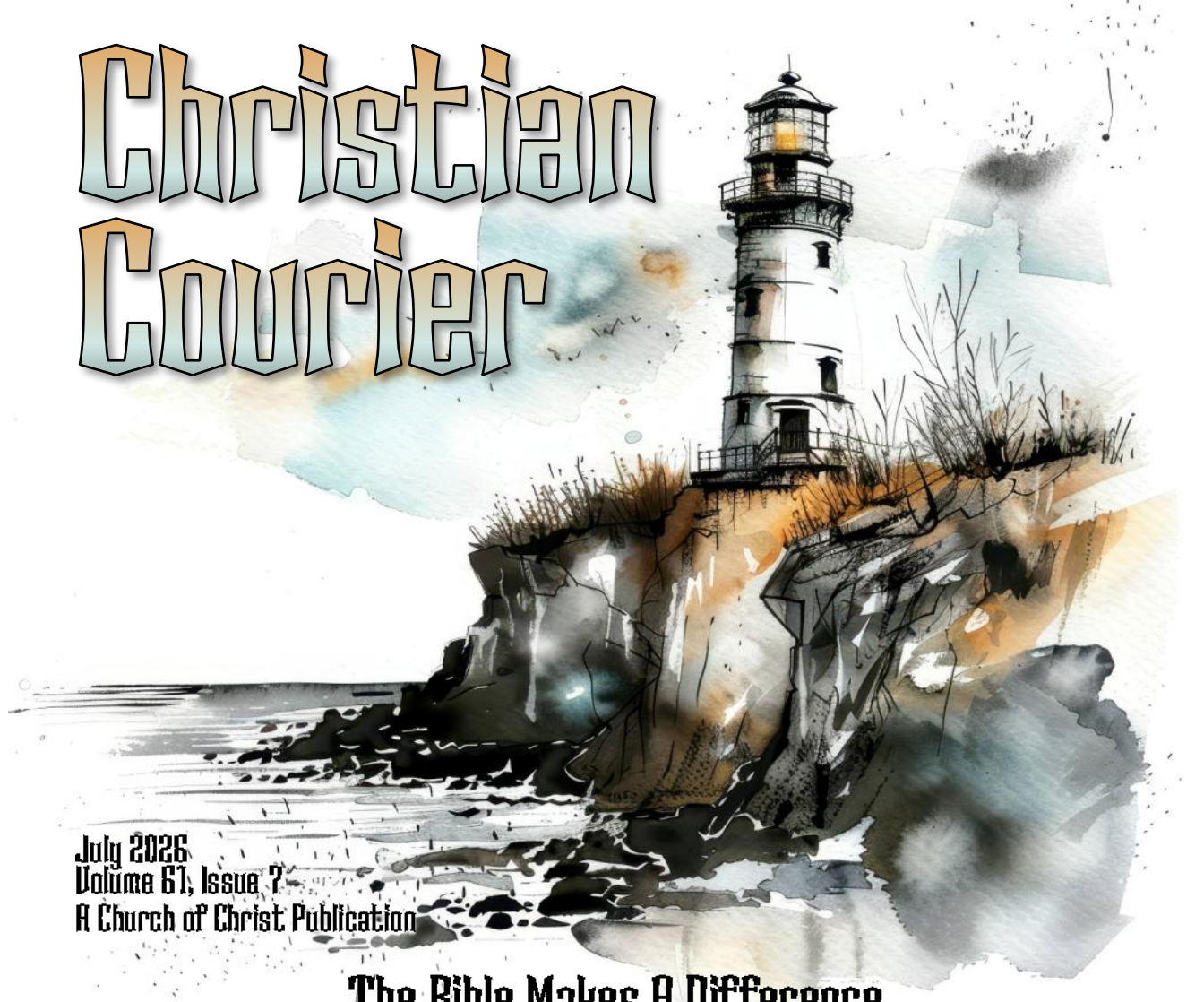
Christian Courier



July 2026
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A Church of Christ Publication

The Bible Makes A Difference

If you are meeting someone for the first time and he asked you to tell him how the Bible has made a difference in your life, what would you say? If your children wanted some advice for making those difficult decisions of life, which book would you urge as a guide? (My father urged and advised me to read the Bible in order to live peacefully with all kinds of people in my life). I believe that the Bible can make a tremendous difference in ones life, if we will use it. We, in Kenya are grateful and thankful to Brother Gerald. In his own wisdom chose to purchase Bibles and sent them to some congregations in Kenya, particularly in Nakuru and Kericho Counties.

