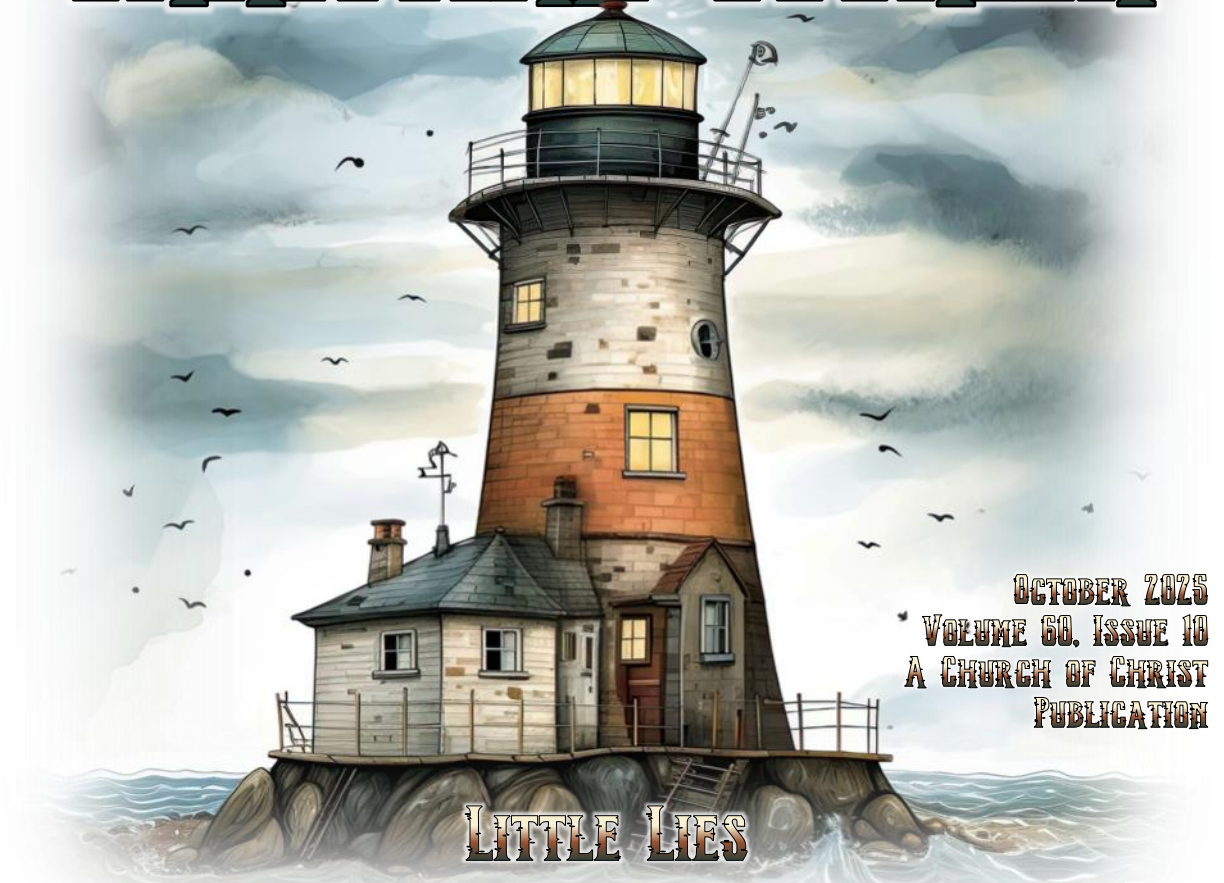
# Christian Courier



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A Church of Christ
Publication

## Little Lies

### Subtle Deceptions That Dull The Soul, Pt 3 of 3

Bro. Jesse Warford

In August we began our journey into the Little Lies with an introduction and Diversion Lies. Last month in September we went over Rationalization Lies and Identity Lies. This month we'll talk about Spiritual Apathy Lies, go over some countermeasures, tie it all together and wrap it up.

## Spiritual Apathy Lies

*dull our spiritual drive & God-hunger*

These lies are the quietest of all. They don't distort our identity or justify our behavior—they simply erode desire. These lies don't argue; they hum along, telling us that nearness to God is

negotiable, that spiritual hunger is exhausting, that settling is wise, that we're ok for now. Over time, they replace pursuit with passivity and conviction with convenience. And because they rarely feel urgent, they rarely get named. But make no mistake: these lies are not harmless: they can dull the drive for more until we forget we ever felt it.

