

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 1, 2024

SICK: Shelly Cates, Alyssa and Chance Coppedge, Dylan and Mason Cooper, Ella and the Houses, April Kinney, Mary Ray, Karter Shamblin, Ray Stanford, Karen Tuttle, and Mary West have all been struggling with their health recently. Kim Arrington will have surgery on December 13th.

PROTRACTED: Brandi Beavers—fibromyalgia; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Lauren Brown (niece of Paul Brown)—heart; Suzanne Brown—arthritis; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Shelby Cooper—facing mitral valve prolapse surgery between eight months and two years from now; Janet Daniel (sister of Melinda Haas)—lupus; Martha Clayton (Tabatha Clayton's mother-in-law)—congestive heart failure; Ella Cobb, granddaughter of the Houses—seizures; Elizabeth Ferguson (wife of former preacher here)—dementia; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Melinda Haas—Lyme's Disease; Cody Hadley—Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; 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; Betty Mayes (mother of Brittany Buchanan)—aneurisms and kidney problems; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Shelby Peyton—knee; Mary Ray—dizziness; Brett Rutherford (Dan Cates' friend)—MS; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray); Anthony Stacks (nephew-in-law of Allene Baldwin and Syble Embrey)—strokes and Alzheimers, respectively; and Jerry Worthington (neighbor of the Hounshells)—physical and emotional difficulties.

CANCER: Alicia Busby (from the community); Roger Chambers (dear friend of the congregation)—lung; Tish Clarke (wife of the MSOP director)—melanoma; Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Pablo Horna (missionary)—carcinoma; David Jones (Shelly Cates' father)—leukemia; 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; Priscilla Patterson (mother of a friend of Dan Cates)—breast; Tommy Pierce (the Browns' friend); John Riley (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; Laykan Rutherford (cousin of Shelly Cates); Sonny Stewart—bladder; and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: Orelia Ferguson (home), Ruth House (Lawayne House's mother who is at home), Ray and Ruth Reynolds (under hospice care; these are the parents of Sheila Massey and Mary West) and Karen Tuttle's two uncles who are both in hospice care in Indiana.

SERVING: Cameron Hadley (Marines), now stationed locally; and Jason House (Marines), in Missouri. 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

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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)
Chris Cook (318-558-0458; christophercook308@gmail.com)
Tony Solaita (808-208-3814; tsolaita39@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 (Chris Cook)
Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)
Tri-Cities School of Preaching (David B. Jones)
Jason Moore (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

WHY IS THE GOSPEL GOOD NEWS?

Aaron Dodson

The people of the world are sinking fast — mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. Society is suffering greatly because of sinful choices and behaviors (cf. Prov. 14:34)! I advocate for godly civil leaders and moral legislation in federal and local governments (cf. Prov. 29:2) but ultimately no one person besides Jesus Christ can “cure” the ills of sin (cf. Rom. 6:23). With sin and its consequences comes negativity, and of all people, Christians should not be negative! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news and there are many reasons why it is good!

The Gospel is Good News because without it there’s terrible news. Sin [transgression of God’s law] apparently occurred initially among God’s free will angels (Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:5) which led to the first humans being tempted to shirk God’s instructions and authority (cf. Gen. 3:6). Sin corrupted the earth and mankind (Gen. 3; Rom. 8:21-22). The world of Genesis 1-2 is radically different than the world of Genesis 3. One with precious sweet fellowship (Gen. 1-2) and another with hiding, shame and sin (Gen. 3:6ff). Sin had dire consequences — death, suffering, pain, anguish, etc. Without the Good News of Jesus Christ there is absolutely no hope in life here and in the life to come. The Good News — the person and work of Jesus — is an absolute necessity (cf. Rom. 6:23)!

The Gospel is Good News because it provides spiritual debt relief (cf. Rom. 6:23). The wages of sin is eternal separation from God but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ! Because of sin we owe a debt we can’t pay off. We cannot remove the debt. Someone says “O, but I’m a good person.” God says that “being good” does not relieve the debt! Only the Gospel relieves the debt of sin (cf. Rom. 1:16)! Jesus payed the price for sin not our good deeds (cf. Mt. 20:28).

The Gospel is Good News because there is an eternal heavenly reward (cf. Mt. 25:46). God is eternal, He has no beginning and no end. As humans we are His offspring possessing an immortal soul (cf. Acts 17:29; Gen. 1:26). Christians partake of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:3-4). The Good News leads to a home in heaven with God — Heaven is being with God forever! The opposite of heaven with God is hell and torments with Satan (cf. Mt. 25:41, 46).

The Gospel is Good News because it can give us a clean conscience (Heb. 9:14; 10:22; 13:18). Our conscience is our divinely given warning device that reacts to sin and produces accusation and guilt. When one violates God’s written will [i.e., the Gospel], the conscience has guilt. Over time through much sin and false ideas regarding God and sin, the conscience can become seared (cf. 1 Tim. 4:1). The Hebrews writer wrote that the sacrifice of

Jesus is able to render the conscience clean and forgiven. When we by faith are baptized into Christ for the remission of sins our conscience is cleared (1 Peter 3:21; cf. Acts 2:38).

“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: Of whom had Paul received the message that he delivered to the Corinthians?

Last week’s question: Where did Peter get the money for tribute?

Last week’s answer: From a fish’s mouth (Matthew 17:27)

SERMONS: A.M.: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" (*John 20:30-31*), Part 20: “Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" (*Matthew 18:1-20*)

P.M.: *As in a Foreign Land*, Part 4: Exodus

DAILY BIBLE READING (December 2-8):

| | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |
|---------------|------|-------------|------------|------------------|-------|------|------|
| Romans | 9-11 | 12-16 | | Ephesians | | 1-3 | 4-6 |
| | | Acts | 20:3-22:30 | 23-25 | 26-28 | | |

READ SCRIPTURE (DECEMBER): **Conor Cates (Luke 9:46-48)**

(JANUARY): *Thomas Massey*

PRESIDE OVER LORD’S SUPPER (DECEMBER): **Tony Solaita**

(JANUARY): *Carl Hounshell*

ASSIST ON LORD’S SUPPER (DECEMBER): **Paul Brown and Eryx Galeai**

(JANUARY): *Chris Cook and Wesley Haas*

CLEAN BUILDING (DECEMBER): **Thomas and Sheila Massey**

(JANUARY): *Maggie Cooper and Shelby Cooper*

PREPARE COMMUNION (DECEMBER): **Melinda Haas and April Kinney**

(JANUARY): *Tabatha Clayton*

UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>December 1</i> | <i>Cody Hadley</i> | <i>December 8</i> | <i>Carson Kinney</i> |
| <i>December 15</i> | <i>Cameron Hadley</i> | <i>December 22</i> | <i>Dan Cates</i> |

UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING ROTATION:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Sun:</i> | <i>December 1</i> | <i>Ray Stanford</i> | <i>December 8</i> | <i>Chris Cook</i> |
| <i>Wed:</i> | <i>December 4</i> | <i>Ray Stanford</i> | <i>December 11</i> | <i>Carson Kinney</i> |

PANTRY NEEDS: Canned goods.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 15

Ladies Bible Class at 3:00 P.M. at the building.

December 26

We will have our Christmas **mid-week service** on Thursday night.