



LET'S VISIT

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MAKE NO SMALL PLANS!

I once heard a speaker make the statement to an audience, "When planning to live, make no small plans." When I first heard that statement, I made a mental note of it, thinking how much we need this advice in our work for the Lord. The reason many churches have not advanced beyond what they were some years ago is that they have not planned to advance. There are many ways in which the church is like a business. It is certain that it does not live by chance. The church grows because growth is planned. The church expands because it has a plan for expansion. The church is educated because it has a program of education. Much is done in every phase of the work where much is planned.

There are several hindrances that should never have been allowed to enter the thinking of God's people in planning God's work. One is, "We are small in number, therefore cannot expect much." In the first place, the person who makes such a statement reveals his or her lack of knowledge of the scriptures or of the world's history. Another related to this is, "We are poor in this world's goods, therefore cannot do much." All of this reveals the subconscious thinking that always produces failure if allowed to interfere with our work. This kind of thinking will always sway us in our planning. It is dangerous to ever think of defeat when we are serving God. God has never been defeated. Many of his children have, but it was after they ceased to trust in God. Often, when we feel the hour is darkest, when we are ready to quit, that is when we need to let our faith in God show through. The history of God's dealings with his people will show that there was never a failure, whether the people were many or few, poor or rich, when they trusted in God. Great numbers, and a great wealth both have failed when

God was placed in the background. There is another of these major hindrances and that is the feeling that "we have done a good work and are entitled to rest for a time." Is that the teaching of Jesus? Did the church at Jerusalem rest when their number mounted into the thousands? The only instances we have in the Bible of the church having rest, is in having rest from their enemies. When such occasions came about the same statement that described them said they "grew mightily", "increased in numbers", "multiplied". They were busy in the service of God.

Look at the history of any church that has made outstanding progress in the service of God. In every instance you will find people who were willing to tackle big plans. You will find people who were so busy doing the big things for God that they had not time to spend in the small matters of human weaknesses. You will also find people who trusted God when God was all that was present to trust.

But such faith and efforts always bring about success. Let's be sure that in the service of the Lord we make no small plans. Let's dream big dreams and make big plans. I dare say that most of us have never planned anything up to our ability, much less beyond our ability. So, in the language of the speaker I heard, "When planning our lives for God, make no small plans."

tp

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



My Son Has Come Home!

For The Pantry. . .

November 2 – Pancake Mix

Offering – October 26, 2025 . . \$ 2,760.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

25 Years In Center. . .

That's A Quarter of a Century!

Today marks a milestone of sorts. It was 25 years ago (November 5, 2000 to be exact) that I started preaching here in Center, Texas. If you are keeping track, that's a quarter of a century. It really sounds like a long time when you say it that way doesn't it? So today, we begin year 26, the start of the second quarter century of my preaching here. Now, realistically, given my "advanced years" and the mortality tables published by the life insurance companies, the odds of my completing a second 25 years are probably slim to none, but we will make an effort anyway!

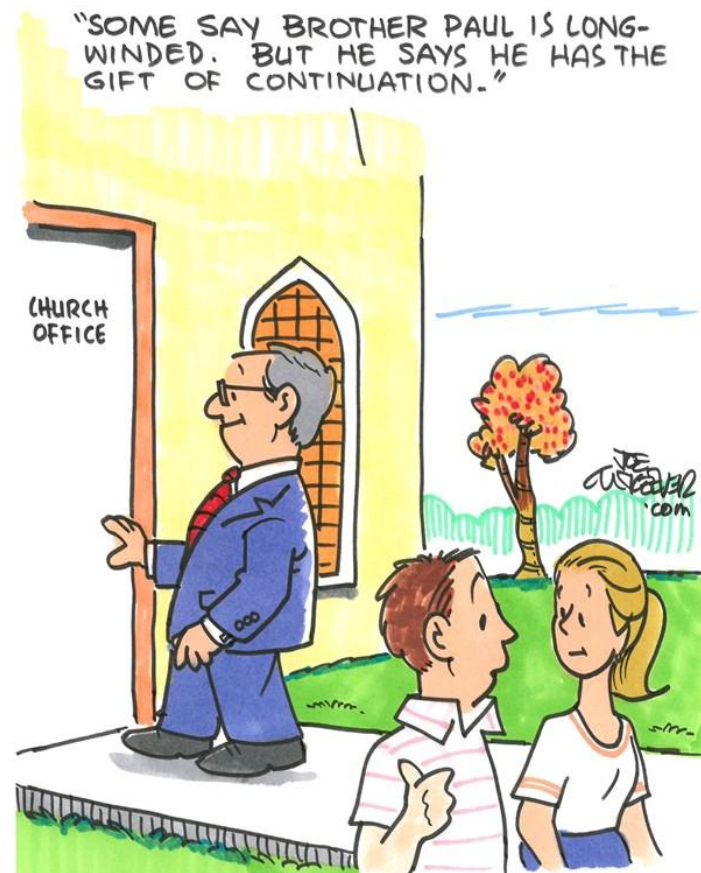
These past 25 years seem to have flown by so quickly. Norma and I have enjoyed so much the fellowship and camaraderie of so many during these past years. All of us have seen many changes in our lives over these past years. We have laughed and rejoiced together with weddings, the birth of children and grandchildren and other celebrations. We have also shed tears together over the loss of loved ones. Like the song says, "sometimes we laugh together, sometimes we cry". However, through it all we have loved the Lord and we have loved each other.

