

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
OCTOBER 27, 2019

SYMPATHY: Mario Arrington's uncle, M.C. Geter, and Ella Darnell's brother-in-law, Kenneth McCorker, both passed away recently and had funerals this weekend.

SICK/TEMPORARY: Paul Baldwin was sick with flu this past week. Destiny and Hunter Clayton and Garrett Young also were such this week. Tracy Roberts is how at home, but with hospice care.

PROTRACTED: Janice Bailey—Alzheimers; Paul Baldwin—diabetes; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); June Black (mother of a high school friend of Tracy Roberts)—recovering from hip surgery; Don Blackwell (preacher at Southaven)—paralyzed, now at Shepherd Center; 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; Jerry Floate (of this community)—liver transplant; Brook Hale (Tracy Roberts' niece)—Grave's Disease; Henry Harrison (Paula Harrison's husband)—diverticulitis; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Martha Hopkins (Tracy Roberts' mother)—dementia; Paul Hounshell (Carl Hounshell's son)—a-fib; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Brenda Jones—Lupus; Stan Jones—Meniere's Disease; Jeff Kidd (friend of Tracy Roberts)—paralyzed; Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; 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; Dan Sandidge (Syble Embrey's son-in-law)—Grave's Disease; Brittany Suttles (wife of a recent MSOP grad) is pregnant with twins, and has had some difficulty before; Blake Thompson (Tracy Roberts' niece's husband) recovering from an accident and numerous surgeries; Tammy Turner (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; and Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray).

CANCER: Robbie Andrews (friend of Dan Cates)—prostate; Clifton Angel (preacher at Coldwater)—thyroid; Sherry Brown (retired MSOP secretary); Robin Brueck (niece of Allene Baldwin and Syble Embrey)—breast; 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); Dwight Faulkenberry (Tracy Roberts' cousin); Debbie Farrow; Orville Fowler (father of the Browns' neighbor)—stomach; Joyce Geeslin—under hospice care; Tom Gordon (of Looxahoma); Nathan Jones (the Hounshell's neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; Sara Kiestler (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; Billy Kimbrough (former son-in-law of Joyce Geeslin)—esophageal; 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); Tracy Roberts—undergoing treatments; 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), Martha Hopkins (Tracy Roberts' mother—Life Point Villages room 108B).

SERVING: Dylan and Maggie Cooper (Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.), Cameron Hadley (Grayson Hadley's dad—Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC), Jacob Petrowski (grandson of former members here—Marines, Romania). 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)

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 (David, Panama) [Overseeing funds]

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

THE PHILOSOPHY OF ONE'S LIFE

Tom Wacaster

The essence of the first chapter of Philippians is captured in the words of 1:21: "For to me to live is Christ; and to die is gain." Take a survey with the following lead in statement: "For me to live is: _____." Let men fill in the blank. Some might say, "For me to live is wealth!" Perhaps another, "For me to live is my job!" Or, "For me to live is pleasure!" Paul's philosophy (as well as every faithful child of God) is stated in our passage: "For me to live is Christ." Let's add a second question to our survey: "For me to die is: _____." "For me to die is the great loss!" "For to die is total defeat!" "For me to die is sheer tragedy!" Now listen to Paul: "For me to die is gain!"

Let a man or woman capture the philosophy of Paul as stated in this passage and there is no limit as to how far he will go in living for Christ. "For me to live is Christ, and die is gain!" When Paul wrote those words, he was likely sharing a jail cell with two guards; one on either side with chains binding him to his captors. Circumstances mattered little to Paul. He had a captive audience. And so, he preached! That same apostle would later write, "the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9b). From the depths of that prison cell we can almost hear Paul whispering, "For me to live is Christ!" And because of his philosophy, the Gospel was advanced, and even while in his bonds Paul manifested Christ throughout the "whole praetorian guard!" (Phil. 1:13).

Then comes word to Paul that some, motivated by his great courage and determination, were preaching boldly out of love for Jesus and for Paul. His example had been an incentive for them to preach. When they considered him lying in prison, they doubled down on their efforts to preach and remain faithful to Christ in the face of adversity. It must have been a blow to Paul, therefore, to hear of some who were preaching Christ out of envy and strife (1:15); they were motivated by 'eritheia.' Now here is an interesting word. Originally it referred to someone who worked for pay. Such a man was in it for what he could get out of it; a "career man" if you will. The word eventually came to refer to someone who worked for public office, not to serve the people, but to benefit himself. It described a man with selfish ambition, out to advance himself, with little concern about those whom he might have to trample upon to achieve his goal. Paul says there were some preaching with the same kind of motive; they were moved only by envy and strife!

Paul was not of that mold in the least. There was not one ounce of jealousy in Paul's bones. So long as Christ was preached, he was satisfied because God was glorified, and souls were saved. What could enable Paul to have such a mind-set? It goes back to the set of his mind: "For me to live is Christ, and die is gain!" So in spite of Paul's imprisonment, and in spite of those who preached out of envy and strife, the Gospel continued its march into the palaces of the imperial government at Rome, all because of the philosophy of life that captured the mind of Paul and those faithful dedicated servants who were motivated by the apostle's wonderful example.

The application is not hard to see. Until men capture the philosophy presented in 1:21, they will never be truly free from party spirit, sectarian animosities, or earthly motives. Jealousy will rule the day and the seeds of self-destruction will run rampant through the citadels of the church of our Lord until all that is left are the shambles of a once mighty phalanx of fighting soldiers in the army of our Lord. May we never give way to despondency, never allow ourselves to think that we could serve God better if our circumstances were better than they are, and always do our best while we cling to the only philosophy of life that can provide genuine peace and joy in this life, and eternal blessings in the life to come.

"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 "leaped in" the womb?

Last week's question: Who descended "like a dove" at Jesus' baptism?

Last week's answer: "The Spirit of God" (Matthew 3:16)

SERMONS: The Essentiality of Jesus' Baptism (*Matthew 3:13-17*)

Moral Issues Facing America 3: The Sanctity of Life (*Isaiah 5:20*)

DAILY BIBLE READING (October 28-November 3):

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

Luke 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-13 14-17 18-21 22-24

SCRIPTURE READING (OCTOBER): Garrett Young (Matthew 3:13-17)

(**NOVEMBER**): Dan Cates

PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING AND EVENING (OCTOBER): Dan Cates

(**NOVEMBER**): Carl Hounshell

ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (OCTOBER): Mark Peyton and Paul Brown

(**NOVEMBER**): Garrett Young and Sonny Stewart

CLEAN BUILDING (OCTOBER): Ella Darnell and Carolyn Stanford

(**NOVEMBER**): Suzanne and Katie Brown

PREPARE COMMUNION (OCTOBER): Tabatha Clayton

(**NOVEMBER**): Kim Arrington

PANTRY NEEDS: Imperishables for the pantry.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Shelly Cates	November 9	Tabatha Clayton	November 11
Hunter Clayton	November 15	Mario Arrington	November 23
Jessica Young	November 23	Lorraine Hounshell	November 25
Mark Peyton	November 25		

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

November 1

Ladies Night Out at Southaven.

Youth Retreat begins at Sardis. It will conclude on the 3rd.

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.