

It is good to see you here today. I hope you had an excellent and productive week. Thanks to those who stayed for the DEVO last Sunday. We all had a great time!! You all did a great job in participating in the devotional and games afterwards. And you always do a great job participating in eating!! Ha! Make plans to stay after the worship service this evening, I have another DEVO planned for tonight. Come hungry and ready to have fun. If you have other plans, make sure that you are putting God first in your life. We have started a new lesson in our Bible Class on "Experiencing True Happiness" (Mathew 5:1-16). This lesson is about taking time to think about how good God has made things for us and how there is more to life than just living. If you are seeking happiness in your life and want to find it, I encourage you to take the time to come to Bible Class. See you all tonight, have a wonderful week!

**BEN**

## "LET'S BE DEVOTED"

The disciples we read about in Acts 2 were not half-hearted Christians who had to be begged to attend worship assemblies of the church or get involved in the work of the Lord. After a Christ-centered and fearless sermon that confronted hearers with their sin and guilt (2:14-36), there was a heaven-sent, Holy Spirit-guided answer to the question of what to do to be forgiven and saved from that sin (2:37-41). Some churches and preachers today won't raise or answer this question, and others change the inspired answer Peter and the other apostles gave. But on that day long ago about 3,000 believers repented and were baptized for forgiveness of sins under the terms of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20). And talk about changed lives! Read Acts 2:41-47! What a church and what church members! Verse 42 says they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." The New International Version says "they devoted themselves" to these things. These were devoted disciples! These things came first in their lives. The Greek word for "continued steadfastly" or "devoted" means "to be earnest towards a thing, to persevere, be constantly diligent; to attend assiduously all the exercises, or to adhere closely to; to give self continually upon" Christians devoted to Bible study, preaching, fellowship, and worship assemblies! Does your own approach to discipleship resemble that level of devotion? ADAPTED

## ARE YOU A KIND PERSON?

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend (to them) of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and (to) the evil" (Luke 6:31-35). Pay attention to that last statement; "he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." We learn something important about God here; even those who hate Him receive kind treatment at His hands. Paul refers to the salvation God offers through Jesus Christ and His gospel as "the kindness of God" in Titus 3:4. Kindness is something in which every person can improve and grow; judging from the new testament's words on the subject, God plainly intends it to be a common characteristic of His saints. Kindness does NOT "come naturally" for everyone, and it is especially hard to extend kindness to some folks. When a man knowingly lives a wicked life, Christians can be sorely challenged to show him much kindness; but such is our responsibility, Colossians 3:12. In Ephesians 4:32, Paul instructs us to "... be ye kind one to another." **DAVE ROGERS**

**DOOR GREETERS –**  
**Sunday January 22**  
**Henry & Sonda Baker**

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**  
**Sunday January 22**  
**Jerry & Marlene Thompson**

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

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 Palestine, Texas 75802  
 903/723-6291  
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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**  
*School of Preaching*  
**Hershel Beard**  
*India Mission*  
**Central TX Children's Home—Buda, TX**  
**Tipton Children's Home**  
*Tipton, OK*  
**GBN T.V. NETWORK**  
**GIVE ME THE BIBLE**

**T.V. Program**  
**KETK-NBC 56 Tyler, TX.**  
**FOX 44 KWKT–Waco, TX**  
**FOX 33 KMSS**  
**Shreveport, LA.**  
**NBC 28 KYLE, Bryan-College Station, TX.**  
**NBC 53–KLSB Lufkin, TX.**  
**FOX 29 KSVP Lake Charles, LA.**  
**ABC 10 - K TEN**  
**Sherman-Denison, TX**

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

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

## WHAT BUILDS A STRONG VIBRANT CHURCH?

Not sensationalism! Not gimmicks! Not just committees or mere programs with a "fun and games" emphasis! These things may be "right-on" for civic clubs, and country clubs, but not for the Lord's church! What does it take to build a strong church? I believe with all my heart that the following things are essential!

