

Christian Courier

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LOVE ONE ANOTHER

by Bro. Robert Fuson, Sr.

John 15:12-17

One of the greatest things about Jesus was His amazing love toward everyone. If we want to be true followers of Jesus Christ, we too must see life as an opportunity to love.

This message is about love. Love is the strongest emotion that a person can feel, and the New Testament contains many commandments to love God and others. It's what John wrote about in Chapter 15 of his gospel. We are commanded to love. Jesus said, "Love one another, even as I have loved you." "We are commanded to love."

John, the apostle who called himself, "the disciple whom Jesus loved," wrote about God's love for us: **1 John 4:8-11** The first verse presents us with one of God's greatest traits: he is love. But, love is not a definition of God—God is more—but God is the definition of love. Without Him, love does not exist.

God's love is a gift. He did not begin loving at the Cross, nor will He love us more tomorrow than He does today. There is nothing we can do, think, or say that will change His love because there are no

surprises for God—He knows us totally and loves us anyway.

Jeremiah 1:5 God knew us before we were even born. The goal of God's love is to have us with Him throughout eternity. He made this goal possible through Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross.

There are things about God's command to love that I want to show you. The first is, we are commanded to love God completely. We are to put God first at all times. **Matthew 22:37.**

Love is evidence of salvation. Since "God is love," His children who have His nature should also make His love known to others. The children should be like their Father!

Another thing about God's command to love is that we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves **Matt 22:39**. Most of us have a problem about this point because we don't love ourselves the way we should. Therefore, we do not know how to truly love our neighbor.

Our love for others makes God's love real and visible to them, so we can better witness to them about Christ. It also makes God real and personal to us. Just reading in the Bible about God's love is not enough. We need to experience that love in our heart by sharing it with others.

There is another command and perhaps it is the hardest to accept; we are commanded to love our enemies. Most of us have difficulty at this point because we think of love as an emotion, a sentimental attachment, or a romantic attachment. In one of His sermons, Jesus had this to say about loving your enemies. **Matthew 5:43-45** This is part of the Sermon on the Mount. When Jesus said that, the popular attitude was, "hate thine enemy." The command to love your enemies is one of the greatest statements Jesus ever made, and it shocked the disciples. The kind of love required in this passage is love which can only come from God Himself! We are not commanded to attempt to love our enemies on the basis of simple human affection but rather on the basis of a love which comes from God. This kind of love is special since it is a gift from God. It is not something that someone can put within himself. It must come from God Himself into the life of the believer.

So how does anyone love an enemy? Notice that the passage makes it clear that he does not have to attempt to work up an artificial feeling of love. The type of love commanded here is expressed by giving. We are told to bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that persecute you. Loving an enemy involves doing good toward that enemy in order to win him over to the cause that you represent. The message of Jesus is that we will win over those who oppose us more easily with love than with hatred. It is not by argument and anger that we win souls for Christ, but by giving out the gospel and the love of Christ.

We are commanded to love one another. Jesus said in **John 15:17** Loving one another is a command, not an option. It's how believers show they are different from non believers. Everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not doesn't know God. The proof of God's

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Send correspondence to:
The Christian Courier
83985 S. 4737 Rd., Stilwell, OK 74960
Email: ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com
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love for us was clearly seen when He sent His only Son into the world to die on the Cross as our Savior. God's love for us makes us obligated to love one another, because this is the only way we can show that we really have love. Claiming to love God means nothing without showing love to each other.

One final command is mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Christians at Ephesus. He said, "Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church" **Eph. 5:25 & 33.** This presents problems, because the only kind of love that some people know anything about is romantic love. It says in **Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it, Sometimes husbands and wives have to give up things for each other. There is no greater love than Christ loved the church. So there should be no greater love than between a husband and a wife. Nothing in our lives, other than GOD, should be more important than loving our spouse. Husbands are to love their wives in the same way in which Christ loves the church. Paul explained that the husband should love his wife like he does his own body, because the two are actually one.

Another part of the message comes from Jesus' own words, "Love one another, even as I have loved you." Christian love is not something we get naturally. It is not emotional. It is not just a feeling. And Christian love is not automatic. But Christian love is something we all must do.

