

Eisenhower Church of Christ

A Better Person

The approach of a new year is always a time of great anticipation. We generally look forward to a new year as a time to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. Our desires may be expressed in a general sense in broad wishes for things to be better in the upcoming year than they were in the last one. They may also be stated in very specific terms in the form of resolutions to undertake particular actions designed to improve one's health or skills or conduct. In whatever form our desires may be voiced, we all genuinely want things to be better today than they were yesterday.

The challenge of our New Year's wishes is illustrated by the story of an old man and his dog. They spent long hours on the front porch, the old man rocking in his chair and the dog lying on the wooden planks that made up the porch. One day as the man's grandson was visiting the boy observed the dog as he whined and wriggled and then would lie still again. This process repeated itself many times over the course of an hour. The boy finally asked his grandfather what was wrong with the dog. The man replied that the dog was lying on a nail that poked him and made him uncomfortable. Unfortunately, the dog was not uncomfortable enough to get up and move to a different spot on the porch.

This is our problem when it comes to self-improvement. We may be unhappy with some aspect of our lives, but we're not unhappy enough to change that circumstance. Like the dog, we whine and complain, and then settle back into the same habits again. We seem oblivious to the fact that for our circumstances to change, we have to change. As one man said, "if you keep doing what you're doing, you'll keep getting what you've got." This is true in every part of our lives, but is no more so true than in our relationship with the Lord.

If asked the question, most people will readily say they want to go to heaven. They sincerely mean it, of course, but when it comes to doing what God requires in order to get there, they aren't willing to obey Him. They are uncomfortable with their sins, but not uncomfortable enough to change the way they live. Then they wonder why their lives never seem to improve.

In order for our spiritual lives to improve, we have to be willing to change whatever is keeping us from being all that the Lord intends for us to be. For those who are not yet Christians, this means being willing to hear, believe, and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord said He was going to prepare a place for His disciples (John 14:1-3). He also said that only those who do the will of the Father in heaven will enter there (Matthew 7:21). If one is not yet doing the will of the Father, he must begin to do so in order to receive this reward.

In addition to this, the scriptures teach that those who are disciples are expected to grow and mature in the faith (2 Peter 1:5-11; Hebrews 5:12). If one is not growing as a Christian,

he must begin to do so in order to be pleasing to the Lord. He cannot simply wish that he was more mature and capable as a disciple, he must change his attitude and actions in order to become such.

Most of us are not satisfied with where we are in our spiritual pursuits. This does not mean that we are evil and rebellious. It just acknowledges that we all wish we were doing a better job of following the Lord. All our wishes, however, are meaningless until we get off the nail in the porch and change what we're doing. Only then will we begin to achieve our spiritual goals and become a better person today than we were yesterday.

—Fred Dominguez

Sympathy

Iola Cunningham, a former member of Eisenhower, passed away Tuesday, December 22nd at her home. A memorial service was conducted Monday, December 28th at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home Chapel. Lynn Money conducted the service.

Gene Chandler, a member at Parkview Church of Christ, passed away Sunday, December 27th. He had served as an elder for a number of years (a few years ago). A memorial service was held Thursday, December 31st at Hubbard-Kelly. Gene was buried in Sanderson, TX.

Prayer Request

Betty Branson fell Sunday, December 27th, at her home. She cracked her right hip and broke her right wrist. Three screws were put in her hip and her wrist was put in a cast. Betty will have rehab before going home. She is in room #618 at Medical Center Hospital.

John Carroll was taken to the ER at Medical Center Hospital with chest pains Wednesday evening, December 23rd.

Russell Montgomery (Devida's brother) was taken to the ER at Adena Hospital in Chillicothe, OH, Monday evening, December 28th, due to blood loss. Tests were being scheduled for Tuesday, December 29th.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Bobbie Braun; Neva Carrigan; Hazel Cavanaugh; Steve Chavez; Cruz Coe; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Todd Drake; John Ford; Gloria Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Andrué LaFlure; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patty Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Laura Olivas; Connie Phelps; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Meta Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; Jill Wallace; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Haylee Wint; Jack Wright; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

We have several dear members of this congregation who, because of illness and/or advanced age, are not able to assemble with us on the Lord's Day for Bible Study and Worship as they would like. They mean a great deal to us and we love them very much. These members are: Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Anna Groves; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambright; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Which miracle performed by Jesus is mentioned in all four gospels?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

The Jordan River is the longest river in Israel.

FYI

Watch *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the **"Speaking the Truth in Love"** program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

The **"New Mexico Children's Home"** will be back in Odessa Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 for a food pick up. They are requesting **tomato sauce and tomato paste**. If you can help out with this request it is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations also accepted.

Also, the **Tipton Children's Home** will be here March 8th-10th for their food drive. They are requesting: **Assorted Cereal, Assorted Soup, Ritz Crackers, Assorted Spices, Tomato Sauce, Vegetable Oil, Microwave Popcorn, Enchilada Sauce, Cough Drops, Toilet Bowl Cleaner and Disinfectant Spray**.

Description of the Church

The church is not made up of people who believe they are better than others, rather of those who believe they ought to be better than they are.

The church is not made up of perfect people, but of people who follow a perfect Lord and realize they ought to do the best they can.

The church is not made up of people who never make mistakes, but of those who acknowledge their mistakes and try not to make the same ones again.

The church is not trying to withdraw from everyone, but rather to bring everyone into its fellowship and love.

The church is not trying to set up arbitrary rules to hinder anyone, but to show how following the rule of Christ helps us all.

The church is not trying to take the joy out of life, but to put real joy into life.

The church is not trying to make you feel ugly, but trying to instill the beauty of holiness in your life.

—Andrew Connally

January 3, 2016

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer
Lord's Supper
West...
East...

A.M.

Larry May
Rudy Ochoa
Allen Weakland
Larry May
John Carroll
Scot Straw
Tom Sorenson
Craig Wesson
Don Easlon
Tom Sorenson
Bill Ryan
Dylan Straw
Isaiah Armendarez

P.M.

Larry May
Jacob Carson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Bill Ryan
Bill Butler
Don Easlon
Bill Brown
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990; *Deacon*: Rudy Ochoa 381-0759; *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486;
Table: Bill Brown 272-50459; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Tony Marrs 553-7349
Collections: Tony Marrs 553-7349

Sunday AM

"TBA"

Sunday PM

"TBA"

Our Records

Bible Class... 35

Morning Worship...60

Evening Worship...No Service

Wednesday...86

Contribution...\$1,711.00

