

# Teen News

Thank you for being here this morning! I hope you all had Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now it is back to school! Thanks to those who have been coming to Bible Class on Sunday and Wednesday. We had a great discussion on faith last Sunday morning. I appreciate the questions and discussions we are having these classes. Next Sunday evening after our worship service we will have a DEVO. Please make plans to attend. See you tonight! BEN

## Only a Nail

A man wanted to sell his house in Haiti for two thousand dollars. Another man wanted to buy it; but, because he was poor, he could not afford the full price. After some bargaining the seller agreed to sell the house for half the asking price, with one simple stipulation. He would retain ownership of one small nail protruding from just over the door. Several years passed. The original owner wanted to repurchase the house, but the new owner did not want to sell. The first owner found the carcass of a dead dog, and hung it on the single nail he still owned. Not long afterwards the house became available.



## Getting The Wrinkles Out

*The testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work.* -James 1:3-4

As a boy I used to sit and watch my mother ironing clothes. Out would come the rolled-up, wrinkled shirts, which had been previously dampened. The combination of the heat and pressure of the iron would take out even the deepest wrinkles—wrinkles I thought could never be ironed out.

God knows we've got wrinkles in our thinking and creases in our character. So He holds back His protective hand and permits unexpected trouble and even long-term difficulties. He uses these pressures to improve us.

We don't like it when we have to go through tough times. Nobody does. When the family has to deal with a long-term illness, it's hard on everyone. When a job is phased out and we're having trouble finding another one, it's rough. When we've made dumb decisions that strain relationships, we all suffer.

But think about it. Whenever we go through a time like this with our faith intact and our trust placed firmly in the Lord, we come out of it better and stronger. Someone has written, "Whatever does not kill me, strengthens me."

We really should rejoice, because it's God's way of applying heat and pressure so that He can "get the wrinkles out." **SELECTED**

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

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### MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel  
Pulpit Minister  
Ben Rhone  
Youth Minister

### ELDERS

Dwight Franklin  
Dan D. Manuel  
Dale Sparks

### DEACONS

Henry Baker  
Johnny Jenkins  
Kyle Lock  
R.D. Prince

### SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

### MISSIONS

Brown Trail School of  
Preaching, Bedford, TX  
Jose Cuadras—Mexico  
Hershel Bearden—India  
Steve Handley—Prison Min.  
Central TX Children's  
Home—Buda, TX  
Tipton Children's Home  
Tipton, OK  
GBN T.V. NETWORK  
GIVE ME THE BIBLE-T.V.  
FOX 44 KWKT—Waco, TX  
KTAL NBC Channel 6  
Texarkana-Shreveport, La.  
KLTV ABC channel 7 Tyler  
KTRE ABC channel 9  
Lufkin, TX  
NBC 28 KYLE, Bryan-  
College Station, TX.  
FOX 29 KSVP Lake  
Charles, LA.  
ABC 10—KTEN  
Sherman-Denison, TX

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sun: 9:30 AM Class  
10:30 AM Worship  
6:00 PM Evening  
Wed: 7:00 PM

## Now is the Time

*"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"* — 2 Cor. 6:1-2. All of the time we have in this life is allotted



to us by God. It is a commodity that once used is gone forever. The urgency of Paul's inspired statement, ought to remind us all of here and now. The future is, at best, a promise — a hope, Thus to squander time by foolish indifference to life, both here and hereafter, is a pretty good manifestation of inanity. Someone noted, "We are doomed to suffer a bitter pain as often as the irrecoverable flight of our time is brought home with keenness to our hearts. The spectacle of a lady floating over the sea in a boat, and waking suddenly from sleep to find her magnificent ropes of pearl necklace by some accident detached at one end from its fastenings, the loose string hanging down into the water, and pearl after precious pearl slipping off forever into the abyss, brings before us the sadness of the case. That particular pearl which at the very moment is rolling off into the unsearchable deep carries its own separate reproach to the lady's heart; but it is more deeply reproachful as the representative of so many other uncounted pearls that have already been swallowed up irrecoverably while yet she was sleeping, and of many besides that must follow before any remedy can be applied to what we may call this jewelry hemorrhage." When the last pearl of time is gone forever, and we all stand before God in judgment, the main question will not be how much time we used, but how we used what God gave us. If you are out of order with God, right now is the time to repair your life. We urge you to come before God right now, honestly and sincerely, and surrender your will to his.

