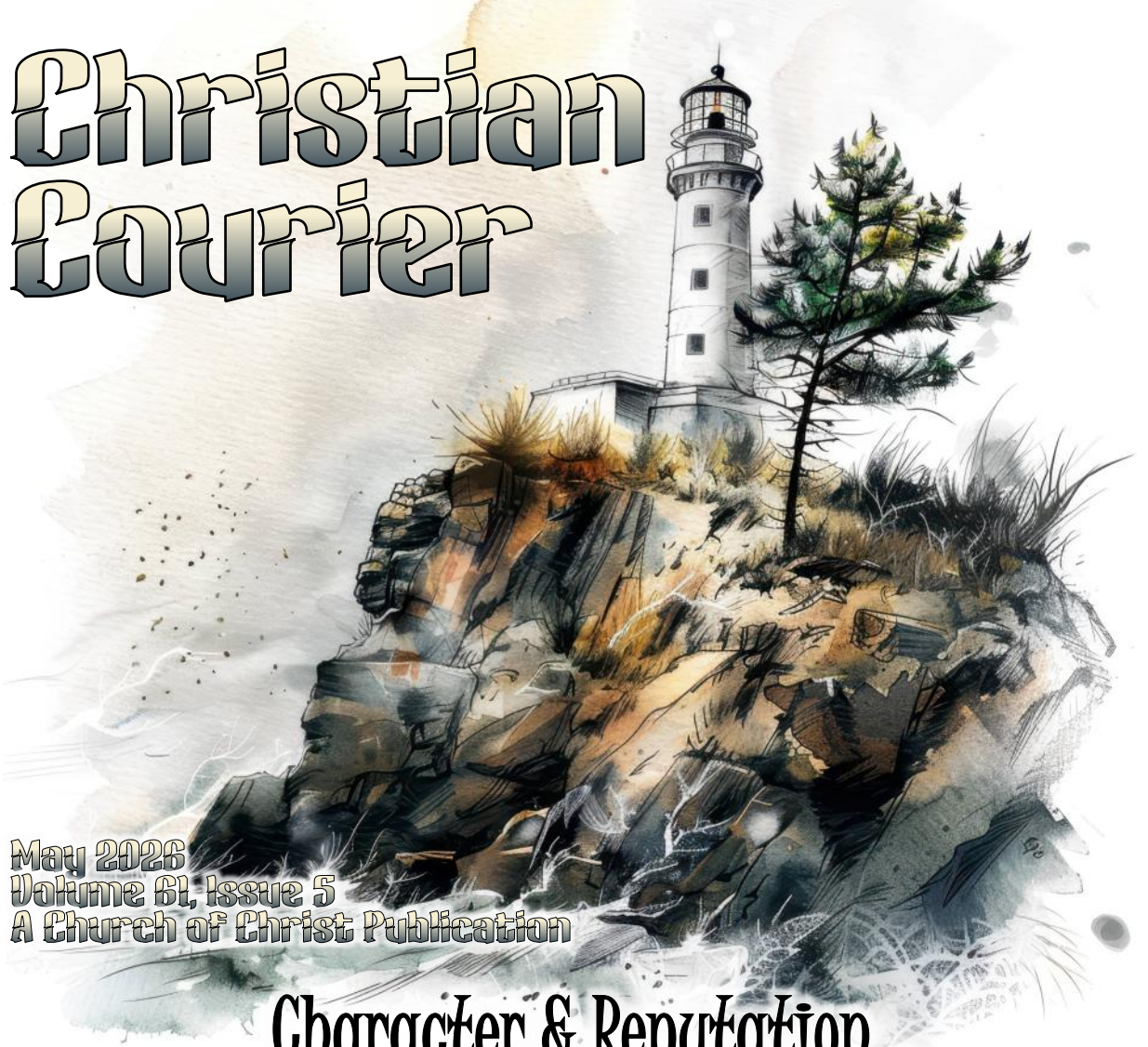
Christian Courier



May 2026
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A Church of Christ Publication

Character & Reputation

Bro. Ellis Forsman

Gal. 2:2, *"And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain."*

Gal. 2:6, *"But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:"*

Character - qualities of a person (moral)

Reputation - the estimation in which a person is held.

