

Clay's Corner

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." – Matthew 6:33

Two Sundays in a row the men met before class to discuss the direction our congregation will take in the future. We aren't there yet. But we are looking to the future. As we do that, there are two, or maybe three, things I want to address; things that must be said, I believe, to help us cross the next hurdle as we seek to expand the Kingdom in Gonzales.

First of all, there are underlying tones of negativity in our ranks that have no place, absolutely none, among us. Past experiences and failures are just that; in our past! The only bearing they have on our future is that to be ignorant of them destines us to repeat them. But they by no means have any power over us unless we allow them to permeate our present.

Secondly, the "Church" as designed by God and instituted by Christ is an actual living thing! It has life. And if it has life then it will grow. If it is not growing, there has to be a reason. And while there can be one reason or many, what it all boils down to is that if a congregation is not growing it can only be because it is not healthy. Just as illness in a human body can stymie growth, so too can unhealthy things prohibit growth in a congregation.

The lack of growth can also be attributed to the lack of essential organs/people. When God designed the human body He incorporated within that design everything needed for life. While there are certain parts of our body that can be removed and we will survive, there are parts that are essential to life and without which, there can be no life, much less growth. For instance, I can live without a big toe. It makes it hard to walk. But I'll survive. But without a heart, a liver, a kidney, or a brain, I would cease to exist. The same thing happens in the church. Christ is the head of the Church. Without Him, the church doesn't exist. Further, He gives each congregation people with particular gifts that are essential to the function of the body, without which, there can be no real life. We need those things; those people to be what God has gifted them to be, before we will ever be all that we can be.

Third, we've got to get involved. For whatever reason, what I see among us is far too many distractions. Everyone wants us to grow. At least I think they do. That seems to be the general consensus. But, no one wants to be the first to sacrifice any of the things that demand our time outside of the church. I sense an air of defeat among some and as such an air of negativity exists among us. That has to end. We've got to source that negativity as coming from the Devil and put it behind us. He doesn't want us to live. He certainly does not want us to grow.

What's it going to take? Seek first the Kingdom of God...

I'll be addressing this more in the coming weeks as we strive to be all that we can be as part of the eternal body of Christ. Until then, I pray that each and every one of you will have a blessed and joy filled week.

PRAYER LIST

- **Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend's brother—cancer)
- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health, recovering from surgery)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Terry Boaz** (Haley Ratliff's step-mother—recovering from surgery)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Eddie Hunt** (Debbie Jalufka's father—Alzheimer's)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **John Jobe** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health, stroke)
- **Debbie Jalufka** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger** (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Jay Mason and family**
- **Emory Meier** (Cheryl Pitts's father—health)
- **Orvan Muelker** (Kathy Winegeart's father—health)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **David Pearson** (Eric Davis's friend—brain tumor)
- **Stacey Placker and Meagan Miller** (Lexi Miller's mother and sister)
- **Bryson Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—upcoming brain surgery for epilepsy)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Paris, Lexus & Maelyn Robertson** (Johnsons' friends—Maelyn born 10 weeks premature)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Jocelyn Seals** (Hallettsville—cancer)
- **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Lauren Babb's follow-up appointment went well yesterday. She is still not feeling well, but is making progress.

Leon Giesecke, Jan Moerbe's father, moved from the hospital to the rehabilitation facility.

Sanford Mason, Ralph's brother, had a very successful surgery. He is home and is doing well.

Maelyn Robertson was able to go home on February 25 after spending 102 days in NICU!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Meal & Egg Hunt

Today is our fellowship meal followed by a city-wide scavenger hunt and church-yard egg hunt. Everyone is invited to join us for this time of food, fellowship and fun!

VBS Meeting

If you are interested in helping with VBS, please plan to meet with Kevin & Victoria in the auditorium briefly after morning service this Sunday (before heading to the fellowship meal). This meeting will only take a few minutes. We will be setting a date for our 2016 VBS. Additional details will be discussed at a later meeting.

Please look at your calendars and be ready to discuss the following dates:

- June 19-22 (four days)
- June 12-15 (four days)
- July 17-20 (four days)
- July 24-26 (three days)

Song Service

Luling Church of Christ is hosting an area-wide song service **this afternoon at 4 p.m.** Transportation will leave the church at 3:30 p.m.

Baby Shower

You're invited to a baby shower honoring **Edwin & Sarah Weaver** on **Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.** in the church annex. Edwin and Sarah are registered at Wal-Mart and Target. Please search for "Edwin Weaver" when looking for the registry.

Diabetes Clinic

In conjunction with Guadalupe Regional Medical Center, we are hosting a Diabetes Self-Management Education course. Classes meet on **Tuesday evenings from 5:45-7:45 p.m. and continue through March 29.**

Tuesday Morning Men's Meeting

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class will meet on **Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the building.** We are continuing our *War Room* Bible Study.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **this Wednesday at 5:15 p.m.** for dinner in the annex. This week's entrée is pulled pork sandwiches. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides or desserts to share, but everyone is invited! If you cannot bring a dish, please do not let that be a deterrence to joining us for dinner. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

The Heights Easter Celebration

The Heights of Gonzales invites you to their Annual Easter Celebration on **Friday, March 25 at 10 a.m.** There will be fun for all ages, with an Easter Egg Hunt for children 10 and under, followed by photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny! Flyers are available in the foyer.

Peach Valley Bar-B-Q Fundraiser

Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp is hosting its Annual Bar-B-Q Fundraiser on **Saturday, April 30 at 11:30 a.m.** A silent auction will follow. Plates include BBQ chicken with sides and dessert. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. The church is asked to prepare desserts for the event. More details to follow.

Communion Prep Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help prepare communion on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Wednesday Meal Prep Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the entrée for our Wednesday evening meals. Please sign up in the foyer. Contact Victoria Johnson if you have any questions.

YOUTH ZONE

CONGRATULATIONS TO MORGAN AND KAYLA MASON WHO PLACED 2ND AND 3RD, RESPECTIVELY, IN CLASS 13, AND COLE HENDERSHOT, WHO PLACED 4TH IN CLASS 2, AT THE AMERICAN BRAHMAN ASSOC. JUNIOR SHOW IN HOUSTON LAST WEEKEND!

MONDAY, MARCH 21
BASEBALL
GONZALES VARSITY @ NAVARRO, 7 P.M.



TRACK & FIELD
SHINER JR HIGH @ FLATONIA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
TRACK & FIELD
GONZALES JR HIGH @ YOAKUM



THURSDAY, MARCH 24
BASEBALL
GONZALES VARSITY V. CUERO, 7 P.M.

BOYS GOLF
GONZALES @ RANDOLPH
(NORTHCLIFFE GC, NEW BRAUNFELS)



TRACK & FIELD
GONZALES HS @ RANDOLF RELAYS (UNIVERSAL CITY)

Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Track

Cole Hendershot—Gonzales Boys Golf

Tyler Hendershot—Gonzales Varsity Baseball, HS Track

Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales Jr High Track & Field