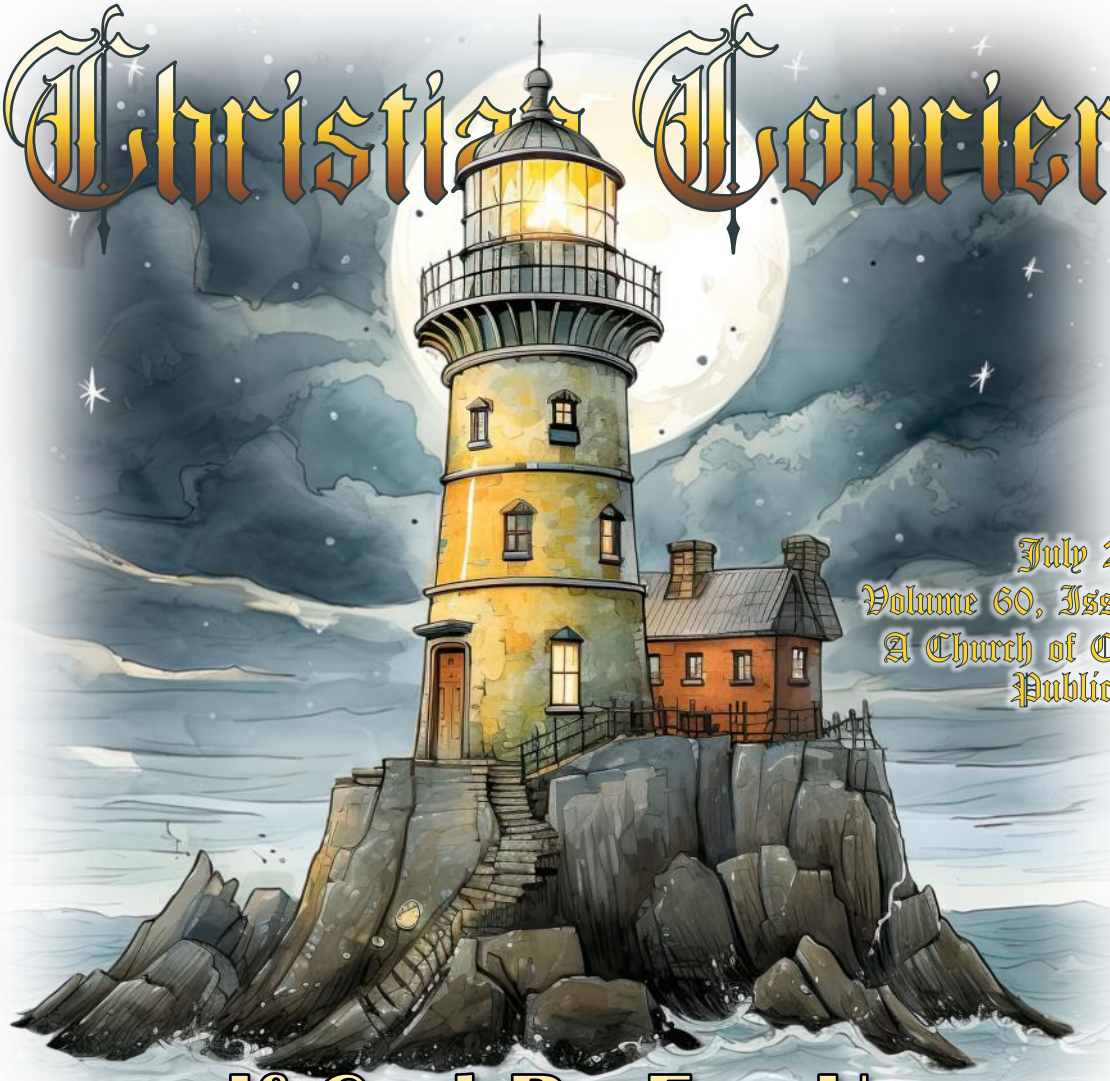
Christian Courier



July 2025
Volume 60, Issue 7
A Church of Christ Publication

If God Be For Us

Bro. Terry Warford

Good morning with love. Let's consider a familiar, but inspiring and uplifting passage of God's Word. Romans 8:31 reads. "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Let's consider a couple of things about this passage, especially in the context of faith and prayer.

