

LIVING WATER

"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst"
John 4:14

The Sting of Death

A particular church received personal greetings from the Kejave Medical Center staff in Kenya and read of the following amazing story.

Eight-year-old Monica broke her leg as she fell into a pit. An older woman, Mama Njeri, happened along and climbed into the pit to help get Monica out. In the process, a dangerous black Mamba snake bit both Mama Njeri and Monica. Monica was taken to Kejave Medical Center and admitted. Mama Njeri went home, but never awoke from her sleep.

The next day a perceptive missionary nurse explained Mama Njeri's death to Monica, telling her that the snake had bitten both of them, but all of the snake's poison was expended on Mama Njeri; none was given to Monica. The nurse then explained that Jesus had taken the poison of Monica's sin so that she could have new life. It was an easy choice for Monica. She became a Christian. *

In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul poses the questions:

"Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Then he answers: "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:56-57 NASB).

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

But God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24 ESV). Jesus suffered the "sting" of death so that we could receive the gift of eternal life. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

God will cleanse from sin and give eternal life 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 1:7-9).

The Gospel – the Good News – is that Jesus "took the poison" of our sin by dying on the cross for our sins. He died for us so that we may have a new life now and eternal life to come.

Won't YOU accept His offer of forgiveness and life by submitting your life to Him?

-- David A. Sargent

* From *The Tale Of The Tardy Oxcart* by Charles R. Swindoll, Word, p. 541, as quoted in www.jesuschristonly.com.

Creekwood Church of Christ

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



Minister David A. Sargent	Associate Minister Tucker Presley	Youth Minister Casey Crawford	Family Enrichment Minister Ricky Butts	Missionary (India) Jaya Paul	Missionary (Ghana) Michael Fordjour
Ricky Butts	Michael Eddlemon	• ELDERS • Greg Hall	Chris Presley	Glenn Sargent	
Joey Adams Jonathan Brooks Bruce Englund		• DEACONS • Lyndell Farmer Glen Hall Scott Hardy		Terry Livingston Sammie Morris	
Sunday Wednesday	Morning Worship Morning Bible Study	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Morning Bible Class Evening Bible Study	10:15 AM 6:30 PM	Evening Worship 6:00 PM

January 5, 2025

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 – "Too Good to Keep"

PM – "One at a Time"

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

For information regarding on-line contribution, please visit creekwoodcc.org/contribution

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 the WHBR station on Mediacom channel 13/Comcast channel 7; Sundays at 6:00 PM CT.

Getting To Know Your Bible on Sunday on DirecTV-Uplift Channel 379 10:30 a.m. & Dish-Folk TV Channel 218 8:30 a.m.

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

Wireless Internet Id: **Creekwood** Password: **gracegrace**

Please remember those listed below in your prayers and with other expressions of love (Cards, Phone Calls, Visits)

OUR COUNTRY & THOSE SERVING: Chris Campbell - Navy, Nick Marcet - Air Force, Lt. James Chapman III (Kuwait), Harry Lehman – Coast Guard, Mitchell Englund – Marine Reserves, Dylan Butler – Navy, Jacob Jones – Navy, Pam Bradshaw - Air Force, Charlie and Neecy Burch – National Guard, Kelly Leverett – Army, Parker Abila (Cassie Devitt’s grandson) – Air Force

OUR EXPECTING MOTHERS: Courtney Barlow, Ali Payne, and Lacey Phillips

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jaya Paul (India), Michael Fordjour (Ghana)

PLEASE PRAY FOR UKRAINE & THE WAR IN ISRAEL!

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to Shirley Eubanks and her family in the loss of her brother, Don Ward. A visitation will be held on the Mobile Christian Campus on January 11, 2025, starting at 12:00 PM, followed by a memorial service at 1:00 PM.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Conrad Carpenter of the Azalea City church family. His funeral is set for Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Serenity Funeral Home. Visitation: 1-2 PM followed by the Funeral at 2 PM.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to Cody Fowler and his family in the loss of his grandmother, Irma Williford. She passed away last week at the age of 101. Let's pray for Cody and his family.

PRAYER REQUEST for Lester Sellers who is undergoing physical therapy at Mobile Nursing & Rehab.

PRAYER REQUEST for Sandra Dowling who is in Eastern Shore Rehab for a period of physical therapy.

PRAYER REQUEST for Bernice Fables who is doing about the same; still very weak.

PRAYER REQUEST for Valary Smith who is being treated for some issues with her heart.

PRAYER REQUEST for Betty Nichols as she continues to recover from five broken ribs sustained in a fall.

