

**From the Preacher's Pen...** I don't know if you are a fan of the Bee Gees or not, but they wrote and/or performed literally thousands of songs. Of the songs that they wrote, over 2,500 other singers have recorded them. So you probably have at least heard a some of their songs and may even have some favorites. One of their catchy and popular love songs was simply titled "Words" and it includes the reminder that "words are all I have to take your heart away."

If you are not a fan of the Bee Gees perhaps you have at least heard the old saying, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." And you may also realize just how false that little taunt really is. That, of course, is the point of the love song. Words can reach out and touch a heart and turn it to the right things.

Words really do have power. They have the power to challenge and inspire us, and the power to hurt and discourage us. And that is why the study of the words of God are so important. "Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life" are lyrics that we sing to remind us as Christians of this very important lesson.

Take a moment to consider one of God's extraordinary words, and both the bad and the good lessons that it offers to us:

## Provocation

Have you ever used a stick to push someone or some animal along? Have you ever used words to provoke someone? Children may taunt someone with the intention of hurting their feelings and, sadly, adults may do the same thing. The word "provocation" means just that, trying to motivate them in some way by poking and prodding them.

In Deuteronomy Moses uses the term several times to refer to the repeated disobedience of God's people and how it caused Him to be angry (cf. Deuteronomy 4:25; 9:7, 18, 22; 32:16, 21). This would become a sadly repetitious theme in the relationship between God and His people as Judges 2:12 points out: *and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the Lord to anger.*

The time of the monarchy is all too similar to the time of the Judges as the kings, like the whole nation before them, repeatedly disobeyed God until they provoked Him to bring first the end of Israel and a few years later the captivity of Judah.

Provocations! Disobeying, dishonoring and ignoring the Lord and His will until such time as He would be fed up and punish them.

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul did not want to take John Mark on the second missionary journey after Mark's desertion on the first journey. The word that Luke used of the angry dispute between Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:39) pictures an explosion. This provocation was so great that Paul and Barnabas split up for a time.

Sometime later on that very same journey Paul would again be provoked as he observed the multitude of idols in the city of Athens (Acts 17:16). Like God when Israel and Judah chose to worship the false gods of the nations around them, it was appalling to see the extent of their provocations of the Lord Himself.

It's often said that preachers' lessons are directed at themselves as much as anybody else. Certainly Paul understood that principle as he wrote his letters. Perhaps that is partly why he chose this same word of great provocation to be a reminder to us all in 1 Corinthians 13:5 that love *does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked.*

As strong as this word is in the negative form it is also used in a positive way with an equally strong lesson from the Holy Spirit. In Hebrews 10:24 we are urged by God to ... *consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.* Some translations actually use the literal translation of *provoke*.

How much effort do we give to encouragement? Have you ever been really good and angry, incensed and downright explosively angry? That is exactly how much effort God expects us to put into our positive encouragement of His people! *What a thought! Explosively good and positive for God!*

One last picture from God's word to keep this all in the proper perspective comes from the Apostle Peter. Certainly Peter knew about an explosive attitude and at times could be as volatile as any of us. Yet he writes to us to *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.* Think about that a moment. What follows involves us actually treating our God as the Holy Lord that He is!

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

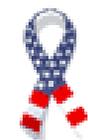
**Welcome to our visitors today!** We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

**Our Prayer List:** Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, 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

Vestal: lupus and intestinal 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; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Celeste Wallace: health problems; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Ed Baum

Chuck Hedrick: recovering from knee surgery.

Bev Hedrick: recovering from hand surgery.

Ray Stephenson: recovering from surgery at Oasis.

Thomas Vestal: Amy's cousin's baby with birth problems.

Steve McDonald: Jean Grubbs granddaughter's husband, tests.

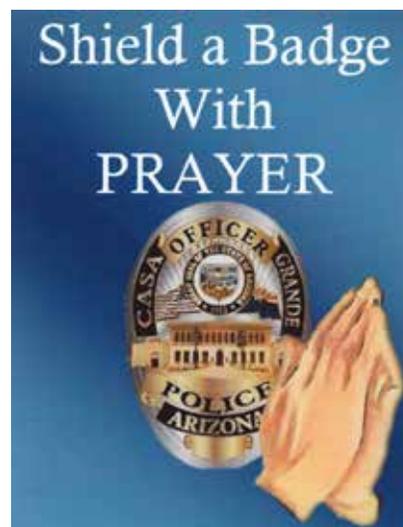
Ramona German: Lynn Shirley's sister-in-law just finished her chemotherapy.

Jerry Odom: recovering at home from a stroke.

Ray Terpstra will have a hip replaced soon.

Those recovering from the recent storms.

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



## Upcoming Events...

Men's Business Meeting: TONIGHT after evening worship.

**NO Regular Potluck in November.**

Monthly Singing: November 26 at 2:30 in Eloy

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: November 29.

Okay, so what's the rest of Peter's point? *Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence* (1 Peter 3:15).

We are called to BE the dynamite of God; His power used in this world of spiritual battle against the forces of Satan. And yet we use that very power for good in encouraging our fellow saints to serve and fight the good fight.

May we always be provoked to love and serve our Savior!

— Lester P. Bagley



**TODAY at 5 pm... Men's training class** for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

**New Phone number for Cleo Wise**  
**520-450-8853**

**Monday with the Master**  
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!**



## Doing good to all people...

(Galatians 6:10)

*Thus far in November, our clothing room workers have clothed over 40 people!*

*Next open to the public: December 4*

**FOOD PANTRY**

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- SPAGHETTI
- TUNA
- CEREAL
- FLOUR
- SUGAR

**Last Week: 17+ Pew-Packers**



**Be "in the picture" every week!**

**✓ Checkup ✓**

*How are we doing?*

*Attendance Last Week:*

- Sunday Morning Bible Class = 92*
- Sunday Morning Worship = 160*
- Sunday Evening Worship = 72*
- Wednesday Evening = 49*

**Giving**

- 2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00*
- Contribution Last Week = \$4,587.00*

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

Postage

**TO:**

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday Morning November 12

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* ..... Lester Bagley  
Announcements: ..... Allen Farrow  
Song Leader: ..... Tom Haney  
Prayer: ..... Jim Holder  
Serve Communion: ..... George Mora, Bill Hall, Curt Odom,  
John Hoover, Brian Campbell  
Sermon: • *Galatians 3* ..... Lester Bagley  
Closing Prayer: ..... David Davis

*Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall*

### Sunday Evening November 12

Song Leader: ..... George Mora  
Prayer: ..... Albert Bailey  
Sermon: • *Boasting* ..... Lester Bagley  
Serve Communion: ..... Curt Odom  
Closing Prayer: ..... Bill Hall

### Wednesday Evening November 15

Song Leader: ..... Mike Evans  
Prayer: ..... Jerry Odom  
Devo: ..... Curt Odom  
Closing Prayer: ..... John Hoover

## Anniversaries



November 14: *David & Christina Polito*  
November 21: *Roy & Nelwyn Holland*  
November 28: *Allen & Angela Harrison*  
December 2: *Mike & Julie Evans*  
December 5: *William & Pamela Kimberlin*

## Birthdays



November 12: *Allen Farrow – Brandi Perez*  
November 15: *Curtis Odom*  
November 20: *Carlos Sterling – Sarah Joy Beyer*  
November 21: *Heather Ries*  
November 22: *Brian Campbell, Jr.*  
November 24: *Ray Ochoa – Annalisa Ramirez*  
November 27: *Gary Pierce*  
December 1: *Jennifer Fain*