Christian love is a lesson all of us should learn, and Jesus is the teacher. Jesus taught that we should love all people, even our enemies. And He gave us an example of that type of love by dying on a cross, because of our sins. He died for us while we were His enemies. And He did it because He loves you.

Christian love is a habit all of us should practice. One time Jesus told His disciples to "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." Another way to say it is, "Don't stop the children from coming to Me." Christian love includes action. Jesus rebuked His disciples and received the little children by taking them up in His arms and blessing them. And Jesus wants for us to practice the habit of showing love to all people.

Christian love is a commandment that all of us should obey. Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Therefore, loving others is a commandment and not an option.

Christian love is something all of us should follow. When Jesus gave this command to love, He was talking to believers. We are to love each other as He has loved us. It is sad to see Christians who tear down each other and gossip about one another. The Spirit of God is not working in such a situation. A person can have good Bible teaching and still reject this commandment. To love like Jesus loves us is putting our love on a very high plane. Only the Spirit of God can produce such love in our lives.

Jesus loved His disciples, and He wants us to love in the same way. Jesus showed His love for His disciples. He loved His disciples and accepted them as they were. They all had flaws. For instance, Peter lacked courage. He told Jesus he would go to jail with him and even die with him, but he denied he even knew Jesus after he was arrested. Thomas doubted the resurrection until Jesus came to him personally, and showed him the scars caused by crucifixion. None of them went to the cross with Jesus except for John. Instead, they hid in fear. Most of them were uneducated fisherman. But, these are the men He chose to build His church, and He loved them and accepted them as they were even with all their faults. And today, Jesus accepts us just as we are; when we come to Him all we can bring with us is our sin. You

see, He loves us even though He knows everything about us. If you don't love Jesus, I have something to say to you. Jesus loves you anyway and He wants you to accept Him and spend eternity with him.

Jesus loved His disciples and acknowledged them. For more than three years He taught them. They were ear and eye witness of all the miracles and all of His teachings. Jesus kept them close to Him and He took care of them. He defended them from the attacks by the Pharisees, and He even fed them when they were hungry.

Jesus loved His disciples helpfully. Jesus gave them everything they needed to complete the mission He gave them. After His resurrection, He told them to take the gospel to the world, and to help them do it He gave them the power to raise the dead and heal the sick. He would show them where to go and tell them what to say.

Jesus loved His disciples and forgave them fully. The disciples were forgiven.

Jesus loved His disciples tenderly and kindly, yet firmly. Perhaps the best example happened at the end of His earthly life. He gathered the twelve in an upper room. Then He took a bowl of water and a towel and washed their feet. In this tender way, Jesus showed them that He valued the attitude of humble servants.

Jesus loved His disciples unconditionally. Just think about all the things Jesus gave up for us; His home in heaven, His glory, and the constant companionship of the Father. And look what He got in return; He was rejected, He was slandered and called names, and He was tortured and crucified. Why did He do it? He did it because He loves you!

Christian love is more than an emotion or a feeling. Christian love is an activity that follows a decision of commitment to make Jesus our Savior and Lord. Let us look into the face of every person we meet and see him or her as one for whom Jesus Christ died. Let us look into the face of everyone and see one who needs the love that we can give. Let us look into the mirror and see for ourselves the one for whom Jesus Christ died on the cross. As we seek to love God absolutely, let us decide to love ourselves, and perhaps we will find it easier to be obedient to our Lord's command, "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

The world is dying for just a little love.

Jesus says that His disciples are to be known for their love.

Please, look at yourself.

Ask, "Do I love Jesus and do I love others like I should?"

If you can't answer yes to both questions, then you should make some changes.

