



# Living By Faith

*“The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17*

June 27, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
www.4thstreetcoc.org  
office@4thstreetcoc.org

### Meeting Times:

#### Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:45 AM  
Worship..... 10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM  
Worship..... 6:00 PM

#### Tuesday:

Redstone Class ..... 9:30 AM

#### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..... On Break  
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Gene Bannister ..... Billy Chism

### Deacons:

Mike Bannister ..... Jim Moore  
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Don Smith..... James Thomas

### Preacher:

Ryan Smithey .....

### Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten  
Cherokee Home for Children  
Eric Henry, SWSBS  
Food Pantry  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Gospel Chariot Missions  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Lake Cisco Camp  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

## *We No Longer Have One Foot in the World...*

By Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

Henry van Til once stated, “Culture is religion externalized.” His implication was that if you wanted to know the religious beliefs of a particular community you could simply look at the people—how they acted, what they embraced, what they held in esteem, and how they prioritized their time. I think if van Til’s aphorism regarding culture were updated, it would probably include a reference to media and t-shirts. In other words, if you want to know what modern young people love (and worship), simply look on their clothing or at their choices in media.

A quick scan around the mall will reveal which pop stars are currently “in” (e.g., Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga, or Ludacris), which athletes they esteem (e.g., Peyton Manning or Derek Jeter), or which video games teens are plugged into (e.g., World of Warcraft or Grand Theft Auto). In a similar fashion, elementary age children often wear clothing featuring Disney characters or Sponge Bob Squarepants. From an unbiased outsider’s perspective, Christians no longer have one foot in the world—we have jumped in “whole hog.” The Egyptian king wanted the midwives to kill the Hebrew boys at birth. Similarly, Satan is capturing many young people at a very young age, and he refuses to let them go—killing them spiritually.

Honesty reveals that it is getting harder and harder to distinguish Christians from the world. Shame on us! Parents, grandparents, preachers, elders, and youth leaders would do well to take inventory and ask ourselves who our children really idolize. Who are our children’s (or grandchildren’s) heroes? And furthermore why do they view them as heroes? Do we not realize that our children desire to be like individuals they hold in high regard? Also, what do our children value and hold in esteem? Ironically many Christians can quote (or at least recall) Paul’s words to the church at Rome: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2, emp. added). But sadly our comfort in the world results in a lack of action to change.

When Christian homes mirror the homes of the lost, there will be little difference between what our children value and what children of the world value. If our children are watching the same television shows, listening to the same music, and playing the same video games, how can we expect them to be different? Consider the harsh reality that Nehemiah discovered as he was trying to make reforms only to discover the people had tiptoed too far into the world. “In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of

*(Continued on page 3)*



*[When you follow knowledge and wisdom] ...  
“Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not  
stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid:  
yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.”*

*Proverbs 3:23-24*

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

Both the front-page article and the letter below are from Focus Press concerning their campaign effort to have Christians turn off their TVs in the month of July. I will continue sharing some of their articles over the next month concerning media and its influence and simply ask that you too consider banning the TV from your home during the month of July. Such an effort could great strengthen our families and hopefully make us reevaluate what is allowed into our homes via the TV. Even if that is too drastic for you, will you at least take an honest look at what you are watching and how much time that you are spending in front of the TV...even small changes can help. *-Ryan Smithey*

*"...whatsoever things are true....honest...just...pure...lovely....of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." ~Philippians 4:8*

Dear Friends,

Year after year, we read in the newspapers how crime in America is continuing to steadily climb as more and more people, especially our youth, get wrapped up in activities which land them in jail. We hear of the epidemic situations surrounding unwed pregnancy in America and the absence of fathers in the lives of their children. We stand on the threshold and look at an era where teen pregnancy continues to rise, metal detectors continue to be placed in schools, and more and more people become addicted to sin such as pornography as the Internet makes it readily available to all those who fall into the traps that are set.

It can feel overwhelming at times. We cry for lost loved ones, wrapped up in some of the very vices displayed throughout the media machine. We long for the days of innocence and fervently pray that our nation will wake up to what's going on and change. Our families are suffering. The children are being polluted, and most times we feel that our options are limited in what we can do.

While many have written letters and sent emails to those of the major television corporations, asking them to alter their programming, thus offering more family friendly shows, they seem to not be listening. Our individual voices are like one lone car horn sounding in a busy city. We hear it, and those immediately around us hear it, but in the grand scheme of things, it is a quiet noise.

