

# Teen News

It was great to see so many of you in attendance on Wednesday night, as I know the summer keeps most of you busy. Hope all of you will stay for the luncheon after morning services. It's just another way for us to fellowship with one another. Devo tonight following evening worship.

Blake



"I THOUGHT THE BEST PART OF THE SERMON WAS WHEN THE PREACHER YELLED AND DAD WOKE UP AND FELL OFF THE SEAT!"

## How Can You Know For Sure?

Most of us have told the joke about the thermos. We may tell this joke about our biggest football rival, about people with certain colors of hair, or about rednecks. In the joke someone is introduced to a thermos. They are told: "It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold." And the dumb response is: "How does it know?"

Constantly I hear people speak of how they know that God wants this or that for them. A young man moves to a city and attends a church for the first time, a denomination with which he has had no association in the past. His immediate reaction is: "I knew this was where God wanted me to be." A lady switches from one religious group to another. She feels some uneasiness with her change on the part of a friend. She responds: "I think I am doing what God wants me to do." A man leaves his wife and runs off with a girlfriend to whom he later is married. When questioned about his decision, he says: "I know this is what God wants for my life so that I can be happy."

My question for all of these people is: "How can you know for sure?" How can you know if you are where God wants you to be? How can you know that you are doing what God wants you to do in order to be happy? Mankind has a long habit of transforming personal opinion into God's will. We make God over in our image. God challenges our assumptions that he thinks like we do: "You thought that I was one just like yourself" (Ps. 51:21). We assume that what we want, what makes us feel good, must be what God wants. And when our conscience disturbs us, we try to beat it back by saying: "This is what God wants for me."

The only way we can really know what God wants for us, beyond the few moral principles we can learn from reason and nature, is to study our Bible. If we can not find it in THE BOOK, then we do not have any reason to say: "I think God wants..."

### DOOR GREETERS—Aug 19

**Adam & Diane Harding**

### COMMUNION PREPARATION-Aug 19

**David & Jennifer Sparks**

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

1717 Crockett Road; P.O. Box 288  
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903/723-6291

[www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org](http://www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org)

### MINISTERS

**Dan D. Manuel**  
*Pulpit Minister*

**Blake Baker**  
*Youth Minister*

### ELDERS

**Dan D. Manuel**  
**Dale Sparks**

### DEACONS

**Henry Baker**  
**Sam Ellis**  
**Dwight Franklin**  
**Adam Harding**  
**Kyle Lock**

### SECRETARY

**Lorelee Reeder**

### MISSIONS & OUTREACH

**Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX**

**Jose Cuadras—Mexico**  
*School of Preaching*

**Hershel Bearden**  
*India Mission*

**Ken Upchurch**  
*Tanzania Africa Work*  
**Central TX Children's Home—Buda, TX**

**Tipton Children's Home**  
*Tipton, OK*

**Gospel Broadcast Network**  
**ASSEMBLY TIMES**

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

## HOW TO GAIN MUCH

There is an expression among those who exercise regularly, "No Pain, No Gain." The expression basically means that if you are not willing to work hard and suffer a little for your efforts, then you are not going to accomplish very much. Just doing the easy and simple exercises that don't challenge one's body won't lead to lasting results. The same principle is true in life. Should it cause us to wonder, when we come to the spiritual world, that if we don't make an effort at serving the Lord that we're not going to get anything out of our relationship with God? The same principle is true here as well. "No pain, no gain." Sometimes I think that people expect church to be some kind of spiritual playground where we can just relax and have fun in the glow of God's goodness. While I certainly believe that coming to church can be rewarding, it doesn't quite work like a playground. Our worship and service requires of us some effort, both mentally and physically. The more effort we put into our worship and service, the greater our relationship with God will become.

Our efforts must start with our attendance. If we don't attend services or if our attendance is sporadic, then we're not going to get very much out of it. Attendance to the worship services is where we get our encouragement to continue to live godly lives and be faithful to the Lord (Hebrews 10:25). It is absolutely critical to our relationship with God. It is as important as families having dinner together on a regular basis. To miss such an appointment is to undermine one's relationships.

