

From the Preacher's Pen... Have you ever noticed how some songs just seem to apply to living as a child of God? Sure they may have originally been intended for a totally different audience but when you really consider the words they just seem to fit God's family.

One such song from the 1960s goes like this:

It's such a pretty world today look at the sunshine / And every day's the same since I met you.

It's such a pretty world today knowing that you're mine / And happiness is being close to you.

Do you see what I mean? Wouldn't David, the "sweet singer of Israel" have loved the thought?

When words, thoughts, ideas cause us to focus on God and recall both who He is and what He has done for us they ought to cause us to...

Bless the Lord

To many of us today the idea of blessing God may sound a little odd. We normally think of blessing as something that God does for us and not the other way around. However, the Scriptures provide some very certain statements about us blessing God, so let's do a bit of study.

The Hebrew word most often translated "bless" is *barak*, literally meaning *to kneel as for praise or prayer and thus to thank, bless, salute or wish well to*. This word is used over 330 times in the Old Testament and is translated 315 times in the NASB as some form of "bless." A good example is Psalm 103 where it occurs six times.

The first thing you may notice is that not all translations have the term "bless the Lord." The NIV generally translates this as "praise" rather than bless. As you can see from the above definition, the meaning carried by this word is really a bit more than saying something nice about God. Let's read Psalm 103 and see if we can get a better grasp of the idea:

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

The Lord performs righteous deeds, And judgments for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive with us; Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more; And its place acknowledges it no longer. But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To those who keep His covenant,

And who remember His precepts to do them.

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens; And His sovereignty rules over all.

Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word,

Obeying the voice of His word!

Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will.

Bless the Lord, all you works of His, In all places of His dominion; Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Do you see the richness and beauty of what David is exclaiming in praise of God? We could never simply say "that's nice" to the one who forgives our sins, heals our diseases, showers us with blessings and, above all else, saves us. When we study our Bibles we come to realize that the God who created everything and guided all of history is the very one who loved us (you and me) so much that He sent His own Son to die for us. Wow!

Have you ever stopped and just looked up? Past the clouds, past the sun, past the stars, past all that we can see is still not as big as God's love for us! And the everlasting love of God remains forever upon those who love and obey Him.

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Opportunities to worship, study & serve:

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 10 AM

WORSHIP 11 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6 PM

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

THURSDAY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS 10 AM

Congregational Potluck 3rd Sunday
each month after morning worship
(except June, July & August)

Welcome to all!
We are glad you are here!

Enter to Worship...
Leave to Serve

Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, Lois Nowlin, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Rene Turner, Ruth West, Everett Martin, Anna Mae Hardin, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim & Ann Holder, Kristi Martin, Wally Myers, Cindy Turpin and...

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families.

Previously Announced Family & Friends: Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking & wife (friends of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Leslie Hill (John's mother, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Danny Wilhite (relatives of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, Rosemary Glasier (Crystal Mora-Landroth's mother), John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Sharon Laurita (Barbara Grubbs friend, cancer), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Chuck Keels (friend of Grubbs with cancer), Terri Fillipski (cancer, Julie Evans' cousin).

Special Requests: WBS & WEI Bible study students; Kevin & Nancy Chambers & World Christian Broadcasting; Judy Hagner, son Preston, daughter Angela & son James. Brandi Schroeder (Flora Doster's granddaughter with MS); Dallas Purcella's mother; Paulina's father (Arnold); Julie's father; Laurel's father.



OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Nate Panka (Cleo Wise's grandson); Javier Najera; Fernando Najera, Frank Torres (Javier's brother & cousin); Eric Shirley; Trevor Farrow (Allen's son); Scott Hoover (John's son); Ariel Gomez; Paul Sipes & April Belovedstone (Sue Wolfe's son & daughter); Robert Strickland (Cleo Wise's grand-nephew); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law) Nathan Bagley.

New:

Jason: son of Carl Catozzi in need of prayers.

Dr. Yanni: friend of John Hoover with cancer.

Susan Fowler: friend of Bob & Sherry Harrison with MS.