Think about our world for a moment. There is bitterness, animosity, tension and war between men and nations. All of this comes from discontent and restlessness in the human heart (James 4:1, 2). What guide can man use to alleviate these

problems? Where can he go to find the principles by which to live that he might have the abundant life (John 10: 10)? I believe that God wants us to be happy by making the right decisions. Jesus said, "*Therefore, all things whatever you want men to do to you, even so do also to them, for this is the law and the prophets*" (Mathew 7: 12). This is fundamental principle is the foundation upon which is built all that God would have us do in our relationships with others. We need the best guide available, and that is the Bible.

In my life I have been surrounded by those who deeply believed in the Bible as a guide for their lives. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, Bible teachers like Bro. Ellis Forseman and the older preachers have been an inspiration to my life and others. These challenged me to put into practice what the Bible teaches and I have been richly blessed for having done so.

I can remember the enthusiasm of the older preachers who came and preached in meetings where we lived and who delivered powerful lessons that would stir to action, motivate us to do right and call for response in our lives. They dealt with the importance of the Bible and sin and its consequences. They discussed in a forthright manner what one needed to do to be saved.

Yes, the Bible has the power to change lives God's Power for Salvation. Romans 1: 16-17, "*16For I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: for Jew first, and then Greek. 17For in it is revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith;* as it is written,*" The one who is righteous by faith will live. I'm sure that many of you have seen the life of someone re-shaped so drastically that you felt that the "new" person was not the one you had known before. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*" (NIV) (2 Corinthians 5:17).

These changes were not brought about by demands and threats but by the transforming power of the word of God.

Bro. John Kombo
Nakuru Kenya



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OLD FLORA VISTA, NM CHURCH HOUSE





WHERE REX & TINA "TINY" MICKEY WORSHIPPED

Photos & Memories

LAKE NAVASHA CHURCH IN AFRICA W/BRO. WILSON





JACK LAMB BAPTISM
GLEED CONGREGATION

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

The Parable of the Sower (Part 1 of 2)

(Matthew 13:1–23; Mark 4:1–20; Luke 8:4–15, KJV)

The Parable of the Sower is one of the most significant parables Jesus taught because He identified it as foundational to understanding His other parables. In Mark 4:13, Jesus asked His disciples, "*Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?*" This statement demonstrates the importance of understanding not only the story itself but also the spiritual lessons it contains. Church of Christ teachers have long emphasized that this parable is not primarily about the sower or even the seed; rather, it is about the different conditions of the human heart and how individuals respond to the Word of God.

Jesus explained that "*The seed is the word of God*" (Luke 8:11). The seed itself is perfect because it comes from God. James wrote that God "*begat he us with the word of truth*" (James 1:18), and Peter declared that Christians are "*born again... by the word of God*" (1 Peter 1:23). Therefore, the success or failure of the harvest is not determined by the quality of the seed but by the condition of the soil into which it falls.

The first soil is the wayside, representing hearts that never truly receive God's Word. Jesus explained that "*then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved*" (Luke 8:12). Like seed lying on a hard-packed path, the Word never penetrates because the heart has become hardened. This reminds Christians of the importance of preparing the heart before hearing God's Word. Hebrews 3:15 warns, "*To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*" A heart continually exposed to sin, pride, or indifference becomes resistant to the truth.

The second soil is the stony ground, describing those who initially receive the Word with joy but have no deep spiritual foundation. Jesus said, "*for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away*" (Luke 8:13). These individuals respond emotionally but fail to develop enduring faith. Church of Christ writers have often stressed that genuine conversion requires more than an emotional response; it requires rooted faith that continues in obedience. Paul encouraged Christians to be "*rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith*" (Colossians 2:7). Trials reveal whether faith is firmly established or only superficial.

The third soil is filled with thorns, representing hearts that allow worldly concerns to crowd out spiritual growth. Jesus identified these thorns as "*cares and riches and pleasures of this life*" (Luke 8:14). Unlike the first two soils, these people continue to hear

the Word, but their spiritual fruit never matures because competing priorities consume their attention. Jesus warned in Matthew 6:24 that "*Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*" Likewise, 1 John 2:15-17 reminds believers not to love the world because its desires are temporary, while "*he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*" The danger is not always open rebellion but divided devotion.

Finally, the good ground represents the honest and receptive heart. Jesus described these hearers as those who, "*in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience*" (Luke 8:15). This heart not only receives the Word but holds it fast and allows it to produce lasting fruit. Matthew's account records harvests of "*an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty*" (Matthew 13:23), illustrating that while Christians may differ in opportunities and abilities, every faithful disciple should bear fruit. Jesus later taught, "*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit*" (John 15:8).

