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# Truth Magazine

Now that he is a  
**Christian...**





# OBLIGATIONS THE NEW CHRISTIAN ASSUMES

MIKE WILLIS

**E**ach of us has experienced the emotional letdown, the deep disappointment, when a person who was converted to Christ lapses back into the world. Many parents have witnessed the departure from the faith of their dear children, some have lost the closest of friends, and others who were not so close to them. We are not the only ones to face this situation. Peter spoke of the spiritual condition of the apostate brother when he said,

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Pet. 2:20-22 NKJV).

These words demonstrate that first century saints experienced the same emotional distress as twenty-first century Christians as they witnessed some among their membership depart from the faith.

Though seeing individuals fall away is distressing, we are seeing something a bit more monumental occurring. There has been a national decline in church membership of 102,000 since 2003, according to Bobby Ross, Jr. (*Christian Chronicle*, February 7, 2012). Reporting on this decline, he wrote:

That's down 6.2 percent from the 1,656,717 adherents reported in 2003 — less than a decade ago.

Another striking number: 708 fewer Churches of Christ in the U.S. in the last nine years. The nation's 12,447 congregations represent a 5.4 percent decline since 2003.

Obviously, with these depressing statistics, almost all of us have had the experience of



This issue asks, "What can we stronger Christians do to help these new converts, weaker Christians, or people who have recently identified with our congregation to stay faithful?"

seeing someone we love fall away from the faith, no longer attending worship services.

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Frankly, there is only a limited amount that we can do because every person, Christian or non-Christian, has free will – the ability to decide for himself whether or not he chooses to become a Christian or remain faithful to the Lord after initially obeying the gospel. And, unfortunately, we are witnessing a cultural shift in America in which the secular lifestyle with its relative moral standards is becoming the accepted model for TV, movies, the press, and other media outlets that shape public opinion. This shift has affected the children of many godly parents whose children have imbibed the spirit of this age and walked away from the Lord. Despite the greatest of efforts to reach them, these Christians have exercised their free will in turning away from the Lord.

However, there is another group with reference to which we address this issue. I am speaking of those Christians who have every intention of remaining faithful to the Lord but give up for one reason or another. This issue asks, "What can we stronger Christians do to help these new converts, weaker Christians, or people who have recently identified with our

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## OBLIGATIONS THE NEW CHRISTIAN ASSUMES

BOBBY WITHERINGTON

**B**ecoming a Christian is not an end within itself. To the contrary, it constitutes the beginning of a lifetime of commitment, spiritual growth, and service. The first converts in the gospel age did not sit back and whittle upon the stick of do-nothing, and say to themselves, "We've got it made, so we can take it easy for the rest of our lives." Rather, "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayers" (Acts 2:41). The "pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia," who had been "begotten . . . again to a living hope," were called upon to "gird up the loins of" their mind, conduct themselves as "obedient children," feed upon "the pure milk of the word," "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul," "resist" the devil, and live in such a way as to glorify God (I Pet. 1:1, 3, 13-14; 2:2, 11; 5:8). In other words, they were to assume the obligations which are incumbent upon all Christians.

In this article we are discussing "Obligations the New Christian Assumes." By "obligations," we are referring to duties and responsibilities. "New" is an adjective, and it denotes "of recent origin, or existence." "Assumes" is a verb and it means to "undertake," "shoulder," or to "take upon oneself." A "new Christian" is one who was recently converted.

Before discussing "Obligations the New Christian Assumes," it behooves us to enlarge further upon the word "Christian," and its Biblical meaning and significance. The word "Christian" is a combination of "Christ" coupled with the suffix "ian," meaning "of," "relating to," or "belonging to." Literally, a Christian is someone who belongs to Christ; he is "of" Christ. In I Corinthians 1:10-13, in a context pertaining to the division among the saints at Corinth, the apostle Paul alluded to those who claimed to be "of Paul," or "of Apollos," or "of Cephas," or "of Christ." Herein this apostle to the Gentiles stressed that in order for one to be "of Paul," two things had to occur: (1) Paul had to *die* for that

person, and (2) he had to be "**baptized in the name of Paul.**" Hence, by necessary inference, we conclude that in order for one to be "**of Christ,**" a "Christian," two things had to occur: (1) Christ had to die for that person, and (2) he had to be "**baptized in the name of Christ.**" Indeed, Christ died for all (Heb. 2:9), but unless one has been "**baptized in the name of Christ,**" which is "**for the remission of sins**" (Acts 2:38), then that person is *not* a Christian! Further, along this same line, a study of Galatians 3:27-29 reveals that those who belong to Christ are those who have "**put on Christ**" by reason of having been "**baptized into Christ.**" From other scriptures we discover that those thus baptized were people to whom the gospel had been preached, who believed the gospel, repented, and confessed faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:12, 2:38; 8:37).

...obligations which must be assumed to the extent of one's opportunities and abilities.

"*Christian,*" the word, occurs three times in the New Testament, namely in Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16. With reference to Acts 11:26, we note that "*the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*" The verb "*called*" is from the Greek *chematizo*, which literally means a "*divine call.*" This is the word used in Romans 7:3 wherein the apostle, having referred to "the woman who has a husband" (v. 2), then stated (v. 3) that "if while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be *called* an adulteress." It is *God* Who calls such a person "an adulteress," and it was *God* Who called the disciples "Christians in Antioch." Contrary to what is often stated, the name "Christian" was not a term given

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in derision to the disciples of the Lord; it was a name that was *divinely* given. Indeed, it is that “new name” by which the prophet Isaiah said God’s people would be “called,” a name given by “the mouth of the Lord” (Isa. 62:1-2). As per the title of this article, “the disciples” who were “first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11:26), were “new Christians.” There were certain obligations they assumed, even as there are obligations all “new Christians” assume. What are some of those obligations? “A New Christian” assumes the obligations of:

**Being a disciple of the Lord.** After all, “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). “Disciple,” from *mathetes* (Greek), “denotes one who follows one’s teaching” (*Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*), by W. E. Vine. Hence, a “disciple” of the Lord follows the teachings of the Lord. He strives to be “like his teacher” (Matt. 10:25). “A New Christian” must assume the obligation of being like His Master, or like Christ. Each Christian should strive to “be conformed to the image” of Christ (Rom. 8:29).

**“Steadfastly” (Acts 2:42), worshipping God “in spirit and truth”** (John 4:24). He should never forsake the assemblies of the local church, striving continually to “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” (Heb. 10:23-25).

**Continuous growth in the word.** New Christians, like “new born babes,” must desire the “pure milk of the word” that they “may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2). To do this, one must study, study, and study some more (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15). He should “delight in the law of the Lord,” and meditate therein both “day and night” (Psa. 1:1-2).

**Seeking “those things which are above”** (Col. 3:1). This demands that one set his “mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2). The new Christian thus must “put off the old man with his deeds,” and “put on” such things as “tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering,” forbearance, and “love,” doing all things “in the name of” (or by the authority of) “the Lord Jesus Christ” (Col. 3:9, 12-14, 17).

**Doing his own thinking!** Never assume that “my preacher,” whoever he may be, is correct in his conclusions! Do as did the Bereans who

“received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). We must continually “test the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

**Being a good soldier of the cross!** We must “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might;” we must “put on the whole armor of God” that we “may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:10-11). Satan, as a “roaring lion, continually seeks “whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). He has many “false apostles,” who as “deceitful workers,” seek to transform “themselves into apostles of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:13). Every true Christian, whether “new” or old, is involved in warfare! We must therefore continually “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12), being ever mindful that “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” of error (2 Cor. 10:4).

**Sharing the good news of salvation in Christ!** Writing to Timothy, Paul said “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). Jesus is “the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9). However, no one can *obey* the truth unless he *knows* the truth, and few people will learn the truth unless someone *teaches* him! A “new Christian” must assume this obligation!

### CONCLUSION

The life of a Christian is literally filled with obligations – obligations which must be assumed to the extent of one’s opportunities and abilities. But it is filled with joy and innumerable blessings – both here and hereafter. Friend, are *you* a Christian?

*Bobby Witherington, since March 1999, has labored as an evangelist with the Seffner church of Christ in Seffner, FL. He also serves as one of its three elders.*



## THE REVOLVING DOOR: HE WAS BAPTIZED BUT NEVER MATURED

BRUCE REEVES

I have a plaque in my office which has always resonated in my mind. It reads, “True leaders focus on building great people, not just great organizations.” While we understand that the Lord has built His church, it is imperative for us to understand as well that His church is His people! The ultimate goal of everything we do as Christians is to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ so as to develop into mature servants of God (Eph. 4:13; 2 Pet. 3:18). God ordained the local church to serve as a means of such spiritual growth and yet in many local congregations this is not being experienced (Eph. 4:11-16). There seems to be a “revolving door” of new converts who never realize their potential in Christ and sadly fall from the Lord. While one must himself want to grow before he will truly flourish in his relationship with the Lord, brethren must understand that it can be a multi-faceted issue and their role in raising the probability for true spiritual development of new Christians is vital to the work of the Lord. I would like to consider with you some of the factors that contribute to the growth of new converts.

### BIBLICAL PRESENTATION OF REAL CONVERSION

The true and thorough presentation of the gospel will positively contribute to helping the listener understand the commitment associated with authentic discipleship and the nature of true conversion to Christ. A superficial view of the gospel in order to rush people into the baptistery often insures later failure on the part of those who did not count the cost of a relationship with Christ. Jesus never diluted discipleship in order to swell numbers. Our Lord demands the highest allegiance of heart: “If anyone come to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. . . . For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it” (Luke 14:26, 28). Jesus teaches us that there is to be such a chasm between the love we have for God and the love we have for those we

cherish in our human relationships that the only way for such to be described is in the terms of “love” and “hate.” Biblically, expounding on the true nature of saving faith, the impact of genuine repentance, the commitment of confession of faith, and the surrender of baptism into Christ will prepare the heart for union with the Savior (Heb. 11:6; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10; 6:1-7). Our life in Jesus is not a snapshot event – it is the journey of a lifetime.

### SUBSTANTIVE SPIRITUAL FEEDING

In a faithful local fellowship there must be a discerning evaluation of where someone is in his understanding of the word of God. Only then will his greatest needs be addressed in a relevant and practical way. The individual’s past may dictate the wisest course to take in nurturing his faith. Peter wrote, “Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation” (1 Pet. 2:2). The “milk of the word” refers to the foundational truths which lead one to faith in Christ (Heb. 5:13; 6:1).

However, it is critical that both private and public teaching and preaching is committed to in-depth expositional study of the scriptures. Some brethren attempt to use the new convert as an excuse for superficial teaching, but he should be fed with God’s word in a way that stimulates growth and challenges him to press on in his dedication to the Lord. The Hebrew writer reproved his readers for not growing and thus missing out on profound truths regarding the priesthood of Christ. He wrote, “Concerning him we have much to say and it is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil” (Heb. 5:11-14). Notice that not only were these Hebrew

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Christians not progressing, but they were going backwards and were in need of being re-taught.

Elders who understand their role as servant-shepherds in knowing, guarding, and feeding the flock will greatly help the new convert by striving to provide teaching that will encourage him to grow in Christ (Acts 20:28; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 13:17). Pastors who are distanced and remote from those under their oversight contribute to the problem of babes in Christ falling away.

Due to lack of teaching some new converts fall right back into past sinful behaviors and are not convicted of their need to pursue holiness. Congregations which refuse to practice church discipline are not helping new Christians – they are debilitating and discouraging them through negligence. Such contamination of the fellowship actually provides gateways back into sin and leads to the downfall of those young in the faith. Discipline refers to a process which includes instruction and edification, not merely the withdrawal of fellowship from those who have departed from the truth. The more loving our fellowship is, the more effective our corrective instruction.

### FELLOWSHIP: THE FAMILY DYNAMIC

There has been much abuse of the biblical term “fellowship,” but scripturally we understand that it refers to joint-participation among believers in the gospel and communion with God (1 John 1:3; Phil. 1:5). In order to appreciate the fellowship principle in the Bible the Holy Spirit uses the imagery of the family. God is presented as our father, Christ as our brother, fellow-believers as our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we are described as being members of the family and household of God (Eph. 2:19; 3:15). Sadly, in our culture there will be more and more new converts who have never truly had the family experience – sons and daughters who have never had a father who cared for them and lovingly instructed them. Divorce has plagued our country with the destruction of the home and, even when divorce has not taken place, the dysfunction of many families due to sin is abundant. We must realize the great value of the

spiritual family of God and how crucial it is in the spiritual growth of the new Christian.

The family perspective of our fellowship will naturally express itself in offering love and mercy, but also demanding transparency, honesty, and accountability. In fact, these are the very qualities that lead to spiritual growth. Why are we so afraid to help someone do better? We do so with tenderness for the new convert, but it must be done (Jude 22, 23). This is not only the responsibility of the elders and preacher, but of every Christian. When the environment in our spiritual family is characterized by the engagement of the membership as a whole, the influence on new Christians will be evident. Rather than members feeling that they are spectators, they must come to view themselves as active participants in the fellowship and work. Building deep relationships will have a long-term effect on those who obey the gospel of Christ. The mentoring of new Christians by sharing not just our worship times together, but our lives together will have a tremendous effect on the growth of the body of Christ. Paul wrote, “Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers and the younger women as sisters in all purity” (1 Tim. 5:1, 2). Paul described Timothy as his “son in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2). The counsel and teaching of mature believers will enrich the faith of the new Christian and what a great opportunity for us to encourage others to serve God!

Perhaps if we invest ourselves into the people of God we will see the growth, rather than the demise of new converts. We all have made mistakes and fallen short of the Lord’s expectations, but we have enjoyed his grace and forgiveness. John Mark had Barnabas and Timothy had Paul, but the question is who will you encourage in the work of the Lord?

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## NOT READY TO STAND ALONE

CHARLES WILLIS

**T**radition in the church is alive and well, though not always for good. Too often, what motivates our actions is simply what seems right to us. A mindset that is evident in many congregations in regard to converting others and teaching others is this: “that’s the preacher’s job” or “that’s the job of the elder.” A similarly wrong tradition is in regard to those who have been converted: “someone needs to help them.” Rarely in the Lord’s church do we find the proper mindset in those who are considered mature – that they should be active and working in teaching others.

We are well aware of the teaching in Matthew 13:19-22 about how the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart of some. We also know how a believer can immediately fall away when persecution comes or be choked to spiritual death by the worries of the world and deceitfulness of riches. Nevertheless, to many in the church it seems right to expect new converts to be able to stand on their own faith without having to lean on brethren, particularly to lean on “me.” We have lost a strong vision in the church of our personal involvement in the lives of new converts. This shortcoming is a poor tradition that needs to change, most especially so we might be right before God.

### NURTURING OF INFANTS

Parents understand that infants learning to stand need special attention so they do not fall and harm themselves. We are careful not to get distracted, but focus our attention so that we might catch them when they become unbalanced. We use our hands to support them. When they do fall, we help them up, often hugging them and affirming our love. It should not be any different for those who are babes in Christ. The Father certainly expresses this kind of loving forgiveness when we fall (1 John 1:9), but we as brethren are the hands that should support and constantly watch to ensure that these new Christians learn how to stand alone. They are not ready to stand alone when they have been baptized. They are only infants.

Rarely in the Lord’s church do we find the proper mindset in those who are considered mature – that they should be active and working in teaching others.

