

"I would do anything for growth...but I won't do that!"  
John Jones

Along with its catchy chorus, Meat Loaf's 1993 hit song delivers an iconic, yet ironic punchline: "I would do anything for love...but I won't do that!" Fans have long debated what "that" actually is. The song resurfaced in the mid-2000s thanks to a hilarious Dr. Pepper commercial: a young man does all sorts of embarrassing things for his girlfriend – until she reaches for his Dr. Pepper and he bolts into the night. "One taste, and you get it" apparently!  
Can we draw any spiritual lessons from a cheesy song and goofy ad campaign? As Christians, would we do anything to grow in Christ – except for "that"?

Who doesn't want to grow in their faith? We pray for it, make New Year's resolutions to read our Bibles more, and when spiritual growth is mentioned in sermons, we nod along because who can disagree with becoming more like Jesus? Yet, Scripture often presents difficulties as growth opportunities. Here are three biblical examples:

**Persecution**

When 2 Timothy 3:12 states, "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," Paul directly ties godliness to persecution. That's a hard pill to swallow. We want to be liked, accepted, and live comfortably. Persecution threatens those desires but proves our faith to be genuine. 1 Peter 4:1 emphasizes: "Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin." When we choose our Lord's path over creature comforts or safety, our narrow viewpoint of today's comforts broadens to the reality that today's physical difficulty results in tomorrow's strength and eternity's glory.

**Self-Denial**

The American way might have used to mean self-determination (i.e. "pulling oneself up by their own bootstraps"). In the present-day, however, surely it looks more like self-gratification and excess. Jesus reminds us, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). There are things in your life (you know what they are!) that need to be denied in order for you to be more like Christ. Jesus describes this in John 15:2 as pruning. "Every branch in me that...bear[s] fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." Pruning feels uncomfortable but God can remove things from our lives that are keeping us from being more fruitful...if we let Him!

**Correction**

Does anyone like to be told they're wrong? Of course not! But, do I need it sometimes? Of course. When a brother in Christ sees something in my life that is hindering me from Christian growth, will I appreciate them enough to accept correction? Will I humble myself and accept the "wounds of a friend" (Proverbs 27:6)? I'm thankful for the example of Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos in Acts 18. Sometimes we need to be Apollos: taken aside and explained "the way of God more accurately." Thank God for Christian friends who are willing to lovingly correct! Is it possible that our comfortable culture could be keeping you from a closer walk with our Savior? I know that this has been the case in my life. I pray that our desire for Christian growth will outweigh our desire for a comfortable existence. Help us Lord! "I would do anything for growth, and (even though it will be difficult) I WILL do that (because Jesus will be with me)!"

**On Our Prayer List...** \*May we always be using God's blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

{Recent Medical concerns/updates} {Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery}

\*Keith Grigsby-keep in yr prayers home recovering\* Bonita Madewell-prayers for hlt issues. \*Ty Adams-knee surgery went well  
\*Becky Palk-keep in yr prayers \*Scotty Palk- recent back surg lot of pain Rita Oliphant-of this community, recent stroke  
\*Marsha Patrick- continue in yr prayers more Dr appts this week.

**THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER:**  
\*Jimmy Phy-CA \*Chris McCurley-Walnut.ST COC \*Brian Gill-CA-treatments  
\*Lillian Childress-successful radiation treatment \*Casey Vailes \*Mack Winstead-CA-continued prayers  
\*Dale Street-(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA \*Houston Howell \*Vicki Donegan-taking treatments-needs prayer  
\*Hudson Jones-(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine,Walnut St COC-Leukemia)  
\*Robert Gardner(friend of Bill Williams) CA \*Jackie Borders-Lauren Stuart's mom  
\*Alan Jones-esophageal CA-treatments \*Maggie Wright -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA  
\*David Stokes-(Jordan Stokes& Carly Stone's dad)& Drew Swearns step-dad \*Debbie Gafford-(friend of Diane Curtis)  
\*Jerry Honea-cancer-prayers

Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.

\*Jim & Betty Suddeath \*Hattie Tate \*W. R.&Louise Long \*Gary & Pam Davis \*Al & Vicki Peek \*Jerry Martin  
\*Wade Tummins \*Carlene Davis \*Chase Lewis \*Doug Simpson \*Joe Wright \*Judy Simpson  
\*Sue Edmission \*Alyssa Gold \*Carolyn Wilson \*Scotty Palk \*Margie Gunn \*Josh Barnett  
\*Shane Cobb \*Larry Fuqua \*Claude Hurt \*Marcia Simpson \*Nancy Daniel \*Thelma Davidson  
\*Savannah Patrick-(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick's granddaughter-she loves cards) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN

{Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab}  
**AHC Decatur County**-726 Kentucky Ave,Parsons,TN 38363Wyle Marshall-(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad)  
**NHC**-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055  
**Humphreys County NH** 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly,TN 37185-June Dreaden- Rm 204  
**Magnolia Place**- 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185-Jimmy Tyler-(room 106)  
**Waverly Hills Post Acute**-895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185-Bertha Bradford-rm 102A / Gary Pace

**At Home in McEwen**  
Jim & Jane Ridings-172 Indian Ck Rd  
Robert Bradford-347 Brown Mill Rd.  
Jimmy Mullinicks-56 Mike Street

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING** **EVENTS**

**Our Spring Meeting**  
Continues thur the 8th with lessons on {Jesus: Light, Liberty & Life}  
Monday-Wednesday @ 7:00 PM our speaker will be Issac Bourne.  
\*Flyers are on the back table you can use to invite others

**Elders, Deacons, Minsters—{Men's Business Meeting} this Sunday @ 5 PM.**  
**Card Encouragement Program—First special thanks to Rhonda Suddeath for overseeing all these years & for all who have sent cards**  
We now have an (alphabetical) system set-up in the back of the auditorium which will work both ways 1) for you to put your encouragement/birthday cards in & 2) for each of us to check periodically since we may have a card there. This program has been such a blessing, lets continue to make it work!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A LADIES EVENT  
APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
4 PM  
Growing in God's Grace  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER  
Dwina Willis  
THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE TWO LESSONS, DINNER, AND AN ACTIVITY.  
MCEWEN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
There are flyers on the back table you can use to invite other Ladies & upcoming food sign-up lists in foyer.

**I.N.E.O.C.U.S.** Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

.Keith continues to recover @ home. Please keep him and family in prayer.  
Makin Music@ Freed Hardeman is on April 11th for all those who signed up. We will be leaving the building @ 11:00 a.m. for the afternoon show.  
Thanks to all who helped make the Easter Egg Brunch & Hunt a success. We so appreciate each of you!!!!  
Camp Applications are on the back table. Please sign up soon, it will fill up quickly.

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Welcome** .....Mike Robertson  
**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**.....Wayne Berryman  
**Sermon**.....Allen Corlew  
**Lord's Table**.....EthanTummins  
 Calvin Buckner      Joe Smith  
 Drew Buttrey      Bruce Mayfield  
 Wayne Coates      Dwight Stuart  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jon Holland  
**Collect Cards**.....Luke Wright  
    & Jaxon Holt  
**Greeters**.....Dwight & LeAnne Stuart  
**Nursery**..... *Not at this time*  
**Collect Cups**.....Youth  
**Security**.....Team #2

**Sunday 6PM April 12th, 2026**

**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**Prayer**.....Jimmy Suddeath  
**Sermon**.....Allen Corlew  
**Lord's Table**.....Terry Parchman  
    & Todd Mullinicks  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jesse Kilpatrick

**Wednesday 6:30 PM, April 15th,2026**

**Lead Singing**.....Andrew Peyton  
**Prayer**.....Mark Forster.  
**Adult Class**.....Bruce Mayfield

*If you are unable to serve.....please contact  
 Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)*

*\*If changes need to be made in scheduling please  
 contact Jimmy Phy.*

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*Return Service Requested*



\*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

**The MESSENGER is online!  
 Visit the church website  
 to view!**



### OUR RECORDS for 4/5/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	123
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	264
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	112
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	108
Sunday Contribution	-----	-\$10491



*A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ*

*Week of April 5th 2026*

*A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST*

AND HE SAID TO ALL: IF ANY  
 MAN WILL COME AFTER ME,  
 LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND  
 TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY,  
 AND FOLLOW ME.  
 LUKE 9:23



### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

*Bible Study*.....9:00am  
*Worship*.....10:00am  
*Evening*.....6:00pm

#### Wednesday

*Bible Study*.....6:30pm

#### Elders:

*Calvin Buckner*

*Billy Buttrey      Bruce Mayfield*  
*W.R. Long      Mike Robertson*

#### Deacons:

*Derek Berryman      Mike Burns*  
*Wayne Coates      Mark Forster*  
*John Hurt      Barry Phy*  
*Robert Proctor      James Ridings*  
*Joe Smith      Dwight Stuart*  
*Ethan Tummins      Wade Tummins*  
*Ronnie Tyler*

#### Staff:

*Ministers* ----- *Every Member*  
*Pulpit* ----- *John Jones*  
*Youth* ----- *Keith Grigsby*  
*Secretaries* ----- *Terri Tummins*  
    *Teresa Fleming*

### EVANGELISM PROGRAM

**Continue to be:**

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

**Team - 2 there will be no cards to work on this Wednesday night.**

#### To Contact Us:

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**Mail us: P.O. Box 256**  
**McEwen, TN 37101**  
**Phone: 931-582-6130**

**E-mail: [mcewencofc@gmail.com](mailto:mcewencofc@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com](http://www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com)**