

# The McLish Avenue Messenger

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

March 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?

“... by professing it some have  
strayed concerning the faith.  
Grace be with you. 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

## God & Human Suffering

Ben Bailey

**W**e live in a world full of suffering and pain. But why does God allow suffering to exist? Is God not God because suffering exists? What value does human suffering have? Let us examine several reasons human suffering exists.

**Human suffering helps us to realize this world is not our home.** The great apostle Paul said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom 8:18). When a friend or relative dies with cancer or some natural calamity occurs in the world, it should make us realize that this earth is our temporary dwelling place. As Peter said, “...the heavens will be dissolved being on fire and the elements will melt with fervent heat... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:12-13).

**Human suffering may be a direct result of the work of Satan.** To deny that Satan is an active foe today is to set oneself up for an attack by him. A perfect example of Satan causing human suffering is the man Job. One will note that from the beginning of the account of Job, Satan had been “going to and fro on the earth and from walking back and forth on it” (Job 1:7). From this we learn that Satan is very active in searching for those whom he can destroy. It is also important to notice that Satan was allowed to harm both Job and all that he owned (Job 1:12, 2:6). In the New Testament era, Satan is also very active trying to destroy souls. Peter warned us to “be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet 5:8). In fact, the human suffering of Jesus can be

*Continued inside ...*

# Suffering

Continued from front page

largely attributed to the work of the Devil (Jn 13:2; Lk 22:3). Who is to say that Satan is not the cause of much of the suffering in the world today?

**Human suffering can also be caused by the sins of others.** The reason that a young child is born into a life of suffering may be because the mother had unprotected sex and passed the AIDS virus along to her baby. Or, the reason that many people suffer at the hands of a mass murderer may be because his parents failed to train him properly or they did not have a proper relationship with one another in the home. Throughout Bible history people have suffered due to others sins (John. 7; Num 16). Everyone suffers due to the introduction of sin and death into the world by Adam and Eve. Today, many good and noble people suffer because sinful lifestyles often have damaging results on all of society.

**Over 39ers** will meet Tuesday, March 24th at 6:00 pm at Panda Buffet.

**Debate** June 5th here at the building, there will be a debate on the topic of one cup between Johnny Elmore and Kevin Pendergrass. Mark your calendars now so you can attend.

## 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

Truly, God is not to blame for the suffering we incur. God loves us and has provided us with the best of everything. But all too often we come along and mess up a good thing. May God help us to never blame Him for our sorrows but ask Him to help us through them.

**Seniors** If you have a graduating senior in your family this spring, please be sure to let Mary Aldridge, Arlene Castleman or Dana Meece know. They are starting to plan the annual banquet.

**Camp forms** Camp forms have been distributed in the upper school age classes. Additional forms are available in the office. Please get these completed and turned into the office as soon as possible. Our elders are offering to pay the registration fees for all our campers.



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

**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.

## Prayer List



**Kenneth Parker** was admitted to room 204 of Mercy Memorial with heart trouble and pneumonia. **Sharon Smee** was also admitted to the hospital last week. **Lonnie Harris' mother** was admitted to the hospital last week for what may have been a stroke. **Al Hargrove**, Cecil's brother, is having problems with his eyes. **Gloria Clark** is having difficulties with her legs. Please continue to remember: **Rebecca Stafford • Frank Pennington • Tabitha Ray-Barton • Bo Fore • Mary Ann Ashley • Scott Saner's mother, Mary • Marie Williams • Sue Mann • Harold & Martha Dillard's daughter Carole Grammer • Gloria Clark's father, KL Murphey • Lovell & Mary Hughes' son-in-law, David Eddie • 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 • Sharon Ryan's mother, Mary Griffeth • Larry Ryan's mother, Lorraine • Judy Grammer • Peggy Jones' sister, Mary Warner • Pat Ballard's mother • Jamie Feroli • Jamie Feroli's mother, JoAnn Watson, and grandmother • and those shut in/nursing home members.**

**Our sympathy** We want to remember the family and friends of sis. **Oneda Claypool** in her death this past week. Services were this past Tuesday morning at Harvey Douglas. Please keep all those that have lost loved ones recently in your prayers and actions.



Study the Bible with us

**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.

**Gospel meeting** The Marietta congregation will have a meeting March 22-26. Evening services during the week will be at 7 pm. We will have a meeting the week of April 19th with Darrin Hunter.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### March

- 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 Steve Mann
- 27 Liz Aldridge
- 28 Ronnie & Geri Byrd '75  
Jacob Johnson
- 30 Caleb Willis  
Harold & Martha Dillard '74

### April

- 8 Glenda Vinson
- 9 Martha Dillard  
April Dotson  
Jerry & Lois Beavers
- 10 Brent Castleman  
Michael Tipton  
Brent & Gypsy Castleman '92
- 12 Robert Schumacher
- 13 Dorothea Phillips  
Norma Perkins
- 15 Savanna Mann
- 16 Bessie Childress  
Melba Wallace  
Chock Aldridge  
Jerry Beavers
- 21 Scott & Tina Saner '84
- 25 J.W. Hobbs
- 26 Lowell Keeton

**Children's homes Hope Harbor** will be here in May and is requesting: bottles 100% fruit juice (no apple or vegetable), bottle water, Gatorade, flavored water, chocolate chips, Dream Whip, dry onion soup mix, tomato sauce and paste, sweetened condensed fat-free milk, cream of mushroom and cream of potato



soups, low-fat cheddars cheese soup, sweet potatoes, individually packaged snack items (but not sandwich style crackers), antibacterial spray cleaner, liquid laundry soap, antibacterial liquid hand soap refills, paper towels, bathroom tissues, napkins, shower gel, 8 oz cups, paper plates, female sanitary protection. 33 gallon trash bags and lemon or orange liquid cleaner.

**Westview** will be back in July and is requesting: Rotel, Velveeta, 100% juice, canned fruit, sweetened cereal, canned chicken, potato/tortilla chips, canned soda, bottled water, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, peanut butter/cheese crackers, Pine Sol, AA and AAA batteries, shampoo, conditioner, 13/39 gallon trash bags, paper towels, bathroom tissue, Spray & Wash and dryer sheets.



**March 18**

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class  
7:00 pm Scott Saner gives devotional

**March 19**

7:00 pm Bible study at the building

**March 22-26**

Gospel meeting in Marietta

**March 24**

6:00 pm 39 & Over meet at Panda Buffet

**March 25**

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class  
7:00 pm Ronnie Byrd gives devotional

**March 26**

7:00 pm Bible study at the building

**March 29**

5:00 pm 5th Sundry singin

**Those to Serve Today**

Announcements.....James Gravelle  
 Lord's Table.....Ron Jones Jerry Beavers John Johnson  
 Kenneth Parker Robert Schumacher Doug Aldridge  
 Song Leader.....David Johnson PM Opening Prayer.....Earl Mann  
 AM Opening Prayer.....Lovel Hughes PM Closing Prayer.....Terry Waller  
 AM Scripture.....Steve Mann PM Lord's Supper.....John Johnson  
 AM Closing Prayer.....F.A. Shellenberger  
 Greeters Mar 15 & 18.....Ray & Tomi Harness, Barton & Marsha Pettit



**April 1**

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class  
7:00 pm David Johnson gives devotional

(AKN) Timothy 1:6-7  
 Scripture from front page:

**Elders**

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

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

**James Meece**  
909 Davis  
223-7637

**Deacons**

**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