Paul wrote to the saints in Thessalonica about his attitude when he was converting them, saying, “We proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children . . . you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory” (1 Thess. 2:7-12). The parental attitude of brethren toward babes in Christ is evident in this text. It is necessary that we work with people in a gentle, tender way. We must also exhort, encourage, and implore others, and those things can only be done with speech. Too often we hear people in the church exclaim how they teach others by their good example. This is a way that seems right to us. While it is true others can see our good works and glorify the Father (Matt. 5:16), no one will learn the truth of how to obey God unless he is told and shown in Scripture. We need the good examples, but we must become vocal if others are to be converted. Even after conversion, the emphasis on teaching how to stand and walk in a worthy manner is a vocal endeavor from one who is mature in Christ.

It seems right to us that “I” should not be involved with this new convert. Many will state: “I am not a teacher,” or “I don’t know enough.” This attitude is condemned in Hebrews 5:12 where it says, “for by this time you ought to be teachers . . . and you have come to need milk

## NOT READY TO STAND ALONE

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and not solid food.” There comes a point (which is not defined in the text) when all believers are to become teachers and mature (partaking of solid food). The word translated “ought” is from the Greek word *opheilo*, meaning “to owe; figuratively to be under obligation” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* #G3784). I am under obligation to become a teacher, to become mature. To admit “I am not a teacher” or “I don’t know enough” is exactly the wrong attitude. It is an admission of spiritual immaturity. While it may be factual, many of us have expended no effort to grow to the point of maturity and are content to be one who needs milk.

Perhaps more impressive from Hebrews 5:12 is the statement, “you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God.” That someone needed to teach these things to them again implies someone initially taught these things to them. Someone took the time to teach these people. At some point, they were left to stand on their own, and they did not grow. While other problems exist in the mind of the one who does not grow, we must be certain that we do not fail to provide enough assistance so that the new convert *can* stand alone.

### A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD CONVERTING OTHERS

It seems right to us to keep a count of how many baptisms occur in a congregation every year. We traditionally have adopted an understanding that this is an indication of how well the congregation is doing, or indicates the success of a preacher. Paul’s attitude, however, does not appear to be the attitude of many, when he says, “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believe, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth” (1 Cor. 3:5-7). Baptisms are important, and they do indicate a congregation is moving in a right direction, but perhaps we would do better to consider how many Christians have remained faithful after baptism and to what extent we have worked to build them up in the faith.

The tradition of counting baptisms leads to a strong misunderstanding of scriptural conversion. We are not to convert people to the point of baptism. Jesus’ instruction is this: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20). Discipleship begins at baptism. The “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” is what we, as individuals and as a congregation, must be certain happens after they are baptized.

This necessity is laid upon us in two main passages. Titus 2:3 states “older women are to... teach what is good, so that they may encourage young women” and the “older men” (Titus 2:2) are to “urge the young men to be sensible” (Titus 2:6), showing themselves to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine. The teaching from mature believers is how we help the “younger” believers learn to stand. This is God’s plan for us as individuals and as the church. We are to “see to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal” (Heb. 12:15-16).

### CONCLUSION

Knowing that a new convert will have difficulty standing alone, God has provided the church as a means of support. In other words, you and I are God’s instruments to help new converts become established in the faith. Many in the Lord’s church do not have this understanding of themselves or of new converts, and for this reason many babes in Christ fall away. If we want to please God we must adopt a proper view of our role and responsibilities in the kingdom. We must become mature, which involves teaching the babes in Christ and having a care much like parents do for their infant. Our personal desire to be righteous is a motivation for becoming what God wants us to be, but seeing that the new convert is not ready to stand alone should be an equally strong motivation to act.

*Charles Willis has preached for the New Caney Church of Christ in New Caney, Texas*





# HOSPITALITY: A KEY TO KEEPING NEW MEMBERS

JONATHAN CHAFFIN

**A**ccording to what we read from the Greek lexicons “hospitality” is “love of strangers (*philos*, loving, *xenos*, strangers), is used in Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2, lit. ‘(be not forgetful of) hospitality’” (Vines).

Do Christians have the responsibility to show hospitality? God shows us beyond any doubt that the answer is yes! Paul’s admonition in Romans 12:13 to Christians in general is to be “*given to hospitality*” (ASV), or as the KJV says “*pursuing*.” Why does it many times seem burdensome to pursue what God tells us to do? (Consider the “*weariness*” of God’s people [Mal. 1:13].) I realize that sometimes it may not be possible to practice it, but this is not always the case.

To whom are Christians to show hospitality? According to the Hebrews text the answer is “strangers.” “New members” could easily fit into this category. First, we must recognize that we are all part of the same family. When one is baptized into Christ he is added to the church (Acts 2:47), he becomes part of the family of God. The concept of a family has been broken in our society and the same broken concept has crept into the church. We see time and time again what happens when a family ceases to act like family. Why should we think any different of our spiritual family? Too easily we see how we should act toward “new members,” but think it is someone else’s responsibility. Just think back to how you acted when that “new” one was born into your physical family. Did you pay no attention to him? Did you neglect his cries? Or, did you pay lots of attention to him? Every whimper was your concern! You know the answer; “new members” need our attention, too.

Our spiritual family is an integral part of our growth as Christians. New members are an encouragement to others in that they have displayed a willingness to submit their lives to Christ. We should rejoice in their decision and do everything possible to strengthen them. One very important consideration to help nourish new members is that of our hospitality toward them.

HOSPITALITY  
[noun]  
The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

Understanding what hospitality is must be known before we are able to show it. If we define hospitality, it simply says, “hospitable treatment, reception, or disposition.” Going farther in defining hospitable, Webster says, “given to generous and cordial reception of guests, offering a pleasant or sustaining environment” (*Merriman-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*). As we look to the Scriptures we will find that this represents a biblical perspective of hospitality.

Sometimes we get the impression that this obligation only applies to the elders as presented in 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8. But, what about the other Scriptures that speaks directly of hospitality or those that convey the concept? This applies to all Christians.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are to “exhort one another day by day” (Heb. 3:13); what better way to do this than to be hospitable? Paul begins a short discourse in writing to the Romans where he says, “*Let love be without hypocrisy*” (Rom. 12:9). As he continues to write he says, “communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality” (Rom. 12:13). Is there any more of a necessity than the soul of another? Many new Christians are lost because of the discouragement they feel, a feeling that no one is there to help them. Shame on us if we exhibit this attitude! There are necessities that the babe in Christ has that the more mature Christian does not. We need to keep this in mind and help him grow. We can never

## HOSPITALITY: A KEY TO KEEPING NEW MEMBERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

expect him to be a profitable servant for God if he is not encouraged to be so. Peter says that we should have an “unfeigned love of the brethren” (1 Pet. 1:22). Paul also tells the Corinthians that, all their supposed motivation toward God is meaningless without genuine words finding expression in action toward others (1 Cor. 13:2). Has that thought crossed your mind toward “new members”?

When Peter wrote to Christians he stated, “above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves; . . . using hospitality one to another without murmuring” (1 Pet. 4:8-9). God in His infinite wisdom knows the thoughts and hearts of men and many Christians manifest their true character in respect to hospitality. Brethren, do not forget that we are a family – a family in which all are striving for the same goal. What is accomplished by complaining about having to be generous and cordial (Phil. 2:4)? Has God not been generous to us! If we are truly seeking to imitate Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), then we need to take a serious look at being “given to hospitality.” After all, He told us, “Let our lights shine before men; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). What a powerful lesson for those “new members”!

There are instances in the Scriptures where hospitality was shown to strangers. When Abraham was visited by three men to tell him that Sarah would bare a son, he ran out to them and offered them food and water (Gen. 18:1-5). Lot was visited by two angels and he pleaded with them to stay in his house (Gen. 19:1-3). They did not know these men but were gracious to them and saw to their needs.

Remember the compound Greek word *philoxenia* (hospitality) is made up of two words, *philos* and *xenos* simply meaning “love of strangers” (Vine). If we take into account that we teach by example, what example are we setting for a Christian or non-Christian if we cannot help someone in need? Although a family, there are still many Christians who are strangers to us. The Hebrew presents a warning to us, “Forget not to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Heb. 13:2). Chances are we are not going to be visited by

an angel but do not forget that God is continually watching us and sees the good we do or the ill we show to all men (Gal. 6:10). Will Rogers once said, “A stranger is just a friend you haven’t met, yet.” What an encouragement it would be, for that new Christian to see the love you show to that stranger!

Having fellowship with our brethren plays a vital role in the spiritual development of a new Christian. Christians should have a close relationship with one another. We are to bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2). We are to rejoice and weep with one another (Rom. 12:15). There needs to be an unbreakable bond with our fellow Christians. Fellowship constitutes more than a handshake as they are leaving the building. That is the extent of fellowship that many have with their other members. Those who were baptized on Pentecost and days following were said to have continued in what they were taught, a part of which definitely seemed to be hospitality toward “new members” (strangers) as they had “*all things common*” (Acts 2:42-44). This fellowship was a bond that they had not had before. They shared a common element – they were Christians. Instead of shunning your fellow Christians, especially “new members,” why not be generous, cordial, loving, caring, warm, and hospitable?

If the church is to grow, then Christians now need to stand up and take a look at how they are treating their fellow man. If you cannot fulfill a simple command such as being hospitable, then how can you expect the new Christian to remain a Christian for very long?

**Jonathan Chaffin** has been at Oakwood Road Church of Christ (Charleston, WV) for four years.





## DRAWING THE NEW MEMBER INTO OUR FAMILY

STEVEN J. WALLACE

**J**esus Christ taught that conversion to God is like a new birth (John 3:3-5). Upon that conversion we enter the kingdom of Christ and see it, but yet as infantile citizens. Peter in writing to new converts said,

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious (1 Pet. 2:1-3).

There is a clear connection between our code of conduct with what we are feeding on. Tasting the gracious Lord and drinking the pure milk of the word enables us to grow as babes and sterilizes the soul from working malice, deceit, hypocrisy, etc. If babies are not fed appropriate nourishment, they physically suffer in the various stages of growth. Likewise it is true of the babe in Christ. Some babes lose their appetite for the word, stop feeding, and die.

However a part of this growth noted by Peter stems from tasting Christ in the connection that exists between the new convert and the rest of the family of God. Make no mistake about the kingdom; it is also described as a family. "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Eph. 3:14, 15). The familial interaction that follows the new birth can be critical in one's subsequent development as a Christian. So we ask the question, what may be done to help draw the babe into God's family that he may pursue godliness?

**The local church should provide a diet suitable for a babe to draw near the family of God.** The local family of God should provide teaching and preaching on first principles (authority, judgment, righteousness, sin, grace, repentance, hell, heaven, the church, etc.). While the church needs to provide a balance of meat and milk, if a new-convert class or first-principles class can be generated either at the building during meeting times or in a person's home, it would suit the young in faith well. Along this line,

if more spiritually-minded families in the church would take turns choosing a topic to teach the young convert, rather than expecting this to only be done by the preacher, it would not only establish the new convert in doctrinal soundness, but would also open up the family of God to him. "Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees" (Heb. 12:12).

**The local church should provide a stable environment for the babe to draw near the family of God.** "Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times" (Isa. 33:6). "That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" (Eph. 4:14). Contentious and challenging members do not promote growth or stability (Titus 3:9). There are some disputes we need not engage in! Paul also warned Timothy against the *idle talk* of some (1 Tim. 1:6). For example, derailing a Bible class contending that the creature which swallowed Jonah was a "big fish" versus "a whale" adds nothing to the Jonah story (see Matt. 12:40, KJV). This is not to suggest that we neglect contending earnestly for *the faith*, but causing a stir over a decision which the leaders of the church made in cancelling services due to hazardous weather, or striving to show inconsistency in the church for condemning Baptists for not practicing real baptism while we are not practicing the holy kiss is derailing and confusing to the young in faith. Those who are divisive in like things should be admonished and disciplined as per Titus 3:10, 11.

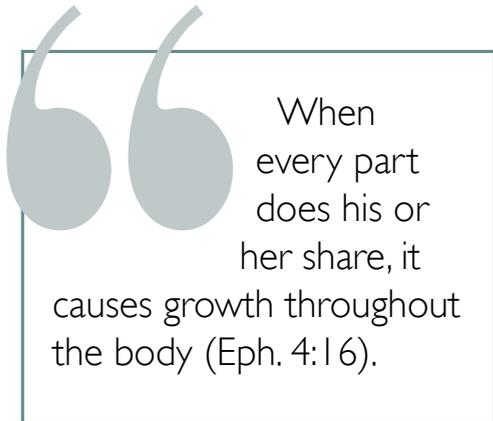
Likewise, members who are unfaithful in their attendance by replacing spiritual responsibilities with secular activities such as sporting events, band, school fund raisers, and other such things are telling new converts that Christ and the services of the church do not taste all that good (Heb. 10:24, 25). The same could be said about members who promote worldly behavior. Brethren, there is a love which we as members of the body of Christ should not have (1 John 2:15-17).

In contrast, a membership that is looking forward to the meeting times with joy and

## DRAWING THE NEW MEMBER INTO OUR FAMILY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

preparation will help draw a new convert into the family of God as an active member. When every part does his or her share, it causes growth throughout the body (Eph. 4:16). In addition to the weekly services of the church, we have a young people's class where a different Christian man will teach a lesson every other Thursday night during the school year. This not only causes edification to many other young folks, but it also helps develop leadership qualities which is so needed for young men.



When every part does his or her share, it causes growth throughout the body (Eph. 4:16).

**The local church should provide *familial friendships for the babe to draw near the family of God.*** “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another” (Rom. 12:10). The early church was full of members who did things together. “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common” (Acts 2:44). “Togetherness” existed in this church. The spirit of hospitality prevailed (Acts 2:45). We read that, in addition to faithfully going to the temple for worship, these disciples broke bread from house to house (Acts 2:46). As in the natural family, so brothers and sisters in the family of Christ need to spend time with each other. One of the things that impresses this writer regarding the Indiana Avenue church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas is that it is not uncommon for young adults (the college-age Christians as well as young married couples) to enjoy spending time with the young teenage or even preteen groups as well as the older. Unfortunately, many people get stuck in their

own age bracket which is not necessarily wise or helpful.

**The local church should provide loving discipline for the babe to draw near the family of God.** The church is the family of God. “Brothers and sisters” are words that define our relationship to one another. As in a family, a newborn grows and goes through the various stages of life. He often needs understanding, encouragement, and support as he tackles new challenges which are considered easy for his parents, yet are great challenges for him (sleeping in his own room, walking, personal hygiene skills, various age-related responsibilities, etc.). As children grow, they are expected to grow near to the heart of their parents (Eph. 6:1-4). In all these stages that come upon him, his parents assist and culture his growth. Even as his siblings play a part in his maturing, we also do likewise in the family of God. We ought to recognize that babes are not to have the responsibilities of the mature (Jas. 3:1; Heb. 5:13, 14). Some mistakenly read this stage as a time to be permissive of wrong steps and tolerate sin with the “he is only a babe” justification. If a child is standing next to a cliff where he could fall to his death, I doubt such an uncaring and relaxed spirit would exist. Peter rebuked and corrected a new convert who sinned, and so we should do likewise (Acts 8:18-24). Contrary to what some parents think, permissiveness is not an act of love but rather hate (Prov. 29:15; 13:24). Yet discipline should be clothed in patience and gentleness (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:24-26). If these fundamental things exist in a congregation, we can expect the young convert to draw near the family of God and secure his heart, potentially growing into an elder, preacher, or teacher (1 Pet. 5:10).

