

Christian Church of God Newsletter



The Pastor's Pen

December 2005
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Hello My Beloved Brothers & Sisters
in Christ,

Linda and I had the blessed privilege (at least that's what I think, I guess you'd have to confirm that Linda felt the same as these are her in-laws!) of traveling back to Ohio to spend Thanksgiving with my family. It was so wonderful to see my Mother, three brothers and all those nephews, nieces, and would you believe, "grand" nephews and nieces. It was exhilarating!

And in the spirit of Thanksgiving, as I basked in the glow of a family's love, I reflected upon what we have to be thankful for. Where does one start. Well, I have been particularly focused upon our Church Family here in Amarillo and of course all those brethren in our "extended" congregation of those with whom we share fellowship with our God and our Christ.

The service that each and every one of you provides for God and your brothers & sisters in Christ is truly deserving of recognition and appreciation. How sad it is that we seem to take for granted those who do the most for and mean the most to us. I know God is not neglectful when it comes to acknowledging the selfless service of those who follow His beloved Son, whom He sent to die that we might live..., and not for just a few decades, but for eternity!

2 Cor 9:11 *You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*¹² *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.* (NIV)

Let me just take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your love, loyalty and service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each of us is a beneficiary of that love and service.

Thanks to Elder Jerry McClenagan for his music ministry, sermons and literary genius we see expressed in the monthly newsletter. These are no small tasks and no talent to be taken lightly.

Thanks to Martha McClenagan for sharing her musical gifts with us so that we may lift up our voices in songs of praise.

Thanks to Elder Joe Kirkpatrick and his spirit-filled sermons.

Thanks to Jody Kirkpatrick for sharing her musical gifts and of course, it means so much to all of us that Joe and Jody travel those long miles to serve and fellowship with us.

Thanks to Jason Kirkpatrick for his musical gifts & service...we shall miss him as he has clicked his heels and flew off to Kansas.

Thanks to Glennis McAlister for sharing her gift of music and her "green thumb" and to Weldon for his quiet, albeit "music-less" service to those in our extended church relying upon the audio and video tapes (and soon to be DVD's) of our weekly services.

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Special points of interest:

- *A Time to Sow*
- *Following Christ*
- *Those who Serve*
- *Our sermons broadcast on KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday. www.pan-tex.net*

Our Home Page:
www.christianchurchofgod.org

Inside this issue:

<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	3
<i>Announcements</i>	3
<i>Pastor's Pen</i>	1-2
<i>Celebrations</i>	3



The Pastor's Pen continued

Thanks to Darrell Sehorn for making sure that the services are recorded and for his leadership in the adult C.E.P Sabbath Classes.

Thanks to Cindy Lujan for her tireless service to the video outreach ministry and her faithful service to our children in the children's Sabbath C.E.P. classes.

Thanks to Roy and Kathy Carlson for their ever vigilant and tireless efforts to keep the Church sparkling, clean and beautiful.

Thanks to Deacon James Bailey, our Church treasurer, song leader and C.E.P. class leader, just to mention a few of his services to our congregation.

Thanks to Deaconess Reba Bailey for all the function facilitating, newsletter mailings and cheer and comfort ministry.

Thanks to Bill Dufur for helping with the building and grounds and most recently as a C.E.P leader.

Thanks to C.B. Sehorn for his tireless "behind the scenes" video taping and his outstanding leadership in the C.E.P. classes.

Thanks to Larry Lyles for the fine morning brew and of course the clever puns.

Thanks to Deacons Rudolph Rankin and Marvin Cryer for their faithful service and willingness to travel those long miles to be with us and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my Linda too for sharing her God-given gift of music, the edification provided by her weekly bulletins and for all her support and filling in the gaps... not to mention just putting up with me.

Thanks to all of you who pitch in and lift up your arms in service whenever and wherever needed. I know that I have not thoroughly acknowledged every one of you and all the service each of you blesses us with. This is but a cursory response to Thanksgiving... and I truly give thanks to all of you whom I love as brothers and sisters!

Thanks most of all to our God!

~ Jeff Booth

EDITORIAL THIS ISSUE is skimpy compared to recent newsletters. In a way, I wanted to get your attention by the absence of certain features. In the past I have included these: Grapevine, Soldiers of Light, Lighter Side, Feature Essays, Peanuts for Life, Hymns for Him, and other ways to make this publication fresh, appealing and inspiring. I would like your input: what you would like to see included, contributions to add to the Grapevine trivia, guest articles, etc. I am opening myself up, I realize, to receive something that I might have to edit or omit, but that's the chance I'm taking. The newsletter isn't intended to be a full-fledged magazine, but I enjoy sprucing it up to give it that feel. Let me hear from you! ~

I AM CHECKING out possibilities, as I have time, of doing our own printing. The reason is that it would be nice to have it in full color. Equipment is expensive and it would take more time to publish it due to the folding. Perhaps this dream can come true in 2006. ~

IT IS EASY TO GET DISCOURAGED in the work of the Lord. "Be not weary in well doing" is an apt charge from the Apostle Paul. And it is easy to stagnate. Sometimes we say: "What's the use? Why do so much work for so few?" But my Okie farm background has instilled in me that you have to keep planting if you want a harvest. Even if you have to "dust in in"—a saying that spoke of insufficient moisture to put the seeds in the soil. But "there is a time to sow and a time to reap." (Eccl. 3) It is often human nature to focus on the crop failures instead of the successes. Our disappointments, however, shouldn't overpower our times of rejoicing. Here are the words of an old hymn that reinforces this principle:

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noon-tide, and the dewy eves;
Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze.
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Go then even weeping, sowing for the Master,
Tho' the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When the weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him.*" (Ps. 126:6, KJV)

~ JDM

PRAYER REQUESTS: "... The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; ... Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16.



Angela Bailes: Severe heart problems & is pregnant. Doctors want to take the baby early to try and save the mother.
Sandy Booth: Sister-in-law of Jeff Booth, ovarian, cancer; condition is greatly improved.
Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.
Dan Copenhaver: Brother of Betty Clark, disabled & prostate cancer.
Leah Cryer: Underwent surgery for removal of malignant colon tumor.
Velvet Green: Gary's wife, schizophrenia.
Randy Gnessett: Friend of Candace Seller, pulmonary hypertension, improved but still awaiting a lung transplant.
Dollie Meil: Cerebral palsy.
Tovayah Nelms: Pray for mothers carrying babies with anencephaly.
Patton Pugh: Grandson of Bonnie Cryer, lungs & bones not fully developed; suspect hormone problem.
Glenda Rankin: Niece of Rudolph, Hodgkins Lymphoma, scheduled for bone marrow transplant in January.
Ted Rankin: Had surgery for herniated disks; slow recovery.
Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.
Audrey Strahl: Jeff's mother, congestive heart failure.
Beverly Wertz: Juvenile arthritis in remission for years, now reoccurring in knees, hips, wrist and shoulders.
Ken Westby: Underwent procedure to upgrade pace maker. Is doing well.
Bob Wertz: Achalasia, a disorder of the esophagus.
Joan Womble: Friend of Bill Dufur, heart bypass and valve replacement.

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
 mourn with those who mourn. Rom.
 12:15.

CELEBRATIONS December

Birthdays:

Darrell Sehorn	12-17
Arthur Carlson	12-20
Darrell Baker	12-29
Vance Woodbury	12-29

Anniversaries:

Teresa & Steve Cryer	12-27
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C. E. P.

Life Principles for
Following Christ

A follow-up study to The
Deity of Jesus

11 a.m.

Christian Church of God

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his
sanctuary;

praise him in his
mighty heavens.

PS 150:1



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