

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Turning Tragedy into Triumph

It was not an unusual event, but it was unexpected at the moment. And it happened so quickly. One evening Jesus had decided to cross the Sea of Galilee. So, when he got in a boat his disciples followed Him. As they were crossing the sea, a vicious storm suddenly appeared, so violent that the boat was being swamped by the waves. Even the seasoned fishermen among them were afraid they were about to die. Yet, the storm was not bothering Jesus; not at all. He was asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat (Matthew. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25). As the song I grew up singing so powerfully asks: “Master, the tempest is raging! The billows are tossing high! The sky is o’-re-shadowed with blackness, no shelter or help is nigh. Carest thou not that we perish? How canst Thou lie asleep when each moment so madly is threatening a grave in the angry deep?”

In the midst of tragedy, we are so often like these disciples. We see the problem and we are filled with fear at what might happen. Cancer or heart disease threatens our lives. An accident leaves us severely injured. Death of a loved one leaves us devastated. And what is even worse, we may not think Jesus cares about us during these tragedies that are so frightening to us. “Carest Thou not that we perish? How canst Thou lie asleep?”

It is so sad that many of us in this type of situation turn completely away from Jesus. We are convinced that He does not care. We may even think that He could not do anything about it if He did care. If He could do something about it, why did He let it happen in the first place?

Ah, but the rest of the story we began above shows that Jesus does care and that He can turn tragedy into triumph. As the story continues, you have to give the disciples some credit. Even in their deepest despair and their weakened faith they did go to Jesus, wake Him up and confess to Him their fears and doubts. I am not sure what they expected Him to do, but they did awake Him up to see. One of the biggest mistakes we can make in times of tragedy is to fail to ask Jesus to help us. We do not have to know how He will work things out. That really does not matter. What matters is that we go to Him and ask Him for help. Later on Jesus’ brother learned that “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2).

When Jesus woke up, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Immediately they obeyed Him; a great calm came on the sea. But the disciples were not so quick to let Jesus calm their spirits. Their faith was at this point weak and struggling. So Jesus asked them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you no faith?” I wonder if you hear Jesus asking you these same questions when tragedy strikes your life? If you believe Jesus calmed the sea, walked on water, raised the dead, etc., what is there to fear? Jesus can and does turn tragedy to triumph time and time again. And of course, the greatest tragedy is sin and you know what He did for that! Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ? (1 Corinthians 15:57).

—Joe Chesser

Prayer Request

Elaine Huntington, who was taken to ER at MCH early last week due to severe stomach pain, ended up having emergency colon surgery even after having been tested positive for Covid. Elaine will be sent to Encompass in Midland for rehab when released from the hospital. Please keep her in your prayers.

Both **Bill and Vickie Ryan** had small cancerous spots surgically removed last Monday. The procedures went well and both of them were clear of any cancer cells. No further treatment is needed.

Mireya Garcia, Tommy and Mirta’s daughter, fell and has a buckle fracture in her wrist. Keep Mireya in your prayers that she heals fast.

Prayers have been requested for the unborn baby of **David and Shelbe Maass**. Baby **Chloe** has been diagnosed with Gastroschisis (intestines on the outside of the body). Shelbe will have a C-Section sometime at

the end of October and the baby will have surgery soon after birth and will be in the hospital 4 to 5 weeks afterwards. Please keep this family and baby Chloe in your prayers that all will go well.

Concerns Update

Glenna Callendar's oblation surgery last Monday went well. Three oblations were done which took about 1 1/2 hrs. Glenna said she feels much better but just a little tired. She expects 3 to 4 weeks recovery time.

Brinlee Duron's bone marrow biopsy test came back okay. She does not have leukemia. There was no answer as to why her white blood cell count is so low. They will test her again in a month or so. (Brinlee is Linda Tate's great granddaughter.)

Tracy Rhodes surgery was a success. Tracey is the wife of Kevin Rhodes. Please continue to keep Tracy in your prayers that she has a full recovery.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; Mario Carmona; LaDonna Chism; Debbie Cox; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Elaine Huntington; Mildred Lee; Deysi Lopez; Arely Martinez; Jason Moore; Melissa Moore; Zulema Morales; Juan & Estella Morolez; Richard Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; David Ryan; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Darryl Williamson; Bill Wood; Charles Wood; John Wood, Aaron York, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Hillis; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

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

Events

Watch *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

This year the **"24th Annual Lubbock Lectureship"**, hosted by the Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock, will be held October 9-12, 2022. Their flyer showing all the speakers and topics is posted on our bulletin board in the east foyer. The theme is "The Word of God". Please try to set aside some time to attend one or more if you are able.

Youth

Bible Knowledge "Some More Threes"

The wisemen gave baby Jesus three things—gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11) The Holy Place in the Tabernacle had three things—the lampstand, the wood table and the consecrated bread. (Hebrews 9:2)

Food for Thought...

A clean conscience is a soft pillow.

Office News

The items requested for our **"Food Pantry"** for September 18th and 25th are: Canned Fruit, Soups (any kind) and 1 Gallon jugs of water.

There will be a **"Singing Night"** September 25th after evening worship. Please bring finger foods. For any questions, ask Sonia.

A **"Family Cookout and Devotional"** is being hosted by Virgie Barte and Gloria Craig on Saturday, October 1st at 4:00 p.m. Please check with Virgie and Gloria as to what side dishes or items are needed.

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland—254-8209 *Deacon:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 *Pulpit:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—*Table:* Bill Ryan 352--4871—*Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —
Recording Sermons: Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Weaknesses of Samson”
(Judges 16:1-6)

Sunday PM

”Heavenward Faith”
(Hebrews 11:13-16)

Our Records

Bible Class... 82
Morning Worship...101
Evening Worship ...58
Wednesday...55
Contribution...\$5,447.25