Imagine what it would be like, if every car in the city, sounded its horn at the same time. Do you think the sound would be heard then? Of course it would. The news outlets would rush to find out what's going on, and the surrounding towns would wonder what had happened. That's the power of amplifying the sound. When you combine multiply individuals, taking a stand together, their voice is louder than one single person crying in the wind.

There is a new campaign taking place lead by the Christians at Focus Press in Brentwood, TN. It's called TURN, and what they are asking is that every Christian family in America, for the month of July, turn their TVs off and focus on growing spiritually as a unit. As a family, spend time in Bible study, in prayer, and in simply growing closer together through family game nights or outings to local historical sites and parks. If we all dedicate ourselves to this campaign, the major companies will hear our voices as they see the viewership decrease. We must make them hear, and unfortunately the only way that's going to happen is if they notice a decrease in revenue.

We invite each of you to visit the website for this campaign ([www.turncampaign.com](http://www.turncampaign.com)).

It's time we take a stand against the perversions and violence that are filling many of the homes in America. We might be single voices, but if we unite with Christians across America, we will be like a city with every car horn sounding. Won't you commit to one month?



Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday... 2 Chron. 7-8; Acts 4:23-37</p> <p>Monday... 2 Chron. 9-11; Acts 5:1-16</p> <p>Tuesday... 2 Chron. 12-14; Acts 5:17-42</p> <p>Wednesday... 2 Chron. 15-17; Acts 6</p> <p>Thursday... 2 Chron. 18-20; Acts 7:1-19</p> <p>Friday... 2 Chron. 21-23; Acts 7:20-45</p> <p>Saturday... 2 Chron. 24-25; Acts 7:46-60</p> <p><i>Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)</i></p>
<p><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		

# News & Notes

(Continued from page 1)

Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people” (Nehemiah 13:23-24). Their own children could not speak the language of Jehovah God! And yet, how many homes are filled with children who can sing the lyrics of Lady Gaga, but they have no clue about the Biblical period of the judges or kings? We cry for change in our society yet we often turn a blind eye in our own homes. Parents, this should not be so!

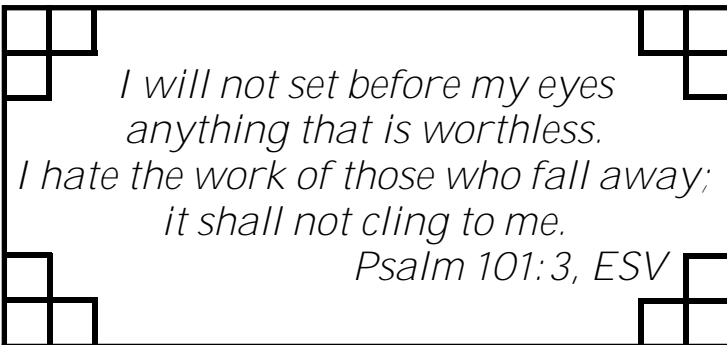
The time has come for Christians to be different from the lost world we are trying to save. It is time we place healthy heroes and Biblical values before our children—God-fearing men and women of honor and integrity. The time has come for moms and dads to realize that children take their “cues” from their parents. If the parents are esteeming “worldly” things then their children will remain safely in the hands of Satan. However, if the parents focus on eternal matters and put men and women of true Biblical character in front of their kids, then their children will learn what is truly important. They will learn to value Biblical character rather than worldly character. Parents need to be asking what is influencing my child and where did these influences originate from? Who does your child associate more with: Lady Gaga or the elders in your local congregation? Sadly, many children never view elders, preachers, or other faithful Christians as heroes. This might explain why we have such a problem finding good preachers and qualified elders today—young people do not aspire to these positions.

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **27 contacts** were made.

## Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **June 29—Summer Youth Series** at Hillcrest in Stephenville at 7PM.
- ◆ **June 30**—Normal classes; the **5th Wednesday Singing** will be moved to July 7th while some are away at camp.
- ◆ **July 4—First Sunday Potluck** following AM Worship.
- ◆ **July 4-8: Junior Camp** at Lake Cisco.