What makes a reputation?

What is said. It is based upon other people's impressions.

- **1 Sam. 18:30**, *"Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by."*
- **Acts 10:22**, *"And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, ..."*
- **3 John 1:12**, *"Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true."*

Reputations are not always of a good report. When I was a child, the next door neighbor was known throughout the valley as a drunkard. A kid up the street when I was in school was known as a thief and a robber. A woman at work was known as a "loose" woman.

Without good character our reputation is condemned.

Scribes. Luke 20:46-47, *"Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation."*

Ananias. Acts 5:1-6, *"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him."*

We need a good moral character to form our reputation.

Upon what does character depend?

Not inheritance. Ezek. 18:20, *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."*

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Not what we have. Luke 12.15, *"... Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."*

Not what we claim. Matt. 7.21-23, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

What we know. John 8.31-32, *"... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

What we say. Matt. 12.34-37, *"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."*

What we do. 2 Cor. 5.10, *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."*

Honesty. Luke 8.15, *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."*

Willingly. Philemon 1.14, *"But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly."*

What aids in building character?

Confidence. 2 Cor. 8.22, *"And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you."*

Being peculiar and zealous. Titus 2.13-14, *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

Environment. 1 Cor. 15.33, *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*

Conclusion

If we concentrate on doing the Lord's will and forming our character after His, a good reputation of us will follow. If we try to form a reputation to impress those about us, God (who can see through it) will not be impressed.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Ellis Forsman

Lorenzo Church of Christ
Lorenzo, TX



Milk of the Word

Powers of Parable

One of the main ways Jesus spoke and taught using parables. In fact there are 40 different parables in the KJV bible. These parables used things common, and familiar to the people of the time he was teaching. But to what end? Matt. 13:9 -17 states that Jesus spoke in a way that even the disciples needed explanation. So why? The definition of a parable is this. "a short, simple story that uses everyday situations to illustrate a moral, spiritual, or universal truth." But why was this so difficult?

Rom.1:20, states that God often uses earthly things to teach spirituality. Thomas B. Warren, in the published "Homiletic Commentaries on Mathew", emphasized the evidentiary and moral aspect of the verses of Matt 13:9-17. He explained that Jesus's teaching method perfectly filtered for the "spiritually minded". Rewarding those who had genuine desire to learn with deeper kingdom truths, while the spiritually lazy or antagonistic to miss the message entirely. Prov. 25:2 shows that this knowledge comes through spiritual effort, humility, and sincere seeking. 2 Tim. 2:15, John 5:39.

My thoughts are that the subject matter of the parables is related to the way of life at the time to hold attention and give a slightly better chance to understand.

H. Leo Boles in, "A Commentary on the Gospel According to Mathew", highlights in Matt. 13 to explain why Jesus chose particular subject matter. He argues that parables were designed to catch the attention of earnest seekers, while the metaphorical subject matters served as a form of judicial judgment to conceal truth from obstinate and unbelieving. As well as G.C. Brewer states, " By drawing on agricultural, shepherding, and domestic life, Jesus made his teachings easy to remember and inherently persuasive for his audience.

God never wanted to keep us from the teachings. We just have to seek them out. They won't be made clear without study. John 7:17, Acts 17:11. Hebrew 5:13-14 lets us know that we will start out with the lighter subject, for that's all we can understand. But as we grow in faith, so does our knowledge. So go and seek the knowledge, ask an elder if you are having struggles. Grow in faith. So that you can one day fully understand the spiritual meaning behind the parables of Jesus.

