



From the Ashes

One week ago, Brett Petrillo shared some stats from an article on CNN regarding the devastation of the fires that have been raging in California: "California's forests have been severely devastated by the forest fires lately. In a week's time, they have scorched nearly 160,000 acres and displaced 190,000 people. As we speak, 5,700 firefighters are diligently working to contain the damage. Unfortunately, dry air and strong winds are making this especially difficult."

But, as Petrillo also observed, a tender story has arisen out of the ashes: "Don and Julie Myers are one of the many families who have lost their home to the fires. After the fire passed, it left little but ash and rubble behind. The Myers returned home to see what could be salvaged. Incredibly, as they sifted through the ash, a glimmering object stood out. It was his wife's long-lost original wedding ring! Seizing the moment, Don brought the ring over to his wife, dropped to one knee and proposed to her all over again (from yahoo.com)."

"It's easy to let difficulty bring us down," writes Petrillo. "It takes someone truly special to look past the ashes and see what's valuable and important. For the Myers, their house was lost but their marriage wasn't. They still had each other. They still had a home no matter where their next house will be."

Life has its hardships. Jesus said, "In the world, you will have tribulation" (John 16:33). "It's hard to know what the future holds for us," says Petrillo. "Disease. Cancer. Financial difficulty. Loss of a job. Marriage problems. Family problems. Death." But here is his challenge: "When the fires of tribulation set our world ablaze, let's try to keep in mind what's truly important."

So what is truly important?

- It's people, not possessions, that have the greatest value in our lives (see Matthew 22:37-39).
- In the world, we will have tribulation, but in Jesus we can have peace, because He has overcome the world (John 16:33).
- For Christians, "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).
- For the child of God, "we know that if our earthly house, this tent [our physical body], is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we might have the wonderful treasures of salvation and eternal life. God will grant these eternal, spiritual treasures to those who place their **faith** and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in **repentance** (Acts 17:30-31), **confess** Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are **baptized** (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

Even in the ashes – and one day that's all this world will be (2 Peter 3:10) – there are treasures still. These treasures are found in Christ.

Won't YOU trust and obey Jesus so that you can enjoy the greater, spiritual, and eternal blessings that God desires for you?

-- David A. Sargent

* From Brett Petrillo, "Treasure in the Ashes," in *Daily Bread* (12/8/17), an e-mail ministry of the Bear Valley Church of Christ in Denver, CO.

Creekwood Church of Christ

"Conservative in Theology • Liberal in Love • Progressive in Ministry"



Minister David A. Sargent	Youth Minister Eric Gray	Family Enrichment Minister Ricky Butts	Missionary (India) Jaya Paul
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• DEACONS •			
Joey Adams Jonathan Brooks Bruce Englund Lyndell Farmer	Ross Gallaher Glen Hall Wayne Haney Scott Hardy	Terry Livingston Bud McDonald Greg Moorer Sammie Morris	Chris Presley John Sims
• SERVICES •			
Sunday	Morning Worship	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Class 10:15 AM
Wednesday	Morning Bible Study	10:00 AM	Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM
			Evening Worship 6:00 PM

December 17, 2017

WELCOME TO CREEKWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

We would like to welcome all our visitors to Creekwood! Please sign the guest register in the foyer. We also invite you to stay for our Bible classes immediately following morning worship services.

TODAY'S MESSAGES:

AM – One Word Study: "Father"
PM – "Gifts To Keep on Giving Year Round"

Listening Devices for the Auditorium are available in the Control Room.

1901 Schillinger Road S, Mobile, AL 36695 • (251) 633-2931 • (251) 633-3037 • Fax (251) 633-2936

Web site: www.creekwoodcc.org • E-mail: creekwoodchurchofchrist@comcast.net

Know Your Bible on Mediacom channel 33/Comcast channel 7; Sundays at 6:00 PM CT.

Getting To Know Your Bible on DirecTV Channel TCT 377; M-F at 9:30 PM CT.

Both of these broadcasts are co-sponsored by the Creekwood Church of Christ.

Please Remember Those Listed Below In Your Prayers;
And With Other Expressions Of Love (Cards, Phone Calls, Visits)

OUR COUNTRY & THOSE SERVING: Chris Campbell (Sicily)

OUR MISSIONARY: Jaya Paul

Expecting Mothers: Mykayla Hyder (December boy)

PRAYER REQUEST for **Holmes Willis**, brother of Sandra Dowling will undergo a procedure December 20th which could negatively impact a serious and newly-found heart condition. Please pray for a positive surgery outcome.

