

# Teen News

Good morning everyone. Today is the youth Christmas Party. It will take place following evening services at my mom and dad's house. If you need directions or a ride see me after church this morning. We will be having a white elephant gift exchange as well. Try to limit your gifts to around \$10.00, if you want to participate. Hope to see all of you there.

Blake

## WELCOME VISITORS

**A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.**

## SYMPATHY

**Our sympathy is extended to Bill Chandler in the death of his brother-in-law J.D. Roberts of Canton. Memorial services were held in Canton last Friday. He was also the uncle of Lorelee Reeder.**

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Our congratulations to Shane and Jodi Bainum on the birth of their new baby boy last Weds. in Tyler. His name is ETHAN KAI. He weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz. We are happy for this family.**

## JESUS' SENSE OF HUMOR

Remember Archie Bunker in the TV series *All In The Family*? Humor was used to get across things that are hard for us to accept. Jesus, too, loved to use humor to get across some of his more difficult points.

Just imagine a man walking down the street with a telephone pole in his eye, then stopping to get a splinter out of someone else's eye (Matthew 7:3).

Then there are the Pharisees who were so careful that they held a strainer over their soup to be sure they didn't swallow anything evil, then turned right around and chomped down on a smelly, dirty camel ~ hoofs, humps, fat lips, yellow teeth, and all (Matthew 23:24).

What about missing out on God's big wedding celebration? "I've just bought a house on eBay and I need to go see whether it really does have bathrooms". The next says in effect "I've just bought a used car over the phone and I need to go see if it has wheels". (Luke 14:16-24)

Just imagine a big ole camel trying to twist and turn and squeeze his way through ~ you'll never believe this ~ the eye of a needle (Mark 10:25). C'm on now!

Jesus couldn't help but poke fun of the hypocrites who fasted, then got stage paint to make their faces disfigured and ugly so people would think they were really suffering (Matthew 6:16).

But the best joke of all is the joke played on Satan. Some of the early church fathers thought so. The most wonderful and humorous irony in history is the great reversal of man's destiny. Death is not the end, but the beginning of real life. The greatest one liner ever told was "Christ is risen!"

## DOOR GREETERS Dec. 22, 2013

Mark & Linda Johnson

## COMMUNION PREPARATION

Danna Collins

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

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### 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*  
Central TX Children's Home—*Buda, TX*  
Tipton Children's Home  
*Tipton, OK*  
GBN T.V. NETWORK  
GIVE ME THE BIBLE  
T.V. Program  
KETK-56 Tyler, TX.  
FOX 44—Waco, TX.  
FOX 29, Bryan-College Station, TX.  
NBC 53—Lufkin, TX.

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

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

## Cultural Collapse

American culture has been in decline for decades, but like most things, we don't really notice it much until the disrepair reaches advanced stages. The problem faced by anyone commenting on the present situation is not in trying to find something to write about, but the embarrassing amount of garbage that has to be left off. Time and space are not infinite after all. The homosexual marriages in California are not only an abomination in themselves, but are being sanctioned in direct violation of the law. This refusal by elected officials to uphold the law of man is alarming, but should not be surprising. If our nation is brazen enough to ignore the law of God, why should it obey the laws of mere men? Even worse is the parallel some are making between this and the civil disobedience exhibited during the civil rights movement as if being black and being homosexual were moral equivalents! But even this outrage shouldn't surprise us. If the reprobates can't discern the natural use of the woman (Rom 1:27) then why would we expect them to be able to make logical distinctions between race and sexual orientation? Oh well, if the mystery of lawlessness made sense it would cease to be a mystery. The only thing that does seem clear is that God is giving our cultural and political leaders over to a debased mind (Rom 1:28). This means that we must recognize that the celebration of decadence is itself a Divine judgment. Homosexual marriage, abortion, rampant divorce should no be thought of as something for which God is going to judge us, but as an actual means of His judgment. If a country waking up to 4,000 dead babies every day since Roesvers Wade decision isn't a picture of judgment, I shudder to think what is. And what else can you call a swelling number of men and women so confused that they can't even understand the birds and the bees? COLLASPE

