



LET'S VISIT

A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935

Volume 13

Number 3

January 18, 2026

LIVING LIKE JESUS

There was once a Bible Class Teacher, who, in order to get her lessons over to her students, would describe some character and ask the class to tell her who the character was. One day she described Jesus. She told how gentle and kind he was, and how he was always helping others, then she asked the children to tell her who she had described. One little boy said, "That's my neighbor".

Does that give us pause? What impression do our neighbors have of us? Why do they have that impression? It is a proven fact that most of what people think of us we have caused them to think. The impression that others get will more often than not be given by the way that we live.

Suppose we describe someone and ask our neighbors who this person is. I am thinking of one who is really faithful to the Lord. One who is faithful in attending the periods of worship and is well versed in the scriptures. Neighbors see this person Sunday morning going to the place of worship. They also notice that Wednesday evening finds this person going to the assembly again. This person is interested in the souls of others. They often invite their neighbors and friends to attend the worship with them. When they are talking, this person finds a way to turn the conversation into religious matters and leaves something for the other to think about. This is not done in an insulting manner, but in a kind way, and the life of the one talking speaks out beyond their words. When this person who does not belong to the Lord is in need of neighborly assistance, the other is there to serve and serve gladly. They can see Jesus in the church member because of their desire to help others. Whom are we describing? Is it you?

Then, there is another person who is a member of the church but not as faithful as the one we just

described. This person will be in worship on the Lord's Day unless there is a greater desire to be somewhere else. When it comes to talking about religion, this person does not believe in mixing religion with friendship. They think it is not "good business" to discuss religion with the neighbors. They leave that to the preacher. After all, that's what he gets paid to do, and that's his job, not theirs. Naturally, they do not invite the neighbors to go to worship and give the preacher a chance, they don't introduce the preacher to them, but if they are talked to about religion, the preacher will have to do it. Then, if the neighbor happens to bring up the subject of religion, this individual apologizes for being a member of the Lord's church and may even enter into a little criticism of the preacher for "preaching the way he does". In this person, the neighbor does not see a person in love with the Lord or in love with the church the Lord gave his life for. Does this describe someone you know?

The Lord has no more valuable person than a good neighbor who is faithful to Him. He will bring souls to Jesus where no one else can. No one in the church has a greater influence. The church is built up and strengthened by this kind of individual. What kind of neighbor are you? Do your friends and neighbors see Jesus living in you?

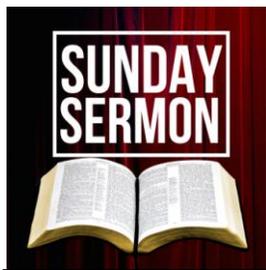
tp

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



The Love Of God – In A World of Hate

For The Pantry. . .

January 18 – Laundry Detergent

Offering – January 11, 2026 . . \$ 2,594.00

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

Stagecoach Travel

(The following article was written by my friend Chris McCurley who preaches for the Walnut Street Church of Christ in Dickson, Tennessee. It has some excellent "food for thought". - tp)

Back when the west was being settled, the major means of transportation was the stagecoach. I'm sure you've seen the depictions of people in the westerns riding in stagecoaches. What you may or may not know is that there were three different types of passengers on these stagecoaches. You had the first-class ticket holders, the second-class ticket holders, and the third-class ticket holders. If you had a first-class ticket, you could remain seated and fully relaxed throughout the entire trip no matter what happened. If the stagecoach got stuck in the mud or had trouble making it up a steep hill or if a wheel fell off, you could remain seated because you had a first-class ticket. If you had a second-class ticket, you could also remain seated until there was a problem. If a problem did arise, second-class ticket holders would have to get off the stagecoach until the problem was resolved. You didn't necessarily have to get your hands dirty. You could stand off to the side and observe as other people worked, but you were not allowed to stay seated,

and you might have to dig in and help if the situation demanded it. If you were a third-class ticket holder, you would definitely have to get out of your seat because it was your responsibility to help solve whatever the problem was. You had to get out and push or lift or fix a broken wheel; whatever was needed because you were a thirdclass ticket holder.

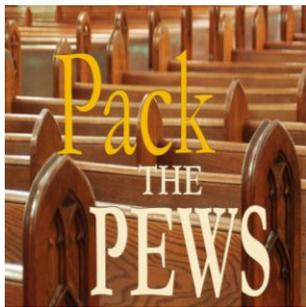
Every church has some first-class ticket holders. They remain seated and watch while others do the work. They are the spectators. Every church also has some second-class ticket holders; people who remain seated until there's a problem, then they look around to see if anyone is going to fix it. They may dig in and help if they see that no one else is willing to do so. But what the church should be filled with is third-class ticket holders; those folks who do the work no matter what. They don't sit and observe. They don't wait for someone else to take action. They get out of their seat, roll up their sleeves, and get to work because that's what's needed and that's what's expected.

-Chris McCurley

On The Lighter Side. . .



"Well preacher, I'd like church a lot more if you had a 'no preaching' section."



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

Special Announcement



Plan to be present for the Bible Class Hour
Next Sunday - January 25th.

We will present the Budget for 2026 and allow time for questions if you have any.
PLEASE PLAN TO BE HERE!



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!

Remember In Prayer



Cissy Amos was hospitalized in Longview as of Wednesday with a blockage in her carotid arteries.

Martha Jean Golden was still in UT Tyler as of Wednesday but was improving.

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

Among the many fables given to us by Aesop is the one of "The North Wind and the Sun". It seems a dispute arose between the north wind and the sun, each claiming that he was stronger than the other. At last they agreed to try their powers upon a traveler, to see which could soonest strip him of his cloak. The north wind had the first try; and gathering up all his force for the attack, he came whirling furiously down upon the man, and caught up his cloak as though he would wrest it from him by one single effort. But the harder he blew, the more closely the man wrapped it round himself. Then came the turn of the sun. At first he beamed gently upon the traveler, who soon unclasped his cloak and walked on with it hanging loosely about his shoulders. Then he shone forth in his full strength, and the man, before he had gone many steps, was glad to throw his cloak right off and complete his journey more lightly clad.

You see, it is better to persuade than to coerce. We need to realize that God does not force obedience from mankind. God gently warms our hearts with His love. It was the warmth of God's love that sent Jesus to this earth to live among men. It was the warmth of the love of Jesus that caused Him to go to the cross to die for our sins. God wants us to respond to the warmth of his love by living His kind of life, His way, in loving obedience. How can men and women turn their back on the kind of love that God has so graciously shown us?

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
Will you?**