In Christian Love
Bro. Jacob Fuson
Pleasant View
Church of Christ
Stilwell, OK



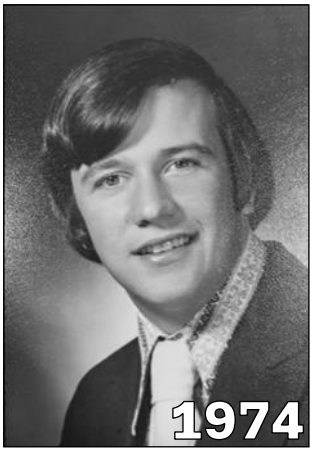
Voices from the Past



Late News, Yakima, Washington & Bellf lower, California.

We are sorry to hear of the fire that damaged Bro Howard McCays house and the sickness they have suffered of late. When I talked to him and his wife two weeks ago on the phone, they were better and working on the repairs to their home. Bro Howard said they had a good meeting with Bro Ken Baldwin and had baptized two young men. Gene Phillips and **Jimmy Lamb**. We here at Bellflower are planning our meeting for this summer and if all goes well it will be in June with services each night and all day the last Saturday and Sunday with guest speakers for these two days. Watch for the dates of this meeting for you are invited to attend. Bro Marion Serrano of La Habra preached at Bellflower Feb 12 for morning services and Bro Perigen preached at La Habra Feb 5 for their morning services. -Roy

(from March 1967, pg. 8)



Bro. Jim Lamb

Remember When?





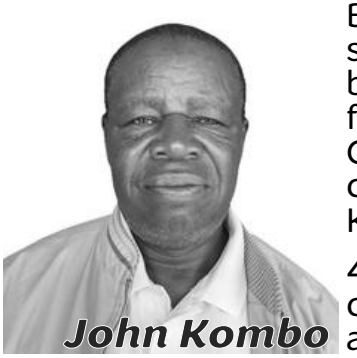
Rex & Tina "Tiny" Mickey

NEWS FROM ABROAD

KENYA UPDATE

Dear Brethren,

The family and brethren at Barut Church of Christ wish to take the opportunity to thank you all for we are so grateful in our hearts for the growth of the Church of Christ at large. God bless you so much.


John Kombo

We thank God for the provision of Hymn Books, it is good we are able to continue singing and praising the wonderful work of our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth. We also thank the team assigned to publish the Christian Courier; they are doing a good work. We are able to know and get updates of what is happening as far as evangelism work is concerned.

We continue to cooperate and coordinate very well in love of our Lord Jesus Christ who provides us with the strength to serve in His dear Kingdom. The brethren and evangelists among "One Cup" congregations are very active. In our congregations we have always received and been receiving brethren from other churches whom we fellowship together and share the Word of God from the Bible.

1. Brother Julius Kikwoi from Sinendet Church of Christ in Mauche.

2. Brother Charles Obare came to visited just after returning back from his rural home to bury his wife.

3. We had a fellowship at Barut Church, photos showing received Hymn books that were purchased for distribution amongst all Churches of Christ congregations here in Kenya.

4. Brother Emmanuel had congregational Bible Study at Kakamege.

We pray for all the brethren of the Church of Christ, may peace be upon us, love of God and unite to continue prevailing as we remember and pray for each other for the continuity of the growth of the Church of Christ here on earth.

God's blessings to us all.

Your Brothers in Christ.

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

(see photos on the back page)

TANZANIA UPDATE

Beloved Brethren & Sisters,

We greet you in name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

On May 13 - 14, we conducted an evangelism meeting and many people attended. We had two topics in this meeting. The first one was "The Church" and the second "The Communion Cup." I told the audience that those who obey the gospel are saved and added by the Lord to his church Acts 2:47; 20:28. With so many passages we exposed to them so that they can be aware and know what the church is.