***"I've heard all this before."***

Familiarity breeds indifference. Sin wants us to be bored with the truth.

Hebrews 2:1, "*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*"

This is how truth starts to slip. Hebrews 2 warns us: what's familiar still needs our full attention. Sin wants us numb, bored with what once stirred us. But indifference is never neutral—it's the beginning of drifting away. The call isn't to hear something new, but to heed and reinforce what we already know.

***"I'm just trying to maintain."***

This lie sounds responsible, even mature. But spiritually, it often signals a shift from pursuit to preservation. It's the quiet resignation that says, "Growth is for younger believers," or "I've done my part." It trades hunger for habit.

Philippians 3:13-14, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, [14]I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*"

"I'm just trying to maintain" sounds steady, even wise. But spiritually, it often signals a quiet resignation—the shift from pursuit to preservation. Paul's words in Philippians 3 cut through this mindset: even he, seasoned and faithful, refused to settle. He kept pressing forward, reaching for more and more of Christ. Maintenance may feel safe, but it's not the mark. The high calling isn't survival—it's pursuit.

***"I just can't get motivated."***

Silence becomes an excuse to stop listening. But often, God's quiet because we've stopped

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asking.

Galatians 6:9, "*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*"

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

"I just can't get motivated" feels honest, even vulnerable. But beneath it we often feel disconnected. Scripture doesn't shame fatigue, but it does confront resignation. Galatians 6:9 reminds us the harvest comes not to the inspired, but to the faithful and obedient. And Colossians 3 reframes the task—do it heartily, not because you feel like it, but because He's worth it.

## SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

### *Staying Watchful*

Matthew 26:41, "*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*"

1 Peter 5:8, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*"

Spiritual drift rarely announces itself. It creeps in through distraction, delay, and the slow dulling of desire. That's why watchfulness isn't optional; it's protective. We MUST remain vigilantly aware of these little lies trying to sneak into our lives. Jesus didn't say "*be strong,*" He said "*watch and pray.*" Because strength without awareness is just pride in disguise.

### *Staying honest*

Psalm 51:6, "*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*"

James 5:16, "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed."*

God doesn't bless the version of you that you pretend to be. He meets you in the vulnerability of truth. Staying honest means refusing the little lies that bolster your self-image or protect your comfort. It's choosing exposure over erosion. Because the soul doesn't rot all at once—it starts drifting away slowly when truth is ignored, excused, disguised, or dismissed. Remember, we are fully transparent to God. He already knows us. And admitting our sins to Him and each other helps to keep us honest with ourselves. Just ask King David! Staying honest was his saving grace!

Love & Blessings

Bro. Jesse Warford

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK





# Milk of the Word

## The Grace of Five

As we have seen with the numbers 4 and 8, some of the numbers we don't normally think about to have meaning in the bible actually do. Let's look at Five for instance. The number five in Scripture often represents grace, God's favor, and divine provision for man. It appears repeatedly in connection with God's covenant, His gifts, and His redemption.

The first time we see the number five used meaningfully is with Abraham in Genesis 15:9. Five sacrifices were used when God made His covenant with Abraham — a picture of grace through covenant. Under the Law of Moses, we see the same pattern. God gave five offerings in Leviticus 1–5. the Burnt Offering, the Meal Offering, the Peace Offering, the Sin Offering, the Trespass Offering. Each of these showed God's grace in providing a way for man to approach Him and be forgiven. Even the tabernacle, a picture of God's dwelling among His people, was built in measurements based on five (Exodus 26:3, 26:37). Everything about God's design reflected grace and order.

In the story of David and Goliath, David chose five smooth stones (1 Samuel 17:40). He only needed one to defeat the giant, but he took five — showing confidence in God's complete provision. God's grace provides more than we could ever need. In the New Testament, Jesus used five loaves to feed five thousand people (Matthew 14:17–21). That miracle shows that when God blesses something small, His grace makes it overflow. Look at what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:8.

In the New Testament, the number five is also tied to redemption and grace through Christ. Romans 5:15–17 uses the word "grace" five times, teaching us that salvation comes not by law, but by grace through Jesus. In the parable of the ten virgins, five were wise and five were foolish (Matthew 25:2). The five wise virgins represent those who received God's grace and were ready when the Bridegroom came. And on the cross, Jesus bore five wounds — in His two hands, two feet, and His side — showing the fullness of God's grace poured out for us. John 1:16.

