

# The McLish Avenue Messenger

This is the message we have heard from Him... God is Light (1 John 1:5).

February 15, 2009

MCLISH AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST • 607 McLish SW • Ardmore, OK 73401



*The following is the last verse of  
what book of the Bible?*

“Little children, keep yourselves  
from idols. Amen.”

*Evangelist*

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*Schedule of Services*

*Sunday*

Bible Study .....9:30 am

Worship .....10:30 am

Worship .....6:00 pm

*Wednesday*

Bible Study .....7:00 pm

## How to Overcome a Sinful Past

Ben Bailey

**S**ometimes in our Christian life we really blow it. We know what the Bible says. We know what we ought to do. Sadly, sometimes we do just the opposite and sin. When a person really messes up, how do they overcome that sinful past?

He must recognize and admit the sin in his life. Unless we are willing to say, “I have sinned”, we cannot be forgiven by God (1 Sam. 12:21ff). The beloved Apostle John said, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9-10). Someone has properly stated that to know yourself diseased is half the cure.

A person must also be ashamed of their sinful past. Too often people who have lived a life of sin go around bragging about the “sins” they used to commit. Sin should be something that should cause us great shame, not give us an avenue to boast (Rom. 6:21). How sad it is when we reach a point that we can no longer blush over sin (Jer. 8:12).

To overcome a sinful past a person must deal with sin in a God-approved way. The only way to deal with sin properly is through obedience to Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9). Jesus made it clear that to deal with sin one must believe in Him (Jn. 8:24), repent of past sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as Lord (Rom. 10:10), be baptized for the remission of one’s sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16), and be faithful to death (Rev. 2:10).

Finally, to overcome a sinful past one must put the past behind him and forget it. The Apostle Paul said, “Brethren, I do not

*Continued inside ...*

# Friend

Continued from front page

count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). To overcome the past, we must put the past behind us and look forward to the future. If God has forgotten our sins (Heb. 8:12-13), can't we? It has been aptly stated, "Those who live in the past are doomed to repeat its mistakes."

Dear friend, all of us have made mistakes in life that we are not proud of. The difference between a person who has overcome sin and one who has not is Jesus Christ. Have you dealt with sin in a God-approved way? If not, why not? Why not do that today?



Don't forget about our blood drive this afternoon. Time slots are posted on the back bulletin board. If you didn't sign up, please see Scott Saner for an open time slot.

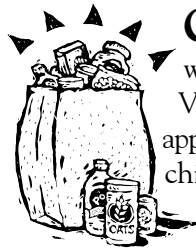
**Tax forms** If you need a form regarding 2008 donations for tax purposes, Melba has them available in the office.

**Thank you** to those who have been helping with the distribution of the disaster relief items. This work could not have been done without you.

**Teachers needed** Todd Hicks needs teachers for the cradle roll class. If you can help in this area, please talk to Todd today.

**Over 39ers** Note the date change! The over 39ers will meet Tuesday, February 24th at 6:00 pm at El Chico.

**Teacher Appreciation** Plans are being made for a teacher appreciation banquet this Saturday, February 21 at 6:30 pm. If you have taught or assisted in a class, you are invited to attend. There is a sign up sheet on the back bulletin board to give those planning the event a head count.



**Children's homes Westview** will be back in March and is requesting: Velveeta, 100% juice, Nestle Quik, applesauce, canned fruit, Kool-Aid/Tang, chili no beans, canned chicken, Pop Tarts/breakfast bars, Pine Sol, toilet paper, paper towels, sunscreen, Off, dish washing soap and liquid laundry soap.

## Outreach Groups

### Group 1

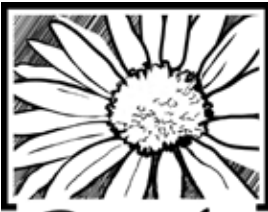
Chock & Mary Aldridge  
Ron & Peggy Jones  
Ray & Tomi Harness  
James & Tammy Gravelle  
Ronnie Byrd  
Steve Mann  
Scott & Tina Saner  
Jaccie Pirtle

### Group 2

James & Dana Meece  
David & Linda Johnson  
Ben & Christie Bailey  
Betty Higgins  
Harold & Martha Dillard  
Pat Ballard & Vickie Fletcher  
Bill & Gail Stewart  
Earl & Sue Mann

### Group 3

Vernon & Arlene Castleman  
Sharon Ryan & Christy Murray  
Cecil Hargrove  
Lovel & Mary Hughes  
Lonnie Harris  
Rick & Suzanne Tidwell  
Tom Matlock  
Sharlene Wallis & Rebecca



