

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Paul Brantley - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart damage and constant pain.
Kenneth Cohn - Elder at Spring, Texas. At home, recovering from heart procedure.
Harrell Davidson - Hornbeak, Tenn. preacher. Recovering from surgery for blocked colon.
Earlene Holley - Sherlene’s mother. Moved to Elkwood Assisted Living on Monday.
Janice Ruffner - Roelf Ruffner’s wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.
Nancy Reed - Various health issues.
Patrick King - Hemiplegic Migraine.
Sandy Craig - Ongoing kidney problems.
Jo Ann McLerran - COPD.
Glenda Marble - Lexington, Okla. - Heart problems.
Paul Marble - Glenda Marble’s son. Recurrence of cancer, now doing well.
Charles and Linda Pogue - Congestive heart failure.
Nancy Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
Chuck Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer.
Don Smith - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

PREACHING THIS WEEK - Earl Reed will preach at both morning and afternoon worship this Lord’s Day.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - Landry is finishing his lessons in First and Second Thessalonians this week. Jerry will begin a study of Galatians in that class next week.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing to the Kenya Fund this week was the Morton Street church, Denison, Texas.

“GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD..” - The Northeast church is instrumental in carrying the gospel into all the world through our You Tube channel on which our video sermons are posted. Individuals from around the globe have viewed them and have been taught the truth. We also have fellowship in preaching the gospel in Kenya by supporting 12 men there who are gospel preachers, with aid of generous individuals and churches of Christ. Pray for lost souls to be brought to salvation in Christ through all of these efforts.

Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ	
Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, April 22, 2018 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer Communion - Earl Reed Offering - Dylan Brewer Sunday Afternoon, April 22, 2018 First Prayer - Dylan Brewer Closing Prayer - Patrick ing	Records - April 15 Bible Class.....15 Morning Worship.....15 Afternoon Worship.....16 Contribution.....\$205.00
Weekly Meeting Times Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30 Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00	



Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

Published Weekly By The Northeast church of Christ
 P. O. Box 267, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648

Volume 13, No. 7

April 22, 2018

The Social Gospel Of “Mainstream Churches Of Christ” No. 2

Jerry C. Brewer

The extent to which “mainstream churches of Christ” are gripped by the Social Gospel is manifested in the “ministries” listed on their websites. Progressivism (liberalism) has infected them over at least the last five decades and there is a correlation between loosing of God’s authority and the Social Gospel. They are not very far from any of us. All one needs to do is conduct a website search for churches of Christ nearby and he will find what we found in our state—some of which are within a 60 mile radius. Compare the following churches’ “ministries” with Social Gospel programs, which we covered in our previous article.

“Ministries” of “Mainstream Churches of Christ”

On its website, the **Elm & Hudson church of Christ, Altus, Okla.** has this list of ministries: Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, College Ministry, Small Groups Ministry, Missions Ministry, and Community Ministry.

Under Elm and Hudson’s “Community Outreach Ministry” is one of the most egregious definitions of the church’s purpose that we have seen among churches of Christ. They say, “We have been called to go out and preach the word. We feel that this starts in our own community. We strive to look after the needs of not only our spiritual family but also the needs of those in our area. Our hope is that through our efforts we will be the hands and feet of Jesus in Altus. Our prayer is that our community will come to know Jesus by our love. Carpenter’s Kitchen, Garage Giveaway, Christmas Hams, School Supplies Giveaway, Community Service Projects.” This is the Social Gospel gone to seed. Rauschenbusch’s view of Christianity was that it, “is not a matter of getting individuals to heaven, but of transforming the life on earth into the harmony of heaven.” That appears to be the philosophy of the Elm and Hudson church—bringing folks to Christ “by our

love” (manifested in social service) without preaching God’s power to save (Rom. 1:16-17).

From the website of the **Fourth and College church of Christ, Cordell, Okla.** come these: Adult Ministry, Children’s Ministry, Youth and Family Ministry.

The website of the **Second and Adams church of Christ, Elk City, Okla.** lists these “Ministries”: Young Married Ministry, Youth Ministry, Fellowship Ministry, OSBE Ministry.

The **Weatherford, Okla. church of Christ** has these listed: Bible Class Ministry, Curriculum Ministry, Small Groups Ministry, Bulldogs For Christ: College Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Ministry, Missions Ministry, Faith @ Home Ministry.

