

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## It's A Wonderful Life

One of the classic movies of the Christmas season is the 1946 film "It's A Wonderful Life." It starred James Stewart as George Bailey, a man whose dreams were always derailed by some calamity not of his making. After spending most of his life helping others while putting his own desires on hold, George suffered what appeared to be the final blow. His savings and loan company was short on its accounts and he was about to be arrested for bank fraud. Believing that his life had been meaningless, George's despair led him to the brink of suicide. Only the intervention of an unlikely angelic visitor prevented George taking his own life, and in a heart-rending final sequence, the film concludes with dozens of townspeople giving George the money to balance his books and avoid prison. In the closing scene George's brother offered a holiday toast to his big brother, "the richest man in Bedford Falls" as everyone sang "Auld Lang Syne".

"It's A Wonderful Life" was one of the last of a genre of films in the 1930's and 1940's that extolled the basic goodness of the American people. However idealized these portrayals were, we believed that this is the kind of people we ought to be, even if we sometimes failed to live up to them. Sadly, it is not so certain that we are still this kind of people today.

Most of us hope for happiness and success and all the things that moviemakers have often portrayed as being the signs of a wonderful life. The nature of human life is such, however, that we sometimes wonder if we can ever achieve it. We expect ups and downs, successes and failures, good times and bad. We hope that as we weigh them in the scales of time the good will outweigh the bad. If so, we may look back upon our life and say it was good, even if not wonderful as commonly defined.

Christians, on the other hand, have a different perspective. The Lord promised that He came so that we "*may have life, and have it abundantly*" (John 10:10). The English word "life" is used to translate several Greek words. Two of these words are bios and zoe. These are the words from which "biology and "Zoology" are derived. While both of these terms may be used to describe one's physical life or one's material possessions, the Lord used Zoe in a particular sense in His teachings. Zoe is the word that is always used in reference to eternal life. Thus, it has come to have a more significant meaning and application to Christians.

When the Lord said He came so we may have life abundantly, He was not referring to our physical life and material possessions. Some have made their careers preaching a "health and wealth" gospel from John 10:10, but this is not at all what the Lord intended. We may indeed lead healthy and successful lives and amass great fortune in life, but the Lord's purpose in coming was for us to have a better life which is eternal in nature.

To have abundant life is to be safe in the fold that is guarded and provided for by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. In this fold, we are under His watchful care. He knows us by name and He calls us to follow Him. We know Him and respond to His call. Living in the fold of Christ is a wonderful life. It is so, not because of an absence of trials, troubles, sickness or failure. It is a wonderful life, because we know that whatever happens to us here cannot compare to the glory that will be revealed to us at the end of time (Romans 8:18). It is a wonderful life because Paul said that godliness holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (I Timothy 4:8). We live better here, and we will live better in eternity. This, truly, makes it a wonderful life!

—Fred Dominguez

## ***Prayer Requests***

**Bill Butler** was taken to ORMC last weekend due to some pain he was having. Bill underwent testing and treatment and was able to go home Wednesday, December 27th. He is feeling **better** but is still in need of prayers.

**Jackie Rex** saw her doctor and after checking her foot, he said that she had been on her foot and leg too much because her foot was slightly out of place. She was fitted with a hard cast all around her leg up to the knee. She cannot let her leg clip at all or her foot could be permanently turned sideways or she may be facing surgery. He told her she was not a good candidate for surgery. Keep her in your prayers.

**Mary Anchondo** has been sick for about two weeks now with flu-like symptoms. She is having lots of aches and pains throughout her body. She said it was hard to tell if it was the flu or if her fibromyalgia is flaring up. Mary is requesting our prayers.

Susan Simmons has requested prayers for **Brenda Simmons** (sister-in-law) who underwent bladder cancer surgery last Wednesday, December 27th in Loxley, AL. The cancer has returned for the 3rd time and seems to be getting worse. Susan also asks prayers for herself and the rest of her family.

**Letha Hooper** fell two weeks ago and had to be taken to the hospital where she was treated and released to go home. She seems to be doing okay at this time.

**Russ Montgomery** (Devida's brother) is having a rough time with his breathing. He now has to use his oxygen 24-7. Prayers are requested for him. Russ lives in Waverly, Ohio.

Ora McAfee has requested prayers for her niece, **Wanda Wheeler** who had colon cancer surgery in Oklahoma Thursday, December 28th. Wanda is a diabetic which was a complication to the surgery.

## ***Concerns Update***

Continue to keep **Jimmy Weaver** in your prayers. He is home and showing some improvements.

## ***Prayer List***

Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Bill Butler; Harold Carrigan; David Castor; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Larry May; Glenna McCarty; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Russel Rosser; Elvia Ruckman; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; Charles Wood; John Wood; Jack Wright.

## ***Eisenhower's Shut-ins***

Roberta Hamil; Janis Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

## ***Youth***

### **Bible Quiz Question...**

Complete the family: Aaron, Miriam, ———.

### **Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...**

Jesus washed the disciples' feet just prior to the Last Supper in the upper room.

## ***Events***

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

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 “Progressive Dinner” is this evening at 7:30 p.m. It will start at Tommy and Mirta Garcia’s house. For those planning on participating, please bring an appetizer or dessert or both if you would like.

The “New Mexico Children’s Home” will be in Odessa for a food drive pickup on February 27th, 2018. They are requesting **(Juices (all kinds))**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

## Think It Over

When you are told by the attending physician that you have only a little while to live, you will not regret one moment you have spent in the study of your Bible. After all other books are laid aside; this Word will still face you in God’s Judgment! We plead with you to carefully use this sacred volume in this life! It is God’s personal message to you. Don’t ignore or neglect it. *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”* (Acts 20:32) *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). *“Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness and Your law is truth* (Psalm 119:142).

–Bulletin Digest

<b>December 31, 2017</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Rudy Ochoa
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Richard Siler	John Wood
Second Prayer	Bill Tolbert	Don Easlon
Closing Prayer	Trinidad Wood	Larry May
Lord's Supper		
West...	Jacob Carson	Chris Butler
	Charles Wood	Communion
	Richard Siler	(In Library)
East...	Jeff Wesson	
	Josh Weakland	
	Bill Ryan	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 362-1403 *Deacon*: Josh Wells 770-6753 *Pulpit*: Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Table*: Josh Wells 770-6753; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Dex Dennard 296-1582 Ochoa 214-0398; *Collections*: Dex Dennard 296-1582

## Sunday AM

*“Corn in Egypt”*  
(Genesis 42:2)

## Sunday PM

*“Christ Lifted Up!”*  
(John 12:27-33)

## Our Records

*Bible Class*... 68  
*Morning Worship*...133  
*Evening Worship*...56  
*Wednesday*...71  
*Contribution*...\$4,848.66