



# LET'S VISIT

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## MULE RELIGION

There is an old story from "Preaching 101" that has taken on various forms through the years. One version involves a little girl who came home from church one Sunday morning who went skipping and whistling through the living room. Her grandfather called her down. He told her it wasn't nice for little girls or Christians to whistle on Sunday. So she went outside, down the lane to the pasture and sat down on the gate. As she was sitting there musing, an old mule came up and put his head up to her. She patted him and said, "nice mule". She rubbed his ear and said, "nice long ears". She stroked his nose and said, "Nice long face, you must be a good Christian like Grandpa".

Religion has come down to us too often through black robes and sad faces. This does not represent the religion of Jesus Christ. No man ever walked the earth who expressed more happiness than did Jesus. He had his moments of sorrow, but they were for the sins of the world. The Pharisees rebuked him once because his disciples were not fasting, and Jesus taught them a lesson concerning rejoicing. One does not have to be sad to be faithful.

We are responsible for this attitude many times. I do not know what religion means to you, but I know it should mean a great deal. To many, however, religion is only a matter of correction and privation. They look at serving Christ as a matter of "giving up" something. Some who have thus given up much ruin it by going around feeling sorry for themselves. Why does such an attitude develop in our thinking? There may be several reasons. It may be that we need to study our lesson. We may be ignorant of facts that we could obtain by a more complete study of the

Word of God. Or, it may be that the heart is not right. We may have thought to buy Christianity at the bargain counter. Thus we may, like the rich young man, go away sorrowful. Not because happiness is not within our reach, but because we do not want to turn loose of something and reach out and take it. If one is not right in heart they will dread any inconvenience that their religion will cause them. They will look at attending the services as something that keeps them from doing what they had rather do. They will think of giving as parting with money that they had rather use for something else. They will see Bible study as a bore, for their mind desires to be thinking of something else. It is no wonder that such a person sees religion as something placed in a black coffin with tears being shed all over it.

We need to wake up to our blessings. We need to see the religion of Jesus Christ, with whatever sacrifices it demands, as an investment in better living. We need to think of it as a privilege that is to be grasped. When we get our minds off of self, and set our affections on things above, this will be true. Then we will see our religion as something that brings real happiness and with Paul will "rejoice in the Lord, and rejoice again."

*tp*

### In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday  
KSLA 12 - Shreveport - 11:00 a.m. Sunday  
DISH channel 373 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday  
DIRECT TV channel 83 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday

# Gathered Here and There



## Jesus Christ Our Redeemer

For The Pantry. . .  
March 17 – Canned Vegetables

Offering – March 10, 2024. . . . \$1,293.00

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

### To The Point. . .

*Uncle Ben, a very cautious and frugal old man, put on his best clothes one day and went down to have a look at the city.*

*As he was standing on a street corner, a ragged stranger approached, asking, "Will you give me money for a sandwich?"*

*Uncle Ben gave him a good looking over, then said, "Lemme see the sandwich first".*



### On The Lighter Side. . .



Brother Eli prepares to preach a sermon against sin.

### WALKING WITH GOD

Sometimes I walk in the shadow,  
Sometimes in sunlight clear;  
But whether in gloom or brightness,  
The Lord is very near.

Sometimes I walk in the valley  
Sometimes on the mountain crest;  
But whether on low or high land,  
The Lord is manifest.

Sometimes I walk in the desert,  
Sometimes in waters cold;  
But whether by sands or streamlets,  
The Lord doth me enfold.

Sometimes I walk in green pastures,  
Sometimes on barren land;  
But whether in peace or danger,  
The Lord holds fast my hand.

-Anonymous



### AREA WIDE SINGING!



Mark your calendar for Friday, April 26, 2024. We will be hosting an Area Wide Singing. Make your plans to be here, invite your friends and neighbors to

come and plan to stay for a time of fellowship after the singing.

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### Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal March 27, 2024



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### Upcoming Area Events

**GOSPEL MEETING** – March 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> at the Angelina Church of Christ in Lufkin. Services at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Kerry Clark will be doing the preaching.

**ANNUAL GOSPEL SINGING** – March 29, 2014 at the Cushing Church of Christ in Cushing, Texas. The singing starts at 6:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

- April 26, 2024 – Area Wide Singing
- May 19, 2024 (tentative) – Covered Dish Luncheon
- September 8, 2024 – Friends & Family Day
- December 8, 2024 – No Excuse Sunday
- December 15, 2024 – Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

### OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Gail Foster (Cancer) Bobbie Gray (Jerry Pate's Aunt) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) Glynn Hartt (friend of Cissy Amos) Joe Hughes (Cissy Amos' father) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Verven Pate (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. Stephanie Richard (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; Traci Roden (friend of Norma Perkins) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Michael Smith (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; Buddy Sowell (friend of Debra Pate) Suellen Swank (friend of Norma Perkins) J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw  
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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*Let us make a new rule of life: always try to be a little kinder than is necessary.*

*If some people had an operation to remove their conscience, it would be minor surgery.*

**54 in 24**  
**Invite Someone Each Week!**



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

Faultfinding is a bad habit that lots of people fall in to. The tragedy is that it is easily acquired and not easily broken. In case you haven't noticed, we live in an imperfect world. Everything is flawed and defective. Institutions all blunder and fall short of the ideal. People are all erring creatures and sometimes their faults offend us. However, we should not pay so much attention to the faults and failures of others. Neither should we dwell on the defects of the world we live in.

If we are not careful, we can become chronic fault-finders. When that happens we take the next step and become grumblers. Then, if we are not careful we will become a growler. Folks who growl long enough end up being cynics. When that happens, we are no good to ourselves or to anyone else.

To my knowledge, no one every wakes up one day and says, "I think I will become a cynic". It happens when we begin to find fault and the habit takes root in our hearts. It then grows until our mind becomes twisted and our heart becomes sour.

It is no wonder the wise man said, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Proverbs 17:22)

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

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
54 in '24!**