

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Bible Class | 26 |
| Attendance AM | 86 |
| Attendance PM | 35 |
| Wednesday PM | 34 |

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Otis and Glenna Adair; Jack and Carlene Harley; Debbie Rowland; Ruby and Clifford Holt; Florine Thomas; Pat Coleman; Carolyn Morrison; Marc & Tina Shafford; Sheree Collins; Mary Sanders

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Ashley Thomas; Rita and Ryan McGahee; Mary Sanders

Prayers: Pat Coleman; Rosella McGahee; Lisa Owens (work related); brethren in Costa Rica and Haiti; Janis Bland; Mary Sanders; LaMarr Cole (work)

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: August— 7 Jack Harley; 10 Diane Cole (Norris); 11 Ashley Thomas; 20 Ryan McGahee; Marie Tolley; 21 Naree Poole; 28 Rosella McGahee; Brenda Mamula

Anniversaries: August— 25 Richard & Valerie Melson; 31— Patrick & Ashley Thomas

Ladies Reading Group: 8/27 at 6:00 PM Chapters 37-38 via Zoom

| August 22 | BRETHREN TO SERVE AM | BRETHREN TO SERVE PM |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Announcements | Patrick Thomas | Richard Melson |
| Opening Prayer | Alfred Willis | Alfred Willis |
| Song Leader | Patrick Cook | Jerry Thomas |
| Lead Lord's Supper | Anthony Grigsby | Anthony Grigsby |
| Server 1 | Phil Tydings | Phil Tydings |
| Server 2 | Mike Mamula | Lyle Cole |
| Scripture Reader | James Grigsby | Norris Cole |
| Sermon | Richard Melson | Richard Melson |
| Prayer for Responses | Richard Melson | Richard Melson |
| Closing Prayer | Walter Tolley | Patrick Cook |
| Greeter | Richard Melson, Jr. | Richard Melson, Jr. |
| Greeter | | |

A.S.A.P. = Always Say A Prayer

**"Pray without ceasing"
1 Thessalonians 5:17**

TO OUR VISITORS

Our goal in the church of Christ is to be the New Testament church, which you can read about in the Bible. We invite you to observe our worship assemblies, the doctrine that is taught and the structure of the church organization. Make a close comparison with your "church" and the church of the Bible -- **The Church of Christ**. We also invite you to join us as we strive to be the church of the Bible and restore New Testament Christianity.

**Needmore Road church of Christ
PO Box 13963
Dayton, Ohio 45414-9998**

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THE EDIFIER

Volume 02

August 22, 2021

Issue 34

DOING THE LORD'S WORK

Richard D. Melson

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Meeting Location:
2211 Needmore Rd
Dayton, OH 45414

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30
Worship 10:30 A.M.
5:00 P.M.

1st Sunday

No 5:00 PM service

Wednesday

Bible Study
7:00 P.M.

Preachers

Richard D. Melson
937-321-3973
dr.rdmelson@yahoo.com

Walter Tolley

937-238-7752
walt944@aol.com

Ministers

All Members

Supporting

- Christian Courier on The Web
- Southwest School of Bible Studies: Austin, TX
- Memphis School of Preaching
- Greater Midwest Lectureship Dayton, OH
- Potter Children's Home

In writing this article, I am indebted to the work by brother Billy Watkins.

It is the responsibility of each preacher of the gospel in local work to fulfill his charge as set forth by the Holy Spirit in Titus 1:5, "... set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-...". Gospel preachers must, due to their training in the word and the divine obligation set upon them, through the teaching and preaching of the gospel of Christ lead the congregation in its business. Gospel preachers in a congregation without an eldership have a tremendous obligation to fulfill this charge without violating scripture by becoming a "pastor" in the denominational sense of the word, but it can be done, yea it must be done.

Congregations of the Lord's people might exist in one of four ways, with only two being scriptural:

1. Scripturally Unorganized – without men qualified to be appointed as bishops (Acts 14:21)
2. Scripturally Organized - preacher, elders, and deacons (Tit. 1:5; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
3. Unscripturally unorganized – having men qualified to be elders (implies there is a desire) but not appointing them to serve, being unwilling to yield to their leadership.
4. Unscripturally Organized – where men who are not qualified to serve as elders are appointed. Also, where there are deacons appointed before there is an eldership.

Therefore, it is not wrong for a congregation to exist scripturally unorganized for years. Each local church in the New Testament is commended to the authority of the apostles' word (cf. 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:1; 14:37). Each congregation in the first century was independently responsible to maintain its own respect for the word of God (Wharton).

The following, if implemented will facilitate the success in a congregation being pleasing to the Lord.

First, congregations without an eldership must function through the general business meeting. Here the faith-ful men come together with their preacher to plan the local work. This is a key to any congregation growing; to have a plan to reach a specific goal. When there is no target, there is no place to go. The goals should be challenging but also realistic. This organization of work and effort will provide a basis for growth.

Second, for there to be growth, is allowing those with proper leadership ability to lead. These men need to be assigned to head up the different aspects/programs of the congregation. As with any good leaders, these men must be faithful workers in the kingdom (1 Cor. 4:1).

