	1-3						
2 Kings		22-25					
Obadiah			1				
Jeremiah			1,2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-16

SCRIPTURE READING (AUGUST): Cody Hadley (Matthew 7:21-23)

(SEPTEMBER): Carl Hounshell

PRESIDE LORD’S SUPPER MORNING (AUGUST): Garrett Young

(SEPTEMBER): Thomas Massey

ASSIST LORD’S SUPPER (AUGUST): Ray Stanford and Dan Cates

(SEPTEMBER): Paul Brown and Sonny Stewart

CLEAN BUILDING (AUGUST): Ella Darnell and Carolyn Stanford

(SEPTEMBER): Suzanne and Katie Brown

PREPARE COMMUNION (AUGUST): Suzanne and Katie Brown

(SEPTEMBER): Tabatha Clayton

PANTRY NEEDS: Canned goods and other imperishables.

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

September 20-23

Gospel meeting with Tom Wacaster.