PRAYER REQUEST for Winston Williams (father of Jennifer Fetner) who is experiencing some serious eye issues at this time.

MEMBERS: Ann Dubose, Lester Sellers, Richard McDonald, Sheila Hudson, Betty Gunnells, Linda Baker, Ryan James, Sara Sargent, Nancy White, John & Sharon Bogle, Valary Smith, Tom Busby, Patti Mitchell, Kathy Stacy, Ken Grisham, Jeannie Aldred, Betty Thompson, Bennett Gibson (Omak, WA), Charlie Burch, Mike Powell, Alona Gobble

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS: Kelly Troughton (Hilary Hardy’s father); Amelia McGaughy (granddaughter of Cathy Shelburne); Carolyn Terrell and family; Sam Childs; Jack Bryan; Denver Hayes (brother-in-law of Mary Frances Borganier); Chuck Giles (Teresa Gallaher’s brother); Rick Gray, Susie Gobble, Pam Davis, Rowena Leekley, Valerie Thompson (friend of Nancy Lenoir); Bonnie Blair (friend of Gayle Lunsford), Keith Parker (Angela Tapley’s son-in-law); Jeremie Benzinger (son of Gayle); Sandy Hunt (neighbor of the Fetners); Sandra (Ryals) Shell; Jimmy Linder (father of Angie Bacon), Marie Waters (aunt of Kristy Adams), Logan Moore, Daniel Mitchell Brabham (the brother of Stephanie Hulon), Barbara Bradford (grandmother of Erin Cunningham), Larry Tart (brother of Jerrol Sawrey), Betsy McCaskill (friend of Larry Duncan), Nelda Carr (former member) Sally Tindell (sibling of Nancy Moorer), Boots Carson (mother of Gina Englund and Ka Kinman), Kellen Franks (grandson of Bill & Martha Franks), Don White (brother of Celeste Chandler)

SHUT-INS – Martha Irvin; Esther Boulanger; Barbara Roley; Hurley Crews

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENTS. Many are struggling with health issues.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL – We host a devotional on Sunday afternoons at Mobile Nursing & Rehab at 2:30 p.m. Please come and visit with the residents, sing a few songs, and have a brief Bible study.

L2L ANNOUNCEMENT: We are thankful for the excellent job Chris and Rachel Lunceford have done in leading the Lads to Leaders program for several years. Chris and Rachel have announced their desire to turn the reigns of leadership over to others after convention this coming spring. We are asking for volunteers who would like to serve in this role beginning after convention in 2025. If you are interested in this effort, please contact the elders.

TEACHER NEEDED: For the three-year-old class on Sunday mornings. Please see Jillann Crawford if you can help!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 12 – Baby shower for Courtney Barlow
- January 12-14 – Evangelism Seminar with Rob Whitacre
- January 15 – Blood Drive
- February 16-19 – Spiritual Enrichment Series at Central Church of Christ

RICHARD & LINDA: Richard McDonald & Linda Mabry are moving out to Texas to be near family. Let’s pray for Richard & Linda during this transition. Let’s let them know how much we love them and will miss them, too.

FROM THE FAMILY ROOM

Start With the Heart

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” -- Matthew 22:37-40

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” -- Mark 7:6-7

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” -- Ezekiel 36:26-27

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” -- Proverbs 4:23

“We love, because He first loved us.” -- 1 John 4:19

**“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”
-- John 14:15**

Many people make resolutions every year as they begin the new year. Studies have indicated that 92% of us will fail in keeping those resolutions within three weeks. Probably the reason for this high rate of failure is that we start with ambitious goals focused on changing our behavior. We should start with first changing our hearts.

This especially applies to Christianity. Some people try to live the Christian life by changing their outward behavior only. They fail because they reduce Christianity to a set of rules that no one can fully obey without a change of their heart. Some make Christianity a religion of rituals and traditions. Jesus clearly taught that the first and greatest commandment is to love God with all of our being. Everything is built on this foundation. Jesus taught that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. Real Christianity is built from the inside out. A conversion to Christ as our Lord and Savior starts with the heart. God does not want our outward forms of worship only. He wants our hearts. Our heart is what controls our behavior.

As 2025 begins, may each of us resolve to start with our heart. When we know God’s love for us, we will love Him. We know that He wants what is best for us. When we love Him, we will obey Him because we want to please Him. When we obey Him, our outward behavior changes.

May we resolve to nurture our love for God and lead each person in our family to grow in their love for Him.

Ricky Butts
Family Minister