In one of the longest list of “ministries,” the **Custer Ave. church of Christ, Clinton, Okla.** touts these on its website: Youth Ministry, MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Ministry, Family Ministry, Step Recovery Journey Ministry, Education Ministry, Grief Ministry, Senior Ministry. Under “Other Ministries” Custer Ave. lists, BibleTalk.tvLaw Ministry, Church of Christ Disaster Relief Ministry, Eastern European Missions Ministry, FriendSpeak Ministry, Let’s Start Talking Ministry, Sunset International Bible Institute Ministry, Tipton Home Ministry, Westview Boys Home Ministry, What God Has Joined Ministry.

The website of the **Central church of Christ in Ada, Okla.** Lists the following “ministries,” in addition to their “Children’s Ministry,” “Youth Ministry,” and “Campus Ministry”: “Home Teams Ministry,” under which is noted, “...Home Teams replace Sunday night services at Central and are a great way to get to know a few church folks really well. If you get sick and need help, suffer a loss and need support, or just need a spiritual confidant, chances are you will find that through your Home Team.” “Compassion Outreach Clinic Ministry,” which explains that its purpose is, “to share the compassionate love of Jesus Christ for those in need of limited chronic care but have no medical insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid and reside within Pontotoc County. It was created in response to the growing problem of uninsured Americans. Reports indicated that 19.9 percent of all Oklahomans have no health insurance. Within our county alone that translates into about 6,892 patients.” “Counseling Services Ministry,” described in this way: “Faith Based Counseling Services is a partnership with Bud Ross and Toby Ross. Bud offers counsel that flows out of decades of pastoral experience. Toby is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has 20 years of pastoral experience of pastoral experience.”

The website of the **Seventh and Beech church of Christ in Durant, Okla.** lists these 12 “ministries”: Education Ministry, Missions Ministry, Spanish Congregations Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Family Ministry, Experienced Americans Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Campus Ministry, Youth Ministry, Junior High Youth Group Ministry, Thursday School Ministry, and, Benevolence Ministry.

The **Northwest church of Christ in Durant, Okla.** lists nine “ministries”: College Ministry, Youth and Family Ministry, Campus and Young Professionals Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Feeders Ministry, Life Group Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Missions Ministry, Benevolence Ministry.

“Ministry” Defined In The New Testament

There is *only one ministry* described for the church in the New Testament. The word “ministry” is used 18 times in the New Testament and *not once* is it used in the plural as the above churches use it, nor does it describe social “ministries.” The church of the New Testament had (and still has) *only one ministry*—preaching the gospel (Mark 16:15; 1 Tim. 1:12). That is how the Greek word, *diakonia*, from which “ministry” is translated, is used in the New Testament. In none of those instances is *diakonia* translated in the plural. Every other “ministry” listed by “mainstream churches of Christ” is without Biblical authority, despite their rationales, denials and gainsaying.

“Mainstream churches of Christ” are treading the path of apostasy that churches of Christ more than a century ago traversed. We who have lived through, and observed, their tragic departure from the one faith can echo the sentiments of Philander Green who wrote,

I remember well when we had no meetinghouses to dedicate by professional dedicators or successful beggars for money. We had no organs to entertain the congregations, but the natural one the Lord had given to His children. We had no hired boys just out of college to play the clergyman and usurp the authority given to the heaven-ordained elders of the church of God. I have lived to see nearly all things we once preached and practiced changed to the modern, fashionable, sectarian practices, where all expedients are used to entertain the people and gain thereby the recognition of the conflicting sects about us, to become popular, and be considered orthodox and really, one of the branches of the church. ...When I became a member of the church almost fifty years ago, I never expected or dreamed that I would live to see the change in doing the Lord’s work, as it is called, that I have seen (“The Testimony of One of the Pioneers,” *Gospel Advocate*, Feb. 15, 1888, p. 12, [cited by Earl Irvin West in *The Search For The Ancient Order*, Religious Book Service, Indianapolis, 1950, p. 284]).

We have said it before: “The time for *recognizing* division has come—again.” That small, steadfast, doctrinally sound, remnant of the church, in widely scattered pockets across our land, *must* mark so-called “mainstream churches of Christ” as apostates. *We must* “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). The multitudinous “ministries” of their Social Gospel, their flirtation with the world, and their embrace of doctrinal error aims to “gain thereby the recognition of the conflicting sects about us, to become popular, and be considered orthodox and really, one of the branches of the church.” And, *that* is heresy.