**Steven J. Wallace** preaches for the Indiana Avenue Church of Christ, Lubbock, Texas



## THINGS WE CAN DO TO SHOW INTEREST AND PROVIDE HELP

JARROD JACOBS

**W**hen one becomes a Christian, this person is described by God as a “babe” who desires the “sincere milk of the word” so that he may grow (1 Pet. 2:2). For those who have

been Christians for a while, it is necessary to show love toward this new convert, and show an interest in his growth. If folks are not mindful of this very critical stage in a new Christian’s development, it might be that this one will yield to the temptations of Satan and turn back to the world (Matt. 13:5-7). I am afraid that there have been many new converts who went back into the world because the older Christians around them portrayed a “sink or swim” attitude when it came to this person’s spiritual growth. Very little, or no interest was shown to them after their rising from the waters of baptism (Rom. 6:3-4). This is a tragic situation, for sometimes I believe we forget what a critical time it is when folks become Christians. Let us take some time to consider what actions can be taken to show interest in new Christians and help them in their spiritual growth. I do not consider this to be an all-inclusive list, but I hope these thoughts will spur our minds to find ways to show interest and care for those new babes in Christ.

### A NEW BIBLE

Perhaps it is that the new convert would appreciate a new Bible for study (2 Tim. 2:15). Some folks who have been converted to the Lord may have very little background in Bible reading and Bible study except what they learned in those weeks or months before becoming Christians. Therefore, a new Bible could be a useful tool for this person. New Christians need to know that being baptized is not the end, but rather it is the beginning! It is the beginning of a new life, and a new focus, with new goals. A new Bible could be presented to the new Christian, with the challenge to wear it out in reading and studying (Eph. 3:4; 1 Tim. 4:13). This new Christian needs to also be encouraged to then live what he has learned in God’s book (Rev. 22:14; 1 Cor. 15:58; Phil. 4:8-9).

### A DAILY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

In connection with a new Bible, we could also offer this new Christian access to a Bible reading calendar. Whether there is a schedule in the back of the new Bible that was purchased, or we print off a Bible reading schedule for the convert, let us encourage the new Christian to follow a systematic reading of God’s word (See an example of a year-long Bible reading calendar on the “sermon” page at: <http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>). It is important that a new convert be encouraged to fill his new life with good habits (2 Cor. 5:7). Certainly, getting in the habit of reading the Bible daily is one of the best habits one can have! When we talk about a systematic Bible reading such as this, I can’t help but make the connection with what God expected of the kings in Deuteronomy 17:18-20. Christians are spiritual kings and priests (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:5). Are we reading God’s word the way God expected His earthly kings to read His word? If not, why not? Another good thing would be to write down the words we read, as God instructed the kings to do. Of course, back then, such actions served to preserve God’s word on new scrolls as the older ones got worn out. In our case today, reading and writing God’s word serves to engage more of our senses, and it helps us to retain the knowledge of God’s word. Let the more experienced Christians encourage this new convert, this new king and priest, to spend time in God’s book with a systematic help like a Bible reading calendar.

### GOOD BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL

Once the habit is established to read the Bible and feast upon this word (Job 23:12), a new convert might also be encouraged to read good Bible material written by men. If one is able, the older Christian might buy the new Christian a commentary, or some type of Bible study book. We note here that it is always wise to warn a new convert that books written by men are not equal to the Book written by God (Isa. 55:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). At the same time, there are many works that are trustworthy and can be good

## THINGS WE CAN DO TO SHOW INTEREST AND PROVIDE HELP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

for added insight into the book of God. There are many books, websites, recordings, videos, and the like that can be instrumental in helping a new Christian grow in the Lord (2 Pet. 3:18). I think about the good that can be done when new Christians are taught how to use things like a *Strong's Concordance*, or R.A. Torrey's *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. Both works are available as a book, as well as in "electronic form." These works are helpful in Bible study. Also, such computer programs as E-Sword, can be very helpful for one who wants to learn God's word and grow. In a computer program like E-Sword, one can be exposed to some good Bible commentaries, as well as be exposed to several Bible versions for comparison studies. Obviously, this is not the only program available. This is just one example.

### PRAYER

This is something that the new Christian will need, for sure! I believe it would be very encouraging and helpful to let our new brother or sister in Christ know that we are interested in him and praying for him. In addition to this, it would be a wise thing to teach the new Christian how to pray. I have talked to new Christians who have asked about the "nuts and bolts" of praying. This is because they came out of the world to become a Christian didn't know how to pray. What do we do, then? What do we say? Would it not be a wise thing to show the new Christian examples of prayer and see how our Bible heroes prayed? Such instruction lets new Christians have an idea of what to say in prayer. Have new Christians read the prayers of David (1 Chron. 29:10-19), Daniel (Dan. 2:19-23), Mary (Luke 1:46-55), Christ (John 17:1-26), and Paul (Eph. 1:16-23, 3:14-19; Phil. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:3; Phile. 4). Let them note the similarities and the subjects discussed. This will help to show our new brothers and sisters in Christ how to pray. No, this is not an attempt at "rote" prayers, but God has recorded several good examples of prayers in the Bible, and we would be wise to pay attention to what was said by those faith heroes! Just as reading the Bible gives the new Christian knowledge and insight needed for daily living, so also prayer will help the new Christian draw closer to God (Jas. 4:8a). Teaching new



Let us not be lazy in this work. New Christians need encouragement, help, and to be shown that they are loved (John 13:34-35).

Christians how to draw closer to God and develop a personal relationship with God would be a fantastic way to show our interest!

### CONCLUSION

These are but a few suggestions of how new Christians can know we are interested in them and are trying to help them grow and mature in the Lord. Let us not be lazy in this work. New Christians need encouragement, help, and to be shown that they are loved (John 13:34-35). We must not leave them on their own once they are baptized. Those dear ones are not trophies! When we show our interest in new Christians, we are following in the footsteps of disciples like those in Damascus who helped Saul/Paul develop (Acts 9:19, 22). Can our effort and time be better spent?

*Jarrod Jacobs began preaching with the church of Christ in Caneyville, KY in 2012.*

# 2013 CEI Lectures — July 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

**THEME:** Building Strong Families For Strong Churches and A Strong Nation

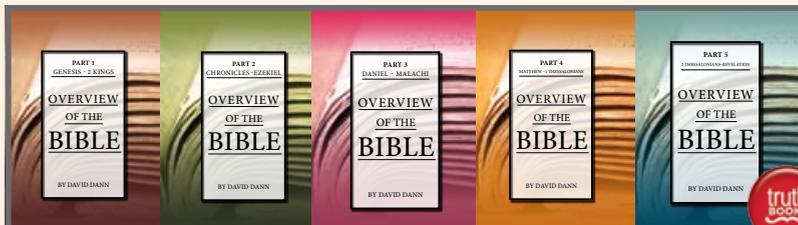
**PLACE:** Athens Bible School, Athens, AL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:00 AM		<b>Absentee Fathers</b> Don Miller	<b>Unfaithful Husbands</b> Greg Chandler	<b>Spiritual Leader of the Home</b> Justin McCorkle
9:00 AM		<b>Putting God First in the Home</b> Norman Webb	<b>The Father As Provider</b> Tommy Hagewood	<b>Sex Is Limited to Marriage</b> Phillip Stuckey
10:00 AM	<b>Children's Track:</b>	<b>Developing Character in Children</b> Bobby Graham	<b>Our Children's Legacy</b> Stan Adams	<b>Wisdom in Child Rearing</b> Mark Mayberry
11:00 AM	<b>Women's Track:</b>	<b>Adjusting to Widowhood</b> Ruby Hall	<b>Mother's Role in Spiritual Training</b> Becky Romine	<b>Can I Be A Supermom?</b> Elaine Jordan
11:00 AM	<b>Men's Track:</b>	<b>The Threat of Pornography</b> Ron Halbrook	<b>The Threat of Being Too Busy</b> Colby Junkin	<b>The Blessings &amp; Threat of Government</b> Mark Hudson
7:00 PM	Singing	Singing	No Singing	Singing
7:30 PM	<b>The Broken Home in America</b> John Humphries	<b>Redefining Marriage</b> Kyle Pope	No Lecture	<b>For the Sake of Our Churches and Our Country: Build Strong Families</b> Mike Richardson

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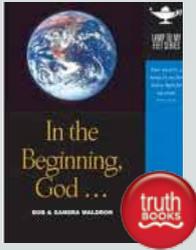


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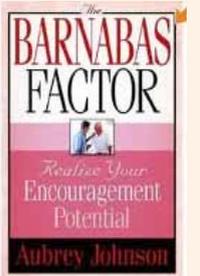


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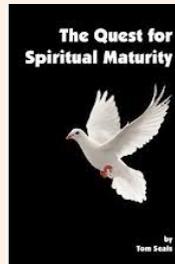
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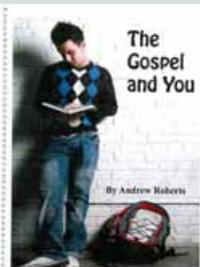
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## NOW THAT HE IS A CHRISTIAN: FOLLOW UP TRAINING

AARON VEYON

**T**rain up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Parents have a tremendous responsibility toward their children. It is one thing to receive them into this world, but then what? This is just the beginning. Now the real work begins. Children need to be continually cared for, fed, clothed, trained, disciplined, etc. There is a great deal of effort that goes into rearing a child; and it is grossly irresponsible, yea, unacceptable, to beget a child and then provide no care, nurturing, or help for the child. In fact, if a newborn were so neglected, he would die. Surely, no parent would deprive his children of what they need. But, the sad reality is (as news reports occasionally remind us), it does happen.

The consequence of being so negligent is disastrous in every walk of life. A new athlete on a team must not be deprived of his training and discipline, or else he will fail miserably when the time comes to face his opponent. A new recruit in the military cannot be left to fend for himself, without training or discipline, or else he will have no chance of surviving a hostile encounter.

Interestingly, the same basic truths about child rearing are equally true about child-of-God rearing. One of the great tragedies to ever befall the church is that after putting forth the effort to win a soul to Christ, many times we just leave that spiritual newborn to fend for himself as soon as he steps out of the baptistery. It is as if our attitude says, “Alright, now you’re a Christian. My work is done. Good luck in your new life in Christ” – and then we go on to other things, rejoicing that we have a new member in the congregation. We may even say, “Wow, this church is really growing!” But are we? Are we really growing simply because we have baptized a few people recently, only to see them eventually lose heart and fall away because they were left to fend for themselves? Just as a newborn needs immediate

and continual care and nurturing for their survival and growth, so too does one “born again” (a new babe in Christ) need immediate and continual spiritual care and nurturing for their spiritual survival and growth.

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me (1 Cor. 4:15-16).

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you (Gal. 4:19).

The vital and urgent need for “following up” with new converts can be understood in the above verses. The apostle Paul grasped the need to continually be a “parent” (metaphorically speaking) to those whom he converted. He was so concerned with their progress that he was known to say, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing” (Acts 15:36). To the brethren in Thessalonica Paul once said, “For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain” (1 Thess. 3:5). Here was someone who fully comprehended the need to follow up with the training of those who were new to the faith.

In James 2:14-17, James asks some very pointed questions. He said, “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” Could not this same point also be made with reference to a lack of tending to the spiritual needs of those who are new to the faith? “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled”: isn’t that essentially what we are saying to the new convert once he is baptized; and we relax with the false assurance that we have done for him all that we are supposed

## Now That He Is a Christian: Follow Up Training

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

to do? I'm afraid that too many of us are like those who James wrote about. You see, brethren, "following up" with one who is new to the faith is not just for their spiritual benefit, it is also a test of *your* faith (2 Cor. 13:5).

Perhaps we need to view our obligation to other Christians in the same light as our God-given duty to our own biological children. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:6-7). Notice the frequency with which the word of God is to be shared with the hearer. This describes an ongoing process.

Just as a newborn baby continually needs to be fed in order to grow, so too does a new babe in Christ. In a discussion with Peter, Jesus emphasized the need to "feed My lambs" (John 21:15). One does not feed lambs just once, or on rare occasions. If that is all that one feeds them (as the young animal), they will not live long enough to become sheep (the older, mature animal). Obviously then, feeding them and tending them is a continual and constant effort. And inasmuch as Jesus used the lambs and sheep as a metaphor referring to His disciples, there is a need to continually and constantly "feed" and "tend" our brethren through the word of God.

The first Christians "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). Without continual instruction, encouragement, and a sense of accountability, a person can lose sight of the truth; or at the very least, they can become complacent, lazy, and useless in their service to the Lord. Such was the case with some early Christians (Heb. 5:12-14). In fact, Paul was deeply concerned about many of the brethren in Corinth because they were spiritually deficient. He said, "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal" (1 Cor. 3:1-3). This leads us to another very important observation:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18).

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby (1 Pet. 2:2).

The responsibility for you to grow spiritually rests upon *you*, not the teacher. In Matthew 5:6 Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." We are filled when others feed us, and we are filled when we learn to feed ourselves. There's an old saying that says, "Give a man a fish, and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you will feed him for a lifetime."

This reminds me of a story told of a small fishing village where, for many years, a flock of sea gulls fed on the scraps the fishermen left. The sea gulls ate very well until eventually the fishing became poor, and the villagers moved down the coast to a location where fish were more plentiful. For some reason the sea gulls did not follow the fishermen and, because they had lived off the scraps of the fishermen and never learned to feed themselves, the entire flock of birds eventually died.

Spiritually speaking, there is a similarity between this story and some brethren. Believers who feed *only* on what others teach them are like those foolish sea gulls. For if they will not learn to feed themselves that they may continue to gain their nourishment from the word of God, they too will die (spiritually). In 2 Timothy 2:15 Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Brethren, let us ever be encouraging those new to the faith (and those weak in the faith) to *grow* in the faith. Let us take them under wing and continually teach them and show them what it means to dedicate our lives wholly to God – every day, in every way. May God bless you in these noble endeavors.

*Aaron Veyon has been preaching for the Fredericktown church of Christ in Fredericktown, Ohio since 2005. Aaron is married to Rebecca (Conrad) and has five children and one daughter-in-law: Kyle (and wife Taija), Megan, Silas, Maddie, and Luke.*



## TEACHING THEM TO SERVE

MICHAEL L. VIERHELLER

**T**herefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God (Heb. 6:1, NKJV).

Baptism is a wonderful action for our sinful souls to be cleansed, forgiven, and accepted. "... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6). As wonderful as that is there is far more to Christianity than that. Baptism is just the beginning. Many more wonderful things are in store for us as God's children. We have the greatest and most honored position to have in the whole world, servants for our Lord and Savior! "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor" (John 12:26). There is no greater honor than to have our names written in the Lamb's book of life. "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (Rev. 3:5). We must "serve" if we want to be in the Lamb's book of life. "And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life" (Phil. 4:3).

The position of servant is the highest position given to those saved by the Lamb's blood. "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:12-17). We need more "feet washers" (figuratively speaking) in the church. Jesus said we will be

blessed if we do these things. Let us look at some things that can teach us "to serve."

To serve we must know what we are to serve in. This necessitates that we need to study the Word of God. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). There is not substitute or quick way to learn how to serve than to study the Word of God. We must avail ourselves of the opportunity to study the Bible at the local assembly and at home. Notice Paul tells us that to be a good worker we must study. Being good workers makes us approved unto God. Good workers are able to know the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament and the requirements the New Testament places on us to serve Jesus our Lord.

