

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Pam Patrick** - General health problems.
- David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in his leg.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Confined to home but doing better.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, Maryland - Cancer.
- Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffering from Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

WIRELESS MICROPHONE - We have ordered a new Sennheiser wireless microphone. Audio problems plagued us during brother Moses’ meeting and only one of Earl’s sermons last week was recorded with acceptable audio—and even it had to be edited.

PREACHING AT NORTHEAST - Patrick will resume his regular schedule in September of preaching at Northeast on the second Sunday of each month, and Earl has agreed to begin a regular schedule of preaching on the fourth Sunday of each month. Earl will begin on Sunday, Aug. 27. We are blessed to have men with the ability to preach and teach Bible classes, and greatly appreciate their willingness to do so.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund were the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; Charles and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Washington; and Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla. There is much unrest and danger in Kenya in the wake of their presidential election on Aug. 8. As of Sunday, Aug. 13, 24 people have been killed by police in demonstrations—some of them in western Kenya at Migori, Homa Bay and Kisumu, all of which we visited in trips to Kenya. One baby died after being hit in the head by a policeman. The Kenya police are corrupt tools of the Kenyatta administration. They know nothing but money and power and are more than willing to take bribes. We personally know that. Benard reports that he is at home and will remain there until the violence subsides. Please pray for the safety of all of our faithful brethren in Kenya.

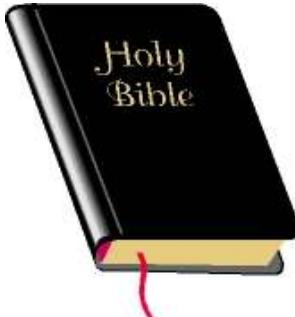
Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....	9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:30
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....	5:00

Visit Us on The Web

You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ
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Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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Churches of Men And The Church of Christ

Jerry C. Brewer

God’s pattern for the church Jesus built is plainly revealed in the New Testament and if we follow it we cannot be wrong, and any religious organization that is *not* built according to that pattern is not His church. The true church can be easily identified today by its builder.

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am? And they said, Some say thou art John the Baptist; some Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, “Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matt. 16:13-19).

In promising to build His church, Christ referred to His death when He said, “the gates of hell (*hades*) shall not prevail against it” The link between His death and the establishment of the church was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agree-

ment with hell shall not stand (Isaiah 28:16-18).

The “gates of hell” was the same thing as the Jews’ “covenant with death,” and their “agreement with hell” in Isaiah’s prophecy. The word *hell* in Isaiah 28:18 is the Hebrew word *sheol*, and in Matthew 16:18 it is the Greek word *hades*. Both words refer to the unseen realm of departed spirits—not the place of eternal torment—and represent death. When the Jews conspired with Pilate to crucify Jesus, they made a covenant with death, thinking that would be His end. But Christ’s death would not prevent Him from establishing His church because their covenant with death and their agreement with hell (*hades*) would be disannulled by His resurrection. There is not a man-made church on the face of the earth that was built upon a dead, resurrected, and ascended man.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus referred to the church in the singular He did not say, “I will build my *churches*,” but that, “I will build my *church*.” He promised and built only one, and all others are counterfeits. Any church built by one other than Jesus Christ is not the church revealed in the pages of Holy Writ.

The church Jesus built can also be identified today by the time and place of its establishment. The church of Christ was established in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost immediately following the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1-2). Any church which had its beginning at another time or place cannot be the one which Jesus built.

The Lutheran Church is not the church of Christ, nor does it meet the Scriptural criteria given above. The Lutheran Church dates from the eve of All Saints Day, Oct. 31, 1517, when Martin Luther tacked his celebrated 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This led to the establishment of the Lutheran Church in Germany. That’s 1,500 years too late and the wrong place to be the church Jesus built.

The Roman Catholic Church had its beginning much later than the Pentecost immediately following the resurrection of Christ and far removed from Jerusalem. “The early church departed from the simplicity of a congregational form of government, guided by the New Testament, and by the middle of the second century it was well united under the authority of the bishops who gradually came to be regarded as successors to the apostles...The adoption of a creed as the rule of faith and practice in the third century put forth the bud. The writing of the Nicene Creed in 325 brought forth the flower and the setting up a pope as the head of the church produced the fruit as manifested in the Catholic Church of today.” This was three centuries too late and Rome was the wrong place for the Catholic Church to be the one Jesus established.

The Presbyterian Church does not fit the criteria of time and place of origin to be Christ’s church either. Presbyterianism began under the leadership of John Knox in Scotland. Its first book of discipline was written in 1560 and it became the established religion of Scotland in 1592—almost 1,600 years too late, and in the wrong place to be

the church of Christ.

Neither is the Church of England the one Jesus built. The Church of England was established by Henry VIII as a result of his quarrel with the Roman pope who refused to annul Henry’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon so he could marry Anne Boleyn. Henry persuaded the English Parliament “to sever the connection of the Church of England and the Church of Rome and make him head of the English Church.” This was accomplished in 1531 and by 1533 Thomas Cranmer declared Henry free to marry Anne Boleyn. This man-made church—known in America as the Episcopal Church—resulted from a fornicating king satisfying his own lust, and in our day the American version of this man-made organization has elected a sodomite as its bishop. Neither the Church of England nor the Episcopal Church is the church of Christ. They were established in the wrong place and at the wrong time.

Another man made church, established at the wrong time and place to be the church of Christ, is the Methodist Church. Known today as The United Methodist Church, this organization was founded in England in the 1700s by John Wesley, an ordained priest in the Church of England. The Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States originated with the Christian Conference held in Baltimore, Dec. 24, 1784. That’s more than 17 centuries too late and in the wrong place to be the church that Jesus built.

Neither is any Baptist Church the church of Christ. While Baptist origins are somewhat obscure, the first known Baptist Church was organized in Holland by John Smyth and the first Baptist Church in England was organized by Thomas Helwys in 1611. These efforts are 1,600 years too late and at the wrong place to be the church of Christ.

Seventh Day Adventism is another. It began in Massachusetts in 1831 under the leadership of William Miller. The Mormon Church—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints—was established by the false prophet Joseph Smith, April 6, 1830 in Fayette, New York and Russellism, or the Jehovah’s Witnesses began in the United States in the late 1800s, as did the Christian Science Church of Mary Baker Eddy. Then many of the Pentecostal Holiness movements such as the Nazarene and Assemblies of God began in the late 1800s and early 1900s in the United States. These man-made Churches bear no likeness to the one promised and built by Christ, the Son of God. They originated too late, at the wrong place, and by the wrong people to be the church Jesus built.

They are neither part nor parcel of the church of Christ, but counterfeits palmed off on men to deceive them and destroy their souls. Like tares sown among wheat, the churches of men will be rooted up and cast away at the last day (Matt. 13:24-30). Jesus said, “Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Matt. 15:13). Men’s churches were neither planted by God nor have His approval and none of them can be found within the pages of the New Testament.