Have I always done everything perfectly? Absolutely not. However, I can say with Paul, "I am free from the blood of all men for I have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God." God who knows my heart and before whom I will stand in judgment knows that everything I have done has been done because I felt it would further the cause of Christ in Center, Texas.

As we begin this next 25 years, let us join hands and hearts. Let us unite in prayer. Let us work and labor together to make the future of the Center Church of Christ a bright and glorious future. I said this the first Sunday I was here, and I will continue to say it, "The greatest days of the Center Church of Christ are still out there in the future". Our prayer is that God will help us achieve those great days that are out there. Norma and I love each and every one of you, and look forward to many more years of service together.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .





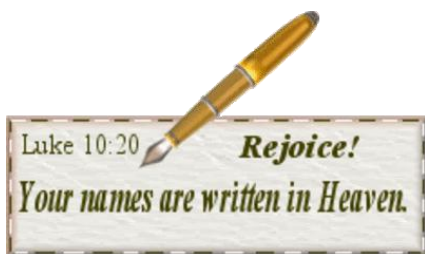
No Excuse Sunday December 7, 2025

**Make Your Plans To Be Here
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Our Annual
“NO EXCUSE SUNDAY”**

Put this date on your calendar, make sure you plan to be here, invite your friends and neighbors to come and worship with us and stay for our covered dish luncheon. We will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the months of December, January and February and enjoy a great time of fellowship together.

Hospitality group 1 is in charge of the luncheon that day. The members of that group are Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonia Molloy.

Communion Preparation - November
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



We rejoice with Mark Balos who was baptized into Christ on Sunday, October 19th. We welcome him into the family of God here in Center.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!
Save this Date. . .

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party



OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Leslie Adams (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; Stanley Amos (Cissy Amos' husband) Krista Andrus (Tim and Norma Perkins niece) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) Peggy Baylor (Tim Bradshaw's mother) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law- cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Dot Grant (Friend of Debra Pate) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Albert Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's father) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Karen McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

**Reserve these dates for important events
in the life of our Church for 2026**

March 1, 2026 – “Pack-A-Pew Sunday”
April 24, 2026 – Area Wide Singing & Fellowship
June 7, 2026 – “Friends and Family Day”
September 13, 2026 – “Back To Church Sunday”
December 6, 2026 – “No Excuse Sunday”
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party



Across The Preacher's Desk

James would write for us, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14) If you want to make God laugh, really laugh, tell Him what you are going to do tomorrow.

The Bible is filled with examples of those who had great plans for tomorrow and yet, tomorrow never came. When Felix heard Paul preach, he trembled upon hearing the word of God. He told Paul to go his way and he would call for him at a more convenient time. He told Paul he would wait until tomorrow and for Governor Felix, tomorrow never came.

Jesus tells us of a rich farmer who had an abundant harvest in Luke chapter 12, He was planning to tear down his old barns and build greater barns to have a place to store all his abundance. He had great plans for tomorrow, but God had other plans. God called that man a fool and told him his soul was required that very night. Tomorrow never came for that farmer.

Paul would write to the church in Corinth, "now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). Do not put off serving the Lord until tomorrow, but begin today, right now to serve the Lord and live His kind of life, His way.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**