

**News and Notes**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

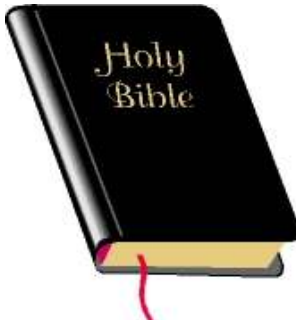
**Pam Patrick** - Various health issues including surgery and infection.  
**David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in leg.  
**Sandy Craig** - Broken shoulder/kidney problems, new tests.  
**Jo Ann McLerran** - Confined to home but doing much better.  
**Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.  
**Debbie Post** - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, Maryland - Cancer.  
**Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.  
**Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.  
**Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffering from Von Hippel Lindau disease.  
**Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**HEALTH UPDATE** - Pam had surgery recently for a tumor on her kidney, which her doctor thought was malignant. Thankfully, it was benign. She then developed infection following the surgery and had an eye injection. She also “brushed off” about a fourth of a jaw tooth which resulted in a lot of pain. Her dentist told her she’d had a bad infection for more than six months which had gone to her nerves and bloodstream, and removed the tooth. She reports that she is better, but is again on antibiotics. She has lost a lot of weight and is down to 97 pounds. Continue to pray for her recovery. Bill Stanley, whom many of you know, is undergoing dialysis three days a week for five hours each day.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing to the Kenya fund this week, were Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.

**CATCHING UP ON YOU TUBE** - Pat Craig’s sermons on June 11th are now posted on the church’s You Tube channel. We also caught up with other posts. The two sermons on June 4th, “The Church: Apple of God’s Eye,” and “Lessons From Ezra” have been posted, as have “Filled With The Spirit,” Nos. 1 and 2, preached last Lord’s Day. Encourage others to view the sermons on our You Tube Channel. This avenue of preaching goes into all the world.

<p><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, June 25, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Dylan Brewer    Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer                  Communion - Jerry Brewer    Offering - Earl Reed  <b>Sunday Afternoon, June 25, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Landry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Earl Reed</p>	<p><b>Records - June 18</b>  <b>Attendance</b>                  Bible Class..... 15                  Morning Worship.....17                  Afternoon Worship.....15                  Contribution.....NA</p>
<p><b>Weekly Meeting Times</b></p>	
<p>Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30                  Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30                  Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00</p>	



# Sound Doctrine

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

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**“...Like All The Nations”**

*Jerry C. Brewer*

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” Displeased with this demand, Samuel prayed to the Lord Who told him to hearken to them, but to protest solemnly, “and to show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them” (1 Sam. 8:7). But Samuel’s warning fell on deaf ears and Israel replied, “Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we may be like all the nations...” (1 Sam. 8:19).

Before Israel entered Canaan to conquer it under Joshua, God warned them against being as the heathen they were to destroy off the land (Deut. 7:1-5). God has always demanded His people to be separate from the world and its influences. But despite the fact that God’s people are to be *unlike* the nations about them, they have historically longed to be “like all the nations.”

That is no less true in our day. If faithful men from previous generations could return and observe churches of Christ in today’s world, they would be hard pressed to recognize a great many of them as being Christ’s. Like Israel of old, many congregations have longed to be “like the nations” and have adopted their ways and language. That is no more evident than in various “purpose” or “mission” statements obtained from websites of churches of Christ and compared with those of denominations.

The mission of the church was stated by Jesus in Mark 16:15: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” But a desire for erudition, using the language of modern theology, has captured many churches of Christ who now sound “like all the nations.” Here is a sample of “the nations” statements from their websites:

“...building a Christian community where people are transformed into the

likeness of Christ” (United Methodist Church, Elk City Okla.).

“We are a church committed to serving God in our community. We believe that every person grows when the ELEVATE Jesus in worship, ENCOURAGE others in small groups and ENGAGE the world around them through service.” (First Baptist Church, Elk City, Okla.).

“This is the most important part of our purpose statement. We strive to be totally Christ-centered at the Grandview Church. We believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and that His favorite thing to do is to radically and wonderfully transform lives.” (Grandview Assembly of God, Elk City, Okla.).

Jesus said words have meaning and indicate what is in men’s hearts.

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. ...A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh (Luke 7:43-45).

The words men use are symptoms of the heart. When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem the second time, he found a grievous mixture of the people of God with the heathen inhabitants of the land. “In those days also I saw Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: and their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews’ language, but according to the language of each people” (Neh. 13:23). The language of Ashdod was a symptom of the Jews’ trespass. They had married heathen women which God had forbidden.

I submit that the modern “speech of Ashdod” used by many churches today indicates men have adopted denominational practices and nomenclature. Compare the above quotations from denominational websites with these from churches of Christ:

Our Mission - Our mission to glorify God in everything we do which includes sharing the love of God with everyone around us. We want to glorify Him in our worship, in our families, in our work, and in our personal lives. If you come to Marietta you will find a family of God’s people who love one another. We cherish every moment that God provides us to worship and work with one another. (The Church of Christ, Marietta, Okla.).

Our Current Mission - 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). Therefore, we believe we are called to make disciples of

Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). (The Church of Christ, Kingfisher, Okla.).

Mission - The church belonging to Christ is revealed in scripture, was born on the Jewish Day of Pentecost, and is alive and well today. We are guided by scripture alone, so we are devoted to following Christ according to His word. It is our desire to be all that His church was designed to be, so we are involved in helping people reconstruct their lives, worshipping according to the pattern of the New Testament, and growing in the rich relationship of fellowship with each other. (The Custer Avenue Church of Christ, Clinton, Okla.).

Our Mission - Live our lives faithfully to the God who loves us and gave up his son so that we could have a relationship with Him. Humbly, serve the needs of those of our congregation, community, and world in love and devotion. Create an atmosphere where individuals and families feel closely connected to God. Growing in Faith, Excelling in Fellowship, Focusing on Family, Looking toward the Future. (The Elm and Hudson Church of Christ, Altus, Okla.).

”We are a local family of Jesus striving to love God and to love the people He has created. Our mission is simple and three-fold: Upward ~ to treasure and worship the God of heaven and earth. Outward ~ to reach out to our community with the good news of Jesus and His reign. Inward ~ to care for one another and share our lives as we edify and equip one another for His service.” (The Second and Adams Church of Christ, Elk City, Okla.).

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). Paul reminded the Corinthians that we use “great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12), that light and darkness have no communion, and that God demands His people to be separate from the world (2 Cor. 6:14-17). Peter said we are, “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people...” (1 Pet. 2:9). He further said, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11).

The peculiar people of God who are not of this world, use great plainness of speech, and have no communion with darkness and denominational error, will never aspire to “be like all the nations” either in doctrine, manner of living or speech. The language of modern Ashdod is a barometer of doctrinal weakness. “Come ye out from among them and be ye separate” (2 Cor. 6:17), “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). It isn’t a language problem. It’s a heart problem.

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**You Tube - [www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ)**