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Words of Wisdom For Youth ... 1 Timothy 4:12

A note of encouragement to our children

Children are our greatest heritage, their training is our greatest work. Fathers must invest their time at home too! Family life largely determines eternity.

Paul Van Gorder relates this story about a young man being sentenced for forgery.

The judge had known him from childhood through his father, the author of 'The Law of Trusts.' The magistrate asked, "Do you remember your father?" "I remember him well, your honor." probing the offender's conscience, the judge asked, "before being sentenced, tell me your clearest memories about your wonderful dad."

"I remember, sir, when I went to him for advice, he looked up at me from the book he was writing and said, 'Run along, boy, I'm busy!' When I sought companionship, 'he turned me away' saying, 'Run along, son; this book must be finished.' 'You remember him as a great lawyer; I remember him as a lost friend.' The magistrate muttered, "Finished the book, but lost the boy!"

It's better to go fishing with your child now than to go hunting for him later. It's better to encourage our kids to be leaders now, rather than encounter them as losers later. Careful spiritual direction now will spare dreadful sentencing eternally.

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed but shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:3-5). *GH*

Glenn Hitchcock

Brethren, let's not dismiss each other



When certain Jews became Christians in the first century, they brought with them a self-generated arrogance, thinking that they were better Christians because they boasted in their circumcision, their fastings, their denial of certain meats, etc., etc. To these Christians Paul wrote, "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another" (Gal. 5:26).

Think about that statement for twenty-first century Christians. Is it possible that we could "become conceited" ourselves, thinking that we are better Christians than others for one reason or another? Maybe "I've been a Christian longer than you"? Or "I was raised in the church and you weren't"? Or "I went to such-and-such a school or I was taught by so-and-so preacher"? Guess what that kind of spirit can lead to? "Provoking one another and envying one another."

Brethren, in Christ we stand on equal footing. We are equally undeserving and equally blessed. May God help us to "stir up love and good works" in each other, as children of the almighty God (Heb. 10:24).

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

Third, it is necessary for all the men to throw away all selfish desires and personal ambitions. (Cf. Rom. 12:3, 16; Phil. 2:2-4; Gal. 5:13-15). To have a few in the congregation who want their way at all costs, will destroy the work of the church. All need to bear in mind that the church belongs to Christ (cf. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:25-27) and not to the members. All decisions need to be made according to Christ's will, not will of men. Therefore, it is imperative that only those who spiritual be involved with the decision-making process, otherwise you will have carnal minded men leading in that which is spiritual in nature.

Fourth, is to encourage and allow every member to use his talents for the Lord. (Cf. Eph. 4:15-16; Rom.12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:14-25; Titus 3:14; John 15:8). All the members need encouragement to keep pressing forward. It may take some time to find where every member best fit; but the time is well spent. People will put forth more effort in programs they enjoy than in one in which they have no talent or interest. There is no sin committed when the congregation changes a program to better allow the members to serve God. Proper change is better than stagnation. (Cf. Rev. 3:14-19.) This area may also require training people to serve in specific ways. (Cf. 2 Tim. 2:2).

Fifth, is fellowship and learning to love one another. (Cf. Acts 2:42; 4:32; 5:42.) The better acquainted members are with one another, the better they can work together, thus accomplishing more for God. Also, through sharing spiritual feelings and thoughts of the eternal promise our spiritual lives bloom and our love for God and man

continues to grow. This benefits not only us, but those around us are given an inward boost by our lives.

Brethren, the Lord does not excuse the congregation without elders from the obligation to carry out His commands (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Eph. 3:10-12.) The Lord's work must be carried out by every congregation; not simply those with elders. Congregations without elders can grow, and they must grow to please God.

To please God, let us unite and do that which He commands for us to grow. As the local congregation grows, men will grow spiritually within it, and one day become elders for the Lord.

- **Billy Watkins**, "Carrying on the Lord's work without elders"
- **Richard D Melson**, "We Can Do a Better Job"

John Shannon is preparing lessons to help us reach the lost. It is my prayer that we each will put forth the effort to invite those who are wayward, but more importantly those who are outside of Christ to attend the gospel meeting, to have a Bible study or attend any of our worship services. This will be an "old-fashioned" tent meeting, just indoors.

Brother Shannon will come and boldly proclaim the message of Christ. Come ready at each service to study God's word. To be challenged and to grow in the Lord.

Pray for brother Shannon's health, preparations and travel. Pray for the meeting as a whole. Let us work together for the meeting's success. *GH*

NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; www.searchtv.org; <http://gbntv.org/>; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak); www.thegospelradionetwork.org
- View In Search of the Lord's Way— Dish network Sunday 7:00 am Channel 239; DirecTV Channel 307; GBN 7 PM
- Check out Tullstar Archives at <http://media.Tullstar.org> for lessons from faithful brethren.

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION

"Sirs, What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30

- ♦ The Gospel Must Be Heard - John 6:44-45; Romans 10:17; John 8:32
- ♦ The Gospel Must Be Believed—John 8:24; Mark 16:16
- ♦ Sins Must Be Repented of— Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38
- ♦ Christ Must Be Confessed—Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37
- ♦ There Must Be Baptism (Immersion) for Remission (forgiveness) of Sins—Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
- ♦ Christian Growth and Faithfulness—1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 3:18