

## 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, doing well.  
**Harrell Davidson** - Hornbeak, Tenn. preacher. Recovering from surgery for blocked colon.  
**Earlene Holley** - Sherlene's mother. Moved to Elkwood Assisted Living and on hospice care.  
**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.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - Jerry begins a study of the book of Galatians in this class this Lord's Day.

**KENYA REPORT** - Preacher students are back in session at the Thomas Musick School of Preaching at Kalamindi.

**BELLVIEW LECTURESHIP** - The 43rd Annual Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Fla. is slightly more than a month away. Dates are June 8-12. The theme is "The Church" and Jerry will speak three times on the topics of, "The Church In The Eternal Purpose Of God," "Organization In The Church," and "The Church And Self Discipline." Benard Kagaga will attend from Kenya and report on his work during the Open Forum at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 9. He will also speak on the topic of, "What's Right With The Church" at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 11. All lectures will be live streamed on Bellview's website at bellviewcoc.com and archived there. Jerry and Sherlene will be two days on the road each way to and from Pensacola. They will leave June 7 and return home on June 14. Pray for safe travel for all participants.

Website - <a href="http://www.necocelkcity.com">www.necocelkcity.com</a> Face Book - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok">www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok</a> You Tube - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ">www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ</a>	
<b>Those Who Serve</b> <b>Sunday Morning, April 29, 2018</b> First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Earl Reed Communion - Landry Brewer Offering - Jerry Brewer <b>Sunday Afternoon, April 29, 2018</b> First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer	<b>Records - April 22</b> Bible Class.....17 Morning Worship.....17 Afternoon Worship.....17 Contribution.....\$198.00
<b>Weekly Meeting Times</b> 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)

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## Pentecostalism In “Mainstream Churches Of Christ”

**Jerry C. Brewer**

Throughout its two-millennia of earthly existence, the church has suffered unrelenting assault by Satan's agents—the most effective of whom have been those from within. Paul warned that after he departed, “shall grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30). Subsequent history, from Paul's day to the present, bears out the truth of his warning, and they still exist. They are the “mainstream churches of Christ” who have adopted denominational doctrines and practices. This is, of course, certainly nothing new. It is a repeat of the cycle of apostasy afflicting God's people from time immemorial. The last *major* cleavage of the church was fomented in the mid 19th century and culminated in 1906. Among the departures in the 1800s was the formulation of humanly written creeds. “Mainstream churches of Christ” are doing the same today on their websites, under such titles as, “Beliefs,” or “What We Believe.” Isaac Errett led the way in formulating and publishing a creed for the church in 1863. Earl Irvin West documented Errett's efforts.

Errett published what he called ‘A Synopsis of The Faith And Practice of The Church of Christ.’ The ‘Synopsis’ consisted of ten articles setting forth the faith and practice of the church, in addition to a series of by-laws, emphasizing the regulations of the order and business of the church. Most brethren felt that the ‘Synopsis’ amounted to a creed. (*The Search For The Ancient Order*, Religious Book Service, Indianapolis, 1950, p. 28).

The ten articles of Errett's synopsis were reprinted in *Lard's Quarterly* in Sept., 1863. It is too long to reprint here, but we want to look at *one* article of Errett's creed that has been adopted in various ways by “mainstream churches of Christ.” That is the one relating to the work of the Holy Spirit that teaches Pentecostalism. Errett's 9th article states,

To sum up all in one paragraph: Christ Jesus is our all; without his Light and Love, we perish forever. His Divinity is our foundation; His life our example; His death our salvation; His

resurrection our hope; His intercession our foundation of grace and mercy; His teachings our guide; His church our school; His Spirit our comforter; His gospel our reliance for the conversion of sinners; His commandments our life; His promises our rejoicing; so that through faith and obedience, we may be blessed with ‘all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.’ To trust in the Lord Jesus, to love and obey Him—this is salvation here, and life eternal hereafter.

Of particular notice is the reference to the Holy Spirit as “our comforter” in Errett’s statement. His brand of Pentecostalism is a hallmark of “mainstream churches of Christ.” With few exceptions, they lift passages concerning the Holy Spirit from their contexts and apply them to individuals and the church in our day. Here are a few examples from their websites:

**Kingfisher, Okla. Church of Christ:** We strive to bring glory to God by equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God (Ephesians 4:12-13).

**Liberty, Mo. church of Christ:** We believe faith is expressed in believing that God raised Jesus from the dead and confessing that Jesus is Lord. Faith is also expressed in repenting of our sins and being baptized (immersed) into Christ’s name for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. [Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38]

**Alameda church of Christ, Norman, Okla.:** The Holy Spirit provides the Christian with understanding of spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right. Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Galatians 5:22-26

**Grace Crossing (A Community Church of Christ) Conroe, Texas:** We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, whose indwelling at baptism enables Christians to lead a godly life. (John 16:4-16; Romans 8:9-26; Acts 2:38-39; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Ephesians 3:20-21)

**Wilbarger Street church of Christ, Vernon, Texas** We Believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. The Holy Spirit also empowers believers for service and seals them unto the day of redemption.