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# Good Morning "Gifts for Children"



*From Dan's desk:*

We are grateful for the presence of each of you this morning. It is always encouraging to meet in worship to God and enjoy the fellowship we experience when we come together. Those who went on the Natchitoches trip really had a good time. Natchitoches is a beautiful city and a lot of history surrounds this oldest town in the Louisiana purchase. The town was founded in the year 1714. Audrey and I lived there prior to moving to Palestine years ago. We still have a lot of memories about the church and people there. Christmas is around the corner and we know that many of you will be traveling to other places. We continue to keep you in our prayers and thoughts during this time of year. The weather has been extremely cold already this year. If this is any indication as to what January and February might bring, it looks like a long hard winter. We are so fortunate and blessed when we consider all the problems they had in the metroplex area last week. This coming Wednesday night we will all meet in the auditorium for the Annual Christmas Devotional. The men of the congregation will again lead us in worship with the powerpoint presentation. This is always a great time of fellowship. We hope and trust that all of you will be with us. Please be reminded of the number of children who are less fortunate and the ones we have chosen to buy gifts for this Christmas. Please take the ornament, which you took from the tree, and put it on the gift, and bring it to the church library by Weds. Night. We know this is a short time, but it was beyond our control. We appreciate any help that you can provide for these children. Remember the card signing tomorrow night at Pam Gallaway's home. See you tonight. DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



**TO KEEP  
IN OUR PRAYERS**

**GARY BRILEY had surgery in Houston on Thursday.**

**CECIL STANALAND was in Palestine Regional with extremely high blood pressure problems.**

**RALPH WILCHER, brother of Gerald Wilcher, has been diagnosed with throat cancer.**

**JERRY SPARKS brother of Dale had heart surgery last Friday in Tyler.**

**EMERALD ELLIS was in the hospital last week for tests and treatment.**

**ANN BAUR daughter-in-law of Millie is seriously ill and is undergoing tests in M.D. Anderson for cancer.**

**JERRY RUTLEDGE brother of Carl Rutledge is seriously ill with cancer. Remember JASON MOTTERN in Afghanistan and other U.S. military personal serving around the world.**

We will meet at the church bldg. today at 2 P.M. to go sing at the Nursing Home. If you would like to help, please join us.

## CARD SIGNING

Please join us on tomorrow night, December 16th, at 6:30 PM, at the home of V.J. & Pam Gallaway, 515 ACR 431, to sign Christmas cards for the shut-in's. We will eat and have fellowship. The soup will be furnished by Pam, Lois & Sue. You may bring finger foods to go with the soup, if you would like. Bus will leave the building at 6 PM.

## How Blessed Are We?

A few days ago we observed the holiday of "Thanksgiving" which obviously implies that we are thankful for all the blessings God has given us. But this begs the question at the top of this article. "How blessed are we?" Perhaps another way of asking the above question is, How blessed do we feel? It may not actually matter how blessed we are if we do not feel as if we have been blessed. Irma Bombeck one time wrote a book titled, If Life Is A Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in The Pits which comically relates to how she dealt with life's trials. The sad fact is most of us do not recognize or understand the blessings we have and continue to receive. This may be due to **three reasons; our not recognizing God's grace and His blessings, our misunderstanding of how God's grace works, and the nature of blessings.**

What is God's grace? Simply put it is that which we do not deserve. Jesus dying on the cross for our sins was God's grace extended to mankind. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2.8-9). None of us can say that God owes us anything. God did not send Jesus to be born of a virgin, live a life among men, be ridiculed, suffer and die on the cross, because He owed it to us. God did so because He loved mankind enough to give us better than what we deserve.

There are a lot of things most of us receive that we do not really deserve. **Give God Thanks.**