How do we know that God is for us? And how do we use that thought to uplift our faith and daily prayers?

Let's start with another familiar, uplifting passage, John 3:16. "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" 1 John 4:9-10 echoes that thought that Jesus came to give us life because of the love of God. "*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*"

In 1 Peter 3:18 we read that Jesus died to forgive our sins and bring us to God. "*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*"

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 we find that He died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. "*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*"

In Ephesians 2:5, we see that we were dead in sins, and rose with Jesus by God's grace. "*Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*". How are we risen with Christ? Colossians 2:12-13 we see that we are buried and risen with Jesus when we are baptized through faith, and that when that happens our sins are forgiven, i.e. saved by the grace of God. "*12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*"

In addition to His death, burial and resurrection to save us from our sins, Jesus also brought us God's Word, Hebrews 1:1-2. "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*".

He built His church, in which our names are written in Heaven, Hebrews 12:23. "*To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*".

He gives us the blessing of

Published by the Pleasant View Church of Christ in Stilwell, OK
Send correspondence to:
The Christian Courier
83985 S. 4737 Rd., Stilwell, OK 74960
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Web: 1CupHistory.church —and— ChurchOfChristOneCup.org

prayer through His Name, John 16:23-24. "*And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*"

Jesus is now at His Father's right hand, interceding on our behalf. Hebrews 7:25 reads: "*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*"

And in Ephesians 1:3 we read. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*"

So, how do we know that God is for us? He gave us Jesus to die for us; saved us from our sins through His death, burial and resurrection; gave us the church in which we are written in Heaven; gave us the gift of prayer in Christ's name; Jesus makes intercession with God for us; and God continues to bless us in Christ. It is safe to say that yes, God is for us.

How do we use that to bless our faith and prayers? Let's go back to Romans 8:31, and with all these blessings in Jesus Christ in mind, continue on to verse 32.

Romans 8:31-32. "*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*"

Consider all the ways God blesses us in Jesus Christ, and trust in Him.

In Christian love,

Bro. Terry Warford

Glenwood Church of Christ

Port Orchard, WA



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 IF THEY'RE NOT AUTO-DELETED AFTER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME.

Notes & Letters

July 15, 2025

Greetings,

As requested, we sent some photos of Bedingfields and McCluskeys. I hope they are what you were looking for. Also, just to set the record straight - none of the Harper family know who donated the articles and letters that the Courier mentioned they received from us. But we are glad that they are in your care and look forward to seeing them on the website once they are scanned in.

Thanks to the Courier staff for doing such a good job of publishing both the paper and maintaining an excellent website. I have been especially enjoying the archives on the website.

In the latter part of June and first part of July, I and my son, Nathaniel shared in the duties of holding two meetings in Washington: 3 days at Ahtanum and 3 days at Gleed congregations. We want to thank both congregations for the honor of being asked and want to thank them both for the love and hospitality that was extended to us. It's always energizing to be around Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

With Christian Love,
Kurt Harper—Waterford Congregation

It is with deep sadness and regret that we announce the closing of the Comanche, OK Church of Christ. RIchard, Karla, and Amber Jones are now meeting in our home at 500 Honeysuckle Haven Lane in Duncan, OK. GPS may mislead you, so call Richard at 580-470-5011 or 580-251-1431 for directions. Brother Harold Don Taylor is meeting with the Moore Avenue Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and Brother Roy Smith with the Randlett, OK church. We miss them so much and pray for them every day. All are welcome to come and meet with us in our home. We appreciate all you do.

God's blessings on each of you.
Richard Jones

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** as a PDF!

ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com



Milk of the Word

Number Studies: "3"

The number 3 is highly significant throughout the Bible, appearing in numerous contexts that emphasize its spiritual and symbolic importance. It is often associated with completeness, divine perfection, and the manifestation of God's power and presence. Today let's explore some of the key themes and examples where the number 3 is used, highlighting its biblical meaning and significance. Matthew 28:19.

The concept of the Trinity—God existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is one of the most profound truths in the Christian faith, and the number 3 reflects the complete nature of God's being. John 14:16-17, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:7. In these verses are only a few that mention it this way.

