



LET'S VISIT

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THE VALUE OF SMALL THINGS

As we think about the challenges of the coming year, and our desire for the growth and development of the Lord's Church in Center, Texas, we want to keep in mind what we wrote about last week and we want to dream big dreams. Yet, at the same time, while dreaming big dreams we must remember that there is a great value in small things. In thinking about our growth, both numerical and spiritual, I am reminded of an old Chinese Proverb which says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step". Every man and woman was once a baby. Rivers are made up of drops of water. The shore of the sea which we call the beach is made up of grains of sand. What would the world be without little things?

Many people have failed in life because of an inability to place the proper value on small things. One cent lost in a sale makes one dollar when there are a hundred sales. It is looking after such small matters that assures success for many people in business. The same is true in whatever we do. A person may be very talented, but one fault, though it may be small, may result in failure. Did you ever hear someone say, "You know, I really like that person, but for one thing, they are always talking about themselves"? Some call it "tooting their own horn". One little fault marred an entire life. Or you hear another say, "That man is a very good man, but for one thing, he is lazy. He just will not work." This one fault casts a shadow on everything else. By this we can see the harm that one small fault can do. If we turn this thought over we will find a valuable lesson on the other side. As sure as success is lost because of small things, it is also gained by small things. Looking after details is a profitable habit.

Let's look at the work of the church and see how much it depends on little things. It is impossible to

know how many small matters are looked after by those who are never really recognized as workers in the church. However, recognition from man is not what genuine Christians are interested in. What would the church be without someone to "look after the details"? How much "decency and order" could be had without these people? The answer is on the surface. There is a great host of people who are constantly looking after, what we call, small matters who are actually contributing the difference between success and failure. Someone is ill and needs care. Some member of the church silently fits into the picture and does a bit of modest service. A person is helped. The church is glorified. New life has come from somewhere. Perhaps none of us recognize just where this new life came from, but I am sure it could be traced back to this modest service. Someone has grown weak and ceased to worship and assemble with the saints on a regular basis. They are "forsaking the assembly". A devout Christian does a little exhorting. No announcement was made. In fact, no one knew of it but these two., but soon the fault is removed and a soul is restored. New strength is added to the church. Where did this new strength originate? Who knows? Perhaps just two people and God. A neighbor needs to hear the gospel. One who loves the souls of men invites them to attend services with them. They attend and they come back. They

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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



Facing The Future With Faith

For The Pantry. . .

January 11 – Gatorade/Powerade

Offering – January 4, 2026 . . \$ 3,103.00

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

The Value of Small Things – continued from page 1

attend again and again. Soon they obey the gospel. A new child is born into the kingdom of God.

Someone gives the preacher credit for converting another soul, but God knows what actually took place. God saw the humble child as he approached the stranger with the invitation. God will not forget. His reward is sure. A small service was performed and a soul was born. Just as sure as you sometimes find a "little leaven in a large lump", if you turn that lesson around and make another application you will find "a lot of leaven in a little lump", and the work of the Lord's church goes on. We depend so much on small things. Remember their importance and don't be afraid of doing the small things you can do in the work of the church.

tp

Why Are Churches Weak?

We often wonder why the church doesn't grow, why the church is weak, and why that in a recent nationwide poll, almost 70% of those who claim membership in church never attend services.

We could blame it on our secular-progressive society, and we often do. We could blame it on the godless politics of our nation, organizations like the

ACLU and Freedom From Religion Foundation and they too are often our "whipping boy". We could even blame it on churches, hypocritical members and uncaring preachers and there are numerous Christians who are doing that too.

Maybe, just maybe, it's time for us to take a look in the mirror, really take a good look at what we see. Perhaps congregations across America are weak because many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the church, the body of Christ.

People come to the church expecting to be served, fed and cared for. God did not give us the local church for it to be a "Country Club" where membership means there are privileges and perks. The church is where we are to serve, care for others, pray for leaders, learn, teach and give.

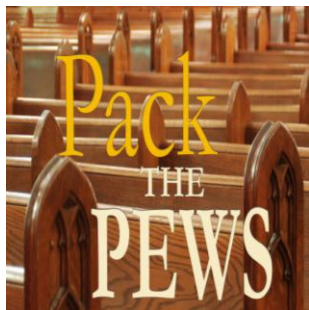
Perhaps churches are weak because we have turned the meaning of membership upside down. We were saved to serve, not saved to be served.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



Many a person fails in life because when opportunity knocks they are out in the back-yard looking for four-leaf clovers



Plan To Be Here! March 1, 2026

We will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the months of March, April and May. We will also enjoy a great time of fellowship together.

Hospitality group 2 is in charge of the luncheon. The members of that group are Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien and Norma Perkins.

Communion Preparation - January Larry & Melonia Molloy



Men's Business Meeting TODAY! January 11, 2026

Immediately following morning worship in the church offices. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Make your plans to be here at 6:00 on Wednesday, January 28th at 6:00 p.m. and join us in the fellowship for our regular monthly Wednesday night meal. We will eat together and then spend the hour from 7 to 8 joining our voices in song. Come and join us!



Martha Bradshaw was having a cyst removed this past Wednesday.

Martha Jean Golden was admitted to UT Tyler this past Tuesday.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley 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; 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) 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

In the "Sermon On The Mount", Jesus tells us to "let our light shine before men" and he also tells us that we are "the salt of the earth". What He means, of course, is that we are to live our lives in such a way that we bring honor and glory to Him and honor and glory to the church. Yet, I often wonder how well we are doing at that.

When we lose our temper in the store and "explode" on some clerk or manager, does that reflect well on Jesus and the church? Those times when we are engaging in idle gossip, whether listening to it or repeating it, does that bring honor and glory to Jesus and the church? Obviously, there are many things we can do that bring shame to Jesus and the church.

Well, then, we can hand out more tracts, we can set up more Bible Studies, we can invite more people to church, that will honor Jesus. Wait, I know, we can take meals to shut-ins and sick people. To be sure, there are numerous good works we can be involved in that will reflect well on the church and bring honor to Jesus.

However, when all is said and done, Jesus gave us the supreme way we can bring honor and glory to Him and to the church. In John 13:35, Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." There it is, short, sweet and simple. If we want to bring honor and glory to Jesus and the Church, we are to love one another. We are to love as Jesus loved. How are we doing with that?

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
56 in '26!**