In God's humble service,

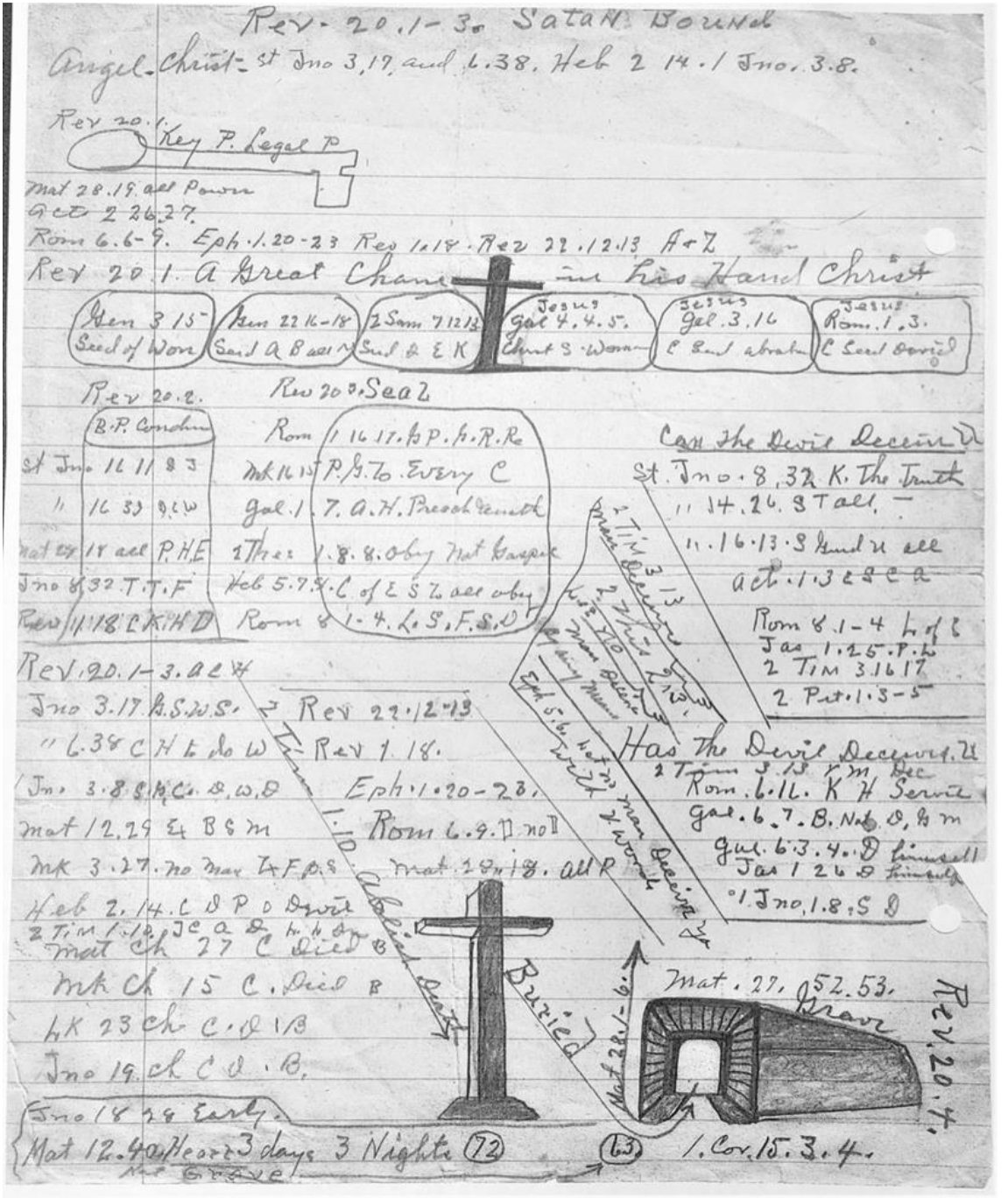
Bro. Robert Fuson Sr. Family

We have acquired **Bro. Ellis Foresman's** Study of Revelation and have reproduced it in book form. Please let us know if you'd like one. We will be happy to mail you one! It is also on **1CupHistory.Church** (*History, Study Guides, Ellis Forsman*) as PDF and Word!

ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com

Voices from the Past

From the archives of Bob Musgrave





Milk of the Word

The Apostle Bartholomew

We know that Jesus had 12 apostles while he was on Earth. All of these disciples witnessed the ministry and life of Jesus. Once Jesus ascended to Heaven, these men were the ones that spread the Good News of the Gospel with the world.

Some of the apostles we know so much about because the New Testament shares details about their lives and ministry. There are others from this group that have little documented information about who they were and what they did after Jesus left this Earth. So far we have studied Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Phillip. Today we will study Bartholomew. Bartholomew is one that has little information in the bible. He was one of the apostles of Jesus, and, therefore, is an important figure in History. Bartholomew is only mentioned in four lists of the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:2-4 , Mark 3:16-19 , Luke 6:14-16), and Acts 1:1-13). The writers of the Gospels referred to the disciples as a group rather than listing them out by name. Their presence is implied from the time Jesus selects them to be his followers.