ADAPTED

**Leadership to present schedule of events for 2018 next Sunday  
Plan to be present.**



***From Dan's desk:***

The old year 2017 is now history. It was truly a historical year. It was a year filled with joy and happiness, but a year that was filled with sadness and grief also. We welcome the New Year 2018 with great excitement. I hope you are anticipating all the good things that our loving Father in heaven will offer to us. Next Sunday is leadership Sunday. The Elders, Deacons will lead the worship service. I will be speaking on the challenges before us and how we should respond to those challenges. I hope you can be with us. A schedule of events planned by the Elders will be presented to the congregation. A large number of folks continue to be ill with the "flu" and other illnesses. The "flu" has reached epidemic proportions in Texas. We encourage you to use the hand sanitizer that is now available in the foyer, as you enter and leave the building. This is just a precaution. The weather has really been cold and today is no exception. Hopefully this is no indication of a bad winter. God knows what we need and we leave all of that in His hands. We will accept what He sends our way and realize that He truly "works everything for our good." Romans 8:28. We are getting excited about the forthcoming "Give Me The Bible Conference" that will be held at our building on Saturday, January 20th. We will have numerous people from various congregations here for the day. We have two wonderful speakers who will be speaking that day. They will challenge us to greater spiritual heights. The meal is being catered by Cotton Patch at a cost of \$8.00 per person. We hope you can be with us. Thanks for being here this morning. See you tonight. DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



**TO KEEP  
IN OUR PRAYERS**

**FRED FREEMAN** has stage four cancer & is undergoing tests this week. **LORETTA YOUNG** will be undergoing tests on her eyes in Tyler this next week.

**BUDDY HART** (friend of several) is in the local hospital for pneumonia.

**ANNIE LEE BIRDOW** continues to improve at the rehab in Tyler. She will be there for another three weeks.

**REMEMBER OTHERS WHO ARE ILL.**

**GIVE ME THE BIBLE  
CONFERENCE & BANQUET**

Our annual "Give Me The Bible" Conference and Banquet will be taking place this year on Saturday, January 20th from 9AM to 2 PM. We want to encourage all to attend this. There is a sign up sheet posted on the board across from the office. Please sign, if you will be attending so we will have an accurate count for the caterers. Cotton Patch will be catering this year at \$8.00 per person. World Video Bible will be here this year with religious DVD's available.

**SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **BUCK JOHNSON** who passed away this last week. Memorial services were held last Wednesday.

Buck was the husband of the late **JOANN JOHNSON** a faithful member here, until her death.

**PEACE THAT COMES  
FROM ABOVE**

A Chinese proverb presented some insight to peace of mind, "If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there be harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world." It sounds almost simplistic, but it also makes such good sense. Society's problem is that we are not at peace with self; when not at peace with self, nothing else can be right because we are constantly looking through jaded windows.

"Peace is: the normal, non-warring condition of a nation, a group of nations, or the world; a state of mutual harmony between people or groups; freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, anxiety; tranquility, serenity, silence, calm or quiet."

There have always been times of peace and war. Solomon said: "*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace*" (Eccl. 3:18). As long as free-thinking people with different priorities and ideals exist, war and strife will exist. Peace is a costly thing! Our nation has not become the nation that it is without many battles, sacrifices, blood and tears of our forefathers. Our nation has always been peace loving. Wars have been fought because of unrest and ulterior motives of other countries trying to disturb or rob our nation of its privileges. The world has been a constant battleground for thousands of years. How can we achieve that peace we all so much crave?

God is the author of peace (1 Cor. 4:33; Rom. 5:33) and until His will is embraced by mankind, there will be no peace, "*For He is our peace...and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh*" (Eph. 2:14, 17).