The number 3 is also connected to the theme of death, burial, resurrection and metamorphosis—the ultimate sign of God's redemptive power. The three days and three nights in the tomb symbolize the fulfillment of prophecy and divine purpose. Luke 24:46, Mark 9:3, 1 Corinthians 15:4. Mathew 12:40. In here we also see reference to Jonah and the whale. In which The Lord had him swallowed and set in the whale's belly (or great fish) for three days and three nights to reflect on his actions. Another example of God's ability to change minds and hearts. Jonah 1:17.

The number 3 is often associated with special revelations and key moments in Jesus' ministry. The three disciples—Peter, James, and John—are often singled out to witness significant events, highlighting the completeness of the revelation they received Matthew 26:37, Mark 5:37, Luke 9:28-29. As well as proving the completeness of God's will for Jesus' sacrifice to be made. Although Peter would go and deny Christ thrice as well. His three denials of Jesus are contrasted with the three questions of love that Jesus asks him after the resurrection, symbolizing the completeness of his repentance and renewal. Matthew 26:34, John 18:17, John 21:17.

God often expresses His blessings

in threefold forms to show the completeness and abundance of His promises. **The number 3** emphasizes that God's promises are comprehensive and enduring. Genesis 12:3, Deuteronomy 7:9, Isaiah 54:10. In conclusion the number 3 carries deep spiritual and symbolic significance. It often represents completeness, divine perfection, fulfillment, and testimony. From the doctrine of the Trinity to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, the number 3 is a constant reminder of God's perfect and finished work in creation and redemption.

Bro. Jacob Fuson

Pleasant View
Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK



❋❋❋ Special Announcement!!! ❋❋❋

We have added literally dozens of new lessons, articles and other historical documents added to the website, including several from **Lurana McClusky**, from the Sacramento, CA area, who writes **articles for Christian ladies!** She doesn't show up in the Preachers area, so pls search for *Lurana*. As a special treat for our audience, she is this month's **Guess Who?**, and may be found on the back page!

We also have several lessons and articles from **JC Spurlin**, **Paul Ferguson**, **James SL Morse**, **JD Logan**, **WE Daniels**, **CC McClusky** (Lurana's husband), **JS Bedingfield**, **JW Bedingfield**, and **Loyd Treat**. Others are coming soon!

https://1CupHistory.Church

A friendly reminder that content may only be browsed in the History menu area for documents whose author is a Church of Christ preacher. Documents from other authors, such as contributing lady church members and outside publications, may be found by using the Search bar.

Voices from the Past





GOLDEN MEMENTO — Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bedingfield, Sr., holding an old Bible, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday with an open house in their home from 2 to 5 PM. They live at 412 Sacramento Avenue, Bryte, Yolo County. The couple's hobby is collecting and reading old Bibles. They were married in Lockney, Tex., and lived in Oregon before coming to California. They have five children, 20 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Bee Photo

J. S. Bedingfield

Funeral rites for John S. Bedingfield, 77, of 730 Pecan Avenue, West Sacramento, pastor of the Church of Christ in Bryte, will be held tomorrow at 10:30 AM in the Sacramento Memorial Garden Chapel Mortuary, 6100 Stockton Boulevard.

Interment will be in the Sacramento Memorial Lawn.

Bedingfield, a native of Texas, spent most of his life as a preacher in the Oregon lumber areas. He came to Sacramento five years ago.

He died yesterday while working in his yard.

He was the husband of Ethel M. Bedingfield and the father of Lurana McClusky and Sylvia Tibbs of West Sacramento, Dorothy Sage of Colfax, Placer County, Reva Luster of Grover City, San Luis Obispo County, and John S. Bedingfield, Jr., of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County.

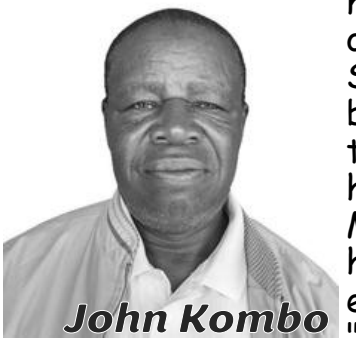
Also surviving are 20 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

KENYA UPDATE

EVANGELISM WORK REPORT – KENYA, JUNE 2025

As planned, we left Nakuru town on Saturday, 6th June, 2025, very early in the morning. I was accompanied with Brother Simon Omwansa, Brother Charles Nandwa and Brother Robert Keiyo, headed to Reberwet Church of Christ congregation where the meeting had been organized and arranged to take place. For the first time we met the following congregations: -



(1) Reberwet
(2) Cheptebes
(3) Teret
(4) Kiptenden
(5) Naswet

We did not expect to meet Naswet which joined us while the meeting was getting on.