We continue our efforts with how we worship. We must engage our minds to worship God (John 4:24, Matthew 22:37). That means we need to listen attentively to the prayers and the sermon (1 Corinthians 14:15). We need to sing with all of our heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16). We need to give with purpose and thanksgiving in our hearts (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). And we need to remember the death of Jesus as we partake of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19). How many times do we catch ourselves thinking about what is for lunch or what we're going to do later in the day instead of focusing on the worship. We cheat ourselves out of a relationship with God when we don't engage our minds in worship.

When we leave the church building our efforts must continue. If we simply leave what we've done at the building behind, then we are going to limit our relationship with God. as well?



# FIVE RESPOND TO CHRIST THREE BAPTIZED

*From Dan's desk:*

We welcome each of you today to our worship services. It is always great to have visitors among us and today we have several with us. We hope you will come again. It is good to have Eugene Boone and wife Charmaine with us as well. Gene worked many years with the Foster Home at Stephenville, Texas. He also worked in Dallas, Texas as a Deputy Sherriff with the Dallas dept. at the time of the assignation of President John Kennedy. This last week was a wonderful week even with the death of our beloved Bernie Baur. Bernie passed away and has gone to be with our Lord. We express our sympathy to his family today. The memorial service held in his honor will take place at 2 P.M. in our church auditorium. Last Saturday JEFF and EMILY SPARKS were baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. We rejoice with them on this decision. Also on Sunday afternoon, GINGER BELL was baptized for the remission of sins. On Sunday morning, PHIL and SHERRY SYBERT both responded to the call of Christ to ask for the prayers of the church here in their behalf. We rejoice with each of these as they draw closer to the Lord. Last Wednesday night ROBERT JOHNSON spoke to the congregation in the Summer series on the subject, "JESUS THE LIGHT OF LIFE". We appreciate his efforts and knowledge of God's Word. We hope and trust that each of you will want to stay for the luncheon that follows the morning worship service. There is always plenty of good food and you will enjoy the fellowship. Thanks again for coming this morning and being a participant in the worship to our Lord. God is so good to each of us and it is always thrilling to join together in praising Him in song, and a study of His inspired Word. DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



**TO KEEP  
IN OUR PRAYERS**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IN  
YOUR PRAYERS:**

**BRIANNE CAMPOS** has been undergoing tests to determine if her past brain surgery is leaking.

**JOHN PIERCE**, brother of Edna Higginbotham, had surgery on Wednesday.

**KATHY CROOK**, friend of many here, has asked for your prayers.

**CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THOSE ON THE PRAYER LIST IN THE FOYER WHO HAVE ONGOING ILLNESSES AND ALL SERVICEMEN OVERSEAS:**

**RESPONSES**

**BAPTIZED & MEMBERSHIP:**

**Jeff & Emily Sparks**  
311 ACR 2110  
Elkhart, TX 75839  
903-764-8446

**Ginger Bell**  
207 Cedarview  
Palestine, TX 75803

**REDEDICATION & PRAYER:**  
**Phil & Sherry Sybert**

**Value of the Church**

"Why should I go to church?" a young girl asked her grandfather.

The grandfather was silent for a moment, and then he said, "Tell me, child, has the piano-tuner been here yet? You said that the piano needed tuning."

"No, I am still waiting for him; the piano needs tuning badly. I tried to play last evening, but my playing was a dismal failure."

"Now, see, my child, our souls are like a musical instrument," then said the grandfather. "The strings become slack and out of tune very quickly; they must be tuned up from time to time."

"What do you mean, grandfather?"

"All strings; goodness, faith, courage, generosity, reverence, love — all grow less vibrant in us, without our even knowing it. But, when we hear the truths from the Word of God proclaimed at church, we see how we have lost tune. We are tuned up once more to what is the true pitch of righteousness. However, the tuning does not last, and so one must go regularly to church to have one's soul tuned right."

**FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**

**Immediately following this mornings worship service we will be meeting for our Fellowship Luncheon. We want to invite all our visitors to stay and enjoy the food and fellowship with us. There is always plenty of food and it would be a great honor to have you as our guest. Please plan to stay. The memorial service for Bernie will be held at 2 PM.**

But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. Matt. 12:36