

From the Preacher's Pen... One of the hardest lessons of our Christian walk and life, is to remember its true seriousness. We get tired and want to quit. Nothing exciting happens and we want to quit. It all seems to require that motivation that we so often lack. How can we do this?

Reality is not kind. We face the same difficulty in almost every area of life. While many would like to win the prize or be the best, few are willing to put in the hard work that makes it all happen.

Let's take a moment to remind ourselves of this serious contest that we are involved with:

Wrestling and Boxing

As you might well expect, the ancient Olympic sports were based around skills used in warfare. Of course, it didn't take long for the sports to develop to the point that the combatants were no longer soldiers but specialists in their sport. By New Testament times there were three combat sports and they were both highly popular and well developed with specialists in each area.

The apostle Paul was evidently a sports fan and used both sporting fights as well as real warfare as examples of important lessons for those he taught. We can best appreciate those spiritual lessons for us with a bit more appreciation of what he was actually talking about.

Wrestling was the first sport added to the ancient Olympics that did not involve running. It quickly became the most popular organized sport in ancient Greece. You scored a point by making your competitor touch the ground with his back, shoulder or hip. Points were also awarded for forcing them out of the wrestling square or by conceding defeat. Three points were necessary to win. A popular position was to be on top of your opponent and strangle him!

The word for wrestling (*palē*) is only used once in the New Testament. Ephesians 6:12 says, *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Boxing is nearly as old as wrestling and also immensely popular. The boxer wrapped leather thongs around his hands to protect them. There were no rounds and no weight categories so the two men typically hit each other in the head until one could no longer continue. The Romans added metal studs to the leather wrappings and later made the fights to the death! (In 393 AD boxing was abolished as excessively brutal and did not return to popularity until the late 1500s in London.)

Since the rules prevented any kind of fighting other than punching and the most effective way to win was hitting the head, Paul makes the point of boxing, *in such a way, as not beating the air* in 1 Corinthians 9:26. When we fight the good fight of faith we always go for the win!

Pankration was the ultimate fighting sport of the Olympics and had almost no rules. The Greek term literally means *all of your power, strength, might*. It was a combination of boxing, wrestling, kicking, holds, locks, chokes. The only things banned were biting and gouging out your opponent's eyes. Some contests were actually won by breaking bones or disemboweling the opponent!

While the formal word for the pankration is not used in the New Testament, the concept words are employed to remind us of just how vicious and savage is our spiritual warfare.

Paul says, *This command [to be faithful] I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight [wage all-out war as a soldier] the good fight [a military campaign or battle]* (1 Timothy 1:18). And a little while later he also says, *Fight the good fight of faith [literally, strive, fight, struggle, do what is necessary to win the great contest]; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses* (1 Timothy 6:12).

Finally, Paul brings up the subject again in some of his final words as he says, *I have fought the good fight [the same words he used in 1 Timothy 6:12], I have finished the course, I have kept the faith* (2 Timothy 4:7).

Read 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Colossians 1:29; 2 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:1-4 and remember how serious this is! Our fight for Christ against Satan and his followers is not a "police action," it is not a skirmish or a dispute. It is all out war to the eternal death! The devil has declared all out war on us... and we must do the same to him.

— 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!
Visitors Last Week included: Jim Ozbiru family of Coolidge and Virginia & Mackenzi Fryhover

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, 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, Millie Cunningham, Michael Hill & family 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), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Mirlene Smith (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); Destanie Aragon; 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; 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; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Rhett Booher: Gary & Toni Pierce's grandson: Traumatic Brain Injury while in the Army; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan as he is in danger for his faith; 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; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Chuck Hedrick & family: with multiple health problems; Marc Wiley: Kari Curo's father with health problems; Jeremy Pritchard: Jeanne Martin's nephew & father of 3 in need of a kidney transplant; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyen & Tatum with cancer; Relative of Rebecca Untersee: with cancer.

Sue Wolfe: at Oasis having physical therapy; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Celeste Wallace: health problems; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Carolyn Cox: in California to be with her terminally ill son.

Ed Baum: at Archstone Care Center for rehab; 1980 W Pecos Rd; Chandler, AZ 85224 Phone: 480-821-1268

Chuck Hedrick: recovering from knee surgery at home.

Bev Hedrick: having hand surgery October 9.

Ray Stephenson: recovering from surgery in Tucson.

Those recovering from the recent storms.

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

FOOD PANTRY

ITEMS NEEDED:

- SPAGHETTI
- TUNA
- CEREAL
- FLOUR
- SUGAR

.....
Doing good to all people...
(Galatians 6:10)

Thus far in October, our clothing room workers have clothed over 45 people!
Next open to the public: November 6

Upcoming Events...

NO Regular Potlucks in October or November due to our 100th Birthday activities

Monthly Singing: October 29 at 2:30 in Coolidge.

Men's Business Meeting: November 5 after evening worship.

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: November 29.

Guest Speaker TODAY...

Brother Dale Linge of the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort will present a report to us for Bible Class & preach this morning.

Beginning TODAY at 5 pm...

Men (young & older!) training class for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

100th Birthday Homecoming Nov. 3-5

We need to start PRE-REGISTERING former members you all have invited to our homecoming so information can be mailed to them.

In the lobby is a sign-up sheet. Fill out what you can. If you don't have their address, we can look it up. We need names.

This is for all former members and their children and grandchildren whether they live on the other side of the world, the other side of the US, or right here in Casa Grande.

We want this to be both a CELEBRATION weekend and a SOUL-SAVING weekend to bring back the children and grandchildren of our founding members.

So, be sure to sign up those you have invited in the lobby.

Remember that we will NOT have our regular potlucks in October or November due to our 100th Birthday Homecoming

Ladies Day in Coolidge

Please sign the sheet on the foyer table if you plan to go.

Send a note of encouragement to Destanie this week:

E1 Aragon, Destanie
1st Platoon, Wolfpack
D Co. 3-34th In. Reg't
11950 Golden Arrow Rd.
Fort Jackson, SC 29207

Last Week: 10+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ *Checkup* ✓
How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 65

Sunday Morning Worship = 111

Sunday Evening Worship = 50

Wednesday Evening = 45

Giving

2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00

Contribution Last Week = \$2,598.00

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning October 8

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Jerry Odom
Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:..... Albert Bailey
Serve Communion:.... Brian Campbell, Tom Haney, Bill Hall,
John Hoover, Max Compton
Sermon: • Dale Linge
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Count Contribution: Curt Odom & Max Compton

Sunday Evening October 8

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:..... Jim Holder
Sermon: • *My Advocate* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... Bill Hall
Closing Prayer: John Hoover

Wednesday Evening October 11

Song Leader:..... George Mora
Prayer:..... Jerry Odom
Devo:..... Michael Hill
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Anniversaries



October 2: *Tom & Tanya Haney*
October 26: *Tom & Dawn Sullivan*
November 11: *Jeff & Stephanie Davis*
November 14: *David & Christina Polito*
November 21: *Roy & Nelwyn Holland*
November 28: *Allen & Angela Harrison*
December 2: *Mike & Julie Evans*

Birthdays



October 1: *Laurel Huffman – Michael Grubbs*
October 4: *Nicholas Odom – Albert Bailey*
October 4: *Elijah Hill*
October 7: *Ruth West*
October 8: *Eric Aragon*
October 10: *Evelyn Frank – Sherry Harrison*
October 12: *Savannah Harrison – Paul Ries*
October 12: *Wayne Hoover*