An important lesson found throughout this parable is that the same seed is sown everywhere. The gospel message does not change from one person to another. Romans 1:16 declares that the gospel "*is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.*" The difference lies entirely in the hearer. This truth emphasizes personal responsibility. Every individual must examine the condition of his own heart rather than blaming the preacher, the congregation, or the circumstances.

Another significant lesson is the necessity of perseverance. Good soil is not simply enthusiastic soil; it is patient soil. Luke records that faithful disciples "*bring forth fruit with patience*" (Luke 8:15). Spiritual maturity develops over time through faithful obedience, continued study of God's Word, prayer, worship, and steadfast service. James 1:22 exhorts Christians to "*be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,*" demonstrating that fruitfulness is measured by obedience rather than mere knowledge.

The Parable of the Sower continues to challenge every generation of Christians. It calls each believer to honestly evaluate his own heart. Has it become hardened by sin? Is it shallow in commitment? Is it distracted by worldly pursuits? Or is it receptive, faithful, and fruitful? Jesus concluded this teaching with the solemn invitation, "*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear*" (Matthew 13:9). Those words remain just as relevant today. God's Word still possesses the power to save, strengthen, and transform lives, but only those who receive it with honest hearts, obey it faithfully, and persevere in its teachings will bear fruit to the glory of God.

Bro. Jacob Fuson

Pleasant View
Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK



Voices from the Past

Gospel Advocate

Feb 15th, 1888

"The Testimony of One of the Pioneers"

"I remember well when we had no meetinghouses to dedicate by professional dedicators or successful beggars for money. We had no organs to entertain the congregations, but the natural one the Lord had given to his children. We had no hired boys just out of college to play the clergyman and usurp the authority given to the heaven-ordained elders of the church of God. I have lived to see nearly all things we once preached and practiced changed to the modern, fashionable, sectarian practices, where all expedients are used to entertain the people and gain thereby the recognition of the conflicting sects about us, to become popular, to be considered orthodox and really, one of the branches of the church.....

When I became a member of the church almost 50 years ago, I never expected or dreamed that I would live to see the change in doing the Lord's work, as it is called, that I have seen."

Philander Green

Thought for the Month

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

As promised, here is the solution to the brain-teaser. I hope you've all enjoyed trying to figure this out. It's just an attempt to create an easy saying to to help remember the books of the Bible, but I think it may have ended up being of not much help lol. I tried, and it was fun! =)

This month I'd like to carry on a bit about my awesome vacation to fellowship with church folk while attending both the Aztec, NM and Lorenzo, TX gospel meetings. I met a lot of new friends, recorded all the sermons, snapped pictures of everyone, and notated some ancestry for the history website. It will take a couple of weeks to get all caught up, so look for them then. **Remember, photos and info of anyone that's not a designated contact or preacher is not available to the general public** so you'll need a login to go see it. Send an email if you'd like a login, or feel free to send a message using the website's Contact Us page.

Website: https://1CupHistory.Church
Email: ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com



Bro. Jesse Warford

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK

News from Abroad

Central America Update

Report July 26, 2026

Appreciated brothers:

1) These pictures of brothers and sisters in Mexico distributing pamphlets of biblical studies in the streets and making evangelization work.

2) Also picture of church in Green River and some baptisms. (pg. 14)

Brothers; thank you for your prayers and collaboration so that the Lord Jesus allows that every day in Mexico and Guatemala we have new brothers in the faith with the work of all the brothers and preachers.

Thank you in Christ Jesus

Bro. Otto Alvarez

TANZANIA UPDATE

We greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus. It is another month that we are sharing with you what have taken place. It has been hectic month.

The work of evangelism took place this month. We have been moving around doing what our Lord commanded and that is our major goal. We went to a new village which we have never visited before. These people are agnostic and according to our host they believe in herbal remedies. We were told that some of them keep hyenas in their homes for the purpose of sending them during night times to kill or scare people in other villages. Two of them have promised us to be baptized next week Lord willing.


Alex Sadat

Because our aim was to preach and teach them about Christ, they were able to listen what the Bible says. And in the end they confessed to us that they are willing to change.

On the other hand, brother Edward and Lazarus went to Butundwe which is also a village and found people who are Jehovas Witness. According to these brethren, they taught them about the church of Christ and the five steps of worship. It seems that some of them do not know about the worship. After their departure one of them called and invited the brethren to go back next week.

Great work is done in the field or vineyard and those who don't Christ are willing to change and become members of his body. We pray that the work we do and the people we evangelize can understand and be as God want them to be. Lord willing we shall have a two day seminar with the Pentecosts next month, we don't know the date yet but we are scheduling.

We have prayer requests from brother Deusi and Lazarus; they are sick of Malaria and very weak.