In this meeting one of our guests came up with the issue of drinking vessel in the communion. He was trying to defend and justify his thoughts when he mention Matt. 26:26. Where the Lord instituted his Supper during the Passover. He said that, "what Jesus meant by the cup was not literal cup but what was in it (content)." We showed him passages that talks about just one drinking vessel in the communion. After proving to him all the evidence, he made a comment that people are sick and we cannot share just one cup with all congregation. Brother Deusi came up and told him that what the Lord has blessed have no disease. That is why before we partake, we ask the God to bless it.

Next week he will be baptized. This is according to his promise to us. However, the meeting went well and most people understood the meaning of Lord's church and the Communion.

On the other hand, our Congo brethren held their gospel meeting on May 04 -5, and according to brother Ebamba many people added to that meeting. They had only one topic which is "The Plan of God for Salvation." which include examples of how people were baptized. The Ethiopian Eunuch and the Jews. I'm sending both our pictures and those from Congo.

Thanks to brother Gerald for his contribution of the Bibles. We got two cases of the Bible which helped us in the meeting and each one had a copy of the Bible. Thank you all for you support for Mission work in Africa. ***(pics on last pg.)***

May our good God protect you and keep all of us safe as we continue to tell people about his kingdom and so to be saved.

Your Brother in Christ,

Sadat.

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

Church of Christ
Foreign Missions
3814 64th Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413

Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 3:10-11

Bro. Paul Warford

Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience

Here Jesus is telling them that they have kept the word that he gave them, they have been faithful to the gospel.

Strongs concordance says that the word "patience" means cheerful endurance.

I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation

One thing to note is the conditional nature of the blessings of God. Because they did their part he will do his part. Keeping them from the hour of temptation did not mean that they would be protected from every little thing that come along but rather that he would be with them and give them strength for the things that were to come. Through history we know that under the reign of different people there was going to be a great persecution of the church.

which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

There are a couple of different ideas on what this hour temptation that comes upon all the world could mean.

I believe that it probably could be and most likely is a reference to the whole and perfect church that in the end of time God will take them home.

But also because Revelation was written before AD 70 it could mean that God was gonna prepare a way to escape as promised in Matthew.

Here is what one commentator says:

In AD 66, some years before the final onslaught against Jerusalem but during the period of increased skirmishes with the Jews, Cestius Gallus marches on the holy city and has every chance to overthrow it. Josephus notes that upon entering the city, setting up camp in one of its newer suburbs, and even after burning part of Jerusalem, he retired from the city without any reason in the world. Josephus notes of Cestius "who had he but continued the siege a little longer had certainly taken the city". Josephus goes on to say that at Cestius' retreat "many of the most imminent Jews swam away from the city as a ship when it was going to sink."

John T Hines says :" the whole world may here refer to the Roman Empire or the then inhabited earth. The expression may be used in a free sense

to indicate some widespread calamity that would affect the country of which Philadelphia was a part."

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Behold, I come quickly

Here we have a promise of Christ's imminent return from the Lord of the universe himself. He also says he will come quickly so the question is what does quickly mean. According to strong Concordance here is the definition,

shortly, that is, *without delay*, *soon*, or (by surprise) *suddenly*, or (by implication of ease) *readily:* - lightly, quickly.

I believe that in this instance that Christ is saying that he will come suddenly and here is the reason why.

1Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Since Christ has promised that he will come back unexpectedly here is a warning from him that we should always hold on to our like precious faith so that the promise of a heavenly home can never be taken from us.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Paul Warford

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK





Church of Christ Family Camp
Cedaredge, Co – July 11-19

For More Information

Please Contact:

Mike and Melissa Harcrow
1-580-584-7597
Robert and Christina Fuson
1-918-696-3944
Kevin and Hayley Lamb
1-509-969-6881
Visit us on Facebook:
Church of Christ Family Camp

See You There!