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). The growth of the future church depends on the instruction given to younger men and women. Younger men who are Christians need to be used to pass the communion, read the Bible before the church, give invitations on Wednesday evening, lead a song at song services or on a Wednesday evening service, and then learn to give good announcements. Young men's training classes are a good way to give practical lessons and opportunity to learn how to serve in the church services. In my first work as a full-time preacher we had an older member who was the song leader who expected to be the song leader till he could no longer do it and then someone else was to take that position over. One of the members who would have been a good song leader died before the older man who was the song leader. The sooner young men can be used, the more experience they will have to be able to lead in the services of the church. In my first work mentioned above we developed song leaders anyhow and there were no problems among the church about it.

When young men are taught and encouraged to do the work of "service," the local church grows stronger in its duties to God. Elders,

## TEACHING THEM TO SERVE

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or the men if there are not elders, need to see that young men are developed and their talents are used in the worship of the church. We cannot wait till the older members are not able to serve and then expect these young men to pick-up and be good faithful servants of God. Churches who do not train their young men to serve usually end up with a church that becomes more liberal than their parents. Part of training young men in service is to let them serve as part of their training. The elders, older members, and so forth can instruct the young men in the finer points of service. Example is one of the best ways to train and instruct as to why it is to be done in the manner it is to please God.

“ . . . the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed” (Tit. 2:3-5). This is one resource that I think has not been used effectively in the church as it should have been used. Feminism has had a greater effect upon the church than we have thought. Children are being taught in school, by a secular world ideas that are destructive to God’s principle for the home and church. Older godly women can teach much to younger women. Women have a work to do in the Lord’s church – and a very important one – even though it is not done in the public services of the church. The home today is not what it should be and it is hurting the work of the church. Young women who love their husbands, children, and God have a great influence for good on the world and in the church. We should be having women teaching classes taught by the older women for the younger women as we do in young men’s training classes. This work needs to be a part of each local church’s work.

Godly wives are a great help for their husbands in supporting them in their service to God. “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” Husbands and wives are to be “heirs

together of the grace of life” (1 Pet. 3:7), that is, men and women working together, as God wants, makes both of them more spiritual in the work together in God’s service. A godly wife (a virtuous wife, “For her worth is far above rubies,” Prov. 31:10) is the most valuable asset to men who serve the Lord as elders, deacons and preachers and for all men! Women helped the apostles and others as workers for Christ. “And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas” (Acts 17:4). “Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men” (Acts 17:12). A woman named Lydia supplied a house for Paul to live in so he could preach the gospel to others. What a wonderful work she preformed for the apostles. “Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ So she persuaded us” (Acts 16:14-15). Women have a great work and when they humbly and secretly do their work God will reward them openly (Matt. 6:3-4).

When each member, man and woman alike, does his/her service in the kingdom of Christ, the cause of Christ will spread throughout the world. Elders, deacons, men and women can do a lot in service to God by setting the proper example to the younger to encourage them to want to serve. We show our young how great of an honor it is to be called into service by the Lord. No work that we will ever do on this earth is as important as service in the kingdom. Service in the kingdom is the only way the careless world will ever learn about God and how blessed it is to serve the Lord.

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## TEACHING THEM TO CONVERT OTHERS

ANDREW ROBERTS

**Y**ou can look, but you will be hard pressed to find a more eager soul-winner than a new convert to Jesus Christ! He tends to be so open about the positive changes that the Lord has brought to his life that he wants to share his new-found spiritual blessings with others. We can see both biblically and through practical experience his great zeal.

Sadly, sometimes older saints allow their own zeal for the gospel to wane and even project negative attitudes toward new converts. Some will complain that new faces in the church will only lead to more new faces. They want to see people saved, just not too many in their local church. Some seem jaded and even condescend to the new Christian's excitement to save the lost: *The new guy just needs time to figure out how few people truly want Christianity. Then he'll settle down.* Additionally, new Christians make some seasoned saints nervous. They worry: *New converts know just enough Bible to get into trouble and trouble others with their questions.*

Yet, rather than extinguish a young Christian's zeal, seasoned saints must assume the mentoring roles described in Titus 2:1-8; older men and women showing younger ones the way. Zeal is great so long as it accords with knowledge (Rom. 10:2), and new Christians need grounding in the Word. By evangelizing as a team, older saints can provide wisdom and stability while new converts provide energy and contacts. Working together, they stoke the fire of evangelism in the local church.

The New Testament tells of churches largely composed of new Christians who grew exponentially (Acts 2:46-47; 5:14; 6:1; 8:4; 11:19-21; 16:5). New converts worked to convert others then and most are inclined to do so today. Thus, the best approach to teaching new Christians to convert others is to guide, encourage, and incorporate them into congregational evangelism efforts.

### TEACH NEW CONVERTS THAT EVANGELISM IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Sometimes in their enthusiasm, new Christians mistakenly accept popular, yet false, notions about the mission of the church. Mature saints need to patiently teach and gently correct these new disciples without extinguishing their zeal to spread the gospel. Let them be assured that local churches do not exist as community charity centers, or to provide safe recreation for teenagers, or even for mobilizing political action. Rather, the church is a teaching and evangelistic body – a group of saints banded together to do the Lord's work. Like its head, Jesus Christ, the church is seeking and saving the lost (Eph. 1:22-23; Luke 19:10). Following her commission, the church is preaching the gospel and making disciples of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20).

New converts may wonder exactly what a church does, if it rejects the unauthorized "social gospel" vision of work. The best answer is to show forth a congregation bustling with scriptural activity and quickly involve them in it. Let them learn the privilege and responsibility of corporate and personal evangelism. What better way for a person to understand what he reads in the Bible about evangelism than to witness it in action?

### TEACH NEW CONVERTS THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT IN THE WORK OF EVANGELISM

Brethren do a good job of impressing upon new Christians the importance of good attendance in worship assemblies and Bible classes. While such encouragement and edification is essential for growing spiritual "babes," Scripture shows that even the new Christians have something to give. They are not to simply receive. As members of the body, they are joints with something to supply (Eph. 4:12-16). This truth is evident in the work of evangelism.

First, consider that new converts means *new contacts*. With every new Christian comes a whole new sphere of influence – new people who can be reached with the gospel. This new saint is the bridge. Encouraging the new Christian to invite his family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends to worship or gospel meetings is a tremendous blessing to the work of the local church. New people will be exposed to the gospel because a new convert can supply access to new people! ▶

## TEACHING THEM TO CONVERT OTHERS

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Second, new converts need to be taught to supply financially for the work of the church. In order for them to give graciously and liberally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-9; Rom. 12:8), the connection between the money and the evangelism must be evident. They don't give simply so the church will *have*, rather they give so that the church will have something to *use*. No one is inspired to dig deep and sacrifice to pad a bank account or stock "rainy day" reserves. Their monetary contribution is an investment in evangelizing both the community and faraway places. When they understand that the majority of the church's resources are committed to teaching the Bible, they will supply in this area.

How can we make the connection clear? Introduce new Christians to the preachers whom the church supports. When reports come in from foreign fields, publicize them well within the group and make sure the new converts see a copy. When evangelists are visiting the congregation, host a dinner and invite the new saints to meet them and learn about their lives and work.

Finally, involve new Christians in the "elbow grease" of congregational evangelistic efforts. With their passion to share their faith, they make energetic workers and it is the best way for them to see what a local church is all about. "Draft" them to participate in whatever endeavors the church is currently undertaking to spread the word. For example: inviting others to gospel meetings, canvassing neighborhoods, stuffing direct mailer envelopes, designing flyers, maintaining church websites or *Facebook* pages, grading correspondence courses, providing transportation for visitors, etc. Whatever the church is doing, get them involved! They need to be shown that congregational evangelism is a team effort and they are on the team – active. There's no bench in the "game" of evangelism.

### **TEACH NEW CONVERTS THAT THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THERE FOR THEM**

Often the new Christians' faith is tested once they start talking to non-Christians about the gospel. Though they are a "new man" in Christ, new converts will have their past thrown back in their face by those who are skeptical of the change or don't want to make any changes themselves. New converts will be challenged,

even bewildered, by the "unanswerable" questions of skeptics and those who "know all about that Church of Christ" and rejected it long ago. New converts will be hurt because some of their friends want nothing to do with them as long as they follow Jesus (1 Pet. 4:3-5). Darkness hates light and new converts genuinely struggle with how the people they love could prefer the darkness (John 3:19-21).

The local church must be there for them. It must be the family for new converts who might lose some relationships for the sake of the gospel (Luke 18:28-30). Brethren need to avail themselves to new saints as resources in evangelism. Patiently guide them to Bible answers for skeptic's questions and strengthen them with the truth that there is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9). Though a new soul-winner hadn't considered a particular objection to the gospel, that doesn't mean that no one has an answer. There is an answer (1 Pet. 3:15). The Scriptures completely equip God's people (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### **TEACH NEW CONVERTS THAT THE CHRISTIAN'S TASK IS TO TELL IT; LEAVE THE RESPONSES WITH GOD**

It takes time to change a family tree. New converts want to see their families accept the gospel the way they have, and get discouraged when others' responses are lukewarm. They can see so clearly what a difference Jesus makes – why won't their loved ones obey Him also?

Experience tells us that their family may be waiting to see if the recent commitment to the Lord will "stick" or if it is just a phase. Or, the family may not be interested. What we must remind new Christians is that all any Christian can do is preach the gospel. The response is between another's heart and God (1 Cor. 3:7). So encourage them to tell others. Pray about it. Keep doors open to talk again in the future. Take courage. Years later one might say to them, "You didn't know it then, but I was listening to every word you said and I want to be baptized."

The blessing of fellowship in a local church is coupled with the responsibility of helping each other grow spiritually and live faithfully. An essential work in training new disciples is teaching them to convert others. When you invest in soul-winners, you share the joy and blessing of the souls they win to Jesus Christ.



## BRING FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE

GENE TOPE

**B**ut when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matt. 3:7-8).

Are you a little surprised at John's statement? Or maybe a little indignant? Here is a group of important men, religious leaders, answering John's call to be baptized – and then to be repulsed, sharply rebuked! What made John act that way? What did he mean by that phrase, *bear fruits worthy of repentance*?" Was he right? What, if anything, is the application for our generation?

### JOHN AND THE PHARISEES

To help answer, we look first at John. He is God's appointed servant to "prepare the way of the Lord." Jesus will later say of him: "a prophet? Yes I say to you, and more than a prophet" (Matt. 11:9). John is God's spokesman; whatever John demanded, were the demands of God.

What of the Pharisees? Did they truly need to bear fruits worthy of repentance? YES. They were indeed a "brood of vipers." And everything they did was just for show! How seriously their lives needed those fruits. John was right as he made this demand.



John is God's spokesman; whatever John demanded, were the demands of God.

### GOD DEMANDS FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE

In Jerusalem, Peter preached to the Jews that they, "Repent therefore and be converted" (Acts 3:19). In Damascus, Paul declared to Jew and Gentile: "that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance" (Acts 26:20). God's order is: repentance – a change of mind – followed by fruits that are worthy of repentance. Without such fruits, any repentance is at best, momentary; at its worst, a mere sham.

At this stage we may well ask, "What produces repentance?" God has provided sinful man three strong motives: firstly, warnings of judgment (Luke 11:32); secondly, godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10); finally, the riches of God's goodness (Rom. 2:4). Through the ages these have proved sufficient to change the hearts of men. These motives are not of a fleeting nature, but godly

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# 1 & 2 Thessalonians



by Walton Weaver

# BRING FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE

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men and women are constantly warned that sin brings punishment, that failure should bring sorrow, that the riches of God's goodness should cause us to serve Him with pureness of heart.

The **Ninevites** fasted and put on sackcloth (Jon. 3:5-9). In Jesus' parable of the **two sons** only the one showed regret and went to work in his father's vineyard (Matt. 21:29). The **prodigal** came to himself, resolved what to do, and did it (Luke 15:17-21). **Zacchaeus** purposed to give half of his goods to the poor and restore four-fold to any he had defrauded (Luke 19:8). **Saul of Tarsus** immediately began to preach the faith which he once tried to destroy (Gal. 1:23). The **Ephesian magicians** burned their books worth fifty thousand pieces of silver in the sight of all (Acts 19:19).

## WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

What fruits worthy of repentance should Christians today produce? Here are some.

1. **Be done with sin.** "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Rom. 6:2). Work especially on those sins that so easily beset you and cast them away once and for all.

2. **Love God more and more.** Love Him with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind (Luke 10:27).
3. **Rejoice with thanksgiving.** Your sins have all been forgiven.
4. **Worship steadfastly.** Stop letting the world interfere with praising God.
5. **Let your light shine.** Do all things without complaining and disputing. "... become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:14-16).
6. **Grow in grace and knowledge** (2 Pet. 3:18). Study (not merely read) the Bible daily. "... giving all diligence, add to your faith . . ." (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
7. **Put off the works of the flesh; put on the fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:16-26).

## PUT THE OLD MAN TO DEATH

Fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another (Col. 3:5-9).

## PUT ON THE NEW MAN

Tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, forgiving one another. Put on love. Let the peace of God rule in your heart (Col. 3:10-15).

## FINALLY:

All who come to God must produce fruits of repentance. Without such fruits we are no better than the Pharisees and Sadducees. Without such fruits we are yet in our sins. Without such fruits we will be eternally lost in hell.

Are you bringing forth fruits worthy of your repentance?

*Gene Tope is an evangelist at the Courthouse church of Christ meeting in Chesterfield, Virginia.*



## INTEGRATING THE NEW MOVE-IN INTO THE LOCAL WORK

SEWELL HALL

**C**hristians today are “on the move.” Many city congregations are experiencing an influx of Christians from smaller towns where there are few job opportunities. Job changes move Christians from city to city. Immigration is bringing Christians to the U.S. from other nations so that many congregations in metropolitan areas now have several nationalities represented. Each move-in provides a challenge for the local church to integrate and assimilate these newcomers into the work and to provide for them the continuing edification that God intends His church to provide.

### DANGERS

There was a time when the only thing required for total strangers to be accepted as members was to walk down the aisle and say that they would like to “place membership.” Most churches now realize the dangers of this practice and have arranged for some form of interview to be conducted before accepting an applicant for membership. It is important to know that such a person has actually been baptized into Christ. Also important is knowing the marital status of those for whom elders must give an account (Heb. 13:17). Paul provided introductions and recommendations for good people who were going to new places (Acts 18:27; Rom. 16:2; 1 Cor. 16:3; 2 Cor. 8:23; Phil. 2:19-23). This practice is useful now when a faithful Christian is moving to another city or congregation. Such a letter is reassuring to the receiving brethren and can expedite the confident acceptance of the new-comer.

### HINDRANCES

Often the greatest hindrance to complete integration into a congregation is the reticence of many move-ins. They may not want to be integrated. They may want to be free to come and go as they please without any accountability. Those who come from different cultures, whether foreign or domestic, may realize the need to worship on Lord’s Day morning but may not want to be involved in other activities. Sometimes there is a language barrier or even

an economic difference that causes them to feel uncomfortable, unworthy, or even unwanted. The Hellenists were “move-ins” in Jerusalem (Acts 6) and I have wondered if their feeling that their widows were neglected might have been due to their being a bit too sensitive. A feeling of neglect is often more perceived than real. Under such circumstances, local brethren need to be patient and bend over backwards in their efforts to make even sensitive brethren feel welcome.