Bartholomew had the privilege to walk alongside the Son of God during his ministry. Though his presence and willingness to share the gospel is so important, there are not a lot of details in the New Testament about who he was.

In three of the four lists of the apostles, we see that Bartholomew is listed right after Philip. This suggests a close connection between the two men. Bartholomew is not mentioned in the Gospel of John but a man named Nathanael is mentioned as one of the apostles (John 21:1-2). Nathanael does not appear in the other gospels. Many people believe that Bartholomew is the Nathanael that is mentioned in John. Some people do not believe this is the case and say that these men are two different people.



It was not unusual for people in the first century to have two names. For example, Simon was also known as Peter and sometimes called Simon Peter. At times they would have one name in Hebrew and a different one in Greek. Paul was also known as Saul and John was called Mark. It is possible that Bartholomew was Nathanael Bartholomew but there is nothing that lets us know this for sure.

If this is the case then we know a lot more about Bartholomew because there are a lot more details recorded about Nathanael than Bartholomew in the New Testament. Nathanael was a skeptic of Jesus, who did not like the fact that Jesus was from Nazareth (John 1:46). After seeing Jesus do miracles, he changes his mind. He declares that Jesus is the Son of God (John 1:49). When Jesus appears to his disciples to go fishing, Nathanael is included (John 21:1-3).

Regardless, each of the apostles, including Bartholomew, played important roles in spreading the good news to the world!

Bro. & Sis. Robert Fuson, Sr.

News from Abroad

Central Buchanan Church of Christ
Activities Reports for the Month of May, 2024

Date	Topic & Text from the Bible Study	Bible Study Teacher	Topic & Text of Sermon Preached	Sermon Preached by	Attendance
Sunday, May 5, 2024	Jesus Christ our Focus Luke 1:31-35	Brother Ernest Zeoh	Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve. Joshua 24: 14-18	Brother Ernest Zeoh	66
Sunday, May 12, 2024	Jesus Christ, our focus. Luke 1:31-35	Brother Ernest Zeoh	Choose this Day Whom You Will Serve. John 24:14-18	Brother Ernest Zeoh	59
Sunday, May 19, 2024	Jesus Christ, our focus. Luke 1:31-35	Brother Ernest Zeoh	God's Wrath, no One will Be Able To Stand Before It. Rev. 6:13-17	Brother David Robert	59
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Scriptural Baptism. Colossians 2:12	Brother Ernest Zeoh	Don't Waste It. 2 Cor. 4:16-18	Brother James A. Suahgba	57

Central Buchanan Church of Christ Radio Program Report for the Month of May, 2024.

Sunday, May 5, 2024
Topic: Who should We Honor?
Text: Rev. 4:11, Ps. 115: 1-2
Presenter: Bro. David Roberts
Bassa Interpreter: Bro. Jahn David

Sunday, May 12, 2024
Topic: You can Be Just A Christian
Text: Gal. 3:26-27
Presenter: Bro. David Roberts
Bassa Interpreter: Bro. Jahn David

Sunday, May 19, 2024
Topic: The Gospel Plan of Salvation For Mankind
Text: Romans 10:17
Presenter: Brother James A. Suahgba
Bassa Interpreter: Bro. David Roberts

Sunday, May 26, 2024
Topic: The Gospel Plan of Salvation For Mankind
Text: Romans 10:17
Presenter: Brother James A. Suahgba
Bassa Interpreter: Bro. David Roberts

Tanzania Mission Update

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank God for his mercies and uncountable blessings that he has bestowed on us.

We would like to share with you our efforts of reaching the lost with the gospel. We have established new villages and cities with the gospel. There is good response from the people we visit because they are willing to sit and listen to the word.



Brother Deus and I were able to visit a forgotten congregation in Tabora (mid Western part of the country). They were from the non-bread breakers but this group forgot about them and when I communicated with one of them we decided to go down there. They received us and were able to talk about the Bible. These too as the other group from the denominations are willing to switch and worship as we do. But the only things they requested is that we visit them frequently. We scheduled that we shall be visiting them twice a month.

