



## Doing Beautiful Things

At the time of this writing, there are nine more days before I will stand before two young people and a small crowd of closest friends and relatives of the soon-to-be bride and groom, and help these two become one. It is an honor and a privilege that I am the father of the bride and also the minister that will officiate over her wedding ceremony. This is the second time I will have done this. One more and I'll have both given in marriage and officiated the ceremony of the three little girls God blessed Mary and me with. I can't tell you in words what that feels like. It truly is one of those, "You'd have to be there and do it yourself," moments to understand the emotions involved.

As I prepare today for the moments of that day, naturally my thoughts turn to Jesus. And the first thing on His agenda, after spending 40 days of fasting in the desert with the devil attacking him with temptations on all sides, was a wedding in Cana. Of all the places to go, of all the things to be done, a wedding was His first choice. Again, it's one of those things that you'd have to know the circumstances and the customs of the day to realize the significance of what happened and what it meant that day when Jesus accepted an invitation to this wedding.

I can almost hear those first apostle's voices, "Where are we going Lord?" And His answer? "A wedding." I laughed when I wrote that because, if their faces were like the faces of many today, I can see the confusion and the distorted looks of concern smeared across them, coupled with the moment of doubt that surely He must be kidding. "You're the Messiah! You don't have time for that! We've got a nation to rebuild!" And like unto the time just a few days earlier when He first invited Peter, John, Nathaniel, and Phillip, He simply says, "Come see."

As we turn the page of the history of our church and begin to write the next chapter, one of the things you are going to find is that we are going to step out of our self-supporting suppositions of what we think His ministry should consist of and we are going to actually put into effect what His ministry really was; The Great Push to Redeem Mankind back unto its rightful owner: The Creator!

Some will scoff. Some will second guess. Some will say, that's not the way I would do it. And it's not that your thoughts don't matter, they do. But my response to you is the same as His was to them that day, "Come and See!" Jesus went to a party. He started His ministry at a banquet consisting of people who were dancing in joy, celebrating a new beginning, and drinking real wine in good cheer. And it wasn't the first time, nor the last, that He would be found in such circumstances.

I'm not sure where we came up with the idea that Jesus was always prim and proper, He wasn't. And I am not sure where we came up with the idea that in order to worship Him we have to hang pious looks of pain and anguish on our faces as if we were attending a funeral. We aren't. What we are is attending a celebration of life each time we gather to worship. We are attending a feast reserved for all those who would accept the invitation! And we are sending the same invitation He accepted. "Will you come to the Feast?"

And that's what it's all about anyway. Accepting the invitation: "Come and See." Will you?

## PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health, recovering from surgery)
- **Larry Barnett** (Jacob White's friends—recovering from bike accident)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Fred Bray** (Weavers' friend—health)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Ben Faires** (Joyce Faires's grandson)
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Tomas Gomez** (Debbie Fougerat's employee—recovering from surgery)
- **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)
- **Junior and Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health, decision-making)
- **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)
- **Bryson Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—upcoming brain surgery on April 18 for epilepsy)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Mia Schauer and family of Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend)
- **Jocelyn Seals** (Hallettsville—cancer)
- **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Buddy Watson** (Victoria Johnson's cousin—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](mailto:victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org).

## PRAYER UPDATES

We extend sympathy to the friends and family of former Abilen Christian student and Stephen F. Austin graduate, **James Weldon Ecford**, of Houston. The 26-year-old was shot and killed Monday night while trying to protect his mother from an armed robber.

**Bryson Rosales**, the kindergartner in Shiner, is in the hospital. They've mapped out what is causing his seizures and believe his upcoming brain surgery should be successful in completely stopping the seizures. The surgery was scheduled for either this past Friday or tomorrow.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Notice: Annual Meeting of Members next Sunday, April 24, 2016 immediately following morning worship service.**

### Youth & Family Cookout

Please join us for a youth a family cookout **TODAY from 12:30-3 p.m.** at Palmetto State Park. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side to share. The park entrance fee is \$3 for adults. Children 12 and under are free.

### 2016 VBS: Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E.

This year's VBS is June 12-15. Please sign up in the foyer to help. We will meet for planning on **Sunday, May 1** immediately following morning worship.

### Justen Lawrence Memorial Bench

The Gonzales Church of Christ Ladies Class is raising funds to purchase a Kaspar Bench (Shiner, TX) for the churchyard, in memory of our friend, Justen "Sunshine" Lawrence. **Our fundraising goal is \$500!** Checks may be made payable to: Gonzales Church of Christ. Please specify "Justen Lawrence—Bench" in the memo line.

### Service Sunday Projects

Do you need help with a project around your house? Do you need help with meals? Know someone who does? If you or someone you know is unable to complete a project and needs help, sign up in the foyer so we can team up to help on Service Sundays.

### FCA T-Shirts

Gonzales Junior High FCA is selling t-shirts for **\$8 each**. Please see Kevin if you would like to buy one.

### Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

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

Happy belated birthday to **Evlynn Lawrence** who celebrated her 1st Birthday on Sunday, April 10. Born at only 1 lb 7 oz, she has come a long way!!

Congratulations to **Kevin & Victoria Johnson** who are the proud new uncle and aunt of **Logan Ray Bergstrom** born Sunday, April 10!

Congratulations to **Edwin & Sarah Weaver** who are the proud new uncle and aunt of twins **April and Aden Weaver** born to **Marlin and Susan Weaver!**

### Ladies Bible Class

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

### Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. in the annex. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Lord's Supper is available for anyone who was unable to partake on Sunday morning.

### 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 spaghetti. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that be a deterrence to joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

### Stockdale Ladies Day 2016

Stockdale Bilingual Church of Christ is hosting its 2016 Ladies Day **this Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** This year's theme is "Relax and Soar." Please see the flyer on the large bulletin board for more information.

### 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. Please sign up in the foyer if you are able to prepare a dessert. Desserts need to be to the annex **by 10 a.m. that morning**. Please see Peggy or Pauline if you have items you can donate for the silent auction.

### Cherokee Day Open House and Food Drive

Cherokee Home for Children is hosting Cherokee Day Open House and Food Drive on **May 7**, which includes a BBQ lunch. For more information, visit [www.chc4kids.org](http://www.chc4kids.org) or see the letter on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

## YOUTH ZONE



**MONDAY, APRIL 18**  
**BASEBALL**  
RED SOX @ GONZALES REDS, 7 P.M.  
(GONZALES MAJOR LEAGUE FIELD)



**SOFTBALL**  
MARINERS @ DEVIL RAYS, 6 P.M. (SHINER SB FIELD 3)  
REVS V. SHINER, 7 P.M. (GONZALESFIELD 1)

Hunter Babb—Indians, Shiner Tee Ball  
Caden Chrismon—Red Sox, Shiner Baseball  
Callie Chrismon—Mariners, Shiner Softball



**TUESDAY, APRIL 19**  
**SHINER TEE BALL**  
INDIANS @ PIRATES, 6 P.M. (FIELD 2)  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 21**  
**TRACK & FIELD**

**GONZALES HS @ AREA MEET (LIBERTY HILL)**  
**SOFTBALL**  
REVS V. MOULTON, 7 P.M. (GONZALES FIELD 1)

Rea'Anna Flores—REVS, Gonzales Major League Softball  
Hannah Rowland—Gonzales HS Track & Field