Sometimes, acceptance of move-ins is hindered by a genuine resentment among the locals. They may be glad to have some increase in numbers, but they do not want anyone taking their turn at leading singing or teaching classes or any other activity in which they take pride. One very able brother I knew visited a congregation with a view to becoming a member, only to be informed by the local preacher that he would be welcome but that he should not expect ever to preach or teach an adult class since he, as the preacher, had a contract with the church to do all of that. An elder of a congregation where I was working was being transferred to a smaller congregation that desperately needed leadership. I encouraged him in the move on the grounds that he was more needed there than where he was, but he later reported to me that he was never given any significant opportunity to serve in any capacity. All the “honorable” roles were already filled by the locals and they apparently resented a newcomer who might rob them of some of their glory. No wonder that church never grew!

### SUGGESTIONS

People moving in from some other country, or even some other region, often feel that they are total strangers in their new home. A meeting of the church should be one place where they feel loved and welcome. After all, they are among people who love God and “whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him” (1 John 5:1). Feeling welcome rather than being eyed with cold suspicion can make a major difference in their willingness to return and in their future integration into the local work.



## INTEGRATING THE NEW MOVE-IN INTO THE LOCAL WORK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

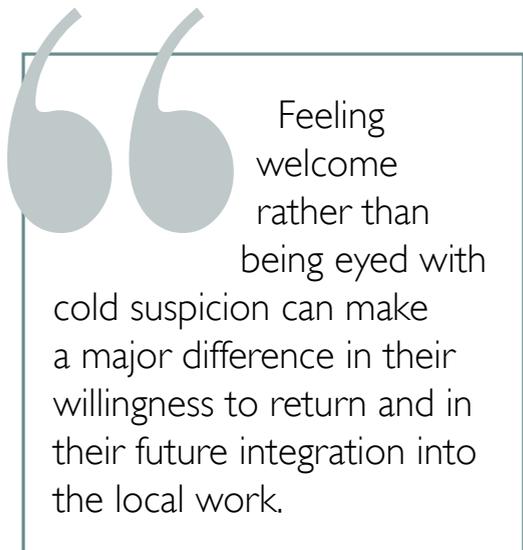
As already noted, the Hellenist converts on Pentecost were “move-ins” in Jerusalem. Their Hebrew brethren offered far more than mere words of welcome. “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” (Acts 2:46). Doubtless “breaking bread from house to house” contributed to their bonding as a body. “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common” (Acts 4:32). Helping arriving Christians move in and having them in our homes for meals is especially valuable. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for

accommodation to the possibility that they were overly-sensitive? Regardless of whether it was or was not, it showed acceptance of them and the confidence that the Hebrew brethren had in them; and it helped to maintain the unity that was so valuable.

In view of the diversity now existing in many congregations, care needs to be given to providing for any unique needs that move-ins may have. Sometimes this will involve arrangements for translation into other languages. It may require assistance for those who are hearing or visually impaired. Scripture clearly teaches that those who attend an assembly must understand what is said or sung if they are to be edified (1 Cor. 14). We spend money to provide for care of babies and there is even more reason to see that all who attend can hear and understand what is being said in worship.

In Acts 9:26-28, Saul of Tarsus was a move-in to Jerusalem. He “tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.” Probably nothing is more valuable for “Integrating the New Move-in Into the Local Work” than a Barnabas, a “Son of Encouragement” who will show interest in an arriving Christian. Let each of us determine to be a Barnabas whenever we see a stranger in our home congregation.

**Sewell Hall** has worked with Embry Hills Church in Atlanta, GA, during three different periods for a total of 27 years.



Feeling welcome rather than being eyed with cold suspicion can make a major difference in their willingness to return and in their future integration into the local work.

by this some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Heb. 13:2). When people moving into a new community make their first friends among Christians, the possibility of an increasing sense of fellowship is greatly enhanced.

It is also urgent that new members be given something to do. That first interview should be used to determine what they are willing to do, and an early assignment will help them feel a part of the church. It is noteworthy that the seven men appointed to deacon tables in Jerusalem all had Hellenistic names (Acts 6:5). Was this an



# RANDY BLACKABY: A PRINCE HAS FALLEN

(MARCH 27, 1951 — JANUARY 3, 2013)

STEVE WALLACE



n Thursday, January 3, 2013, Randy Blackaby had a heart attack and passed from this life. He was 61 years old. He is survived by his loving wife, Karen, four sons – Joshua, Ezra,

Josiah, and Amos, eight grandchildren, and a brother (Kerry) and sister (Brenda). At the time of his death, he was working with the church in New Carlisle, Ohio, as an evangelist. He also served as one of the elders. Randy was the son of James R. and Audie Blackaby. James also served as an elder for much of his life with the Knollwood Church of Christ in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Before beginning to preach, Randy was a member of the staff of the *Xenia Gazette*, which won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the terrible tornado that destroyed much of that city in 1974. He had majored in English at Wright State University. He eventually rose to the position of managing editor of the *Gazette* before leaving in the late 1980s to preach the gospel. Under brother Blackaby's management the paper won several awards from the *Associated Press*.

During his time as a journalist, Randy began serving as a deacon at the church in Knollwood and also started to preach by appointment, being encouraged by a number of preachers who preached there during the time he was a member of that church. Those who helped train and encourage him during that time were Ron Halbrook, Austin Mobley, Earl E. Robertson, Weldon Warnock, and Mike Willis. When Randy decided to give up his newspaper job to work full-time in preaching, he was well prepared.

He worked for fourteen years with the Courtland Avenue Church of Christ in Kokomo, Indiana, before moving to work with the church in New Carlisle, Ohio. In Kokomo, he wrote Bible question and answer columns for one paper, op-ed columns on moral issues in the headlines for two others, as well as producing an advertiser-supported feature that focused on a short passage of Scripture each week. He also served as a panelist on a television program produced

by the Fort Wayne congregation and its preacher, Ron Roberts.

Having filled in for preachers at Knollwood, when that congregation had a radio call-in program, brother Blackaby was able to initiate a similar hour-long program, called *Bible Forum*, on WIOU-AM and WZWZ-FM in Kokomo. The program generated a sizable audience for a small market and occasionally featured "mini-debates" with members of the Church of God, Zion Tabernacle, and Christian Church on issues like instrumental music in worship, tongue-speaking and modern-day miracles. For a short time after moving to Ohio, he preached 15-minute lessons on a small area station.

When a member of the Kokomo congregation was incarcerated in the state prison, brother Blackaby began a Bible correspondence course with him and encouraged him to ask other prisoners to take the course. The effort spread from the prison facility near Greencastle to most other prisons in Indiana and eventually to prisons all over the U.S. More than 100 were enrolled at one time. It eventually had to be reduced to an Indiana-only effort. Before leaving Kokomo, he had trained for and made arrangements to work with prisoners at the newly constructed Miami Correctional Facility near Peru, Indiana.

After moving to New Carlisle he wrote a question and answer column called *Exploring the Book* in three weekly papers in New Carlisle, Enon, and Tipp City, Ohio.

While this writer was acquainted with Randy as a fellow member of the Knollwood congregation in the later seventies, we became close friends when he agreed to come and take part in the work of spreading the gospel in Lithuania in 1994. After this, Randy was a frequent and faithful part of the work in that country. He also held several gospel meetings for us at the church in Ramstein, Germany, in the 1990s and the first decade of this century. He would be a guest in our home during such efforts, with Karen sometimes able to come as well. After I became involved in the work in India in 2007, Randy agreed to come and

# RANDY BLACKABY: A PRINCE HAS FALLEN - (MARCH 27, 1951 — JANUARY 3, 2013)

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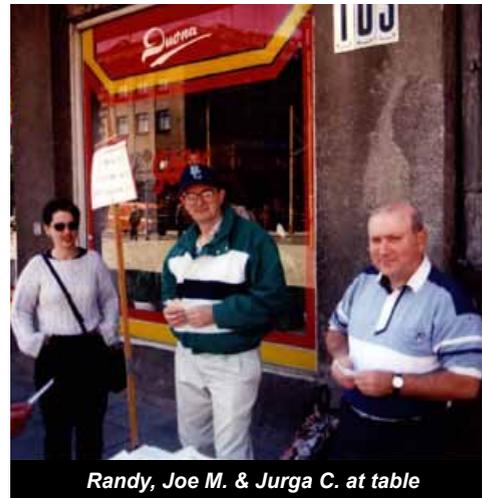


Randy teaching, Chennai

work with me during one of my trips there. One could not find a more pleasant and ready-for-anything coworker than Randy Blackaby.

After moving into the greater Cincinnati area in 2010, we were often together at a monthly preachers' meeting at the building of the Mill Road Church of Christ and also saw each other at gospel meetings and the *Truth Magazine Lectures*.

The large turnout at the viewing and funeral of brother Blackaby evidence the great love and respect brethren from many places have for him. According to the funeral director around 500 people came to his viewing and over 200 to his funeral. His mortal remains were laid to rest in Xenia's Woodland Cemetery. I join with many other brethren in mourning his passing and look forward to the day when we can be reunited in the land where there will be no more parting. Please keep Karen, his family, and the church in New Carlisle, Ohio, in your prayers. (Much of the information in this article came from an article by Mike Willis which appeared in *Truth Magazine*, May 19, 2005, pp. 290, 313-314.)



Randy, Joe M. & Jurga C. at table

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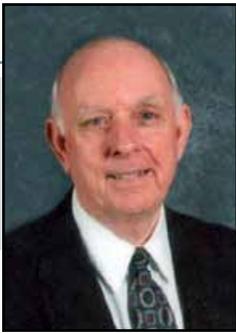
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## QUESTION:

What did Paul mean about the Corinthians' being puffed up?

BOBBY L. GRAHAM  
bobbylgraham@pclnet.net

**ANSWER:** Please read the following verses in which Paul spoke of the arrogance in the Corinthian saints:

And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be **puffed up** for one against another (1 Cor 4:6, KJV).

Now some are **puffed up**, as though I would not come to you (1 Cor 4:18).

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are **puffed up**, but the power (1 Cor 4:19).

And ye are **puffed up**, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you (1 Cor 5:2).

Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge **puffeth up**, but charity edifieth (1 Cor 8:1).

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not **puffed up** (1 Cor 13:4).

For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, **swellings**, tumults. . . (2 Cor. 12:20).

These seven verses in Paul's letters to the church in Corinth make it clear that arrogance was one of their chief problems. All of the instances of the bold words in 1 Corinthians are from some form of the Greek verb *phusiao*, and the noun "swellings" in 2 Corinthians 12 is from the Greek word *phusiosis*. The basic (literal) meaning of the words is to *inflate*, *blow up*, *expand*; the metaphorical meaning is *make proud* or, for the noun, *haughtiness*, *swelling*.

Their problem of arrogance most likely resulted from their improper evaluation of themselves as "wise" followers of "wise" leaders in an environment of "wisdom," because Paul wrote extensively about this matter in the first section of the letter (chapters 1-4). To combat the problem, the Spirit-guided apostle dealt with the root of their arrogance as being similar to the arrogance of the Greeks in relation to their philosophers. Paul dealt with their inflated attitude in



this way: (1) He indicted them as carnal and immature in 3:1, (2) He issued a *deflating* rebuke in 3:16-23, and (3) He spoke sarcastically of their attitude of independence/self-sufficiency in 4:8. He reproved their arrogant display on behalf of various men (4:6) and said they were acting indifferently, as if he would not come to deal with their problem (4:18, 19). Paul also indicated that their arrogance was the condition preventing their concern for the case of fornication (5:2). He later addressed their arrogance relating to the miraculous gifts in the same way, showing that love was the more excellent way to handle their gifts, for it would prevent their being arrogant (13:4). Even when the apostle later wrote the second letter commending the obedient response of the majority in the congregation, he said that there were still instances of arrogance on the part of some who had sinned and failed to repent (2 Cor. 12:20,21). His commendation of the repentance of the majority pictured the effects of their repentance, particularly in relation to the sinful matter for which he censured them in the first letter (2 Cor. 7:11, 12).

The arrogance in chapter five was not so much the result of the sexual immorality as it was the condition allowing the sin and causing their attitude toward the problem. Because of their arrogance, they did not seriously consider the case of fornication but let it slide; they practiced a "modern" tolerance toward this sin. This constituted the ground of Paul's censure of the church in the chapter, as he said they should have mourned so that the sinful man might be removed from them. It was a time for crying, not boasting; but they were glorying (5:6)!

By the time when Paul wrote them the second time, he was able to commend their mourning and the effects of their repentance (2 Cor. 7:6-12). They had recaptured the attitude which should have been theirs when the first letter found them "puffed up" or arrogant.

Brethren, do not we sometimes show the same arrogance when we adopt practices "to be like the nations around us"? Such practices as social drinking, vulgar speech, indecent attire, and other ungodly ways show our hearts to be inclined toward popularity, not God (Tit. 2:12). Such arrogance prompts complacency toward evil and irreverence toward God.

# DIXIE

KEITH SHARP

**M**y family and I have had several pets. I enjoyed and have fond memories of most of them. Shortly after Sandy and I married, we got a mutt whom we named “Samson” because he was a hairy fellow. When the kids were small we acquired – Sandy would be happy to tell you how – a cat the children named “Popsickle,” because we already had a Beagle named “Puddin’.” Later we even had a cat the kids named Phydeaux (Cajun for Fido). Don’t ask me why.

But MY pet, the one I really loved, was Dixie. She was a border collie we got when she was two years old. Dixie’s purpose in life was to chase sticks, but she knew several tricks and was very entertaining. Also, she was a good guard dog with a ferocious, big dog bark.

It caused me no little anguish when she was old and in pain with arthritis to “put her down” (euphemism for “kill her”). You read that right – I killed her. I did it to spare her further suffering, nonetheless, I did kill Dixie. And furthermore, I feel no guilt whatsoever for having done so.

America has changed radically in my lifetime. People are living longer, and some are lonely in their older years. The unbelieving, secularized world has blurred the lines between animals and people. (No, pets are not people!) Americans have the money to have pet cemeteries and to pay for expensive surgery for sick pets.

Of all God’s earthly creation, only humans were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). How? It’s not our physical bodies, for God is a Spirit (Luke 4:24), and a spirit has no fleshly body (Luke 24:39) or visible form (Deut. 4:15-18; Col. 1:15). Rather as God is a Spirit, God is the Father of the spirit within each of us (Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 12:9). God is invisible (Col. 1:15), immortal (undying, 1 Tim. 1:17), rational (1 Cor. 2:11), and moral (capable of discerning between good and evil, Gen. 3:22). Our spirits are likewise invisible (John 3:8), immortal (Eccl. 12:7), rational (1 Cor. 2:11), and moral (Gen. 3:22).

Thus, when a human gets old and sick and is suffering, it is morally wrong to euthanize him. The taking of innocent human life is murder, “and you know that no murderer has eternal life

abiding in him” (1 John 3:15).

Animals, on the other hand, lacking a spirit in the image of God, have no understanding (Psa. 32:9), that is, they are irrational and amoral (lack a sense of right and wrong). And when your pet dog or cat dies, it ceases to exist as a conscious being (Eccl. 3:21).

Because humans have spirits in the image of God and animals do not, no number of animals, not even our dear pets, are equal in value to even one person (Luke 12:6-7,24). Thus, God permits us to eat animal flesh as food (Gen. 9:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-5), and animal sacrifices cannot atone for our sins (Heb. 10:4).