PLACING MEMBERSHIP-Please welcome **Jerrold and Shirley Eubanks** to the Creekwood family.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Charles Ryals Sr.** who was suffering with chest pains. He stayed overnight Tuesday night at the hospital for observation but is now home. Please pray for Mr. Charles and his family.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Patrice Sargent** who underwent an epidural. Please pray for success and Patrice.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Pat Smith** who is undergoing rehab at Lynwood. Please pray for Pat, Ernie, and Valary.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Nancy Wheeler** who has been diagnosed with cancer. The cancer is in stage four. Let's continue to pray fervently for Nancy and Betty.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Pat Parenteau** who is improving slowly and misses everyone. Please pray for Pat & Bill!

PRAYER REQUEST for **Sue Cade** who is residing at Mobile Nursing & Rehabilitation. Ms. Sue is having blood pressure issues and not feeling well. Please pray for Ms. Sue. She loves cards and visits.

MEMBERS: Tony Musick, Ross & Jennifer Fetner, Patrice Sargent, Joy McDonald, Margaret Gill, Kathy Stacy, Margaret Montalban, Sue Cade, Helen Parham, Cecil Wiggins, Bonnie Crabtree, Ed McGaughy, Bob and Sonja Shelley, Ken Grisham, Bob and Jeannie Aldred, Richard McDonald, Pat & Ernie Smith, David Devitt, George Rohm.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS: **Connie Allen** (James Cunningham's aunt), **Paul Meacham** (member of Montgomery COC); **Lisa Andrews** (Shelia Marcet's sister) **Paige Prine** (former member); **Esther Boulanger** (Nelly Eddlemon's Mother), **Martin McGowan** (Carol Weaver's dad); **Sally Tindell** (sibling of Nancy Moorer); **Michael Jury;** **Doris McClantoc** (George Rohm's sister), **Elizabeth Giddens, Irma Brown** (Janet Oglesby's mother); **Dawn Harden** (Joey Adams' mother); **Bill Patton** (Rob Hayes' grandfather), **Barry Prim** (Mike Eddlemon's step-father), **Tom Roberts, Alan Brown** (former member), **Boots Carson** (Mother of Gina Englund and Ka Kinman) **Shirley Autrey** (Mother of Traci Moorer), **Wayne Brown** (Janet Oglesby's brother), **Vivian Walker**, and **Pat Clay** (sister of Peggy Buckley) and **Savannah Turner** (granddaughter of Earl & Becky Turner).

SHUT-INS – Geraldine Bernard, J.T. & Jean Montgomery, Retha Capps, Bonnie Crabtree, Helen Parham, Bob Shelley, Margaret Montalban, Barbara Roley

COMMUNION PREPARATON FOR 2018 - A sign-up sheet for the 2018 communion preparation is located at the welcome center. Please sign-up to assist. The duties also include picking up the cups in the auditorium, throw away all juice and bread that is left in the trays and prepare all trays for the next Sunday.

HIS WORD DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOK FOR 2018. If you would like one of these books you must prepay. We have placed one order and if you signed the list and have not paid please put your money in a small manila envelope (the envelopes are on the desk & welcome center) and write your name on the outside and leave on the front desk in the office. Please do the same if you have not signed-up and would like one of these books.

PICTURE BOARD - On each **Sunday in December**, Chris Presley will be available in the church office, immediately after Sunday Morning Worship, to take pictures for the picture board. We would like to encourage our newer families to have their pictures made as well as anyone who needs an updated picture.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING-Sunday, December 17th at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL- The fellowship meal will be held on **TONIGHT** after the p.m. worship services (tonight). It will be a finger food fellowship meal with a special visitor. Bring your favorite finger foods and parents please bring a wrapped book for your child and place it under the tree in the fellowship hall. There will be many Kodak moments so have your camera ready.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday Morning Worship: 9 AM with Bible Classes immediately following (as usual). Due to many traveling and to promote family time, we will NOT have an evening service. Instead, we will provide a suggested devotional to share with your family and friends Sunday evening. We will plan to provide the suggested devotional in next week's bulletin.

