

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

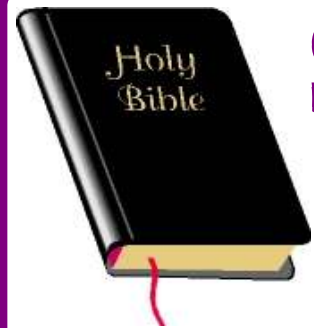
- Sandy Craig** - Broken shoulder in a fall last week.
- Joseph King** - Will have his tonsils out at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, March 9th.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.
- Dub McClish** - To have a stent implant in the near future. Artery blocked.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, MD. Cancer has returned.
- David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher. Serious respiratory problems.
- 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.

SANDY CRAIG'S CONDITION - Sandy fell and broke her right shoulder last Lord's Day upon returning home from worship. The ER doctor put her arm in a sling and prescribed pain medicine. On Tuesday, Sissy took her to a doctor in Duncan who said her shoulder is broken just under the ball and joint socket and she has to "take it easy" for three weeks and take light physical therapy. After she heals, she will undergo more physical therapy.

KENYA REPORT - Recent contributors to the Kenya Fund are Bob and Bonnie Francis, Denison, Texas; Glenda Marble, Lexington, Okla; Holley Brewer, Noble, Okla.; and Ken Cohn, Magnolia, Texas. Brother Cohn, an elder at Spring, Texas contributed in memory of Vicki Hightower. We are grateful to all of our faithful brethren who have fellowship with us in the great work of preaching in Kenya.

SPRING LECTURESHIP - The Annual Spring, Texas Contending For The Faith Lectureship last week was well attended, with sound men preaching on the issues of fellowship that confront the church today. We are grateful for faithful congregations like Spring who are unafraid to proclaim the truth on these vital issues. We are also grateful to Buddy and Bernell Roth who housed and fed the Brewers and Dub McClish during the lectureship. The lectures are archived and may be seen at Spring's website, located at www.churchesofchrist.com. There is no lectureship book this year, but the videos may downloaded from this site.

<p>Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Mar. 5, 2017 First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Patrick King Communion - Landry Brewer Offering - Jerry Brewer Sunday Afternoon, Mar. 5, 2017 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Earl Reed</p>	<p>Records - Feb. 26 Attendance Bible Class.....14 Morning Worship.....14 Afternoon Worship.....14 Contribution.....\$.N/A</p>
<p>Weekly Meeting Times</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)

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

Volume 11, No. 52

Mar. 5, 2017

“Where Are The Nine?”

Jerry C. Brewer

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God. And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger (Luke 17:11-18).

An expression of gratitude costs nothing, but it reveals character and civility. The person who is not grateful for blessings, kindness from others, or aid in life is neither civil nor of good character. Of the ten men who were cleansed of a horrible, debilitating, and fatal disease, only one returned to express his thanks to Jesus. When Luke wrote this account, he was inspired to note that the man who returned with a thankful heart, “was a Samaritan.” What the nine were, we do not know. If Israelites were among them, they had no gratitude for their deliverance from leprosy, but Jesus said the one who did was, “this stranger.”

How often today are “strangers”—those outside the pale of salvation—more grateful than those who are the children of God? A simple, “thank you” often fails to cross the lips of those of us who are God’s children, but, of all people, we should be the most thankful for daily blessings.

Kindness directed toward us from others, whether Christians or not, should always be met with thanksgiving and appreciation. But, too many in today’s world neglect those simple, civil acts. “Thank you” cards go unsent, even though we have received good from others.

And, through the years, we have witnessed a lack of gratitude after kindnesses were expressed at the death of loved ones. Funeral homes provide thank-you cards for the family, so the only cost is a stamp to express thanks. Sadly, that is many times is neglected. Recognition of

kindness with a simple, “thank you” will always be expressed by the grateful heart as the one Samaritan leper who, “fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks.” Too many are numbered among the “nine” who were “not found that returned to give glory to God.”

Who Were Confirmed As Those ‘Obeying Him’ (Acts 5:32)?

Ron Cosby

After the Apostles had healed “multitudes from the cities round about Jerusalem, bring sick folk, and them that were vexed with unclean spirits,” the leaders of Judaism called them to court, having previously strictly charged that they cease and desist (Acts 5:16, 22, 28).

Peter, being guided by the Holy Spirit, defended their preaching concerning the resurrected Christ, saying, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29, YLT). Note Peter’s three points of evidence to the court that the Twelve, not the leaders of the court, were obeying God. We stress the fact that he used the *past tense* with each point that he made.

1. *God raised* (Acts 5:30). “The God of our fathers *did raise* up Jesus, whom ye slew, having hanged upon a tree.”

