

# The McLish Avenue Messenger

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

March 22, 2009

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



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

**“I will plant Israel in their own  
land, never again to be uprooted  
from the land I have given them,”  
says the LORD your God.”**

*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

## The Importance of an Attentive Heart

Ben Bailey

**T**o have biblical restoration people must have an attentive heart to God's law. In Nehemiah 8:2-3, as Ezra read from the Law, "the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law." If there was going to be a successful restoration in Ezra's time, the people had to pay attention to the Laws of God. What a great privilege this was for the Israelites. It had been well over 70 years since all the people had gathered together in unity to hear the Word of God read to them. No doubt, when one reads Nehemiah 8:3 he can sense the silence in the crowd. The expression "could have heard a pin drop" fits this assembly accurately. The people were not bored while Ezra was reading, but rather they were "hanging on the edge of their seats." They were in tune with every word the faithful scribe read. Today, speech experts have suggested that the attention span of most people is only 7-8 minutes, unless the speaker is dynamically talented. However, Ezra read from the morning until the middle of the day and the people remained attentive.

Unlike the Israelites, people today have become "bored to death" with the Bible. This boredom can be seen by the entertainment era that is overwhelming many congregations today. Many people have left reading, exhortation, and doctrine behind and have moved to fun, fun, fun (1 Tim 4:13). To restore an attentive spirit today, we must realize the superb importance and great worth of the Word of God. What makes the Bible so important that someone would want to be attentive to it? The Bible is important because it is the spiritual nourishment for man's soul. Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (Jn 6:51). The Bible is important because Jesus is the bread of spiritual life, and the

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# Attentive Heart

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only way to know Jesus is to know the Bible. The Bible is important because it is the very words from the mouth of God. In 2 Timothy 3:15 Paul said, "all scripture is given by inspiration of God." The Greek word for inspiration is *theopneustos*, which is defined as "God breathed." How wonderful it is to know the Bible we now have is the words from the breath of God Himself. With this in mind, how can we not be attentive to the Word of God? We greatly need the restoration of an attentive heart to the Word of God today. The only way we can do that is to realize its great importance!

**Pantry** Teachers, please encourage your Bible students to bring one pantry item each week. This will help each student develop a giving spirit.

**Teacher's workshop** The Eastside congregation in Duncan will host their annual teacher's workshop on Saturday, May 2. More details can be found on the flyer on the back bulletin board.

## 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

**Fifth Sunday singing** Next week everyone is encouraged to gather together at 5:00 pm for a "singing" before evening services.

**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.

**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.



**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.

## Prayer List

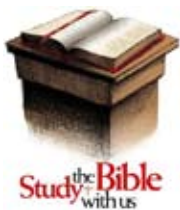


Travis Willis was admitted to Carl Albert Hospital in Ada for treatment of pancreatitis. Virgie Burchfield is in room 209 of Mercy with an infection. Please continue to remember: Kenneth Parker • Sharon Smee • Al Hargrove, Cecil's brother • Gloria Clark • Rebecca Stafford • Frank Pennington • Tabitha 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, KLMurphey • 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 Griffith • 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 Jeanine Phipps and her family in the death of her mother. Lonnie Harris also lost his mother this past week. Louise Ballard, Othal Ballard's wife, Healdton, passed away Thursday morning. Her services were yesterday at the Shell Street congregation. Please keep all these families in your prayers and actions.

**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.



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

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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### March

- 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  
Bea Atnip

### May

- 2 Kaitlin Aldridge
- 6 Sean Bugbee