P.M. MIDWEEK SERVICE on **Wednesday, December 27th** will be held in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. There will be a soup and sandwich meal followed by devotion. Please bring your favorite soup and sandwiches.

COLLECTION FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS-There will be two large boxes- one in the main foyer and another at the side entrance where you may place your donations. Requested items include: Soap (bar or liquid) body powder, lotion, lap robes (throws), towels, wash cloths, conditioning shampoo, and socks. If you prefer to make a donation please give it to Eunice Warsh and she will shop for you. The boxes will be picked up and contents delivered to the nursing home on **Monday, December 18th**. Thank you for your generosity.

ANNUAL PET FOOD DRIVE-It is time for our annual pet food drive. Sammie Morris's Sunday morning class is again taking on this project. Collection boxes are placed at both the front and side doors. Please bring in your donations between now and January 7th. If you prefer, you may give money to Patti Mitchell, and she will shop for you. Last year we were able to deliver over 750 pounds of food, split between the Mobile County Shelter and the Mobile City Shelter. We also donated collars, leashes, and toys. Please continue your generous giving. The homeless animals in the shelters are there through no fault of their own.

DEAR CREEKWOOD FAMILY, I do not know how we would have made it without your care and concern. You have eased our load and filled our hearts with love. We are truly blessed to be a part of this caring church. Thank you so much. **Betty Carolyn and Elton Love.**

THE FAMILY OF WILLIE DOWLING thanks you and is humbled by your compassion, love and sympathy to us expressed by continual prayers, cards, calls, food and flowers over the last two months. **Sandra**

I WANT TO THANK YOU for the beautiful flowers you sent me at the Mobile Nursing and Rehab home. The yellow rose and blue and white little flowers are just beautiful Thank you so much for thinking of people like me that you don't know. The blue ribbon & rose are just what I needed to perk me up. Thanks again for being so nice. Thank you and **God bless all of you. V. Loretta Carroll Room 211**

Go About Your Business

When Temple Hall, London, was built, the Masters of the Bench ordered a handsome clock

to be placed there with an appropriate motto for it. For many days the skillful mechanic waited for the motto, until, becoming impatient, he made his way to the Bencher's Chambers, and pressed them for the needed words for the motto. One of the Masters, becoming angry, rose and said to the mechanic: "Go about your business." Thinking this was the order for the motto, the mechanic put the words around the clock. It was a fitting reminder. When Christians look at the clock, though there may be no motto transcribed over, under or even near it, the clock reminds us that as long as the clock ticks, there is work to do. Jesus said, "We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). With each tick of the clock less time is offered for us to use the talents, strengths and opportunities that come our way

Paul was grateful for the fellowship he received from Philippi and wrote of his confidence that "he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). Let no Christian flag in his or her work the Lord has begun but to be diligent in labor for the Lord, knowing that it is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58).

The Worthy Name

There was once a man who had, from his youth, worked hard to build a good name for himself. He had always been honest, reached out to the needs of others, was hardworking, and manifested a morally pure life in the community. The townspeople held him in great esteem.

The man had a son, who for some reason, didn't follow the example of his father. As the son neared manhood, he began to drink, and run with the wrong crowd. He gained a reputation of dishonesty, and was immoral in his life. Many wondered why he was that way, having such a godly father.

One day the father called his son to tell him what a disappointment he was, and of the shame he had brought to the family name - the name that he, the father, had spent a lifetime to build. It was a name that he didn't want dragged through the dirt by his son's actions. Finally, he told the son, "Change your ways or change your name."

When a person becomes a child of God, he takes the name of Christ. He becomes a "Christian." 1 Peter 4:16 indicates that we are to glorify God in the name "Christian." Ephesians 4:1 tells us that we, as Christians, are to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. Philippians 1:27 teaches that we are to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. According to Philippians 2:9-11, at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It's sad that there are many whose lives do not reflect the image of Christ who they claim to serve. There are many so-called Christians who dance, drink, gamble, and do all the ungodly deeds which are common among worldly people. In the Bible, when God's children brought shame on God's Holy name, He disowned them.

If we're not willing to have the kind of behavior which reflects the high and holy name of God and His Son, but are living like the people of the world, we ought to "change our ways or change our name."