God has given humans rule over the animal world (Ge. 1:26; Psa. 8:4-8). Thus, animals are subservient to the needs of people.

That doesn’t mean we should be cruel to animals. The Lord taught Israel to be kind to their farm animals (Deut. 25:4), but He did that to teach them kindness as a principle, so they would be kind to other people (1 Cor. 9:9-10). That’s the reason we should teach children to be kind to animals.

The Lord even taught Israel the principle of conservation of wild animals that are beneficial to people (Deut. 22:6-7).

But human needs are more important than the needs of animals. The Lord promised to bless Israel for their obedience by ridding the land of “evil beasts” (Lev. 26:6). It is wrong to protect wild, carnivorous beasts that kill people in and around their homes. This places the value of vicious animals over that of humans.

It is not wrong to love your pets (2 Sam. 12:1-6). But it is wrong to lavish money on them that could be used to spread the gospel (Phil. 4:15-17) or to feed hungry people, especially needy Christians (Gal. 6:10). The Lord will judge us on how we have used our money. I know of preachers in third world countries whose families are going without medical care. I know of godly women dying from disease without access to doctors, medicine, or hospitals. If your dog or cat needs expensive surgery to stay alive, do what I did to Dixie, and spend the money on a person with a spirit in God’s image.





# BOOK REVIEW

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## ***The Truth About Giving.***

Kyle Butt & John Farber. Gospel Advocate, 2012. 93 pages, softback. ISBN: 978-0-89225-590-0

A recent survey conducted by the Department of Labor reported that the average American spends 34.43 percent of his annual income on housing alone. In today's society where Christians are pressured to buy more things and keep more money for themselves, it is good to have a sober reminder about the importance of giving to the Lord. *The Truth About Giving* is one such reminder based upon the truths about giving found in the New Testament. The authors, Butt & Farber, cover all the main areas of the Christian's giving from a biblical standpoint. This book is very helpful in understanding the relationship between a Christian and his money. The authors are balanced in their approach as they point out both the positive and negative issues related to money. Several matters pertaining to money are covered, from stewardship, to how much to give, to practical suggestions for scriptural giving. One chapter is devoted to the dark side of money that corrupts people with avarice, greed, and materialism. Another chapter reminds the reader of God's curse against unscriptural giving. This book is divided into 13 chapters with discussion questions making it a good resource for Bible classes or small group studies. *The Truth About Giving* is open, honest, and sometimes blunt. The authors say what is needed on the subject even though many today would not want to hear it. This book is recommended because it will challenge you and

dare you to give scripturally, not in a selfish and stingy world.

***Timeless: Ancient Psalms for the Church Today.*** Volume 1. R. Mark Shipp, Editor. ACU Press, 2011. 320 pages, softback spiral bound. ISBN: 978-0-89112-298-2

Here is a book that is both unique and groundbreaking! You probably don't have anything like this in your library. Mark Shipp and his team of hymnologists have taken each of the Psalms and set them to music. Volume 1, the first of three projected volumes, covers Psalm 1 through Psalm 41. *Timeless* is a "Psalter – Commentary" which combines an in-depth study of the Psalms with worship in song. Each Psalm contains (1) an original *translation* by various authors with translation notes, (2) a *structure and poetry* section which helps to understand the various literary features of the psalm, (3) a *theology and application* section which helps to get a basic understanding of how the psalm is used, (4) a *synopsis* called "For Those Who Sing Psalm #" which recaps the most important theological and practical points of the psalm, and (5) one or more musical settings for each psalm that can be sung a cappella in a congregational setting. (If you need help learning the songs, you can buy the companion CD from ACU Press with the recordings of all the arrangements. The PowerPoint and pdf files of the music are also available at: [PaperlessHymnal.com/Timeless](http://PaperlessHymnal.com/Timeless).) There are 108 new songs. The authors of *Timeless* simply want to promote greater Psalm singing today. They want to reclaim the use of Psalms in the Christian's worship. Both the individual worshiper and the

local congregation will benefit from this modern Psalter aid.

***The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation.*** D. Duane Cummins. Chalis Press, 2009. 353 pages, softback. ISBN: 978-0-827206-37-3

Those who have an interest in tracing the history of key religious bodies within the Restoration Movement will want to purchase *The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation*. Written by a well-known leader and educator within The Disciples denomination, this book not only traces the traditional history of the Stone-Campbell influences of the 1800s (the first half of the book), but it also includes a survey of current trends among the Disciples leading up to and including the Twenty-first Century. D. Duane Cummins traces the history of the Disciples clearly and carefully and he is also willing to document the problems within his tradition with candor. The reader will be able to see with clarity how the Disciples have progressed and digressed over the past 150 years away from the New Testament pattern. The distinctive marks of the Disciples such as instrumental music, missionary societies, modernism, ecumenism (unity with "Christians" in other denominations), open membership, abandoning the restoration principle, and female leadership are all documented and defended in this book. A "Disciples Historic Time Line" running from 1710 to 2009 is also included in the book. *The Disciples* is recommended because it provides a clear and up-to-date look at a religious group that was once united but is now divided through their own

congregation to stay faithful?" Here are a few suggestions:

**1. Recognize the family's contribution to the faithfulness of its children.** A family that does not take seriously its commitment to the Lord is not likely to impart a spirit to their children. Half-committed Christians frequently raise children with no commitment. If you witness families in your congregation that this describes, make them a target for drawing them to greater commitment to Christ.

**2. Beef up your Bible study.** So many of our converts come from our children that we must be building faith during their childhood through the study of Scripture. Don't think that this cannot be done. Paul wrote, "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that *from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Classes that are striving so hard to be "relevant" became quite "irrelevant" when the culture shifts! The Scriptures, however, abide forever. By building a foundational faith during one's youth, one can sustain his faith for a lifetime. Faith comes from the hearing of God's word (Rom. 10:17). Classes that are group discussions frequently degenerate into everyone expressing his unstudied opinion! Such discussions sometimes become the pooling of ignorance. Having everyone talking is not an adequate measure of the success of a Bible class. Having every child talking is not the kind of Bible class that builds faith. We need to take our children back to the Bible, with its memory verses and textual study of God's word!

Having said that about Bible classes, let's recognize that two hours of Bible study – even good Bible study – per week cannot offset the influence of 166 hours of secular influences. The fact is that the home has to be the primary ground for imparting Bible knowledge to children!

**3. Reach out.** I saw a statistic the other day that said active people in church have an average of seven friends at church; inactive people have an average of two friends. I cannot verify those statistics but it makes good sense.

The response to this information is this: Look for those who may be not involved and open your homes to them. Jesus taught, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:12-14). Open your homes to lesser involved members to help involve themselves more in the local church work.

This is work that every family should be involved in doing. An elder or overseer must be given to hospitality (1 Tim. 3:2), but Peter added, "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling" (1 Pet. 4:9). Being hospitable is every member's work. Do not gripe saying, "No one has had me over in the last year!" Rather, ask, "How many have we invited into our home during this last year?" We can do better!

## CONCLUSION

When a child of God falls away, the whole church should go looking for him as the shepherd who has lost one of his sheep goes in search of the lost one (Luke 15:1ff.). But, let us not wait until he falls away before we become concerned. Let's watch for those red flags that indicate something is wrong and act before he falls!

# Directory of Churches

The following congregations have paid for advertising in *Truth Magazine*. Inclusion of churches in this list is not an attempt by *Truth Magazine* to certify their faithfulness to God. We do believe the vast majority are striving to uphold the Word in faith and practice.

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<p><b>FLORENCE, AL</b> College View Church of Christ 851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Mark White (256) 766-0403</p>	<p><b>PARRISH, AL</b> McArthur Heights Church of Christ 5082 Hwy. 269 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (205) 686-5978 or 686-5620</p>	<p><b>CONWAY, AR</b> Prince Street Church of Christ 2655 Prince St. (Hwy. 60) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (501) 339-6917</p>	<p><b>PINE BLUFF, AR</b> Church of Christ 4700 W. 28th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clarence W. Fell (870) 879-2097</p>	<p><b>DUBLIN, CA</b> Tri-Valley Church of Christ 11873 Dublin Blvd. Dublin, CA 94568 Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 11:10 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Worship 1:30 P.M. Wednesday Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua Higgins (925) 828-8747</p>	<p> <b>www.CEIbooks.com</b></p>
<p><b>HUNTSVILLE, AL</b> Chapman Acres Church of Christ 2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, right on Maysville Rd., left on Chapman Ave., right on Penhall Dr.) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Reeder (256) 536-5296 www.chapmanacres.org</p>	<p><b>SCOTTSBORO, AL</b> Eastside Church of Christ John T. Reid Pkwy. (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Chappell, Sr. (256) 574-1603 or 575-2664</p>	<p><b>FT. SMITH, AR</b> South 46th St. Church of Christ 2323 South 46th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Shawn Chancellor (870) 648-2898 or (479) 782-0588</p>	<p><b>POCAHONTAS, AR</b> Westside Church of Christ Hwy 90 West (1/2 mile West of Hospital) PO Box 43 Bible Study 9:00am Worship 9:45am Afternoon 1:00pm Wednesday 6:30pm Herbert Starr, Evangelist 870-236-8589</p>	<p align="center"><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p> <p align="center"><b>ADVERTISING RATES ON CHURCH AD PAGES</b></p> <p align="center">Rates are \$25 per quarter or \$95.00 per year (when paid in advance).</p> <p align="center">The ads are run once each month -12 times a year. Help travelers find your place of worship!</p>	
<p><b>MOBILE, AL</b> West Mobile Church of Christ 129 Hillcrest Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (251) 342-4144 or 342-2041</p>	<p align="center"><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>		<p><b>HARRISON, AR</b> Capps Rd. Church of Christ 407 Bella Vista Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell www.cappsroad.org 741-9104 or 741-5151</p>	<p><b>ROGERS, AR</b> Central Church of Christ P.O. Box 763 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (479) 636-7484 (479) 366-9493</p>	<p><b>FOLSOM, CA</b> Church of Christ 900 E. Natomas St. P.O. Box 492 Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: David Posey (530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866 www.folsomchurch.com</p>
<p align="center"><b>Subscribe Today!</b> <b>Truth Magazine</b> <b>855-49-BOOKS</b> <b>855-492-6657</b></p>	<p><b>GLENDALE, AZ</b> Church of Christ 6801 N. 60th Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:40 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven Harper</p>	<p><b>JACKSONVILLE, AR</b> Church of Christ 1807 McArthur Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (501) 982-6413 - church bldg (501) 982-6776 - William Engel</p>	<p><b>TEXARKANA, AR</b> Church of Christ 2301 Franklin Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc R. Hinds</p>	<p><b>FREMONT, CA</b> Centerville Church of Christ 3885 Beacon Ave. Ste D Fremont, CA 94538 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (510) 794-7659</p>	<p align="center"><b>TOLL FREE:</b> <b>855   855</b> <b>49   492</b> <b>BOOKS   6657</b></p>

# Directory of Churches

<p><b>LOVELAND, CO</b> Poudre Valley church of Christ 4202 North Garfield Avenue Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Afternoon 2:00 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970)443-5358 www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>DESTIN, FL</b> South Walton Church of Christ 64 Casting Lake Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (850) 622-3817 www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>JACKSONVILLE, FL</b> Marietta Church of Christ 8150 Driggers St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden Elders: Jamie Rhoden &amp; Steve Frazier (904) 781-5704 or 693-0432 www.mariettacoc.com</p>	<p><b>PALATKA, FL</b> Palatka Church of Christ 505 Third Ave. (Third Ave. intersects Hwy. 19 one block south of Hwy. 20) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Skomp (386) 326-3952 or 546-5689</p>	<p><b>TAMPA, FL</b> Central Church of Christ 2701 E. Fowler Ave (in the Clarion) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. John Lockaby (813) 833-5786 John Trimble (813) 914-0546</p>	<p><b>BLACKFOOT, ID</b> Church of Christ 370 N. Shilling P.O. Box 158-83221 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (208) 785-6168 or 681-1552</p>
<p><b>MONTROSE, CO</b> San Juan Church of Christ 1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. (970) 249-8116</p>	<p><b>FORT LAUDERDALE, FL</b> Northside Church of Christ 912 NW 19th St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (954) 763-1404</p>	<p><b>KEY LARGO, FL</b> Key Largo Church of Christ 100695 N. Overseas Hwy. 33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194</p>	<p><b>PALMETTO, FL</b> Palmetto Church of Christ 1575 14th Avenue W. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. www.palmettochurchofchrist.com (941) 722-1307</p>	<p> <b>www.Ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>ABINGDON, IL</b> Abingdon Church of Christ 209 N. Main Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evangelist: John B. Wilson (309) 462-5368</p>
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<p><b>MILTON, DE</b> Lighthouse Church of Christ 14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1 Worship 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 644-7379</p>	<p><b>FORT MYERS, FL</b> Southside Church of Christ 13641 Learning Ct. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David P. Schmidt 433-2838 or 482-2158</p>	<p><b>MIAMI, FL</b> Flagler Grove Church of Christ (Nearest to Airport) 500 N.W. 53rd Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: John Butttrick (305) 634-5924</p>	<p><b>PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL</b> Beach Church of Christ 8910 Front Beach Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ben Ligin (850) 234-2521 or 234-1368</p>	<p><b>CONYERS, GA</b> Rockdale Church of Christ East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Forrest Bacon, elder (770) 918-1932; Wendell Holland, elder (770) 761-6987; Building (770) 929-3973</p>	<p><b>CHICAGO, IL</b> Church of Christ 1514 West 74th Street Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James E. Scott Bldg. (773) 224-9279 (708) 339-6126</p>
<p><b>MIAMI, FL</b> Church of Christ Eglise du Christ de Miami 8343 NE 3rd Ct. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295</p>	<p><b>FT. WALTON BEACH, FL</b> 6 Lane Dr. Mary Esther, FL Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222</p>	<p><b>MIAMI, FL</b> Church of Christ 12780 Quail Roost Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Clark Pace (305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437</p>	<p><b>PANAMA CITY, FL</b> Church of Christ 3339 Florida Ave. (Between Baldwin Rd. &amp; Hwy. 390) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin Hudson (850) 265-6539</p>	<p><b>PINE MTN. VALLEY, GA</b> Church of Christ Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tommy W. Thomas (706) 628-5117 or 628-5229</p>	<p><b>DOWNERS GROVE, IL</b> Church of Christ 1236 63rd St. (1 and 1/2 mile E. of 1355) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (630) 968-0760 • www.dgccc.org</p>
<p><b>SHOP online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>FROSTPROOF, FL</b> Church of Christ 40 W. "A" St. Frostproof, FL 33483 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Jimmy Ford, preacher (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278</p>	<p><b>OCALA, FL</b> Anthony Church of Christ 9778 N.E. Jacksonville Rd. Anthony, FL 32617 Bible Study 9 A.M. Worship 10 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Greg Cruz phone: 352-629-5505 www.anthonycocf.com</p>	<p><b>PENSACOLA, FL</b> East Hill Church of Christ 2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Hal Hammons (850) 479-2130 and (850) 602-8420</p>	<p><b>SAVANNAH, GA</b> Coastal Church of Christ 7201 Johnny Mercer Blvd Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Nelson ronaldnelson1@gmail.com (912) 306-4631 www.coastalchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>GLENN ELLYN, IL</b> Church of Christ 796 Prairie, 60137 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph T. Novak (630) 529-2149 (630) 858-2290</p>
<p><b>BROOKSVILLE, FL</b> Church of Christ 604 W. Fort Dade Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: V.C. McCormick (352) 796-9803</p>	<p><b>GENEVA, FL</b> Church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. (407) 349-9998</p>	<p><b>ORLANDO, FL</b> Pine Hills Church of Christ 890 Hastings St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ray West (407) 293-2851 or 290-8650</p>	<p><b>SEFFNER, FL</b> Church of Christ 621 E. Wheeler Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297 www.seffnercoc.org</p>	<p><b>VALDOSTA, GA</b> Gonwood Church of Christ 4030 Mulligan Rd. (4 mi. S. of Moody) Next to Fred's Store on Bemiss Rd. Valdosta, GA 31605 Sunday Bible Class 10 A.M. Sunday Morn. Worship 11 A.M. Sunday Eve. Worship 6 P.M. Wed. Eve. Bible Class 7 P.M. (229) 219-8449 or (229) 300-3739 agospelpreacher@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>MATTOON, IL</b> Southside Church of Christ 1100 S. 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (217) 234-3702</p>
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<p><b>DELAND, FL</b> North Blvd. Church of Christ 823 N. Woodland Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Owen (386) 734-6907 or 734-4311</p>	<p><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</b></p>	<p><b>ORLANDO, FL</b> S. Bumbo Church of Christ 3940 S. Bumbo Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua C. Creel (407) 851-8031 or (321) 235-3307</p>		<p><b>HI - ISLAND OF OAHU</b> Leeward Church of Christ 94-1233 Waipahu St. Waipahu, HI 96797 (15 mi. from Honolulu; 18 mi. from Waikiki) Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Evening 6 pm Wednesday 7 pm www.leewardchurchofchrist.org Anthony Gention: (808) 671-0239</p>	<p><b>CLARKSVILLE, IN</b> Clarksville Church of Christ 407 W. Lewis &amp; Clark Pkwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kipp Campbell (502) 593-6868 or (812) 944-2305 www.cvccfc.org 948-9917</p>