We can term this meeting as success due to a multitude of people who turned-up for the meeting.

We had to travel 100 km from the main tarmac road through a rough road which was very rough. But we endured the dust journey and God was truly with us, since all along the way we were afraid and scared that we would get involved into an accident due to a bad road to the meeting venue.

All this good work is happening, first because of the Prayers and Bible Study meetings that had been held before. When those preachers (whom had not met) from Multiple Cup Churches heard the news about the evangelism meeting on "One Cup", they all turned up to hear the word of God as we discussed the scriptures and the truth about the Bible's teaching about The Lord's Table. They finally accepted to change from many cups to "One Cup" Church of Christ.

They had not participated in the Lord's Table for a long time. Therefore, since we had carried some Red Grape Juice packets, we were able to have the Lord's Table shared with them. There were more than 100 members during the

...Continued on pg. 10

TANZANIA UPDATE

Brothers and Sisters,

We greet you all by the love of our Lord who joined us together through his blood to become one body. We are doing fine while keeping on doing his will.

For the past two weeks we have been studying with denomination known as "The Church of Apostle Paul" this group believes that there is no baptism. They stand with 1 Cor.1:17, Where Paul said that Christ did not send him to baptize and so they believe that baptism is not important for salvation. Someone can go to heaven without baptism.



But through the authority of the Bible we taught them and told them that it does not work that way. Proving to them with many passages which tell us that baptism is essential. They had nothing to support what they believe. For the outcome of this, we have set a date of meeting them at their church building and after that there will be some of them who will obey. However, the past five days we visited the orphanage as we do always. Providing them with rice and beans they also love candies and so brother Lazarous bought some for them. We pray that they will have a home and stay in one place. This will be easy for us to care for them. We thank you all who involves themselves in supporting both Mission work and the Orphanage. Indeed the community appreciate and they say that this is the right religion when they see vulnerable children the church helps. And I admit that this make it easier for us when we reach them by the gospel. One time we heard someone say that "what they teach is what the bible say and I'm about to join them." When I heard this statement, I told him that you are welcome but can we sit down and talk more, he agreed. I started by showing him passages that say we don't join the church but when we become Christians; we are added to the church. I let him read the passage by himself.

Concerning what we reported last month of may. About a denomination preacher who was preaching false and about the government and his certificate was terminated or de-registered. The government

has commanded that the churches be registered again by September 15. They did what we heard them call feasibility study on the churches that goes against the law of the land and their certificates were removed and they no longer worship. So we will be registering the church in September and in December they need us to take a report on the development of the church. On this they want to know how the funds are used.

Pray for us as we do the same to you.

On behalf of
Katoro Church of Christ.
Sadat

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

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

KENYA UPDATE, continued from pg. 8

Sunday Worship Service. We sang spiritual songs together. You can imagine how lovely it was, one hundred men and women, plus children who had come along with their parents! We had Bible lessons which we had prepared, which included:

1. The Breaking of Bread
2. The Unity of the Church
3. Worship

We gladly ate food together which was enough for all of us in the meeting. Also we provided bus fare to those who needed transport back to their home. They requested for purchase of Bibles and Song Books. We had to share 1 Song Book, about 10 people. This is a big problem for most of congregations who work with us in Kenya, therefore funds are needed for Hymn Books.

We will continue to make a follow-up by visiting them whenever funds are available, God willing.

Attached are some pictures to share with you. God bless all of you.

Your Brothers in Christ.

Bro. John Kombo, Bro. Robert Keiyo, and Bro. Simion Omwansa

(pictures on the back page –Ed)

Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 2:17

Bro. Paul Warford

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches

This has been explained several times already but basically it means that if you want to be a Christian, listen to the instructions that Christians receive.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it.*

In this verse there are three different promises made. The ability to eat of the hidden manna, the receiving of a new stone, and the receiving of a new name in the stone that nobody else knows. So what does all this mean?

