

On a scale of one to ten, how do you measure up? Are you tall enough? Pretty enough? Smart enough? Funny enough? And on that scale, which number represents enough? Do you have to score a ten or will a solid seven do? How about a five? It's better than average, right? Most of us measure how we're doing by how everyone else is doing. Not a day goes by that we're not tempted to glance to the left and to the right to see how we measure up to the people around us. This is especially true at school. We see everyone else's grades, clothes, athletic ability, talent, and popularity. And it's easy to feel like we don't measure up. So we adjust course, try harder, and then compare again. It's exhausting!!! **Paul warns us that those who "measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, are not wise."** (2 Corinthians 10:12,) Comparison will always leave us feeling like we don't measure up. We can try to do more and be more, yet it's never enough. I want to encourage the youth this school year to put more effort in your spiritual life by comparing your life with what the Bible says. I hope that each of you will!! BEN

### "BARNABAS-ENCOURAGER"

Many discourage instead of encourage. While the majority of Christians serving today may never face the extreme trials the apostles faced, there are still many obstacles to overcome. Isn't it wonderful, when things are not going as well as you would like them to, to hear an encouraging word? Barnabas was a valuable addition to the work of the Lord's church in the days of the apostles, because he encouraged them in the face of the challenges of their great task. Modern "Sons and Daughters of Encouragement" can do great things for the Lord with their pats on the back, and reassuring comments. We're all in the Lord's body together, and we share this holy work. Be an encourager. I hope that each of us will continue to be encouragers not guilty of discouraging other Christians with our words and by our actions. DAN

### HOW STRONG IS THE PULPIT?

Most faithful brethren would affirm that we do not hear the kind of preaching we heard as we were growing up. Oftentimes, more attention is paid to how something is said rather than what is said. Attracting large crowds is emphasized more than preaching sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). In many congregations today, when plans are being made for a youth function or gospel meeting, the criteria for selecting speakers is not, "Is he sound and does he teach and uphold sound doctrine?" but rather, "Is he dynamic?" and "Can he draw a crowd?" Theatrical preachers who stir the emotions but leave the mind befuddled, remind one of the false teachers Jude mentioned who spoke great swelling words of vanity but were clouds without water (Jude 12,13). Many churches and preachers are guilty of promoting gimmicks, games, and gymnasiums rather than the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"* (John 12:32). Jesus Christ and His word are the drawing power! Weak preaching has become more and more commonplace. Beware of weak preaching.

Author Unknown

### DOOR GREETERS –Aug. 16, 2015,

**Adam & Diane Harding**

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

Aug. 16, 2015

**Phillip & Carolina Castillo**

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

1717 Crockett Road; P.O. Box 288  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
903/723-6291  
www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org

### MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel  
*Pulpit Minister*  
Ben Rhone  
*Youth Minister*

### ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel  
Dale Sparks

### DEACONS

Henry Baker  
Sam Ellis  
Dwight Franklin  
Adam Harding  
Kyle Lock

### SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

### MISSIONS

Brown Trail School of  
Preaching, Bedford, TX  
Jose Cuadras– Mexico  
*School of Preaching*  
Hershel Bearden  
*India Mission*  
Ron Brown  
*China 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-56 Tyler, TX.  
FOX 44– Waco, TX.  
FOX 33 Shreveport, La.  
FOX 29, Bryan-College  
Station, TX.  
NBC 53– Lufkin, TX.