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<p><b>ELLETTSVILLE, IN</b> Church of Christ 303 W. Temperance St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Paul Adams (812) 876-2285</p>	<p><b>AD RATES ON CHURCH AD PAGES</b></p> <p>Rates are \$25 per quarter or \$95.00 per year (when paid in advance). The ads are run once each month - 12 times a year. Help travelers find your place of worship!</p> <p><b>TOLL FREE:</b> <b>855-49-BOOKS</b>   <b>855-492-6657</b></p>	<p><b>EL DORADO, KS</b> Emporia St. Church of Christ 1154 S. Emporia Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  (316) 250-7123</p>	<p><b>DANVILLE, KY</b> 385 E. Lexington Ave. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 11:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Scott Vifuquin (859) 236-4204</p>	<p><b>BOSSIER CITY, LA</b> Bossier Church of Christ 2917 Foster Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 747-4308 or 742-4557</p>	<p><b>CEDAR SPRINGS, MI</b> Grand Rapids Area W. Michigan church of Christ Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park St. Worship 11:00 A.M. Bible Study 12:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell (616) 975-2778 westmichcocf10@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>GREENWOOD, IN</b> Greenwood Church of Christ 371 W. Main St. Sun. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Dan Barker &amp; Steve Niemeier (317) 888-8288 www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org</p>			<p><b>FRANKLIN, KY</b> White Park Church of Christ 1733 Bowling Green Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Monts (270) 586-3978 www.franklinchurch.com</p>	<p><b>LEESVILLE, LA</b> White Park Church of Christ 17801 Nolan Trace; 20 mi. from Fort Polk (5 mi. W. of Leesville) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (337) 239-4614 www.whiteparkchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>DULUTH, MN</b> Church of Christ 4401 Glennwood St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Nick Krumrei (218) 728-3233</p>
<p><b>HOBBART, IN</b> Church of Christ 300 N. Liberty St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Cleek (219) 942-2663</p>	<p><b>SALEM, IN</b> Westside Church of Christ 2000 West State Rd. 56 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Evan Casey (812) 883-2033 www.westsidechurchofchrist.info</p>	<p><b>AUSTIN, KY</b> Peter's Creek Church of Christ 856 Thomerson Park Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening (Nov-Mar) 5:00 P.M. Evening (Apr-Oct) 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: Justin Monts (270) 404-2171 or 646-0498 www.peterscreekcoc.com</p>	<p><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>MANY, LA</b> Lakeside Church of Christ 12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.) 12 miles west of Many Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 256-9396</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY!</b> tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>PLAINFIELD, IN</b> Church of Christ West 2028 Stafford Rd., Suite C (Marsh Shopping Center) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnie Edwards (317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769 www.churchofchristwest.org</p>	<p><b>TRAFALGAR, IN</b> Spearsville Rd. Church of Christ, 6244 S. 500W. (1.2 mi. S. of Hwy. 135) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ed Rangel (317) 878-5969 www.trafalgarchurch.com</p>	<p><b>BEAVER DAM, KY</b> Church of Christ 1235 Williams St. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study After Worship Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Thomas (270) 274-4451 or 274-4486</p>	<p><b>LEITCHFIELD, KY</b> Mill St. Church of Christ Highway 62 E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (270) 259-4968</p>	<p><b>STONEWALL, LA</b> N. DeSoto Church of Christ 2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 925-2733</p>	<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>
<p><b>INDIANAPOLIS, IN</b> Castleton Church of Christ 7701 East 86th St., 46256 SUNDAY Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:25 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:00 P.M. (317) 710-1204</p>	<p><b>DES MOINES, IA</b> Church of Christ 1310 N.E. 54th Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  (515) 262-6799</p>	<p><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</b></p>	<p><b>LOUISVILLE, KY</b> Valley Station Church of Christ 1803 Dixie Garden Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822</p>	<p><b>PORTLAND, ME</b> Church of Christ 856 Brighton Ave. (Breakwater School) Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Second service immediately following morning worship. Mid-week Bible Study—Please call for times &amp; places (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409</p>	<p><b>ST. CHARLES, MN</b> Church of Christ 636 Whitewater Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7PM, call for location Bible Study 2:15 P.M. FREE Bible correspondence studies Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905</p>
<p><b>JAMESTOWN, IN</b> Church of Christ Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Greg King (765) 676-6404 or (765) 891-9443 www.jamestowncoc.com</p>	<p><b>truth BOOKS</b></p>	<p><b>Shop online @ www.ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>truth BOOKS</b></p>	<p><b>BOONEVILLE, MS</b> Oakleigh Dr. Church of Christ 101 Oakleigh Dr. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Building: (662) 728-1942</p>	
<p><b>MARION, IN</b> South Marion Church of Christ 3629 S. Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Alan Jones (765) 922-7602 www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>TOPEKA, KS</b> 17th Street Church of Christ 5600 SW 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (785) 235-8687 or 273-7977 www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>BRANDENBURG, KY</b> Brandenburg Church of Christ 612 Broadway Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Charles J. White (270) 422-3878</p>	<p><b>OWENSBORO, KY</b> Southside Church of Christ 2920 New Hartford Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (270) 683-5386</p>	<p><b>SEVERN, MD</b> Southwest Church of Christ 805 Meadow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brandon Trout (410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549 www.swcofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>CLINTON, MS</b> McRaven Rd. Church of Christ 301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard White (601) 925-9757 or 924-2645</p>
<p><b>OOLITIC, IN</b> Church of Christ 400 Lafayette Ave. P.O. Box 34 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (812) 279-4332</p>	<p><b>WICHITA, KS</b> Westside Church of Christ 2626 W. 47th St. South Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike O'Neal (316) 729-9302 or 942-1649 www.cocwestside.com</p>	<p><b>CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY</b> Sunny Hill Dr. Church of Christ (near the Dairy Queen) AM Worship 9:30 A.M. AM Bible Study 10:30 A.M. AM Worship 11:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Lee stevelee4510@windstream.net (270) 789-1651 WWW.SUNNYHILLCOC.COM</p>	<p><b>REGINA, KY</b> Road Creek Church of Christ 7 miles west of Elkhorn City on Route 460 &amp; Route 80 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (606) 754-9883, 754-8642 or 754-5398</p>	<p><b>RIVERDALE, MD</b> (Washington, D.C. area) Wildercroft Church of Christ 6330 Auburn Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Antoine Holloway (301) 474-7460 or (301) 741-0012</p>	<p><b>COLUMBUS, MS</b> Woodlawn Church of Christ 359 Sanders Mills Rd. Steen Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Willis Logan (601) 356-6629</p>
<p><b>PEKIN, IN</b> Church of Christ (First St. &amp; Kames Ct.) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeremy Goen (812) 967-3437 or 967-3520 www.pekinchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>GRINNELL, IA</b> Church of Christ 1402 Third Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (641) 236-1955 (641) 521-6485 (641) 236-3883</p>	<p><b>CANEYVILLE, KY</b> Caneyville Church of Christ 103 N. Main St. (near the 4 way stop) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 589-4167, (270) 274-3065 or (502) 724-2231</p>	<p><b>BATON ROUGE, LA</b> Park Forest Church of Christ 9923 Sunny Cline Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Crews 275-4684 or 273-1105</p>	<p><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</b></p>	<p><b>GULFPORT, MS</b> Morris Rd. Church of Christ 1 blk. N. of Dedeaux Rd. &amp; 3 Rivers Rd. on Morris Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steven Carmack (228) 832-5529</p>

# Directory of Churches

MISSISSIPPI  
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<p><b>MERIDIAN, MS</b> Grandview Church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 482-0543 or (601) 679-8542 Contacts: Ron Cooper and Jim Young youngins@comcast.net</p>	<p><b>HALLSVILLE, MO</b> Hallsville Church of Christ 5855 E Hwy 124 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Raymond Breuer (573) 696-0003 Kenneth Shern (573) 442-8475</p>	<p><b>BEATRICE, NE</b> Church of Christ 7th and Bell Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. 233-4102 or 228-3827 www.churchofchrist7bell.com</p>	<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>	<p><b>DAYTON, OH</b> West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street, 45449 Early Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162, 434-3090 or 848-3779 E-mail: www.wc-coc.org</p>	<p><b>NEW CARLISLE, OH</b> Church of Christ 235 Funston Ave. (Near Wright-Patterson AFB) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Randy Blackaby (937) 849-1643 or 845-8467 (bldg.)</p>
<p><b>MERIDIAN, MS</b> 7th St. Church of Christ 2914 7th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 483-3101</p>	<p><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>LAS VEGAS, NV</b> Vegas Dr. Church of Christ 3816 Vegas Drive Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (702) 648-4827</p>	<p><b>CHARLOTTE, NC</b> Charlotte Church of Christ 5327 S. Tyron St. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (704) 525-5655</p>	<p><b>FRANKLIN, OH</b> Franklin Church of Christ 6417 Franklin/Lebanon Rd. Franklin, OH 45005 Sunday Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evangelist: Eston Vandever (937) 746-1249</p>	<p><b>NEW LEBANON, OH</b> Church of Christ 1973 W. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin L. Eads (937) 236-6521 or 546-8828</p>
<p><b>SOUTHAVEN, MS</b> (Memphis area) Church of Christ 2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James A. Brown (662) 342-1132 - Church Building</p>	<p><b>KENNETT, MO</b> Church of Christ 703 Harrison St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 888-6778 or (870) 650-1648 Nolan Glover, Preacher www.westsidchurchofchrist.us</p>	<p><b>RESERVE YOUR CHURCHES AD SPACE TODAY!</b> tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>FREMONT, OH</b> Church of Christ 3361 W. State St. 1 mi. W. of Fremont on U.S. Rt. 20 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (419) 849-3340 or 849-2980 www.fremontchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>NEW RICHMOND, OH</b> Church of Christ 550 Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: Dave Wylie (513) 553-6414 www.nrchurchofchrist.com</p>	
<p><b>BLUE SPRINGS, MO</b> Southside Church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262</p>	<p><b>LILBOURN, MO</b> P.O. Box 270 211 Benton St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Shane Williams (573) 688-2234 or 748-5204</p>	<p><b>RENO, NV</b> Central Church of Christ 2450 Wrondel Way, Ste. A Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (775) 786-2888</p>	<p><b>HOPE MILLS, NC</b> Gray's Creek Church of Christ Gray's Community Bldg. School Road Worship 10 am Bible Study 11am (910) 321-9023 (910) 424-2372</p>	<p><b>HAMILTON, OH</b> Westview Church of Christ 1040 Azel Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David A. Stansberry (513) 868-9988</p>	<p><b>NORTHWOOD, OH</b> (Toledo Area) Church of Christ 4110 Frey Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Jarabek 893-3566 or 691-0688</p>
<p><b>CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO</b> North Cape Church of Christ 121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673</p>	<p><b>RAYTOWN, MO</b> Sterling Ave. Church of Christ 5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz (816) 358-3096 or 554-0836 www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>VAUXHALL, NJ</b> Church of Christ Milbourn Mall Suite 6 2933 Vauxhall Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Harry A. Persaud Home: (908) 964-8570 Church: (908) 964-6356</p>	<p><b>BEAVERCREEK, OH</b> Knollwood Church of Christ 1031 Welford Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Afternoon 3:00 P.M. Wed. Afternoon 1:00 P.M. Wed. Evening 7:30 P.M. (937) 426-1422 www.knollwoodchurch.org</p>	<p><b>HILLIARD, OH</b> Church of Christ 4840 Cemetery Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (614) 876-4089</p>	<p><b>UHRICHSVILLE, OH</b> Church of Christ 638 Parrish Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Mid-week 6:30 P.M.</p>
<p><b>Subscribe Today!</b> Truth Magazine <b>855-49-BOOKS</b> 855-492-6657</p> <p> <b>www.CEibooks.com</b></p> <p><b>Subscribe Today!</b> Truth Magazine <b>855-49-BOOKS</b> 855-492-6657</p> <p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>					
<p><b>COLUMBIA, MO</b> Eastside Church of Christ 5051 Ponderosa Columbia, MO 65201 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 445-5497 or 636-0224</p>	<p><b>ST. JAMES, MO</b> Church of Christ 685 Sidney St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628</p>	<p><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>CINCINNATI, OH</b> Blue Ash Church of Christ Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. 891-3174</p>	<p><b>MANSFIELD, OH</b> Eastside Church of Christ 326 Grace Street Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: James Bond (419) 526-2868</p>	<p><b>OKLAHOMA CITY, OK</b> Seminole Pointe Church of Christ 16300 N. May Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189 or 513-6691 www.seminolepointecocf.org</p>
<p><b>DONIPHAN, MO</b> Southside Church of Christ Hwy. 142 E. 1/2 mile (P.O. Box 220) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 996-3251 or 996-3513</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH, MO</b> County Line Church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 279-4737 www.countylinchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>ALBUQUERQUE, NM</b> Heights Church of Christ 7801 Zuni Road, S.E. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577 www.heightschurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>CLEVELAND, OH</b> Lorain Ave. Church of Christ 13501 Lorain Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (216) 476-0660 or (330) 725-3960, 723-0111</p>	<p><b>MANSFIELD, OH</b> Southside Church of Christ 687 Mansfield-Lucas Road Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Leon Bond: 525-3684 Church: 522-8982</p>	<p><b>TULSA, OK</b> Woodland Hills Church of Christ 9119 E. 61 St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ross Oldenkamp (918) 252-1220</p>
<p><b>FAIR GROVE, MO</b> Church of Christ 217 N. Orchard Blvd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or (417) 736-2663</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH, MO</b> Prairie Hills Church of Christ 14273 County Rd. 307 (.7 mi. E of Intersection I-29 &amp; Hwy. 169) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 233-6485 Evangelist: Erik Smith</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>COLUMBUS, OH</b> Laurel Canyon Church of Christ 409 McNaughton Rd. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (614) 868-1375 www.lcccoc.net</p>	<p><b>MARIETTA-RENO, OH</b> Marietta-Reno Church of Christ 80 Sandhill Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (740) 222-9160 (Daniel Ruegg) or 473-9028 (Steve Foutty)</p>	<p><b>MEDFORD, OR</b> Church of Christ 1850 Spring St. (Roxy Ann Grange Hall) Corner of Spring/Valley View Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Thursday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dean Blackwell (541) 773-2649</p>

