

Clay's Corner

Proverbs 14:21 "He that despises his neighbor sins: but he that has mercy on the poor, happy is he."

My interactions with people on a day to day basis see me coming into contact with people from all walks of life, all sorts of backgrounds and financial and social statuses. Many of those people are of such character or background that others would rather avoid them than be confronted with them and their situations. The lessons taught by the world, and sadly by too many "Christians", is that it is ok to look down upon, shun, and yes, even despise certain classes of people. But God says and the Bible teaches us differently. As Christians we are not afforded the choice of who we are to receive or associate with but are called to minister to everyone we come into contact with.

The purpose of our continuing studies in Sunday morning adult class on letting God teach us what it means to be human, and combined with looking at the early history of the church in Wednesday evening adult Bible Class, is to redefine what it means to be human. More importantly for us, is to also learn what it means to be a Christian and then follow the examples of fellowship and ministry to the world in which we live laid out by the examples of the early church.

From this course of studies we will move directly into determining our purpose as both individuals and a congregational whole. We will define our purpose and then create a purpose statement. From there, we will then define our mission(s) and develop our mission(s) statement(s). What we are doing in this process is building upon the foundation Christ laid for us, the local church, which is best equipped to fulfill Christ's mission for us through the Great Commission.

As I look back upon the many congregations I have either been a direct part of or have been in contact with over the years, what I find is that for some reason or another, there has been a movement to preserve the church rather than to grow the church. Preservation is not our mission. We don't possess the skills, nor the wisdom collectively among us to fulfill that goal. Thus, we have not been tasked with that responsibility. But, for some reason or another, that seems to have been to focus in far too many places. And the results are quite evident to see; dead and dying congregations. That's not good enough for me. I can't be good enough for you. And it certainly doesn't mesh with the plans Christ has for His church.

Therefore, we are as a whole are moving towards bigger and better things for the Church of Christ in Gonzales. Doing so will require a lot of change for all of us. Some of it will involve physical change, most of it will involve spiritual change/growth. And for most of us, that change/growth will require of us that we change the way we view other people. For far too long, we've let ourselves be influenced by worldly ideas and concepts of how we are to treat and deal with those outside the Church. We've built zones of comfort, which insulate us from the problems many of God's creation face each and every day. And we've pushed our responsibilities off on other people and other organizations; namely through governmental organizations and agencies. Once again, the results are easy enough to see.

I, for one, am not satisfied with those results. As such, I will be starting a continuing education program which will enable me to achieve a bachelor's degree in ministry through SIBI, while simultaneously starting an online course in Christian ministry for the purpose of obtaining a Christian Counseling license in the state of Texas. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I embark once again on a journey of study in my efforts to minister to those who come to us for help and guidance.

Remember the words of the Proverb: "He that despises his neighbor sins: but he that has mercy on the poor, happy is he." Mercy is the name of the game. Mercy is what I shall give.

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Larry Barnett** (Jacob White's friend—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**
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Everett** (Joyce Faires's great-grandson—health)
- **Ben Faires** (Joyce Faires's grandson)
- **Rea'Anna Flores** (broken collar bone)
- **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)
- **Edward Jungbauer** (Moerbes' friend—health)
- **Jimmy Linehan** (Chestly Gobar's grandfather—health)
- **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)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Brycen Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—recovering from brain surgery)
- **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)
- **Buddy Watson** (Victoria Johnson's cousin—health)
- Family of **Michael Winegeart** (Perry's brother)

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

Rea'Anna Flores broke her collar bone last week. She did not have surgery as originally planned, but the doctors will re-evaluate in three weeks.

Leon Giesecke, Jan Moerbe's father, is much improved and will be going home soon. Because of his improved conditions, the doctors now want to treat his cancer, so he has some difficult decisions ahead.

Victoria Johnson is having selective nerve root block injections in her neck on **tomorrow** at Northwest Surgery Center in Austin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive

In conjunction with Be the Match, we are hosting a bone marrow donor registration drive **TODAY, May 22 from 12:15-3:15 p.m.** Donors ages 18-44 may register. **Lunch is provided for volunteers and there will be a brief training following service.**

Church T-Shirts

T-shirts are in! If you purchased shirts, please pick them up from Victoria. The cost came out to \$6.63 per shirt.

5th Sunday Fellowship

Our 5th Sunday fellowship will be at **the Johnsons' house next Sunday, May 29 at 5 p.m.** Hamburgers and ice cream will be provided. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides, drinks, or desserts to share.

Carbajal-Gobar Shower

You are invited to a potluck lunch and money tree shower honoring **Stephanie Carbajal and Chestly Gobar on Sunday, June 5** immediately following morning worship service.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. Please see Victoria if you have any questions. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send your menu to Victoria by Wednesday the week before your turn.**

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

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

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.

Jimmy Linehan, Chestly Gobar's grandfather, was admitted to Southwest General hospital on Tuesday. Stroke was suspected, but ruled out. He is improving, but will remain hospitalized for a few days for observation.

Christiana Weaver was admitted to the hospital on Thursday with jaundice. She had to spend Friday night in the hospital, too, but Edwin & Sarah were hopeful they could take her home on Saturday.



Please welcome our newest members
Jane Brady (Sept 24),
Jorja Clements (May 31)
and
Elsie Clements (Sept 4)!

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(830) 540-4056

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.

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class will meet this **Tuesday at 10 a.m.** at the building. We will continue 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 carnitas. 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.

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 (4th Sundays).

YOUTH ZONE



MONDAY, MAY 23
SOFTBALL
MARINERS @ MOULTON, 6 P.M. (MOULTON FIELD)
REVS @ MOULTON, 7 P.M. (SB FIELD)

Caden Chrismon—Red Sox, Shiner Baseball
Callie Chrismon—Mariners, Shiner Softball



THURSDAY, MAY 26
BASEBALL
RED SOX @ GONZALES REDS, 7 P.M.
(GONZALES MAJOR LEAGUE FIELD)
SOFTBALL
REVS V. SHINER, 7 P.M. (GONZALES FIELD 1)

Rea'Anna Flores—REVS, Gonzales Orange Softball
Cassidy Pitts—REVS, Gonzales Orange Softball