Three people in a family came to us last week and had some questions as to who Christ was, and why worship each first day of the week. These are some of those that attended the meeting and were given the Bibles. As you may read, we have much to do in the vineyard. We only ask you to continue supporting this great work that God commanded us to do. You do good when you donate for the mission we have. Your donations are not in vain but that his death, burial and resurrection should be preached and you help us to reach these people.

Once again we would like to thank you for the efforts you in making it possible for the gospel to go further. We need your prayers so that we may be strengthened as we do His will and that Satan will be defeated because there is no room for him.

Brethren, pray for us as we do the same for you.

Your brother in Christ
Sadat.

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

Church of Christ
Africa Mission
3814 64th Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413

Kenya Mission Update

Brethren,

Thank you and congratulations for writing publishing and editing the lesson, "2 Covenants" Yes, I'll personally, not only enjoy, but also use it to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). During my life as a Bible teacher, have met and study the Bible with members and even preachers from the Seventh Day Adventist here in Nakuru and many places have visited for the purpose of preaching and teaching the Word of God.



I am anticipating seeing and reading Brother Ellis, study of Revelation which has been reproduced in book form.

God bless you and your good work.

Your Brother in the Lord,
John Kombo

Update from Bro. James A. Suahgba

(Central Buchanan Church of Christ)

Some Personal work done by Me In the Month of May, 2024.

On May 2nd, I went to Tubmanburg and was there until Sunday, May 5 and worshipped with the church of Christ. I did the Bible Study from the topic of; Its Builder from the text of Matt. 16: 18,19

Also, I preached on the topic of, Zealously Religious but without God. Taken from 1 Tim. 4:15-16. The attendance was 10.

On May 11, I went to Monrovia and worshipped with the ELWA Road Church of Christ on Sunday, May 12. Brother Michael Momo taught from the topic, Let your utterance be Gracious always, season with salt from the text of Col. 4:6.

I preached the sermon from the topic of: "What will separate us from the Love of God?" Taken from the text of Romans 8:31-39. The attendance was 11.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Suahgba

Fundraiser for Shiloh Boling

Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to see how you can help with his medical expenses while he recovers from cancer surgery and treatments. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Central and South America Mission Update

I greet you cordially in the name of Christ hoping that you enjoying good health along with your families and all the brothers in Christ.

I comment that during this month we work with some congregations in Mexico and thanks to the LORD the brothers continue firm in the Christian life.

In the city of Pachuca Mexico the brothers programs one series of studies and also baptism a person (see below.)

The brothers in Colombia also sent a picture of the congregation in Armenia City (please pray for these brothers.)

Thank you for your prayers and your participation in the work of the Lord … and please continue praying for the work of the LORD in this areas.

Your brother in Christ - Otto



For more information:

Otto Alvarez
Box 532514
Harlingen, TX
78550







This came in a personal letter from Bro. Otto Alvarez,
and we think it is appropriate to share with you all.

I consider that is necessary that ALL the brothers remember that we have the obligation of making the evangelism work and edification of the Christians .. (and that it is the only reason for establish the church - Ephesians 3:10-11)

But (if) the Christian don't make that work, then what is the reason for so that establish the church?

Therefore I believe that we should make the brothers is to wake up in them the obligation and responsibility that we have of preaching the gospel directly and also by means of the evangelists in other places (we have the examples in the New Testament)... Then is important make with the brothers to teach and PARTICIPATE and to support the preaching work in any place that they want.

Remember that in the final day that each brother has worked and participated in the work of The Lord your name will appear in the Book of Life.

Your Brother in Christ,
Otto Alvarez



Mark 16:15

15 And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.

DO YOU OR YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE SERMONS ON PAPER OR VIDEO YOU'D LIKE LISTED ON OUR CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY WEBSITE? JUST LET US KNOW BY EMAILING US AT CHRISTIANCOURIERICUP@GMAIL.COM. YOUTUBE VIDEOS ARE BEST, AND PERMANENT FACEBOOK VIDEOS WILL WORK AS WELL. IN FACT, VIDEOS FROM ANY SOURCE ARE ACCEPTABLE

Studying Revelation

Intro to Revelation Chap. 2

Bro. Paul Warford

INTRODUCTION

In the last chapter we found out that there were more than seven churches in Asia Minor and that the number seven wasn't to list only seven congregations but that it meant the complete or whole or perfect church to who the letter of revelation was actually written. To all of the congregations there at that time and us at this time and all in between, with all that ever will be.