## Alternative Activities to the TV

- ◆ Study and Meditate on God’s Word
- ◆ Sports
- ◆ Take up an musical instrument
- ◆ Family Board Games
- ◆ Visiting Widows and Orphans
- ◆ Take up a new hobby as a family
- ◆ Read a good book
- ◆ Complete a “honey-do” list
- ◆ Visit local historical sites
- ◆ Start an exercise program
- ◆ Bake something for a friend
- ◆ Visit someone who came to your church
- ◆ Take children or grandchildren to the zoo
- ◆ Write an article encouraging Christians
- ◆ Go out on a “date night”
- ◆ ???...Add Your Own Wholesome Idea

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

**June Birthdays:** Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04); Paul McClung (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Dorothy Graves (12), Freda Womack (14), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

**June Anniversaries:** Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich (19), Lisa & David Greer (28).

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)*

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



	Recent Records	June 13, 2010	June 20, 2010
Bible Class		49	48
AM Worship		70	69
PM Worship		46	41
Wednesday PM		46	52
Contribution		\$1292	\$1722

Privileged to Serve	06/27/10 - AM	06/27/10 - PM	07/04/10 - AM	07/04/10 - PM
<b>Greeters</b>	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Scripture Reader Scripture Reading</b>		James Fuller Psalm 89:15-18		Garrett Barnum
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Paul McClung	Don Smith	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta
<b>Wait on Table</b>	Ken Makuta*, Gene Bannister Allen Griffith, Matthew Churchwell	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	James Fuller
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals</b>	June 23 Don Smith	June 30 James Fuller	July 7 Ken Makuta	July 14 Michael Bickford

**Studies For The Week of June 27th:**

Sunday Class.....1 Corinthians (Chap. 10-11)

Wednesday Class .....Amos (Chap. 6-7)

**Unified Warfare (Eph. 6:10-20)**

- 1. Same Strength (v10-12)**
  - a. We are in a spiritual war with Satan, a formidable foe (1 Pet. 5:8-9) but one that can be overcome in the Lord (2 Cor. 10:3-5).
  - b. As such we cannot rely on our own strength (Jer. 9:23; Ps. 33:16-17) but in God (Phil. 4:13; Ps. 28:7).
- 2. Same Armor (v13-17)**
  - a. God has well provided for our armor (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17) but we must decide to use it.
  - b. Loins girt with truth – helps hold you up (Acts 20:32).
  - c. Breastplate of Righteousness – protects the heart (1 John 3:7; Acts 10:35).
  - d. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace – helps us stand with good footing (Rom. 10:15).
  - e. Shield of Faith – deflects arrows of error and doubt (Prov. 30:5; 1 John 5:4).
  - f. Helmet of Salvation – protects the head; right thinking;(1 Pet. 5:8); headed in the right direction.
  - g. Sword of the Spirit, Word of God – only offensive weapon, but it is all we need (Heb. 4:12; Titus 1:9).
- 3. Same Concern (v18-20)**
  - a. Pray one for another.(James 5:16).
  - b. Pray for the success of the gospel & this war (2 Tim. 2:9).  
*As we fight on God's side in this war as a unified army, we are guaranteed the victory (1 John 4:4).*

**No King in Israel (Judges 21:25)**

- 1. Religious and Moral Decay of Israel (Judges 17-21)**
  - a. Chap. 17-18 – Perversion of the home and religion concerning the images of Micah.
  - b. Chap. 19-21 – Perversion of society/morals in the account of the Levite's concubine and subsequent war with Benjamin.
- 2. Indicative of their Spiritual Decay (Judges 21:25)**
  - a. Judges 21:25 is the heart of their problems – rejecting God.
  - b. There was no physical king but God was to be their ruler/ authority (Judges 8:22-23; 1 Sam. 8:7).
  - c. When they turned from him, they used their own standard and this led them to some of their darkest days (Prov. 14:34).
- 3. Many Still Live As If There Were No King In Israel (Spiritually)**
  - a. Atheism – don't care for the authority of God and so pretend He is not there; only shows ignorance (Rom. 1:20-23; Heb. 4:13).
  - b. Denominationalism – Divided over what is pleasing to each one (1Cor. 1:10); wants to enjoy the benefits of following God without following Him and such will not work (Matt. 7:21).
  - c. Liberalism – Claim to follow God but ultimately guided by their own desires rather than God's Word (Col. 3:17); willing to loose where God has not (Rev. 22:19).
  - d. Anti-ism (Radicalism) – Claims to follow God but adds what they think is right; just as wrong as taking from God's Word (Rev. 22:18); put own ideas above God's Word (Matt. 15:9).  
*Let us simply follow God's revealed, authoritative word.*

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Return Service Requested