

From the Preacher's Pen... How are you doing as a saint? How are you doing in truly honoring God with your life, with your worship, with your service?

Those are hard questions, aren't they? They make us stop and consider. And sometimes they make us want to just give up.

God understands that and His understanding explains why so many of His words to us are all about encouragement. That explains why there are so many lessons on faithfulness and endurance. So let's ask ourselves the question: Are you...

Persistent or Weary?

Like most people, I get tired of doing some things over and over again. Mowing the lawn (especially in the summer) makes me weary. Do you find that washing the same dishes that you washed yesterday (or even five minutes ago sometimes) makes you weary? Parents, does picking up after your children ever make you weary? I guess most of us can identify with the problem, can't we?

When we get tired of some things we find it easier to just quit doing it. Unfortunately, that makes many things worse, doesn't it? If you think the lawn is hard to mow after two weeks in summer, try letting it go for six weeks. If you think that mountain of dirty dishes looks daunting after only two days, what would it be like after a week? We all get the point: in so many things in life, persistence pays off in the long run.

In the business world, successful sales people are those who keep going back, those who are persistent. Check out some intriguing statistics: 48 percent of the sales people quit after only one call; 25 percent quit after two calls; 15 percent quit after three calls. Together, these three groups account for 88 percent of the sales force and 20 percent of the business. (You can see the point coming, can't you?) That's right, the remaining 12 percent of the sales people keep on calling, and as a result, these do 80 percent of the business!

Generally, in the church these same statistics hold true. Some 10 to 12 percent of a congregation does 80 percent of the giving, the personal work, the teaching, the outreach, etc.

Look around you, see the vacant seat where just last week (month, year or whatever is appropriate) someone was sitting. Today it's vacant because they got tired, weary of doing the right thing for God. That's sad. Sadder still is the fact that many of them will be content to remain unfaithful until the judgement day and then try to beg, lie, cheat or cry their way into heaven. And we know, as they do in their hearts, that will not work.

So, what do we do? Let's face it, isn't faithful Christian living a lot of weary work? Well, yes and no. Ask the successful salesman if that first, or second or third call isn't a waste of time. What you will hear is something like this: "Every *No!* answer I get just means that I'm that much closer to the *Yes!* that is a sale. And this job is all about the *Yeses* not the *Nos*."

Are you, as a Christian, as bright as a salesman? Listen to what your Savior had to say about that weary feeling we all sometimes

get: *Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28). Hear the preacher of Hebrews' challenge to *consider Him [Jesus] who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart* (Hebrews 12:3). Listen to the encouraging things Paul had to say to you: *And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary* (Galatians 6:9).

Which kind of Christian are you determined to be: the shirker or the worker? We are blessed with many rich opportunities to serve, to tell our friends and neighbors about the Savior and show our love for Him who died for us. Things like worship and Bible studies are not there to fill up or waste our time. They are opportunities to praise, honor and serve our God, opportunities to show Him our thankfulness and opportunities to enjoy the encouraging time together with His family.

So come on, let's have a congregation that's 100 percent workers and see what 600 percent success for the Lord looks like!

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

— Lester P. Bagley

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 Rafterfer (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 Lightheart: 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: Traumatic Brain Injury while in the Army.

Jacob Shirley: struggles.

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

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

Millie Cunningham: at Caliche Senior Living.

Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma.

Adele Fink: recovering from surgery for colon cancer.

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

Amy Vestle: lupus and intestinal problems

Seka Hanna: Amy Vestal's friend: heart problems.

Eddie Jaworski: via Bev Hedrick.

Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers.

Sue Wolfe: recovering from a mild stroke & an infection.

Michael Hill : unable to work with back & health problems.

Destanie Aragon: will be leaving us soon for the US Army.

Donna & Dave Johnson: Donna with a brain aneurysm.

Daniel Taylor: Odom's grandson following an accident.

Chuck Hedrick & family: with multiple health problems.

Marc Wiley: Kari Curo's father with health problems.