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<p><b>SWEET HOME, OR</b> Church of Christ 3702 E. Long St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Building: (541) 367-1599</p>	<p><b>WEST COLUMBIA, SC</b> Airport Church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Seth Mauldin Building (803) 834-6978 <a href="http://airport-church-of-christ.com">http://airport-church-of-christ.com</a></p>	<p><b>KINGSPOUR, TN</b> Kingsport Church of Christ 4938 Fort Henry Drive P.O. Box 554 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 5:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel Bldg.# 423-239-3979 or 423-579-2002 <a href="http://www.kptcoc.org">www.kptcoc.org</a></p>	<p><b>PIGEON FORGE, TN</b> King Branch Road Church of Christ 560 King Branch Road Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Facilities available for Sunday evening services upon request. Evangelist: Roger Williams (865)430-5980 <a href="http://www.KingBranchRoadChurchOfChrist.org">www.KingBranchRoadChurchOfChrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>AUSTIN, TX</b> Schultz Lane Church of Christ Faber Rd. &amp; Schultz Ln. Pflugerville, TX 78660 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Lehde</p>	<p><b>DICKINSON, TX</b> Church of Christ 2919 FM 517 Rd. E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 9:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (281) 534-4870</p>
<p><b>To make changes to your ad, contact us at</b> <a href="mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com">tmmikewillis@gmail.com</a></p>		<p><b>MARYVILLE, TN</b> Smokey Mt. Church of Christ 2206 Montvale Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230 Lon Spurgeon (865) 388-8749 <a href="http://tinyurl.com/smchurch">http://tinyurl.com/smchurch</a></p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <b>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</b> <a href="mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com">tmmikewillis@gmail.com</a></p>		<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>
		<p><b>MEMPHIS, TN</b> Rocky Pt. Church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: 758-4006 <a href="http://WWW.ROCKYPOINTCHURCH.ORG">WWW.ROCKYPOINTCHURCH.ORG</a></p>			<p><b>SHELBYVILLE, TN</b> El Bethel Church of Christ 1801 Hwy. 41-A North Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader (931) 685-1113 or 931-607-9099 <a href="mailto:dvrader@hughes.net">dvrader@hughes.net</a></p>
<p><b>AVONDALE, PA</b> Avondale Church of Christ 1606 Glenn Willow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (610) 268-2088 Randy Frame (610) 869-4146</p>	<p><b>COLUMBIA, TN</b> Jackson Hts. Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy., Hwy. 31N Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Andrew Roberts (931) 388-6811 <a href="http://WWW.THEBIBLEWAY.ORG">WWW.THEBIBLEWAY.ORG</a></p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> Cason Lane Church of Christ 1110 Cason Lane Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 896-0090 (Building) <a href="http://www.casonlanechurch.org">www.casonlanechurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>SHELBYVILLE, TN</b> Shelbyville Mills Church of Christ 1222 W Jackson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff Curtis Phone: 931-607-9118 <a href="mailto:djcurtis1963@hotmail.com">djcurtis1963@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>BEAUMONT, TX</b> Dowlen Rd. Church of Christ 3060 Dowlen Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Max Dawson &amp; David Banning (409) 866-1996</p>	<p><b>EDNA, TX</b> 301 Robison Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (361) 782-5506 or 782-2844 Elders: R. Dunham, J. Mercer S. Mercer &amp; G. Nordin</p>
<p><b>PHILADELPHIA, PA</b> Church of Christ 7222 Germantown Ave., 19119 Bible Study 10:15 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tues. night 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 <a href="http://www.mtairychurchofchrist.org">www.mtairychurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>COLUMBIA, TN</b> Mooreville Pike Church of Christ 417 Mooreville Pike (8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (931) 388-5828; 381-7898; 380-1226 <a href="http://www.moorevillepikecoc.com">www.moorevillepikecoc.com</a></p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> Northfield Blvd. Church of Christ 2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200</p>	<p><b>TULLAHOMA, TN</b> Church of Christ 1625 W. Lincoln St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Mickells (931) 455-0273 or 563-7312</p>	<p><b>CONROE, TX</b> Woodland Hills Church of Christ 410 Woodland Hills Dr. (77303) Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Evening 6:00pm Wednesday 7:00pm Evangelist: Kurt G. Jones <a href="http://www.conroechurch.com">www.conroechurch.com</a> 936-756-9322</p>	<p><b>EL PASO, TX</b> Eastridge Church of Christ 3277 Pendleton Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (915) 855-1524</p>
<p><b>BEAUFORT, SC</b> Church of Christ 2107 King Street Parris Island: Call for times, services for recruits only. Sunday Morning 10:00 A.M. Sunday Evening 6:30 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bryan Nash (843) 524-4400</p>	<p><b>DAYTON, TN</b> Rhea Church of Christ 1367 Market Street, Suite 2 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (423) 413-7675 or 332-4604 <a href="http://www.rheachurchofchrist.org">www.rheachurchofchrist.org</a> <a href="http://www.jesusismynorth.com">www.jesusismynorth.com</a></p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> Sunset View Church of Christ 3618 Hwy 70 East (Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 967-0590 or 968-9851</p>	<p><b>ALLEN, TX</b> West Allen Church of Christ 1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles W. of Hwy. 75) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443 (972) 727-5355 (bldg)</p>	<p><b>CLEVELAND, TX</b> Church of Christ 310 E. Houston Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676</p>	<p><b>FORT WORTH, TX</b> Woodmont Church of Christ 6417 Landview (at Altamesa) Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Afternoon 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff S. Smith (817) 292-4908 or 426-2242 <a href="http://woodmontchurch.org">woodmontchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>ORANGEBURG, SC</b> Southside Church of Christ 1502 Binnicker Bridge Rd. (Grange Building - Hwy 70) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evangelist: Fred England (803) 939-0672 <a href="http://www.southside-church.org">www.southside-church.org</a></p>	<p><b>JOHNSON CITY, TN</b> Brookmead Church of Christ 2428 Lakeview Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Kay (423) 282-6251 or 426-1836</p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE, TN</b> Bell Road Church of Christ 1608 Bell Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Chris Pace (615) 833-4444</p>	<p><b>ALVARADO, TX</b> I-35 Church of Christ (E. Service Rd. of I-35, N. of Alvarado) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 295-7277 or 790-7253</p>	<p><b>CLUTE, TX</b> Church of Christ 343 S. Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (979) 265-5283 or 265-2933</p>	<p><b>FORT WORTH, TX</b> West Side Church of Christ 6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (817) 738-7269</p>
<p><b>SUMTER, SC</b> Woodland Church of Christ 3370 Broad St. Extension Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023</p>	<p><b>JONESBOROUGH, TN</b> 11-E Church of Christ 240 Headtown Rd. Bible Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Wheeler 423-557-9119 or 423-948-6464 <a href="http://www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com">www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com</a></p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE, TN</b> Hillview Church of Christ 7471 Charlotte Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318 Evangelist: Lee Wildman</p>	<p><b>ALVIN, TX</b> Adoue St. Church of Christ 605 E. Adoue St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953 or (832) 837-9038</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <b>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</b> <a href="mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com">tmmikewillis@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b>TAYLORS, SC</b> (Greenville Area) Taylors Church of Christ 400 E. Main St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Luther Pratt (864) 268-5224 or 877-2728 <a href="http://www.taylorschurchofchrist.com">www.taylorschurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>KINGSTON SPRINGS, TN</b> Kingston Springs Church of Christ 350 North Main St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dan King, Sr. (615) 952-5720 or 797-2280</p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE, TN</b> Perry Heights Church of Christ 423 Donelson Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118 <a href="http://perryheights.faithweb.com">http://perryheights.faithweb.com</a></p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <b>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</b> <a href="mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com">tmmikewillis@gmail.com</a></p>		

# Directory of Churches

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<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> Fry Rd. Church of Christ 2510 Fry Road (77084) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Bob Pulliam (281) 832-4633</p>	<p><b>MESQUITE, TX</b> (East Dallas) Westlake Church of Christ 427 Gross Rd., 75149 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ashley Sharkey (972) 285-1610</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <i>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</i> tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>NEWPORT NEWS, VA</b> Harpersville Rd. Church of Christ 315 Harpersville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  (757) 595-9564</p>	<p><b>BELLINGHAM, WA</b> Mt. Baker Church of Christ 1860 Mt. Baker Hwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960 www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker</p>	<p><b>WELLSBURG, WV</b> Charles St. Church of Christ 836 Charles Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jessie Daniels (304) 527-4438 or 737-3124</p>
<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> (Southwest) Murphy Rd. Church of Christ 2025 Murphy Rd., Missouri City Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Mabry (281) 265-8071 or 261-5216</p>	<p><b>MIDLAND, TX</b> Woodcrest Drive Church of Christ 1401 Woodcrest Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jay Martin (432) 689-0955 or (432) 620-0762</p>	<p><b>TEMPLE, TX</b> Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Warren King (254) 939-0682 or 228-5038 www.biblemoments.org</p>	<p><b>RICHMOND (Metro), VA</b> Courthouse Church of Christ Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct. (2.2 miles S of Rt. 288) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 www.courthousechurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>SUNNYSIDE, WA</b> Sunnyside Church of Christ (sound) 1312 East Edison Bible Study 2:00 P.M. Worship 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven J. Wallace (509) 837-2813 www.sunnysidechurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <i>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</i> tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> Spring Woods Church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  Evangelist (713) 419-1750 WWW.SPRINGWOODCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM</p>	<p><b>NACOGDOCHES, TX</b> Stallings Dr. Church of Christ 3831 N.E. Stallings Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  Evangelists: Randy Harshbarger &amp; Jay Taylor</p>	<p><b>TEMPLE, TX</b> Southside Church of Christ 2003 S. 5th Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  (254) 773-0931</p>	<p><b>RICHMOND, VA</b> Forest Hill Church of Christ 1208 W. 41st St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959</p>	<p><b>CHARLESTON, WV</b> Church of Christ 522 Daugherty St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Kent Clark (304) 342-0237 mansuper1965@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>RANCHESTER, WY</b> Church of Christ Hwy. 14 West Ranch Mart Mall Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563</p>
<p><b>IRVING, TX</b> Westside Church of Christ 2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to D/FW Airport) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131 www.ustchristians.com</p>	<p><b>ODESSA, TX</b> Crescent Park Church of Christ 1415 Royalty Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kristofer Gordana (432) 366-5071</p>	<p><b>Subscribe Today!</b> <b>Truth Magazine</b> <b>855-49-BOOKS</b> <b>855-492-6657</b></p>	<p><b>RICHMOND, VA</b> West End 4909 Patterson Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Stacy Crim (804) 358-7933</p>	<p><b>CHARLESTON, WV</b> Church of Christ 873 Oakwood Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637 www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> Calgary, Alberta Northside Church of Christ 803 - 20 A Ave. N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E ISI Sunday 10, 11, 6 Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (403) 452-5116</p>
<p><b>LANCASTER, TX</b> Pleasant Run Church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1708 or 227-2598</p>	<p><b>PLANO, TX</b> (North Dallas Suburb) Spring Creek Church of Christ 2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 517-5582 www.planochurch.org</p>	<p><b>WACO, TX</b> Sun Valley Church of Christ 340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco) 1st Assembly 9:30 A.M. Bible Class 10:25 A.M. Worship (w/ Lord's Supper) 11 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc Smith (254) 666-1020 or 420-1484</p>	<p><b>RIDGEWAY, VA</b> Church of Christ 2970 Old Leaksville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Byrd (276) 956-6049</p>	<p><b>CLARKSBURG, WV</b> Westside Church of Christ Davison Run Road  Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M.  (304) 622-5433</p>	<p><b>ADVERTISING RATES ON CHURCH AD PAGES</b>  Rates are \$25 per quarter or \$95.00 per year (when paid in advance). The ads are run once each month - 12 times a year. Help travelers find your place of worship!</p>
<p><b>LUBBOCK, TX</b> Indiana Ave. Church of Christ 6111 Indiana Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (806) 795-3377</p>	<p><b>DALLAS, TX</b> Methodist Street Church of Christ 211 Methodist St. • Red Oak Tx, 75154 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 576-3119 or 363-7672 www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com Evangelist: D. LeRoy Kliece</p>	<p><b>THE WOODLANDS, TX</b> Woodlands Church of Christ P.O. Box 7664-77380 3987 Wellman Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (281) 367-2099 www.simplychristians.net</p>	<p><b>ROANOKE, VA</b> Blue Ridge Church of Christ 929 Indiana Ave. N.E. 5 min. from Roanoke Convention Center 1st Lesson 9:15 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (540) 344-2755</p>	<p><b>FAIRMONT, WV</b> Eastside Church of Christ 1929 Morgantown Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 363-8054</p>	<p><b>TOLL FREE:</b></p>
<p><b>LUFKIN, TX</b> Timberland Dr. Church of Christ 912 S. Timberland Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Harold Hancock Reagan McClenny 634-7110 or 632-7070</p>	<p><b>SAN ANTONIO, TX</b> Grissom Rd. Church of Christ 5470 Lost Lane at Grissom Rd. San Antonio, TX 78238-2700 Bible Classes 9:30 P.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday Ladies Class 10:00 A.M. Wednesday Bible Class 7:30 P.M. Terry Starling, Evangelist www.grissomroadcocc.org</p>	<p><b>CHESAPEAKE, VA</b> Tidewater Church of Christ 217 Texus St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Schlosser (757) 436-6900</p>	<p><b>VIRGINIA BEACH, VA</b> Southside Church of Christ 5652 Haden Rd.  Worship 11:00 A.M.  Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574</p>	<p><b>MOUNDSVILLE, WV</b> Church of Christ 210 Cedar St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Mid-week 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Devin Roush (304) 845-2820, 845-4940</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <i>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</i> tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>MANSFIELD, TX</b> Northside Church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelists: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160</p>	<p><b>SAN ANTONIO, TX</b> Pecan Valley Church of Christ 288 Utopia (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143</p>	<p><b>CHESTER, VA</b> Chester Church of Christ 12100 Winfree St. (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, &amp; Colonial Heights) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Church Building: (804) 796-2374 (804) 385-2725 or (804) 271-0877</p>	<p><b>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</b> <i>PLACE YOURS TODAY!</i> tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>PARKERSBURG, WV</b> Marrtown Church of Christ 825 Marrtown Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 861-0342 or 422-7458</p>	<p><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>
<p><b>Shop online @ ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>SHERMAN, TX</b> Westwood Village Church of Christ 314 N. Tolbert Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Smelser</p>	<p><b>truth BOOKS</b></p>	<p><b>Shop online @ www.ceibooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>855   855 49   492 BOOKS   6657</b></p>	<p><b>855   855 49   492 BOOKS   6657</b></p>

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