The first thing we got to realize is those promises are only made to him that overcometh. What is it that this person or group of people must overcome? If we want to look at it in context with this congregation then they have to overcome the sin that Balaam put in the church and what the Nicolaitans put in the church. I believe it is the general reference to all sin within our Christian lives or the church itself but these are specifically mentioned the offering of meat to idols and fornication.

Now let's take a look for a minute at the objects of the three promises.

Hidden manna - of course we realized that God sent manna to the children of Israel when they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years so that they could eat and not perish of starvation. Commentators all agree that this has a reference back to the manna that was given to them but differ a little bit on their opinions of it. I believe that what he had meant, was that the “hidden manna” is Jesus Christ himself; let me explain.

Joh 6:47-51 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

Joh 6:48 **I am that bread of life.**

Joh 6:49 **Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.**

Joh 6:50 **This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.**

Joh 6:51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and**

the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Why then did Christ tell John that it was "hidden" manna? Have not all seen?

1Co 2:6-8 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom,* which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it,* they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

They didn't see or understand at the very beginning!!

2Co 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ.

2Co 3:15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

The manna was hidden to the hearts of the Jews even through the establishment of the church.

2Co 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

I truly believe that Satan is behind it all. He is the cause of the gospel being hidden. Christ says we are to be the cure.

Rom 10:13-15 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

White stone - one of the commentators that I use, Tom Waycaster, says that the use of the white stone was varied. It could be given to a man who had been tried in a court of law and found not guilty showing that he was free from the crime. He says in Roman times it was also given to a man who is freed from slavery and was made a citizen of the country. He says it was oftentimes given to the winner of a race or contest to show that he was the winner of this. And it was also given to a warrior returning from a battle when he had been victorious.

So for us as Christians it could be something that shows that we had overcome, it could be a form of recognition proving our loyalty to Christ.

A new name - I agree with most commentators in the fact that we believe that this new name comes because we chose a Christian life. It is part of being

the bride of Christ, so our name must change to match his. Just as a wife gives up her last name and takes the family name of her husband.

I want you to think about a situation that is absolutely gonna occur someday. The Bible has several references to the day that Christ comes back and the dead in Christ will rise 1st and then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds. How do we know that he is calling us up unless he uses our name. And there are many Paul Warfords in the world but there's only one with the name that Christ gave me. Simply an idea that occurred to me.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Paul Warford

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK





Thought for the Month

When I first heard the term "**People-Pleaser**", I wasn't sure just what to make of it. Yes, it was true I myself wanted to please others, but at the time it seemed to be cast in a derogatory light. Since then I've often wondered if people-pleasing could be cast in a more positive light. And the answer is "Absolutely YES!"

The concept I had been thinking about and searching for is "Service." Service to God & others. What's the difference? Glad you asked lol...

People-pleasing feeds the ego and seeks affirmation from others, often at the expense of truth or conviction; but true service feeds the soul, flowing from love, humility, and obedience. It doesn't aim to win favor——it aims to reflect Christ. Service is selfless, grounded in faith, caring and purpose, while people-pleasing can become a quiet form of bondage, driven by fear and/or insecurity. One seeks applause; the other seeks to glorify God. To illustrate...

Galatians 1:10, "*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*"

Colossians 3:23, "*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men*"

