



# LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ  
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## OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

Even though Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly, it often seems that something frequently stands in the way of our abundant life. We seek, we search, and it always seems to elude us. There always seems to be some obstacle in our way. When you get right down to it, there are a lot of folks in our world who are victims of the obstacle complex. They are convinced that certain difficulties stand in their way. They just know that circumstances have made life impossible. There is just no way they can reach their goals in life. The deck is just stacked against them. The children of Israel were like that.

The children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt, they were an enslaved people. Yet, God put in their mind the vision of a better life. He promised them a land. A land where they would have all that they wanted. They were living in extreme want. Their labor was hard. The hope of a better land sustained them. Finally, the day came when their dreams began to come true. Well, they made a start. Under the leadership of Moses they moved out of Egypt. Along the way they saw many manifestations of God's power. He parted the waters of the Red Sea. He guided them through the wilderness. He provided food by day. Finally they reached the very border of their Promised Land. It was there that they stopped to ask questions. That was their first mistake. They wondered if they could possess the land.

Now, God had promised it to them over and over. He had proved his power countless times. They had seen His willingness to help them. But, now they hesitated. For nine generations they had been in bondage. They are standing almost literally at the border. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. But still they hesitated. They appointed a

committee of twelve to spy out the land. The committee reported that it was a good land. The land was flowing with milk and honey. Caleb said Let's go up and take the land at once. The majority said, "let's wait". They said, "we saw the giants in the land, we were like grasshoppers compared to them." It is a lot easier to surrender to giants than it is to fight them. So, they stopped. They became victims of the obstacle complex. They murdered their opportunity. They lost their chance. That old story is as new as the headlines on the television news today.

We dream of being something better. We believe God wants us to have the more abundant life. We have every assurance of His help. But we see obstacles in the way. We become shrinking cowards. We say, "I can't. It's impossible". So we hesitate and we lose out. Remember that old cliché, success comes in cans, failure in can'ts? What we need to do is get our hands on a can opener!

God has promised a land of abundant living for every one of us. There will be difficulties along the way. Yet, with our own ability and God's help, we can have it. In truth, all of us are standing right where Israel was. We are on the very border of our promised land. But so many people will never possess the land. They end up frustrated, defeated and miserable and the question is, why?

We are prone to concentrate on obstacles instead  
(Continued on page 2)

### 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



## *Beware of Falling Rocks!*

### For The Pantry. . .

June 28 – Canned Fruit



**June 21, 2026  
\$ 2,722.00**

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

#### **Overcoming The Obstacles – Continued from page 1**

of strengths. Like Israel, every person has obstacles to overcome. When we are tempted to be discouraged, we need to think of some of the great names in history and the "giants" they faced. Sir Walter Scott was a Scottish novelist and poet. He limped through life on club feet. Napoleon was an epileptic. John Milton, the writer of Paradise Lost, was blind. So was the great Greek Poet, Homer.

Louisa Mae Alcott was told by an editor she had no writing ability and was advised to stick with her sewing. Walt Disney was told by an editor he had no talent when he submitted his first drawings for publication. Thomas Edison's teachers said he was too stupid to learn. F. W. Woolworth at the age of 21 was not allowed to wait on customers in the store where he worked because his employers said he did not have enough sense to meet the public. Josiah Wedgwood was a lame, uneducated, neglected boy. Beethoven was deaf.

We want to say, "well, others could overcome their obstacles, but my situation is different, my obstacles are too great." Some people fight to overcome their obstacles while others sit back and let their obstacles overcome them. Some people live

on top of the world while others live with the world on top of them. If we concentrate on our obstacles, they will grow into giants and we will sink into a grasshopper. If we concentrate on our powers, we will become the giant and our obstacles will become like grasshoppers.

We must use our faith. Does something seem to be blocking the pathway to our promised land? Perhaps it is lack of opportunity. it might be some personal weakness or opposition. We need to read again Jesus' words in Matthew 17:20. *"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."*

There is hardly anything smaller than a mustard seed. There is also hardly anything larger than a mountain. Through the use of those two illustrations, Jesus is saying a little faith can have large consequences. When we face obstacles in life, we must remember that Jesus said faith can move mountains. Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:31. *"If God be for us, who can be against us."* We need to say it so many times it begins to take possession of us. As we possess faith and as we become possessed by faith, we will at the same time begin to possess our promised land.

*tp*

## **On The Lighter Side. . .**



"The question is, how do we win the world to Christ . . . with a minimum of fuss and bother?"



September 13, 2026



We will not be having a Wednesday night meal during the month of June. Our next Wednesday night meal together will be on July 30, 2026

The church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people serve everyone else who is relaxing.



No, the church is a battleship where it's "all hands on deck" and everyone serves the mission.



Mike Lout is in rehab at Bomar in Nacogdoches. Diedra Hughes is recovering from foot surgery.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, 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; Peggy Baylor (Tim Bradshaw's mother) 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) Pat & William Ford (cousins to Martha Bradshaw) 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) Karen McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher) Doug "Goob" Milford (cousin of Amanda Molloy) Gene Perkins (Tim Perkins aunt) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; Stephen Wiggins (preacher at San Augustine) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026**

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

- September 13, 2026 – "Back To Church Sunday"
- December 6, 2026 – "No Excuse Sunday"
- December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party

**Communion Preparation - July**  
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



## **Across The Preacher's Desk**

Sorrow is a universal experience, it comes to the rich and poor, to the powerful and the weak. So much of the sorrow in our world is unseen, often it is hidden from view purposely. Many times it is known only to the individual and to God. It can be buried beneath a cheerful countenance and earthly baubles. Yet, even the most cheerful often have troubled hearts.

Our hearts can be troubled by sins, either our own or the sins of others. Hearts can be heavy because of the departure of a loved one or the deep waters of serious illness. There are times that our hearts are distressed due to the unfaithfulness of a friend or feelings of insecurity.

Jesus did not shun sorrow. To be sure, He was often found among people with heavy hearts, people who were distressed and uneasy. To these He was sympathetic. Jesus suffered with people and shared their sorrows. His mission was to "heal the brokenhearted" (Luke 4:18)

Jesus' remedy for broken and troubled hearts was faith. He said, "believe in God, believe in me" (John 14:1) A few sentences later he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me" When our faith is in Jesus Christ, when we live.

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

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