- 1. Strong Bible preaching and teaching!** God's word, when it is disseminated plainly, forcefully, uncompromisingly, and yet kindly, will BUILD UP! Paul said, *"I commend you unto God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up. . ."* Acts 20:32.
- 2. Exemplary Leadership!** Men who make themselves *"examples to the flock,"* and who are careful in tending it (1 Peter 5:2-3). To grow, the church must have quality leadership — men who know how to lead it and will do so.
- 3. Christian living on the part of every member!** Unimpeachable conduct so clearly evidenced in the lives of Christians will illuminate the way for many in the realm of darkness (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:15).
- 4. Congregational warmth and love!** The fellowship of the Lord's church should be so sweet and precious that the whole community takes note, and observes, *"See how they love each other!"* Without this, a congregation will never be what God would have it be!
- 5. Compassionate hearts!** The church of Christ needs to be known as the most tender-hearted bunch of people in all the world . . . ready and willing to help all, and especially those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:9-10).
- 6. Evangelistic fervor!** The emphasis of the early church was soul-winning! The church will grow when we cease not to *"teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ"* every day, wherever we have opportunity (Acts 5:42).
- 7. An "I want to serve" attitude permeating the congregation!** People serving the Lord because they love Him. They want to serve and do not have a spirit of drudgery.
- 8. An atmosphere of happiness, friendliness, cordiality, and hospitality!** No stranger should ever come into the midst of the Lord's church without being graciously greeted and welcomed by a happy, friendly membership! We must reach out to others, and not just "visit" with friends.

# The New Year Off To A Great Start!



*From Dan's desk:*

The New Year is off to a good start. Thanks to all of you who are here this morning. We appreciate each of you who are members and those who are visiting with us. It is great to see you today. We believe that this year will be a great year in the history of the Crockett Rd. Church. Dale presented the Elders plans and events for the coming year and Henry presented the budget as well. As I stated last Lord's Day, plans are an important part of our lives. "Those who failed to plan are those who plan to fail." There will be additional numerous activities scheduled during the year. If you were not here last Sunday, please be reminded that the new church ledger directories are available in the office. We have one per family. Be sure to get a copy. If for some reason there are mistakes, please let us know. If we inadvertently left someone out of the directory, it was not intentional. That is why we placed a copy on the table for three weeks in order that people would make any necessary corrections. We have a lot of new members since our last directory. God is blessing His church family here and we are so thankful. The Bible Hour Workers met last Sunday for lunch and a planning session. We are grateful to those who work and give their time and energy to Bible Hour. The weather has been extremely cold this year and several in the congregation have been ill. Let's continue to pray for all of those we mentioned as ill. Be sure to get a copy of the prayer list and ask God's blessing on those who are ill. We hope to see you tonight.

DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



## TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

**HELEN CRAWFORD** sister of Billy Mason, is recovering from heart surgery last Friday in Tyler.

**LESA RUIZ (REESE)** sister of Maria Balderas and Gloria Vega is undergoing tests.

**BOBBY KING**, mother of Shelia McCullough, is back in the hospital in Tyler with a light stroke.

**BETH FREEMAN** has been ill this last week and undergoing tests.

**Remember to get a copy of the prayer list in the foyer.**

### OUR SYMPATHY:

Our sympathy is extended to James and Sandy Singleterry in the death of James' twin sister, **CONNIE LOWE** in Odessa. Memorial services were held last Wednesday in Odessa.

### WELCOME VISITORS

A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE  
RESUMES TONIGHT at 6  
P.M. Parents be sure to  
bring your children.**

## CAN YOU FORGIVE?

Christians are to be a part of Christ. This is the literal meaning of the word "Christian." To be like Christ is to be our lifelong aspiration. Jesus did not wait for the lame man to ask for forgiveness, He went ahead and said to him, "Son, your sins are forgiven you" (Matthew 9:2). I know that we argue that Jesus knew men's hearts and that we don't, but such should not be used as an excuse to hold a grudge and withhold forgiveness. Refusing to forgive has caused wars. Unforgiveness has driven once great friends to becoming enemies, and never speaking to one another. Unforgiveness has caused broken homes, and has caused brothers and sisters to treat each other with disrespect and loathing. Unforgiveness is, in and of itself, a sin. How many times have you heard the statement, "I just can't forgive them." I have heard it more than I would like to. I understand that full forgiveness cannot be granted until someone asks for forgiveness, but that did not stop Jesus on the cross from saying, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus stood ready to forgive as the offense against Him was being committed. Paul is teaching the Ephesians that forgiveness is partially based on what we owe Jesus for our forgiveness. When viewed this way, what right would we have to ever withhold our forgiveness from someone? We are to forgive just as Christ has forgiven us. Matt. 6

DAN

### LADIES BUNKO

The ladies are reminded that those who would like to participate in "BUNKO", we will meet this Thursday night at the Bon Appetite at 5:30 P.M. If you are planning to attend, the cost is \$10.00 for the meal and you need to sign up today on the bulletin board.