*In conclusion the number five in Scripture is a constant reminder of God's grace, provision, and redemption. God showed grace to Abraham through covenant. God showed grace to Israel through sacrifice and worship. God showed grace to David in victory. God shows grace to us today through Christ Jesus, our Savior. Ephesians 2:8. Brothers and sisters, the number five reminds us that God's grace is complete and sufficient for all who will humbly obey the gospel.*

*Bro. Jacob Fuson*
*Pleasant View*
*Church of Christ*
*Stilwell, OK*





# Thought for the Month

When loving God——and trusting His will for us——isn't easy...

When life is grand, and everything just naturally falls into place, God's grace and divine protection are evident and reassuring, and we revel in the serenity and comfort provided. But what about when it's not? When its dark, uncertain, and painful?

Do we cry out in prayer for His will to be done in our lives, ***KNOWING*** we may not get our way——or what, or who, we truly cherish? Are we able to give His plan more credence than our own selfish desires and ambitions, especially in matters of the heart? Are we grateful when His will for us leaves us heart-broken as He pulls us out of harm's way——harm we may have caused and are blind to in the moment? Are we able to blink through the tears and see that His plan may have pulled us——or someone else——from a situation in order to protect another of His children? Can we surrender to Him——and to His will——the very thing that we cherish most and hold most dear to us? Are we entirely willing to submit when our entire being is urging us to press forward to try to make it happen anyway? This one is especially hard for me.

And isn't this where the real test of love lies? When He says "***NO***" or "***NOT YET***" or "***NOT THIS,***" and we're left staring at the ashes of our dream——especially when what we long for seems dangled in front of us, then yanked away. When He saves us from the very thing that we were sure would fulfill us... are we still able to look up and say, "Blessed be Thy name"?

Love & Blessings
Bro. Jesse Warford
Pleasant View
Church of Christ
Stilwell, OK



# Voices from the Past

COSTELLO NEWS COURIER
LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER 1961.



Funeral services for Sister Mary Ion Musgrave, 311 S. Elk Ave., Elk City, Okla., was held at 2:30 P. M. Saturday, Sept. 30, in the Martin Funeral Home chapel with Bro. John Spurlin of Reydon, Okla. preaching the funeral serman.

Sister Musgrave died Thursday Sept. 26, at a hospital in Elk City following a long illness.

Born Dec. 12, 1878, Sister Musgrave come to Oklahoma from Rusk, Tex., her birthplace, in the early days and settled in the eastern part of the state. She was married Jan. 9, 1905 in Atoka, Okla. to Bro. Robert B. Musgrave, who was one of the best known of all our gospel preachers, and who preceded her in death june 17, 1947. Sister Musgrave had been a resident of Elk City since 1936.

She is survived by five children, one sister and four brothers. The children are, Sister A. K. Musgrave, Okmulgee, Okla; Alva B. Musgrave, Santa Ana, Calif.; Harm Musgreve, Hurst, Texas; Mrs. Cleo Faught, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Oneda Johnson, Clinton, Oklahoma.

The surviving sister is Mrs. John Waller, Mission, Kan; and four brothers are Frank Hall, Bokchito, Okla., Emmett Hall, Texas; Truman Hall, Glendale, California, and J. B. Hall, Compton, California.

Sister Musgrave is also survived by 24 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Otto, and a daughter, Velma Musgrave.

Burial was in Fairlawn Cenetery in Elk City, under the supervision of the Martin Funeral Home.

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 **https://1CupHistory.Church** as a PDF!! Preachers - Ellis Forsman

ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com

# Guess Who???

**The answer is below the Bulletin Board**



# News from Abroad

## Mexico / South America Update

Dear Brothers in Christ

I send a strong embrace in the name of The Lord Jesus for your prayers and participation with publications of activities and working of the churches preaching of the Gospel in Spanish…

I comment that three months ago I had information that some brothers that live in those very retired of the center of Mexico and that 20 years ago obey the Gospel and establish three congregations and for different causes no meeting.

Some brothers traveling to visit and studying with the brothers and they decided to continue the Christian life and to meet in two small congregations in Alzahib and The Work in area of state of San Luis Mexico (Please pray for the new congregations)…

Thank you for your collaboration and information the work of the Churches and Evangelists in Spanish. Books that I send for some evangelists for study and prepare for preacher correct of the Gospel.

