



# LET'S VISIT

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## BIG DREAMS – BIG PLANS!

A speaker one time made 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 that advice in our work for the Lord. The reason many churches have not advanced beyond what they were many years ago, the reason many churches fail to reach their potential, and yes, the reason many churches close their doors is because they have not made plans to advance and grow and do great things for the Lord. 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. There is much that is accomplished in every phase of the work when we make plans to accomplish great things.

There are several hindrances that should never have been allowed to enter the thinking of the people of God in planning the Lord's work. One is: "We are small in number and 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 the history of the world. Another, related to this is, "We are poor in this world's goods, therefore we cannot do much." All of this reveals the subconscious thinking that always produces failure if it is 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 and never will be defeated. Many of his children have, but it was after they ceased to trust in God. 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" and "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 big things for God that they had no 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. As we embark on a New Year in the service of the Lord, let's not make any small plans. Let's dream big dreams and make big plans. I do not say that good sense should not always be used, but I do say that most of us have never planned even to our ability, let alone anything beyond our ability. A good place to start would be a

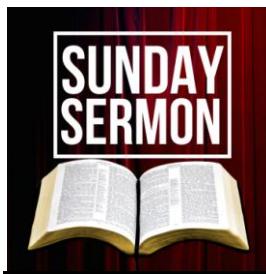
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### In Search of the Lord's Way



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



## A New Year- The Same Gospel!

### For The Pantry . . .

January 4 – Salad Dressing

**Offering – December 21, 2025 . . \$ 2,851.00**

**Offering – December 28, 2025 . . \$ 2,039.00**

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

### Big Dreams – Big Plans – continued from page 1

personal commitment to be present for every worship service if at all possible. Another good plan would be to invite someone new each week to come and worship with us. Just think, if 40 people issued an invitation each week to just 1 new person, in a year's time we would invite over 2,000 to visit our services. In fact, our next "Covered Dish Luncheon" is set for March 1, 2026 and it is "Pack-A-Pew" Sunday. If we all started now to invite just one person a week to attend that day, we would have issued nearly 400 invitations to join us that day. Let's make no small plans and dream no small dreams. The greatest days of the Center Church of Christ are still out there in the future. Let's dream big dreams and make big plans for the Center Church of Christ in 2026.

*tp*

### Consider The Lilies!

Why do we live in such a mad rush? Why have you been racing about all day, as though today is your last day on earth. Why do you sit and pat your foot impatiently when your telephone call is a little slow going through? Why do you become impatient in conversation when someone is a bit deliberate and "take the words right out of their mouths?"

The answer, of course, is always, "there is so much to be done and so little time!" And it is true. But we could do a better days work, with much more profit to ourselves and others if we did less frenzied rushing around and used our energy quietly and realize that Rome was not built in a day.

Take Jesus for an example. He had the burden of the sins of the world on his shoulders, yet, He said to His disciples, "Come ye apart into a desert place, to rest awhile." He knew they could not crowd every day and every moment to the brim, without losing some of the peace and relaxation they needed for their real goal in life.

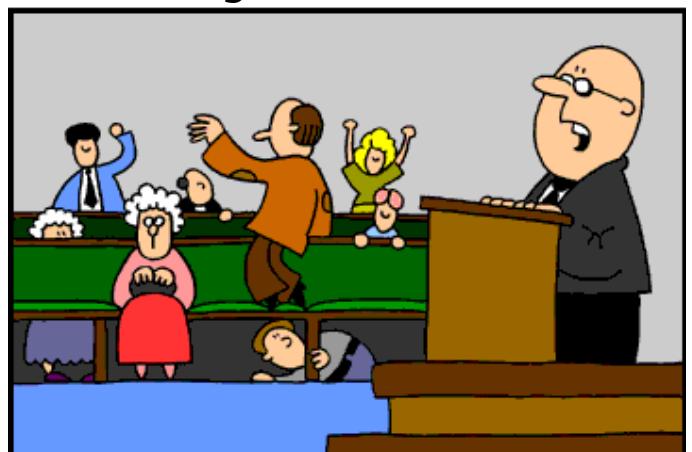
When Jesus and the disciples passed through Samaria, Jesus was weary, so He sat down by the well to rest, while His disciples went away into the city to buy bread. He could have gone with them, and no doubt found an opportunity to preach in the city. But He needed to relax, to spend some time in quiet and meditation. He took time to take little children into His arms and bless them, he took time to raise an only son and give him to his mother.

To a group of disciples with the most stupendous task before them any group of men ever had – evangelizing the whole world- Jesus said, "Consider the lilies" Take time out to notice the beauties of nature and draw some conclusions about God from them.

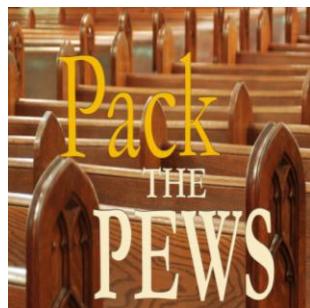
Don't live in too much of a hurry!

*tp*

### On The Lighter Side . . .



I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE SHEPHERD OF THE FLOCK . . BUT I'M REALLY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE KEEPER OF THE ZOO



## 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

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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



Make your plans to be here at 6:00 on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 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!



#### 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.....lhp*

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