

THE MINUTE MESSENGER

February 5, 2008 Volume 44, Number 6

“A GROWING TREND”

Part II

O my people, listen to my teaching. Open your ears to what I am saying. For I will show you lessons from our history, stories handed down to us from former generations. I will reveal these truths to you so that you can describe these glorious deeds of Jehovah to your children and tell them about the mighty miracles he did. For he gave his laws to Israel and commanded our fathers to teach them to their children, so that they in turn could teach their children too. Thus his laws passed down from generation to generation. In **this way** each generation has been able to obey his laws and to set its hope anew on God and not forget his glorious miracles. **Ps 78:1-7**

I mentioned last week, that a growing trend is sweeping across our nation that's quite alarming. It seems like we are experiencing another wave of an old reoccurring problem, and that is a shortage of elders. I said that many congregations are finding it more difficult to “lift up” ‘blameless’ men to serve as Shepherds. The reason for the shortage is, we are not **teaching** our young men to serve in that noble function. Instead of our young men being taught, trained, and admonished to be our next leaders, we are systematically teaching our young men how to succeed financially in life.

God instructs Moses to tell the people these words, he says be careful, or you will be **enticed** to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you. Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **Teach** them to your **children**, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land. **Duet 11:16-20**

Now a word and challenge to all our single or married parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice found in his word. **Eph 6:4**

I personally believe that **all** “Christians” should make it a personal goal to cultivate the qualities of a Shepherd.

A careful study I Tim 3 and Titus 1 reveals that the Holy Spirit seems to spotlight, not so much the *qualifications* of an overseer, as he does the *qualities* of an overseer. These qualities revealed in scripture were being perfected way before those men were ever appointed as overseers. A wise congregation doesn't just appoint men on the spot because the church is in desperate need for elders. The Holy spirit over a reasonable amount of time is the one who made certain men in the Lord's body ‘Shepherds’. **Acts 20:28**

It is a divine process that all depends on, whether or not we have taught, trained, and nurtured our children in their earlier years. **Gal 6:9**

One of the wonderful things about God is that he left Heaven to **exemplify** in person how a shepherd is to lead, feed, and care for his flock. God stooped down to our level by coming to earth as a mere man, and then washing the dirty feet of his creation. He then stood up and said go! and do like- wise. He whispers in your ear, **love** as I have loved you, **serve** as I have served you. By **this** all men will know that you *are* my disciples. **John 13:35**

We desperately need servant leaders in the Church today that understand the biblical concept of **Shepherding**. We can slow down this alarming trend by teaching and training our young men to be Godly shepherds. Men who will be guided by the word of God, lead by *example*, feed and care for the flock. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the church bill board no longer spotlighted the preachers name? Wouldn't it be wonderful if the community only saw the shepherds name on the bill board- with descriptions next to their name, like coach, counselor, mentor, example, servant? **Wow!**

Evangelist, Anthony Dominguez

GARLAND STREET CHURCH of CHRIST

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The **difference...**
Is **CHRIST** in me!
Colossians 1:27

COMING UP

We are looking for others
who will...
Become Part of the Family

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Feb. 10 | J. W. Hamby's Life Group |
| Feb. 11 | Visitation @ 6:30 |
| Feb. 17 | Hilltopper Appreciation Dinner |
| Feb. 18 | Visitation @ 6:30 |
| Feb. 24 | Fourth Sunday Fellowship |
| Feb. 25 | Visitation @ 6:30 |
| Mar. 2 | Benevolence Pick Up Care and Share |
| Mar. 8 | Prison Ministry Workshop By Freddie Anderson |
| Mar. 9 | J. W. Hamby's Life Group |
| Mar. 12-15 | New Directory Pictures |



“Cheering No Matter What”

The ten year old stood at the plate. His batting stance was not terrible, but not great either. He nervously stared at the pitcher as he began his windup. With men on second and third and his team being down a run, he needed to get a hit. The wind up, the pitch... the batter stares as the perfect third strike passes him and is caught by the catcher. The umpire rings him up, and he begins to jog down trodden back to the dugout. But what can be heard from the stands is not jeers but cheers. There is a cacophony of, “It’s alright” and “You’ll get’um next time”. And especially is that audible from one particular section, the section where his parents sit. As only a momma can, his mom says, “That’s OK, baby.”

