

Clay's Corner

I read an interesting piece this week. I share it with you today because it defines part of our mission:

“There are numerous frightening statements in scripture. Included among them should be Judges 2:10:

All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.

In my personal opinion, the generation in Israel that began the conquest of Canaan was perhaps the most devout and devoted generation of Israelites in the Old Testament. Their leader, Joshua, knew God’s actions (a) just before Israel left Egypt and (b) in the period of their wilderness wandering. Israel was blessed with a leader who trusted (a) God’s ability to keep His promises and (b) God’s ability to care for Israel. How fortunate they were to be blessed by leadership with confidence in God! Not only did Joshua lead Israel with confidence in God, but he also influenced those who served with him to keep and grow in their confidence in God.

However, the time came when Joshua died. After his death, the time came when the men who were influenced by Joshua’s faith in God also died. The generation who were not influenced by Joshua’s faith became everything Joshua was not. That generation (a) did not know God, and (b) were unaware of how God blessed Israel. Whereas Joshua represented a generation of understanding, that generation represented a generation of ignorance.

In their ignorance, they lived and acted like people who did not know God. They did two things uncharacteristic of Israel under Joshua (Judges 2:11). (a) They did evil, and (b) they turned to the idolatry of the Canaanites by worshipping Baal and his family. **As a result, they made God angry. As a consequence,** God allowed them to serve their enemies. Their enemies plundered them. Rather than God being helpful to them, God opposed Israel. The end result was severe distress (Judges 2:15).

There are three powerful lessons we should learn from these hard times in Israel. First, as important as our actions are in distressful times (like Israel’s wilderness wanderings), equally important is our actions in times of prosperity. Do we only need and depend on God when times are difficult?

Second, we should never underestimate the effectiveness of godly influence. When our faith in God is obviously our source of strength, our effectiveness in our influence may reach far beyond our awareness. The most effective value of godliness in our lives may be seen in God’s influence on the way we live rather than words.

Third, we are rarely more than a generation away from people forgetting God. Israel went from Joshua’s godly influence to a generation who did not know God in a few years. Israel went from exceptionally effective expressions of trust and godliness to a dismal failure to know God in just one generation.

If you are genuinely concerned about the next generation being a generation of faith in God, have faith in God yourself in your life now. The finest way to produce a believing generation is to be a believing generation.”

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (health)
 - **Lauren Babb** (health)
 - **Aaron Banks**
 - **John Beiler** (health)
 - **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka’s daughter)
 - **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick’s sister—homebound)
 - **Dixie** (Debbie Faires’s mother—Alzheimer’s)
 - **Jake Faires** (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
 - **Paul Faires** (health)
 - **Steven Faires, and Lexi**
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe’s father—throat cancer)
 - **Herbert and Nelle Hahn** (health)
 - **Debbie Jalufka**
 - **Sandra Jetton** (health)
 - **Kevin and Victoria Johnson** (healthy pregnancy/baby)
 - **Junior and Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason’s brother-in-law and sister—health)
 - **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon’s uncle—cancer)
 - **Adrienne Zingrich** (Susan Barnick’s cousin—cancer)

PRAYER UPDATES

Herb Hahn was hospitalized in Gonzales last weekend for breathing difficulties. He was able to go home on Tuesday, but returned to the hospital in Yoakum at the end of the week and remained hospitalized as of Friday morning.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Meal
Everyone is invited to join us **TODAY** immediately following morning worship for our 5th-Sunday Fellowship Meal in the annex.

Bridal Shower
You are invited to a bridal shower honoring **Megan Mason**, bride-elect of Daniel Fisher, **TODAY at 2 p.m.** at the home of Stacia Sweeney (226 S Contour). The couple is registered at Bed Bath & Beyond.

Youth & Family Super Bowl Party
Youth and their families are invited to a Super Bowl Party at the Chrismons **next Sunday, Feb. 5, at 5 p.m.** Please bring chips, dip, cookies, or other snacks, desserts and finger foods to share. Please talk to Kevin or Victoria if you need transportation.

Youth Sunday: Valentine’s Luncheon
Everyone is invited to Valentine’s lunch in the annex **on Sunday, February 12!** The youth are serving salad, lasagna, bread, and dessert. Please sign up in the foyer to help with this event.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study
Please join us **at 5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. This week’s entrée is **pulled pork**. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals
Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **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 prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Sunday Night Small Group
There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord’s Supper is available.

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 continues **this Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.** at Jennie Chrismon’s house in Shiner. The book for class is *Wives After God: Encouraging Each Other in Faith and Marriage* by Jennifer Smith. Please contact Jennie if you would like more information.

Canyon Lake Ladies Day
You’re invited to Ladies Day at Canyon Lake Church on **Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Lunch is provided. This year’s theme is “Making Christ the Lord of Your Life in Every Season of Your Life!” and features speaker Becky Blackmon, author of *The Pearl Seeker* and *The Begging Place*. **RSVPs are due by Saturday, Feb. 25.**

Mark Your Calendars:
Feb. 26

- Fellowship Meal
- Singing at The Heights

YOUTH ZONE



MONDAY, JAN. 30
JUNIOR HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL
SHINER V. GANADO, 5:30 P.M.
JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL
SHINER @ GANADO, 5 P.M.
TUESDAY, JAN. 31
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
GONZALES VARSITY @ LA VERNIA, 6:30 P.M.



FRIDAY, FEB. 3
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES V. SMITHVILLE, 5 P.M. (SCRIMMAGE)
GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
GONZALES V. WIMBERLEY, 6:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEB. 4
HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD
GONZALES GIRLS DUAL MEET
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES @ BELLVILLE, 10 A.M. (SCRIMMAGE)



Caden Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Boys Basketball
Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Girls Basketball
Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales HS Girls Track & Field

Morgan Mason—Gonzales HS Girls Varsity Basketball, Softball, and Track & Field
Carly Pustka—Shiner Jr High Girls Basketball