Michelle Harrison: daughter of Bob & Sherry, spiritual struggles.

Michael Lighthouse: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems.

Jim Henness: friend of Odom's with back problems.

Jimmy Handtegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke.

Derwin Jackson & family: with his job.

Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives.

Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues.

Monica Lopez: George Mora's aunt with breast cancer.

Rhett Booher: Gary & Toni Pierce's grandson with chronic migraines from Traumatic Brain Injury while in the Army.

Jacob Shirley: struggles.

Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread.

Kay Kerby: friends of Tom Haney

Adele Fink: recovering from surgery for colon cancer.

John Mark: in Afghanistan as he is in danger for his faith.

The Saints in South Sudan: as they face great trials.

Mason Compton: nephew of Billie Odom.

Millie Cunningham: at Caliche Senior Living (corner of Cottonwood & Peart) – visits must be approved at front desk.

Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma.

George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles.

Amy Vestle: lupus and intestinal problems

Jennifer Martinez: friend of Amy Vestal with depression.

Seka Hanna: friend of Amy Vestal with heart problems & on life support.

Eddie Jaworski: via Bev Hedrick.

Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers.

Sue Wolfe: suffered a mild stroke recently and is waiting on an infection to clear before having stents put in.

Also Our New Christians, those travelling and especially those with spiritual struggles.

Help Update Our Prayer List!

If you have someone listed in our *Previously Announced Family & Friends* prayer list & would like them to REMAIN on the list, please fill out one of the *Prayer Request* cards in the foyer & give it to Lester.

Upcoming Events...

Monthly Singing: July 30 at 2:30 in Coolidge.

Men's Business Meeting: August 6 after evening worship.

Potluck: Our potlucks are discontinued for the summer and resume October 15

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: August 30.

Yes, it is a pretty world today and every day when we know and serve God! And happiness, real joy, is found only in being close to Him.

Doesn't that make you, like David, want to call out to all of creation to shower God with praise? Do you know who God is and what He has done for you? Do you belong to Him, obeying His words and serving Him? Then let's join in lifting our voices, our very lives to praise, to thank, to salute, to bless the Lord!

— *Lester P. Bagley*



FOOD PANTRY
ITEMS NEEDED:

- **FLOUR**
- **SUGAR**
- **CEREAL**
- **JELLY**
- **SPAGHETTI**
- **SOUP**

Our young people would like to help...

If you have some yard work, housecleaning or other projects & could use a helping hand please see George Mora to arrange for our youth to help!

Last Week: 10+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓
How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 55
Sunday Morning Worship = 106
Sunday Evening Worship = 49
Wednesday Evening = 48

Giving

2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00
Contribution Last Week = \$2,380.00

Church of Christ
805 East Racine Place
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning July 9

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: TBA
Song Leader:..... Tom Haney
Prayer:..... Curt Odom
Serve Communion:.... Wayne Hoover, John Hoover, Bill Hall, Mike Evans, Max Compton
Sermon: • *Philippi: Church that Got it Right* ... Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Jerry Odom

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

Sunday Evening July 9

Song Leader:.....George Mora
Prayer:.....Jim Holder
Sermon: • *Proverbs - Part 3* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... Chuck Hedrick
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Wednesday Evening July 12

Song Leader:.....Mike Evans
Prayer:.....Chuck Hedrick
Devo:.....Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Curt Odom

Anniversaries



July 12: *Charlie & Shirley Stephenson*
July 21: *Barry & Marla Henderson*
July 24: *Charles & Gay Jack*
July 28: *Kim & Mary Ann Myers*
July 30: *Dennis & Cheryl Mince*
August 11: *Ray Ochoa & K.C. Deaton-Ochoa*
August 23: *Eugene & Cheryl Pinkston*

Birthdays



July 10: *Derwin Jackson – Michael Roberts*
July 11: *Ryan Bailey*
July 14: *L.Z. Shirley*
July 22: *David Davis – Charlie Stephenson*
July 24: *George Young – Leah Mora*
July 25: *Isabella Untersee*
July 29: *Kempton Mora*
July 1: *Maurine Hubbard*