You see, no matter what happened on the field that day, that boy was loved by his parents. He could have dropped every ball hit to him, missed every pitch he swung at, and fell down as he walked out of the dugout. That didn’t matter. His parents loved him and were there for him no matter what.

As we live our Christian lives, we need to remember that we are not on that field alone. We are not trying to live this life for Jesus without our supporters. We have each other (Hebrews 10:24, Colossians 2:2). But on a grander scale, we have a heavenly audience rooting for us. Jesus said that once we are in the Father’s hand, no one or nothing can take us out of it. (John 10:27-30). Paul told us that nothing at all can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:26-39). As long as we are on the field, we need to remember that in the stands, so to speak, our Father and our Lord are rooting for us no matter what happens. I think that is one of the most important points found in 1 John 1. Walk in the light, stay on the field, and in spite of the falls, in spite of the strikeouts, pick yourself up and keep going. And by the grace of God, the final score will be in your favor.

BULLETIN DIGEST
844 Pine Street
Abilene, TX 79601

Charles Cash
Church of Christ
Crosbyton, TX

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008**

Announcements:	Bobby Ross
First Prayer:	Larry Golden
Closing Prayer:	Brad Lane
Scripture Reading:	Mike McDonough
Lord's Table:	Stephen Leyendecker
	Nathan Leyendecker
	Jeff Settle
	Jerry Settle
	Doug Smith
	Ray Sooter
	Lytton Stark
	Steve Stokes
Evening Opening Prayer:	Mark True
Evening Closing Prayer:	Herb Purdon
Westridge:	Charles Massie
Prairie House:	John McGavock
Communion To Shut-Ins	Dee & Jeanette Blevins
Jail: 2/12	Herb Purdon
Sound Board: 2/10 & 2/13	Gary Alexander
Computer: 2/10 & 2/13	Clay Golden

February -2007

Nursery Workers: Debbie Hearn
Kitchen: June Sherman and Nida Peck
Daily Bread: Dana Joy and Dee Weatherly

ATTENDANCE BAROMETER

Lord's Day	2/03/08
Bible Study	143
Sunday Morning	288
Sunday Evening	90
Wednesday Evening	97
Contribution	\$8,367.40

WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS- FEBRUARY

Men----- Rock'N R Steakhouse
Ladies ----- Fieldhouse



The Church of Christ by Thomas W. Phillips. The author presents the teachings of Jesus, depicting Christ as the only one who promised forgiveness of sin and eternal life, taught the fatherhood of God, and sent his disciples into all the world. He concludes by contrasting Christianity with all other religious beliefs. **Church/P54c**

Medina's Children's home truck will be here next week to pick up your donations.

The Children's Home of Lubbock-Big Heart Campaign: We will be collecting paper towels now through Wednesday, April 23rd. Paper towels or monetary donations may be taken to the church office.

Mission Statement

We the family of Garland Street
 Church of Christ,
 with the Bible as our guide and
 Jesus as our Savior will look:
 Upward to glorify, praise and honor God;
 Outward to seek, convert and reach the lost;
 Inward to serve, equip and love one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will start the lessons on **Losing our Children** by **Dr. Brad Harreb, PhD.** this Sunday evening February 10th. The second part of the lesson will be presented Sunday evening February 17th. Please make every effort to attend.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal will be Lasagna. We are in need of **COOKS and HELPERS!** Please sign the sheets in the foyer if you would like to help.

J. W. Hamby's Life Group will meet Sunday, February 10.

The front door bell is working again. Please ring the bell to enter the building during office hours.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 7:00 a.m.

HELP WANTED: BABY-SITTER needed during Wednesday morning Ladies' Bible study. This is a paid position. Please see Lori Carpenter if interested.

HILLTOPPERS: We will be going to Post to see the Biblical Drama "Lazarus", Saturday, February 16th. We will leave the building at 4:00 pm and eat in Post. Ticket prices are \$20.00 for adults, or if we have 12 or more, the price is \$15.00. If you plan to go, please sign the sheet in the foyer by February 9th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: OLEN MILLS will be here March 12, 13, 14 & 15 to take pictures for our pictorial directory. Everyone who participates will receive a directory. **Sign up sheets are in the foyer.**

Freddie Anderson will give a Prison Ministry Workshop on Saturday, March 8.

