

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Our Passion for Growth

One of the most pressing desires of the Christian is to see the church grow. We want to see New Testament Christianity spread throughout the world; and we certainly want to see our local congregation flourish. We believe this is as it should be, for the nature of all living things is to grow; and we firmly believe that the Lord's church is to be a living body.

In emphasizing our need for growth, we are often pointed to the Jerusalem church. We are reminded of the 3000 (Acts 2:41), the 5000 men (Acts 4:4), how multitudes were added (Acts 5:14) and then how they began to multiply (Acts 6:7). These are valid illustrations and we have used them ourselves; but sometimes they create impressions which are not true at all

- It is implied that numerical growth is always associated with faithful congregations, when the Scripture teaches no such thing. When, because of persecution, (Acts 8:1) the Jerusalem church was reduced from maybe 50,000 to 2 in a single year, there was nothing at all wrong with the church. It was just as true and loyal and mission-minded as it had ever been before.
- It is implied that people are responsible for the increase, when God has never placed that burden on us. The suggestion seems to be that if we just do the right things, great growth will automatically follow. Yet the bible teaches that God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). Our job is the planting and watering. It is such a relief to know that we are not commanded to convert the world or even our next-door neighbor; but we are commanded to preach the Gospel to him. If we do that faithfully and lovingly, we are not responsible for the results.
- It is implied that great growth is an indication of God's approval, when the very reverse may be true. Mystic sects have gained millions of followers. Billy Graham appealed to the masses by standing for nothing doctrinally. Some of the fastest growing congregations among us fill their pulpits with 20 minute "after dinner" speeches that would be acceptable in any denomination in town.
- It is implied that something must be wrong with a congregation that has a declining membership, when it may be stronger and more Godly than it has ever been. You let someone leave the church and go back into the world or rush off after some social club type of program, and people begin to wonder what is wrong with the church. We need to understand that neither a faithful congregation nor any faithful Christian can be legitimately blamed for anyone who turns their back on the way of truth and righteousness. If everyone of us left, it is no reflection on the church. The fault is with the person who leaves.

There are many things that affect church growth. There are things connected with economy, housing patterns, politics and world conditions. We must face them all realistically; and keep our faith strong that God will never let His Word return void (Isaiah 55:11). If we do our part well, surely growth will come; but we must not be so passionate for growth that we forget what should be our chief concerns.

This article is not a defense for smallness. It is not to ease our conscience that we are not experiencing rapid growth. It is however, to refocus on our priorities. We had better be more concerned about being RIGHT than in being POPULAR. We had better be more concerned about Christ meeting with us, than in whether we draw large crowds.

We want to grow. We are determined to grow; but it is not our first priority. We are in sales. God is still in management. We had rather be “mean and lean” than to sell His approval for growth.

—Jack Gray

Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Nancy Easlon and her family in the loss of her mother, **Majorie Foster**. Majorie passed away last weekend from pneumonia. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. December 23rd at the Sunset Funeral Home, 750 N. Carolina, El Paso, TX and her burial will take place at 2:00 pm at Fort Bliss

Rodney Betts, Ora McAfee’s nephew, passed away December 10th in Pampa, TX. He was the twin brother of Roger Wayne Betts who passed away on November 18th. Keep Ora and her family in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to the family of **David Wright** (brother of the late Jack Wright) passed away at the age of 82. His funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 15th in Cleburne, TX.

Prayer Request

Cody Wesson was under the weather and not feeling well last week.

Laura McKnight, (Devida’s friend) underwent two back-to-back major surgeries; December 8th and 9th at MCH. The surgeries went well but she is still in ICU recovering. Keep Laura in your prayers for a full recovery.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Hugo Grijalva; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Tiffany Horton; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Cain Pilgrim; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chasidy Rayos; Jackie Rex; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna McCarty; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw 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 ... (Finish the Beatitude)

“Blessed are the pure in heart... (?)

Last Week’s Quiz Answer...

“Blessed are the merciful...for they shall be shown mercy.

Events

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

Office News

Reminder: When requesting prayers for friends, neighbors or co-workers and you would like for the church to send them a card, please furnish the office a correct mailing address for them. A lot of people do not have a listing in the telephone book or on the internet. Thank you.

Thought to Remember...

About the only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way we use them.

JUST DO IT!

Remembering the good old days, ‘back when I was a kid’ I just loved to work with my dad. Whatever he was doing, I tried to be right in the middle of it. I’m sure there were times when he could have gotten the job done quicker and better if I hadn’t been there for him to trip over but he never seemed to mind at all. My favorite job was to hand him his tools. If he said, “Hand me the hammer” he didn’t have to say, “Don’t hand me a screwdriver or pliers.”

When dad said, “Go get me a glass of water” he didn’t have to say “Don’t bring me a glass of milk and don’t bring me a sandwich.” I knew he wanted a glass of water! If he asked me to get him a leaf rake, he didn’t have to tell me not to bring a shovel or a hoe. I just naturally knew what he wanted because he said it clearly. An eight-year-old boy could understand and obey.

So why is it that so many of our brethren aren’t able to give God what He wants? Why is it that they want to add to His commandments?

God says, “Sing” and some people bring Him organs, guitars and drums! Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16) and some folks say, “All you have to do is believe...baptism is not essential to your salvation”.

Paul wrote, “Repay no one evil for evil” (Romans 12:17) but we often want revenge when we’ve been wronged. “Don’t get mad...get even!”

Peter taught, for “He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.” (1 Peter 3:10) but some of us want to gossip, tell dirty jokes or use profanity.

When we do as the Bible says, we can know we are doing right! When we don’t, we can know we are doing wrong! It’s that simple! Just do it!

—M. Suiter

December 19, 2021	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Jon Roemisch	Jackie Perkins
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Charles Wood
Closing Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Don Easlon
Lords Supper		Jr. Munoz
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Tommy Garcia</u>	Communion
	Cody Wesson	(In Library)
	Larry May	
	Richard Siler	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 —*Deacon:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 -*Pulpit:* Tom Sorenson 638-9447 —*Table:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231 —*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* John Wood 413-7444— *Collections:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231

Sunday AM

“Anticipating Victory”
(Hebrews 2:5-8)

Sunday PM

“Wisdom in Relationships”
(Proverbs 8:1-11)

Our Records

Bible Class... 55
Morning Worship...92
Evening Worship...49
Wednesday...66
Contribution...\$3,719.00