Thank you all who donates and put their hands in the Africa Mission. May God bless you abundantly.

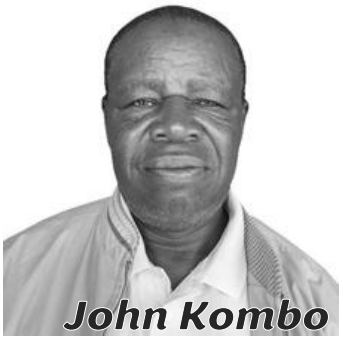
Your brother in Christ,

Sadat

KENYA UPDATE

Dear Brethren in Christ,

We are glad to write to you and thank God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We hope you are all doing fine in the Lord. We are grateful to God as we serve His Kingdom – The Church of Christ.


John Kombo

We thank God for His faithful-ness throughout this month. Through our cell group/fellowship meetings and family visitations, we are happy to share with you that; we experienced spiritual growth, strengthened fellowship and encouraged members in their faith. The brethren visited actively participated in Bible study and prayer. Fellowship among members turnout was good and so encouraging.

God has always provided us with an opportunity to serve Him. In this month we were able to visit different homes especially from the multi-cup church members. Among those visited promised to join the church of Christ for more teachings as per the church's doctrine. Therefore, we will be doing follow-ups for good yields in His Kingdom.

The church leadership, youth leaders and the fellowship team of the Church of Christ Barut, we thank God for His guidance and blessings throughout the month. The Church remains committed to strengthening its cell groups, listening and visiting more families in order to advance the mission of the church through prayer, discipleship and Bible Study (Evangelism). We trust God for greater impact in the coming month.

Attached herewith find an article (front pg), and some photos from fellowship meeting and Hymnbooks distribution to various churches (pg 14). The Church of Christ takes the opportunity to thank you for your prayers and financial support towards the spread of the gospel to the lost souls. May the Almighty God's blessings be upon you all.

Your Brothers in Christ,
Bro. John Kombo, Bro. Robert Keio
& Bro. Simion Omwansa

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 3:14-15

Bro. Paul Warford

To the Church in Laodicea

Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

To begin with let's get the history of the people in Laodicea.

I believe that Tom Wacaster says it best.

Laodicea was a city of Asia minor situated in the Lycos valley in the Providence of Phrygia. It is South of Philadelphia east of Ephesus and 11 miles from Colossia. This city was situated in the neighborhood of Hot Springs. Emitting lukewarm water from the mouth was a figure which its citizens could easily understand. Great Asian travel routes ran through the city, assuring it of commercial success. Reliable sources tell us that the city was founded by Antiochus II of Syria, and that he named it after his wife, Laodike. The city was populated with Syrians and Jews who were transplanted there from Babylonia. Situated at a junction of several major routes, the city grew to become a wealthy city over the years. Great riches were gathered into the city. Consequently the Laodiceans were proud, arrogant, and self-sufficient because of their riches. They said "we have gold; we need nothing anyone can give." Because of these trades and wealth, the city soon developed into a giant financial center. It was the home of millionaires. Following the establishment of the Roman province of Asia, Laodicea quickly became a great center of wealth and industry. It was particularly famous for the black wool of its sheep, and for the Phrygian powder for the eyes, which was manufactured there.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;

This letter begins just like all the rest of the letters to the churches, it is given to the Angel or messenger of the church to present to the church.

These things saith the Amen,

It was because of all the Pagan worship that went on in this city that Jesus makes this statement. He is asserting the fact that there is only one God and that he is that God.

The word Amen means: so be it, or it is

the truth, or it cannot be changed.

the faithful and true witness

Joh 5:30 *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

The faith of Jesus was not like our faith today, believing in the things not seen but his was a faith that did what the father wanted. He was faithful in all that he did of God's will.

the beginning of the creation of God;

Some religious groups today try to use this part of the scripture to say that God created Jesus. They affirm that he was the first created being since he was the beginning of creation.

Well let's take a minute and just look and see what the word "beginning" means in the Greek language that it was written in.

G746

ἀρχή
archē
ar-khay'

From G756; (properly abstract) a *commencement*, or (concrete) *chief* (in various applications of order, time, place or rank): - beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule.

So it's absolutely not saying that Jesus was the first created being but that he was chief in the application of rank. He was the first in power, principle and rule

So again in the opening statements here Jesus was wanting to affirm to the church that he is the beginning and the end of all gods there is none other than him.

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

I know

Jesus has told all 7 churches this two-word phrase "I know." Do you remember that old song "There's an eye watching you." Well that song is alive and true today as it has always been since the beginning of time.