Hilltoppers and our members over sixty are invited to a dinner Sunday, February 17 following morning services. Please make plans to attend.

Sunday, February 24 will be our Fourth Sunday fellowship. Michael Horn will be our guest speaker for the 1:00 service. Deryl Clevenger, Brent Wells and Gary Alexander elder and deacons in charge.

Welcome Guests



Ricky, Deborah and Logan Smith, Olton, Texas
Jennie Johnson & Ashleigh Reese, Lubbock, Texas
Katrina Plank, Anson, Texas
Olivia Tinoco, Plainview, Texas
Kaylie D. James, Canyon, Texas
Jan Newman, Abilene, Texas
Troy Klepper, Kress, Texas
Kalli & Fran Wilson, McKinney, Texas
Carrie & Parker Holton

The Bible

...is God's own letter to man.
...is the source of our information
concerning eternal life.
...is our guide for daily living.
...is the final word in matters of religion.
...tells of the truth which will set you free from sin.
...gives me strength and comfort.
...tells me how to live happily.
...is the center of our education.

Are you studying the Bible regularly?

BULLETIN DIGEST
844 Pine St.
Abilene, TX 79601

Borrowed

IN OUR PRAYERS

Baylee Banning, The Sooter Family, The Linville Family, Bill & Tweet Moore, Cleo Crutchfield, Harlan Dizmang, Dorothy Bradley, Raul Camacho, Jackson Calhoun, Cindy Valentine, Shirley Igo, Billy Clay, Whitney Smith, Larry Hamby, Betty Foster, Maylene Mickey, Mattie Lou Ellis, Carla Calhoun, Charles Clark, Paul Frisbie, Danna Lamb, Ken Stone, Doris Hearn, Opal Yarborough, Jerry Settle, Wanda Wallace, Kay Powell, Opal Barnes, Linda Wilson, Cleo Crutchfield, Sonny Sherrock, Doyce Watson, Kenneth Sjogren, Jim Adams, Beverly Kimbrough, Wesley Everidge, Mark Clark, Paul Godman, Dale Hyde, Cindy Kirby, Debbie Roberts, JoAnn Underwood, Christen Driver, Japheth James, Cory Crump and Our Soldiers.

ABOUT OUR FAMILY

Sharon Settle's niece, **Baylee Banning** will be taking Chemo everyday all day long until Friday. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Ray Sooter's brother, **Eugene Sooter** passed away Saturday, February 2. His memorial service will be Saturday, February 9 at the Kornerstone Funeral Chapel at 2:00 pm.

Larry Linville's brother, **Loyd Linville** passed away Sunday. His services will be Wednesday, February 6 at 2:00 pm at Konerstone Funeral Chapel.

Summer Coleman was ill last Thursday and was not able to have her surgery.

Diane Underwood had a lumpectomy Thursday. Everything looked good but is waiting on the pathology report

Donice Hays' aunt, **Ellen Chiddix** has been moved to Prairie House.

John and Venita McGavock's son, **Trevor McGavock** had a PET scan Tuesday. He will see his doctor Thursday for the results. Please keep them in your prayers.

Nancy Dougherty's friends, **Bill and Tweet Moore**, Tweet has a severe broken leg and Bill has Alzheimer's. They both had to go to a nursing home while Tweet recovers and might have to go to assisted living afterwards.

ELDERS: Neil Billingsley Deryl Clevenger Rob Lindsey
Weldon Melton Steve Stokes

DEACONS: Gary Alexander Mike Allison
Jimmy Barnes Neal Becker
Bobby Byrd Scott Clevenger
Gary Miller Grady Simmons
Mark True Terry Underwood
Brent Wells

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday: Bible Study 9:30 a.m. and Worship 10:30 a. m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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YOUTH MINISTERS: Eric Clark and Clint Patterson

e-mail: youth@gscoc.net

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Deryl Clevenger

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