

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Fiery Trials

When Peter wrote his first letter in the early 60s AD the first stirrings of Imperial persecution against Christians were beginning to be felt. Peter had personally experienced persecution at the hands of his fellow Jews, and was aware of the sufferings his fellow apostle, Paul, had experienced and was even then enduring. In anticipation of the more widespread persecution that would follow, Peter warned his readers to not be surprised when such things occurred. In I Peter 4:12-19 he encouraged them to expect to suffer for the Lord's sake, and to do so as faithful members of the body of Christ. Uninspired historical records suggest that Christians of that era mostly lived up to this exhortation.

Those of us who have grown up in the United States have been uncommonly blessed with an absence of persecution in our country. For nearly 240 years we have enjoyed the protection of the First Amendment and have been free to practice our faith without governmental intervention. This constitutional protection has also sheltered us from attacks by unbelievers, at least until recently. The increasingly militant homosexual lobby has now been joined by other anti-Christian forces, including a surprising number of judges and politicians, to try to restrict the free expression of Christian beliefs.

It is clear that no one in the larger Christian community foresaw the consequences of the years-long propaganda war that has been waged under the banner of tolerance. We have unwittingly gone along with the scheme that has brought us to where our First Amendment rights can be taken away by a lawsuit, or by a city or state ordinance. Practicing Christians are now the open targets of activists whose sole purpose is to silence the voice of God's word that condemns their ungodly behaviors. At the same time, the fearful evil of Islam is being ignored by these same activists. As a result, believers need to be prepared to suffer persecution as we have never experienced it before.

It is impossible to foretell exactly how this persecution will manifest itself, but only a seismic shift in the political climate in our country can forestall it. As American citizens we have recourse through the election process and through our courts. In the same way that Paul used his Roman citizenship to protect himself and to facilitate his ministry we may use our American citizenship toward the same ends. We should not, however, place all our trust in these means. After all, the very Roman government that at one time protected Paul because he was a citizen, eventually took his life in spite of his citizenship.

Peter's warning from nearly 2,000 years ago, still rings true today. ***“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you...but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name...Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful creator in doing what is right”*** (I Peter 4:12,16,19).

In spite of the fiery trials that are now upon us, we must not bow to this pressure. We must continue *“speaking the truth in love”* (Ephesians 4:15), and to *“not shrink from declaring the whole purpose of God”* (Acts 20:27). Only in this way will we glorify God in the midst of persecution, and thus preserve our home in heaven which our Lord and Savior is preparing for those who obey Him.

—Fred Dominguez

Baptism

We received word from Connie Lowe’s daughter, Pam, that her husband, **Blair Saldana**, was recently baptized into Christ. The Saldana’s live in Nashville, TN. We rejoice with this good news.

Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Patsy Mitchell and her family in the loss of her mother, **Linda Stegall**. Linda passed from this life early Friday morning, June 26th, in a hospital in Amarillo, TX from congestive heart failure. Funeral services were held in Borger, TX , Monday, June 29th.

Prayer Requests

Johna Straw underwent surgery Wednesday, July 1st at Medical Center Hospital. Keep Johna in your prayers.

Shanna Edwards is requesting prayers for her father, **James Stevens**. He had to be taken to the ER approximately two weeks ago. James did not receive a diagnosis and was released to go home. Keep him in your prayers.

Toya Zambelli is scheduled for surgery Monday, July 6th in Corpus Christi, TX. Toya is battling cancer in several areas. Two back to back surgeries were scheduled for her. She is the sister of Devida’s son-in-law, Mark Basaldua. Toya needs prayers.

Robert Jackson, a neighbor to Bill & Robbie Butler, is suffering from COPD. He is in need of prayers.

Concerns Update

Lee Roy Bell was moved to Midland Memorial, West (Continued Care). He is in room #213-A. Lee Roy is having breathing problems, high sugar levels and not eating much.

Prayer List

Cody & Kala Ausbrook; Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Jane Burroughs; Neva Carrigan; Diane Carver; Hazel Cavanaugh; Steve Chavez; Charles Chism; LaDonna Chism; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettis-Dennard; Brian Drake; James Drake; Nancy Fisher; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Robert Jackson; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Katie Limer; Connie Lowe; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Avery Ojado; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Nancy Slife; Marilyn Upshaw; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; Tee Wood; T.J. 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; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambright; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Elder and Glenna McCarty; Caleista Millican; Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Who asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?"

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

When Samuel was a little boy he heard God calling his name in the night.

FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called "**Christian Take Aim**" at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; www.thegospelradionetwork.org. Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

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.

Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your prayers on behalf of my husband, Blair Saldana and my mother Connie Lowe. May it please you and give you confidence to know that Blair has been baptized into Christ. Please continue to pray for Blair as I know you will for your beloved sister, Connie Lowe.

Love, Pam Saldana

Events

A "**Ladies Night Devotional**" is scheduled for Friday, July 31st in the Annex. There will be several speakers from our congregation. Also, an "overnight lock in" is planned after for all those who want to brave the floor. More details and the time will follow.

Office News

We need to replenish our meat fund. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the church and specify "**Meat Fund**". This fund is to help purchase the meat for special occasions such as funerals, etc. Any amount will be greatly appreciated as always.

MARK THIS DATE: Saturday, July 11th there will be a "Bible Class Coordinators and teachers workday. Time—9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon.

July 5, 2015

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

A.M.

Larry May
 John Wood
 Logan Summers
 Larry May
 Trinidad Wood
 Bill Brown
 Don Easlon

P.M.

Larry May
 Craig Wesson
 Logan Summers
 Larry May
 Isaiah Armendarez
 Don Easlon
 Tony Marrs

West...

Charles Wood
 Cody Wesson
 Tom Sorenson

Scot Straw
 Communion
 (In Library)

East...

Ed Fisher
 Josh Wells
 Isaiah Armendarez

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Bill Ryan 272-5507 *Pulpit:* Chris Butler 362-7486
Table: Scot Straw 368-7852 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Craig Wesson 561-5302
Contributions: Craig Wesson 561-5302

Sunday AM"

TBA

Sunday PM

TBA

Our Records

*Bible Class...*67
*Morning Worship...*114
*Evening Worship...*53
*Wednesday...*78
Contribution...\$5,392.00