LORENZO MEETING

LORENZO CHURCH OF CHRIST
407 4TH ST (4TH & MONROE)
LORENZO, TEXAS

JUL 30 – AUG 2
GUEST SPEAKERS

CONTACT:
JERRY MCCAY
(806) 549-0355

Thought for the Month

This months thought is this: Do you realize the word **SIN**, including all its variants (sins, sinned, etc.), in the KJV Bible as translated from the Greek word ***hamartia*** (**ἁμαρτία**), doesn't mean an act of doing evil, as we naturally think it would, but rather more like missing the mark, or not living up to your potential or spiritual calling? Yep! Look it up. Does this bring to mind Philippians 3:14? Do we realize this "life" of ours isn't about us? But rather, it is our ONE & ONLY chance to prove to **Him** that we love **Him**, and are worthy of sharing eternity with **Him**... Remember "straight is the gate & narrow is the way" so aim true.

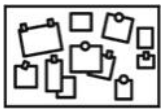
Many
a Men
a Love
u Jesus,
o Although
c Righteous
o Christians
o Grow
a Eating
p Potato
h Chips
o Together,
h Today &
i Tomorrow,
i Patiently
h Holding
e Jars of
a Pickles,
e Juggling
o Jellybeans, &
u Rejoicing.
e

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

Last month we presented a brain teaser challenge, and promised the answer this month. But... instead of just giving away the answer, we thought a hint in the right direction would be much more fun! So here it is. This should make it easy enough to solve. If you think you have the answer, please email us at ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com. The first person to respond with the correct answer will win an entire years free subscription to The Christian Courier! >wink< In all seriousness, we hope you find our little brain-teaser both fun & challenging.

Love & blessings...





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
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
Jesse Locke	Aztec, NM	Health issues from Strokes
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	Dementia
Lavonne Walk	Gleed, WA	Health Problems
Betty McKinney	Gleed, WA	Back surgery
Troy Solomon	Gleed, WA	Health Issues

Gospel Meetings

Lower Ahtanum	Yakima, WA	Jun 28 - Jul 1	Rick Carter
Gleed Meeting	Gleed, WA	Jul 2 - 5	Paul Warford
Family Camp	Cedaredge, CO	Jul 11 - 19	Guest Speakers
Aztec Meeting	Aztec, NM	Jul 24 - 26	Terry Warford
Lorenzo Meeting	Lorenzo, TX	Jul 30 - Aug 2	Guest Speakers
Labor Day Wkend	Stilwell, OK	Sep 4 - 6	Casey Dover
Broken Bow Mtg	Broken Bow, OK	Nov 13 - 15	Guest Speakers

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER IN @LLABORATION WITH OUR CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY WEBSITE IS N@W HOSTING FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMED SERMON VIDEOS FROM SUNDAY AM (THE YUMA, BROKEN BOW AND GLEED @NGREGATION FACEBOOK GROUPS CURRENTLY) AS WELL AS SERMONS RE@RDED FROM MEETINGS, ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL & OUR WEBSITE 1CUPHISTORY.CHURCH. EACH FB GROUP HAS ITS OWN PLAYLIST AS WELL.

CONGO MEETING





TANZANIA MEETING





KENYA CONGREGATIONS WITH NEW SONG BOOKS





WASHINGTON MEETINGS

LOWER AHTANUM

JUNE 28 - JULY 1
4303 AHTANUM RD, YAKIMA, WA 98903
CONTACT: RICHARD JOHNSTON (509) 697-4961
SPEAKER: BRO. RICK CARTER

GLEED

JULY 2 - 5
140 DONELSON LANE, GLEED, WA 98908
CONTACT: JIM LAMB (509) 961-1900
SPEAKER: BRO. PAUL WARFORD

AZTEC MEETING

JULY 24 - 26

PARK AVENUE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

416 S. PARK AVE.
AZTEC, NM 87410

CONTACT:
CHARLIE JOHNSON
(505) 436-6267

SPEAKER:
BRO. TERRY WARFORD