Love & Blessings
Bro. Jesse Warford

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK





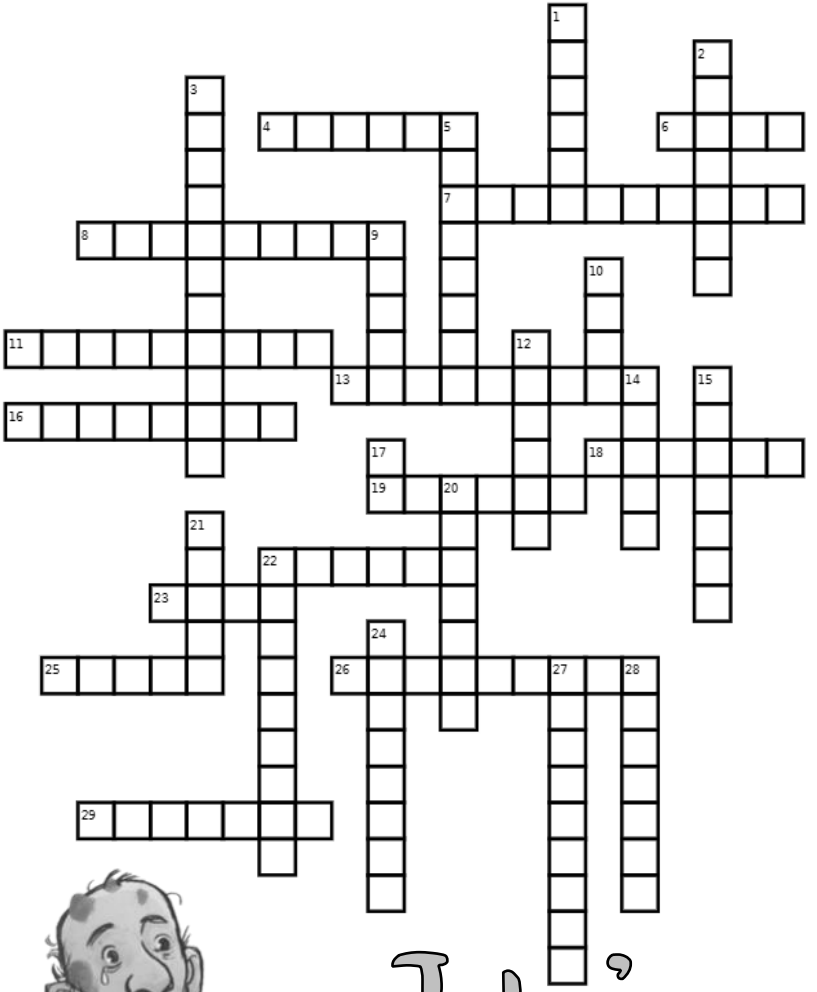
Bulletin Board

Prayer List

John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, heart issues
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Sandra Hughes	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer treatments / Surgery
Rylan Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Carney Complex - nerve tumors
Morgan McIntosh	Broken Bow, OK	Beginning cancer treatments
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Mike Schell	Montrose, CO	Cancer in both lungs
Louise Brister	Citrus City, AZ	Melanoma 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
Larry Pollan	Ringgold, TX	Heart attack & surgeries
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Health issues
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Battling Parkinson's
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Russell Morris, Jr.	Stilwell, OK	Triple Heart Bypass
Bruce Cuming	Yuma, AZ	Heart Issues, back & leg pain
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Back & leg issues
Susie Davis	Yuma, AZ	Kidney trouble
Suzie Warford	Port Orchard, WA	Cancer
Kathy Lamb	Gleed, WA	Cancer surgery
Lavonne Walk	Gleed, WA	Health Problems
Betty McKinney	Gleed, WA	Back surgery
K.T. Widel	Gleed, WA	Broken leg (slipped on ice)
Troy Solomon	Gleed, WA	Health Issues

Gospel Meetings

Labor Day Meeting	Stilwell, OK	Aug 29 - Sep 1, 2025	Robert Davis





Job's Tribulations

Down:

1. How much Job's fortune was increased
2. Came to comfort, then accused him
3. What Job received in the end
5. Killed during disasters
9. Young man who rebuked Job and friends
10. Herd stolen by raiders
12. Second friend to speak
14. Flock consumed by fire
15. Friends' initial response—seven days
17. Job's homeland
20. Used to scrape his sores
21. Painful sores covering Job's body
22. One of God's majestic creatures
24. All ten died in a house collapse
27. What Job maintained through trials
28. Animals taken in first wave of loss

Across:

4. Caravan animals stolen
6. Natural force that destroyed the house
7. Job's final response to God
8. What Job claimed throughout
11. Given beautiful names after restoration
13. God's method of revealing wisdom
16. Another creature God describes
18. What Job had in abundance before loss
19. Third friend to speak
22. Job's cry of anguish
23. Urged Job to curse God
25. Where Job sat in mourning
26. How God answered Job
29. First friend to speak

Guess Who???

Lurana McClusky (see pg. 6)





KENYA UPDATE — EVANGELISM PICTURES