2. *God exalted* (Acts 5:31). “This one God, a Prince and a Saviour, *hath exalted* with His right hand, to give reformation to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

3. *God gave* (Acts 5:32). “We are His witnesses of these sayings, and the Holy Spirit also, whom *God gave* to those obeying him.”

This declaration made it easy for Peter’s audience to correctly determine who was obeying God. Was it the court? Or, was it the Apostles? Well, who had the Spirit? The answer is seen by understanding *who* had the Holy Spirit bearing witness by miracles. The Apostles were healing; therefore, they had the Holy Spirit; therefore, they were obeying God. After all, the court had convened because of the commotion produced by the preaching and the healing of the Spirit, Who had empowered the Apostles. When the student reads Acts 2, he sees *when* God gave the obeying ones the Holy Spirit.

This is important: Acts 5 does not say that God *gives* the Holy Spirit to the ones that *will* obey Him. It says that He *raised*, He *exalted*, and He *gave*. While the giving of the Spirit to the Apostles was in the past on Pentecost, Peter’s language makes it clear that the obeying was in the present in Acts 5. The *Apostles* were the obeying ones who had previously been miraculously “clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4).

Two Disturbing Announcements From Forest Hill

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Forest Hill church in Memphis, Tenn. conducts the Memphis School of Preaching, and since 2005 has compromised with the errors of Dave Miller, director of Apologetics Press. Brother Charles Pogue points out two more areas of Forest Hill’s gradual drift toward apostasy.

Charles Pogue

Two announcements appeared in the Forest Hill Church of Christ bulletin of Nov. 6, 2016, that raised a one word response from me. “What?!” Actually, the first of these has appeared in that bulletin for several weeks, it reads as follows: “MONEY MANAGEMENT (9 Week Course) each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the education building.” This money management course is being con-

ducted as a work of that congregation, using the materials of the well-known money manager, Dave Ramsey. If memory serves me correctly, this is not the first time they have conducted this class. Brethren, please show me the passage of scripture that gives authority to the church to conduct such a program. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” We know that in this verse, as in most of the places where it appears, the phrase, “in the name of the Lord,” means by His authority. There is absolutely no authority in the Scripture for this nine-week, or any other money management course, to be conducted by a congregation of the Lord’s church. Anyone who believes that congregation is still sound in the faith is living in a dream world. There is absolutely no doubt in this writer’s mind, that Forest Hill’s continual decline is rooted in their refusal twelve years ago to hold Dave Miller responsible for his defense and participation in the unauthorized activity of reevaluation/reaffirmation of elders. Just take a look at some of the participants on their lectureship each year, and you will see further evidence of their drifting to the left. There is no doubt in my mind that this congregation will continue down the trail of apostasy, and will take literally thousands down that path with them.

The other announcement in that bulletin was as follows:

ST. JUDE TOY DRIVE The Young Adults will be collecting new, unwrapped toys during the month of November. There is a list of needed items (and items not accepted by St. Jude) in the foyer. You may bring donated toys to the church office or see Jackson & Kathryn Greer. Also, checks can be made payable to Forest Hill with memo “St. Jude.”

Again, one would be hard pressed to find authority for the above activity at all, However, it is to me astounding that members of a congregation of the church of Christ would be collecting toys for a hospital. They could at least engage in the benevolent activity (if it really can be called that) on their own. God is glorified when benevolence of any kind is done through the church Ephesians 3:21, not a hospital. Doubtless some will attempt to justify this activity, with an emotional argument of helping families with sick children. Right and wrong and what is authorized and what is not, are not determined by emotions, but by what the New Testament teaches.

If Forest Hill wants to collect toys for needy children, which in itself might be pushing the envelope to call it benevolence at all, at least let them do it in the name of the church not in the name of a benevolent institution like a hospital. Most people probably believe that St. Jude Children’s hospital is affiliated with the Catholic church. Although it is not, because of its origin, the majority of people probably believe that it is. That ought to be enough to steer faithful brethren away from it. When the church does good it is to do it in such a way that God is glorified by Christ in the church, not By Danny Thomas in the St Jude’s Hospital.

It escapes my understanding how so many congregations today, not just Forest Hill, give no consideration whatsoever to their influence, nor the impression their actions can leave on those outside of Christ. You can take it to the bank, some outside of the church who see this announcement (and some are likely to see it) in the Forest Hill bulletin, will say, “it was about time the churches of Christ throw in their energy with the rest of us.

For this writer, it is getting harder and harder to understand why so many churches of Christ are rebelling against, stretching, or even usurping the authority of Jesus Christ.