Otto & Mariela Alvarez



Alzahib



The Labor



Cardenas




Evangelism / Study Books

# KENYA UPDATE — Youth Seminar Report

First, we thank God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

We are happy to update you on what is going on as far as the evangelism work is going on, as far as the evangelism work is concerned. The work is properly coordinated throughout the country among congregations of "One Cup" churches of Christ in Kenya. We communicate among ourselves often.




However, this is because of the grace and peace from God that have prevailed among ourselves, the servants of Jesus Christ in His Church. Therefore the work that is going on is the result of peace and a unified effort from the leaders.

The Youth Seminar at Kericho went on well and we able to have one baptism of an elderly mother to one of the youths. During the seminar the following were the Evangelist who attended to the youths; Brother George Omulama, Brother Benjamin Koskey, Brother Samwel Sambu, Brother Dominic Korir and Julius Kikwai, Brother Charles Obare and Brother Ernest Ashiali.

Attached are some pictures for the seminar. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support that made the event a success.

God's blessings to you all.

Brother John Kombo,
Brother Robert Keiyo
and Simon Omwansa.











# TANZANIA UPDATE

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

We would like to greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus to whom we obey.

For the couple of two weeks and a half we have been working with the new congregation in Sima. We are in need of Bibles. A group of five people who attended our last gospel meeting, decided to follow Christ by baptism. Because of the long distance they live we decided to form a congregation in that area. It is about 52 K/m away from Katoro. We believe that many people from that area will follow Christ through baptism and become one of believers.


Alex Sadat

The coming November, we shall be conducting a two day evangelism around Katoro and it's near areas. For individuals who will be touched by this can do so through the Africa Mission (below.) We also need your prayers for this.

We have been working closely with Congo brethren. They have been evangelizing but not as usual because of war which was caused by the M23 rebels in that country. Last month a brother there told me that their are indoors and that the local government announced no one is to come out. The Baraka congregation and other sister congregations are stirring up Lord's work in that region. They have asked for our prayers so that they can be safe.

May God bless you all.

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**

# The View From Eternity To Eternity

God purposed the redemption and glorification of mankind to be accomplished in Christ and in His church. The entire scope of that purpose, as presented in the scriptures, extend from eternity before time began to the eternity after the second coming of Christ. This purpose was a mystery unknown to mankind until revealed by the Holy Spirit to the apostles. During the great span of time from creation to Christ, God was working in history to bring about its fulfillment your Bible is the revelation of that historical intervention into the affairs of men and nations to bring His purpose to an historical reality in Christ and the church. This is the view-point of Paul as he describes it in Ephesians 1: 9-11; 3: 10-11, 21; 1 Cor. 2: 6-10; Romans 8: 28-30.

Paul says, "…..and to make all se what is the STEWARDSHIP OF THE MYSTERY, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things" (Eph. 3:9).

This would be the administration of the gospel to all men. Anyone who would obey the gospel is reconciled to God, and thus, brought into fellowship with others who have obeyed the gospel throughout the world (1 John 1:3). He continue to say, "in order that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known through the church the manifold wisdom of God: (verse 10).

Satan and all angelic beings did not know of the mystery that God had in store for the coming of the Son of God. Though prophets spoke of these things they did not understand what they wrote (1 Pet. 1: 10-12). Though Satan knew that something was up concerning the fulfillment of the prophecy that God had made that he would be crushed (Gen. 3:15), he did not know the full story until Jesus was resurrected from the dead. If he had known then surely he would not have deceived the religious leaders of Jerusalem to take Jesus to the cross.

Finally, "according to the eternal purpose that He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him" (verse 11, 12).

The scheme of God to redeem man was accomplished in Christ (Ephesians 1: 4,11). The church was God's foreordained plan to accomplish His eternal goal of reconciling all men together and unto Himself through the incarnate Son (Eph. 1:5; Romans 8: 28,29).

God bless all of you my dear brethren and friends in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bro. John Kombo



# Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 2:21-23

Bro. Paul Warford

*Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*

Here Christ explains to the churches that he'd given her “space” or time to repent of the wickedness that she was doing but she would not repent. Was she so hard hearted or so set that her way was the right way that she wouldn't listen to the teachings of God?

This is a great mistake made by sinners today, they have the time to repent, seventy years is an average lifespan, but they choose not to repent.

*Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*

**Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation**

This part of the scripture is symbolic language that her and her followers would be cast into affliction and punishment unless they repent. This scripture gives me an idea of where the diseases associated with sexual sin come from.

**Gal 6:8** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

**except they repent of their deeds.**

They, just like us and everyone else on the earth, have the chance to repent until it's too late and we are gone from this world.

*Rev 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

**And I will kill her children with death**

We know that this isn't talking about

her physical children, but her followers that are being referred to when its talking about her children.

When it's referring to the death here, John T Hines says it means “to thoroughly destroy as with some kind of pestilence.”

This again makes me wonder about diseases that come from an immoral lifestyle.

**and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts**

This punishment that God will inflict upon Jezebel and her followers would be something that was physical and could be seen with the human eyes. All the churches would know that God could see not only the things that we can see but also the secret things of the heart and what we do behind closed doors.

**and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

Here is a promise that is repeated over and over in the Bible. That God will reward everyone according to their deeds or works whether they be good or whether they be bad. This should help the Saints stay strong in the faith and cause the sinners to repent.

In Christian Love

Bro. Paul Warford

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK



## Would you like to watch the Revelation Study Video Sermon Series? The playlist is on our website!

Go to https://1CupHistory.Church and click 


Then click 



# 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Troy Solomon | Gleed, WA | Health Issues |

**Guess Who??? Answer: C.C. McCluskey**
**(his wife Lurana was featured a few months back in July…)**



# Autumn is in the air!!!



M A P L E S N E S T C H I L L Y S L R W
A M I S T H C C R I S P S G S B U E N H
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Harvest
Hay
Corn
Wheat
Gourd
Pumpkin
Squash
Orchard
Scarecrow
Silo
Leaf
Leaves
Maple
Oak
Acorn
Bark
Branch
Canopy
Rustle
Twigs
Sunrise
Sunset
Twilight
Overcast
Cloud
Sky
Golden
Amber
Shadow
Glow
Forest
Meadow
Trail
Nest
Flock
Migration
Squirrel
Rake
Pinecone
Burrow



*In Loving Memory*

# David Glenn Martin

David Glenn Martin, 61, of Destin, Florida, gained his home in Heaven surrounded by family on September 22, 2025, at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida.

David was born on May 10, 1964, in Stilwell, Oklahoma to JC and Shirley Martin. He grew up in Westville, Oklahoma. He attended Westville Public Schools and graduated in 1982 with honors. He played football throughout high school and was honored as an All-State athlete. He received a full scholarship to Brown University and was given an opportunity to walk on to his favorite campus, the University of Oklahoma football team. His jersey number was 75 throughout his football career. He was an avid Oklahoma Sooners fan and longtime season ticket holder, never missing a home football game. Even after moving to Florida, he still traveled to attend all the home football games, many of the conference games, and would never miss the Red River Rival. After graduating from high school, he met the love of his life, Tracie Martin (Brown). They were high school sweethearts, and they were married in 1986 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. David owned The Quick Stop in Westville and Hulbert and made Dave's cheeseburgers famous. You could find him flipping burgers and talking football to all the many patrons throughout the years. After moving to Destin, he joined his wife after she started The Cam Firm and helped grow the business, although he never stopped talking football with the patrons. He loved to travel and did not wait for retirement to see the world. He devoted his life to making memories and traveling with his family.

David was a devoted Poppy to his grandsons and spent every moment possible with them, whether it was playing on the floor, chasing them outside, going on adventures, or catching lizards. He could never tell his boys "no" and was always up for whatever ideas they could imagine. He gave new meaning to Peter Pan's "never grow up."

David was a faithful Christian and was baptized by Tracie's Dad, Jim Brown, not long after Tracie invited him to church for their first date. They attended the Church of Christ and he remained faithful throughout his life.

David was preceded in death by his parents, JC and Shirley Martin.

David is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Tracie Martin of Destin, Florida; daughters, Tiffany Vasek (Michael) of Gulf Breeze, Florida and Alexis McLean (Jordan) of Cumming, Georgia; sisters, Pamela Amos of Colcord, Oklahoma, Patty Fields (Rex) of Elkins, Arkansas, and Rita Bailey (Edward) of Westville, Oklahoma; brother, Jerry Martin (Kelly) of Westville, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Camden, Asher, and Brody Vasek, and baby boy McLean due in January 2026.