

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:


- Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.
- Pat Miller** - Wife of Jim Miller, Gray, Maine preacher. In therapy from auto accident.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.
- Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla. - Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Salisbury, Maryland preacher Doug Post - Cancer.
- Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.
- 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** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

PREACHING THIS WEEK - Earl Reed will preach at both worship periods this week.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - Landry begins teaching the first Thessalonian letter this week in the adult class. We have finished the first half of Revelation ("The Heavenly Apocalypse") and will complete the study later with the "Earthly Apocalypse."

KENYA REPORT - Benard has obtained his U. S. Visa for his trip to the Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Fla. in June. His airline ticket has also been purchased. His visit to this country is an excellent opportunity for those who have fellowship with us in the Kenya work to meet him and hear his report of that work. What we do is *not* "mission work." That term has been bandied around for years and years and does not really describe what the church is charged to do. We financially support the Kenya work through fellowship with faithful and generous congregations and individuals, but that work is entirely carried on by our brethren in Kenya—including the Thomas Musick School of Preaching at Kalamindi. The aid we send supports 12 preachers, all of whom are sound in the faith, and three widows. We also support Benard's weekly radio program which reaches thousands across western Kenya.

Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ	
Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Jan. 28, 2018 First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Earl Reed Communion - Dylan Brewer Offering - Patrick King Sunday Afternoon, Jan. 28, 2018 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Patrick King	Records - Jan. 21 Bible Class.....13 Morning Worship.....18 Afternoon Worship.....12 Contribution.....\$191.00
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)

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An Email Firestorm

Jerry C. Brewer

Replying to unsolicited emails containing error can bring a vitriol down upon one's head. That was the case with me some years ago when I received an email message from Timothy Sparks, containing an article by Hugo McCord. Brother McCord set forth error in the article, so I replied to it as broadly as the original was sent. All of the addresses to which it was sent (including mine) were plainly visible. So, when I replied, I simply hit "Reply To All."

Now, since colleges have far more devoted followers than does the church for which Jesus died, my Inbox exploded with a firestorm of indignant replies and insults. You see, Hugo McCord taught at one of the most venerated "Sacred Cows" among us—Oklahoma Christian College. What I wrote in my reply was largely ignored by those who responded, which was not surprising since devout college alumnae would rather defend their alma maters than consider eternal truth. Below is a sampling of some replies I received:

Having received brother McCord's article by e-mail, and having had reasons to not agree with what the article taught, you could have replied to him. But by replying to all that received the article, you seem to be trying to "police" the brotherhood of this teaching, and replace it with your own (which I understand you feel is God's). And so, my term of "policing the brotherhood" is an angry one, for I don't see where you've done anything but bother, upset, and perhaps discourage countless readers who are already tired of the in-fighting in the church. As you say, you didn't start this discussion, only responded to it, and I'm only suggesting that you should have responded to the source.

Mr. Brewer, I am personally offended that you have taken it upon yourself to use this forum to advance your own selfish initiatives. I, like so many other faithful gospel preachers am sick and tired of being USED as a platform for others self-righteous

tirades. You would do well to take a hard look at Matthew 7:12. Take me OFF of your mailing list TODAY. Don't send me any more of your propaganda! Please! Take a hard look at your own motivation and where the real need is...use this avenue to spread the GOOD NEWS of SALVATION, not to divide the brotherhood. (Note: All capitalization above is that of the writer, JB).

I had enough of this kind of garbage while I was attending Brown Trail, and I want no further part of arguing with the brethren over the "indwelling of the Holy Spirit", or "the dangers of modern translations", or "the proper date of the book of Revelation, or such other wastes of time. I think that as long as brother McCord is not going pentecostal (sic) (and he's not), brother Brewer would better spend his energy preaching the Gospel. At any rate, please remove me from your e-mail address book. I wish to receive no further notices from "brotherhood bigs" that feel they need to police the church from coast to coast.

Even though I, "did not start this discussion" as the first sample notes, I was told I should have gone to Hugo McCord instead of, "replying to all that received the article." In the second sample, I was accused of advancing my "own selfish initiatives." Also, note this statement in the second sample: "Take me OFF of your mailing list TODAY, Don't send me any more of your propaganda." The assumption in that statement (which was a *wrong* assumption) is that I had a "mailing list" to whom I was sending my replies. The third sample above also tells me to, "remove me from your e-mail address book." None of those who received my "Reply To All" were ever in my address book, except Ben Bailey and Timothy Sparks.

After a few days of receiving such missives, I received the following from Ben Bailey, co-speaker, at that time, with Timothy Sparks on the television and radio program, *The Gospel of Christ*, which was addressed to all to whom the original message was sent:

Dear recipients of the recent article "Earnest of the Holy Spirit". I apologize for your having to receive any unwanted email by Jerry Brewer. Mr. Brewer is the preacher for the church of Christ in Elk City, OK. He attained many of your addresses from myself and Timothy Sparks personal public email. We did not invite him to take these addresses. He did that of his own volition. I feel like it is my responsibility that many of you have received this email and I regret not taking further precaution to keep public emails from becoming an arena to add anyone's address to your addresses (sic) page. If you do not wish to receive emails from Mr. Brewer please respond to him (or me) and let him know I will personally make sure you are taken off of his list. And, Mr. Brewer, please remove me from your list.

By His Blood (Rev 12:11),
Benjamin D. Bailey

To which I responded,

Dear brother Bailey:

There are allegations in the following that need to be corrected. In the below paragraph, you imply that I took email addresses without permission. The fact is that I never placed a single address in my book and never intended to do so. I replied to the unsolicited articles I received by clicking on the "Reply To All" button. That sent my reply to all who received the original message.

You wrote - 'Dear recipients of the recent article "Earnest of the Holy Spirit". I apologize for your having to receive any unwanted email by Jerry Brewer. Mr. Brewer is the preacher for the church of Christ in Elk City, OK. He attained many of your addresses from myself and Timothy Sparks personal public email. We did not invite him to take these addresses. He did that of his own volition.'

The below paragraph again implies that I added addresses to my address book without permission and that I stole them, or at least acted unethically. I did not, and I am saddened by the implication.

You wrote - 'I feel like it is my responsibility that many of you have received this email and I regret not taking further precaution to keep public emails from becoming an arena to add anyone's address to your addresses page.'

My reply - Those to whom you wrote in the following paragraph were never "on" my list. They received my replies when I used the "Reply To All" button. You have made certain assumptions and surmised some wrong things about the recent email exchange which I hope you will correct. While you have never been on a "mailing list," you have been in my address book for quite a while. But at your request, I am deleting your address. This reply is a "Reply To Author."

You wrote, 'If you do not wish to receive emails from Mr. Brewer please respond to him (or me) and let him know I will personally make sure you are taken off of his list. And, Mr. Brewer, please remove me from your list.'

Your brother in Christ,
Jerry Brewer

That was 17 years ago and, to my knowledge, no correction was ever made. As Phil Smith wrote at the time,

Isn't it interesting that people feel they have the right to teach whatever they wish publicly but that it is wrong for you to question or challenge their teaching. They can criticize you but if you criticize them, they violate their own misuse of Matthew 7 in saying you have a "morbid interest in controversial questions" [as one of them said of me, JB] (an interesting judgement on that individual's part) and in implying that you "feel they need to police the church from coast to coast" [as another said of me, JB] (Ezek. 3:17-21).