And Elisha came again to Gilgal. And there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and boil pottage for the sons of the prophets. And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage; for they knew them not. So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. But he said, “Then, bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot” (2 Kings 4:38-41).

There are many valuable lessons to be learned from this biblical event—let us consider a few.

As there was a famine in the land during the days of Elisha, so is there a famine of the word of God in our day. Amos writes, “Behold, the days come, said the Lord Jehovah, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of Jehovah, and shall not find it.” (Amos 8:11-12). Friends, such seems to describe our day as well. In many places the word of God is not found. Sadly, even in the Lord’s church (at least in many places) little of the word of God is found. Many of our pulpits are preaching more “philosophy” than they are the word of God—that’s a spiritual dearth! Can you hear the prophet’s cry, “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Will you heed the prophet’s cry? If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God…” (I Peter 4:11).

The world, too, is starving without the gospel message. We need to provide the “bread of life” so the world will not hunger or thirst spiritually (John 6:35). Friends, do you care enough for your family, your friends, and your neighbor down the road to help them in their spiritual famine? Will you be involved in teaching to help stop this terrible spiritual starvation?

But, let us beware lest we be as the servant of 2 Kings 4 and gather wild gourds and poison the pot. Many in our day think they are being fed good spiritual food—but in many places, “there is death in the pot!” There is “death in the pot” because false doctrine is being taught. It is the pure word of God that saves—not the doctrines of men. False doctrine is deadly whether it is a little or a lot. This is why Paul warned that “a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (I Corinthians 5:6). In rat poison, over 99% of the ingredients are good, but it is the other 1% that kills the rat. Friends, spiritually speaking, this is why we need to be concerned that we are true to the teaching of the Bible in every point.

But, consider this about the servant that gathered the poison gourds—he was sincere in what he did but still he poisoned his fellows. The servant “thought” he was doing the right thing, but he was fatally wrong. Many today are sincere in what they believe—but they are sincerely wrong. This is why it is so important that we examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5). What we think or what we feel in our hearts is not the test of truth—it is strictly what the Bible says.

We also need to be careful because just as the gourd looked good, and yet, was poisoned, so error can go around disguised as truth. Do you remember the warning of
Jesus? “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15). Things may not always be as they appear. Friends, if there is “death in the pot,” then let us use the “meal” of God’s word to remove the poison. Add the “meal” to the pot and “serve it to the people” and you will find nothing “harmful in the pot.” Be careful lest there be death in the pot!

—Tom Moore

Placed Membership
Sunday evening, July 15th, Tim McMeans expressed a desire to place membership and be considered part of Eisenhower Church of Christ and work under the oversight of our elders. We welcome Tim and his children, Jade and Jake into our fellowship.

Concerns
Deanie Nunley was taken back to the hospital on Thursday night. She has pneumonia. Please no visitors at this time. Keep Deanie in your daily prayers.

Jurlean Warren is having health problems at this time and is requesting prayers our prayers. Please keep her on your daily prayer list.

Pete Baggett, Jessica Howard’s father, was taken to the hospital July 11th with symptoms of a heart attack. He did not have a heart attack. However, the doctors were going to regulate his medicine.

Concerns Update
Hazel Cavanaugh’s surgery went well. She is home recuperating and is starting to move around better.

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

Prayer List
Danny Adams; Reba Adams; Lee Roy Bell; Nona Brogden; Betty Branson; Erica Brown; Leslie Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Billy Carson; Hazel Cavanaugh; Sandy Davis; Barbara Decker; Lois Deeds; Daniel Drake; James Drake; Ben Ellison; Bill Elms; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Lester Hardin; Glenna Langford; Mildred Lee; Bethany Lewallen; Connie Lowe; Joe McGlothlin; Estella Morolez; Deanie Nunley; Robbie Perkins; Jean Redman; Grace Register; Randy Roach; Doris Roberson; Shirley Ruddock; David Ryan; Gina Schippers; Rachel Sheridan; Hunter Schlemeyer; Peggy Sue Schwartz; Allona Slayton; Nina Sledge; Jeff Smith; Thelma Smith; Emma Janae Stewart; Terry Surratt; Marilyn Upshaw; Orville Wagner; Lisa Wells; Capt. John Wood; Delora Wood; John Wood

Shut-Ins
Mildred Bell; LaVerne King; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

FYI
Watch “In Search of the Lord’s Way” with Phil Sanders every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7. The July 22nd lesson is entitled “The Cost of Discipleship”

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.

Events
The Texas and Clements Ladies Bible class has invited our ladies to their “Annual Ladies Day” program on Saturday, August 11th, 2012. This year’s theme is “Hidden Scars”. Patricia Payne from Houston, TX will be the guest speaker. Registration is from 8:30—9:00 a.m.

Lamesa Road Church of Christ has invited us to their Gospel Meeting which begins Sunday, July 22nd thru Thursday, July 26th—7:00 p.m. each evening. Dr. Ben Foster from the Eastside Church of Christ in Garland, TX is their guest speaker. Their flyer is on our bulletin board.
Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 9th – 11th from 6:00-8:00 pm (for Ages 2 through 6th grade). Theme: Gold Rush – “Discovering the Rock of Ages”. There will be classes, singing, snacks, crafts, puppets, and plenty of God’s Word! Any questions call Andrew Schwarz at 337-5313.

Bible Quiz Question...
Who was Simon the Zealot?

Last Week’s Answer...
Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah instead of Rachel.

Office News
The July food items for our Pantry Project will be mac & cheese, canned fruit, pop tarts, soup and water. For monetary donations, please see Nancy Easlon, Sonia Wood or Darcee Schwarz. Remember “Meals on Wheels” is the first Wednesday of each month. Please give your donations to Maxine Newton.

Sunday, July 29th, 2012 is our Fifth Sunday Potluck luncheon. Our evening service will follow our luncheon. Everyone is invited.

Remember Kid Sing is on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your children or grandchildren to the front left side of the auditorium for this ten minute learning program.

Help Needed!
Attention Men! We need men volunteers who can stay with Ben Ellison so Ann can attend Sunday Morning Worship Service. There is a list on the bulletin board for the rest of July, August and September. If you are able to help out with this, please sign your name by the Sunday you prefer. Thank you.

Special Request...
Please scan our “Prayer List” in the Edifier and if any of your loved ones, friends or neighbors have been on it for some time and can be removed, please let the office know. This allows us to add more names as needed without the list becoming overwhelming.

Thoughts to Remember...
Humans are made to run on love—they do not function well on anything else!

Opportunities to Serve

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<th>July 22nd, 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>Jeff Wesson</td>
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<td>Song Leader</td>
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<td>Opening Prayer</td>
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<td>Scripture</td>
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<td>Second Prayer</td>
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<td>Closing Prayer</td>
<td>Richard Siler</td>
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<td>Lord’s Supper West...</td>
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Other Responsibilities: **Elder:** Jeff Wesson 561-5302  **Deacon:** Richard Siler 362-1392  **Pulpit:** Chris Butler 362-7486  **Table:** Larry May 638-3990  **Song Leaders:** Andrew Schwarz 405-315-2990  **Recording Duties:** Lucas Ochoa 381-0759  **Collections:** John Wood 363-8253, Chris Butler 362-7486 (and the one handling the evening communion).

**Sunday AM**

“Caleb Followed the Lord Fully”  
(Numbers 14:24)

**Sunday PM**

“Three Loves of a Disciple”  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

**Our Records**

*Bible Class*...94  
*Morning Worship*...152  
*Evening Worship*...87  
*Wednesday*...92  
*Contribution*...$4,506.54