

From the Preacher's Pen... I guess that by now everyone knows that I think we have one of the greatest groups of young people ever in this congregation. Perhaps one of the areas in which our teens impress me most is their courage. It is not easy for anyone to live in a world that believes that what God defines as wrong and sinful is accepted as right and good. And yet our teens face that challenge on a daily basis and still try to maintain both their Christ-like standards and their desire to tell others of the right.

Of course, that is God's will for every one of us but to uphold those standards when your teachers and fellow students many time do not requires great faith. Do we appreciate what great examples our young Christians are for us all?

God says that "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). We must remember that fact!

Following the terror events of 9-11 many people, even schools, openly prayed. Today most have gone back to the old ways of rejecting God. In fact, prayers are banned from many public functions by the US Supreme Court decisions in direct violation of Constitutional law that prevents any part of the US government from making ANY laws with regard to religion in this country!

At the same time our government affirms the "right" to murder unborn babies. How long before it is considered a "right" to murder older children? Have we perhaps gone mad?

While athletes and even teenagers violating the law are held up as "heroes" and examples for all, it seems even more amazing that some can actually do what is right and thus show the world what real heroes are. Consider a couple of examples from the world of true heroes and let's appreciate the spiritual lesson. And let's resolve that we will have the courage from here on to place God's will and what is right before what men may say, do, teach and even demand from us as laws:

True Heroes

Do you remember the heroes of the September 11th United Airlines Flight 93? Three typical American men on that flight, armed only with plastic butter knives, talked one last time to their wives and families and then attacked the hijackers on board their flight. These three knew of the devastation that had already occurred on the ground in New York and Washington and sought to prevent it happening again. They were successful! But before they made that heroic attempt they did one other thing, they prayed.

A few years later on June 28, 2005 a small four man Navy SEAL team of Operation Red Wings was pinned down by a large enemy force and called for help. At that point no one knew that only one of those four would survive. Without hesitation the nearest aid consisting of 11 Navy SEALs and 8 Army Night Stalkers boarded their helicopter to attempt a rescue. Upon arrival to the area the helicopter was shot down with the loss of all 19 men.

It would take some time and great effort to eventually recover all those lost men. But when they did there was an interesting dog tag found in the helicopter wreckage. It read: *I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

We would, like most folks, consider all those people to be heroes but think for a moment what kind of person God declares to be heroes. I guess our first thought would be Hebrews 11 and those oft referred to as heroes of faith. Perhaps some would think of the good example of those brave heroes Peter and John who stood before the Supreme Court of their country and declared, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

But what of some more modern heroes? Do we recall the New Testament Christians who died in Hitler's concentration camps? Even today there are brethren who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus in countries like Afghanistan, China and India to what is almost our own back yard in Mexico.

And how about our young people, faithfully serving the Lord and being such a good example to us all when many of their fellow students and teachers are proud to teach and practice sin? What of our elderly Christians with their many years of service and their still constant devotion to the Savior?

Do we remember that Jesus Himself said that these modern heroes of faith are in God's measure even greater than those of the Old Testament? "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." (Matthew 11:11) Did you hear what Jesus said?

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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

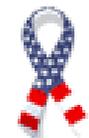
Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

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

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families; JunAyoks Casianoespinoza (Philippines).

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), 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; 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; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from 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; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyn & Tatum with cancer.

Sue Wolfe; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Celeste Wallace: health problems; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: 2

Lynn's family with illnesses; Ed Baum; Chuck Hedrick; Ray Stephenson; Gene Pinkston: back problems; Delbert White's Granddaughter Jessica; Tom Hoover: (John's brother)

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

Donald Helton: on dialysis until he has a kidney transplant.

Kirrin Kerby: (Jean Grubbs grandson).

Shannon White & Talon Bored: friends of the Martin family in need of prayers.

Amy Vestal: having neurological tests.

Joyce Contrares: friend of Carolyn Cox with a mass on her kidney.

Carolyn Fisher: multiple health issues (via Cleo Wise).

Owen Doster: having heart surgery soon.

Larry Lenderman, Paul Larkin, Bill Isom, Jimmie Don, Jim Henness: friends of Jerry Odom all with medical problems.

Joe Whitner family: Joe's father passed away suddenly last week.

George & Chantelle Mora: travelling to New Mexico Christian Children's Home this weekend.

Delbert White family: his cousin and cousin's son passed away last week.

Dwayne Wilkinson family: (Bagley's son-in-law) step-mother died last week.

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

2018 Directory Update

Be sure to pick up your updates on the table in the foyer!

There is a packet from a few weeks ago of several additions.

There are NEW single sheet additions and updated BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY pages.

If you need a complete directory with or without a binder, please see Lester.

Upcoming Events...

Men's Business Meeting: **TONIGHT** after evening worship.

Potluck: April 15 — Group #4 [LaVerne Jackson's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

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

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: May 30.

It's really the same comment that the Hebrew writer would use to conclude his list of heroes of faith: "And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:39-40).

Do you remember that dog tag I mentioned above? Do we as Christians have the courage to live like that? Do you love the Lord and the church He died for enough to say: *I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

Heroes are just ordinary people who, in times of crisis, do extraordinary things. Let's remember the real heroes this week! Truly, the Lord's church is made up of those heroes. Let's resolve to be faithful, loving, prayerful, encouraging this week and show just who and what we really are!

— Lester P. Bagley



Champions for Change!
For NM Christian Children's Home
It's that time again! Several have already exchanged full cans for empty ones & more empties are available on the table in the foyer.
Please return change cans by April 25th.
Liquid Dishwasher Detergent is also needed!
Pickup for everything is April 28

Men's Training Class, 5 pm today...
for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

Kim Reid graduated with her PhD as a Nurse Practitioner on Thursday. She requests our prayers as she continues her studies and misses everyone! She hopes to come back for a visit soon.

Last Week: 9+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓
How are we doing?
Attendance Last Week:
Sunday Morning Bible Class = 93
Sunday Morning Worship = 132
Sunday Evening Worship = 67
Wednesday Evening = 52

Giving
2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00
Contribution Last Week = 3,534.00

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning April 8

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Delbert White
Song Leader:..... Mike Evans
Prayer:..... Jim Holder
Serve Communion:.... Brian Campbell, Bill Hall, Kim Myers,
John Hoover, Rylie Harrison
Sermon: • *The Story of Jesus in Song* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Allen Farrow

Count Contribution: Tom Haney & John Hoover

Sunday Evening April 8

Song Leader:..... Mike Evans
Prayer:..... Chuck Hedrick
Sermon: • *Jesus's Surprise* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... Kim Myers
Closing Prayer: Frank Campbell

Wednesday Evening April 11

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:..... Mickey DeWitt
Devo:..... George Mora
Closing Prayer: John Hoover

Anniversaries



April 15: *Delbert & Sue White*
April 25: *Michael & Barbara Grubbs*
April 29: *Frank & Cheryl Campbell*
May 1: *Dell & Carla Hartfield*
May 2: *Ron & Cathy Cook*
May 14: *Brett & Jessica Myers*

Birthdays



April 8: *Ariel Gomez*
April 10: *Christina Polito*
April 11: *Cheyenne Campbell*
April 13: *Brayden Mora*
April 23: *Millie Cunningham*
April 25: *Jean Grubbs*
April 30: *Kyle Davis - Nora Lou McNeil*
May 3: *Chris Didelotte*