## Remember Our Sick

Gloria Clark's father, **KL Murphey**, has been re-admitted to the hospital. Scott Saner's mother, **Mary**, remains in critical care. **Sue Mann** had the stint removed on Friday. Harold & Martha Dillard's daughter **Carole Grammer** will continue treatment and have testing in another three months. **Toni Mann** sprained her ankle last week. **A.L. Hargrove**, Cecil's brother, continues to recover at home. Please continue to remember: Lovell & Mary Hughes' son-in-law, **David Eddie** • Sam Attencio's grandfather, **Mel Attencio** • **Rebecca Stafford** • **Nancy McClanahan** • **Jerry Beavers** • **Kent Barker**, the nephew of Jean Carey • **Marty Stinson** • **Ruby Meece**, James' mother • Norma Perkins' friend, **Jerry Lover** • **Ruth Parker** • Ben Tomlinson's mother **Nita** • **Dorthea Phillips** • **Madeline Minyard** • • **Jerry & Glenda Vinson** • **Glen Elmore** • **Harry Phipps** • **Nelda Hamilton**, Norma Perkins' sister • Larry Ryan's mother, **Lorraine** • Sharon Ryan's mother, **Mary Griffeth** • **Judy Grammer** • Peggy Jones' sister, **Mary Warner** • **Tabitha Ray-Barton** • **Pat Ballard's mother** • **Jamie Feroli** • Jamie Feroli's mother, **JoAnn Watson**, and **grandmother** • and those shut in/nursing home members.

**Assistance** Jeff and Vicki Willingham lost their trailer and truck in the tornado last week. Please check with them to see what you can do to help them out and keep them in your prayers.

**Thursday class** Thursdays through April 2nd at 7 pm

Ben and Kevin will teach a fundamentals class, "Have You Ever Wondered Why the churches of Christ Teach...?" This class has been advertised in local newspapers and is designed to bring people from the community as well as build up our members. Please help this class be a success.



Study the Bible with us

**Response** Last week **Christy Murray** responded to the invitation. She recognized that she was not always making decisions with Christ in mind. Please encourage Christy and her family when you have opportunity and keep them in prayer.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### February

- 14 Gypsy Castleman  
Alice Williams
- 21 Bobby Wallace
- 25 Isabella Murray
- 26 James Meece  
Michael Castleman

### March

- 1 Cap & Teen Stewart '47
- 5 Melody Smith
- 9 Bill Stewart
- 10 Christy Murray
- 11 Madeline Minyard  
Justin Mann  
W.O. Clark
- 13 Pat Ballard
- 14 James Gravelle
- 15 Toni Mann  
Fred & Maxine Bellomy '49
- 16 Lexie Wallace
- 17 Lara Austin
- 21 Martin Dotson  
Robert & Pam Schumacher
- 23 Anthony Tipton
- 26 Jeremey Bell  
Steve Mann
- 27 Liz Aldridge
- 28 Ronnie & Geri Byrd '75  
Oneda Claypool  
Jacob Johnson
- 30 Caleb Willis  
Harold & Martha Dillard '74

### April

**TGOC** KVSO, 1240 am radio, has started airing 3 minute radio lessons every weekday between 7:25 and 7:30.

**Camp forms** Wednesday in the upper school age classes, camp forms were distributed. Additional forms are available in the office. Please get these completed and turned into the office as soon as possible.



**Labels** Tammy Gravelle is collecting labels for the children's home. Both soup labels and Duncan Hines labels can be redeemed by the home for equipment and supplies.

**Contacts for TGOC** If you have a friend or relative in another congregation, please jot down their name and phone number and give it to Kevin. He'd like to use these contacts to help open doors for him to speak about *The Gospel of Christ*.

**Calendar updates** If you see that your name, or the name of a family member has been left off the calendar, please let Tina know.

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## Those to Serve Today

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Announcements.....			Todd Hicks
Lord's Table.....	Lovel Hughes Ray Harness	James Gravelle Alex Vinson	Earl Mann Steve Mann
Song Leader.....	Scott Saner	PM Opening Prayer.....	Ron Jones
AM Opening Prayer .....	Vernon Castleman	PM Closing Prayer.....	Martin Dotson
AM Scripture .....	Bill Stewart	PM Lord's Supper.....	Earl Mann
AM Closing Prayer .....	Randy Scott		
Greeters Feb 15 & 18 .....	Earl & Sue Mann, Ron & Peggy Jones		

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### Elders

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**Charles Aldridge**  
710 15th NW  
223-4602

**Vernon Castleman**  
3533 Dogwood Road  
223-0983

**James Meece**  
909 Davis  
223-7637

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### Deacons

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**Fred Bellomy**  
223-3240

**Martin Dotson**  
226-6450

**James Gravelle**  
223-7911

**Todd Hicks**  
226-0830

**Ron Jones**  
223-7268

**Steve Mann**  
223-7246

**Scott Saner**  
226-2920

**Jerry Vinson**  
223-3865



## Today

12:00 pm Blood drive

## February 18

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class

7:00 pm Barton Pettit gives devotional

## February 19

7:00 pm Bible study at the building

## February 21

6:30 pm Teacher Appreciation Banquet

## February 24

6:00 pm 39 & Over meet

## February 25

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class

7:00 pm Todd Hicks gives devotional

## February 26

7:00 pm Bible study at the building



## March 1

12:00 noon Fellowship Meal

## March 4

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class

7:00 pm Lovel Hughes gives devotional

Scripture from front page:  
1 John 5:21 (NIV)