Let us remember that Christ is giving the instruction of these letters to John and he is walking among the churches while giving these instructions.

There is no reason to doubt that these seven churches are not dealing with normal everyday problems that every congregation deals with in every generation. I believe God's revealing a list of problems that churches will deal with till the end of time with the consolation that if they overcome there's a blessed reward.



Thought for the Month

God, I give myself to thee this day
Please inspire . . .
The work of my hands,
The steps of my feet,
The words of my mouth,
The thoughts of my mind,
The attitude of my heart,
The joy of my soul,
The study of my eyes &
My conduct with others.
Thy will, not mine, be done.
In Jesus' name, Amen

Love & Blessings - Bro. Jesse Warford

Guess Who???

The answer is below the Bulletin Board

Do you recognize this couple?
Care to take a guess without looking at the answer?





Tina Jewel "Tiny" Mickey

In Loving Memory

Tina Jewel Mickey 98 of Flora Vista went home to be with her Lord and Savior on the Lord's day Sunday Oct 6, 2024.

She was born on Oct 15, 1925 in Eagle Colorado the youngest daughter of William and Viola Randol. She joined her brother Charley and her big sister Ruby.

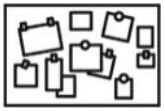
The family came to Colorado in 1932 and lived in several places before finally settling in Pleasant View area, where they farmed and raised wheat and pinto beans.

She was baptized before marrying Rex Mickey on Oct 8 1946. He was devoted to the Lord and taught the gospel to Tina. Through their marriage together they raised Anna and Dallas and Jim, who passed away at age 37. She remained a good and faithful Christian all her life. She was a beautiful person and was loved by all who came to know her.

She is survived by her daughter Anna and son Dallas, 7 grandkids and 4 great grandkids, and 2 great-great grandkids. She was known to all for her Cinnabon rolls.

Tina, known by "Tiny", and Rex were avid rock hounds and made many trips all over the southwest searching for the perfect rocks - they loved to sing and were always singing together on their trips.

When Rex died, Tina was never really the same and we knew she longed for the day she could join him and the Lord. Today we celebrate her life and rejoice that she is now with her beloved Lord, Rex and Jim.



Bulletin Board

Those in need of our prayers

Bro. Deusi	Katoro, Africa	Malaria (and his family too)
Jon Rawlins	Ottawa, Canada	Needs heart transplant
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, heart issues
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Rylan Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Carney Complex - nerve tumors
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, 2 angioplasties
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, thyroid issues
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Health issues
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Battling Parkinson's
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Bruce Cumming	Yuma, AZ	Heart Issues
Fred Cummings	Yuma, AZ	Congestive heart failure
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Back & leg issues - Kidney trouble
Kathy Lamb	Gleed, WA	Cancer surgery

Passings

Sarah Hollis Bearden	Temple, GA	September 9, 2024
Tina "Tiny" Mickey	Flora Vista, NM	October 6, 2024

Gospel Meetings

Broken Bow Meeting	Broken Bow, OK	Nov 8-10, 2024	Robert Fuson, Sr
Yuma Gospel Meeting	Yuma, AZ	March 9-16, 2025	Guest Speakers

Guess Who??? Answer: Ellis & Lynell Forsman, holding baby Paul



Sarah Hollis Bearden

In Loving Memory

Sarah Hollis Bearden, age 80, of Temple, Georgia, passed away on September 9, 2024 after her battle with cancer. She was born in Walker County, Georgia on February 9, 1944, daughter of the late Ernest Sylvester Hollis and the late Sarah Westbrook Hollis. She was a member of Bearden Lane Church of Christ, and married her husband Robert Bearden August 12, 1966.

She is survived by her husband; Robert Neil Bearden; sons: David Bearden (Jennifer), Jason Bearden (Margaret); son-in-law: Rehan Ihsan; grandchildren: Holly Bearden, Sarah Bearden, Eleanor Bearden; sister: Stella Morgan; Brother: John H. Hollis (Norma).

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter: Elizabeth Ihsan; brothers: James Wesley Hollis, Harold Dean Hollis; sister: Virginia Hollis.