**New Life church of Christ, St. Louis, Mo.:** We believe as a baptized believer that the Holy Spirit comes alongside and lives in the heart of the believer and provides comfort, strength, and direction to live the Christian life (John 14:16-17, John 15:26; Ephesians 1:13).

**Faith Village church of Christ, Wichita Falls, Texas:** Today, he is involved in the spiritual formation of every person when he baptizes us in the waters of baptism (Acts 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Jesus sent him to live inside every baptized believer so that we can become sons and daughters of God (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit now comforts us in our times of distress and weakness. He intercedes for us before the Father in our inadequate prayers (Romans 8:14-17, 26-27). He searches our hearts and knows our every thought (1 Corinthians 2:10). He convicts us to live righteous lives, exposes the sin of the world and serves as a reminder of the coming judgment (John 16:7-11).

Errett said the Holy Spirit is, “our comforter.” The word “Comforter” as used in the New Testa-

ment refers to miraculous revelation through the apostles (John 14:26 and 16:12-13). There is no sense today in which the Holy Spirit sustains that relationship to a Christian.

The Kingfisher, Okla. church uses a passage referring to miraculous gifts in stating its purpose (Eph. 4:12-13). The “equipping” in that context is miraculous revelation through spiritual gifts.

The Liberty, Mo. church says one is baptized, “for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.” They cite Romans 10:9-10 and Acts 2:38, neither of which says one is baptized “to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.”

The Alameda church in Norman, Okla. teaches the Pentecostal doctrine of “divine illumination,” saying, “The Holy Spirit provides the Christian with understanding of spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right.” Alameda’s statement is pure assumption. Romans 8:26-27 does not teach that, First Corinthians 2:12 is Paul’s affirmation of divine inspiration in the apostles which is applicable to no one today, and Galatians 5:22-26 describes the fruit of the spirit, which is produced by man’s own spirit.

Grace Crossing in Conroe, Texas—manifesting a modicum of honesty, calling itself a “Community Church Of Christ”—teaches that the Holy Spirit “enables Christians to lead a godly life.” None of the passages they cite—John 16:4-16; Rom. 8:9-26; Acts 2:38-39; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Eph. 3:20-21—apply to us today. John 16:4-16 refers to the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in the apostles. Romans 8:9-26 have no reference to “enabling” Christians to live godly lives, nor do Acts 2:38-39, Second Corinthians 3:17-18, or Ephesians 3:20-21.

New Life church of Christ in St. Louis says, “the Holy Spirit comes alongside and lives in the heart of the believer and provides comfort, strength, and direction to live the Christian life,” then cite John 14:16-17 and John 15:26, both of which are Jesus’ promise of miraculous Holy Spirit guidance to His apostles. Their citation of Ephesians 1:13 is a reference to the miraculous, referring to the gift of tongues possessed by the Ephesians (Acts 19:1-7).

Faith Village in Wichita Falls, Texas flirts with Mac Deaver’s Pentecostalism, saying of the Holy Spirit, “he (sic) is involved in the spiritual formation of every person when he (sic) baptizes us in the waters of baptism (Acts 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13).” Acts 19:1-6 does not teach that, “he baptizes us in the waters of baptism.” Neither does First Corinthians 12:13 teach that we are baptized by the Holy Spirit in water. Note this from Foy E. Wallace, Jr.:

‘By one Spirit’ is the *agent*; ‘drink into the one Spirit’ is the *reception*. We drink into its blessings as members of the church. Compare other references in the same phrase, in the same chapter. 1 Cor. 12 mentions the various things that are done ‘by’ the Spirit. First, no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but ‘by’ the Spirit. Does that mean that a man cannot say that Jesus Christ is Lord unless he has the Holy Spirit baptism? No, it means that a man cannot say Jesus is Lord except by what the Spirit teaches. Second, by the Spirit we are washed and sanctified. The Spirit tells us how we are washed, by its direction, ‘Sanctified and cleansed with the washing of water by the word’—Eph. 5:26. In 1 Cor. 12:13 Paul says ‘by the Spirit’; and in Eph. 5:26, he says, ‘by the word’ (*Bulwarks Of The Faith*, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1946, p. 460).

These “mainstream churches of Christ” are either woefully ignorant of the Word of God, or they are *dishonest* in what they have posted on their websites. Like the devil’s denominational disciples, they wrest scriptures to their own advantage. They are not “churches of Christ,” but imposters to be marked and avoided.