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

FOOD PANTRY

ITEMS NEEDED:

- FLOUR (4-5 POUND BAGS)
- SUGAR (4 POUND BAGS)
- MACARONI & CHEESE
 - JELLY
 - PEACHES
 - PEARS

FRUIT COCKTAIL

Upcoming Events...

Men's Business Meeting: TONIGHT after evening worship.

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

Monthly Singing: August 27 at 2:30 in Eloy

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: August 30.

100th-Year Birthday Party & Homecoming Nov. 3-5

A Facebook group page has been set up:
<http://bit.ly/CasaGrandeHomecoming>

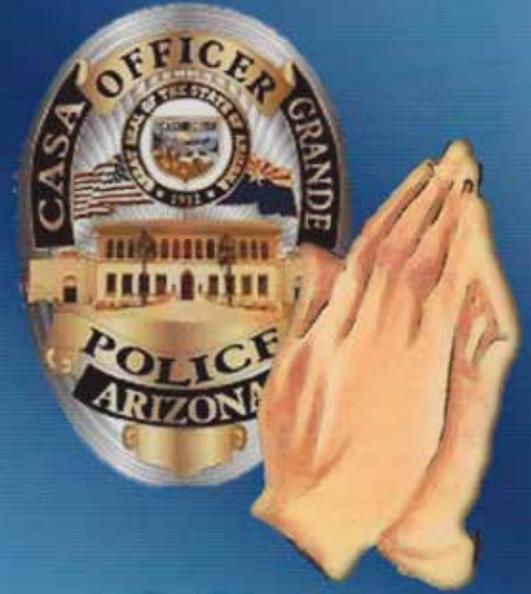
Join the group to keep up. Also, an "event" has been set up. Be sure to indicate if you are attending.

There will be an announcement about our homecoming in the Christian Chronicle.

If anyone has suggestions or information about former members, talk to Jerry Odom.

More info coming.

Shield a Badge With PRAYER



Keep September 9th free as a "going away" party for Destanie is being planned. Details soon.

Coming in October...

Several of our men both younger & older have asked about a men's training class for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, and song-leading.

Plan now to be a part so that you can better serve and be involved in our worship together.

Monday with the Master Back-to-School Devo night

Ages 10 through college meet tomorrow at 6 pm for dinner & Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

See Lou Bagley THIS MORNING if you don't already know what to bring!

Last Week: 11+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓ How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 60

Sunday Morning Worship = 111

Sunday Evening Worship = 57

Wednesday Evening = 55

Giving

2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00

Contribution Last Week = \$2,112.00

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning August 6

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Bill Hall
Song Leader: Allen Farrow
Prayer: Chuck Hedrick
Serve Communion: Brian Campbell, John Hoover, Tom Haney, Frank Campbell, Max Compton
Sermon: • *Philippi: Church that Got it Right* ... Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Curt Odom

Count Contribution: Curt Odom & Max Compton

Sunday Evening August 6

Song Leader: Allen Farrow
Prayer: David Davis
Sermon: • *Proverbs - Part 6* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion: Tom Haney
Closing Prayer: Jerry Odom

Wednesday Evening August 9

Song Leader: Mike Evans
Prayer: Chuck Hedrick
Devo: John Hoover
Closing Prayer: Curt Odom

Anniversaries



August 11: *Ray Ochoa & K.C. Deaton-Ochoa*
August 23: *Eugene & Cheryl Pinkston*
August 29: *Pete & Cleo Wise*
August 29: *Michael & Lynda Roberts*
September 4: *Ed & Alma Baum*
September 4: *Richard & Jenny Reid*
September 5: *Lee & Maurine Hubbard*

Birthdays



August 12: *Clara Hill - Brooklyn Myers*
August 15: *William Beyer*
August 16: *Lou Bagley*
August 17: *Dawn Sullivan*
August 21: *Wynona Garrett - Sharon Polson*
August 24: *Justin Shirley*
August 25: *Jorge Mora*
August 26: *Barbara Harrison*