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

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

### "JUST COMPLAINERS"

Complaining often falls into that category of sins that are excused because "that's just so-and so." However, God does not provide for such exceptions. Apparently, many people do not understand the extent of damage caused by the wagging tongues of negative naysayers. The apostle Paul told the Philippians, *"Do all things without murmurings and disputings; That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world"* (Phil. 2:14-15). According to Paul, if a person was a complainer, he was not blameless, harmless, or without rebuke, nor could he shine as a light to the world. Complaining is very different from offering a scriptural objection. Complaining means that people have an objection to something—sometimes anything—but that they object for personal reasons rather than biblical reasons. If they had biblical reasons, they would cite scripture and explain their reasons for interpreting scripture differently. Instead, they want to get their way, and they will talk, gossip, nag, argue, and politic until they get their way. While people, including those in the church, often give in to complainers just to "keep the peace," God never does. Sometimes the squeaky wheel does not need grease at all. Sometimes there is a bunch of gunk getting in the way and keeping the wheel from operating properly. When this is the case, you do not add grease, you get rid of the gunk. Complaining is sinful and will cost you your soul. Therefore, *"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer"* (1 Cor. 10:10).

Kevin Rhodes

## Children's Bible Hour begins on Sept. 6th



*From Dan's desk:*

We welcome each of you to the worship services today. To those who may be visiting, we say thanks for coming. The Texas Summer heat has been oppressing this last week, with no real change in sight on the horizon. Fall will eventually come and relief will come. The Lord will send the rain at the appropriate time. The Children's Bible Hour planning session last Sunday evening proved successful. Some 16 gathered in the chapel and plans were made for a great Children's Bible Hour beginning in September. We appreciate all those who help with Bible Hour and their willingness to give of their time and effort to teach and train our young children here at Crockett Rd. Thanks again for your positive remarks about the lessons last Sunday. We commend CLINT SATTERWHITE for responding last Sunday morning. He came to ask for the prayers of the church here and to recommit himself and family to the Lord. Clint and Jonna are a fine young couple and always set a great example before others. We are grateful that they are here among us. Kyle prayed for our teachers and students who will be embarking on the new school years soon. There is always a transition from being off in the Summer to going back to the classroom. We want to keep them all in our prayers. It is hard to believe that Summer is just about over. It has been a busy one for the Lord's Church here at Crockett Rd. A busy active church, is a church where much is accomplished, love abounds, and peace prevails. We thank God for each of you. We hope to see you tonight at the 6 P.M. service. DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



### TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

**ANNIE LEE BIRDOW continues to undergo tests this week.**

**JIM DAVIS is out of the hospital and improving at home from recent pneumonia.**

**J.B. MATLOCK's great nephew suffered a brain bleed, and remains in the hospital in Tupelo, Miss.**

**Others who have been ill and in the hospital are also improving.**

### Congratulations

Our congratulations to JESSE and CHASITY WOODS on the birth of new baby girl, GRACIE RENEE' born last Sunday morning. Danial and Debra Plummer are proud grandparents.

### RESPONSES

FOR PRAYER & REDEDICATION  
CLINT SATTERWHITE

### 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.**

### "ABSENCE and ALARM"

There is a correlation, you know. When a Christian is absent from the worship assembly, there is cause for alarm. *"Why? Whose business is it?"* says the absentee. *"If I want to miss, let me be — what does it hurt anyway?"* Glad you asked the question — it hurts a lot! **It hurts you, first.** Fellowship of the saints in the presence of Christ is a stirring experience. Sharing exhilarating emotions with those who love the Lord as together you sing, pray, teach, commune and give is an uplifting exercise. What better could you do? The Bible states to be absent yourself only if there is a matter to be straightened out with you and your brother, doesn't it? The assembly certainly takes priority over the ordinary life. **Second, you hurt those closest to you.** Helpmate or children quit because you do. Your lack of zeal and interest telegraphs to them, *"CHURCH IS NOT IMPORTANT."* They love you — you are the big one in their life. You thus take from the Lord, instead of to Him, those you love most. **Third, the relationship between absence and alarm is further heightened by the fact that the surest path to backsliding is absenteeism.** There is more to being a Christian than attending services, but the attendance can never be minimized. It is a vital part of our duty. Nothing is equal to the church of the Lord — to leave is to go downhill. Absence lets you remember self. Why would no one be alarmed when even one member is absent? He is selling short his opportunity — he's disobeying his Lord. Be certain about your attendance. When one is absent willfully, he is going the wrong way! Turn around, brother, come home. **JIM BILL MCINTEER**