Psa 33:18 *Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;*

You can't hide from him, you can't run far enough away from him that he doesn't see even the secret things that you do.

thy works

Jesus tells all seven churches that he

knows their works. That lets us know two things: one of them we've already defined, and that is Jesus knows He's the all seeing eye, he sees every single thing that we do. The second thing it defines is that our works are important to God. James the 2nd chapter tells us that faith without works is dead being alone and even goes on to compare it to the spirit leaving the body and that the body is dead without the spirit. So, faith without works is dead being alone.

that thou art neither cold nor hot

The church here, Laodicea, didn't hate Christ, but they didn't have true love for him either. They came to worship God on a weekly basis, but their heart simply wasn't in it. They sang hymns, prayed, listened to the scriptures being taught, while they disrupted the service by talking to their neighbor and playing on their phone. They really didn't care if they were there. They came because their spouse wanted them to, or their parents wanted them to, or it's just what they've always done, and their answer to any gainsayers always was, "at least I'm here."

I would thou wert cold or hot.

But Jesus wanted more than that, he wants the true fervent love of someone trying to do his will. He even tells them; I really wish you were cold instead of just in the middle.

In Christian Love,

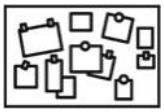
Bro. Paul Warford

Pleasant View
Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK







Bulletin Board

Prayer List

Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Health Issues
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

Labor Day Wkend	Stilwell, OK	Sep 4 - 6	Casey Dover
Broken Bow Mtg	Broken Bow, OK	Nov 13 - 15	Guest Speakers

Baptisms

Jack Lamb	July 26, 2026	(Gleed) Yakima, WA

Births & Passings

Retha Gale Morris	Stilwell, OK	Passed July 13, 2026
Clarkson Theodore D'artagnan Bryant	Stilwell, OK	Born June 10, 2026





PHOTOS FROM THE CENTRAL AMERICA UPDATE (PG 7)









PHOTOS FROM THE KENYA UPDATE (PG 9)



Retha Gale Morris, age 81, a beloved resident of the Peavine Community, will be remembered and celebrated for her vibrant spirit following her passing on July 13, 2026, at her home. A Celebration of Life service will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at Roberts and Hart Funeral Home in Stilwell, Oklahoma. Friends and family will have the opportunity to gather and honor Retha's remarkable life. Following the service, she will be laid to rest at Spade Mountain Cemetery, with arrangements being overseen by Roberts & Hart Funeral Home.

Retha is preceded in death by her father, Marshall J.D. Johnson, and mother, Billia Jo Johnson.

She leaves behind her beloved husband of 63 years, George Morris. Siblings: Georgianna & husband Richard Taylor, Nina Bixler, and Charlie & wife Celesta Johnson. Sister-in-laws Vivian Davis and husband Shawn and Reba Morris. Children: Debbie Morris, Teresa Morris, Randy Morris, and Vickie Morris. Grandchildren: Nathan & Angela Jackson, Joshua & Shara Jackson, Alisha Jackson, Cassondra Young, Heather Morris, Lauren Guthrie, Courtney Moncravie, J.D. & Rebecca Hall, Joe & Mariyah Weldon, and Charlie & Emily Morris. Great grandchildren: Jacob Yancy, Alexxa Jackson, Desmond Jackson, Daphne Jackson, Triston Jackson, Stetson Jackson, Judd Weeks, Colt Jackson, Jaxon Wyckoff, Sophie Dooley, Ava Alverson, Marshall Alverson-Warford, Bryar Ross, Conner Ross, and Issac Drain. About our beloved wife, mom, grandmother, friend... She was born in Yuma, AZ, but later moved to Lakeside, CA, where she lived and attended El Capitan High School. She met George in 1963 and was married in Winterhaven, CA. They lived in a few places in AZ before moving to Stilwell, OK, in 1968, where they settled in to raise their family in the community of Peavine. When Retha married into the Morris family, she immediately had lots of extras, like Mamaw and Papaw Morris, Jack & Doris, Bonnie & Ralph, Betty & Bill, Rose & Lloyd, Russell & Reba, and Jack & Vivian, along with lots of nieces and nephews. What a clan they had as their families grew together.

They shared so many fun times and made great memories. Retha was a member of the Church of Christ and loved being a part of her church family. She never missed an opportunity to help anyone in need; it didn't matter what it was... she would cook, clean, fix hair, kiss away pains, hug the hurting, praise your accomplishments and chastise (if needed.) She was uncompromising in her love for others.

Retha battled Parkinson's disease for more than 27 years. What a strong and determined lady she was!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

RETHA GALE MORRIS



MAR 24, 1945 — JUL 13, 2026